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swatantra party

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General Secretary's Letter No. 288

Dear Friend:

15th August Celebrations

Government has made big plans for celebrating the 25th year of Independence. Naturally, our Party units all over the country should hoist the flag and hold meetings that day. However, we are unable to share the Government's enthusiasm in celebrating the Silver Jubilee with such great fanfare. This is so for a number of reasons.

Firstly, the fact that large parts of our country are facing famine conditions and in some others floods have caused considerable misery to our people.

Secondly, 25 years after Independence millions of our people still go hungry, millions are still homeless and the disparity between the poor and the rich is widening as a result of government's economic policy.

Hoist the flag we must. But in our public meetings our speeches should bring home the fact that there is no cause for rejoicing; that freedom so dearly won is being misused by those in authority for their personal and party aggrandisement.

* I am enclosing herewith some Talking Points prepared by Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu at our request. Six copies are enclosed which you may distribute to those who may be called upon to speak.

At such meetings our Party workers could take the following Pledge :

We the members of the Swatantra Party pledge :

- a) To work untiringly for the adoption of policies which will benefit the poor and the needy;
- b) to bring the nation back from the path of Marx to the path of Gandhiji;
- c) to rededicate ourselves to the defence of Farm, Freedom and Family;
- d) our loyalty to the Constitution as framed by the Constituent Assembly of 26th November, 1949; and
- e) to restore the various Fundamental Rights that have been taken away from our people by a power-hungry government.

I do not think we should accept invitations if extended by the government or other public authorities to participate in gala functions. On the other hand our Party men should sit silently outside the premises where such gala functions are held, holding placards demanding a better life for our people.

We would be happy to receive from you a report on the manner in which our Party units observed Independence Day.

JAI SWATANTRA

Yours sincerely,

(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary

SWATANTRA PARTY, BOMBAY

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