

Telegram from the Commonwealth Relations Office on Soviet reactions to the situation in India (London, 18 September 1947)


Caption: On 18 September 1947, the Commonwealth Relations Office informs Sir Terence Allen Shone, High Commissioner of the United Kingdom to India, about the Soviet reaction to the situation in India. He refers to an article published in the Soviet daily newspaper Pravda in which Yuri Zhukov reports on the communal disturbances affecting India and Pakistan. The Russian journalist believes that this violence is a direct result of the British plan for the partition of India, particularly the division of the Punjab.

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Last updated: 01/03/2017



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INWARD TELEGRAM

UK.157.

To High Commissioner for
the United Kingdom

From Commonwealth Relations
Office.

Cypher

Code

Clear

Sent London 0953 hrs. 18th Sept.

Received Delhi. 0830 hrs. 19th Sept.

No. 810.

B-2079

FOLLOWING FROM MOSCOW TO FOREIGN OFFICE NO. 2079 16TH
SEPTEMBER REPEATED TO UNITED KINGDOM HIGH COMMISSIONER
NEW DELHI NO. 35 AND UNITED KINGDOM HIGH COMMISSIONER
KARACHI NO. 1. BEGINS.

SITUATION IN INDIA UNDER HEADING QUOTE BLOODY EVENTS
IN INDIA UNQUOTE PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW OF
SEPTEMBER 15TH BY ZHUKOV CONTAINS FIRST COMMENT IN SOVIET
PRESS ON RECENT DISTURBANCES.

2. QUOTING REPORTS FROM BRITISH CORRESPONDENTS HE SAYS
THAT FIGHTING IN DELHI HAS THROWN THE CITY INTO COMPLETE
CONFUSION. UNBURIED CORPSES DIE IN THE STREETS SHOTS ARE
HEARD CONSTANTLY AND THERE ARE MANY FIRES. TOLL OF LIFE
RUNS INTO FOUR FIGURES. THOUSANDS OF MOSLEMS ARE FLEEING
IN PANIC BUT MANY ARE SLAUGHTERED ON THE WAY.

3. ZHUKOV GOES ON TO SAY THAT THE REASON FOR THIS SITUATION
IS NOT AS BRITISH REACTIONARY NEWSPAPERS ALLEGE THAT
BRITAIN HAS GIVEN INDIA HER INDEPENDENCE TOO EARLY. IT IS
THE DIRECT RESULT OF THE BRITISH PLAN TO DIVIDE THE COUNTRY
THE IMMEDIATE CAUSE OF THE DISTURBANCES BEING THE QUOTE
MECHANICAL UNQUOTE PARTITION OF THE PUNJAB ACCORDING TO THE
QUOTE NOTORIOUS UNQUOTE MOUNTBATTEN PLAN. HERE THE
RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNAL DISCORD FOSTERED OVER MANY YEARS
BY THE IMPERIALISTS FOUND EXPRESSION IN ATTACKS AND MURDERS
WHICH ASSUMED MONSTROUS PROPORTIONS. ARMED BANDS OF
FANATICS DISORGANISED ECONOMIC LIFE AND PARALYSED TRAFFIC
XXXXXXXXXXXX

NOT/.....

INWARD TELEGRAM

To High Commissioner for
the United Kingdom

From _____

Cypher

Code

Clear

Sent _____

Received _____

No. _____

not ONLY IN THE PUNJAB BUT IN NEIGHBOURING AREAS
HINDERING THE MOVEMENT OF REFUGEES WRECKING TRAINS AND
MERCILESSLY KILLING QUOTE ALLEN UNQUOTE POPULATIONS.
INDIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN IS SAID TO HAVE
ESTIMATED NUMBERS OF DEATHS AT 150000.

4. ZHUKOV CONCLUDES THAT THE LONG SUFFERING POPULATION
OF INDIA WHICH HAS NO GROUNDS FOR CIVIL STRIFE IS
PAYING FOR THE MECHANICAL DIVISIONS OF THE COUNTRY AND
ITS OLD BACKWARDNESS DUE TO IMPERIALIST ENSLAVEMENT.
LATEST AGGRAVATIONS OF RELIGIOUS AND COMMUNAL STRIFE IS OF
ADVANTAGE ONLY TO IMPERIALISTIC CIRCLES WHO ARE SEEKING
ANY PRETEXT FOR IMPOSING THEIR UNMASKED FOR QUOTE
PROTECTION UNQUOTE UPON THE PEOPLES OF INDIA. ENDS.