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यहाँ..... प्रपत्र पर प्राप्त हुआ
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BHAVAN CHOUPATI BOMBAY-7

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PRESIDENT WILLING TO HAVE NATIONAL EXECUTIVE MEETING BETWEEN 10TH AND

15TH JULY PERSONALLY PREFER 12TH AND 13TH PLEASE WIRE

CONVENIENT DATE AND VENUE WHEATHER BOMBAY OR BANGALORE - SRIKUMAR -

The sequence of entries at the beginning of this telegram is—class of telegram, time handle in, serial number, office of origin, date, service instructions (if any) and number of words.

इस शीट से सम्बन्धित जो भी प्रस्ताव हो वह इस कार्ड के साथ प्रेषण अनी चाहिए।

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தமிழ்நாடு

சுதந்திரக் கட்சி



TAMIL NADU

SWATANTRA PARTY

National Headquarters

PHONE: 29383/

Tel. Adds. "SWATANTRA"

16, Hall Road, Egmore, MADRAS-600 008

10-A, Flowers Road, Madras. 84.

23rd June 1975.

Dear Sri Girish Munshi,

Further to my letter of 20th in reply to your letter of the 17th instant it is my opinion that the first three paragraphs of the ^{draft} letter to Sri Jayaprakash Narainji are quite alright and can go as they are. In the fourth paragraph the first sentence is quite alright. Subsequently the letter may run as follows:

"We have in the last few days read reports of statements by leaders of political parties, some advocating outright merger of non-communist opposition parties and others a federation of these parties.

As far as we are concerned we feel that out-right merger of the democratic opposition parties here and now without the necessary preparation will create friction in day to day working and perhaps even at the time of taking decisions by leaders on important subjects. Joint working of the leaders of the various parties and their workers at all levels to put through a common minimum programme through legislatures as well as outside may create mutual confidence and trust if the leaders handle the day to day situations tactfully. Complete merger may become possible and easier after joint working spread over a period of say 3 to 5 years.

For putting through these ideas successfully the federated group of political parties will ^{badly} need a leader of outstanding integrity and honesty of purpose in whose judgment and impartiality all the federating units will have complete confidence.

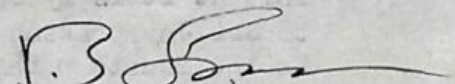
We feel that you are the only person who can provide this barely needed leadership. We would be very happy and grateful if you would take up the leadership of the federating parties. In case you are still against the idea of becoming a party politician we would request you to help the formation of a federation of democratic non-communist opposition parties and guide them from outside

p.t.o.

... as a friend, philosopher and unofficial leader as Mahatmaji was to the Congress party for a number of years."

Thanking you and hoping to hear from you at your earliest convenience. and with my regards,

Yours truly,


(V.S. Srikumar)

Joint Secretary.

தமிழ்நாடு

சுதந்திரக் கட்சி



TAMILNAD
SWATANTRA PARTY
Nationalist Headquarters.

666138.

PHONE: 20787

Tel. Addrs. "SWATANTRA"

28, Hall's Road, Egmore, MADRAS-600 008.

10-A, Flowers Road, Madras. 84.

20th June 1975

Sri Girish Munshi,
General Secretary, All India Swatantra party,
Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan,
K.M. Munshi Marg,
Chowpati, Bombay. 7.

Dear Sri Girish Munshiji,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 17th instant, which reached me this morning. On going through your draft letter to be addressed to Sri Jayaprakash I tried to contact our President, Mr. G.K. Sundaram on the STD but he was not available. So I have immediately conveyed to you my first reaction to the suggestions contained in your draft that Sri Jayaprakash should take up the leadership of either the federation of non-communist and non-congress parties or the leadership of the party arising out of out-right merger of the above parties by telegram of today reading:

"Yours 17th J.P. unlikely to become a politician

Tamilnad for federal type organisation will consult

GKS and write in detail".

In this connection I wish to tell you frankly what ~~xx~~ I feel about the suggestion in your draft. By nature, temperament and training Sri Jayaprakash seems not made for the post of the leader of political party. He is averse to himself contesting elections and perhaps averse to exercising political power even if it is placed at his disposal without going through the electoral process. Being transparently sincere and honest to the very core Sri Jayaprakash will hate to play the dirty and party political game as it is being played now and as it may be necessary to play if the other party is to be beaten in this game.

ii. If the people of this country have such high regard for Sri Jayaprakash it is purely due to the fact that he is not after power and all the sacrifices and troubles he is undergoing are only due to his sole desire to serve the people and the country. If under

p.t.o.

pressure from people like us he decides to become a politician and lead a united party, the high esteem in which he is held by the people will be damaged. This will be a great loss to the country.

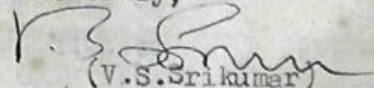
iii. On the other hand if he remains outside party politics and extends to the joint political parties his moral support and his mature advice without damaging his own image by becoming a politician perhaps his leadership will be more valuable to the opposition parties. For instance, suppose Sri J.P. had become already leader of the Janata Front in Gujarat. Perhaps Sri J.P. would have won few more seats but he would have lost part of his reputation subsequently because of Janata Front's understanding with Sri Chimanbhai Patel's party in Gujarat.

iv. All of us have been opposing outright merger for the last one and a half years. We have been advocating federal type of grouping since much earlier. The Tamilnad party also has already passed a resolution recommending to the National Executive to adopt the federal set up.

Taking the above facts into consideration I would suggest that we once again offer our whole-hearted and unconditional support to Sri J.P.'s movement and request him to take the lead in setting up a federation of political parties consisting of Congress(O), Swatantra party, Jan Sangh, Socialist and others in the first instance with a common programme for implementation through the legislatures. Of course the members belonging to different parties will sit as one bloc and function with a common leader inside legislature. If after working for sometime, mutual trust and confidence are created between workers and leaders at all levels then merger will become practicable and useful. Premature merger of these parties with their ideological differences will only create serious trouble after merger and expose the party to ridicule. Hence it is better to concentrate all our efforts on a federation of parties with common minimum programme and single leader inside the legislatures but with freedom to function as separate units outside the legislatures. Of course all the units will be bound to extend full support to implement the common minimum programme.

Thanking you once again and with my regards,

Yours truly,


(V. S. Srikumar)

c.c: Sri G.K.Sundaram, President, All India Swatantra party. Jt. Secretary.