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18 July 1975

My dear Santhanam

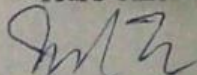
I received your circular letter addressed to editors on July 3. I am altogether responsive to your thought that there should be a meeting of those concerned by the censorship to concert measures. I have also seen your excellent note on Parliament and Censorship and your open letters to members of parliament.

Meanwhile, to meet the threat of pre-censorship I filed a writ petition in the Bombay High Court seeking to strike down the Maharashtra Censorship Order which is much wider than the Central order that operates in Madras and asking for the withdrawal of an altogether excessive and arbitrary order passed by the Chief Censor here in regard to material submitted to him for publication in Freedom First. This material which he disallowed includes Mr V.M. Tarkunde's excellent article on the "Scope of the Censorship Order", a report of the Madras High Court judgement in the Swarajya case and the resolution of the Maharashtra Bar Council asking the President to revoke the Emergency.

I am glad to say that this morning the Bombay High Court admitted my petition against the Maharashtra Government and its Censor. I was very disappointed that the Court fixed August 29 for placing the matter on Board. My lawyer's efforts to get an earlier date were unsuccessful.

In the light of all this I have decided to suspend publication of Freedom First at least till the end of August.

Yours sincerely



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