

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO. 121

SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

4th June, 1966



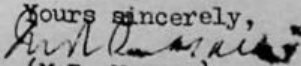
Dear friend,

The Central Parliamentary Board, which met in Bombay on May 26 and 29, 1966 after hearing a report on the efforts made to convene a joint meeting of the Parliamentary Boards of democratic Opposition Parties noted that the attempt to have such a meeting on May 8, 1966, had to be postponed in the light of inadequate response from the invitees. It further heard a report

on talks with leaders of the Jan Sangh, Samyukta Socialist Party, Hindu Mahasabha and the Republican Party. The Board took the following decision:

- a) That such bilateral talks for electoral adjustments should continue.
- b) That, beyond pure electoral adjustments with non-Communist Opposition Parties, the possibility of arriving at united fronts should be ruled out. Efforts at cooperation on the basis of financial commitments should be eschewed. The Board further decided that arrangements for understandings with National Parties should be evolved at the national level and with State Parties at State level.
- c) The State Units are left free to negotiate on the basis of mutuality. In their negotiations with other Democratic Opposition Parties, the policy should be one of double rejection, i.e. with the object of defeating the Congress and, at the same time, having no truck with Communists of either variety.
- d) In so far as arrangements at State level are concerned, the Board had no objection to State Units entering into mutual assistance arrangements with State Parties and Groups.
- e) In so far as permitting State Units to arrive at mutual assistance arrangements with State Parties is concerned, the Board decided that these could be arrived at with a State Organisation concerned only after the latter had openly declared its intention of aligning with us.
- f) In so far as the common programme for such an alliance was concerned, the Board felt that while the Swatantra Party candidate for Parliament should be bound by the Party's Manifesto, candidates for the State Assemblies might stand on a State Manifesto acceptable to their organisational partners provided such a Manifesto did not in any way clash with the Party's National Manifesto.

We trust these decisions will provide you with a clearer understanding of the character and scope of negotiations with other opposition Parties both at the National and State level. Progress made with these talks may please be reported to the Central Office from time to time and press publicity strictly eschewed.

Yours sincerely,

(M.R. Masani)
General Secretary