

Confidential

5725

from 2 Tughlak Road,
New Delhi 11.

2nd April, 1970

My dear Rajaji,

When I left with you the other day a copy of C.C.Desai's very offensive "explanation" in response to the charge sheet served on him by the National Executive, you indicated that you would have no interest in looking at it and I did not want at that time to trouble you to go into the matter.

Since coming to Delhi, however, I find that C.C.Desai is trying to work up a war of nerves against us in the manner that Ramgarh used to do. The threat is that there will be defections from the Gujarat Party in case he is expelled as we propose to do. This is having an unfortunate effect on Prof. Ranga who is quite openly scouting any attempt at restoring discipline and suggesting "we should be realistic". The Gujarat members of the Executive, although themselves convinced that C.C.Desai should go, are likely to abstain from voting on such a decision out of fear of unpopularity with some of their colleagues in Gujarat. According to them C.C.Desai is in very high standing with such people there because he has been the hero of the campaign to defy the national leadership of the Party ^{and to} ~~for the~~ calling of the aligning of our Party with Indira Gandhi and her group!

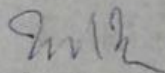
I believe that, notwithstanding all this, it will ~~not~~ be possible to get a majority of the National Executive to vote for C.C.Desai's expulsion but this may be difficult if we do not have the support of the four members from Madras, namely, Prof. Ruthnaswamy, Mariswamy, Sundaram and Hande. I wonder if it will be asking too much of you to speak to Hande, who is in Madras, and request him to attend the meeting and stand by us. Ruthnaswamy, Mariswamy and Sundaram are, I presume, in Delhi and I shall try to speak to them but I think a line from you would be of the utmost value. I hate to trouble you in this regard but I feel that we need your help.

Dandekar, Cooper and I feel that we simply cannot carry on with C.C. in the Party because it is making it impossible for us to face people who confront us with our cowardice, much less to ask for money which they flatly refuse to give while C.C. Desai is in the Party. H.P.Nanda, our Delhi treasurer, frankly says he can do nothing for us unless this reproach to the Party thrown at him by his associates is eliminated. Anything you can, therefore, do to help in seeing this through will be much appreciated by us.

If you feel like sending me a letter commenting on C.C.Desai's statement and the conclusion you draw from it as to what we should do, that would also be helpful. I know it ^{will have} ~~may be~~ some effect in neutralising Ranga's opposition.

Once again with my apologies for troubling you in this wretched business,

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. RASANI)

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