

2470

DRAFT minutes of the State Council Meeting of
the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra held at Bombay
on Saturday, the 6th July 1974.

A meeting of the State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra was held at the Party Office, Sassoon Building, 143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay on Saturday, the 6th July 1974 at 4-00 p.m. when the following members were present.

1. Mr. Madhu Mehta (Chairman)
2. Mr. M.R. Masani
3. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal
4. Mr. Girish Munshi
5. Mr. F. C. Cama
6. Mr. K.B. Pandey
7. Mr. Y.B. Rhosle
8. Mr. Dhiraj Shah
9. Mr. Shantilal Popat
10. Mr. B.R. More
11. Mrs. Sarla Datar
12. Mr. M.R. Joshi
13. Mr. Y. A. Yazdani
14. Mr. N.K. Jagtap
15. Mr. Jairuddin Shaikh
16. Mr. L.R. Sampat
17. Mr. A.L. Saldanha {
18. Mr. A.E. Tarapore { Invitees.
19. Mr. R. Ramakrishnan {
20. Capt. Shamji {

Mr. Piloo Mody, MP, President of the All-India Swatantra Party was a special invitee to the meeting.

Due to dislocation of train services on account of heavy rains, more members could not be present.

1. Minutes of the previous State Council Meeting held on 27th April 1974 were confirmed.

2. With regard to the forthcoming National Convention of the Party convened at Delhi on August 4 and 5, 1974, Mr. Madhu Mehta explained to the members the proposal of dissolution of the Swatantra Party with a view to forming a new Party, as a National Alternative to save democracy. He invited the members to offer their opinion so that we can form a common plan about the

proposed dissolution.

The following members except Mr. N.K.Jagtap opposed the dissolution of the Swatantra Party for the purpose of forming a new Party.

1. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal
2. Mr. M.R. Masani
3. Mr. Girish Munshi
4. Mr. F.C.Cama
5. Mr. K.H.Subramaniam
6. Mrs. Sarla Datar
7. Mr. Shantilal Popat
8. Mr. Jairuddin Shaikh
9. Mr. Y. A. Yazdani
10. Mr. K.B. Pandey
11. Mr. B.R. More
12. Mr. M.R. Joshi
13. Mr. Dhiraj Shah
14. Mr. L. R. Sampat
15. Mr. Y. B. Ehosle
16. Mr. A.E. Tarapore
17. Mr. A.L. Saldana
18. Mr. R. Ramakrishnan.

Mr. Piloo Mody explained the steps he had taken, based on his being authorised by the National Executive to explore the possibilities of bringing several parties together to form a new Party. He felt that in the larger interest of the country, it was necessary to have a new Party to serve as a National Alternative to the Ruling Congress.

Mr. M.R. Masani expressed unhappiness at the proposal of dissolving the Swatantra Party. He did not think the dissolution of our Party would serve the need of a National Alternative and opposed the move of dissolution.

Mr. Madhu Mehta appealed to the members not to pass the Resolution as proposed by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal. However, majority of members insisted the resolution to be put to vote. The following Resolution was then passed with an overwhelming majority with one dissenting vote from Mr. N.K. Jagtap.

(Before moving the Resolution to vote, both Mr. Piloo Mody and Mr. Madhu Mehta left the meeting.)

The meeting elected the following delegates from Maharashtra State Unit to attend the National Convention.

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Mr. Madhu Mehta | 9. Mr. Dhiraj Shah |
| 2. Mr. M.R. Masani | 10. Mr. Shantilal Popat |
| 3. Mr. Girish Munshi | 11. Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah |
| 4. Mr. F.C. Cama | 12. Mr. A.R. Deshpande |
| 5. Mr. K.H. Subramaniam | 13. Mr. K.B. Pandey |
| 6. Mr. Dhiraj Shah | 14. Mr. N.K. Jagtap |
| 7. Mrs. Manorama Dandekar | 15. Mr. A.E. Tarapore |
| 8. Mrs. Sarla Datar | 16. Mr. Y.B. Ehosle |
| | 17. Mr. Jairuddin Shaikh. |

Finalisation of the names of 21 delegates from Maharashtra State Unit was entrusted to a sub-committee consisting of Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal, Mr. Girish Munshi and Mr. K.H. Subramaniam.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair at 7.00 p.m.

Chairman

(Resolution overleaf)

Swatantra Party, Maharashtra
Bombay.

6th July 1974.

COPY OF RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE STATE
COUNCIL of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra
at its meeting held on 6th July 1974 at
Bombay.

" This meeting of the State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, has carefully considered the proposal placed before it that the Swatantra Party be dissolved along with the similar dissolution of six other parties so as to facilitate the formation of a new Party.

The State Council notes that of the seven parties that are expected to dissolve to enable the formation of the new Party, Swatantra Party is the only National Party, the others being confined to particular States or parts of a State.

The State Council is firmly convinced that the Party's principles and policies continue to be valid and that had the policies of Government been formulated on the basis of the said principles, our country would not be in the present critical situation.

The Council is equally convinced that the new Party will mark no advance in the search for a truly national alternative comprising as it does those who, though for the present have consented to get together on a general programme are bound to disagree in regard to the interpretation of a vague and general statement of policy.

Moreover, with opposition parties like the Congress(O) and the Jan Sangh continuing their individual existence, the objective of a two-party system and its electoral benefits will continue to elude us. On the other hand, there is real danger of the ruling Congress on the one side and the Jan Sangh on the other being the direct beneficiaries of such a development.

The State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, does not consider the time or occasion opportune for the disappearance of the Swatantra Party from the Indian political scene, and is, therefore, opposed to the proposal to dissolve the Party.

The Maharashtra State Council therefore requests the office-bearers of the Party to convene another meeting of the General Council on the eve of the National Convention to enable this matter to be reviewed once again before it is brought up at the Convention.

In the event of a resolution to dissolve the Party being carried in the National Convention, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party will continue to retain its identity as Swatantra Party and carry on the message and flag of the Party."

Proposed by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal

Seconded by: Mr. K.H. Subramaniam.

Passed by one dissenting vote from Mr.N.K.Jagtap.