

5711

from 2 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi 11.

5th April, 1970

My dear Rajaji,

Since I wrote to you on the 2nd, the Comments of the National Headquarters on C.C.Desai's explanation have come in and I enclose a copy.

I should very much appreciate your having pages 7 to 9 read to you. These deal with C.C.Desai's activities since the show cause notice was served on him. If you will kindly see the press statements in the Gujarat Herald and Jannabhoomi issued by C.C.Desai on 9th March, you will find that he has actually argued for a Government in Gujarat "which would have the support of Mrs. Gandhi" and which "should be loyal to the Central Government."

H.M.Patel was here to see me this morning. It may amuse you to know that, while he is agreed that C.C.Desai should be expelled, he pleads for a postponement on the ground that the present occasion is not "timely". Evidently, ~~according to him~~, the whole Party should be eaten up by Mrs. Gandhi through Mr. C.C.Desai before we decide to strike, because that is what would happen if any further weakness is shown towards C.C.Desai.

Yours sincerely,

encl.

(M. R. MASANI)

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
Naaroji Road,
Chetput,
MADRAS 31.

P.S. H.M.Patel tells me that Baria is still pursuing the effort at securing further defections so that he may be in a position to present to the Speaker tomorrow, that is the 6th instant, a list of the majority of the members of the Assembly to demand the convening of the Session in order to overthrow the Gujarat Government. Patel himself is not at all clear whether or not this effort would succeed. This is just to prepare you for any further shocks that may be ahead of us.

EPS. Just as this was going, a copy of your letter to Sundaram and others of the 4th, for which I am very grateful, has come in.