

2886

August 16, 1962

My dear Maharajasaheb,

I received your letter of 7th August and thank you for the very interesting information that you have given in regard to the developments concerning the frontier and its defence. I would like to congratulate you on your consistently pressing the Party's stand for severance of diplomatic relations with Communist China and the building up of regional security arrangements in South and South-East Asia. More power to your elbow.

I also have your letter of the same date in regard to Prof. Swell. You quite rightly suggest that we should ascertain the facts before passing judgement. Unfortunately, we did not know the facts and it was precisely to ascertain the facts that I wrote to you on July 5, saying "I shall be obliged if you will kindly let me have the facts in regard to the incident to which he refers, so that any misunderstanding may be removed."

I did not reply to Mr. Deng as I was to have your reply correcting his statement so that I could give him the kind of reply you wished me to give. You will see therefore that there should be no reason for you to feel unhappy about my writing to you. It would be much worse if I kept the facts from you and not get them corrected. I have now written to Mr. Deng refuting Prof. Swell's charge (Copy attached). I am sure you will approve that it is a correct procedure in fairness to you as much as to anyone else.

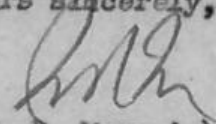
In so far as your letter of 10th August is concerned on the issue of forming a larger party or bloc in Parliament, I quote the following extract from the draft Minutes of that meeting which is our understanding of what was decided :

" An inquiry made by the Acting Leader of the Party in Lok Sabha in regard to the formation of a larger Opposition bloc including Members of the Swatantra Party was then discussed. After discussion, it was decided that no such step should be taken for the present, but that the de facto liaison now in existence between the Party and certain like-minded groups and individuals should be maintained and developed and that exploratory discussions may continue in order to ensure that the fullest measure of co-operation is developed on the basis of opposition to Statism and the restoration of the Fundamental Rights embodied in the original Constitution of 1950. "

You will thus see that what it was agreed to be explored was the

development of further liaison and co-operation between like-minded groups on the three points that you quite correctly mentioned in your letter and not the formation of a Party which as I understand it, the Parliamentary Board turned down. However, since we shall be meeting for the Parliamentary Board meeting on September 30 and October 1, it would be better for you to report on any progress that may have been found possible during the interval and to get the Parliamentary Board's decision.

Yours sincerely,



(M. R. Masani)

H.H. Maharaja P. K. Deo of Kalahandi,
29, Ferozeshah Road,
New Delhi.

Encl : 1