

4707

6th April, 1964.

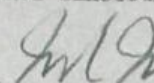
My dear Rajaji,

The Bombay City Convention and the public meeting at Chowpatty in connection with it went off well. Gayatri Devi did her bit in inaugurating the Convention. I attach a clipping from the Times of India reporting on ~~the~~ speech made there on Kashmir and Pakistan. It was extremely well received by our members. I am sending a clipping in case it has not been reported in the Madras papers.

Now that the first steps in the direction which you and the Party have been advocating for years have long last been taken, I think we should keep just one jump ahead of public opinion. Jayaprakash Narayan agreed with me the other day in Delhi when I met him that the demand for fresh elections should be that step. If early elections could be secured and U.N. observers invited, the whole vexed question of a plebiscite could be by-passed in the same manner as it was successfully done in North Borneo in so far as the accession to Malaysia was concerned.

I am raising this topic because I would like to encourage you to write on Kashmir and our relations with Pakistan in Swarajya and continue to give the great lead you have given to public opinion in this connection at a time when the going was much rougher than it is now. There are, however, still doubting Thomases in our own Party, for instance, Pilloo Mody, who thinks that what I said, and which Gayatri Devi repeated, is all wrong and harmful to the Party. It is true that the Party as a whole has not taken a concrete position on this issue but what you and I have been saying flows from our general stand. As I told you, our Parliamentary Group in Delhi certainly agreed with the line of thought put forward by Ranga and myself.

Yours sincerely,


(M.R. Masani)

Encl:

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
60 Basulullah Road
Madras 17.