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9th July, 1968

My dear Dandekar,

General Elections in U.P.

I have received your letter No. SPG-UP1-318 of 30th June and have read with interest the material you have enclosed.

I think I should, at the outset, state clearly what I consider to be the amount of involvement on my part in the U.P. elections which would be feasible and appropriate in the present circumstances.

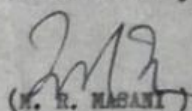
The offer to which you refer in the first line of your letter was, I recall, made at breakfast at a place when we were chatting about these matters soon after the National Executive had invited me to reconsider my resignation and even before I received your request in writing. I had at that time offered to help you and B.P. Singh in so far as the planning of the strategy of the campaign was concerned and also in the way of speaking for good candidates put up by the Party in the U.P. elections. You must appreciate, however, that there has been some change in the situation since the Madras meeting of the General Council. This arises from the out of hand rejection of Paikada's resolution. Perhaps you have not had the time to consider the implications of this rejection. May I suggest that you read the resolution again and give this matter some thought? To me the implications are that it would now not be appropriate for me to be associated in any form with the administration of our Party outside the Parliamentary Group. To otherwise would be for me to presume to interfere in a manner that obviously the majority of the National Executive and General Council do not desire. If they ~~did~~ they would not have turned down Paikada's resolution.

The conclusion to which I, therefore, come is that I should be informally at your disposal and B.P. Singh's for such advice as you may wish to have in regard to the planning and strategy of the campaign but that I cannot share in the responsibility for the decisions which must be entirely yours. Also, when the time comes, I should tour and campaign actively for such of the Party's candidates as I consider to be good men.

In one respect I have ~~do~~ beyond what you wanted me to do, without waiting for you to communicate with B. Singh. In response to B.P. Singh's invitation I visited Lucknow last Sunday, addressed a public meeting organised by the Party with Charan Singh in the Chair, had a meeting with active workers of the Party where we discussed the position of the Party in U.P., relations with B.K.D. and our election strategy and prospects. I also discussed with B.P. Singh personally your letter to me and the issues that arise. I also told him of the line on which I proposed to reply to your letter.

Mr. N. Dandekar, M.P.,  
General Secretary,  
Swatantra Party,  
Bombay.

Yours sincerely,

  
(M. R. MASANI)

c.c. Mr. B.P. Singh,  
U.P. Swatantra Party,  
Kaisarbagh,  
LUCKNOW.