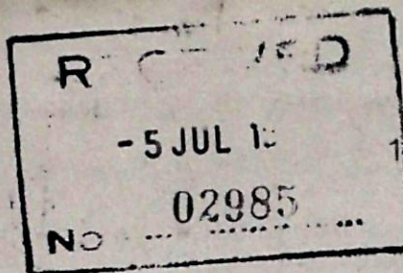


J. B. Kripalani



11, Gautam Pally
Lucknow

July 4, 1963.

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You must have read what J.P. has said about the meeting of a few friends that I proposed. It was not an invitation to a meeting I had fixed. Nor was the meeting to consist of partymen. I myself am in no party. I, therefore, cannot understand why J.P. should have rushed to the press, especially when he had informed me of his views regarding the proposed meeting! His idea that J.N. alone can call such a meeting is also strange. Have other public men no right to review a critical national situation, especially when J.N. would not sit with others to review it.

I am the more surprised at J.P.'s attitude in view of what he had advocated in 1957 before the second general elections. I am sending the relevant portions of the letter he then sent to J.N. who had criticised him for trying to bring the opposition parties together, in which, as you may remember, he included even the Communists.

The idea of the minimum programme was agreed to

between me and Rajaji at Rajkot. You were then too busy to be consulted. I thought Rajaji was also expressing your views in the matter. Therefore, what I considered a suitable occasion, the Unity Conference, I suggested the minimum programme. It is all right to join on specific issues. That is always being done, sometimes with the congressmen, as against the communists. But that will never allow us to run only one opposition candidate against the Congress. Anyway both the ideas of a meeting of leading publicmen and the minimum programme have to be abandoned at present. What next, will be thought of when we meet in August. Are you not coming to Delhi earlier? If you do, we can meet.

Girdhari had told you about his difficulties. These continue. You alone can help to salvage what can be salvaged. I hope you will try.

*With best wishes and greetings
Yours sincerely
J. M. K. J. J.*