

Jawaharlal Nehru to Sardar Patel

Critical of Maharaja, Justifying His Own Stand on Kashmir

Sardar Patel's Correspondence

NEW DELHI
9 February 1948

MY DEAR VALLABHBHAI,

Thank you for your letter of 9 February sending me a copy of the Maharaja of Kashmir's letter.

It seems to me that the wisest policy he can pursue at the present moment is to do nothing at all. Certainly the idea of his cancelling the accession is completely wrong. That will only lead to trouble for him and for us. As for his going out of Kashmir for a while, this might be feasible, but I rather think that he should just stay on for the present. You will have noticed the repeated references made in the Security Council about the so-called autocratic rule of the Maharaja. The system of Indian States finds little favour in foreign countries and (Sir Mohd.) Zafrullah¹ (Khan) has tried to make the most of this.

As for his advice that the Indian Dominion should carry on operations more effectively, certainly we have not desired to tone down our operations in any way. Indeed, we have done our utmost to push them on and have given these directions to our military commanders. If something has come in our way, it is not the fault of the Government. Our recent success in the Naushera region is an important one and should have considerable results in that region.

Yours sincerely,
JAWAHARLAL

The Hon'ble Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel New Delhi.

¹ Sir Mohd. Zafrullah Khan, Pakistan Foreign Minister who led Pakistan Delegation to Security Council.

Patel to Maharaja Sharing His Anxiety about Kashmir Situation
Sardar Patel's Correspondence

NEW DELHI
9 February 1948

MY DEAR MAHARAJA SAHIB,

Thank you for your letter of 31st January delivered to me at 10 a.m. on 8 February by your ADC.

I fully realise what an anxious time you must be having. I can assure you that I am no less anxious about the Kashmir situation and what is happening in the UNO, but whatever the present situation may be, a counsel of despair is entirely out of place. I have been somewhat out of touch with the current military position as well as the UNO situation owing to my tours and the ghastly tragedy which has overtaken all of us. I shall write to you again after some time.

I hope you have had good news from the USA about the Yuvraj.

With kindest regards to both of you,

Yours sincerely,

VALLABHBHAI PATEL