

SWATANTRA PARTY

Organising Committee for Greater Bombay

A meeting of the Organising Committee was held on Thursday, 3rd September, at 6.30 p.m. at the Swatantra Party Office.

2547

PRESENT:

Mr. M. R. Masani (in the Chair).
Sir H. P. Mody.
Mr. Murarji Vaidya.
Col. L. Sawhny.
Mr. N. H. Mapara.
Mr. M. K. Tata.
Mr. J. M. Patel.
Mr. B. K. Mistry.
Mr. F. K. Karaka.
Mr. G. P. Hutheesing.
Mr. P. H. Mody.
Dr. R. C. Cooper.
Mr. R. V. Murthy.
Mrs. C. F. Lynn.
Mr. S. R. Mohandas (Observer).
Mr. M. R. Pai (Observer).

The Minutes of the previous meeting were confirmed and signed.

The Chairman reported that the relevant Sub-Central Committee had prepared a budget of Rs. 1,80,000, mainly to cover costs in deficit areas, and it was hoped that Bombay would meet one lakh of this amount, the balance coming from other States.

It was agreed that Bombay should continue to endeavour to make contributions over 12 months totaling Rs. one lakh whether in cash or in kind (e.g. Membership forms, literature, etc.).

In response to the request of the Hon. General Treasurer, Sir H. P. Mody, an initial payment of Rs. 2,500/- for Rajasthan, with an additional contingent liability of Rs. 2,500/- more, i.e. a total of Rs. 5,000/- in cash and in kind, was sanctioned.

Membership Forms.

Mr. Mody reported that 25,000 forms had been sent to Mr. Hukum Singh for Rajasthan, 10,000 to Mr. Lal Singh for Delhi, 30,000 to Mr. Bhailalbhai Patel for Gujarat.

Mr. Hutheesing reported that he had, on request, sent one book of twenty forms to Poona for enrolment of an initial group of twenty members, who would then ask the Central Organisation for authority for further enrolment in that area. A similar procedure would be adopted with Nasik and with other areas in Maharashtra which have applied to the Bombay Office for enrolment.

Gandhi Jayanti

As Mr. Jayaprakash Narayan was unable to come to Bombay for October 2, other speakers would have to be invited for

this meeting which would be held in the Dadar/Matunga area, and if possible, a film on Gandhiji, due to be released on that day, should also be obtained for exhibition on this occasion.

The suggestion that meetings for fixed days like October 2nd should be planned well ahead and that advance publicity should be reinforced by sending individual notices to members on a mailing-list and by Press releases, was approved.

Proposal for Public Meeting to Condemn Chinese Aggression.

The Chairman reported that, although Rajaji agreed personally with the views of every patriotic Indian on the subject of Chinese aggression, he felt that no action should be taken committing the Party as such to any particular stand on foreign policy. Individual members of the Party were however free to express their opinion.

The Chairman suggested that this Committee nominate a speaker to attend a Citizens' Meeting including spokesmen from all parties to be held on Tuesday, 8th September to condemn Chinese aggression, and to call for a firm policy to expel the aggressors. The suggestion was approved. Mr. Masani was deputed to speak at this meeting. Similar co-operation might be extended to other bodies claiming sympathy, like the Committee for Solidarity with Tibet. Rs. 500/- was sanctioned to be placed at the Chairman's disposal for propaganda purposes.

Convenor's Reports.

1. Meetings: Mr. Mapara's Report appended - Mr. Murarji Vaidya will speak at the meeting on 9th September at Kalbadevi, and Mr. Hasham Premji on 26th at Mandvi.

2. Labour: Mr. Karaka requested that his report be held over till the next meeting of the Committee. Mr. Mohan Das felt that the Party's attitude to labour should be presented in a form that would appeal to Labour, and agreed to produce a draft for the approval of this Committee. Col. Sawhny would be associated with Mr. Mohan Das and Mr. Karaka in the working of the draft statement.

Study-groups of workers might be held in the Party office, but no Union meetings should be allowed on the premises.

3. Publicity: Mr. Mody reported that the Convention handbook was with the printers and would shortly be ready for distribution. It was decided that free copies be sent to delegates and members of the Reception Committee.

Twenty-five copies should be sent, in the first instance, to centres outside Bombay like Madras, Bangalore etc., the cost of all outside copies being debited to the Centre.

4. Constituency Organisation: Mr. Mistry's Report appended.

The Suggestions made by workers were considered and the following approved:

(a) Placards with the legend "Swatantra Party: Members Enrolled Here." - be supplied to those offering their premises for enrolment.

(b) Names and addresses of enrollers to

be announced at meetings.

Suggestions regarding food agitation, paid jobs, the setting up of regular offices in different wards, and the providing of some justification for the "high" rate of Re. 1/- per year, were not approved.

A Political sub-Committee to deal with matters requiring urgent action as they arose was formed - consisting of the office-bearers i.e. Chairman, Deputy Chairman, the three Hon. Secretaries and the Honorary Treasurer, in consultation with Sir H. P. Mody, Mr. K. M. Munshi and Mr. A. D. Shroff.