

A  
PILGRIMAGE OF FRIENDSHIP  
FROM  
THE UNITED STATES TO INDIA



*"We are living in a world in which strong nationalistic tendencies and racial antagonisms must be replaced by mutual understanding and friendly sharing. In this direction the students of the world have an inescapable obligation to lead."*

SPONSORED BY  
NATIONAL STUDENT COUNCIL,  
YOUNG WOMENS CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS,  
600 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y.

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF STUDENT  
CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS  
347 Madison Avenue, New York, N. Y.

JOHN HAYNES HOLMES

JAN 18 1943

Fourth Floor  
2929 Broadway  
New York, New York

1037  
1037

Dear Friend:

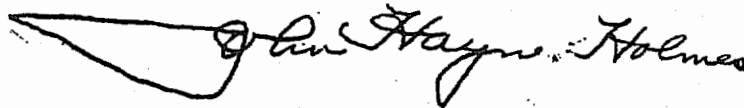
We hope that you and hundreds, yes thousands, of others will join us in signing the enclosed "Greeting" to the people of India. We are asking each signer to contribute a dollar, or more if possible, to a fund which would be used to publicize this action and if possible to place advertisements of this Greeting and the signatures in one or more leading papers on January the 26th.

It is hoped that we may in this way arouse interest among the American people in Indian freedom, and also that such a display of interest in this country will result in the news about this demonstration of solidarity being cabled to India by the press associations. In any case, the news will eventually reach Gandhi and his colleagues and the common people of India.

We hope that you will let us know immediately whether you will join us in this venture. There is no time to lose. We suggest you get as many signers as possible in the next day or two and then forward them to us post haste.

Send all communications to John Haynes Holmes, Fourth Floor, 2929 Broadway, New York City, and make out all remittances to Roger N. Baldwin, Treasurer, same address. (The signatures and contributions will help the cause even if not all come in before the twenty-sixth -- so send them along.)

Sincerely yours,



Roland Bainton  
Roger N. Baldwin  
Alfred M. Bingham  
Allan Knight Chalmers  
Phillips Packer Elliott  
Harold E. Fey  
Abraham Cronbach

Richard Gregg  
Mrs. Frances Gunther  
John Howland Lathrop  
Halford E. Luccock  
A. J. Muste  
John Nevin Sayre

Paul Scherer  
Clarence Skinner  
Douglas V. Steere  
Norman M. Thomas  
Howard Thurman  
Oswald Garrison Villard  
E. Stanley Jones

January 14, 1943.

PROPOSED GREETING to be Published in Newspaper Ads and Other Ways  
on January 26, 1943, the 13th Anniversary of the Adoption  
of the Declaration of Independence by the India National Congress

TO THE PEOPLE OF INDIA:

On this 13th Anniversary of your Declaration of Independence, we extend greetings to you in the steadfast hope that the goal for which you are now struggling is not far distant.

We feel at one with you in your quest of that freedom which we have ourselves long enjoyed, and which we would share in its full worth with other men.

We are grateful to you for what you have already achieved in your present struggle -- namely, the kindling again of the desire for freedom in the hearts of all subject peoples throughout the world.

We praise you for that unique element in your struggle which is a challenge to all mankind -- namely, the demonstration of non-violent direct action as a way to liberty.

We urge you to remain patiently loyal to your high purpose, and in this crisis pledge to you anew the sympathy and support of all our hearts.

To JOHN HAYNES HOLMES,  
Fourth Floor, 2929 Broadway,  
New York, New York.

You may list me as a signer of the January 26th Greeting to the People of India:

<u>NAME and ADDRESS</u> (Address complete, please)	<u>CHURCH</u> or other connection	<u>Contribution</u> to <u>GREETING</u>
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# India News

R. LAL SINGH, Editor \* 553 South Western Avenue : Los Angeles, California : Telephone FEderal 5084

February 12, 1943

3030

FEB 17 1943

Mr. Walter White  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

Dear Mr. White:

We wish to express our great appreciation for your kindness in cooperating with us. The release which we enclose has been sent out to hundreds of newspapers.

We trust that you yourself will find time to suggest to some publication with which you are connected or from which you are able to secure cooperation, the printing of same.

With warm personal greetings to you, I remain

Sincerely yours,

*R. Lal Singh*

rls:hs  
encl 1

R. Lal Singh, Editor INDIA NEWS  
Member Indian National Congress

# INDIA NEWS

653 NORTH NEW HAMPSHIRE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

NOT TO BE RELEASED UNTIL

Your next issue

IMPORTANT: Kindly send INDIA NEWS  
6 copies of the issue of  
your publication in which  
part or all of the follow-  
ing material appears, bill-  
ing INDIA NEWS for the 6 copies.

R. Lal Singh, Editor of INDIA NEWS and member of the Indian National Congress, has just released at Los Angeles a number of statements by outstanding Negro leaders on the subject of freedom for India.

Mr. Singh, interviewed at Los Angeles, stated that India must be free to help win the war.

"The Indian people are deeply concerned about the war," he said. "We are not pacifist. We want to help. We want to use our immense resources to the full, we wish to fully mobilize our 400,000,000 people on the side of the United Nations. We ask you Americans: What better way than the freedom way? What better inspiration for the Indian masses than freedom? The war is not won yet. It may take every available man, every ton of steel we can get, to beat Hitler and Hirohito. That means Indian men and Indian material must be used to the full. It is dangerous to Allied victory to postpone Indian freedom. The United Nations needs India to be free for victory over the Axis. Indian freedom is a military necessity."

RESOLUTION OF THE 33RD ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE, JULY 14-19, 1942:

"It is undeniable that men will fight best if they fight for freedom. We, therefore, urge President Roosevelt to call a conference of those of the United Nations most deeply concerned in the Far East, together with representatives of India and of the colonial people in Africa and Asia, to make a clear and specific application to Africa and Asia of the Atlantic Charter and of the principles laid down in President Roosevelt's Four Freedoms, so that the dark-skinned and colonial peoples may be given greater hope of real political democracy and freedom from economic exploitation."

PAUL ROBESON  
People's Artist

"I know what this guy Hitler is like. I've seen him work. I've seen it in Austria, in Poland, in France. The danger is tremendous! I know what it will take to whip Hitler. It will take all of Africa, all of Asia, all of the American people. These are ALL anti-Fascist people. They can only win through full use of each group, fighting not only against the same thing but for the same thing, freedom. American Negroes must have all their rights, for this is the way to lick Hitler. India must be freed, for this is the way to lick Hitler. There must be a second front in western Europe now, because this is the way to lick Hitler."

WALTER WHITE  
Secretary, National Association for the Advance-  
ment of Colored People

"The future of civilization and the winner of the war will be determined in large measure by the answer to this question: Why is it heroic and noble for the British to fight for their freedom; and criminal for the Indians to fight for theirs?"

We are either honestly waging this war to assure the four freedoms to all men, everywhere, in which case the electric spark will galvanize men of every creed and color to do his utmost. Or we are not honestly fighting, in which case doubt and cynicism will bring about an Axis triumph.

Which course will we in enlightened self-interest take?"

DR. MAX YERGAN  
Executive Director of  
Council on African Affairs

"This is the Negro people's war because it is the war of hundreds of millions of other peoples whose needs are exactly the needs of the Negro people. Who are the millions throughout the world whose conditions are most like ours? Are they not our hundred and fifty million black brothers in Africa? Are they not China's long-suffering, hard-pressed but ever-fighting millions? In other words, are they not that more than three-fifths of the world's population that constitute the great colonial peoples of the world? This is the Negro people's war because it is a war to end imperialist oppression and it is a war for the liberation of peoples whose conditions, needs, and hopes are like those of the Negro people.

The Council on African Affairs, the Negro people of America, along with the great bulk of the freedom-loving people of America, stand for a free India and a democratic Africa. Just as the nation needs all of the parts of the nation, including the Negro people, to win this war, so do the United Nations need all of the enemies of Fascism, including the Indian people and the African people. It is for this reason that we call upon the Churchill government to override the dictates of the Tories and the men of Munich, still powerful in British politics, to recognize the right of India to identify herself freely and thereby effectively with the side of the United Nations."

CHANNING H. TOBIAS  
The National Council of the  
Young Men's Christian Associations

"I have strong convictions concerning the importance to the cause of the United Nations of immediate action on the freedom of India. I can see no reason why the British Empire should not put through Parliament at an early date a declaration of Indian freedom, naming a date in the not distant future when such an act would go into effect. And I can see no reason why immediate steps should not be taken by the British to give the preponderance of control over the conduct of the war to the leaders of India. It would, of course, be unwise under the present circumstances for the British to retire immediately from India, and I understand that there is no desire on the part of Gandhi, Nehru and their associates, that this should be done. The important thing is that in any cooperative arrangement for the future, the people of India themselves should be the dominant controlling force."

DR. W. E. B. Du BOIS  
Editor and Author

"There is no justification for this horrible war, if it does not mean autonomy for India now."

COUNTEE CULLEN  
Author

"England's refusal to give India her freedom now is a mockery of the freedoms which the Allied Nations claim they are fighting to make assured for all peoples. She asks India for her blood, sweat, and tears while withholding the one thing for which such sacrifices would be given without a murmur. To me Karenge ya Marengé are words fully as meaningful and as memorable as Give me liberty or give me death! India must be free!"

(Page 3)

LANGSTON HUGHES  
Poet

"It just does not make sense for the Allied leaders of the Western World to make beautiful speeches about freedom and liberty and democracy with India still enchained and Negroes still jim-crowed and neither group permitted to participate with fullness and enthusiasm in the war effort of the United Nations. Millions of darker peoples are thus forced to wonder if logic is dead. Freedom for India is not only a military need, but a moral need to lift the fighting spirits of all who want to believe in freedom for all."

HOW ABOUT IT?

by  
Langston Hughes

The President's Four Freedoms  
Appeal to me.  
I would like to see those Freedoms  
Come to be.

If you believe  
In the Four Freedoms, too,  
Then share 'em with me --  
Don't keep 'em all for you.

Show me that you mean  
Democracy, please --  
Cause from Bombay to Georgia  
I'm beat to my knees.

You can't lock up Nehru,  
Club Roland Hayes,  
Then make fine speeches  
About Freedom's ways.

Looks like by now  
You ought to know  
There's no chance to beat Hitler  
By protecting Jim Crow.

Freedom's not just  
To be won Over There  
It means Freedom at home, too --  
Now -- right here!

January, 1943

To the Citizens of the World:

CCCC

Dear Friends,

FEB 20 1943

In sympathy with Mohandas K. Gandhi, I join the Great Struggle for Freedom, expressing it by way of a total fast, taking water only. If Mr. Gandhi's terms are met, I shall drop my fast. Otherwise, in sympathy with his fast, which is not unto death, I shall fast for twenty-one days.

By this fast, I desire to contribute to the Great Struggle, toward securing the recognition of the independence of the peoples of India; and toward the Freedom of all those individuals or groups in the United States and other countries who may be restrained, interned or imprisoned because of "race, creed, color or national origin."

With sincere best wishes to all, I am

Respectfully yours,

*Corbett Bishop*  
Corbett Bishop

*"Assigned to work of National Importance" under Selective Service*

Copies to:

Mohandas K. Gandhi, Palace of the Aga Kahn, Poona, India  
The King of England, London, England  
Chancellor Adolf Hitler, Berlin, Germany  
Emperor Hirohito, Tokyo, Japan  
Premier Mussolini, Rome, Italy  
Bayard Rustin, 2929 Broadway, New York City  
Walter White, Exec. Sec'y., N.A.A.C.P.  
Toyohiko Kagawa, Tokyo, Japan  
Arle Brooks, conscientious objector, Federal Prison, Texarkana, Tex.  
George Yanada, Civilian Public Service Camp  
David Dellinger, Newark Christian Colony, 37 Wright St., Newark, N.J.  
Mr. Schulman, chairman, Local Board #9  
Walter Balderston, War Relocation Authority project, Poston, Ariz.  
Paul Comly French, Exec. Sec'y., National Service Board for Religious Objectors  
Rev. Martin Niemöller, Dachau Concentration Camp, Berlin, Germany  
Jerry Tuck, Editor, Conscientious Objector, 2 Stone Street, N.Y.C.  
Hon. Winston Churchill, London, England  
William Hefner, Chairman, Free India Committee, 2929 Broadway, N.Y.C.  
Miss Dorothy Day, Editor, Catholic Worker, 115 Mott St., N.Y.C.  
President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Washington, D.C.  
General Lewis Hershey, Selective Service, Washington, D.C.  
Dr. Evan Thomas, Chairman, War Resisters League, 2 Stone St., N.Y.C.  
A.J. Muste, Sec'y., Fellowship of Reconciliation, 2929 Broadway, N.Y.C.  
Donald Stevenson, Director, Civilian Public Service Camp #32,  
W. Campton, N. H.  
Joseph Stalin, Moscow, U.S.S.R.  
Hon. Francis Biddle, Attorney-General of U.S., Washington, D.C.  
Harry L. Hopkins, Washington, D.C.  
His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, Vatican City, Rome, Italy  
John L. Lewis, president, United Mine Workers, Washington, D.C.  
William L. Green, pres., American Federation of Labor, Washington, D.C.  
The King of Italy, Rome, Italy  
Mrs. Frances Gunthor, Harper's Publishing Co., 49 E. 33 St., N.Y.C.  
Roger Baldwin, Director, American Civil Liberties Union, N.Y. City  
Pearl Buck, Doylestown, Penna.  
Dr. Haridas T. Mazumdar, India League of America, N.Y. City  
Dr. Harry Emerson Fosdick, Riverside Ave. Baptist Church, N.Y. City  
Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Community Church, N.Y. City  
Dr. Allen Knight Chalmers, Broadway Christian Tabernacle, N.Y. City  
R. Boland Brooks, Legal Service for Conscientious Objectors, Wash. D.C.  
Hon. Herbert H. Lehman, Dept. of State, Washington, D.C.  
Rufus Jones, Chairman, American Friends Service Committee, Phila., Pa.  
Rabbi Stephen Wise, Free Synagogue, N.Y. City  
Sidney Goldstein, Columbia University, N.Y. City  
Herbert Hoover, Palo Alto, California

*and others*



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# WESTERN UNION

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SYMBOLS

- DL = Day Letter
- NT = Overnight Telegram
- LC = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Night Letter
- Ship Radiogram

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PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON  
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER  
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*Churchill*  
*W. Gandhi*

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JNE 3 CABLEGRAM FEBRUARY 20, 1943 NEW YORK NY =

THE HONORABLE WINSTON CHURCHILL = LONDON, ENGLAND

= AMERICAN NEGROES APPEAL IN HUMANITY'S NAME TO FREE MAHATMA  
 GANDHI AND OTHER INDIAN LEADERS IMMEDIATELY. GANDHI'S DEATH  
 WOULD BE TRAGIC BLOW TO FAITH IN WAR AIMS OF GREAT BRITAIN.  
 ENGLAND IS FIGHTING FOR FREEDOM FOR ENGLISHMEN; WHY IS IT  
 IMMORAL FOR INDIANS TO FIGHT FOR THEIRS? =

WALTER WHITE, SECRETARY =

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT  
 OF COLORED PEOPLE.

JNE3 72162 CABLE=R3- WU

A 1220P.

*AK*

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

FOOTNOTE TO CRISIS

India Through the Fog

By Marie H. Allen

Intensification of the India crisis by Gandhi's new fast has thrown into fresh significance all the controversial points of the Cripps mission and its aftermath, which have never been cleared up completely, and on an understanding of which American opinion so largely rests.

News reports coming belatedly from India and dealing with the critical months of last August and September, so effectively illuminate the situation that even now their publication seems pertinent and necessary. Facts of interest and importance appear to have escaped the knowledge of writers in America who have tried to interpret the events which led up to the still unsolved issue of India's part in freedom and its defense.

Everyone knows that when the Indian leaders were arrested, Gandhi had received a go-ahead signal from the All-India Congress Committee for a civil disobedience campaign. Less publicized, however, is the fact that when Gandhi was suddenly imprisoned, he was waiting for an answer from the Viceroy to his appeal for one more interview before the campaign was undertaken. He still hoped to arrive at some agreement which would enable the Indian people to join wholeheartedly with the British and Americans in the defense, non-violent on the part of Gandhi's followers, military in the case of others, against the new and more hateful imperialism of Japan.

The Committee's resolution declared that if any mass movement should be sanctioned, Gandhi was to be its leader and that he should decide when it was to commence, if it had to start at all, and what form it should take.

When the removal of the responsible leaders left the situation largely at the mercy of uncontrolled anti-British elements, with resultant widespread disorders, and violence by crowds and police, the Government of India imposed a drastic censorship on the Indian press, ordering it not to publish more than three columns on "the mass movement sanctioned by the All-India Congress Committee or measures taken by the Government to deal with that movement;" not to publish headlines of more than a prescribed size; and not to print pictures of Congress activities.

The editors of The Hindustan Times and Hindustan were arrested on charges of violating this order. But on being brought to trial before the District Magistrate of Delhi, they were discharged. The Magistrate declared: "I am not satisfied that the demonstrations and the disorders which followed the arrest of Gandhi and other Congress leaders, and the mass movement sanctioned by the All-India Congress Committee are one and the same."

"From the copies of the papers filed by the Public Prosecutor," he continued, "it is clear that on August 8 at Bombay, the All-India Congress Committee passed the Working Committee's resolution and approved of a certain movement which Gandhi was to launch. The time and other details of the movement were left to Gandhi. But before he could address the Viceroy, he and the other leaders were arrested. The precise nature and details of this movement were not divulged.... It was admitted that the creed of Gandhi and the Congress was non-violent,..."

In my opinion, therefore, this case must fall, on the ground that no relation such as would implicate the accused has been established between the acts complained of and the order of the Provincial Government made under Rule 41 of the Defense of India Rules, 1939. The accused are therefore discharged."

The Government bowed to this decision, but as a result issued, shortly after, more comprehensive censorship provisions, varying slightly in different provinces but essentially following the line taken by the Central Government at Delhi, which was an order "requiring that all factual news, photographs and pictures relating to the mass movement sanctioned by the All-India Congress Committee in Bombay on the 8th of August, 1942, the demonstrations and disturbances which have taken place in various parts of India since that meeting, the measures taken by the authorities to deal with that mass movement and those demonstrations and disturbances shall before being published in any newspaper or other documents, be submitted for scrutiny to the Assistant Press Adviser, Delhi, or other officer appointed by the Chief Commissioner for the purpose."

In the case of the vernacular press, Urdu and Hindi, it was ordered that "translated copies" of news agency reports be submitted before printing.

These sweeping new laws, which included various other technical restrictions, imposed such a burden on the many papers throughout India that at least 96 of them, some dailies and some weeklies, suspended publication, as Devadas Gandhi, editor of The Hindustan Times said, "not because they wanted to add to the numerous blackouts that had darkened their horizon, nor because the business of their patriotic profession was threatened with depression, nor because they wanted to enjoy a costly leisure; but because their voice had been ruthlessly paralyzed."

Censorship affected even the message written by Gandhi from prison to the wife and son of Mahadev Desai, his beloved secretary and close collaborator, telling them of the latter's death under confinement. Although Gandhi dictated it immediately on the 15th of August, intending it to go as a wire, it was delivered in a letter only on September 4th, "owing to some misunderstanding on the part of the officer in charge of Mr. Gandhi's correspondence". The Government apologized for the delay and also expressed regret "that certain red marks have been made on the letter." These red marks corresponded with deletions made in the text for its use as an Associated Press dispatch on September 10th. The omitted phrases were: (1) "Mahadev had died Yogi's and patriot's death;" (2) "Only joy over such noble death;" and following the phrase in the AP version, "Hope Babla (Desai's son) will be brave" the words "and prepare himself fill Mahadev's place worthily". In the newspaper version the message was called "the text" of Gandhi's wire, with no suggestion that it was incomplete.

The official bulletin, Bombay Information, under date of August 22 reported that "after rowdy demonstrations for a day or two following the arrest of Congress leaders, Bombay Province returned to normal," and implied that stern measures such as whippings, collective fines (for all except Muslim inhabitants, government servants and informers who assisted the police) in villages where disorders occur, and death for sabotage had quelled all disturbances. Nevertheless, through September 19th, the latest date born by the reports and publications which as yet have come through, there was no let-up in items about violence and repression, and of some non-violent demonstrations forcibly stopped, generally throughout the country,

At intervals, in these revealing Indian publications, appears the headline, "All Quiet in Bombay Province," sandwiched in between accounts of outbreaks. After a news story headlined "Demonstrators Sent to Jail," and one following, "Four City Congressmen Arrested,"

in a daily paper for September 3rd is a little item with the "All Quiet" headline, stating that "The Director of Information writes: 'The situation throughout Bombay Province was quiet'."

In a September 11th issue a similar note with the same headline follows "Attempts to Burn Churchill in Effigy," "Fifteen Persons Arrested in City Demonstrations," "Three Killed When Police Fired on Midnapur Crowds Who Broke into Rice Mill," and "Leader of Procession Arrested".

Within this period, as a contrast, Dr. Khan Saheb, ex-premier of the stormy Northwest Frontier with its 92 per cent of Muslims, gave a series of addresses throughout that section, appealing to the youth there to eradicate the bane of communalism and lay the foundations of a new brotherhood of Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and Parsis, proclaiming that "violence is no index of bravery".

At Nagpur the General Council of the Provincial Trade Union Congress expressed in a resolution its opinion that acts of violence, incendiarism and looting would in no way help promote India's struggle for freedom, and advising the working class in particular and the public in general to act in a strictly non-violent manner.

Many organized groups in India, of remarkable diversity, urged new attempts at an agreement between Indian leaders and the Government. The president of the Hindu Mahasabha, political movement of caste Hindus, was refused permission to confer with Gandhi in prison, intending to follow this conference by a talk with Jinnah of the Muslim League. Then, as steadily ever since, the same demand has been presented by groups inside India and out: Indian Christian bodies, the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Quakers engaged in relief work among the Indian people, the Joint Conference of prominent Indian industrial and commercial concerns in Calcutta, fair-minded organizations of British citizens in England --- these are only a few of the numerous voices asking for new discussions of Indian freedom after the freeing of the Congress leaders.

However, to date it must be recorded that the Government of India appears to pin its faith on prosecutions, whippings, imprisonments, and firing into mobs to keep the "India question" quiescent for the duration.

*Letter for K. S.*

*W. W.  
India League of America*

May 28th -  
1943

My dear Mr. Singh:

Thank you for your recent letter inviting me to serve on the National Advisory Committee of the India League of America. Before accepting such invitations, our executives must have the consent of our Board of Directors, and so I am placing your letter before the Board at its June meeting.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary.

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

WW:DW

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K162CC 9S 34 NL

NEWYORK NY FEB 24 1943

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE

69 5 AVE NYK

INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA ORGANIZING GANDHI RALLY NEXT WEEK. MAY WE USE THE NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION AS ONE OF THE SPONSORS. PLEASE WIRE ANSWER INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA 40 EAST 49 STREET NEWYORKCITY

ANUP SINGH INDIA LEAGUE

1102P

Recd. 2/25/43-9  
 Rfd. to WU  
 Ack. \_\_\_\_\_  
 P. O. \_\_\_\_\_

*Handwritten:* Mrs. Boneter Pl 3-5058

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE

*India League of America  
re: U.S.A. members*

July 2, 1943

My dear Mr. Singh:

Our Committee on Administration felt that while it and I are sympathetic with and interested in the work being done by the India League of America, the pressure of work on us now is so tremendous that it is inadvisable for me to accept membership on any more boards or committees. For this reason I have had to resign recently from a number of committees. Then, too, I have a strong aversion to having my name used on committees and boards when I am not able to give active service.

However, I do appreciate your thinking of me in this connection.

In most of my speeches and in many articles which I have written, also in other ways, I have and am still doing everything I can to help.

Ever sincerely,

Secretary

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

WW:RR

Cable Address  
LOTUSCREST

Telephone:  
PLaza 3-5088

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

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RUSTOM D. WADIA  
S. J. WYNN

May 22, 1943

Mr. Walter White  
Crisis Magazine  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York, New York

MAY 25 1943

9030

Dear Mr. White:

Your interest in international justice and democracy prompts us to invite you to serve on the League's National Advisory Committee which is being expanded to include leading Americans and Indians supporting a solution of the impasse in India. A statement of the League's policies, program, and personnel is enclosed.

Membership on the Committee entails no obligations, but you will receive full current information as to the League's activities with requests for your opinions and advice.

We trust we may have your acceptance. If you desire further information before giving us your answer, we shall be happy to furnish it.

Sincerely yours,  
*Frances Gunther*  
Frances Gunther  
*R. N. Baldwin*  
Roger Baldwin

*J. J. Singh*  
J. J. Singh

JJS:RB

*Will place before Bd etc*



INFORMATION  
ABOUT THE

INDIA LEAGUE  
of  
AMERICA

40 East 49th Street, New York, N. Y.

## How The League Began

The India League was organized in 1937 for the purpose of furthering mutual understanding between India and the United States. Its membership consists of Americans and citizens of India living in the United States.

## What It Stands For

1. Complete independence of India, both as her inherent moral right and as the only possible basis for India's participation in a democratic world order.
2. The ultimate freedom of all colonial peoples within a democratic world order.
3. Closer cultural relationship between India and America as a means of promoting better understanding between East and West.

*Since the outbreak of the war and particularly since America's entry in it the League has urged a speedy settlement of the British-Indian political conflict in order that India's vast resources both in men and materials may be fully mobilized for her own defense, for a United Nations victory and for a democratic post-war world.*

## What It Does

- Publishes a monthly bulletin, **INDIA TODAY**, containing news from India and interpretation of events everywhere affecting India.
- Conducts a Research Bureau which supplies free factual material on India to students, educators, civic organizations, writers, etc.
- Publishes and distributes pamphlets and studies on Indian problems.
- Interprets developments in India through statements to the press and radio.
- Maintains a speakers' bureau which supplies authoritative lecturers on India.
- Holds public meetings to discuss Indian social, political and economic problems.
- Sponsors exhibitions of Indian art and recitals of Indian dance and music.

Each year the League commemorates Indian Independence Day and the Birthdays of Nehru, Tagore and Gandhi. The Independence Day celebration on January 26, 1943, held at the Biltmore Hotel, New York, was attended by 700 persons; the speakers were Pearl S. Buck, William Shirer, Walter Reuther, Syud Hassoin and others.

## How It Is Financed

The League's sources of income are:

1. Membership dues.
2. **INDIA TODAY** subscriptions.
3. Contributions from members and individuals in sympathy with the League's objectives.

The expenses of the League for 1942 were \$5,000.00. Expenditures for 1943 are budgeted at \$10,000.00.

## Who Runs It

The Executive Committee, elected by the members, formulates the policies and controls the activities of the League. The League has no affiliations with any organization in India, the United States or elsewhere.

## Membership

Membership in the League is open to all who are in sympathy with its aims and objects.

There are three types of membership, with dues of \$1.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00 a year. All members are entitled to vote and to hold office. Members paying \$5.00 and \$10.00 dues receive **INDIA TODAY** free.

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MRS. KAMALA MUKERJI  
S. S. SARNA  
RUSTUM D. WADIA  
S. J. WYNN

### Membership Form

I am in sympathy with the aims of the India League of America, and apply for membership.  
I enclose \$1.00 \$5.00 \$10.00 for yearly dues.  
I enclose \$2.00 for a year's subscription to INDIA TODAY.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

### India League Of America

40 East 49th Street New York, N. Y.

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F A M I N E  
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A Factual Report Prepared by  
Sirdar J. J. Singh, President  
India League of America  
and Former Member of  
All-India Congress Committee

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INDIA LEAGUE OF AMERICA .

40 East 49th Street      Plaza 3-5098      New York 17, N. Y.

## SUMMARY

### EXTENT

An acute food shortage has been developing in India since April 1942. Today the shortage has become a famine spreading over all of India.

Because of censorship and the difficulty of obtaining information from rural districts in India, no single figure for daily deaths from starvation for all India is obtainable. However, the following facts are significant.

In the Province of Bengal (population 60 million-- population of India 390 million), approximately 100,000 persons are dying of starvation each week, according to K. Santhanam, former member of Central Legislative Assembly, as reported by the Associated Press from New Delhi, October 27th.

### CAUSE

British Government in India is responsible for the present critical situation, because of its failure to act in time.

The New Statesman and Nation (quoted by Time, October 18th) said, "The British Raj has failed in the major test".

The Calcutta Statesman (a British owned paper) of August 29th said, "Thoughtful Britons in this country must realize that so long as their nation, their Parliament and their Secretary of State maintain some responsibility for India's welfare, the ultimate blame unavoidably rests upon themselves."

### EFFECTS

The deaths and debilitating effect of the famine on India's manpower, will result in a lessening of her industrial output, nearly all of which is now devoted to war materials.

Because the famine is worst in Assam and Bengal, the two provinces nearest Burma, and where our troops are based, the effect on civilian and military morale may be disastrous.

Japanese propaganda is making the most of the situation.

### WHAT CAN BE DONE

Immediate action to send food and medicine into India from available stores in the United Nations.

New York - October 27th, 1943

New York - Dec. - 7- 43 .

The National Association  
For the Advancement  
of Colored People .  
69 Fifth Ave ..  
New York N.Y.

*India*  
21151

DEC 8 - 1943

Gentlemen :

I wish that I could start a campaign for the liberation of India , right now . And I ca'nt understand the why everybody is silent and mum about the calamity of the poor Indians ?....

In fact I am shocked stiff by the news of their famine and actual starvation , by thousands and thousands , and proble millions.

And since this Government of US. has taken no stand in this bad situation , not to offend the bullish and rigid attitude of England, we may be sure that this war is not fought for the freedom of the world, but rather for the imposition and consolidation of England's imperialism and militarism, shared by this country , in order to rule the whole world - politically - militarily -and economically .

I am a white man ,but to show my sympathy for the Colored race, I am willing to join up with your organization ,to do whatever part ,I can, for the advancement of your people . To this end ,in fact , I am planning to write a book , on the " Human Redemption", and I wish to meet the cooperation of some intelligent colored g girl or lady ,in order to come to an earlier conclusion .

I am na professor, by the way, neither a wealthy man ; a simple working man ,with some college education,as my back ground , and some life experience .

Hoping to hear from you ,with my best regards I remain ....

Very Truly Yours

*Frank Iacopelli*

Frank Iacopelli

326 East 113th. street  
New York N.Y.

India FAMINE RELIEF COMMITTEE

NEW YORK FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION  
Room 905, 112 East 19th Street, New York 3, N.Y.  
Algonquin 4-4954

*re: India*  
December 10, 1943

Mr. Roy Wilkins  
N.A.A.C.P.  
New York, N.Y.

DEC 11 1943

Dear Mr. Wilkins,

The India famine is becoming daily more urgent. If something is not done at once, hundreds of thousands - perhaps millions - of people will perish from hunger.

To meet this urgent need, we are sponsoring the formation of the United Committee for Relief of the Indian Famine. The Post War World Council has already agreed to participate, and various labor, religious and other groups are being asked to cooperate.

We would like very much to secure your help and advice, especially in the initial stage of this work. Will you attend the organizing meeting of the United Committee on Monday, December 13th, 4 P.M. at the Presbyterian Labor Temple, 242 East 14th St.?

Very truly yours,

*David Schwartz*  
David Schwartz

Secretary pro tem