

SWATANTRA PARTY
DELHI

16, BARAKHAMBA ROAD,
NEW DELHI-1.

Ref. No. DPO/23/ 2944



(Personal)
dated 19th June 196 3.

My dear *Hasani*,

Ambedkar
(988)

Yours of 15th June must have been written before mine in reply to yours of 11th June reached you. In case, that is lost, I shall repeat what I said in it, as well as supply some more details.

The conjoint letter was written on the insistence of P.S.P. and Jana Sangh representatives. P.S.P. man was keen because he wanted this matter of joint front raised at his Bhopal conference. This appeal was to supply him a handle. I do not think he succeeded overmuch at Bhopal. Jana Sangh had his own reasons which he did not disclose. I believe he was smarting under the defeat of his General Secretary at Jaunpur and saw the necessity of building a joint front.

In drafting, I saw to it that nothing repugnant to our ideas was introduced ^{to} in it. The matter of 'Resolute Defence' was suggested because no party could object to it. It could serve as a basis ^{for} discussion, without restricting your freedom to evolve other arrangements. I explained that to the Press people here. In the letter this was not brought out because we did not want the appeal to be rejected out of hand like Acharya Kripalani's initiative had been. Also, it was felt that once the parties agreed to adopt defence as an issue of united front the area of agreement would slowly widen as sharp corners of the different groups were rubbed off. In other words the insistence was on coming together and not on any one

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particular issue. In fact, joint action on common issues as they arise would also serve the purpose since it would involve the coming together of and joint discussion between the various opposition groups.

Taking a broad view, the prime necessity is an understanding among the opposition to avoid mutual conflict and splitting of votes during elections. The next and much harder step would be to evolve an understanding that on certain issues the opposition would ~~be in~~ speak with one voice in the Parliament, e.g. Defence, good government, taxation inflation etc.

It would be clear from what I have said that there is no occasion for you to think that you are pouring cold water on my idea. Also, please assure Rajaji that I am not trying to ~~plough~~ ^{plough} a lonely furrow. I am too disciplined to do anything foolish like that.

What I do as part of the joint opposition group, of necessity, does not represent my views entirely. What comes out there is a compromise between the different view-points of the parties participating. It is my effort to see that nothing repugnant to our principles gets through there, while at the sametime clash of views does not destroy the joint front.

Mr. M.R. Masani,
General Secretary,
Swatantra Party Central Office,
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay-1.

Yours sincerely,
H.R. Pasricha
(H.R. Pasricha)