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In this paper we give a complete description of the set  $\mathcal{S}(M)$  of discrete faithful representations of the fundamental group of a 3-manifold  $M$  with incompressible boundary into  $\mathrm{PSL}_2(\mathbf{C})$ , equipped with the strong topology. The description is given in terms of the end invariant of the quotient manifold. As part of this description, we introduce coordinates, extending the usual Ahlfors-Bers coordinates. We use these coordinates to show the absence of "self-bumping" points and study the action of the modular group of  $M$  on  $\mathcal{S}(M)$ . (Received January 22, 2008)