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ANNEXURE A.

Statement on the current emergency.

1. The Parliamentary Board of the Swatantra Party has taken stock of the developments of the past few weeks and of the situation which the Indian people face as a result of the intensified offensive launched by China. This dangerous threat to the territorial integrity of the country and indeed to its independence has to be met. In this task, every patriotic Indian is ready to make any necessary sacrifice and give of his best, as has been demonstrated by spontaneous upsurge for the defence of the country.
2. The Swatantra Party is convinced that the initiative should not be left to the enemy. A defence strategy should now be adopted which will help to snatch and retain the initiative in our own hands. There is no half-way house in this conflict. Victory in this struggle has to be achieved by the adoption of sound military, political and international policies pursued with determination and singleness of purpose.
3. A Defence Council of senior serving and retired generals should be constituted to assist the Defence Ministry.
4. Our men at the front have fought with unrivalled heroism. They should be armed with the best weapons and equipment and supported by aircraft procured from friendly countries throughout the world. The insistence on maintaining the appearance of non-alignment when receiving this vital aid is altogether unrealistic and would cripple the defence effort, besides ruining the economy. Great countries like Britain and West Germany have accepted military aid without surrendering their sovereignty or independence of action.
5. Anti-aircraft defences should be set up at all vulnerable points and civil defence measures organized in adequate measure.
6. The Third Five-Year Plan should give way to a Victory Plan geared to the immediate purpose. A Ministry of Supply should be constituted for the period of the emergency with over-riding powers of direction over the Ministries of Industry and Commerce, Steel and Heavy Industries, Railways, Communications, Oil, Fuel and Gas, and the Department of Defence Production in the Defence Ministry.
7. When our country is attacked by a Communist power, the concept of non-alignment has little meaning, as the Swatantra Party has been pointing out since the beginning of 1960. If the Prime Minister's admission of a new awareness of realities is to have any meaning, our entire foreign policy has to be revised and brought into close relation with the requirements of the present critical situation.
8. Urgent efforts should be made to establish friendlier relations with Pakistan. President Ayub's offer of co-operation in the formation of a common defence of this sub-continent made two years ago, should be taken up and worked out. All disputes between India and Pakistan should be frozen by agreement for the duration of the emergency, so as to enable the release of substantial Indian armed forces for repelling the Chinese attack.

9. Completely friendly relations should be re-established with Nepal.

10. The Swatantra Party records its grateful appreciation of the spontaneous, prompt and generous manner in which the U.S.A., Britain, Canada and other countries have come to India's assistance by way of military equipment and otherwise.

11. The declaration of a state of emergency should not made into a charter for winding up parliamentary government. The Opposition should carry out its responsibility of free and frank criticism whenever it is necessary. There has been a commendable shift in the attitude and policies of Government. The Prime Minister's admissions in particular have given rise to considerable hope of change. On the other hand, there are disturbing signs that some old illusions still persist and that the dead hand of these illusions and out-moded policies still lies heavily on the present Government. The Press and the statesmen of the country should not hesitate to speak and write as they feel and advise the Government and guide the people from time to time for furtherance of the country's defence.

12. The Defence of India Ordinance, Bill and Regulations should be closely scrutinised and their administration watched so as to ensure that these do not involve a grater curtailment of fundamental rights, democratic processes and the Rule of Law than is strictly necessary in furtherance of the defence effort.

13. Consistent with the needs of security, the fullest information should be made available to the public, and the Press should be given facilities for accrediting correspondents at the front.

14. Steps should be taken for bringing the Chinese aggression before the U.N. for securing the assistance of the world organization and of world opinion in our defence.