The incursions into parts of the territory of the Union of India, across our traditional and well understood borders, by elements of Chinese forces have, ...deeply distressed our people and evoked legitimate and widespread resentment. They impose a great strain on our resources and our nation-building endeavours. We regret and deplore these developments on our border. They' have resulted from the disregard by China of the application of the principles, which it had been mutually agreed to between us, should govern our relations. My Government have taken prompt and calculated measures, both defensive and diplomatic, to meet the threat to our sovereignty.

My Government particularly deplore the unilateral use of force by our neighbour on our common frontier, where no military units of the Union were functioning. This is a breach of faith; but we may not lose faith in the principles which we regard as basic in the relations between nations.

Members of Parliament, you have been kept informed by the release, from time to time, of the correspondence between my Prime Minister and the Prime Minister of China, of the respective positions of our two countries in this matter. My Government have made it clear, beyond doubt, that they seek a peaceful approach in the settlement of outstanding matters. They have also stated and reiterated, equally clearly, that they will not accept the course, or the results of unilateral action or decision, taken by China. My Government, therefore. pursues a policy, both of a peaceful approach, by negotiation under appropriate conditions, and of being determined and ready to defend our country.

This and the weight of world public opinion which is adverse to her action should, we hope, persuade China, sooner than later to come to agreement in regard to the common frontiers which for long have been well established by
treaties, custom and usage. Thus, and thus alone, can friendly relations with our great neighbour which my Government and our people desire, become a reality and endure for our common good. The actions taken and the policy pursued by my Government, it may be hoped, will be adequate to convince China of both our policy and our determination.