

S W A T A N T R A P A R T Y

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Sassoon Building, 143, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Bombay 1.

August 20, 1974

General Secretary's Letter No. 320

Dear Friend,

The National Convention of the Party was held in New Delhi on Sunday and Monday, August 4 and 5, to discuss a very important Party matter-- the dissolution of the Party. The General Council of the Party had met in New Delhi on June 9 and 10 and adopted the following resolution:-

"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 a 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 the context of this Resolution, the National Convention was called to discuss the question of dissolution.

A meeting of the National Executive was held just before the National Convention. At that meeting, the President, Mr. Piloo Mody, briefed the members as to how he had worked for the National Alternative. The proposed Resolution for the National Convention was put before the National Executive. Col. H.R. Pasricha made a suggestion that instead of authorising Mr. Piloo Mody and the Sub-Committee to decide on the final date of dissolution, the decision should be left to the members of the National Executive.

Col. Pasricha raised two other points viz., that the Press should be invited to the Convention and the voting should be done by secret ballot.

Mr. H.M. Patel explained to the members that in the past, when organisational matters were discussed at the Convention, it used to be a closed session and was never open to the Press. As the dissolution of the Party was purely an organisational matter, he was strongly of the view that the Press should be kept out of the deliberations and this suggestion of Mr. Patel was accepted by all the NE members.

Regarding the suggestion of voting by secret ballot, with the exception of Mr. Mewaram Arya, no other member supported this suggestion and it was decided that voting should not be by secret ballot but by a show of hands.

The VIIth National Convention of the Swatantra Party started its deliberations on Sunday, August 4 at 3 p.m. and continued on the following day, Monday 5th August, 1974. Three Resolutions were moved at the National Convention viz.,

1. Resolution for the Dissolution of the Party was moved by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo and seconded by Dr. M. Santosham.
2. The Resolution regarding the formation of the Swatantra Seva Sangh was moved by Mr. M.R. Masani and seconded by Mr. K.H. Subramaniam.
3. The third Resolution rejecting the proposal to dissolve the Party was moved by Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal and seconded by Mr. Girish Munshi.

Mr. Masani withdrew his Resolution viz., the formation of a Swatantra Seva Sangh, as he felt there was no popular support to his resolution, and thus there were only two Resolutions to be considered by the Convention.

For two days, the discussions were continuously held and a number of delegates spoke at the Convention both in favour of the dissolution and against it. On Monday, 5th August, a Resolution was moved by Mr. T. Ramakrishnan of the Maharashtra Unit, viz., that voting should be conducted by secret ballot. This Resolution was seconded by Mr. S.V. Raju. This Resolution was put to vote by the President Mr. Piloo Mody and was lost by an overwhelming majority.

Finally, on August 5, the Resolutions moved by Mr. R.N. Singh Deo and Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal were put to vote.

1. Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal's Resolution, rejecting the dissolution of the Party, was put to vote. The voting pattern was as follows:

For the Resolution	-- 53 votes
Against the Resolution	-- 406 votes
Neutral	-- 1

The Resolution was lost.

2. Mr. R.N. Singh Deo's Resolution on the dissolution of the Party was put to vote. The voting pattern was as follows:-

For the Resolution	-- 407 votes
Against the Resolution	-- 53 votes
Neutral	-- 1

The Resolution was passed.

The Statewise voting pattern was as follows:-

State	<u>Mr. R.N. Singh Deo's Resolution</u> <u>(Dissolution of the Party)</u>		<u>Mr. Parmanand Kejriwal's</u> <u>Resolution (rejecting the</u> <u>dissolution)</u>	
	<u>Votes For / Votes Against</u>		<u>Votes For / Votes Against</u>	
ANDHRA	12	Nil	Nil	12
BIHAR	4	-	-	4
DELHI	7	18	18	7
GUJARAT	52	1	1	51
HARYANA	3	4	4	3
KARNATAKA	3	Nil	Nil	3
KERALA	3	Nil	Nil	3
MAHARASHTRA	5	13	13	5
ORISSA	68	Nil	Nil	68
PUNJAB	2	Nil	Nil	2
RAJASTHAN	30	Nil	Nil	30
TAMILNADU	29	17	17	29
UTTAR PRADESH	<u>189</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>Nil</u>	<u>189</u>
	407	53	53	406

One delegate from Tamil Nadu remained neutral for both the Resolutions.

The text of the Resolutions moved at the Convention are enclosed herewith.

The total number of delegates who attended the Convention was 484. The State-wise break-up is as follows:-

Andhra	12
Bihar	5
Delhi	25
Haryana	7
Gujarat	55
Karnataka	3
Kerala	3
Maharashtra	18
Orissa	68
Punjab	2
Rajasthan	30
Tamilnadu	47
U.P.	<u>209</u>
Total	484

Yours sincerely,

Madhu Mehta

(Madhu Mehta)
Vice President