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2nd March 1964

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
60, Bazlullah Road
Tyagarayanagar
Madras-17 (South India)

Dear and most venerable Rajaji,

I have had much pleasure in hearing about the drive through India by Gandhiji's grandson which he has undertaken for spreading the thoughts of Moral Re-armement, thus working effectively against the unhealthy symptoms of India's present public life.

As an old friend of India, I warmly appreciate this initiative. Without any doubt, moral ideas alone are not able to mitigate the agricultural need and the poverty resulting from it - practical measures being required in addition -. Still it will turn out to be a blessing if somebody like young Gandhi, who can speak with the authority of his grandfather, devotes himself to rousing up the moral power of his people which, in spite of all politicizing, lives on unbroken and vividly, and if besides he strengthens their resistance against the progressive disintegration.

I have in India also cooperated with people of MRA, and in Caux I have become acquainted with some of my best Indian friends, e.g. the Trade Union Leader, Mr. Trivedi, in Bombay. In 1953 I had a long talk with Frank Buchman on how it might be possible to spread the thoughts of his Movement - which, indeed, are originally purely Christian - among a non-Christian population. This, apparently, seems to have met with tremendous success, the fundamental ethical values being, in fact, the same. By the way, this change of mind had induced a large part of the original adherents of MRA in Germany to withdraw and to bind themselves together in an own orthodox-Christian union under the name of "Marburger Kresis". Unfortunately, the Movement in Germany consequently has been split up.

I am watching with greatest interest the development of the Swatantra Party. I am therefore glad for having been put on your mailing list, thus remaining constantly informed of it.

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As I hold numerous public lectures on India, I have often an opportunity of referring to the importance of this Party which may reach its greatest influence in the moment when the Congress will be split up into a right and left group.

I am also intensively watching the incidents taking place in connection with Nehru's succession. Shastri appears to me as a useful transition solution. I wonder who may become the definite successor? I should like to hear from you what you are thinking about it. Naturally, I myself continue considering S.K.Patil a suitable personality whose dynamic power and pragmatic elasticity I have come to know in Bombay. But I do not know whether he is still among the candidates in question.

Two years ago I published a book on the conflict in the Himalayas, a first publication in German language dealing with this topic in detail. In this book I have stressed the juridical and political situation of India which, unfortunately, is just as little known to the public as the Kashmir conflict.

At present I have published a book on "India's Economy Today" equally a first attempt in German language to give the German economic circles a full review of the economic activities in India.

My next book is intended to give an exploration of the history of India.

I must confess that my love for India is rooted in the time when I was German Consul for Madras (1928-33, with seat in Colombo, it is true), where I made your acquaintance through our common friend, Rangaswami Iyengar. I am very grateful to you for all the talks granted to me, above all for your lively attendance at my lecture on Berlin in summer 1959, when my wife was sitting beside you who still vividly remembers meeting you.

Please convey my best regards to my friend Mr. Masani.

With all good wishes for a strong health and for the political combat which not even dismisses the octogenarian,

Yours sincerely,

Sd. Wilhelm von Pochhammer

(true copy)

Ardevan Masani, for your information
Pochhammer