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Bombay

Swatantra Party

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Personal

## Masani Resigns as Swatantra Chairman

**BOMBAY, April 3.** Mr. M. R. Masani, has resigned as Chairman of the Swatantra party but he assured the party that as a member he would continue "to advocate the philosophy and principles of the party to the best of my capacity".

Mr. Masani in his letter of resignation did not refer to his party's debacle in the recent mid-term Lok Sabha poll, but spoke of occasions when "disaster overtakes a country, army or organization."

He explained that the reason for his giving up office was the acceptance of what he described as "a sound principle of administration whether in civil, military, business or political life, that when disaster overtakes a country, army or organization, the man at the helm of affairs should take the responsibility for the debacle and hand over office to someone who may bring fresh ideas and an open mind to the task".

Mr. Masani expressed the view that the present plight of the party "is a cumulative result of several shortcomings and mistakes" and that as party chairman

he should take his full share of responsibility for them.

Mr. Masani hoped that by accepting his resignation, the party would help provide an example of an exception to the common tendency of politicians to make excuses for hanging on to office, whether in Government or elsewhere.

In response to inquiries Mr. S. V. Raju, Party Executive Secretary, told pressmen to-day that the letter of Mr. Masani would come up for consideration at the two-day meeting of the General Council in Bombay on April 17 and 18. —PTI

### C. R. WANTS MASANI TO CONTINUE

UNI reports from Madras: The Swatantra leader, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, said here to-day that he was "trying to persuade" the Swatantra Party President, Mr. Masani to withdraw his resignation and "continue to head the party."

Mr. Rajagopalachari told this to pressmen when he was asked to comment on Mr. Masani's resignation from the presidency of the party.