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2nd April, 1970

Express delivery

My dear Raju,

Yesterday I sent you by airfreight and express delivery the revised text of National Headquarters' Comments on Mr. C.C.Desai's reply.

This morning I sent you a telex message through Mr. Somani's office which I trust you have got. A copy of the message is attached.

I enclose herewith a draft letter for Dr. Cooper's consideration which may go (a) our 39 or 40 M.P.s at their Delhi addresses, (b) the members of the Gujarat State Executive Committee and (c) our Gujarat M.L.A.s. If you have not got the home addresses of our M.L.A.s and Executive Committee members, please telephone Ahmedabad and obtain them.

Our idea is that a three column statement giving the full text of relevant parts of the National Executive's Note, C.C.Desai's explanation and the National Headquarters' Comments should reach M.P.s, M.L.A.s, etc. a day or two before the National Executive's meeting. I can see no objection to this and have promised that this will be done.

The second proposal about inviting members of the State Parliamentary Board from Gujarat to join us also appears to me on balance not a bad one in view of the composition of the Board. In practice this will only mean that Navin Patel may come. He will no doubt speak for "Gujarat sentiment" but not with too much conviction! In that sense he will duplicate whatever H.M.Patel may do. Baria may probably not come but send a letter recording his dissent. Our Gujarat colleagues feel that we should take action notwithstanding this dissent rather than be accused by them of lack of consultation. I am inclined to agree with their judgement much as I dislike increasing the strain on the National Executive and making our task a little harder. Mohammed Imam, Goud, Somani and Patodia are quite solid but we may have to allow our Gujarat members to abstain for obvious reasons. Even so I do not think there should be any difficulty about a majority. If H.M.Patel requests postponement till Sunday morning, we shall have to agree but I would prefer that we take action on Saturday afternoon for reasons of which you are aware. If, on the other hand, he does not request a postponement, we would rather act while he is away.

I am also enclosing a draft letter to the three members of the State Parliamentary Board for Dr. Cooper's consideration. You are welcome to consult Dandekar about these matters also. Would you all feel that a telegram of invitation and a letter to this effect goes from our office on the 8th and reaches the members concerned on the 10th, it would be considered reasonable notice or too late. If it is felt that it is too late, then the letter on the lines of the draft could issue from your office on Monday the 6th but not earlier. I would not like needless time to be given for any kind of meeting to be convened in Ahmedabad to whip up resistance as this will certainly happen if too much notice is given. I would appreciate Dandekar's, Cooper's and your comments on this point also.

encls.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. S.V.Raju, Bombay.

*S.M.R.*