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PLex 3-5087-5088

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 EAST 49th STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

SEP 6 1945

September 5, 1945

Mr. Walter White
69 Fifth Avenue
New York 3, N.Y.

Dear Mr. White:

We have received the enclosed request letter from India. In our endeavor to comply, we have gathered basic material from "Who's Who" which may be of help to you, but which we realize is not up-to-date and perhaps not the form in which you would prefer to have your biographical sketch presented for the purpose. May we therefore ask you to submit a corrected sketch along with a photograph, or snapshot, of yourself (no smaller than 3" x 3") by September 11th?

We greatly appreciate your cooperation.

Very sincerely yours,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Hemendra K. Rakhit
Hemendra K. Rakhit
Secretary

hkr/b/l
Encls.

WHITE, WALTER (FRANCIS), author; b. Atlanta, Ga., July 1, 1893; s. George W. and Madeline (Harrison) W.; B.A. Atlanta U., 1916; LL.D., Howard U. 1939; m. Leah Gladys Powell, Feb. 15, 1922; children--Jane, Walter Carl Darrow. Asst. sec. Nat. Assn. for Advancement of Colored People, 1918-29, acting sec. 1929-30, sec. since Mar. 1931. Del. 2d Pan-African Congress, England, Belgium and France, 1921; mem. N.Y. Round Table of Nat. Conf. of Christians and Jews. Appt'd. by President Roosevelt, mem. Advisory Council for Govt. of Virgin Islands, resigned, 1935. Mem. Am. Com. on Economic Policy, former mem. board visitors N.Y. State Training School for Boys; mem. Governor's Commn. on Constl. Conv. New York, 1938; mem. Commn. to Study the Organization of Peace; mem. bd. Com on Africa, The War and Peace Aims, Council Against Intolerance in America; mem. advisor council Writers' War Bd.; member bureau of special operations Office of War Information. Awarded Spingarn medal, 1937, Mem. Am. Center of the P.E.N. Club. Author: Fire in the Flint, 1924; Flight, 1926--both novels; Rope and Faggot--A Biography of Judge Lynch, 1929, Fellow of John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, for creative writing in prose, in France, 1927-28. Contrb. to mags. Address: 69 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y.

RASHTRA VIKAS PRADARSHAN
SAMMITTEE

49 Bajaj Road
Vile Parle (west)
Bombay Suburb
INDIA

May 4, 1945

Dear Mr. Singh,

The accompanying letter from my friend Kisan Mehta, Secretary of the National Progress Exhibition sponsored by the Bombay Congress speaks for itself. Please help us in every way you can.

Send us:

- 1 - autographed photographs of a few prominent Indians in the U.S.A., not forgetting yourself.
- 2 - also of friends of India like Upton Sinclair, Pearl Buck, Louis Fischer, Norman Thomas, John Haynes Holmes, and a few more
- 3 - information about the conditions of Indians settled in the United States
- 4 - information of various organizations that take interest in Indian affairs
- 5 - a list of books and pamphlets dealing with our country with short comments on them
- 6 - a list of articles on India published in leading American journals since 1939 especially since 1942.

Owing to my prolonged illness since my release from jail, I have not been able to write you. It will be a pleasure to send you anything you may need from India. Do write . . .

Hoping you are doing well.

Yours sincerely,

YUSUF MEHERALLY

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 East 49th Street
New York 17, N. Y.

PLaza 3-5088

For Release
Friday AM, Sept. 14

INDIA'S NEEDS PRESENTED FOR ANGLO-US LOAN NEGOTIATIONS

Any American credits extended to Britain should make it possible for India to obtain the dollar resources necessary to enable her to purchase the American capital goods needed for her industrialization, Sirdar J. J. Singh, President of the India League of America, said yesterday in a letter sent to Assistant Secretary of State William L. Clayton, who is representing the U.S. government in current conversations with British negotiators.

India does not need American money, Mr. Singh pointed out. It needs the power to convert its frozen sterling balances into dollars, he said. The industrialization of India "alone can overcome its poverty and make it a consumer of American exports," he added.

The full text of Mr. Singh's letter to Assistant Secretary Clayton follows:

"In your discussions of American aid to Britain, I earnestly hope that the urgent needs of India's 400 million people will not be overlooked.

"Poverty is India's main problem. Its standard of living must be raised if India is to develop itself and provide a market for American goods. But its standard of living cannot be raised unless India is industrialized. Industrialization means capital goods. The only nation from whom capital goods can now be bought is the United States. And this means that India needs American dollars.

"Let me make it perfectly clear that India does not seek a loan or a gift from the United States. India has ample credit, but it is now frozen in London in the form of unusable sterling. In this connection, I hope you will give favorable consideration to the proposal made by the International Section of the New York Board of Trade that Britain no longer freeze dollar credits that might accrue to India in the normal course of trade.

"But that would only be a small beginning. It is in the interest of both India and the United States to insist that, of any credit extended to Britain, a portion be set apart which will enable India to buy in the American market all the capital goods she needs for her industrialization.

"The disturbing suggestion has been made that one of the objectives of the United States government should be "to get the British to agree to refund and scale down" the debt she owes to countries like India, in the same way as the United States is planning to forego her lend-lease claims against Britain. I hope this cruelly unjust suggestion will not be entertained. To put Britain's debt to India on the same basis as its debt to the U.S. is to disregard the vast difference in the economic status of the U.S. and ~~Britain~~ India .

May I emphasize that the sterling balances acquired by India do not represent that country's surplus wealth; rather they represent the bitter sacrifices made by the destitute people of India during the war - sacrifices symbolized by Bengal's one million famine dead.

Considerations of justice and humanity demand that any arrangement for American aid to Britain guarantee: 1) The necessary dollars resources be set apart for India's crucially necessary industrialization, which alone can overcome its poverty and make it a consumer of U. S. exports, and 2) an end of all freezing of currency exchange."

#####

*orig. letter
sent to
Mrs. Roosevelt*

*India League of America
Singh*

October
25th
1945 (Dictated October 24)

Dear J. J.:

I tried to reach you by telephone this morning before leaving the city but found that you could not be reached until after my train had left. I wanted to tell you three things:

(1) That I am very glad to write Mrs. Roosevelt and here is copy of the letter;

(2) I have asked Jose Ferrer's office to send you four tickets for the opening of STRANGE FRUIT;

(3) To ask you to tell me confidentially about Mr. N. M. Alexander of India who telephoned me this morning to ask an appointment to discuss a plan to have a Negro delegation visit India. Unfortunately, I could not see him because of pressure of other work, but I am to see him on the 30th. Will you tell me confidentially about both Mr. Alexander, who he represents, etc., and second, what you think of the idea.

Cordially,

WALTER WHITE.

Mr. J. J. Singh
India League of America
40 East 49th Street
New York 17, New York

October
25th
1945

Dear Mrs. Roosevelt:

The enclosed letter from Mr. J. J. Singh, president of the India League of America, expressing their eagerness to have you as the principal speaker on January 26, 1946, in celebration of the Indian Declaration of Independence is self-explanatory. I know Mr. Singh and the India League intimately, being a member of their Board. I do hope very much that you can find time in your busy schedule to accept this invitation.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt
29 Washington Square
New York, New York

WW:DW

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 EAST 49th STREET
NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK

October
22nd
1945

Mr. Walter White, Secretary
National Association for the Advancement
of Colored People
Willkie House
20 West 40 Street
New York, New York

Dear Walter:

The lunch with Mr. Norman Manley was not only very interesting but most enlightening. Thanks for asking me to be present.

There is something I would very much like you to do for us.

Every year all over India and in other parts of the world where there are Indians or friends of India, the 26th of January is celebrated as India Independence Day.

The Indian Declaration of Independence was first read in December 1929 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and January 26th was set for an annual renewal of the pledge to achieve freedom for India.

Last January 26th, the India League of America held a banquet in the ballroom of the Hotel Commodore where Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, sister of Nehru, was guest of honor. More than one thousand persons attended this dinner.

On January 26th, 1946, we are planning to hold a mass meeting in Carnegie Hall. The time of the meeting will be between 2:30 and 5:30 P.M.

Nothing would delight us more than to have Mrs. Roosevelt as our guest of honor on this occasion.

I have had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. Roosevelt, but that is not enough. Mrs. Roosevelt knows you well and a word from you would be perhaps more than enough. Will you kindly approach her at your earliest convenience and see if you cannot get Mrs. Roosevelt to agree to be our chief guest on the afternoon of January 26th, 1946.

I talked to Lyman Bryson the other night and the Columbia Broadcasting System are going to do their best to get Nehru to address this meeting over the radio from India.

With best personal regards,

JJS:rd

Sincerely yours,
INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
J Singh, President

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INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 EAST 49th STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.



December 28, 1945

Mr. Walter White
N.A.A.C.P.
20 West 40 Street
New York 18, N.Y.

33137 DEC 29 45

Dear Mr. White:

Would you be good enough to advise us how
we can obtain information concerning the
laws of New York State covering inter-racial
marriage, such as Negroes and whites?

Thank you.

Very sincerely yours,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Hemendra K. Rakhit
Hemendra K. Rakhit
Secretary

hkr/1

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

A. N. WILLIAMS
PRESIDENT

1220

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DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

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NC13 87 NL PD 5 EXTRA=NEWYORK NY 1

WALTER WHITE , SECRETARY NATIONAL ASSN FOR
THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE =
DELIVER WILLKIE HOUSE 20 WEST 40 ST=

INDIA IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION BILL HR3517 WHICH
WAS PASSED BY HOUSE ON OCTOBER 10 1945 HAS BEEN REFERRED
TO SUBCOMMITTEE OF SENATE IMMIGRATION COMMITTEE CONSISTING
OF SENATORS BURNET R MAYBANK, JAMES O EASTLAND, J W
FULBRIGHT, JOSEPH H BALL, HOMER FERGUSON, YOU SUPPORTED
THIS BILL IN THE PAST. IT WOULD NOW BE GREAT HELP IF YOU
WROTE OR WIRED ALL SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS URGING FAVORABLE AND
IMMEDIATE CONSIDERATION. TIME IS SHORT. BILL MAY DIE WITH
SENATE ADJOURNMENT. YOUR PROMPT ACTION WILL BE GREATLY
APPRECIATED.=

J J SINGH PRESIDENT INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA 40 1
EAST 49 ST.

HR3517 10 1945 40 49.

APR 2 1946

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 EAST 49th STREET
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.



Telephone:
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3/16/46

APR 13 1946

April 12, 1946

Mr. Walter White
20 West 40th Street
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

We are indeed happy to inform you that you have been elected to hold the position of Member of the Executive Committee for the period commencing with April, 1946, and terminating with April, 1948.

You may be interested to know that the other members of the Committee are as follows:

Sirdar J. J. Singh, President
Richard J. Walsh, Chairman
Louis Fischer, Vice-President
Dr. J. Holmes Smith, Vice-President
Hemendra K. Rakhit, Secretary
Roger N. Baldwin, Treasurer
Herbert J. DeVarco
Sidney Hertzberg
Dorothy Norman
Josephine Rathbone
S. S. Sarna
Rustom D. Wadia

We shall, of course, advise you in due time as to all particulars concerning the next meeting of the Executive Committee.

We look forward to your cooperation and your valuable assistance.

Very sincerely yours,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

Hemendra K. Rakhit
Hemendra K. Rakhit
Secretary

HKR:RB:1

The purpose of the India Famine Emergency Committee is to make sure that the maximum amount of America's excess food is made available to the famine sufferers of the world and that India's victims receive an equitable share. We will be glad to have your contribution for this purpose.

INDIA FAMINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE
40 EAST 49 STREET, ROOM 502 • NEW YORK 17, NEW YORK • PLAZA 8-2345

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Albert Einstein	William Green	J. J. Singh
Marshall Field	Rufus M. Jones	Sumner Welles
Louis Fischer	Philip Murray	Walter White
	Pearl S. Buck, Chairman	

India Famine Emergency Committee
40 East 49th Street, Room 502
New York 17, N. Y.
Pearl S. Buck, Chairman

I support the program of the India Famine Emergency Committee, and I enclose \$_____ as a contribution for its work.
Please keep me informed of your activities.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ Zone No. _____ State _____

HT 64

NAACP SUPPORTS
INDIAN IMMIGRATION

5/29/46

Washington, D.C.--The NAACP announced its support of legislation to lift immigration bars so as to admit into the United States natives of India, and allow them to become eligible for American citizenship. The bill, HR-3517, authorizes an annual quota of 100 persons of the East Indian race be admitted into this country. It passed the House last October but has been tied up in the Senate Committee on Immigration because of the opposition of the Committee's chairman, Richard B. Russell, (D., Ga.).

Leslie Perry of the NAACP Washington Bureau described present immigration bans on Indians as resting "solely on racial grounds." He said that there are approximately 4,000 Nationals of India residing in the United States, most of whom have been here from thirty to forty years. Various states have stringent laws which disqualify this class of aliens from practicing law, medicine, and many other professions or trades. California does not permit natives of India to lease or own land.

"The admission or naturalization of 100 Indians a year," Perry said, "is only a token, but it will demonstrate to the world, in some small measure, that we are beginning to believe in the democracy we so loudly profess."

INDIA FAMINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

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Mr. Walter White
N.A.A.C.P.
20 West 40th St.
New York, N.Y.

40 EAST 49TH STREET
ROOM 502
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
PLAZA 9-2345
HAZEL WHITMAN
SECRETARY

Dear Mr. White:

23342 AUG 16 1944

The enclosed dispatch from India written by New York Times correspondent George Jones underlines the gravity of a situation described to us by members of the American Famine Mission to India when they returned. There is a double problem involved in our relations with the Indian people, each aspect of which is equally crucial.

The first is the food crisis. India must have 750,000 tons of grain from the United States within the next three months in order to prevent breakdown of her rationing system and widespread death by starvation. Although the Department of Agriculture indicated that 500,000 tons could be shipped by the end of the year - not enough, and not soon enough - the August shipment is only 58,500 tons, even less than June and July.

But beyond the question of starving millions - who can still be saved - is the question of long-range relations between the United States and the people of the Far East, India and elsewhere. George Jones describes in this article some of the distrust and bitterness which is growing in India, which is easy to understand, and which could easily be changed.

Several days ago I mailed you a copy of the report of our American Famine Mission to India, including a program of aid that could be carried out without difficulty by this country. If you have not done so already, may I urge you to write to us, indicating your public support for this program, and to write to President Truman asking for action on it.

Only yesterday we received a report of major disaster threatening in Bombay. By heroic and stringent rationing, the Indian people are staving off the famine; but their stocks are dwindling. A first break, in Bombay or elsewhere, may loose a flood of panic that will sweep away rationing, leaving famine and death in control. How can we answer the people of India if, having the resources that mean life or death to them, we fail to respond in time?

Sincerely,

Pearl S. Buck
Pearl S. Buck, Chairman
India Famine Emergency Committee

National Committee for India's Freedom

ROOM 214 PORTLAND BUILDING
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Washington 5, D. C.
TELEPHONE NATIONAL 4769

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DR. ANANDA K. COOMARASWAMY
HONORARY CHAIRMAN

File League India
October 16, 1946

29249 OCT 18 46

Dear Mr. White,

November 14th is the birthday of Jawaharlal Nehru, the great Indian leader and the present head of the Interim Government of India.

We are bringing out a special number of the Voice of India, our monthly magazine, in celebration of the occasion. We shall be grateful to you for a piece within one thousand words. Our deadline with the printer is October 27th. We will appreciate an early response.

Yours sincerely,

Anup Singh
Anup Singh
Editor

AS:ob

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

SYMBOLS
DL = Day Letter
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1298

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N95D24 7R 66 NL PD 9 EXTRA

NEWYORK NY NOV 18 1946

D&A NOV 19 AM 4 39

MR AND MRS WALTER WHITE

20 WEST 40 ST NYK

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BE INDIA LEAGUE'S GUEST AT A SMALL
FAREWELL LUNCHEON FOR SIRDAR J.J. SINGH, PRESIDENT OF INDIA LEAGUE
OF AMERICA, WHO IS LEAVING FOR INDIA ON DECEMBER FIRST. THE LUNCHEON
WILL BE HELD TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26TH, AT 1:00 P.M. AT THE STOCKHOLM
RESTAURANT, 27 WEST 51 STREET, NEW YORK CITY. PLEASE REPLY.

RICHARD J WALSH CHAIRMAN INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA
40 EAST 49 STREET NYC 17 PLAZA 3-5087

*W. J. Walsh
attent*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE



AMERICAN FRIENDS OF

III WEST 42nd STREET
NEW YORK 18, N. Y.

WU
DEC 16 1946
file
India

Bulletin

SPECIAL ISSUE

December 11th. 1946

The following letter was sent to the NEW YORK TIMES last week, but the editor of the Times has not seen fit to print it. Because we feel the contents are very important we are reprinting it as a special issue of our BULLETIN.

The Editor
The New York Times
229 West 43rd. Street
New York City

Dear Sir:

In his article on November 27th, your London correspondent Herbert L. Matthews, states "that the obvious efforts (of the British) to force freedom upon India have brought nothing but abuse from the Indians and a situation so dangerous that it is no exaggeration to say that India faces a civil war or its equivalent." Mr. Matthews draws the conclusion that the only alternatives facing the British in this situation are (1) to turn India over to the Congress Party, which he contends would result in civil war, or (2) to reassert British authority in India and put off any question of Indian independence, which he admits would be rather difficult.

The first claim, that freedom is being forced on India, must seem incredible after an even cursory examination of the long history of India's national movement. Is it conceivable that this movement should reach its climax in being spoonfed graduated doses of freedom by the British? Can it be that the present British Government has been moved by the lofty principle of human freedom to "preside over the liquidation of the British Empire"?

Competent observers allow that this is not the case. The present difficulties in India can be traced to a large extent to the same British proposals of last May which Mr. Matthews seems to regard as the Magna Charta of Indian independence. The British claimed at the time that since the two Indian parties—the Congress and the Muslim League—could not agree on any joint formula despite prolonged British-sponsored discussions, the British Mission itself had to offer a formula acceptable to both parties. The fact is that the proposals that followed were not new, but a revised edition of the Coupland Plan. Prof. Coupland, an advisor to the India Office in London, went to India as Secretary to Sir Stafford Cripps in 1942. In the original edition of his book "The Indian Problem" which was the result of his visit he advocated the division of India into three separate zones: Hindu, Muslim and Princely; with the emphasis on the latter which he regarded as the base of continuing British imperialism.

When the evil designs of this scheme were exposed in the Indian press, a revised edition of Coupland's book was published by the government in India on the eve of the 1945 Simla Conference, in which the original plan was slightly modified and a union of the three zones proposed. The not unnatural similarity between Prof. Coupland's plan and the proposals of the British Cabinet Mission will be noted.

One thing is clear, despite the intentional ambiguity of the proposals which had the desired effect of different interpretations being placed upon them by the various sections of Indian opinion: It is that the measures recommended would not inaugurate a free India. On the contrary, the structure of the proposals cannot leave any doubt that the real intentions of their originators were to accentuate and perpetuate the divided state of the Indian landers. The dominant features of the Plan may be summarized as follows:

- (1) In the interim period, which is the first phase under the proposals, the Viceroy remains with absolute power, backed by an army of 400,000 British troops. The "Interim Government", although formed by Indian parties, is constitutionally nothing more than a reconstituted Executive Council of the Viceroy, who may use his veto privilege whenever he sees fit. No time limit has been fixed for this period.
- (2) The Constituent Assembly will operate under the shadow of British sovereignty. The demand for universal adult suffrage having been refused, it is not a democratic body, having been indirectly elected from the Provincial Assemblies, which themselves are based on a restricted electorate of 11% of the population. The body of this assembly is further-more divided into communal groups of the specified size-thus assuring the greatest communal antagonism. Of the 389 seats, 93 or one-quarter have been allocated to the representatives of the Indian Princes, the selection of these representatives being left to the discretion of their rulers. It is well known that these Princes are in fact British puppets, and their quarter of seats may well be the decisive factor between the balanced communal groups. Finally, the scope of the Constituent Assembly is limited, and its work is subject to British ratification.

- (3) Perhaps the most undemocratic feature of the plan is the maintenance of the irresponsible and oppressive autocracies of the Indian Princes.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the British efforts to continue their old business under a new name should have met with some "abuse" from the Indians.

The statement that India faces a civil war is an unwholesome exaggeration of the possibility of communal disturbances. It is an old argument which has been used time and again to justify the continued presence of British forces, civil and military, in India. It is a false argument, in view of the fact that the British, far from preventing communal conflicts, have always been the instigators. The chief principle of the British government in India was laid down in the middle of the last century by Lt.-Colonel Coke, Commandant of Moradabad:

"Our endeavor should be to uphold in full force the (for us fortunate) separation which exists between the different religious groups and races, not to endeavour to amalgamate them. Divide et impera should be the principle of the Indian government."

This principle was confirmed by Lord Elphinstone in 1859, Sir John Strachey in 1888, Ramsay MacDonald in 1910, Lord Oliver in 1926, and the London Times in 1941.

In view of the falseness of Mr. Matthews' premises, it is hardly necessary to examine his conclusion. Suffice it to say that the alternatives facing Britain are not limited to the two mentioned. Progressive elements of all parties in India have long called for an immediate and unequivocal declaration by Britain that India is henceforth free and independent. It has further been suggested that Britain implement this declaration by withdrawing all troops from India, including the Princely States, within a definite time; that a provisional government, responsible to the Indian legislature, be established; that this government convene a Constituent Assembly, based on adult franchise, and that this Assembly be responsible only to the Indian people.

It is also believed that the present differences between Congress and the Muslim League can be settled by the just application of the right of self-determination, so that the various national groups in India may have the opportunity to decide whether to join an Indian Union or form a sovereign state of a linguistically and culturally homogenous character.

Gerhard Hagelberg
American Friends of India

ORGANIZATION NOTES:
AMERICAN FRIENDS OF INDIA

Several weeks ago the AMERICAN FRIENDS OF INDIA announced the make-up of the Working Committee of the organization.

HAROLD LEVENTHAL With the U.S. Army in India for over two years
Chairman Leventhal travelled extensively throughout the country. He was the only G.I. who met and interviewed Pandit Nehru, M.A. Jinnah, Mahatma Gandhi, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and many other leaders of the political scene. Met scores of journalists, writers, students, workers. Lived among the village people.

JAMES M. DAVIS As a Chaplain in the India-Burma theatre Jim
Vice-Chairman Davis not only traveled thru both countries, but he took a deep and sympathetic interest in the problems of the peoples of these countries. He met many people of all walks of life in India.

ROSALIND B. JABLON On the staff of the American Red Cross, Miss.
Secretary Jablon was stationed in Assam and Bengal with hospitalized American soldiers. Her interest in India was prompted by a sincere desire to learn why the country presented so many problems.

JOE TUBMAN G.I. attached to Headquarters in New Delhi but
Treasurer on military matters had to go all over India. Was in India almost two years.

GERHARD HAGEBERG While in New Delhi he became interested
Publications in the study of the communal differences that caused constant political friction. He met many outstanding leaders of India. Was in India over a year with U.S. Army.

NORMAN KIELL Stationed at Air Corps Headquarters in Bengal
Educational and conducted Army orientation. Has written many articles on India for Indian publications and for "Asia" magazine.

American Friends of India
111 West 42nd. Street
New York 18, N.Y.

___ I would like to join your organization. Enclosed One Dollar.

___ Please send me more information about the purposes and aims of the Friends of India.

...India
I was (was not) in ...Burma as.....
...Ceylon

INDIA FAMINE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

PEARL S. BUCK, CHAIRMAN

GARDNER COWLES, JR.
ALBERT EINSTEIN
MARSHALL FIELD
LOUIS FISCHER

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SUMNER WELLES
WALTER WHITE

40 EAST 49TH STREET
ROOM 502
NEW YORK 17, N. Y.
PLAZA 8-2345

HAZEL WHITMAN
ROBIN MYERS
SECRETARIES

November 27, 1946.

File 12/1/46

Mr. Walter White, Secretary,
N.A.A.C.P.
20 W. 40th Street,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

India

We are happy to report to you that the most critical period of famine danger is over in India. After ten months of the most stringent rationing, widespread malnutrition and hunger, the Indian people still have months of suffering ahead. But Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Food Minister in the Interim Government, has been able to tell the Central Legislative Assembly that mass starvation has been averted, fall rains have been adequate, and an easier period is coming.

It has therefore seemed possible to us to suspend activities of this committee, which was organized for a specific emergency situation and whose work is now over.

Through your splendid cooperation as members of the Committee we have been able to be of considerable assistance to the Indian people in their struggle against famine. The advertisements of the Committee first brought India's need the support of American public opinion which it deserved. Both the Combined Food Board (now the International Food Emergency Council) and the Department of Agriculture were influenced to increase allotments for purchase by India. The American Famine Mission to India last summer was particularly significant and the publicity given to its factual report was helpful not only in the United States but internationally. American aid to India would have been sufficient to prevent great suffering there if it had not been interrupted by maritime strikes. Even now the primary problem in food shipment is transportation rather than the availability of grain.

As its final project this committee has sent out a financial appeal for the work of the American Friends Service Committee in its relief and rehabilitation program in India, and an explanatory bulletin on India's continuing needs. Although the acute crisis is over, India still needs large imports until May when the next wheat crops are due, and has asked for an allocation of 100,000 tons monthly from the United States. I hope that you will continue your efforts during this period.

CELLER DEPLORES NEHRU'S ESPOUSAL OF ARAB STATE
IN PALESTINE

LETTER TO NEHRU BY CONGRESSMAN EMANUEL CELLER, REPRESENTA-
TIVE FIFTEENTH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
NEW YORK

April 28, 1947

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru
Government of India
New Delhi, India

Honorable Sir:

16050 MAY 9'47

I note with keenest disappointment and sadness that you are supporting the Arab League in its demand for an independent Arab State in Palestine.

In the cable you sent to the League, you express sympathy for the Jews persecuted by the Nazis, but nonetheless insist that Palestine is an Arab country and should remain so.

Were there no reasons other than humanitarian ones, and there are many, the closing of the doors of Palestine to Jewish immigration would still remain one of the cruelest acts of our times. Six million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis. Had the nefarious White Paper of 1939 which closed Palestine to Jewish immigration not been in effect, many lives would have been saved. After the sufferings of the Jews which the whole world witnessed, it is more than wanton indifference to keep hundreds of thousands of these innocent people in camps, stateless, without dignity and without hope. Only Palestine offers them both security and welcome and the opportunity which is rightfully theirs to begin life anew.

If the world is so constituted today that reasons of humanitarianism leave it cold, then we should examine the legal and political justification for not only the abrogation of this White Paper, but for the establishment in Palestine of a Jewish national homeland as well. 52 nations, including the United States, consented to the granting of the Mandate over Palestine to Great Britain for the specific purpose of facilitating Jewish immigration therein and for the establishment of a Jewish national home. All of Arabia was freed from Turkish domination by the victorious Allied Powers and given independence, either immediately or through relinquishment in due time of Class A Mandates held by Great Britain and France. All Class A Mandated Territories have received their independence save Palestine which by international covenant was reserved for use as a national homeland for the Jews. Out of the huge Arabian territory, this small land was set aside. So specifically and clearly had that intent of the League of Nations been set forth that when the Palestine White Paper of 1939 was promulgated it was denounced by the Permanent Mandates Commission of the League of Nations as illegal. The Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry after an exhaustive study last year likewise maintained that this White Paper must be abrogated to permit immigration of the Jews into Palestine. In fact, it has been the conclusion of 19 investigating committees and commissions, both government sponsored and otherwise, that the Jews are in Palestine "by right and not by sufferance."

I cannot quite grasp why you as a courageous leader of your people and with your evident and concrete concern with the wellbeing of all peoples have not taken into consideration the obvious social and economic benefits Jewish colonization in Palestine has brought both to the Jews and Arabs of that area. It is an established fact that Palestinian Arabs have the highest standard of living in the Middle East. It is likewise established that the Arabs of Palestine have achieved a level of social and scientific progress beyond that of their neighbors in adjoining territory.

I can hardly believe it possible that you with your statesmanship and zeal for the welfare of the downtrodden would place yourself on the side of those interests which resist the social and economic development in the East and which fear the awakening of the populations of that area. I surely thought that you with

your acute imagination would visualize the development of that country which had been so barren prior to Jewish colonization for the benefit of all peoples therein. The evidence is there before us how the will and the labor and the planning of the Jews in Palestine have already begun that development.

I, of course, realize the difficult plight in which India finds itself, torn as it is by factional and religious strife. I realize that peace in India is difficult without the good will of 90 million Moslems, but I assure you that your statement on Palestine will make no difference to Mohammed Ali Jinnah. I am sure your statement is a matter of political expedience. I am sure too that it is utterly foreign to your philosophy. I feel that to this political expediency you have sacrificed principle.

You have expressed sympathy for the Jews, but, of course, verbal sympathy will not save human souls.

I write thusly with great reluctance, but I am compelled to do so by my sense of duty. I write also as one with the deepest feeling for India and her people. I have not hesitated to join in the fight for India's independence and have espoused this cause both in and out of the halls of the United States Congress. I authored the Congressional Act which placed India within our immigration quota and permitted the entrance thereunder of Indians and their naturalization when resident here. It is my intention to do much more to bridge the chasm that exists between your people and mine. Not infrequently I am called upon by your people in this country to come to their aid and I have been happy and privileged to help on more than one occasion. I have advocated consistently the consummation of a Treaty of Trade and Friendship between our two countries. The trader, for example, from India has none of the benefits accorded traders from other countries protected by trade treaties. I am certain my activities on behalf of the people of India are not unknown to you.

I shall continue to act for the best interests of both our peoples, despite the political opposition I encounter. This is so deeply a matter of principle.

I regret deeply that you deemed it necessary to align yourself with the Arab League in the matter of Palestine.

Very truly yours,

EMANUEL CELLER

India Society of America ✓

9 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA, SUITE 1533

NEW YORK 20, N. Y.

COLUMBUS 5-7460

Office of
HARI G. GOVIL
Founder - Director

14832 APR 29 '47

April 28, 1947

Mr. Walter White
National Ass'n. for Advancement of Colored People
20 West 40th St.
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. White:

I wish to invite you to sponsor, without obligation, the first of a series of India cultural conferences to promote cultural and industrial relations between America and India.

Four hundred fifty million people are on the threshold of independence in India today, and seek the friendship and cooperation of the United States in achieving their promising future. The India Society is pleased to announce an India Film Conference - the first in a new series of events which will be devoted to film, radio, drama, education, communication, etc. A dinner at The Waldorf-Astoria on Tuesday, May 6th, will launch this effort.

Eric Johnston, president of the Motion Picture Association of America, will be the principal speaker at the dinner and will be joined by leading American and India cultural and film personalities. Vijay Bhatt, India's outstanding producer-director who has just arrived in this country at the invitation of our Society, will also speak.

You are also cordially invited to attend, as our guest, a special American preview showing of Vijay Bhatt's epochal film, "The Story of Rama" in the Auditorium of the Museum of Modern Art. This story of the ideal ruler, Rama, who lived in India three thousand years ago, is the only India picture ever viewed by Mahatma Gandhi and is an outstanding example of India's exciting film industry now producing more than three hundred full length pictures annually.

Knowing your interest in events of artistic and international importance, I shall consider it a privilege to have you associated with our function. I look forward to the pleasure of your presence at the dinner and at the film showing. A reservation form is enclosed for your convenience.

Sincerely yours,

Hari G. Govil

Hari G. Govil

18
encl.

Founded in 1924 to promote cultural relations between India and America

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DR. LIN YUTANG

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THOMAS YAHKUB
Boston, Mass.

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

40 EAST 49th STREET

NEW YORK 17, N. Y.



July 30, 1947

28846 AUG 1947

Mr. Walter White, Secretary
National Assn. for Advancement of Colored People
20 West 40th Street
New York, New York

Dear Mr. White:

As you know, August 15th is the day for the formal transference of power from the British to the Indians. On this day George VI will cease to be Emperor of India and there will come into being two Indian dominions enjoying complete independence including the right to leave the British Commonwealth if they so desire.

This is surely one of the great days in the history of mankind.

The India League of America will commemorate the event in a simple and solemn ceremony on the evening of August 15th.

We would like to have the participation of all those in the United States, who, through all these difficult years, have supported India's struggle for freedom.

You are one of these persons and we invite you to attend the ceremony and extend your greetings. It will be held in the Barbizon Plaza Hotel, 101 West 58 Street, New York City, at 8:15 P.M.

If it is impossible for you to attend in person, we hope you will send a message to be read. May we hear from you soon?

Yours very sincerely,

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA

J. J. Singh, President

Richard J. Walsh, Chairman
Executive Committee

JJS/dm

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WESTERN UNION

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

1201

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JNE CABLE PD. AUGUST 12, 1947

PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU ✓
17 YORK RD.
NEW DELHI, INDIA

India

MEGROES AND WHITES OF AMERICA UNITED IN NAACP SEND THEIR warmest
CONGRATULATIONS TO INDIA ON ATTAINMENT OF HER FREEDOM.

WALTER WHITE, SECRETARY
20 West 40 Street, N. Y. C.

ww/mdj

(write out National Ass'n., etc.)

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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JOSEPH L. EGAN
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JNE CABLEGRAM PD. AUGUST 12, 1947

MEM. VIJAYA LAKSHMI PAINDT
INDIAN EMBASSY
MOSCOW, RUSSIA

CONGRATULATIONS ON INDIA'S FREEDOM AND YOUR APPOINTMENT AS AMBASSADOR.

WALTER WHITE, SECRETARY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
20 West 40 Street, N. Y. C.

ww/indj

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

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JME CABLE PD. AUGUST 12, 1947

India

MATILATA GANDHI ✓
BHANGHI COLONY
NEW DELHI, INDIA

TO YOU WHO DESPITE OPPOSITION OF EVERY VARIETY HAVE LED INDIA
TO HER FREEDOM WE SEND YOU OUR SINCEREST CONGRATULATIONS.

WALTER WHITE, SECRETARY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE
ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE
20 West 40 Street, New York City

ww/adj

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

INDIAN GOVERNMENT
HAILED BY WHITE

August 15, 1947

New York, August 14--"Negroes and whites of America united in the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People send their warmest congratulations to India on attainment of her freedom", cabled Walter White to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, head of the new India government. At the same time Mr. White cabled India's great spiritual leader, Mahatma Gandhi, "To you who despite opposition of every variety have led India to her freedom we send you our sincerest congratulations."

The NAACP executive secretary expressed great enthusiasm over the appointment of Mme. Vijaya Pandit as ambassador to Moscow for the new government. "Mme. Pandit is undoubtedly one of the world's great statesmen", declared Mr. White.