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REPORT



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No. 2884.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA.

HOME DEPARTMENT.

Delhi, the 10th December 1917.

Resolution.

The Governor-General in Council has, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, decided to appoint a Committee—

- (1) to investigate and report on the nature and extent of the criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India,
- (2) to examine and consider the difficulties that have arisen in dealing with such conspiracies and to advise as to the legislation, if any, necessary to enable Government to deal effectively with them.

The Government of India consider that for the proper examination of these questions a strong judicial element is essential in the Committee.

They have succeeded in securing the services of Mr. Justice Rowlatt of the King's Bench Division of His Majesty's High Court of Justice as President.

The following have agreed to serve as members :—

- The Hon'ble Sir Basil Scott, Kt., Chief Justice of Bombay ;
- The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur C. V. Kumaraswami Sastri, Judge of the High Court of Madras ;
- The Hon'ble Sir Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I., Member of Board of Revenue in the United Provinces ; and
- The Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chandra Mitter, Vakil of the High Court, Calcutta.

Mr. J. D. V. Hodge, I.C.S., Bengal, has been appointed Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee will assemble in Calcutta early in January 1918. It will sit *in camera*, but will be given full access to all documentary evidence in the possession of Government bearing on the existence and extent of revolutionary conspiracies in India and will supplement this with such other evidence as it may consider necessary.

Ordered that the Resolution be published in the *Gazette of India*.

S. R. HIGNELL,
Offg. Secy. to the Govt. of India.

FROM THE HON'BLE MR. JUSTICE S. A. T. ROWLATT,
President, Sedition Committee,

TO THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA,
HOME DEPARTMENT.

*Dated 4, Elysium Row, Calcutta,
The 15th April 1918.*

SIR,

I have the honour to refer to the order of the 10th December 1917 by which it was announced that the Governor-General in Council had, with the approval of the Secretary of State for India, decided to appoint a Committee—

- (1) to investigate and report on the nature and extent of the criminal conspiracies connected with the revolutionary movement in India,
- (2) to examine and consider the difficulties that have arisen in dealing with such conspiracies and to advise as to the legislation, if any, necessary to enable Government to deal effectively with them.

The order further stated that I was to act as President and that the following had agreed to serve as members :—

- The Hon'ble Sir Basil Scott, Kt., Chief Justice of Bombay ;
- The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur C. V. Kumaraswami Sastri, Judge of the High Court of Madras ;
- The Hon'ble Sir Verney Lovett, K.C.S.I., Member of Board of Revenue in the United Provinces ; and
- The Hon'ble Mr. Provash Chandra Mitter, Vakil of the High Court, Calcutta.

Mr. J. D. V. Hodge, I.C.S., Bengal, had been appointed Secretary to the Committee.

The Committee was to assemble in Calcutta early in January 1918. It would sit *in camera*, but would be given full access to all documentary evidence in the possession of Government bearing on the existence and extent of revolutionary conspiracies in India and would supplement this with such other evidence as it might consider necessary.

The Committee referred to assembled in Calcutta early in January and I have the honour to forward our report herewith.

We had placed at our disposal by the Government of Bengal convenient accommodation at 4, Elysium Row, Calcutta, and we have had the services of a sufficient and competent clerical staff. With the exception of four sittings which we held at Lahore all our meetings have taken place in Calcutta. As directed by the order appointing us, we have on every occasion sat *in camera*.

Statements have been placed before us with documentary evidence by the Governments of Bengal, Bombay, Madras, Bihar and Orissa, the Central Provinces, the United Provinces, the Punjab, and Burma, as well as by the Government of India. In every case except that of Madras we were further attended by officers of the Government presenting the statement, who gave evidence before us. In the two provinces in which we held sittings, namely, Bengal and the Punjab, we further invited and secured the attendance, as individuals or as deputed by Associations, of gentlemen who, we thought, might give us information from various non-official points of view. Our thanks are due to all who came before us, whether official or non-official.

The documentary evidence considered by us has been extremely voluminous, particularly as regards Bengal. In the case of this province it has also been of a most complicated character. In view of this the Government of Bengal had before our arrival deputed Messrs. C. Tindall and J. C. Nixon of the Indian Civil Service to arrange the materials in a form in which they could be intelligibly presented to us. I am specially requested by the Committee to acknowledge the able and conscientious way in which these gentlemen performed a very arduous task. Without their labours our report must have been delayed for a period which it would be difficult to estimate.

Owing to the materials for our consideration being so largely documentary; we have had to devote much time to private study out of Committee, assembling for the purpose of going over together ground thus individually explored. It is only by continuous effort on these lines that we have been able to present our report in reasonable time. We have held 46 sittings.

In conclusion I have the pleasure, in association with the other members of the Committee, of expressing our thanks to our Secretary, Mr. J. D. V. Hodge of the Indian Civil Service, whose assistance has been in every respect invaluable.

I have the honour to be,

SIR,

Your most obedient servant,

S. A. T. ROWLATT.

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