

Minutes of the joint meeting of the
Bombay and Maharashtra Regional Councils
of the Swatantra Party held at Bombay on
15th September 1973.

A joint meeting of the Bombay Regional Council and the Maharashtra Regional Council of the Swatantra Party was held at the party's office at Sassoon Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay on Saturday, the 15th September 1973 at 3-00 P.M. when the following were present:

1. Mr. Madhu Mehta - Chairman
2. Mr. K. R. Koshti - Maharashtra.
3. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal- Bombay
4. Mrs. Manorama Dandekar - Bombay
5. Mr. A.R.Deshpande - Maharashtra
6. Mr. F. C. Cama - Bombay.
7. Mr. K. B. Magodia - Bombay.
8. Mrs. Sarla Datar - Bombay
9. Mr. S. B. Walvekar - Maharashtra.
10. Mr. M.R.Joshi Bombay.
11. Mr. Bakelal Pathak. Bombay
12. Mr. G. S. Amonkar. Bombay
13. Mr. N. K. Jagtap - Bombay
14. Mr. D. L. Mane - Maharashtra.
15. Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah -Maharashtra.
16. Mr. G. S. Dhende - Maharashtra
17. Mr. K. B. Pandey - Maharashtra
18. Mr. Badruddin M. Jawani Bombay
19. Mr. Sadhu Singh Thakur, Bombay
20. Mr. M. avakhandwala- Maharashtra.
21. Mr. Jitendra Dave, Bombay.
22. Mr. L. R. Sampat Bombay.
23. Mr. Shantilal L. Popat, Bombay.
24. Mr. Dhiraj Shah, Bombay.
25. Mr. J. Venkiteswaran- Bombay
26. MR. K.H.Subramaniam Bombay

Mr. F. C. Cama proposed Mr. Madhu Mehta to the Chair. Mr. A. R. Deshpande seconded the proposal. Mr. Madhu Mehta, accordingly, took the Chair.

While welcoming the members to the joint meeting of the Maharashtra and Bombay Regional Councils, the Chairman said he was happy to see that a good number of members were present at the meeting. He explained the important task ahead, with particular reference to enrolment of members and the Party elections.

2. The minutes of the Bombay Regional Council held on 23rd July 1973 and that of the Maharashtra Regional Council held at Poona on 8th July 1973 were read and confirmed. Prior to

confirmation, a correction was pointed out by Mr. Dhende and Mr. Mane in the case of Maharashtra Regional Council minutes and the minutes were corrected accordingly.

2. Consideration of Report dated 10th April 1973 from the General Secretary of the Maharashtra State Unit

Mr. F. C. Cama read out a copy of a Report dated the 10th April 1973 from the General Secretary, Maharashtra State Unit to the National Executive, a copy of which was endorsed to Bombay Regional Office.

Mr. Cama, at the outset, mentioned that while he personally welcomed the proposal, he wanted to make it clear that it would not be possible for the present Bombay Region to give financial assistance to districts in Maharashtra. The contents of the report were then explained by Mr. Deshpande in Marathi for the benefit of those who did not understand English. The report dealt with the present difficulties experienced by the Maharashtra State unit and the necessity of a merger of that unit with the Bombay Region into a single State Unit in the larger interest of the party. He added that the difficulties experienced by districts in the mofusil were required to be solved in Bombay at the State level and the members staying in Bombay could take up the work relating to their own districts. He said that in suggesting the merger it was not expected to get finance from Bombay, as he felt that finances would automatically come from districts, if constructive work was done and relief to common man in rural areas was ensured.

Mr. Deshpande was followed by other speakers viz: Messrs. Madhu Mehta, F. C. Cama, Mrs. Sarla Datar, Messrs. Koshti, Musafir, Jiwani, Dhiraj Shah, Venkiteswaran, Popat, Pandey, Dhende, and Shankarrao Welvekar. The move was supported by all members present, both from Maharashtra and Bombay and the following resolution was passed unanimously.

RESOLUTION

" This joint meeting of the Bombay Regional Council and the Maharashtra Regional Council held at Bombay on 15th September 1973 considered the Maharashtra General Secretary, Mr. A. R. Deshpande's Report dated 10th April 1973 to the National Executive and hereby unanimously resolves that the Bombay Region and the Maharashtra Region of the Swatantra Party shall merge into one unit effective immediately and shall work as a single State Unit known as MAHARASHTRA STATE SWATANTRA PARTY.

" The meeting further resolves that the unanimous decision of this joint meeting should be conveyed to the National Headquarters for information over the signature of all members present at the meeting".

All the members signed the Resolution.

Mr. Cama explained to the members that since the Party elections was to take place in October, the approval of the National Executive is to be obtained immediately with a view to conducting the elections by the new united MAHARASHTRA STATE UNIT. Mr. Madhu Mehta, in this connection, said that a copy of the Resolution should be immediately forwarded to the National Executive and he would advise the Executive Secretary to circulate the note to all members of the National Executive to get their approval. He added that the necessary approval could be given by the National Executive and the resolution could be ratified by the General Council at its next meeting. Members were advised that in the meanwhile, joint work with regard to elections could be started immediately.

Formation of units in accordance with the revised Constitution was discussed. The members present were also given new enrolment forms and were requested to complete enrolment of new members before the end of September.

An Election Sub-Committee consisting of Mr. F. C. Cama, Mrs. Sarla Datar, Mr. A. R. Deshpande and Mr. K.B. Pandey was then constituted to finalise the election programme and other connected work.

The meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair, at 5.00 p.m.

Madhu Mehta

CHAIRMAN.