

4288

from 57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 3

30th April, 1964

My dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your postcard of the 29th. I am afraid our jubilation is short-lived as the 17th Amendment is being reintroduced on the 6th, the last day of the session, and will be rushed through by suspending standing orders or rules of procedure. This is a misuse of the majority that the Congress Party enjoys, but there we are.

I am returning to Delhi on the 5th evening to participate in the discussion.

I enclose a copy of a letter from Shaikh Abdullah sent to me from Kashmir. I had a half-hour talk with him this morning. He is very appreciative of everything you and some of us have done. Let us hope for the best.

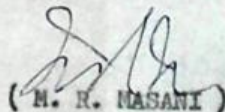
I also enclose an extract from the Security Council records of February/March 1948 containing a statement by Gopalaswamy Ayyangar which may be worth recalling in Swarajya in the context of the statement that the accession of Kashmir is final and irrevocable. You will see that India had clearly stated that she would not stand in the way if the people of Kashmir elected to change their mind.

I sent you a telegram yesterday and wonder whether you have felt like encouraging Jawaharlal. I met him this morning just to shake hands and say 'hullo'. As I was coming away from the Shaikh, he was entering the house.

Yours sincerely,

encl;.

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
Madras.


(M. R. MASANI)

P.S. Since writing this, I have received your letter of 29th April.

Extracts from the Security Council Official Records
- Third Year - 241st - 260th Meetings -
5 Feb - 2 March, 1948.

Page 30, Col 1, last four paras:

M. Gopalaswami Ayyangar (Inde): "I would pass on to the remarks of the representative of Pakistan as regards the question of accession. These remarks appear in his speech to the Security Council during the 240th meeting. The representative of Pakistan said:

"India's reply and India's stand throughout has been: 'We accepted Kashmir's accession provisionally - for the moment - in order to deal with the emergency that had arisen; and once the emergency was out of the way, the question of accession would be decided by the people through a plebiscite.' "

That is not quite an accurate description of India's attitude.

That attitude would be more correctly described in the following words. "We accepted Kashmir's offer of accession at a time when she was in peril, in order to be able effectively to save her from extinction. We will not, in the circumstances, hold her to this accession as an unalterable decision on her part. When the emergency has passed and normal conditions are restored, she will be free, by means of a plebiscite, either to ~~ratify~~ ratify her accession to India or to change her mind and accede to Pakistan or remain independent. We shall not stand in the way if she elects to change her mind." That, I think, is the proper description of India's attitude."

Camp. Banihal

April 16, 1964

My dear Mr. Masani,

Thanks for your greetings on my release which you have appropriately called my vindication.

I am happy to gratefully recollect that friends like you have contributed much towards creating conditions that led to my release.

I have, however, a feeling that vested interests in India are out to spoil the atmosphere and my freedom may be short-lived.

Today I am entering the Valley. Soon after ID I will be proceeding to Delhi to meet Panditji. I attach great importance to this meeting. I wish your valuable advice could be available to me at that time.

I would have very much liked to pay my regards personally to Rajaji and have the benefit of his mature advice. But I do not know his programme. In the meantime you may kindly convey my regards to Mr. Ranga as well as Rajaji.

I hope to be in Delhi by the end of this month.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

sd

Shri M.R.Masani,
148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.

(Shaikh Mohd. Abdullah)

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