Dear Mani,

I have telegraphed to you today, as under:-

"Yours second eighth all your despatches received stop your rice offer very great achievement stop unwrote due your uncertain programme stop unacknowledging names correspondents as part our cardinal policy stop writing Singapore"

A word, in not acknowledging messages to you by name.

It is a question of policy. It has been an American practice for a long time. The war made it universal. If we adopt the practice, we will have to make it a general rule. I am not clear in my mind, that it is advisable or workable.

Kindly let the question rest, for the present.

That you are covering Malaya and Indonesia is widely known in journalistic circles.

Let me say at the outset, that you have more than fully vindicated the trust and confidence placed in you, by me. I am happy in having you to work for us. Let me hope that you will also feel happy in your association with us.

Your coverage of the Indonesian
rice offer was a great achievement. You and we have been fully vindicated.

Your judgment, news-sense, presentation are all good. You have all the makings of an ace journalist.

There was only one message, in framing which, you had relaxed your usual restraint. That message related to Indian collaborators with the Dutch. A few more messages in that strain would undo all your good work. There is a maxim: the greater the truth, the greater the libel. It is when provocation is great, one has to be very careful, extremely responsible and restrained. Invectives defeat their ends.

I have received from you letters dated March 28, 30, April 3, 5, 16, 23rd and 25th.

I refer to some of the points raised in the above letters.

Your coverage of Nehru's tour was excellent.

I note that Public Relations close down on May 1.

I am addressing this letter to the care of Indian Bank Ltd.

The copies of our publications also will be sent to the care of the Indian Bank Ltd., Singapore.

We can have a selling agent for our copies, provided we can send the copies by ocean mail. Air mail will be costly. Statesman has the advantage of publishing in Calcutta and getting direct on the Singapore bound air mail.

--cont'd--
I am arranging to supply one copy each of Free Press Journal and Bharat Jyoti to

The Public Relations Officer,
Govt. of Singapore,
Secretariat,
Singapore.

You should arrange to send us copies of selected newspapers by ocean mail and comprehensive cuttings by air mail.

We can maintain a daily cable service to Singapore, supplemented by air mail stories.

Mr. Hatheesingh also told me that about 18 newspapers of Malaya asked him to arrange for a service from India.

Our rates of subscription for such a service to Malayan newspapers would depend entirely on the cost of our Singapore organisation and the cable cost. We can give the benefit of our all India organisation to the Malayan newspapers free.

I have read with interest your observations regarding A.P.A. arrangements for collection of news and the U.P.I. plan to set up an office in Singapore.

I have also considered the application of Mr. Gerald de Cruz.

The outstanding points, which emerge, as a result of six weeks' experience, is:-

1. We must set up an organisation in Malaya and Indonesia, by which, we can have a regular flow of news by

- contd -
cable and air mail, wherever you may actually be.

This involves a string of trustworthy correspondents at a number of centres, with a clearance office at a central place (Singapore or any other town) to edit, select and frame the right type of news-messages.

2. Our Central organisation must also receive news from India and be a distributing centre.

This involves a staff of two or three men, who are a combination of reporters, sub-editors, typists.

To my mind, whatever extra expenditure, we plan to spend, on an expansion scheme, should be covered by local revenue. As to whether such balancing of income and expenditure is possible or whether we should invest more money on our Singapore Zone organisation, is a matter, in which, you are best equipped to guide us.

We must have a steady flow of news from Malaya and Indonesia, irrespective of where you personally are.

We must have a schedule of the cable wordage and work up to it and within its limits.

We shall come to agreed conclusions, as soon as you have had time, to settle down and to make your own proposals.

You should arrange with the appropriate authorities in Singapore and Batavia for registering a telegraphic address to which prepaid press cables can be sent from this end.

I suggest for the abbreviated telegraphic address, the word 'Infrepress'. 'Frepress' is
the registered telegraphic address for the Newsagency.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely,

(S. Sadanand)

P.R.S. Mani Esq.,
Special Correspondent,
Free Press of India,
c/o The Indian Bank Ltd.,
Singapore.