

Swatantra Party

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

PHONE 251424

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

When replying, please quote our Ref. No. _____

January 12, 1970

General Secretary's Letter No. 216

Dear Friend:

The outgoing National Executive, the newly elected General Council and the new National Executive met in Madras on December 27 and 28, 1969.

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

National Executive (Outgoing)

The outgoing Executive met briefly to recommend to the General Council the number of Vice-Presidents, Treasurers, Joint Secretaries and Members of the National Executive.

Mr. Masani praised the services rendered to the Party by Prof. Ranga who had been the Party's President for a decade. The Executive whole-heartedly endorsed the tribute paid to him.

Prof. Ranga regretted Mr. Dandekar's inability to be present due to ill-health. While hoping for his speedy recovery, Prof. Ranga paid compliments to the hard work put in by Mr. Dandekar as General Secretary. The Executive fully endorsed the sentiments expressed by the President and resolved to place on record his valuable services to the Party.

Rajaji spoke on the need for the Party to remain united and felt that the split in the Congress Party had made the Party's educative role easier.

General Council

Ap rt from a two-hour discussion on Party Organisation on the second day (December 28), the Council's time on the 27th and 28th was taken up with the election of the Office-Bearers of the Party and Members of the National Executive. The Draft Minutes of this meeting of the General Council are enclosed for your perusal.

The list with addresses of the Office Bearers and Members of the National Executive elected by the General Council is attached (Annex.A).

President's Acceptance Speech

The newly-elected President, Mr. M. S. Masani, delivered his acceptance speech on December 28th. The text of his speech is attached (Annex.B.)

Rajaji spoke to the delegates on the Party's tasks in the months and years to come. A few points I had jotted down are attached (Annex.C). In this context Rajaji's front page article in the Swarajya of January 10, 1970, should be read by every Party Member.

New National Executive

The new National Executive met in the afternoon of December 28.

P.T.O.

Central Parliamentary Board

The Executive unanimously constituted the following Central Parliamentary Board.

Ex-Officio Members

Mr. M.N. Hasani	President
Dr. R.C. Cooper	General Secretary

Members

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari	
Prof. N.G. Ranga	Leader of the Party in the Lok Sabha
Mr. Bahyabhai V. Patel	Leader of the Party in the Rajya Sabha
Mr. R.N. Singh Deo	Leader of the Party in the Orissa State Assembly
Maharawal Laxman Singh of Dungarpur	Leader of the Party in the Rajasthan State Assembly
Mr. Jaideepsinh of Baria	Leader of the Party in the Gujarat State Assembly
Mr. G. Latchanna	Leader of the Party in the Andhra State Assembly

The Party's Political Attitude

Arising out of the Mid-Term Report which the (old) General Council adopted at its meeting in New Delhi on November 15 and 16, 1969, it was decided to spell out in greater detail the Party's attitude to the current political situation and in particular to other political parties. Such a statement of policy will be adopted at the next meeting of the National Executive.

Any suggestions that you may have for incorporation in this policy statement are most welcome. But they must reach the National Headquarters on or before 31st January.

Papers on Policy Matters

The Executive decided to prepare well documented position papers on subjects like Transport and Communications, Food and Agriculture, Unemployment and Housing; certain members of the Party who have specialised on these subjects have agreed to prepare draft papers for the Executive's consideration.

Here again we welcome suggestions from you both in regard to the topics on which you feel the Party should spell out its policy as also any factual material for inclusion in the papers listed above.

Wishing you a Happy New Year,

Yours sincerely,

R.C.C.

(R.C. Cooper)
General Secretary

Encls: 4** *

Draft Minutes of the First Meeting of the newly-elected General Council
held in Madras on December 27 and 28, 1969.

Present

Mr. K.M. Koushik - in the Chair
(Returning Officer appointed by the National Executive)

Prof. N.G. Ranga - (Past President)

Andhra

Mr. P. Bhupathirayudu
Mr. Kommarreddi Bapaiah Choudhary
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. Simma Jaganadham, MIA
Mr. Pasupuleti Koteswara Rao
Dr. N.V. Krishna Rao
Mr. G. Latchanna, MLA
Mr. Megilli Leela Mohan
Mr. K. Ramu Naidu
Mr. Bendalam Ramamurthy Naidu
Mr. Sunkara Satyanarayana
Mr. H.R. Sayajirao
Mr. C. V. Siddayamurthy
Mr. N. Veerachari

Bombay

Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. M.R. Masani, MP
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Adi Narain

Delhi

Mr. M. R. Arya
Mr. M. L. Jatava
Mr. Shivjee Mathur
Mr. Iqbal Marwah
Lt. Col. H.R. Pasricha

Gujarat

Mr. R.K. Amin
Mr. Anandbhai Amin
Mr. Dadubhai M. Amin
Mr. C.C. Desai
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. H.M. Patel
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel
Mr. Sukhdev Shah
Mr. Narendra V. Vyas

Himachal Pradesh

Mr. Budhi Prakash
Captain Jaishi Ram
Major Munshi Ram
Thakur Budhi Singh

Kerala

Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Mr. K.C. Joseph
Mr. M.K. Stephen
Mr. A.J. Dominic
Mr. A.V. Varke
Mr. Jacob Cherian
Mr. Abraham Joseph
Mr. P.J. Mathew
Mr. Johnson Vallikappen
Mr. A.C. Abraham
Mr. K.K. Kuruvilla
Mr. V.D. Joseph
Mr. Mathew George
Mr. Babu Joseph
Mr. P.O. Kunjako
Mr. M.P. Mathew
Mr. V.V. Anthony
Mr. E.C. Joseph
Mr. K.A. Abraham

Maharashtra

Mr. V.M. Patil
Mr. Sumantilal P. Shah

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapaiah
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Mr. J.H. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. S.V. Kashinath, MIA
Mr. B. Channabyre Gowda, MLC
Mr. K. Srinivasan Upadhyaya

Orissa

Mr. Harihar Patel, MIA
Mr. Harihar Das
Mr. Loknath Mishra, MP
Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. Ghasiram Majhi
Mr. Yatiraj Pracharaj
Mr. Sundermani Patel, MP
Mr. Arun K. Behara
Mr. H.C. Sai
Mr. S.M. Abdul Karim
Mr. A.R. Khan
Mr. K.C. Panda
Mr. Govind Munda
Mr. P.K. Behuria

Punjab

Sardar Basant Singh, MLA
Phai Gobinder Singh Sidhu
Bedi Gurbakh Singh
Mr. Mukti Hari Chand

Invitees

Prof. M. Parthasarathy
Mr. K.M. Kaushik
Mr. G.K. Sundaram
Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddy

Tamilnadu

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. V.S. Srikumar
Shri M. Parthasarathy
Mr. S.M. Ramaswamy Gounder
Mr. R. Srinivasan
Mr. G. Swaminathan, MLC
Mr. T.T. Srinivasan
Mr. M. Mathias
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy, MP
Dr. M. Santhoshan, MP
Mr. C. Muthuswamy, MP
Mr. P. Ramamurthi, MP
Mr. S. Xavier, MP
Mr. S. Narayanaswamy
Mr. T. Sadasivam
Mr. V. Devanathan, MC
Mr. M.S. Hamsa
Mr. V. Padmanabhan

Kashmir

Mr. Abdul Wahid Baina
Mr. D.S. Sawhney
Mr. Krishnalal Wazir

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikram Singh
Mr. M.K. Gomeni, MP
Mr. D.N. Patodia, MP

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Mr. Dharsheel Chaturvedi
Mr. O.P. Pathik
Mr. Ahmedullah Khan
Mr. Mohammed Farooq Khan
Mr. Bha Prakash Miera
Mr. H.K. Pathak
Mr. Puttan Lal Pandey
Mr. Sanaullah Khan
Mr. Tribhuvan Singh
Mr. K.K. Sanyal
Mr. Hashmat Ali

Mr. K.M. Kaushik, The Returning Officer, conveyed the following recommendations of the outgoing National Executive in respect of the number of Office Bearers of the Party for the ensuing term :

Vice-Presidents	Five
Joint Secretaries	Five
Treasurers	Two
Members of the National Executive	Twenty

Mr. Masani then moved that, while the Council should accept the outgoing National Executive's recommendation of five Vice-Presidents, only four should be elected at this meeting to enable Maharawal Jaxman Singh of Durgapur (a retiring Vice-President and the Party's Leader in the Rajasthan Assembly), who was out of India and whose letter of consent was not available, to be elected at the next meeting of the General Council. Mr. D.N. Patodia seconded the proposal.

Col. H.R. Pasricha then moved that while the outgoing National Executive's recommendation of up to five Joint Secretaries be accepted, the choice of the Joint Secretaries should be left to the new National Executive. Sardar Pasant Singh seconded the proposal.

Mr. H.M. Patel intervened to say that rather than leave one of the five posts of Vice-Presidents vacant, the rule regarding the need for a letter of consent in the case of those not present at the meeting should be waived. Mr. Ramu Naidu supported Mr. H.M. Patel's view. This was not acceptable to the mover of the proposal, Mr. Masani, who withdrew his motion with the leave of the meeting. Similarly, Col. H.R. Pasricha withdrew his proposal regarding the Joint Secretaries.

The meeting then approved the recommendations of the outgoing National Executive and decided to have the following Office Bearers of the Party and members of the National Executive.

President	
Vice-Presidents	- Five
General Secretary	
Treasurers	- Two
Joint Secretaries	- Five
Members of the National Executive	- Twenty

The Returning Officer appointed from among those present the following two scrutineers to scrutinise the nomination and ballot papers :

Mr. H.S. Siddappa
Mr. C. Padmanabham

President

The Returning Officer then called for nominations for the office of the President.

19 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received in favour of Mr. M.R. Masani. As there was no other nomination, Mr. Masani was declared elected President unanimously.

5 Vice-Presidents

30 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded nominating between them the following were received :

Mr. R.K. Singh Deo
Prof. M. Rethnaswamy
Smt. Gayatri Devi
Mr. N. Dandekar
Mr. Dnyanesh V. Patel
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. G. Latchanna
Maharawal Jaxman Singh of Durgapur
Mr. Jyoti Prabh
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao
Dr. K.M. Munshi

The nomination of the following were rejected by the Returning Officer on the ground that they were not present and their letters of consent were not with him :

Maharawal Laxman Singh of Durgapur
Dr. K.M. Munshi
Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao

Since there were eight candidates for five vacancies, the election was held by secret ballot with the following result :

1. Mr. R.M. Singh Deo	.. 97 votes
2. Prof. M. Rathnaswamy	.. 91 "
3. Smt. Gayatri Devi	.. 91 "
4. Mr. N. Dandekar	.. 86 "
5. Mr. Dhyabhai V. Patel	.. 79 "
6. Mr. C. Latchanna	.. 61 "
7. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	.. 43 "
8. Mr. Piloo Mody	.. 35 "

The first five were declared duly elected.

General Secretary

18 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received in favour of Dr. R.C. Cooper. As there was no other nomination, Dr. R.C. Cooper was declared unanimously elected General Secretary.

Two Treasurers

Eleven nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received nominating between them the following :

Mr. H.P. Wanda
Mr. Lalchand Hirachand
Mr. Piloo Mody

Mr. Piloo Mody declined the nomination.

As there were only two candidates for the two vacancies, Mr. H.P. Wanda and Mr. Lalchand Hirachand, were declared unanimously elected.

Five Joint Secretaries

34 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded nominating between them the following were received :

Dr. H.V. Hande
Mr. Harihar Patel
Prof. R.K. Amin
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. D.N. Patodia
Mr. C. Latchanna
Mr. N.K. Somani
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Sardar Basant Singh
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Thakur Vikram Singh
Raja M.R. Singh of Badawar

Of the above, the consent letter of Raja M.R. Singh of Badawar who was not present not being available, the Returning Officer rejected his nomination.

The following nominations were withdrawn by the proposers or seconders or by the nominees themselves :

Mr. G. Latchanna
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. D.H. Patodia

As there were seven candidates for five vacancies, elections were held by secret ballot with the following result.

1. Dr. H.V. Hande	.. 107 votes
2. Mr. Harihar Patel	.. 104 "
3. Mr. N.K. Somani	.. 99 "
4. Mr. R.E. Amin	.. 92 "
5. Mr. Madhu Mehta	.. 89 "
6. Sardar Basant Singh	.. 45 "
7. Thakur Bikram Singh	.. 12 "

The first five were declared elected.

After the results of the election of Vice-Presidents and Joint Secretaries were declared by the Returning Officer, he invited nominations for the election of 20 members of the new National Executive.

48 nomination papers duly proposed and seconded were received nominating between them the following :

Maharani Gayatri Devi	Mr. S. Satyanarayana
Sri P. Koteswar Rao	Mr. O.P. Pathik
Sri G. Hanumantha Rao	Mr. Madhu Mehta
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi	Mr. D.H. Patodia
Mr. Harihar Das	Mr. N.K. Somani
Mr. Abdul Wahid Rana	Mr. J.M. Imam
Mr. V.N. Patil	Mr. K. Sunderam
Mr. P.K. Deo	Dr. M. Santesham
Mr. T. Tripathi	Mr. S.S. Mariswamy
Mr. Y. Praharaj	Mr. H. Pandey
Mr. Loknath Mishra	Mr. M.K. Ganyal
Mr. Sundermani Patel	Dr. H.V. Hande
Mr. M.C. Sai	Mr. Ahmedullah Khan
Sardar Harbhajan Singh	Mr. S.M. A del Kareem
Mr. D. Chaturvedi	Bedi Gurbaksh Singh
Mrs. L. Lobo Prabhu	
Mr. C. Rajagopalachari	
Mr. H.G. Ranga	
Mr. G. Latchanna	
Mr. Y.G. Gowd	
Mr. H.H. Patel	
Mr. Budhi Prakash	
Mr. H.R. Pasricha	
Sardar Basant Singh	
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	
Mr. J. Vallikkappen	
Mr. Renu Pratap Singh	
Mr. Piloo Mody	
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary	
Mr. Dakyabhai V. Patel	
Prof. R.K. Amin	
Mr. Sukhetu Shah	
Mr. V.P. Srinivasan	
Mr. H.K. Ganapalaiah	
Mr. Iqbal Marwah	
Thakur Bikram Singh	

As the following had already been elected as Office Bearers, their nominations were deemed to have been withdrawn :

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Smt. Gayatri Devi of Jaipur | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 2. Mr. N. Dandekar | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 3. Mr. Dabhabhai V. Patel | (who was elected Vice President) |
| 4. Mr. H.K. Somani | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 5. Dr. H.V. Hando | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 6. Mr. Madhu Mehta. | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |
| 7. Prof. R.K. Amin | (who was elected Joint Secretary) |

The following nominations were withdrawn by the proposers and seconders or by the nominees themselves :

- Mr. P. Koteswara Rao
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. S. Satyanarayana

leaving 41 nominees for twenty vacancies.

The Returning Officer announced that balloting for the election of twenty members of the National Executive would be held from 10 to 10.45 a.m. the following morning. He then adjourned the meeting.

Sunday, 28th December

Balloting for the election of 20 members of the National Executive began at 10 a.m. and concluded at 10.45 a.m.

Simultaneously with the counting of votes, the meeting reconvened at 11 a.m. with the newly elected President, Mr. Masani, in the Chair.

Present

- | | |
|------------------|------------------|
| Mr. M.R. Masani | - In the Chair |
| Prof. N.G. Ranga | - Past President |

Andhra

- Mr. P. Bhupathirayudu
Mr. Kommarreddi Bapaiah Chowdary
Mr. T. Krishnamma Choudhary
Mr. B.C. Basalinga Goud
Mr. Simma Jagannadham, MIA
Mr. Pasupuleti Koteswara Rao
Dr. H.V. Krishnarao
Mr. G. Iatchanna, MIA
Mr. Nogilli Leela Mohan
Mr. K. Ramu Naidu
Mr. Bonabalam Ramamurthy Naidu
Mr. V.V. Ramana
Mr. Sunkara Satyanarayana
Mr. H.R. Sayojirao
Mr. C.V. Siddayamurthy
Mr. N. Veerachari

Delhi

- Mr. M.R. Arya
Mr. H.L. Jatava
Mr. Shivjee Mathur
Mr. Iqbal Marwah
Lt. Col. H.R. Pasricha

Gujarat

- Prof. R.K. Amin
Mr. Anandbhai Amin
Mr. Dadubhai M. Amin
Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi
Mr. Piloo Mody
Mr. H.H. Patel
Mr. Jashbhai C. Patel
Mr. Suketu Shah
Mr. Narendra V. Vyas

Bombay

- Dr. R.C. Cooper
Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.
Mr. Madhu Mehta
Mr. Adi Narain

Himachal Pradesh

- Mr. Budhi Prakash
Captain Jaishi Ram
Major Hanishi Ram
Thakur Budhi Singh

Kerala

Mr. C.N. Sudhan
Mr. K.C. Joseph
Mr. M.K. Stephen
Mr. A.J. Dominic
Mr. A.V. Varkey
Mr. Jacob Cherian
Mr. Abraham Joseph
Mr. P.J. Mathew
Mr. Johnson Vallikannan
Mr. A.C. Abraham
Mr. K.K. Kuruville
Mr. V.D. Joseph
Mr. Mathew George
Mr. Babu Joseph
Mr. P.O. Kunjako
Mr. M.P. Mathew
Mr. V.V. Antony
Mr. E.C. Joseph
Mr. E.A. Abraham

Maharashtra

Mr. V.N. Patil
Mr. Sumantlal P. Shah

Mysore

Mr. N.K. Ganapath
Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan
Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu
Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu
Mr. S.V. Kashimath, M.A.
Mr. B. Channabyre Gowda, MLC
Mr. H.S. Siddappa
Mr. K. Srinivasan Upadhyaya

Orissa

Mr. Harihar Patel, M.A.
Mr. Harihar Das
Mr. Loknath Misra, M.P.
Mr. Tribikram Tripathy
Mr. Ghasiram Majhi
Mr. Yatiraj Preharaj
Mr. Sundermani Patel, M.P.
Mr. Arun K. Behara
Mr. M.C. Sai
Mr. S.K. Abdul Karim
Mr. A.W. Khan
Mr. K.C. Panda
Mr. Govind Munda
Mr. B.K. Behuria

Punjab

Gardar Basant Singh, M.A.
Bhai Gobinder Singh Sidhu
Badi Gurbakhsh Singh
Mr. Mukhi Hari Chand

Tamilnadu

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari
Mr. V.S. Srikumar
Shri N. Parthasarathy
Mr. S.N. Ramaswamy Gounder
Mr. R. Srinivasan
Mr. G. Swaminathan, MLC
Dr. M. Mathias
Mr. T.T. Srinivasan
Mr. S.S. Mariswamy, M.P.
Dr. M. Santhosham, M.P.
Mr. C. Mathuswamy, M.P.
Mr. P. Ramamurti, M.P.
Mr. S. Xavier, M.P.
Mr. T. Sadasivam
Mr. V. Devanathan, M.C.
Mr. M.S. Hamsa
Mr. N. Mohd. Hussain

Kashmir

Mr. Abdul Wahid Baina
Mr. Krishanlal Wazir
Mr. D.S. Sawhny

Rajasthan

Thakur Vikram Singh
Mr. M.K. Somani, M.P.
Mr. D.N. Patodia, M.P.

Uttar Pradesh

Mr. Harbhajan Singh
Mr. Dhar Sheel Chaturvedi
Mr. O.P. Pathik
Mr. Ahmadullah Khan, M.A.
Mr. Mohammad Farooq Khan
Mr. Ram Prakash Misra
Mr. H.K. Pathak
Mr. Sanaullah Khan
Mr. Tribhuvan Singh
Mr. K.K. Sanyal
Mr. Hashmat Ali Khan

INVITEES

Mr. G.K. Sundaram
Smt. Gayatri Devi Jafar

The minutes of the last meeting of the General Council in New Delhi on November 15 and 16 were confirmed.

* The President delivered his Acceptance Speech (text attached) and initiated a discussion on Party organisation. Among those who participated in the discussion were :

Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu, H.H. Gayatri Devi, Mr. N.K. Ganapalaiah, Mr. Harihar Das, Mr. K. Ramu Naidu, Mr. H.M. Patel, Mr. Iqbal Harwah, Mr. N.K. Somani, Mr. J. Vallikkappen, Mr. Basant Singh, Mr. G. Swaminathan, Mr. D.S. Sawhny, Mr. Mohammed Parsoo Khan, Mrs. L.Lobo Prabhu, Col. Pasricha, Mr. N.K. Somani.

Winding up the discussion, the President, after briefly summarising the constructive points made during the discussion, assured members that he and the National Headquarters would give serious consideration to the suggestions that had been made during the discussion.

The counting of votes for the National Executive members having been completed, the Returning Officer announced the following result :

1. Mr. Rajagopalachari	.. 109 votes
2. Prof. H.G. Ranga	.. 102 "
3. Shri G. Latchanna	.. 94 "
4. Mr. S.S. Nariswamy	.. 90 "
5. Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu	.. 88 "
6. Mr. H.M. Patel	.. 83 "
7. Mr. Piloo Mody	.. 80 "
8. Mr. K. Sunderam	.. 79 "
9. Mr. P.K. Deo	.. 76 "
10. Sardar Basant Singh	.. 74 "
11. Mr. D.N. Patodia	.. 71 "
12. Mr. Budhi Prakash	.. 66 "
13. Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu	.. 64 "
14. Mr. J. Mohamed Imam	.. 63 "
15. Mr. J. Vallikkappen	.. 60 "
16. Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi	.. 54 "
17. Mr. N.K. Ganapalaiah	.. 53 "
18. Col. H.R. Pasricha	.. 52 "
19. Mr. Y.G. Gowd	.. 52 "
20. Mr. Tribikram Tripathy	.. 44 "
21. Mr. Loknath Misra	.. 40 "
22. Mr. V.T. Sreenivasan	.. 40 "
23. Mr. Bhama Pratap Singh	.. 39 "
24. Dr. M. Santosham	.. 36 "
25. Mr. Abdul Wahid Haina	.. 34 "
26. Sardar Harbhajan Singh	.. 32 "
27. Mr. Iqbal Harwah	.. 31 "
28. Mr. Suketu Shah	.. 29 "
29. Mr. Harihar Das	.. 27 "
30. Mr. V.N. Patil	.. 26 "
31. Mr. O.P. Pathik	.. 26 "
32. Mr. G. Hanumantha Rao	.. 25 "
33. Mr. Ahmadulla Khan	.. 23 "
34. Mr. Yatinraj Praharaj	.. 19 "
35. Mr. Sundermani Patel	.. 16 "
36. Thakur Bikram Singh	.. 7 "
37. Mr. Gurbaksh Singh Bedi	.. 7 "
38. Mr. K.K. Sanyal	.. 7 "
39. Mr. S.M. Abdul Karim	.. 6 "
40. Mr. D. Chaturvedi	.. 6 "
41. Mr. M.C. Sai	.. 4 "

The first twenty were declared elected by the Returning Officer.

The President thanked the Returning Officer, Mr. K.M. Kaushik, for the efficient conduct of the elections and proposed a hearty vote of thanks to him which was unanimously endorsed.

The meeting then terminated.

Speech of Mr. M. R. Masani, newly-elected President of the Swatantra Party while assuming office at a meeting of the Party's General Council in Madras on December 28, 1969

I am grateful to the General Council for the confidence they have reposed in me by asking me to take up the Presidentship and leadership of the Party. The Presidentship of the Swatantra Party at this moment is not likely to be a bed of roses. In fact, it appears to be a frightening burden to take on for the next two years in the context of the present state of our national affairs and the state of the Party organisation.

We all know the troubled times through which our country is passing. Twenty years of wrong economic policies have created a situation where the political crisis is bound to recur with ever increasing intensity unless these policies are abandoned and the country is put on a proper track. This itself will require a radical shift in our political structure. This may flow from the recent split in the Congress Party and the end of its monopoly of power after two decades if we all do our bit. The country is, however, likely to pass through turbulent times and there is every danger of a further abdication and destruction of law and order. Bengal and certain other parts of our territory are in the hands of elements whose patriotism is not above question and, in the coming years, guerilla warfare developing into dangerous threats to our national security cannot be ruled out in Bengal and in the North East Frontier.

At such a time, the Swatantra Party has a tremendously vital and important role to play as one of the elements committed to the defence of India's independence and its democratic way of life embodied in the Constitution. As the Party that stands for the liquidation of permit-lisence-raj, over-centralised planning and the forest of controls, the Swatantra Party is the most radical party in Opposition, pitched as it is against the Socialist Establishment with its twenty years of misrule.

In what condition do we find the Party to cope with its tasks? We would be lacking in candour if we were not to admit that a great deal needs to be done before we can cope with this challenge in a worthy manner. Having made an excellent start and become within a decade the biggest Opposition Party in the country, since the General Elections in 1967, we have not only lost several by-elections but have also lost ground organisationally. The state of the Party's discipline leaves a great deal to be desired. Some individuals and certain groups of members in State Assemblies are behaving in a way which brings no prestige to our organisation. All this will have to stop if we are to meet this challenge. My own clear position in regard to the need for strict adherence to disciplined and ethical methods is well-known to you all. I am, therefore, confident that, in the light of the experience of the past two years, the newly elected National Executive and Central Parliamentary Board will take steps to curb activities of this nature which are so damaging to the credibility of the Party and to its future.

Discipline is not enough without dynamism and hard work. These are two sides of the same coin and one without the other would be inadequate for our task. The General Council of the Party at its meeting in New Delhi on November 15 and 16 has provided the necessary guidance through an important and worthwhile Mid-Term Report recording the balance sheet of the gains and losses for the last two and a half years and charting the Party's course during the next couple of years. It has not received the publicity it deserves. It will be one of the first tasks of the newly elected National Executive and State Executive

Committees to get this document into the hands of every active member of the Party and to make them aware of what needs to be done between now and 1972.

Do we need to change or modify our policies? In my opinion, there is neither need nor call to change our policies. If there is one Party whose political, social and economic policies have stood the test of time, it is the Swatantra Party. If there is one Party whose warnings about the ruling Congress Party during the last ten years and the course it was following have come true, it is the Swatantra Party. We shall not lower our flag even an inch. It is for others who have been pursuing false paths to rectify their course.

At the same time, we must admit that we have failed effectively to put our policies across to the public at large. This is due to the lack of adequate cadres of trained and disciplined Party workers who can act as a conveyor belt to carry the Party's policies and programmes to the remotest corners of this country. One of the first tasks of the Party, therefore, will be without further delay to recruit and train cadres of Party workers and instil in them a dedication to the values of freedom.

There is also room for improvement in the emphasis and orientation that we give to our activities. The Mid-Term Report has made several constructive suggestions about implementing this programme. We must admit that there are sections of the people we have neglected, to whose problems we have not given adequate attention. Such, for instance, are Youth, Women, the Minorities, the Consumer, the Landless Labourer in the countryside and other under-privileged sections of the community. The fact that they are referred to in our Election Manifesto is not enough. We must prove to them that we are concerned for them and care for them. This can only be done when a large number of our Party workers show this concern concretely in the shape of what Gandhiji used to call "constructive work" in the service of these elements".

I have stated earlier that we are a Party that stands for a radical change in the social and economic policies that have been followed. We want to modernise our social structure, and we have nothing in common with obscurantists. The Swatantra Party has to prove to the people that it is not a party of the status quo but stands for such radical change in the policies of the Socialist Establishment as will bring prosperity to the masses of the people. Let those who have created the present mess in the country defend the Status Quo. We have no part or lot in it and have come into existence to change it.

The job that faces the country is bigger than any single Party can handle alone. To deal with the country's problems, to give it a clean and efficient public administration and rid it of its many evils and blemishes, is more than any one Party can manage.

The issue before the country today is not between the so-called "Left" and "Right" which are meaningless terms. The issue is between those who stand for the democratic way of life enshrined in our Constitution and those who accept totalitarian Communist doctrines. In this connection, the wise words of advice of Acharya J.B. Kripalani in Ahmedabad the other day that democratic parties should concentrate on providing good and clean government and stop competing with the Prime Minister in her demagoguery is to be welcomed.

A Front in which all patriots and democrats can get together, cutting across present party lines, is on the order of the day. It is the Party's task to be in the forefront of such a development. This can only be done if the conduct of our leaders and members is more

ethical and dedicated than that of other Parties and if we can show that we are prepared to put the country before our Party.

Let it be our New Year resolve that together, with Rajaji's wise guidance, we prove worthy of the historic role assigned to us.

SWATANTRA PARTY

Office Bearers and Members of the National Executive

1970 - 1972

PRESIDENT

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P.,
148, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay-1. 254005

OR

2, Tughlak Road,
New Delhi 11. 619377

VICE-PRESIDENTS

Mr. R.N. Singh Deo,
Swatantra Party, Orissa,
Kharavelanagar,
Bhubaneswar-1.
(Orissa) 234

Prof. M. Ruthnaswamy, M.P.
125, Cathedral View,
Santhome High Road,
Madras-4.

OR

119, South Avenue,
New Delhi-11. 375064

Smt. Gayatri Devi, M.P.,
Rajmahal,
Jaipur,
(Rajasthan) 74122
74129

OR

33, Aurangzeb Road,
New Delhi. 618583
611675

Mr. N. Dandekar, M.P.
Express Building,
Churchgate,
Bombay-1. 291686

OR

18, Ferozeshah Road,
New Delhi. 48092

Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel, M.P.,
68, Marine Drive,
Bombay-1. 242731

OR

18, Rajendra Prasad Road,
New Delhi. 381946

GENERAL SECRETARY

Dr. R.C. Cooper,
Swatantra Party, National Headquarters,
143, M.G. Road, 253526
Bombay-1. 251424

TREASURERS

Mr. H.P. Nanda, 611670
12, Jor Bagh, 611557
New Delhi-3. 45181

Mr. Lalchand Hirachand,
Construction House,
Ballard Estate,
Bombay-1. 262198

JOINT SECRETARIES

Mr. Harihar Patel,
Minister for Industries & Public Relations,
Quarter No. S.G.O.6,
Unit VI, New Capital,
Bhubaneswar.

Prof. R.K. Amin,
5, Neelkant Park,
Opp. Vithalvadi,
Navrangpur,
Ahmedabad.
(Gujarat) 79583

OR

7, Lodi Gardens .,
New Delhi-3. 615014

Dr. H.V. Hande, M.L.A.,
9-E, Nungambakkam High Road,
Madras-34.

Mr. Madhu Mehta,
84A, Nepean Sea Road,
Bombay-6. 364471

Mr. N.K. Somani, M.P.,
West Coast Paper Mills Ltd.,
Shreenivas House,
Waudby Road, 268241
Bombay-1. 241679

OR

19, Janpath,
New Delhi 1. 382192

MEMBERS

Mr. C. Rajagopalachari,
Naoroji Road,
Chetput,
Madras-31. 61034

Prof. N.G. Ranga, M.P.,
Midubrolu,
Guntur District,
(Andhra Pradesh)

OR

4, Sunheri Bagh Road,
New Delhi. 382784

Mr. G. Iatchanna,
Seva Sadan,
Chintalabasti,
Khairathabad,
Hyderabad,
(Andhra Pradesh) 35369

OR

Sompeta,
Srikakulam District,
Andhra Pradesh.

Mr. S.S. Mariswamy, M.P.,
Swatantra Party, Tamil Nad,
76, G.N. Chetty Road,
Madras-17.

OR

8, Meena Bagh,
New Delhi-11. 382378

Mr. J.M. Lobo Prabhu, M.P.,
Light House Hill,
Mangalore-1.
(Mysore) 4856

OR

45, Western Court,
New Delhi. 40932

Mr. H.M. Patel,
Charutar Vidyamandal,
Vallabh Vidyanagar,
Dist. Kaira, 20
Gujarat. 59

Mr. Piloo Mody, M.P.,
1, Carmichael Road,
Bombay-26. 245258

OR

2, Lodi Estate,
Cornwallis Road,
New Delhi. 617401

MEMBERS (Contd.)

Mr. G.K. Sundaram, M.P.,
"Rasakondalu",
Circuit House,
Coimbatore,
Madras.

OR

122-C, South Avenue,
New Delhi. 371940

Mr. P.K. Deo, M.P.,
The Palace,
P.O. Bhawani Patna,
Dist. Kalahandi,
Orissa. 4

OR

4, South Avenue Lane,
New Delhi 375858

Sardar Basant Singh,
Swatantra Party, Punjab,
Sheranwala Gate,
Patiala-1.
(Punjab) 287

Mr. D.N. Patodia, M.P.,
11/1, Heysham Road,
Calcutta-20. 474719
345393

OR

340, Vinay Marg
New Delhi-11. 75391

Mr. Budhi Prakash,
Advocate,
S.D.M.'s Court,
P.O. Dalhousie,
Dist. Chamba,
Himachal Pradesh.

Mrs. Louella Lobo Prabhu,
Light House Hill,
Mangalore-1.
(Mysore) 4856

Mr. J. Mohammed Imam, M.P.,
"Le Chateau",
P.O. Jagalur,
Dist. Chittradura,
Mysore. 22

OR

31, Canning Lane,
New Delhi-1. 43266

Mr. Johnson Vallikkappen,
Shanivas,
Muttampalam P.O.,
Kottayam,
(Kerala)

Miss Kusum Kumari Joshi,
Advocate,
Mahadev Wadi,
Gondal,
Dist. Rajkot,
Gujarat.

Mr. H.K. Ganapaiah,
Harley Estate,
Sakalespur Post,
Hassan District.
(Mysore)

Col. H.R. Pasricha,
20-B, Gangaram Hospital Road,
New Delhi. 52333

Mr. Y.G. Gowd, M.P.,
Devi Niwas,
P.O. Yemmiganur,
Dist. Kurnool,
(Andhra Pradesh) 32

OR

86, South Avenue,
New Delhi-11. 372919

Mr. Tribikram Tripathi,
Patnaikpara,
P.O./Dist. Sambalpur,
Orissa.