

Japs' Unprecedented Ovation To Nehru

CROWDS BREAK POLICE CORDON TO GET NEAR HIM

HAKONE (Japan), Oct. 6.—Prime Minister Nehru's magnetism yesterday pierced the wall of traditional reserve of the Japanese people who cheered him vociferously, broke police cordons and jostled each other to get near him and ultimately succeeded in milling round him.

Mr. Nehru, who arrived here in the evening from Tokyo, accompanied by Premier Kishi by rail and car, was given a tumultuous ovation by the people including children. He is staying in the famous Fujiya Hotel in this pleasant hill resort a few miles away from 'the national mountain of Japan-Fuji'. Rooms in this luxury hotel do not bear numbers but are designed by the names of different flowers. Mr. Nehru's suite bears the name Chrysanthemum.

The first signs of the Japanese reserve being broken were noticed outside Tokyo station yesterday afternoon where several thousand people clapped and cheered Mr. Nehru as Mr. Kishi received him. On the platform inside hundreds of passengers jumped out of stationary trains and rushed towards him shouting hurrah. Mr. Nehru waved at them acknowledging their greeting from a special observation car attached to the electric train. Walls of the car were richly panelled with fine wood and decorated in Japanese style.

BIGGEST OVATION

Crowds at wayside stations cheered Mr. Nehru as the train slowly passed by. The biggest ovation was given at Odawara station where Mr. Nehru detrained to drive to 2,000 feet high Hakone. Waiting crowds broke all police cordons and milled round him. The police frantically blowing their whistles to keep back the crowds made way with difficulty for Mr. Nehru to reach the car.

The crowd had become almost unmanageable and rushed behind Mr.

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den here with Japanese ponds, traditional stepping stones and near garden beds with autumn flowers in bloom.—P.T.I.

Vociferous Cheering For Mr. Nehru

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Nehru's car. The car had to slow down as wildly cheering children waved paper flags and lined the streets ten deep. At Odawara, Mr. Nehru was shown a training centre where toys were made. On being shown several articles made of wood, Mr. Nehru startled the director of the centre by thrusting his ivory banton forward and asking the director: 'What wood is this?' Taken aback a little, the director could not name the wood immediately. Mr. Nehru then prompted him and said: 'Smell it'. The director then immediately said sandalwood in Japanese. The director presented Mr. Nehru with several articles made at the centre.

The climb to Fujiya Hotel through winding roads saw more ovation for Mr. Nehru when people gathered outside the villages and shouted hurrahs. The people cheered Mr. Nehru from packed buses carrying tourists from Hakone which had stopped on the route to let his car pass. All buses plying in this sector carried Indian flags.

GLIMPSE OF COUNTRYSIDE

Prime Minister Nehru had the first glimpse of Japan's beautiful countryside through the train from Tokyo to Odawara. He saw green rice fields and vegetable patches in clean and tidy villages. Suburbs of Tokyo had numerous gas-filled balloons alongside the railway track from which were suspended Japanese letters bearing the names of companies advertising their products. On slopes of the hills covered with pine trees, Mr. Nehru saw typical narrow strips of terraced fields.

As Mr. Nehru reached Odawara, the sun broke through the cloudy sky bathing this little town in brilliant sunshine. The weather remained pleasant throughout the journey.

A Japanese official travelling with the party said yesterday's magnificent ovation had never been witnessed before in Japan for any foreign visiting dignitary. Children were beside themselves with joy as soon as they spotted Mr. Nehru. At several places children ran after his car waving Indian paper flags they had made themselves. Several of them shook hands with him and would not let go their grasp. Protocol men kept back the crowds with difficulty.

In the evening as the long shadows of the night were closing in, Mr. Nehru set out to see the famous garden here with lovely Japanese ponds, traditional stepping stones and near garden beds with autumn flowers in bloom.—P.T.I.





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