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Draft Minutes of the Meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party held at Kalki Buildings, Chetput, Madras, on Saturday, January 9, 1971

Present :

Mr. M. R. Masani .. in the Chair
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel
Prof. N.G. Ranga
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. G. Latchanna
Dr. R. C. Cooper

Mr. N. Dandekar -- by special invitation

1. Confirmation of Minutes of last Meeting :

The Minutes of the meeting of the Central Parliamentary Board held in New Delhi on November 7, 1970 were confirmed.

2. Matters Regarding Electoral Adjustments :

(a) Principles for Allocation of Constituencies

The Board decided that the Party's representatives at the Coordinating Committee of the Front when it met in New Delhi from January 15, should press for the acceptance of the following principles in the matter of allocation of constituencies among the Parties constituting the Front :

- (i) that the Party which carried that constituency in the last General Elections to the Lok Sabha or a subsequent by-election will ordinarily be entitled to nominate its candidate.
- (ii) Where there is no nominee of the relevant party in the Front under item (i) above, the nomination should be of that candidate of that Party who has the best chances of success.

(b) Arrangements for Joint Campaigning :

- (i) Directives should be issued to the State Units of the parties constituting the Front to get together at the State level and work out arrangements best suited for the Parties in that State.
- (ii) In regard to posters, leaflets and other publicity material being issued jointly by the front partners, it was decided that the matter be left to the discretion of the candidates.

3. The Party's Campaign

(i) Tours by Party leaders :

The General Secretary was requested to call upon all members of the Party in the Rajya Sabha and on the National Executive who are not themselves candidates to undertake the tour of various

constituencies where the Party had set up candidates. The National Headquarters was asked to coordinate the tours. In this connection, Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel agreed to tour Andhra and Gujarat, Prof. Ranga agreed to visit two or three constituencies, Mr. Dandekar agreed to visit Andhra and Mr. Masani said that he would try and visit some of the constituencies in the South.

(ii) Motor Cycles :

The President conveyed an offer received for the supply of Motor Cycles at concessional rates for use in the Party's campaign. The General Secretary was requested to ascertain immediately from the various candidates their requirements. It being understood that the cost of the Motor Cycle would be deducted from the subvention that might be made to the candidates

(iii) Jeeps :

Similarly, jeeps would be supplied to candidates provided they agreed to a deduction on a pro-rata basis of the initial amount that would be paid by the party for securing new jeeps. The General Secretary was requested to circulate this as well.

4. Consideration of Recommendations regarding Parliamentary Candidates received from State/Regional Parliamentary Boards :

(i) Rajasthan

Mr. D. N. Patodia and Mr. N. K. Somani were invited to join the discussions at this stage.

Mr. Patodia reported that arising from the talks the State Unit had been conducting with the Congress(O), the Jan Sangh, the SSP and the BKD, (which had subsequently abstained from the talks) the following was the tentative position :

(a) Seats conceded to the Swatantra Party and which are held by the Party

- | | |
|---------------------|---|
| (i) Jaipur | .. Rajmata of Jaipur |
| (ii) Sawai Madhopur | .. Meethalal Meena |
| (iii) Nagaur | .. N.K. Somani |
| (iv) Jalore | .. D. N. Patodia |
| (v) Pali | ... there would be a change of candidate as Mr. S.K. Tapuria had not been nursing his constituency and was not likely to be successful this occasion. |

(b) Seats still being negotiated (which the Party lost in 1967 - our candidate being No. 2.)

- i. Jodhpur
- ii. Barmer
- iii. Udaipur

(c) Seats likely to be conceded to the Party :

- (i) Tonk .. Chauthmal (seat won by the Party in 1967.
MP defected to Congress(R)
- (ii) Dausa .. Hiralal Somani (seat won by the Party in
1967, but lost in a by-election)

(d) Seat conceded to an Independent candidate on Swatantra Symbol :

- (i) Jhunjhunu .. Mr. K. K. Birla

The Board hoped that Mr. K.K. Birla would contest the election on the Party symbol and would, if elected, sit with the Party's Group in the Lok Sabha as an Associate Member.

Summary

Seats conceded :	5
Seats still under negotiation :	3
Independent on Swatantra Symbol	1
	9

Mr. Patodia and Mr. Somani then retired from the meeting.

(ii) Tamil Nadu

Mr. S. S. Mariswamy and Dr. H.V. Hande joined the discussions at this stage. Mr. Mariswamy reported that arising from the talks with the Congress(O) the position was as follows :

(a) Seats conceded to the Swatantra Party held by the Party's MPs

- (i) Sivakasi .. candidate to be found as sitting MP
unwilling
- (ii) Tirunelveli .. candidate to be found as sitting MP
has resigned from the Party
- (iii) Nilgiris .. M. K. Nanja Gowder
- (iv) Karur .. C. Muthuswamy
- (v) Periakulam .. H. Ajmal Khan
- (vi) Tiruchendur .. A worthwhile candidate being consider-
ed.

Mr. Mariswamy further informed the Board that in the negotiations it was agreed that the Swatantra Party would be allotted six more seats, making 12 seats in all and 45 assembly seats.

While he expected no difficulty in Delhi at the Coordinating Committee decisions, Mr. Mariswamy agreed to come up to Delhi immediately he was called upon to do so with all necessary details regarding candidates and constituencies.

The final list of recommendations would only be ready on the 25th of this month.

The Board authorised Rajaji formally to approve the list of Assembly candidates on its behalf.

In this connection, Mr. Mariswamy clarified that the Resolution adopted by the Tamil Nadu Parliamentary Board of the Party on January 3 had authorised him to make "final recommendations" and not "final selection" of Parliamentary and Assembly candidates in Tamil Nadu as erroneously mentioned in the resolution.

Messrs. Mariswamy and H.V. Hande then retired from the meeting.

Delhi

Col. H.R. Pasricha was then invited to the meeting.

The Board noted that the State Parliamentary Board had recommended three constituencies of which two were seats held by the Jan Sangh. These were therefore ruled out in terms of our principle regarding the allocation of constituencies. However in regard to the third viz., Outer Delhi, the Board decided to accept the recommendation of the Delhi Unit and would press for the seat being conceded to the Swatantra Party at the meeting in Delhi on January 15th. Mr. Ghanshyamsingh or Mrs. Goodie Oberoi would be the Party's candidate on a self-supporting basis.

Col. Pasricha then retired from the meeting.

Kerala

Mr. Johnson Vallikkappen and Mr. C.N. Sudhan were invited to join the discussions at this stage.

The Kerala Unit's Parliamentary Board had recommended that the Party contest the Peermedu Parliamentary Constituency where the Party's candidate in the 1967 General Elections had come second. The Kerala Unit's representatives however clarified that their recommendation was subject to certain developments concerning the Kerala Congress. If the latter joined the Congress (R) in electoral adjustments, the Swatantra Party should set up Mr. Joseph Chazhikatt as an Independent on the understanding that he would, if elected, join the Party's Group in Parliament. Mr. Chazhikatt had conveyed his agreement to stand as an Independent on the Star symbol. The Kerala representatives were asked to make their final report in time for the matter to be tackled at the meeting of the Coordinating Committee of the Front on the 15th.

Bihar

Of the ten Parliamentary Constituencies recommended by the State Parliamentary Board, the Board noted that in only three Constituencies was there justification for putting up Party candidates viz. Darbhanga, Begusarai and Jamshedpur, where the candidates recommended were :

Darbhangha	- Mohammed Ilyas Ashraf
Begusarai	- Shrimant Kumar Choudhary
Jamshedpur	- Dr. Durga Prasad Srivastava (self-supporting)

Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary the State President, and Mr. Tej Narayan Yadav, our Minister in the Bihar Government, should be asked to come to Delhi with full details in regard to the above and other constituencies for taking up with the coordinating committee.

Himachal Pradesh

As a result of the achievement of Statehood by Himachal Pradesh and the consequent delimitation of constituencies, the Board decided to ask Mr. Budhi Prakash, who has already been nominated as the Party's candidate from Chamba, to discuss this development with the front partners in Himachal Pradesh and be in Delhi on January 15 when the matter came up at the coordinating committee meeting.

Kashmir

The telegraphic recommendation made by the State President, Syed Aga Jalal, of Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina as the Party's candidate from the Srinagar Parliamentary Constituency was considered. The Board decided that, in the light of the state of Party organisation, it would not be advisable to set up a candidate in Kashmir.

West Bengal

Considering an application by Mr. M.A. Hannan for consideration as the Party's candidate from Jangipur Parliamentary constituency, the Board noted that he had lost his deposit in the 1967 elections from the same constituency and decided to decline the request.

However, if Mr. Hannan wished the Board would be prepared to consider him for an Assembly nomination.

Assam

The telegraphic request from Mr. Martin Narayan Majaw that Mr. Padma Bilash Borgohain be considered for the Party's nomination from the Lakhimpur Parliamentary Constituency was turned down on the ground that Mr. Borgohain had lost his deposit from the same constituency in the 1967 elections and also that the Party had practically no organisation in Assam.

Madhya Pradesh

The recommendation made by Mr. N.C. Zamindar that the Party should contest the constituencies of East Nimar, Shahjapur and Jhabua was considered. His report that he had cleared his recommendation with the State Congress (O) was noted. In this connection, the Board decided that Mr. Zamindar should also discuss the matter with the State Jan Sangh and come up to Delhi on January 15 when the matter could be taken up with the coordinating committee.

Uttar Pradesh

The following recommendations by the State Parliamentary Board were taken up for consideration :

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| 1. Kaiserganj | - Smt. Basant Kumwar Ba |
| 2. Gonda | - Mr. K.D.R. Pandey |
| 3. Domaraganj | - Mr. B.P. Singh |
| 4. Varanasi | - Mr. Tribikram Narayan Singh |
| 5. Bilhaur | - Mr. Harbhajan Singh |
| 6. Agra | - Mr. Hari Shanker Vimal - subject to his candidature being supported by the Maharaja of Bhadawar |
| 7. Mathura | - Raja Mansingh |
| 8. Etawah | - Maharaja of Bhadawar |
| 9. Etah | - Rao Krishnapur Singh |

The Board noted that none of the recommendations had the candidates' prior consent.

It was decided that Sardar Harbhajan Singh should be asked to come to Delhi on the 15th with details of constituencies and candidates and a report of the talks held with the SVD in U.P. in regard to adjustments of seats. He should also bring with him the consent of the candidates recommended.

Andhra

Mr. G. Latchanna, Mr. J. Chandramouli, Mr. Koteswara Rao joined the discussions at this stage. The recommendations of the Committee appointed by the State Parliamentary Board to recommend the Party's candidates were conveyed to the Board by Mr. G. Latchanna.

Anakapalle	- V.V. Ramana
Gudivada	- H.R. Sayoji Rao
Masulipatam	- Mandali Venkateswamy Naidu
Ongole	- Dr. K. Sadasiva Rao
Tirupathi	- C.V. Siddiahmurthy
Rajampeta	- C.L. Narasimha Reddy
Ananthapur	- Dr. Venkataswamy or H.R. Sayoji Rao
Bhadrachalam (ST)	- K. Bapanna Dora
Narasapur	- N. Janardana Rao
Nellore	- C.V. Siddiahmurthy - in case Congress(0) desired to set up their own candidate in Tirupathi

Mr. Latchanna reported that the Committee had decided to recommend two more candidates from the Telangana region.

Mr. Latchanna stated that he would be in Delhi on the 15th evening with full details and after concluding the talks the State Unit was having with the Front partners in Andhra.

The Board was happy to learn from Mr. Latchanna of the efforts being made to persuade former Chief Justice Subba Rao to contest. The Central Parliamentary Board authorised the Andhra Unit to go ahead in its effort and to allot a seat to him in the event of a Constituency being found and Justice Subba Rao agreeing to stand.

The three gentlemen from Andhra then retired from the meeting.

Maharashtra

Chanda

Mr. K.M. Koushik, who had been nominated at the last meeting of the Board as the Party's candidate from the Chanda Parliamentary Constituency, had requested permission to stand as an Independent on the Lion symbol as the Party's symbol had not been popularised and there was no party organisation in that constituency. In view of the special circumstances and the assurance of Mr. Koushik that he would continue to sit with the Party's Group in the Lok Sabha as a full member, the Board agreed to his request.

Sholapur - Mr. Lalchand Hirachand or Mrs. Sharayu Daftary - subject to adjustments

Mr. Madhu Mehta, Joint Secretary of the Party was asked to take immediate steps to discuss with the candidates in consultation with the Maharashtra State Unit and to ensure that full details were made available to the Party's representatives when they met with the Co-Ordinating Committee of the Front in New Delhi on January 15.

Bombay

Mr. Madhu Mehta reported on the discussion the Bombay Regional Unit was having with the Front's partners in Bombay City. He made it clear that so far no formal discussions had been held with the Shiv Sena.

Of the four constituencies in Bombay, Mr. Madhu Mehta felt that it was possible that North Bombay (West) might be conceded to the Swatantra Party.

Mr. Madhu Mehta was asked to pursue this matter and to be ready with his recommendation in respect of this constituency on or before the 15th. In the event of our contesting this seat the candidate would be Mr. Madhu Mehta or Mr. Nana Chudasama.

Haryana

Gurgaon Parliamentary Constituency

The President reported that it was likely that Mr. Rajen Nanda might stand as an Independent. The Board while taking note of this, hoped that Mr. Nanda would stand on the Party's symbol, and that if this was not found possible, he would in any event after being elected agree to join the Party's Group in Parliament as an Associate member.

Punjab

A request from the General Secretary of the Punjab Unit asking for more time was considered. The General Secretary was requested telegraphically to inform Mr. Bhupender Singh Mann that it would not be possible for the Party to extend the time as the coordinating committee of the Front would be meeting on the 15th to finalise adjustments of seats and that their recommendations must be with the Party's representatives in Delhi on or before January 15.

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah and Mr. V.T. Greenivasan were invited to join the discussions at this stage.

In addition to those already nominated viz.,

Chitradurga	- Mr. J. Mohammed Imam
Raichur	- Raja Venkatappa Naik
Udipi	- Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu

the following recommendations made by the State Parliamentary Board were considered :

Chickmangalur	- Mr. M.D. Narayan who would contest as an Independent on our symbol. If elected he would join the Party's Group in Parliament.
Bellary	- Y. Mahabaloshwarappa
Dharwar North	- Shivanna Gowda

- Dharwar South - Siddaiah Kashimath, MIA
- Hassan - H.B. Jwalanaiah, MIA - This constituency would be yielded to the Congress (O) in the event of the latter leaving the Chickmagalur Constituency to us.
- Mangalore (South)- Various letters from Mrs. Louella Lobo to the President, Rajaji and the General Secretary were then taken up for consideration. It was noted that that Constituency was held by a Congress (O) M.P. Therefore the Board decided that in view of this fact the question of the Swatantra Party contesting the seat did not arise as the seat was held by a partner of the Front.

Gujarat

The recommendations of the State Parliamentary Board of 24th November were then taken up for consideration.

Sitting Members

The following Constituencies and candidates were approved:

1. Godhra - Pilo Mody
2. Jamnagar - Mr. N.Dandeker
3. Rajkot - Mr. M.R. Masani
4. Junagadh - Mr. Viren J. Shah
5. Surendramagar - Meghrajji of Dhrangadhra
6. Dhanduka

The State President, Mr. H.M. Patel, stated that the State Parliamentary Board's qualified recommendations of Prof. R.K. Amin for Dhanduka arose because of Prof. Amin's desire that the Party should meet the full expenses of his election if there is no adjustment with the other parties. Moreover, Mr. Patel's report was that Prof. Amin had not sufficiently paid attention to his constituency as its M.P. However, in view of his contribution in Parliament, the State Parliamentary Board recommended him provided the financial limitations were made clear.

The Board felt that Prof. Amin should get by way of financial assistance what other candidates would be getting on a pro rata basis. If for some reason Prof. Amin was not satisfied with this, then it was decided that the State Unit should consider alternate candidates as, for example, the Yuvraj of Wankaner.

7. Baroda

Mr. Pashabhai Patel has been recommended as the Party's candidate once again.

8. Sabarkanta

The President reported that the talks for the alliance came to a breakdown over the constituencies of Sabarkanta and Kaira both of which had been annexed by our Party in 1967. After considerable efforts to persuade

the Congress (O) to leave these seats for the Swatantra Party, the President reluctantly conceded these seats in order not to endanger the prospects of a national alliance.

While the Board approved of the President's action, the State President reported that the Congress (O) Unit in Sabarkanta had now turned hostile to Mr. C.C. Desai and in the light of our own principle that in case of disputes over candidates the seat should be contested by that candidate and Party which had the best chance of winning, we should press for Sabarkanta again.

9. Kaira

In regard to Kaira, Mr. Patel stated that the concerned M.P. who had defected from our Party, Mr. Pravinsinh Solanki, was actually going to stand from Anand as a Congress (O) candidate. In view of this, we should try and press for Kaira. If however, this was not found possible, we could consider conceding this seat in exchange for another.

10. Mehsana and Patan (Reserved)

The party should claim both these seats which were annexed in 1967. The State President promised to bring with him to Delhi the name of a candidate for Mehssana. So far as Patan (reserved) was concerned, Mr. Patel stated that the State Unit would be willing to concede it to the Congress (O) in return for either Mandvi or Bulsar.

11. Broach

The State President promised to produce the name of a good candidate from this Constituency on the 15th when he would be in Delhi to be available for consultation with our representatives who would be negotiating adjustments.

12. Kutch

Subject to adjustments the Gujarat Unit was authorised to persuade the Maharao of Kutch to stand as our Party candidate or failing that to stand as an Independent on our symbol.

The Board including Mr. H.M. Patel was unanimously of the view that while we should try to secure the allotment of the constituencies listed above, we should not press for those from numbers 8 and 9 onwards to the point of endangering the electoral adjustments in Gujarat.

Orissa

The General Secretary reported on the discussion the President and he had with Mr. Harihar Patel the previous evening. Arising from the discussion and the recommendations of the State Parliamentary Board, the following resolutions were approved :

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| Mayurbhanj | - Mr. Mahendra Majhi |
| Balasore | - Mr. Harihar Patel has promised to send to Bombay by the 12th with a copy to Mr. Dandekar at Delhi the name of a strong candidate. |
| Bhadrak | - Mr. Brundaban Charan Das |
| Jajpur | - Mr. Kailash Chandra Jena |

Kendrapara

- Since the State Parliamentary Board's own assessment is that they were not likely to win this seat, it was decided not to contest this seat if some other party in the Front or the Utkal Congress was in a position to nominate a candidate who could annex the seat.

Cuttack

- Dr. Sriram Charan Das

Puri

- As the seat belonged to the SSP which is a partner in the Front it was felt that this seat might have to be conceded to them.

Bhubaneswar

Mr. Harihar Patel was requested to pursue the matter and to recommend a strong candidate of status like Mr. Harihar Patel or some one of his standing to enable the Party to annex this seat.

Bhajanagar

As the sitting M.P. was a member of the Congress (O) we may have to concede this seat to them. If they were not interested we should allow Mr. Biju Patnaik to contest this seat and we should keep out of the contest.

Chhatrapur

While we should claim this seat we should be prepared to concede it to a party belonging to the front in case we are unable to produce a strong candidate as it was very essential to ensure the defeat of the Congress (R) candidate.

Koraput

The State Parliamentary Board had given two alternate names. Mr. Harihar Patel was asked to let the National Headquarters have a specific recommendation in regard to the candidate.

Nowrangpur (ST)

The State Parliamentary Board was asked to make up its mind in regard to the candidate and to make a specific recommendation.

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| Kalahandi | - Mr. P.K. Deo |
| Phulbani | - Mr. Anil Dipa |
| Bolangir | - Mr. R.R. Singh Deo |

Sambalpur

This being a seat of the Congress (O) we shall have to concede it to them.

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| Sundargarh | - Mr. Debanand Amat |
| Keonjhar | - Mr. Gurucharan Maik |
| Dhenkanal | - Mr. K.P. Singh Deo |

Angul

The State Unit was asked to make a more specific recommendation of a strong candidate particularly if the candidate to be opposed happens to be Dr. Mahtab.

The Board asked that either Mr. Loknath Misra or Mr. Tribikram Tripathy should be in Delhi on the 15th with full details of candidates and constituencies.

Sub-Committee to approve recommendations:

The following Sub-Committee was appointed to approve of recommendations received from the State Parliamentary Boards of Tamil Nadu and Orissa (in case the latter assembly was dissolved) in respect of Assembly candidatures.

For the purpose of approving further recommendations from State Units for Lok Sabha candidates and for approving candidates for the Assembly elections in Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Orissa (in the event of the latter's dissolution) the following sub-committee was appointed :

Mr. M.R. Masani	-	President
Mr. N. Dandekar	-	Vice-President
Dr. R.C. Cooper	-	General Secretary

In the case of Tamil Nadu the Board authorised Rajaji to approve of the recommendations and to inform the Sub-Committee.

The meeting then terminated.