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Bombay Region

5086

,24th October '63

My dear Rajaji,

I thank you for your letter of 21st September 1963 which I have not replied earlier as I was out of town. It was also necessary to place your letter before the Bombay Committee and record their reactions. At a meeting of the Committee held on October 16, 1963, it was decided to ask for permission of the Central Party to agree to allow Bombay to take on the job of helping to establish a Swatantra Party Unit in Goa.

On the question of Statehood, knowing the opinion of the Party on such matters, it was suggested that perhaps we should leave the problem open by saying "that on this issue the Goans should decide for themselves."

Allow me to express my own opinion: I feel that the question of Goan Statehood is somewhat more important than the linguistic squabbles arising out of the reorganisation of States. The Goans had been under foreign domination different from British domination of India for about 450 years and their assimilation into India - not to speak of a particular state in India, cannot be effected in a short period of time. It may take decades to bring about an integration and make the Goans to accept our "Socialistic Pattern of Society" with its taxes, permits and licences. The least we can do is to allow them a cultural pattern different from that of British India and I think that this is consistent with the assurance given to the Goans. If what I say is true, I feel that to give the Goans an assurance at this juncture would be most appropriate even at the risk of offending parochial sentiments in Maharashtra and Mysore. Politically speaking, our units in Maharashtra and Mysore are of negligible strength, the States having been dominated by the Congress for several generations, whereas in Goa where the people have not been indoctrinated through Congress propaganda our chances of success seem brighter.

I hope the above provokes you sufficiently to give us a lead in the matter.

With warm regards,

Sincerely Yours,

Sd/-

PILOO MODY
EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN

Shri C. Rajagopalachari,
MADRAS-17.

Copy to: Central Office