

भारतीय क्रान्ति दल, उत्तर प्रदेश

फोन-२१११८

भारत
बोधरी चरण सिंह
कानपुर

१, विनोयनाथ रोड
लखनऊ
दिनांक 12 June 1969.

My dear Prof. Ranga,

So many thanks for your letter of June 9. I posted a letter to you on June 10.

You have enclosed an extract from the 'Swarajya' containing Rajaji's views. But the only sentence in our resolution of May 20, that could be construed to indicate my anger to which Raja Ji has referred, is the one in which we have expressed our "regret" that, in the circumstances, talks with the Jan Sangh will have to be closed. I was certainly indignant, but did not use a single strong word or the choice language of the kind Shri Bajpayee did in his statement.

Totally irrespective of the nature of the talks, it is the attitude of the friends of the Jan Sangh that led my colleagues to take the decision they did. The case of the Jan Sangh was that no talks could at all be held without Shri Bajpayee participating in them. The date was fixed with the consent of their Vice-President and General Secretary. It is after all this that that very date, viz., May 26, was chosen by the Jan Sangh for their President to address a meeting in a constituency in which polling was to take place on June 1. And, on all this, the letter to me bearing the date of May 24, but delivered on the morning of May 26 in Delhi, went on to say that Shri Bajpayee tried to have the date changed, but failed! This much about the President, the Vice President and the General Secretary, too, could not participate in the talks as they also had more important business to transact on that day.

The Jan Sangh leaders are all noble and true, but such behaviour on their part was beyond me; I was not able to appreciate it. Also, as they themselves made it clear on May 27, they did not envisage a merger, atleast in the near future. On the other hand, BKD being a new party with little organisation at its back, my friends were of the opinion that they could not wait any longer. As you will remember, we wanted to reach a settlement, if possible, even during the time the Parliament was in session, that is, by May 17.

I enclose a cutting of the 'Times of India' of today. The Jan Sangh's allegation that "the BKD's demand for a new name and a new flag for the new party confirmed their suspicion that its leaders were motivated more by personal ambition than by anything else" has made me very sad, indeed. While God alone knows whether I had made any calculations at the time we passed our resolution of March 29, the allegation lays bare the real reason behind the attitude the Jan Sangh adopted. Merger was not their aim. They engaged in the talks because of the force of public opinion or the opinion in their own ranks.

My reading of the situation was -- and nothing has happened since to change it -- that conditions of our country are fast deteriorating. India seems to be destined for chaos or a Communist take-over. So, a strong democratic party which puts the interest of the country above everything else and can take the place of, or provide an alternative to, Congress must emerge if the country has to be saved. Such a party is essential, whether the Congress fades away or recovers from its present state.



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I thought all those saddled with public responsibility will sense the danger that looms large on our horizon, with the same intensity that my colleagues and I did, and will hasten to bury the hatchet, to rise above petty and narrow interests of the day, will think ahead and agree to form the foundation-bricks of a formidable political machine that will hold the country together and soon secure for it a position in the comity of nations which is its rightful due. Once the realization was there, everything would have automatically followed. Differences over policies and programmes were secondary and would have solved themselves or could have been solved with little difficulty. I find I was mistaken. Most of our countrymen do not realize the danger we are in for and, it seems, the few who realize it, are being led, as if by Destiny, into the very pit that we would like to avoid.

I really do not understand why, when we have not used a single word in relation to Jan Sangh to which exception might be taken, they should attribute motives or otherwise abuse us. It is we who proposed a merger and, at worst, it is we who have backed out. My friends who had differed from me from the beginning, tell me that this is exactly what they expected from the Jan Sangh.

I am writing to Sri Takhatmal Ji Jain and Sri Prakash Vir Ji Shastri. They will let you know if and when they will be reaching Madras.

With regards,

I am,
Yours

Prof. NG Ranga,
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