

Swatantra Party

UTTAR PRADESH

Phone : 22578

Grams : SWATANTRA

Ref. No. _____



STATE OFFICE :
KAISER BAGH,
LUCKNOW.

Dated 8th June, 1968.

Respected Rajaji,

On my return from Madras, I stayed for a day at Delhi. There I met Ch. Charan Singh who had gone to Delhi to attend meeting of the National Executive of the Bhartiya Kranti Dal. I conveyed to him your high opinion about him and also the response of our party to his proposal for merger of the BKD, the Swatantra and the P.S.F. He took me to the meeting of the National Executive of the BKD, where I was asked to tell them about our reaction to the merger proposal. Messrs. Ajoy Mukerjee and Shushil Kumar Dharis leaders of the West Bengal BKD were also present, but I told them plainly that so long as the West Bengal unit of the BKD continued its association with the Communists, there could be no possibility of any alliance between the two parties let alone a merger. However in the same meeting when Ajoy Mukerjee and his lieutenant Shushil K. Dharis declined to break away from United Front of West Bengal, the State Executive of that State was dissolved by the National Executive of the party. Subsequently, Ajoy Mukerjee has resigned from the BKD.

In my presence in the BKD meeting, a report was given regarding their talks for merger with the P.S.F. Messrs. Nathpai, N.C. Gony were reported to be in favour of merger, while Mr. Prem Ghoshin was said to be opposed to it.

Later on, Sri Charan Singh told me on the phone that he has been authorised by the National Executive of the BKD. to meet you in Madras and certain other leaders in Bangalore and Hyderabad to

explore the possibility of merger between the different parties. Mr. Charan Singh ^{will} most probably reach Madras on June 15th. by flight No. IC-439 reaching there at 13.30 hours. He will write to you directly confirming the details of his arrival there.

I am sure, you realise that if democracy is to survive in this country, emergence of a strong broad based opposition party is absolutely necessary. We can not find a person better than Ch. Charan Singh to come to an understanding with. He is honest, dynamic, strongly nationalist and a good administrator. He is nearest to our way of thinking. With the exit of Ajoy Mukerjee and weakening of Mahamaya Babu due to defection of Raja Ramgarh along with his followers from the Behar HKD, Sri Charan Singh has emerged as ^{the} dominant leader of HKD. I think, now he is in a position to take the HKD. in the direction he wants to. He is trying hard to bring ^{from a strong opposition party} about the merger of ^{the} HKD, the Swatantra and the P.S.P., along with other non-marxist State parties, which may be in a position to take over from the Congress and be able to isolate the Communists. He regards the Jan Sangh as a communal organisation and the SSP. as a marxist party, and therefore has no use for them.

If such a merger could materialise, it would give a new hope to the people of this country. Therefore it is my earnest appeal to you to kindly grasp the hand of friendship which Ch. Charan Singh is going to extend to you.

Ch. Charan Singh is not happy with the name of his party but he is also not likely to accept the names of the Swatantra or the P.S.P. A new name will have to be found out for the new party. As regards policy and programme of the new party, Sri Charan Singh will be nearer to us than ^{the} P.S.P. With a little spirit of accommodation, agreement with Charan Singh on policy and programme will not be difficult.

With respectful regards.

Sincerely yours,

(Bhram Pratap Singh)