

Swatantra Party

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June 14, 1965.

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GENERAL SECRETARY'S LETTER NO.104

Dear Friend,

As mentioned earlier in General Secretary's Letter No.103 of June 4, 1965 the Central Parliamentary Board and National Executive of the Party met in Madras on June 4 and 5. The Texts of nine resolutions adopted by the National Executive have already been forwarded to you.

2. Some other decisions taken by the two meetings are given below for your perusal and follow-up action:

I Central Parliamentary Board:

a. Submission of lists of Constituencies.

The Board took note of the fact that most of the State Units had not yet submitted the list of their Parliamentary Constituencies in an order of priority as decided by the Parliamentary Board at its meeting on March 14, 1965, and in the manner prescribed in General Secretary's Letter No.97 of March 23 a reminder in respect of which was sent April 22 vide General Secretary's Letter No.102.

The Board reiterates this request and has asked State Parliamentary Boards to submit these lists immediately to facilitate the work of the Central Parliamentary Board.

In this connection we wish to point out that submitting a mere list of names is not enough. Every name on the list should be backed by reasons for its inclusion in the list. An extract from General Secretary's Letter No.97 on this subject is enclosed herewith for ready reference.

We do hope that in the light of the Board's repeated requests, State Parliamentary Boards will take this job on hand without further delay.

b. Relations with Democratic Opposition Parties.

Arising out of a discussion on the possibilities of electoral understandings with democratic opposition Parties, the Central Parliamentary Board wished to draw the attention of the State Parliamentary Boards to the desirability of giving further thought to this matter of arriving at electoral understandings.

State Units should try and hold discussions with democratic opposition parties in their State and report on the progress made with the discussions. In this connection, talks with dissident groups of Congressmen are not ruled out.

Care should, however, be taken by State Units to ensure that no publicity is given to such talks and that they are held in the informal manner. In this connection, we recently received a letter from the Chairman of the Samyukta Socialist Party, suggesting a meeting between

leaders of different Parties on the Kutch issue. We have replied to the Chairman, giving the background and sending him a copy of the Resolution adopted by the National Executive on Indo-Pak Relations which explains our position and difficulties in the way of our associating /a move of the particular nature that the SSP desires. We mention this matter just so that in case any similar approach is made to you at the State level, you might be good enough to ask to be excused from participating in any such discussion and ask their National headquarters to deal with the Central Office of the Party direct.

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II National Executive

a. Panchayat elections

During the discussion on Party organisation at the National Executive, some members referred to the unfortunate fact that while publicly proclaiming their abstention from Gram Panchayat elections, other political parties in effect did participate in them, thus putting the Swatantra Party at a disadvantage. The National Executive therefore decided to give freedom to State Units to participate in Gram Panchayat elections also on the Party label, if they so desired.

This means that State Units, which were hitherto allowed freedom to participate only in elections to the Zilla Parishads etc. are now free, if they so desire, to put up candidates at the Gram Panchayat level.

b. Youth Wing.

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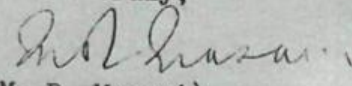
You will recall that /other things decided upon at the General Council meeting earlier this year was the decision to bring into being a Youth Wing.

The National Executive of the Party, which met in Madras on June 5, gave further thought to the matter during a discussion on Party organisation and the following principles in regard to the functioning of the Party's Youth Wing in various State were adopted:

- a) That State Executive Committees should supervise the functioning of Youth Wings in their State;
- b) That Youth Organisers should be appointed by the State Committees, and that for the present, there should be no elective Committees for the Youth Wings;
- c) That the age limit for membership of the Youth Wing be 25, and
- d) That even those who are not workers of the Party should be eligible to join the Youth Wing.

It is hoped that, in the light of this, State Executive Committees will consider seriously the possibility of organising Youth Wings in their respective States.

Yours truly,


(M. R. Masani)
General Secretary.