

14886
New Delhi
10th June, 1974

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION:

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY HELD AT VITHALBHAI PATEL HOUSE, NEW DELHI, ON JUNE 9/10, 1974:

The General Council of the Swatantra Party met in Delhi and discussed the proposal of getting together with various parties with a view to creating a National Alternative. It also discussed the draft programme prepared by the leaders of the new group.

The members of the General Council generally agreed that the present political situation in the country demands that an all out effort should be made for the formation of a National Alternative with a well defined and clearcut alternative programme which can become an effective national alternative capable of fulfilling the urges and aspirations of the people.

In this context, while it welcomes the attempts made by various parties to come together with a view to ultimately provide a National Alternative, it feels that in so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned the final decision can only be taken at a National Convention. This could give a fair opportunity to as many members as possible to study the proposed programme and carefully examine all the pros and cons of the proposal. The General Council therefore has decided that a copy of the draft programme should be circulated to all the members of all the State Councils.

The General Council also authorises the President to fix the date and venue of the National Convention at the earliest, after giving due notice.

2) The General Council of the Swatantra Party congratulates Shri Jayprakash Narayan on the courageous non-violent struggle he has launched with the enthusiastic support of the people and particularly Student community of Bihar.

The Swatantra Party is particularly gratified at the failure of efforts to provoke the silent non-violent participants into violence, and is for that reason confident of the successful culmination of this historic struggle against injustice. It should serve as a clear warning to the ruling Congress that the people are no longer prepared to remain silent with a government which is unable to give them a clean and honest administration.

3) The General Council of Swatantra Party invites the attention of the Haryana Government to the arrest of Mr. Ramander Kalia son of Smt. Kamla Kalia, Joint Secretary, Swatantra Party, Haryana, without assigning any reasons from Delhi on 4th June 1974 and to make necessary inquiries without delay. There should be no room for doubts to arise that some political vendetta has been at work.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

V.P. Bhatia
(V.P. BHATIA)
EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SWATANTRA PARTY

New Delhi
10th June, 1974

FOR FAVOUR OF PUBLICATION:

RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY HELD AT VITHALBHAI PATEL HOUSE, NEW DELHI, ON JUNE 9/10, 1974:

The General Council of the Swatantra Party met in Delhi and discussed the proposal of getting together with various parties with a view to creating a National Alternative. It also discussed the draft programme prepared by the leaders of the new group.

The members of the General Council generally agreed that the present political situation in the country demands that an all out effort should be made for the formation of a National Alternative with a well defined and clearcut alternative programme which can become an effective national alternative capable of fulfilling the urges and aspirations of the people.

In this context, while it welcomes the attempts made by various parties to come together with a view to ultimately provide a National Alternative it feels that in so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned the final decision can only be taken at a National Convention. This could give a fair opportunity to as many members as possible to study the proposed programme and carefully examine all the pros and cons of the proposal. The General Council therefore has decided that a copy of the draft programme should be circulated to all the members of all the State Councils.

The General Council also authorises the President to fix the date and venue of the National Convention at the earliest, after giving due notice.

2) The General Council of the Swatantra Party congratulates Shri Jayprakash Narayan on the courageous non-violent struggle he has launched with the enthusiastic support of the people and particularly Student community of Bihar.

The Swatantra Party is particularly gratified at the failure of efforts to provoke the silent non-violent participants into violence, and is for that reason confident of the successful culmination of this historic struggle against injustice. It should serve as a clear warning to the ruling Congress that the people are no longer prepared to remain silent with a government which is unable to give them a clean and honest administration.

3) The General Council of Swatantra Party invites the attention of the Haryana Government to the arrest of Mr. Ramander Kalia son of Smt. Kamla Kalia, Joint Secretary, Swatantra Party, Haryana, without assigning any reasons from Delhi on 4th June 1974 and to make necessary inquiries without delay. There should be no room for doubts to arise that some political vendetta has been at work.

NOT FOR PUBLICATION:

(V.P. BHATIA)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, SWATANTRA PARTY

*Amis's
draft
NYC June 9/10 '74*

1. Whilst appreciating the need for a national alternative, the General Council is of the opinion that, whilst not dissolving the Swatantra Party, efforts should be made to evolve a common platform and programme in consultation with the other non communist opposition parties for the coming elections as a first step.

The General Council directs the National Executive to present to the National Convention within a month, a draft common programme in consonance with the party principles.

*Draft for
G.C. at Delhi
on 9/10/74*

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party having discussed in detail the merits of the proposal to dissolve the Party (so as to enable its members to join a new Party to be formed by a similar dissolution of certain other Parties) is firmly opposed to the proposal as - - -

- (a) it does not serve the purpose which leading members of the Party have in the past striven for, viz., the emergence of a genuine two-Party system which would provide a democratic alternative to the Party in power.
- (b) the composition of the new Party is not likely to present a credible image nor have homogeneity compromising as it does of persons with diverse thinking on several fundamental issues. Moreover, the Party's past experience with some of those who are now likely to be in the new Party has been far from happy.
- (c) it might have the contrary effect of strengthening extreme parties on the one hand and the Ruling Congress on the other.

The Swatantra Party continues to adhere to its oft-stated position of seeking a genuine consolidation of democratic opposition forces provided such a consolidation involves the coalescing of all or most of the national democratic opposition parties.

The General Council suggests that as a first step towards a genuine consolidation, instead of a dissolution the possibility of forming a National Democratic Front in which various democratic parties even while retaining their individual identity could come together on a common platform with a minimum programme, be considered, and such a Front could over a period of years acquire the habit of working in unison and thus pave the way for the emergence of a genuine and principled alternative to the Ruling Party.

- - - - -