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143 Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay 1.

June 15, 1971

The Editor,
Times of India,
Bombay 1.

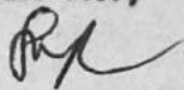
Sir,

In the course of a Press Conference which he addressed in Bonn on June 18, after meeting Mr. Willy Brandt and Mr. Walter Scheel, Mr. Swaran Singh is reported to have suggested that "the giving of economic aid for the reconstruction of Pakistan should be linked with a corrective in the political field so that they give up their repressive policies".

Can we infer that this statement coming as it does from our foreign minister represents a shift in our policy of demanding aid without strings or is it applicable only to countries other than ours. True, Pakistan's suppression of East Bengal deserves universal condemnation but to suggest a solution that could one day be used against India is hardly wise.

I for one have always felt that in the light of the criminal waste of aid in our own country, aid-giving nations should exercise strict supervision over the utilisation of foreign aid. At the same time, I would not as a citizen of India tolerate any aid-giving country trying to dictate issues that are of an internal political nature. What is sauce for the goose is surely sauce for the gander and in our anxiety to score a point over Pakistan, should our Foreign Minister provide free advice to foreign governments which he himself quite rightly would not accept for his own country.

Yours etc.,


(S. V. Raju)