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Minutes of the Emergency Special Meeting
of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra
Party, Maharashtra on 29.1.1974 at Bombay.

An emergency special meeting of the Executive Committee of the ~~Bombay~~ Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, was held at the Party Office Sassoon Building, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay on Tuesday, the 29th January 1974 at 5-00 p.m. The following were present :

1. Mr. Madhu Mehta (Chairman)
2. Mr. Girish Munshi
3. Mr. F.C. Cama
4. Mr. Babubhai H. Ginwala
5. Mr. K.B. Magodia
6. Mr. Dhiraj Shah
7. Mr. A.J. Pimenta
8. Mr. M.S. Pirzada
9. Mr. K.H. Subramaniam (
10. Mr. N.K. Jagtap (By invitation)

Agenda: Present Law & Order situation in Bombay.

The members discussed at length the recent lawlessness arising out of the Shiv Sena morcha on 25th January 1974 at Flora Fountain and subsequent morcha on 28th January 1974. The meeting then unanimously passed the following Resolution; which was released to the Press:

Resolution

"The Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra at an urgently convened meeting on 29th January 1974 at Bombay unanimously passed the following Resolution:

Congress (R) in Maharashtra has unsuccessfully tried to divert the attention of the people from the failure of its policies and programmes. The discontent has found expression in the by-elections recently held in Maharashtra and elsewhere.

Dispayed with this discontent the Congress (R) and the Maharashtra Government have been forced to lean heavily on its militant arm the Shiv Sena to prop its failing prestige and power.

This is evident from the fact that whereas the Maharashtra Government abdicated its responsibility of maintaining law and order at the time when arson, loot, and violence erupted after the Shiv Sena morcha at Flora Fountain on 25th January 1974 which resulted in death of one hawker and in injury to innocent men and women at the hands of unruly mob, it adopted a policy of political vendatta and repression at the time of demonstrations organised by the opposition parties to voice their protest against price rise.

The openly partial attitude of the Maharashtra Government has cast serious doubts in the minds of the people of Maharashtra about its even-handedness and fairness. The faith of the people in the Maharashtra Government is severely shaken.

The Congress Administration in Maharashtra has lost its credibility with people and consequently its moral right to govern.

The only honourable course now open to the Maharashtra Government is to resign immediately if it wishes to save Maharashtra from the holocaust which has engulfed Gujarat".

Madhu Mehta
Chairman.

The Chairman added that he would arrange a Press Conference early next week (before 14th) when the scheme would be explained to pressmen. Members were advised to collect the papers from the Party Office while all attempts would be made to send the bulk of papers to the unit Presidents/Secretaries in time.

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

Chairman

11.2.74