

Shantilal H. Gujar.

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Ratnagar Palace,
Chowpatty Sea face,
Bombay.7. 5th June, 1947.

My dear Mr. Roerich,

Many thanks for Mrs. Roerich's and your letters of 21st May and the basket of cherries which we have all relished. I am very glad to learn that you have reached safely and now away from the turmoil that is the unfortunate part of ^{it is} staying in this part of the country.

At last the much awaited proclamation of His Majesty's Government is out. What ~~was~~ one time appeared as an absurd and impossible proposition has taken concrete shape. It is difficult to say whether it is for good or for bad. At least it is very painful to swallow it having been fed on the ideals of an independent and united India for all these years. It is very doubtful ^{whether} ~~when~~ this disintegration is going to halt ~~having reached~~ ^{cut} this stage. States are likely to cause further division and God alone knows where it is all going to end.

I wanted to write much earlier but as you had mentioned in your telegram that you were sending details with the letter following, I was waiting.

I must say that Panditji's assurance is very encouraging. I will show this letter to Mr. Munshi on his return from Delhi. Please don't hesitate to ask me to do anything in the matter.

I had a letter from Mr. Venkatachalam who is now enjoying in Ooty. I am writing to him about your talk with Panditji.

I met Mr. Jai Prakash Narain as fixed when you were here and although he had no time to go through the pamphlet as he had to return in a hurry from Hyderabad he has promised his full co-operation. I also stressed upon the point of his coming in the Committee. He will

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do so as soon as he gets a formal letter inviting him to join the committee. Will you please send me a letter signed by you inviting him and I will do the rest? I am sure he will prove quite useful to us. You will remember that when we had ^{been} talked with him he had mentioned his "Quit Now" slogan. It appears from his recent movements with Gandhiji that he is fairly responsible for the present after-prayer speeches of Mahatma Gandhi. Even then the worst has happened.

Lest I forget to inform ~~that~~ Munghi has delivered of a girl and has already gone to Nasik. She thanks you both for the cherries and the kind letter of Mrs. Roerich. She is writing to Mrs. Roerich from Nasik.

You will remember that I had told you about Dr. Bhandarkar's library. I have just had a letter from Dr. Nihar Ranjan Ray and he writes that there are about 40,000 volumes of Indian Culture & History. It is not possible to supply a list but Dr. Dandekar is trying to prepare one on behalf of Bombay University which is likely to take keen interest. At that time he had mentioned that it will be possible to settle the bargain at Rs. 25,000/-. I think it is worth it. I am trying to persuade another friend of mine to take keen interest. What do you think of it?

I am sending you separately a brochure - INDIA'S CHARTER OF FREEDOM - which I am sure will be useful to you. Do you want any other material from here to help you? I would like to have whatever material you have got and you can spare in connection with the ~~fact~~. It will be of use to me here now that we are taking up the matter more actively.

Have you heard from Mr. Manu Thakkar? What has he done about the hall? Do let me know if I can do anything in the matter.

I understand that Dr. Jayakar's Bungalow at Winter Road is for sale ~~at~~ Rs. 9 lakhs. He wants a very high price. Of course it is nicely situated. But the Bungalow is old and I believe ~~was~~ you have seen it. There is also for sale the palace of the Maharaja
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Wankaner at Warden Road for about 10 lakhs. It is a very big structure with about 32 bed rooms and swimming pool.

Everybody is fine here and we both remember you.

With kind regards to you & Mrs. Roerich.

Yours sincerely,

Shantilal