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"While the totalitarian menace to democracy may, in the long run, have many facets, both internal and external, the most immediate manifestation of it is the continuance in the sensitive portfolio of Defence of a crypto-communist like Mr. V. K. Krishna Menon at a time when Chinese communist troops are in occupation of Indian territory", said Mr. M. R. Masani, General Secretary of the Swatantra Party, while presiding over a public meeting in Bombay this afternoon. "If the Indian Government wishes to convince the Chinese communist aggressors that India will not tolerate any attack on its territorial integrity", continued Mr. Masani, "no other single action will carry such conviction as Mr. Krishna Menon's removal from office".

Apart from the external threat to our freedom on our Northern frontiers, there were also dangers of an internal nature. Among those were the gulf between profession and practice of those in office, the growing cynicism among people about politicians of all kinds, the weakness of "grassroots" voluntary effort, and the cult of personality. A disturbing symptom of this last trend was to be found in what happened at the recent Bangalore session of the Congress Party. On the one hand, there was the temper of intolerance displayed by Mr. Nehru when he brutally reviled and ridiculed some senior and respected members of his own Party for daring to draw attention to the patent fact that the Prime Minister's policies of neutralism and appeasement of communist China had crumbled in the dust. On the other hand, there was a servile acceptance of such bullying on the part of the great mass of Congressmen ~~assembled~~ who thought privately in one way and talked publicly in another strain. In order that the future of democracy should be secure, ~~in India~~, India had to learn, as Gandhiji used to put it, to say "No" to those in authority.

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