

S.V.Raju

L/9/72, Tilaknagar,

Bombay 400089

December 6, 1974

1402

My dear Srikanth,

This acknowledges your letters of 14th, 20th and 29th November.

We have already spoken over the phone regarding the forthcoming meeting of the General Council, on 8th December. I am glad notices have been issued under Mr.Sundaram's signature. So far as Maharashtra is concerned, Mr.Girish Munshi and Mr.K.H.Subramanian are definitely attending. Possible Mr.Kejriwal and Mr.Sumatilal Shah will also attend.

I trust you received the Directory of addresses. I also understand that Mr.Sudhan and Mr.Jacob Cherian are attending. I wish I could have come but a professional engagement on December 7 makes it impossible for me to join Mr.Subramanian who travels by train leaving tonight. Flying is ruled out because I can ill afford the expenditure.

Regarding the election symbol, my view is that we should seek this State by State. For instance Madras has a claim by precedent - viz. in the past the Election Commission has settled rival claims by awarding the symbol to that part of the party which has retained the adherence of MPs and MLAs. In Madras, all MLAs and MLCs are with the Party. This should be emphasised. Asking for it at the all India level might create problems. We should therefore prepare the ground for it by declaring the National Convention held at Delhi ultra vires of the Constitution. If the Convention loses its validity then the decisions it takes are invalid and it flows from it that the Swatantra Party at the national level continues to exist.

We had a meeting of some leading members of the Maharashtra Swatantra Party last evening and flowing from it ~~we have~~ decided on some guidelines. A copy of the note on the subject which I have handed over to Mr.Girish Munshi is enclosed for your and Mr.Sundaram's perusal.

Regarding Mr.Masani's meeting on the 12th, I hope you will be able to collect a good gathering. The meeting is at 6.30 p.m. Kindly arrange to collect Mr.Masani from Connemara and after the meeting arrange to have him dropped at the airport as he is taking the flight to Bombay at 20.25 hrs (IC 172).

With my sincere good wishes for the success of the General Council,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. V.S.Srikumar,
Madras.

S.V.Raju

Some guidelines settled at a meeting of some members of the Maharashtra Swatantra Party held on Thursday December 6, 1974.

1. The National Convention held at New Delhi should be declared invalid as it ~~was~~ violated clause 16(b) of the Party's Constitution. The objection raised by Mr. Devanathan was over-ruled by the Chairman of the so-called Convention. The ruling was malafide.
2. Rather than 'expel' those who joined the BLD and label them as 'defectors' it might be in keeping with the Swatantra Party's high standard to merely state in a resolution that those who had become members of another Party stood disqualified to be Swatantra members under clause 4(a). This leaves the question of what about those who went with the dissolution vote but have not joined the BLD. In some cases they have resigned e.g. Madhu Mehta. To meet this problem as also to fill the large number of vacancies in the National Executive, the best way would be to declare the present National Executive dissolved and to set up an ad hoc National Executive, to be in office till the next General Elections in 1976.
3. While some vacancies in the General Council may be filled at the Madras meeting, we should not be in a hurry to fill in all vacancies. Departing from the normal practice of State Units recommending their nominees for cooption or filling in vacancies, we should on this occasion authorise the State Units to ~~fill~~ nominate. This will leave the door open to welcome some of those who may wish to come back and also of some fresh blood, particularly youth.
4. Similarly the National Executive should for the present be a small body which will add to itself gradually.
- * 5. The Council should appoint persons in various States/Regions to (a) get in touch with those who have continued their loyalty to the Party, and (b) to ~~reform~~ committees at the Primary, District and State levels.
- / re-form
6. Under clause 3 of the Party's Constitution the Council should decide to shift the Headquarters to Madras.
7. The Council should authorise the newly appointed General Secretary to write to the former President to arrange for the handing over of the papers, records, files, equipment, furniture to the newly appointed General Secretary alongwith an inventory. Though this is platonic it is logical in view of our position that the Party has not been dissolved.
8. The Party should extend whole-hearted support to J.P.s movement.
- * A list of those who can be approached in this connection is attached.

Andhra: Mr.B.V.Siviah (he is in Guntur. I shall try to ~~trace~~ trace the address)
Assam: Mr.Ramesh Mohan Kouli M.L.A. (in Shillong " ")
Bihar: Mr.Sahajanand Singh, Village & P.O. Bahpura, Dist. Patna, Bihar
Delhi: Dr. H.R.Pasricha
Gujarat: Mr.Hargovind Thakkar
Himachal: Mr.Budhi Prakash
Haryana: Mr.Sukchain Singh
Kerala : Mr.C.N.Sudhan
M.P. : Mr.N.C.Zamindar
~~Maharashtra~~
Mysore : Srikumar already in touch
Orissa : Mr. Harihar Patel
Punjab : ?
Rajasthan: Mr.I.S.Bhargava, B-21, Anand Puri, Jaipur 4, Rajasthan
U.P. : Mr.Tiwari (address already with you)