

✓ SW 1974

2753

Crisis brewing in Bombay Swatantra

By A Staff Reporter

A major crisis is confronting the Swatantra Party in Bombay, the city of its birth 14 years ago, with the party ranks split over the issue of merging itself in the proposed multi-party Opposition.

The crisis has been reflected in a flurry of resignations reportedly submitted by top city leaders of the party as they do not want to have anything to do with the merger proposal being propagated by party President Mr Piloo Mody, MP.

The opposition to the merger has grown so intense that the Maharashtra unit of the Swatantra Party, at a recent meeting, rejected the president's proposal and demanded that the Swatantra continue to function as a separate entity. The merger move has been opposed by Madras and Delhi units also.

The crisis is likely to come to a head at the national convention of the party being held in New Delhi on August 4 and 5. While Mr Piloo Mody has justified

the formation of a multi-party opposition to the Congress as a national alternative to the ruling party, opponents of the move pointed out that major non-Congress parties like the Jana Sangh, the Congress (O) etc were not going to join the front.

In a bid to avert the split in the party, Mr. M. R. Masani, one of the co-founders of the party and its former President, on Tuesday sent on to the Party's Central Office a draft resolution calling on its Delhi convention to vote to convert the Swatantra Party into a non-political service organisation.

According to Mr. Masani's revolutionary proposal, the Swatantra Party should eschew electoral and parliamentary activities at both Union and State levels. It would at the same time give freedom to individual partymen to join the new multi-party opposition if their conscience so wanted them to. As for those who wanted to adhere to Swatantra principles, they would have opportunity to do so in a constructive way.

Mr. Masani has suggested that in its new form as a service organisation the Swatantra Party could name itself "Swatantra Seva Sangh." Party veterans, however, gloomily predicted the end of the party if this resolution was adopted by the Delhi convention.

It was learnt that Mr Masani's proposal duly conceded that the need of the hour was to provide a credible national alternative to the Congress and hoped the leadership of the proposed new party would continue to make efforts to draw within its fold other major national democratic parties.

मसुदा १६ मई १९७४

श्री एल. एन. मिशरा और जॉर्ज फरनान्डिस

मान्यवर,

हम हिन्दुस्थान के नागरिक रेल्वे स्ट्रोक के कारण उता
गये है क्योंकि इनके आहूत कलनाइयों सहन इति की सीमा पार
कर चुकी है.

हम मांग करते है कि आप दोनो माहनुभाव शीघ्रतिशीघ्र
कुछ समझौता करे.

नाम:

हस्ताक्षर:
