

BY AIR MAIL/SPECIAL DELIVERY

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Ref: 22-S/Amb/72

January 7, 1972

My dear Dr. Dhawan,

This is in continuation of the conversation which we had this morning. The text of the letter from the Prime Minister to you which has been cabled to me is as follows :-

"Dear Dr. Dhawan,

Vikram's sudden and tragic death has deprived our entire space research programme of leadership. You are aware of the heavy investment we have made in it. The ten year profile of the development of space shows the extent of our commitment. We cannot afford to allow the entire organisation to crumble. I should like you to accept the stewardship of our space organisation which I am proposing to separate from the Atomic Energy Commission. It will be for you to structure this new organisation. Please let me know urgently when I may expect you to return and what arrangements you would like us to make for the interim period. I hope you will respond to an emergency situation in a sensitive area of our national endeavour.

With best wishes and regards,

Yours sincerely,

Indira Gandhi"

I have cabled back that you have given a positive response and that you would like to discuss and finalise details on your return to India in the second half of March. I have also indicated your desire to continue your position with the Institute in Bangalore.

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