

MEMORANDUM

THE STATES REORGANISATION COMMISSION

By

THE BOMBAY CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

1954

MEMORANDUM

submitted to

THE STATES REORGANISATION COMMISSION

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THE BOMBAY CITIZENS' COMMITTEE

Re:

REORGANISATION OF STATES

1954

BOMBAY,
14th June 1954.

From

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, K.B.E., C.I.E.,
President,
The Bombay Citizens' Committee,
BOMBAY I.

To

The Chairman,
The States Reorganisation Commission,
NEW DELHI.

SIR,

May I invite your reference to the press communique issued by your Commission on 23rd February 1954 for submission of memoranda on the question of the Reorganisation of States in the Indian Union? In terms of the same I have the privilege of submitting, on behalf of the Bombay Citizens' Committee, a memorandum which places before the Commission the considered views of the Committee on the general approach to the principles of Reorganisation of States in the Indian Union (Part I) and the future of Bombay City in event it is decided to split up the present composite State of Bombay (Part II).

It would be appropriate for me to refer here briefly to the purpose for which The Bombay Citizens' Committee was originally constituted. In 1947, when the Linguistic Provinces Commission was appointed by the Constituent Assembly for enquiring into and reporting on the desirability or otherwise of the creation of the proposed provinces of Andhra, Kerala, Karnataka and Maharashtra, a meeting of some leading citizens of Bombay representing different sections of the population who have settled down in the City was held on 26th August 1948. At this meeting a representative Committee was appointed to prepare and submit

a detailed Memorandum to the Commission. The Meeting also passed certain resolutions to give effect to their views on this question and these were duly forwarded to the Commission.

This Committee regarding Regrouping of Provinces which was specially appointed for the purpose of preparing and submitting a memorandum to the Dar Commission has been continuing to function in view of the importance of the subject and the need for a further and fuller study of the whole problem. The passing of time has helped the Committee to study further the developments that have followed the agitation for formation of linguistic States and also to take steps from time to time to explain, without in any way trying to rouse popular passions, to the citizens of Bombay the dangers inherent in reorganising the State of Bombay on a linguistic basis. The formation of Andhra State and the consequent increase in the tempo of agitation for the Reorganisation of States on a linguistic basis particularly by Maharashtra, Karnataka and Kerala obviously led to the appointment of the present Commission with a view to examining the question of a balanced Reorganisation of States as a whole, in a dispassionate and objective manner.

The original Committee, since the appointment of the Commission, has been re-constituted as Bombay Citizens' Committee re: Reorganisation of States. The representative character of the Committee has been strengthened by broadening its base through enlisting of more members. I need hardly emphasize that this Committee, as will be noted from the enclosed List of Members, is not exclusively confined to any particular communal, political or linguistic group, but is composed of enlightened representatives drawn from all walks of life and speaking different languages. The members are actively connected with the public life of the City of Bombay.

Though functioning in Bombay, the Committee may claim to reflect the views of responsible leaders of public opinion, who have no provincial or sectarian bias in their approach to the problem. The one common binding force that has drawn them together on the same platform is their desire to contribute towards the political solidarity and national unity of the country. They have been unanimously of the view that unless the people are infused with the spirit of national consciousness

and rise above considerations of regional or sectarian interests, it would not be possible to consolidate the forces of national unity, for economic reconstruction, essential for the maintenance of our hard-won freedom. In this connection, I may be permitted to refer to the recent appeal made by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in which he has aptly emphasized that all is not well in the World or India today and we cannot entertain any feeling of complacency at a time when there is need for the country to be disciplined with a view to facing any crisis or development which may require the mobilisation of all our strength and courage. He has particularly referred to the great danger of the language issue disrupting our national life and promoting a sense of disunity.

I would add that these words of our Prime Minister have a great significance in stressing the responsibility which the Commission and leaders of public opinion share in examining the problem of Reorganisation of States which raises fundamental issues affecting national unity, particularly by an undue emphasis on the linguistic principle. I would not like to burden this letter with anything more than an emphasis on the primary need for avoiding any step that would ultimately strike at the foundation of our Sovereign Democratic Republic which India has been able to establish after nearly a century and a half of foreign rule.

I hope, that in view of the representative character of the Bombay Citizens' Committee, the Commission will be pleased to give their careful consideration to the views and observations contained in the memorandum.

Yours faithfully,

PURSHOTAMDAS THAKURDAS.

CORRIGENDA

The names of the following members of the Committee may be deleted from the list :

Mr. P. J. Shroff.	(Since deceased)
Mr. Naval Jerajani.	"
Mr. B. N. Maheshwari.	"
Mr. Kanjibhai Parikh.	"
Mrs. Violet Alva, M.P.	(Resigned)
Mr. Joachim Alva, M.P.	"

Page No.	Line No.	Incorrect.	Correct.
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21	21	"a genuine uni-national state"	"a genuine un-national State"
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OFFICE-BEARERS AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

President:

Sir Purshotamdas Thakurdas, K.B.E., C.I.E.

Vice-Presidents:

Sir H. P. Mody, K.B.E.
Shri M. C. Setalvad.
Shri Pranlal D. Nanji.
Shri Ramdas Kilachand.
Dr. K. A. Hamied.
Dr. Jos. Alban D'Souza.

Members of the Committee:

Mr. J. R. D. Tata.
Mrs. Mithan Lam.
Mr. K. R. P. Shroff.
Mr. A. D. Shroff.
Sir Behram N. Karanjia.
Mr. Neville Wadia.
Dr. R. N. Cooper.
Mr. H. R. Pardiwala.
Mr. P. J. Shroff.
Mr. Homi Talyerkhan, M.L.A.
Mr. Rameshwardas Birla.
Mr. Madanmohan R. Ruia.
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Mr. Fatehchand Jhunjunwala.
Sir Suleman Cassum Mitha.
Mr. Mahomed Husein Hasham Premji.
Mr. Mahomedbhoy I. M. Rowjee.
Mr. Ibrahim Bhai Saheb.
Sir Rahimtoola M. Chinoy.
Mr. Salebhoy Abdul Kadar.
Mr. Ismail Mohammedally Kanga.
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Prof. D. S. Sodhi.
Mr. Srinivas Bagadka.
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Mr. R. S. Panday.
Mr. P. N. Shukla.
Mr. Meghraj Sethi.
Mr. Nilkanth Tiwari.
Mr. Gobind Ram Jolly.
Pandit Shiv Sharma.
Bakshi S. Dalip Singhji.
Mr. Autar Singhji Bedi.
Mr. Shiv Sundarlal Tripathi.
Mr. S. M. Shukla.
Dr. S. S. Krishnan.
Mr. A. C. Ramalingam.
Mr. Purshottamdas Sabnani.
Rai Bahadur Mangaram.
Mr. Fatehchand Assudomal.
Lady Premvila V. Thakersey.
Mrs. Lilavati K. Munshi.
Mrs. Jaishree Raijee.

Mr. Ratilal M. Gandhi.
Mr. R. G. Saraiya.
Sir Manilal B. Nanavati.
Sir H. V. Divetia.
Mr. Tulsidas Kilachand, M.P.
Mr. Amritlal D. Sheth.
Mr. Dahyabhai V. Patel.
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Mr. Navinchandra Mafatlal.
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Dr. Jeenabhai Desai.
Mr. Naval Jerajani.
Mr. K. C. Desai.
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Mr. Venilal Patwa.
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Mr. M. M. Amersey.
Mr. Khimji M. Thakker.
Mr. Chimanlal Balubhai Gandhi.
Mr. Girdharlal Devraj.
Mr. Kanjibhai Parikh.
Prof. M. L. Dantwala.
Mr. M. P. Gandhi.
Mr. G. N. Joshi.
Mr. Shantilal H. Shah.
Mr. R. S. Dixit.
Mr. Gordhandas Thaker.
Mr. Jamnadas K. Ladiwala.
Mrs. Violet Alva, M.P.
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Mr. C. C. Shah, M.P.
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