

# 1948-49

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Jan 01, 1948

REPORT OF MIN. E.A  
& COMMONWEALTH  
RELATIONS  
1948-49

MINISTRY OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND  
COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

REPORT

OF THE

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
AND COMMONWEALTH RELATIONS

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND COMMONWEALTH  
RELATIONS

This report falls into five parts

Part I describes the general set up of our diplomatic representation abroad.

Part II deals with points of special interest in those countries where India is represented.

Part III with India's part in international conferences; and

Part IV, with External Publicity.

2. The present designation of the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations is a relic of past dualism when External affairs and Commonwealth Relations were dealt with in two separate Departments of the Government of India. It is now proposed to call it the Ministry of External Affairs.

INDIA

Jan 01, 1948

## Part I

Jan 01, 1948

### PART I

India's present diplomatic representation (including representation in countries of the Commonwealth) is shown below by categories in alphabetical order:

#### A. Legations and Embassies:

- |                    |   |
|--------------------|---|
| (1) Afghanistan    | Embassy.  |
| (2) Belgium        | Embassy (In charge of a Charge d'Affaires who is also accredited to Luxemburg.) |
| (3) Brazil         | Embassy.  |
| (4) Burma          | Embassy.  |
| (5) China          | Embassy.  |
| (6) Czechoslovakia | Embassy.  |
| (7) Egypt          | Embassy (Ambassador is also accredited to Transjordan and Lebanon).             |
| (8) France         | Embassy (In charge of a Charge d'Affaires)                                      |
| (9) Iran           | Embassy.  |
| (10) Italy         | Embassy (In charge of a Charge d'Affaires).                                     |
| (11) Nepal         | Embassy (In charge of a Charge d'Affaires).                                     |
| (12) Siam          | Legation.   |
| (13) Sweden        | Legation.   |
| (14) Switzerland   | Legation (Minister is also being accredited to the Holy See).                   |
| (15) Turkey        | Embassy.  |
| (16) U.S.A.        | Embassy.  |
| (17) U.S.S.R.      | Embassy.  |
| (18) Germany       | Military Mission.   |
| (19) Japan         | Liaison Mission.  |

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In addition it has been decided to send representatives at a convenient time to the countries mentioned below:

1. Argentine.
2. Chile.
3. Denmark.
4. Ethiopia.
5. Hungary.
6. Ireland.
7. Iraq.
8. Netherlands.
9. Norway.
10. Portugal.
11. Rumania.
12. Yugoslavia.

## B. Consulates:

Consular establishments have been opened at the following places:

1. New York.
2. San Francisco.
3. Shanghai.
4. Batavia.
5. Kashgar (China).
6. Pondicherry.
7. Saigon.
8. Songkhla (Siam)
9. Nova Goa.
10. Zahidan (Iran).
11. Medan (Sumatra).
12. Jedda (Saudi Arabia).

## C. (i) High Commissioner etc.:

Australia.  
Canada.  
Ceylon.  
Pakistan.  
South Africa (In charge of a Secretary).  
United Kingdom.

## (ii) Commissioners:

British East Africa (consisting of Kenya, Tanganyika, Uganda and Zanzibar).  
Mauritius.  
Fiji.  
British West Indies (including British Guiana).

## (iii) Representatives in Malaya with headquarters at Singapore.

There are two Deputy High Commissioners, one at Lahore and the other at Dacca. Under the general supervision of the High Commissioner in Karachi, the two Deputy High Commissioner deal with problems of

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inter-provincial importance which have arisen between East and West Punjab and West and East Bengal following the partition of the old Provinces of Punjab and Bengal.

There are two offices of Agents one at Kandy in Ceylon and the other at Kuala Lumpur in the Federation of Malaya. The Agents are under the administrative control of the High Commissioner in Ceylon and the Representative in Malaya respectively.

Of the Missions mentioned above those in the British East Africa, Mauritius, Fiji and the British West Indies were opened during the year and mark the successful conclusion of twelve years' negotiations with the Government of the U.K.

The Indian Foreign Service.-The main administrative problem created by the expansion of India's diplomatic relations is one of finding personnel. Selection for Headships of Missions is made from men in public life and, to some extent, from the Services. For lower posts to which persons above the age of 25-the normal age for first appointment to Government service-have to be appointed. Selections have been made with the

assistance of the F. P. S. C. and a special Selection Board. A total of 88 has been selected and, after some preliminary training in the Ministry, selected candidates have been sent to posts abroad. Owing to the urgency of completing the staff of each new Mission, such preliminary training has not always been as full as the Ministry would have liked., but since each appointment is made on probation of one year in the first instance, power exists to dispense with candidates who do not prove their fitness for the service. Normal recruitment is made through the F. P. S. C. by means of and open competitive examination.

The securing of accommodation for Missions, bot for office and residential purposes, presents another problem. Other countries have found it more economical in the end to house their Missions in properties which they own. Consequently with our financial resources India has tried to pursue a similar policy but, the majority of our Missions are accommodated in rented buildings as the capital outlay involved in acquiring property is, at the moment, beyond our resources.

#### INDIA

AFGHANISTAN BELGIUM BRAZIL BURMA CHINA NORWAY SLOVAKIA EGYPT JORDAN  
LEBANON FRANCE IRAN ITALY NEPAL SWEDEN SWITZERLAND TURKEY USA GERMANY  
JAPAN CHILE DENMARK ETHIOPIA HUNGARY IRELAND IRAQ PORTUGAL YUGOSLAVIA  
INDONESIA SAUDI ARABIA AUSTRALIA CANADA PAKISTAN SOUTH AFRICA KENYA  
UGANDA MAURITIUS FIJI REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE MALAYSIA UNITED KINGDOM

Jan 01, 1948

## **Part II**

### PART II

#### A. Middle East

India is represented in the Middle East by her Embassies at Cairo, Teheran, Kabul and Ankara. Our Ambassador at Cairo is concurrently accredited to Transjordan and Lebanon. Strategically, economically and culturally, India has a vital interest in maintaining friendly relations with

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these countries. With the establishment of our missions in the Middle East, anti-Indian propaganda is being effectively countered. Possibilities of expanding India's trade are being energetically explored. Indian's resident there, for the most part for purposes of trade or as in the Persian Gulf, as workers, are the object of special solicitude of our representatives.

Muslims of Indian nationality visit their sacred shrines in large numbers every year in the Hedjaz, and in smaller numbers, in Iraq and Iran. Their case also receives special attention.

Egypt.-The pre-eminent position of Egypt in the Arab World makes our relations with that country of particular importance. Our Embassy

in Egypt was established in March, 1948. Our Ambassador has established contacts not only with the Government to which he is accredited but also with the influential Arab League which has its headquarters in Cairo. In June 1948 the Government of India sent a Trade Mission to Egypt to negotiate for the purchase of cotton. For various reasons this Mission was not able to effect an agreement. Recent indications from Egypt, however, are more favourable and it is expected that negotiations will be resumed in Delhi.

Iraq.-For commercial as well as political reasons, the Government of India have considered it necessary to open a Legation in this country and it is hoped to send a Minister to Baghdad in the near future.

Persian Gulf.-In the Persian Gulf where there are large numbers of Indian employees of oil companies and with which India has been doing considerable trade for centuries, there is no Indian representative yet. An arrangement has however recently been reached to post a Trade Agent at Bahrein, a Consul at Muscat and to authorise the Indian Consul at Basra, when appointed, to look after the interests of Indians in Kuwait.

Iran.-In Iran, our Ambassador has been engaged on negotiations with the Iranian Government to redress the grievances of a large colony of Indian traders settled in that country for a good many years. It has been decided to open a Consulate in Khorramshahr to watch the interests of Indian employees of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company at Abadan, and a Consulate General at Meshed, which is an important place for Shia pilgrimage from India. The Embassy in Iran has also been engaged on negotiations with the Iranian Government for a bilateral air agreement, a draft postal treaty, a draft treaty for direct wireless telegraphic communication and a proposal to conclude in anti-locust convention between India and Iran.

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Afghanistan.-A Trade Delegation from India visited Afghanistan and Iran in October/November last year; and a Trade Delegation from Afghanistan is now in India to negotiate an Indo-Afghan Trade Agreement. A Trade Delegation from Iraq also recently visited India. A small mission was sent to the Persian Gulf last December to felicitate the Sheikhs of Bahrein and Kuwait, and to consider ways and means of strengthening the traditional commercial and financial links between India and the Gulf. The Mission was also asked to report on the conditions of Indian skilled and unskilled labour working in the oil companies in these places, and the Government of India are now considering the Delegations's recommendations. The Government of India have under consideration steps for the revision of the standard contract form to provide better means of redress and ensure good living and working conditions for Indian employees of the oil companies.

Ethiopia.-A Goodwill Mission headed by S. Sant Singh visited Ethiopia last year and established close contacts with the Government as well as non-official organizations. The visit was also instrumental in obtaining information regarding the condition of nearly 500 Indians living there as well as prospects of commercial and cultural relations between the two countries. The Ethiopian Government have nominated their Minister to India who is shortly expected to arrive. We have as yet taken no decision regarding the appointment of our Minister to Ethiopia.

B. South East Asia and Far East

Burma.-Of five to six thousand Indians resident in areas which have been the scene of conflict between Karens and Government forces, 4,000 were evacuated to Rangoon through the good offices of the Embassy which is also giving them such relief as is possible with the assistance of officials of the Burma Government and other non-official bodies. Funds have been placed at the disposal of the Ambassador for relief and also for the repatriation of those Indians who as are not likely to be re-absorbed in the economy of Burma in the near future. Shipping accommodation for Indians wishing to return to India because of disturbed conditions in Burma has also been arranged.

## (2) LAND NATIONALISATION ACT, 1948

Certain measures of agrarian reform introduced by the Government of Burma during December 1947 and in the beginning of 1948, indicated a policy of complete nationalisation of agricultural lands. On the May 26, 1948

the Hon'ble Thakin Nu, Premier of Burma, announced a fifteen point programme which inter alia included abolition of private

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ownership of agricultural lands and their resumption by Government for distribution amongst agriculturists. After consulting representatives of Indian interests in Burma, representations were made by the Government of India to the Government of Burma regarding the inadequacy of the compensation proposed by the Burma Government. Adequate representation of Indians on the Land Commission and on land committees which were to be responsible for the distribution of the resumed lands was also urged. The Bill, however, was passed last October with substantial modification. It was then decided to send a delegation to Burma under the leadership of the Indian National Congress. Owing to the preoccupation of the Government of Burma with Karen rising, the visit of the deputation has been postponed at their request.

## (3) TERMINATION OF SERVICES OF INDIANS ON GROUNDS OF NATIONALITY

Soon after the inauguration of the Burmese Republic on the 4th January 1948, the Government of Burma commenced serving notices of discharge on Indian employees who were either not eligible to become Burma citizens or unwilling to elect Burmese nationality. The Government of India have felt a special responsibility towards such employees of the Government of Burma as were in that Government's service while Burma was still a part of India and have sought (a) to secure adequate benefits for discharged personnel in the shape of leave salary, pensions and (b) find alternative employment for them in India. The possibilities of (b) have been inevitably circumscribed by the obligations of relief towards refugees who have come to this country as a result of the partition of India.

Indonesia.-India's sympathy with the people of Indonesia in their struggle for freedom has been actively and persistently demonstrated ever since India first brought up the dispute between the Dutch Government and the Government of the Indonesian Republic before the Security Council in 1947. The last move in the endeavour to bring about a solution of this problem was the conference of 19 countries which took place in New Delhi from the 20th to 24th January. The Conference un-animously passed a Resolution which demanded among other things

the withdrawal of Dutch troops, restoration of the Republican Government, release of Republican leaders and the lifting of the economic blockade. It also recommended that an Interim Government be formed by the 15th March 1949, that elections for a Constituent Assembly be held by the 1st October, 1949, and that transfer of sovereignty should be completed by the 1st January, 1950. The Security Council Resolution of the 28th January incorporated some of these recommendations

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but was silent on the question of withdrawal of Dutch forces. The Dutch Government have taken no action so far on the resolution of the Security Council. The Government of India are in close touch, both with the Governments which participated in the New Delhi conference and the Indonesian representatives in New Delhi and are closely watching developments.

Siam.-We are represented by a Minister at Bangkok and maintain a Consulate at Songkhla. There are about 30,000 Indians in Siam. Siam has many cultural affinities with us and is also of great importance to us as a supplier of rice. Negotiations are under way for a Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation between the two countries. At the instance of the Indian Minister in Bangkok the Government of Siam permitted last year a large number of refugee Indians who had entered Siam as temporary visitors, to reside in Siam permanently.

Indo China.-We have Consulate at Saigon. There are approximately a thousand Indians in Indo-China mostly engaged in business or domestic service. In 1948 as a result of representations made by the Consul, the French Administration was induced to abolish a discriminatory tax known as "IMPOT GRADUE". The numerous exchange Control restrictions which existed after the end of the War were a source of great hardship to the Indian business community in Indo-China, who found themselves unable to make any remittances to their dependents in India. Remittance facilities on a limited scale, have now been allowed as a result of negotiations between the Government of India and the French Government.

The Philippines.-Proposals for a Treaty are being considered by both Governments. There are approximately 1,300 Indians in the Republic most of them carry on business on a small scale.

Japan.-Japan's future is of special interest to India and India maintains a Liaison Mission there, partly to keep in touch with the political development of Japan as a democratic pawn and partly for the furtherance of India's economic interest. The Mission is particularly useful in securing facilities for India businessmen visiting Japan and in securing Japanese equipment and technicians for the development of Indian industries.

China.-We have an Embassy in Nanking and Consulates General in Shanghai and Kashgar. This Embassy has done a great deal to promote the age-old friendship between India and China.

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Arrangements have been made in co-operation with other diplomatic representatives, to protect Indians in different cities during the current hostilities. At the end of the World War we were faced with a major problem in China; Indians in the employment of the Shanghai Municipal

Council as guards and menials were thrown out of employment when the Municipal Council was taken over by the Chinese. Most of them were destitute. At our instance a large number of them were repatriated to India. Their claims on the Shanghai Municipal Council have not yet been met but efforts to reach an early settlement continue. A Sino-Indian Treaty of Friendship, Commerce and Navigation is under consideration. Pending conclusion of a Sino-Indian Air Agreement temporary authorisation has been given for a Chinese Service to India for a limited period.

Sinkiang (China).-On the 21st of December, 1948, an Indian Consulate-General was, for the first time, established at Kashgar. It is our main window into Central Asia. Moreover there are colonies of Indian residents in all the oases of Southern Sinkiang. Some time ago lands belonging to the Indian merchants were unjustly confiscated by the Chinese authorities in Sinkiang. We have asked for the restoration of these confiscated lands, or for the payment of compensation.

Nepal.-In Nepal we are represented by an Ambassador. Soon after the attainment of independence negotiations were successfully carried out with the Government of Nepal for the continued employment of Gurkha troops in the Indian Army. During the past year necessary facilities have been obtained from the Nepalese Government for work connected with the Kosi dam which will be of immense benefit both to Nepal and to Bihar. Proposals are now under consideration in the Ministry for a new Treaty of Commerce and Friendship between the two countries.

Assam Tribal Areas.-The problems connected with these areas impinge on India's foreign relations with the neighbouring countries China, Burma. They are therefore administered by this Ministry through the Governor of Assam. He is assisted by an Adviser chosen from the Civil Service.

To improve the general condition of the tribal peoples and to stabilise our administration in the tribal areas, a Five Year Development Plan has been prepared. The Plan contains schemes for the construction of roads and hospitals, buildings for administrative purposes, development of education, agriculture and forests and for the gradual extension of regular administration to the tribal areas, and is being implemented by stages. A recent proposal of the Standing Committee of the Ministry that welfare

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work in these areas should be conducted with the aid of trained anthropologists who have a sympathetic understanding of the ways of the tribes is being carefully examined.

Additional responsibilities devolved on the Assam as a result of the partition of the India and the strength of this Force was increased by 13 additional platoons in 1947, and by another 20 additional platoons in 1948.

Tibet.-Our relations with Tibet are conducted through the Political Officer in Sikkim and the Indian Mission in Lhasa. There is also a Trade Agent in Gyantse.

Tibetan Trade Mission.-In December 1947 a Trade Mission from Tibet visited India on their way to China, the U.S.A. and the U.K. in order to explore the possibility of expanding Tibetan trade with these countries. As a token of friendship India provided foreign exchange for the expenses of the Mission. The Mission were asked to secure redress



for the grievances of Indian traders doing business in W. Tibet and to allow access to Indian trader to one of their important wool marts.

With the assistance of the Political Officer in Sikkim a Syndicate has been formed in Kalimpong composed of Indian merchants to handle India's textiles trade with Tibet.

Sikkim and Bhutan.-Our relations with Sikkim and Bhutan are conducted through the Political Officer in Sikkim who resides at Gangtok.

In view of the good relations that have always prevailed between India and Bhutan the subsidy that we used to pay to the Maharaja has been continued together with an additional subsidy that was originally granted only for the duration of the War. We have also made arrangements to meet some of the essential requirements of Bhutan, e.g. petrol for the transport of its timber. The revision of the Treaty with Bhutan is under active consideration.

### C. Europe

France.-An Embassy was opened in Paris in January 1948. Negotiations have been in progress regarding the future of French settlements in India. In June 1948 the French Government issued a declaration which conceded the right of the people of these territories to determine their future through a referendum. Negotiations for an early holding of the referendum under safeguards which will ensure the free expression of the wishes of the people are in progress.

Economically France has made rapid recovery.

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A French Trade Delegation is shortly expected in India and preliminary talks have already been held. Among the commodities which France can supply are steel, machinery, capital goods and chemicals.

The Governments of India and of France have signed an Air Agreement, and a Debt Settlement Agreement which concerns French assets frozen in India during the War and Indian assets in metropolitan France as well as in French colonial territories.

Belgium.-A Belgian Trade Delegation visited India during the month of December and after a survey of the commercial and industrial fields has returned to Belgium. It is hoped that in the near future a Trade Agreement, providing for technical and financial collaboration, between the two countries, will be concluded.

Switzerland.-Our Legation in Berne was opened in March 1948.

The Government of India entered into a "Treaty of Friendship and Establishment" with Switzerland on August 14, 1948. This Treaty is now awaiting ratification. The question of entering into a Trade Agreement with Switzerland is under active consideration. Our Legation has made wide contacts with Swiss industrialists; and proposals for starting factories for the manufacture of machine tools, electrical goods and heavy machinery in India with Swiss co-operation are under consideration.

A draft air-agreement is under consideration.

Germany.-An Indian Military Mission was first set up in Berlin in

August 1946 under a British Military Officer. In 1947 an Indian civilian officer with the honorary rank of Brigadier and now Major General, was appointed the Head of the Mission. The Military Mission has so far repatriated approximately sixty Indians, many of whom were political exiles from India. In many cases prolonged searches had to be undertaken before they could be found. Last year an Indian Trade Delegation visited Germany and a Trade Agreement has been entered into between India and the Western Zones of Germany. Negotiations for concluding a similar Agreement with the Soviet Zone are under way. Our Mission has also been instrumental in recruiting approximately fifty German technicians and scientists for employment in various industrial projects in India. Government have under consideration the exchange of students between India and Germany.

Sweden.-Our Legation in Stockholm was opened in January 1949.

Industrially Sweden is capable of supplying us with fine machinery particularly for Hydro-electric purposes, ball-bearings, machine tools etc. It is also an important source for the supply of timber and wood pulp for paper manufacture. India entered into an Air Agreement with Sweden last year.

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Italy.-Our embassy in Italy was opened in January 1949. An Italian Economic Mission consisting of about thirty members is expected to arrive in New Delhi this month to consider the possibility of entering into a Trade Agreement with India. Italy is in a position to supply us with heavy chemicals and capital goods. Being the sixth largest ship building country in the world she may also be able to render assistance in that field.

A draft Air Agreement is under consideration.

The Vatican.-In May 1948, our Minister in Berne was accredited to the Holy See but he has not as yet been able to present his credentials. The Holy See, however, established an Internunciature (i.e. Legation) here last year.

Discussions and negotiations on ecclesiastical matters such as the anomalous position whereby the Archbishop of Goa appoints Bishops to certain Indian Dioceses are being conducted through the Internuncio. Government their desire to review the matter.

Czechoslovakia-Our Embassy in Moscow was established in July 1947 and has been developing cultural as well as political relations with the Soviet Union. There have also been a few commercial transactions. Last year Russia gave us 50,000 tons of wheat in exchange for 5,000 tons of tea, and according to an Agreement recently entered into, we shall be supplied with 81,000 tons of wheat in return for tea, jute and castor-oil. The possibilities of entering into a formal trade agreement with the Soviet Union are also under consideration.

Yugoslavia.-A decision to exchange diplomatic representatives with Yugoslavia was announced in December 1948, but neither country has yet sent a representative to the other. A Trade Delegation from Yugoslavia arrived in India last December and a Trade Agreement was signed.

Netherlands.-The Netherlands Government opened their Embassy in Delhi as far back as August 1947. The Government of India have not however been able so far to establish their mission at the Hague.

A Debt Settlement Agreement with the Netherlands covering assets belonging to the two countries affected during the War is under consideration. This will also cover Dutch colonial territories.

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Portugal.-The Portuguese Legation was opened in Delhi with the arrival of the Portuguese Minister in January 1949. The opening of our Legation in Lisbon will, it is hoped, not be delayed long.

The question of the future of the Portuguese possessions in India requires early settlement in a friendly manner and, for this purpose, the completion of the exchange of Diplomatic representatives between India and Portugal is a matter of urgency.

#### D. America

U.S.A.-Our Diplomatic Mission in Washington has been in existence for several years. The Trade Commissioner's Office in New York was converted to a Consulate-General in May, 1948; another Consulate General was opened in San Francisco a few months ago. Our Ambassador in Washington has done a great deal to maintain friendly relations with the Government of the United States. Negotiations have been going on for some time regarding a Treaty of Friendship and Commerce between India and the U.S.A. It is expected that the conclusion of such a Treaty will result in the removal of certain disabilities which Indian nationals now suffer from in the United States and will lead to the greater benefit of the two countries.

South America.-We are under-represented in this large and important continent. The Latin American countries have great economic potentialities and are all represented in the United Nations. One Latin American country is also a Member of the Security Council.

Brazil.-The opening of an Indian Embassy in Brazil has created wide interest in India among all sections of the people of Brazil and has also enabled us to build up contacts with other South American Republics where we have no representation. Our Ambassador is shortly visiting Chile and Peru in response to invitations from those countries.

A commercial Secretary was recently appointed to the Embassy to watch India's trade interests not only in Brazil but also in Peru, Equador, Columbia and Venezuela, French and Dutch Guineas.

Argentine.-The Governments of India and Argentine have recently agreed to exchange diplomatic missions at Embassy level. We have maintained a Trade Commissioner in Argentine for 6 years and he has generally looked after our trade interests in South America. The post was not long ago reclassified as a Consulate General. It is proposed to open our Embassy there shortly. Argentine has been an important source of supply of food grains, and an agreement has recently been entered into by the Government of India and Argentine for the supply of 3,85,000 tons of wheat in exchange for raw jute.

Chile.-At the instance of the Chilean Government, it has been decided to establish diplomatic relations with Chile. The Chilean Minister is shortly expected to arrive in New Delhi, but the Government of India have stated that due to shortage of personnel they will be unable to open an Indian Legation in Santiago for some time in the near future. Chile is rich in minerals particularly saltpetre, and is one of the more important Latin American Republics.

#### E. The Commonwealth

The United Kingdom.-Consequent upon the attainment of independence by India the High Commissioner in London became responsible for the handling of our political relations with the U.K. and for certain agency functions which were formerly performed by the old Indian Office. The question of reorganising the staff of India House to meet the new responsibilities of the High Commissioner is under consideration.

Australia.-British Indian subjects holding Australian passports were, until recently, required to return to Australia within a specified time limit which was endorsed on their passports each time they left the country. These restrictions proved irksome, and a more satisfactory arrangement has been negotiated under which re-entry will be permitted subject to a simple identity test.

Canada.-The Indian High Commissioner in Canada was able during the year to secure municipal franchise for Indians domiciled in British Columbia. The federal franchise was secured some time ago. The High Commissioner was also able to obtain permission for the admission to Canada of young Indians seeking to enter Canada for the immediate purpose of marrying girls of Indian origin, legally resident in that country, and of relatives of persons of Indian origin, legally resident in Canada, who have reached an advanced age and require assistance not otherwise available in the management of their properties in that country.

Pakistan.-The partition of the Indian sub-continent into two States India and Pakistan, has given rise to a number of problems. These were handled by different Ministries in the Government of India, depending on their nature; the Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations has served mainly as a co-ordinating agency. In order to achieve the necessary co-ordination, a Secretaries Committee has been set up with the Additional Secretary of the Ministry as Convenor.

Ceylon.-The most important problem, which continues to receive attention during the year, is that of the citizenship for Indians resident in Ceylon. Prolonged negotiations on a Draft Bill which the Ceylon

Government proposed to introduce in their Parliament yield no agreement. The Bill which passed the Ceylon Lower House is now before the Senate.

Objections were taken -- the Indian community in Ceylon to the Ceylon Exchange Control Regulations which restrict remittances to India. These objections were brought to the notice of the Ceylon Government and some relief was obtained.

South Africa.-There has been no change in relations between India and South Africa. A new Government which came to power in South Africa on a declared programme of apartheid segregation of non-Europeans has already taken certain measures to enforce its policy. In addition, Part II of the Asiatic Land Tenure and Indian Representation Act, which sought to give parliamentary representation to Indians through European members elected by Indians has been repealed.

In January, 1949 there was a sudden outbreak of racial riots at Durban between the Indians and the Africans. These involved serious casualties on both sides and considerable loss of property belonging to Indians. The Government of India have done what they could to give succour to the persons affected by these riots irrespective of any racial consideration.

British East Africa.-The revised Immigration Restriction Bills were passed into law by the East African Legislatures despite the objections of the Government of India and the local Indian community. The Government of India made it clear that they could not acquiesce in legislation which would adversely affect the rights and interests of their nationals abroad. The Government of the United Kingdom assured the Government of India that the legislation was not directed against Indians. The administration of the new law will now be watched and the matter considered afresh in the light of subsequent developments.

Mainly as a reflection of the political situation in India, a demand for separate electorates for Muslims and non-Muslims gained ground in Kenya since 1946. Various attempts at compromise failed. Thereupon the Government of Kenya sought to introduce separate electorates for Muslims and non-Muslims. As soon as this came to the notice of the Government of India, they made vigorous representations to the U. K. Government. Eventually it was decided by the Government of Kenya to retain the electorates as they were but to reserve two of the five Indian sets for Muslims in two double member constituencies, each voter having one vote only. The ordinance giving effect to this decision is restricted to the life of the present Legislative Council.

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Early in 1948, riots took place in the Gold Coast Colony and several shops belonging to Indians were burnt and looted. Representations were made to the Government of the U. K. for payment of compensation and other relief to the victims of these riots. The matter is still under the consideration of the U. K. Government.

Mauritius.-The Government of India appointed a Commissioner in Mauritius during the year.

As a result of the constitutional changes in Mauritius, Indians have secured 11 seats out of 17 in the Legislative Council.

Fiji.-A Commissioner for India was appointed in Fiji during the year. A residential tax of 62 per head per annum on persons who do not pay income-tax has hit the Indian community which is composed mainly of farmers or petty traders hard. Representations were made to H. M. G. in March 1948 urging the introduction of a more equitable system of taxation, and grant of relief to the persons affected by reduction in the rate of residential tax. The matter is still under consideration.

A committee consisting of six non-official members of the Fiji Legislative Council (including two Indians) has been appointed to consider and report on the desirability of granting to the peoples of the Colony a greater measure of control in their own affairs and to recommend necessary amendments in the constitution of Fiji. The Committee has not yet submitted its report.

Though many Indians in Fiji are anxious to return to India, owing to the acute shipping position, only about 300 have been registered for repatriation by the next available boat.

British West Indies.-The Government of India are examining the proposal of the Secretary of State for the Colonies for constitutional reforms in Trinidad. The question of assisted repatriation of Indians to their homes also received attention.

In June 1948 Indian workers on sugar estates in British Guiana resorted to a strike owing to dissatisfaction with wages and conditions of work. The U. K. Government have appointed a Royal Commission of Enquiry to investigate the whole problem of the sugar industry in British Guiana. The Commission have recently arrived in the Colony.

304 Indian repatriates from British Guiana are on their way to India in spite of the Government of India's desire that no persons should return at present in view of the difficult conditions in the country. The Indian Commissioner has been instructed to dissuade the remaining Indians from returning.

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Malaya.-Internal Disturbances in Malaya and Indian Labour.-In the early months of the year, strikes became almost chronic in certain parts of

Malaya. As the labour population on the rubber estates was mainly India, these strikes necessarily involved Indians. Subsequently strikes were followed by outbreaks of violence on a large scale by the Chinese communist. The great majority of Indian labour has held aloof from communist activities. Through their Representative, the Government of India have sought to protect innocent Indians, from the operation of the various emergency measures which the Malayan authorities have imposed to deal with lawlessness. They have also urged on H. M. G. in the U. K. the importance of improving the standards of living of labour on plantations as the only effective antidote to communist propaganda.

F. Haji.

During the year the Government of India abandoned the centralised booking system which had been introduced during the war, for passages direct with the shipping companies engaged in the pilgrim traffic. Government, however continued to use their good offices with Shipping Companies in securing adequate shipping for the Haji traffic. An agreement was also reached with Pakistan whereby 50 per cent of the available shipping was allotted to pilgrims from Pakistan. In spite of the partition of the country the number of Indian pilgrims who performed Haji was 14,110 as against 20,423 from undivided India in the previous year. To advise Government on matters connected with Haji, a Standing Advisory Committee called the Central Haji Committee was

appointed. This Committee has advisory functions and includes three members of the Constituent Assembly amongst its members.

EGYPT

INDIA AFGHANISTAN TURKEY JORDAN LEBANON USA IRAN IRAQ OMAN KUWAIT  
ETHIOPIA BURMA INDONESIA CHINA PHILIPPINES CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC  
JAPAN NEPAL UNITED KINGDOM BHUTAN FRANCE BELGIUM SWITZERLAND RUSSIA  
GERMANY LATVIA SWEDEN ITALY NORWAY SLOVAKIA YUGOSLAVIA THE NETHERLANDS  
PORTUGAL BRAZIL CHILE PERU GUINEA AUSTRALIA CANADA PAKISTAN SOUTH  
AFRICA KENYA MAURITIUS FIJI

May 26, 1948

### **part III**

#### PART III

##### India and International Conferences.

As a member of the U. N. and its many specialised agencies, India part in a number of International Conferences. Of these, apart from discussions in the Security Council on the Indonesian, Kashmir and Hyderabad issues—the last two concerned India directly—in which the Government representatives participated, the session of the U. N. Assembly which met in Paris from September-December, 1948, was politically the most important.

The Indonesian problem has been dealt with in another part of this Report; Kashmir and Hyderabad have been the subject of special statements by the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. The Kashmir problem is being dealt with in consultation with the U. N. Commission which has now returned to the Indian sub-continent.

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The complaint made by the Laik Ali Ministry to the Security Council regarding Hyderabad has been withdrawn and, so far as the Government of India are concerned, the matter is closed.

The third ordinary session of the General Assembly was held in Paris from the Sep 21, 1948 to the 12th December 1948. As many as 75 items comprised the Agenda for this session. Some of the more important items involved complex political problems such as Palestine, Greece, Korea, the control of Atomic Energy, Disarmament, the Great Power Veto, promotion of international co-operation in the political field, treatment of Indians in South Africa and disposal of the former Italian colonies. The last two items could not be taken up for want of time and will be discussed in the second part of this session which will commence in New York on the 5th April 1949.

On each important issue that was discussed in Paris, India's stand

was in line with her general foreign policy, viz., a consideration of the matter in debate on its intrinsic merits and without favour to the policy of any group or groups of nations. Such independence, though it may not evoke universal popularity, does evoke respect if exercised with firmness and judgment. It is best calculated to serve India's national interest and, on the long view, to promote the chances of international peace.

On Palestine, the Indian Delegation adhered to its advocacy of a federal solution and its opposition to a solution imposed by force. For Korea, while accepting the result of the elections held in the South under the auspices of the U. N. Commission, the Delegation earnestly urged persistence by the new Commission in endeavour to restore unity between the North and the South.

The Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East.-Is one of the Regional Commission of the United Nations and deals with the question of economic development of the Asia and the Far East. It held its third session at Ooty (India) from 1st to 12th June 1948. The fourth was held at Lapstone (Australia) from the 28th November to 11th December 1948.

Sir B. N. Rau was elected by a very large majority of votes to the International Law Commission at the Paris session of the U. N. General Assembly. This Commission is charged with the codification of International Law.

Of the 11 members of the Security Council, only two are from Asia and, of the two, one, China, is permanent member. Of the remaining 9 seats, two are held by North and two are by South American countries

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and the rest by Europe. This distribution is wholly disproportionate to Asia's growing importance, and it was originally intended that India should move for a more equitable regional representation on the Council. Owing to the crowded nature of the Assembly's agenda and, in particular, the atmosphere of controversy which marked the debates on all major issues, it was decided not to proceed with the idea. In the interests of harmony among Asian nations, India also did not seek election to the seat on the Council vacated by Syria. Egypt succeeded Syria. Of elections to other bodies which function as part or under the auspices of the U. N., India sought and secured election to:

Transport and Communications Commission,

Economic and Employment Commission,

Statistical Commission,

Women's Rights Commission,

Human Rights Commission.

In all these bodies, representatives of India played a notable parts.

A competitive examination for the recruitment of probably 8 more Indians to the U. N. Secretariat is to be held shortly with the help of



the F. P. S. C. The Government of India continue to press for the appointment of more and more Indians to the U. N. Secretariat, both in the higher and lower grades.

The part played by the Indian Delegation in the discussions relating to Trusteeship in the United Nations General Assembly and its Constituent Committees was in keeping with India's policy of doing whatever is possible to advance the condition of peoples still under foreign tutelage and deserves special mention. Questions which received particular attention were:

- (i) Submission of a Trusteeship Agreement in respect of South-West Africa by the Government of the Union of South Africa.
- (ii) Supply of information by Administrative Powers in regard to non-self-governing territories,
- (iii) Constitution of a Special Committee to examine the summaries of information transmitted to the Nations. Organisation on economic, social and educational conditions in non-self-governing territories, and
- (iv) Consideration of the report of the Trusteeship Council on the administration of Trust Territories.

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As regards (i), the Indian representatives brought out prominently South Africa's intention to incorporate this territory in the Union and, although they did not succeed in persuading the majority of the Assembly to forbid such a step, their firm attitude helped in the adoption by the Assembly of joint resolution which was moved by Denmark, Norway and some other European countries. Resolutions relating to (ii) and (iv) were moved by the Indian members, the former singly and the latter jointly with representative of Cuba, the Philippines and Venezuela. The resolution passed by the General Assembly in regard to the advancement of education in Trust Territories was also vigorously supported by India.

INDIA

INDONESIA USA FRANCE GREECE KOREA SOUTH AFRICA AUSTRALIA CHINA EGYPT  
SYRIA DENMARK NORWAY CUBA PHILIPPINES VENEZUELA

Sep 21, 1948

**Part IV**

PART IV

External Publicity

In order to secure more effective co-ordination with foreign policy, external publicity was transferred to this Ministry from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in June 1948. During the last seven months a number of new measures have been adopted. The number of Information Posts has been increased; from 13 to 24. Publicity organisations now exist in London, Batavia, Washington, Tokyo, Saigon, Singapore, Bangkok, Colombo, Rangoon, Dacca, Lahore, Karachi, Kabul, Tehran, Cairo, Paris, Ankara Nairobi, Nanking, Jedda, Rome, Prague, Ottawa and Canberra. Publicity directives have been made more comprehensive and more regular.

Publicity Policy.-Special attention is paid to regional requirements, e.g. of the Middle East; S. E. Asia and Far East; the Commonwealth etc.

News services to foreign posts which were formerly cabled and were limited to 800 words were inadequate as background information and expensive. With effect from Jul 01, 1948, E. A. & C. R. multiple-address broadcasts have been started to foreign posts through the Overseas Communications Service of the All India Radio twice daily. These carry about 2,500 words per day. At present 17 posts are being served and arrangements are being made for others to receive these broadcasts. Copies of our wireless News Bulletins are sent every day by air to those centres which are not yet picking up our transmissions.

Monthly newsreels consisting of items considered suitable for foreign publicity are being sent abroad. Special films considered suitable for foreign publicity are being produced. Information Centres are being supplied with projectors.

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Magazines.-Three magazines are produced for external publicity at present. These are:

- (1) "New India"-in English;
- (2) "March of India"-in English;
- (3) "Al-Nafir"-in Arabic.

It is proposed to issue a Persian version of "Al-Nafir". The future of publicity through magazines is under discussion.

Libraries.-It has been decided to establish at 27 Missions abroad small libraries containing books on Indian Philosophy, history and culture from which books can be lent to local residents interested in India.

JAPAN  
REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE UNITED KINGDOM AFGHANISTAN EGYPT IRAN PAKISTAN SRI  
LANKA CANADA CZECH REPUBLIC FRANCE ITALY KENYA TURKEY AUSTRALIA CENTRAL  
AFRICAN REPUBLIC INDIA USA

Jul 01, 1948