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,29th January '65

My dear Rajaji,

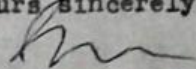
Further to my letter of yesterday's date ^{requesting} ~~xxxxxx~~ you to send us a message for the public meeting to be held in Bombay two days after Id, I have thought of a few points concerning our Party's attitude towards Muslims. I am listing these points below. May I request you to kindly go through them before you send the message?

- 1) The Swatantra Party is the only party which accepts that all citizens of India are equal irrespective of religion,
- 2) The basic tenet of the Swatantra Party is that a citizen's loyalty is presumed until proved otherwise,
- 3) The Swatantra Party has no desire whatsoever to utilise Muslims or any other religious minority to further its Party's ends. But it would like them to join the Swatantra movement as free, equal and honourable citizens of India because this is the only Party which genuinely accepts them as such,
- 4) The Swatantra Party is the only Party that has no desire to utilise, particularly Muslims, as show-pieces to establish its secularism because the Swatantra Party believes that a man's religion, his language, his province are matters that arise out of birth and cannot therefore be either achievements or a discredit to the individual.

I hope, Sir, you are in the best of health. We are now eagerly looking forward to having you amongst our midst when you will be visiting Bombay to attend the General Council meeting.

With pranams,

Yours sincerely,



(Madhu N. Mehta)
General Secretary

Shri C. R. Jagopalachari,
MADRAS-17.

Mnm:Rvr.