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Resolution for National Convention

Swatantra Party at Delhi

August 4 & 5, 1974

The National Executive meeting in Delhi on April 7 and 8 reviewed the state of the Nation on the basis of which it arrived at certain conclusions and recommended a programme of action, which inter alia stated:

"The Party will continue to explore all possibilities to bring about a two-party system in India with a view to remove the chaos prevailing in our political life and the confusion created in the minds of the electorate. In this connection, the Swatantra Party urges all political parties and politicians to cooperate in this endeavour and to work for the common good."

In furtherance of this, the National Executive authorised the President to pursue this objective, consulting any two senior members of the Party that happen to be present in Delhi at the time. Various negotiations were held from time to time, in which the President, Mr. Madhu Mehta, Mr. R.N. Singh Deo, Mr. Dandekar, Mr. H.M. Patel, Mr. Lokrath Mishra and Mr. D.N. Patodia participated. A proposal was framed and submitted to the General Council on June 9 and 10. The General Council debated the pros and cons of the issue, and in its wisdom unanimously passed the following resolutions.

"The General Council of the Swatantra Party met in Delhi and discussed the proposal of getting together with various parties with a view to creating a National Alternative. It also discussed the draft programme prepared by the leaders of the new group.

The members of the General Council generally agreed that the present political situation in the country demands that an all out effort should be made for the formation of a National Alternative with a well-defined and clearcut alternative capable of fulfilling the urges and aspirations of the people.

In this context, while it welcomes the attempts made by various parties to come together with a view to ultimately provide a National Alternative it feels that in so far as the Swatantra Party is concerned, the final decision can only be taken at the National Convention. This could give a fair opportunity to as many members as possible to study the proposed programme and carefully examine all the pros and cons of the proposal. The General Council therefore has decided that a copy of the draft programme should be circulated to all the members of all the State Councils.

The General Council also authorises the President to fix the date and venue of the National Convention at the earliest, after giving due notice."

In pursuance of this Resolution, the National Convention of the Swatantra Party has been called to decide on the future of the Swatantra Party.

The General Council has approved of the idea of the formation of a National Alternative by the coming together of all political parties other than the Ruling Congress and the Communists. It has welcomed the efforts made in this direction by various parties to come together on a common platform.

In view of this, the Seventh National Convention resolves:

THAT this National Convention of the Swatantra Party welcomes the idea of forming a National Alternative by the amalgamation of all political forces, other than the Ruling Congress and the Communist Parties and approves the impending formation of the New Party namely Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India) and notes with gratification the fact that it has evolved a common programme, acceptable to the Swatantra Party.

RESOLVED that the final declaration will be announced by the President, Mr. Piloo Mody, after the National Executive has reviewed developments if any that the Swatantra Party will cease to exist and will merge itself with the New Party, The Bharatiya Lok Dal (The Peoples' Party of India), or whatever name the New Party may give itself, as and when it comes into being, to further the objectives of the Swatantra Party. Such of the existing members who do not wish to join the New Party, would be free to carry on such non-partisan activities, which eschew all elections as they may choose, in any name other than the "Swatantra".

RESOLVES FURTHER that the President of the Party Mr. Piloo Mody is authorised to intimate to the Chief Election Commissioner about the dissolution of the Party from the date as mentioned above and request the Chief Election Commissioner to freeze the symbol of the Party to avoid its unfair exploitation.

RESOLVES FURTHER that the National Convention authorises the President of the Party, Mr. Piloo Mody, to take all necessary steps and decisions to implement the aforesaid resolutions.

Moved by : Mr. R.N. Singh Deo

Seconded by: Dr. M. Santosham

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NOTICE OF RESOLUTION TO BE MOVED AT THE SEVENTH
NATIONAL CONVENTION OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY ON
AUGUST 4 & 5, 1974 IN NEW DELHI

The Seventh National Convention of the Swatantra Party has carefully considered the proposal placed before it that the Swatantra Party be dissolved along with the similar dissolution of six other parties so as to facilitate the formation of a new Party.

The Convention notes that of the seven parties that are expected to dissolve to enable the formation of the new Party, the Swatantra Party is the only National Party, the others being confined to particular States or parts of a State.

The Convention is firmly convinced that the Party's principles and policies continue to be valid and had the policies of the Government been formulated on the basis of the said principles, our country would not be in the present critical situation.

The Convention is equally convinced that the new Party will mark no advance in the search for a truly national alternative comprising as it does those who, though for the present have consented to get together on a general programme are bound to disagree in regard to the interpretation of a vague and general statement of policy.

Moreover, with opposition parties like the Congress (O) and the Jan Sangh continuing their individual existence, the objective of a two party system and its electoral benefits will continue to elude us. On the other hand, there is real danger of the ruling Congress on the one side and the Jan Sangh on the other being the direct beneficiaries of such a development.

The National Convention of the Swatantra Party does not consider the time or occasion opportune for the disappearance of the Swatantra Party from the Indian political scene and therefore rejects the proposal to dissolve the Party.

Proposed by : Parmanand Kejriwal

Seconded by : Girish Munshi