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PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL:

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My dear Minoo:

I was very happy to read today about BKD-Swatantra talks on merger. Ofcourse, I would have been happier if I had heard about these talks through the Party grapevine instead of through the TIMES OF INDIA.

Any merger of non-communal and non-communist forces will take this country several decades ahead in its evolution towards a sound democratic system. The main hurdle as I see it, in any such move to merge, is likely to flounder on the semantics of the word 'socialism'.

The Swatantra Party, with a great deal of difficulty, has managed to correct to some extent, the prevalent confusion in the semantics of socialism, what time the other Parties have been dragging their feet in the matter, preferring to pander to what they unfortunately or unnecessarily consider to be a popular slogan, defining and redefining it to the point when it can mean all things unto all men.

It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that we clarify with other leaders the exact quality and content of the socialism that they profess. In my opinion, the BKD and even the PSP have been using socialism to mean social justice — the tragedy being that social justice is the developing concept of democratic evolution in its search for justice and fair play to the level of the community, based on individual worth and carrying individual rights and freedoms.

Whereas socialism has started at the other end of the spectrum, sweeping the individual on to the garbage heap, through revolution, and is now trying to creep back into the realm of humanity by a process of diluting and at times rationalising the very concepts on which it was originally justified.



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If this is true then our greatest difficulty will be to get the leaders of the BKD and the PSP to define their socialism in terms of the content and quality of its application, through examples applied to specific situations.

Having understood them it will then mean drafting a statement of principles and policies rectifying the semantic count. In this, of course, Rajaji will remain unexcelled.

If however, the BKD and the PSP boys are more sold on words rather than ideas, we may have to compromise our intelligence and accept their terminology, in which case extreme care and exhaustive explanations must be insisted upon by us.

Psychologically this would be the right moment for us to bring about this merger, and I was rather disappointed to read in your statement that may be this thing might come about in September or later. I might also add that some basic propaganda has to be carried out at the lower levels in both Parties, to build up enthusiasm and give the necessary momentum to such a happy union. You might keep this point in mind.

With kind regards,

Sincerely yours

Piloo Mody

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