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*Peto & Spence
Zulu*SRI MASANI URGES REGIONAL DEFENCE AGAINST CHINABLAMES SOVIET UNION FOR ARMS RACE --EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW TO IPA

BOMBAY, OCTOBER 12: "If a nuclear war became necessary, it would only be to stop world domination by communist militarism and imperialism", according to Sri M.R. Masani, General Secretary of the Swatantra Party.

In an exclusive interview to IPA, the Swatantra Party leader outlined his views on disarmament and peace. He said that the fundamental problem is "not of disarmament but of arms control". This is so because disarmament and suspension of nuclear tests are only possible if an international control authority free from any Great Power veto is first brought into existence. He holds the view that the arms race was "created not by the USA but by the Soviet dictatorship under Stalin ever since the World War II and carried on more recently by Khrushchev".

While appreciating the efforts of pacifists like those in the Gandhi Peace Foundation, Sri Masani says that "as they go deeper into the matter, they will realise the complexity of the problem and come to play a more and more realistic and constructive role".

Urging the break off of diplomatic relations with China, Sri Masani wants "a conference of the free countries of South and South-East Asia to concert measures of regional defence" and then give orders for the army clearing out the Chinese from our borders.

Following is the full text of the interview:-

QUESTION: Would you like to see modified the situation created by the U.S.A. by its armament race for the past 15 years?

ANSWER: All of us would naturally like to see an end to the armaments race created not by the USA but by the Soviet dictatorship under Stalin ever since the end of World War II and carried on more recently by Khrushchev. It is a matter of record that the Western Democracies disarmed almost completely after 1945 and that the USA did not use its atomic and nuclear monopoly during the post-War years. On the other hand, the Soviet Government remained armed to the teeth and indulged in a policy of expansionism in eastern Europe which forced the Democracies to enter this unfortunate race in order to ensure their survival and to prevent communist world domination.

QUESTION: Don't you think that the most important task confronting the world today is to find the means of halting arms race and eliminating the danger of nuclear war, as most of our national leaders including Prime Minister Nehru and Rajaji point out?

ANSWER: I agree that an important task confronting the world is to find the means to halt the arms race and eliminate the danger of nuclear war. This, however, can only be achieved if all States are prepared to limit their national sovereignty and surrender part of it to a world authority or government which would be in a position to undertake the task of maintaining international peace and order and preventing aggression. History teaches us that no political unit ever lays down its arms unless there is a bigger and stronger unit prepared to take over the responsibility of providing for its security and independence. Disarmament and suspension of nuclear tests are only possible if an international control authority free from any Great Power Veto is first brought into existence. The fundamental problem is thus not of disarmament but of arms control. For a decade now the Democracies have been asking for a treaty creating machinery for verification, inspection and control of nuclear tests and armaments and the Soviet dictatorship has been consistently thwarting these efforts. The latest example of this is the rejection by the Soviet representative

at Geneva.....

at Geneva of the offer of a cessation of all nuclear tests except underground ones in respect of which there was no agreement regarding verification and control. The numerous breaches of faith and of solemn agreements by the Soviet government since 1945 make it impossible for anyone to trust its promises without proper verification and control. The entire guilt of keeping alive the danger of nuclear war must therefore fall squarely on the shoulders of the Soviet government.

QUESTION: There are good collective ideas which the "free world" stands for, and certain good reasons for what it stands against, and so nuclear warfare is necessary. Would you like to comment, please?

ANSWER: If the suggestion is that, because the free world stands for certain fundamental values like individual and national freedom, the rule of law, free elections and respect for the human personality, and because it stands against totalitarian tyranny, forced labour and intellectual regimentation, nuclear warfare is necessary, I would say that this does not follow. I am sure that, in the war of ideas, the free world can win without having to resort to nuclear or any other kind of warfare. Unfortunately, the Soviet and Chinese regimes have shown that they do not believe in peaceful coexistence. The proof of this affecting us most is of course the breach of the Panchsila agreement between China and India by the Chinese communist regime and the current invasion of India by its troops. So too, communist regimes do not genuinely believe in disarmament. The Great Soviet Encyclopaedia even now quotes with approval Lenin and "the Marxist-Leninist principle that disarmament is impossible while capitalism exists". If, therefore, a nuclear war became necessary, it would only be to stop world domination by communist militarism and imperialism.

QUESTION: Do you hold the view, Sir, that nuclear tests by the U.S. are part of the "free world's" strategy to contain communism?

ANSWER: No. Nuclear tests by the U.S. are necessary to prevent the Soviet government from carrying out tests which it has been doing in breach of its undertakings since September 1961 and thus gaining a nuclear lead which would jeopardise the independence of the free countries of the world.

QUESTION: Don't you think that the potential gains of a nuclear test ban are substantial?

ANSWER: I agree that the gains of a nuclear test ban, provided it is enforceable by a treaty providing for verification, supervision and control, would be most substantial. I therefore hope that all concerned will, in the interests of peace, press on the Soviet government the need to stop obstructing such a treaty.

QUESTION: Would you like to comment on the statement that if there is not going to be any satisfactory test ban agreement, the West should start atmospheric tests?

ANSWER: It needs no comment on my part to stress the obvious which is that, if the Soviet government will not agree to any satisfactory test ban agreement, the other nuclear powers may be expected to continue with their tests as a measure of self-defence and survival.

QUESTION: Will limited nuclear wars be advantageous to the free world?

ANSWER: No war is advantageous to any part of the world, least of all a nuclear war but, as Gandhiji used to say, "the peace of the graveyard" is the greatest degradation.

QUESTION: As the General Secretary and an important leader of the Swatantra Party, would you comment on the peace efforts by a number of peace organisations in India, including the Gandhi Peace Foundation? Some say they -- these organisations -- are playing unwittingly in the hands of international communism.

ANSWER: I do not agree that sincere pacifists like those associated with the Gandhi Peace Foundation are playing into the hands of International Communism. Whether one agrees with their stand or not, one has to appreciate that they are pursuing the cause of peace according to the best of their lights. As they go deeper into the matter, they will realise the complexity of the problem and come to play a more and more realistic and constructive role. A distinction must be made between such sincere pacifists on the one hand and Communist Party fronts like the "World Peace Council" and its Indian affiliates on the other, who are cynically indulging in peace-mongering in order to cover up the militarist and aggressive designs of the

Soviet and Chinese dictatorships. The very fact that pacifists in India and the other Democracies are able to carry on their work in complete freedom in contrast to the fate of the members of the British Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament and the Committee of 100 who tried to carry on pacifist propaganda in the Red Square in Moscow earlier this year only to have their banners snatched away from their hands within two minutes by plain clothes men of the Soviet Secret Service, shows which is the camp of peace and which is the camp of militarism.

QUESTION: And lastly, is it advisable for India, in the face of the Chinese threat on the northern borders, to start making nuclear arms?

ANSWER: No. It would be ridiculous for India to attempt the manufacture of nuclear arms. What is called for is a drastic change in the Government of India's present policies which have exposed our country to Chinese communist aggression. What is necessary is for India to break off diplomatic relations with the bandit regime in Communist China, call a conference of the free countries of South and South-East Asia to concert measures for regional defence against the common threat and, having done that, to give orders to its troops to clear the Chinese aggressors from Indian soil which, I am confident, the valiant men of our Armed Forces are perfectly capable of doing if the politicians in office stop preventing them from doing their duty of defending our boundaries.

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