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23/4/1968

*C. S. J. K.*

My dear Dandekar,

I enclose herewith for your information copies of the following letters:

1. Letter dated 8th September 67 addressed by Shri U.N. Mahida to me,
2. My reply dated 12th September 67 to Shri Mahida's above letter.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-..

(Bhailalbhai D. Patel)

Mr. N. Dandekar,  
Gen. Secy.  
Swatantra Party,  
BOMBAY/NEW DELHI

Copy was for information with English translation to Shri N.G. Ranga, New Delhi.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-..

(Bhailal Patel)

COPY

Translation of Shree Bhaikaka's letter dated 12th September  
1967 addressed to Shree U.N. Mahida  
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My dear aUdesinhji,

I have received your letter of the 5th. Your attitude seems to be like that impatient bridegroom in Gujarati proverb who marries the mother in law instead of the bride because the former came out first to greet him ! Even in 1966, you were trying hard to get a Congress ticket and your efforts were directed winning the sympathy of Morarji Desai. At that time, my simple advice to you was it would be in your interest to join the Swatantra Party.

Swatantra Party is likely to get two seats, and for these two seats, the Central Parliamentary Board has already taken its decision. We had hoped to get more seats and had we got more seats, my recommendation would have been that you should be given a chance. Even in regard to the two seats, I would try to help you, but it does not mean that I shall succeed. If you are lucky, I might succeed. I had asked you to meet H.H. Baria, Natwarsinh and Jhala, so that you might request them not to commit themselves to anyone else. But you write in such a way as if I had committed myself for you. This is not correct. It is ultimately for the Swatantra Party to decide whether it should elect you. If you try to cling round my neck like this, I am afraid you will lose my sympathy.

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-..

(Bhaikal Patel)



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CONFIDENTIAL

U.N. Mahida I.S.E. (Retd.)

"Arhan"  
Panch Sheel Society,  
Sardar Nagar,  
Bhavnagar-1.

5th September 1968

My dear Bhailalbhai,

I write to thank you for the prolonged and frank discussions you had with me on the 23rd August 1967 in your chamber at the Vidhan Sabha, regarding my candidature for one of the two Rajya Sabha seats likely to be secured by the Swatantra Paksh in April 1968.

To begin with, you explained to me that one seat was proposed to be allocated to Shri Babubhai Vaidya and another to Shri Suman Patel and that in view of these commitments I could be allotted a seat in 1970. I had heard about the assurance given to Shri Babubhai Vaidya probably because of the help rendered by the Independents in the 1966 election, but had no knowledge about the other reservation for Shri Suman Patel. You explained to me that his was even a more prior commitment, because of his very substantial financial help to the Party some five six year back.

While this was the present position of the party as clarified by you, in explaining my case I pointed out to you that at the time of 1966 Rajya Sabha election, when I had asked for that seat, you conveyed your inability to allot the vacancy to me, however anxious you were to send me to Rajya Sabha as a Swatantraite as the party badly in need of funds and Shri C.C. Desai was donating a sum of Rs. One lakh. As I would say nothing against such a proposal and thought the matter closed, you yourself particularly added in the same conversation that I should not consider the matter closed, as you were certain that the Swatantra Party would secure a much larger number in 1967 elections and would secure more than one Rajya Sabha seat in 1968 and that I would be allotted one seat in 1968.

I reminded you of this fact and pressed for my claim for the 1968 vacancy and requested you to find a solution particularly in view of my suitability, your earlier assurance for sending me to the Rajya Sabha and the subsequent efforts and sacrifices made by me. I specially urged that if you would earnestly strive to send me to Rajya Sabha, you would certainly succeed, by persuading Shri Suman Patel to step down in my favour, adding that as matters stand at present, this appeared to be the only course.

This possibility was discussed in detail and after prolonged considerations, you assured me of your whole hearted help in the matter of persuading Shri Suman Patel to step down in my favour and added that you will definitely do so by February 1968 when you would accompany me to meet Shri Suman Patel in Bombay and persuade him to agree to my candidature instead of his.

As you felt that on your insistence, Shri Suman Patel would step down, you advised me to let the matter stand as it is at present so far as my candidature is concerned, as an attempt at any reconsideration of the matter by the Party at present may involve complications. In the end you particularly advised me to keep H.E. Jaydeepsinhji, Shri Natwarsinhji and Shri Narendra-sinhji Jhala informed of this understanding, so that they may not make any new commitments with other aspirants. As the House was adjourning could not meet them all or talk to them in detail. I am therefore sending a copy of this letter to them.

Once again thanking you of your kind consideration and support.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sd/-.. (U.N. Mahida)