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TEXT OF RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL
OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY AT ITS MEETING IN PARODA ON
NOVEMBER 6, 1971

ORISSA CYCLONE

The General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep sorrow and grief at the calamity caused by the cyclone and unprecedented tidal waves that swept the coastal districts of Orissa earlier this week. According to the reports the death toll may have reached the figure of 20,000. All lines of communications have been totally disrupted and the loss to property has been colossal. Port traffic at Paradeep Port which has been suspended may not be restored for a long time. By all accounts, the havoc caused by this visitation of nature's fury is unprecedented.

Relief on a gigantic scale will be needed to rehabilitate the people in the affected areas and to restore normal life. The State Government's present estimate of immediate requirements is Rs 50 crores. The Swatantra Party hopes that the Government of India will revise the niggardly grant of Rs 2 crores that it has announced and make it more commensurate with the extent of damage that Orissa has suffered. The Council calls upon the people in all parts of the country and in particular the Party's units to give assistance in a generous measure to the Government and people of Orissa.

Moved by : Mr. P. K. Deo
Seconded by : Mr. Y.K. Choudhary

RESOLUTION ON THE SUFFERINGS OF PEOPLE IN BORDER DISTRICTS

The border districts of the country have had to face death and destruction inflicted by hostile and provocative acts of our unfriendly neighbour every few years since independence. They have, in fact, been called upon to pay a price over and above that which the people in the rest of the country have been called upon to pay. The Swatantra Party considers that it would be an act of justice if an assurance is given to the people of our border districts that the Government will rehabilitate everyone who may suffer through the intransigence of our hostile neighbours. The Swatantra Party would also urge the Government forthwith to set up appropriate administrative machinery for the purpose.

Moved by : Mr. Bhupinder Singh
Seconded by : Col. H. R. Pasricha

RESOLUTION ON ADMISSION OF COMMUNIST CHINA TO THE UNITED FRONT

The Swatantra Party takes note of the fact that Communist China has been admitted to the United Nations. It is to be hoped that world opinion will make Communist China adopt a more pacific attitude. The Swatantra Party considers, however, that the exclusion of Taiwan from the United Nations was unfortunate, for nothing can take away from the fact that it is today a sovereign country.

Moved by : Mr. M. R. Masani

Seconded by : Mr. K. N. V. Rao

RESOLUTION ON GOVERNMENT BY ORDINANCE

Since the last session of Parliament and particularly within the last few weeks, the Government has issued a number of ordinances. While they deal with matters which are important, none of them can be said to be of such an urgent nature as could not have been dealt with in the normal manner with the approval of the Parliament which has been summoned to assemble on the 15th November i.e. within less than a fortnight of the last two ordinances and within less than four weeks of most of them.

The Government enjoys such an enormous majority in Parliament that it need experience no difficulty in obtaining the approval necessary for any legislation within a short period of time. Consideration in Parliament on the other hand would have afforded an opportunity to the opposition Parties in Parliament to point out the shortcomings and defects in the proposed legislation, resulting perhaps in better and sounder enactments.

The General Council of the Swatantra Party calls upon public opinion in general and the opposition parties in Parliament in particular to protest against the disrespect towards Parliament that has been manifested through such blatant defiance of salutary parliamentary conventions.

- Moved from the Chair.

RESOLUTION ON MANAGEMENT OF SIKH GURUDWARAS

The Swatantra Party is of the firm opinion that it is the fundamental right of all communities including the Sikh Community to manage their own religious affairs and places of worship without let or hindrance by the Government of the day. In this view the Swatantra Party calls upon the Government to pass suitable legislation expeditiously in respect of Gurudwaras in Delhi.

An early announcement should in any case be made of the date by which elections to the Gurudwaras in Delhi can be held and their management handed over to the elected representatives of the Sikh Community.

Moved from the Chair

RESOLUTION ON BANGLA DESH

On the 18th September, the General Council of the Swatantra Party at its meeting at Bangalore passed a resolution urging the Government of India to put an end to its policy of drift and set a time limit within which it should call upon all the foreign powers, particularly the Soviet Union, who have been counselling restraint, that after the expiry of the time limit if they have not succeeded in creating conditions for the refugees to go back, it will take firm steps on its own to resolve the problem of refugees.

The Swatantra Party regrets to note that the policy of drift it had warned against still continues. Pakistan's attitude remains as defiant, aggressive and intransigent as ever. The attitude of the Western democratic powers also remains virtually unrealistic as hitherto: though the Prime Minister's recent visit to these countries has perhaps led to a small but significant and welcome shift in their attitude, it is not such as to have any decisive influence on Pakistan. Meantime, the burden on this country and its people has increased and is continuing to increase directly and indirectly and will soon reach a breaking point.

The Swatantra Party would warn Pakistan and the Governments of the world against mistaking the desire for peace that the people of this country cherish, and the patience that they have shown because of that desire for peace for a reluctance to face a war and all its consequences, should a war be thrust upon them. In such a contingency, the Swatantra Party will stand foursquare with the rest of the country in the defence of our territory and security.

Moved by : Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Seconded by : Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary

STATEMENT ON THE CURRENT SITUATION

On 15th August, 1972, India will be celebrating its 25th Independence Day. The Swatantra Party is of the opinion that on that day, a serious and sincere attempt should be made by every patriotic and democratic-minded Indian to evaluate the achievements and policies of the Government and should honestly answer the question whether the people are anywhere near the goal set before them by Mahatma Gandhi, to wipe every tear from the eyes of every helpless and poor Indian.

The Congress Party which took over the reins of power on the midnight of 14th August, 1947, pledged itself to achieve this goal. It has enjoyed continuous power without any interruption for the last 24 years. We gave ourselves a fine Constitution but it has been amended 24 times in the last 24 years and when the 25th Amendment to the Constitution Bill passes muster, we, the people of India will lose freedom and fundamental rights.

The Congress Party in power has taxed our people mercilessly, borrowed and got free aid from our friends abroad and has spent thousands of crores of rupees through various Plans and yet today we find that our economy is stagnant, prices continuously soar, the value of our rupee has run down and been debased, uncertainty and insecurity has spread to all sections of the society.

We are witnessing the social consequences of Socialism, as reflected in mass political defections from all political parties, the pernicious cancer of corruption in all walks of life and the breaking of promises and public commitments by those who have held some of the highest offices in the country. This has shaken the timbre and fabric of our public life, and there is this growing feeling of utter despair and despondency in the youth which is fast losing its faith in democracy. The result is that we are reaching an explosive situation which may result in chaos and anarchy in the country.

The Swatantra Party is convinced that the main cause of this sad state of affairs is the stubborn and outdated obsession of Indian socialists with Marxist dogmas and values. While they have all along been arguing and vying with each other about the extent and degree of their respective radicalism, when defining the role of the State they have consistently given the least attention to the individual, his basic urges, his capacity to contribute to the society and his natural limitations. The result is the almost total destruction of the individual's spirit to rise against injustice and exploitation.

In these circumstances, the Swatantra Party feels that it would be failing in its duty if it does not start immediately a movement with three main objectives :-

- (1) Destroy decadent Marxist values,
- (2) Save the individual and
- (3) Present to the people "Our Path" which is a way of life ideally suited for India.

The Swatantra Party therefore pledges to spread the message of "Our Path" in the country, in farms and factories in villages and cities.

Moved by : Mr. Madhu Mehta
Seconded by : Maharawal Laxman
Singh of Durgapur