

C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

4714

60, BAZLULLAH ROAD
TYAGARAYANAGAR
MADRAS - 17

27th February 1964

File

My dear Masani,

Mr. Howard Erdman of Cambridge (Mass) has sent me a reprint of his study of our party. I have no doubt he has sent you also a copy. My reply to him beyond thanking him for the favour was that I thank God I am not completely unnerved by his verdict about our future. It is indeed a devastatingly adverse 'report'. He has no doubt analysed and corrected many errors of fact and wrong allegations. But he has weighed us in the scales of prospects in a mass plebiscite and found us wanting. Historical parties rest on the firm foundations of inherited mass support. A new party like ours must stand or fall on the strength of our principles and our promises, and the present appeal of such principles and pledges to the *mind* masses in the country who have to vote. Mr. Erdman is therefore *of that* entitled to say what he has said, although the *of that* failure of the Congress to deliver the goods is an element which he has not taken into account in considering the mass reaction to what we say.

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachari

Mr. M.R. Masani
New Delhi