

MINUTES.

A combined meeting of the National Executive and the National General Council of the Swatantra party was held on Saturday the 29th November 1975 at LIA Buildings, Mount Road, Madras-2. Mr. G.K. Sundaram was in the chair.

The following members were present:--

National Executive.

1. Sri G.K. Sundaram.
2. " Girish Munshi.
3. " A.S. Nagabhashana Rao.
4. " Harihar Patel.
5. " V.S. Srikumar.
6. " V. Devanathan.
7. " N.A. Parasuraman.
8. " Babu Joseph.

Special invitees.

21. Sri K.V. Ramamurthy.
22. " G. Ramadas Bharati.
23. " J. Ramabhadran.
24. " T. Ramanujam.
25. " T. Aravamudhan.
26. " K.V. Krishnan.
27. " K. Fugal.
28. " R. Rajagopalan.
29. " R. Veluswamy.
30. " N. Krishnaswamy.
31. " S. Chellappan.
32. " A. Seshadri.
33. " S. Ramaswami.
34. " M. Pooosalingam.
35. " R. Chakravarthy.
36. " G. Minuswamy.
37. " D.S.A. Sivaprakasam, M.L.A.

National General Council.

9. " C.R. Narasimhan.
10. " Sumatilal P. Shah.
11. " S. Narayanaswamy, M.L.C.
12. " T.S. Santhanam.
13. " M.S. Hamza.
14. " B. Venkataswami, M.L.A.
15. " P. Ramachandran.
16. " Jacob Cherian.
17. " C.N. Sudhan.
18. " V. Visvanathan.
19. " H. Narayana Rao.
20. " A. Doraiswamy Nadar.

Leave of absence was granted to the following members:--

1. Sri S.V. Raju.
2. Miss Kusum Joshi
3. Sri Ajmal Khan
4. Sri M.K. Nanja Gowder
5. Sri V. Padmanabhan.

Mr. G.K. Sundaram in his opening speech reviewed briefly the events that happened after the last meeting and informed the members that instead of having separate meetings of the National Executive and the National General Council it would be better to have a combined meeting of both the bodies and this was unanimously agreed to.

Mr. Girish Munshi, the General Secretary, speaking next narrated the legal battle that he and his lawyer friends were waging in defence of civil liberties and Mr. Masani's writ petition against the Central censorship and his success as well as other petitions pending in Bombay High Court. Mr. Munshi thought that wherever the situation warranted similar writ petitions may be filed in other states also.

Mr. Harihar Patel described the political situation in Orissa and gave the welcome news that some of the erst-while Swatantra MLAs who have joined the BLD are now anxious to come back, that the situation is now opportune in Orissa for Swatantra Party to spread out and that it would be worthwhile making a tour of the interior districts to reorganise the party. He also informed that the Swatantra party workers are very much worried about the party's symbol STAR.

Mr. Nagabhashana Rao summed up the situation in Karnataka.

Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah spoke about the position in Maharashtra.

Mr. V. Devanathan spoke about the extension of the life of the Tamilnad Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Babu Joseph gave a gloomy picture of Kerala politics and was of the opinion that opposition to Indira Congress would be futile in Kerala and that it would be better to join them and advocate our point of view from inside and

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The meeting adjourned for lunch at 1.30 p.m. and reassembled at 3.30 p.m. to consider the draft resolutions.

The following resolutions were unanimously adopted:--

1. The meeting deeply mourns the passing away of Sri K.Kamaraj Nadar on the 2nd October 1975 and places on record its appreciation of the services the great leader rendered to the country in general and Tamilnad in particular. Tamilnad has lost one of its great sons and a self-less patriot with an uncommon measure of common sense. The meeting conveys to the people of Tamilnad, to the Organisation Congress and to the members of the family of Sri Kamaraj its sincere and heart-felt condolences.

(The meeting observed silence for two minutes).
2. The National Executive and the National General Council of the Swatantra party are deeply disturbed at the arrest and detention of thousands of political workers and leaders belonging to the democratic opposition parties. The declaration of Internal Emergency and the subsequent amendments to the Constitution have only resulted in the concentration of unlimited powers in the hands of the Central government. Subsequent developments do not justify continuance of Emergency and hence the meeting urges upon the Government of India to lift the emergency and to release all the political detainees to facilitate normal working of democracy.
3. Having considered the highly unsatisfactory political situation in the country this body resolves to extend its cooperation to the formation of a Janatha Front of all democratic opposition parties at the National and State levels with common programmes and common symbols.
4. This meeting is of the opinion that there is absolutely no reason to extend the life of the Lok Sabha under the pretext of Emergency and demands that elections at the State and Central levels should be held as per schedule.
5. This meeting is distressed to know about the setback in the health of Sri. Jayaprakash Narain and prays to God for his speedy recovery.
6. This meeting congratulates the Janatha Front in Gujarat for the spectacular victory they have achieved in the recent civic elections in their State. The President is authorised to communicate the same to Sri Babu Bhai Patel.
7. This meeting views with grave concern the agreement entered into between the Indian Educational Board with its Russian counterpart to publish textbooks for Indian children in collaboration with Russian authors. The meeting apprehends that these text books will be used for political indoctrination of the tender minds.

Announcement: The meeting decides to celebrate the Birth Centenary of Rajaji in a fitting manner in 1978.

8. The ruling congress party in pursuit of its ideological predilections has pursued all these years a policy of controls, licensing and fiscal policies which resulted in drying up of savings, investments and under-utilisation of installed capacity, ever growing unemployment, and scarcity of several essential articles. The hard economic realities opened the eyes of the government to the havoc caused to the economy by the price spiral and forced the government to resort to panicky fiscal and monetary measures without considering the likely consequences of such measures. The remedies introduced by the government to the inflationary situation have caused unexpected and undue depression in demand even for articles of necessity, apart from durable consumer goods and machines and thus forcing industries to cut down production. Hence the meeting demands well thought out measures to create demand for industrial goods by reducing the heavy excise duties and the stringent controls on Bank credits, reduction of the level of income-tax on both personal and corporate incomes. The meeting further demands adoption of a pragmatic economic policy and stable fiscal measures which would be in force at least for a period of five years.

Countersigned.

Joint Secretary.

G. K. Sundaram
PRESIDENT.