

4947

Ref: 7

October 22, 1975.

My dear

Thank you for your letter of October 14 and the invitation to contribute to a feature on books that you are planning at the end of the year. Normally, I would not have hesitated to respond to your request, but these are unusual times.

As you are aware, as Editor of Freedom First I have declined to submit to the whims and fancies of the censor and am at present engaged in seeking the assistance of the Law Courts through a Writ of Mandamus to assert my right to publish what I consider reasonable. In the light of this, it becomes necessary for me to raise the same issue in regard to the contribution for which you ask. I shall be glad to make it on a specific assurance from the Times of India that whatever I say in 500 words or thereabout will be published without the slightest change or deletion, whether made by the Censor or the Editor. Naturally, I do not expect that anything I say in regard to the books I mention or my comments on them would violate the guidelines laid down by the Government but, in these peculiar circumstances, I fear I shall have to claim the right to be the judge of that particular point. If you find this position embarrassing, please do drop me from your list of contributors on this occasion.

Incidentally, what happened to the review of my book "Is JP the Answer ?" which you told me you had prepared ? Surely that too, written by an astute and experienced journalist like you, should not run counter to any guidelines ? quite frankly, is there any reason why its publication should be any further delayed ?

I shall be glad to have a line in reply.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Inder Malhotra,
The Times of India,
BOMBAY

(M.R. MASANI)