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from 57 Lodi Estate,
New Delhi 3

21st April 1964

My dear Rajaji,

Please forgive me for being so remiss as not to write to you during the last few days. I have been snowed down by the Finance Bill and other business in Parliament.

I would like to thank you for your various communications including your telegrams of 13th and 19th and your letters of 12th and 16th and your post card of the 18th. Your letter of April 19 arrived just now.

All of these I find most encouraging and cheering. It makes one feel less lonely to know that someone else is sharing the alleged lunacy! Here, for instance, is a copy of a letter received from an Assistant Professor in North India who actually has decided to join the Party only because you and I have taken the line we have done re. Kashmir. Is that not cheering?

I have already forwarded to Shaikh Abdullah the advance copy of your article "Am I Wrong?" I hope to see him in Delhi when he comes here on the 29th. Meanwhile, our friend Munshi has spilt the beans during a visit to Ahmedabad by saying that the Government has created trouble by releasing Abdullah and generally following the conformist line about accession. One cannot say one is surprised. I attach a translation of the news item in Gujarat Samachar of 18.4.64

Following your general guidance, Ranga and I have decided to leave our next meeting of the C.O.C. till June 14 and 15 so that the dust may settle and meanwhile the process of education which you and J.P. and others are carrying out may have its impact. You may have noticed that I did not mention Kashmir when speaking on the Finance Bill two days back. A copy of my speech is attached. This was done as a result of the decision of the Executive Committee of our Parliamentary Group where the majority decided to advise me not to refer to this matter unless I was provoked by a challenge from someone across the floor. Since no such situation materialised - somewhat to my disappointment - I abided by the Parliamentary Group's decision. Otherwise I had meant to quote the portion of the very fine statement in Swarajya last week, which you had sent to me. On balance, I felt that my deviating from the wishes of the Parliamentary group may have done more harm than good. I propose to touch on this topic when I speak outside the House as I shall be doing in Calcutta on May 2. I hope you will not be too disappointed.

What a shame that, after all your efforts, the by-election at Arupukottai should have gone the way it did.

I am relieved to know from your latest telegram that your health is better and trust you will be restored to normal functioning by the time this reaches you.

With warm regards,

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,

Yours affectionately,

P. S. Have you seen J.P.'s article on the edit page of Hindustan Times (N. B. NASANI) of 20.4.64. I enclose a copy of his letter to the Speaker of the Lok Sabha.