

April 10, 1964.

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My dear Rajaji,

Thank you for your letter of the 7th which has crossed my letters to you of the 6th and 8th in which I have confirmed that your talk to Rotary is on 16th June and the Central Organising Committee meetings in Bombay on 14th and 15th June.

I do not know why you allow the Andhra people to exploit you during the heat of May in this way. I am sorry you are being unnecessarily strained in this manner.

Thank you for drawing my attention to Spratt's article on Kashmir and Pakistan in 'Mysindia' of April 5.

When I wrote to you on the subject on the 6th suggesting that you should keep writing on the topic in Swarajya in order to educate members of our own Party, I did not know that within two or three days the confusion in the minds of some of our members would become public. The 'Patriot' of the 6th already has the headline "Swatantra Split On Kashmir" as a result of Piloo Mody's attempt to repudiate Gayatri Devi's fine statement on the subject in Bombay. I enclose herewith a clipping from yesterday's Indian Express carrying a letter from Mr. Pravinsinh Solanki and what is worse, a clipping from today's Times of India giving a summary of P. K. Deo's speech in the Lok Sabha which speak for themselves. The latter is confirmation of my constant fear of what would happen if P. K. Deo was the leading spokesman of the Party on External Affairs which we had agreed to do as part of the appeasement policy of Prof. Ranga.

Now that Abdulla has made his excellent statement and thrown the gauntlet, it will not be possible for any political party to keep out of this issue. The position today is that the Swatantra Party as a whole is not committed to any particular formula or solution of the Kashmir problem though it is true that the Parliamentary Group did approve of your line and mine a couple of weeks back. That of course has not stopped P. K. Deo and Pravinsinh Solanki from cocking the snook at the Party's decision.

It seems to me that we have two alternatives open to us and I would very much appreciate your thinking and guidance on this subject.

The first alternative is that we call a ^{early} meeting of the Parliamentary Board or, if considered necessary, of the Central Organising Committee where this matter can be thrashed out and a collective decision binding on the Party taken. The advantage of this course is that it would undoubtedly prevent the kind of speech that B. K. Deo made in Parliament. On the other hand, the policy adopted might be wishy-washy and not worthy of our pioneering efforts in this regard.

The second alternative is that you and I and those who agree with us, like Gayatri Devi, should speak out repeatedly, leaving the Deo's and the Solankis to do their bit and by utilising the same freedom for expression that we assert for ourselves in our Party's Statement of Policy. There can be no doubt that since ours is the correct position we can win out by the time the Central Organising Committee meets in the middle of June, but we shall have to endure the embarrassment of divergent voices blurring our message. If ~~this~~ ^{the} second line is to be followed, then I think I shall avail myself of the opportunity when I speak on the Finance Bill on 14th April to welcome Abdulla's "Statesmanlike" pronouncement and wish him well, while pointing out that fresh thinking in Delhi will be required to meet the challenge of events and that the present Prime Minister and leadership are not capable of providing it. (accompanying with)

I would very much appreciate your guidance on this issue. I realise you will be away from Madras till the 12th. May I request a quick line on the 13th to my Delhi address? Apart from your general guidance, I would also appreciate your advice whether I should touch on this matter when I speak in Parliament on the 14th, broadly demanding the removal of this Government both by reason of the Budget proposals and otherwise. On this latter point, a telegram would be helpful as I would require a day or two to gear myself for the reply.

Yours sincerely,

Encls**

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