

Swamy file
with the D'Douglas

5791

November 16, 1991

Dear Soli,

On June 17, the Times of India reported a new provision of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Act, 1988 (Section 29A) making it mandatory for political parties to be registered. In a press note the Election Commission said that the application of parties for registration should contain a specific provision that they would bear true faith and allegiance to the Constitution of India and the principles of socialism, secularism and democracy etc.

Mr. Masani wanted me to check with you whether:

- 1) the section 29A was so added, and
- 2) how can the Election Commission insist on allegiance to the 'principles of socialism' if a party did not subscribe to the "principles of socialism" which would have been the case if the Swatantra Party had been in existence.

Minoo would appreciate your reply to these two issues. He feels that if the report is true, it is a pity no one challenged it in a Court of Law.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,



S.V. RAJU

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