

# KEESING'S CONTEMPORARY ARCHIVES

WEEKLY DIARY OF IMPORTANT WORLD EVENTS  
WITH INDEX CONTINUALLY KEPT UP-TO-DATE

ESTABLISHED IN 1931

Reports, Statistics and Data selected, condensed, translated, summarised, and indexed from newspapers, periodicals, and official publications of Great Britain, the British Empire, and Foreign Countries; as well as from information supplied by the recognised international news agencies

VOLUME No. VI

1946-1948

KEESING'S PUBLICATIONS LIMITED (of London)  
65 Bristol Road • Keynsham • Bristol

A. PAKISTAN. — Inaugural Meeting of the Pakistani Constituent Assembly. - Mr. Jinnah invested with Title of "Quaid-i-Azam." - Pledge of Full Citizenship for Minorities. - New Moslem League Premier in N.W. Frontier Province. - Accession of Junagadh State to Pakistan. - Opposition by Government of India and Kathiawar States. - Ambassadors exchanged by Pakistan and U.S.A.

The setting up of a Constituent Assembly for Pakistan was announced from New Delhi on July 26, prior to the transfer of power, in a statement from the office of the Governor-General. It was provided that the Pakistani Constituent Assembly should consist of 69 members as follows: 41 from East Bengal (29 Moslems and 12 General), 17 from West Punjab (12 Moslems, 3 Hindus, 2 Sikhs), 4 from Sind (3 Moslems, 1 General), 3 from the N.W. Frontier Province (Moslems), 3 from the Sylhet district of Assam (Moslems), and 1 from Baluchistan (Moslem), the members from Sind, the Frontier Province, and Baluchistan being those elected to the Indian Constituent Assembly before partition.

Among the Moslem members for West Punjab were Mr. M. A. Jinnah (Governor-General of Pakistan), Sir Firoz Khan Noon, Mr. Malik Omar Hyat, Ghazanfar Ali Khan, Sardar Abdur Rab Nishtar, and the Begum Shah Nawaz, while those from East Bengal included Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan (Prime Minister of Pakistan), Mr. Suhrawardy (Premier of Bengal before partition), Mr. Fazlul H<sup>q</sup> and Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin (both ex-Premiers of Bengal), Mr. M. A. Ispahanl, and Prof. Husain Qureshi. The General members from East Bengal included Mr. K. S. Roy, formerly Congress leader in the Bengal Legislative Assembly, and Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal, a Hindu and a member of the Scheduled Castes, who for many years had co-operated with the Moslem League in provincial politics.

The Sikh members of the Punjab Legislative Assembly, meeting on July 17 at Lahore, decided that the 2 Sikh representatives should not take their Boats in the Pakistani Assembly in view of the massacre of Sikhs and Hindus in the Multan and Rawalpindi areas in March last.

The Constituent Assembly of Pakistan met for the first time on Aug. 10 in Karachi, in the Council Chamber of the Sind Legislative Assembly, Mr. Jogendra Nath Mandal being unanimously elected temporary chairman.

Mr. Mandal, in his inaugural speech, expressed the conviction that Pakistan would be "one of the most powerful, resourceful, and magnificent States in the world," and paid tribute to Mr. Jinnah, "the great architect and creator of Pakistan and one of the greatest men of the world to-day." Declaring that it was incumbent on all minorities to co-operate in Constitution-making and to play their full part as citizens, Mr. Mandal said: "The minority communities in Pakistan may be assured—as they have been assured in the past by the Moslem League leadership and particularly by Mr. Jinnah—that they will not only be treated justly and fairly, but generously too. . . . The people of Pakistan, of all communities, should trust each other. Distrust, enmity, hatred and jealousy should be replaced by friendship and mutual co-operation. . . . Our endeavour should be to frame one of the best Constitutions that any State has produced."

Mr. Jinnah was unanimously elected President of the 'Constituent Assembly (combining that function with the Governor-Generalship) on Aug. 11, and on Aug. 12 the Assembly adopted a motion conferring on him the title of *Quaid-i-Azam* ("great leader") and providing that, as from the transfer of power on Aug. 15, he should be designated in all official documents, correspondence, etc., as "*Quaid-i-Azam* Mohammed Ali Jinnah, Governor-General of Pakistan." Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, who moved the motion, compared the designation *Quaid-i-Azam* conferred on Mr. Jinnah with that of "Ataturk" given to the late Mustafa Kemal of Turkey and of "Generalissimo" given to Marshal Stalin.

The Constituent Assembly, on Aug. 12, also unanimously approved the new Pakistani national flag (see 8737 C), whose dignity members of all communities pledged themselves to uphold, and adopted a resolution by Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan for the appointment of a committee, consisting of the *Quaid-i-Azam* and 15 members, to advise the Assembly on fundamental rights of Pakistani citizens and matters relating to minorities. The Assembly convened in special session on Aug. 14 to hear a message from Lord Mountbatten prior to the transfer of power (see 8771 A), Mr. Jinnah being formally sworn in as Governor-General of Pakistan on Aug. 15.

Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, speaking in the Assembly on Aug. 11 after Mr. Jinnah had been elected as its President, declared that it was "an unparalleled event in the history of the world that without bloodshed, without going through a bloody revolution, a State which is the fifth largest in the world should come into being."

Mr. K. S. Roy, congratulating Mr. Jinnah on behalf of the Congress Party, gave an assurance that the *Quaid-i-Azam* would obtain the fullest co-operation from the minorities in making Pakistan "a secular democratic State with no difference between citizen and citizen, irrespective of caste, creed or community." Continuing, Mr. Roy said: "Frankly, we are unhappy because of the partition

of India and of the Punjab and Bengal. But, once this arrangement has been agreed upon by the two great parties, we accept it loyally. We accept citizenship of Pakistan with all its implications. We would like to face all the difficulties and risks which are concomitant with the birth of a nation, as we hope to share the prosperity and happiness which we will jointly create in the State. In return we expect the rights and privileges of the minorities to be guaranteed in the Constitution, and respected in the day-to-day working of the Government. There will be no want of trust and co-operation on our side."

Mr. Jinnah, after thanking the Assembly for the honour conferred on him, emphasised that it had two main functions to perform, "first, the onerous and responsible task of framing our future Constitution; secondly, to function as a full sovereign body as the Federal Legislature of Pakistan." Maintaining that partition was the only solution to the constitutional problem, he said: "I know there are people who do not agree with the division of India and the partition of the Punjab and Bengal. But now that it has been accepted, it is the duty of every one of us loyally to abide by it and act honourably according to the agreement which is final and binding on all. I can quite understand the feeling that exists between the two communities. But the question is whether it was possible or practicable to do otherwise. A division had to take place. On both sides, in Hindustan and Pakistan, there may be sections of people who do not agree with it, who do not like it, but in my judgment there was no other solution. I think when history records its verdict it will be proved by facts that it was the only solution of India's constitutional problem. Any other idea of a united India would never have worked, and in my judgment would have led us to terrific disaster."

After promising equal rights of citizenship to all sections of the population, and recalling that in Britain there was formerly bitterness between Protestants and Catholics, who to-day worked in harmony as equal citizens of their country, he concluded: "Every one of you, no matter to what community you belong, no matter what your colour, caste or creed, is first, second and last a citizen of this State, with equal rights, privileges and obligations. . . . While you may belong to one religion or caste or creed, that has nothing to do with the business of the State. We start with the fundamental principle that we are all equal citizens of the State. We should keep that in front of us as our ideal. In course of time Hindus will cease to be Hindus and Moslems will cease to be Moslems, not in the religious sense, because that is the personal faith of each individual, but in the political sense as citizens of the nation."

A Peshawar announcement of Aug. 22 stated that the Governor of the N.W. Frontier Province (Sir George Cunningham) had, consequent on the Province's decision to join Pakistan, dismissed the Congress Ministry of Dr. Khan Saheb elected in March 1946. The Moslem League leader in the Frontier Province, Khan Abdul Qayum, accepted the Governor's invitation to form a new Cabinet on Aug. 23. In East Bengal, Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin was elected leader of the Moslem League in that Province on Aug. 5, while Mr. Suhrawardy, the former Premier of Bengal, was elected leader of the West Bengal (India) Moslem League Parliamentary Party. Khwaja Sir Nazimuddin subsequently formed a Ministry in East Bengal including members of the Moslem League and of the minority parties.

The accession to Pakistan during August of the Kathiawar State of Junagadh, which had been accepted by Pakistan but was not recognised by India, gave rise to tension between the two Dominions and was strongly opposed in India, and in particular by the other Kathiawar States on the grounds that Junagadh's accession to Pakistan jeopardised the independence and sovereignty of those States.

Junagadh, whose accession to Pakistan was announced on Aug. 18, is, with Nawanagar, one of the premier Kathiawar States. Situated in the S.W. of the Kathiawar peninsula, it is about 4,000 sq. miles in area, has a population of about 800,000 (of whom over 80 per cent are Hindus and the rest Moslems), and has a 300-mile seaboard on the Arabian Sea; it contains *enclaves* of the territory of other Kathiawar States—e.g., Gondal, Jetpur, and Porbandar. Though the population is preponderantly Hindu, the Nawab is a Moslem and his *Dewan* and Ministers are also Moslems. Junagadh is about 450 miles from Pakistan, having direct access to that Dominion by sea but being separated from it geographically by Nawanagar and other Kathiawar States which have acceded to the Dominion of India and by the inlet known as the Rann of Cutch.

The Jam Saheb of Nawanagar, in a statement on Sept. 22, described Junagadh's accession to Pakistan as "a danger to the peace of India" and a direct threat to the peace and safety of the other Kathiawar States; demanded that the Nawab of Junagadh should hold a plebiscite to ascertain his people's wishes; emphasised the overwhelmingly Hindu character of Junagadh's population; spoke of the presence of a Pakistani sloop, ex-HMIS *Godaveri*, off Voraval (the chief port of Junagadh); disclosed that the Government of India had, at the request of Gondal and Jetpur States, moved a battalion of Indian troops to Rajkot, about 50 miles from Junagadh; alleged that Junagadh State troops had invaded the small State of Babariawad; and said that over 5,000 refugees from Junagadh had entered Nawanagar.

A Government of India *communiqué* of Sept. 25 pointed out that all the Kathiawar States with the exception of Junagadh had acceded to the Dominion of India; recalled that, although

theoretically the termination of Paramountry left the Indian States free to accede to either of the two Dominions, it had been recognised that this choice would be exercised with due regard to geographical continuity; and stated that Junagadh had never attempted to negotiate with India but, without warning, had announced its accession to Pakistan, Representations by the Government of India to Pakistan that the question should be decided by a popular plebiscite had remained unanswered, whilst the Nawab of Junagadh had refused to receive Mr. V. P. Menon (secretary of the Indian States Ministry) when the latter had attempted to convey to him a personal message from the Government of India. The *communiqué* emphasised the Government of India's opinion that the people of Junagadh should be given the opportunity to determine to which Dominion they desired to accede by a free referendum.

Mr. Liaquat All Khan, in a statement from Karachi the same day, declared that the observations of the Jam Saheb of Nawangar were "full of untruths" and "ill-informed"; pointed out that the Indian Independence Act gave all States complete freedom of choice in regard to their accession to one Dominion or the other; emphasised that Pakistan had raised no objection to any State joining India; and accused the Jam Sahob of attempting to "raise a smoke-screen by introducing sensationalism in connection with the very first State that has joined Pakistan." An earlier statement by the *Dewan* of Junagadh (Sir Shah Nawaz Bhutto) on Sept. 23 was on similar lines, declaring *inter alia* that Junagadh had been a Moslem State for centuries and denying that its accession to Pakistan constituted any menace whatever to the peace and tranquillity of Kathiawar generally.

Mr. M. A. Ispahani left Karachi on Sept. 5 to take up the post of Pakistani Ambassador in Washington. The U.S. State Dept. announced on Sept. 22 the appointment of Mr. Paul Ailing as American Ambassador to Pakistan.—(Dawn, Karachi - The Statesman, Calcutta - Times - Manchester Guardian) (Prev. rep. Pakistan, 8771 A.)

**A. UNITED KINGDOM. — Hobhouse Committee Report on Access to the Countryside. - Footpath Survey recommended. - Proposed Long-Distance Paths.**

The report of the Committee on Footpaths and Access to the Countryside, appointed in July 1940 at the request of the Minister of Town and Country Planning under the chairmanship of Sir Arthur Hobhouse, presented its report to the Minister on Sept. 23.

Among a large number of recommendations the following were the most important: (1) a complete survey of all rights of way to be put in hand immediately and completed in 4 years, disputed cases to be heard by special rights of way committees of the courts of Quarter Sessions; (2) a clarification of the law relating to maintenance of rights of way, placing the duty of maintaining them upon the highway authorities; (3) new rights of way to be established and others closed or diverted to meet changing local conditions, parish councils losing their power to veto the closure or diversion of a right of way; (4) legislation to enable local planning authorities to designate as "access land" all uncultivated land, whether mountain, moor, heath, down, cliff, beach, or shore, and, in certain cases, Brethos of inland water; (5) compensation to be payable if, 5 years after designation, it can be shown that rental or capital value of land had been materially reduced; (6) the National Parks Commission, when established, to be empowered to make grants to local planning authorities for the creation or improvement of long-distance and coastal footpaths; (7) compulsory purchase of land to secure new rights of way where necessary; (8) the introduction of legislation to replace the Access to Mountains Act of 1939; (9) powers for highway authorities to require the removal of misleading notices (e.g., "trespassers prosecuted") erected by some landowners disputing the existence of rights of way.

Urging the need for a better understanding between town and country, the report stated that much ill-feeling in the past had been due to ignorance or thoughtlessness by some townspeople, which could be removed by educational effort, and suggested the issue of a "Country Code" to "evoke a better all-round standard of responsible behaviour in the countryside and to instil a greater appreciation of the interdependence of town and country."

The committee suggested the following long-distance footpaths: (1) the Pennine Way, a hill walk of 250 miles from Edale in Derbyshire along the Pennines and thence over the Cheviots to the Scottish border, 180 miles of footpath along this route already existing, leaving 70 to be provided; (2) a 200-mile footpath from the Chilterns to the Devon coast, running from the Gog Magog Hills near Cambridge to Seaton Bay, requiring 60 miles of new footpaths; (3) the Pilgrims' Way, from Canterbury to Winchester; (4) a footpath from the South Downs to Salisbury Plain; (5) Offa's Dyke, from Prestatyn (North Wales) to the Wye near Chepstow; and (6) a path from Teddington to Cricklade by towpaths along the Thames. The committee also strongly supported the National Parks Committee's recommendation for a coastal footpath (see 8740 A) round England and Wales.

It was stated at the Ministry of Town and Country Planning that although the Minister, Mr. Silkin, was in full sympathy with the committee's proposals, their adoption would entail intricate legislation and was unlikely in the near future in view of the heavy pressure of present Parliamentary work. (Times - Daily Telegraph - Manchester Guardian)

(Prev. rep. 8740 A; Hobhouse Committee, 8063 I.)

**B. UNITED KINGDOM. — Road Safety. - Report and Recommendations of Strauss Committee.**

The final report of the Committee on Road Safety (chairman, Mr. G. H. Strauss, then Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Transport) set up in December 1943, was published on Oct. 7, an interim report having been published in 1945. Principal recommendations of the final report were as follows:

**Pedestrians:** It should be made an offence to fail to conform to the signal of a traffic policeman; to impede the free flow of traffic signalled to proceed by a police officer or by traffic lights; or to disregard pavement guard rails erected to prevent crossing at particular places.

**Pedal Cyclists:** Obligation to report to the police accidents involving personal injury, with liability to prosecution for reckless and careless driving. The police to have powers to stop pedal cyclists on the road similar to those they now possess to stop motor vehicle drivers.

**Vehicles Inspection:** Periodical testing of motor vehicles (not more than twice annually) in publicly-owned testing stations; permanent stations to be set up in towns having about 20,000 vehicles registered within an 8-mile radius, and other places to be served by mobile stations. In addition, vehicles to be liable to be called in for testing if suspected of being unserviceable, irrespective of whether they have been involved in an accident or not, the inspection to cover brakes, steering, wheel alignment, tyres, indicators, headlights, sidelights, spotlights, etc. New vehicles (except buses) to be exempted from testing for 6 months, and drivers of vehicles passing inspection to be given certificates, failure on any count to pass involving the pasting of a "stop" notice on the windscreen until the defects have been certified as corrected. Direction indicators and "stop" lights to be made compulsory, and vehicles normally to be fitted with both external and internal driving mirrors.

**Road Accident Statistics:** A comprehensive system of collating and analysing statistics to facilitate the study of causes of accidents with a view to the introduction of preventive measures and to enable the effect of these to be judged.

The committee also recommended research into the possibility of producing a crash helmet as standard wear for civilian motorcyclists, stated by Mr. Strauss to be concerned in 32 per cent of total adult fatalities.

A proposal for the registration of pedal cyclists was rejected by a majority of the committee on the ground of the administrative burden involved, two members (Sir Archibald Horder, Chief Constable of Lancashire, and Sir Alker Tripp, Assistant-Commissioner, Metropolitan Police), however, strongly supporting a recommendation by a previous committee that cycles should be registered and carry number-plates.—(Times - Daily Telegraph) (Prev. rep. Road Accidents, 8416 B.)

**C. UNITED STATES. — Sale of Radioactive Isotopes to Foreign Countries.**

President Truman, in a message to an International Cancer Research Congress which met at St. Louis on Sept. 3 and was attended by representatives of 35 nations, announced on behalf of the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission that the production of radioactive isotopes was sufficiently advanced in the U.S.A. to make possible their supply to foreign countries for purposes of medical and biological research providing the following conditions were fulfilled: (1) the foreign Governments making application to agree to submit progress reports to the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission at 6-monthly intervals, and to permit publication of such reports; (2) prior approval by the Commission before shipments were made to ensure that the isotopes were used for the purposes stated in the request; (3) permission for qualified scientists, irrespective of nationality, to visit institutions where the materials were used, and to obtain information freely regarding the purposes, methods, and results of their use. The President's announcement was brought to the notice of the United Nations Atomic Energy Commission on Sept. 4.

Dr. Paul Aebersold, head of the isotope branch of the Oak Ridge (Tennessee) atomic energy plant, stated at the concluding session of the St. Louis congress on Sept. 6 that the production of radioactive isotopes (which are of primary importance *inter alia* for research into such diseases as cancer and leukaemia) in the U.S.A. was sufficient to meet the whole world's reasonable needs; that applications had been received from 30 countries, including Russia, for their supply; that shipments would be made as soon as the necessary formalities were complied with; and that amounts could be sold to foreign scientists at prices ranging from \$1.50 to \$50 per unit, with delivery by air to any part of the world. Some of the units, he added, would have been unobtainable before the war, or would have cost \$1,000,000 each.

The first shipment of radioactive isotopes from the U.S.A. was made by air on Sept. 5, the sale being made to Australia for the use of the Commonwealth X-Ray and Radium Laboratory at Melbourne.—(New York Times - New York Herald Tribune) (Prev. rep. Atomic Research, 8563 A.)