



swatantra party

national headquarters

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phone: 251424
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2959

March 28, 1972.

H. M. Patel Esq.,
President,
Swatantra Party,
Bombay.

Dear H.M.,

I am glad you have called a meeting of the National Executive on April 8, and the General Council on April 9th to discuss the future of the Swatantra Party after the recent debacle.

I am writing this letter with a sad heart, having been a member of the Party since its inception. It is very obvious that the programme of our Party has not attracted the people of India in spite of our strenuous efforts extending over a period of more than ten years. The fact that the programme of our Party has been rejected rightly or wrongly, has become more obvious since the mid-term poll of 1971, and later, during the recent elections to the State legislatures.

I feel that there are three alternatives open to us:

- (i) continuance of Swatantra Party, as it is;
- (ii) to merge the Party with other like-minded party or parties; and
- (iii) dissolve the Swatantra Party and leave our members to decide for themselves what they are going to do in future. Some of us might prefer to remain out of any political party and yet try to form public opinion, as best as they can, and also do public service. Some others might want to join other like-minded parties. A few might decide to join the ruling-party itself, in an effort to reform it from inside.

In my personal opinion, the third seems to be the best alternative open to us. Since our programme has not attracted the masses, it is no use trying to further spend away the limited human and material resources in an effort to continue as long as we can. These are badly needed by the country.

*Respect all
H.M.
This is our
responsibility
Na.*



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Good
The second alternative also does not seem to be open to us today in view of the unwillingness of the democratic parties in opposition to form an United Front or a new party with new name, symbol and flag. Further merit of my suggestion is also to reduce the number of political parties which is so badly needed.

Yes
I am aware of the fact that a single-party rule is a dangerous proposition and could very easily lead to dictatorship. However, the parties in opposition are so badly splintered and the resources, both in terms of money and mass-communication media, are so tightly controlled by the ruling-party that perhaps it is not much use fighting from the opposition benches, unless we are prepared to resort to direct action as suggested by Rajaji.

I would like you to distribute this letter in advance to the members of the National Executive and the General Council. It is only intended to provoke further thought on the various issues I have raised. It is quite probable that some or many of our members will hold a view contrary to what I have stated above.

I am endorsing a copy of this letter to Rajaji, Mr. Masani, Mr. Dandekar, the General-Secretary and the Treasurer of the Party so as to obtain their views on my suggestion. This might also lead to other alternatives which could be expressed at the National Executive and the General Council.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

RCC
(R. C. Cooper)

c.c. to : M. R. Masani Esq.