

Biographic Report

Delegates to the
UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NINTH SESSION, NEW YORK
from
INDIA

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Office of Libraries and
Intelligence Acquisition

September 15, 1954

Division of Biographic Information

THIS IS AN INTELLIGENCE REPORT AND NOT A STATEMENT OF DEPARTMENTAL POLICY

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

The Indian delegation to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly cannot be considered outstanding, despite the fact that it is composed of some intelligent and able individuals. Excluding Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit, who will not remain after her successor is chosen, only six members of this year's delegation were members of the 1953 delegation. Of these, five have attended Assembly sessions prior to 1953. Prakash Sapru, who attended in 1946 is making his second appearance. The rest, numbering ten, have had no previous UN experience.

The delegation is a rather typical one, since Indian delegations tend to represent various groups and interests in the country, including religious groups, the legal profession, social work, individuals of divergent political sympathies, private citizens and, as one would expect, a considerable number of people with the Ministry of External Affairs and members of Parliament. Two of the latter are connected with the Foreign Office.

This is illustrated further by an analysis of the delegation. If R. S. Gillani, whose attendance is unconfirmed, is included in the delegation, it will then consist of two Christians, two Muslims, one Sikh and twelve Hindus. The delegation includes seven members of Parliament, all of whom are members of the Congress Party. The lone Socialist member, Purshottamdas Tricumdas, does not appear to stand much chance of influencing the delegation's thinking. It includes eight government officials, including six who are also members of Parliament.

It is to be expected that V. K. Krishna Menon will dominate the delegation. As the leader of the delegation his vociferousness will probably increase. His personal characteristics plus his known closeness to Prime Minister Nehru will tend to silence any opposition to his actions, particularly by those members of the delegation who are government officials. Nevertheless Menon's pronounced leftist leanings will in part at least be offset by other members of his own delegation who are known to be sympathetic and friendly to the United States.

Included in this latter group are Nawab Ali Yawar Jung, who is an independently wealthy Muslim, and Arthur S. Lall, an Oxford educated member of the Indian Civil Service. All members of the delegation are expected to support Nehru's foreign policy.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

- 2 -

Chairman:

Vengalil Krishnan MENON

Delegates:

Nawab Ali Yawar JUNG

Prakash Narayan SAPRU

Purshottandas TRICUMDAS

Professor C. P. MATHEW

Alternate Delegates:

Arthur S. LALL

Mrs. Lakshmi Nandan MENON

Sadath Ali KHAN

K. Sadananda HEGDE

Dev Kanta BARCOAH

Advisers:

M. Thiromala RAO

Purnendu Sekhar NASKAR

Tiruvalam Janakiramayyar NATARAJAN

Atvar SINGH

U. K. GOPALACHARI

R. S. GILLANI

Public Relations Officer:

V. R. BHAT

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 3 -

BAROOAH, Dev KantaINDIA

One of five alternate delegates in the Indian delegation to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly, which he is attending for the first time, Dev Kanta Barooah is one of the more active and capable members of the younger generation of Congress Party leaders in India, a rising party organizer, and a member of the House of the People from an Assam constituency since 1952. Now rated as the second ranking Congressman* from Assam, Barooah is described as a great admirer and supporter of Nehru's domestic and foreign policies, a quick thinker, supporter of large-scale industrialization and use of modern techniques to raise standards of living in India, and advocate of military force in India capable of resisting aggression. He is apparently more cosmopolitan than most Assamese politicians, having married outside his caste, travelled extensively in Asia, to Indonesia, Australia, New Zealand, Malaya, Cambodia, Viet Nam, and Thailand, and occasioned himself some embarrassment in Assam by advocating Bengali as the state language for Eastern India. He has also advocated adoption of Hindustani, as a national language. James Michener, in The Voice of Asia, reports an interview with Barooah in which the latter expressed some admiration for the British. Towards the United States Barooah's only reported expression is a recent statement criticizing the U. S. military aid program for Pakistan as a disgraceful attempt to bully India.

Barooah was born February 22, 1914, in Dibrugarh, Assam, and by his name seems to be of Bengali extraction. He has one son. Barooah was educated in Nowgong High School, Assam, and Benares Hindu University, and entered politics at the age of 20, as a follower of Gandhi. He was jailed in 1930, 1941, and again in 1942, for political agitation. From 1938 he was Secretary of the Assam Provincial Congress Committee and as part of his political program founded two daily newspapers in Assamese, the Dainik Asamiya and the Natun Asamiya, each with reported circulations of about 10,000. He also campaigned for establishment of an all-Assam university, as one means of counteracting tensions between the Bengali and Assamese communities in Assam--a campaign which ultimately bore fruit with the founding of Gauhati University in 1947. He was first elected to the central legislature or parliament of India in 1950. He has been active in national party affairs, is a member of the All-India Congress Committee, of the Congress Working Committee, and a Deputy Chief Whip in the House of the People. He is also a special representative of the Congress for organizational work in the Patiala and East Punjab States Union (PEPSU). In 1951 he was Indian representative to the Conference on World Government, in London.

* Member of the Indian National Congress, also commonly called the Congress Party.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 4 -

BHAT, V. R.

INDIA

Public Relations Officer of the Indian delegation, Bhat is coming to the UN for the first time, from his position of Deputy Principal Information Officer of the Ministry of External Affairs. In the latter position Bhat's responsibilities included the dissemination of official statements concerning Indian foreign policy to local press representatives, Indian and foreign. In recent weeks he has been under fire in the Indian press for alleged incompetence in publicizing the Indian position in regard to Goa and in regard to the Canal Waters Dispute with Pakistan. He is extremely unpopular with the foreign correspondents in New Delhi for failure to keep them informed. How much of his ineptness can justifiably be charged to him personally and how much to his superiors cannot be determined at present.

GILLANI, R. S.

R. S. Gillani, although not included in the original list of UNGA delegates of the Government of India, may be an additional adviser of the Indian delegation. While Indian newspapers reported that Gillani will be included, Dr. T. J. Natarajan, also an adviser of the delegation, stated early in September 1954 that Gillani's inclusion had not yet been definitely approved, but was expected.

The chief reason for Gillani being made a member of the delegation seems to be that he is a prominent Catholic layman. He is a private citizen of the Punjab and would be making his initial appearance at the UN.

GOPALACHARI, U. K.

Beyond the fact that U. K. Gopalachari, who has had no previous UN experience, is a research officer in the Ministry of External Affairs, nothing is known.

HEGDE, K. Sadananda

K. S. Hegde, who has had no previous UN experience, is an Alternate Delegate of the Indian delegation.

CONFIDENTIAL

HEGDE, K. Sadananda (continued)

EGYPT

A lawyer by profession, he was the Government Pleader and Public Prosecutor at Mangalore from 1947 to 1951 before he became a member of the Council of States from Madras, a position which he still holds. Hegde played a prominent part in the parliamentary discussion which resulted in the establishment of Andhra, the first state in India created on a linguistic basis.

Born at Kawdoor Village, South Kanara District, Madras, on June 9, 1910, Hegde was educated at both Government College and St. Aloysius College, Mangalore and Presidency College and Law College, Madras. He is a director of several companies, and his favorite recreation is playing bridge. He is married and has three sons and three daughters.

JUNG, Nawab Ali Yawar

A delegate at the ninth session of the UNGA, and who also attended the 1946, 1950, 1952 and 1953 sessions, Jung has been the Indian Ambassador to Egypt since March 18, 1954 following service in a similar capacity in Argentina from 1952 to 1954.

One of Hyderabad's brilliant young men, Nawab Jung, as he is usually addressed, is an intellectual and sincere and genuine educator. He was Vice Chancellor of Osmania University in 1945-1946 and from 1948 to 1951. He is a graduate of Oxford University.

While in general agreement with the policies of the present Government of India toward the United States, Nawab Jung's views are believed to be more friendly and understanding than his government's official attitude. He is well acquainted with many American officials, admires the dynamism of American life and has praised this country and the aid which this government has given to India. It is believed that his political views are fundamentally conservative.

Communism is a real threat to India, Jung believes and he stresses the need for improving education and material living standards to combat it.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 6 -

KHAN, Sadath AliINDIA

One of five alternate Indian delegates to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly, and a new comer there, Sadath Ali Khan, a Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of External Affairs, is a member of the House of People from Hyderabad, and belongs to a prominent Hyderabad family. Sadath's father, Nawab Zain Yar Jung, was the Agent-General for Hyderabad in New Delhi until shortly before the Indian army occupied that princely state and brought about the accession of Hyderabad to India. Nawab Zain Yar Jung apparently cooperated with the Indian Government in this matter. Though considered friendly to the United States and highly regarded by an American official observer who knew him well in 1948, Zain Yar Jung was a member of the Indian Cultural Mission to China, led by Madame Pandit, in 1952, and spoke favorably of his impressions of Communist China on his return.

Sadath Ali Khan was born September 16, 1916, in Hyderabad; educated at Nizam College, Hyderabad, and Oxford University; is married and has one son. He served as a news editor and announcer for the BBC, in London, in 1943-44; then as public relations officer for the Government of Hyderabad, both before Indian independence, in 1945-46, and after the accession of Hyderabad to India, from 1948 to 1951. From 1946 to 1948 he was private secretary to Nawab Ali Yawar Jung, possibly a relative, and also a member of the present Indian delegation to the UNGA. Sadath has listed among his numerous "special interests": planning, labor, and social security.

LALL, Arthur S.

Arthur S. Lall is India's Permanent Representative to the UN. He was the Alternate Representative in 1953. In addition, he has served as Consul-General at New York since October 1951. Prior to his arrival in the United States, Lall was Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Acting Chief Controller of Exports. In this capacity he was extremely cooperative with the American Embassy at New Delhi, facilitating the shipment of strategic and critical materials, including those being stockpiled, to the United States and in preventing the export and transshipment of critical materials to Communist China. Lall is very favorably disposed toward the United States. He is an Oxford educated Christian and a member of the Indian Civil Service.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 7 -

MATHEW, C. P.INDIA

Member of the House of People since 1952, when he first entered politics and won his parliamentary seat by a large majority against a rival pro-Communist candidate, Professor C. P. Mathew is one of six Indian delegates to the ninth session of the United Nations General Assembly. He has not attended any previous session. He is a Protestant Christian who participated in founding the Union Christian College, at Alwaye, in Travancore-Cochin, (South India) in 1921, as a joint enterprise of the Anglicans, Jacobites, and Marthomites. Since that time he served as head of the Department of Philosophy in the college till 1947, and as Principal from 1947 till 1952. Mathew is described as honest, sincere, idealistic, conservative in his social and economic thinking, and friendly to Americans. As a professor, rather than a politician, he prefers to stay aloof from everyday political conflicts, and prides himself on being a more objective observer of the contemporary scene than his more politically practical colleagues. He was a member of the Indian delegation to the UNESCO conference in Paris in November 1952.

Mathew was born in Ayirure, Travancore-Cochin, on March 19, 1896, of a middle class Indian Christian family. He received his education in Maharaja's College, Trivandrum; St. Aloysium College, Mangalore, and Madras Christian College, Madras, and lectured in Philosophy at the latter institution from 1918 till 1921. He is married to Aley Mathew; they have no children. In 1939 he visited Britain and Ireland at the invitation of the British Conference of Missionary Societies. He was very popular with his students, and has some reputation as a literary writer.

MENON, Mrs. Lakshmi Nandan

An alternate delegate to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly, Mrs. Menon was also on the Indian delegations to the third, fifth and eighth sessions of UNGA, and represented India at the Status of Women Commission conference in Beirut in March 1949, as well as on the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Areas, of the Trusteeship Council, in the fall of 1953. From June 1949 till July 1950 she held a position in the UN Secretariat, as Chief of the Status of Women Section, of the Special Affairs Division.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 8 -

MENON, Mrs. Lakshmi Nandan (continued)INDIA

In the 1953 meetings of the Trusteeship Committee she unexpectedly challenged the U. S. action in discontinuing its reports on Puerto Rico, and proposed that a committee be set up to examine the degree of autonomy attained by Puerto Rico. Her remarks were the first intimation of this view on the part of the Indian Government, their Under-Secretary for UN Affairs having previously stated that he assumed India would support the U. S. action as it had done "five or six weeks ago." American observers at the UN describe her as extremely talkative, inclined to hold the floor in any group, but unable to think clearly. At an India-China Friendship Association Conference in May 1953 she urged admission of Communist China to the UN.

Born in 1899, she is the wife of the Vice-Chancellor of Patna University, and is a feminist leader of long standing. A member of the Council of States, from Bihar, and of the Executive Committee of the Congress Parliamentary Party, she is also Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, Nehru, in his capacity as Foreign Minister.

MENON, Vengalil Krishnan Krishna

V. K. Krishna Menon, leader of the Indian delegation, was a member of the 1946, 1952 and 1953 delegations. A close friend and confidant of Prime Minister Nehru, he has long been known for his pro-Soviet sympathies and for several years has been a definite "fellow-traveller".

It is interesting to note that the Soviet Foreign Minister, Andrei Y. Vishinsky, (who rejected Menon's resolution calling for repatriation of all prisoners of war in Korea after the conclusion of an armistice by a special commission consisting of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Sweden and Switzerland presented to the Political and Security Committee of the Assembly in 1952), while viciously attacking the Indian Government and people as "dreamers or worse", made an exception of Krishna Menon, whom he described as an "honest man".

Krishna Menon expects to visit certain of the nations of South America except Brazil, Chile and Mexico sometime after the opening of the ninth session of the Assembly. Current speculation on the subjects which he is expected to discuss with the Latin American governments on his projected trip include: (1) Goa; (2) admission of Communist China to the UN; (3) to elicit support for the Indian position on Kashmir; (4) convince them that India is not pro-Communist; and (5) UN matters in general.

Document No. _____
Review of this document by CIA has determined that

- CIA has no objection to declass
 It contains information of CIA interest that must remain classified at TS Authority: HR 10-2
 It contains nothing of CIA interest

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 10 -

MENON, Vengalil Krishnan Krishna (continued)

INDIA

While at Geneva in May 1954 as Nehru's personal envoy during the discussions on Indo-China, Krishna Menon extended an invitation to Chou En-lai to visit India, which the latter suddenly accepted in June.

Information received from a controlled American source reported that Krishna Menon was a disrupting influence at the Conference of South Asian Prime Ministers, held at Colombo from April 28 to May 2, 1954. He added to the acrimony between Prime Minister Mohammed Ali of Pakistan and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru by constantly urging on the latter. Menon's rude interruption of Mohammed Ali and his remark "We're sick and tired of your submissions" caused Sir John Kotelawala, Prime Minister of Ceylon, to jump up and demand that Menon either apologize and have the remark stricken from the record, or leave the Conference. Sir John added that if Menon did neither, he Kotelawala, would walk out. Menon then apologized and the remark was stricken from the record.

He is a brilliant orator of the rabble rousing type.

NASKAR, Purnendu Sekhar

P. S. Naskar is making his initial appearance at the UN, as an adviser of the Indian delegation. In 1952 he was elected on the Congress Party ticket to the House of the People from Diamond Harbor constituency in West Bengal, to a seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes.

Born in 1921 Naskar received his higher education in Calcutta, attending Bangabasi College, Scottish Church College and the University of Calcutta.

NATARAJAN, Tiruvalam Janakiramayyar

An adviser of the delegation, as he was in the 1949, 1951, 1952 and 1953 Indian General Assembly delegations, Natarajan has acted in an administrative rather than in a substantive capacity. He is a Deputy Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs and is disposed to be friendly toward the United States.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 9 -

MENON, Vengalil Krishnan Krishna (continued)INDIA

Information believed to be reasonably accurate from several sources indicates that Krishna Menon has not endeared himself with the diplomatic representatives of South American countries. Prior to leaving New Delhi in September it is reported that one of the representatives of a Latin American country asked Krishna Menon why he was not going to visit Brazil, Chile or Mexico, to which the latter replied that there is a revolution going on in Brazil and then added, "How long does it take to have a revolution in South America"? Another version from a different source put the query as "How do you know when there will be a revolution in South America"? The South American official protested to the Indian Foreign Office and the following day Menon came and apologized for his blunder.

Krishna Menon also took occasion to denounce the proposed Southeast Asia Treaty Organization before leaving New Delhi for the opening of the Assembly. Speaking in the foreign affairs debate in the Council of State on August 27, 1954, he declared: "This organization cannot by any stretch of the imagination come under the United Nations charter. The charter permits regional organizations. This is an organization of outsiders trying to protect a region. It has no place under the United Nations. Menon implied that should SEATO be formed, it could extend no military aid to the three non-Communist states of Indo-China, south Viet Nam, Laos and Cambodia -- unless the USSR approved. Menon said that the Geneva agreements provided that the Indo-Chinese states should not enter into a military alliance or accept any outside military aid unless their security was threatened, and in his opinion only the UN Security Council by unanimous vote could decide if a violation of security occurred. In connection with the International Control Commission sent to Indo-China it is to be noted that the Indian Chairmen of the three supervisory commissions were apparently chosen primarily by Krishna Menon. Two of them, M. J. Desai and J. N. Khosla, served under Menon while he was High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and the third, G. Parthasarathy is Menon's protégé whom he knew during the latter's assignment in London as editor-in-charge of the Press Trust of India office from 1948-1951.

During a meeting of the Trusteeship Council of the Pacific Islands, (TTPI) in July 1954, Krishna Menon challenged the right of the United States to use the area for a nuclear proving ground. He asked that the U. S. cease such tests pending determination by the International Court of Justice of our legal right to continue them in the territory.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 12 -

SINGH, Atvar

INDIA

First Secretary of the Permanent delegation, Singh served as a member of the adviser-secretary group of the Indian delegation in 1952 and 1953. He is a former Under Secretary of the Ministry of External Affairs. In that capacity he was in charge of the section pertaining to the Arab World and Turkey. Singh is believed to be friendly to the U. S. He has abandoned Sikhism.

TRICUMDAS, Purshottamas

An Indian delegate to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly, Tricumdas was a member of the Praja Socialist Party national executive for six years ending in January 1954, and is one of those most prominently encouraging rapprochement between the Socialist Party and the Indian National Congress. He promoted talks between Nehru and the head of the Socialist Party, Jai Prakash Narain, and served as an adviser in those discussions. He is one of India's outstanding lawyers, suave, effective, ambitious, and wealthy.

Nothing has been reported concerning Tricumdas' early life. After the beginning of World War II, he reportedly engaged in underground work together with Aruna Asaf Ali, and other less extreme socialist leaders; was jailed from November 1942 till October 1945. Now publicly anti-Communist, Tricumdas is a member of the advisory committee of the Democratic Research Service, an anti-Communist organization in Bombay, and was instrumental in releasing to the press documents exposing Communist Party secrets from the 3rd National (CPI) Congress at Madurai, South India, January 1954.

OLI:BI:lf

State-ED, Wash., D. C.
September 1954

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

- 11 -

RAO, M. Thiromala

INDIA

M. Thiromala Rao making his debut at the UNGA as an adviser of the Indian delegation, has been Deputy Minister for Food and Agriculture since August 20, 1950.

Born at Pithepura, East Godavari District, Andhra, on January 29, 1901, Rao was educated at P. R. College, Cocanada. He was a member of the Central Legislative Assembly from 1937-1941; the Council of State from 1945-1947, and subsequently became the editor of the New Times, an English daily newspaper of Madras. In 1948 he was a member of the Commonwealth Parliamentary delegation to England.

SAPRU, Prakash Narayan

A delegate to the ninth session of the UN General Assembly, P. N. Sapru is a retired Justice of the Allahabad High Court, and son of the late Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, a famous Indian jurist. P. N. Sapru's inclusion in the delegation is thought possibly to be due to personal connections with the Nehru family. His career has been primarily in law and education. In 1947 he was chosen President of the Indian Council of World Affairs. He was an alternate Indian delegate to the UN General Assembly, second part of first session, in New York, in September 1946.

The following comment was based on observation of Mr. Sapru's behavior at the International Legal Conference, in New Delhi, December 1953, which Sapru attended as Judge of the Allahabad High Court, although he was not a member of the official Indian delegation to the Conference:

"Mr. Justice Sapru is a portly person of medium height. He has greying hair and bushy gray eyebrows. He wears Western-style clothes. He speaks excellent English, but during the only speech which the reporting officer heard him deliver to the Conference, his mouth was so full of pan (betel nut) that he was difficult to understand and one feared for the safety of the occupants of the front row of seats.

From only cursory observation, the reporting officer concluded that Sapru is a rather pompous person, vain and opinionated. He did not hesitate to carry on conversations with his neighbors in a rather loud voice when the proceedings of the Conference did not interest him or when he happened to disagree with some point that a speaker had made."

CONFIDENTIAL