

BOMBAY HOUSE,
FORT, BOMBAY, I

13th November, 1967

Personal

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My dear Masani,

This has reference to your cyclostyled letter of 1st November regarding your resignation from the position of General Secretary of the Party. I have already conveyed to you my views in the matter when we last met at the Lunch Table at Bombay House, and there is nothing more to be said about it.

I would like, however, to take this opportunity of recording my warmest appreciation of the work you have done as General Secretary of the Party. You have held it together ever since its inception and, while I have every confidence that Dandekar will fill the bill, it is a pity your influence on the working of the Party will be reduced to that of a guide, philosopher and friend.

With kindest regards,

Yours sincerely,

to m. r. masani

Mr. M. R. Masani, M.P.

Swatantra Party (Punjab)STATE OFFICE,
Sheranwala Gate,PATIALA-1, November 12, 67.

Ref. No. _____

Dear Mr. Masani,

Very many thanks for your felicitations on my election to the General Council, conveyed in your letter of November 9th.

As regards the matter following it which only confirms your earlier Press statement indicating your resolve to hand over the General Secretary-ship of the Party to Mr. Dandekar, I thought wiser counsel from Sri Rajaji, Professor Rangaji & other high-ups of the Party, will dissuade you from your resolve in the larger interest of the Party and you will agree to continue at the helm of affairs for another term as, to my mind, we have not yet reached the stage of maturity where the contemplated change would appear to be justified.

I have a very feeble voice in the matter and it is not out of my affection and regard for yourself but it is purely in the interest of the Party that I would plead that you may reconsider the matter and while I propose putting forward my reasoning in the forthcoming meeting of the General Council, I have thought of writing these lines meanwhile, for your serious consideration.

In the first instance I feel that we have not been able to organise our party upto the standard obtained both by the Communists and the Jana Sangh, of whom I have been able to gather some inner working day to day activities, in a highly organised and methodical manner. I don't mean to assert that we have not done enough in the short space of our existence. In fact we have secured a very respectable position already but notwithstanding what we have achieved, there is still room for attaining the level we have in view.

I am well aware of your unique capacity for work & feel that your responsibilities as Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, should not come in your way to continue as General Secretary. In this context, I suggest that Mr. Dandekar be taken as Joint Secretary and the work in the Party organisation be divided in such a manner as may lighten your burden. Then again the entire Party organisation may, perhaps, be divided into four regions, to be looked after by a General Secretary each, who may be responsible to the General Secretary, for their respective areas. This should prove instrumental in stream-lining the party propaganda, its policies and programmes, throughout the country, in a systematic & continuous manner, as is the case with the Communists & the Jana Sangh, who have knitted their organisations so well that they can continue their respective activities, un-interruptedly round the year; not only on the advent of the General Elections, as has been the case in our organisation. Contd. on page 2

In conclusion I strongly urge that your over-all guidance and direction as General Secretary, coupled with your personal dynamism and capacity for organisational work and know-how alone, will be able to take the Party to the pitch where other democratic political parties will feel the need of coming nearer to us and to ultimately merge in us and I venture to hope that the foregoing submissions will receive your serious consideration.

With everlasting regards and all good wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Basant Singh
(Basant Singh) 12/11

Mr. M. R. Masani, M. P.,
No. 2, Tughlak Road,
New DELHI.