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MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT

STADIUM HOUSE 81-83 VEER NARIMAN ROAD BOMBAY 20 GRAM CRITIQUE PHONE 295258

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

June 30 1970

John

My dear Minoo:

I was horrified to read your statement titled "Desai's Expulsion Final" in THE TIMES OF INDIA, Bombay, dated June 30 1970. The text was as under:

"NEW DELHI, June 29: The expulsion of Mr. C. C. Desai from the Swatantra Party is final, according to the party chairman, Mr. M. R. Masani.

"Talking to newsmen here today, Mr. Masani admitted that the Gujarat unit of the party had urged reconsideration of the question, but he practically ruled out withdrawal of the expulsion order.

"He, however, added that the Gujarat request would come up before the party meeting in Madras in the third week of July and indicated that his stand would be fully vindicated."

I think that my opinion about the CC affair is a matter of common knowledge. Everyone knows how I voted, and most of you have read my editorial in MARCH OF THE NATION, which prompted Rajaji to write and congratulate me on "brilliantly defending" the Party's point of view in the Desai affair.

But your statement goes way beyond the situation as it exists today.

The National Executive of the Party met and took a decision on Mr. C. C. Desai, after having gone through the procedures that it thought fit. An important and responsible (and we must presume that they are responsible) unit of the Party disagreed with the decision of the National Executive, and in all humility requested the National Executive to reconsider its decision. Their objection was on two counts - (a) that the charge sheet, reply and remarks did not convince them about CC's guilt; and (b) that the procedure adopted was inadequate, and that when a person is being expelled he should at least be given the benefit of a personal hearing.

The request of the Gujarat Party makes it incumbent on the National Executive to reconsider the matter on merits along with whatever fresh evidence is produced before it, and also to consider whether



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it wishes to adopt the suggestions made by the Gujarat Party vis-a-vis procedure. After the National Executive has met and reconsidered the matter, it can come up with any decision it thinks fit or fair on both counts. But in the meanwhile for the Party President to publicly state that the "decision is final", then admit that "reconsideration has been demanded", and then be reported to say that "withdrawal of the expulsion order is practically ruled out" and then to preempt the decision of the National Executive by saying that "his stand will be fully vindicated", is to say the least, not fair.

To begin with, it is not your stand which might be vindicated, but the stand of the National Executive, then to suggest that the reconsideration will be an eyewash, very seriously questions the credulity of the National Executive.

Having witnessed the type of press reporting that has been going on in the last year, I am inclined to give the benefit of the doubt to anyone who makes a press statement, and therefore, I would very strongly urge you to issue a rejoinder and to correct the report if the pressman has misreported you in any way.

The situation in Gujarat is very delicate, and a report such as this could easily tilt the balance against the Party. And I see no reason whatever why our natural jubilation over the historic events that are likely to occur during the next month, should be sullied by yet another bout of dirty linen washing through the columns of the Press.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours

COPY Original
Signed by PILOO MODY

Piloo Mody

Mr M R Masani - MP
Bombay/Delhi

Copy to:

All the members of the National Executive Committee.