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Swatantra Party Parliamentary Office

53 North Avenue,
New Delhi.

June 15, 1967.

Minutes of the Meeting

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party in Parliament was held at 10.15 A.M. on Wednesday, June 14, 1967, in the Party Committee Room, Central Hall, Parliament House, New Delhi. The following were present:

1. Mr. M.R. Masani (in the Chair)
2. Mr. C.C. Desai
3. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
4. Mr. K.P. Singh Deo
5. Mr. Y.G. Gowd
6. Mr. K.M. Kaushik
7. Mr. Sundarmani Patel
8. Mr. S.S. Mariswamy

The Chairman pointed out about the decision which was taken during the last meeting of the Executive Committee regarding a move of Mr. Madhu Limaye for initiating the debates on the various demands for grants by rotation by the Speakers of various groups in the Lok Sabha. The Secretaries were requested to meet the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and also the Speaker in this regard.

The report in the Indian Press quoting the New York Times regarding alleged financial contribution by the US Central Intelligence Agency to the election funds of the Congress, Swatantra Party, Jan Sangh and the PSP and some of their candidates during the last general election was brought to the notice of the Committee by the Chairman. The following resolution was passed in this regard and it was decided that the same be released to the Press for giving countrywide publicity of our views on the subject:-

"The Executive Committee of the Swatantra Party in Parliament took note at its meeting this morning of a press report from New York that the New York Times correspondent has been informed by the Government that, according to investigations made by the CBI, the Swatantra Party, the Jan Sangh, the PSP and some of the candidates of the Congress Party received funds during the recent general elections from the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency.

"In so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned, the Executive Committee expressed its indignation at this libellous and false report. Every rupee of Fund raised by Swatantra Party was received from its supporters and sympathizers in this country. The Government should either contradict this report or come forward with specific charges. The Swatantra Party will welcome an investigation into this matter.

Mr. Masani also brought to the notice of the Members the calling attention notice on the subject which had been tabled by him alongwith Mr. K.M. Kaushik and Mr. Y.G. Gowd.

The following members were requested to speak on the items indicated against each of their names:

Reported arrest of Indian Diplomats

Mr. M.R. Masani

The Anti-Corruption Bill

Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
or

Mr. K.M. Kaushik

Passport Bill

Mr. M.R. Masani
(Mr. C.C. Desai was also requested to table amendments on the subject)

Mr. P.K. Deo or Mr. K.P. Singh Deo were nominated to represent the Party in the proposed delegation to Naxalbari.

The following Members were requested to speak on the non-official resolutions:

Steel Decontrol

Mr. Viren J. Shah

Scheme for Procurement of Foodgrains

Mr. K.M. Kaushik

Nationalisation of Banks

Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu

The note on Emergency and the proposed constitutional amendment on the subject circulated by the Home Minister was discussed. As was the view of the National Executive, the Party was opposed to any amendments. Mr. Lobo Prabhu justified the amendment as it would limit the suspension of the Constitution to areas actually in danger. Shri C.C. Desai did not agree.

The Chief Whip was to attend a meeting in the evening with the Speaker to discuss the proposed amendment. He was requested to state that the Party is considering the subject and he could not commit himself.

The Members were requested not to leave Delhi without giving prior intimation to the Chief Whip. They were also requested to occupy their own seats in their own interest and also to facilitate the Speaker to easily identify the Members.

The two Secretaries were requested to finalise the appointment of two research assistants at the earliest.

It was decided that a public meeting regarding West Asia and China be convened at the earliest in co-operation with the Jan Sangh, the SSP and the PSP. It was decided that the Delhi Unit of the Party be requested to organise such a meeting by the weekend.

J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Secretary