

, 19th December '61

My dear Rajaji,

You will recall my last two letters regarding Goa and the points made by me about the Swatantra Party publicly declaring itself in favour of a separate statehood for Goa. From your reply I felt that you were sympathetic towards that idea. So, with your blessings and Mrs. Minoo Masani's advice we have sent a few workers of the Party to help the United Goans during the elections. Mr. Madhu Mehta was also there for a week and a considerable amount of spade-work had been done and good ground created amongst the United Goans for the Swatantra Party. They were made to feel that they were part of the Swatantra Party and our workers were made to feel by them that they were with us. Upto a couple of days before your statement Madhu and I have had long discussions with Dr. Jack Siqueira, the President of the United Goans trying to work out a modus operandi for a merger.

The main obsession to the United Goans and for that matter with half of the Goan population is that Goa should be a separate state. Towards that end, they will stop at nothing. This puts the United Goans in a very vulnerable position. They can be bargained with by Delhi or made to hang around indefinitely. Had they won a clear majority in Goa, I for one have no doubt that they would have merged with us because they would have vindicated their stand on statehood and would have been felt free to make their ideological home with us. Unfortunately for us the result of the election has introduced a very ugly factor into the situation where on the one hand there is no clear verdict in favour of merger and on the other hand the aspirants of statehood have been left at the mercy of the Central Government.

Even a clear-cut election verdict in favour of merger with Maharashtra would have helped us because it would have subdued the aspiration of statehood and could have opened the avenues for an ideological merger with us.

Within the framework of various tensions described above your statement in 'Swarajya' which has been quoted by the 'Hindustan Times' has put us out on a limb. Apart from embarrassing us it has made the United Goans feel that we have stabbed them in the back. Having helped them during the election they feel that the Swatantra Party has reneged in their understanding. I met Dr. Siqueira briefly on his return from Delhi. He is an extremely well-balanced and thorough gentleman who has understood your statement in its correct light and perspective but was constrained to remark that every Goan he had met had expressed surprise, disappointment and anger in varying degrees.