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Minutes of the meeting of the Maharashtra State Council of the Swatantra Party held at the Party's Office, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 400 023 on Wednesday April 27, 1977 at 6 p.m.

Present

Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal

- in the Chair

Mr. G.S. Dhende
Mr. S.P. Shah
Mr. K.B. Panday
Mr. Shaikh Ahmed
Mr. Abdulla Shariff
Mr. L.R. Sampat
Mr. K.H. Subramaniam
Mr. P.K. Tejookaya
Mr. Badruddin Jiwani
Mr. Gulam Vohra
Mr. Dhiraj Shah
Mrs. Leela Sukhee
Dr. Simon Fernandes
Mr. Girish Munshi

By Special Invitation

— Mr. S.V. Raju
Mr. P. Narayan
Mr. J. Venkiteswaran
Mr. Nitin G. Raut
Miss Heena Shah
Mr. R.V. Murthy
Mr. S. Ramachandran
Mr. Mahendra Oza
Mrs. S. Contractor
Mr. Iqbal Javeed B.J.
Mr. P.S. Koppiker
Mr. G.V. Somaya
Mrs. S. Panday

held on July 6, 1974

The minutes of the last meeting of the State Council were confirmed.

The meeting then took up for consideration two resolutions adopted by the National Executive at its meeting in Madras on April 17, 1977.

Rajaji Trust

The feeling was generally expressed that though the Janata party's manifesto largely reflected the views of the Swatantra Party, there were areas where the policies adumbrated in the new party's manifesto were not in consonance with the Swatantra Party's thinking.

It was also felt that there was need to continue to propagate at an ideological level the philosophy of the Party as propounded by Rajaji, Mr. Masani and others. In this context the setting up of the Rajaji Trust was welcomed and the National Executive's resolution on the subject was ratified.

The meeting then took up for consideration the resolution calling for a merger with the Janata Party. There was considerable discussion with some members expressing the view that since the Janata Party was not ideologically as clear as the Swatantra, there was need to keep the Swatantra Party in Maharashtra alive.

It was also pointed out that despite several overtures to the new Party and the fact that our members had worked with sincerity and devotion for the success of Janata Party candidates, the attitude of those in authority in the Janata Party was very lukewarm.

Others while conceding the lack of ideological clarity, felt that by keeping the Party alive, we would be coming in the way of the emergence of a genuine two-party system.

Some members pointed out that the National Convention alone could decide the issue particularly because the Party's constitution did not carry any provision which would permit the dissolution of the Party.

In the light of this and the differences of view among members of the Council, it was decided to hold in abeyance the Council's decision in regard to the ratification of the National Executive resolution.

The Council decided to wait and watch subsequent developments and also felt that as and when the matter was ratified it should be unanimously done in accordance with the Party's constitution.

It was further decided that those who wished to join the Janata Party were free to do so by resigning from the Swatantra Party. The Swatantra Party in the meanwhile would eschew political activity for the present and would review the position at its next meeting.

Meanwhile Mr. Asoka Mehta's letter to the President inviting him to send representatives of the Swatantra Party to the Delhi Convention of the Janata Party on May 1¹⁹⁷⁷ was considered. It was decided that Maharashtra should send token observers. Mr. Girish Munshi agreed to lead a team of observers to Delhi. Those interested in proceeding to Delhi were asked to hand in their names at the Party office to enable necessary travel arrangements to be made.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.