

JAYAPRAKASH NARAYAN

Permanent Address :

KADAM KUAN, PATNA-3

BIHAR, INDIA

Telephone : 51239

CAMP.

Circuit House,
Thippagondana Halli,
Bangalore, Mysore State.

July 1, 1972

Dear Minoo,

Thanks a lot for your letter of June 21. We are not ^{at} Yercaud as you will see from the address above. I had to leave Yercaud for Madhya Pradesh and after our return we came here rather than go back to Yercaud. We are here until the 14th July after which I shall be travelling and reaching Patna in the last week of July.

Regarding the Panchgani matter, frankly, Minoo, between you and me, I have never felt drawn to the M.R.A. and would not like to get involved in any of their programmes. However, this does not mean that the two suggestions that emerged from the Panchgani meet are not worth considering. As far as I am concerned, I have been speaking out from time to time and will continue to do so. The only difficulty in a group functioning in the manner suggested is the difficulty and cost of getting together and the unsatisfactory role that correspondence can play in the matter of joint-consultations and arriving at agreed statements. Each one of the names mentioned by you will be sure to have his own point of view and without a get-together it may be impossible to evolve a consensus. Besides, I do not know if ex-Chief Justice Hidayatullah would want to get involved in politics even if it may mean no more than issuing statements from time to time. When I met him the last time he said he wanted to confine himself only to study and writing. However, if you get a group organised, you can count on my cooperation,

Regarding India-Pakistan relations, they have, as you know, entered an entirely new and hopeful era. For the first time it seems that in Pakistan too the realisation is dawning that if democracy and economic development were to be assured, the era of confrontation with India must end. Therefore, I have no doubt this is a very propitious moment for some such initiative ^{as} you have in mind. More such groups formed in the country the better. May I suggest the name of Dilip Mukherji, whose articles in the Times you may have read before? You might also invite Prof. Sisir Gupta from the Nehru University and, maybe, Dr. Ayub from the same place (Indian School of International Studies). If for some reason you do not favour Dilip Mukherji, I suggest either Ajit Bhattacharjee or Shyam Lal. I would also like you to consider Lt. Col. Zaidi and perhaps Prof. Mujeeb from the Jamia Millia, and why not our old friend, Harris? As for my participation, I do not think that will be possible. I must be in Patna then because from the 11th October my retirement period begins. But my best wishes will be with you.

Yours as ever,
Jayaprakash

(Jayaprakash Narayan)

Mr. M.R. Masani,
Bombay.