

SWATANTRA PARTY

National Headquarters.

Office of the General Secretary

Sassoon Building,
147 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 23

GENERAL SECRETARY'S
CIRCULAR NO 321

December 27, 1974

Dear friend:

Since the last General Secretary's letter No. 319 (prior to the National Convention of August last), a rump National Convention of the Swatantra Party was gathered in New Delhi on August 4 and 5, 1974.

2. The purpose of the rump Convention was to destroy the very ideology on which the Swatantra Party was founded. This is clear from the letter of Mr. Piloo Mody dated 16th June 1974.

3. In his anxiety to create a National Alternative of all non-Congress, non-marxist and non-communist parties and a two party system, Mr. Mody has clearly stated in his letter of June 16, that the National Alternative must not be ideologically based but only programme-based and towards that end, all such parties must dissolve and form a single Party which would evolve a programme from time to time on the basis of consensus. The only role for the Swatantra members would be to fight within the new Party to gain the acceptance of the principles and policies of the Swatantra Party.

4. You will admit that in the new party, on the basis of the letter and of the text of the draft programme of the new Party put before the Convention, the principles are flung to the mercy of the various groups who must, in their own momentary wisdom, accept them or reject them.

5. In his last address to the General Council on 27th June 1972, Rajaji was very clear when he said:

"The Party will be alive and must be alive if you want India to be saved from the communist dictatorship. The Party is bound to be there and let us make sure that we play our part properly".

This was the last wish and desire of Rajaji as expressed to the then members of the Council.

6. We have decided to keep the Party going even if the going is rough. We have resolved to build the Swatantra Party anew. We shall now get down to the task of rebuilding the Party from the grass-roots and we have glorious opportunity for doing so.

7. We have to build the Party anew as the Party of the people, of workers and farmers, of small traders and businessmen and of the artisans in villages. Our Party was created to protect them against despotism, corruption and nepotism of an all powerful State. The principles of our Party will be the fundamental bedrock upon which the Party is to be built again.

8. The General Council of the Party met in Madras on December 8, 1974 and took stock of the position and it was decided to carry on Rajaji's work.

9. The Council also took various organisational decisions

and the various Resolutions which were passed by the Council are enclosed herewith. Our immediate task is to re-group. We have loyal workers of the Party scattered throughout India and we should endeavour to get in touch with them wherever they may be and tell them that the Party is to be kept alive and entrust them with the responsibility of regrouping dormant committees and if this is not possible, they should set up adhoc ones. This is the first stage.

10. The National Headquarters of the Swatantra Party have shifted to Madras. I suggest that immediately on receipt of this Circular, you should get in touch with Mr. V.S. Srikumar, Joint Secretary, All-India Swatantra Party, 26 Halls Road, Egmore, Madras 600-008, who will be in charge of the National Headquarters. If you send me a copy of your communication to him, it will enable me to co-ordinate the matters with the National Headquarters.

11. After the National Convention, a circular No. 320 dated 20th August was issued which may kindly be treated as cancelled.

I look forward to hearing from you.

JAI SWATANTRA !

Yours sincerely,



Girish Munshi
General Secretary.

Encls:

RESOLUTIONS OF THE SWATANTRAPARTY
National General Council held on
Sunday, the 8th December 1974 at
Madras.

RESOLUTION No. 1

This meeting of the General Council of the Swatantra Party held on 8th December 1974 at Madras hereby resolves and declares that:

- a) the National Convention of the Swatantra Party held at New Delhi on the 4th and 5th August 1974 with the objective of dissolving and/or merging of the Swatantra Party with other parties was illegally convened and constituted and the resolution passed thereat purporting to dissolve the Swatantra Party is illegal, incompetent and void.
- b) the Swatantra Party continues to function as before and is entitled to the flag, election symbol, assets and properties.

RESOLUTION No. 2.

The General Council notes that some members of the National Executive and the General Council have joined another party and have consequently ceased to be members of the Swatantra Party. The General Council resolves that the names of such persons be removed from the roll of the Swatantra Party.

RESOLUTION No. 3.

The following vacancies have been filled.

The General Council hereby unanimously elects Mr. G.K. Sundaram as the President, Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal and Mr. Harihar Patel as Vice-Presidents, Mr. Girish Munshi as General Secretary and Mr. V.S. Srikumar as Joint Secretary.

The following members have been unanimously elected to the National Executive Committee :

1. Mr. S. V. Raju of Maharashtra.
 2. Mr. Nagabhushana Rao of Karnataka
 3. Mr. Babu Joseph of Kerala
 4. Mr. V. Jagannadhan of Orissa.
 5. Mr. V. Devanathan
 6. Mr. N.A. Parasuraman
 7. Mr. T. R. Sankaranarayanan
- (Tamilnadu)

This meeting authorises the National Executive to fill in the vacancies in the National Executive to the extent necessary in consultation with the existing members of the National Executive.

RESOLUTION No. 4.

This Council also resolves that Mr. G. K. Sundaram will continue to function as the Treasurer of the Party.

RESOLUTION No. 5

This Council resolves that the National Headquarters of the Swatantra Party be shifted from Bombay to No. 26, Halls Road, Egmore, Madras 8.

RESOLUTION No. 6

a) The General Council notes with satisfaction that the Tamilnadu Unit of the Swatantra Party is continuing to function effectively.

b) The General Council hereby approves of the various steps taken by the Orissa State Unit, Kerala State Unit and the Maharashtra State Unit of the Swatantra Party to reorganise and revitalise the State Councils and the State Executives in their respective States.

c) The General Council appoints Mr. Nagabhushana Rao as the Convenor for Karnataka State.

d) The General Council authorises the National Executive to appoint Convenors as may be necessary in the other States for the reorganisation of the Party Units in those respective States.

RESOLUTION No. 7.

The General Council authorises the National Executive to direct the State Units to fill up vacancies in the General Council and State Councils in accordance with the Constitution of the Party and inform the National Executive forthwith.

RESOLUTION No. 8

The General Council of the Swatantra Party wholeheartedly supports the Movement led by Shri. Jayaprakash Narayan to cleanse the public life and to remove corruption and nepotism and authorises the President of the Swatantra Party to enter into contact with Shri. Jayaprakash Narayan in order to coordinate the activities of the Swatantra Party with that of the Movement led by Shri. Jayaprakash Narayan.

RESOLUTION No. 9

The 13 point Programme of the ruling Congress' secret conclave at Narora once again shows its easy recourse to populist policies which ignore basic problems of production and concentrate on methods of distribution. The Council not only views the Narora meet as ineffective in its impact on economic problems but also considers it as a dangerous potent of how the Government tries to bypass established forums to tackle the country's problems.
