6 19 17 42 5 20 17 43 5 20 17 43 5 5 20 17 43 6 21 17 44 6 21 17 44 6 22 17 44 8 22 17 45 PHASES OF THE MOON

Sunday December & Full Moon Monday December 3 Periges

WEATHER IN SOUTH INDIA

MADRAS, Dec. 7. Weather Report for Madras Presidency Weather Report for Madras Presidency, and Mysore:

Summary of observations recorded at 68.00 hours (I.S.T.) on December 7.

Yesterday's Bay storm has weakened into a depression centred at 68.00 hours to-day, about 250 miles east of Madras. It is likely to weaken further, Widespread and locally moderate to heavy rain has occurred in Tamilinad, Medras (Nungambakkam) reporting 5.5°, Kodalkanai 2.3°, Vellore 2.2° and Madras (Meenambakkam) 2.4°, Widespread light to moderate rain has also occurred in Mysore, Coorg and Kerala, isolated showers are reported from the rest of the region. Night temperatures continued above normal. Forecast valid until the evening of December 6: Widespread rain will occur in Tamilinad, Kerala South Kanara, Coorg and Mysore with showers at a number of stations in Rayalaseema and Andhradesa.

Local forecast: Occasional rain and strong winds.

winds.

Weather news for fariners: Moderate rain in Chingleput Madura, Ramnad, Tinnevelly, Nellore, Selem. South and North Arcot, Tanjore. Trichinopoly, Chittoor, Malabar, Combatore, Nighris Districts and in Cochin and Travancore. Light to moderate rain in South Kanara, Coorg, Anantapur, West and East Godavari, Cuddapah, Guntur, Kistna, Bellary, Kurneol districts and in Mysore State. Strong winds in Trichinopoly. South Arcot, Bangalore, Kolar, Guntur, Tanjore, Ramnad, Vizeg, East and West Godavari, and Nellore Districts.

Outlook for the next three days: Light to moderate rain will continue in the southern half of the region for one day.

METTUR WATER LEVEL

METTUR WATER LEVEL

Reservoir full on the 6th Dec., 1946.



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1946.

FAILED

It is not surprising that the London talks should have failed. One wonders why they should have been held at all. If it was all along the intention of the British Government merely to tell the Congress that it agreed with the Muslim League in its interpretation of the Grouping Clauses it need not have put itself and the Indian leaders to all this trouble. The statement issued by the Government says that the object of the conversations was "to obtain the participation and co-operation of all parties in the Constituent Assembly." And later on it remarks, "There has never been any prospect of success for the Constituent Assembly except on the basis of agreed procedure." But the Government should have realised that agreement on procedure, helpful as it might be, should not be sought at the cost of sacrificing fundamental features of the Plan which have won for it general consent. The Government. says that it agrees with the League in holding that the voting in the Sections should be by a simple majority of individual votes and not pointed out more than once, this procedure might be utilised to defeat other provisions of the Plan equally vital, notably that which would allow Provinces to opt out of the Group in which they might be placed. The British Government seems to concede the possibility of such developments when it says:

"It is however, clear that other ques-"It is, however, clear that other questions of interpretation of the Statement of May 16 may arise and His Majesty's Government hope that if the Council of the Muslim League are able to agree to participate in the Constituent Assembly, they will also agree, as have the Congress, that the Federal Court should be asked to decide matters of interbe asked to decide matters of inter-pretation that may be referred to them by either side and will accept such a decision, so that the proce-dure both in the Union Constituent Assembly and in the Sections may accord with the Cabinet Mission's

The words we have italicised are crucial. Agreement on procedure, important as it is, should not be sought without reference to the question whether it subserves the Plan or not. It is pivotal to the Plan that the Provinces should be able to frame their Constitution and shape their future solely in accordance with the wishes of the people. Therefore, should an attempt be made, say, in Section C to manipulate the Constitution for Assam in such a way as to reduce the majority community in the Province to the position of a legis
Province to the position of a legis
In Assam in such a way as to reduce the majority community in the province to the position of a legis
In Assam in such a way as to reduce the majority community in the province to the position of a legis
In Assam in such a way as to reduce the first the same portfolio as Mr. Assa Ali's. It will be recalled that at the time of the formation of the re
Assam in such a way as to reduce the majority to the first the same portfolio as the same portfol lative minority, it would be obviously open to Assam or to anybody else on behalf of that Province to demand that the matter should be referred to the Federal Court. But what happens if the Muslim land Azad will be able to shoulder the burden of office which will have come to him as a cail of duty.

It is expected that he will prefer a little will be the come to him as a cail of duty. itself to say is that it hopes that light portfolio so as to feel free to undertake his goodwill mission to Middle Eastern countries. A re-shuffle of portgress has agreed, to refer all such matters to the Court and to abide

In marked contrast to this excessive deference to the susceptibilities of the League is the magistral pronouncement the Government has chosen to make on the question of Grouping. After giving out its interpretation, the Government says, "This part of must therefore be considered an essential part of the Scheme of many to-day by the "Strathnaver"—

BOMBAY, Dec. 7.

Mr. Leonard Matters, London correspondent of The Hindu, and his wife arrived in Bombey to-day by the "Strathnaver"—

F.O.C.

by its interpretation.

GROUPING PLAN people to formulate a Constitution which His Majesty's Government BRITISH CABINET ON would be prepared to submit to Parliament. It should, therefore, be accepted by all parties in the Constituent Assembly." After thus em-

phatically prejudging the issue why

should the Government have

thought it necessary to tell the Con-

stituent Assembly that if it

still must have the Federal Court's

views on the matter, it may

refer it to that Tribunal but it

should do so "at a very early date?"

Even if, in the face of the Govern-

ment's categorical declaration of the

that the Congress interpretation is

the right interpretation the League

may refuse to accept it. And then we

shall be exactly where we were.

The Government asks the Congress

to concede the point about Group-

ing forthwith "in order that a way

may be found for the Muslim

League to reconsider their atti-

tude." But if at every stage the

Muslim League were to take up a

stand which others might find it

Indian population had not been re-

presented, His Majesty's Govern-

unwilling parts of the country."

body upon "parts of the country"

are mere artificial groupings in-

tended to give the League an

advantage which it cannot claim

by virtue of its following in

these areas. Compared to these

Sections each of the Provinces is

undeniably a distinct political en-

tity conscious of its own status. If

the British Government's declara-

tion we have just quoted has any

meaning, it can only be that the

Constitution framed by the Cons-

tituent Assembly should be ac-

this, how can it consistently oppose

ests to settle their future among

themselves as best they can, it should see that the policy, dis-

closed in its latest statement, of

keeping all the strings in its own

bands and pulling them in an arbit-

rary way, must reduce the Consti-

tuent Assembly to a farce and defeat its declared objective.

MAULANA AZAD MAY

NEHRU LEAVES FOR INDIA

VOTING CLAUSE

LEADERS TO CONSULT COLLEAGUES

LONDON, Dec. 6. The following statement was issued y the British Government to-night on conversations with the Indian

"The conversations held by His Maintention of the Cabinet Mission, the Court should, construing the document strictly without reference to ex cathedra pronouncements, hold Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh are returning to India to-morrow morn-

ing.
"The object of the conversations has participation and cobeen to obtain the participation and co-operation of all parties in the Consti-tuent Assembly. It is not expected that any final settlement could be arrived at, since the Indian representatives must consult their colleagues before any final decision is reached.

GROUPING CLAUSES OF CABINET PLAN

"The main difficulty that has arisen has been over the interpretation of Paragraph 19, (5) and (8) of the Cabinet Mission's statement of May 16, relating to meetings in Sections, which runs as

impossible to accept, would the follows:
19 (5) These Sections shall proceed to Government advise them to go on making concession after concession settle Provincial constitutions for the Provinces included in each section and shall also decide, whether any Group constitution shall be set up for those Provinces and, if so, with what provincial subjects the Group should deal. as a price for the League's continued co-operation? The Government does not say so in so many words. But it comes very near to Provinces should have the power to opt suggesting this when it observes: out of the Groups in accordance with the provisions of sub-clause (8) below: Should the constitution come to be Paragraph 19 (8): As soon as the new framed by a Constituent Assembly constitutional agreements have come into operation, it shall be open to any Proin which a large section of the vince to elect to come out of any Group in which it has been placed. Such a decision shall be taken by the Legislature of the Province after the first General Election under the new Constitution. ment could not, of course, contempate—as the Congress have stated

BRITISH GOVT.'S INTERPRETATION

they would not contemplate—forcing such a constitution upon any "The Cabinet Mission have throughout maintained the view that the decisions of the sections should, in the absence of an agreement to the contrary, be This statement is worth examintaken by a simple majority vote of the representatives in the Sections. This view has been accepted by the Muslim League, but the Congress have put forward a different view. They have asing. We will leave alone for the moment what the Congress has said it will or will not do. It seems that if the Muslim League—to put it serted that the true meaning of the Statement, read as a whole, is that the concretely—should non-co-operate in the Constituent Assembly, Bri-Provinces have the right to decide both as to Grouping and as to their own contain will not be a party to imposing

"His Majesty's Government have had legal advice which confirms that the Statement of May 16 means what the the Constitution framed by that which do not want it. How are Cabinet Mission have always stated was their intention. This part of the Statement, as so interpreted, must, therefore, these "parts of the country" to be ascertained? The Muslim League be considered an essential part of does not have an overwhelming scheme of May 16 for enabling the Indian people to formulate a constitu-tion which His Majesty's Government would be prepared to submit to Parlia-ment. It should, therefore, be accepted by all parties in the Constituent As majority in any "part of the country". The areas which will be represented in each of the Sections of by all parties in the Constituent Asthe Constituent Assembly are not natural homogeneous wholes. They

"It is however, clear that other quesions of interpretation of the statement of May 16. may arise and His Majesty's then flying through the night, reach the Muslim League are able to agree to participate in the Constituent Assembly that will also agree as have the diag women in colourful saris worn bly they will also agree, as have the Congress, that the Federal Court should Congress. that the Federal Court should be asked to decide matters of interpretation that may be referred to them by either side and will accept such a decision, so that the procedure both in the Union Constituent Assembly and in the Sections may accord with the Cabinet Mission's plan. net Mission's plan.

REFERENCE TO FEDERAL COURT PROVIDED FOR

"On the matter immediately in dispute. His Majesty's Government urge the Congress to accept the view of the ceptable to each of the existing Proby Provinces as the Congress convinces. If the Government grants the Congress to accept the view of the Cabinet Mission in order that a way this, how can it consistently oppose may be opened for the Muslim League the Congress's contention that in the proceedings of the Assembly itself the voting in the various Sections of the self-the voting in the various sections of the self self the voting in the various Secpoint should be referred for a decision of the Federal Court, such a reference tions should be by Provinces? If the British Government is not thinking should be made at a very early date. meetings of the Sections of the Constision to relinquish control, leaving tuent Assembly should be postponed antil the decision of the Federal Court it to the Indian parties and inter-

"There has never been any prospect of success for the Constituent Assembly except upon the basis of agreed pro-cedure. Should the constitution come to be framed by a Constituent Assembly in which a large section of the Indian population had not been represented, His Majesty's Government could not, of course, contemplate—as the Congress have stated they would not contem-plate—forcing such a constitution upon any unwilling parts of the country."

FAILURE OF PARLEYS

LONDON, Dec. 6.
The eagerly-awaited last-minute Round Table Conference between the Congress, Muslim League and Sikh leaders and the British Government at No. 10, Downing

British Government at No. 10, Downing Street to-night failed to achieve immediate results.

The Round Table parleys nevertheless, are believed by political quarters to have served a useful purpose and may yet prove to have laid the groundwork for some future progress, cables Fraser Wighton, Reuter's Political Correspondent

The Conference justed 70 minutes. During that time the British Prime Minister, Mr. Clement Attlee, his Ministers, the Viceroy, Field Marshal Lord Wavell, the Congress leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Muslim League President, Mr. Jinnah, his colleague, Mr. Liaqat Ali Khan, and the Sikh leader, Sardar Baldev Singh, held a

general discussion.

Eventually an official statement was issued by the British Government.

Its general effect is to restate the present constitutional position as the Gov-ernment see it in the light of the Cabinet Mission's Statement of May 16 and to reaffirm the Cabinet Mission's view interpretation of the paragraphs on Grouping which have produced so much controversy between the Congress Party

and the Muslim League's adherents.

The broad effect of the official state ment is to reaffirm His Majesty's Gov-ernment's view that no constitution which would cover India as a whole will be forced on India as a whole against the decision of a large section of the

The British Cabinet Mission's proposals for the Constituent Assembly envi-saged meetings in three Sections. The first Section is to include representatives from Madras, Bombay, the United Pro-vinces, Bihar, the Central Provinces and

Orissa.

This Section, preponderatingly Congress, is to consist of 167 General seats and 20 Muslims with a total of 185.

The second Section is to consist of the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Sind, with nine General seats and 22 Muslims and four Sikbs.

The third Section comprises Bengal

seats and 36 Muslim seats, making alto-

gether 70.

There are to be 292 representatives for the whole of British India plus 93 for the Indian States making the grand total of 385 representatives in the Constituent Assembly, which is to frame independent India's constitution.

It is made clear by authoritative quarters that to-night's official statement from Downing Street is not a joint agreed statement.

agreed statement.

Indian representatives knew that it was being issued, but they are not signatories to it. It is purely a British Government statement and obviously Indian leaders must consult their colleagues in New Delhi before any decision is made upon i. No agreement so far has been reached between the parties.

The statement suggests the British Government's belief that if the Congress will accept the Cabinet Mission's interpretation of Grouping, which is the immediate problem, some modification of the Muslim League's attitude might result. At the moment the League is boycotting the Constituent Assembly, which will meet on Monday to begin the work of framing a constitution for independent India with the Muslim League unrepresented.

CONGRESS MAY REFER ISSUE TO FEDERAL COURT

It may be that the Congress, notwithstanding the British Government's new statement, will want to submit the fundamental point at issue to India's supreme judicature—the Federal Court. The state-

ment suggests that, if so, this should be done as soon as possible.

On the question of procedure in the forthcoming Constituent Assembly the view appears to be that provided the two parties themselves can agree on the procedure or are willing to accept the rulings of the Federal Court on points of interpretation, well and good. The British Government's main concern and responsibility will arise in relation to the ultimate outcome of the Assembly—that is the constitution to be framed by the Assembly.

It is made clear that the purpose of

reaffirming the Cabinet Mission's pro-posals on India of May 16 is that this may possibly lead to some fresh attempt at agreement between the parties.

NEHRU LEAVES FOR INDIA LONDON Dec 7

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and Sardar Baldev Singh left London airport for India at 8-27 a.m. G.M.T. (1-57 p.m. (S.T.) to-day. Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldey Singh

left in a Lancaster plane, which is to make the journey almost non-stop. The aircraft is expected to reach Delhi by

about 6 p.m. to-morrow.

Pandif Nehru and Sardar Baldev
Singh were seen off at the airport by a
large party which included the British
Defence Minister-Designate, Mr. A. V.
Alexander, the India Under-Secretary,
Mr. Arthur Honderson (propression) Mr. Arthur Henderson (representing Lord Pethick-Lawrence), the High Com-missioner for India Sir Samuel Runganadhan and Mr. George Abell, Private Secretary to the Vicercy, Lord Wavell More than 100 police were on duty at

More than 100 police were on duty at the London airport when Pandit Nehru and Sardar Baldev Singh left this mor-ning with their respective Secretaries. On Pandit Nehru's arrival at the air-port, a gathering of Indians was there to greet him. Newsreel cameramen pho-tographed his departure. The Congress leader declined to make any farewell statement

any farewell statement.
On his way to the On his way to the plane. Pandit Nehru was asked if he had anything to say concerning his mission. He smiled and merely said: "Good-Bye." According to the present arrange-ments, the aircraft will reach Lydda this evening, stay there a short time, then flying through the night, reach Karachi to-morrow at lunch time, and

dian women in colourful saris worn

under fur-coais cheered as the Indian leaders slipped into the plane. They shouted in Hindustani "Long Live Nehru"—"Long Live Baldev Singh"—

Nehru"—"Long Live Baldev Singn"—Long Live India."

As the plane took off into the early morning mist, it was a little more than 12 hours since the Round Table Conference which the Prime Minister had called at Downing Street had failed to produce any definite plan for Indian constitutional difficulties.

NO FURTHER TALKS IN LONDON

The London talks have not succeeded. the British Government with an opportunity for an exchange of views which

may yet prove valuable.

There will be no attempt to continue the discussions after Pandit Nehru's departure.

Mr. Jinnah is remaining with his col-league. Mr. Liagat Ali Khan, but this is understood to be for reasons that have nothing to do with the constitutional talks.

"NO JUSTIFICATION FOR MUSLIM ATTITUDE"

BOSTON, Dec. 6. An editorial in the Christian Science Monitor said to-day that "it is hard to find any rational justification for the Muslims' refusal to give the Constituent Assembly at least a chance to work out a compromise that would provide an effective guarantee of Muslim rights. It is the first job of the British Government to make Mr. Jinnah see this."—U.P.A.

"TIMES'S" APPEAL TO INDIAN LEADERS

The British Government's statement on 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

newspapers this morning, but it was 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 plomoting 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 own 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 Mr. Jinnah and his colleagues should not accept the suggestion of referring the dispute over the interpretation of the plan of May 18 to the Federal Court.

"The task upon which the Government 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 Connorin, and from Baluchistan to Bengal. Indian unity was never

view.
"The Muslim League thus acquired a mir to Cape Comorin, and from Baluchis-tan to Bengal, Indian unity was never tan 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

Orissa.

This Section, preponderatingly Congress, is to consist of 167 General seats and 20 Muslims with a total of 18.

The second Section is to consist of the Punjab, the North-West Frontier Province and Sind, with nine General seats and 22 Muslims and four Sikhs.

The third Section comprises Bengal and Assam, giving a total of 34 General could devise something they preferred,

THE CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY

WON'T BROOK OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE

PANDIT NEHRU EXPLAINS

STATUS (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

LONDON, Dec. 6. "The Constituent Assembly will be self-directing and self-determining which will not tolerate outside in Pandit terference. said Nehru, addressing Indian Press corres-pondents on the eve of his departure for

India at his headquarters in Dorchester Hotel to-night. Reading British newspapers, Pandi Nehru said, one got the wrong impres-sion that there was an impending tra-

gedy 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." 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 changed.

"Questions of success or failure 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

"The preliminary session of the Con-stituent 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 affect returnally to make the "make every effort naturally to get the largest possible measure of support. The thing to remember is that the Consti-tuent 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 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 infernally it can-not 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 some-thing 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 by the people memserves.

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-

tion.
"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 be—this should be reflected in the working of the Integin 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.

OPENING DAY'S PROGRAMME

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7.
The order paper for the opening meeting of the Constituent Assembly on December 9 contains the following five

2. Opening remarks
Chairman.
3. Members present credentials and sign he register.

4 Moving of a resolution prescribing the procedure for the election of the perma-

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

REORGANISATION OF GOVT. SERVICES

CABINET COMMITTEE MEETS

MADRAS, Dec. 7.
The Cabinet Committee on reorganisation and retrenchment of Government Services considered to-day a note prepared by the Secretary to the Com-

mittee indicating the general lines on which the enquiry might proceed. The Committee adjourned to meet again on the 15th instant.

TEXTILE DEPARTMENT REORGANISATION

MADRAS, Dec. 7

The Government are at present working out the details of the scheme of reorganisation of the Textile Department. It is understood that under the new scheme, District Collectors would be in charge of enforcement and internal distribution of textiles while the Provincial Textile Commissioner would attend to other administrative matters, such as procurement of cloth, control over mills and allocation of cloth quotas to dis-Collectors would it is further under-

stood, be assisted by a Personal Assistant of Gazetted rank for the carrying out of the additional duties.

which would achieve the same objective of administration and constitution based upon their broad agreement, Britain would give effect to their choice of means, where-by, British authority could be vested in

by, British authority could be vested in Indian hands.
"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 persistance in this interpretation would desirely 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 denouncing 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 the Indian people as a whole Grave responsibility has been placed squarely upon their shoulders", The Times concluded.

INEW DELHI, Dec. 7.

Congress members of the Constituent Assembly met to-day in an informal meeting for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President as being for preparatory discussions. Acharya Kripalani, Congress President Assembly will be competed to the Constituent as being for prepar

BRITISH CABINET'S STATEMENT

WEIGHTED IN FAVOUR OF LEAGUE

REACTIONS IN DELHI

CIRCLES (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. For final reactions to the British Cabi-net's statement issued from London last net'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 held immediately after his arrival to enable him to give d detailed account of the London conversations. At the pre-sent moment, therefore, there is no dis-nosition on the part of Congress leaders

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 os ay, "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 Kripaiani, President of the Congress in welcoming the members of

passing reference to it. Nevertheless, the Constituent Assembly to-ony massing reference to it. Nevertheless, the results of Pandit Nehru's visit to The Frontier leader said he had authoridon will be assessed only in the light of his appreciation. There are points on gations to "all the tribal territories on the North-West Frontier—to our breithmasses the borders—to establish ties." observed, whether the Muslim League

There was significance in Acharya Kripalani's admenition 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 Assembly, There is, of course, among the rank and

file of Congressmen disappointment that ing 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 counter? Assembly to hasten the country's free-dom, What Pandit Nehru and his col-leagues will do in the event of Mr. leagues will do in the event of Mr. Jinnah not accepting the long-term plan, in spite of the British Cabinet's later statement, is not a matter which primarily concerns the Constituent Assembly Indirectly, however it will affect the Assembly's deliberations and programme. Lord, Wavell will return, it is believed. ved, in about a week's time. How far it is true that the Viceroy will adopt a more liberal attitude towards the Congress members of the Interim Govern-ment, one cannot judge until his rement, one cannot judge than his view one may say that Sir John Colville. Acting Viceroy, has created a pleasant impression. Having worked with a popular Ministry in 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: While authoritative Congress and League views on His Majesty's Government's latest statement will not be forth-coming till the leaders return from London ion and hold meetings of their Execu tives, the general feeling among the rank and file of the Congress is one of deep disappointment as against the quiet disappointment as against the quiet satisfaction evident in League circles. 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 major communal issue or not is now enlarged to an unconscionable extent. Under yesterday's statement, any point of difference is referable to the Federal

Court. the Constituent Assembly on Court.

9 contains the following five Secondly, even if the Congress decides to refer to the Federal Court the question of Grouping, neither the League chair.

2. Opening remarks of the temporary nor His Majesty's Government is bound

by the Federal Court's verdict.
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

no matter whether that province likes such a constitution or not.

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. League opinion expresses special satisfaction with the declaration by His Majesty'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 de cide 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 state-ment 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 these two parts of the statement are re-

concilable or not, the League position is stated to be that it is not bound by any ruling given by the Federal Court WORKING COMMITTEE TO

BE CONSULTED

NEW DELHI, Dec. 7.
The Congress President, Acharya Kripalani interviewed by the Associated Press of India to-day on H.M.G's statement said, "I have read the statement. I have nothing to say at this stage. The whole matter will be reviewed by the Working Committee on the return of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to-morrow." The Cosgress President, to-day had discussions with Sardar Vallabhbhai

Patel and Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Congress Working Committee will meet at 9-30 a.m. to-morrow at the residence of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

MEETING OF CONGRESS **MEMBERS**

FRONTIER OPPOSED TO GROUPING

GHAFFAR KHAN SPEAKS OUT

"LEAVE IT TO THE PEOPLE OF THE PROVINCE" LAHORE, Dec. 6. Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, Leader of

the Khudai Khitmadgars and Member of the Congress Working Committee, said here to-day that he had "at last come to the conclusion that the question whether the Frontier Province should or should not join any Group (of the Cabi-not Pian) should be left entirely to its own free will."

"Do not drag us into any Group against our will. Leave the question of accession to the people of the Province," empha-sised the Pathan leader, in a talk with newsmen on the eve of the meeting of

be left out of the proposed grouping scheme. Mr. Ghaffar Khan declared (adds the Associated Press of India). Of the reported deadlock in the London talks, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan said in a

rather unconcerned manner, "This does Acharya Kripaiani, President of the Congress, in welcoming the members of the Constituent Assembly to-day made a passing reference to it. Nevertheless, how could it be in London?"

the results of Pandit Nehru's visit to The Frontier leader said he bad de-

tren across the borders—to our brein-ten across the borders—to establish ties of abiding friendship and understanding. "Let us see how the British authorities treat these delegations and whether they 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.

Let us see how the British authorities treat these delegations and whether they whether they will co-operate or merely do not create any obstacle for them by devious ways as were evidenced at the devious ways as were evidenced at the time of Pandit Jawaharlal's visit." he

hardships and misery."

one-sided and takes no account of the fact that the Muslim League entered the Interim Government without accepting the long-term plan. Even new, it is not certain that the League will be unnecessarily label me as such," he said, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan said: "Many don't you trust us?" I tell them: "How can we, when your trust us?" I tell them:

BE GIVEN UP"

Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Member of the Congress Working Committee, dec-lared here to-day, "Grouping of Pro-vinces (provided in the Cabinet delega-tion's May 16. State Paper) should be

To questions put to him by the Associated Press of America as to his solution for the present impasse, Mr. Sarat Bose said: "The way out will be found if and when the British leave this counry and leave the Hindus and the Muslims to settle their own differences. As ong as Hindus and Muslims look up to

India, Mr. Bose replied, "They are not."
Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose did not am-

CONFEDERATION OF

DISCUSSIONS IN NEW DELHI NEW DELHI, Dec. 7. 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 verious schemes for regional confederation or grouping of States. These schemes dealt with the composition and functions of regional confederation. and functions of regional confederation

group,

guards for finincrities, backword areas and classes.

Urging the members to transact the business of the Assembly as speedly 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. Asaf Ali, Mr. C. Rajagopalachari, Mr. Jagajivan Ram, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Mr. Sarat Chandra Bose, Dr. Shyama Prasad Mookherjee, Mr. K. M. Munshi, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, Sir S. Radha-krishnan, Sir Hari Singh Gour, Dr. Protulla Chandra Ghosh Sir N. Gapalaswami lyengar, Provincial Premiers, Dr. M. E. Jayakar and Sardar Pratap Singh.

the Constituent Assembly.

As a poor and backward province, the North-West Frontier badly needed aid from the Centre and should, therefore,

Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan added, "We stand for the full freedom and happiness of our tribal brothers. I have made it clear to them that if the Muslim League and the full freedom. can help, by all means let them take its help, but they should first make sure that they are not bogged down in further "I am a humble servant of God and His creation. I am no party man. Some unnecessarily label me as such," he said.

"GROUPING PLAN SHOULD

tion's May 16 State Paper) should be dropped. I cannot suggest any other solution." he said, adding, "but it may be that the Constituent Assembly will find one out."

British imperialists for help, the way out will not be found."

Asked if the British were leaving

plify his statement. - A.P.A.

STATES

including the powers of the group legis-lature, executive and judiciary and the method of accession to the regional

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 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 executive will consist of seven persons with a chief called Secretary-General appointed 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 constitution. 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 which will be placed before a general construction of States to be held early next year.—A.P.L.

and administration of tribal and excluded areas, a committee for more e-early 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, at a suitable stage, bring forward a resolution outlining the objectives of the Consiliuent 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.

Urging the members to transact the busi-

JOIN INTERIM GOVT. PORTFOLIOS LIKELY TO BE RESHUFFLED (FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, Dec. 6.
Mr. Asaf Ali, Member for War Transport, whose appointment as India's first Ambassador to Washington, was officially announced this evening, is not expected to take charge of his new post before the new year. before the new year. A successor to him in the Interim Government has to be found and Mr. Asaf Ali himself will need some time to prepare himself for his new duties in the United States. Political circles here indicate that Maushuffled Interim Government, persist-ent efforts were made both by Gandhi-ji and the Congress Working Committee to persuade Maulana Azad to accept office at the Centre, but then Mr. Azad declined, Now those efforts will

folios at present held by Con-gress members of the Interim Govern-ment is definitely indicated. U.S. GOLD FOR INDIA

KARACHI, Dec. 7. A fresh consignment of gold weighing about 7,500 ounces was received from the U.S. A, by air to-day and will be flown to Bombay shortly.—A.P.I.

MR. LEONARD MATTERS