

Swatantra Party

PARLIAMENTARY OFFICE

PHONE : 386575

53, North Avenue,
New Delhi-1

October 30, 1970.

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Handwritten signature/initials

My dear Mr. Masani,

I suggest, if you are coming to Delhi on the 3rd ^{you} to address a Press Conference. According to me it is necessitated due to all types of reports about the so-called SVD at the Centre being published in various national papers. You had referred yourself to the report in the Hindustan Times of the 26th October. There were lead stories in the Hindustan Times and the Statesman yesterday. If you publically oppose and dismiss the idea of the proposed hotch-potch understanding between the parties like SSP and PSP, presently being mooted out by Dr. Ram Subhag Singh, it will be helpful from the larger point of view. More pressure then is likely to be brought about on Dr. Ram Subhag Singh from amongst his own members and leaders.

I understand from the Statesman Correspondent who talked to Mr. Morarjibhai the other day on which basis he wrote a story that he is also despondent about the proposed alliance. There are serious differences in his party and there seems no improvement even after the developments in U.P. In any case we may do our best in this regard.

If you let me know as to your acceptance of my proposal for the Press Conference I will make necessary arrangements. I suggest we have a Press Conference in Parliament House. The time may please be indicated by you.

Ms I also sent an Express Telegram to you this morning saying that the Statesman is planning to publish a reaction story about the possibilities and prospects of mid-term elections. The story² proposed to be published in the Issue of Monday morning. Will you kindly let me have immediately our Party's reaction and attitude to the mid-term poll to be passed on to the Statesman for inclusion in that story.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Mr. M.R. Masani, MP.

Handwritten signature

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53, North Avenue,

NEW DELHI-1.

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My dear Mr. Masani,

Time

Please refer to your letter of the 26th instant. I had also seen the Hindustan ^{Report}. I do not think anybody from our side attending any such talks or discussions at any level. Prof. Ranga has not been in Delhi for quite sometime past. Shri Dahyabhai Patel was on tour in connection with the meetings of the Public Undertakings Committee. He reached Delhi only a couple of days back. Shri Patodia also was out of Delhi on the 25th October. Presently only Dahyabhai Patel is here and I will certainly convey the contents of the letter to him. I know the discussions for joining of parties are being conducted at the Presidents' level.

Raju telephoned me yesterday and I told him that Dr. Ram Subha Singh is still opposed to the idea of a common parliamentary bloc. He alone is talking of hotchpotch understanding between parties like the SSP, PSP, Vishal Haryana, and others, besides the four parties, and is thus responsible for all the confusion on the subject.

With regards.

Yours sincerely,

(A.P. Jain)

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
148 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bombay I

CONFIDENTIAL

26th October, 1970

My dear Jain,

I am disturbed to see in this morning's Hindustan Times on page 14 *a report* about preparatory talks being held between leaders of parties constituting the SVD in U.P. and including the Swatantra Party. I do not know who presumed to attend such a meeting. Obviously, except for Professor Ranga, there is nobody who is competent to do so.

The report refers to a move to bring into existence an S.V.D. on the U.P. model at the Centre. Our Party has been strongly opposed to the SVD model against which we have set up the Orissa model. We have only agreed to join with parties who respond to the A.I.C.C. Resolution and are not interested in a hotchpotch of parties not in agreement on a basic programme.

In any event, will you kindly convey to Professor R.K.Amin, Mr. Patodia, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel and others who may be in Delhi my request that they from now on desist from discussions of such a fundamental nature. Please explain that I would have written to them direct but for the fact that I do not know who is in Delhi and who is not. It was all right when the U.P. issue was active and day to day action of a specific nature regarding it was necessary and I myself commended the work Patodia and others did, but now what is being discussed is something different. I am in correspondence with the Presidents of other relevant parties and any discussion at other levels would cause needless confusion and weaken our initiative. If Professor Ranga and Mr. Dahyabhai Patel discuss with Mr. Morarji Desai and Mr. Ramsubhag Singh on the level of Parliamentary leadership, that of course is another matter.

Please treat this letter as confidential but mention what I have said to those concerned.

I shall also be glad to have an answer to the inquiry I have made in para one of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

(M. R. MASANI)

Mr. A.P.Jain,
Swatantra Party Parliamentary Group,
53 North Avenue,
Mumbai