



Mr. Nehru inspects a guard of honour at the march past at the N.C.C. Camp in Delhi Cantonment on Saturday.—Statesman.

VISITING CADETS



The Commonwealth cadets who are on a short visit to India being introduced to the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, when he visited the N.C.C. Camp in Delhi Cantonment on Saturday.

MR. NEHRU'S STRESS ON DISCIPLINE

Address At N.C.C. Parade

By A Staff Reporter

At a smartly turned out parade in the Delhi Cantonment on Saturday, Mr Nehru received the salute from nearly 250 members of the National Cadet Corps drawn from different parts of India.

The cadets, among whom were many women, have assembled in Delhi to represent India's 70,000 NCC members at the Republic Day parade.

Led by two junior division cadets, Mr Nehru inspected a guard of honour which the Army, Naval, Air and Girls' wings of the Corps presented jointly.

Among the spectators were the Deputy Defence Minister, Mr Satish Chandra, Mrs Pandit, several senior military officers and the British and Australian cadets at present visiting India.

MILITARY TRAINING

Later, with the cadets sitting round him, the Prime Minister talked to them informally on military training and its importance in national life.

The number of cadets in the NCC, he told them, was exceedingly small. In a vast country, such as India, there should be a much larger number of young men and women in the NCC.

He favoured military training for them, he said, not to make them into soldiers trained in methods of combat, but to give them "a disciplined outlook on life".

Many people had suggested to him that there should be general conscription in India and that military training should be made compulsory. Mr Nehru said he did not particularly approve of the idea of conscription. For one thing, it was not possible to arrange training for hundreds of thousands of persons and another he did not wish to convert the country into a "military camp".

"I do, however, wish that the people in India should get the sense of discipline which military training imparts". Discipline was essential in all aspects of one's activity and was a quality which must be developed by soldiers as well as civilians.

SHAPING DESTINY

The cadets were here to take part in the Republic Day celebrations. While they did so, he advised them to realize that as young men and women they had an important rôle to play in shaping the nation's destiny. Each one of them, he was confident, wanted India to be a great country occupying a place of eminence in the world. In an age of severe competition, the country could not attain that position if the people were not alert and disciplined.

Indians, Mr Nehru said, were capable of becoming a great nation but there were also certain weaknesses in the national character.

Among these weaknesses, the most serious was lack of unity among the people. A study of Indian history would reveal that subjugation and decline whenever it came was the direct outcome of this weakness.

ATTEMPTS TO DIVIDE

He regretted that Indians had not yet learnt a lesson from their own experience, because he still saw attempts to divide the people on communal, provincial and linguistic basis.

Besides making them disciplined citizens their training in the NCC, he told the cadets, gave them an opportunity of meeting Indians from different parts of the country and getting a more comprehensive view of their country and its people. This should greatly help them understand each other and overcome false barriers which might divide them.

After Mr Nehru's address, a cadet belonging to the girls' division, presented to him, on behalf of the Corps, a silver emblem of the NCC. The parade ended with all the cadets shouting Mr Nehru's "jai".

"Imbibe Sense Of Discipline"

—MR. NEHRU

THE regard and affection in which the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, is held by the younger generation was witnessed just after he had finished addressing a contingent of the National Cadet Corps in the grounds of the Indian General Hospital, Delhi Cantonment, on Saturday afternoon.

A member of the Girls division requested permission for them to sing a chorus in praise of the N.C.C. activities; and when this impromptu act was over came forward with a souvenir enclosed in a small black leather case which she presented to Mr. Nehru on behalf of her colleagues.

Mr. Nehru, in his address, exhorted the cadets to imbibe the sense of discipline and firmness of character which made for a great nation.

No one in India, he said, wanted the people to become military-minded or indulge in the glorification of war. However, the training and sense of discipline and comradeship acquired through service in the armed forces and the N.C.C. helped to create unity among the many sections of the people of this large country.

The Prime Minister reminded his young listeners that history revealed countless instances when internal disunity had cost the country its freedom. With only six and a half years of independence behind us, we should not forget the lessons of history and we should learn to get to know each other

better and push onwards on the path to progress.

Mr. Nehru was received by Col. Virendra Singh, Director of the National Cadet Corps. He then took the salute at a march past of picked units from the various divisions of the Corps.

Mr. Nehru also met the 14-man contingent of cadets from the United Kingdom and Australia commanded by a R.A.F. officer, who is in this country on the invitation of the Government of India to be present for the Republic Day celebrations.