

5280

Fidelis Cottage,
Laitumkhrach,
Shillong, Assam,
14 Oct. '59.

Dear Mr. Masani,

Perhaps you have already heard from Mr. T.S. Krishnamoorthy, the organiser of the Swatantra Party, that he has gathered a small group of people here to form an ad hoc committee for Shillong. I happen to be the chairman of this committee, and the address given above is my private address. We have no official address yet, nor have we note-paper with printed letter-heads. In a short while we hope to have these.

My wife, who is also on the committee, belongs to the Khasi tribal community of these hills, but I come from Kerala. We are both Catholics. We have lived in different parts of India, and for 14 years we both taught in a college in Ceylon. Owing to my asthma I had to give up teaching, and then I took to writing. During the War I was editor at the Government Publicity office at Shillong for a while. I am now 61 and have been leading a very quiet life reading and writing a little, until Mr. Krishnamoorthy pulled me out of my retirement. I hope to give up my chairmanship when I have found another person to replace me.

But my wife and I are full of enthusiasm for the new Party, for we believe whole-heartedly in the principles for which the Party stands. You may be interested to hear that from 1947 I have quietly carried on my fight against Communism. In 1947 I wrote some letters to the leaders in India, ~~xxxxxxx~~ enclosing a letter of introduction about myself from the then Papal Internuncio at New Delhi and also one from the Bishop here. I was trying to warn the leaders of the dangers of Communism. Some Communists intercepted my letters and their papers, the PEOPLE'S AGE of Bombay, had an abusive article about me, wrongly quoting the letters of introduction I enclosed.

I have heard a good deal about you and read some of your writings. I am so pleased to have you as one of the great leaders of our new Party.

There is much spade-work to be done in Assam, for which we have no literature and no funds. We need plenty of literature in English itself to explain what the Party stands for. The 21 Principles are written in heavy English. Even these we need in quantities. Besides these, we need other literature in easier and simpler language for free distribution. We are trying to translate the 21 Principles into Khasi, the local tribal language. Later on, we shall translate into other languages of Assam.

I am sure you realise how important it is to win over the people of Assam, right on the border of Communist China. Fortunately, there are several factors in our Party's principles and aims that appeal to the ~~tribes~~ tribals here. For one thing, they are for retaining English as the official language of the Country. There are numerous other things that appeal to them. We have to do intense propaganda to let the people know everywhere what our Party stands for. We look to our leaders for guidance, encouragement, and plenty of literature.

Sincerely yours,

J. Stephen Narayan

(J.S.Narayan)