

FRIENDSHIP



A section of the 2,000 audience on the Opening Day

GOODWILL MESSAGES FROM ALL SHADES OF PATRIOTIC OPINION

STRENGTH FROM UNITY



Mr. Bhulabhai Desai

THE achievements of the Soviet Union in different fields of human activity have been unique in the world's history of modern times. The prime object of the ends of the Soviet Union is to do, appreciate and establish facts with the cultural life of Soviet people in the realm of science, art and all other progressive aspects of human activity is to make life fuller, richer and more vital. The collaboration of Soviet Union with the other peoples has already produced great results and will, I trust, in due time achieve emancipation of humanity. I wish the Congress success."

—Syt. Bhulabhai Desai.

AS I sit and conjure Russia, my mind is filled with the thrills of her defensive operations and the marvels of their offensive attacks.

Russia, alone baffled Nazi expositions and dreams and is now fighting more to the Nazis. Postulation Russia worked miracles, as though by magic, by the energy of resurrected humanity. They released themselves from the graveyards of thralldom and poverty.

In Russia, revolutionary ideas translated into mass action a gigantic scale. Their co-ordinated achievement gave the people unique strength, both physical and intellectually...."

—B. Gopal Reddy, Congress ex-Minister, Nellore.

FAITH TO DO LIKEWISE

THE transformation of oppressed, helpless and illiterate masses who formed more than 90 per cent of the people of India into a well-fed, self-reliant, educated and highly industrialised community, closely knit either by common interests, in course of twenty years is a miracle in modern history. Such wonderful success should give us faith in our ability to do likewise India."

—Sir Gyan Chandra Ghosh, Director of Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

medabad was received with a great ovation.

The cultural squad from Thana, by Vasant Bhagwat rendered a beautiful concert on the Soviet Union and India, Swapnashta and others sang Gujarati poems, Prithviraj, film actor also participated.

The function lasted from 6 to 30 p.m. and the audience enthusiastically cheered this collection of tribute to the Soviets. This is a proof of how the Soviet system has been able to strike chords of sympathy, admiration and love in the hearts of all our writers and poets. The poems were recited with the will to win in spite of all obstacles and emulate the heroic peoples of the Soviet Union."

"... I AM glad to know that the Friends of Soviet Union will meet in Congress at Bombay on the 3rd June. I wish the function every success. The public achievements of Soviet Russia on the battlefields of Europe and the determination to develop on progressive democratic lines which is evident from the abolition of the Comintern and the recognition of the Orthodox Greek Church, appeal to all. If Soviet Russia is able to get the Peace Conference to implement the great aims of this war, announced by Marshal Stalin in 1942, it will be a supreme achievement of human history."

—Sir S. Radhakrishnan, Vice-Chancellor, Benares Hindu University.

"... THE greatness of Soviet Culture and the powers of her civilisation demand the tribute of entire humankind, and India will surely join with other lands in hoping that the Soviet Union will lead mankind towards peace and equality in the coming years. Freedom and reverence for life—may Soviet Russia teach us to achieve these two great ideals through economic and humane regeneration."

—Professor Amiya Chakravarty, Shantiniketan.

"... I SALUTE the gallant Russian people for their epic resistance to the Nazi enslavers. They are inspired by one single purpose and their unity has been tested and proved in peace as well as in war. The entire Soviet people stand as one man against the fascist oppressors. There is not a single case of Quisling or fifth-column in the entire Soviet territory. Through their collective efforts the Soviet people have raised the educational, political and cultural level of the common Soviet citizen, irrespective of colour, caste or creed."

"The Soviet people bring new life and hope to the people of enslaved countries. India has to learn much from her Soviet neighbour, whom she watches with love and admiration. I hope that the time is not far distant when the Soviet, Chinese and Indian people will actively collaborate to advance the cause of Freedom, Unity and Democracy in the world. I offer my whole-hearted support and wish success to the Conference."

—Hafiz Mohammed Ibrahim, ex-Congress Minister in U. P.

"PLEASE convey my warm greetings to the Friends of the Soviet Union Conference and to all their efforts, strengthening the bonds of friendship between the Soviets and our people."

—Sheikh Abdullah, President, National Conference, Jammu and Kashmir.

"... THE Soviet system has laid the economic foundation for the full cultural and intellectual development of every single one of its peoples, the results of which will manifest themselves increasingly in the next few years in a flowering of the arts and sciences. The Soviet theatre is already admitted to be perhaps the best in the world and even some of the most important advances in mathematics in recent years have been made by Russian mathematicians...."

—Dr. Bhabha, F.R.S., Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore.

BRITISH WORKERS DOING THE SAME

"I AM very glad to know the All-India Friends of the Soviet Union are meeting to discuss how best they can help their great ally. I can assure you every worker in this country is doing his utmost along the same lines."

—Will Lauther, President, Great Workers' Federation, Mine Britain.

Defending Civilisation

"Who is there alive to-day whose old age or youth or childhood is not thrilled to the marrow by the current chronicles of the superb and unrivalled valour, resource and endurance, the unaided and unconquerable resistance of the Russian people not merely in defence of their own hard won freedom, but in defence of the honour and security of civilisation itself against the servile and ruthless menace of brutal Fascist aggression."

—Sarojini Naidu's 7th November message reiterated at the Congress.

SELF-DETERMINATION

"THE heroic resistance which the people of the Soviet Union have put up in the defence of their country has earned for them the respect and admiration of the peoples of the world generally, irrespective of the fact whether they were in agreement with the policy and the programme of the Soviet Union or not. Not many were of the opinion that Russia would be able to stand up against the well-organised and efficient Nazi military machine; but the people of the Soviet Union have shown how a nation can fight and make tremendous sacrifices to retain its liberty and freedom."

—Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan, Secretary of the All-India Muslim League.

"... INDIAN people have much to learn and appreciate from the example of Soviet Russia where a new experiment has been going on for the last 25 years to build a new humanity and make the common man master of his own destiny. In this gigantic war against Nazi Germany, Russia more than any country has given examples of unrivalled heroism and valour which only go to show how solidly the Russian people stand in annihilating the forces of tyranny and oppression. Without any doubt, Russia has solved her internal problem and the problem of nationalities which still baffle many a statesman of the world."

"We have got to learn this from Soviet Russia that only a unity based on mutual co-operation and goodwill can be lasting. Russia in the midst of war has taken the most bold step of giving its nationalities the right to have their own armies and foreign relations over and above the right of self-determination which they already had. India has still to solve her Hindu-Muslim problem and it will be better if we learn this lesson and solve the problem on the basis of granting right of self-determination to the Muslims. I wish the Conference every success."

—Mr. Sultan Ahmed, Assistant Secretary, Bihar Provincial Muslim League.

"WHILE the world is passing through the pangs of rebirth, we realise that never a national organism has stood the test of time so well as Red Russia of the year 1944. The glorious victories won by the Soviet Army over the arrogant hordes of Hitler are the greatest justification of the national ideology which faced a quarter of a century of antagonism and ridicule, waiting and working for the day when its message goes forth to a war-weary world. In our search for a better and happier world, who can afford to overlook the glorious achievements and the genius of modern Russia. I send my sincere greetings and best wishes to Friends of Soviet Union."

—K. M. Abdul Ghafoor, Editor Payam, Hyderabad Dn.

"... THE manner in which the U.S.S.R. has solved the problem of nationalities has compelled attention of all the Indian parties. By recognising the right of self-determination of all nationalities of the U.S.S.R. the Soviet leaders dispelled all suspicions and mutual distrust and laid the firm basis for the friendship which stood the test of this greatest of all wars."

"I wish the Conference all success."

—Dr. Shaukatullah Shah Ansari, Secretary, Muslim Majlis.

"IT is really heartening to note that a Friends of Soviet Union Conference is being held at Bombay on 3rd and 4th June. Indian people have much to study and learn from the example of Soviet Russia and especially the way in which she has tackled her own national problem. I am sure that this Conference will go a long way in removing the confusions of our people re. the Soviet Union, and will enable us to tackle our problems too. I wish the Conference every success."

—Mr. Jafar Ismail, Member Working Committee, Bihar Provincial Muslim League and Member, All-India Muslim League Council.



Nawabzada Liaquat Ali Khan

"I AM very glad that a correct occasion has been selected to celebrate the Indo-Soviet Union Conference. This barbaric Nazi war has brought India much nearer Soviet Russia and the lesson which the Russian republic has imparted to the world at large and to India in particular should be taken to heart by those who strive for internal peace and political solidarity of the people of India. If the professors of Indian Nationality realise the strength of Soviet Russia which has emerged from the right of self-determination of the various nationalities residing in the Russian soil a bright future for the greater India and the Hindu Nation and Muslim Nation is assured."

"I congratulate the organisers of the Indo-Soviet Union Conference for their effort to bring people of different shades of political opinion together on this auspicious day to realise how Russia achieved greatness by conceding the rights of people of its area for the form of government they desired."

—Syed Badruddin Ahmed, General Secretary, Bihar Provincial Muslim League.

"... WHATEVER be our ideological differences with the Soviet regime, there is no doubt that the heroic resistance of the Soviet people against the Nazi onslaught has drawn the sympathy, admiration and moral support of the entire world. Their wonderful power of resistance and their fight for the independence of their fatherland will constitute one of the most brilliant chapters of World History. The whole civilised world owes a debt of gratitude to the Soviet people and I join in sending them our greetings and good wishes."

—Begum Aizaz Rasul, M.L.C. (U. P.)

WOMAN THE EQUAL OF MAN

"... AS a woman who firmly believes that men and women should strive together as equal partners to make the world a better place for humanity to live in, I am deeply impressed by the position of women in the U.S.S.R. and their admirable contribution to progress in every sphere of national life. Nowhere else in the world, not even in the most advanced and democratic of capitalist countries do women enjoy complete equality of status as citizens and endeavour to fulfil to the best of their ability the responsibilities and privileges that such status gives them...."

—Mrs. K. Radha Bai Subbarayan, Congress M.L.A. (Central).

"THE Friends of the Soviet Union befriended Soviet Russia and extended their hands of sympathy and support to her during the darkest hours and perilous days when the rest of the world had almost concluded that the Hitlerite hordes would soon eclipse her. But how the Soviet people cannot be wiped out primarily because of the mighty Soviet arms and the indomitable courage and will of the Soviet people—men, women and children...."

—Suzami Sahasrabandhu Saranpati, President, All-India Kisan Sabha.

ART FOR THE PEOPLE

"NOT only by its social and economic successes and brilliant military victories, but by its epoch-making cultural achievements as well, the Soviet Union has amazed the world. The art and culture of the peoples of the Soviet Union, undying and imperishable in the midst of the most merciless war in human history, have been an inspiration to the enslaved peoples of the East. The peoples of the Soviet Union, walking in the wake of Lenin, have shown how to take pride in one's own national culture and how to preserve it and enrich it along modern lines, as well as how to defend it with immortal heroism against the vandalism of the barbarous hordes, who are sworn enemies of civilisation."

"On behalf of Kerala and its ancient but growing culture and art, I send my warm greetings to the Friends of the Soviet Union. If the professors of Indian Nationality realise the strength of Soviet Russia which has emerged from the right of self-determination of the various nationalities residing in the Russian soil a bright future for the greater India and the Hindu Nation and Muslim Nation is assured."

"... THE heroic manner in which the Soviet people have defended the freedom of their country, is of course, worthy of our admiration. But equally worthy of praise is the effort made by the Soviet people to raise the educational, cultural, artistic standards of their common people. In the realm of the cinema, as in other departments of cultural and artistic activity, the Soviet Union has much to teach us and inspire us in our own efforts to utilise the arts in the service of our people."

—Syt. V. Shantaram, famous Indian film director; President, Indian Motion Picture Producers' Association.

"... THE example of the great Soviet Union is a living example for the world. Tortured and groaning, under the heel of petty capitalism and unpatriotic selfishness. That unity of purpose and fire of love for the motherland can hold its own against a whole world united to crush the liberty of the people and destroy the ideals of self-determination and freedom for all has been practically demonstrated by the Soviet Union so much so that today are becoming friends full of admiration and falling into line with the erstwhile much misjudged nation. People all over the world should express their warm and heartfelt appreciation for the successful career and strong organisation of the Soviet Union. I wish the organisers of the conference all the success that they desire and deserve."

—Syt. Mathura Prasad, Bihar Congressman.