Appendix II: Letter to Sir Stafford Cripps

New Delhi, 431
June 13, 1946

DEAR SIR STAFFORD,

Sudhir told me something of the storm that is brewing within you. I met your good wife the day before. I would ask you not to worry. You are handling the most difficult task of your life. As I see it the Mission is playing with fire. If you have courage you will do what I suggested from the very beginning. Even when the Parliamentary Delegation came before you I said then, “You will not be able to have your cake and eat it. You will have to choose between the two—the Muslim League and the Congress, both your creations.” Every day you pass here coquetting now with the Congress, now with the League and again with the Congress, wearing yourself away. [This] will not do. Either you swear by what is right or by what the exigencies of British policy may dictate. In either case bravery is required. Only stick to the programme. Stick to your dates even though the heavens may fall. Leave by the 16th whether you allow the Congress to form a coalition or the League. If you think that the accumulated British wisdom must know better than these two creations of yours I have nothing to add. But I have fancied that you are not cast in the mould. If so, keep to your passage for the 16th and take your poor wife with you to England and bury yourselves in private life unless the brave British announcement made is fulfilled to the Indian hope. A word to the wise (fn: The Hindustan Times report has been collated with Pyarelal’s version in his “weekly Letter” in Harijan).

Gandhiji’s correspondence with the Government, 1944-47, p.207.

Yours Sincerely,

M. K. Gandhi