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January 12, 1970

My dear Minoo,

I hope you got my letter posted to your Ghana and London addresses. Unfortunately I posted that letter to you C/o Park Lane Hotel address and only after I had despatched the letter did I receive the airfreight containing the Press Conference transcript and your covering letter. In case you have not received it, I had in that letter conveyed the wishes of Pramod Kalyani and Babubhai Shah that in view of

- (a) Mrs. Gandhi's visit to Rajkot on the 24th, and
- (b) a desire to arrange a reception for you since this will be your first visit to Rajkot after your election as President,

you should postpone your visit from the 24th to sometime in February, preferably the weekend of 7th and 8th. In view of the postponement of Parliament session and consequent change in our National Executive meeting date with which I shall deal later, you could now make the trip to Rajkot if you like on the following weekend of 14th and 15th returning to Bombay on the 15th evening. I am looking forward to your reply to this point as I have got to convey the decision to Pramod and Babubhai Shah. Your Ahmedabad programme details are now almost fixed. On 1st February the programme is as follows :

- 10.30 a.m. meeting with the State Executive
- 2.30 p.m. meeting with the M.L.A.s

About the programme on the 31st evening, we have not yet received reply from Jaideepsinhji in regard to the quiet dinner, but H.M. Patel had written to say that he cannot come to Ahmedabad on the 31st evening as he has engagements that time which he cannot put off. But he suggests breakfast at 9 a.m. on the morning of 1st February. I think this is just as well. You could have your dinner with Baria and have breakfast the following morning with H.M. (inviting Baria as well).

In your instructions for air bookings you had asked for an air ticket from Ahmedabad to Bombay, whereas in your itinerary it has been mentioned that you are returning by train from Ahmedabad. Perhaps you have done this to attend any possible public meeting. (Suketu Shah has apparently arranged a public meeting under the auspices of the Swatantra Party. At the same time the Ahmedabad Junior Chamber in reply to your letter of 6th express their delight "that you will bear their invitation in mind while making your plans". I do not know how you will manage both. But I would personally prefer your attending the Party meeting. You can always address the Junior Chamber some other time.). However, we hold confirmed tickets for you Delhi/Ahmedabad/Bombay (latter sector being the last flight from Ahmedabad at 20.45 hours reaching Bombay at 22.00 hours).

National Executive meeting

Consequent upon your letter informing us that Parliament will now reconvene on the 20th, I discussed possible changes of dates with Dr. Cooper and Mr. Dandekar and all of us agreed that the most suitable dates would be Monday and Tuesday, 16th and 17th February. We feel that 17th being Bakri Id and a public holiday will in no way affect our meetings. Circulars have been issued accordingly. Incidentally, Patodia also wrote independently suggesting the 16th and 17th.

Enclosed please find some clippings from the 9th to date.

Your Rajkot booklet you will be surprised to know has been finally printed off except for the cover. I got an excellent block made in Bombay and I have despatched it today to Babubhai Shah by airfreight. Copies will be waiting for you when you are here on the 23rd.

The Press Conference transcript is now with Inland Printers but I am not happy with either of the titles suggested by you. I am unable to give you any alternative suggestion right now but please be rest assured it will be ready by the time you return appropriately titled.

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)

Mr. M. R. Masani,  
Care: Tata Limited,  
18, Grosvenor Place,  
London S.W.1.

Encl: \*

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