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Extension for Mrs. Dune to stay in  
America

Previous References.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA



No. F.2(4) -PS/47  
New Delhi,  
3rd April 1947.

*Mrdar Vallabhbhai,*

In reply to your letter of the 29th March about Mrs Dave I write to say that, in consequence of a representation made directly to the External Affairs Department, a telegram has already been sent to our Ambassador in Washington asking him to report on the facts of the case and to assist Mrs Dave in any way possible.

*Jawaharlal*

(Jawaharlal Nehru)

The Hon'ble  
Mrdar Vallabhbhai Patel,  
Home Member,  
New Delhi.

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*[Signature]*

NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF INDIA

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NEW DELHI, 29.3.1947.

I am informed that an Indian national, Mrs. Pranujam Magan Dave, wife of Mr. Magan Dave, residing at 665 Fifth Avenue, New York 22 N.Y., has been asked by the American authorities to quit the United States of America by 1st May. Mr. Magan Dave has been residing in America since 1922 or so and has become a naturalised American subject. He married Mrs. Dave in 1932, since when she has been residing in America with her husband. It seems that the American authorities do not permit a non-American to remain in the country for more than six months at a time and that, if a person wishes to stay longer, he has to get this period extended every half year. Mrs. Dave has been staying in America on such extensions, but this time apparently the American authorities have refused to grant any further extensions. I need hardly point out the unfairness and injustice of this order. I hope it will be possible for you to take this matter up either with the American Embassy here or with the State Department through our Ambassador, but in view of the time-limit the matter requires very urgent attention.

Yours sincerely,

Hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru,  
17 York Road,  
New Delhi.

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Yes; we know lot of our countrymen were given deportation orders. They called up Maganbhai for help since our Embassy told them "they are new and they can't help". Quite a few on California side were served order to go. They sent two men specially to Washington to do something for them. Our Embassy gave them a merry go round. The Indians were put on the boat for deportation - still the Embassy was asleep. Finally through American Senators they were taken off the boat and saved from deportation. They have done the same to me. I am ashamed to write that the British Ambassadors went out of their way to help me through Kaka's influence but with all the cables etc from Patel and Nehru this Embassy treated us with a rebuff. We have to undergo the expense of hiring a lawyer because Maganbhai was afraid the immigration authorities would drag me to the boat. Can you imagine Asaf Ali not giving an appointment to Maganbhai. Even President Truman is busy but he and his office reply every letter and give appointments. Surely Asaf Ali isn't busier than President Truman. Maganbhai took a trip to Washington. He asked for an appointment ever since he arrived but hasn't time to see Indians. Embassy gave a reception in Washington. There while shaking hands with him Maganbhai said "I hope your Excellency does something about Mrs. Dave's case and gives me an appointment". Oh - no - no. I am very busy. But what about Mrs Dave's case. What case you are talking about he says. Maganbhai said "I have written so many letters and I do hope you help us". Well; he had no time. Next morning he goes to the Embassy again. Maganbhai had an appointment with Hon'ble Minister R.B.Sen. He goes there and finds out he is not in the office because he is sick. Chopra (I.S.Chopra) the Second Secretary all puffed up tries to be funny. So Maganbhai says "what is this. Is this our Embassy or something else. Are you people here to help our Indians in trouble or not?" Chopra says "you know we are new. Maganbhai said that's no excuse. When are you going to get to the job? After every one is deported! Chopra got off his high-hatting way - called up Sen at his house. Mr. Sen told Maganbhai to go to his house. There he had a frank talk. Sen called up Chopra from home. "Chopra came over to my house. There is more in this affair than we thought there was". Mr. Chopra came after two hours. They treated us like this after all you people did from India. Those who have no influence like we have are in terrible trouble. Maganbhai spoke about them too. We haven't heard anything definite about my stay.

Another thing, instead of contacting the highest Americans in the State Department they try to do things through little stenographers and clerks. Even the Americans are staggered at the methods our Embassy employs. Some of the State Department and Immigration officials told Maganbhai why do they call up our Assistants? Why don't they deal with us heads. What are they afraid of? If they don't improve we and our Embassy is going to lose the prestige. Days of fiery talking are gone. We should get down to work! British Ambassadors were also very busy but they familiarized themselves with every letter and every case and after study and going everything under their supervision they instructed their Secretaries to handle it. Here Asaf Ali does not care to familiarize himself with anything. He is a good lecturer, nationalist etc but he should try to be a good executive too. I think this should be brought to the attention of Patel and Nehru for the sake of India's reputation abroad.

*Regarding Mrs. Maganbhai's case.*