

act the draft takes careful note, both

**PRINCES' ATTITUDE**

The Standing Committee of the States people's Conference will meet during Christmas and at a later stage the Constituent Assembly is expected to appoint a Negotiating Committee to discuss with the Nawab of Bhopal the terms and conditions of States' participation in the deliberations of the Constituent Assem-

...to hasten the negotiations. They want to see whether the Muslim League

Pandit Nehru during his recent visit to London made a sharp attack on the Political Department. It is believed in some quarters that it is only a prelude demanding large-scale changes, including the replacement of the present Political Adviser to the Crown Representative by an Indian who will not be outside the influence and even control of the Government of India.

Pandit Nehru's complaint that the In-  
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m Government has nothing to do  
with the Political Department is consid-  
ered significant. It is no secret that

took the extraordinary step of informing the Viceroy that they would prefer

British Officer as Political Adviser to an Indian. Since the assumption of office by the Interim Government, it has begun to dawn on several of Their Highnesses that after all even the Defence Department is under an Indian, and treaty obligations to the extent that they relate to the maintenance of troops for the protection of States are entirely under the influence of the Interim Government. Nevertheless mention of "Re-

has caused a shock to some who wonder  
at sovereignty derived from the sea.

Congress leaders will feel their way

is possible that the Congress Working Committee may decide to meet at some suitable place in East Bengal in the last week of December and review the situation in Gandhiji's presence with his advice.

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## R. JAYAKAR'S SUBSTITUTE RESOLUTION

Forty amendments tabled to-day propose drastic changes and even wholesale substitution of Pandit Nehru's resolution on the declaration of objectives to be discussed by the Constituent Assembly on Friday. One of the amendments is a resolution in the name of Mr. Somnath Lahiri, the Communist member, and runs to 1,500 words. Dr. R. Jayakar heads the list with the newer substitute resolution which is a reversion to the original resolution of 1946 (see page 1).

This Assembly declares its firm and solemn resolve that the constitution to be prepared by this Assembly for the free Governance of India shall be for a free and democratic sovereign State; that with a view to securing, in the framing of such a constitution, the co-operation of the Muslim League and the Indian States and the intensifying of the firmness of this resolve, this Assembly postpones the further consideration of this question to a later date, to enable representatives of these two bodies

**COMMUNIST AMENDMENT**

Mr. Lahir's substitute resolution declares India to be an independent country and calls upon the Indian members of the Interim Government, "who, as nominees of the two main popular parties and of the minorities, together ensure the support of the overwhelming majority of our people, to act as the representatives of the people of India and to function henceforth in the name of the Indian people and not as hitherto in the name of the British King Emperor."

The resolution calls upon the Provisional Government to take steps inter alia to effect the withdrawal of all British troops from India, and the withdrawal of Indian troops from outside India and take over all banks, industrial and transport concerns, plantations, mines, etc., owned by British capital and nationalise them. The Government is asked to pass legislation to enforce a minimum living wage, to abolish trade unionism and penalise refusing to work. People are called upon to be vigilant and report acts of intransigence and sabotage carried out by bureaucrats and officials in the interest of their former masters so that such cases are speedily exposed and the culprits punished.

In order to give Congress a League of Nations character, the resolution suggests, first, setting up of a Boundary Commission to redemarcate existing provinces and states into linguistically and culturally homogeneous units, and second, plebiscite of the entire adult population of such units to determine whether they will join the Indian Union or form a separate State. The resolution asks for establishment in Indian States of popular interim Governments which would call a Constituent Assembly which would, should elect delegates to the All-

smaller amendments include two by Shiban Lal Saksena, (Leftist from P.), who opposes the vesting of residuary powers in the President, and a declaration that the power and authority of the State are derived from the thinking people.

Mr. Ram Narayan Singh asks for the insertion of a clause to declare unlawful formations or organisations of parties or groups, open or secret, on the basis of any ideology, religion or otherwise, election, administration or any other purpose.

Mr. C. E. Gibbon, Anglo-Indian member from the Punjab, demands freedom of propagation of religion.

Mr. Satya Ranjan Baskant wants the safeguarding of liberty of person and immunity from arrest without warrant and immunity without trial.

Mr. Vishwambhar Dayal Tripathi, who sponsors more amendments than any other member, favours an explicit declaration that the Congress is constitution-making body deriving power from the people. He asks India be proclaimed as an independent sovereign Socialist republic, as must the independent sovereign republic envisaged in the original resolution. He hopes the amendments tabled will that day by the amendments tabled will not be pressed and some not moved.

**CONGRESS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

The Advisory Committee, which has been re-named as the Consultative Committee of the Congress bloc in the Constituent Assembly, met this evening and discussed certain amendments which have been tabled to Pandit Nehru's resolution on the declaration of a Constituent Committee. It is understood, also, discussed the question of linguistic provinces.

The Rules and Procedure Committee of the Constituent Assembly met to-day and discussed draft rules of procedure.

**STATES PEOPLE'S CONFERENCE**

NEW DELHI, Dec. 12.

The meeting of the States Peoples Committee of All-India Peoples Conference, inaugurated for December 22 has now been postponed to December 26 and the two sub-committees, the States Peoples Committee