

6/10/75
Only the dictator knows how many more days JP has. The doctored medical bulletins convey hardly anything. Dr Shantilal Mehta is a fine man and a first class surgeon who will certainly try his best to keep JP alive. But from all indications, the dictator has done a fool proof job. That is what happened in the case of Dr Rammanohar Lohia too. I had then flown Dr Shantilal Mehta to Delhi in a desperate bid to save Dr Lohia's life. After examining Lohia, Dr Mehta told me that it was too late. The butcher who operated on Lohia and who was later given a special reward by the dictator had done enough damage. So it will be with JP.

The dictator has now released JP from detention. If there was not so much tragedy underlying it all, one could have laughed at this cruel joke. Yet the "release" of JP is significant. The dictator seems to be now convinced that her demonic plan to finally release JP from the world of the mortals is now nearing its last phase. We can only tell this devil of a dictator that she will never get away with JP's murder. Never.

I am reproducing herebelow a letter I have mailed to M R Masani, N A Palhiwala, J C Shah (former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court), M C Chagla, Sheikh Abdullah, Babubhai Patel, M Karunanidhi, S M Joshi and Achyut Patwardhan. The letter is self-explanatory.

"Dear Friend:

"It is with a heavy heart that I am addressing this letter to you and to a few other friends.

"When in early November I was told by a source from the Central Intelligence Bureau that JP has been drugged to a point where he will soon be dead or, even if he should survive for some time, he would be totally useless for the movement, I had addressed letters to several friends in the country requesting them to spare no efforts to organise the people and to raise their voice in a bid to save JP's life. A day or two after mailing these letters, I saw the text of the letter addressed by JP's brother to the lady in which he (JP's brother) gave JP less than two months to live. It now appears that the lady has done everything to ensure that JP is removed from our midst in the quickest possible time. I have been told by unimpeachable sources that the army, police and para-military forces have been put on an alert and all news of JP's health and people's reaction thereto are monitored in a specially set up control room in New Delhi. This is just one part of the lady's diabolical moves.

"I have also learnt from very reliable sources that before his release on parole from the Chandigarh (Hospital) prison, JP's signatures have been taken on a number of papers. JP himself has admitted to signing on some papers without knowing their contents. I have reasons to believe that some signatures have been taken on blank papers, which could later be used in furtherance of the ulterior motives of the lady.

"You have seen the cynicism with which Kamaraj's death has been used by the lady and by her minions to trumpet the so-called last wishes of Kamaraj, when everyone knows that Kamaraj died a broken-hearted man, totally disillusioned at the sad spectacle of the lady he installed as Prime Minister turn herself into a self-confessed dictator. All those close to Kamaraj have told me that Kamaraj could never have dreamt of having anything to do with the dictatorship of the lady. In fact, in all his private and public utterances since June 26, 1975, he exhorted the people to fight against her dictatorship.

"Against the backdrop of the condition of JP, the lady will stop at nothing and stoop to anything to forge documents containing JP's alleged last wishes. Already, her Establishment has set afloat rumours that JP has realised the mistake of his aligning with the Jan Sangh, RSS and other so-called reactionary groups etc.

"While what happens to JP will be a tragedy beyond words for all of us, and while it will be to the eternal shame of our country that her greatest son alive should meet with such a terrible fate at the hands of the wickedest woman alive, I feel that we should ~~xxxxxx~~ do everything in our power to ensure that the lady does not get a chance to smear JP's name when he is no more with us. I would, therefore, urge that either by an affidavit signed by JP before a Notary Public or through any other means you think proper you take steps to ensure that the papers signed by JP are not later put to use by the lady to forge some Last Testament of JP.

From the underground somewhere in India.

Yours sincerely

November 30, 1975.

May I suggest that we observe Sunday, December 14, 1975 as a Day of Protest for Jayaprakash Narayan. I have been trying to contact the members of the Sangharash Samiti to have this call go from the Samiti, but without success. I would urge the Sangharash Samiti, all parties, trade unions and other organisations to endorse this suggestion.

The Bureau of the Socialist International meeting in Brussels (Belgium) on November 29 - 30, 1975 has adopted a resolution on India. Only a few months ago, the dictator's party chief, Barooah, had invoked the Socialist International to stake the claims of the Congi as a party believing in democratic socialism. Here are the views of the Socialist International:

"The Bureau of the Socialist International, meeting in Brussels on November 29 - 30, 1975, and having received a report from George FERNANDES, Chairman of the Indian Socialist Party, and further clarifications from his emissary; Noting with concern that, contrary to the assertions of the Indian Government, the health of Jayaprakash NARAYAN, who has recently been released from detention on parole for thirty days, has deteriorated greatly during his detention, to the point where there are now serious fears for his life;

"Noting further that:

i) tens of thousands of political workers, trade unionists, members of parliament and of State legislatures, journalists, students and intellectuals have been arrested and are still in prison, and that many new arrests are still taking place daily;

ii) the great majority of the political prisoners are held in sub-human conditions and are denied the right of appeal to any court of law;

iii) although opposition parties are not legally banned, they are effectively prevented from functioning;

iv) the news media are not only subjected to rigorous censorship but are also compelled by the Government to publish certain reports and statements the contents of which are not always factual;

v) a rubber-stamp parliament, all of whose vocal opposition members have been imprisoned, has amended the Constitution and the law in order to bring in numerous repressive measures which deprive people of their fundamental rights;

vi) the workers have been denied their freedom of association and right to organise and to strike, and attempts are being made to render the trade union movement subservient to the Government's will;

Deplores the above-mentioned violations of civil liberties and fundamental rights;

Calls upon the Government of India to end the State of Emergency, lift press censorship, release all political and trade union prisoners held without trial and restore all democratic rights to the people of India;

Expresses its solidarity with the Socialist Party and other organisations fighting for democracy and socialism in India; and

Calls upon all member parties to extend all support and assistance to the Socialist Party of India.

So Bahuguna is gone. A wholesale transfer of officers at the State and district levels has taken place and a thorough shake up in the UP administration is on. The dictator's party is split in three factions in UP. The pink Sphinx Kamalapati Tripathi leads the most powerful group; Bahuguna (the private citizen) has the second most powerful group; and MAD (mamdam dictator) has an assortment of old-time renegades, sycophants and time-servers forming her own group. The UP developments could also mean that MAD is toying with the idea of early elections.

Weird stories are afloat in New Delhi on the reasons why Bahuguna had to go. They say it all started with MAD's supporter K K Birla losing his Rajya Sabha seat because of Bahuguna's opposition during the 1974 biennial elections. Bahuguna's failure to influence Justice Sinha to exonerate her of her election crimes provoked her further and so on and so forth. The weirdest one is about Bahuguna resorting to black magic to get rid of MAD which she first countered with her own black magicians battling with the demon in the lawns of her (MAD's) well-protected mansion. Then came the coup de grace.

What is behind the Cabinet reshuffle? Nothing much, really. MAD wanted to demonstrate her virility by shaking the pack a little. She also wanted to take over Defence because she does not trust any one any more. Then there was SOB (son of the dictator) insisting on having his buddy Bansilal in New Delhi. Ganesh had to be eased out for more than one reason, which has been known for a longtime. Khadilkar's utility had expired, besides he was talking too much with too many. G S Phillon had to be rewarded for services rendered. And Jagjivan Ram and Y B Chavan had to be served notice. A major Cabinet shake up is on the cards during the next fortnight.

Is MAD planning a mad adventure in Bangla Desh? There have been major troop movements from the central and western commands to the eastern sector. From Delhi alone, during the second half of November, over 15,000 troops have been air-lifted to the eastern sector, besides the several troop carrying trains that have been moving eastwards. I am told the Russians have been pressurising MAD to do a Czechoslovakia in Bangla Desh and to install a puppet regime. It all sounds very absurd, but one can never be sure of MAD. She is absurd.

In early October, 1975, when the Spanish dictator Franco executed five Basque rebels, there was spontaneous revulsion all over the world. Franco did not survive those executions. The blood of the martyrs cried for revenge, and with that went the "last European fascist". The Soviet Union, its satellites and their propagandists too joined the chorus of protest over the execution of the Basque revolutionaries.

Now we have been told that Kiste Gowd and Bhoomiah were hanged in Hyderabad on December 1, 1975. All our efforts to save the lives of these two brave comrades who struggled all through their lives to protect the poor tenants and agricultural labourers from brutal exploitation by rapacious landlords finally failed. With their execution, the dictator and her goons have started putting the hangman's noose round the necks of political workers. For this is the first time in free India that political workers have been hanged for political crimes. Of course, thousands have been killed by police lathies and bullets and are still being killed. Reports from Bihar mention of daily killings of the leaders of the landless labourers, harijans and other exploited sections of the people.

The blood of Kiste Gowd and Bhoomiah cries for revenge. And rest assured, madam dictator, their deaths will be avenged.

Poor dear Raghavan. Of BLITZ, I mean. He has been spending a life-time educating the Nehru family on fascism. And now he complains to having shock waves surging through his vodka-soaked arteries. Cause? "India observed State mourning in memory of General Franco, one of the worst fascists the world has produced." These are Raghavan's words (BLITZ, Nov 29). I have been trying to educate Raghavan into realising that one fascist does mourn the passing away of another. But Raghavan refuses to learn. Incidentally, what about our fascist executing Kiste Gowd and Bhoomiah? Guzzle more vodka and forget it all, eh, Raghavan? When will Raghavan and his kind also learn that to the Russians all Communist parties all over the world are expendable if that serves Moscow's foreign policy objectives. The Russians make deals even with an Idi Amin. And will Raghavan stop all that rubbish of comparing MAD with Chile's late mented Salvador Allende? Of course, your boss Rusi Karanjia once compared MAD to Ho Chi Minh. When I asked him if Ho Chi Minh had a son who produced a Maruti, Rusi gave me a sheepish grin in return. What a Karanjia! What a Raghavan!

The SOD's stink-pot Maruti, has, for all practical purposes, folded up. Birlas do not have the Rs one hundred crores to sink in the SOD's bottomless pit. SOB, of course, is not concerned. He has made his pile long ago. And now he says, who needs Maruti when I can be the 'marut' of India that is India. Some happe, SOD!

They told me in New Delhi that MAD is scared to death. Literally, that is. She has been telling her very trusted (?) friends that she is afraid that "they" would liquidate her entire family. When friends ask who the "they" are, MAD says, "I am not afraid of the opposition. It is my own colleagues that I am afraid of". Now we know why every time MAD has left the Capital even for a single

night, she has taken with her the entire pack of Nehru Gandhis. During the two days in Orissa, four days in Kashmir, four days in Sikkim and Darjeeling, and a week-end near Sohna in Haryana, the State Exchequer was called upon to foot the bill of the entire family - MAD, SOD and all.

Also heard in Delhi: Devraj Urs, Prakash Sethi, and Harideo Joshi are in the "Q" to be kicked out. Siddhartha Shanker Ray and Rajni Patel are moving heaven and hell to win back the favour of SOD.

Kamlapati Tripathi is suffering from what? He is seen at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences regularly.

Court jester D K Barooah is suffering from an ailment that is refusing to respond to treatment. The Harley Street specialists whom he consulted on his recent visit to England (one report is that he was led the visit to London to be able to meet doctors there) have apparently told him that "it" is now in the tertiary stage.

The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India has produced several hundred thousand copies of a booklet by Rajni Patel, president of the Congi's BPCC. In a brief foreword to the booklet, Rajni writes that it is "primarily meant for Congress workers". Discussing the so-called achievements under the Emergency, Rajni asserts in the booklet that "the Congress (meaning Congi) alone can marshal the people's support for all the welfare measures undertaken under the Emergency".

This is further evidence that the State and the Congi are now one entity, and the tax payer's money is merrily being siphoned off for producing literature for the Congi by the dictator.

While comrades in the underground would gain immensely by reading Gandhiji, Lohia and Subhas Chandra Bose, they would also profit much if they read Lenin, Che Guevara, Fidel Castro and Mao. There is a great deal to be learnt on tactics from the writings of these Communist revolutionaries. To understand Mrs Nehru Gandhi's fascism better, one could usefully read the various writings of Jawaharlal Nehru on the subject of fascism. A much recommended novel for the underground workers is John Steinbeck's 'The Moon is Down'. It is a short novel available in Pan pocket edition.

In the nationwide Satyagraha that commenced on November 14, 1975, more than 60,000 people have courted arrest in the first twenty days. Reports from all over the country speak of the tremendous enthusiasm with which people are collecting at the spots where Satyagraha is offered. In Karnataka, Veerendra Patil and Ramkrishna Hegde have so far offered Satyagraha thrice. Some Karnataka Congians have complained to MAD that Devraj Urs is deliberately releasing the two Cong(0) leaders so that they could organise the people to greater action. A detailed report on the Satyagraha will be sent with the next bulletin.

December 5, 1975

George Fernandes.

Read Translate Duplicate Circulate

P.S. If three people start telling a story each to three others, by the time the eighteenth round is over, 38,65,00,000 people - the entire adult population of the country - will have known what the first three said. That is the power of the whispered word. Keep talking or whispering. That is the way to beat the dictator's censor.