public (specially Congressmen and Swarajists) was. Some good has certainly resulted out of it; the attention of all is rivetted to Mandalay and something is bound to come out of it.

Before this reaches you, you will have read in the Statesman Lord Lytton’s speech at Dacca in opening the Moslem Hall. Well, I was amused to find that you were one of the friends of His Excellency and that there was no difference between your views and his.

I shall not trouble you with a long letter this time and I shall end by giving you some news about the family. Dada is well again. He is no longer under medical treatment. But I am sorry to say that Natunmamababu is going down daily. He is practically confined to bed. His pains all over the body increased and I apprehend that he will have to take long leave again.

I heard from Sunil towards the end of last month. He says he will not be long in returning home. I don’t quite know what he means.

I am sending your books on Psychology by book-post today. Father will be here tomorrow morning.

Yours very afly
Sarat

88 To Janakinath Bose

Mandalay
8/3/26
Monday

Censored and Passed
Illegible
15/3/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

My dear father,

You are aware by now that we broke fast on the 4th inst. All of us are weak but are otherwise well. It will no doubt take us some time to regain our former strength.
During the strike I wired to Mejdana asking him if I would send daily reports regarding my health to you. He wired back saying that he was sending daily reports on receipt of the daily telegraphic reports from here. I did not therefore send by telegraphic reports to you direct. I hope you were kept informed about the developments here.

I am sorry to learn that Aruna's marriage negotiations have broken off.

It is getting warm here gradually.

I am anxious to know how you all are doing. Where do you intend to spend the summer?

My pronams to you.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

P.S.
Rangamamababu is here now. I shall have my last interview with him today. He will leave this afternoon for Rangoon and take Tuesday's boat for Calcutta.

Subhas

P.P.S.
I have received samples of Sejdada's combs and matches. They are very good indeed.

Subhas

89 To Sarat Chandra Bose

Mandalay

13.3.26.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
23. 3. 26.
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 6th inst. reached me on the 11th.

Our anticipations regarding Mr. Patterson have come out to be true as the reply to the Assembly question shows. He
came for a whitewashing purpose and has acted accordingly. Without being sure of his locus standi we told him some of our complaints—lest he should go back and report that there were no complaints. It is not known whether he brought these complaints to the notice of the proper authorities.

The weather is fitful now but it will soon become uniformly hot. April will land as in real summer.

The Inspector General has made himself scarce—at least as far as we are concerned. In January he told us that he would be coming again in February. It does not appear now that he would be coming this way at an early date.

The new detention order was signed on the 16th (sixteenth) January, 1926, and was served on the 29th Jan. The last order was signed on the 19th Jan. 1925 and was served at Berhampur on the 25th Jan.

I have returned Vol. III of Nietzsche's works per Ranganamababu and have sent my shawl for dry cleaning.

I do not know why the enclosures were not delivered or how they could be missing. A friend here is informed that the enclosures to his letter reached the Censor's office, though they were withheld. I do not think I could have forgotten to put them inside the cover.

I have already informed you in my last letter as to the dates on which I sent telegrams. You may compare these dates with the dates of delivery. The telegrams were in most cases sent by post to Rangoon and there despatched by wire. The telegrams were unusually delayed in Rangoon for the first 8 or ten days but towards the end they were sent out from Rangoon more promptly. If the news had not leaked out somehow I do not think the telegrams would have been transmitted from Rangoon at all.

How many telegrams did you send to the Deputy Commissioner and on what dates? Did you get replies to all of them? When he was here I asked him to send a wire to you asking you to withhold the news from parents, if possible. He has not visited us since then but I am glad that he complied with my request.

I am sending you a cutting from the Rangoon Daily News—one of the local papers on the list approved by the Govt. You
will see what scanty news comes to us from India through the Rangoon papers and how some papers are deliberately neglected by the Associated Press. As for the Bengalee it would suffice to say that we get more information from the Rangoon papers than from the Liberal organ and I doubt if the latter has any subscribers besides the detenues in Jails.

It is hardly necessary to say that we all feel grateful to Mr. Goswami for what he has done for us.

I am keeping well uptil now—except for the weakness which it will take sometime to shake off. I have put on some weight since I broke fast and am now 143 lbs.

Regarding Aruna's marriage, I think it is time to break some of the shackles which limit the scope of matrimonial engagements. I do not know how my suggestion would be taken but I think that inter-marriage between Kayasthas of West and East Bengal should take place. How else can the problem be solved? In any case I have no doubt that it would be more useful to search for a bridegroom in the mofussil than in the town.

I had a prolonged interview with Rangamamababu and you will learn everything from him. I have told him about our grievances in detail and have read out to him more than once the note we wrote explaining why we suspended the strike. I hope he will be able to give as faithful a report as is possible. We have also sent copies of the above two memoranda to the I. G. Prisons who will hand them over to Moulana Shaukat Ali at Rangoon after censoring.

I have received your letters of the 22nd Feb., 27th Feb., 1st March and 6th March in good time. I shall have no reason to complain if the censoring continues to be equally prompt in future.

I am taking sufficient care of my health——as far as diet and habits can help. Except a tendency towards constipation and susceptibility to cold—I have no trouble for the present. I do not of course know what will happen a fortnight hence when summer is on.

We have seen the article in the Statesman to which you refer and have no doubt that it will be dealt with properly.
You know by this time what persuaded us to give up the strike for the time being—much against our will. The telegrams from Calcutta—and particularly your telegram—surprised all of us and particularly me. After 3 hours' interview on the first day with Moulana Shaukat Ali we tried to put him off by saying that we could not respond to the appeals he made in the name of the country—but could respond only to Bengal opinion. We were so very sure about the nature of the messages from Bengal that the next morning we wrote to the Supdt. saying that it would be useless to have a further interview with Moulana Sahib. Once he was armed with Bengal opinion nothing would baffle him and though our rather brusque letter was sent on to him—he turned up at the appointed time to continue his persuasive eloquence. He was again disappointed but he persevered and finally on the third day he succeeded with great difficulty. At one time (on the 3rd day) the deadlock was complete and we were on the point of retiring.

I have been interested to read Lord Lytton's Dacca speech. The reference seemed to be so irrelevant that it reminded me of the Bengali adage—“খান ভানতে শিবের গাত”

I have not received the books yet—I believe they are on the way.

I am sorry to learn about Natunmamababu. I thought that he was improving. I am glad to know that Dada is well again. How is Kanchimama thriving in his practice?

Do you know of any one who knew intimately Justice Woodroffe and is versed in the “Tantras”?

There is no delay at this end in despatching letters. I am sure of that because whenever I send my letters to the office on the mail day, I see that they are despatched in time.

Letters to you have been despatched from this office on the following dates:—

February: 1st, 10th, 15th, 17th, 19th, 22nd.

March: 1st, 8th.

My letter dated the 6th was despatched on the 10th Feb: and the letter of the 1st addressed to Mejobowdidi to your care.
Hope this will find you all quite well. How are father and mother?

Yours v. affly
Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road
Calcutta

Enclosure:—A cutting from the Rangoon Daily News.

Enclosure:

Rangoon Daily News, March 12, 1926.

MR. PATEL’S ADJOURNMENT OF THE ASSEMBLY

Indian Press Comments.

The “Englishman”.

Associated Press

Calcutta, March 10: Commenting on Mr. Patel’s decision in adjourning the Assembly and the statement subsequently made by him the Englishman writes: “The plain fact is Mr. Patel made a huge blunder in allowing his emotion to get better of his intellect and his sense of judgment and fairness. He has recanted fully and completely and to the best of his ability done what he could to repair the breach he made in the walls of the constitution. We fear, however, that in certain quarters the incident will not be forgotten for some time and will be used at home to illustrate the dangers that are likely to arise if there is any considerable revision of the constitution.”

The “Statesman”.

The Statesman says “Mr. Patel has himself relieved the Assembly from the impossible position which he seemed to foreshadow after the withdrawal of the Swarajists. His statement in the House yesterday while it does not withdraw the suggestion that business should now be confined to non-controversial recognises that his original pronouncement was hasty and couched in a language that could be interpreted as a threat. Mr. Patel, no doubt, has the anxiety of a man now
to the office to preserve all the dignity and authority that attaches to the Chair but he is apt to forget that the President is a servant and not Master of the Assembly.

The "A. B. Patrika".

The "Amrita Bazar Patrika" says Mr. Patel stood for the rights and liberties when he declared his intention that so far as it lay in him he would not allow the House to be prostituted by the Bureaucracy to serve its own purpose. Those courageous words will find an echo in every true Indian heart and will find an honoured place in the history of development of free institutions in India.

Mr. RANGASWAMI IYENGAR'S VIEWS.

Madras, March 9: In a statement made to the Associated Press regarding Mr. Patel's statement in the Assembly to-day Mr. A. Rangaswami Iyengar M.L.A. said “I am glad to find Mr. Patel has put his position beyond the possibility of any doubt or misapprehension and I believe that so far as the substance of the matter is concerned he was entirely within his rights though in his manner of expressing them he happened to create misapprehension which has been happily removed.

90 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1 Elgin Road
15th March '26
8 p.m.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
16/3/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

My dear Subhas,

I got your letter of the 1st instant on the 9th.
Between the 22nd Feby and the 6th March (both inclusive)
I wrote to you four times——on the 22nd Feby, 27th Feby,
1st March and 6th March. I trust you have received all of them.

Rangamamababu arrived last Thursday morning. Parents left for Cuttack the same evening. Father has not been keeping very well of late——there is nothing wrong with him in particular but he is slightly thinner than before. Rangamamababu insisted on mother's going down with father——I think that was right.

You are right in your surmise that your telegrams during the period of your hunger-strike were held up. I am giving below the dates on which your telegrams were delivered to me.

27th Feby., '26—Following telegram recd.

"Am on hungerstrike since eighteenth for religious question and other grievances." Subhas Bose Mandalay

27th Feby. '26 (10.15 p.m.)—Following telegram recd.

"Today eightday of hungerstrike." Subhas Bose

2nd March '26—Following telegram recd.

"Is sending direct health reports to father necessary stop wire parents health Subhas. Jailgyi"

3rd March '26—Copy of following telegram forwarded by 13 Elysium Row. "No news from Government regarding general question of religious worship. Strike continues. Today third March fourteenth day stop all weak otherwise well. Jailgyi"

7th March '26—Following telegram recd.

"Please persuade parents not to be anxious if possible withhold news of strike from them stop wire parents health. Subhas Bose Mandalay"

The last telegram——I mean the one received on the 7th——was obviously held up for several days.
Your suit for libel against the "Englishman" has appeared on today's list before Chotzner J. The Judge is ill and did not attend Court today. It is believed that he won't attend Court this side of the Easter holidays——so there is little chance of your case being taken up before the end of next month.

I heard from Rangamamababu that you had received Rs. 28/5/- worth of books from Govt. during one year. Was that for the whole lot of you there or for each? Rangamamababu wasn't quite sure.

I hope you are taking care of your health. So long today.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

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91 * To Sarat Chandra Bose

Mandalay
17.3.26.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
26/3/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

My dear brother,

My last letter to you written on 13.3.26 was actually posted on 15.3.26. I have made a note of it on the letter itself. Henceforth I propose to follow this procedure whenever the letter is posted on a day different from that on which it is actually written.

I learnt from uncle that the Laxmi Bank have been worrying you for the few hundred rupees I over drew from them some time ago. They have not written to me at all about the matter up till now. The sum is so small that they could easily have waited for my return, especially when they are charging interest. I am, however, writing to them about the matter this week.

I have returned the extra copy of Vol. III of Nietzsche's works. Please send the book back to the Book Company.
I have been thinking of writing to you to suggest that extra lessons in music and drawing should be arranged for the children. I feel sure that Ami, given proper training, will show some talent for fine arts. Regarding music, you may consult Dilip as to how best children could be given elementary lessons. I know that the problem of training children in music from an early age has been engaging his attention for some time past. He is himself a very good trainer—as the success of his pupils clearly shows—but children should be somewhat advanced before they can make the most of his instructions.

We wrote to Mr. L. K. Mitter M.L.C. (Burma) for Mandalay about 3 months ago asking him to come and interview us. He applied to the D.I.G. (Bengal) for permission but he was asked to apply through the Jail Superintendent. He did so and his application was forwarded to the Burma Govt. and probably to Bengal by this Govt. We have not had a reply yet—but from the delay it appears that the permission asked for will not be given. Mr. Mitter, by the way, is an Assistant Government Advocate.

The question of my candidature for a seat in the Bengal Council is likely to be raised in connection with the ensuing elections. I do not think it would serve any useful purpose if I stand. If I had already been a member, the question would have been altogether different. Whatever be the constitution of the next Council it is bound to be a lively one and it would be unwise to lose even a single vote owing to enforced detention. As I have just said, if I had already been a member, other considerations would have weighed with me—but as matters stand, I do not find it necessary or advisable to be a candidate. Moreover, if I have to choose between civic work and politics—I am not sure that I shall feel inclined to give up a less humble but more tangible programme in favour of a more wordy one. If the question of my candidature is raised, you may communicate my views on the subject.

We had a very interesting though by no means a novel experience, a couple of days ago. The sun fell and the shades of evening descended upon us. But darker even than the evening tints, there rose skyward in the dim distance a dust storm so frequent in Mandalay in summer. Before the screens could be lowered, the dust like a moving canopy completely shrouded
us. Not without difficulty, the screens were lowered but so high was the wind that they began to float in the air and served only to add to the music of the scene. The dust lay thick all over the room and not even the remotest corner was free from its touch. The wind persisted and tiles began to blow off the roof. The wooden structure began to croak much like a ship tossed about on a stormy sea. Papers began to fly, lanterns were smitten down and sundry articles began to take wings. But the wrath of Heaven did not last long and the “twice blest” drops of mercy soon began to fall from above. Philosophers say that God’s mercy shines even in darkness. It was therefore meet that the merciful drops should fall in the dark. So, to complete the harmony of the situation the electric current conveniently failed and we were enveloped in what Milton would describe as “Cimmerian darkness.” The lurid flashes of lightning served only to make the “darkness visible” (I am again using a Miltonic expression for is not saintly Milton as effective in his descriptions of darkness as Shakespeare is sweet in his descriptions of fairy moonlight?) and to reveal to the more devoted the terrible beauty of the smile of Kali—the Queen of the Dark.

Dust was soon overpowered but we and our slender belongings were rendered the sport of the wind and the rain. I remember to have read a description of rain at school as follows:—

“Pitter, patter, pit, pat,
Down the window-pane” etc.

But there were no window-panes and, altogether ignoring the existence of palisades, the rains began to fall pit pat on us and drown our clothes. The wind suddenly turned and began to blow from the north—the side on which no screens at all had been provided. Bathed by the rain and chilled by the wind to our very bones, we nevertheless dared not move from our places lest we should stumble against tables and cots or strike other heads—and we could only keep up our spirits and add to the humour of the fray by exercising our throats and lungs. Darkness and confusion reigned supreme till light returned and the wind abated. And then what did we behold? Books drenched, clothes dripping and bedding moistened and, on the top of it all, a miniature rivulet flowing down the room. Heaven, to
relieve our monotony, had planned to give us some novel work to do and for full two hours we were kept busy scrubbing the floor, drying up the water and wiping the books and furniture. The books and the clothing had no doubt a good night's rest after a refreshing bath but what about ourselves? There was the Chief Jailor whom we could hold responsible for the vagaries of the weather—and in fact for everything happening under the sun. And out went a peremptory order at ten o'clock at night for a supply of dry blankets and bedsheets. That august person already unnerved by the inclement weather was well-nigh staggered—but he did not consider it wise to send a supply of "brand new" jail-made blankets and from his own surplus store there came a number of decent sheets and blankets. Sympathy and warmth could not be too welcome at that hour of the night and praying for the blessings of the Lord we surrendered to the lock-up man as the clock struck eleven.

I am afraid I must stop here as I may be getting a toftch of poetic affectation. More in my next. Hope this will find you all quite well. I have got a parcel of medicine from Kaviraj Mahasay. I am so so.

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road,
Calcutta.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

92 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1, Elgin Road,
20th March '26.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
22/3/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

My dear Subhas,
I received your letter of the 8th instant on the 16th. In my last letter I have given you the dates on which
your telegrams. You will see from that letter that your telegram of the 21st Feby. was held up for six days. This I believe is contrary to jail circulars.

I am setting out below the dates on which I received your letters beginning with your letter of the 6th Feby. last:—

6th Feby.—Received 20th Feby.
14th Feby.—27th Feby.
17th Feby.—2nd March.
22nd Feby.—2nd March.
1st March—9th March.

Have you at all gained in weight since you broke your fast? I am anxious about it, as I find that you have lost altogether about 40 lbs. in weight in jail.

There is a strong rumour current here that the Mandalay deportees are going to be transferred to Madras Jails and other distant jails. In fact, one of the daily papers in Calcutta published the report. Have you heard anything about it?

There is no reason on earth as to why you should not be retransferred to Bengal—specially after the conflicting statements regarding the responsibility of the Burma Govt.

I think you should again send in a representation for payment of allowance to you to cover the cost of establishment etc. There is absolutely no justification for throwing your burdens on us. Father and mother are going to Puri on the 27th. They will be coming here on the 2nd April. Father is in rather poor health. I don’t know how he will stand the coming summer.

I enclose father’s letter herewith.

Have you finished all the books sent to you by the Book Company? Do you want any more now? If so, please send a list.

This leaves us fairly well. Hope this will find you better.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas Chandra Bose Esq.
93 To Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
11/4
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

Mandalay
31.3.26.

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 20th March was to hand on the 27th inst. I find from your figures that during the month of February it took my letters about a fortnight to reach you. Of late there has been an improvement and it now takes about 8 days to reach you. I do not think it should take more than a week at the outside for my letters to reach you.

I now weigh 146 lbs. i.e. I have gained 8 lbs. since the strike. Under normal circumstances it should not take more than a month to recoup the lost weight. It has become so hot here—particularly in the daytime——that I do not hope to return to my weight immediately before the strike (i.e. 155½ lbs.).

I have heard nothing about our transfer to distant jails beyond what was published in the Bengalee some time ago on the authority of another paper. One petition for transfer on medical grounds (not mine) has been before the Govt. for the last few months but no orders are forthcoming yet.

Day before yesterday I wrote to the Book Company for a number of books.

I am anxious to know how father is keeping. I understand from father's letter that the marriage negotiations of Aruna have been resumed again.

I am glad to know that I have been awarded damages in the suit against the Englishman. I did not expect anything from Chotzner J.——and something is better than nothing. Moreover we have gained our point. When does the suit against the Statesman come up?

Hope this will find you all quite well.

I forgot to write that I received a parcel of 3 books through the C.I.D. I have also received a parcel containing two dhoties,
a bundle of yarn and some পুঁপর। I believe both the dhoties and the yarn are homespun. I believe the yarn has been spun by Asoke since he is reputed to be the best spinner. The sample is very fine indeed and uniform too. Who takes the credit for supplying yarn for the dhoties?

We had another surprise shower last night soon after we went to bed. The weather seemed to have conspired with the lights beforehand—for as soon as the wind rose, out went all the lights. The Public Works Department have been at the job for about a fortnight but tiles do not appear to be available in Burma. Since the last storm the roof has been in a state of disrepair. When the rains fell the roof was quite accommodating and a portion of the room was flooded. Moreover the wind drove the rain in through the palisades on the north and certain articles and books were drenched. We were all hurried out of our beds and had to bestir ourselves for about an hour in order to move the articles from one part of the room to another and to make the flooded portions habitable again. Probably nature wanted to give us a change—and a change we did have.

I am so so.

Yours v. affly

Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1 Elgin Road
Calcutta.

94 From Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
6/4/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal
My dear Subhas,

I haven't been able to write to you for quite a long time.
I believe my last letter to you was on the 20th ultimo.
I received your letters of the 13th, 17th and 26th March on the 24th March, 27th March and 3rd April respectively.

I am glad you sent me the cutting from the Rangoon Daily News giving the (alleged) Indian Press opinions on Patel's adjournment of the Assembly. I have taken up the matter with the Associated Press. There is no reason why more Indian news and views should not appear in Rangoon papers.

The 'Bengalee' is not making much headway even after the change of Editor. It declares itself to be the "organ of Indian nationalism" but those words do not deceive anybody nowadays.

The Rangoon papers have, I hope, given you news of the Calcutta riots. The city is quiet now and I do not apprehend any more trouble. My own opinion is that the Arya Samajists behaved foolishly. I also believe that there were instigators behind the scenes and that it was not a mere coincidence that the outbreak was at the time of the new Viceroy's arrival.

I shall stop here today. I shall write more in detail on Thursday next. Hope you are feeling better now.

Yours very affly
Sarat

95 To Bivabati Bose*

Mother Durga be with us

Mandalay Jail

9/4/26

My dear Mejbowdidi,

I received your last two letters in due time but have so far not been able to reply to them.

I have received the comb and the box of matches made by Sejdada. They are quite good. I hope the quality will improve in course of time.

It is extremely hot here now. During the day we feel like fried prawns. But the nights are relatively cool, so sleep is not disturbed.

* Translated from the original Bengali.
For the time being I am not taking Kaviraji medicines. If necessary I shall resume taking them after sometime.

I have received two dhoties made out of yarn spun by Asoke and Aruna. The same parcel also brought us a packet of *papad*. Please have clothing made with such yarn for those who have done the spinning—they will feel even more enthused when they get things made out of their own yarn.

When life gets dull, one needs some novelty from time to time. Keeping birds and pigeons is just such a diversion. Yesterday we obtained a parrot—next month we shall get a Myna.

I do not understand why you did not receive the papers I sent with my last letter. Such trouble does occur from time to time.

Please let me know how Gopali fared in his examination. In which class is Asoke now?

I am not writing to Mejdada this week. Nowadays we feel as if we have developed a vested interest in prison. We do not think that anybody can drive us out of prison very easily.

I hope all of you are keeping well. How are parents? My pronams to all of you.

Yours
Subhas.

96 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1, Elgin Road,
17th April '26.

Passed and Censored
Illegible
18/4/26
10-30 a.m.

My dear Subhas,

Your letter of the 31st March was to hand on the 12th instant. I cannot account for the delay.

We were happy to learn that you gained some weight, however slight. I can quite realise how uncomfortable Mandalay is now. What happened to your application for transfer to some hill station in Burma.
Whenever you write to the Book Company for books please send me a list also.

When you have done with a few books, you may return them to me by Registered Post. I am trying to have a small library here for my use. If I am to go to the Bengal Council, I must have a library.

I don't know if Chotzner's judgement appeared in the Rangoon papers. If not, I shall apply for a copy and send it to you. The observations he made about you and your position were quite good and the strictures he passed on The Englishman for making defamatory remarks were severe. After all the amount of damages is a small matter—what is really wanted is a vindication of one's character and in that, we succeeded.

The case against The Statesman will come up for hearing in about two months' time. Your attorneys Messrs Dutt and Sen wrote to the Additional Deputy Secretary, Political Dept, Govt. of Bengal requesting him to bring you down to Calcutta for the purposes of the case but he has refused. His reply is as follows:

"I am directed to inform you that Government are unable to accede to the request that Mr. S. C. Bose should be brought to Calcutta for the purposes of the action referred to."

This attitude of Govt. is very surprising. Please let me or Messrs Dutt and Sen have further instructions in the matter.

I am glad to tell you that father is looking better. He went down to Cuttack yesterday but will be coming back again after a fortnight or so.

Aruna's marriage has been settled with Paresh Shome's brother. The marriage will come off this month (Baisakh). How we wish you had been here!

Yes, Asoke is improving as a spinner. Ami also spins whenever he is so minded, but he is too flighty and sometimes gives it up for weeks.

I have engaged a teacher of music for Ami and Mira. Ami is keen on music. I shall engage a drawing master for the boys during the summer vacation.

So long today. This leaves us well.

Yours v. affly
Sarat

Subhas Chandra Bose Esq.
To Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
1/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay Jail
23.4.26.

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 5th inst. reached me on the 13th. It is getting hotter here every day. I think the heat has already surpassed that of last year.

My anticipations regarding the result of a premature suspension of the strike have proved to be true.

I am glad to learn that after all the troubles in Calcutta are over. I hope a sifting non-official enquiry will be held into the real causes of the trouble.

How do you find the heat there now? Where are father and mother now and how are they doing?

I do not know if it will be possible to write to you in future. I shall do so as long as I am allowed.

Hope this will find you all quite well. I am so so.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1 Elgin Road
Calcutta.
98 To Santosh Kumar Basu

Censored and Passed
Illegible
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.,
Bengal.

(C/o D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.)
13 Elysium Row
Mandalay Jail

My dear Mr. Basu,

I was so glad to receive your letter. I am relieved to learn what you have written about lighting. I am glad to learn particularly that you are going to bring up the matter before the P. U. committee and I feel sure that the matter will receive your careful consideration. I hope the Corporation will not easily give up the idea of municipalizing street-lighting (whether gas or electricity) unless there is a very strong case against it. If necessary you should have the estimates of the Lighting Superintendent examined by independent experts without relying wholly on him. If necessary, you may invite public opinion through the columns of the Gazette and you will have to consult experts, if they are available. If unfortunately the work has to be entrusted to a private company, I hope you will make it a point to advertise in the Continent for tenderers and not in England alone. All this will take time and that is why it is desirable to come to a decision as early as possible. In dealing with the case for municipalization, the possibility of utilizing the by-products for commercial purposes should not be lost sight of.

I heartily approve of the policy of electrifying all the new streets—particularly in the added areas. I do not know if any appreciable advantage would be gained by buying current from the C.E.S. Corporation and lighting the Central Office, Market etc. ourselves. Unless there be a saving in expenditure or greater convenience, it would not be wise to add to our departmental work and strengthen the claims of the Lighting Superintendent to an increase of pay.
I do not think the lethal chamber scheme for the destruction of pariah dogs has yet materialized. How do matters stand now?

I hope you will not drop the cold storage scheme easily. If necessary, you should consult the fish, meat and fruit dealers if they would be benefited by the instalment of a plant. If they are benefited, we can charge a fee for the use of the plant in order to recoup the expenditure incurred.

I do not know if our market offices prepare an abstract of the average prices of different food-stuffs for the month. I think it would be useful to prepare averages for the month and compare same with those of the corresponding month of the last few years or later on of the succeeding years. We could thereby find out at a glance whether prices have been going up or down. The lists of these averages may be placed before the P. U. and Markets Com. and may be published in the Gazette. At the end of a year, the average prices for the year should also be worked out. In all the municipal markets these averages should be worked out and the mean average for the whole of Calcutta should be deduced there from by the Market Controller. The Market Controller should study these averages closely—should try to discover why prices vary in different markets and find out means for reducing prices. It would be advisable to consult Mr. S. C. Roy (Dy. Ex. Officer) regarding this question. For the study of Indian Economics, these figures would be of great use later on. They would also be useful in testing the demand of municipal employees for higher pay. It would suffice, I think, to deal only with the prices of necessaries—leaving out the luxuries. I do not know whether the Market Controller has so far taken any steps to increase the food-supply or to reduce prices. The first step in that direction would be to know exactly how prices stand and to check as far as possible all profiteering on the part of the dealers. The easiest palliative would then be to effect a redistribution of foodstuffs locally, from one market to another, so as to bring down the prices of commodities that may be in great demand at a particular place. This redistribution may be effected through the agency of the dealers themselves or of the Corporation—if the law does not stand in the way.

It is not possible to have a central market which can serve
as a model for the whole of Calcutta for all kinds of things even if it be desirable. The Hogg Market can be a central market for meat and fruits. College St. Market should be developed into a central market for fish—which is the staple food of the local population. Sealdah is the best site for a central milk market. It is on these lines that the markets in Calcutta should be developed. I am afraid, however, that there is hardly any conscious policy behind the development of our markets. We have so far been groping our way in the dark, as it were. I am concerned here only with food-stuffs and not with all kinds of commodities. Before sanctioning the extension of any market, there should be in our minds' eye a vision of the market as it is to be. Without this vision, the development is bound to take place in a blind and haphazard manner and when the market extension is complete it will be found that the market as a whole is exceedingly ill-arranged. I am afraid this will happen in the case of the College Street market.

How do you find the Education Officer? Besides doing his departmental work, there are four things for which he should equip himself:—(1) preparing departmental estimates for compulsory primary education in the different wards and collecting relevant facts regarding the census of the school-going population under a compulsory scheme, (2) making himself conversant with kindergarten principles and with the main facts of educational psychology, especially with reference to children (3) preparing a sound system of text-books for children of different grades and discovering the proper men to write these books (4) organization of a training school for our teachers. As the work develops in magnitude, the emoluments of the Education Officer should be increased until he gets the same pay as the head of any other department. It will of course take several years to make the Education Dept. a full-fledged department but that should be the prospect before us. A department which is responsible for the education of all the indigent boys and girls of Calcutta of school-going age cannot fall short of any other department in the matter of importance.

Re—municipal banking, I think we shall have to fight shy of it for some time to come and I quite agree with you there.

How are the stores for sweepers working? I have had no information about them at all.
I think the Corporation should get into touch with the Cal. University regarding two problems. The first problem is the medical examination of the students of all the Schools and Colleges in Calcutta. The second problem is the opening of a sub-department in the domain of Political Science for teaching Municipal Government to the students of Political Science. Lay men have no idea of the extent to which specialization has been going on within the subject of Political Science itself in Europe and America. America, in particular, has made a science of municipal administration itself and heaps of books have been written regarding the principles and methods of municipal administration. There is a great advantage in including Municipal Govt. within the curriculum for Political Science. It will make one aspect of the whole subject of Pol. Science altogether realistic and we can help the university students to obtain an inner knowledge of the working of the Municipality including its financial side. You may have a talk with Councillor Ramaprasad regarding this question.

Regarding health examination, I think it advisable to have a regular examination once in 2 or 3 years if an annual examination be not possible. This will give us an exact idea as to whether the succeeding batches of students are improving or degenerating in the matter of physique. This work will entail collaboration on the part of the University, Corporation and Health Associations.


I commenced this letter more than 2 months ago but it has been lying unfinished. In the meantime much water has flowed down the Hooghly and the Irrawady. I shall now put a finishing touch to this and send it on.

I was sorry to learn from my brother's letter that malaria had been raging in an epidemic form in several parts of the city.

I am glad that the Corporation has sanctioned an educational survey of the city. This should have been done last year but better late than never.

I have followed with great interest your fight in connection with the Bidyadhari. I hope you will not forget that you will have to get a competent River Engineer from abroad before you can solve the problem. Why don't you advertise in
England, America and the Continent from now? It will take you months, if not years, to get a suitable engineer.

In the meantime I should correspond with Dr. Bentley regarding the possibility of experimenting with the Bidyadhari by means of models with the object of discovering or predicting the future course of the waterways in the Salt-Lake Area. Such experiments have been carried on in Europe (in the case of the River Mersey, for instance, I think) with very good results. The Corporation has to remember that before the new Main Drainage Scheme can be decided upon, the future course of the waterways has to be predicted. Our predictions may go wrong but it is on them that the main drainage scheme will have to be based.

Is Mr. Wilkinson coming back again or is he going home for good? I should be sorry to lose him.

How do you find the new Superintendent of the Motor Vehicles Dept.? Have things improved since Wacha’s time?

By-the-way, months ago I sent a report regarding some pilfering etc. in Dt. IV Gowkhana in connection with fodder, gram etc. My report was submitted at the request of the E. G. P. Committee. Do you know if this matter has been considered by the Committee or if my report has been suppressed?

Is Mr. Coats back now?

I am afraid the Roads Dept. will have to be reorganised root and branch. Though I am not as a rule enamoured of centralization, I feel constrained to think that for some years to come the roads dept. should be centralized under a separate specially-trained roads engineer. Under the present system, you cannot raise the level of efficiency to an appreciable extent. I know the Dist. Engineers and Mr. Coats will be against this but the financial interests of no existing incumbent need suffer under the new scheme.

Please do not allow the small-pox epidemic to be forgotten. The causes of its periodic recurrence have to be investigated into.

Have you got the full report of the Retrenchment Officer yet?

Our Accounts Dept. is exceedingly efficient—I am proud to say—but the officers are sometimes over-zealous. I had to pull up the Chief Accountant now and again when I was there.
I am sorry that the riots took place—our cup of misfortune is full. I wonder what has taken possession of the country’s soul. I do not expect to hear about the real causes of the riots and the agents behind the scenes till I am free. I thought that Bengal was free from communal troubles but that is not to be. Hope this will find you all quite well. I must stop here for today. With kindest wishes.

Ever yours fraternally

Subhas C. Bose

S. K. Basu Esq.
10A, Gopal Ghose Lane
Kidderpore
Calcutta.

99 To Basanti Devi*

Censored and Passed
Illegible
3/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay Jail
(c/o D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
(Bengal)
13 Elysium Row, Calcutta)
26/4/26

Revered Mother,

I duly received your letter of the 6th February but was unable to answer it for various reasons. I did not write to you in the expectation that you would write back to me. Nevertheless, to read a few lines from you after such a long time filled my heart with joy. But then, when I read through the letter all my joy vanished. I thought, if we were free, we could perhaps bring you some consolation. It is nearly a year and half now that we are all, so to say, completely mother-less. God only knows when this long night of exile will end. It looks as if we

* Translated from the original Bengali.
are getting accustomed to this darkness. And the light outside appears to be getting farther and farther from us. The agony of incarceration that I used to feel during the early part of our imprisonment is getting less and less, and instead, a feeling of resignation is getting hold of my heart; I cannot always make out whither I am going. What purpose is He seeking to fulfil by sending us to exile is something that I can hardly comprehend. That is why I am praying to Him all the time that He may, through all this misfortune and obstacles, direct the course of my life, worthless, unfulfilled and lustreless though it may be, to Himself.

I can realise that He has rendered us so completely helpless in order to fulfil His own inscrutable purpose. But have I been able to come nearer Him inspite of being in such a helpless state for as long as a year and half?

Well, let me leave all that, I started off to write something different. I do not know when I shall have the privilege of seeing you again. But I cannot help thinking about you; hardly a day passes when you are not in my thoughts. I would consider myself thrice blessed if I could, with my whole being, comfort you and serve you. But that is not to be perhaps.

I can write no more today—so let me stop. Let me take leave of you for the present, mother. Please accept pronams from all of us.

Devotedly yours.
Subhas

100 To Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
11/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay
30.4.26

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 17th April reached me on the 24th. I wrote to the Book Company in March for the following books:

1. প্রাণতোলিতী by Ram Toshan Bhattacharya
2. তন্ত্রসার by Rasik Mohon Chattopadhyaya
3. বুহততন্ত্রসার by Agambagish Srimat Krishnananda
4. শাতানন্দ তরঙ্গদাসী by Srimat Brahmamanda Giri
5. শারারহস্য by Srimat Purnananda Paramahansa
6. তারা রহস্য
7. পূরোহিতদর্শন
8. Shakti and Shakta by Woodroffe

They have sent me nos. 4, 5, 6, and 7. They have sent me 5 books of Woodroffe which I did not want. They have also sent me "Principles of Tantra" 2 vols by Shivachandra Vidyarnava (English translation) which are priced at Rs. 20/-. I have got Shivachandra's original work in Bengali (তন্ত্রতত্ত্ব) which I have already read. It will not be of any use to buy the English translation for Rs. 20/- for the sake of an introduction by the translator. By the way the original work in Bengali is priced at Rs. 6/- only. Under the circumstances please consult the Book Company and let me know if I should return the 2 vols of Principles of Tantra. The five books of Woodroffe which have been sent do not deal with the Tantras but I may keep them (though I am not anxious) as they cost in all Rs. 11/- only. Please inform the Book Company that they need not send me any more books of Woodroffe—if they have not already placed orders on my behalf. If they have already placed orders, they may send me "Shakti and Shakta" and a book on Tantras by Woodroffe. I have since discovered that the book which Woodroffe wrote on the Tantras (I think the name is "Tantra Shastras") is not useful from my point of view. If you think it would be desirable to stock all the books of Woodroffe for our library—that is a different matter.

Please inform the Book Company that I want books marked 1, 2 and 3 above. If nos. 1 and 2 are not available, I am sure that no. 3 is. It is a publication of the Basumati Press and I find the book advertised in their catalogue. Please instruct Gopali or some one else to see the Manager of the Book Company regarding the above points as early as possible.

There is no prospect of our transfer to a cooler place in summer.

Please let me know what books in particular you would feel
interested in at the moment. I shall send the books from here accordingly.

I have read Chotzner’s judgment in the Rangoon and Calcutta papers. I am informed that Justice Gregory has awarded Rupees four thousand plus costs in the libel suit against the Catholic Herald. The damages awarded in both cases are not at all up to our expectations—but anyhow the principle for which we stood has been vindicated.

I think the Statesman in their written statement said that I was, but am not at present, the C.E.O. of the Calcutta Corporation. The Corporation year book and the Quarterly Civil List, published by the Bengal Govt. may be quoted as documentary evidence against what they say.

I am glad to know that father is better and that Aruna’s marriage will be celebrated this month i.e. Baisakh.

To which class does Asoke belong now? The yarn he has spun is very fine indeed. I think he should also take lessons in music and in drawing too if possible.

Have you been able to discover which line he is likely to take up when he passes out of school?

You may suggest to Sejdada that he may try to manufacture tongue-scrappers (জিরছোলা) along with combs. They will have a good sale in India. A good celluloid tongue-scraper is sold in Mandalay for Rs. 1/8- or Rs. 2/-.

Who will pay the damages on behalf of the Catholic Herald? I believe the Editor is now in England.

Hope this will find you all quite well. I am so so.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road
Calcutta.

P.S.
The South Calcutta National School authorities want a playground (probably Hazra Park) for their boys. Can you help them? I don’t know whether the matter is now in the hands of the C.E.O. or the Dist. Committee.

S.C.B.
To Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
13/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay Jail
Saturday 1st. May '26.

My dear brother,

I am sending you a press cutting from a Rangoon paper regarding the libel suit against the Catholic Herald. It is not clear from the report whether the defendants put up any defence or not. Who was the plaintiff's Counsel? I hope the Calcutta papers which will arrive on Tuesday will give me all the information I want.

Regarding the Statesman suit, it is not clear which party applied for the adjournment. When is the examination on commission, going to take place? I am interested to know all about this suit.

What line are the defendants going to take up? Are they going to stick to what they have said in their written statement?

It will be necessary probably to have a consultation with my lawyers before I am examined on commission. In case it is necessary, I hope the necessary arrangements will be made. It is hardly necessary to state that the interview with my lawyers should be a private one and should not be held in the presence of a C.I.D. officer—as in the case of other interviews. In whose Court is the Statesman suit coming up?

Are you going to spend the whole of summer in Calcutta? How are you feeling this year? When is Aruna's marriage taking place?

I was interested to read what Mahatma Gandhi wrote about the easiest method of expediting the release of detenues.

When you visited Mandalay last year, did you purchase any Burmese curios? What are the things which struck you as beautiful and as peculiar to Burma?
Hope this will find you all quite well. How has Gopali fared in his examination? I am so so.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road
Calcutta.

Enclosure:

LIBEL SUIT AGAINST "CATHOLIC HERALD".

MR. SUBHAS CHUNDER BOSE'S CLAIM.

Plaintiff Awarded Rs. 4000.

Calcutta, April 29; At the High Court today Mr. Justice Gregory disposed of the suit brought by Mr. Subhas Chunder Bose against Father F. A. Gille Editor of the Catholic Herald claiming Rs. 50,000 as damages for publishing the alleged libellous article. Plaintiff passed the Indian Civil Service but resigned and later on was appointed the Chief Executive Officer, Calcutta Corporation when he was arrested and confined in Mandalay Jail under the Bengal Ordinance. The alleged libel was in a letter said to have been written by the father of Mr. Bose which subsequently proved to be false. This letter was copied by the Englishman and the Statesman and Mr. Bose brought two other suits against these papers. The suit against the Englishman had been decreed and Rs. 2000 awarded to Mr. Bose as damages. In the present suit the Judge held that the words imputed to the plaintiff's father amounted to an admission that plaintiff had been connected with revolutionary activities and this publication constituted a serious libel. His Lordship decreed the suit and gave damages for Rs. 4000 with costs.

In the suit against the Statesman an application for adjournment was made to have plaintiff's examination on commission as Government had not permitted Mr. Bose to come to Calcutta to give his evidence. The application will be moved on a later date.—A.P.
102 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

Censored and Passed
Illegible
3/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
3rd May 1926.

My dear Subhas,

Your letter of the 23rd ultimo was to hand yesterday. I do not think I have written to you after the 5th April, but two letters were despatched to you after that viz. on the 17th & 29th April. I hope you have received them. I have made a mistake—the letter of the 17th was mine. I referred in that letter to the correspondence that passed between your attorneys Messrs Dutt & Sen and Government regarding bringing you down to Calcutta for the purpose of giving evidence in your case against the Statesman.

I have been busy with various thing the whole of last month and I am afraid I have neglected you. Hope you won't mind it.

We all thought that the communal troubles had been over. But they reappeared in a more violent form. I suppose the local papers there have given some details about the terrible state of things in the city for the last few days. From yesterday however, calm has set in and I hope there will be no further outbreak.

We have made an application for adjournment of your case till after the Long Vacation or in the alternative for your examination on commission at Mandalay. Sir Binod Mitter is appearing for you and Langford James for the Statesman. The application will come on this afternoon and I shall let you know the result of it.

It is no use trying to explain to you now the reasons which prompted us to advise that the hungerstrike should be suspended. If I were to write to you, I don't think the letter would be passed. So I must wait till you are out. You needn't take it, however, that (though we advised suspension of the hunger-
strike) we failed to appreciate the force of the arguments against such suspension.

It is very hot here. Father is at Cuttack but mother is still here. It has not been settled yet as to when she will go down.

It is no use concealing the fact that we are all anxious about your health, specially because of the heat there. I really do not know what can be done if Government persists in its unreasonable attitude.

What has alarmed me more is your statement “I do not know if it will be possible to write to you in future. I shall do so as long as I am allowed.” Surely you don’t mean that the right of writing a few letters home every month is going to be denied you. It is difficult to believe that such a step can be thought of, so far as you are concerned. But the unexpected sometimes happens. I am anxiously waiting for your next letter which I hope will throw light on the subject.

Do write to us a little more in detail about your health. We are pretty well.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

103 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

Censored and Passed
Illegible
6/5/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
5th May 1926

My dear Subhas,

Your application in the suit against the ‘Statesman’ has not been heard yet. It will probably come on for hearing tomorrow. Sir Binod Mitter and Mr. N. N. Sircar have been briefed to appear for you. Langford James is appearing for the Statesman.

There is a talk of referring the suit against Birla Jute
Mills Co. Ltd. to my arbitration. On Birla’s behalf it was suggested that the matter might be referred to two arbitrators—I being one of them. I have declined to act as one of two arbitrators and have told them that if both parties agree to my *sole arbitration*, I am prepared to act. The contractors are agreeable but I have not heard from Birla’s side yet.

If the court orders a commission in your case, probably I shall have to come to Mandalay. I wonder if there are competent lawyers at Mandalay who can take instructions from you and examine you in Chief. If there are none, I shall have to take Counsel & Attorney from here. You might ask the Superintendent of your jail to enquire if there are competent Counsel at Mandalay. In the meantime you might also prepare a note on the libellous statements contained in the Statesman article. I suppose you remember that the libel consists in describing you “as the directing brain of the revolutionary conspiracy.” Of course, the onus of proof is on the Statesman. But any facts which would enable us to destroy the defendant’s case would be helpful.

Justice Gregory’s judgment in the suit against the Catholic Herald was quite a strong judgment. He held that the words used by the Catholic Herald constituted ‘very serious libel’ and he awarded Rs. 4000/- damages. The Editor, Catholic Herald, has fled the country and the paper has also been stopped. There will be considerable difficulty therefore in realising damages from the Editor, Catholic Herald. The Englishman will, in all probability, pay up soon.

I trust you are taking as good care of your health as it is possible under the circumstances.

Did you receive any letter from Mrs. Das from Patna? She hasn’t got any acknowledgment from you. She is here now and will be here for some time more.

This leaves us fairly well.

Yours very affly,
Sarat

P.S.
Aruna’s marriage has had to be postponed because of the disturbed condition of the city.

Sarat
My dear brother,

I have not heard from you for some time past. I hope the second communal outbreak has come to an end by now and there is peace in Calcutta once again. The whole affair is so regrettable. I hope serious attempts will now be made to arrive at a lasting settlements on the basis of goodwill and not of fear.

A sum of Rs. 200/- has been sanctioned for the purchase of books for Mandalay and Insein Jails. We do not know our exact share yet.

Govt. have sanctioned a sum of Rs. 30/- per head per annum for religious observances. The order is so general that it seems to be applicable to all detenues. The net gain is that Govt. have yielded on the question of principle but we would have got a much more liberal allowance if we had not suspended the strike prematurely.

The personal allowance of Rs. 7/- per mensem for toilet requisites, papers, stationery and sundry articles has been raised from Rs. 7/- to Rs. 15/- per month.

An extra allowance of about Rs. 100/- per head on an average has been sanctioned for clothing, bedding etc. to meet our requirements up till August next. The allowance for next year will not however exceed the present figure viz. Rs. 225/- per annum. Only in my case it has been raised to Rs. 325/- per annum.

This year is going to be drier than last year. We have not had a drop of rain yet though last year we had intermittent showers which helped to temper the heat. The result is that there are cases of small-pox in the town and also a case inside the jail.
How are you all doing? When will father be going to Kurseong? He has written to say that he may be going down by the end of this month. Is there any news of Nadumama? How has he done in his examination?

I am glad that the Calcutta University is going to make Bengali the medium of instruction up to the Matriculation standard. The present and future batches of school boys should make a closer study of Bengali literature than we did. Only now am I trying to make up what I consider to be a defect in my education viz. a colossal ignorance of Bengali literature. The medieval literature of Bengal is a treasure—more so than the modern in many ways.

I am so so. I hope Aruna's marriage will be over by the time this reaches you.

Yours v. afly
Subhas

S·C. Bose Esq.
38/1 Elgin Road
Calcutta.

105 To Sarat Chandra Bose

Mandalay
17.5.26

My dear brother,

There was a paragraph in one of the Rangoon papers two or three days ago regarding the suit against the Statesman. Unfortunately the language was so clumsy that one could not make anything out of it. I however gathered that the Court was making a reference to the Govt. and that the matter was adjourned till the hearing of the suit.

The Book Company have sent me a list of the books they have despatched up to date. They have made a mistake about Nietzsche's books. They say that on 23.9.25 they sent vols. 3, 12, 15, 16, 13, 11, 10, on 23.9.25 they sent vols. 10, 12, 3, and on 25.11.25 they sent vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 9, 14, 17, 18. They have thus sent duplicate copies of vols. 12 and 10 and triplicate copies of vol. 3. But I received only one duplicate copy of vol.
III which I returned through Rangamamababu. The set contains 18 vols. in all and I received 19 in all—but having returned one, I have only 18 with me at present.


There is a further proof that they have made a mistake. About the same time, this office received 4 vols. of Nietzsche's (viz., 11, 15, 16, 13) works and 19 Bengali books, which were duly passed on to me. They did not receive vols. 3, 12 & 10 along with these books. It therefore appears that vols. 3, 12, 10 were not sent on 1.9.25 but much later—on 23.9.25. I am sending you their letter to me for reference. Please ask some one to go down to their shop and clear up this point.

I could not write to you on Monday. Since then I have received the Calcutta papers and I think I understand the position about the Statesman suit better now. It seems to be practically certain now that they will take up the plea of fair comment, though Mr. Langford James seemed to stammer towards the end. I did not, however, understand how Mr. James could make the preposterous claim that the application should be dismissed with costs, when Mr. Sircar offered to withdraw on the assurance given by the former that the plea of fair comment only would be taken up. When is the suit likely to come up for hearing? How do you view the present position of the defendants?

I wonder if Mr. Arthur Avalon, the compiler of Tantric books is the same person as Mr. Woodroffe. In that case the Book Company are not to blame for sending me Avalon's translation of the Tantras. I asked for Woodroffe's book only.

Do you know personally Mr. Rakhal Das Banerji, the historian? I think I could give him some missing links in the history of early and medieval Bengal from Burma records.

We have had one or two light showers of late and it is somewhat cooler now. Can you ask mother and let me know my Rashi (রাশি) & Nakshatra (নক্ষatra) at the time I was born. I want this to solve a problem that has cropped up while studying the Tantras.

The Inspector General wanted a strict record to be kept of all the papers, exercise books, books etc. supplied to us and to carry out daily searches. He said that if we did not submit to strict discipline, the supply of writing materials was to be
stopped. As I wrote to you last week, I had a talk with the Superintendent who was quite reasonable and the matter was referred again to the I.G. for reconsideration. We were also informed by the I.G. that if necessity arose, disciplinary action could be taken against us under certain sections of the Jail code (viz. that we could be confined in separate or solitary cells for certain periods). All these orders would have given rise to considerable unpleasantness and friction but for the tact of the Superintendent. However, I think the trouble has now been allayed. None of the orders has been enforced up till now and since the Supdt. wrote to the I.G. giving his opinion, we have not heard anything. In the meantime the I.G. paid us another visit and he seemed to be cordial in his manners and talk. So I take that matters have been put right once for all.

Are you going to take a short holiday during summer? How do you find the heat in Calcutta now? When is Mr. S. N. Mullick leaving for England? I learn from the papers that Mrs. Mullick will be accompanying him.

Please persuade Mrs. Das to commence writing a biography of Deshbandhu or collecting facts and materials for the biography. This will soothe her in no small measure.

Who is now in charge of the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan. Is Mrs. Das satisfied with the way in which it is being conducted?

How are you all doing? I am so so.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

106 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE
Censored and passed
Illegible
31. 5. 26.
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
Calcutta,
27. 5. 26.

My dear Subhas,

I believe my last letter to you was on the 5th instant. I received your letters of the 30th April, 1st May, 7th May &
14th May on the 12th May, 14th May, 15th May and 28th May respectively.

I have not been able to write to the Book Company yet. I shall do so in the course of the next few days. I shall see that they send you the books you want.

Now a few words about the 'Statesman' case. You are right when you say that they have not admitted in the written statement that you are still the C.E.O. We have subpoenaed J. C. Mukherji to prove that fact and asked him to produce and prove the Corporation resolutions on your leave.

In the Statesman case, we originally applied for adjournment as your evidence was wanted and Govt. had not acceded to the request of your solicitors to bring you down to Calcutta for the purposes of the case. When the application came on for hearing, Langford James Counsel for the Statesman said that he was not taking the plea of justification but only that of fair comment and therefore your evidence was not required, and the application for adjournment or in the alternative for commission should therefore be dismissed. Mr. Justice Buckland said that he would adjourn the application till the trial in order to see if Counsel appearing at the trial for the Statesman took up the same attitude or a different attitude.

The suit came up for hearing last week and on that date Mr. Page, Counsel for the Statesman (Langford James's junior) asked for an adjournment on the ground that he had not got his witnesses for the purpose of proving Lord Lytton's Malda speech. The Statesman's attorney had written to our attorneys asking us to admit Lord Lytton's Malda speech. We did not admit it—hence it became necessary for the Statesman to prove the Malda speech. The case was adjourned for 3 weeks and costs of the day were allowed to us. That would amount to about Rs. 800/- to Rs. 1,000/-.  

I think at the trial your evidence will be necessary—so there will either be an adjournment or a commission. If there is a commission, we shall certainly apply to Govt. for permission to have a private interview with you. As a matter of fact, one of the grounds on which I asked for adjournment was that it was the practice of Govt. to have a C. I. D. Officer present at interviews and it was not possible to conduct cases under such conditions. Let us wait and see what developments take place.
My dear Netaji,

I got your long letter of the 30th day last before yesterday. I am sorry I cannot write in detail now.

I am thru with the work of the General Strike and have been working hard. The reason for the delay in retiring is that I have all the time to write. I am writing this letter to the public. Yours of that day and letter.
We cannot decide yet what steps we shall take for your examination. Probably the case will be heard before Buckland.

I was happy to learn from your letter of the 9th instant that Govt. had after all yielded on the question of principle so far as the grievances of detenues were concerned.

I must stop here today. But before I do so I shall tell you something interesting which took place recently. I met Mr. K. C. Roy of the Associated Press the other day at the ‘Forward’ office. I had not met him before. He told me that the Delhi ‘gup’ was that a copy of Lt. Col. Mulvany’s evidence which appeared in the papers in February last had leaked out from Mandalay Jail. He further said that the detenues had been allowed to read the Jail Committee’s report through inadvertence and that was how the evidence of Mulvany saw the light of day. It was such a brilliant discovery!! that I asked Mr. Roy if I could inform you about it. He said certainly. I then said “I am sure this portion of my letter will be censored”. He said it could not be. I then said “Shall I put it to the test”. He said “By all means do it”.

Aruna is going to be married this evening. The marriage will be celebrated in Shambazar.

Hope you are feeling better. This leaves us well.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

107 TO SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

Mandalay
7.6.26.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
15/6/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

My dear brother,

I have been requested by U. Tha Gywe, a barrister and resident of Mandalay, to help a relation of his, Mr. M. S. Gywe in getting admitted into the Carmichael Medical College. Mr.
Gywe is one of our non-official visitors and is a nice gentleman. His relation, Mr. M. S. Gywe, is I understand now in Calcutta trying to get admitted. He will probably be seeing you during the course of the next few days. With the permission of the Superintendent I have sent a wire to you this morning asking you to help Mr. Gywe. I believe you are still the Corporation representative on the Carmichael College Governing Body and you may be able to use your influence there. I have also wired to Dr. Bidhan Roy and am writing to him by today's mail.

I have not heard from you for a long time. How are you all doing?

Yours very affectionately

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1 Elgin Road
Calcutta.

108 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1 Elgin Road
21st June 1926

Censored and passed
Illegible
23. 6. 26.
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

My dear Subhas,

I received your letter of the 7th on the 15th. I also got your telegram of the 8th instant.

Barrister Gywe came to Calcutta the other day and saw me twice. He also saw Dr. B. C. Roy. His son has put in an application (acting under the advice of Dr. Roy) to the Syndicate for permission to join one of the Medical Colleges, though he is not an I.Sc. He put in three years at the Hongkong University as a medical student.
I gave Mr. Gywe a letter of introduction to Jnan Babu (Registrar) I don’t know yet what Jnan Babu told him. Mr. Gywe was to have left the next day for Burma but his son was to have come and see me.

I am not on the Governing Body of Carmichael this year. I hear that there is no room in Carmichael College; so if Mr. Gywe’s son gets the permission applied for, he will have to try to get into the Calcutta Medical College.

I find that I wrote to you thrice last month——3rd, 5th and 27th May. Did you get all the letters?

Tomorrow is Bakr-Id, I hope there will be no disturbances, though the air is thick with rumours that in some quarters there will be trouble.

That brings me to the question of the Bengal Hindu-Moslem Pact. After considering the matter carefully and specially the attitude of both communities towards the Pact at the present moment (which attitude is not likely to change), we have come to the conclusion that the Bengal Pact has to be dropped gently and some solution of the Hindu-Moslem question has to be found by the Congress or the A.I.C.C. or the Working Committee on an All-India basis at an early date. We issued a statement to the Press on Saturday last and I believe it will appear in the Rangoon papers also.

We are convinced that if in the coming elections, Sengupta raises the cry “we stand or fall by the Pact,” he will come to grief. While attempts should be seriously made to restore Hindu-Moslem unity, it would be most unwise to bring the Bengal Hindu-Moslem Pact before the public any more. Some agreement on the Pact will have to be arrived at in the Congress at Gauhati or earlier if possible; but it is no use trying to bring back to life a Pact which is being condemned by both communities.

I should like to know your views on our Manifesto.

Your case against the Statesman is coming up on Wednesday next.

Hope you are better.

Yours v. affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.
Despatched 28/6/26 (Monday)
S. C. Bose,
Censored and Passed
Illegible 9/7/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

My dear brother,

I believe my last letter to you was on the 18th. I have been waiting anxiously for the letter of Mr. Jones to the editor of the Statesman as it has a bearing on my case. I do not know why it has not reached me. Instead of sending a cutting, could you send me a copy of it? I do not see any reason why it should be withheld, as it is a purely legal matter, connected with my case, as far as I am concerned. Please let me know the date of the despatch of that letter (if you have sent it already). I shall write to the C.I.D. Office about it, if it does not reach me ultimately.

I heard several months ago—and I forget to write to you at the time—that Dr. Kartick Bose was thinking of disposing of his glass factory. His son being ill in France (or somewhere abroad) and he himself being in indifferent health—he was anxious to wind up his glass factory which had proved to be an unprofitable concern. I wanted to pass this information on Sejdada for what it was worth—as he might try and see if he could strike a bargain. By-the-way, how is his concern getting on?

If you happen to meet Hemendra Babu (Dasgupta) anywhere, please tell him that we have not so far received any of his books. I think he sent 4 copies of Deshbandhu's life through the C.I.D.

I believe you are particularly busy now with so many irons in the fire. I only hope you will not overstrain yourself—especially when so many things depend on you. You may tear yourself away from Calcutta and have a short rest at Puri or Kurseong. Mr. P. K. Chakravarti's affair is all out in the Rangoon papers and he himself is responsible for all the
publicity he has got. I don’t think it has helped him much though, I hope you will select a suitable man in his place. There are so many humbugs on the one hand and learned but unreliable people on the other, in the journalistic world, that one has got to be careful. Above all, in no other walk of life is judging from a distance so difficult. And Bombay journalists are by far the worst I think. They can open their mouths wide and that is about all that could be said about them. Why not employ some intelligent and well-educated young men who have passed out and train them up as journalists? You will get heaps of them as apprentices and you would be doing a distinct service to the country if you could help some of them in getting initiated into journalism. By-the-by, is it not possible to bring Mr. Chakravarti round?

I am keeping much the same as before except that I am feeling somewhat weaker. My present weight is 144 lbs. I want to put in hard work for about 6 months or so, to complete or rather to continue my education which has been sadly neglected for the last 4 or 5 years but I do not feel up to it. I work well for a time but my energy then begins to flag. I sometimes feel that it would be hardly worthwhile for me to make a special study of municipal problems as I would probably be drawn into other fields of activity in the future.

Gopali will probably pass his B.Sc. He may be unable to decide as to his future career. If he does not join Sejdada, I would suggest to him to go in for textile manufacture or Geology. Both these fields hold out bright prospects for trained young men. The number of mills (cotton, jute etc.) in Bengal will from year to year be on the increase and avenues of employment will be opened thereby. A geologist, on the other hand, will be in demand all over India and Burma. Engineering, likewise, is a desirable career—but he must specialise in some branch of engineering e.g. drainage or bridge-building or marine engineering. The main thing is to have ambition and self-confidence.

Hope this will find you all quite well. How are father and mother?

I have just received (5 p.m. today) your message regarding the Statesman suit. I have sent the following message in reply—“Rely entirely on your judgment.” It is difficult to give a
more definite reply when I am not in possession of all the facts of the case, particularly the latest developments. We must try to get the most we can and you must be the judge as to the maximum we can get under the circumstances of the case. There can be no question of generosity.

Yours affly
Subhas

110 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1, Elgin Road
10th July 1926.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
12/7/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

My dear Subhas,

I believe I wrote to you last on the 21st June. Since then, I have received several letters from you, none of which I have answered yet. I shall reply to each and every one of them tomorrow, so that it will be in time for Tuesday’s boat.

I am sorry I forgot to send you copies of Jones’ letter to Ray Knight and of his note re: conference with Dunne. I enclose them herewith.

Your opinion on the Bengal Hindu-Moslem Pact fortifies us in the conclusions we had arrived at. There is only one matter which has to be considered in this connection viz. whether the cry “Modify the Pact” should be raised now or whether we should try to bring about unity on the basis of the Unity Conference resolutions.

Have you gained in weight at all since the hungerstrike? I am anxious to learn that you are feeling weaker.

Mira is, thank God, all right. I did not want to worry you with the news.

Mrs. Das is trying to bear up. I hope and pray that the Lord will give her strength to do so. Your Bowdidi has been
to see her twice, but though I have been to her house, I haven't been upstairs to see her. I have made up my mind to see her this evening.

This leaves us well. More in any next.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.
Enclo—Seven Pages.

Enclosure:
Censored and Passed
Illegible
D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Copy of letter addressed to Ray Knight, Esq., Messrs. R. Knight & Sons. CALCUTTA, from J. A. Jones, Esq., "THE STATESMAN," LONDON, dated December the 18th., 1924.

My dear Ray Knight,

Though I am writing on urgent business and time is short, may I begin by congratulating you on your excellent recovery from the attack of enteric? As soon as I was told that you were in the hands of my friend Dr. Roberts of Shillong, I was confident that nothing which medical skill and careful nursing could do would be wanting. It is very satisfactory that you are out of danger, and—according to the Anglo Indian tradition—you will probably be all the better for your illness.

The matter on which I have to write, by the request of the Burra Sahibs, is the action for libel which S. C. Bose has brought against "THE ENGLISHMAN". Before deciding on their action the proprietors asked me to get the opinion of Mr. A. M. Dunne, whom you may possibly remember as a leading figure at the Calcutta Bar some twenty years ago, and who is now a very busy Counsel for the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. I need not go over the whole story of my interview with Dunne, because you will find a careful note in the Memo-
random enclosed herewith. Briefly, Dunne was of the opinion that the second paragraph of the article in "THE ENGLISHMAN" of November 13, up to the words "crimes of violence", could be successfully defended as fair comment; but that the passage containing the reference to the "CATHOLIC HERALD" since it mentioned one of the interned persons by name, and charged him by innuendo with being associated with revolutionary activities, would probably require justification. As "THE ENGLISHMAN" probably has no evidence of its own against Bose, Dunne held that it would be imperative to approach the Bengal Government for all the assistance which they could give, as presumably they had sufficient evidence to warrant Bose's arrest. Unfortunately, according to the official at the India Office who is in charge of these criminal proceedings, the Bengal Government is not likely to be able to help us very much. This official had not the papers in his possession, but speaking from recollection, he believed that there was no documentary evidence against Bose, but only the testimony of highly credible witnesses who spoke of their own knowledge of Bose's connection with the revolutionary activities. Still, it is possible that the Bengal Government may have evidence up their sleeve, and in that case we have a right to hint that if they do not place us in a position to fight what is after all their battle, we shall be compelled to climb down so far as Bose is concerned.

It is clear, however, from the proprietors' letter to us that while, by way of stimulating the readiness of the Bengal Government to assist us we may talk of climbing down, yet if the three counsel whom Lewis has been instructed to brief are agreed that we have a good case, then we should fight. The counsel in question are Mr. N. N. Sircar, Mr. Langford James and Mr. B. C. Mitter. A cablegram has accordingly been addressed to Watson to the above effect, of which I enclose a copy.

At the moment of writing, Dunne's written opinion, for which we were waiting, has come in, and a copy of it is also enclosed with this letter. It does not, however, appear to modify his original opinion given verbally in conference.

Very Sincerely Yours,
Sd/ J. A. Jones.
P.S. The copy of the cablegram has unavoidably been held over only to the late hour at which Dunne's opinion was sent in.

J. A. J.

NOTE by J. A. Jones re—Conference with Mr. Dunne.

I saw Mr. A. M. Dunne, who, when I told him that I remembered his appearing in the Midnapore Case, became quite cordial and interested. I explained to him the circumstances in which the leading article in "THE ENGLISHMAN" of Nov. 13 was written and at his request read the salient passage.

Mr. Dunne grasped the situation promptly, for, as you say, he has had personal knowledge and experience of politics in Bengal.

Strangely enough, however, he had no copy of Regulation II of 1818, or of the New Bengal Ordinance. I had counted upon his having these documents. But he asked for them and said, towards the end of the conference, that he would not give a final opinion until he had read and considered the Regulation, Ordinance and the pronouncements by Lord Reading and Lord Lytton.

Discussing provisionally the passage complained of, Mr. Dunne divided it (as Rattigan and I had already done in talking it over) into two parts. There is first the passage which reads as follows:

"Mr. Baldwin registered the fact that Mr. Das has already misrepresented the effect of the new Ordinance and the recent arrests and has pretended that they are directed against himself and his Party. Mr. Das's desire to add the martyr's crown to the saint's halo which Lord Oliver bestowed upon him is understandable, but it is sheer chicanery to pretend that the arrests were made because the persons arrested were members of the Swarajya Party. They are in confinement today because there was evidence sufficient to convince such a skilled assessor of the value of evidence as the former Lord Chief Justice of England that they were planning or aiding and abetting in crimes of violence".
As to this passage, Mr. Dunne thought it could be justified as fair comment. The position was that C. R. Das had charged the Government with proclaiming the new Ordinance for the purpose of attacking the Swarajya party. It was fair comment to reply that his charge was untrue, and that the Ordinance has been issued and put in force because the Government had evidence which satisfied Lord Reading that the persons arrested were engaged in a conspiracy of violence.

This was a fair comment on a matter of public interest.

The second passage which reads thus: —

"Since he was arrested the friends of the Chief Executive Officer of the Calcutta Corporation have not ceased to declare that he was, in addition to being too busy, the very last man in the world to engage in revolutionary activities. Our contemporary, the Catholic Herald, however, reports Mr. S. C. Bose's father as expressing his joy that his son's work 'was keeping him away from revolutionary activities and severing him from dangerous connections.' Through lack of evidence in support of its contention, we are unable to follow our contemporary in its assumption that Mr. Bose has been arrested for an old offence, but his father's statement is of importance as showing that one who knows him even better than Mr. C. R. Das has had occasion to deplore his 'dangerous connections.'" it would be necessary to justify.

I suggested that the passage might be taken as merely an attempt to corroborate and confirm the passage of fair comment by showing that one of the arrested persons, by the testimony of his own father, was in need of being kept away from "revolutionary activities."

Mr. Dunne agreed that, if justification was not possible it would be necessary to link the latter passage with the fair comment, but he was not sure how that argument would be received.

I may mention here, as bearing on Mr. G. W. K.'s valuable note, that the case being a civil action for damages would not
come before a jury. But some Indian judges are scarcely to be trusted more than Indian jurors.

Mr. Dunne went on to say that he thought the Government ought to give all the assistance in their power, and that the first thing to do was to approach the Bengal Government in order to find out if they were prepared to supply such evidence as they could safely publish by way of providing material for cross-examining S. C. Bose, or otherwise justifying the innuendo of revolutionary activity.

I reminded Mr. Dunne that the plea put forward by the Government for issuing the Ordinance was that while they were satisfied that they had evidence sufficient to prove the guilt of the persons arrested, they were not able to take ordinary legal proceedings, because they could not produce their witnesses without exposing these to the danger of being murdered. Would it not be open to the Government to say that they could not give "THE ENGLISHMAN" evidence which could be traced to the Government without going back on their main grounds of defence of the ordinance? Mr. Dunne in reply said that it was hardly likely that the Government were relying wholly upon oral evidence of witnesses, and that it was almost certain that they would have some documentary proof of the guilt of the arrested persons. It is to the interests of the Government obviously to help "THE ENGLISHMAN" to fight the case. "I suppose," he added, "THE ENGLISHMAN has no proof on its own account of Bose's revolutionary activities." I said that I did not think so, and that I strongly suspected they had none, but were relying on the assurance of Government that all the persons arrested were connected with revolutionary activities. "Then", said Mr. Dunne, "it seems to me that the first thing to do is to approach the Bengal Government and to ask them what assistance they are prepared to give by way of evidence in fighting the case, pointing out to them that unless they are prepared to place such evidence as they can safely produce at our disposal, it may be necessary for us to climb down and apologise so far as the second paragraph is concerned."

Finally, Mr. Dunne again said that he would like time to consider the case before giving a definite opinion, and for that purpose he would require, as I have said before, a copy of Regulation III of 1818, the Bengal Ordinance, and the state-
ment made by Lord Reading and Lord Lytton. I have now obtained all these papers, and they are being despatched today to Mr. C. Howard Austin for transmission to Mr. Dunne.

I should add that Mr. Dunne said that it would be necessary to act promptly, for the Statement in reply to the filing of the action by Bose would be required within a few days.

THE INDIA OFFICE

In accordance with the instruction in your letter, Rattigan and I went round to the India Office today (Friday). Rattigan had by chance had an opportunity the previous day of asking whether it would be possible for us to see Lord Birkenhead on the subject. The staff at the India Office, however, raised various difficulties. They did not want to trouble Lord Birkenhead in the matter at this stage, and they also indicated that in a matter of this kind, there was a risk of giving offence either to the Government of Bengal or to the Government of India, by appearing to interfere in an affair that were within their jurisdiction. Undiscouraged by these difficulties, Rattigan and I went to the India Office and saw Lord Evans. He very kindly supplied us with a copy of Regulation III of 1818 and of the Bengal Ordinance of 1924. He suggested our seeing Mr. Hose, who was in charge of these criminal proceedings, and we explained the whole matter to him. At first he was inclined to be chary of expressing an opinion, because he had not all the facts before him, and it was possible that the Bengal Government might say that 'the ENGLISHMAN' in its comments had gone beyond what was necessary, and that it could not come to the assistance of the paper in extricating itself from the results of its own indiscretion. However, in response to Rattigan's arguments and to Rattigan's account of the way in which the Punjab Government had assisted him when Lajpat Rai took proceedings against the "PIioneer" and "THE ENGLISHMAN", Mr. Hose showed less timidity. He said that he was afraid that the Government would not be able to offer much assistance. So far as his recollection went of the papers connected with S. C. Bose, the case rested entirely on the testimony of witnesses who spoke of their knowledge of the intimate relations between S. C. Bose and his revolutionary gang. His
impression was that there were no papers. However, he was sure that the Government of Bengal would desire to afford every possible assistance, and in order to make it clear to the Bengal authorities that the India Office had no objection whatever to their helping in the case, he was prepared to submit to Lord Birkenhead a cablegram to that effect. He proceeded there and then to write out a draft which seemed to both Rattigan and myself quite satisfactory, and calculated to have the effect, if sent, of relieving the Government of Bengal of any fear of hostile comment on the part of the India Office.

We then went to see Sir Edward Chamier, who is now Legal Adviser to the India Office. He was quite sympathetic, but not very encouraging. He thought that the Bengal Government would be desirous of helping, but if their evidence was that of persons likely to be shot if their identity were disclosed, the Government might not be able to help. He did not think that it would be enough for the Chief Secretary to the Government of Bengal to go into the witness box and merely state that the Government had evidence which satisfied them as to the guilt of Mr. Bose.

111 From Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
17. 7. 26.
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

38/1, Elgin Road
17.7.26.
1 p.m.

My dear Subhas,

I intended to write you a long letter today answering in detail your last three letters but I find I have not the time to do so. Goswami and I are leaving for Rajshahi today. From there we proceed to Jalpaiguri. There we meet Mrs. Naidu and Goswami will then accompany her. I shall be back here on
Wednesday or Thursday morning. We are going out on a quasi-political mission.

I am really anxious to know how you are keeping. Chronic indigestion and constantly losing weight are not things which can be neglected. I think you had better apply to be taken to some hill station in the U.P. or to Murree. I do not think there can be any objection to your removal to a distant place like Mussorie or Murree or to some place in the Simla district. Of course, some objections might be raised to transferring you to a Bengal hill station.

I have considered the matter and I would ask to send in a representation to Govt. at once.

This leaves us well.

Yours very affly
Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

112 To Basanti Devi*

Mandalay Jail
(C/o. D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
13 Elysium Row, Calcutta)
21/7/26

Censored and Passed
Illegible
28/7/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
(Bengal)

Revered mother,

I wrote to you at your Patna address a long time ago—I hope you duly received that letter. I sat down to write to you on the 16th June but my fingers would not move after doing a few lines. That letter I could not complete till today; so I sat down to write afresh. To think of the storm that has since passed over you makes one tremble. Is God so cruel? Must He test man in such a manner? On receipt of news of the misfortune on the afternoon of the 29th June, I sent you a tele-

* Translated from the original Bengali.
gram according to the wishes of all the rest here; thereafter I wanted to write to you but failed to find any words. What could I write? What could I say? How could I console you? How could I lighten the burden of your sorrow? I could not make up my mind at all. I want so keenly to see you—but that wish cannot be fulfilled. Who knows if it will ever be fulfilled in this life? We have become reconciled to permanent settlement here. The vision of the Mother, of Mother Bengal, of the Universal Mother—all that we adore—have and will become even more adorable, sacred and dear to us within the confines of the prison. They will remain fresh in our minds all the time but their presence in our imagination will make our separation from the material world all the more poignant.

There is no certainty how many days, months or years we have to spend gazing at those sacred and glorious figures in our mental horizon as at stars in the sky. Even so I will continue to believe that human spirit is true, his life is true and the bond between man and man is true. Life is eternal even though this life may end—the bonds of life will not come to an end. Earthly power may imprison us, may rob us of everything but cannot put an end to life; neither can it interfere with the everlasting and sacred bonds of life. We are able and prepared to disregard all the suffering and shackles of the present, dreaming and thinking of the glorious future that awaits us. We shall endure the dismal darkness of the present in anticipation of the dawn of the future. That is why, inspite of being utterly helpless, we are patiently waiting for the glorious morning ahead.

Justice will prevail in the world—this we cannot but accept. Therefore I believe that our turn will also come one day. When it does, we shall fully avenge ourselves for the desolation and emptiness of the present. It is because of this faith that we have survived and shall survive the dead weight of our present material existence.

Well, I have said so much rubbish. I feel anxious for you all the time. How are you? I was pleased to learn that Mejdana and Mejjobowdidi visit you often. There is nothing new about us here.

Yours devotedly

Subhas
My dear Mejobowdidi,

I received your letter of the 14th July today. I had already received Asoke’s letter and shall reply to him soon. What sort of a job has Nadada now? Has he gone back to Sijuya to his old assignment or has he a new position? When Sejdidi returns to Gorakhpur, will she leave Gora behind or will she take all the children with her? I have not heard from parents for a long time. I saw in the Gazette that Gopali had passed. What will he do now? I was happy to know that you visit Basanti Devi from time to time. Where does she live nowadays? I feel extremely anxious to see her once—but there is no help for it. I am incapable of flattering the powers that be. It is indeed sad and unfortunate for me that in her hour of continuous tragedy, I was not able to be of any service to her.

It rains very little here. Even so, the heat has been somewhat less this month. This is not a healthy time here—there is plenty of illness in the jail and in the city. One of us was down with something like influenza, called Sandfly Fever; it is said it comes from the bite of a particular kind of mosquito. Then, another had appendicitis. Still another got Dengue Fever. We were worried that it would turn out to be Typhoid, but there was remission on the sixth day. Nobody keeps well at this time—one does not feel like doing any work. I have had no serious trouble.

How are you all? When will the Puja vacation commence? During the holidays will you be going to Kurseong or elsewhere?

Nobody here has any serious illness for the present. From talks and arrangements going on we guess there is going to be further addition to our number. With my pronam,

Yours
Subhas

* Translated from the original Bengali.
My dear Mejbowdidi,

I have not so far replied to your letter of the 24th April. Are the results of Gopali's examination out yet? I received Asoke's and Aruna's letters rather late—I have replied to them. I hope they have duly received my letter. I learnt from Didi's letter that Aruna was now with her in-laws. Where are Bardidi and her family now? Where is Bimal and how is he getting on with his studies?

June and July have been comparatively cool this year but I do not know if it will warm up again. But these two months are very unhealthy here. One by one all have taken to bed. I am of course up and about but I do not think my digestive troubles will get better or cured till the onset of cold weather. I have lost the interest that I had last year in work of any kind—it is now just a question passing our days somehow. I am planning to devote myself to studies again when Winter arrives. I saw in the papers that it had been extremely hot over there and that there had been deaths due to heat. How is it now?

I wrote to Mejdada to engage instructors for teaching children painting and music at home. Initially, they will probably not go for them voluntarily and some compulsion will be necessary. But the good that will follow from all this they will enjoy for the rest of their lives. If I knew painting and music I could pass my days here much more happily.

The parrot is thriving on good food but I do not see any sign of parrotry yet. The pigeon family goes on enlarging—now we have six pairs. Two pairs are black and white, one pair has red feathers, another pair white and the remaining two have wings like the peacock's. These are beautiful to look at and dance about with their wings spread out like the peacock's. Two pairs of eggs are now being hatched. When

* Translated from the original Bengali.
they mature, there will be further addition to the family. When the pigeons perch in a row every morning around the tank—or rather the reservoir we have here, it is a really lovely sight.

Where are parents now and how are they? I have not heard from them for a long time. Are the results of Chotomama's examination out yet? When will he and Chotodada return? I had not heard of Mira's typhoid fever before—Didi's letter brought me the news. How is Mira now? What job has Nadada got now? Is the job permanent or temporary? How is Lalmamababu getting on with his practice? Where are our other Mamababus and how are they? How is Lalmamababu keeping? Where is Gopali now? He could as well write to me. Will Didi stay with you or go to Cuttack? How is Polly's health nowadays? Have the products of Sejdada's factory been marketed yet?

115 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE

38/1, Elgin Road
31st July, 1926
Saturday 9 p.m.

Censored and Passed
Illegible
2. 8. 26.
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

My dear Subhas,

I believe my last letter to you was on the 17th instant. I came back to Calcutta on the 21st instant after finishing the Rajshahi District. After staying at Rajshahi for a couple of days, we went to Puttia, Natore and Naogaon. Inspite of the communal conflicts in the adjoining district of Pabna, Rajshahi has kept her head cool. We succeeded in forming a volunteer organisation in the Rajshahi district to combat communal troubles and do relief work in the villages etc. If all the districts of Bengal work on these lines, I think we shall steadily (though perhaps slowly) solve the communal question. Of
course, preachers (specially reliable Mahomedan preachers) and
trained instructors are needed to make the volunteer organisation a success. I very much wish I were able to devote more
time to this work but unfortunately, that is not to be.

In your letter of the 17th June last, you asked me if Woodroffe had left any 'chelas' among the members of the bar.
You do not know how poor the Calcutta Bar is now in talent.
There is hardly anyone who devotes himself to higher things.

I do not know who Basada Kanto Mazumdar is. He must be some Sanskrit Scholar in Benaras.

I have not sent your note to Rakhaladas Banerji yet. I have not met him for ages. I thought it would be better to meet
him and hand over your note to him. But I couldn't find him
to do so at the time I received your letter and then the matter
passed out of my recollection.

Dr. Narendra Nath Law has sent me five books for being forwarded to you. I shall send them on Tuesday next.

I had a talk with the Actg. C.E.O. this afternoon about giving the South Calcutta National School permission to play
in the Hazra Park. Santosh Babu was present at that time and he pressed their claims on the attention of Mr. Mukherjee.
Mukherjee has promised to go into the matter at an early date.

Have I told you that Prithwis has after all got a job in the Collection Dept. He is Inspector in that dept. on a pay of
Rs. 150/- per month.

I believe you have read in the papers that the Working Committee of the Congress at their last meeting held in
Calcutta have resolved that both communities should accept the resolutions passed at the Unity Conference of 1924 and
proceed on those lines. I think it was a right decision. The Pact has become so thoroughly odious to both Hindus and
Moslems that it would be wise to drop it and wait for a more suitable opportunity for entering into some other (and if
possible, a better) agreement between the two communities. Of one thing I feel certain and that is, separate electorate must
go; otherwise the question cannot be solved.

Have you received copies of Jones's letters which I sent to you some time ago? So after all, there is "no documentary
evidence" against the person who has been described as the "brain of the conspiracy" by the Statesman!
Satya Babu is now acting as Editor. I think he is doing the work quite well. He is a very junior man no doubt, in the journalistic profession but he has imagination. We have two apprentices now in the Forward but I can't say yet how they will shape.

I do not think it would be possible to take back Chakravarti into the Forward. He is so unsteady.

Before this reaches you, you will have read the news of Chakravarti's acquittal in the Section 108 C.P.C. case. What a pity he signed the bond! It made us so small before the public.

You have been very reticent in your letters about yourself. In your letter of the 26th June last, you say that your weight is 144 lbs. Have you gained any since? What is the net loss in weight since you were at Berhampore?

I think it would be wise to give up all ideas of hard study so long as you are in confinement. Too much mental strain would not be right in the present state of your health. By the way, have you applied for transfer to some hill station?

Gopali has not yet made up his mind as to his future course of study. He is still at Cuttack.

Sunil is expected here about the middle of next month.

Khuku (Mejdidi's daughter) is going to be married on Tuesday next to the second son of Babu Apurba Krishna Mitra, a leading pleader of Muzafferpore. The bridegroom will join the Muzafferpore Bar.

You have enquired about my health. This year I have not been keeping very well. I suffer from indigestion off and on—possibly due to overwork. I am taking some Kaviraji medicines and they have done me good. I haven't yet decided where to spend the long vacation. I have decided to go to Ceylon if I get a professional engagement there (a commission to examine witnesses there in a Calcutta case). If I do not get it, I do not know where I am going. What do you think of Maymvo? The one attraction is that I can see you off and on. Is the place sufficiently bracing? Possibly your jail visitors can give you the necessary information.

When did you write to me last? The last letter I have on my table is dated 30/6/26. It might be I have mislaid letters written by you after that date.
Please make it a point to write to me all about yourself in your letter in reply to this. This leaves us well. With love.

Yours very affly

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

P.S.

Mr. Sukumar Sen (Bhombol’s father-in-law) has applied for the Asst. Secretary of the Corporation. He has sent me a copy of his application in which he has stated that some time ago he left his original certificates with you. Do you remember where you kept them?

Prof. Birendra Ch. Mukherji (who was in the Presidency College during your time and subsequently at Rajshahi) is another applicant for the job. He came to see me a fortnight or 3 weeks ago and I told him that I would write to you about him and ascertain your views. What is your opinion about him?

Please tell me all you know about Prof. Birendra Mukherji and Mr. Sukumar Sen.

S.C.B.

116 From Sarat Chandra Bose
Censored and Passed
Illegible
7/8/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
6th Aug. 1926
Friday 7 p.m.

My dear Subhas,

My last letter to you was on the 31st July. I received your message yesterday. The reason why I asked you whether you were willing to contest North Calcutta was this: Mr. J. N. Basu (the sitting member) is desirous of contesting again and up till now, the only rival candidate in the field is Rai Lalit Kumar Mitra of Shambazar. You know Rai Lalit Kumar Mitra and I believe you will agree with me when I say that he is absolutely no good. Srijut Upendra Nath Banerji
has withdrawn his candidature. The body which he represents viz. the Karmi Sangha, have practically decided not to go into the Council. In the circumstances I thought that you might be asked to contest the seat. If you contest, I doubt if Mr. J. N. Basu has any chance. Influential residents of North Calcutta would also like to have you. A seat in the Bengal Legislative Council would not interfere with your work as C.E.O. Please give the matter a thought and if you revise your decision, please send me a telegram.

As for my going into the Council, I have decided to contest if I am given the University seat. In the present state of my health, I cannot think of contesting 24 Parganas or Diamond Harbour. To do so, would mean my spending the whole of the long vacation here. I must have at least a month and a half’s rest.

I do not understand why Srijut Satyendra Ch. Mitra preferred the Assembly to the Bengal Council. Noakhali may not be a safe seat for any one except Satyendra Babu. * Indu Bhusan Dutt might be sent to the Assembly.

Please remember me to Satyendra Babu with my love and kindest regards.

Khuku’s marriage was celebrated on Tuesday last. The bridegroom’s father is a perfect gentleman. He created a most favourable impression on all.

I haven’t had news of you for quite a long time. Possibly the fault is mine—I am so irregular in my correspondence. Hope you don’t mind it.

With love.

Yours affly

Sarat

Subhas C. Bose Esq.

117 To Sarat Chandra Bose

Mandalay
7.8.26

My dear brother,

Your letters of the 10th July, 17th July and 31st July reached me on the 17th July, 27th July and 7th August respect-
ively. I am sorry I have not been able to write to you for the last two or three weeks.

I received typed copies of Jones' letter, his note etc. along with your letter of the 10th July. They were exceedingly interesting and amusing.

During the hungerstrike my weight dropped to 138 lbs. It subsequently rose to 145 lbs. (or 144 lbs.) and has been stationary at 143 for the last few weeks. Just before the strike it was 155 and at Berhampore it was 183. In your letter of the 17th July you asked me to send a representation to Govt. asking for a transfer to some hill station in Upper India. I have considered the matter carefully and I do not think I shall gain anything by doing so, beyond receiving a curt refusal which will embitter me still more. It is better for me to put up with present circumstances with equanimity. After all, no one can rob me of my peace of mind.

Sometime ago you asked for my opinion regarding a compromise with the Statesman. I replied saying that I left the matter entirely in your hands, particularly because I was not aware of all the details of the situation. Since then I have not had any further information regarding the matter.

With whom is Mrs. Das living now? With whom is Bhombol's family living and who is looking after them? I am glad to learn that you all are doing your best to console her. How are her relations and former friends behaving now in Deshbandhu's absence?

Have you received any samples of clothing from Kashmir yet? If not, when do you expect them?

What do you intend doing with the historical note I sent some time ago? If you can't get Rakhal Babu you may try Babu Bijoy Mazumdar. He (Bijoy Babu) lives (at least he lived formerly) on Lansdowne Road. I have met him only once in my life—but he probably knows father as he was in Sambalpur for a long time. Bijoy Babu is undoubtedly a great scholar in more subjects than one and no less a giant than Rakhal Babu. Sri Brajendra Seal has paid him an eloquent tribute. Unfortunately there is no love lost between Bijoy Babu and Rakhal Babu. Bijoy Babu can easily help, if he is approached and feels inclined to do so. I wonder if Satya Babu knows him.
I am glad that your mission to Rajshahi was successful.

I hope Mukherji will be able to provide a playground for the boys of the South Calcutta National School. I shall write to the authorities of the School to go and see him with a letter from you.

I have not done any serious work during the last few weeks though the weather has been agreeable. I do not think I shall be able to undertake it before the cold weather. It is painful to allow one's days to pass without making the most of them. I doubt if such an opportunity for quiet study will be open to me when I am out.

I don't remember if I told you that under the orders of the Local Govt. lockup at night has been dispensed with in our case. This affords some relief no doubt. I am now sleeping on the verandah along with some others—so that we get the breeze from the South.

I find from my book that I wrote to you last on the 30th June. I have since written to Mejobowdidi on the 21st July. We can now write 4 letters a week instead of 3. This has somewhat helped me in dealing with letters which had remained unattended to for a long time.

I am anxious to know that you have been suffering from indigestion. It is certainly due to overwork and want of physical exercise. Can't you take a morning constitutional? It may not do much good at the beginning but it is bound to have an enduring effect. Kaviraji medicine will also be of great help. I took Kaviraji medicine regularly for 2 months during last winter and I felt greatly benefited. I shall write to you about Maymyo in my next letter. I find that tea is very bad for indigestion, though as indigestion sets in, the craving for tea increases. I think tea taken after 5 or 6 p.m. is particularly harmful. It kills one's appetite for dinner.

You wanted to know if I desired to contest the North Calcutta seat for the Bengal Council. I was expecting the suggestion from some other quarter and I was a bit surprised when I got it from you. I had made up my mind long ago in anticipation of the coming suggestion but your query set me thinking afresh. After mature deliberation, on the 5th August I communicated my decision not to contest the North Calcutta seat for the Bengal Council. It is not necessary to give all the
reasons which led me to that decision—you can easily imagine them.

Babu Surendra Nath Biswas (late Raisahib) a non-cooperating pleader of Madaripore in Faridpore District who has applied for the post of Asst. Secretary has asked me to recommend his case to you and Sukumar Babu. His request has placed me in a very false position. "Not knowing who the other applicants are and without being asked by the Corporation, I do not like to recommend any one either to the Corporation or to any member of it. I am going to write to Suren Babu in that strain. His qualifications he can easily put down on paper and beyond that what can I say? The Acting C.E.O. will probably be asked officially to give his opinion—not I. Probably the Committee will interview the candidates and form their own opinion. Suren Babu was a Rai Sahib, an influential pleader in Madaripore, probably the Chairman or Vice-Chairman of the Local Board for some time and a member of it for about 12 years. He had been to jail during the Non-cooperation movement and he worked for the Congress. He was probably in charge of the relief operations in Madaripore quite recently.

Mr. Sukumar Sen applied for some job about 2 years ago and sent his original certificates to me at the time. I kept them with my letters and papers at home and they may have been taken away by the Police after the search. In any case they must be there still. I told Rangamamababu when he was here last about it and asked him to find out the certificates and return them to Mr. Sen. He probably forgot about the matter. Please ask someone to make a search for them in my room.

I have never had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Sen and I am afraid I have no firsthand knowledge of him.

Prof. Birendra C. Mukherji was appointed Lecturer in Philosophy when I was a student of the 3rd year class of the Presidency College. He had a good career, obtained a first class at the M.A. exam. (if my memory does not fail me) and as a lecturer he made a good impression. He was not confirmed in his post and thereupon left for the Carmichael College, Rangpur. At Rangpur he had some row with the authorities—including probably the European Principal and the Dt. Magistrate. The quarrel was a protracted one and Prof. Mukherji ultimately brought a libel suit against the Magistrate.
I don’t remember the details of the suit or how it ended. During the quarrel Prof. Mukherji left the College (or was asked to leave I don’t know which) and joined the N.C.O. movement. His work as a non-cooperator was confined more or less to Rangpur District where he attained popularity and celebrity. During the movement he found himself in jail and was transferred from Rangpur to Alipur Central Jail when I was there along with Deshbandhu and others. During the movement he was an orthodox, and I should say austere, non-cooperator—would not wear shoes or take foreign salt, was a vegetarian in his diet and donned the Gandhi cap. He was in jail for a year or so. After his release he has not been in the limelight and I have not met him either. Altogether he gives one the impression of being an able, straightforward and reliable man. The noncooperation movement probably made him too serious at the cost of geniality and humour but I have no idea as to what he is like now. I do not know who the other candidates are—but it will not be easy to get an abler candidate for the job. I would not have written all this if you had not expressly asked me to do so.

I will not make this letter longer as I want it to get through as soon as possible. I shall write to you again on Wednesday next.

Hope this will find you all well.

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road,
Calcutta

Yours v. affly

Subhas

118 To Sarat Chandra Bose
Censored and Passed
Illegible
25/8/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay
13.8.26

My dear brother,

Your letter of the 6th August reached me on the 11th inst. I have considered the matter as coolly as I could and I would like you to consider the following points:—

I. I am getting disgusted with the Councils because I find
that people who go there do not mean to do any tangible work for the country. It is time for the pendulum to swing back in an anti-Council direction.

II. If it is considered necessary for me to stand, would not my election to the Assembly, say from the City of Calcutta or the Presidency Division, have a greater significance? If my name is not on the electoral role, I may be authorised to vote on behalf of some limited company or Corporation.

III. If my election is going to cost a lot of money, I do not want the luxury of being an M.L.C.

IV. It is more important that you should be in the next Council, rather than I. If you think you have a good chance, I shall be glad if you stand from North Calcutta, failing a better constituency.

V. I cannot think of any reliable man on whom I can depend for the success of my election campaign. All would be M.L.C.s will be busy with their own fight, and in the absence of reliable and capable election agents, I may come to grief.

VI. You're health is much more important than my election to the Council. I am afraid that if I stand, the burden will ultimately come down on your shoulders and you may be prevented from taking your annual rest. This I consider to be disastrous in the present state of your health.

VII. What guarantee is there that Kiron Babu and Company would like me to stand? Up till now they have not shown any anxiety about having me. Will there not be a repetition of the Council of State Election?

VIII. Last but not least, I cannot contest North Calcutta as long as there is any possibility that Upen Babu or any other representative of his party will be a candidate. I cannot even stand for the Council or the Assembly, if the leaders of the Karmi Sangha view my candidature with displeasure.

These are the considerations which are weighing with me at the moment. Please consider them and if you think that my election will be in the public interest or of public importance, please advise me accordingly and I shall abide by your decision. I am not aware of what is happening outside and that is why I leave the last word with you. Your argument that work in the Council will not interfere with my work as C.E.O. seems to me
to be unnecessary. My C.E.O.-ship will cease in May next and you can rest assured that till then I shall be here.

If after considering the above points you think it necessary for me to stand, please send me a wire. Otherwise I shall take it that the matter has been dropped once for all.

I shall write more about Maymyo in my next letter. Hope this will find you all quite well.

Yours v. affiy
Subhas

S. C. Bose Esq.
38/1, Elgin Road
Calcutta.

119 From Janakinath Bose
Censored and Passed
Illegible
16/8/26
For D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.

38/2, Elgin Road
Calcutta
15th Aug. 1926

My dear Subhas,

I have received your letter of the 30th July; I am rather anxious to hear that dyspepsia is troubling you. All that I can suggest from a distance is that you ought to be very strict in your diet and see that nothing you take, is adulterated. In your next letter I hope to get a better account about your health.

I am doing well at present. Yes, I shall go to Kurseong or some other healthy place during the Puja holidays. Your mother is just now at Puri and doing well; Dolly and Kanak will be going to spend a few days there.

Sunil will return either this month or the next, but I am not sure. Nadu will not be coming as he got plucked in the Final Examination.

The products of Suresh’s factory are selling well, but as yet the outturn has not been large.
Gopal Babu's son Charu has given up practice and has been appointed a munsiff.

I am not aware that there is any book or manuscript about our family history.

Babu Nagendra Nath Basu of Vishwa-Kosh fame may know, and I shall consult him. I expect to get some useful information from him.

I did not know that our ancestors originally lived at Kuliningram but this much I know—that Purandar Khan was a prince amongst men and settled at Mahinagar, a village close to ours: hence we are called Basus of Mahinagar. The remains of his palatial house can be found even now and there is a दीवार (tank) there which is called after him. Nagendra Babu has written a leaflet about him.

I have read somewhere that a Basu of Kuliningram (a sishya of Bijoy Krishna Goswami) was asked to continue the supply of the rope to Jagannath.

Your letter is very interesting; I shall preserve it and try to give you more information.

We are doing pretty well. Trust this will find you in better health.

With love and blessings.

Yours very affectionately
J. N. Bose.

120 To Sarat Chandra Bose
Censored and Passed
Illegible
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal.

Mandalay
16.8.26

My dear brother,

I had a talk with Capt. Smith the other day regarding Maymyo and this is what I gathered from him. Maymyo is not as bracing as Darjeeling. It is wet in September but dry in October, especially in the latter half, and in November. The
Government come up to Maymyo in October and stay on for a month and a half (not for a week, as I said in my former letter). The water is not very good. People get colitis (called Maymiyiti by many people) now and again. Nevertheless on the whole it is a nice place and one gets a good appetite there. Capt. Smith himself is very fond of Maymyo and goes there pretty often for a weekend. He is of opinion that places further up—i.e. to the north—are more bracing than Maymyo, though a little out of the way. The great advantage of Maymyo is that you can make that your base and travel from there up or down the Irrawady—up towards Bhamo and down towards Prome. I must mention here that there is a regular river-steamer service in Burma especially along the Irrawady and river-trips are exceedingly beneficial.

Personally I find it difficult to make up my mind regarding your trip to Maymyo. That Maymyo is on the whole a healthy place—is beyond question. It is also true that the sea voyage, to and from Burma may do some good as also the river trips along the Irrawady. You may also find new scenery, new faces and new experiences to interest you. When Maymyo gets dull—if at all—you can take trips to places of interest not far off. Nevertheless I feel that in coming to a decision you will have to consult your present engagements and commitments. The great advantage in choosing Kurseong or Darjeeling is that you can easily go down to Calcutta for a day or two when anything urgent crops up. Moreover while you are there you can be in touch with what is going on in Calcutta. If you decide to stand for the Council, I don't think you can leave Bengal.

I am glad to know that you all like Khuku's new relations. Mejdidi has been very lucky in the marriage of her daughters.

I have with me here a letter from Deshbandhu written from Patna. This is probably the only letter I possess and I want to preserve it as a memento. It consists of one sheet only, written on both sides. I am thinking of sending it to Calcutta to have photographs taken. We can then have the photos bound in decent frames and preserved. Please let me have your opinion as to what I should do with the letter. I am also anxious to preserve the original—so that the ink may not fade with the lapse of time. Capt. Smith communicated to me your telegram to him which he received yesterday.
I had a further talk with him this morning regarding Maymyo—especially regarding the climate in September and October. He is of opinion that there will not be many showers during the latter half of September and there is hardly any danger of getting colitis if one stays only for a month or two. On the whole, I have been reassured regarding the place and I am trying to arrange about a furnished bungalow from the 15th September. I am going to send a telegram through the Superintendent just now saying that I am trying to make the necessary arrangements. Probably the rent will have to be paid in advance and I shall have to pay the expenses in connection with sending someone to Maymyo to fix up a house. I shall again wire to you as soon as the arrangements are complete and if necessary shall ask for money.

Please reconsider the matter once again and in doing so please consult your engagements. If you go up to Kurseong or Darjeeling you can remain in touch with Calcutta and can even go down occasionally on urgent work. Here you will be out of touch, owing to the delay in getting letters. Moreover I can never be sure that you will be comfortable in a strange place—especially when I cannot make any arrangements myself. There is no such risk in the case of Darjeeling or Kurseong. There has been a serious breach in the Mandalay-Rangoon line and our mails are being held up and that is why I did not post this letter so long. I am however going to post it today and take my chance. I am told it will take about a week to renew the passenger service. If for any reason, you think it necessary or desirable to abandon your Maymyo trip, please do not hesitate to do so. I am exceedingly anxious that you should not inconvenience yourself in any way or sacrifice your public engagements in order to come up to Maymyo. In fact I shall be sorry if you arrange your Maymyo trip at that cost. There is no reason to feel panicky or anxious about me.

All arrangements notwithstanding, I shall not consider your Maymyo trip as "pucca" arrangement until you reconsider the question after perusing this letter.
If you have to alter your plans suddenly, the forfeiture of advance house rent should not matter at all.

Yours v. affly
Subhas

121 From Sarat Chandra Bose
Censored and Passed .
Illegible
23/8 .
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
21st Aug. 1926

My dear Subhas,

I received your letter dated 7.8.26 (despatched on 9 8.26) on the 18th instant. Your silence for about three weeks made me rather anxious.

I find from your letter that you have not even regained your weight at the time of the hungerstrike. The net loss is 40 lbs. That is not a state of things which one can put up with equanimity. I do not wish to force you to take any action; but I still think you ought to apply for transfer to some hill-station in Upper India.

Re—the talk of compromise of the Statesman case the gentleman who approached us on behalf of the Statesman has not yet made us a definite offer. He told us sometime ago that the Statesman people have written ‘Home’ for instructions.

Mrs. Das is staying at Beltola Road (Sudhir’s house). She is most anxious to go and stay at Purulia for a few months in peace and quiet and will probably be leaving next week. I am glad to tell you that she has pulled herself up considerably. The strength of mind she is showing is very rare indeed. We go to see her off and on and I believe she likes our company more than that of most of her relatives and so-called friends.

Sunil and Ranen arrived here yesterday. Ranen’s home coming was a surprise. He got plucked in his Final Examination—and that was his last chance. I haven’t yet spoken to him about his future plans but I understand he intends to go back again and try for a job in a Chartered Accountants firm there.
I am glad the lockup has been dispensed with. It was a most unnecessary precaution to take and I am glad that better counsels have prevailed at last.

You needn’t be at all anxious for me. Kaviraji medicines have done me good and I am digesting better. If I get 1½ months or a month’s rest, I shall be all right.

I am yet undecided as to where I shall spend the long vacation. The choice lies between Mussoorie and Maymyo. I shall decide when I hear from you next. By the way, is there any good hotel at Maymyo? We can’t take a house at Maymyo as that means the bother of housekeeping.

Now as regards your contesting the North Calcutta seat in the coming elections. You must have realised that when the suggestion came from me there was good reason behind it. I can well imagine the reasons which prompted you to decide not to contest—and they are good and valid reasons. I was of the same opinion as you are, until lately. But I feel now that the country demands your services in that direction and that you cannot very, well refuse. North Calcutta is enthusiastically in your favour and I think you will have a walkover, Mr. Jatin Bose notwithstanding.

I am happy to tell you that we have now a good chance of having the majority of Mahomedan Councillors with us in the Bengal Legislative Council. I have been working quietly for it and I believe I shall succeed.

Do please give the matter of your contesting further consideration and let me know your decision.

The matter of appointment of Assistant Secretary will, I believe, come up for consideration by the E.G.P. Committee next week. Your remarks regarding the two candidates named by me will be most helpful. I haven’t yet received the complete list of candidates and hence can’t make up my mind. I think the tie eventually will be between Biren Babu and Suren Babu. Personally I prefer the former.

Mr. Sen’s is a hard case, specially after Bhombol’s death. Sujata requested me the other day to consider her father’s case. I really don’t know what to do.

So long today.

Yours v. affly

Subhas Chandra Bose Esq.

Sarat
To Sarat Chandra Bose

Censored and Passed
Illegible
2.9.26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

Mandalay
26.8.26
Thursday

My dear brother,

I have not had any further news about Maymyo since I wrote to you on Monday last. I am making the necessary enquiries and shall have someone sent down there this weekend. I shall probably be able to send you a wire on Monday or Tuesday next. As I have already written to you, all these arrangements notwithstanding, you should reconsider the whole matter in the light of what I have said. I shall be sorry if you put yourself to inconvenience or sacrifice public work in coming over to Maymyo. What will happen to the Forward case in your absence? If an adverse judgment is delivered before the Pujah, arrangements will have to be made to fill up the vacancy in the editorial staff. There are so many other things of importance which will demand your attention during the long vacation and if you remain at Kurseong or Darjeeling you will be able to do justice to them. Even if the house is engaged in the meantime, you should not hesitate to alter your plans at the last moment, if you find it necessary for your own convenience or in the public interest.

So Mr. Jadunath Sarkar has been appointed Vice-Chancellor after all. I was interested to read an extract from his famous letter translated into Bengali and reprinted in the Charumihir, a Bengali weekly of Mymensingh.

I was very much surprised to learn that Mr. Sasmal’s election as Chairman of the District Board of Midnapore had been set aside by the Government and that Mr. Debendra Lal Khan had been appointed in his place. This is a bad precedent for all local bodies and is against the spirit of local self-government. Have Government given any reasons for acting thus?

How is the Chittaranjan Seva Sadan working? Who are
in-charge of the institution? Is the management in the hands of the trustees or of a smaller group?

One of the reasons why there is so much trouble in the Mofussil is that the Mofussil has been almost forgotten by the Calcutta leaders. They seldom stir out and there is no living relationship between them and the Mofussilites. The only people who are working among the Mofussilites are those who are out to create communal trouble and strife and the consequences are therefore disastrous. Members of the Council too hardly consider it necessary to nurse their constituencies. I am afraid this can hardly be remedied if the leaders are not able to devote more time and energy to their public work.

How is the Deshbandhu Village Reorganization Committee working? How many centres are they now managing? Are they drawing money from the capital or are they simply spending the interest?

I am strongly of opinion that communal franchise and communal electorate should go. I am glad that public opinion in England is gradually coming round to this point of view. I have with me a cutting from a Rangoon paper giving an extract from the Manchester Guardian's leader on this subject. The M. Guardian's view is thoroughly sound. Further, if a fixed number of seats is set apart for Mahomedans, there can be no apprehension that Mahomedan interests will suffer and we can expect reasonable Mahomedans to support a scheme for the establishment of mixed electorates. I hope Muslim opinion on this point will gradually veer round when the evil consequences of communal strife are fully realised. I am sending you the cutting referred to above along with this.

Do you know how the Atmashakti is getting on? Who is the editor now and what policy is it following? Is the paper improving financially or gaining in influence?

A fellow detenu here has recently written Nalini Babu a letter regarding my candidature. If Nalini Babu happens to refer to it, you may tell him that I have not had any hand in it and that I was definitely against his writing it—though I do not think any one can doubt the truth of its contents.

If you ultimately decide on Maymyo, you may ask Goswami or Nalini Babu or other friends to come up for a change for a week or fortnight at Maymyo. They can easily afford the expen-
diture and it would give us great pleasure to meet them. By the way, before you start, you may get a permit from the Bengal Government to interview Satyen Babu, Suren Babu (Mohon Ghosh) and other fellow-detinues here.

You probably know that according to the existing rules we are entitled to at least one interview a week. With the special sanction of the Government we can have any number and you probably remember that when I was in Calcutta, I used to have interviews daily. In view of the fact that ordinarily we do not avail ourselves of this right, it is only fair for me to expect that if you decide to come up to Maymyo, the Bengal Government will make a special concession regarding the number of interviews which I shall be allowed. I do not think the local Government (Burma) will have any objection to granting me as many interviews as possible, if Bengal do not object. Any way you should settle this matter with the Bengal Government before you leave Calcutta. Please do not forget to get special permits for all the members of your party to interview me.

Please send me a wire if you want any special arrangements to be made for you e.g. engaging cooks or servants, engaging a whole time taxi etc. I believe you will be bringing all your crockery etc. with you.

You may bring some Darjeeling Tea with you and some Sandesh. We can arrange to have a Jailor or warder sent to the Mandalay Station to meet you when you arrive, on your way to Maymyo—if you have any parcels for us like tea or Sandesh. I do not think you will get a through train to Maymyo—you will have to change at Mandalay station where there will be an hour's halt.

Have you been able to send the money to Cambridge for the M.A. degree?

I hope you will not forget about the Baidyasastrapith. I am sorry that Jamini Babu expired so suddenly—no one expected it, as he was quite young when he died. It is natural that people will think kindly of him now and his friends may utilise this feeling for securing a better grant for the Ashtanga School. Under the circumstances, the Health Committee may reaffirm their former recommendation for a total grant of Rs. 23,000/- for the Ashtanga or may even enhance the grant recommended. If the recommendation comes up before the Corporation while
the emotion lasts, it may be accepted by the house. Personally
I think that the question of amalgamation should be raised once
more. There can be only one first-grade Ayurveda College in
Calcutta and this is possible only when all efforts are combined
and amalgamation takes place in some form. We can pay a
real and tangible tribute to the memory of Jamini Babu only
by erecting a first-grade Ayurveda College in Calcutta and it
would therefore be in the fitness of things to raise the question
of amalgamation once again. If there is no amalgamation, all
my sympathy goes to the Baidyasastrapith.

Have you been able to find Mr. S. K. Sen’s certificates? If
so, please return them to him.

I understand that Mr. Bhaskar Mukherji was appointed
Assistant Secretary but that in the meantime he got an attack
of brain disease. Are you going to give him leave or will you
appoint someone else in his place? What is the matter with
Bhaskar and how is he keeping?

Where and how is Mrs. Das now? Bhaskar’s illness coming
on the top of Bhombol’s sad death is another blow for her. I
wonder where and when this chain of misfortunes is going to
end. May God grant her strength!

I hope Rangamamababu is seeing to it that his concern is
improving financially from day to day. A paper is first and fore-
most a business concern and its politics must be subservient to
its financial interests. I hope the paper is sailing with the tide
of popular opinion without unduly offending the feelings of any
section or party. By-the-by, how is the Patrika doing finan-
cially? Has the Bengalee been able to improve its circulation
since Mr. I. B. Sen took over charge?

I have received the following communication from the
Revising Authority, Calcutta University Constituency:—

“Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose obtained his first degree of
(Calcutta University) in 1919 and is therefore not qualified un-
der Rule eleven of Schedule II of the Electoral Rules (quoted
in the margin) as an elector for the Calcutta University con-
stituency of the Bengal Legislative Council.”

“A person shall be qualified as an elector for the Calcutta
University Constituency who has a place of residence in Bengal
and is a member of the Senate or an Honorary Fellow of the
University or a graduate of the University of not less than 7 years’ standing."

I have the honour to be Sir
Your most obedient servant
Sd/Ahsanullah
Revising Authority

According to my calculation, I am entitled to be a voter this year, having completed 7 years after graduation. What do you think? Though I am not standing at the coming election, it is advisable to have my name in the electoral roll. If you think that the Revising Authority’s interpretation is wrong, the Courts may provide a remedy—otherwise the decision of the Revising Authority is final.

How are you keeping now? I am so so.

Yours v. affly
Subhas,

P.S.
Will father be going to Patna? How long will he be staying there?

S. C. B.

P.P.S.
Bipin has been promoted to the 4th year class of the National Medical Institute. He will be requiring some medical books and instruments. I have asked him to see you regarding the matter. If you think it necessary, you may introduce him to friends who may be inclined to help a promising and needy student.

S. C. B.

Enclosure—a cutting from the Rangoon Gazette—

SEPARATE MAHOMEDAN ELECTORATES
DANGER OF EXTENSION OF COMMUNAL PRINCIPLE

July 17.

In an editorial on the communal riots in India, the Manchester Guardian, after referring to Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru's
proposal to disfranchise districts where communal rioting occurs as deserving of attention, expresses the opinion that the contention that the abolition of communal representation will tend to soothe inter-communal feeling is sound, but there is no evidence to show that Mahomedans have yet changed their minds with regard to the insistence on separate Mahomedan electorates.

The paper says: We cannot override the will of 60,000,000 Mahomedans when we set about building up India's new constitution, but possibly, in three years, communal riots made some alteration in the view-point of the Mahomedan rank and file. The question will require the serious attention of the Royal Commission, to be appointed under the Government of India Act, for it is disquieting to observe the principle of communal representation extending from the Legislatures to the Civil Service. If it is admitted in the Civil Service, can it be excluded in the Army, and, if the army of Swaraj India is officered on the communal principle, would it not soon be distracted by Hindu-Moslem feud? The truth is, if the Mahomedan community persists in its present attitude towards Hindus, it will be impossible to think of Swaraj except as a beautiful dream or nightmare.

Rangoon Gazette
July 19, 1926

123 FROM SARAT CHANDRA BOSE
Censored and Passed
Illegible
27/8/26
for D.I.G., I.B., C.I.D.
Bengal

38/1, Elgin Road
27th Aug. 1926

My dear Subhas,

Your letter of the 13th was to hand yesterday. I trust you have got my message by now saying that it is my view that you
should contest North Calcutta. Let me deal with your points in the order in which you have stated them:—

I. It is true that members of the Council have up till now done very little work for the country. The reason is that we haven’t got the right type of men there. If Mr. Das had been alive, we could have sent any number of nonentities to the Council. But as he is no more, we should see that the Council is not only strong in number, (I mean the Congress group) but also in talent.

II. I could have chosen some other constituency for you but that would mean more work for me and others. In North Calcutta, I expect you will have a walkover. Mr. J. N. Basu might even give up the fight, though he has great influence in that quarter. Further to beat Mr. Basu would have a great significance.

III. The election will not cost a lot of money.

IV. I have decided to contest the University seat. I might not be opposed there.

V. Plenty of reliable men have already offered their services for your election campaign. They will not take up other work.

VI. You needn’t feel concerned about my health. I am all right now and I shall have at least a month’s rest. I intend to leave for Burma on the 12th September (if not earlier) after making the necessary arrangements here.

VII. Mr. J. M. Sengupta (which expression includes Kiron Babu & Co.) is most anxious that you should contest. Rai Lalit Kumar Mitra (who sought Congress nomination) cannot really be thought of, so far as Council seat is concerned. As regards your apprehension of repetition of the Council of State election muddle, you can depend upon it that I would not have consented on your behalf if I was not sure that there was no such apprehension this time.

VIII. Upen Babu had finally decided not to stand before I consented on your behalf subject of course to your approval. There were various considerations which led him to withdraw and financial considerations were not the least important among them. The leaders of the Karmi Sangha welcome your candidature. I had a talk with Upen Babu last night and he said that that was so. I had also a talk with Amar Babu day before