

SP Centre
4678
from 57, Lodi Estate,
New Delhi

23rd September, 1964

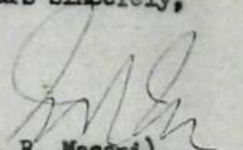
My dear Rajaji,

This morning on the plane from Bombay I was interviewed by Sabavala of the Christian Science Monitor on Bakshi's arrest. I thought I would tell you the line I took in case it is of interest to you. Since Ranga is speaking on the Foreign Affairs Debate on Friday, I do not think that there will be any occasion for me to comment on this matter at this end.

I started by suggesting that these developments were a painful reminder that India's position in Kashmir was an untenable one. It was particularly unfortunate that this arrest should have been made in order to forestall a motion of "no confidence" in the Assembly. This had nothing to do with the merits or demerits of Bakshi, whose corrupt Government had been bolstered in office for a decade. This incident has evoked painful memories of Sheikh Abdulla's arrest eleven years back. A democratic solution, in the present context, would be to dissolve the Assembly, hold elections and let the people of Kashmir have a Government enjoying their confidence, which the Sadiq Government does not possess.

I hope you do not disapprove of the line I have taken.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)

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