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*With the best Compliments
of*

Dakyalhai V. Patel

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COPY

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Recd 24/10

Dear Mr. Speaker,

I have just received Rajya Sabha Parliamentary Bulletin No. 18106 dated 8.10.1969 informing me regarding the Inter-Parliamentary Conference to be held in New Delhi. I am indeed surprised to see the composition particularly as regards the Rajya Sabha. I am the leader of the principal opposition and our Party is completely ignored. I should like to know the reasons for the same. In contrast, I find the name of Mr. Joachim Alva who is a nominated member. The parliamentary democracy always is based on elections and the rights of elected members representing the people. Whom does Mr. Joachim Alva represent. In our constitution provides for nomination of eminent people in the fields of art, science etc. who would not be able to get elected in the General Elections and we had people of the eminence of Smt. Rukmini Arundale, Prithviraj Kapoor, M.C. Sitalvad. I also find that Mr. A.D. Mani who represents no party, the only thing he can claim is that he is a journalist, like Mr. Alva is also there. I think you have been badly advised in this regard and I suggest that you revise the list even today.

I do not know whether your office has told you, I have been invited by the Asian Parliamentary Union and have been functioning in India on their behalf because our Government had advised the Speaker against sending a representative. I attended the 3rd meeting in Bangkok and the 4th in Manila. While the Prime Minister talks of developing ties with Asian countries, in fact our External Affairs Ministry is preventing this. Even in this Gandhi Centenary year do we practise political untouchability? Even Mr. R.R. Diwakar who is going to Japan does not know or does not care to know of the friendly countries like Taiwan. It was the President of the Republic of China now functioning from Taiwan, Gen. Chiang Kai Sheik who espoused our cause of independence in our difficult days when we were under the British. It is a pity that we forgot this. Today South Korea is the biggest buyer of our State Trading Corporation. But we always ignore that country. Some people in the External Affairs Ministry do not seem to know whether they are there to serve this country or the Soviet Union?

Yours sincerely,

(Dahyabhai V. Patel)

Shri G.S. Dhillon,
Speaker,
Lok Sabha,
New Delhi