

For favour of publication

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Bombay, November 26.

"If the Chinese ultimatum is not categorically rejected by the Indian Government by November 30, the enemy and the whole world will come to the conclusion that India has in fact accepted defeat," warned Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Swatantra Party, while addressing the inaugural meeting of a new organisation, "Indians for Victory" this evening.

It was highly important, said the speaker, that through such a declaration, the freedom of action of the Indian armed forces to attack the Chinese either in their present positions or to harry and maul them should they seek to withdraw was preserved.

There was no reason, said Mr. Masani, why, given certain essentials, the Indian army should not be capable, now that the fighting would take place on our own terrain, of launching a counter-attack and pushing back the enemy vanguard which had extended itself dangerously. Numerical superiority could now be established and the necessary equipment obtained from friendly countries. The United States and U. K. governments had indicated that there was no limitation to aid in men and material and this could be availed of for obtaining tactical air support for our troops. The other alternative of allowing the Chinese to get away from their present exposed position while the going was good and to hope later to reoccupy the same positions as on September 8 would be found on examination to be not a viable one. It would prove to be a deceptive mirage covering up an abject surrender. "Can we imagine Winston Churchill agreeing to a cease-fire immediately after Dunkirk?" asked Mr. Masani, and answered: "The time to fight is now or never."

Not for publication:

M. R. Masani
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