

PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL

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Express Delivery

as from :

L.9.72 Tilak Nagar,
Bombay 71.

File

April 6, 1968

My dear Minoo,

I ~~have~~ got back to office this morning after a trip to Junagadh and Rajkot. The case is fine and my own guess is that it will be dismissed. The evidence tendered by me was appreciated.

When in Rajkot I learnt that you will be there on the 13th and 14th. This surprised me because I thought you would be attending the National Executive and Central Parliamentary Board meetings. I am afraid I don't agree with you in your decision not to be present. You have made your point and I can tell you that the impression in Rajkot (especially) is excellent viz., that you are a man of honour. Your attending the meetings will not be misconstrued if that is what is bothering you. Nor do I think your feeling that it is not proper for you to be present when your resignation is being discussed, justified. Your resignation is on a very serious issue and I can assure you that judging from the attitude of your successor the whole thing will be soft peddled in your absence. I foresee a Ranga-Dandekar-HM Patel axis which will cave in. Such a development is bound to effect you and argument that you might advance—that you were not present at the meeting and hence not responsible for its action—will not hold water because they will throw at your face the fact that it is "your Party that has shown itself to be so weak and impotent" !

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I had detailed discussions with Babubhai Vaidya and Babubhai Shah and both of them are full of praise for your action (as you can judge from the editorial in the Jai Hind, which Meckoni says he has sent you) I asked them a specific question viz., that it was all very well that Mr. Masani had resigned on a matter of principle; but what did they expect him to do? The answer was somewhat surprising in that they said that you had made your point—but you should stop at this and not sever any further your relations with the Party and in fact they were keen that the Party should not break up. Of course they wanted you to insist on disciplinary action against those who had nominated the candidature of Mahida viz., the Thakur Saheb of Dhrol, Mr. Natvarsinh Solanki, Mr. Jamubhai Bhat, Mr. Chunilal (an Adivasi) and Mr. Kantibhai Parikh (the Election Agent of Mahida).

I am quite clear in my mind that nothing of this kind is going to be done at the meeting of the Board if you are not present. In fact, H. M. Patel, to whom I spoke the other day on the telephone,

is reported that when he was in Bombay, felt that you must be present. This arose in the context of rumours in Ahmedabad that you were not attending the next meeting of the Executive.

I am arriving in Delhi by the Frontier Mail on the 11th evening. The train reaches New Delhi at 7:35 in the evening. As soon as I dump my luggage (at the Hotel Janpath) I shall come over to Tughlak Road, which means that I shall be at your place around 8:30 pm. (subject of course, to the train being on time) I am sorry I cannot fly because I am carrying files with me. We can talk various matters in detail then.

I myself am feeling absolutely dejected and your non-attendance might be the last straw on the camel's back so far as I am concerned. The job satisfaction that sustained me all these years is fast evaporating and you shouldn't blame me if I too decide to call it a day. Perhaps you have other reasons for not attending the meeting.

More when we meet in person.

Yours sincerely,

Kan
(S. V. Raju)

Mr. M. R. Masani, MP,
No. 2 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi 11.

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