

STEPS TO END DEADLOCK

SAPRU COMMITTEE'S SUGGESTIONS

CABLE TO LORD WAVELL

"DECLARE INDIA FREE BY ROYAL PROCLAMATION"

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

NEW DELHI, March 31.

The Conciliation Committee now in session in Delhi has cabled a resolution to Lord Wavell over the signature of Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru containing proposals for the formation of a National Government at the Centre and the restoration of autonomy in the provinces. The cable says:

The Conciliation Committee, now in session here, desires me, as its Chairman, to communicate to you the following resolution which it has adopted unanimously:

In view of the internal situation, particularly relating to the economic life of the people and in view of the rapid pace at which international events are marching, and in view of the necessity of India being represented in her own right and by her own representatives at all international conferences and peace conferences, if any, this Committee strongly recommends that the following steps be taken at once:

(1) All political prisoners and detenus be released immediately.

(2) India should, by a Royal Proclamation, be declared an Independent State and treated as a Dominion equal and in no way inferior to any other Dominion of the British Commonwealth of Nations, even though, pending the framing and coming into force of a new constitution, the Government of India may have to be conducted in conformity with the provisions of the Act of 1935 subject to minimum necessary modifications.

(3) (a) The Proclamations issued in several provinces under Section 93 of the Act should be withdrawn forthwith and the Legislatures allowed to resume their normal activities. (b) Popular Ministries should be re-established in those provinces and allowed to function under the provisions of the Act. (c) In the formation of such Ministries, the Prime Minister representing the largest single party in the legislature should be required, as far as possible, to include in the Ministry persons commanding the confidence of other parties in the legislature.

SCHEME FOR NATIONAL GOVT. AT THE CENTRE

(4) In addition to the restoration of autonomy in all the provinces of British India, a National Government should replace the present Executive Council at the Centre. For this purpose, the Committee would recommend for consideration the following two alternatives:

First Alternative: (a) Section 5 of the Government of India Act, 1935, should be so amended as to provide for the issue of a Proclamation by His Majesty bringing into being forthwith a Federation of India without insisting on the entry of Indian States as a condition precedent as provided in sub-section (2) of the said section; Indian States being at liberty to accede to the Federation in accordance with the terms of Section 6 of the Act.

(b) Part II of the Government of India Act, 1935, with the proposed amendments should be brought into force and steps taken immediately to hold elections to the two Houses of the Federation Legislature and to appoint a Council of Ministers in accordance with the provisions contained in that part.

Provided, however, that in the formation of such a Ministry, the Prime Minister representing the largest single party in the legislature shall, as far as possible, include in the Ministry persons commanding the confidence of other important parties in the legislature.

Second Alternative: Schedule IX of the Act may be continued in force, but should be so amended as to provide for altering the constitution and functioning of the Governor-General-in-Council on the following lines:

(a) Except for the Commander-in-Chief who may continue to be ex officio member of the Executive Council in charge of War operations and matters ancillary thereto, the entire Executive Council should consist of Indians commanding the confidence of the parties in the Central Legislature; the provision in sub-section (3) of Section 36, which requires that three at least of the Members should be persons who have been in the service of the Crown in India for a period of at least ten years being repealed.

(b) No officials belonging to the permanent Services shall be nominated to either House of the Central Legislature. The nominated bloc in each of the two Houses shall consist entirely of non-officials nominated by the Governor-General-in-Council.

(c) In the IX schedule of the Act, the provisions excluding from the control of the legislature expenditure under the heads Ecclesiastical, External Affairs, Defence, Tribal Areas and other items incurred by the Governor-General in his discretion, shall be repealed.

(d) The Political Adviser to the Crown Representative should be an Indian with the rank and status of an Executive Councillor, though he may not be a member of the Executive Council.

(e) The decision as to when the general elections to the Central and Provincial Legislatures should take place should be left to the National Government at the Centre and the Popular Governments in the provinces.

The Committee greatly appreciates your initiative in proceeding to London for the purpose, as it believes, of ending the present political deadlock in the country, and trusts that the suggestions that it is now making will be of assistance to you and His Majesty's Government in solving the problem that faces you. The Committee is continuing its work.

"FIRST PART OF OUR WORK CONCLUDED"

SIR TEJ BAHADUR SAPRU'S STATEMENT

"This represents the first part of our work which we have been able to conclude", said Sir Tej Bahadur to Press representatives to whom copies of the cable were handed. "The resolution", he added, "will indicate to you what our recommendations are with regard to the interim period. As regards other matters, we are considering them from day to day. We are likely to finish our work on April 7 and then the report will be prepared. It is difficult to give the precise date on which the report will be

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issued, but we shall try to finish it as soon as possible".

Asked whether he intended to appeal to the Congress to resume office, Sir Tej Bahadur replied: "I do presume that the Congress is alive to the dangers of the situation and will rise equal to the occasion".

VICEROY'S MISSION TO ENGLAND

RESULT MAY BE ANNOUNCED IN CENTRAL ASSEMBLY

NEW DELHI, March 31.

Lobby circles believe that the Assembly session, which, according to present indications, will sit till the middle of April, will, before it concludes, hear an announcement of the results of the Viceroy's Mission to England. The expectation is that the establishment of an interim All-Party Central Government will form the central theme of the announcement.

Topics discussed in this connection in the lobbies include implementation of the Federal part of the 1935 Act, with suitable modifications to meet present conditions. A Government composed of representatives drawn from the main parties in the present Central Legislature is another suggestion which is canvassed. —A. P. I.

FUTILITY OF APPEASEMENT POLICY

HINDU SABHA LEADER'S CALL TO SECRETARY OF STATE

LUCKNOW, March 31.

Rai Bahadur Harish Chandra, Vice-President of the All-India Hindu Mahasabha, has sent the following cable to the Secretary of State for India, London:

"Hindu India is unequivocally opposed to all proposals based on a futile appeasement policy attempting to reduce the great Hindu majority into a minority, or not maintaining its proper proportion either in the Central Legislature or Cabinet. The Mahasabha alone represents Hindu view-point".