

DELHI REGRETS THE LEAGUE DECISION

Congress May Go On With Constitution-Making

NEXT OFFICIAL MOVE STILL UNDECIDED

From Our Special Representative.

NEW DELHI, February 2.

THE Muslim League Working Committee's resolution on the constitutional issue has caused profound and widespread disappointment in the Capital. There is general regret that the Constituent Assembly has definitely been denied the co-operation of the representatives of the majority of the Muslim community.

In spite of portents to the contrary, official opinion cherished the lurking hope that the League would enter the Constituent Assembly perhaps after reiterating its demands, and there is, therefore, keen disappointment that the League has decided to stay out.

Circles in touch with the Viceroy's House suggest that His Excellency shares the general regret over the Karachi decision. Thoughts about the next move do not appear, however, to have crystallised. The matter is evidently the subject of consultations between Delhi and London, and it is expected that the attitude of His Majesty's Government will be known before long.

Congress camp reactions range between anger and amusement. Some Congressmen display a feeling of disgust at the waste of their sustained effort to conciliate the League and make it easy for the party to co-operate.

The Congress is confident that the British Government would take a firm stand in view of the Congress acceptance of their interpretation. As far as the present indication goes, there is determination among the Congress leadership to press forward with the task of constitution-making in a spirit of demonstrable fairness to all, those unrepresented as well as those represented.

It is anticipated that a constitution so framed, in conformity with the provisions of the State Paper, cannot but commend itself to all fair-minded men, including the British Government. Few Congressmen doubt that the Constituent Assembly will go ahead with the work at least in respect of Section "A" and other parts of the country that may be willing to join such a constitution.

PRINCES' ATTITUDE

Nor is the Congress perturbed about the "suspicious" attitude of the Princes Chamber that is ascribed to the reactionary element in that body. Congress leaders appear to have been privately assured of co-operation by a number of Princes.

League circles are firm that Mr. Jinnah and his colleagues could not have reached any decision other than the one announced at Karachi, since the Congress acceptance was at best conditional. They attribute to the Congress a design to sabotage the State Paper scheme and with it the limited concessions accorded to the League. "Now the Muslim nation is compelled to return to its original stand for absolute Pakistan and separation of its homeland from the areas of the sub-continent. The Muslims must now go their own way; the Hindus are free to go theirs."

Congress Executive

NEW DELHI, February 2. The Congress President, Acharya Kripalani, is convening, it is understood, a meeting of the Congress Working Committee during the last week of February. Besides reviewing the political situation, the Committee is expected to consider the report of the Congress Constitution Sub-Committee.

—A.P.I.

LEADERS' VIEWS

Syed Ali Zaheer: "It is very depressing to find that the Muslim League is still persisting in its negative attitude. If, instead of rejecting the constitutional plan and finding fault with the work done by the Constituent Assembly so far, the League leaders had given assurances to the minorities in Groups "B" and "C", the deadlock might have been resolved."

Mr. Hoesainbhoj A. Laljee, President All-Parties Shila Conference: "It is likely that the impression will be created that the League leaders do not wish to face free and frank deliberations. Only after such deliberations if their suspicions turn out to be well-founded it would be the time for them to place them before the public; otherwise the people will have to take it that attempts are being made to delay the independence of the mother land."