

D R A F T

2nd December 1959

2532

The Swatantra Party must state that while the Party stands for non-involvement in military pacts and alliances and maintaining our freedom to judge each issue on its merits, it is important that such freedom is unbiased, uninfluenced by pre-conceived and <sup>unrealistic</sup> ~~ill-~~ digested theories. The country must judge each issue ~~not only~~ <sup>as well as</sup> on moral and ethical principles based on our tradition but ~~also~~ <sup>also</sup> on unqualified and honest consideration of national interests and the needs of security of our country. With this basic approach in mind, the Party would work for strengthening the defences of our country and obtain military equipment and assistance from whatever source it is available. The Party believes that in this hour of national crisis, it is incorrect to presume that all military assistance implies political strings. We have before us the example of Yugoslavia which has received large-scale military assistance without any strings, and without any effect on its political freedom.

The Party maintains that India's defence could not be adequately safeguarded without settling our disputes with Pakistan in a friendly and mutually advantageous manner. All efforts must, therefore, be made to promote good neighbourly relations. Mr. Nehru has confused the question by asking "Joint defence against whom?" It is obviously that we are faced with a common enemy in the North. The common defence is against that enemy and this should be welcomed by the country.

The Party believes that too much is made of the Russian Premier's words regarding our present Indo-China conflict. It must be appreciated that there is no neutrality among the Communists. They are pledged to International Communism and world conquest. We must therefore lay bare the Communist intentions to undermine our determination by pretending to lend us their good offices in support and offering to voice their disagreements from their fellow communists.

ally, the Swatantra Party must categorically state that our

foreign policy stands firmly for freedom and democracy and that no compromise on these two fundamentals is possible. India cannot and will not remain a passive observer when freedom is ~~threatened~~ involved. Our desire for peace must not imply passive contemplation of aggression elsewhere and quiet acceptance of encroachment against freedom and democracy. There can therefore be no withdrawals from our fundamentals on the grounds that such withdrawals may lead to peaceful negotiations and agreements.

-----