



swatantra party

national headquarters

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May 26, 1972

General Secretary's Letter No. 281

Dear Friend,

As you are aware, the General Council at its meeting in Bombay on April 8 and 9, discussed at considerable length various matters concerning Party policies, programmes and organisation particularly in the context of the Party's performance in the recent Assembly Elections.

The General Council will now be meeting in Madras on 24th and 25th of June to take decisions in the light of the discussions held at Bombay. It is necessary that the representatives of your State/Regional Unit should come prepared to the Madras meetings with suggestions and proposals in this regard.

I also enclose copy of the General Council Minutes and would invite your specific attention to the last page where the consensus that was evident among members at the last Council meeting has been recorded. It would therefore be pertinent if the comments, suggestions and/or proposals of your State/Regional Unit were to be made within the framework of the Consensus.

We shall be grateful if the views of your State Executive and/or comments are received by us on or before Thursday, June 15.

In view of the importance of the meeting, may I also take this opportunity to urge on you to ensure that the maximum number of representatives of your Unit on the General Council attend the Madras meetings?

Yours truly,

Madhu Mehta
(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary

Encl : *

P.S. The proceedings of the General Council meetings has already been posted to you earlier.

Draft Minutes of the Third Meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party, held on Saturday and Sunday, April 8, and 9, 1972 at the M.C. Ghia Hall, Rampart Row, Bombay 1.

President:

Mr. H.M. Patel - in the Chair

BOMBAY

Mr. N. Dandekar
Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. Madhu Mohita
Mr. Shantilal Thar
Mrs. Sarla Datar
Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal
Mr. K.H. Subramaniam
Mr. M.H. Musafir

Mr. Adi Narain

DELHI

Mr. Mohanlal Jatav
Mr. M.R. Arya
Dr. H.R. Pasricha

GUJARAT

Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. Manubhai Anersay
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Mr. Anandbhai N. Amin
Mr. Dadubhai Amin

HIMACHAL PRADESH

Mr. Budhi Prakash

KERALA

Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Dr. V.V. Antony
Mr. A.J. Dominic
Mr. Babu Joseph
Mr. K.A. Abraham
Mr. Jacob Cherian

MAHARASHTRA

Mr. A.R. Deshpande
Mr. Sumatilal P. Shah

MYSORE

Mr. H.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. Siddayya V. Kashinath
Mr. J.H. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. Ranjitsinh Ghorpade

ORISSA

Mr. Padmanabha Singh Deo
Mr. Banabihari Pati
Mr. P.K. Deo
Mr. V. Jagannathan

PUNJAB

Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann
Sardar Gurbax Singh Bedi
Iala Bhagirath Lal

RAJASTHAN

Rajmata Gayatri Devi
Mr. Laxmansingh of Dungarpur
Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi
Mr. H.K. Mohita
Mr. D.N. Patodia

TAMIL NADU

Mr. V. Devanathan
Mr. P. Sundaresan
Mr. J. Ramabhadran
Mr. M.S. Hanza
Mr. T.H. Thirupathy

UTTAR PRADESH

Mr. H.K. Srivastava
Mr. Baldeo Singh

Former President

Mr. H. R. Macani

SPECIAL INVITEES

Bombay

Mr. A. V. Murthy
Mr. T. R. Ramakrishnan
Mr. Hiren Shah
Mr. Dhiraj Shah
Mr. S. Ramachandran
Mr. Girish Munshi
Mr. E.C. Cama

Gujarat

Mr. N. V. Vyas
Mr. K. M. Bhat

Kerala

Mr. K. T. Joseph

Madhya Pradesh

Mr. U.M. Trivedi
Mr. B. U. Trivedi
Mr. Maganlal Pandya

Maharashtra

Mr. K. R. Koshti

Orissa

Mr. Sundermani Patel, MP
Mr. Baxi Nayak, MP

Rajasthan

Mr. Digvijay Singh

Condolence

The Council condoled the death of Mr. C. Mathai of Kerala and Mr. S. Venkata Rao of Tamil Nadu, both members of the General Council. Mr. Mathai was a leading member of the Kerala Unit of the Party, a self-made businessman and a model employer.

Mr. Venkata Rao who was Joint Secretary of the Tamil Nadu Unit of the Party was active in the Party's work in the Coimbatore District. In their deaths, the Party has suffered a grievous loss. The General Council conveyed its deep sense of sorrow and grief to their families.

Confirmation of Minutes :

The Minutes of the last meeting of the General Council held in Baroda on 6th November 1971, were confirmed.

Party Outlook and Organisation :

The Council began a discussion on the Party's organisation in the light of its poor performance in the recent Assembly Elections.

At the outset, the President Mr. Patel mentioned that the intention of the meeting was not to take any decisions but to enable a thorough discussion of organisational matters in the light of the Party's performance in the Assembly elections and to suggest measures that need to be taken to revitalise the Party's organisation.

A letter from Dr. Cooper suggesting the following alternatives was circulated to members along with replies to that letter from Rajaji, Mr. Manubhai Amersey and Mr. Madhu Mehta.

- (a) continuing the Party as it is, or
- (b) merging it with other Parties, or
- (c) disbanding the Party and allowing its members to work in different fields of activity or join Congress (R).

The above which were circulated to members of the Council formed the basis for the discussion that followed.

The following members participated in the discussion :

Mr. Lobo Prabhu, Mr. Parmandd Kejriwal, Mr. Laxmansingh of Durgapur, Mr. D. N. Patodia, Mr. A. R. Deshpande, Mr. M. R. Arya, Mr. Yashwant Kumar Choudhary, Mr. Shantilal Thar, Mr. T. R. Ramakrishnan, Mr. H. K. Srivastava, Mr. K. R. Koshti, and Mr. R. V. Murthy.

The meeting then adjourned for the day.

The Council resumed its deliberations at 10 am on the 9th.

The discussion on organisation continued. The following participated :

Mr. R.K. Ganapath, Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi, Dr. H. R. Pasricha, Mr. Mohanlal Jatav, Mr. B. U. Trivedi, Mr. P. Sundaresan, Mr. Piloo Mody, Mr. P. K. Deo, Mr. U.M. Trivedi, Mr. N. Dandekar, Mr. H.M. Patel, Mr. Sundermani Patel, Dr. R. C. Cooper, Mr. M. R. Masani, Mr. Devanathan, Mr. Babu Joseph, Mr. Baldeo Singh, Mr. G. B. Sukhee, Mr. Manubhai Amersey, Mr. Budhi Prakash, Mr. Ranjitsingh Ghorpade, Mr. K. H. Subramanian, Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu, Dr. V. V. Anthony, Miss Kusumbehn Joshi, Mr. A.J. Dominic, Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann, Mr. Charanlal Sahoo, Mr. Hiren Shah, Mr. B. P. Sao and Mr. Anandbhai Amin.

The General Secretary summarized the various points mentioned by speakers.

The consensus of the meeting was --

- (a) that the Party continues to believe that its principles and programmes are sound and their adoption generally would be in the Party's interest. Therefore the question of winding up the Party was wholly uncalled for.
- (b) there is today no Party in the country which could be described as like-minded. That being so, the Swatantra Party must continue to go it alone.
- (c) at the same time even while adhering to its policies and principles it must present them in a manner and form which would be more generally understood and acceptable to the masses.

A summary of the discussions is attached.

It was decided that the General Council should meet again towards the end of June in Madras to take decisions in the light of the discussions held at this meeting.

In his concluding remarks, the President observed that he had said at the outset no decisions were to be taken at this meeting and therefore there would be no formal resolution. He hoped that members would turn over carefully in their minds the various points and suggestions made during the discussions so that when the Council met again in June in Madras - he had suggested Madras as that would have the benefit of Rajaji's guidance - it would be possible for us to decide upon our future course of action.

The meeting then terminated.
