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Proceedings of the meeting of representatives of the Swatantra Party, Jan Sangh and the B.K.D. on 26th and 27th May 1969 at 2 Tuglaq Road, New Delhi.

Present

1. Prof. N.G. Ranga
2. Ch. Charan Singh
3. Prof. Balraj Madhok
4. Mr. Takhatmal Jain
5. Mr. M.R. Masani
6. Mr. Prakash Vir Shastri
7. Dr. Mahavir
8. Mr. Advani

It was decided that various issues on which adjustment of points of view of different parties would be necessary as a pre-condition to the emergence of a new Party should be considered.

1. The issue of States Rights as against a strong Centre was the first issue that was taken up for discussion. After various points of view had been stated, it was felt that agreement could be possible on the basis of the three groups stressing the unity of India. It was also felt that the States should be given greater financial viability by placing certain heads of revenue at their disposal.
2. The measures to deal with the Communist menace and, in particular, the banning of the Communist parties was next considered. While there was complete agreement on the nature of the Communist menace, it was felt that there could be a legitimate difference of opinion in regard to the concrete measures that would need to be taken at any given moment to contain the evil. There was agreement arising out of the discussion that only those who believe in democracy have a right to participate in the processes of democracy. Those groups that believe in subverting the Constitution by violence obviously place themselves outside the law. Similarly, those groups that owe allegiance to foreign powers are fifth-columns and

have nothing in common with genuine political parties within the country. In the light of this, there was agreement that the Communist Parties, whatever their shades and labels, should be banned as and when it becomes necessary for the maintenance of democracy and the security of the country.

3. In so far as relations with Pakistan are concerned, there was an agreement that normal and friendly relations between India and Pakistan are essential in the interest and security of the entire sub-continent and that good neighbourly relations need to be developed but such an approach has to be reciprocal and on a basis of mutuality. Appeasement is no way of solving the problem.

4 & 5. After considerable discussion, further discussion on the Kashmir and Nagaland problems was adjourned.

6. There was discussion of the language problem with particular reference to the question of the medium or media of instruction. Now that the regional language or the mother tongue has been accepted as the medium of instruction, it was felt that the interest of national unity and the maintenance of an administrative apparatus for the whole country called for the study of English and Hindi at higher secondary and University levels. It was felt that each State should have freedom to give priority to one or the other of these two languages.

7. The attitude towards the minorities was discussed. There was agreement that there should be complete equality as between the citizens, irrespective of their religion, ethnic origin or caste and that all forms of discrimination based on such considerations should be removed. This does not exclude special measures for the uplift of the under-privileged.