

4701

21st August, 1964

My dear Ranga,

Thank you for your letter of 17th August written from Delhi just before you left.

I am not sending you the formal notice of the meeting of the Parliamentary Board on Sunday, September 6, as on that day you will be enjoying the International Peasants' meeting in Washington. I am enclosing, however, a circular that has been issued to members of the Organisation Sub-Committee along with a draft resolution which has been prepared by Munshi.

Since you left, a great deal has been happening in regard to Bihar. The basic facts are set out in the enclosed circular.

There are one or two impressions brought back by Raju which I would like to add for your personal and confidential information. One is that there is a great deal of goodwill for the Party and appreciation of the Organisation Sub-Committee's action but some lingering doubts as to how far we can be depended upon to see our action through. This is based on what our loyal members and friends there regard as wobbling on our part in the past. They perhaps do not appreciate that their own weakness has been the cause of our hesitation. Raju has tried to explain this to them. In any event, support for the Party from now is contingent on our eliminating the present State President. Several letters to this effect have come in to this office. One of the twelve M.L.A.s, who had threatened to join the Congress, has written to me saying that, in view of our action, he has reconsidered his position and will stay with the Party. Others may follow provided they are sure that we are really serious about this.

Meanwhile, with your approval and the approval of the other members of the Organisation Sub-Committee, Munshi's report (slightly edited on the lines we discussed in Delhi) has been sent to members of the General Council and also released to the press to rebut the charge of dictatorial and unjust behaviour on the part of the Party.

It is in the light of all this that Munshi drafted the attached resolution. We shall, of course, consider the whole matter carefully when we meet in Delhi on Sunday morning. Munshi has promised to try and attending the meeting. It is such a pity that you will not be present. I do not know whether Baharani Gayatri Devi is returning to Delhi in time for this meeting and the session. I am writing to her separately.

It would be good if we could have your approval for the draft resolution which, as you will see, only stipulates that Ramgarh should be asked to explain his refusal to comply with the O.S.C.'s decision. Any further action will naturally have to await his reply and your return. If an appeal to the General Council comes in,

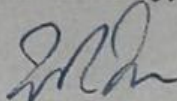
as anticipated, we shall have to decide whether we concede such an appeal. I trust, therefore, that you will send me a line so as to reach me in Delhi at 57 Lodi Estate not later than 5th September along with any further comments that you may wish to make for Rajaji's benefit and mine. I shall keep you informed of further developments at the Washington end.

Needless to say, I have written to Mr. Richard Moore, Secretary-General of the Liberal International and Mr. Kurt Enoch about your visits.

Hoping that you are having a most interest and stimulating time,

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Yours sincerely,



(M. R. MASANI)

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