

6289

From

C.V. Rajagopalachari,
3/2, Infantry Road,
Vellore-1, H.A. (Tamil Nadu).

Vellore,
11-4-71.

To

Sri M.R. Masani,
Chairman, Swatantra Party of India,
No. 146, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay-1.

Fornd

Dear Sir,

I am herewith sending you a leaflet "My Apology to Rajaji" for your perusal.

Please return page 6 at para 5 of the leaflet sent herein to know my credentials for addressing this personal letter to you.

All along, lasting over 45 years, I had been in the camp of Rajaji. But from February this year, I was not able to continue to be in his camp. You will find my reasons in the second page of the leaflet sent.

Even after, Election results were known, Rajaji did not reconcile himself to have the magnanimity of accepting the verdict of the majority as the correct indication of the people's will. But he said "Dharma is defeated and Democracy is wounded". On the other hand, you made a forthright statement that "We should accept the decision of the majority of the people". Then you went still further and had made a public statement to the effect that you would resign your Chairmanship of the "Swatantra Party".

I admire and appreciate your courage of conviction. Your action is in conformity with the action of great parliamentarians

of Great Briton, where parliamentary Democracy is functioning well.

I hope and trust that your courage of conviction will withstand against the persuasive eloquence of Rajaji. I assure you that personally I will not worry myself about you changing your own decision publicly made to please Rajaji. But I felt as it is my duty as a public worker of some standing to write to you this personal letter.

With love and regards,

Yours Faithfully,

Enclosure: 1.

C. V. Rajagopalachari

ILALA CAT YADHANA YH

My Apology to Rajaji



Written by

C. V. Rajagopalachari. Vellore, N. A.

Victoria press, Vellore.

MY APOLOGY TO RAJAJI

(Written by C. V. Rajagopalachari, Vellore, N. A.)

Respected Sir,

I wrote to you on the 2nd February, 1971 requesting you to make me understand your attitude regarding the charges of Betrayal of and Ingratitudes to friends. These charges were publicly made by the D.M.K. Leaders. Your reply to my above request was:

"Let us not take any notice of such remarks".

Then I wrote to you saying that I am going to oppose your attitude and to support the D. M. K., so as to enable me to avoid the same charges being levelled against me. In reply to this letter you wrote to me on 13th February, 1971.

Here is that letter:

"My dear C. V.

I think it would be very wrong on your part to oppose my attitude and to support the D. M. K. I have no doubt you will not act as you threaten to do, viz., to oppose the democratic front and support the D. M. K."

I did disobey your direction and supported the D. M. K. and worked at Vellore as well as in Madras City. I did work against you, because of your unreasonable attitude and your reply did not satisfy me.

I did disobey your directions even as early as 1948. On 2nd March 1948, you had written to me directing me to rest content with a balance of good and evil, lest the candle should be blown out in excitement. I did not keep quiet and published a Pamphlet in English under the caption: "Save the Country from Totalitarianism" and

thus courted prosecution and conviction - Vide 1949 (11) M.L.J. 300 - A.I.R. 1950 Madras 27.

Your letter of 2nd March, 1948 and my reply dated 11th March, 1948 are given here below:

Governor of Bengal
West

Government House,
Calcutta,
2nd March, 1948

My dear C. V. R.

Agreeing with all that you say in your letter of the 27th February, I notice your touching faith in the common people. For this is the inference to be drawn from your statement that "Congress (having deteriorated) will lose its hold on the common people."

The common people are not so wise as you imagine and can be efficiently exploited and deceived by any powerful or active organisation at those points wherever they are operated on. You seem to think that the common people have sufficient understanding and capacity to know and resist falsehood. I doubt this.

While you are right in divine discontent against Congress, do not go too far left and be tolerant towards other groups who are equally wicked. In your indignation against those in whom you expected respect for the law of God, you should not be more tolerant of the weaknesses of others.

Therefore you will have to rest content with a balance of good and evil and to preserve your blood pressure at normal, lest the candle should be blown out in excitement.

Yours sincerely,
C. Rajagopalachariar,

Sri C. V. Rajagopalachari,
30/79, Sembudoss Street,
Madras.

C. V. Rajagopalachari,

30/79, Sembudoss Street,
Madras-1. 11-3-'48.

To

His Excellency C. Rajagopalachariar,
Governor of West Bengal.

My Dear Sir,

I am deeply grateful to your reply of 2nd instant. Such replies from a leader of your eminence is of great value at this time when our leaders forget and slight their former friends and consort with their erstwhile foes.

Assuming that "Common people are not so wise" and allow themselves to be "exploited and deceived by powerful and active organisation" can it be right on the part of those who are interested in the moral and material well being of the common people to be indifferent to the menace and leave the field clear to the exploiters and the deceivers?

In 1920, Congressmen, big and small, took the vow to serve the people and sacrificed their all in the fulfilment of that vow. Personal interest was not there. Now, there is a change. Self-aggrandisement seems to be the law of life for Congressmen. Why, this change? I am troubled as to whether I am right in drawing public attention to this deterioration. I wish to assert my right to think. The humble as well as the great should have the right. Success or failure in the attempt to capture power is immaterial. Is this view of mine correct, or is it a mere distortion?

You seem to think that I am worried about people not respecting 'the law of God'. It is very difficult for a humble worker of my position and learning to lay down what the law of God is. The voice of God is unique to those privileged to hear it. God speaks to men in different ways. It is not right to hold God responsible for

man's frailties. I do not nurse any grievance against anybody that he or she is not respecting the law of God. I am concerned with something more definite. I am bothered with political problems which are mundane. On a political issue ordinary people can sift the facts and judge them. If we rely only on the voice of God each side would claim that God is in their favour. There will be no finality about anything and political action will be paralysed.

I have taken your advice that I should not be 'too tolerant towards the weakness of the 'left'. I promise you I shall apply the same standard in judging the doings of the left. Having spent out my life in the group that is now called 'right' I am not likely to get lost in the emotional storm - raised by new comers called the 'left'. 'Right' and 'Left' change their nomenclature with the efflux of time. Once upon a time we were all in the 'left'.

Finally, you have advised me to keep my blood pressure normal, lest the candle be blown out in excitement. I shall do my best to follow your advise. But, at my age, I should get reconciled to the candle being blown out in excitement or without excitement.

Once again I thank you for your courtesy.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,
C. V. Rajagopalachari.

I wrote to you while I was in Madras (22-2-1971) giving the salient points which I placed before the public to consider whether I was right in appealing to them ~~the~~ to vote for D. M. K. as against the Congress though it came with a different name.

Here are those points:—

I appeal to the voters to consider the efficient administration and achievement of the D. M. K. Government since they came to power in 1967.

1. The Congress misrule is still green in the minds of the poor people who suffered for getting Rice even 6 ounces per day, even to get this meagre quantity of rice they had to stand in Queue from midnight to next mid-day. And many had to return home empty-handed. This calamity was cured by the D.M.K. Government in 1967.

2. The D. M. K. Government has settled the students grievances over the English language question by seeking the experts' help, but they did not quell it by using Police force as Congress Government did to quell the students' upsurge against the imposition of Hindi in 1965.

3. The D. M. K. Government has launched prosecution against people who acted in a manner which wounded the feeling of the Hindus but they did not keep quiet as Rajaji did when idols of Pillayars were broken by the same category of men in 1953.

MY HUMBLE APPEAL.

I am an old man of nearly 80 and I was a Congress man from 1921 to December 1945. I took part in all the Freedom Fight Movement and suffered Jail life for over 4 years and received Lathi beating once. This fact is known to Rajaji and to Sri K. Santhanam. I strongly held the view that Congress should not live after Gandhiji's death. Now it is the will of God that Congress should disappear, at least in Tamil Nadu. Therefore he helps D. M. K. and created split in the Congress Organisation. I appeal to the Voters to think on the basis of facts given above and cast their Votes in favour of candidates sponsored by the D. M. K. and to remember their symbol "Rising Sun".

7
You know me Sir, at close quarters for over 45 years
i.e., from February, 1925. I need not tell you that I am
a man of excitable temper. I used to get excited when-
ever I feel that a great wrong is being done by great men
and I used to raise my feeble voice against such wrongs.
But my protest will always be expressed in reasonable and
cogent words. I got certificates from you to this effect.
Those certificates are:—

Madras
2.1.46

Madras C.R.

Your letter is copied
to Joseph. But why
should you mention?
I may ask you to
send a copy of the letter
to Madras.

Yours truly
C. R. Rajagopalachari

Madras C.R.

It is not a consolation
at least to Kripalani
offers you its hypothetical
remarks?

Not only in India, but
everywhere now, there
is no room for honest
thought or any little honesty
thought must be
abolished. (Rajagopalachari)
and thought
C.R.

Re-print of

Newspaper cutting:—

SOMETIMES we come
across the faith which ex-
pects to move the mountains
and more often than not the
faith shares the fate of Mu-
hamud who had to go to the
mountain because the moun-
tain would not come to him!
C. V. Rajagopalachari, of
30/79, Sembudoss Street,
Madras-1, believes that the
Congress has forgotten its
high ideals and has ceased
to serve the toiling millions.
With a view to bring the
Congress back to its pristine
purity he entered into cor-
respondence with Gandhiji,
the President of Congress
Kripalani and the Secretary.
He has published his letters
and the replies he received
in a short pamphlet entitled
A Call to True Congressmen,
priced at two annas.

HITAVADA

I was not able to persuade myself to think that you were right when you cut away from D. M. K. on the plea that they were friendly to Srimathi Indira who was a friend of Communists. On the other hand the D. M. K., in my view, will be a force to check Srimathi Indira going too far left. The total defeat of Left Communist top leaders in Tamil Nad is a proof positive to consider that my view is correct. In any event, the D. M. K. will be a great Democratic Force to check and prevent Left Communism taking root in Tamil Nad. Congress (O) cannot discharge this duty effectively unless its attitude towards D. M. K. is friendly. This is my honest view. Take it for what it is worth.

If you are not satisfied with my explanation, then Sir, please accept my Apology.

Let me end this Apology with the following quotation which was taken from the message of the 3rd International issued in 1922:—

“He cannot be called a leader of the masses who with great effort and after the lapse of years comes to a correct conclusion, but rather he who can detect a tendency at its very birth and can warn workers about the impending peril that would menace the people.”

(C. V. Rajagopalachari)
Vellore.

N.B.:— This Leaflet may be re-printed by anybody without getting my permission, in any language. He or she may fix a price for it and sell the copies. A Complimentary Copy may be sent to me.

ADDRESS:—

3/2, Infantry Road, Vellore.
North Arcot District (Tamil Nad).