

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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June 9, 1969

When replying, please quote our Reference No.

My dear Shri Atul Bihari Vajpayee,

I am sorry to learn that you have fallen ill and are obliged to take rest. I sincerely hope that you will very soon recover your usual health and zest for life.

Dr. Cooper has just now told me about your letter.

It is true that when the tripartite meeting got together in Delhi on the 26th and 27th of last month, your absence disappointed us very much and we did not know even on the 27th that you had fallen ill and therefore could not be present even on the second day of our deliberations.

I thought that we were able to do good work on the first day and except for one or two essential points of difference, I felt we had discovered a very large common ground for further discussions and also for our intimate cooperation. But we could not make further progress in view of your continued absence; and it was so inexplicable because we had fixed up those dates for our meetings with the special hope that you would be able to return from your foreign tour and take part in the Conference. Anyhow, your delegates expressed the wish that your presence would be essential before any definite decisions could be taken even in regard to the discussions that we had on the previous day.

When I felt that the Jana Sangh might not be quite so keen on the proposed merger, I certainly mooted the possibility of the BKD and the Swatantra Party getting into it if need be, by themselves, and making it easier later for the Jana Sangh also to join our common comradeship. I thought that there was nothing wrong in such a suggestion in view of the obvious unreadiness of your colleagues to create any confidence in my mind that the Jana Sangh would really be ready for the proposed merger. Anyhow, it is never too late for us all to come together into the merger, even if the BKD and the Swatantra Party were to be ready to make a beginning.

*(Please
see next page)

As you know, Rajaji has been insistent that there should be such a merger between all democratic Parties and elements as the Jan Sangh, the BKD, the Swatantra Party etc and it is in response to his persistent and repeated calls for such a consummation that the Swatantra Party is so very anxious to win the maximum possible cooperation from as many democratic elements and Parties as possible.

It is in the light of these feelings and developments that I have requested Choudhary Charan Singh and any of his colleagues to be in Madras at the time of the next meeting of our National Executive i.e. 22nd and 23rd June, to meet Rajaji and also some of our colleagues.

I will also be glad if you will find it possible to have discussions with Rajaji at any time convenient to you.

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I will be glad to have further talks with you when we meet at the time of the next session of Parliament and request you to keep the contents of this letter entirely personal and confidential.

I have today met Rajmata and conveyed to her these points and requested her to talk to you also personally when she meets you.

Yours sincerely,

(N. G. Ranga)

President

Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee,
Room No. 301, Private Ward,
All-India Institute of Medical Sciences,
New Delhi.

- * The discussions were only postponed sine die and there was never any idea of not inviting the Jan Sangh again. I thought we wanted the Jan Sangh to discuss and decide upon the next date for resumption of our talks.

In this connection, I enclose Rajaji's views which appear in the Samaya of June 7 :

" In spite of the disappointed and pessimistic reports that the press has published about the BKD-Jan Sangh-Swatantra merger talks, I think Mr. Masani's departure for Europe scheduled for the 28th and the absence of Sri Vajpayee due to serious illness caused the postponement, and the talks will be resumed soon and reach a happy conclusion. The urgency of a merger must be obvious to every one interested in democracy and free trade and enterprise.

It is very unfortunate that Sri Charan Singh issued his angry statement about the Jan Sangh. Even assuming the worst about the Sangh, it is not advisable to keep such a controversy going when the merger talks are still pending and stand postponed for a further meet. Vajpayee is suffering from stomach ulcer and has been ordered by doctors to be hospitalised. "

- CC : 1. Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Madras
2. Ch. Charan Singh, Lucknow.
3. Mr. M. R. Masani, Bombay ✓
4. Dr. R. C. Cooper, Bombay
5. Mr. N. Dandekar, Bombay.