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The Viceroy listening to Malik Abdul Latif of Malikdin-Khel tribe speaking on behalf of the tribesmen at a jirga at Landi Kotal.

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REMINDED HIM OF WAR



Lord Mountbatten (right foreground) and Lady Mountbatten together with Sir Evan Jenkins, Governor of the Punjab, photographed in the riot-affected village of Kahuta (Rawalpindi district), during their recent visit to the Punjab and N.-W.F.P.

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The viceroy being presented with a locally made rifle by Malik Abdul Latif of the Malikdin-Khel tribe at a jirga held at Landi Kotal on Tuesday.—Statesman.

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Tribesmen Told To Negotiate With Free India

PESHAWAR, April 29.—“The British Government is leaving India in June 1948. It is up to you to negotiate fresh agreements with the successor authority. I am in complete agreement with you that the sooner the present tension between two major communities of India is brought to an end, the better it will be for all concerned. I have been striving towards this end and I hope I may count on your support in this.” Thus observed Lord Louis Mountbatten, Viceroy, addressing a tribal *jirga* at Landi Kotal yesterday when he visited the Khyber Pass.

“Do not forget that the relationship between yourselves and India based on your treaties with the British Government, will be continued with future India on the basis of fresh agreements which you will, in due course, be called upon to negotiate with appropriate authorities. You will do well to remember that there are two sides to every bargain and that both sides stand to gain from a satisfactory agreement.”

A spokesman of the tribesmen earlier in an address to the Viceroy said that the tribesmen would not negotiate agreements with the future Government of independent India unless there was a settlement between Muslims and Hindus.

If no settlement was reached, the spokesman said, tribesmen would negotiate with Afghanistan agreements to replace those now in force with the British Government for protecting the Khyber Pass.

He spoke in Pushtu and the address was translated to the Viceroy by the Frontier Governor, Sir Olaf Caroe. The spokesman also repeated the demand put before Lord Wavell that Khyber be returned to the tribesmen when the British quit India.—A.P.A.

04025240-X

MOUNTBATTENS VISIT RIOT-TORN KAHUTA

RAWALPINDI, April 29.—Lord Mountbatten, accompanied by Lady Mountbatten and party, arrived here today from Peshawar by air at 3.45 p.m. The party was received at Chaklala aerodrome by the Governor of the Punjab and high civil and military officers including General Lowette, area commander, the Inspector General of Police Punjab and the Commissioner, Rawalpindi Division.

Lord Louis and Lady Mountbatten drove to the Command House where they are staying. After a short stay, they, accompanied by the Punjab Governor, the Inspector-General of Police, the area commander and others visited Kahuta, one of the worst riot-affected towns in the area.

At Kahuta Lord Louis and Lady Mountbatten met representatives of

the Rawalpindi Division Rehabilitation Committee, the Central Relief Organization, the Singh Sabha and representatives of the various devastated villages in Kahuta Tehsil. Dewan Pindi Das Sabharwal presented a five-page address on behalf of the Rehabilitation Committee. The address dealt with the causes and various phases of the communal riots in Rawalpindi Division culminating in huge loss of life and property.

A representative of Kahuta refugees gave a detailed account of the riot in Kahuta, and representatives of other villages handed over to the Viceroy memoranda giving facts and figures about riots in their respective villages. Lord Louis and Lady Mountbatten expressed sympathy with the riot victims.

The party then visited the burnt out bazar and mohallas of Kahuta.

Lady Mountbatten is expected to visit the Wah refugee camp tomorrow morning.—A.P.I.

VICEROY ON FRONTIER



A gesticulating inhabitant of Kahuta, a town in the Rawalpindi district, which suffered damage during the recent disturbances, tells the Viceroy of happenings there.—Statesman.

Khyber Jirga Addressed By The Viceroy

PESHAWAR, Apr 29.—The Viceroy addressed at Landi Kotal, a tribal jirga of maliks (elders) representing all clans of tribesmen inhabiting the Khyber Pass when he visited the pass today.

At Jamrud, the gate of Khyber Pass, local khassadars presented a guard of honour. His Excellency drove straight to Charbagh in the Khyber hills and to Landi Kotal camp where about 300 maliks, representing the clans of Afridis, Shinwaris, Zakakel, Malikdin, Sipah, Salmani and Kullaghori, had assembled to welcome the Viceroy.

Khan Abdul Latif Khan, spokesman of the jirga, said: "We are very glad to welcome Your Excellency. It is an honour to us that two Viceroys have come to see us within such a short period. These visits reassure us, as they show that high authorities are interested in the future of the tribes. We were surprised that no mention was made in the Prime Minister's statement in London two months ago about the tribes because relations between free tribes and India are vital to both.

Tribesmen's Demands

"We have already made our requests to the previous Viceroy and repeated them at our annual jirga to the Governor. Briefly the points are:

(1) In the event of the British Government vacating India, Khyber should be returned to us.

(2) We will not deal with the Advisory Committee unless it is fully representative.

(3) Though we belong to no Indian political party, our sympathy is with our Muslim brethren and sooner the present tension between the major communities of India is brought to an end, better it will be for all concerned.

(4) Your predecessor told us that he would consider a lump sum reward

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in recognition of our services during World War II. We expect the fulfilment of what was said six months ago.

(5) We request that the personal allowance of the late Nawab Mohammed Zaman Khan, given to him for meritorious and distinguished services, may be continued to his heirs."

The Viceroy replied: "I am delighted to visit the Khyber again after 25 years and to make close acquaintance with the tribes.

"That I recognize its importance is shown by the fact that the first visit I have paid since my arrival in India has been to the Frontier. Your future is very much in my mind.

"Do not forget that the relationship between yourselves and India, based in your treaties with the British Government, will be continued with the future India on the basis of fresh agreement which you will in due course be called upon to negotiate with the appropriate authorities. You would do well to remember that there are two sides to every bargain, and that both sides stand to gain from a satisfactory agreement.

Allowances Not Hereditary

"To deal with your specific points:

"(1) The British Government is vacating India by June, 1948, and you yourselves know very well the position of the Khyber. At present you enjoy great advantages from your existing agreements, allowances, employment of the Khyber Rifles, Khassadars, etc. It is up to you to negotiate fresh agreements with the successor authority.

"(2) I understand what you have said about the Advisory Committee.

"(3) I am in complete agreement with you that the sooner the present tension between the two major communities of India is brought to an end the better it will be for all concerned. I have been striving towards this end as you will have noted from the Gandhi-Jinnah appeal for communal peace, and I will continue to use my best efforts to this end, and I hope that I may count on your support in this.

"(4) I have only just heard of your request to Lord Wavell, and I will look into this as soon as I return to Delhi.

"(5) Personal allowances are not hereditary, and although I have been informed by those who know you that the late Nawab Zaman Khan did good service both to the Government and to the tribe, I cannot agree that his personal allowance should be continued to his heirs. It is for his heirs to win as great a position in the tribe as the Nawab Sahib had.

"As I expect you know, I am a sailor, and I had the honour of fighting in a battle in the North Sea with one of the most famous warships, HMS Afridi, called after your tribe because of its famous warlike qualities.

"Although we have had to fight you Afridis in the past on occasions, we respect and like each other. Your jirga has reputation for wisdom and foresightedness. For the last 16 years you have behaved well and stuck to your agreements. In this critical time when power has to be handed over, do not lose that reputation.

"One last word: your Political Agent is a close relative of that great Frontier leader, Nawab Sir Abdul Qaiyum, a previous Political Agent, of the Khyber. Your new commandant of the Khyber Rifles, himself an Afridi, is son of Risaldar Moghal Vaz Khan, another Political Agent of the Khyber.

"These names are well known to you, and the fact that the descendants of these men are with you shows that your problems will be sympathetically treated. Help them and they will help you."

The Viceroy left for Rawalpindi by air at 1 p.m. He was accompanied by Lady Mountbatten and their daughter, Miss Pamela Mountbatten.

His Excellency will fly back to Delhi tomorrow morning.