



swatantra party

national headquarters

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October 2, 1971

General Secretary's Letter No. 273

Dear Friend:

Sub: Meetings of the National Executive and
General Council held in Bangalore on
September 17 and 18, 1971

The outgoing National Executive, the newly elected General Council and the new National Executive met in Bangalore on September 17 and 18, 1971.

I would like to give you a brief resume of the work done by these meetings.

OUTGOING NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

Business before General Council

The outgoing National Executive met for a couple of hours on the morning of the 17th to recommend to the General Council the number of Vice Presidents, Treasurers, Joint Secretaries and members of the National Executive and to settle the procedure and schedule of elections of the Office Bearers and Members of the National Executive.

Condolence

On receiving news that Dr. Biharilal Antani a leading member of the Party in the Rajya Sabha from Gujarat had passed away the previous day, the National Executive adopted a resolution expressing its deep sense of sorrow over his demise and lauded his services to the Party.

Constitution (24th Amendment) Bill:

There was a discussion on the Party's position on the Constitution (24th Amendment) Bill. The Executive reiterated the need for the Party particularly its groups in the various State Legislatures to oppose the ratification of the Bill in their respective State Assemblies and Councils, by insisting on a division of the House.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Election of Office Bearers and Members of the National Executive :

The main business before the General Council was the election of the Office Bearers and members of the new National Executive for the next two years.

The elections of the General Secretary, the five Joint Secretaries and the two Treasurers were unanimous. The elections for the offices of the President, five Vice-Presidents and members of the National Executive were however contested.

There were two nominations for the post of President, seven for five Vice-Presidents and 29 candidatures for 20 members of the Executive.

Actually in the case of the elections of the members of the National Executive there was a tie between the 20th and 21st candidate. The General Council decided that instead of drawing lots between them, both should be declared elected. We thus have 21 members of the Executive.

* The list (with addresses) of the Office Bearers and Members of the National Executive for the next two years is attached (Annexure A).

Organisational matters

Apart from the elections, the Council had a brief discussion on matters relating to Party organisation.

Resolutions:

* In the afternoon of the 18th the Council discussed and adopted unanimously the following resolutions (texts attached Annexure B).

1. Resolution on Fundamental Rights
2. Resolution on Bangla Desh
3. Resolution on Indo-Soviet Treaty
4. Resolution on Press Bill
5. Resolution on Unemployment
6. Resolution on Flood havoc in Northern India and Drought in Southern India

THE NEW NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

The new National Executive met immediately after the conclusion of the General Council meeting.

Central Parliamentary Board

The first matter it tackled was the setting up of the Central Parliamentary Board. As on the last occasion the National Executive decided that membership of the Central Parliamentary Board should be based on positions held in Parliament and State Assemblies and not by names.

Consequently, the Board was constituted as follows :

Members

1. Leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha
2. Leader of the Party in the Rajya Sabha
3. Leader of the Party in the Orissa State Assembly
4. Leader of the Party in the Andhra State Assembly
5. Leader of the Party in the Rajasthan State Assembly

Ex-Officio Members

6. President
7. General Secretary

Since the Gujarat Assembly had been dissolved, it was decided that the President of the Gujarat State Unit would be invited to meetings of the Central Parliamentary Board.

The Executive also decided that whenever the Board discussed electoral or legislative matters concerning a particular State, the State/Regional Unit concerned would be invited to send its State President and/or General Secretary or any authorised representative of the State Executive to attend such meetings of the Board and be available for consultations.

State/Regional Parliamentary Boards

The Executive decided that in the light of the fact that Assembly Elections in several States were round the corner, State Units should be requested immediately to set up their State/Regional Parliamentary Boards so as to get on with the business of recommending candidates and constituencies and planning the Party's election campaign in their States.

✓ Your urgent attention is invited to this decision and you are kindly requested to convene an early meeting of your State Executive and nominate your Parliamentary Board. The names of the members should then be communicated to us immediately thereafter.

Financial Assistance

In reply to a query as to the availability of financial assistance for State Units, the President stated that while State Offices should not expect any financial help for their upkeep, the National Headquarters would do its best to find funds for the forthcoming election campaign.

Sub-Office of the National Headquarters in Delhi

It has been decided to set up a zonal or sub-office of the National Headquarters in Delhi.

Mr. M.R. Arya, one of the Joint Secretaries elected at Bangalore will be in charge of the sub-office. The precise nature of its functions and the manner in which it would be of help to our Units in Northern India will be settled shortly.

Review of Party Policy

It will be recalled that the National Executive at its meeting in Bombay on April 16, set up a Committee to review the Statement of Policy. Unfortunately the Committee was unable to conclude its work in time for its report to be considered by the outgoing National Executive. In the context of the forthcoming Assembly elections and the urgent need to expedite the work of the Committee a Sub-Committee consisting of the President, Mr. H.M. Patel, Mr. N.K. Somani, Dr. R.C. Cooper and myself has been set up to prepare a draft based on the comments received from various State Units and members in response to the Questionnaire that was issued by the National Headquarters a couple of months back.

✓ We hope to circulate the draft as settled by the Sub-Committee to you by the middle of this month. We shall be writing to you further on the subject at that time. The report will be finalised by the National Executive and the General Council scheduled to meet in Baroda on the 5th and 6th of November (see next page)

State Election Manifestoes

✓ At the same time it was decided that State Units should be asked to prepare their individual manifestoes dealing with issues concerning their States. Such State Manifestoes should be forwarded to the National Headquarters not later than the last week of October so as to enable the National Headquarters to peruse these drafts and ensure that there is nothing in them contrary to or conflicting with the National Manifesto of the Party.

Your immediate attention is also drawn to this matter and we hope to receive from you your draft election manifestoes on or before October 31, 1971.

Next Meetings of the National Executive and General Council

In order to give the Gujarat State Convention to be held in Baroda on November 7th the benefit of the presence of the members of the General Council and the National Executive it was decided to hold the next meetings of the General Council and the National Executive in Baroda on the eve of the Convention.

The following will be the programme of the meetings :

Friday 5th November	-	National Executive
Saturday 6th November	-	General Council
Sunday 7th November	-	Gujarat State Convention

Separate circulars are being issued to members in regard to the above : meetings.

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta

(Madhu Mehta)
General Secretary

Encls: **

Annexure A

SWATANTRA PARTY

NATIONAL EXECUTIVE

(1971-1973)

President

Mr. H.M. Patel, M.P.
Charutar Vidyamandal
Vallabh Vidyanagar
Kaira District
Gujarat.

OR

251, Vinay Marg
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi.

Vice-Presidents

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo, M.L.A.
Kharabelnagar
Bhubaneswar 1.
Puri District.

Mr. H. Dandekar
Southlands
177 Upper Colaba
Bombay 5.

Rajmata Gayatri Devi, M.P.
Raj Mahal Palace
Jaipur.
(Rajasthan)

OR

33, Aurangzeb Road
New Delhi.

Sardar Harbhachan Singh
Pritam Niwas
7/113, Swarupnagar
Kanpur.

Mr. G. Latchanna, M.L.A.
Seva Sadan
Chintalbasti
Hyderabad.

OR

Courtpet
Sompeta
Srikakulam District.

General Secretary

Mr. Madhu N. Mehta
84/A, Napeansea Road
Bombay 6.

Hon. Treasurers

Mr. Manubhai Amersey
Green Fields, 6th floor
134 Churchgate Reclamation
Bombay 1.

Mr. G.K. Sundaram, M.P.
"Rasakondalu"
Circuit House
Coimbatore
(Tamil Nadu)

OR

122 South Avenue
New Delhi.

Joint Secretaries

Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Patnaikpara
P.O. Sambalpur
District Sambalpur
(Orissa)

Mr. Budhi Prakash
Advocate
G.P.O. Square
Dalhousie
District Chamba
(Himachal Pradesh)

Mr. M.R. Arya
D-199 West Patel Nagar
New Delhi 5.

Dr. H.V. Hande, M.L.A.
8, Nadamuni Naidu Street
Madras 30.

Mr. Y.G. Goud
Devi Niwas
Yemmagalur
District Kurnool.

Members

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Naoroji Road
Chetput
Madras 31. .

Dr. R.C. Cooper
Hansotia & Co.,
Jehangir Wadia Bldg.,
51 Mahatma Gandhi Road
Bombay 1.

Mr. Piloo Mody, M.P.
Mody & Colgan
Stadium House
Veer Nariman Road
Bombay 1.

OR

2, Lodi Estate
Cornwallis Road
New Delhi 3.

Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Light House Hill
Mangalore 1.

Mr. P.K. Das, M.P.
Bhawani Patna P.O.
Kalahandi District
(Orissa)

OR

4 South Avenue Lane
New Delhi.

Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Advocate
Mahadev Wadi
Gondal
Rajkot District
(Gujarat)

Mr. D.N. Patodia
9, Canning Lane
New Delhi 11.

Mr. Abdul Wahid Raina
Nowpora
Srinagar.

Mr. N.K. Ganapalaiah
Harley Estate
Saklasapur Post
Hassan District
Mysore State

Mr. G.B. Sukhee
71A, Banganga Road
Malabar Hill
Bombay 6.

Mr. K.D.R. Pandey
5, Kaiserbagh
Lucknow.
(U.P.)

Dr. M. Santhosham
66, Egmore High Road
Egmore
Madras 8.

Mr. Kalyansingh Kalvi
Swatantra Party Office
Atish Market
Tripolia, P.B. 47
Jaipur.

Major Munshi Ram
Vill. Tirpal
P.O. Darlata
Via Ranital
Tahsil Dehra
Dist. Kangra
Himachal Pradesh

Sardar Bhupinder Singh Mann
Vill. & P.O. Barra
Via Sirhind
District Patiala
(Punjab)

Mr. Gurucharan Tikayat
At/Gurukhetra
P.O. Cuttack-4.
Dist. Cuttack.

Mr. Anandbhai B. Amin
Sardar Kunj Society
Near Bahai Centre
Shahpur
Ahmedabad.

Members (Contd)

Mr. Harikrishna Srivastava
11/323, Souterganj
Kanpur.

Mr. R.Y. Ghorpade
'Shakti' Building
Mercara Post
Coorg District
Mysore

Mr. J. Mohammed Imam
'Le Chateau'
Jagalur P.O.
Chittradurga District
Mysore

Col. H.R. Pasricha
20B, Gangaram Hospital Road
New Delhi.

Amendment B

SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL HEAD QUARTERS
GENERAL COUNCIL

Bangalore,
18.9.1971.

RESOLUTION ON FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS.

The Swatantra Party is firmly of the view that the Fundamental Rights given to the people by the Constitution of the country are essential for the preservation of democracy and in particular for the protection of the weaker sections of the people from abuse of authority by parties in power. The Swatantra Party considers it to be its duty to ask the people of India to recognise the 24th and 25th Amendments of the Constitution for what they are: they violate the Constitution and the rule of law, frustrate democracy, expose all property to unjust and unfair erosion and jeopardise the freedom of religion education and speech. The Swatantra Party urges every citizen who values the freedom to which he has become entitled because of the great Constitution of India, to resist with all his might this attempt to deprive him of these rights and their freedom.

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SWATANTRA PARTY

GENERAL COUNCIL

Bangalore: 18-9-1971

RESOLUTION ON BANGLA DESH

The General Council of the Swatantra Party views with grave concern the present position in regard to the refugees from Bangla Desh. The Government keeps reiterating its determination to see that the refugees return to Bangla Desh but has taken no steps yet which could in any sense be considered as designed to achieve their return. Since the Government itself claims that the Treaty with Soviet Russia was entered into for other and more long term reasons, the present situation cannot but cause deep anxiety to the people of this country.

The Swatantra Party deplores the attitude of all those countries who continue to give help, aid and military hardware to Pakistan and who do not grasp the significance of giving succour to Pakistan and its effects on peace in the sub-continent.

On the other hand, we see that the flow of refugees into India is incessant; and we see on the other, partly because of the burdens imposed by the refugees mainly because of the continued pursuit of unrealistic economic policies, that the country's economy far from growing is threatening to come to a grinding halt.

The General Council of the Swatantra Party, therefore urges the Government to put an end to its policy of drift and set a time limit within which it should call upon all the foreign powers particularly the Soviet Union, who have been counselling restraint, that after the expiry of the time limit if they have not succeeded in creating conditions for the refugees to go back, it will take firm steps on its own, to resolve the problem of refugees.

SWATANTRA PARTY

GENERAL COUNCIL

BANGALORE:
SEPTEMBER 18, 1971.

RESOLUTION ON INDO-SOVIET TREATY.

The General Council of the Swatantra Party views with concern the conclusion of the Indo-Soviet Treaty. The Council apprehends that the long term effects of the Treaty will be injurious to the free way of life of the Indian people and to our country's international relations and prestige.

The Treaty fetters India's freedom of action and narrows the options open to this country at a time when international relationships are in a state of flux. The Treaty, which threatens to reduce India to a position of a satellite, will needlessly narrow the number of India's friends and tend to isolate it.

The effects of the Treaty on the domestic front will be equally deleterious. It will facilitate further infiltration into the cultural and economic life of our country. It will accelerate the threat to our Constitution and the Fundamental Rights of the citizen already posed by the 24th and 25th Constitutional Amendment Bills. The fact that the Indian Government which has concluded the Treaty contains several ex-Communists and fellow travellers of international communism gives the Treaty a particularly dangerous character.

SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL HEAD QUARTERS
GENERAL COUNCIL - Bangalore: 18.9.1971.

RESOLUTION ON PRESS BILL

The Swatantra Party strongly condemns the published draft of the proposed Press Bill as one more attempt by the Government to abrogate the Fundamental Rights of the common man. Under the pretext of diffusing ownership, the Government seeks to take power to manipulate shareholdings so as to ensure a dominant position for itself and for the leftist elements it supports. The result will be the stifling of independent projection and interpretation of news and views.

The Swatantra Party calls upon the Press, whose existence as a free institution is so seriously threatened, as also upon the people of this country who value freedom of speech and expression, to fight this dangerous piece of legislation as they would fight for democracy itself.

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SWATANTRA PARTY
NATIONAL HEAD QUARTERS
GENERAL COUNCIL

Bangalore: 18.9.1971.

RESOLUTION ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Swatantra Party views with deep concern the steady increase in the number of the unemployed. It considers that the present unhealthy state of our economy, of which unemployment is the inevitable consequence, must be attributed to the adoption and pursuit of wrong economic policies. The Swatantra Party calls upon the Government to adopt more realistic policies and more particularly, to take in hand forthwith projects of public utility on a priority basis which are designed to generate employment on a large scale, .. such as road construction, housing schemes, flood protection works, and projects designed to store and conserve water.

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SWATANTRA PARTY

GENERAL COUNCIL

BANGALORE:

SEPTEMBER 18, 1971.

RESOLUTION ON FLOOD HAVOC IN NORTHERN INDIA AND DROUGHT
IN SOUTHERN INDIA

Even after 22 years of independence the people of India, particularly those living in and around the mighty rivers of India are not safe from floods which have once again inundated large tracts of land in Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The havoc caused has been extensive. People have been rendered homeless, crops and cattle have been washed away and Government's relief measures are wholly inadequate.

2. At this same time, vast areas of Southern India have been ravaged by drought. And here too generous assistance and adequate relief measures are called for.

3. The General Council of the Swatantra Party expresses its deep sympathy for the unfortunate people whether affected by the fury of these rivers or by drought and calls upon the Government at the Centre and in the States to give the highest priority to relief measures in appropriate and generous manner.

4. The frequent recurrence of these floods proves, if proof were necessary, that Government has not been as assiduous as was essential in implementing projects designed to slow down the fury of floods through afforestation in the catchment areas, and through the dredging of river-beds so that water may flow slowly and harmlessly. Similarly, there is much scope for long term measures designed to mitigate the worst consequences of drought.

5. Instead of indulging in slogans and catchwords what is needed is for the Government to concentrate on tackling issues such as these, which year in and year out bring untold sufferings to millions of Indians.