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swatantra party

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General Secretary's Letter No. 294

January 6, 1973

Dear Friend,

Rajaji is no more and yet he is very much alive in each one of us who carry on the fight for what he stood for and laboured. The Swatantra Party was the instrument he fashioned to resist dictatorship and the increasing inroads of the state into the private lives of our citizens. In the hour of our greatest loss it is necessary for us to rededicate ourselves to the ideals of Rajaji which are the ideals of Swatantra.

I was in Madras before Rajaji passed away. And I was in the funeral procession. I have never seen a more moving homage paid by the common folk than what I witnessed in the red eyes of lakhs of ordinary men and women in the streets of Madras on Tuesday, 26th December.

Madras was the place where he lived, worked and died. It was, what we might describe as his base of operations. Irrespective of whatever position he held in Delhi or Calcutta he always came back to Madras. Therefore some of us felt that it would be in the fitness of things if we were to honour his memory by holding the Sixth National Convention in Madras. The venue of the Convention will be called RAJAJINAGAR.

After discussing this with leading members of our Party in Madras as also with some of our national office bearers we came to the unanimous conclusion that the next National Convention scheduled for Bombay in February be now held in Madras in April. This therefore supercedes General Secretary's letter No. 293 of November 28, 1972. The venue of the next National Convention will be Madras. To give our Madras colleagues adequate time to put up a really good show befitting Rajaji's memory, the Convention will be held on Saturday and Sunday, April 14th and 15th. The following will be the programme :

Thursday,	April 12	..	National Executive
Friday,	April 13	..	General Council
Saturday & Sunday)	April 14 & 15	..	National Convention

We are informing you immediately so that those of you who had in response to our earlier circular planned your own movements may have enough time to revise them in the light of the revised dates.

While we shall of course be keeping you informed from time to time with the progress being made with the arrangements for the Convention, I would like to impress upon you the need to ensure maximum attendance from every part of India. It should be our endeavour to demonstrate not merely the fact that the Party is alive and kicking but that Rajaji's death while of course plunging us into sorrow has redoubled our determination to carry on his great work.

Kindly inform all primary and district units as also office bearers and members of various committees in your State of the revised programme.

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta
(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary