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Swatantra Party

Subject Swatantra Party

Statesman Weekly, Calcutta & Delhi.

JUN 1968

Swatantra Points To Communist Menace

From Our Special Representative in South India

MADRAS, June 7.—The general council of the Swatantra Party adopted this week a series of resolutions on, among other things, the growing Communist menace in Kerala and Tamilnad and the need for a favourable Delhi response to the Singapore Premier's mutual defence proposal for South-East Asia.

The council, however, seems to have failed in its main objective of finding a satisfactory solution to the indiscipline in its Gujarat unit which led to the resignation of Mr M. R. Masani from the national executive of the party. The council took action against three of the involved Gujarat members and expelled another who had contested a Rajya Sabha election in defiance of a party directive.

Mr Masani, who refused the offer of re-election to the national executive, maintained today that he was not so bothered about the nature of disciplinary action taken against the members but what he did object to was the party's apparent failure to take action against some of the more important members who were the real culprits in the Gujarat affair. The national executives decision was tantamount to surrendering

to "considerations of short-term expediency"

Two resolutions moved in the general council meeting yesterday one of them seeking disciplinary action against Mr C. Desai were rejected by a majority of members. Mr Masani said he was therefore, left with no alternative but to decline the offer of re-election to the seat on the executive. He however, said that he proposed to work "untrammelled by the responsibility of administering the party's affairs."

He added: "I fear that the future of the party is bleak. I shall try with all my strength to prevent such a catastrophe."

Mr Masani said that the Swatantra Party was still at the crossroads, but the general secretary, Mr N. Dandekar, told a Press conference earlier that the party had definitely tided over the crisis and was now moving in the right direction. Mr Dandekar did admit, however, that the debate on the Gujarat affair was often quite heated but he felt that, having had a free, frank and full discussion, the general council had been able to shed much of poison from its ranks. He was sure that the Gujarat unit would now start functioning in a healthy way.

The general council meeting was attended by only 69 of its 170 members. Rajaji, who was one of the participants, was according to Mr Dandekar, unhappy over Mr Masani's refusal to sit again on the national executive. Prof. N. G. Ranga, the party president, did not attend the meeting.

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