



swatantra party

national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

phone: 251424
grams: surajyam

5468

When replying, please quote our Ref. No.

November 16, 1970

General Secretary's Letter No. 248

Dear Friend:

From reports in the newspapers in the last few days, I am sure you will have come to the conclusion that the hope of a Grand Alliance has receded to such an extent that it is now extremely unlikely to materialise. It is ironical that the Congress(0), which had adopted a very fine Resolution at a meeting of its AICC on June 28, to which we, the Jan Sangh and the BKD had responded, find themselves unable to implement their own Resolution due to internal contradictions and cleavages within their ranks. At a meeting of the National Executive on November 8, the President reported in detail on the efforts he had made through correspondence and personal meetings with the leaders of the Congress(0), the BKD and the Jan Sangh. The attached Resolution was adopted unanimously.

2. You will have noticed from Press Reports that the Working Committee of the Congress(0) at its meeting in New Delhi on November 12 and 13 has practically scuttled the proposal not only for a bloc in Parliament but also for an electoral pact at the national level. In the light of these unfortunate developments, it would appear that, whether we like it or not, we may be driven to fighting the elections on our own. We shall, of course, keep the door open but we cannot dally any longer waiting for people who do not appear to be able to make up their minds.

3. Then again, there is the possibility of a dissolution of Parliament early in the New Year followed by General Elections to the Lok Sabha.

4. The need for us to go full steam ahead with our preparations, particularly with the choice of constituencies and candidates thus becomes urgent. The Central Parliamentary Board has nominated seven sitting MPs and one other candidate from Himachal Pradesh who lost narrowly in the last General Elections. The Central Parliamentary Board is likely to meet in Madras on December 19. It is necessary that, at that time, we nominate as many Parliamentary candidates as possible, particularly in respect of constituencies carried by us in 1967.

5. I am writing all this with a view to impress upon you the need for you to take this matter seriously and to let us have, on or before the 5th of December, the recommendations of your Parliamentary Board at least in respect of candidatures from constituencies carried by us in 1967.

6. Your Board should also consider other constituencies in which, though we did not win, our performance was creditable and let us have your recommendations in regard to such constituencies as well, giving us full details as to why your Board feels that we should contest that particular constituency, the background of the candidate and the steps taken to ascertain the candidate's acceptability to the constituency.

7. Looking forward to receiving your recommendations well in advance of the date set out above,

Yours truly,

R. C. Cooper
(R. C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl: *

Text of Resolutions Adopted by the National Executive at New Delhi
on 8th November, 1970

CONSOLIDATION OF NATIONALIST & DEMOCRATIC FORCES

Having received a report from the President of the Party on his discussions and correspondence with the Presidents of the Congress(O), Jan Sangh and B.K.D., the National Executive recorded its disappointment at the absence of any progress and the failure to bring into existence a bloc of nationalist and democratic parties and groups in Parliament in time for the session commencing on the 9th November, 1970.

While approving the initiative taken by the Party's President, the Executive felt that the ball was squarely in the court of the Congress(O) which, having adopted its AICC Resolution of June 28, was failing to cooperate in its implementation.

The Executive reiterated the Party's well-known opposition to the resort to heterogeneous, hotch-potch and opportunistic combinations and once again reaffirmed its willingness to cooperate with all those parties and groups which were prepared to go ahead on the basis of the AICC Resolution of June 28 as a provisional programme of agreed action.

The need for such coming together becomes all the more urgent in view of the possibility of an early dissolution of Parliament.
