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Swatantra Adopts 9-Point Plan For '72

FROM OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

BOMBAY, Apr 18.—The Swatantra Party's general council today accepted the resignation of Mr Masani from the chairmanship of the party and asked Mr N. Dandekar, one of the five vice-presidents, to officiate as president till new office-bearers are elected in September this year. A resolution passed by the council expressed the party's gratitude to Mr Masani for his services as general secretary from December 1955 to the end of 1967 and subse-

quently as president from January 1970.

Mr Masani refused to withdraw his resignation which he submitted a fortnight ago consequent on the electoral reverses suffered by the party in the mid-term poll.

The general council also endorsed the national executive's decision to appoint a special committee to revamp the party, review its policies and programmes in the light of the electoral reverses and suggest ways and means of toning up the organization. The officiating president has been authorized to name the members of the committee with instructions that it should have younger blood, be fairly broad-based and representative of every interest in the party. The special committee is to submit its report before June 30 and the task of the first national executive elected in the organizational elections will be to consider this report and give a new direction to the policies of the party.

Speakers at today's session laid stress on a revision of the party's attitude to labour and trade unions. They felt that the party cadre should participate more actively in trade unionism.

The council adopted a nine-point recommendation which is entitled "Swatantra Party's minimum programme for 1972". The programme is in the nature of suggestions to the State and Central Governments for alleviating the sufferings of the poorer sections of the population.

It deals with the creation of employment opportunities, family planning measures, drinking water supply, rural housing, credit from nationalized banks and price reduction.

It says that by reducing by half the excise duty on a number of items prices can be brought down and lists some of the articles on which the excise duties are high.

Rural