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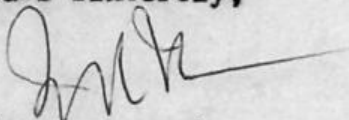
April 2, 1984.

Dear Roy,

Your letter of March 23 only reached me this morning on my return to Office. I was out of Bombay the whole of last week.

This is therefore only an interim reply to say that I shall let you have a more accurate definition about the Swatantra Party by the end of this week. Do you think you can kindly hold your horses till then?

Yours sincerely,



(M.R. Masani)

Mr. R. Hawkins,
56, Valentina,
5, Gamadia Road,
Bombay 400 026.

Revised Definition

Used attrib. and absol. to designate the Freedom Party (a liberal conservative political party) in the Republic of India from 1959 to 1972.

(Swatantra means in Hindi self-determined or self-motivated. This brings out the Party's stress on individual freedom and its opposition to collective farming, etatisme, socialism and communism.)

Quotation 1.

Mr. M. R. Masani told the Rotary Club of Bombay, 15.1.1959 quoted Memoirs - Against the Tide (1981).

"There are no less than four parties wedded to socialism or State capitalism, but not one adhering to Liberal or conservative principles. Persons with as dissimilar a background as C. Rajagopalchari and Jayaprakash Narayan agree that India's most urgent need is the establishment of a Conservative Party. I myself would prefer a Liberal or Centre party standing for ordered progress. But, whatever the label, such a party would defend the interests of the landed peasantry, the middle class and the businessman who are threatened by the current drift to over-centralised and bureaucratic State Capitalism."

Quotation 2.

Mr. M. R. Masani's article in Life magazine (U.S.A.) on 28.9.1959 quoted Congress Misrule and the Swatantra Alternative (1966)

"Perhaps the best parallel to the character of the Swatantra Party in western countries is that provided by such as the Smallholders' Party in Hungary."

Quotation 3.

(From Swatantra Party Preparatory Convention
Opening Remarks by M.R. Masani (1959)

"... a broadbased coalition of these various elements in our national life. The middle classes of the cities and towns must join hands with the peasants in the villages in defence of their rights and property."

Quotation 4.

(From Liberalism by Mr. M.R. Masani)

"I had, on one occasion, published in parallel columns the corresponding clauses of the German Social Democratic Programme of November 1959 and the Swatantra Party's Programme of August 1959. It was amazing how one appeared to be a translation or paraphrase of the other."

Quotation 5.

(From: Swatantra Party - Sixth National Convention
by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari - April 8, 1972)

"The Swatantra Party stands for social Justice as
clearly as it firmly opposes statism."

Quotation 6.

(From: Swatantra Party Preparatory Convention
by Mr. C. Rajagopalachari - August 1, 1959)

"The Swatantra Party is pledged to social justice
and equality of opportunity for all people without
distinction not only of religion, caste or occupa-
tion but even of political affiliations. The Party
is based on the truth that the progress, welfare,
and the true happiness of the people of our country,
as in other countries, depend on individual incentive,
enterprise and energy."

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