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My dear Raja Saheb,

I received your letter of June 18 and took it with me to Bombay so that I might consult our colleagues on the Parliamentary Board on the two topics covered in your letter.

The Parliamentary Board after a proper discussion unanimously came to the conclusion that, in view of the small number of our members in the Lok -Sabha, it would not be desirable to have two Deputy Leaders. The Board, therefore, decided that the Group should continue to have only one Deputy Leader in each House of Parliament. As your letter makes it clear, you yourself held that view when the issue came up last year and appreciation of the understanding shown by you in the matter was expressed by Prof. Ranga, Mr. Masani and other members of the Parliamentary Board.

If I may be permitted to do so, I would like to advise you to accept this decision cheerfully and in the same sporting spirit in which you behaved last year and to go out of your way by yourself proposing the re-election of our Deputy Leader.

I am glad to inform you that the Parliamentary Board sympathises with your plea that in the event of our Group moving to the seats at present occupied by the Communists, you should be allocated the seat on the second bench next to that of the Deputy Leader. There seems, however, to be some doubt as to whether such a change may be expected by the time Parliament meets again and if it does not, then I fear the present position will have to continue since along with Mr. Narendrasinh Mahida you yourself had given an

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assurance to Mr. Yashpal Singh at the time the latter joined the Swatantra Group in Parliament.

You are always welcome to tell me about any problems of this nature that you may have and I can assure you that I shall do my best to be of help consistently with the wider interest of our Party which all of us have to put first.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

s/d. C. Rajagopalachari.

Mr. P. K. Deo M.P.  
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