

(237)

RESOLUTION FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE NATIONAL CONVENTION
OF THE SWATANTRA PARTY, NEW DELHI, AUGUST 4 & 5, 1974

The National Convention of the Swatantra Party has carefully considered the proposal placed before it that the Swatantra Party be dissolved to facilitate the formation of a new party.

While the Convention has noted that of the seven parties that are expected to be dissolved in a similar manner the Swatantra Party alone is a national party, it hopes that the leadership of the proposed new party will continue to make efforts to draw in their fold other major national democratic opposition parties to be able to provide a credible national alternative to the ruling Congress which is really the need of the hour.

The Convention notes the feeling of great disappointment expressed by many delegates about the proposal to dissolve the Swatantra Party on the ground that the principles and policies of the Swatantra Party continue to be as valid today as when they were formulated in 1959-1960 and that, had they been the policies of the Union Government, our country would not be in the present critical situation. However, in keeping with the spirit of the Swatantra Party's principle of providing freedom of choice and expression to various points of view within its ranks and in order to provide opportunities for functioning to those who hold conflicting points of view and to facilitate a decision by consensus, the Convention resolves that the Swatantra Party be and is hereby converted into a non-Party organisation named the Swatantra Sewa Sangh which will be solely devoted to the pursuit of educative and constructive activities in furtherance of the principles of the Swatantra Party and which will eschew electoral and parliamentary activities at both the Union and State levels.

Through Swatantra ceasing to be a political Party and becoming a service organisation, it will be possible both for those who wish to join the proposed new party to do so with a good conscience and for those who wish to continue to educate the people of India about the validity of Swatantra principles and to serve the people of India in a constructive way to do so in their own way.

Proposed by : (sd) M. R. Masani

Seconded by : (sd) K. H. Subramaniam

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 an 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(0) 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