

Draft

Mr. Kejriwal/Mr. Girish Munshi/Mr. K.H. Subramaniam

(Please let me have your comments.)

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Dear Mr. Sundaram,

Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal, Mr. K.H. Subramaniam and I had a meeting recently to discuss the matter you spoke to me at the Centaur Hotel on Saturday the 6th November 1976. If you will recall you had wanted our views on the proposal by Mr. Ramachandran of the Congress(O) that the Swatantra Party in Tamil Nadu should merge with the TNCC(O). Subsequently I also had a discussion on this matter with Mr. Masani. The consensus that has emerged is as follows:-

- 1) that the Swatantra Party should continue till a final decision is taken by the other opposition parties to form a single party. *at the National level* Even if only if this be *only* the Congress(O) and one other party merge to form a new party, we should ~~join such a new organisation;~~
- 2) when such a development takes place *at the national level* the Swatantra Party will ~~not merge~~ but will dissolve itself leaving its members *free* to join the new party;
- 3) This will enable *members* the Tamil Nadu Swatantra Party to go with the TNCC(O) even if the TNCC(O) *decides not to join the new national party* ~~not wanting to be part of the new party;~~ *and but to function as a regional party.*
- 4) as far as we are concerned while members of the party in Bombay will similarly be free to join the new party if they so wish the Swatantra Party by a private decision which need not be publicised should decide to continue as a service organisation eschewing electoral politics.

Mr. Girish Munshi agrees with all but the last point of view i.e. he is not in favour of the party carrying on as a service organisation for non-electoral purposes but for political education.

Yours sincerely,

(S. V. Raju)

Mr. K. Sundaram
"Rasakondalu", Circuit House Road
Coimbatore.

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Mr. G.K. Sundaram was in town en route Jodipur on Saturday, the 6th November 1976. I called on him at the Centaur Hotel as he wished to discuss a recent development in Tamil Nadu. It appears that Mr. Ramachandran the President of THCC(O) had dinner with him on Friday the 5th November at which time Mr. Ramachandran proposed to Mr. Sundaram that the Tamil Nadu Swatantra Party should merge with the Congress(O). This way according to Mr. Ramachandran the THCC(O) which is the only meaningful Opposition party left in Tamil Nadu would acquire added strength and would be able to put up a good fight in the next election whenever that may be. According to Mr. Ramachandran and with which Mr. Sundaram concurred the Congress(R) had made little headway despite official patronage. The ADMK was split and the DMK was in the doldrums.

Mr. Sundaram has asked Mr. Srikanth to sound leading members of the Party in Tamil Nadu and he has asked me similarly to sound our friends in Bombay.

Personally I thought that Mr. Sundaram was not averse to the idea. I therefore told him that whatever was done must be done unanimously.

Thereafter on Monday the 8th, I discussed this with Mr. Masani. Mr. Masani was of the view that for the present Mr. Sundaram should agree to close joint working till such time as a new single opposition party emerges, efforts in respect of which are now on. Should such a development take place and should the THCC(O) decline to join the group any carry on as a State Congress party, in that event the Swatantra Party could take a decision in which the party would be formally dissolved leaving the Swatantra Party in Tamil Nadu to merge with the Congress(O) and leaving us free to convert ourselves into a non party organisation on the lines envisaged in the resolution we had moved at the National Convention in August 1974. *free*

It is necessary that Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal, Mr. Girish Muzhi and Mr. K.H. Subramaniam and I should meet to discuss this and to forward to Mr. Sundaram our considered views (I have promised to do so in a fortnight's time). Mr. K.H. Subramaniam said that Mr. Kejriwal would like to arrange a lunch during a working day to meet and discuss Party matters. It would be advisable for this to be done at an early date.

To set the ball rolling, why not meet for lunch on Friday, 19th November at 1 p.m. at the Bristol Grill? If this is convenient, will you kindly inform Mrs. D'Souza at Telephone No. 271576? If this date is not convenient please suggest an alternate date.

November 9, 1976

S. V. Raju
(S. V. Raju)

KHS funds 19/11 convenient.