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DRAFT FOR PRIVATE DISCUSSION

The Swatantra Party has upto now functioned purely in internal problems affecting the country. Our fundamental principles are only concerned with internal problems of policy and as such the Party has made its attitude clear on these issues. We have however avoided many other problems which we are now called upon to face due to the recent developments concerning the external relations of the country. The military occupation of Tibet by Communist China had agitated our people and throughout the country, deep sympathy and concern was felt for the Tibetan people. Since then, the Communist Armies have penetrated into Indian territory and occupied substantial areas within our national boundaries. This has led to a general demand by the people that the aggressor should be thrown back and the integrity of our country maintained. The popular clamour has compelled the Government to reveal many facts of Chinese aggression which had been suppressed over a number of years. The faith of the people in the Congress Government has been shaken and a widespread feeling of uneasiness prevails concerning the defence of the country and its recent handling of relations with other countries. Public opinion, therefore, demands that the country's defence should be strengthened and its administration put in trustworthy hands.

It is felt that the Nehru Government is following a policy which would lead to another Munich. The speeches of the Prime Minister and the Defence Minister create grave doubts in the minds of the people. The Swatantra Party, therefore, is called upon to express its views and direct the public opinion as to what is required for the maintenance of the integrity of our territory. The Party can no longer remain silent on many issues which trouble the public mind and leave the Congress Government to handle the situation as they like. To keep silent at this moment is to add to the

frustration and despair in the country. The Swatantra Party must therefore provide the lead in this hour of crisis.

The public expects us to clearly define our opposition to the Chinese aggression and mobilise the public opinion for the defence of the country. It is conscious that the defence of the country could not be adequately prepared unless the country is able to find the necessary finance and obtain such military equipment and assistance from other countries, if need be. Our relations with Pakistan require to be put on a friendly basis so that the borders between these two countries are protected while India faces aggression from the North. The Russian pretensions of neutrality in our conflict with China cannot be relied upon; while Russia continues to pour in military equipment and assistance to the Chinese. Mr. Nehru's statement that Russia does not desire any tensions in the world today finds little echo in the minds of our people. The fact that the Communist Party of India is working as the fifth column within the country negates the bonafides of International Communism. We have examples of East Germany and other Communist countries supporting Chinese claims against India.

The Party must indicate clearly where it stands and how it proposes to defend the country. The Party must express its views on policies which could mobilise the country and generate confidence in its ability to defend itself. To keep silent today would be disastrous to the country and to the Party.

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