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Masani does not relent

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Hindustan Times Correspondent

New Delhi, April 20.—Swatantra Party General Secretary N. Dandekar has not been able to persuade Mr M. R. Masani to withdraw his resignation from the National Executive and the Central Parliamentary Board of the party.

Mr Dandekar who had two long meetings with Mr Masani found the latter "adamant" on his resignations which he had tendered "to atone" for the party candidate Mr Babubhai Vaidya's defeat in the Rajya Sabha elections from Gujarat.

Though the National Executive has asked for explanations from five party MLAs in Gujarat for sponsoring a rebel Swatantra candidate, Mr U. N. Mahida, against Mr Vaidya, Mr Masani feels that despite this he must atone for the breach of understanding given in 1966 to Mr Vaidya, then leader of the Independent Progressive Group in the Gujarat Assembly.

If Mr Masani does not reconsider his decision, Mr Dandekar will consult Party Chairman N. G. Ranga about the next step.

SWATANTRA PARTY

Resolution moved by Mr. K.P.Singh Deo, M.P. and unanimously adopted
by the General Council

Relief for Orissa Cyclone Victims

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party extends its sympathies to the unfortunate victims of the recent cyclone that ravaged large areas of Orissa. The human suffering caused by this visitation of nature's fury has only added to the cup of sorrow of the people of Orissa already undergoing the effects of a three-year old drought.

This meeting of the General Council appeals

- a. to the Central Government to render maximum assistance financially and in other material ways to the State Government to enable the latter to provide in adequate measure material assistance like loans to agriculturists, house-building equipment and accelerate Relief Works such as the reconstruction of wells, tanks and medium scale irrigation Works; and
- b. to the people of India in general and to members of the Swatantra Party in particular to donate liberally to the Orissa Chief Minister's Relief Fund.