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My dear Shri Masani

Please excuse me for my decision to abstain, for the first time since the inception of our Party, from attending the Madras sessions of our Party's Parliamentary Board, Executive and General Council. I can assure you that I have come to this decision, all so quietly only, in order to promote the interests of our Party at this juncture.

Shri Masani, occupying as he does, such a supreme position in the Councils of our Party, has chosen so publicly to pose fundamental issues of organisation with his characteristic insistence upon our taking definite decisions, whatever be the immediate consequences to the present fate of our Party in Guzerat, in Parliament and in the country as a whole, with his conviction that such ^{act} would protect our interests for the future also.

His printed thesis, circulated among the members of the General Council, supported by our venerable Vice-President Shri K.M.Munshi, deserves our careful consideration and poses many a painful problem of organisational inter-relationship and Party loyalties.

Thank God, we are not now faced by any cleavage over our fundamental ideals or ideologies or our basic approach to the interests of self-employed masses, notably peasants, artisans or workers or entrepreneurs, we have built up this Party for protecting the farm, family, the self-employed economy, peoples'

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enterprise, and freedom from unnecessary interferences from State. We have achieved much in advancing the cause of humanism and non-exploitative social economy.

By abstaining from attending these sessions, I wish to facilitate free, frank and friendly discussions over the issues of organisation, posed by Shri Masani, i.e. responsibilities and rights of the Central Party Vs. State units, need for integration Vs. Devolution of responsibilities to States Units, and Party and personal loyalties as between State and Central office in the light of the 21st principle adumbrated so far-sightedly by Rajajee.

These questions are as old as the history of human relations/asceending or descending /between gradations of organisations, whether they be voluntary, semi-governmental or political or constitutional and indeed our Party has arisen as the champion of freedom of individuals, autonomy, of people's organisations, as opposed to the claims of supremacy made by State and its Governments. There can never be any hard and fast or immutable solutions for questions posed by real life which never runs in a straight line and according to plan, and how any one or organisation reaches a delicately equipoised balance between the urges of State units for self-respecting assertion of autonomy with their inescapable need and duty to respect and respond to the democratic decisions of the Central and National leadership, depends so much upon the spirit of give and take and so many imponderables of personal reactions and approaches towards one another. I think it is how both Shri Masani and myself and all of us have so far approached these basic issues with mutual trust and respect and helped this Party to achieve its present strength thanks to the wise guidance given to us by Pujya Rajajee.

I wish to plead with you and Shri Masani to let us continue to work in pursuance of this good tradition, of which he was also such an able architect.

I pray that your deliberations under the guidance of Rajajee should help our Party and guide me to see clearly, how we are to march together in the service of our masses.

I am sending this letter to our Vice-Presidents who may be able to go to Madras and also to Sarvashri Rajajee, Mariswamy, Latchanna, Dandekar and Masani.

Sincerely yours,

N.G. Ranga.