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August 16, 1962

Dear Mr. Deng,

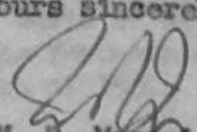
Will you kindly refer to your letter of 28th June in regard to a complaint made by Prof. Swell. I took the matter up with Mr. P. K. Deo, Acting Leader of our Party in the Lok Sabha, who has asked me to assure you that the complaint about the so-called unfriendly attitude towards Prof. Swell and the tribals is absolutely baseless. Mr. P. K. Deo's comment on this complaint is as follows :

" Just before the election of the Estimates Committee, the Leaders of the various groups in the Lok Sabha wanted to have an unanimous decision for the election to the Estimates Committee. It was agreed that the Independent Parliamentary Group to which Prof. Swell belongs will not set up any candidate but in spite of the request of Shri Frank Anthony and Shri Barrow not to contest, Prof. Swell and David Munzani both of Independent Group filed their nominations and forced an election and so they lost the sympathy of all the Opposition Members in the Lok Sabha and even Mr. Frank Anthony and Shri Barrow had to tell them that they are not going to vote in their favour in view of the unanimous decision of the Opposition Parties. David Munzani could get only his personal vote and Prof. Swell could manage to get some first preference votes from Congressmen and got elected with the result that a congressman lost. "

You will see from this that Prof. Swell's grievance is unjustified and it would be wrong for him or anyone else to read into this incident any unfriendliness on the part of our Acting Leader in the Lok Sabha towards him or the tribals for whom we all have great sympathy.

I trust you will now correct the wrong impression that Prof. Swell has got and make him see things in their proper light.

Yours sincerely,


(M. R. Masani)

Mr. John Deng,
General Secretary,
Swatantra Party (Shillong Branch),
Assam,
Laitumkhrah,
Shillong.