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June 26, 1963.

My dear Ranga,

I have for acknowledgement your letter of the 17th, 2 letters of the 19th and of the 20th of June, and would like to thank you for all the trouble you have taken over these matters.

Think To get one or two points out of the way, I note that you have fixed a meeting of our Parliamentary Group on the morning of Monday, the 12th, and a Party Leaders Meeting that afternoon. You have a much better knowledge about the working of our Parliamentary Group, and if you say so that prior nomination should be asked for the *election of* Office-bearers of the Party, please do invite nominations in order to avoid any possible technical objections.

In so far as the seating arrangements in the Lok Sabha are concerned, as you say, there can be no difference of opinion about the first two benches. With regard to the seating arrangements of other members, you of course know the situation much better and I would rather not interfere in the matter at this stage.

I have accepted Rajaji's invitation to visit Madras for a public meeting on Saturday, 13th July and will be reaching there by plane that morning. It will be most useful if you too could come to Madras that morning so that we could discuss and take decisions on several important issues. Among these are:-

1. Our attitude to the possibility of tabling or supporting a motion of no-confidence in the Government.
2. Our attitude towards Kripalaniji's efforts at evolving a minimum programme for opposition parties.
3. The question of whether or not a meeting of the General Council should be called in addition to meetings of the Parliamentary Board and Central Organising Committee, and where and when these meetings should take place.

I am supposing that it will be possible for you to be in Madras

on the 14th for these discussions and will, therefore, content myself by briefly stating the issues and my own views on these issues.

1. I think the issue of tabling a vote of no-confidence is a very tricky one and should only be decided by the Parliamentary Board and/or Central Organising Committee of the Party when they meet. There are, however, several things to be said both for and against the idea.

2. We are all broadly in agreement about Kripalaniji's move. Even so, there are other colleagues of ours who may wish to have their say in the matter and we should, therefore, get a decision of the Central Organising Committee on the issue of the forms and methods of evolving inter-opposition unity.

3. There can be no question that meetings of the Parliamentary Board and Central Organising Committee are overdue and should take place in the beginning of August. My own suggestion is that these meetings should be called in Madras on Saturday and Sunday, 3rd and 4th August. In so far as a meeting of the General Council is concerned, I would like to place the following points before you for your consideration and for discussion on the 14th.

(4) I have gone carefully through the minutes of the Central Organising Committee and General Council Meetings, and I find that there is no decision which changes the composition of the General Council as it at present exists, or for adding further members to it. The strength of the Body is around 125. There was a proposal once made by Munshi and yourself for widening the constitution of the Body but what was decided was that each state could have a State Council in addition to the State Executive Committee. In view of this, I do not understand the reference in your letter of 17th June to the 'new' members of the State General Council, nor frankly, do I see any need for changing the constitution of the General Council, until fresh Party Election are held. In any event, if the General Council is to meet shortly, it ~~will~~ be the General Council at present in existence.

I would now give my reasons against calling a meeting of the General Council at this stage:

1. There is no agenda for the General Council, and in its absence, members of the General Council will be very resentful of being put to expense and trouble and then not having any consultation or any decision taken on any issue. The only business that may seem to be ripe for a General Council meeting is the proposal of the Central Organising Committee to change the basis of the Party members from mass membership as at present to active members. At its meeting of February 9, the General Secretary was asked to prepare a scheme and place it before the Central Organising Committee. Such a scheme is being prepared and will be circulated. It is for the Central Organising Committee to accept such a scheme and recommend it to the General Council.
2. There are positive dangers in calling a meeting of the General Council in Delhi in August. In the absence of serious business, extraneous issues are likely to be raised. One of these is the language issue. Munshi is sore about Rajaji's activities in this connection. I am forwarding herewith a clipping from Blitz of 22nd June, where it is mentioned that there is a split between Rajaji and Munshi and others. The possibility of a revolt at the General Council meeting and a non-existing requisition for such a meeting are mentioned. Similarly, I enclose a copy of a report in the Patriot of New Delhi of 20th June, which will, I hope show you the danger of calling a meeting of the General Council at this point of time. I also enclose a clipping from today's Times of India, reporting Munshi's speech to the Rotary Club, supporting the continuation of the Emergency and asking people to accept additional taxation.

As I have said above, we can discuss all these matters informally when we meet in Madras on the 13th and I do hope you will kindly make this possible.

I am enclosing a copy of this letter to Rajaji in order to avoid writing to him all over again on the same subject.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. Masani)

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