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177
Ministry of Home Affairs
Government of India
H. M's Personal Section

Card Indexed.

Pros.
Serial Nos.

Subject.

Letter from Dharam Yash Dev regarding
sale of the bungalow in New Delhi of the
Nawab of Bahawalpur to the American
Embassy and his other correspondence -
Applications from refugees of Bahawalpur.

Previous References.

Later References.

hcl



Council House,
New Delhi.
November 21 1947.

D.O.NO: DP-11/115/47.

My dear Shankar,

Some friends belonging to Bahawalpur came and told me that the Nawab of Bahawalpur was negotiating ~~and~~ for the sale of his property in Delhi and in other parts of India.

One of the Bahawalpur Houses in New Delhi is occupied by the American Embassy and it is understood that the American Ambassador is the prospective customer for this building. Hindu refugees from Bahawalpur who have suffered a great deal feel that this deed should not be allowed to go through and if possible the House should be commandeered on more or less permanent basis. The refugees feel that if there is no way of helping the refugees out of the money that the Nawab will realize from the sale of his property in India at least something could be done to deprive him of benefitting from this.

They have addressed the application to the Deputy Prime Minister and therefore I am forwarding it to you, in case it is likely to be of any interest to you or to the States Ministry.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dharam Yash Dev
(DHARAM YASH DEV)

V. Shankar, Esqr., ICS.,
Private Secretary to the
Deputy Prime Minister,
NEW DELHI.

Bahawalpur State Refugee Relief Committee

C/o BEECHAM'S PRESS LTD.

Con. Circus, NEW DELHI

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M. BLOCK,

Ref. No. _____

Date **15th Nov. 1947**

**The Hon'ble Deputy Prime Minister,
Government of India,
New Delhi**

Dear Sir,

We wish to place the following facts before you for your favourable consideration in view of the heavy losses suffered by the Hindus and Sikhs of the Bahawalpur State.

We now reliably understand that H.H. the Nawab Sahib Bahadur of Bahawalpur State is trying to negotiate the deal with regard to the sale of the property belonging to H.H. Nawab Sahib of the State Government which are situated as under:-

- 1) Katra Abbassian situated at Pahargunj- Delhi.
- 2) Bahawalpur House, Sikandra Road, New Delhi.
- 3) Bahawalpur House, Summer Hills, Simla.
- 4) Al-Hilal in Kangra Valley at Palampur.

As regards item 2 i.e. Bahawalpur House now occupied by the American Embassy, the deal is being put through with U.S. Embassy and is likely to be completed very shortly.

While we have no objection to the U.S. Embassy buying our Property in India yet we do object to H.H. and the State being benefitted by the sale of the properties in India, whereas the Hindus and Sikhs from the State have been so mercilessly massacred, looted, their women folk abducted and forceably converted into muslims and had left

P.T.O.

Bahawalpur State Refugee Relief Committee

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M. BLOCK.

Ref. No.

Date **15th Nov. 1947**

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their entire properties in the State of which there is no chance of recovery, it is therefore, requested that immediate steps may kindly be taken to stop the deal and the State authorities warned to execute any such sale in the interest of the properties of the Hindus and Sikhs refugees from Bahawalpur State. No doubt the losses of the refugees will not be covered by the above mentioned property passing to the State of H.H. yet it will give at least some provision for those who have been left penniless by the forced circumstances.

We hope that every possible effort will be made to safeguard the interest of the refugees from Bahawalpur State.

Yours faithfully,
for Bahawalpur State Refugee Relief Committee

(Signature)
(B. Daveja)
Jr. Secretary.

× c.c. to Hon'ble Mr. Gadgil,
Member for Works Mines and Powers,
Government of India, New Delhi. ×

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DIRECTOR OF PUBLICITY



-4
Council House,
New Delhi.
November 6 1947

Respected Sardar:

Now that the Ministry of Information is being reorganized I am taking the liberty of making a few suggestions. I shall be grateful if you will kindly spare a few minutes and look through the enclosed note. A copy of this has already been given to Mr. Bhalja.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,

Sharda Yash DEV

Shri Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel,
No.1-Aurengzeb Road,
NEW DELHI.

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**PLANNING AND CO-ORDINATION OF
GOVERNMENT PUBLICITY AND PROPAGANDA.**

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The mighty weapon of propaganda, next to the might of its armed forces, is the most potent force that any Government can have at its command. Things being what they are today, our National Government, if it has to build up its prestige abroad and get a firm grip over the heads and hearts of the millions in this country, has to think in terms of "Active Propaganda" more than a mere publicity programme for its various actions and activities. It means having a more positive and a dynamic approach to the same problems.

2. Howsoever potent the weapon may be, to produce the best possible results, it must have the maximum of forethought behind it. More than anything else, particularly at this juncture, any programme of National Publicity and Propaganda requires a good deal of inter-departmental and inter-sectional co-ordination and co-operation.

3. To get the best possible results the first essential is to have a clear idea of the "Objectives" to be achieved and then to turn the various vehicles and media of propaganda on to this objective. All this could be made possible if the Ministry of Information were to set up a sort of "brain trust" of experts and professional men, which could be called National Publicity Control Board or National Publicity And Propaganda Planning And Control Board.

4. This Board or "brain trust" could act as a sort of co-ordinating link between the Ministry and its various divisions, and between the Propaganda Ministry

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and other Ministries which constitute our National Government. The Board should act as a sort of "store house" or "clearing house" for "ideas" and "directives" for the various publicity organizations of the Government, both in India and abroad, and also for collecting and compiling a summary of the World Press reactions vis-a-vis developments in India and communicating the same to members of the Cabinet in general, and to the various Ministries according to their particular requirements and interests.

5. The Board should have a Director or a Secretary of its own who should have the status of a Senior Deputy Secretary or a Joint Secretary in the Ministry. For its primary members the Board should include the Heads of the following Sections of the I. & B. Ministry:-

Broadcasting, Press Information Bureau, Publications Division, Films' Unit, Reference & Research Section, and the Advertising Branch.

The Secretary of the I. & B. Ministry should be its ex-Officio Chairman. The Board should hold regular weekly meetings and should make an over-all survey of various developments, political and otherwise, both national and inter-national, and should lay down a definite and positive policy for India's publicity and propaganda, both at home and abroad.

6. If at any of its weekly meetings the Board has on its agenda any particular item, which is of special interest to any of the Ministries, then on such occasions it would be necessary and desirable to invite the Secretary or some other senior officer of that Ministry to be present at the meeting. This will enable the Board to have the best possible departmental expert advice and

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thus ensure maximum co-ordination and the best of results.

7. The Board should have a non-official Advisory Committee consisting of say, about 15 to 20 members, who should meet once every two months. The Advisory Committee should include at least two leading Press Correspondents in Delhi and about half a dozen Editors from different parts of the country. It should also include one or two non-officials, if possible, important members of the Central Legislature, and at least two representatives of the States. The Advisory Committee should have the members of the Board as its ex-officio members. The Minister for Information should preside at the meetings of the Advisory Committee whenever the Committee meets to review the work of the Board.

8. There should be another inter-provincial over-all co-ordinating committee which should include the various Provincial Publicity Officers and should meet once every three months to ensure better co-operation and co-ordination between the Central and Provincial Publicity Organizations. The Chairman of the Board should be ex-officio Chairman of this sub-committee.

9. In addition to these committees, the Minister for Information should hold quarterly consultations and meetings with the Provincial Information Ministers when he should explain to them various policies and programmes of the Central Government and should give a sort of directive to the Provincial Ministers for the execution and interpretation of these policies so far as Provincial Publicity Organizations and administrations are concerned.

10. The above, in brief, is the organizational outline of a national propaganda brain trust, a set-up, the need for which at the present juncture is imperative.

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Its details could be worked out without any difficulty once the principle has been accepted. Things have not been too easy for India's first National Government. In addition to what the various Ministries are doing in their own way to ameliorate the lot of the masses of this country, there is an herculean task to be undertaken by the Ministry of Information to win the support and goodwill of the masses of this country and to create positive respect, both at home and abroad, for India's first National Government.

Dharam Yash Dev
(Dharam Yash Dev).
6/11/1947.