STATEMENT BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND (D-SC) IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS BY JAMISON GAIN, JULY 21, 1958.

1. Should the United States go to a Summit Conference at this time as requested by Khrushchev?

This is a decision which the President must make, based upon his evaluation of top secret information as to the effects such a meeting might have on world peace and promoting Soviet propaganda. I personally believe that we should explore every possible avenue to obtain world peace and an easing of tension in the Middle East. We must be careful, however, not to fall into a Soviet propaganda trap in doing so.

2. Does the Senator agree with former President Truman that President Eisenhower should invite Nasser to Washington for talks on this matter?

I doubt that even the most persuasive arguments by the President would deter Nasser from his goal of unifying the Arab world under his leadership. I believe, however, that we must explore every avenue which may lead to world peace, and if the President's evaluation of his intelligence information convinces him that a talk with Nasser might be helpful, then Nasser should be invited to Washington.

3. Has the recession declined sufficiently so that it no longer imposes any threat to the economy?

Business has improved, but we must always be on guard against both inflationary and deflationary tendencies. I am concerned that the crisis in the Middle East will set off a new inflationary spiral.

4. What does the Senator think the major campaign issues will be in 1958 and 1960?

In view of the swift-changing events which are taking place today in America, and the world, it is difficult to predict what will be the major issues in 1960. In 1958, there will be no major issues in the general election in South Carolina. The nominees of the Democratic Party of South Carolina will
have little or no opposition. I cannot speak for the Nation as a whole, except to say what I think should be the major issues. These are:

(1) Constant vigilance against Communist penetration from within and without by maintaining a strong military establishment (this includes a strong combat-ready reserve and National Guard force) and a sound and strong national economy by reducing the national debt, curbing government expenditures and eliminating government wastefulness.

(2) A return to the principles of constitutional government and Americanism which have made this country so great, with renewed emphasis on local self-government and the rights and powers of States.

(3) Promotion of programs that will raise the standard of living of our farm population.

(4) Promotion of a foreign policy that will enable us to live in peace with other Nations of the world while maintaining our self-respect, avoiding entangling alliances, and cooperating, within constitutional limits, with other countries which are also interested in peaceful relations.

(5) The establishment of a foreign trade policy which will permit the expansion of trade without sacrificing the jobs of American workers.

(6) Abandon the policy of attempting to buy friendship through gifts to foreign governments, which is both immoral and ineffective.