

EXPRESS DELIVERY

4287

from 57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 3.

1st May, 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

I am dictating this just before leaving for Calcutta and Bhubaneswar on Party work. I shall be returning to Delhi on 5th evening and then move on to Bombay, after the session concludes, on the 7th morning.

Today it was announced that the 17th Amendment Bill will be placed before a special session of Parliament on 27th or 28th May, which will meet for about a week. Ranga and I have issued instructions to the Central Office to fix Sunday 24th May as Kisan Day to demonstrate against the amendment.

Yesterday morning I had a long talk with Abdullah. I have also talked to Maulana Masoodi and Mirza Afzal Beg. Shaikh Abdullah is planning to visit Madras in order to meet you and I have today sent you a telegram, copy attached, which I trust you received before leaving for the Andhra Convention.

The atmosphere here is pretty vicious. Many of our own Members are confused and/or disgruntled. Perhaps the worst among them is Kalahandi with Dahyabhai following closely on his heels. There are weaker characters like Pravinsinh Solanki who fall in line with them. Amongst those who are staunch are Maharani Gayatri Devi, Sardar Ram Singh from Kanpur and Mariswamy. Our leader, who is feeling very unhappy at the situation, manages to keep a middle position and perhaps, in the present climate of feeling, he is wise to do so. He thinks you and I are doing enough for the right cause and, for the sake of the Party's preservation he feels he should keep a nonaligned position. About the most unfortunate thing that has happened is that Dahyabhai went and spoke at a public meeting organised by the Jan Sangh a couple of days ago. Considering that Balraj Madhok had on the previous day demanded that you and I and J.P. should be locked up with Abdullah as traitors, this is a little hard to take but, I am afraid, having agreed to freedom of expression, we will have to put up with it. I understand that Kalahandi and Solanki are planning to go to Jammu where they will no doubt appear on the Praja Parishad platform.

J.P. was very pleased at your quoting both his article and letter in Swarajya. He is standing up to the pressures brought to bear on him magnificently. He is flying down to Nagpur and proceeding to Wardha along with Abdullah on the 4th, from where Abdullah will move on to Madras to see you, while J.P. will return to Delhi. I am returning to Delhi on the morning of the 6th and hope to have another talk with Abdullah when I hope to learn from him of his meeting with you. I would however appreciate a note from you by airfreight to await my arrival in Bombay on the 7th morning. If it were not for the fact that you and J.P. see things the same way as I do, the atmosphere here would make one wonder whether one was quite sane since it is rather difficult to keep on thinking that everyone else has gone mad!

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
Madras.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. MASANI)

EXPRESS

C RAJAGOPALACHARI

60 BAZLULLAH ROAD

MADRAS 17

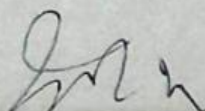
SHAIKH ABDULLAH ACCOMPANIED BY MIRZA AFZAL BEG AND
MAULANA MASOODI PROPOSES VISIT MADRAS TO MEET YOU
REACHING MADRAS FROM HYDERABAD BY NIGHT AIRMAIL EARLY
MORNING FIFTH LEAVING FOR DELHI ~~SAME~~ AFTERNOON BY PLANE
STOP TRUST YOU WILL BE ABLE TO ARRANGE FOR THEIR BEING
MET AT ~~THE~~ AIRPORT AND TO BE PUT UP FOR THE MORNING
STOP AM LEAVING FOR CALCUTTA THIS EVENING ~~AND~~ RETURNING
DELHI FIFTH EVENING ~~XXXX~~ ~~AND~~ REACHING BOMBAY SEVENTH
MORNING

MASANI

57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 3

1.5.64

(confirmation copy)

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'J. M. N.' or similar, written in a cursive style.

April 22 '64

My dear Masani

Forwards

I got your telegram suggesting a move and I have responded in a kind of way and have sent you a copy of my letter to ~~to~~ ~~the~~ Lal Bahadur. Ranjan too has a copy of it. You suggested I should offer "my full support" if the ~~policy~~ ^{be} accepted. The PM is surrounded by small men and he is not strong enough now to throw off their malignant influence. And "public opinion" around ~~there~~ ^{Delhi} is pure Chauvinism. Any offer of mine of "full support" would be spurned. So I have left that out. And I addressed Lal Bahadur ^{rather than} ^{PM} as at present ^{I thought it to be the} ~~a~~ better route.

I feel that in the present state of affairs^{as}
 Everything depends on Jagan Babash.
 at any rate if not everything, much.

I have practically put your
 formula forward in my article
 "am I wrong?" i.e., Let Abdullah
 formulate his stand and let there
 be a free election thereupon and
 let contestants contest his leadership.

Perhaps at some stage we
 have to suggest that the election
 should be run under U.N. observation
 so as to avoid aspersions of
 undue influence and intimidation.

Although it may not be a "plebiscite"
 but only an election, there need
 be nothing very abnormal in
 having U.N. observers to
 observe.

It is most unfortunate that
the Congress Party is thinking
of rushing the 17th amendment
with a suspension of rules and
using the old dead Select
Committee report on the dead
Bill as sufficient for the
resuscitated motion. All

this is scandalous. It is
monstrous to think of suspending
rules in order to get the Constitution
and fundamental rights to
be mutilated. I feel
tentatively that our party should
protest and walk out at some
stage if the rules are suspended.
Our walk out will not prejudice
the case, as the rules about
ratio of votes stand there in any
case. $\frac{1}{2}$ of total votes + 100 members
C Rajagopalachari

It:

Prof. R. S. Srinivasan
Srinivasan