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Swatantra Party Parliamentary Office

53 North Avenue,
New Delhi.

June 26, 1967.

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting of the General Body of the Party in Parliament was held at 10 A.M. on Friday, June 23, 1967 in room No. 53 1st Floor, Parliament House, New Delhi. The following Members were present:

1. Prof. N.G. Ranga (in the Chair)
2. Mr. M.R. Masani
3. Prof. R.K. Amin
4. Mr. Viren J. Shah
5. Mr. Lok Nath Misra
6. Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
7. Mr. J. Mohd. Imam
8. Raja Venkatappa Naik
9. Mr. Manubhai Amersey
10. Mr. Mahendra Majhi.

The formation of the informal Consultative Committees in violation of the assurance given by the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs was brought to the notice of the Members by Mr. Masani. It was decided that a letter be sent by the Opposition leaders to the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs protesting against the formation of such large and ineffective bodies and also intimating to him our decision to boycott these committees. Members were accordingly advised not to attend the deliberations of these committees and to intimate the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs accordingly.

The decision of the Government of India to continue the Emergency was discussed. Members were opposed to this decision and were of the view that it would not be possible for the Party to support the Government in amending the Constitution.

On the question of sending a Parliamentary delegation to Naxalbari, Mr. Masani informed the Members that there was a move to table a formal motion in the House suggesting sending such a delegation to West Bengal. Members were of the view that since such a delegation would be against the wishes of the State Government, we should support the move for such a delegation but bypass the State Government and should not take any help from them directly or indirectly in this regard.

The question of release of Sheikh Abdulla was discussed. The Members were in favour of issuing a press appeal in this regard as it was wrong to curtail the civil liberties of our citizens in violation of the Fundamental Rights.

Mr. Mohd. Imam's letter to the Leader regarding our policy in West Asia etc. was discussed. The Leader brought to the notice of the Members that while speaking on the subject in the House, he was very careful as not to offend any section of people. The observations made were in the interest of the country and no side was taken in the Arab-Israel conflict. Members supported the line adopted by the Party in regard to the West Asia dispute.

M.R. Masani
Deputy Leader