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UNION CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

CEREMONIAL FOR ASSUMPTION OF POWER ON AUGUST 15

FOREIGN DIPLOMATS TO BE INVITED TO SESSION

A resolution prescribing a pledge of loyalty to the country and another authorising Pandit Nehru, as Leader of the House, to offer the Governor-Generalship of the Indian Dominion to Lord Mountbatten are expected to be passed by the Constituent Assembly when it meets at mid-night on August 14.

The House will also observe a two-minutes' silence on the occasion in honour of those who have sacrificed their lives in the cause of Indian liberty.

Invitations are being issued over the signature of Dr. Rajendra Prasad, President, to Consular representatives, Ruling chiefs and other prominent figures to be present at the historic session of the Assembly.

MEMBERS TO TAKE PLEDGE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 9.

The Constituent Assembly, when it meets at mid-night on August 14 is expected to adopt two resolutions, one prescribing an oath or affirmation for the members and the other authorising the Leader of the House, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, to offer the Governor-Generalship of the Indian Dominion to Lord Mountbatten. The latter resolution is merely formal and ratifies the action taken by the Congress leaders.

It will be recalled there is at present no pledge to be taken by the members and they can take their seats merely by signing the register either in the House or in the President's Chamber. It is understood it has now been decided to prescribe a pledge of loyalty to the country and the draft will be finalised at to-morrow's meeting of the Steering Committee.

It has also been suggested that in view of the historic character of the occasion, it will be appropriate to commence the session with a recitation probably from Tagore's poems and it is understood Mrs. Sucheta Kripalani, who is an accomplished singer and a member of the House, will be requested to recite the selected pieces.

Special arrangements are being made with the A.I.R. to broadcast at mid-night twelve channels which will reverberate and echo through the Council Chamber. The House will observe a two-minute silence in honour of those who died in the cause of Indian liberty and will then adjourn.

The finale of the midnight session will be the singing of the National Anthem by Bankim Chatterji's Bandamatarang which has already attained a vogue as the National Anthem. The Constituent Assembly, however, has yet to adopt a National Anthem.

SWEARING-IN OF CABINET

The House will adjourn at midnight and Pandit Nehru will leave for the Government House, where, formally offering the Governor-Generalship, he will also submit the personnel of his Cabinet.

The following morning after the swearing-in ceremony at the Government House, the Ministers headed by Pandit Nehru will drive in procession to the Council Hall. They will be followed by members of the Diplomatic Corps, the Supreme Commander, the C-in-C, Ruler of the Indian States, and other distinguished guests invited to the Government House. Shortly before ten a.m., the Governor-General, accompanied by Lady Mountbatten, will drive in State to the Council Hall. At the eastern porch of the Council House, detachments of the Indian Navy and Air Force will present a guard-of-honour and the Governor-General and Lady Mountbatten will be received by the President of the Constituent Assembly, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. They will be conducted to the Constituent Assembly through the corridor adjoining the Council of State and the Governor-General will enter the House through the President's entrance. Three throne chairs will be placed on the dais, for the Governor-General, Lady Mountbatten and Dr. Rajendra Prasad.

It is pointed out in this connection that whenever the Governor-General addresses the Legislature, the Viceroy always sits in the Viceroy's Box and not in the House. But in view of the importance of the occasion, it is understood, it has been decided that the King's Representative and Her Excellency should be seated side by side for the transference of power.

HOISTING OF NEW FLAG
The Governor-General will address the House and the President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will reply. As soon as the speeches are over, at a signal from the Secretary of the Assembly, the Indian National Flag will be hoisted on the dome of the Council Library where the House meets. A salute of 31 guns will be fired and the Governor-General will leave the Hall.

The Public Works Department are putting up a flag-staff on the dome and special volunteers had to be called for to do the job because of its height and the risk attending the task. Volunteers were forthcoming in plenty and the work is in progress.

Detachments of the Indian Army will provide another guard of honour as Lord Mountbatten leaves for the Government House. Thus all the three services of the armed forces will be represented on the occasion.

One difficulty which faces the Constituent Assembly Secretariat is the problem of accommodating the guests. There are 240 seats and applicants are pouring in. With 200 more guests might be expected, it is believed, to get through the House on either side of the lobbies. Besides members, Diplomatic Corps, Rulers of States, high civil and service some prominent citizens of India who have participated in India's political freedom will also be present.

ABOLITION OF ZAMINDARIES
The Zamindari Abolition Bill came up for consideration at the meeting of the Cabinet to-day.

It is understood that before entering into a detailed consideration of the provisions, the Cabinet felt it desirable that some of the controversial features of the measure should be subjected to a closer examination by a small Committee of the Ministers, including the Revenue Minister.

The Bill, with changes, if any, made by this Committee, is likely to be brought up for consideration and approval at the next meeting of the Cabinet which has been fixed for September 10.

ZAMINDARS' DEPUTATION TO GOVERNMENT
Representative Zamindars are meeting the Prime Minister in deputation on August 12, in this connection, the Raja of Bobbili and others have already submitted a memorandum on the subject to the Prime Minister and the Revenue Minister.

RULING CHIEFS TO BE INVITED
NEW DELHI, Aug. 8.

According to the plan chalked out for the occasion, the midnight session of the Constituent Assembly which will inaugurate the Independence Day celebration, will be presided over by the

DEATH SENTENCES TO BE COMMUTED

GOVT.'S AMNESTY PLAN

INDEPENDENCE DAY ARRANGEMENTS

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

In connection with the Independence Day, the Government have decided that all sentences of death, including those which may be imposed between now and the 15th August 1947, shall be commuted to transportation for life.

All persons detained under the Maintenance of Public Order Ordinance or Act are to be released on or before August 15.

It is understood that the warrants of arrest and detention under the Act pending against a number of persons will be withdrawn.

The Government are examining the question of release of political prisoners who have not been convicted for overt acts of violence. The Government are also considering the question of withdrawing the cases against certain political workers, which are now pending in the Courts, in which no overt acts of violence are involved.

5,000 PRISONERS TO BE RELEASED

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

Decisions of the Government of Madras in regard to the release of prisoners and detenus, were finalised at a meeting of the Cabinet to-day. As many as 5,000 persons will be set at liberty on the eve of the Independence Day.

Prohibition prisoners to be released is stated to number about 1,400.

INSTRUCTIONS TO LOCAL BODIES

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

The Government desire that Independence Day, August 15, should be celebrated in a fitting manner by all local bodies and that all schools and other institutions under their control should take their proper share in these celebrations, says a Press Note issued to-day.

Hoisting of the National Flag, khadi silk or cotton, will be by the Constituent Assembly on all local board and municipal buildings, distribution of sweets to school children and singing national songs may form the basic items on the programme of the day. The Special officers of District Boards, Commissioners of Districts and Presidents of Panchayat and Executive officers of Panchayat Boards are requested to enlist, as far as possible, local co-operation and support in order to celebrate the occasion in a fitting manner.

It is expected that the All-India Spinners' Association will be able to sell National Flags for a reasonable price. Special officers of District Boards, Commissioners of Municipalities and Presidents and Executive Officers of the Panchayat Boards are requested to estimate the number of flags that will be required for all institutions under their control, and to place orders with the All-India Spinners' Association or any private dealer who could supply Khadi flags sufficiently in advance so that flags could be got and distributed well in time for use on August 15.

Expenditure on the purchase of sweets for distribution to school children should be limited to one anna per child, and the cost will be met by the Government. The cost of the other items of the celebrations should, in view of the present financial position of most of the local bodies, be kept at a minimum and will be met from the general funds of the local bodies.

MADRAS GOVT. AND TITLES

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

A proposal is under consideration of the Government for not giving official recognition after August 15 in Government records and correspondence to titles and honours bestowed by the Viceroy and the British Government on officials and private individuals in the past. The final decision is expected to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet.

D.P.I.'S CIRCULAR TO SCHOOLS

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

The Director of Public Instruction has directed the heads of all elementary and secondary schools and also colleges to make arrangements for printing the National Flag in every school and college at 9 a.m. precisely on August 15. He has suggested that all the students and staff should be assembled before the appointed time and the significance of the Day should be explained before the ceremony of hoisting the Flag is performed. After the hoisting and salutation a message from the Premier should be read by the head of the institution.

Instructions have been issued to District Educational Officers to make local arrangements for printing the Premier's message and for distributing it to all educational institutions, in their districts. They have also been asked to ensure that timely and adequate arrangements are made for the distribution of sweets to children.

MR. PRAKASAM'S APPEAL

MADRAS, Aug. 10.

Addressing a meeting of Andhra political workers and representatives of Karnataka, Gujarat and Marwar at associations in the City last evening at the Corporation Stadium in the People's Park, Mr. T. Prakasam appealed to them to celebrate the Independence Day on August 15 in a fitting manner.

Mr. K. V. Reddy, welcoming Mr. Prakasam, said that India, which would form the backbone of the new, free India and added that on that day they should remember the many patriots who had lost their lives in the freedom struggle of August 1942.

Mr. Prakasam said that he was pleased to note that many workers would participate in the celebrations and hoped that the observance would be a great success. On that solemn occasion, they should offer their prayers and see that Madras stood foremost in the celebration. From August 15, he added, it was the will of the nation and not that of the individuals that would prevail. He assured them that he would remain in Madras to participate in the celebrations.

S. I. CHAMBER'S PLANS

MADRAS, Aug. 9.

To mark the Independence Day which they have decided to celebrate in a fitting manner, the Southern India Chamber of Commerce have decided to set up a "Commercial Apprentices Exchange" as an adjunct of the Chamber. The Exchange, it is gathered, will arrange for the training of commerce

(Continued on page 4)

INDIA IN WORLD POLITICS

"WILL PLAY LEADING ROLE"

PANDIT NEHRU'S CONFIDENCE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 9.

"The 15th of August is a great day not only in the history of India or Asia, but in that of the entire world," declared Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, addressing a public meeting this evening to celebrate the Liberty Week.

On August 15, said Pandit Nehru, marked the definite and final end of an era of imperialism started by the British nearly 150 years ago. The form of exploitation which was practised first by the British and later adopted by other imperialist nations of Europe would terminate in principle and to a large degree in practice also, by the declaration of Indian independence.

India's freedom was linked with the freedom of a number of other countries. Exploitation of India gave an excuse to some foreign powers to dominate the weak nations of Asia. Some small countries were kept under British control because they happened to fall in the route from England to India. All these nations, too, would now gradually get out of the clutches of imperialism.

India was sure to play a significant role in international politics. Already, she had raised her voice for the protection of Indonesia's liberty. Pandit Nehru recalled how in connection with the Indonesian question, he had said that the Indian people had a business to stay on the soil of an Asiatic country. The doctrine expounded by President Monroe had saved America from foreign aggression for nearly 100 years and now the time had come when a similar doctrine must be expounded with respect to Asiatic countries.

CHARGE AGAINST DUTCH GOVT.

Charges of breaches of faith against each other and betrayal by the Dutch Republicans and the Dutch Government, without going into the merits of their individual cases, Pandit Nehru said, he was opposed in principle to letting the armies of one country stay in another. This was basically wrong and India would not tolerate the Dutch had no case to put forth. Holland, which had failed to protect itself only a few years ago, had no right to reinstate itself as an imperialist nation. "The success of the Indonesians will depend on their own strength. But let me make it clear once and for all, India will not tolerate foreign armies operating in Asian countries."

Referring to the situation in India, Pandit Nehru said that their joy on the present occasion was mingled with sorrow. He was happy that the "Quit India" movement had not started nearly two years ago had terminated successfully. But he was said that the picture of the free India had not come as he had hoped it would. The British authority was departing, no doubt, but it was leaving in its wake problems of great magnitude. The division of India had been a great shock to all those who had worked for a strong united India. But the Congress had to agree to it because there was no other alternative. He would not have minded so much if the country had been divided politically, but unfortunately, the division had taken place in the hearts of the people of India.

"It was India's misfortune that during the last few years of her life, some leaders had widely preached the gospel of hate and had incited innocent people to commit acts which brought nothing but pain and suffering to the country. The serious because feelings of hatred and distrust cannot be overcome easily," said Pandit Nehru.

WHY CONGRESS AGREED TO DIVISION

Explaining why the Congress agreed to the division of India, Pandit Nehru said that various reasons forced them to accept it. Firstly, the demand, very urgent in nature, had come from Bengal and the Punjab. The state of affairs there was so serious that influential men from both the provinces urged them to accept, or rather demand partition. Secondly, the Congress had to face the fact that certain sections of the people did not want to remain with the rest of India. Unity was a good thing but it could not be achieved merely by resolutions. Men and women must accept it too, and the Congress realised that division was better than a union of unwilling parts. They had a choice between two evils and the Congress accepted the lesser of the two.

The use of violence at this time to maintain Indian unity would have had disastrous results. Civil war would have checked the progress of India for a long time to come and the problems before India were of such a serious nature that no delay could be tolerated. Pandit Nehru, however, hoped that new relations would be established between the two divided parts of India and a better understanding would ultimately mitigate the evils of division.

During the last one year, the people of India had lost considerable prestige due to communal frenzy and they had now developed a narrow sectarian outlook. The Government had extensive plans before them for the development of the country, but that narrow outlook prevented those plans from being put into practice.

Pandit Nehru referred to the demand for higher wages and said that he was in favour of giving better wages to workers. But before he could do that, the National Exchequer must have the money to pay those increased wages and salaries. The prime need of the country at this time was to increase its wealth by pushing production by all possible means. Anybody to-day who even with genuine grievances struck work was stabbing the people in the back, he declared.—A.P.I.

PROHIBITION IN THE PROVINCE

COMMITTEE TO ENQUIRE INTO WORKING

MADRAS, Aug. 8.

The Committee to be appointed by the Government to enquire into the working of Prohibition in the eight dry districts of the Province will, it is understood, consist of five non-officials, in all probability Members of the Legislature, with an official Secretary.

The intention in having a small committee, it is believed, is to get through the work expeditiously. It is likely that the Committee will be asked to tour the districts concerned and submit its report in the course of a month.

The Minister in charge of Prohibition has been requested to draw up the Committee's terms of reference and make proposals regarding its personnel.

GOVERNOR LEAVES FOR PONDICHERRY

PARIS, Aug. 8.

Mon. C. F. Baron, Governor of French India, who arrived in France last month to discuss the future administration of French India, left Paris for Pondicherry, after the Cabinet meeting which discussed the situation in French India.—Reuter.

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The French authorities have arrested 150 people in Pondicherry, capital of French India, during two days of "Quit India" demonstrations, the France Press Agency reported from Pondicherry to-day.

The dispatch said that the demonstrators paraded through the streets, shouting "Leave India"—Reuter.

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CRIPPS TO VISIT INDIA

COURTESY CALL ON NEW DOMINIONS

MEETING WITH JINNAH AND NEHRU PLANNED

LONDON, Aug. 9.

Sir Stafford Cripps, who with Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, was co-architect of British plans for the Indian Constitutional settlement, will pay a fleeting courtesy visit to both India and Pakistan within a fortnight after the transfer of power on August 15, cables Fraser Wighton, Reuter's Political Correspondent.

Sir Stafford will leave Britain by air round about August 26 on a visit to Burma at the invitation of the Burmese Government to advise on the country's new constitution.

On the way to Burma, probably on August 28 or 29, he will break journey at Karachi which by then will be the capital of Pakistan.

He will meet the first Governor-General of Pakistan, Mr. M. A. Jinnah, and then go to Delhi, capital of India, to meet Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of the Government of India, the Governor-General, Admiral Viscount Mountbatten, and Members of the Government of India.

Sir Stafford is one of the Ministers principally responsible for steering Britain through her present economic crisis. For that reason, he can be spared out of England for a short time only. He plans to spend one day in India and Pakistan and his visit to which both Pandit Nehru and Mr. Jinnah have been informed—will be of a purely courtesy type without discussion of political business. He plans to spend ten days in Burma and to return to England as soon as is possible.

INDIAN ENVOY IN MOSCOW

MRS. PANDIT MEETS M. VISHINSKY

MOSCOW, Aug. 8.

Ambassador Mrs. Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit went to the Soviet Foreign Ministry this afternoon and was received by M. Andrei Vyshinsky and had a cordial conversation with him.

The Ambassador was feeling better to-day, and partially recovered from her heavy cold, after spending all day yesterday resting in her hotel. The Metropole placed its best suite, reserved for the most important visitors, at the disposal of the Ambassador and her daughter, Miss Chandrakala Pandit. The suite, on the top floor, comprised a large living room, large and small bedrooms and a spacious bathroom, and has a balcony. The Metropole is the temporary headquarters and offices of the Indians while work proceeds on the Embassy premises.

Dr. Ghoshal, Cultural Relations Officer and chief interpreter with the rank of First Secretary, who has specialised in Slavonic studies for 18 years and is an expert Slav linguist, is visiting Russia for the first time. He was previously in the Information and Broadcasting Division of the Government of India. He told Reuter that he hopes, as soon as possible, to contact Russian scientists, Indologists, writers and intellectuals. He met some Russian scientists at the Scientific Congress in Delhi early this year.

He regarded this as a great opportunity to further cultural relations between India and Russia," he said. "My job is purely cultural and not political."

COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE

INDIAN DELEGATES CHOSEN

NEW DELHI, Aug. 8.

India has accepted the invitation to the Commonwealth Relations Conference, convened by Australia on August 26, at Canberra to hold preliminary discussions on the Japanese Peace Treaty.

The Indian Delegation will consist of Sir B. Rama Rau (delegate) and Mr. K. L. Panjabi (adviser). Mr. K. R. Dhanoo of the Indian High Commissioner's Office in Australia will act as Secretary to the Delegation.—A.P.I.

DEMONSTRATIONS IN PONDICHERRY

OVER 100 ARRESTED AND RELEASED

PONDICHERRY, Aug. 9.

The French Indian National Congress, the Students' Congress, the Communist Party and various trade union organisations have started a campaign in protest against the restrictions imposed by the French Indian Government on the civil liberties of the people. Over a hundred persons were arrested yesterday by the Government, but released later, when these organisations took out a procession in connection with the "Join Indian Union" campaign.

Mill workers in the town went on strike yesterday, and students stayed away from their classes, and a general hartal is being observed by the local merchants, following appeals by the Congress and Communist parties.

Congress and Communist leaders jointly addressed a large public meeting here, demanding the immediate withdrawal of the ban on public meetings, and the release of the arrested persons. Armed police were stationed in the vicinity of the meeting place. Later, all the persons taken into custody earlier were released.—P.O.C.

PARIS REPORT

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HONOURABLE EXISTENCE MUST BE ASSURED

PAKISTAN GOVT.'S DUTY TOWARDS MINORITIES

MR. KIRAN SHANKAR ROY'S APPEAL

"Minorities in Pakistan will be dutiful to the State if and when the State provides adequate guarantees for their honourable existence," declared Mr. Kiran Shankar Roy, East Bengal Congress leader, on Saturday.

Mr. Roy added: "Statutory guarantees will, however, be useless if they are not translated into action in the day-to-day administration. When these are done, we shall not fail to do our duty to the State."

NEED FOR ADEQUATE GUARANTEES

KARACHI, Aug. 9.

"Responsive co-operation to the State" will be the attitude of the Congress minorities in Pakistan," said Mr. Kiran Shankar Roy, East Bengal Congress leader, in an interview to the Associated Press of India to-day.

Defining further the views of the Congress, Mr. Roy said: "Minorities in Pakistan State will be dutiful to the State if and when the State has provided adequate guarantees for their honourable existence. Besides the fundamental rights of equal citizenship, we should get the right of freedom of worship, right to have our own language, culture, custom and education. The statutory guarantees will be useless if they are not translated into action in the day-to-day administration. When these are done, we shall not fail to do our duty to the State."

Asked about his views on the question of the Pakistan flag, Mr. Roy said that the flag should also represent Hindu minorities whose colour was saffron. White represented only general minorities.

Strongly opposing the move of migration of Hindus from East Bengal to Pakistan, Mr. Roy pointed out that the population of Hindus in East Bengal was about 13 million while that of West Bengal was 15 million, which rendered mass migration impossible. He felt that migration of minorities from their home provinces was a "foolish venture."

Discussing the economic future of East Bengal, Mr. Roy said that most of the rich agricultural districts were in East Bengal and thus division had not much affected the Hindus.

Concluding, Mr. Roy said that with the advent of Independence better sense would prevail and the people would be worthy of the freedom earned.

TRANSFER OF POWER TO PAKISTAN

OFFICIAL PROGRAMME ANNOUNCED

NEW DELHI, Aug. 8.

A comprehensive programme of ceremonies has been drawn for the transfer of power to the Pakistan Dominion in Karachi on August 13 and 14.

A Press Note says: The following is the outline of the programme of the ceremonies which will take place at Karachi on the 13th and 14th August prior to the transfer of power:

At 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, 13th August, their Excellencies the Viceroy and the Viscountess Mountbatten of Burma will leave Palam airport, arriving at Karachi at 5:30 p.m. where they will be met by the Prime Minister and other members of the Sind Government. His Excellency will preside at a meeting of

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