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ALL INDIA SWATANTRA PARTY-NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS
10-A, Flowers Road, Madras.84.

28th April 1977.

Minutes of the meeting of the National Executive committee of the
Swatantra party held on April 17, 1977 at Woodlands Hotel,
Mylapore, Madras- 4.

A meeting of the National Executive committee of the Swatantra party was held at Woodlands Hotel, Mylapore, Madras.4 at 10 a.m. on Sunday the 17th instant. Mr.G.K. Sundaram presided. The following members of the committee and special invitees were present:--

Members.

1. Sri G.K.Sundaram.
2. " Harihar Patel.
3. " V.S.Srikumar.
4. " S.V.Raju.
5. " A.S.Nagabhushana Rao.
6. " V.Devanathan.
7. " H.Ajmal Khan.

Special invitees.

1. Sri B.Venkataswami.
2. " K.H.Subramaniam.
3. " Sumatilal P.Shah.
4. " T.S.Govindaraju.
5. " S.Narayanawamy.
6. " C.R.Narasimhan.
7. " Saw.Ganesan.

The President spoke a few words on the present political situation and sought the views of the members and special invitees present on the party's participation in the last general elections and their views on the future of the party.

The experience appeared to be uniform insofar as the party's members were concerned in various parts of the country. Essentially it was a story of unstinted cooperation unilaterally offered to candidates of the Janata party on the one hand and the cool response from the leadership of the Janata party.

The National Executive recorded its appreciation of the part played by our members in this connection.

The Executive then took up for consideration the question of joining forces with the Janata party. In this connection it was pointed out by members who participated in the discussion that the party had at the Convention held in August 1974 declined to dissolve the party on the ground that the BLD formed as a result would not be a national alternative as the Congress(0) and the Jan Sangh had kept out. This was no longer so with the Janata party comprising the major democratic opposition parties in the country.

In the discussion that followed it was stressed that reality has always to be taken into consideration and the reality is that Janata party has ultimately emerged as an alternative and requires to be stabilised now. In this context two suggestions were made:

One was in favour of an outright merger with the Janata party and the other to convert the party into the Rajaji Trust in terms of clause 12 (d) (i) of the Party's Constitution to carry on the task of political education-- the real task. This would not require a Convention or a meeting of the General Council since in the view of the Executive the Rajaji Trust would promote the objectives of the Swatantra party as outlined in clause 2 of the Constitution. There was unanimity in regard to the formation of the Rajaji Trust, which would carry on on an ideological plane the views of the Swatantra party and Rajaji's political philosophy.

But Sri Sumatilal P.Shah of Pune was against the proposal to merge the party with Janata party since according to him there were certain vital differences between the Swatantra ideology and that of the Janata party. In this connection he pointed out some speeches and remarks made by some Janata leaders. He said that some of the Janata leaders were more socialistic than Congress leaders: and was of the view that Janata will be dominated by Jan Sangh and ultimately they will enforce their policies on the nation. Mr.K.H.Subramaniam of Bombay endorsed certain ~~of~~ points though he expressed his desire to go with the general opinion in favour of merger.

Taking into consideration the special circumstances of the party in various States, the National Executive adopted the following resolutions unanimously:--

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Resolution No.1: The National Executive committee of the Swatantra party deeply mourns the sudden passing away of Sri Fakruddin Ali Ahmed, the former President of India at a critical juncture in the history of this country. The meeting offers its heart-felt condolences to Begum Habida Ahmed and other members of the family.

(The meeting offered two minutes' silent prayers for the peace of the departed soul of the former President, after adopting the above resolution which was moved from the Chair).

Resolution No. 2: The National Executive committee is of the opinion that the birth centenary of the elder Statesman, Revered Rajaji, which falls in December 1978 has to be celebrated in a fitting manner. This committee requests the people of this country for whose welfare he laboured ceaselessly for nearly 70 years to constitute influential committees at all levels for celebrating the birth centenary on a wide scale to highlight the moral, spiritual and political values practised by him throughout his eventful career. The committee also appeals the Govt. of India to initiate the necessary measures for celebrating the forth-coming birth centenary.

Resolution No.3: The National Executive committee of the Swatantra party resolves in accordance with clause 12(d) (i) of the Party's Constitution to form a Trust named "Rajaji Trust" with the assets of the Swatantra party for the propagation of Rajaji's ideology and appoints a committee consisting of the following members with powers to coopt and prepare the Trust Deed and frame rules:-

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| 1. Mr.G.K.Sundaram. | 6. Mr.Harihar Patel. |
| 2. Mr.C.R.Narasimhan. | 7. Mr.V.Devanathan. |
| 3. Mr.Saw.Ganesan. | 8. Mr.V.S.Srikumar (Convenor). |
| 4. Mr.A.S.Nagabhashana Rao. | 9. Mr. H.Ajmal Khan. |
| 5. Mr.Paramanand Kejriwal. | |

Resolution No.4.

The National Executive committee of the Swatantra party resolves to merge with the Janata party immediately along with the constituent parties of the Janata party.

Resolution No.5:

The National Executive of the Swatantra party congratulates the people of India for having defeated the Congress Party in the Parliamentary elections held recently. Since June 1975 the Congress government had ruled in a dictatorial and authoritarian way. Thousands of people were arrested without any reason, fundamental rights of the people were suspended, freedom of the Press was denied and brutal atrocities were committed. The people have rejected this dictatorial government and have thus shown their love of freedom and individual liberty. The Swatantra party offers its highest respects to Sri Jayaprakash Narain, whose leadership was in the fore-front of this struggle against dictatorship. The restoration of the freedom is the most welcome result of these elections. The Swatantra party prays for the success of the government headed by Sri Morarji Desai.

The meeting also approved the minutes of the last meeting.

V S Srikumar
(V.S.Srikumar)

Joint Secretary.

All India Swatantra party-National Headquarters.

10-A, Flowers Road, Madras.84.

25-4-1977.

Circular.

I am writing the following few lines to share my thoughts with you.

I hope and believe that most of the workers of the Swatantra party who wish to be active in politics would join the Janata party as per the resolution of the National Executive committee adopted at Madras on the 17th April 1977. Some of our friends may quit politics altogether and devote themselves to the propagation^{tion} of the ideals set before the nation by Rajaji either by their all out support to the Rajaji Trust or by forming study circles or forums to propagate Rajaji's views and also help from outside their erst-while colleagues of the Swatantra party who may be in the Janata party to put forth Rajaji's pragmatic views on various problems to the Janata party leaders.

In my humble opinion it will be necessary for those who want to be active in politics through the Janata to join the Janata party in large ~~numbers~~ groups so that they may make their presence felt. The constitution of the Janata party will become official only from 1-5-77 and the application form may become available with the present Congress(0) organisation perhaps on the 1st May 1977.

Hence I would request our friends who wish to be active in politics to secure the necessary forms from the district offices of the Congress(0), which will become Janata office after 1st May 1977, enrol as many members as possible and hand them over to one of the top leaders of the Janata party at any function in case some publicity is desired. Otherwise the application forms may be sent to the prescribed authorities keeping a complete list of the members enrolled by you for our use.

In case you do not agree with the suggestions mentioned above you may simply file this letter.

V.S. Srikumar
Jt. Secretary.



Sri M.R. Masani

148 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay. 23.

