

Swatantra Party

CENTRAL OFFICE

PHONE: 29687

GRAMS: SURAJYAM



SASSOON BUILDING,
143, MAHATMA GANDHI ROAD,
BOMBAY 1.

736
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For Favour of Publication

Mr. M.R. Masani, M.P., General Secretary of the Swatantra Party, has issued the following statement to the press:-

"All good Indians who are concerned about the defence and security of their country will give wholehearted support to President Lyndon Johnson in at last taking appropriate steps to give the Chinese Communist satellites in North Viet Nam a bloody nose. Too long now have the Chinese Communists through their North Vietnamese catspaw aggressed in Laos and South Viet Nam in flagrant violation of the Geneva Conventions while the International Control Commissions with Indian Chairmen but immobilised by the Polish veto, have stood by supinely through the years.

"It is heartening to note that Malaysia, the Phillipines, Australia and Britain have rushed forward to endorse the U.S. determination that further aggression will be repelled. But what about New Delhi? It is distressing to read this morning that, according to our Ministry of External Affairs, President Johnson's action has threatened the peace in South-East Asia.

The defence of Laos, Viet Nam and Malaysia is an integral part of the defence of India against encirclement by Communist China. In this context, New Delhi's continued pussilanimity is painful and unworthy of a great country with a major stake in the freedom of the region. If the Indian Government does not free itself quickly from the dead hand of the past and reorient its attitude, it will open itself and this country to the contempt of free nations in Asia and elsewhere as one which appealed for military assistance when itself attacked by Chinese Communist bandits in October 1962, but sits on the fence once again when its neighbours are attacked by the same common enemy who is still in possession of our northern territory."

Not for publication

M.R. Masani

(M.R. Masani)
General Secretary.