

स्वतंत्र पक्ष

महाराष्ट्र

सामुन बिल्डिंग, १४३, महात्मा गांधी रोड, मुंबई - ४०० ०२३. दूरध्वनी क्रमांक २५३०८५

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Swatantra

Party

MAHARASHTRA

Phone: 253085

Letters addressed to members
to General Council, National Ex.
State Council and State
Committee



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July 9, 1974

Dear friend:

You must have been reading from time to time reports in the Press of a proposal that has been mooted to dissolve the Party so as to enable the formation of a new political party. Some of you must have also received copies of correspondence exchanged between Mr. Piloo Mody and Mr. M.R. Masani in this regard.

We were particularly unhappy to see the report of a Press interview by our President, Mr. Piloo Mody from Ahmedabad on 7th July 1974 stating that in his view there was an overwhelming desire on the part of the members of the Swatantra Party to dissolve the Party and thus enable the formation of the new Party.

This report, if we may say so, does not truly reflect the views of a large section of the Party's membership. Perhaps you are aware that Swatantra Party's units in Delhi and Tamil Nadu have already opposed dissolution. The Maharashtra State Council at its meeting held in Bombay on 6th July 1974 which went into this question at great length had the benefit of the presence of both Mr. Piloo Mody and Mr. M.R. Masani. After hearing the views of the members present at the meeting, the Maharashtra State Council adopted a Resolution opposing the dissolution and warning that even if such a decision was taken, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party would continue to function as the Swatantra Party in Maharashtra.

We enclose herewith the text of the resolution and a copy of the statement released to the Press for your information.

Yours sincerely

Girish Munshi
General Secretary.

Swatantra Party, Maharashtra.
143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1

Copy of Resolution adopted by the State
Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra
at its meeting held on 6th July 1974 at Bombay.

"This meeting of the State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, 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 State Council notes that of the seven parties that are expected to dissolve to enable the formation of the new Party, the others being confined to particular States or parts of a State.

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

The Council 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 State Council of the Swatantra Party, Maharashtra, does not consider the time or occasion opportune for the disappearance of the Swatantra Party from the Indian political scene and is, therefore, opposed to the proposal to dissolve the Party.

The Maharashtra State Council therefore requests the office-bearers of the Party to convene another meeting of the General Council on the eve of the National Convention to enable this matter to be reviewed once again before it is brought up at the Convention.

In the event of a resolution to dissolve the Party being carried in the National Convention, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party will continue to retain its identity as Swatantra Party and carry on the message and flag of the Party."

Swatantra Party, Maharashtra
Bombay.

Copy of Press Statement issued on
8th July 1974

Recent reports in the Press suggesting that there is an overwhelming desire on the part of members of the Swatantra Party, to dissolve the Party so as to enable the formation of a new political party, have been contradicted by the General Secretary of the Maharashtra State Unit of the Swatantra Party, Mr. Girish Munshi. In a statement released to the Press, Mr. Munshi said:

" The Maharashtra State Council of the Swatantra Party held a meeting on 6th July 1974 in Bombay specifically to consider the question of the Party's dissolution. At the end of a long discussion in the course of which Party leaders including Mr. Piloo Mody, MP and Mr. M.R. Masani participated, the Maharashtra State Council adopted a resolution opposing the dissolution of the Party. The resolution affirmed that even if a decision to dissolve the Party was taken at the National Convention, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party would continue to function as the Swatantra Party in Maharashtra because the Party's principles and policies were in its view as relevant today as they were when they were first formulated".
