

In August 1969, I was quoted as saying that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi was coming out "more and more openly in her true colours." "I would describe her accurately as a communist fellow-traveller who in the company of communists has set foot on the slippery slope of dictatorship." (*Stationer*, 12/8/1969)

Quoted from
pg. 223

According to Masani, socialism is on the way out, and in support of this proposition he relies on the experience of various European countries. In 1959, he wrote: "The Dutch Labour Party adopted in 1959 a new programme which defines socialism in terms of a set of social and ethical values. Specifically rejecting 'State Socialism and the bureaucratic assumption of power', it declares that 'ownership of the means of production should be made subservient of the well-being of the nation.....It is desirable for different forms of publicly-owned and privately-owned undertakings to exist side by side-----Public control must be exercised over the privately-owned undertakings if this should prove to be necessary in the interests of the community'.....The Swedish Social Democratic Party will have before it at a Party Conference in June 1960 a new programme prepared by the Prime Minister of Sweden and some of his colleagues. According to this draft, 'Social democracy supports the demand that this is necessary in order to safeguard important public interests.....(it) The Swiss Social Democratic Party adopted a new programme in June 1959 which declares that 'in the case of monopolistic enterprises, we must either establish the conditions necessary for fair competition or place them under the public control or actually transfer them to public ownership'.....The Austrian Socialist Party, historically the most Marxist in Europe, states in its new programme adopted in May 1959 that 'the aim of socialists is an order of society which has for its objective the free development of the human personality.' On the question of ownership, it declares that 'the only test as to which undertakings are to be taken into public ownership will be the public interest.....large sectors will, even in the future, remain reserved for private enterprise.'.....The new German Social Democratic Manifesto adopted at a special convention last November makes clear the direction in which enlightened and progressive socialist thought is moving when it says: 'Free choice of consumer goods and services, free choice of working place, freedom for employers to exercise their initiative and free competition are essentially conditions of a Social Democratic economic polity. The autonomy of trade unions and employers' associations in collective bargaining is an important feature of a free society. Totalitarian control of the economy destroys freedom. The Social Democratic Party therefore favours a free market wherever free

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competition really exists. Where a market is dominated by individuals or groups, however, all manner of steps must be taken to protect freedom in the economic sphere. As much competition as possible - as much planning as necessary.

(Copy to Mr. L. A. Berman, p. 14-5)

According to Masani the rate of growth in a free capitalistic economy is higher than in a socialist or communist economy. Masani claims that the march of events in the century that followed the publication of Karl Marx's Communist Manifesto falsified all the prophecies of the nineteenth century prophet, so that in countries undergoing the process of industrialization the poor have not become poorer. On the contrary, the bulk of the workers in countries, such as the United States and Canada, in the democracies of Western Europe, and in Australia and New Zealand have become more and more prosperous under what is called the capitalist system. The workers in these countries have acquired an important place in society through the power of their trade unions. "All this has been gained," wrote Masani, "without the bloody civil wars and revolutions forecast by Karl Marx. In the field of agriculture, phenomenal yields of food grains and other raw materials have been attained by small peasant farmers cultivating their own plots of land in countries as far apart as England and Denmark on the one hand and Japan on the other.... On the other hand, the last half-century has seen the defeat of the effort made by those led by Lenin who claimed to be Karl Marx's followers to establish a free and equal society by Marxist means." Masani recognised that the Soviet Union made striking progress in the production of steel and the development of armaments, but, he asserted, "even its Sixth Five Year Plan has failed to give the Russian people a materially higher standard of life than before the Revolution or anything approximating a free and equal society. In the field of agriculture, the yields per acre of Soviet collective farms are among the lowest in the world. After forty long years, it is Man that has withered, not the State." It is for all these reasons, claimed Masani, that public opinion in the democratic countries of the world have "moved slowly but consistently away from the sbibboleths of state socialism and communism and back to the fundamental values of liberty and people's enterprise. The State is being recognised to be the most dangerous source of concentration of power and to offer the biggest single threat to human freedom and advance. Before this Leviathan, all other monsters pale into insignificance."

(Copy to Mr. L. A. Berman, p. 167)