

SUMATILAL P. SHAH

423, Budhwar Peth,
POONA. 2.

10th July 1974

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Respected Leader Shri M.R. Masani,

I received a copy of your letter dated 1st July, addressed to Shri Pileo Mody, the President of the Swatantra Party. On reading it, I was very much impressed by what you have written to him in clear terms. After reading Shri Mody's two letters — one addressed to you and another addressed to the members of the General Council, — I felt unhappy and consequently I wrote a letter to him on 1st July. I hope you have read the copy of this letter of mine, which I had sent to you on 2nd July.

The National Headquarters of the Party have now issued a circular stating that a National Convention of the Party will be held on 4th and 5th August for considering the proposal of dissolving our Party for new party. This is being done on the basis of the General Council resolution. I am afraid that holding such a National Convention and discussing in it the pros and cons of the proposal of dissolving our Party will do much harm to the future of our Party. Clear, strong and widespread opposition to the proposal of dissolution has already been voiced and several State Units have proposed to carry on as Swatantra Party. Many members in the National Executive are also against the proposal. Hence the question of deciding on dissolution is not there now.

I, therefore, sincerely feel that it will be good if this National Convention is cancelled altogether. The resolution for holding a National

Convention was passed by the General Council when many things were not clear. But now the situation is clear, and it is obvious that the Party cannot be dissolved. The only possibility is that some leaders and members of our Party may leave the Party to join the proposed new party. If efforts are made for securing a consensus by converting our Party into a non-party organisation, such efforts are not likely to impress those who are set on joining the proposed new party with a hope of winning elections. After their exit from our Party, we can decide on laying more emphasis on educating the people and giving less importance to contesting elections. But it will not be useful for our Party to change its very nature for the sake of those people who are set on joining other party.

In such a situation, if you advise the members of the General Council, most of them will convey to the National Headquarters that there is no need for holding the National Convention on 4th and 5th August.

It will be actually very much useful to hold a National Convention some time in future. This can be done after the exit of those who are set on joining other party. After their exit, our Party can decide on the future course of action.

Kindly consider these things, and advise the members of the General Council of the Party.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sumatilal P. Shah
[SUMATILAL P. SHAH]

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