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5459

phone: 251424
grams: surajyam



swatantra party
national headquarters

sassoon building, 143, mahatma gandhi road, bombay 1.

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General Secretary's Letter No. 256

Dear Friend:

As you might be aware the Preparatory Convention of Swatantra Youth was held in late October. Its report was presented to the National Executive when it met in New Delhi in November.

* The President and I were authorised to settle the aims, objectives and organisational rules. This has now been done and we enclose herewith the Aims, Tasks and Organisational set up of Swatantra Youth. We are sending copies of this circular to the various members of the National Swatantra Youth Committee who according to the rules will straightaway become convenors of the State/Region. They are being requested to take steps immediately to organise Youth Groups to be of help to the Party's candidates in the forthcoming General Elections.

Yours sincerely,

R. C. Cooper
(R.C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encl: *

The President Mr. M.R. Masani, and the General Secretary, Dr. R.C. Cooper have decided on the following Aims, Tasks and Organisational set up of SWATANTRA YOUTH in pursuance of the authority vested in them by the National Executive at its meeting on November 8, 1970.

Youth is on the march in the political arena. Young folks are in a rebellious mood and expressing their discontent in the most uninhibited manner. Stay-in strikes, demonstrations and protests, - sometimes violent - against the educational system and institutions, and destruction of public and private property are the outward manifestations of an extreme sense of dissatisfaction with the established order.

This impatience and anger of youth cannot be ignored; their scales of value are different. They have no use for time-worn practices which they consider are irrelevant in the present context. So long as their desire to discard out-moded practices does not involve fundamental values, it is to be welcomed and the youth encouraged to take to paths that lead to a better life. The Swatantra Party's Mid-term Report adopted in November 1969 observed :

" The generation gap, which has alienated Youth, will need to be bridged by a conscious approach to the young and an understanding of their needs and aspirations. Firm resistance to the destructive and subversive activities among them instigated by communists and other will have to be accompanied by an open minded and generous approach to the discontent of the young folk as a whole. "

The country is passing through critical times. The Constitution is facing a serious threat not only from parties and groups wedded to an alien ideology, but also from those in seats of authority who find the Constitution an inconvenient stumbling block in their lust for power. The chickens of faulty economic policies pursued by successive governments in Delhi have come home to roost. Increasing unemployment and ever spiralling prices are the major achievements of the Five Year Plans.

Thousands of graduates, engineers and technicians turned out by the country's colleges and universities find themselves without employment. This is a potentially explosive situation and naturally taken advantage of by anti-national and anti-democratic forces.

Alongside are the country's politicians and political parties hell-bent in the pursuit of power. Honour, fair-play, patriotism, a sense of values, decency in public life have all been casualties thanks to the example set by no less a person than the country's Prime Minister.

Violence in the campuses of Universities no longer merit headlines in news-threatened papers. They have become so commonplace. Teachers are intimidated; examiners/and ex-aminations boycotted because the papers are stiff. Unless the youth of India take it into their heads to do something about this state of affairs, they have indeed a bleak future to look forward to.

To bridge the generation gap; to bring the message of hope to the youth is the task of youth who believe in liberal principles and values. The Swatantra Party has therefore organised a Youth Wing to meet this challenge. This organisation will be known as "Swatantra Youth".

Objectives

The objectives of Swatantra Youth will be to -

- (a) further the objectives of the Swatantra Party viz., to put into effect the principles and policies adopted by the Party.

(b) rally the youth to

- (i) promote national unity and solidarity
- (ii) combat communal barriers and hatred
- (iii) defend democratic institutions, the Constitution, the Supreme Court and the fundamental rights of the citizen,
- (iv) strive for an economic policy that ensures full employment, stable prices, higher production and equality of opportunity,
- (v) seek to preserve all that is good in the country's culture and tradition.

Tasks of Swatantra Youth

(a) In General

To inculcate in youth that it is their duty both to themselves as well as to the country to take an intelligent interest in the affairs of the country by:

- (i) achieving a high level of moral and physical fitness and capacity to bear physical hardships;
- (ii) holding debates, symposiums and seminars on political, economic and social subjects;
- (iii) organising study circles, reading rooms and welfare associations;
- (iv) taking part in social work programmes like community development work, slum clearance and especially adult education and the spread of literacy; and
- (v) organising boy's clubs, physical culture and general cultural activities, especially for the under-privileged.

(b) For the Party

To place themselves at the service of the local, state and Central Party organisation by :

- (i) helping in the arrangement of meetings and conventions; keeping order at meetings, etc;
- (ii) helping in the enrolment of Workers for the Party;
- (iii) doing propaganda for the Party;
- (iv) helping in the registration of voters;
- (v) canvassing votes for the Party's candidates at Panchayat, Municipal, Zilla Parishad, State and National elections;
- (vi) and doing such other work as may be allotted to them by the appropriate Party organisation.

Ad hoc Organisational arrangements

Till such time as enough members are enrolled and pending the holding of a Convention of Swatantra Youth where formal rules can be framed with the approval of the National Executive of the Swatantra Party, the following will be Ad hoc organisational arrangements

I The National Office

For the present the National Office of the Swatantra Youth will be located in Bhubaneswar.

II Membership

Every person above the age of 16 but below 35 who subscribes in writing to the objectives of Swatantra Youth, expresses his readiness to participate in its activities and pays the prescribed fee shall be eligible to be a member.

III Subscription

Every member of Swatantra Youth shall pay Rs.1.50 as entrance-cum subscription fee; thereafter for each succeeding year following his/her enrolment, he/she shall pay an annual subscription fee of Rs.1/-.

IV Membership enrolment

Membership enrolment will commence immediately and shall be valid till 31st December 1971.

V Organisational Set-up

1. National Convenor

There shall be a National Convenor for Swatantra Youth appointed by the National Executive of the Swatantra Party. Mr. Tribikram Tripathy who has been recommended by the Preparatory Convention of Swatantra Youth held in Bhubaneswar from October 23 to 25, 1970, will be the National Convenor.

2. National Steering Committee

There will be a National Steering Committee consisting of one member from each State/Region. The following 12 members (including the National Convenor) recommended by the Preparatory Convention of Swatantra Youth will constitute the National Steering Committee.

1. Shri Tribikram Tripathy	.. Convenor
<u>Members</u>	
2. Shri K.P. Singh Deo	.. Orissa
3. Shri K.C. Kathervelu	.. Tamilnadu
4. Shri Vinod Sharma	.. Delhi
5. Shri M.K. Khandekar	.. Bombay region
6. Shri D.S.L. Gowda	.. Mysore
7. Shri Joseph J. Karoor	.. Kerala
8. Shri Harishankar Vimal	.. Uttar Pradesh
9. Shri H. Mohamed Hussain	.. Pondicherry
10. Shri Sobhnath Chowbey	.. Bihar
11. Shri J.S. Patel	.. Gujarat

In respect of State/Regions not represented herein the National Convenor shall in consultation with the President and/or General Secretary at the National Headquarters appoint Convenors for such State/Regional Units. These Convenors will automatically become members of the National Steering Committee.

3. State/Regional Convenors

Each member of the National Steering Committee (but not the National Convenor) will act as the Convenor of Swatantra Youth for his State/Region. The following will therefore be the State/Regional Convenors.

Shri K.P. Singh Deo	.. Orissa
Shri K.C. Kathervelu	.. Tamilnadu
Shri Vinod Sharma	.. Delhi
Shri M.K. Khandekar	.. Bombay Region
Shri D.S.L. Gowda	.. Mysore
Shri Joseph J. Karoor	.. Kerala
Shri Harishankar Vimal	.. Uttar Pradesh
Shri N. Mohamed Hussain	.. Pondicherry
Shri Sobhnath Chowbey	.. Bihar
Shri J.S. Patel	.. Gujarat

4. State/Regional Steering Committees

Every State/Regional Convenor of Swatantra Youth will, in consultation with the National Convenor and with approval of the National Steering Committee set up a State/Regional Steering Committee which will comprise a representative each from every district in his State/Region.

5. District Convenors

Such Districts representatives on State/Regional Steering Committees will act as the Convenors of their respective Districts.

6. District Steering Committees

Every District Convenor will in consultation with the State/Regional Convenor and with the approval of the State Steering Committee set up a District Steering Committee which will consist of a representative each from every Assembly Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil in his district.

7. Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil Convenors

Such representatives of Assembly Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil on District Steering Committees will act as the convenors of their respective Assembly Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil.

8. Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil Steering Committees

There will not for the present be Steering Committees at the Assembly Constituency/Taluka/Tehsil level. This will be considered as and when membership of Swatantra Youth is sufficiently large to warrant such a step.

VI Liaison between Swatantra Party and Swatantra Youth

To maintain liaison between the Party and its Youth Wing, Committees of the Party and of the Youth Wing at the various levels may, if they so desire, invite an office bearer of the one to meetings of the other and vice versa.

VII Flag

The flag of Swatantra Youth will be the flag of the Swatantra Party with the words "SWATANTRA YOUTH" superimposed.

VIII On all matters not covered by the above ad hoc arrangements, the decisions of the National Executive acting through the General Secretary will be final and binding.