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DAHYABHAI VALLABHBHAI PATEL

68 MARINE DRIVE
BOMBAY 1

New Delhi

26-7-1964

My dear Madam

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Here with is a
copy of my letter to
Rajaji for your information
and collection

Yours Sincerely
Dahyabhai V. Patel

P.S my visit to Vallabh Vilas
nagar is on 15/5/65

and thus I am locked
in Delhi after the 16th

18, Dr. Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi-1

July 26, 1964.

My dear Rajaji,

You are no doubt aware of the growing feeling in the country against the rising prices. Government has not been able to control the rise and any steps they take seem only to add to the confusion already created. I was sensing that something like this would develop in the situation that was bound to come up after the death of Pandit Nehru and when the hangover of eulogising him after his death, proposals for his memorials etc. were wearing off. It was for this reason that I had requested Prof. Ranga and Shri Masani to postpone the meeting called in Bombay on the 29th June, by a few weeks. One of the reasons I had advanced was, of course, that a few of us were going abroad and the Parliament was not meeting till September and a meeting later, after we understood better what the new Govt. was likely to be. But I was perhaps too small to make such a request or for it to take seriously. It is always possible to find some excuse for turning down a request if one does not want to, but events have shown that I was right and it would have been much better if we were meeting in a few days from now, i.e., one month after our meetings in Bombay on the 29th and 30th last. I now feel that there is the need for an urgent meeting of the Party, if not the whole General Council at least the C.O.C. and the Parliamentary Board for taking stock of the situation, particularly, the rising prices and giving directions to our members in Parliament and if necessary with the cooperation of other groups a No Confidence resolution should not be moved !

The action of the Bombay Unit in trying to stage a demonstration in front of the Bombay Docks against the export of rice was but a token, and raises only one small issue connected with the greater issue of rise in prices and the difficulties caused to an ordinary citizen or the common man. If we fail to take stock of the situation it will only give a chance to our opponents to call us a party of the rich and party of Rajas and Maharajas. I, therefore, suggest an urgent meeting of the Parliamentary Board or the C.O.C. is called to discuss the situation and give direction to the Party.

I have many other matters in my mind about which I will be writing to you in a few days.

With respectful regards,

Yours sincerely,

(Dahyabhai V. Patel)

Shri C. Rajagopalachari,
60, Bazlullah Road,
T Nagar, MADRAS-17