WON'T BROOK OUTSIDE WEIGHTED IN FAVOUR INTERFERENCE

PANDIT NEHRU EXPLAINS STATUS

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 6.

"The Constituent Assembly will be a self-directing and self-determining body which will not tolerate outside interference" said Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru, addressing Indian Press correspondents on the eve of his departure for India at his headquarters in Dorchester Hotel to-night.

Reading British newspapers, Pandit Nehru said one got the wrong impression that there was an impending tragedy in India which was to be averted by bringing them (Pandit Nehru and the three Indian leaders) to London for a "magical settlement". "The situation in India is in many respects distressing, but it is nothing to get excited about." but it is nothing to get excited about," he said. "It is a tragic situation which has considerable history behind it. It cannot be remedied by a magic wand. It will take a little time, it is no question of legal argument being settled this way or that but of people's minds being

"Questions of success or failure of talks have no meaning. The major thing is that the Constituent Assembly will be meeting in three days' time. The Muslim League will not be in it. It is a mechanical impossibility for them to be in it in three days' time.

"The preliminary session of the Constituent Assembly will last about a dozen days and will deal with formalities and technicalities. The full session of the Assembly will meet three months later with committees working during the period in between." "We shall," he said, make every effort naturally to get the largest possible measure of support. The thing to remember is that the Constituent Assembly is meeting even though all its members will not be present."

DANGER FROM WITHIN

Pandit Nehru added: "The Constituent Assembly is a new kind of organ which once it meets will be self-governing and self-determining and will re-ceive no directions from anyone outside. At the same time, it will work within a certain framework laid down. It will do what it chooses. The real thing that might limit its self-determining powers is no external authority but internal fac-tors of the situation. If internally it cannot succeed, it can't go far.

"We recognise that and, therefore, we intend to make it succeed internally. The important thing about the Constituent Assembly has been and is that something has been created which, however small its beginnings might be has the capacity for growth and can go in any direction it chooses. What is most necessary in India generally is absence of any interference which will only be resented and will create complications. Any Indian problem can only ultimately be solved by the people themselves. If others try to solve them, it will result in a worsening of the situation. Compulsion will be resisted and will nullify the chief virtue of the Cabinet Mission's plan to give a very large measure of self-determina-

"Apart from the long-term plan of the Constituent Assembly, it is necessary to avoid interference in the working of the Interim Government because both are intimately related. If India is going to be free soon—as she is going to bc—this should be reflected in the working of the Interim Government.

"The Political Department which deals with Indian States still continues to be completely separated from the rest of the Government of India which is an anomaly. This anomalous situation gives rise to daily trouble. All these problems are so closely related that they cannot be separated or considered apart from each other." Pandit Nehru concluded.

points:
1. The temporary Chairman takes the chair.
2. Opening remarks of the temporary Chairman,
3. Members present credentials and sign

the register.

4. Moving of a resolution prescribing the procedure for the election of the permanent Chairman. nent Chairman.

5. The temporary Chairman will announce the date and time for nomination and election of Chairman.

INDIAN CHRISTIANS' DEMAND

DELHI, Dec. 7.

A resolution urging adequate representation of the Indian Christians in the Minority Advisory Committee of the Constituent Assembly was passed by the Joint Committee of the All-India Conference of Indian Christians and the Catholic Union of India, which met here to-day. Mr. Ruthnaswami presided. Resolutions urging the Interim Gov-

Indian Christians so far debarred from entering the combatant ranks of the Indian Army the privileges offered to

other communities, were also passed.
The Committee regretted the "deterioration in the position of civil and reli-gious liberty that has taken place in the Travancore State in recent months", and hoped "a reversal of the policy of tyranny and intolerance so far followed will shortly be inaugurated."

Those present included Mr. B. L. Rallia Ram, Major Bernard, Rev. P. C. Benjamin, Prof. Soares, Mr. Joachim Alva and Mrs. Violet Alva.

Later, a deputation, consisting of Mr. B. L. Rallia Ram, Chait Singh, Prof. Soares and Joachim Alva met Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel and discussed the question of Indian Christian representa-tion in the Minority Advisory Commit-tee,—A.P.I.

NAWAB OF BHOPAL

BHOPAL, Dec. 8. H. H. the Nawab of Bhopal, Chancellor of the Chamber of Princes, accompanied by Sir Joseph Bhore, the Prime Minis-ter of Bhopal, left for Delhi this morn-

ing.
It is understood that the Nawab's visit is in connection with the informal discussions which the Rulers and Ministers of Indian States are to have amongst themselves apropos the opening session of the Constituent Assembly beginning

The Nawab will stay in Delhi for about a week.

MAHATMAJI'S ADVICE TO P. SREERAMULU CHETTY

NELLORE, Dec. 8.
Mahatma Gandhi has, it is understood, advised Mr. Potti Sreeramulu Chetty not to continue the fast which he had undertaken with a view to persuade the Madras Government to enact legislation throwing open to Harijans all the temples in the province.

Mr. Sreeramulu has been fasting since November 25.—A.P.I.

BRITISH CABINET'S STATEMENT

OF LEAGUE

REACTIONS IN DELHI CIRCLES

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. For final reactions to the British Cabinet's statement issued from London last night, the Congress Working Committee will necessarily await Pandit Nehru's arrival to-morrow evening. An emer-gency meeting of the Committee will be

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

held immediately after his arrival to enable him to give a detailed account of the London conversations. At the pre-sent moment, therefore, there is no dis-position on the part of Congress leaders to jump to conclusions.

It is, of course, recognised that the document seems weighted in favour of Mr. Jinnah and the Muslim League. "What is the use of making a reference to the Federal Court?" many members of the Constituent Assembly were heard to say, "after the Cabinet Mission had categorically endorsed Mr. Jinnah's interpretation of the passage relating to Grouping and sections and even cited expert legal opinion to reinforce it?"

Acharya Kripalani, President of the Congress, in welcoming the members of the Constituent Assembly to-day, made a passing reference to it. Nevertheless, the results of Pandit Nehru's visit to London will be assessed only in the light of his appreciation. There are points on which no light is now available. It remains to be seen, as Acharya Kripalani observed, whether the Murille Learner observed, whether the Muslim League will come into the Constituent Assembly or boycott it; or if they enter it, whether they will co-operate or merely obstruct and delay its work.

There was significance in Acharya Kripalani's admonition that the Constituent Assembly must proceed with the greatest circumspection because of the delicate issues which have arisen. In the history of Constituent Assemblies from the time of the French Revolution, he thought, no task was more complicated or difficult than that which faced India's

There is, of course, among the rank and file of Congressmen disappointment that the Labour Government's statement is one-sided and takes no account of the fact that the Muslim League entered the Interim Government without accepting the long-term plan. Even now, it is not certain that the League will be satisfied and come into the Constituent Assembly to hasten the country's freedom. What Pandit Nehru and his col-leagues will do in the event of Mr Jinnah not accepting the long-term plan in spite of the British Cabinet's latest statement, is not a matter which prima-rily concerns the Constituent Assembly. Indirectly, however, it will affect the Assembly's deliberations and programme Lord Wavell will return, it is belie

ved, in about a week's time. How tar it is true that the Viceroy will adopt a more liberal attitude towards the Congress members of the Interim Government, one cannot judge until his return. Incidentally one may say that Sir John Colville. Acting Viceroy, has created a pleasant impression. Having worked with a popular Ministry in Bombay, he instinctively understands the technique of a government which is responsible to the legislature.

CONGRESS DISAPPOINTMENT

The Associated Press of India adds: Congress disappointment arises from four points which, according to Congressmen, emerge from the statement Firstly, the original conception that the Federal Court was to be moved only to determine whether, a particular point is a major communal issue or not is now enlarged to an unconscionable extent Under yesterday's statement, any poin of difference is referable to the Federal Court.

Secondly, even if the Congress decides to refer to the Federal Court the question of Grouping, neither the League nor His Majesty's Government is bound Acharya Kripalani, Congress Prince of the Constitution of Grouping, neither the League nor His Majesty's Government is bound Acharya Kripalani, Congress Prince of the Constitution of the Constitution of the Constitution of the Congress members of the Constitution of the Constitution of the Congress members of the Constitution of the Constitution of the Congress members of the Constitution of Grouping, neither the League nor the Congress members of the Constitution of Grouping, neither the League nor the Congress members of the Constitution of Grouping, neither the League nor the Congress members of the Constitution of Grouping, neither the League nor the Congress members of the Congres

Fourthly, if the League does not come into the Constituent Assembly, no constitution framed by the Assembly has a chance of being accepted by His Majesty's Government. This is as good as rearming the minority with the power of veto which the British Premier previously declared it should not have.

Doubt is expressed in Congress circles whether it would be profitable to refer the question of Grouping to the Federal Court as suggested in the statement, but a decision on this matter will only be taken by the Working Committee.

Leading Congressmen, however, regard the position with robust self-confidence. Their view was summed up thus: "The latest statement does not alter our stand. Congress has agreed to refer the question of Grouping to the Federal Court. By that undertaking we stand. We say that the British Cabinet is not compe-Resolutions urging the Interim Government to nominate at least two more Indian Christians to the Central Assembly, the present being inadequate, give that tribunal and accept its verdict, whatever it is.

> "As regards the constitution which we frame, there is nothing in the State Paper which requires H. M. G.'s approval of it. Approval or disapproval is a matter left entirely to the people of this country.

League opinion expresses special satisfaction with the declaration by His Ma-jesty's Government that no constitution framed by a Constituent Assembly in which a large section of the Indian population is unrepresented could be forced upon any unwilling part of the country. Leaguers think the next move must now come from the Congress, who must decide whether they accept the British Government's interpretation or wish to take the matter to the Federal Court.

It is felt that on this point, the statement is ambiguous. First, it says that H.M.G.'s interpretation is an essential part of the scheme. Later, the statement goes on to say that the matter may be referred to the Federal Court. Whether hese two parts of the statement are reconcilable or not, the League position is stated to be that it is not bound by any ruling given by the Federal Court

ASSAM PREMIER'S **CRITICISM**

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Premier of Assam, in a statement described the Bri-tish Government's interpretation of their statement of May 16 as unreasonable and contrary to the principles of demo-cratic Government. He said that this would mean forcing provinces which at-

The Season and u. WEEKLY EDITION MADRAS, MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1946.

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CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE

MEETING AT DELHI CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

AGENDA DISCUSSED NEW DELHI, Dec. 8. The Congress Working Committee met at 9-30 a.m. this morning at the residence of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Most of the members and invitees to the meeting we're present.

The Committee deliberated for three hours and considered the preliminary agenda for the Constituent Assembly. The question as to how the Congress members of the Constituent Assembly should function in the Assembly was also examined.

The Committee will meet again at 8-30 a.m. to-morrow.

A deputation of Assam members of the Constituent Assembly waited on the Congress President, Mr. J. B. Kripalani, this morning, it is learnt, and reiterated Assam's strong opposition to go into Groups. The Congress President is understood to have assured the deputation that the Congress Working Committee of the congress working congress working the congress working t tee would thoroughly consider Assam's

OPPOSE GROUPING NEW DELHI, Dec. 7.

One of the first tangible developments following H. M. G.'s latest statement has been the spirited opposition expressed by the Assam and Sikh Groups from among the members of the Constituent Assembly now in Delhi. These two groups as well as representative Hindus from the Punjab held a joint meeting lasting an hour this evening and provisionally agreed to press their views on members of the Congress Working Committee before it meets to-morrow evening.

Those present at this evening's meeting included Mr. Gopinath Bardoloi, Assam Premier, Rev. Nichols Roy, Mr. Rohini Kumar Chaudhury, Sardar Partap Singh, Sardar Ujja! Singh, Giani Kartar Singh. Sardar Harnam Singh, Diwan Chamanlal and Dr. Bhargava. A further meeting will be held to-morrow.

GANDHIJI'S LETTER TO CONGRESS PRESIDENT

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.) ` RAMGANJ, Dec. 6. It is understood that Gandhiji has sent communication through Dr. P. Ghosh to the Congress President, Acharya Kripalani giving his views on certain aspects of work before the Constituent Assembly. Gandhiji's letter will be placed before the Congress Working Committee when it meets on December 8 at Delhi for consideration and adoption of such a policy as they consider best in the cir-

MEETING OF CONGRESS **MEMBERS**

ACHARYA KRIPALANI'S APPEAL

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. Congress members of the Constituent Assembly met to-day in an informal Acharya Kripalani, Congress Presi-

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7.

The order paper for the opening meeting of the Constituent Assembly on December 9 contains the following five points:

1. The temporary Chairman takes the constitution of not.

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Thirdly, a Section has power by a simple majority vote to impose a constitution on a province within the Section, no matter whether that province likes into sections.

The programme includes election of a permanent Chairman, adoption of rules of procedure, appointment of a States Consultative Committee, an advisory committee on fundamental rights, protection of minorities and administration of tribal and excluded areas, a committee for more clearly defining the scope of the subjects to be assigned to the Union of India and various committees and office-bearers provided for in the rules.

It is understood that the Congress will.

It is understood that the Congress will, at a suitable stage, bring forward a resolution outlining the objectives of the Constituent Assembly.

The resolution which is on the lines of the one passed at Meerut is expected to declare the Assembly's resolve to proclaim India as an independent, sovereign republic to secure to all the people of India certain fundamental rights and grant adequate safeguards for minorities, backward areas and classes.

lasses.
Urging the members to transact the busi-Classes.

Urging the members to transact the business of the Assembly as speedily as possible, the Congress President said: "The more time you take in the Constituent Assembly, the less efficient will it be. If you cannot do your work quickly. I think you will never be able to do it." He hoped that not only Congressmen but also non-Congressmen elected on the Congress ticket and Congressmen belonging to any group or party would obey the whip of the Congress. "We are meeting in a city which is the graveyard of dead and dying empires," he remarked jocularly.

Among those who attended were: Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Dr. Snyama Prasad Mrokherjee, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sir S. Radha-krishnan, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Dr. Profulla Chandra Ghosh, Sir N. Gapalaswami Iyengar, Provincial Premiers, Dr. M. R. Jayakar and Sardar Pratap Singh.

members from Assam could carry out their mandate would be to keep out of the Constituent Assembly,

SIKHS' ATTITUDE

The Sikh view was put thus by a prominent representative: "We are opposed to Grouping. We will not allow anyone to dominate over us. H. M. G.'s latest state ment is not in accord with the spirit of their earlier professions. After all, in the Punjab, Muslims are numerically larger than the combined Hindu-Sikhs' opposi tion by a bare four million. If no constitution is to be forced upon any unwilling parts of the population, then no group constitution can possibly be forced upon twelve million people, because 16 million others wish to do so. We shall not be stampeded into any precipitate course of action however. We must await the arrival of Sardar Baldev Singh. We will also see what the League proposes to do in the groups."

MR. CHUNDRIGAR ON LEAGUE STAND

Cratic Government. He said that this would mean forcing provinces which attained some status under the 1935 Act to submit to the dictates of larger provinces. He hoped the Congress would not accept it.

Representative Assam opinion further held that members returned to the Constituent Assembly only from that Province had a mandate to oppose the formation of Groups and had no power to go behind or beyond that mandate. Therefore, if H. M. G.'s interpretation of the Statement of May 16 is final and irrevocable, then the only way in which

LEAGUE STAND

BOMBAY, Dec. 7.

"The British Government in their latest interpretation of the Caninet Mission's interpretation of the Caninet Mission's interpretation of the clause "said Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member of the Interim Government, here this evening.

Mr. Chundrigar, who was addressing a largely-attended public meeting under the auspiese of the Bombay Provincial Muslim Lacque, said that the British Government in their latest interpretation of the clause "said Mr. I. I. Chundrigar, Commerce Member of the Interim Government, here this evening.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.

Trans-world Aillines Sunday announced the opening of a direct air route in January between New York Washington Ladque, and recognise to good faith of the Congress desire for an agreed solution. In disaster."—Reuter.

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COMMONS DEBATE ON INDIA

MAY TAKE PLACE THIS WEEK

ATTLEE TO REPORT ON TALKS LONDON, Dec. 7.

The Prime Minister Mr. Clement Attice will almost certainly report to the British Parliament next week on the constitutional talks with Indian political leaders which ended in failure in London last night, writes Fraser Wighton, Reuter's Political Correspondent.
The result of the London talks will

add urgency to the current desire for a debate which may be agreed by Government for Thursday or Friday. Mr Attlee is likely to inform Parliamen fully on the last week's whirlwind ne-gotiations culminating in last night's Round Table Conference staged on the eve of Pandit Nehru's return to India to-day. If the debate takes place, Mr. Winston Churchill, his lieutenant, Mr. R. A. Butler and other Opposition shadow Cabinet Ministers may speak.

The negotiations left unbroken the deadlock between the Congress Party and tee would thoroughly consider Assam's the Muslim League which has boycotted the forthcoming Constituent Assembly to shape independent India's constitution. But political quarters in London, both British and Indian, believe that the talks may have done some good.

Though with its President, Mr. Jinnah, still in London the Muslim League cannot take part in the opening of the Constituent Assembly on Monday, a planned adjournment of the Assembly until spring after it has settled the machinery and procedure may provide an opportunity for further attempts at conciliation of the two points of view.

"TIMES'S" APPEAL TO INDIAN LEADERS

LONDON, Dec. 7. The British Government's statement the position in India is printed prominently on front pages of London newspapers this morning, but it was issued too late for editorial comment in

issued too late for editorial comment in all but two of them.

The Times says that although last night's meeting was no more successful in promoting an immediate agreement among the Indian delegates, than the separate conversations with individual groups earlier in the week, it provided an opportunity for the Government to make their cwn position plain in the considered statement.

"It is now expressly declared that the Constitution framed by the Constituent Assembly in which a large section of the Indian population is not represented, cannot be forced upon parts of the country unwilling to accept it" continues The Times.

"Thus the assurance for which the Muslim League has been waiting is now forthcoming and there can be no reason now why or May 16 to the Federal Court.

"The task upon which the Covernment have been engaged this week, involves an insule over the interpretation of the plan of May 16 to the Federal Court.

"The task upon which the Covernment have been engaged this week, involves an insule even more engaged to the succession."

have been engaged this week, involves an issue even more momentous than the success or failure of their Indian policy. What is at stake is the unity of India and the London conversations represent an endeavour, perhaps the last endeavour this country can make, to prevent India from falling into halves. Until the suzerainty of the British Crown was accepted from Kashmir to Cape Comorin, and from Baluchistan to Bengal, Indian unity was never achieved, though poets, philosophers and statesmen had dreamed of it from time immemorial. It is the supreme contribution of Britain to the development of Indian nationhood out of the congeries of races, creeds and cultures.

BRITAIN'S OBJECTIVE

"To preserve it and transfer it intact to Indian hands has been the principal aim of British policy. This policy derives from the British policy. This policy derives from the decision of the British people and not of any political party to transfer authority in India to an administration based upon the support of the major communities. The Cabinet Mission made it clear at that time that if the major communities accepted the Plan, or indeed, if they themselves could devise something they preferred, which would achieve the same objective of administration and constitution based upon their broad agreement, British would give effect to their choice of means, whereby, British authority could be vested in Indian hands. adian hands

"Although the Congress Party's one-sided "Although the Congress Party's one-sided interpretation of the provision for grouping of the provinces was duly corrected by the Cabinet Mission, there was no sustained assertion by the Government that persistence in this interpretation would destroy the whole basis of a compromise and would render the Party's acceptance of the Plan meaningless from the Muslim point of view.

"The Muslim League thus acquired a substantial grievance but injured its case by the desperate step of detouncing the Plan and threatening recourse to "direct action". It was at no time the intention of the British people that the Congress Party alone should constitute the succession Government. The course of events may seem to have brought this very near, but it is plain that British authority could never have been employed to coerce the Muslim League into subordination. Now that the Government's policy has been clarified, it is open to Mr. Jinnah and his colleagues to play their part in the advance of India to self-government, secure in the knowledge that they cannot be deprived of that share of power to which they are entitled by the fundamental condition of Britain's offer to the Indian people as a whole Grave responsibility has been placed squarely upon their shoulders', The Times concluded.

"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN" view. "The Muslim League thus acquired a

"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"

"MANCHESTER GUARDIAN"

"It looks." says the Manchester Guardian,
"as if the visit of Viceroy and leaders of
the three major Indian groups to London
has not been entirely in vain. That is as
much as one can see now. The future
peace and unity of India hang upon a fine
thread. We hope it will hold." Referring
to the statement that British Government
would not be a party to any attempt to impose constitutional arrangements on any
pert of India without its consent the Manchester Guardian says: "Whether these
sarguards will at least prove sufficient to
bring the Muslim League into the Constituent Assembly either now or later remains
to be seen. It is to be hoped that the London meeting has at least had the effect
of turning the Indian leaders away from
the disastrous thought of risking a trial
of strength. It is now upto Indian leaders
(particularly the Congress) to decide what
action is to be taken."

"NEWS CHRONICLE"

"NEWS CHRONICLE"

The News Chronicle writes: "It is now up to the Indian leaders—and particularly to the Congress—to decide what action is to be taken. It is greatly to be hoped that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his colleagues will find themselves able to accept the British interpretation (of the Cabinet Mission's intentione) which is regarded as so essential by the Muslims. If the Congress does not accept it would then he the turn of Mr. M. A. Jinnah to abandon his obdurate attitude and recognise the good faith of the Congress desire for an agreed solution In no other way can India avoid a very grave disaster."—Reuter. prepare dishes from the vegetables most

NEHRU BACK IN INDIA

2 ANNAS

ARRIVAL IN DELHI INTERVIEW TO KARACHI

NEW DELHI, Dec. 8.
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government, and Sardar Baldev Singh returned to Delhi at 3-45 p.m. Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel walked up

to the plane on the runway and received Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh. Others present at the airport to re-ceive them were Pandit Govind Vallabh Pant, Premier of U. P., Mr. Rafi Ahmed Kidwai, Diwan Chamanlal and others. Col. D. H. Currie, Military Secretary to H. E. the Viceroy, Mr. Bhalja, Defence Secretary, and Sir B. N. Rao were also present at the airport.

Pandit Nehru looked quite cheerful and smiled as he stepped out of the "Yes, it was a terrific trip", said Pandit Nehru when greeted by a group of

Pressmen. The journey took less than 26 hours and the actual flying time was less than 22 hours.

He chatted with Sardar Patel for a few minutes and later drove to his residence.

ISSUES" PANDIT NEHRU ON H. M. G.'S

"RAISES IMPORTANT

LATEST

KARACHI, Dec. 8.
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru was dressed in western style when he alighted from the aircraft here, on his way to Delhi. After he had a wash and lunch, he dressed himself in spotless khadi with Clandhi can and a favn overset. Gandhi cap and a fawn overcoat. Addressing the Pressmen, he made a brief statement on his visit to London.

He said:
"The evening before we left London, the draft of H.M.G. statement was read to us. I actually read the statement on my return journey in the plane yesterday. Apparently some changes and additions have been made to it. Obviously the statement is a major one requiring careful consideration and it could not be proper for me to say much about it before I have consulted my colleagues. It raises important issues and is somewhat in the nature of an addition to or an amendment of the statement of May 16. Although it does so by what it says for elucidation, anything that changes in the slightest the statement of May 16 affects the whole structure laid by the statement as understood by all and has to be considered in that

context.
"The Constituent Assembly is meeting to-morrow and we will no doubt consider the whole position. The main point about the Constituent Assembly has been that it is a self-governing and self-determining body and any kind of imposition from outside will not be welcomed. It has been our purpose all along to make the Constituent Assembly as representative of all groups in the country as possible but if some people unfortunately keep away, this cannot be allowed to stop the functioning of the Constituent Assembly as a

Asked whether his trip to London was worth-while, Pandit Nehru remarked: "I went to London with reluctance because of the personal appeal made by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Attlee. I was glad to meet my old friends and renew my contacts. In this sense my visit was worth-while. Otherwise not so,"—A.P.I.

CONFEDERATION OF STATES

DISCUSSIONS IN NEW DELHI

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. A meeting of the Grouping Committee of the Chamber of Princes was held to-day in the Council House. Sardar D. K. Sen, Chairman of the Committee of Ministers, presided. The Committee discussed the various schemes for regional confederation. confederation or Grouping of States. These schemes dealt with the composition and functions of regional confederation including the powers of the group legislature, executive and judiciary and the method of accession to the regional

group.

It is proposed to have two Houses of the Legislature. For purposes of representation in the Lower House, the entire area of confederating States will be divided into territorial constituencies to provide representation of one to at least 50,000 people. According to one of the schemes, the Government of each of the full-powered States in the group will be estilled to appoint an educat number of group. be entitled to appoint an equal number of representatives to the Upper House. There was considerable divergence of opinion on the subject whether Rulers should be members of the Upper House or there should be a separate Board of Rulers.

According to one scheme, the group exc-According to one scheme, the group excutive will consist of seven persons with a chief called Secretary-General appointed by the Upper House from a panel proposed by the Lower House It will hold office during the term of the Legislature. In regard to the judiciary it will be one from which appeals may lie to a Supreme Federal Court if and when constituted.

The consensus of containing was that the

when constituted.

The consensus of opinion was that the regional constitution should be elastic and that it should contain adequate constitutional safeguards to prevent the exploitation or subordination of interests of any one section of the population by another.

After a thorough discussion of the various aspects of the proposals on the subject, the Committee came to certain conclusions

Committee came to certain conclusion which will be placed before a general conference of Rulers and representatives of States to be held early next year.—A.P.I.

GANDHIJI'S HEALTH

SRIRAMPUR. Dec. 7. Enquiries made by the United Press of India about Gandhiji's health reveal that his general health is slowly returning to normal, though he still feels tired. The partial fasting that he undertook for twenty-one days and the recent attack of vomiting and diarrhoea have caused considerable weakness. Though Gandhij has revented to his word terms. il has reverted to his usual items of diet, he is taking only smaller quantities than what he used to take normally.
Gandhiji is now-a-days taking great interest in studying nature around him in Srirampur. He takes interest in gardening. In front of his cottage green vegetables are being grown. He likes to

LEBANESE GOVT. RESIGNS PARIS, Dec. 7.

ly produced on his cottage soil.

The Lebanesc Government has resigned, it was learned here to-day Reports from Beirut gave no further details.—Reuter.

INDIANS IN SOUTH **AFRICA**

MRS. PANDIT'S CALL TO U. N. ASSEMBLY

CHARTER MUST BE HONOURED

FLUSHING MEADOWS (New York), Dec. 7.

Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, addressing the plenary session of the United tion bottlenecks in November reduced Nations Assembly on the question of the still further hopes of averting another treatment of Indians in South Africa, world food crisis this winter. treatment of Indians in South Africa, declared to-night:

"The admissions made by the South African Government in regard to racial discrimination and racial segregation, its repeated attempts to embody them law and its unquestioned practices in gross violation of the Charter constitute an indictment which is proven by these admissions. Over many years my Government, irrespective of its constitution and character, has appealed, complained, protested and sought compromise and agreements and finally has been forced into retaliation and to bringing the matter before the bar of world opinion. The Union Government has taken no step and even during the proceedings of this Assembly has not given the slightest indica-tion that it contemplates even temporary suspension of even the latest instal ment of its offending legislation. "Both the head of the South African

Government, the reputed author of the

Preamble, and his Government stand

deeply committed to honour the obliga-

tions, both in spirit and letter, of the Charter Unless the 54 nations assembled here place on the Charter a meaning and significance far below what its words convey-in other words, unless our professed allegiance to it is a mockery—then, the issue no longer rests with India or South Africa, but with us, the nations of the world assembled, who have taken upon themselves the defence of law, ethics and morality of nations, "It is too late now to argue that fundamental violations of the principles of the Charter are matters of domestic jurisdiction of member States. If this was the case, the Charter would be a dead letter and our professions about a world free of any qualities of race, free from want and free from fear as an empty mockery."

MARSHAL STALIN ON A HOLIDAY

REPORT OF ILLNESS NOT CONFIRMED

MOSCOW, Dec. 7. There is no basis so far as can be learned here for reports published in There Turkey that "seriously ill" that Generalissimo Stalin is

Stalin is taking a holiday just as he did this time last year. Then he came back to Moscow on December 17 and presumably will do the same thing this year.—A.P.A.

NEWSPRINT SUPPLY IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 6.

Senator William Larger said to-day that he would request the new Congress to order a sweeping investigation of United States newsprint supply and distribution. There is strong evidence that a conspitator fracy exists between large publishing trusts and some newsprint manufacturers to force hundreds of independent newstor force hundreds of independent

FOOD SITUATION STILL BAD

WORLD OUTLOOK FOR 1947

AMERICAN SHIPMENTS

BEHIND SCHEDULE WASHINGTON, Dec. 6. The U.S. Department of Agriculture to-day said that strikes and transporta-

"The outlook for the reminder of 1946 and 1947 is precarious in those countries which are heavily dependent upon imports to meet their ration requirements," the Department said. The United States alone had hoped to export 200,000,000 hishels of grain by December 31 but

MINISTER ON FOOD SITUATION

EFFECT OF RAINS ON CROPS AND TRANSPORT

At the weekly conference yesterday at the Secretariat with the officials of the Food Department, Mr. R. Raghava Menon, Food Minister, discussed the

food situation in the Province.

The Minister' told a representative of THE HINDU to-day that it had been hoped that the food position in the Province was slowly improving, but now that breaches had been reported from various places and damage had been caused to crops in various parts of the presidency, the position appeared gloomy. The transport of sto peared very of stocks to needed places also became difficult.

The Minister for Food expects to visit

the flood-affected areas in the City to-morrow (Monday).

MADRAS GOVT.'S TEXTILE POLICY

GANDHIJI REPLIES TO PREMIER'S LETTER (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

RAMGANJ, Dec. 6. It is understood that Gaudhiji has sent communication to Mr. T. Prakasam, Premier of Madras, expressing his views on the new textile policy pursued by the Madras Government. The communication is a reply to a letter received from the Madras Premier enclosing all papers connected with the subject.

MRS. PANDIT HONOURS LATE

MR. ROOSEVELT

NEW YORK, Dec. 7.
Mrs. Vijayalakshmi Pandit. Leader of the Indian delegation to the United Nations Assembly, laid a wreath at the grave of the late President Roosevelt on hehalf of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Vice-President of the Interim Government.

"I want the best," you say to your



When you are buying tea, exactly the same theory holds good. You naturally want the tea with the finest flavour—so you buy Lipton's. You find that, in addition to quality, you have a tea that lasts much longer—gives you many

