

THE ANDHRA PROVINCE

MEMORANDUM SUBMITTED TO THE LINGUISTIC PROVINCES COMMISSION

By :

Dr. LANKA SUNDARAM, M.A., Ph. D (London),
Member, Indian Delegations to the General Assembly (1946) and the Human Rights
Commission (1947) of the United Nations Organisation.

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PREFACE

The basic material incorporated in this Memorandum has been collected by me during the course of the past five years, and my journal **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY**, in its special supplement dated September 26, 1945, which was devoted to the first session of the Andhra Industrial Conference at Bezwada, made public summaries of this basic data. In more recent years, I had made attempts to further separate and bring upto date the statistics of the Madras Government, and the sum total of my investigations is contained in this Memorandum.

The statements which I had issued between February 19 and August 10, 1948, dealing with the controversies relating to the pledges of the Government of India spokesmen regarding the Andhra Province, are incorporated in Table XXII at the end of this Memorandum. I can modestly claim that I have been particularly "involved" in the steps of the Government of India leading to the appointment of the Linguistic Provinces Commission, as a perusal of these statements will amply demonstrate.

Not content with making these statements, I undertook a three months' tour of Andhra Desh, between April 29 and July 24, 1948, commencing my public contacts with a speech to the Andhra Association of Calcutta, and proceeding southwards, step by step down to Madras. I opened the special two-day session of the Rashtretara Andhra Mahasabha at Khargpur on May 8, and I interviewed the Premier of Orissa at Berhampur on May 10. Afterwards, I expounded the Andhra problem at almost all the principal towns in Andhra Desh, and discussed it with representative communists, socialists, and congressmen, and with Ministers of Madras Government. In between, I covered the Hyderabad border, in a tour of some 800 miles in all, including sorties into the Nizam's territory proper. I presided over a meeting on the Ramapadasagar Project at Rajahmundry and prepared the ground for the special conference there on to be held on August 28-29, 1948. I must have addressed more than a lakh of people in all these places, urging them and their leaders to unite and submit unanimous demands to the Commission, which was appointed nearly two months after I had started on this tour. That the Municipality of Bezwada, the premier Andhra city, gave me a Civic Address, as only one of the many tokens of public faith in my pleadings, is amply remembered by me, but I regret to say that the Andhra leaders continue to be at their old game of poise and counter-poise, mostly for personal gain. I am hoping for the day when universal adult suffrage, promised to us under the new Constitution, would wipe away this decrepit old leadership, and make available to the Andhra people their legitimate rights. I look forward to the day when a corporate Andhra State of some 4,00,00,000 people would come into being, and it is for this purpose that I venture to present this Memorandum to the Commission, wishing it goodspeed in its work. But I

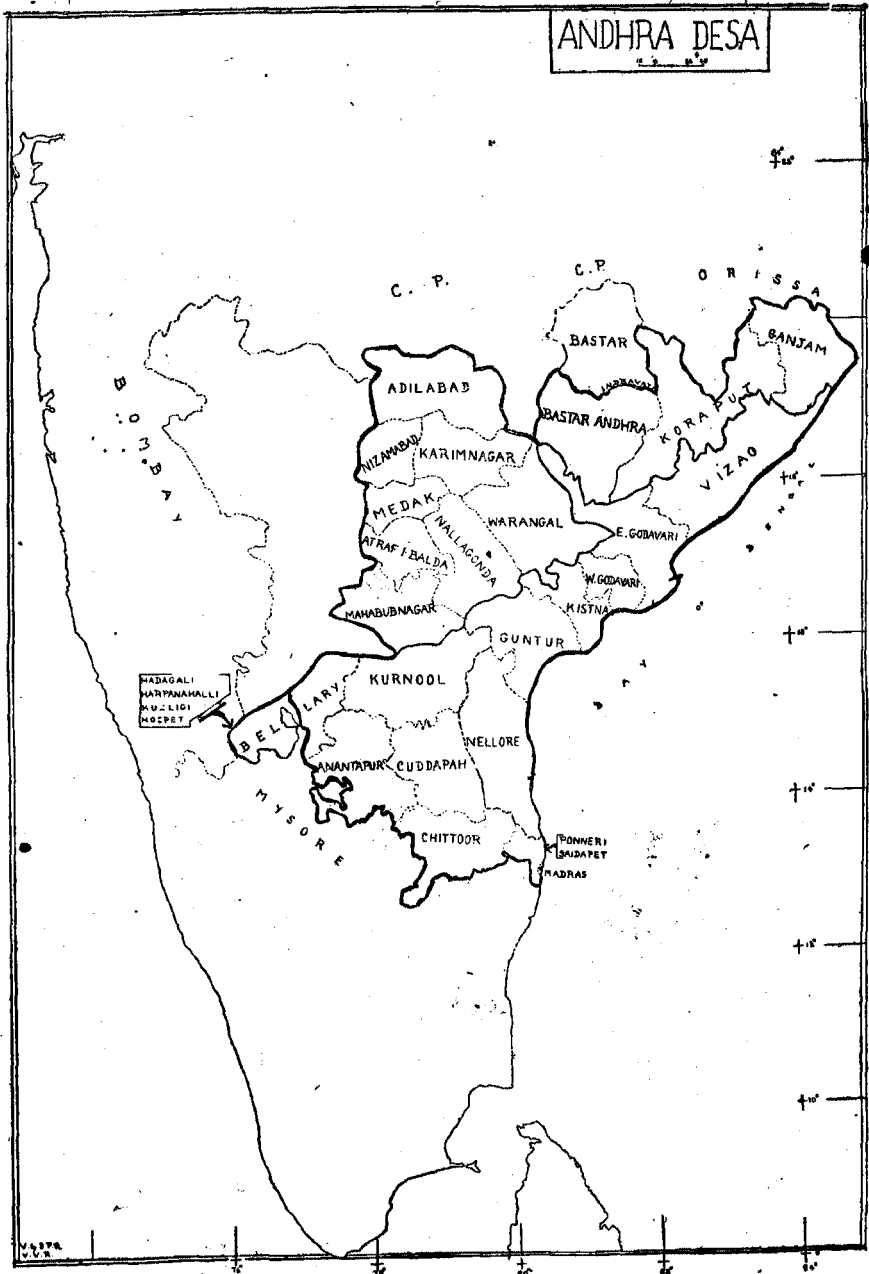
do so with a prayer that it would not be influenced by evidence, however "eminent" the person tendering it might be in the councils of the country, *e.g.*, in the Madras Government, in the Provincial Congress Committee, or the Working Committee itself. The Commission is charged with the task of doing the right thing by the people of the Andhra Desh, by deciding their claim only on merits, and in the country's general interest. If the Commission neglects this, and gets swayed by the evidence of "eminent individuals", it would have sentenced the Andhra Desh to a protracted period of wranglings among these very same people, who have mortgaged its fortunes for their own personal benefit.

NEW DELHI, }
August 15, 1948. }

LANKA SUNDARAM.

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(This map was drawn to scale by V.L.S. Prakasa Rao, Lecturer in Economic Geography, Calcutta University, under the direction of Lanka Sundaram.)