

5715

4th April 1970

Urgent

My dear Rusi,

It seems that our efforts to keep the C.C. Desai issue apart from the broader issue of Gujarat politics is going to be thwarted by Baria's insistence on linking up the two separate issues. He has not written to me but he has written to Professor Ranga and spoken to Piloo Mody and Amin threatening to resign from the Party if C.C. is expelled. This may or may not be bluff. I am inclined to think it is because the losing of the possibility of the Chief Ministership will be the price involved and I do not see this happening. At the same time we have to be prepared for this and I for one am prepared to face it or give way to a new President who is prepared to run the Party on the C.C. Desai-Baria line.

Baria's attempt to link his case with C.C. shows that there is ^{may not be} really ~~so~~ much difference between them in regard to lining up with the Indira Gandhi group. Though this is logically so, I would not like to come to that conclusion and we should give Baria every chance to show whether or not this is the case.

Any postponement of the issue, as suggested, would mean that further mischief would be allowed to take place without the matter being brought into the open. It is time our Gujarat colleagues are given the option of staying with us or going along with C.C. Desai. If they are going to do so ultimately, it is better now rather than later after they form the government and turn their back on us.

I enclose a copy of a letter I have sent to Rajaji on the subject yesterday. Ranga has also written to him appealing him to restrain us and sending him a copy of Jaideepsinh's letter to him. It is now also for Rajaji to make up his mind. I for one have no worry because I am quite clear whether my duty lies for the country and for the Party. I hope you will be as clear about your earlier position that you would not remain as General Secretary on these terms.

Will you please tell Raju to prepare a chronological note on developments concerning Gujarat since the last meeting of the National Executive in Bombay as the file is in the office and I am unable to do it here. We shall need this at the time of the National Executive meeting.

Yours sincerely,

Dr. R. Cooper
General Secretary,
Swatantra Party,
M. B. C. Cooper
Bombay 1.

(M. R. WASANI)

cc Mr Rajaji
Mike