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from 2 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi 11.

14th April, 1970.

My dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your letter of 13th April, which has come in this morning, and for all the support you gave in helping our Party to take the right decision. (I enclose a copy of the text of the resolution in case the National Headquarters has not sent it to you.)*

*already sent to
you by National
Headquarters.

I feel a great sense of relief and have a feeling that the worst is over even in so far as Gujarat is concerned. For one thing, the bluff about the Gujarat Party leaving the national Party as a whole or of a split or even of anyone resigning has been called. Already the bang has turned into a whimper and all we need expect is a show of annoyance which we are capable of taking.

The action we have taken will undoubtedly help in getting those who still have an open mind in our Gujarat Party to back away from the drifting into Mrs. Gandhi's camp. At the same time, there will be an effort to utilise the National Executive's decision to permit the moving of motions of censure for the purpose of "toppling" and then making a deal with the Indicate over the head of the Party. Press reports from Gujarat suggest that this is openly talking about by the so-called leaders of the Gujarat unit in the State Assembly.

We shall utilise the next few months to change the climate. Also the effort may not at all succeed and the pipe dreams of doublecrossing the Centre may never have an opportunity to materialise even if they are still entertained a few months from now.

We are planning to take concrete measures to maintain better communication with our members in Gujarat and not to allow misconceptions and misunderstandings to develop.

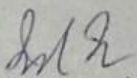
The press reaction so far has been good. The Hindustan Times and Statesman editorials are friendly. I am disappointed with the Indian Express attitude. I do not know if Hindu has written yet. There are two excellent cartoons in the Times of India and Hindustan Times of this morning which are very apt.

My mother, who was operated on at the Willington Hospital here on 31st March expired this morning after a long and gruelling illness. This has been a great strain on me particularly during the last two or three days when I had to alternate between my chair at Party meetings and the hospital where a vigil had to be kept as my mother was slowly sinking from day to day. At last she was released from it this morning and I am writing soon after coming back from the funeral. *at the age of 85*

I leave for Bombay tomorrow morning for two or three days and to put in some work at the Party office and plan to be back in Delhi by the 20th

This is just in case you would like to communicate with me.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. MASANI)

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