

July 11, 1974

My dear Girish:

This has reference to the meeting of the Maharashtra State Council which was held in Bombay on last Saturday, 6th July 1974. At this meeting a Resolution was passed by a majority of the members present opposing the proposal to dissolve the Party. The Resolution also stated that 'in the event of a resolution to dissolve the Party being carried in the National Convention, the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party will continue to retain its identity as the Swatantra Party and carry on the message and flag of the Party'.

Before this Resolution was passed, I had appealed to all the members present not to pass a resolution of this kind in the larger interest of maintaining the unity of the Party. Apart from the fact that this kind of a Resolution served no useful purpose, I had also stated that as members of the State Council have every right to express their views, whatever views expressed by members present at the meeting, can be recorded and communicated to the National Headquarters.

I was also told by Mr. Masani and Mr. Kejriwal who were present at the meeting that the text of the resolution would not be given to the Press. I must confess that I was shocked to find a press statement issued by you on 8th July in which you have talked about the Resolution that was passed at this meeting. I do not know what happened between 6th and 8th July which prompted you to reverse the decision taken at this meeting and issue a Press handout! I think the least you should have done is to wait till I came back from Poona and consulted me before rushing to the Press.

So far as my own views about the future of the Swatantra Party is concerned, I had made it very clear as far back as April 1974 when I suggested in a Note circulated by me to members of the National Executive that the Party should suspend all elective politics and concentrate only in propagating the ideals of the Swatantra Party and go on doing constructive work in the country. My views have not changed; I was also very happy to note that our senior leader Mr. Masani has also expressed similar views recently. Both he and I feel that in the present political situation in the country, all Parties have become irrelevant.

Unfortunately, on the date of this State Council meeting, I was not able to convince you and other members of the Council to withdraw the resolution and my appeal was rejected by majority of the members.

Under these circumstances, I think it is not proper for me to continue as the President of the Maharashtra State Swatantra Party. I am, therefore, tendering my resignation as the President of the Maharashtra unit of the Swatantra Party. Needless to say that you can count upon me for any help you may require to carry on the activities of the Party.

Will you kindly convey my sincere thanks to all the members of the State Council and the Executive Committee for all the cooperation that

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they have given me during my tenure as President of the Party
in Maharashtra?

Thanking you,

Yours sincerely

Madhu Mehta.

Mr. Girish Munshi
General Secretary
Swatantra Party, Maharashtra.
Bombay.