

Majlis Mithad ul Muslimeen

Begam Bazar, Hyderabad-Dn.

صدر مجلس اتحاد المسلمین
بیگم بازار - حیدرآباد دکن

12th June 1938.

Dear Mr Jinnah,

I stayed in Bombay for nine days and had hoped to have a thorough talk with you on the present situation of Hyderabad with a view to consult with you regarding our future programme. Unfortunately you happened not to be in Bombay and when you returned you had serious engagements in connection with the important session of the working committee of the All-India Muslim League. This prevented me from benefiting from your advice as much as I would have desired. However, it is a source of satisfaction for me that I could get the opportunity of having two interviews with you and am thankful that you invited me to lunch with you. I have explained to you at considerable length the existing situation of Hyderabad. Before making any request, I would like to give a resumé of the main points of our talk in order to refresh your memory:-

(1) The Hindu community has organised itself through various means, such as the Andhra Conference, the Maharashtra Conference, the Hindu Standing Committee, the Aryasamaj and the like. These institutions have established themselves so firmly in Hyderabad and their influence has permeated the rank and file of the Hindu community to such a great extent that they are daily putting forward larger and more emphatic demands of political nature. The All-India Hindu Mahasabha, the Arya Samwadshak Sabha of Delhi, the All-India Nation Congress, -- are all supporting them whole-heartedly. The policies for Hyderabad Hindus are framed in Britain India and their programmes are worked out there; they receive instructions and advice from the eminent thinkers of the whole of Hindu India,

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and the Hindu Press all over India is at their disposal. Only recently they have openly declared war against the government of Hyderabad through the Sawedeshak Sabha of Delhi which has formulated 14 ridiculous demands and sent an ultimatum that if they are not accepted within five months, direct action including satyagraha will be resorted to after holding a grand Arya Congress in Bombay or C.P. somewhere near the Hyderabad frontier. Hordes of volunteers are to be sent from out-side who will work in Hyderabad. In the meanwhile they are determined to create an augmented communal tension, embitter their community against the Muslims and prepare it for an organised and wide-spread opposition and defiance of the government.

(2) Our government seems to be suffering from defeatism and nervousness in view of the huge majority of the Hindu population, their press campaign, their recent disgraceful capitulation of the sister government of Mysore over the flag question, the power and strength of the Mahasabha and the Congress, and the fear lest its fair name for tolerance and communal concord may not be tarnished through the Aryasamajist agitation and Hindu-Muslim riots. To avoid it not only the interests of the Muslims but even their legitimate rights are sacrificed, and toleration has degenerated into humiliation. In this way the government hopes to win the good-will of the Hindus but does not know that the favours bestowed upon them will only serve to embolden them in their disloyal and mischievous activities. And in fact the weak policy of the government and its display of terror and hesitation have encouraged the Hindus beyond limits. You know full well that the Ruler has been reduced to a deplorable state of utter helplessness. The government departments under British officials, especially police, derive their inspiration and are probably controlled by the Residency instead of the

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Kothi. In my opinion the British officials alone are responsible for this weak policy of the government. Sir Akbar has not been able to shake the foolish idea that the local Muslims are inimical to him. Far from that they appreciate fully many of his high talents. Sincere differences of opinion in certain matters have nothing to do with prejudice or hostility. For example, the Muslim public differed from Sir Akbar about the question of the entry of the State into Federation, but as soon as he promised in unequivocal terms in the speech delivered on the occasion of the banquet held in honour of the Viceroy that no final decision on accession to the Federation will be made without previous consultation with the public, all anti-federation activity has completely subsided. We tried our best to convince Sir Akbar that the differences were purely impersonal but I am afraid we have not succeeded. I was prohibited from delivering public speeches and I gathered that the purpose of this was to convince others that the government was not at all partial to Muslims and that similar restrictions will be imposed and the law will be properly enforced against the mischief-mongers, but, alas, there is no prospect of any step being taken against them.

(3) The Muslims of Hyderabad have remained for long inactive because they believed the government to be their guardian, the Ruler to be the symbol of their own power, and considered themselves to be undisputedly identified with the State. They trusted in the government and confided their interests to its care. Now, when they have suddenly been called upon to assume the responsibility of their struggle for existence and all their hopes have been dashed, they feel diffident and even perplexed to play a rôle on account of their inexperience and ignorance. They are further discouraged because the rich among them are not unfortunately inclined to sacrifice even the small portion of their wealth for the purpose of raising their community and consolidating its position; the middle

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among the local Muslims is preoccupied with the hard pursuit of
their bare subsistence and can spare neither time nor money for
community; and the poor and lower classes linger in ignorance and
illiteracy.

The programme which the Majlis Ittihadul Muslimeen has for the
future is proposed and is expending the best of its energies to put it
into practice is to make a mass contact with the Muslim public through
its branches of the Majlis in each and every place where Muslims are
found in sufficient numbers in the State. It is proposed that each branch
should have its own reading-room to keep them in touch with the political
situation. There should also be an athletic club attached to each branch
for imparting physical training and the science of self-defence raising a
volunteer corps and making it obligatory upon every Muslim to possess
a rifle. Finally, it is proposed to open a Muslim provision store in every
city for supplying victuals and other daily necessities.

(4) It is not too much to expect from you or from the Muslim
community the same help as the Hyderabad Hindus are receiving from their
nationalists of British India, from the Congress and from the Mahasabha,
as I explained to you personally, we request you to help us only in
the following way:-

1. You and your colleagues whom we hold in such esteem, should
keep us about the plan of our future action. I shall keep you in touch
with the situation from time to time and you may give us timely suggestions.
2. The Muslim League Parties, in the Central as well as provin-
cial legislatures should make the defence of Hyderabad and its Muslim po-
sition a part of their programme.
3. The Press under the control or influence of the League should
give greater and more sympathetic attention to Hyderabad affairs.

During my stay in Bombay I have met a number of Muslim editors
and have rallied many of them to the need of supporting the case of Hyder-
abadi Muslims. Perhaps you can induce the Star of India, Calcutta, and

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the English press of Lahore to support Hyderabad and to establish contact with us. I have also seen the Muslim members of Legislatures who happened to be in Bombay and they agreed with me on the points discussed. It is required now only to issue formal instructions to party whips for the purpose.

Turning to the question of our programme and plan of work, there are four main points about which I hope you will favour us with your considered opinion:-

1. In view of the present situation, elaborated above, what should be our relations with the local Hindus and in what way to realise this.
2. What measures can be taken to dispel defeatism from the government? And if we happen to fail therein, what should be our attitude towards our government: should we yield or resist?
3. Perhaps you will agree with me that we should make friends with one of the two enemies. If you advise us to combat the "Black Peril" with the help of the British, what steps can be taken in this direction and how to gain the latter's favour?
4. How to organise the Muslims of the State?

I can assure you that we shall carry out your valuable suggestions to the best of our abilities and the young generation will obey your orders to your satisfaction. This correspondence will be kept strictly confidential and your suggestions will be put before the public, if you so desire, as emanating from me only.

If you think that the matter cannot be settled by correspondence I will come to see you personally. Apart from the fact that my absence from Hyderabad in the present circumstances will be a bit difficult, my frequent visits to Bombay, where I have no private engagements to fulfil, may create unnecessary suspicion. Anyhow I shall come to see you if you so prefer.

I take the opportunity of thanking you again for the kindness you have bestowed upon me in Bombay and I request you to convey my best regards and those of my wife to your respected sister. Hope you are all well.

Yours sincerely

Bahadur Yar Jung