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Nehru on Chiang Kai-shek

(Letter written by Jawaharlal from Allahabad to Vallabhai in Poona on
October 1, 1945)

" You would have noticed in the Press a totally unnecessary controversy between Sarat (Chandra) Bose and me. I am afraid Sarat has some reason or other got a grievance against me, though why it should persist I do not know. He is making a dead set against Chiang Kai-shek, which seems to me bad and harmful and likely to create unnecessary trouble all round. None of us admires all that Chiang Kai-shek has done. But it does seem to me wrong for us to attack him in this way. He happens to be the head of the Chinese State and so far as India is concerned his attitude has always been very friendly. For my part I have kept up friendly relations not only with Chiang Kai-shek and the Chinese Government but with many of his critics in China. I do not want this controversy with Sarat, but to remain silent became impossible for me. "

Maulana Objects to Dr. Deshmukh

(Letter written by Maulana A.K. Azad from Calcutta to Vallabhai in Poona
on October 23, 1945)

" Thanks for your last letter. I agree with the list of candidates which you have sent me. Only about Dr. G.V. Deshmukh, who is standing from the Bombay city, I have to make an inquiry. Is he the same Deshmukh who was the sitting member, and who had issued malicious statements against Mahatma Gandhi ? Moreover he has been breaking party discipline so often. If he is the same man, I think it will greatly damage Congress prestige to give him the Congress ticket. It has been repeatedly affirmed that only those persons will be allowed to contest the elections this time on behalf of the Congress who have taken part in the Congress movement and have proved their worth at the time of the test. I do not know how we shall be able to keep up to our standard if we approve such a man! I do not know what sacrifices he has made for the cause of the country.

It is quite possible that this is some other person. However, please let me know telegraphically about this matter."

Re-election of Leader in the Assembly

(Letter written by Vallabhai from Bombay to Jawaharlal in Allahabad
on December 24, 1945)

" Maulana Sahib told me when I met him before leaving Calcutta on the last day that our discussion in the Working Committee about the appointment of the leader of the Central Assembly Party was such that he did not like it. He said that we all took it for granted that in the absence of Sjt. Bhulabhai (Besai) or Shri Rajaji, Sarat Bose would be the leader. He told (us) that we have ~~xx~~ all not considered the claim of Asaf Ali. He appears to me to be holding a strong view on this point. Since then I notice that the thing has appeared in the Press also. I am afraid if Maulana persists in his attitude and insists on supporting him there will be trouble in the party from its inception. Up to now Asaf Ali had taken it for granted and ~~xxxx~~ had never suggested that he himself would be in the run. The party meeting is to be called in the middle of January at Delhi and the Central Election Board also is to meet at that time. The election of the leader would largely depend upon the free choice of the party. Any pressure from above or from outside will probably be resented and may result in trouble."

(Letter written by Vallabhai from ~~Bombay~~ Jawaharlal in Udaipur on
December 29, 1945)

" About the question of Assembly leadership, I had a talk with Asaf and he has realised the difficulties of the situation and has agreed to stand aside. Therefore, for the present, the difficulty is solved."

Rajendra Babu Objects To Deshmukh

(Letter written by Rajendra Babu from Patna to Vallabhai on October 1,
1945)

" Dr. Deshmukh has not proved a very satisfactory Congress member in the Central Assembly and I imagine you would like to put up some-
body else in his place from Bombay. I believe there are two seats and ^{you}

have to put up one Maharashtrai and one Gujarati for the two seats. Could we take Professor K.T. Shah for one of the seats? For ability and capacity for work he cannot be beaten by any one else. He has not been a jail-going Congressman but he is a strong nationalist and can be depended upon if he signs our pledge to stick to it. I would therefore recommend him also.

There is also another name for the Provincial Assembly of Bombay about which I need not say much. There is the name of Dr. Jivraj Mehta. I have mentioned these names so that you may keep them in mind and consider them when the time comes."

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Why A Parsi ?

(Letter written by Vallabhai to Rajendra Babu from Poona on October 6, 1945)

" Regarding your suggestions about Prof. Shah and Dr. Jivraj Mehta, we shall consider the same when the proposals are received from the Bombay Congress Committee. There is a suggestion that a Parsi candidate should be selected and that would leave only one seat for Bombay which may go to Maharashtrai. The Parsis would find no place in the Central Assembly except from Bombay. As Sir Cowasji Jehangir will not probably stand this time no Parsi who is not given a ticket by the Congress stands any chance, but this will depend upon the attitude of the Bombay Congress Committee.

I have received the enclosed letter from Mr. Fazalbhoy sent to you by Prof. Shah. I have read the letter and I find that he wants to stand as an independent candidate and not on the Congress ticket. You write in your letter that we could take him as a Congress candidate for the Bombay Assembly and you recommend his case to me for consideration. He does not say that he wants to stand on the Congress ticket. There is some inconsistency which I am unable to explain. Probably ~~Prof.~~ Prof. Shah in his letter must have written to you that he is willing to stand on the Congress ticket. If he is standing as an independent candidate we have nothing to do in the matter unless he suggests a way in which we can help him."

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Why Not Bhulabhai, and why not NEM and Deshmukh ?

(Letter written by Vallabhai to Asaf Ali (in Delhi) from Poona on
October 19, 1945)

" About Sjt. Bhulabhai (Desai), I have already written to you. The Gujarat constituency from where he was returned last time has sent only one name, i.e. of Mr. (G.V.) Navalankar. In Bombay there are two seats for which they have recommended Mr. M.R. Masani and Dr. Deshmukh. Hence there is now no other place for him. You don't know the conditions in Bombay. We have got four applications of which the one of Dr. Jivraj is not to be considered because he is not a voter. Another one is a municipal servant or someone who is not worth considering. Therefore, there were only two left and we had no choice. Masani is a fairly good candidate. About Dr. Deshmukh I can say that there is no one who can take his place amongst the large Deccani population in Bombay. They have got the largest number of votes in that constituency and they cannot be ignored. A Deccani (Konkanis) candidate has got to be selected and the Bombay Congress Committee tried its utmost to find a better one, but they failed. (S.K.) Patil alone can succeed, but the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee cannot afford to lose him. He is the soul of that committee. Besides, he has got other responsibilities in Bombay. Therefore, as a last resort we had to fall back upon Dr. Deshmukh. In spite of his faults he is a good fighter and is a sport also. This time he will behave all right and so you need not be anxious about him on this score."

Jannadas Dwarkadas Objects to Me & Deshmukh

(Letter written by J. Dwarkadas to Vallabhai (in Poona) from Bombay on
October 19, 1945)

" The main criticism, as you are aware, is levelled against Dr. Deshmukh's nomination. He is a great personal friend of mine and we have known each other for five and thirty years. There is no doubt however that he has during the last five or six years often committed the unpardonable blunder of going directly against the wishes of the Congress leaders, either in the Assembly or outside it.

Regarding Masani, although his selection cannot be criticised as severely as Deshmukh's, I believe a better man should have been chosen. Masani has openly declared the severance of his connection with politics and he has resigned his membership of the Congress Socialist Party."

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My Nomination O.K.'d

(Letter written by Vallabhai to the Secretary of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee (in Bombay) from Poona on October 22, 1945)

"Your recommendations of:

- | 1. | Name | Constituency |
|----|-------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. | Dr. G.V. Deshmukh | from Bombay city |
| 2. | Shri M.R. Masani | " -do- |
| 3. | Shri Manu Subedar | " Indian Merchants' Chamber, |

as Congress candidates for the Central Assembly elections have been approved and you may inform the candidates accordingly. We hope the Congress will come out victorious with a thumping majority in all these constituencies."

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MRM's Letter to Vallabhai

(Letter written by MRM to Vallabhai from Bombay on November 6, 1945)

" Pardiwala tells me that as a result of my talk with you when you were here, I left you with the impression that I thought I was conferring an obligation on the Congress by accepting nomination for the Assembly and also that I had expected you or the Central Election Board to help financially in the campaign.

I don't know how I could have given you such an impression. I can only assure you that I am by no means insensible of the honour it is to be the standard-bearer of the Congress in this or any other sphere of activity. Indeed, I consider it a privilege.

that in this context.

the idealism and the undoubted strength.

Congress and not depend on a larger number of paid workers or a fleet of taxis. A certain amount of expense is of course inevitable and I thought, and still think, that the amount mentioned in the note I left with you on that occasion was quite adequate. There was, therefore, no need, in my view, for any contribution from outside. I can assure you that the interests and prestige of the Congress come first with me also and, so as not to leave any room for the thought in your mind or in any other quarter that the Congress interest may in any the slightest way be adversely affected, I have told (S.K.) Patil this morning that any expenditure the BFCC thinks necessary will be undertaken even though it may go beyond the limit mentioned by me. I hope this will remove any uneasiness that may be left in your mind.

You will be glad to know that everything is being done jointly and in fullest co-operation between Patil and ourselves. Paradoxically enough, our difficulty in getting a high poll is likely to be caused by the weakness of the other candidate through people not taking the election too seriously ! But we shall do everything possible to counter this. "

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Sardar's Reply to MRM

(Letter written by Vallabhai from Poona to MRM in Bombay on November 7, 1945)

" I have received your letter of yesterday.

If matters have been arranged satisfactorily I have nothing to say. You told me definitely that in other countries parties bear the cost of candidates and when you gave me your nomination you were under the same impression. You also said that you did not know that

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that you will have to spend money for this election and if you had known, perhaps you would have kept out. These statements of yours gave me the impression referred to in your letter and I spoke to Pardiwala and Syt. Purushottam about it. I was in a hurry to return here and I had not time to call you again. So I asked them to speak to you about it. I am glad things have been settled to your satisfaction. "
