

INDIA AND PAKISTAN BECOME NATIONS; Clashes Continue; Ceremonies at New Delhi and Karachi Mark Independence for 400,000,000 Persons; Nehru Acclaims Gandhi ; But He Warns of Trials Ahead -- Death Toll in Communal Fighting Reaches 153

August 15, 1947

NEW DELHI -- India achieved her long sought independence today through the transfer of British power to the two dominions into which that land of 400,000,000 persons has been divided, India and Pakistan.

While the ceremonies marking this major historic event were taking place communal strife continued to cast a grim shadow over future.

[Communal clashes, fires and looting continued in Landra, Punjab, with the rising death toll estimated at 158, The Associated Press reported. In London King George conferred an earldom on Viscount Mountbatten for his role in solving the Indian problem and the Government £35,000,000 of India's sterling balance.]

The Dominion of India reached the goal of freedom here at midnight with minimum celebration and a few speeches that stressed the gravity of the tasks ahead of the new nation.

In Karachi, capital of Pakistan, Mohammed Ali Jinnah will take the oath this morning as Governor General of the Moslem dominion which he was the primary figure in creating against the demand for a united India.

Viceroy at Both Ceremonies

This ceremony at the Sind Provincial Government House, which is now Mr. Jinnah's official residence, will be the only event marking the transfer of power from British to Indian hands in that dominion.

The Viceroy, Viscount Mountbatten, addressed the Pakistan Constituent Assembly yesterday -- his last official act as Viceroy -- and then flew back to New Delhi to attend the formal transfer here. No special events were scheduled in Karachi, as they were in New Delhi, to mark the actual moments when the rule of the King-Emperor came to an end at midnight except in so far as both dominions continued to owe formal allegiance to the British crown.

Mohandas K. Gandhi, the real hero of the New Delhi ceremony, was absent from the capital of his country in its triumphant hour. At the moment his great dream came true - - though not precisely in the form he wished -- Mr. Gandhi was in humble surroundings of his own choosing among the Moslems of Calcutta, where he felt he was needed more. But his name was publicly praised by others who remained here to carry on the work to which he has devoted his life.

YOUNGEST DOMINION

February 12, 1948

The youngest and most picturesque fragment of the old British Empire to establish Dominion status within the Commonwealth of Nations, Ceylon now embarks on a career of her own under auspicious circumstances. This 25,000 square reties of tropical isle is only a "jewel on the brow of India," but it is a valuable one.

BURMA AGAIN EYES DOMINION STATUS; Strife Rends New Republic, Ruins Economy -- Leaders Await India's Decision

November 28, 1948

RANGOON, Burma, Nov. 27 (AP) -- The Burmese are watching closely the trend of events in India, across the Bay of Bengal, for a line on their own political future.

INDIAN PARTY CHIEF REJECTS 'DOMINION'; Exact Political Status Is Not Defined, but Limiting Tie to Britain Is Ruled Out

December 19, 1948

NEW DELHI, India, Dec. 18 -- Dominionhood in the British Commonwealth is a "transitional" phase in India's political development, and therefore "Dominion status must go," Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya, the new president of the Indian National Congress party, declared today in his presidential address to the party's fifty-fifth annual convention in Jaipur.

NEWFOUNDLAND CHOOSES

April 3, 1949

When Newfoundland attached herself, on Friday, to the Dominion of Canada she took a further step in a long series of political changes. All of those changes have been made within the framework of the British Commonwealth and Empire and for almost a century they have been made both with the consent and at the behest of the Newfoundlanders themselves.

Two-Day National Holiday; INDIA A REPUBLIC; PRASAD PRESIDENT British Insignia Removed

January 26, 1950

NEW DELHI, Jan. 25--The proclamation of the Republic of India and the induction of the first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad, will be marked by a two-day national holiday.

CANADA ACCLAIMS QUEEN

May 31, 1953

OTTAWA, May 30 -- Although there are a few in Quebec Province who dream of a "Laurentian Republic" and there are some everywhere who claim to think that Canada should be either a republic on her own or part of the United States, the great majority of Canadians are by reason and sentiment attached to the Crown and the Commonwealth as the best guarantees of their national unity and their independence.

PAKISTAN'S SHIFT TO REPUBLIC SEEN; Laid to 'Indifference' of British, Expected to Mark 6th Year of India's Partition

June 07, 1953

KARACHI, Pakistan, June 5 -- A United States of Pakistan, born of disappointment with Britain's "indifference" to the young dominion's problems, is expected to be announced in August on the sixth anniversary of the country's creation by partition from India.

Two Nigerian Leaders Rebuff London; Demand Dominion Status by 1956

June 17, 1953

Refuse to Heed Conference Call -- Moslems in North in Split With South's Nationalists
LAGOS, Nigeria, June 15 (Reuters) -- Two prominent Nigerian Nationalists said today that they would declare the colony's independence, "whatever the consequences," if Nigeria did not receive dominion status by 1956.

GOLD COAST PUSHES DOMINION AMBITION; A British Colony for 79 Years It Asks More Self-Rule and Change of Name to Ghana

June 21, 1953

ACCRA, Gold Coast, June 20 (Reuters) -- After seventy-nine years of British rule, the Gold Coast, one of Britain's most prosperous colonies, on Africa's west coast, is ready for self-rule and dominion status, the Government said today.

PAKISTAN 'MOSLEM STATE' STIRS PROTESTS IN INDIA; Decision to Set Up Islamic Republic May Revive Violent Religious Feud

November 08, 1953

NEW DELHI, Nov. 7 -- Pakistan's decision to become an "Islamic Republic" has newly inflamed the basic animosities between that country and predominantly Hindu India. This is more important internationally than the blow to British sentiment occasioned by the loss of 76,000,000 Asian subjects of the Queen, the largest overseas component of Her Majesty's dominions

South Rhodesia Likely to Quit if Dominion Status Is Delayed

January 18, 1954

PRETORIA, South Africa, Jan. 17 -- Either the new Central African Federation will become a white-dominated British dominion within the relatively near future or Southern Rhodesia, where most whites live, will become a part of the Union of South Africa

SINGAPORE EXPECTS DOMINION ROLE SOON

December 24, 1955

SINGAPORE, Dec. 23 -- David Marshall, the Chief Minister of Singapore, returned today from his three-week visit to London. He said he had hopes that Singapore would get dominion status by next April.