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DRAFT MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE CENTRAL
ORGANISING COMMITTEE ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 30,
1964 AT 2.30 P.M. IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM,
MADRAS WOODLANDS HOTEL, BANGALORE.

Present:

Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the Chair)
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. V.P. Menon
Mr. K.B. Jinaraja Hegde
Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy
Mr. P.K. Deo, M.P.
Mr. Anand Chand of Bilaspur, M.P.
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo of Patna, M.L.A.
Mr. Harihar Das
Mr. B.V. Ravayana Reddi
Mr. J. Mohammed Imam
Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P.
Mr. Lakshman Singh of Dungarpur, M.L.A.
Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, M.P.
Mr. Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh, M.L.A.
Sir H.P. Mody
Mr. G. Latchanna, M.L.A.
Jathedar Udam Singh Nagoke
Sardar Basant Singh
Mr. M. R. Masani, M.P.

Mr. N. Dandekar (by invitation)

The minutes of the last meeting held on August 4, 1963, in Madras were confirmed.

Draft resolutions were considered and adopted in the following form for placing before the General Council and the National Convention:

I Draft Condolence Resolutions:

This National Convention of the Swatantra Party records its deep sorrow at the passing away of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, free India's first President, at a critical moment in the nation's history. His was a life of dedication in the service of the country and to the values cherished by all free men. His unostentatious grace, his utter simplicity, his charity of outlook and his broad humanity are ineffaceable by death and remain to inspire us.

Death has claimed the lives of two members of the Party's Central Organising Committee and two of its Members of Parliament.

In the death of Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh last December, the Swatantra Party and the peasantry of India suffered an irreparable loss. As President of the All India Agriculturists' Federation, it was Sardar Bahadur Lal Singh's efforts which in a large measure were responsible for the founding of the Party. A stout champion of the peasants, he was till the end concerned over their welfare.

Raja Kalyan Singh of Bhinai passed away in April 1962. The establishment of the Party in Rajasthan was in no small measure a result

of his pioneering efforts. Fate decreed that he should not live to see his efforts bear fruit.

Mr. H.K. Baria, M.P. suddenly passed away less than a year after his election to the Lok Sabha from Dohad in Gujarat, a Tribal Constituency.

Death also claimed an Associate member of the Party's group in the Lok Sabha, Mr. Muthuramalinga Thevar, M.P., eminent leader of the Tamil Nad and President of the Forward Bloc. Returned to Parliament in the last General Elections, Mr. Thevar campaigned from his sick bed.

This National Convention is deeply grieved at the loss of these stalwarts and conveys its sense of sorrow to their bereaved families.

With the rest of the civilised world this Convention records its sense of deep grief at the loss to the cause of peace in the World by the assassination of President Kennedy of the United States.

II Resolution on General Secretary's Report

The Third National Convention of the Swatantra Party takes note of the General Secretary's Report submitted to it and resolves that it be recorded.

III Resolution on the State Monopoly of Banking

- (i) The Swatantra Party takes note of the fact that in recent months there has been in certain quarters ill-informed talk about the nationalisation of the banking industry in the country.
- (ii) It, therefore, becomes necessary for the Swatantra Party to express its conviction that any attempt to trifle with the functioning of the banking industry in India will be fraught with grave consequences for the country's delicate credit mechanism and economic development and would impair confidence in the country's financial institutions and credit on which the economic assistance and capital investment which India has received from abroad is based.
- (iii) The banking industry is already more than adequately subjected to regulation and control of Government and the Reserve Bank is guard against misuse of their powers by the management of banks. By such a move a State monopoly will be established over all the liquid assets of the people and will force people to waste, secrete or hoard their money, thus minimising the funds available for productive investment.
- (iv) The Swatantra Party, therefore, declares its outright opposition to the attack that has been launched against the banking industry which, by and large, has given a good account of itself, and to the establishment of a State monopoly of Banking.

IV Resolution on Electoral Reform

The Swatantra Party is of the view that a reform of the electoral system has become necessary as a result of the experience so far gained, the coming to light of many abuses, the exorbitant cost of elections ruling out the possibility of success of individuals and groups without considerable financial resources, the abuse of authority by those in office

in high positions and the composition of Parliament and Legislative Assemblies failing to reflect correctly the popular will, as a result of which the country is being subjected to a minority government at the Centre and almost all the States.

The Party, therefore, suggests the appointment by the President of the Republic of a Commission to examine the working of elections to Parliament and State Assemblies with a view to ascertaining methods of securing clean elections free from abuses and illegitimate advantage taken by the Party in office, the reduction of election expenses by measures such as the preparation by Government of voters' slips and the provisions of mobile polling booths, the elimination of administrative interference and suitable measures of proportional representation.

V Resolution on International Relations and Defence

The Swatantra Party records with pride the patriotic upsurge among the Indian People in the face of the Chinese Communist attack and pays its grateful tribute to the members of the armed forces who battled with the invader under extremely difficult conditions. The Military reverses sustained by India and the national humiliation involved in the acceptance of the Chinese unilateral ceasefire and the Colombo Proposals are the result of many years of wrong policies in the realm of international relations and defence.

- (ii) Among the most tragic and disastrous of these mistaken policies was the concept 'non-alignment' and the double standards of judgement to which it led; the persistent appeasement of Communist China; the cold-shouldering of our neighbours in South and South-East Asia. The betrayal of Tibet to Chinese Communist imperialism in 1950, the infamous vote in the U.N. in support of Soviet Russia in the suppression of the Hungarian revolution in 1956 and the continued refusal to have diplomatic relations with Israel are all illustrations of these double standards.
- (iii) As far back as March 1961, the Swatantra Party had urged that a firm and vigilant policy should be followed in dealing with Chinese Communist imperialism. It had then been pointed out that when our territorial integrity had been violated and our soil occupied by a Communist power, the policy of non-alignment had lost its meaning and our policies needed to be reviewed. Among the measures then urged for the strengthening of the country's security stress was laid on collaboration with the countries of South and South-East Asia, with a view to concerted measures for the security of the region; vigilance against infiltration and Fifth column activities; and the importance of keeping the Armed Services free from political influence and manipulation. Unfortunately, this advice was ignored.
- (iv) The Party is convinced that if right policies had been followed, the Chinese Communist invasion of India and the humiliating military defeat sustained by us could have been avoided.
- (v) The Swatantra Party notes that the disastrous fundamental policies of non-alignment and appeasement still continue, with the result that India has lost considerable prestige amongst its neighbours and in the world and that, instead

of the Chinese Communist regime being isolated, it is India that is in danger of finding herself in that situation.

- (vi) The Swatantra Party is convinced that so long as this Government with the dead hand of past policies lying heavily on it, continues in office, there can be no hope of a solution of the problem of recovering our lost territory or of ensuring the country's future security.
- (vii) The Party calls upon the people of India to maintain vigilance against the possibility of further appeasement and capitulation to the claims of Communist China.

VI Resolution on Terminating the Emergency

"That the Third National Convention of the Swatantra Party is of the opinion that there is no justification for the continuance of the Emergency and demands the immediate withdrawal of the Declaration of the State of Emergency, the repeal of the Defence of India Act, and the restoration of the Fundamental rights of Citizens suppressed in pursuance thereof."

VII Resolution on Electoral Understandings

"Although insuperable difficulties stand in the way of all democratic opposition Parties evolving a United Front to oppose the Congress, the Swatantra Party will continue to try its utmost for all elections to secure the cooperation of other democratic Opposition Parties to avoid multilateral contests which give undue advantage to the ruling Party. Such efforts should be no reason for any slackening in building up the Party's own organisation, which should enjoy the highest priority among our tasks. The Swatantra Party provides today the only clear-cut and effective alternative to the present Government's policies. Its policies evoke increasing response from all sections of the people. The Convention, therefore, calls upon the members of the Party to concentrate in the coming months on hard, sustained and disciplined work inspired by devotion to the Party's philosophy and policies."

The President communicated the recommendations of the Organisation Sub-Committee on the resignations of Mr. S.K.D. Paliwal and Shri Kamakhya Narain Singh of Ramgarh and the appointment of Prof. Ruthnaswamy and Shrimati Gayatri Devi of Jaipur as Vice-Presidents of the Party and they were approved unanimously.

The meeting then adjourned till the following morning.
