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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Sassoon Building, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.

August 20, 1974

General Secretary's Letter No. 320

Dear Friend,

The National Convention of the Party was held in New Delhi on Sunday and Monday, August 4 and 5, to discuss a very important Party matter-- the dissolution of the Party. The General Council of the Party had met in New Delhi on June 9 and 10 and adopted the following resolution:-

"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 a 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 the context of this Resolution, the National Convention was called to discuss the question of dissolution.

A meeting of the National Executive was held just before the National Convention. At that meeting, the President, Mr. Piloo Mody, briefed the members as to how he had worked for the National Alternative. The proposed Resolution for the National Convention was put before the National Executive. Col. H.R. Pasricha made a suggestion that instead of authorising Mr. Piloo Mody and the Sub-Committee to decide on the final date of dissolution, the decision should be left to the members of the National Executive.

Col. Pasricha raised two other points viz., that the Press should be invited to the Convention and the voting should be done by secret ballot.

Mr. H.M. Patel explained to the members that in the past, when organisational matters were discussed at the Convention, it used to be a closed session and was never open to the Press. As the dissolution of the Party was purely an organisational matter, he was strongly of the view that the Press should be kept out of the deliberations and this suggestion of Mr. Patel was accepted by all the NE members.

Regarding the suggestion of voting by secret ballot, with the exception of Mr. Mewaram Arya, no other member supported this suggestion and it was decided that voting should not be by secret ballot but by a show of hands.

The VIIth National Convention of the Swatantra Party started its deliberations on Sunday, August 4 at 3 p.m. and continued on the following day, Monday 5th August, 1974. Three Resolutions were moved at the National Convention viz.,

1. Resolution for the Dissolution of the Party was moved by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo and seconded by Dr. M. Santosham.
2. The Resolution regarding the formation of the Swatantra Seva Sangh was moved by Mr. M.R. Masani and seconded by Mr. K.H. Subramaniam.
3. The third Resolution rejecting the proposal to dissolve the Party was moved by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal and seconded by Mr. Girish Munshi.

Mr. Masani withdrew his Resolution viz., the formation of a Swatantra Seva Sangh, as he felt there was no popular support to his resolution, and thus there were only two Resolutions to be considered by the Convention.

For two days, the discussions were continuously held and a number of delegates spoke at the Convention both in favour of the dissolution and against it. On Monday, 5th August, a Resolution was moved by Mr. T. Ramakrishnan of the Maharashtra Unit, viz., that voting should be conducted by secret ballot. This Resolution was seconded by Mr. S.V. Raju. This Resolution was put to vote by the President Mr. Piloo Mody and was lost by an overwhelming majority.

Finally, on August 5, the Resolutions moved by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo and Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal were put to vote.

1. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal's Resolution, rejecting the dissolution of the Party, was put to vote. The voting pattern was as follows:

For the Resolution	--	53 votes
Against the Resolution	--	407 votes
Neutral	--	1

The Resolution was lost.

2. Mr. R.N. Singh Deo's Resolution on the dissolution of the Party was put to vote. The voting pattern was as follows:

For the Resolution	--	407 votes
Against the Resolution	--	53 votes
Neutral	--	1

The Resolution was passed.

The Statewise voting pattern was as follows:-

State	<u>Mr. R.N. Singh Deo's Resolution</u> <u>(Dissolution of the Party)</u>		<u>Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal's</u> <u>Resolution (rejecting the</u> <u>dissolution)</u>	
	<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>	<u>Votes For</u>	<u>Votes Against</u>
ANDHRA	12	Nil	Nil	12
BIHAR	4	-	-	4
DELHI	7	18	18	7
GUJARAT	52	1	1	51
HARYANA	3	4	4	3
KARNATAKA	3	Nil	Nil	3
KERALA	3	Nil	Nil	3
MAHARASHTRA	5	13	13	5
ORISSA	68	Nil	Nil	68
PUNJAB	2	Nil	Nil	2
RAJASTHAN	30	Nil	Nil	30
TAMILNADU	29	17	17	29
UTTAR PRADESH	189	Nil	Nil	189
	407	53	53	406

One delegate from Tamil Nadu remained neutral for both the Resolutions.

The text of the Resolutions moved at the Convention are enclosed herewith.

The total number of delegates who attended the Convention was 484. The State-wise break-up is as follows:-

Andhra	12
Bihar	5
Delhi	25
Haryana	7
Gujarat	55
Karnataka	3
Kerala	3
Maharashtra	18
Orissa	68
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	30
Tamilnadu	47
U.P.	209
Total	484

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta

(Madhu Mehta)
Vice President

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. Lokrath Mishra and Mr. D.N. Patodia participated. A proposal was framed and submitted to the General Council on June 9 and 10. 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 as 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 General Council has approved 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 has welcomed the efforts made in this direction by various parties to come together on a common platform.

In view of this, the Seventh National Convention resolves:

THAT this National Convention of the Swatantra Party welcomes the idea of forming a National Alternative by the amalgamation of all political forces, other than the Ruling Congress and the Communist Parties and approves the impending formation of the New Party namely Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India) and notes with gratification the fact that it has evolved a common programme, acceptable to the Swatantra Party.

RESOLVED that the final declaration will be announced by the President, Mr. Piloo Mody, after the National Executive has reviewed developments if any that the Swatantra Party will cease to exist and will merge itself with the New Party, The Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India), or whatever name the New Party may give itself, 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 non-partisan activities, which eschew all elections as they may choose, in any name other than the "Swatantra".

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 resolutions.

Moved by : Mr. R.N. Singh Deo

Seconded by: Dr. M. Santosham

: 3 :

NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO BE MOVED AT THE SEVENTH
NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY ON
AUGUST 4 & 5, 1974 IN NEW DELHI

The Seventh National Convention of the Swatantra Party has carefully considered the proposal placed before it that the Swatantra Party be dissolved along with the similar dissolution of six other parties so as to facilitate the formation of a new Party.

The Convention notes that of the seven parties that are expected to dissolve to enable the formation of the new Party, the Swatantra Party is the only National Party, the others being confined to particular States or parts of a State.

The Convention is firmly convinced that the Party's principles and policies continue to be valid and had the policies of the Government been formulated on the basis of the said principles, our country would not be in the present critical situation.

The Convention is equally convinced that the new Party will mark no advance in the search for a truly national alternative comprising as it does those who, though for the present have consented to get together on a general programme are bound to disagree in regard to the interpretation of a vague and general statement of policy.

Moreover, with opposition parties like the Congress (O) and the Jan Sangh continuing their individual existence, the objective of a two party system and its electoral benefits will continue to elude us. On the other hand, there is real danger of the ruling Congress on the one side and the Jan Sangh on the other being the direct beneficiaries of such a development.

The National Convention of the Swatantra Party does not consider the time or occasion opportune for the disappearance of the Swatantra Party from the Indian political scene and therefore rejects the proposal to dissolve the Party.

Proposed by : Parmanand Kejriwal

Seconded by : Girish Munshi