

Resolution on strengthening the Swatantra Party

1443

RESOLUTION NO.1

This combined meeting of the Executive Committee, the General Council, Legislators of the Swatantra Party and Office Bearers of District and Constituency Units in Tamil Nad after discussing the present political situation and the party affairs unanimously resolved that the deepening political and economic ^{crisis} demands the immediate strengthening of the Swatantra Party Organisation from grass roots and for this purpose decided to complete formation of Constituency Committees wherever they do not exist at present before 31.12.'74 and to take up atleast 50 selected constituencies at present for intense propaganda and organisational work like forming of party cells in as many villages and municipal ^{Divisions} towns as possible depending on the nature of the constituency concerned.

The meeting constituted a high power committee consisting of the following gentlemen with Mr.G. Swaminathan as Convenor. He is requested to prepare a paper on steps needed to strengthen the party and place it before the committee for discussion and decision as early as possible:-

Mr.G.K. Sundaram
Mr.Sa Ganesan
Mr.B. Venkataswamy M.L.A.
Mr.S. Narayanaswamy M.L.C.
Mr.V.S. Srikumar
Mr.T.S. Sankaranarayanan
Mr.Peppin Fernando
Mr.V. Padmanabhan
Mr.Sankara Raddiar
Mr.Krishnamurthi (Seerkazhi)
Mr.Ajmal Khan
Mr.Gopalakrishnan
Mr.Ramamurthy
Mr.M.K. Nanja Gowder

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RESOLUTION NO.2:

FALSE PROPAGANDA OF B.L.D.

The meeting noted with distress the deliberate attempts that are made by some of the erstwhile Swatantra party workers and a few leaders who have gone over ^{to} the B.L.D. to mislead the general public in order to gather support for the new party. As observed by the Hon'ble Judge of the City Civil Court this meeting reiterates its view that there is no provision in the Constitution of the Swatantra Party for either dissolution or merger and hence the so called resolutions and decisions about which the followers of the new party are talking of are of no validity

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RESOLUTION NO.2 (Contd...)

and will not bind any Swatantra party units or workers. Hence this meeting appeals to the general public to treat the false and misleading propaganda indulged in by the followers of B.L.D. with the contempt it deserves and extend their support to the Swatantra party which is committed to follow in the footsteps of the great Statesman and one of the greatest sons produced by our country, the late Rajaji.

This meeting is of the opinion that the action of M.Ps and M.L.As *from the state* who were elected in Swatantra ticket with the help of the party and who have now joined B.L.D is nothing short of defection and all the talk of dissolution and merger are ^{concoctions} ~~connections~~ to hide this reality.

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RESOLUTION NO.3:

This meeting welcomes the reintroduction of Prohibition throughout Tamil Nadu by the Government of Tamil Nadu and the abolition of horse-racing and betting from April 1975 and offers its full co-operation to the Government in making prohibition a success. In this connection the meeting notes that though the D.M.K. Ministry committed a great blunder by repealing prohibition in 1971 and thus caused great suffering and distress to millions of poor families and mental agony to the greatest son of Tamil Nadu, who was responsible for introducing and enforcing prohibition successfully for the first time in this country and that the Chief Minister has shown great courage in reversing the wrong step he took. This step though belated will cause satisfaction to the soul of Revered Rajaji.

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RESOLUTION NO.4:

The Ruling Congress Party at the Centre and the States, by pursuing wrong economic policies guided solely by political considerations and party advantage, is entirely responsible for the near collapse of the economy and the distress and privation suffered by the masses of this country. Sky-rocketing prices of the essential articles like foodstuffs and clothing and their non-availability even at fantastic prices have made the conditions of the poorer sections desparate and the patience of the long suffering people has almost reached the breaking point.

The divergence between thought and action of the Ruling Party is clearly brought out by the various measures the Government took like credit curbs, penal interest rates, freezing of additional emoluments of employees, compulsory deposits and freezing of dividends in the name of taking steps to fight inflation because these ill thought out measures have caused already further spurt in prices. By levying savage taxes both direct and indirect, by the regular and supplementary budgets within a short period of 5 months to net nearly 750 crores in a year which in effect is expected to fulfil the additional taxes and resource mobilisation planned for the whole of Fifth Five Year Plan and the fantastic increases in the railway fares and freights have pushed up the prices to unimaginable heights thus making a mockery of the Govt.'s profession of fighting inflation and helping the poor.

In the considered opinion of this meeting the situation demands drastic changes in the idologically oriented policies and programmes of the ruling party and the introduction of emergent measures based on pragmatism to arrest the fast deteriorating economic conditions and to pull back the economy from its headlong slide to disaster. This meeting suggests that all possible encouragement and facilities to the millions of agriculturists to increase production of foodstuffs on a war-footing should be extended. All unnecessary controls on production by industrial enterprises should be removed at once and incentives provided for individuals and the Corporate Sector to increase production of all essential articles of mass consumption.

RESOLUTION NO.5:

This meeting, though fully convinced that the responsibility of the Ruling Congress for the present sorry state of the people is near total, is constrained to point out that the Government of Tamil Nadu also has to share a certain amount of responsibility for all ~~time~~ high prices that prevail in Tamil Nadu for the staple food of the people viz., rice. This is due to the constant changes in its food policy and lifting and re-imposing of controls without reason ~~off~~ rhyme and by its failure to prevent large-scale movement of food grains especially paddy and rice to other States. Never in the history of this country rice was sold at Rs.6/- and more a Madras measure and ^aparty that promised three measures of rice for a Rupee has to bear great responsibility for this deplorable state. This meeting requests the Tamil Nadu Government to concentrate with singleminded devotion on measures to increase production of paddy. This meeting is of the firm opinion that the proposed levy on agriculturist will be counter productive as far as production is concerned and requests the Government to obtain its requirements of foodgrain for public distribution by a levy on mills and wholesalers.

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RESOLUTION NO.6:

This meeting notes with distress that the elementary need of pure drinking water has not yet been provided even after 27 years of national Government and that the majority of villages and many of the municipal towns have to suffer from perpetual scarcity of this life giving commodity. The metropolitan city of Madras is facing a water famine, the like of which it has rarely faced. If only the Tamil Nadu Government had given enough and urgent attention to the execution of the Veeranam Scheme on time the present emergency could have been avoided and the people saved from the precarious dependence on weather and bore-wells which mostly do not work. Hence this meeting appeals to the Tamil Nadu Government to expedite the execution of the Veeranam Scheme and in the meanwhile tap more of the underground water resources in and around Madras City for providing the people of this cosmopolitan town with its bare requirement of pure water.....5

RESOLUTION NO.6 (contd....)

Provision of pure drinking water to villages and small towns should also be attended to on priority basis by the Water Supply and Drainage Board.

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RESOLUTION NO.7

The meeting after hearing the views of its members unanimously endorsed the decision already taken by the Tamil Nadu General Council to contest the forthcoming Municipal Elections on its own by setting up of candidates in those places where the party has got a fair chance of success.

RESOLUTION NO.8

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This meeting unanimously resolves to request the President, Mr.G.K. Sundaram to contact his counterparts in other States and evolve a suitable procedure in consultation with them for filling up the organisational gap created in the national level by some of the leaders changing their allegiance to the new party.

This meeting is also of the view that holding a national ^{but} convention as early as possible ~~not~~ not later than October 1974 will be of tremendous value in building up the party.

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