

**BROADCAST BY HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY AND
GOVERNOR-GENERAL OF INDIA AT 7-00 P.M. (I.S.T.) ON THE
3RD JUNE 1947.**

A statement will be read to you tonight giving the final decision of His Majesty's Government as to the method by which power will be transferred from British to Indian hands. But before this happens, I want to give a personal message to the people of India, as well as a short account of the discussions which I have held with the Leaders of the political parties and which have led up to the advice I tendered to His Majesty's Government during my recent visit to London.

Since my arrival in India at the end of March I have spent almost every day in consultation with as many of the leaders and representatives of as many communities and interests as possible. I wish to say how grateful I am for all the information and helpful advice they have given me.

Nothing I have seen or heard in the past few weeks has shaken my firm opinion that with a reasonable measure of goodwill between the communities a unified India would be by far the best solution of the problem.

For more than a hundred years 400 millions of you have lived together and this country has been administered as a single entity. This has resulted in unified communications, defence, postal services and currency; an absence of tariffs and customs barriers; and the basis for an integrated political economy. My great hope was that communal differences would not destroy all this.

My first course, in all my discussions, was therefore to urge the political leaders to accept unreservedly the Cabinet Mission plan of 16th May 1946. In my opinion, that plan provides the best arrangement that can be devised to meet the interests of all the communities of India. To my great regret it has been impossible to obtain agreement either on the Cabinet Mission plan, or on any other plan that would preserve the unity of India. But there can be no question of coercing any large areas in which one community has a majority, to live against their will under a Government in which another community has a majority. And the only alternative to coercion is partition.

But when the Muslim League demanded the partition of India, Congress used the same arguments for demanding in that event the partition of certain Provinces. To my mind this argument is unassailable. In fact neither side proved willing to leave a substantial area in which their community have a majority under the Government of the other. I am, of course, just as much opposed to the partition of Provinces as I am to the partition of India herself and for the same basic reasons.

For just as I feel there is an Indian consciousness which should transcend communal differences so I feel there is a Punjabi and Bengali consciousness which has evoked a loyalty to their Province.

And so I felt it was essential that the people of India themselves should decide this question of partition.

The procedure for enabling them to decide for themselves whether they want the British to hand over power to one or two Governments is set out in the statement which will be read to you. But there are one or two points on which I should like to add a note of explanation.

Note:- On page 2 of this sheet, please see last three paras of Lord Mountbatten's speech which have been recorded on a disc. The disc is being forwarded by the same service.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
Government of India

BROADCAST BY JAWAHARLAL NEHRU

(All India Radio, New Delhi - 7-30 p.m. June 3, 1947).

Friends and Comrades,

Nearly nine months ago, soon after my assumption of office, I spoke to you from this place. I told you then that we were on the march and the goal had still to be reached. There were many difficulties and obstacles on the way and our journey's end might not be near, for that end was not the assumption of office in the Government of India but the achievement of the full independence of India and the establishment of a cooperative Commonwealth in which all will be equal sharers in opportunity and in all things that give meaning and value to life.

Nine months have passed, months of sore trial and difficulty, of anxiety and sometimes even of heart-break. Yet looking back at this period with its suffering and sorrow for our people there is much on the credit side also, for India has advanced nationally and internationally and is respected today in the councils of the world. In the domestic sphere something substantial has been achieved though the burden on the common man still continues to be terribly heavy and millions lack food and cloth and other necessities of life. Many vast schemes of development are nearly ready and yet it is true that most of our dreams about the brave things we were going to accomplish have still to be realised.

You know

You know well the difficulties which the country has had to face, economic, political and communal. These months have been full of tragedy for millions and the burden on those who had the governance of the country in their hands has been great indeed.

My mind is heavy with the thought of the sufferings of our people in the areas of disturbance -- the thousands who are dead and those, especially our womenfolk, who have suffered agony worse than death. To their families and to innumerable people who have been uprooted from their homes and rendered destitute I offer my deep sympathy and assurance that we shall do all in our power to bring relief. We must see to it that such tragedies do not happen again.

At no time have we lost faith in the great destiny of India which takes shape even though with travail and suffering. My great regret has been that during this period, owing to excess of work, I have been unable to visit the numerous towns and villages of India, as I used to do, to meet my people and to learn about their troubles at first hand.

Today I am speaking to you on another historic occasion when a vital change affecting the future of India is proposed. You have just heard an announcement on behalf of the British Government. This announcement lays down a procedure for self-determination in certain areas of India. It envisages on the one hand the possibility of these areas seceding from India, on the other it promises a big advance towards complete

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complete independence. Such a big change must have the full concurrence of the people before effect can be given to it, for it must always be remembered that the future of India can only be decided by the people of India and not by any outside authority, however friendly. These proposals will be placed soon before representative assemblies of the people for consideration. But meanwhile the sands of time run out and decisions cannot await the normal course of events. So while we must necessarily abide by what the people finally decide, we had to come to certain decisions ourselves and to recommend them to the people for acceptance.

We have, therefore, decided to accept these proposals and to recommend to our larger committees that they do likewise.

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It is with no joy in my heart that I commend these proposals to you though I have no doubt in my mind that this is the right course. For generations we have dreamt and struggled for a free and independent united India. The proposal to allow certain parts to secede if they so will is painful for any of us to contemplate. Nevertheless I am convinced that our present decision is the right one even from the larger view-point. The united India that we have laboured for was not one of compulsion and coercion but a free and willing association of a free people. It may be that in this way we shall reach that united India sooner than otherwise and that she will have a stronger and more secure foundation.

We are little men serving great causes, but because the cause is great something of that greatness falls upon us also. Mighty forces are at work in the world today and in India, and I have no doubt that we are ushering in a period of greatness for India. The India of geography, of history and tradition, the India of our minds and hearts cannot change.

On this historic occasion each one of us must pray that he might be guided aright in the service of the motherland and of humanity at large. We stand on a watershed dividing the past from the future. Let us bury that past in so far as it is bad and forget all bitterness and recrimination. Let there be moderation in speech and writing. Let there be strength and perseverance in adhering to the cause and the ideals we have at heart. Let us face the future not

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with easy optimism or with any ~~complexity or weakness~~ but with confidence and a firm faith in India.

There has been violence, shameful, degrading and revolting violence, in various parts of the country. This must end. We are determined to end it. We must make it clear that political ends are not to be achieved by methods of violence, now or in the future.

On this the eve of great changes in India we have to make a fresh start with clear vision and a firm mind, with steadfastness and tolerance and a stout heart. We should not wish ill to anyone but think always of every Indian as our brother and comrade. The good of the four hundred millions of India must be our supreme objective.

We shall seek to build anew our relations with England on a friendly and cooperative basis forgetting the past which has lain so heavily upon us.

I should like to express on this occasion my deep appreciation of the labours of the Viceroy, Lord Mountbatten, ever since his arrival here at a critical juncture in our history.

Inevitably on every occasion of crisis and difficulty we think of our great leader Mahatma Gandhi, who has led us unfalteringly for over a generation through darkness and sorrow to the threshold of our freedom. To him we once again pay our homage. His blessing and wise counsel will happily be with us in the momentous years to come, as always.

With firm faith in our future I appeal to you to cooperate in the great task ahead and to march together to the haven of freedom for all in India - Jai Hind.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

BROADCAST BY MR. MOHAMMAD ALI JINNAH, PRESIDENT ALL-INDIA
MUSLIM LEAGUE.

(All-India Radio, New Delhi - 7.40 P.M., June 3, 1947)

The Statement of His Majesty's Government embodying the Plan for the transfer of power to the peoples of India has already been broadcast and will be released to the Press to be published in India and abroad tomorrow morning. It gives the outlines of the Plan for us to give it our most earnest consideration. We have to examine it coolly, calmly and dispassionately. We must remember that we have to take momentous decisions and handle grave issues facing us in the solution of the complex political problem of this great sub-continent inhabited by 400 million people. The world has no parallel for the most onerous and difficult task which we have to perform.

Grave responsibility lies particularly on the shoulders of India leaders. Therefore we must galvanize and concentrate all our energy to see that the transfer of power is effected in a peaceful and orderly manner. I most earnestly appeal to every community and particularly to Muslim India to maintain peace and order. We must examine the plan, its letter and spirit and come to our conclusions and take our decisions. I pray to God that at this critical moment He may guide us and enable us to discharge our responsibilities in a wise and statesmanlike manner having regard to the sum-toto or the Plan as a whole.

It is clear that the Plan does not meet in some

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important respects our point of view; and we cannot say or feel that we are satisfied or that we agree with some of the matters dealt with by the Plan. It is for us now to consider whether the Plan as presented to us by His Majesty's Government should be accepted by us as a compromise or a settlement. On this point I do not wish to prejudge the decision of the Council of the All-India Muslim League, which has been summoned to meet on Monday the 9th of June; and the final decision can only be taken by the Council according to our Constitution, precedents and practice. But so far as I have been able to gather on the whole the reaction in the Muslim League circles in Delhi has been hopeful. Of course the Plan has got to be very carefully examined in its pros and cons before the final decision can be taken.

I must say that I feel that the Viceroy has battled against various forces very bravely and the impression that he has left on my mind is that he was actuated by a high sense of fairness and impartiality and it is up to us now to make his task less difficult and help him as far as it lies in our power in order that he may fulfil his mission of transfer of power to the peoples of India, in a peaceful and orderly manner.

Now that the Plan that has been broadcast already makes it clear in paragraph 11 that a referendum will be made to the electorates of the present legislative Assembly in the North West Frontier Province who will choose which of the two alternatives in paragraph 4 they wish to adopt; and the referendum will be held under the aegis of the Governor-General in consultation with the provincial Government. Hence it is clear that the verdict and

the mandate of the people of the Frontier province will be obtained as to whether they want to join Pakistan Constituent Assembly or the Hindustan Constituent Assembly. In these circumstances, I request the Provincial Muslim League of the Frontier Province to withdraw the movement of peaceful civil disobedience which they had perforce to resort to; and I call upon all the leaders of the Muslim League and Mussalmans generally to organize our people to face this referendum with hope and courage and I feel confident that the people of the Frontier will give their verdict by a solid vote to join the Pakistan Constituent Assembly.

I cannot but express my appreciation of the sufferings and sacrifices made by all the classes of Mussalmans and particularly the great part the women of the Frontier played in the fight for our civil liberties. Without apportioning blame and this is hardly the moment to do so I deeply sympathise with all those who have suffered and those who died or whose properties were subjected to destruction and I fervently hope that Frontier will go through this referendum in a peaceful manner and it should be the anxiety of every one to obtain a fair, free and true verdict of the people of the Frontier.

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU,
Government of India.

BROADCAST BY THE HON'BLE SARDAR BALDEV SINGH

(All India Radio, New Delhi - 7.50 p.m., 3rd June, 1947)

You have just heard the broadcasts of His Excellency the Viceroy and two of our distinguished countrymen, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Mr. Jinnah.

You now also know the terms of the Plan which His Majesty's Government have formulated to end the long drawn political deadlock that had baffled us these many months and years.

It is a great day today. The occasion is historic. We have closed a dreary chapter. A new leaf is now turned. We seem to see gleaming on it the fulfilment of what till yesterday was but a dream. Today we enter the heritage that was ours -- the heritage of freedom we have claimed as our birthright.

It will be idle for me to pretend that the day is bright and joyous as indeed we might well have hoped it would be. It will be untrue if I say we are altogether happy. Seldom perhaps has a fulfilment like this been tarnished with so much of fear and sorrow. I say, seldom, because, even though we struggled and even though the struggle was long and heavy, our common quest for freedom need never have divided and torn us asunder one from another. This has actually taken place. The shadow of our differences has thrown its gloom over us. We have let ourselves be rent apart. We witness today -- even on the day of our freedom scenes of mutual conflict and all the horrors that conflict brings -- in so many parts of India. Neighbour has

ri~~son~~ against neighbour. Thousands of innocent lives have been lost. Men, women and children roam from one place to another, homeless, without shelter. Untold losses, financial, cultural, and spiritual, have been inflicted in wide areas. We look as if we are a house divided against itself. The day indeed finds us an unhappy people.

It is not necessary for me today to probe into the reasons for this affliction. We each have our faults. Let us own it. We each laid a price on what is priceless -- the willing surrender of our best for the common good of us all. That is why we fell foul of one another.

But that was yesterday. Till yesterday, we were pre-occupied with our little selves. The Plan that has now been announced steers a course obviously above the conflicting claims. It is not a compromise. I prefer to call it a settlement. It does not please everybody, not the Sikh community anyway, but it is certainly something worthwhile. Let us take it at that.

Taken in that spirit, this Plan should halt the dismal gloom that stalks our dear Motherland in so many of its stricken spots today. In that spirit, we should find in it the many tasks that await us in every sphere of our national life -- tasks that need doing not only to repair the damage we have inflicted on ourselves but to raise us in stature before the nations of the world.

We are poor. Let us not forget that we have no apology to let poverty continue afflict our people now that we shall be masters of our affairs. We have tasks, big and small, of reconstruction on our hands. Let us remember that it is only when the mind of our leaders is not deflected by internal quarrels that

they can effectively handle these tasks for our common good. Our people have many needs that have lingered unmet for years. Let us settle down to meet these needs and relieve the distress that haunts us. In a word, whatever our own preferences let us grow above our petty outlooks and work together to put our country on the way to greatness that certainly belongs to it.

We do have to live as brothers or as neighbours. We all do want to live in peace and strive for a modicum of ease and comfort in our homes whether in villages or in towns. We have had enough of quarrels and trouble. Let us now turn from an ugly past and help one another build a great and glorious future.

This is my counsel to men and women of good-will, Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians and others. For thousands of years, our ancestors lived together in this land with tolerance and neighbourly relations. Let us restore the old glory of our traditions, in order, as I have said, that we may equip ourselves to face the bright future that has now opened. I believe with all my heart that the divisions that tend to keep us apart now, will not last long. I believe also that even though we should choose to remain apart at present, we have so much in common -- economically, geographically and even spiritually -- that the very blue print of our plans, so soon as we view it with care, will bind us together. We have to forget the unhappy past to see this with precision. Let us concentrate on our common interests.

I say this with all earnestness. I will add that while making this appeal, I am not unaware of the existence in our midst of those discordant elements who are inhuman enough to imagine that their prosperity lies in the misfortune of their

fellow-men and women. Such people should be shunned. They will in fact soon meet their fate. As you must have heard, we have taken the strongest measures to enforce law and order and to apprehend the mischief-makers wherever we can lay our hands on them. During the last few weeks, large contingents of armed troops have been deployed in various parts of the country to aid the Civil Government. These troops consist of trusted men. They will give succour to those in need and act also as stern keepers of peace in trouble areas. I want you to look upon the soldier as your friend. He will not fail you.

And to you, Sailors, Soldiers and Airmen also, I must say a few words. You are obviously not uninfluenced by the great events that are taking place in India today. These include many political and administrative changes which will concern you. As men seasoned in life by discipline and fortitude, you will undoubtedly not allow yourselves to be needlessly perturbed. Let me say with all the authority I can command that your interests will in no circumstances be allowed to suffer. You have earned a name for yourselves throughout the world by your valour and high tradition. India will not and cannot forget the debt it owes you. Some of you today are having to perform unpleasant duties on internal security work. No one is more conscious of it than I.

Our Motherland is passing through a period of transition and strain. Your patriotism and high sense of loyalty will help you to steer clear through these difficult times. Do not forget that India's honour is your honour. Serve India now in

her hour of trial with good conscience and to the best of your ability and remain confident that we stand by you today as we have done in the past. The Commander-in-Chief will, in the next few days, broadcast a special message to you. He will deal with some of the specific problems that may now be engaging your mind. Meanwhile I have no doubt, whatever political considerations may shape the future of India, your interests will be protected by all sides.

THANK YOU.

"300 -- 3.6.47."

NOTE TO BE PUT ON CARDS.

There is a sound track on Mountbatten's speech but as the picture and Track were filmed separately, they do not match and cannot be used together.

All other speeches were filmed silent but a copy of each speech will be found in the dope of issue 1699 should they be needed for reference at any time.