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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the National Executive Held
At Sapru House, New Delhi on Sunday, August 4, 1974

Present :

Mr. Piloo Mody, MP, in the Chair

Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. R. N. Singh Deo
Mr. P.K. Deo
Mr. G. Latchanna
Mr. N. K. Ganapaiah
Mr. Ranjit Singh Ghorpade
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. A. J. Dominic
Mr. J. Chandramouli
Dr. M. Santosham
Col. H. R. Pasricha
Mr. M. R. Arya
Sardar Harbhajan Singh
Mr. H. K. Srivastava
Mr. M.N. Amersey
Mr. D. N. Patodia
Mr. K. N. Jain
Mr. Ram Kanwar Barwah, MP
Mr. S. C. Mahapatra
Mr. Gurucharan Tikayat
Mr. Munnu Singh
Mr. Narpat Singh
Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary
Mr. Madhu Mehta

By Special Invitation

Mr. N. Dandeker

1. Confirmation of Minutes :

The Minutes of the last Meeting of the National Executive held in New Delhi on April 6 and 7, were confirmed.

2. The President, Mr. Piloo Mody, briefed the members as to what had happened towards efforts he had made for the National Alternative, from April 6 onwards to the present date.

The Resolution which was to be placed before the National Convention was put before the National Executive members for their consideration.

Col. Pasricha suggested that instead of leaving the announcement of the date of closing the Party to Mr. Piloo Mody and the Sub-Committee, it would be advisable if it was decided by Mr. Piloo Mody in consultation with the National Executive members. Mr. H. M. Patel and Mr. Dandeker agreed with Col. Pasricha's suggestion. Hence, the Resolution was duly amended and enclosed in the form attached. (Annexure A). Col. Pasricha wanted to know if the Press would be invited to attend the National Convention. The President Mr. Piloo Mody explained to him that the National Convention was not meeting to discuss anything of national

importance but was called only to attend to the question of the dissolution of the Party and hence the presence of the Press was not required at the Convention.

Mr. H. M. Patel explained that the Press was never invited to the National Convention when organisational matters were discussed. It was the dissolution of the Party for which the National Convention was called and as it was purely an organisational matter, there was no need to invite the Press. Hence, it was unanimously decided that the Press should be kept out of the deliberations at the Convention.

Col. Pasricha was of the opinion that the voting should be done by secret ballot and which was supported by Mr. M. R. Arya. The members of the Executive, except these two members, were not in favour of the secret ballot and hence it was decided that the voting should be conducted by a show of hands.

Expulsion of Members from Orissa

The State Executive of the Orissa Unit had sent in a few names of the members who were suspended and who they recommended for expulsion from the Party. The National Executive heard the remarks of Mr. P.K. Deo and then finally decided to expel these members.

Regarding Mr. Harihar Patel, the National Executive decided not to take any decision to expel him but authorised Mr. Madhu Mehta to inquire into the matter and to report to the President and the National Executive about his decision regarding the action to be taken against Mr. Harihar Patel for indulging in anti-Party activities.

The meeting then terminated with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annex A

Draft
Resolution for National Convention

Swatantra Party at Delhi

August 4 & 5, 1974

The National Executive meeting in Delhi on April 7 and 8 reviewed the State of the Nation on the basis of which it arrived at certain conclusions and recommended a programme of action, which inter alia stated

"The Party will continue to explore all possibilities to bring about a two-party system in India with a view to remove the chaos prevailing in our political life and the confusion created in the minds of the electorate. In this connection, the Swatantra Party urges all political parties and politicians to cooperate in this endeavour and to work for the common good."

In furtherance of this, the National Executive authorised the President to pursue this objective, consulting any two senior members of the Party that happen to be present in Delhi at the time. Various negotiations were held from time to time in which the President, Mr Madhu Mehta, Mr R N Singh Deo, Mr Dandekar, Mr H M Patel, Mr Loknath Mishra and Mr D N Patodia participated. A proposal was framed and submitted to the General Council on June 9 and 10th. The General Council debated the pros and cons of the issue, and in its wisdom unanimously passed the following resolutions.

"The General Council of the Swatantra Party met in Delhi and discussed the proposal of getting together with various parties with a view to creating a National Alternative. It also discussed the draft programme prepared by the leaders of the new group.

The members of the General Council generally agreed that the present political situation in the country demands that an all out effort should be made for the formation of a National Alternative with a well-defined and clearcut alternative capable of fulfilling the urges and aspirations of the people.

In this context, while it welcomes the attempts made by various parties to come together with a view to ultimately provide a National Alternative it feels that in so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned, the final decision can only be taken at the National Convention. This could give a fair opportunity to as many members as possible to study the proposed programme and carefully examine all the pros and cons of the proposal. The General Council therefore has decided that a copy of the draft programme should be circulated to all the members of all the State Councils.

The General Council also authorises the President to fix the date and venue of the National Convention at the earliest, after giving due notice."

In pursuance of this Resolution, the National Convention of the Swatantra Party has been called to decide on the future of the Swatantra Party.

The National Convention approves of the idea of the formation of a National Alternative by the coming together of all political parties other than the Ruling Congress and the Communists. It welcomes the efforts made in this direction by various parties to come together on a common platform and notes with gratification the fact that it has evolved a common programme, acceptable to the Swatantra Party.

In view of this, the National Convention of the Swatantra Party resolves:

THAT the National Convention of the Swatantra Party welcomes the idea of forming a National Alternative by the amalgamation of all political forces, other than the Congress and the Communist Parties and approves the impending formation of the New Party namely Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India).

RESOLVED that from such date as the President Mr. Piloo Mody may declare in consultation with the National Executive the Swatantra Party will cease to exist and will merge itself with the New Party, The Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India), as and when it comes into being, to further the objectives of the Swatantra Party. Such of the existing members who do not wish to join the New Party, would be free to carry on such political and non-political activities as they may choose in any name other than the "Swatantra Party".

RESOLVES FURTHER that the President of the Party Mr. Piloo Mody is authorised to intimate to the Chief Election Commissioner about the dissolution of the Party from the date as mentioned above and request the Chief Election Commissioner to freeze the symbol of the Party to avoid its unfair exploitation.

RESOLVES FURTHER that the National Convention authorises the President of the Party Mr. Piloo Mody, to take all necessary steps and decisions to implement the aforesaid resolution.