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The Swatantra Party

STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

adopted at an informal meeting held
at Madras on 4th June 1959, with
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari in the chair

1. We are of opinion that social justice and welfare can be reached more certainly and properly in other ways than through the techniques of so-called socialism.

2. We hold that social justice and welfare should not be sought to be brought about by violence or State compulsion with all their necessary accompaniments of injustice, expropriation, and repudiation of obligations but must be brought into being by the spread of the doctrine of trusteeship adumbrated by Gandhiji.

3. We stand for every effort being made to preserve what is good in our culture and to replace by spiritual values the materialistic philosophy of life that has resulted from the efforts merely to raise what is called the standard of life.

4. We believe that all the educational activities of the Government, direct and indirect, should be such as to emphasise the moral obligation of those who possess wealth to hold it in trust for society, and a doctrine of life based on that moral obligation as distinguished from seeking to establish a socialistic structure based on legislative sanctions, involving expropriation and loss of incentive for the individual to work, and increasing dependence on the State and its officials in every walk of life.

5. We are opposed to all those policies and forecasts of future Governmental action which have created an all-pervading and deep sense of uncertainty, drying up all interest in land and factory alike.

6. In agriculture, we recognise the paramount need for increasing food production, but believe that it is best attained through the continuance of the self-employed peasant-proprietor who stands for initiative and freedom and is interested

in obtaining the highest yields from the land.

7. We believe in an intensive programme of agricultural improvement without disturbing the harmony of rural life amongst the elements that compose it, but by promoting the material and psychological inducements for more production.

8. We should in special seek to introduce a more intensive programme than is now being followed in respect of the supply of material, implements and credit to the farmer without in any way interfering with the cultivator's rights of ownership, management and cultivation of the land.

9. We believe in the need for every kind of servicing for agriculture, but are opposed to cultivation through organisations which are a loose kind of multiple ownership, certain to sap the incentive of the farmer, reduce farm output, and end in a collective economy and bureaucratic management.

10. We believe that the level of life of the farmer can and should be raised by taking steps to maintain a reasonable and fair price for his produce.

11. In industry, we believe in the encouragement of the incentives for higher production and expansion which are produced by competitive enterprise, with adequate safeguards against excessive and unreasonable prices, profits and dividends where the competition itself does not secure these ends.

12. We stand for the restriction of State enterprise to heavy industries to supplement private enterprise in that field, such national services as railways, and the starting of pioneer industries where private initiative is difficult.

13. We believe that taxation should be kept at such levels that it does not interfere with reasonable living standards for the people, both rural and urban, and which, while being necessary and sufficient for the carrying on of administration, nation-building and social services, is yet not so high and exacting or so ubiquitous as to prevent capital-formation and investment by individuals.

14. We are opposed to urgent and lopsided development based on heavy taxation, deficit financing and foreign loans out of all proportion to economic repayment-capacity.

15. We are opposed to policies which lead to excessive and immediate inflation.

16. We hold that the guarantees specified in the original Constitution in respect of freedom of property, trade, employment, and just compensation for any property acquired for public purposes should be restored.

17. We are against the expansion of bureaucratic services which involves the bringing into being of "Statism" with a hierarchy of officials made to do work which is best done privately and independently and an unproductive waste of national resources.

18. We believe that the State will best serve its citizens by giving facilities for a proper decentralized distribution of industry and limiting its regulatory function to the prevention and punishment of un-social activities wherever called for.

19. We are of opinion that a broad-based Opposition Party should be formed on the above principles to safeguard our democracy and that a Convention be called for taking steps for that purpose.