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Rajkot Zilla Swatantra Party,
A-6, Modi Chambers,
Dharmendra Road,
Rajkot.

21 - 5 - 1968

Reference No. 890/1968

To,
Mr. H.M. Patel,
President,
Gujarat Swatantra Party,
Ahmedabad.

I was unable to be present in the unofficial meeting of the office bearers of the Gujarat Swatantra Party held at Vallabh Vidyanagar on 3-5-68, but I have received the minutes of the meeting.

From the minutes, I learnt that in the office bearers meeting the affairs concerning Mr. Bhawanjibhai Patel were discussed and it is noted down in the records, "A general opinion in the meeting was that no steps should be taken which would upset the Party Organisation or might create a split in the Party in Saurashtra. Many members were of the opinion that as far as possible a step should be taken to mollify Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel so that in future he may not indulge in anti-Party activities and every step should be taken so that there is unanimity in the Rajkot District Committee and its representatives on the State Parliamentary Board. It was further added that the President (H.M. Patel) said that the Committee appointed to investigate into the conduct of Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel was also of the same opinion".

It is not understood whether the office bearers went into the details of the report of the investigation committee. In fact, all the office bearers should have been supplied with a complete document of the report of the Committee. But unfortunately not a single copy of the report has been sent either to the office bearers or to the members of the Executive Committee. In the meeting of the Executive Committee held on 10-5-68 Mr. Pramod Kalyani had made such a demand and I had supported the demand that the report should be circulated to all the members for detailed study. You were in the Chair and you had promised that the copies would be sent to all

the members but inspite of that no copies have been sent out with the result that ~~and~~ by our letter dated 15-4-68 we have reiterated our demand for getting the copies of the report but in vain. On 27-5-68 the meeting of the Executive Committee will be held and one of the first items on the agenda is to discuss the report of the investigation Committee against the activities of Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel. Since the matter is on the agenda it was necessary that all the members of the Executive Committee should have received a copy of the report along with the notices of the meeting so that each member could study the case and can take part in the discussion during the forth coming meeting.

About a meeting of the office bearers held on 3-5-68 I have only quoted one extract from the minutes and I do not agree with the decision taken because I firmly believe that the real strenght of the Party is derived from honest and sincere workers. A bogey has been raised that if strong disciplinary action is taken then the Party might break, with the result that it will become very difficult for honest and dedicated workers of the Party to carry on their work.

During the last General Elections in Rajkot District, Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel had tried his level best to defeat Mr. M.R. Masani and some of the Assembly candidates from Dhoraji and Upleta. This fact has been proved by the report of the investigation committee. Because Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel was a member of the Parliamentary Board of Gujarat Swatantra Party the above attitude of his should ^{not} be at all tolerated. Bhagwanjibhai Patel went to the extent of creating such a situation that the elections of Junagadh district committees went before the court of law and resulted in creating a bad name for the Party.

At the time of the elections of the office bearers of the Rajkot District Committee, because ~~of~~ Bhagwanjibhai could not be elected as one of the office bearers, he had made accusations that this committee was a Masani Committee, etc., and he had made all these statements public through the press.

The Rajkot District Committee has time and again passed many resolutions demanding disciplinary action to be taken against Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel, and inspite of the report of the investigation committee no steps have been taken against him with the result that these actions of Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel have found an echo during the recently held Rajya Sabha elections when some of the members of our Party emulated the example of Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel. If immediate steps had been taken against Mr. Bhagwanjibhai Patel this situation would not have been created at the time of the Rajya Sabha elections and nobody would have dared to defy the Party's directive, and the Gujarat Swatantra Party would not have had to suffer what it has suffered. I am firmly of the opinion that even though Bhagwanjibhai Patel was a member of the State Parliamentary Board, at the time of the last general elections he worked against the Party's official candidate^s in Rajkot District and also created trouble at the time of the Party's organisational elections in Junagadh and Rajkot. If strong action is not taken against such hotheads, inspite of the request^{beg} to the Gujarat Swatantra Party Executive Committee then it would have all effect at the district levels especially in Saurashtra and also in Rajkot district. This will lead to serious consequences in the future. It is my duty as the General Secretary of the Rajkot District Swatantra Party Committee to draw your attention to this serious matter and I request you to circulate this letter to all members of the Executive Committee.

In view of the decision of the Gujarat Swatantra Party not to take any disciplinary action in its meeting^{held} on 3-5-68 I have come to the conclusion that no useful purpose will be served by my remaining present in the forth coming meeting of the State Executive to be ~~held~~^{held} on 27-5-68 and I have decided reluctantly to be absent from the meeting.

Sd/-..

cc: 1. Mr. M.R. Masani,
2. Mr. N. Dandekar.

Ratibhai Ukabhai Patel
General Secretary Rajkot Dist.
Swatantra Party.