

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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When replying, please quote our Reference No.

My dear Minoo,

I wanted to speak to you earlier but was informed that your plane was arriving late and that you would not be coming to the office but go straight to Bombay House.

This concerns Mr. Palkhiwala, the Kerala Land Reforms Act and the Kerala Unit of our Party.

Putting it very briefly :

1. At Madras, on December 28, when our Kerala boys talked to Dr. Cooper to use his good offices to secure the professional services of Mr. Palkhiwala to appear on behalf of the Land Owners' Association, (which is inspired by the Swatantra Party) he had agreed to do so provided they came with the facts of the case.
2. In February, when we had the meeting of the National Executive, they did come with the facts of the case and Dr. Cooper agreed to speak to Mr. Palkhiwala.
3. Dr. Anthony, Vice-President of our Kerala Unit and Secretary of the Kerala Land Owners' Association, has been in Bombay since the 27th of last month. Dr. Cooper arranged for them to meet Mr. Palkhiwala on Saturday, the 28th. Dr. Anthony, along with an Advocate from Kerala met Mr. Palkhiwala and the latter declined to visit Kerala due to lack of time.
4. Dr. Anthony explained to me the following reasons why it is important for us to ensure Mr. Palkhiwala's presence even for a day in Kerala and appear before the Kerala High Court :
 - (a) As many as 24 Writ Petitions have been filed.
 - (b) There is only one point on which they wish Mr. Palkhiwala to argue viz., in regard to Article 31(a) dealing with Fundamental Rights.
 - (c) A large amount of money has already been collected to meet the legal expenses.
 - (d) We are the only Party opposed to this Act. All other Parties including the Jan Sangh are going along with the Reforms Act. The result has been that the Party has suddenly attracted the attention of large numbers of big and small land owners.
 - (e) The Bank Nationalisation Act has produced a halo around Mr. Palkhiwala and the Land Owners' think that they can be saved only by the legal acumen of Mr. Palkhiwala.

- (f) Rightly or wrongly, Mr. Palkhiwala has been identified with the Swatantra Party and they feel that if he appears, the Swatantra Party would be thanked. Even one appearance of Mr. Palkhiwala would be enough to justify their faith in the Party and enable us to secure not only their support by way of enrolling into the Party but also financial assistance on a scale that would make the Kerala Unit self-sufficient to run its own office and activities.
- (g) The Kerala Land Owners are willing to pay whatever fees Mr. Palkhiwala demands.
5. If so much can be achieved by Mr. Palkhiwala's merely arguing a point of law just for a day, surely it would be worthwhile for him to take the morning flight and return the same evening.
6. The latest is that Dr. Anthony and Mr. Joseph Jacob, another Advocate from Calicut, met Dr. Cooper. Dr. Cooper put them in touch with Gagrut & Co.; Gagrut & Co., are meeting them this afternoon and putting up a Note to Mr. Palkhiwala for his opinion. But the point is : what they want is not Mr. Palkhiwala's opinion from Bombay but his physical presence in Court, any time between now and the 16/17th of this month.
7. It appears that word has gone around in Kerala that Mr. Palkhiwala is expected to appear, so much so that the Chief Justice of the Kerala High Court, Justice Raman Nair, is reported to have asked : "when is Mr. Palkhiwala coming? "
8. If we take up cudgels in the Kerala High Court, our Party Units in such urban centres might also benefit not to mention large number of middle-class South Indians in Bombay.

I believe Mr. Palkhiwala will be with you this afternoon. If, after reading this, you feel there is some substance in it, please try and persuade him.

We shall meet this evening at five as scheduled.

Yours sincerely,

R. D. Irani

(S. V. Raju)

As dictated by him and
signed for him.

Mr. M. R. Masani, MP,
Bombay.
