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CONFIDENTIAL

June 30, 1975.

My dear Tarkunde,

I have been hearing disturbing reports about JP and Morarjibhai being on a hunger strike and there is even a rumour about their being forcibly fed. Perhaps all these are unfounded rumours which float when the Press is censored.

In any event, JP's brother, Rajeshwar Prasad, is travelling up to Delhi with this letter. He is naturally anxious to have an interview with his brother. I shall be glad if you will kindly help him in securing an interview and guiding him as to how to go about it. In case you do not have any better ideas I have, as a precaution, given him a letter to Om Mehta, Minister of State for Home Affairs, since I do not know Mr. Brahmaananda Reddy. He may use it if it is necessary.

I have consulted Mr. Shanti Bhushan who is here and we both feel that, if an interview is denied, a Habeas Corpus petition should be filed in the Delhi High Court, since he was arrested in Delhi and part of the cause of action has arisen in Delhi, mentioning inter alia the fact that an interview was requested and denied, that no contact has been allowed and that there are disturbing reports of JP being on a fast with danger to his safety.

I am asking Rajeshwar Prasad to get in touch with you immediately on his reaching Delhi.

Yours sincerely,

(M.R. Masani)

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