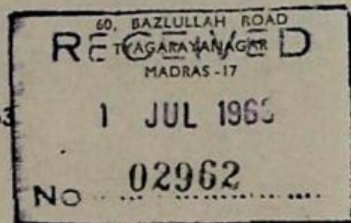


C. RAJAGOPALACHARI

4733

26th June 1963



My dear Masani,

Chiefly the by-elections and perhaps some other developments too have made an impact on people all over India and I get letters from stray individuals which indicate a desire to help. But they are scattered and completely out of touch with any local unit of ours even if such existed. I feel we should use our life member (Rs.10/-) plan in these cases and create a focus of influence if nothing else. My present feeling is that life membership should be the basis of an all India cadre where the age is between 25 and 50.

I write so that you might think it over and if you feel drawn to the idea to devise an executive plan for it.

Yours sincerely,

C. Rajagopalachari

Sri M.R.Masani
Bombay-1

MADRAS: The Swatantra Party is undergoing the pangs of an ideological rift. There is within it an articulate "LEFT" and a very disturbed "RIGHT."

The former is led by the Party's founding-father C. Rajagopalachari. The latter is backed, though not led, by Messrs R. M. Munshi and M. R. Masani.

Twenty members of the Party from Uttar Pradesh, Bombay, Gujarat and Bihar demanded an extraordinary session of the Party's National Council to "resolve" the conflicts within the party over Rajaji's "committed positions" in the public.

"Morarji Must Go!"

— CR Calls

For instance, Rajaji's latest slogan, "Morarji Must Go" roused the fear that Rajaji was deviating from the Swatantra track.

Rajaji gave the slogan at an all-party rally held to protest against the tax-burdens. He interpreted the reverses suffered

Swatantra Split Over Rajaji Stand

● From BLITZ's Correspondent

by the Congress in Amroha, Farrukhabad and Rajkot as the people's verdict "PRINCIPALLY AGAINST THE POLICIES PURSUED BY MR. MORARJI DESAI".

Intriguingly enough Rajaji did not stress the familiar Swatantra opinion of these reverses being a verdict against "Nehru Government's policies at home and abroad". On the other hand, he singled out Morarjibhai for attack, and appealed to the Prime Minister to "dismiss" him forthwith!

According to informed sources, the Swatantra Party was alarmed. Mr. Munshi is learnt to have lodged a strong protest with Rajaji, saying that by attacking Morarji personally, Rajaji had done "incalculable harm to the cause of our party ideology", and less justice to himself than to the "victim of the uncharitable attack".

The Swatantra princes and stalwarts, representing banking, shipping insurance and other industrial interests with country-wide ramifications, were upset over what they considered Rajaji's "shifting position" on another front also.

Rajaji said: "It (imposition of Hindi) is a war against the present educated classes of Bengal and South India and against those who aspire to be

educated, whether they belong to one caste or another. They will not surrender, but will fight to death against misrule and discriminatory legislation".

Earlier, he had taken the initiative for an anti-Hindi convention and goaded his DMK allies to prepare for "direct action" against Hindi under his tacit guidance. He himself threatened to launch a struggle "on the pattern of the freedom fight, involving suffering and sacrifice".

**Who Are The Rebels,
"Left" Or "Right"?**

Rajaji's second remark related to his "good chit" to the Dravidian politicians for demanding "secession" on a "peaceful democratic basis". According to him only "disintegration" was evil, and "secession", if achieved through peaceful means, would not lead to "misery".

The Swatantra Party was, consequently, faced with a major ideological split. It was not, however, clear who would play the "rebel" — Rajaji and his SOUTHERN supporters, or his opponents from Hindi and "PRINCELY" regions. Rajaji's calculation was that he would manage a majority in the National Council, and consign his opponents to the status of "empty rebels".