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Jubilee Ground,  
Bhuj, Kutch.  
March 16, 1985.

Dear Raju,

Many thanks for your kind letter of the 22nd ultimo which I was so happy to get. How can I forget you? Yes it is a long time since we corresponded last; but as far as I remember right, I owe you a reply to a previous letter which had from you a very long time ago. So the fault for this state of affairs lies with me!

I am so glad to learn that you are to write a thesis on the Swatantra Party from 1967 to 1974, thus completing the history, at least of one fase, of Indian Politics and, to my mind, a most important one. Had the then government of India listened to what we had told them about the domestic, foreign and fiscal policies, the country would not have gone through all the travails it had to all these years. But who ever pays any attention, or understands the voice of reason?!!!

As you must remember, I lost the election to parliament in 1967. This was mainly due to sabotage from within the party organized by the then ruling party. In that many important files, papers etc. disappeared, never to be found again. Over and above this, some party funds which were sent directly to our president by the Gujarat Unit were embezzled by the good gentleman! And whenever I asked for any accounts or papers from him, he always said he had nothing with him. Thus I have no important records of the district unit in my possession today; and so I cannot help you as far as our records are concerned. However you are welcome to send me a questionnaire whenever you want, and I

shall try to fill it in to the best of my ability. I have no plans at the moment for going to Bombay, but I shall try to contact you whenever I am there in the future. It would help me remember some facts about the history of the Swatantra Party in Kutch. Of late I have become quite forgetful and cannot remember so many things. Any way as I type this I am reminded of the fact that the late Morarji Vaidya played a very active and constructive role in establishing the party in Kutch. I can also not forget the encouragement and valuable help rendered by the late Dharamsey Khatau, who also hailed from Kutch. I am also reminded of the fact that our local leaders like the president of the State Unit were, whether intentionally or otherwise, instrumental in weakening the party in the state, and, eventually, virtually breaking it up by their unthinking handling of the unit and undeplomatic utterances in public. Thus at a time and stage when we should have taken up consolidating and strengthening the party at the lower rungs of the ladder, we gave more importance to petty and trivial aspects of politics and so brought about the ultimate downfall and disintegration of the whole structure. This perhaps was the case all over the country as far as the Swatantra Party and its organization were concerned.

Kindly convey my warm regards to Mr. Masani. How is he keeping? I hope yourself and your family are well, and with my kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

*M. K. Nimmatsinhji*  
(M.K. Nimmatsinhji)