

SWATANTRA PARTY- NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS.

10-A, Flowers Road,
Madras-84,
11-2-1976.

CIRCULAR TO PARTY WORKERS.

~~PERSONAL & CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~(Private Circulation)~~

Dear colleague,

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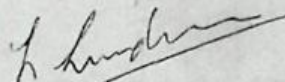
I deem it imperative to share my thoughts on the present political situation with you and also offer some suggestions for the smooth and trouble-free functioning of our party units and workers.

As you know, our Revered Rajaji wanted the Swatantra Party to function as a cent per cent democratic party wedded to constitutional methods, which in his considered opinion included peaceful, absolutely non-violent demonstrations also. As long as he was alive he was always discouraging people from taking to violent agitations or the creation of situation which will lead to violence. The Swatantra party has been carrying on its activities all these years as a party wedded to constitutional methods and except in cases like scrapping of prohibition in Tamilnad when the party had to stage peaceful demonstrations opposite Government offices and when some of our colleagues courted imprisonment there was no occasion for any disobedience of lawful orders of the authorities.

The dissolution of the Tamilnad Legislative Assembly six weeks ahead of its normal life and the imposition of President's rule has created quite a new situation in Tamilnad. Even holding of public meetings which was formerly allowed by the DMK Ministry has been banned. Hence practically apart from enrolment of workers and group discussions and committee meetings inside house or offices no other political activity is possible in Tamilnad just now. Hence I would suggest that you may concentrate on contacting persons individually or small groups of three and four and try to propagate our principles and enrol new members. I would advise you to scrupulously avoid breaking any prohibitory orders or any other lawful restrictions imposed by the authorities.

You may be anxious to know what some of the leaders think about the recent developments. As a party strongly believing in the democratic methods and justice and fair-play we are unable to stomach any of the things that have happened in our country. We are unhappy as the large section of our countrymen are, that the people who are accusing others of not observing the rules of the game are solely responsible for breaking the rules of the game. They are now having a field day and as all the propaganda media are under their disposal the one-sided version is being dinned into the ears of 70% of the illiterate population of our country. There is no means open to tell the other side of the version. But we should not lose heart and we have to firmly believe that sooner or later the public opinion by which I mean the opinion of the educated and intelligentsia will assert itself with the result that there will be widespread discussion about the burning problems before the country and that a consensus may be arrived at an early date. We have to wait patiently and carry on propagation of our principles and project facts as we understand them. As far as Tamilnad is concerned the enclosed statement to the Press on the Tamilnad developments will throw sufficient light on the thinking of the party leadership on the subject.

If you need any clarification on any other political matters you may write to the National Headquarters at your convenience.



(G.K. Sundaram)
President, All India Swatantra
Party.

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10-A, Flowers Road,
M a d r a s - 84
11th February 1976.

PRESS STATEMENT.

The Swatantra Party from its inception has been insisting that a clean, honest, democratic and efficient government is the pre-requisite for the progress of our nation and more so under parliamentary system of government. It had offered to provide such a government in its election manifesto during the last three general elections. It has also been demanding consistently stamping out corruption in the administration in general and high places in particular and supported the general demand voiced by thinking section of the people for institution of a high-power commission to investigate corruption charges levelled against various ^{ministries} ~~ministries~~ and ministers all over India irrespective of any party affiliation. In this context the Swatantra party welcomes whole-heartedly the action of the Government of India, though belated, in setting up a high-power one-man commission to investigate the charges made against certain ministers of the erst-while D.M.K. Ministry. The party is of the view that the setting up of the commission is at least five years too late. The reason for the delay is well known to all informed citizens ^{and hence ~~it is~~ ~~they~~ ~~are~~ not mentioning ^{ed} ~~them~~ here.} If the Ruling Congress Party's sudden fervour to fight corruption and restore people's confidence in the political system is to be taken seriously by all thinking people, it is imperative that the Government of India should appoint similar high-power commissions to enquire thoroughly into the allegations of corruption made against several former ministers and ministries as well as against ~~ministers~~ still in office. The party ardently hopes that the Government of India will act without losing further time and appoint high-power commissions in all cases where charges have been made by responsible public men, Press and legislators.

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