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MEM

January 18, 1970

Mr. Masani/Dr. Cooper

Sub : The Attached Letter from the Scheduled Castes
Uplift Union, (Bombay Branch) Bombay.

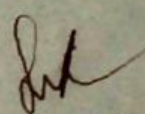
My inquiries regarding Dr. V. Y. Kolbekar, the President of the Bombay Branch of the above organisation, indicates that Mr. Kolbekar, age 52, Chamar by caste, has been associated with this organisation for a number of years. He was a Clerk in the Railways in 1944 and at that time, he formed the Scheduled Castes Uplift Union which was recognised by the Railways in 1959 for purposes of negotiations, regarding recruitment, formation and service conditions of Scheduled Castes in the Railways. They have their Head Office in Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

He was later promoted as vigilance inspector and subsequently left the railways.

Mr. Kolbekar does have some kind of influence among the Scheduled Castes but basically his interest is to gain recognition for himself and is reputed to be a climber.

His suggestion for the formation of Swatantra Harijan-Girijan-Backward Classes Welfare Party affiliated to the Swatantra Party need not be taken seriously. In fact, he gives the game away when he says that since the Swatantra Party is organized by leading industrialists and businessmen, it will help the Harijans and Backward Classes.

At the same time, we should not turn down his hand of friendship and have therefore drafted a polite reply asking him to get in touch with the General Secretary of the Bombay Branch and discuss how best we could cooperate with him.


(S. V. Raju)

Draft

January 20, 1970

Dear Dr. Kolbekar,

Thank you for your letter of 1st January which I was happy to receive. While we do not have a system of affiliating other Parties or Groups, we have recently amended our Party's Constitution reducing membership fees for Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes. We would of course be very happy to have you and members of your Union in our Party as full members and for this purpose, I would be grateful if you will kindly contact Mr. P. S. Koppikkar, General Secretary, Swatantra Party, Bombay Branch, to whom I am forwarding your letter. I suggest that both of you should meet some time and discuss various means of cooperation.

This also answers copy of a similar letter that you sent to Dr. Cooper, who is presently on a visit abroad.

Yours sincerely,

(M. H. Masani)
President