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swatantra party

national headquarters

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August 27, 1974

My dear Girishbhai,

I have received your letter of August 23, calling upon me to hand over to you the Office Premises of the National Headquarters as, according to you, there will be no Swatantra Party in existence.

In this connection, I would like to point out to you that the Resolution which was passed at the National Convention with an overwhelming majority of delegates, reads as follows :

"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 People's 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 People's 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".

(A copy of the Resolution is attached herewith for your ready reference.)

The question of handing over the premises of the National Headquarters simply does not arise. In any case, I would like to advise you to wait till the meeting of the National Executive is over.

Mr. Piloo Mody, the President, who has been authorised by the National Convention to take all necessary steps and decisions to implement the aforesaid Resolution, will be coming to Bombay some time in the first week of September, and I would request you to talk things over with him with a view to seek the necessary clarification.

With kind regards.

Yours sincerely,

(V. P. Bhatia)
Executive Secretary

Mr. Girish Munshi,
General Secretary, Swatantra Party Maharashtra,
143 Mahatma Gandhi Road, Fort,
Bombay 1.

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 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 Communists Parties and approves the impending formation of the New Party namely Dharatiya 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 Dharatiya 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.