

6275

Mr. Raju

*Dr. Cooper*  
*for information*  
*18/8* *MRM*

This is an old story. Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan had asked me to join this organisation and I refused to do so on the ground that spokesmen of both Communist Parties whose banning we had demanded were to serve on the organisation. Jayaprakash later tried Mr. Dandekar who also wisely kept away. This is now a subtle move by Prof. Das Gupta who is a misguided Gandhian to inveigle our party through Dr. Cooper. Mr. Ramesh Thapar is the convenor and guiding spirit of this whole move and Mr. Jayaprakash is being taken for a ride. We should ask to be excused on the ground that we do not sit with Communists in such organisations.

Bombay:

Dated : 18th August, 1969

*M. R. Masani*  
(M. R. MASANI)

Mr. S. V. Rapi

I agree. bc. put up a draft.

Thurs.

*He*  
21/8/69



OFFICE MEMO

From: S. V. Raju

To: Mr. Dandekar

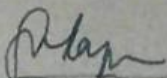
Date: August 5, 1969

Subject: \_\_\_\_\_

\*  
Enclosed is a letter that we have received from om Mr. Sugata Dasgupta of the Council for National Conventions. In the 4th paragraph he states that the Party has kept away from the Council and suggests that we should reconsider our decision.

Personally speaking I am totally in the dark about this whole affair and cannot recall any earlier correspondence on the subject. Do you happen to know anything about this matter? Dr. Cooper will reply to Mr. Dasgupta only after hearing from you.

Mr. Raju

  
(S. V. Raju)

Encl: \*

I cannot recall any  
earlier correspondence either.  
But I get so much "bump"  
from so many people, that  
I would not be surprised if  
I did receive something &  
convinced it W.P.B.

2/3  
7869

SUGATA DASGUPTA

As from Calcutta

Council of National Conventions  
C/o. Gandhian Institute of Studies  
Rajghat, VARANASI-1.

June 16, 1969.

Dear Dr. Cooper,

*President -* I am writing to you in a hurry about the Council for National Conventions of which Jayaprakash Narayan is the Chairman, Shanker Rao Deo is the Vice-President and I am one of the Secretaries. The Council is composed of three types of members viz; (i) individuals - eminent scholars and social workers such C. D. Deshmukh, Prof. A. R. Wadia, Dr. P.N. Dhar, Prof. Rajani Kethari, Shri A. B. Shah, etc. etc. (ii) Institutional members - research bodies like the Gandhian Institute of Studies, India International Centre, Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, etc. (iii) Political parties - all political parties represented in the parliament.

*Mr. S.V. Rajin* The Council is not a registered society; it is not a 'party' or a forum of parties. It is a non-party, non-governmental voluntary agency which seeks to consider urgent national issues of political and social significance and to create a consensus among the members, intellectuals, social workers and politicians. The Committee has thus set up, among others, a body to study the methods of Elections with B. Siv Rao as Chairman, a committee to study "Grassroot Democracy" with S. M. Jeshi as convener, a committee (with Ventaka Subaiah and Balraj Madhek as conveners) on "Interstate Council" and a Peace Commission, with Jayaprakash as Chairman to study 'unrests' in the country.

*What abt this? Pl. Spoke to me? We must consult Mr. Manohar & Dandekar in view of Commis. body on this matter?*  
*18/6/69* The Council comprises 100 members. The Standing Committee has about sixteen. Each Political party sends two representatives on the standing committee and four on the Council. No decision is ordinarily arrived at by majority vote in the Council which binds its members in any manner.

*4* The Swatantra party has till now kept away from the Council. May I suggest that you be good enough to reconsider your decision and join the Council and its standing committee, at least as an observer? Kindly let me know at the above address and oblige.

*5* This letter is sent to you from Calcutta, hence I am not sending you all the literature of the Council. The literature are at Varanasi. I will send these to you soon. The Swatantra party office, of course, has in its possession a copy of each of all our literature.

*with kind regards*

Yours sincerely,

*Sugata Dasgupta*  
(Sugata Dasgupta)

Dr. R. C. Cooper, Ph.D.  
Hansetia & Co.  
51, Mahatma Gandhi Road  
BOMBAY-1.