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JP file

19th November, 1971

My dear J.P.,

Since I have some doubts about the therapeutic value of telegrams, I am not adding to the many that must be pouring in! I thought I would send you this letter at your Patna address so that you get it when you are back in town and are feeling a little better.

The news of your set back was, of course, a great shock but the news broadcast on All India Radio the same night gave us some reassurance and I am glad to see from later reports that you are making good progress. Let us hope that the after effects of this particular crisis may soon fade out.

I am more concerned, however, with the long term outlook. It is quite obvious that you have overexhausted yourself for a long time now. Indeed, in your state of health it is a miracle that you have survived all these years considering the tough and arduous life which you have led. Don't you think this is the right time for a long rest? I have noticed, of course, that you propose to do precisely this after your next birthday in October 1972. I wonder what the significance of postponing it to a particular date is? Surely a revolutionary like you does not have to go in for any ritualistic attitude of this kind? The time for you to retire from activities is now, and not a year from now. In fact, if I may take the liberty of making this suggestion, what you should do is to retire and take rest till your next birthday and then return to the field. Believe me, this will have a much more tonic effect on those who believe in what you stand for.

Well, I hope I have convinced you and, failing that, at least amused you. When you are really feeling better, it will be nice to have a line from you.

My regards to Prabhavati and yourself.

Yours as ever,

(M. R. MASANI)

Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan
Kadam Kuan
Patna - 3.

mrm/rb.

Times of India 18/11/71

Jayaprakash advised rest

"The Times of India" News Service

PATNA, November 17: Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan, who suffered from a bout of severe exhaustion at Sarvodaya Ashram, near Muzaffarpur, last night, has been advised complete rest.

Earlier reports had indicated that the 70-year-old Sarvodaya leader had suffered from a mild heart attack.

"There is no immediate cause for alarm," said Mr. Sachidanand, personal secretary to Mr. Narayan. He recalled that some London doctors had advised the Sarvodaya leader, while he was on a global tour to mobilise support for Bangla Desh, that he should take "adequate rest" after his mission.

Dr. Sreenivas, a leading cardiologist who was rushed from here, said on his return to Patna late this evening: "There was a certain abnormality and a little strain on the heart. It was not the usual heart attack."

He hoped that Mr. Narayan would soon recover from the strain.

Several doctors, including Mr. Narayan's personal physician, Dr. C. P. Thakur of the Patna Medical College, are keeping a check on his condition.

FEELING BETTER

Late in the night, the Sarvodaya leader was reported to be feeling better.

The Governor, Mr. D. K. Barooah, and the Chief Minister, Mr. Bholu Paswan, who made an air dash to Muzaffarpur on receiving information about Mr. Narayan's illness, said the Sarvodaya leader continued to be cheerful.

According to a report received here, Mr. Narayan felt giddy and perspired profusely last night while he was getting ready to leave for the residence of the commissioner of Tirhut division, Mr. A. K. Srivastava, for dinner. He decided to stay back in the ashram. Local doctors expressed the view that he had suffered a mild heart attack.

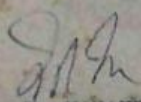
5th May 1971

My dear J.P.

I hear you are due in Bombay within the next two or three days, presumably during the week-end, but it is not clear whether you are going to stay in Bombay or you will be here en route to Nasik.

I will be here till Monday morning when I go to Delhi and would very much like to meet you either on Saturday or Sunday. I am free the whole of Saturday morning as it is a holiday here because of Id and could see you very conveniently any time till 1 p.m. On Sunday I have to go to Juhu to address a seminar in the morning but I could see you between 12 noon and 1 p.m. So please let me know what is convenient to you. You can telephone me at my residence (36-107). I too will try and get in touch with you at Ruparel's place.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. MAHANT)

Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan
C/o Mr. C. Ruparel
55 Dal Gangadhar Kher Marg
Bombay 8.