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Finanzberater der Gossner Evangelical Lutheran Church (GELC), Robert Montag

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Enthält

Schriftwechsel zwischen Gossner Mission und Robert Montag; Memorandum zu Kalkutta von R. Montag 1971; Bericht über das Technical Training Center Fudi 1970; auch Presseausschnitte

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Neue Anschrift:

Robert Montag
91 Bittacy Rise
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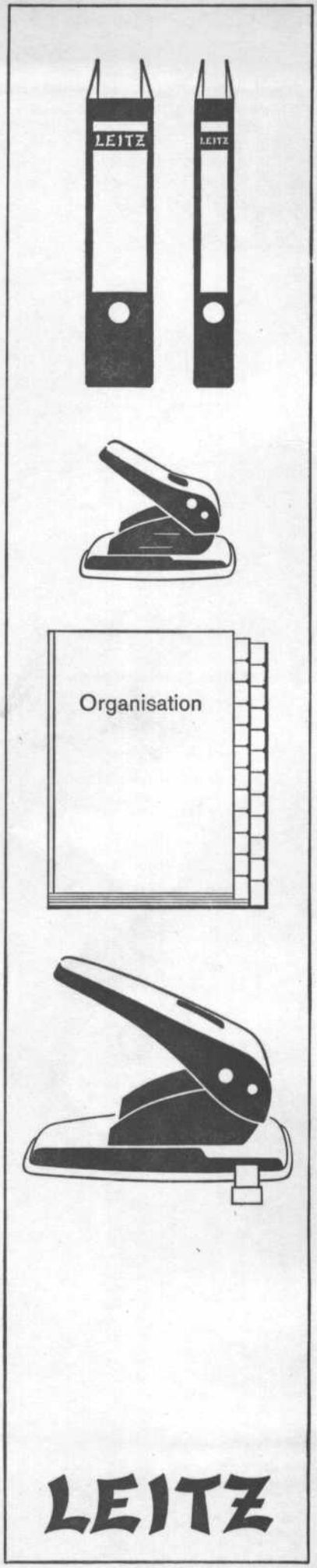

Korrespondenz mit Mr. Montag
betr. TTC Fudi
in Mappe Fudi.

1. Eine Evangelische Schule hat in einzig artiger Weise die Möglichkeit, aus evangelischer Glaubenshaltung heraus zu unterrichten und zu erziehen.

Das Evangelium muß glaubwürdig gelebt werden; das bedeutet z.B.:

Christenlehre strebt nicht nur Wissensvermittlung an, sondern bietet auch Gelegenheit, Lebensfragen zu erörtern, wenn immer dies gewünscht wird.

Die Schulandachten werden möglichst im Wechsel von den Klassen vorbereitet und gehalten.

Karitative Dienste außerhalb der Schule werden angeregt.

2. Erziehung aus evangelischer Glaubenshaltung heraus darf die sachlichen und wissenschaftlichen Grundlagen des Unterrichts nicht einengen. Ein solcher Unterricht sollte von jeder Ideologisierung und weltanschaulicher Beeinflussung frei sein.

3. In der Evangelischen Schule geht es um den Schüler als Person, seinen Weg zur Mündigkeit des freien Menschen, der lernt, sich freiwillig zu binden. Dazu gehört, daß der Schüler sich übt im selbständigen, kritischen Denken und lernt, Kritik anzunehmen.

4. Eine Evangelische Schule kann aufgrund ihrer Eigenständigkeit Form und Inhalt des Unterrichts freier gestalten als staatliche Schulen.

Die wirkungsvollste Unterrichtsform kann nicht erdacht werden. Erst in der praktischen Anwendung unterschiedlicher Systeme kristallisiert sich das Erfolgreichste heraus. Um einseitige Vorstellungen zu vermeiden, sollen neue Wege von allen Erziehungspartnern - Lehrern, Schülern, Eltern - gemeinsam und verantwortlich erarbeitet, erprobt und notfalls auch wieder verlassen werden.

Die Mitgestaltung des Unterrichts durch Schüler kann durch den sog. Dialog-Unterricht, durch Gruppenarbeit, durch Arbeitsgemeinschaften und durch weitere Fächerung des Lernangebots (Verstärkung des mathem.-naturwissenschaftlichen Unterrichts; neusprachlicher Zug) erreicht werden. Eine größere Lernfreudigkeit ist das erstrebte Ziel.

5. Eine Evangelische Schule braucht wie jede andere Schule eine Schulordnung, die die Pflichten und Rechte der Schüler regelt. Die Befolgung einer solchen Schulordnung erscheint am besten gewährleistet, wenn sie von den Erziehungspartnern gemeinsam gestaltet und angenommen wird. Sie bedarf der ständigen Aktualisierung. Die Formulierung sollte an die Selbstverantwortung der Schüler appellieren.

LEITZ

Betrifft

Bericht

TCC Fudi

vom 16.9.1970

REPORTS ON TECHNICAL TRAINING CENTRE FUDI.

The following are my opinions after many visits to the Technical Training Centre Fudi, where I had the opportunity of watching both the training and production at work. I also had the opportunity of examining the financial affairs of both Training and Production departments. I talked to many people connected with the Institution, and surveyed the market for consumer goods regarding quality, prices, and potential. It has also been possible for me to observe the attempts made by two Directors to place the complex of TTC Fudi on at least a supporting basis as far as the production unit is concerned. Therefore it is fair to assume that any facts put forward in this report are not theoretical, but have been compiled by a study of the facts. Nor can it be said that there was a lack of understanding for the problems confronting TTC on my part. It so happens that over the years I have formed a deep and sympathetic regard for TTC and indeed have at all times made personal efforts to assist in the search for a remedy to the many problems which have faced TTC for so long.

Despite this, it is my opinion that the time, effort, and vast sums of money spent, have proven beyond doubt that the task is so complex, that todate very little, if at all any, progress has been made to finding a solution for the ailment of TTC Fudi. I will therefore put the following points, some of which may be accepted, some of which may be disputed, but whatever is debated, one positive fact emerges, if TTC Fudi is to exist in its present form as not only a Training Centre, but also production centre, this can only be achieved by putting up large sums of money from sources outside the G.E.L. Church, and indeed outside India. Even if this were possible, it would also be necessary to employ foreign co-workers to control both funds and labour to a useful purpose. My opinions and suggestions are put forward herewith:

PART I.

Almost seven years after the project TTC has been in operation it is my opinions indeed also the opinion, of many others, that as far as the production centre of TTC Fudi is concerned, it should never have been built in Fudi, but in the City of Ranchi. Furthermore it is debatable if even the Training Section should have been established at the location.

Although Fudi is situated on a main road about 25 Km from the City of Ranchi, and although it has been quoted by many that one day the big steel production centre of H.E.C. will creep from Hatia towards the village of Fudi, such expectations if not totally over optimistic, belong far into the future. The present situation is that the production taking place in TTC, which is wooden furniture, machine parts, welding shop etc., suffers acutely by being isolated from potential sources of customers. I am convinced that many orders would have been gained if TTC been located in Ranchi City, not to mention the vast sums of money and time, which could have been saved in travel expenses always being spent travelling between Fudi - Ranchi. As far as the Training Section is concerned, much could have been saved by trainees becoming days students, and the

P.T.O.

complicated and costly hostel system now existing in Fudi would have been unnecessary. Furthermore it is very doubtful if the trainees should be sheltered from the influence of City life. Beyond a doubt they will have to face city life when they enter industry. It is also worthy to mention that it would not have been difficult to place the project on the large compound which the G.E.L. Church possesses in the Centre of Ranchi City.

To this first point one can say it is now too late to entertain such theories, my opinion and advice is that at least a part of the Production i.e. the machine shop should be removed into Ranchi City without delay. In this way it can be acertained whether it is feasible to move even more sections of TTC into Ranchi.

PART 2.

The wooden section of TTC production has in my opinion been the cause of heavy financial losses. On examining the figures appearing in Appendix I to this report, which gives an estimated breakdown of business being transacted by the various departments, it would appear that the losses in which the wood section is involved, may not be so great, this is due to the fact this section is involved in carrying out work for the TTC. Building Section. It is not, in my opinion, a reliable source of income, and is to say the least, a very spasmodic source. Should the activities of the building section cease, the orders available from other sources are far too small to keep the section in work.

In view of the foregoing, and due to the conclusion that it is not possible for the wood section to compete with the small traders working in Ranchi, due to the heavy overheads existing in TTC., a mass production article should be produced. Unfortunately it is my opinion that such a production cannot be carried out by the present conditions existing. I therefore suggest that the wood section be formed into a private company, firstly to introduce the capital required, and secondly I feel confident that no private management will tolarate financial wastage and the subsequent financial losses.

It may be possible to maintain a small production unit capable of producing articles for the building section, and also possibly some specialised furniture. In any event the buildings and machinery which could be leased out to the private company, plus a small participation in its profits, would provide a very useful contribution to the subsidy of the training programme. It is also worth considering setting up training programme for carpenters of village level standard. This training need not contain ITI standard, such an idea has emerged during our talks with the Catholic and Anglican Churches.

PART 3.

Although the building section has always provided a bone of contention in the past, I agree that as there is a comparatively small permanent staff in this section, heavy losses can take place only if incorrect estimates are given,

P.T.O.

or unforeseen complications during building. I am not convinced however that this section can be fully employed once the building contracts which are in hand, and which are mainly received through G.E.L. Church sources, and only then if the capital for such building is received by the Church from abroad, come to an end.

From the figures which we are alble to extract from the books as shown in appendix one, it can be seen that very large sums of money are turned over in this section, and although I believe that no loss will take place if all goes well, and according to plan, I feel that the liability which is potential in this section, is too heavy a burden to be borne by the G.E.L. Church. I therefore propose that the building activity be formed into a limited company. At this stage I am not certain who the share holders of such a limited company could be, there is no reason why, if they so desire, the churces should not participate. Due to the obvious risks which are now particularly high becauuse of three large building undertakings in progress, I would recommend the limited company be formed with the minimum of delay.

PART 4.

Training is the aim of the Institution, and it is right that this section must become our main concern.

Even if we have to consider the worst posibilities, which would be the cessation of production in Fudi, every effort should be, and must be made to keep the training programme running. In appendix 2 can be found a very realistic calculation of costs requred for the running of the training programme. It is also a fact that we are trying to find partners to form an " "Association Trust" which will be responsible for the running of the training programme, and who would be willing to participate in the costs. Whatever the outcome of such negotiation may finally be, it is my firm conviction and advice that the cost and subsidy for the training section must be found from Germany for an indefinite number of years. In this connection I make the following suggestions:

(a) If at all possible an association be formed by the G.E.L., Anglican and Roman Catholic Churches, which will be responsible for the provision of funds, students, and efficient running of the training section. The Director of the Training Section will be directly responsible to the association.

(b) With immediate effect, the present Director of TTC, which now includes production, should be placed in charge of the training section only. He should work in close liason with the Superintendent, who is responsible for the training as such. The Director will be mainly concerned with administration, and the spiritual needs of the students, but never the less is in direct charge of institution, with the knowledge that his relationships with the Superintendent be in perfect harmony.

(c) With immediate effect, the funds necessary to run training programme, as shown in appendix two, should be channeled to a separate account. The account

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should be operated on the signatures of the Director and Superintendent. Under no circumstances should the funds of this account be used, or loaned out, for any purpose other than that shown in the training programme budget.

(d) Untill otherwise decided the training programme should be considered for a number of fifty boys only. The period of training should be two years as laid down by the I.T.I. However if funds are available a further one years training for a number of boys in the machine shop should be considered.

(e) All the lands, buildings, and machinery connected with TTC should be utilised for the benefit of the training programme. Any moneys earned through leasing buildings and machineries, or through participation in profits if so arranged, should go directly into the training programme account.

(f) The administration of the compound as a whole, should be handed over to the training section under the supervision of the Director, who will decide the minimum staff which will be necessary to run the affairs of the compound efficiently.

I see no reason why it should be necessary to wait for the formation of a "Trust Association" to put the above mentioned programme into operation.

GOSSNER MISSION REPRESENTATIVE

Robert Montag

ROBERT MONTAG

FUDI. 16.9.1970.

APPENDIX I.

TRAINING SECTION.

		Rs.
Expenditure from 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970	...	19,245.71
Receipts (other than subsidies) from 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970.	...	N I L
General Expenses. Estimate of 10% from a total of:- Rs. 45,801.83	...	4,580.21

METAL SECTION.

Expenditure from the 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970.	...	48,833.78
Receipts from 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970.	...	17,517.28
General Expenses. Estimate of 30% from a total of:- Rs. 45,801.83	...	13,740.54
Advances outstanding .	...	2,580.00

APPENDIX I (Continued)

WOODWORKING SECTION.

		Rs.
Expenditure from the 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970	...	59,325.41
Receipts from 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970.	...	39,012.05
General Expenses. Estimate of 30% from a total of:- Rs. 45,801.83	...	13,740.54

BUILDING SECTION.

		Rs.
Expenditure from the 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970	...	1,48,241.77
Receipts from 1st January 1970 to 30th June 1970	...	1,37,017.00
General Expenses. Estimate of 30% from a total of:- Rs. 45,301.83	...	13,740.54
Advances outstanding.	...	29,279.00

APPENDIX II.

YEARLY BUDGET
50 STUDENTS.

2 YEARS INSTITUTION TRAINING.

Salaries	...	Rs.	38,502.00
Car	...	Rs.	4,000.00
Electricity	...	Rs.	6,000.00
Clothing & Washing	...	Rs.	5,000.00
Raw Material & Tools	...	Rs.	5,500.00
Stipends for 9 boys	...	Rs.	2,700.00
Mait. Depreciation, etc.	...	Rs.	3,000.00
Excursions for boys	...	Rs.	3,000.00
Library & Indoor Activities	...	Rs.	720.00
Office Expenditure	...	Rs.	1,200.00
Staff Travel	...	Rs.	800.00
Contribution to Societies and Travel	...	Rs.	1,200.00
Adv. Printing	...	Rs.	360.00
Entertainment	...	Rs.	720.00
Misc. and Unforeseen	...	Rs.	1,500.00
Machinery Depreciation	...	Rs.	3,000.00
	Total -	Rs.	77,202.00

MINUS INCOME:-

HOSTIELS	...	Rs.	3,000.00
HOUSE RENT	...	Rs.	1,170.00
BOYS CONTRIBUTION	...	Rs.	1,625.00
		Rs.	5,795.00
TOTAL COST FOR 50 BOYS PER YEAR	-	Rs.	71.407.00
" " " 1 BOY " "	-	Rs.	1,428.00

APPENDIX II (Continued).

YEARLY BUDGET FOR 75 STUDENTS:

Salaries	...	Rs.	41,502.00
Car	...	Rs.	4,000.00
Machine Depreciation	...	Rs.	3,000.00
Electricity	...	Rs.	6,000.00
Clothing & Washing	...	Rs.	7,500.00
Raw Materials	...	Rs.	3,250.00
Stipend	...	Rs.	2,700.00
Maint. Buildings & Depreciation	...	Rs.	3,000.00
Excursion	...	Rs.	4,500.00
Library & Indoor Activities	...	Rs.	1,000.00
Office Expenditure	...	Rs.	1,800.00
Staff Travel	...	Rs.	1,000.00
Contribution to Societies	...	Rs.	1,500.00
Advertising & Printing	...	Rs.	400.00
Entertainment	...	Rs.	1,000.00
Misc.	...	Rs.	2,000.00
Total	-	Rs.	39,152.00

MINUS:

Income :-

Hostels	...	Rs.	4,500.00
House rent	...	Rs.	1,170.00
Boys contribution	-	Rs.	2,340.00
Total	-	Rs.	8,010.00

Total cost for 75 boys	...	Rs.	81,142.00
" " " each boy	...	Rs.	1,082.00

APPENDIX II. (Continued)

MACHINE SHOP TRAINING FOR 10 BOYS.

It is suggested that after the two years of Institutional Training, 10 boys be given a further one year training under actual production conditions. Below are the stipends necessary for this training. It is pointed out that such a one year programme is left entirely to the discretion of the "Society" and although it would be of great benefit to the 10 boys, it is in no way a laid down rule in the I.T.I. training curriculum :-

SALARIES STAFF	...	Rs. 8,760.00
STIPENDS FOR 10 BOYS	...	Rs. 7,200.00
DEPRECIATION OF BUILDINGS	-	Rs. 2,000.00
DEPRECIATION OF MACHINES	-	Rs. 8,624.00
FOR 10 BOYS PER ANNUM	...	Rs. 26,584.00
EACH BOY PER ANNUM	...	Rs. 2,658.00

d. 21.10.71

drbg/vw

Herrn
Robert Montag

91 Bittacy Rise
Mill Hill

London NW 7

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Als Sie im August hier im Hause waren, war ich Zeuge Ihrer ernstlichen Vermahnung an Herrn Pastor Seeberg. Es möchten alte Freunde und Kampfgefährten der letzten Jahre nicht vergessen werden, wenn der Dienstwechsel Ende dieses Monats auch nur in bescheidenem Rahmen festlich [~~festlich~~] erfolgen würde.

Wie gesagt, dieses dezidierte Wort an meinen Nachfolger habe ich nicht vergessen, deshalb kommt die von Bruder Schwerk gezeichnete Einladung in Ihre Hand. Es würde uns natürlich eine herzliche Freude sein, Wenn Sie Ihr Kommen möglich machen könnten. Ein wenig mehr als 40 Gäste können wir im Saal underer Etage willkommen heißen.

mit herzlichen Grüßen in alter Weise stets

Ihr

~~12 CHEYNE CLOSE~~
~~HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4~~
~~TEL. 202 2600~~

91, Bittacy Rise,
Mill Hill,
London. N.W.7.

Tel: 346-1611.

7.10.1971.

Dear Pastor Seeberg,

These days must have been very busy days for you, and by the time this letter reaches you your status will be Director of the Gossner Mission in Berlin, Mainz, India, Zambia, Nepal, etc.etc. May I take this opportunity of wishing you with all my heart, God,s blessings and His guidance to carry out the work of His Church in all those parts of the World where the spreading of His word has not yet been heard, and by our example in aiding all those who are in need of succour and comforting regardless of race, religion or creed, gather all those to His fold.

During my stay in Berlin, and the brief moments I was able to discuss with you my own personal problem, you were not very pessimistic(thank goodness not only Montag is an optimist) about helping me find a place in Church work overseas. In spite of your "full plate" may I please ask you to keep me in mind. I did write a letter to Pastor Hahn of Das Diakonische Werk, and received a very nice letter from Miss Urbig in answer, Pastor Hahn was travelling. She informed me that at the moment there was no position for me, but she was happy to hear that I was available should an occasion arise. My dear Pastor Seeberg, over the years of our association you have most probably gathered the fact that when I am given a job of work to do I like to get on with it to the best of my ability, always carrying out my duty in the interests of those who entrusted me to do that job. In my own ~~own~~ mind and heart, I know that my future can only be a happy one in answering the call of such work. I did tell you that I feel so strongly on this point that money or salary is a long way down the list of my considerations. Of course I have the responsibilty to my family, but for my own needs I can honestly say that the pleasure to be gained from doing a service which I enjoy to the full is the only reward I seek. I hope that you will try and understand my feelings and in consequence do all you can to help me.

Please convey my sincerest regards to your wife and all the smaller Seebergs, with greetings from house to house.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag.

B. D. A.

Gossner Haus.
17. 9. 1971.

Dear Pastor Seeberg,

Saw no light when I arrived back from Brother Schwerk, did not want to disturb your well earned rest.

Am returning to London tonight from Hannover with the hope you will be able to find something for me in church work overseas.

Thank you and your family for your kindness.

Sincerely
Robert Montag.

Vermerk

für Herrn Schwerk

Sie werden froh sein, nicht gleich nach Ihrer Rückkehr vom Urlaub durch das Problem Sockey überfallen zu werden; ~~vollends nachdem~~ vollends nachdem Stuttgart über Ihren Antrag wegen eines Stipendiums negativ entschieden hat.

Während seines Hierseins vom 4. bis 6.August 1971 hat Herr Montag in einem persönlichen Gespräch mit dem Britischen Konsul das Visum für Herrn Sockey erwirkt und ist mit ihm am 6.August 1971 nach London geflogen, wo er einen Hostel-Platz für ihn reserviert hat. Sockey hat sein restliches Guthaben hier abgezogen und sich wohl praktisch aus Deutschland verabschiedet. Es war auch hoch an der Zeit, dass er hier nicht weiter tatenlos die Tage verbringt.

Die Möglichkeiten, dass er jetzt doch noch zu der ersehnten zweijährigen Ausbildung in London kommt, sind

a) Die Zulassung zu der in London angefragten Schule und die Gewährung eines Stipendiumsdurch seine Anglikanische Kirche in London bzw. die SPG-Mission (vgl. das Schreiben Montag vom 5.August, das er zusammen mit Sockey übergeben wird).

b) Führt das zu keinem Erfolg, hält Bruder Montag dafür, dass man nach den Erfahrungen mit Herrn Kujur in London nochmals an den Lutherischen Weltbund in Genf herantritt.

c) Schlägt auch das fehl, bleibt wohl nur übrig, dass Frau Dr.med. Sockey Ende 1971/Anfang 1972 nach Grossbritannien kommt, dort einen nach der Auffassung von Montag leicht zu erlangenden Arbeitsplatz als Ärztin erhält, um ihren Mann mitzuernähren.

Ob also die Gossner Mission nochmals Sockeys wegen oder für die Deckung eines Teils seiner geliehenen Gelder in Indien in Anspruch genommen wird, das ist offen. Ich hoffe nicht. Bruder Montag will uns selbst ausführlich über den Fortgang der Entwicklung informieren.

Was Montag selbst betrifft, so hat er sich nochmals dem Lutherischen Weltbund und UNICEF zur Verfügung gestellt bzw. sich bei beiden Stellen beworben. Schlägt das fehl, wird er etwas bekümmert eine ihm angebotene Stellung in Kreuznach als Verkäufer bei einer Wohnwagen-Fabrik, die nicht schlecht bezahlt wird, annehmen.

Berlin, den 9.August 1971
drbg/sz

V e r m e r k

für die Herren P.Seeberg und Schwerk

Am 28.Juli 1971 teilte Herr Montag telefonisch mit, dass er sich habe entschliessen müssen, eine kaufmännische Stelle in einer deutschen Firma anzunehmen. Er wird ab Ende des Monats in einer Wohnwagen-Fabrik in Bad Kreuznach beginnen, um wahrscheinlich relativ bald nach Zweibrücken versetzt zu werden. Er gab diese Nachricht etwas bekümmert, weil er lieber im kirchlichen Dienst geblieben wäre und insgeheim doch noch gehofft hatte, von Stuttgart für die Mitarbeit an den riesigen Aufgaben für die pakistanischen Flüchtlinge gebeten zu werden.

Der Kontakt wird sich also, vollends wenn er in Deutschland arbeitet, auch in Zukunft noch erhalten lassen.

Berlin, den 3.August 1971
drbg/sz

851 30 61
xxxxxxxxxxx

13.Juli 1971
l/sz

Mr.
D. K a r n a n i
c/o Mr.Robert Montag
12 Cheyne Close
Hendon

L o n d o n NW 4
England

Dear Mr. Karnani,

Today we transferred in favor of your account at Barclays Banks Ltd. through the Deutsche Evangelische Missionsrat/Hamburg

DM 20.850,75.

We beg to inform you that there further is at your disposal the amount of

DM 85.000,--

at the Berliner Bank A.G.

Your account amounted to		DM 105.000,--
+ interest		" 1.706,25
		DM 106.706,25
transferred from the said account:		
July 2, 1971 in favor of Petromax	DM 505,50	
today " " " "	" 100,--	
July 2, 1971 cash	" 250,-- ./.	" 855,50
		DM 105.850,75
today transferred	./.	" 20.850,75
balance		DM 85.000,--

Hoping that you agree with us, we remain

very truly yours,

2. Juni 1971

851 3o 61
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

drbg/e

Mr. Robert Montag
12, Cheyne Close, Hendon,
London NW 4
England

3. M

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Ich denke, meine Annahme ist richtig, daß Sie noch in diesem Monat nach Indien reisen möchten, um die Angelegenheit Petromax/Cromelite weiter zu fördern. Aber auch darin ist meine Erinnerung hoffentlich richtig, daß Herr Karnani doch noch von einem Europa-Aufenthalt absehen möchte, weil er den Manager von Petromax in den nächsten Wochen hier nicht erreicht. Nach meinem letzten ausführlichen Brief an Sie haben Sie sich gewiß die Flugkarte bei der Wirtschaftsstelle des Missionsrats in Hamburg nach den Ihnen passenden Terminen bestellt zu Lasten der Gossner Mission. Daß es schön wäre, wenn Sie Ihre Reise über Berlin nehmen würden, schrieb ich wohl schon.

Nun hat es sich unerwartet begeben, daß auf der Sitzung am 26. Mai in Stuttgart, wo der Ausschuß über die 2 %-Mittel der Kirche für Entwicklungsaufgaben sich entscheidet und wo ich Berater bin, die in der Anlage beigefügte Vorlage durchging. Ich habe zwar einige Anmerkungen gemacht, daß man das Programm und den Personenkreis in Calcutta noch sehr viel genauer evaluieren müsse; und daß hoffentlich diese anfängliche Bemühung sich zu einer größeren Planung entwickeln ließen. Aber der Ausschuß wollte etwas für Calcutta tun und bewilligte grundsätzlich den Betrag. Sie werden sich die Sache genau durchlesen. Empfehlend stehen dahinter Industrie-Pfarrer Donner/Dortmund und Frau Dohrmann.

Mein herzlicher und dringender Wunsch wäre, daß Sie sich auf der bevorstehenden Indien-Reise als ein Experte von Calcutta, der sein Herz dort verloren hat, die Sache und die Personen etwas genauer ansehen, die dort arbeiten. Sie können das nicht offiziell in unserem Namen oder gar im Namen des Ausschusses tun, sondern nur als persönlich Interessierter. Wir müssen noch darüber reden. Aber haben Sie dies sehr in mind, wenn Sie herunterfliegen. Ich denke, das tun Sie gern, obwohl Sie CUSCON schon kennen mögen und vielleicht ein bestimmtes Urteil haben.

Lassen Sie bald einmal von sich hören. Ich bin noch bis 18. 6. hier. im Büro. Die Freunde Seeberg und Schwerk sind in voller Wirksamkeit in Lusaka.

Getreuliche Grüße Ihnen und Ihrer lieben Frau!

Stets Ihr

Projekt Nr. KED-E 7-71 Vorlage Nr. 21 Stab: EZE Nr.
KED Nr.
Sitzung des Mittelausschusses
am 26. Mai 1971

Zurückgestellt!!

Kontinent:	ASIEN
Land:	INDIEN
Ort:	Calcutta
Projekt:	Gemeinwesenarbeit und Strukturentwicklung in Slumgebieten
Antragsteller:	Calcutta Urban Service Consortium - CUSCON
Antragssumme:	DM 200.000,--

1. Träger:

CUSCON ist aus dem Calcutta Urban Service (CUS) hervorgegangen, der bereits seit mehreren Jahren als kirchliche Organisation in den Elendsvierteln Sozialarbeit leistet. Um diese Bemühungen auf eine breitere Basis zu stellen, wurde 1969 das Calcutta Urban Service Consortium geschaffen, in dem alle auf dem Gebiet der Gemeinwesenarbeit tätigen Institutionen zusammenarbeiten können. Bisher haben sich 24 christliche, mohammedanische, hinduistische und weltliche Organisationen CUSCON angeschlossen.

2. Allgemeine Situation:

Die durch die ständige Zuwanderung rasch wachsende Millionenstadt Calcutta weist nach einer Aufstellung der Regierung des Staates Westbengalen über 60 Stadtteile auf, die als Slumgebiete bezeichnet werden müssen. Calcutta hat ca. 5 Millionen Einwohner, die Analphabetenquote liegt bei 70 %. Mindestens eine Million Einwohner lebt in den Elendsvierteln der Stadt. Vor allem auf Grund dieser sozialen Notlage wird die Stadt immer wieder von politischen Unruhen erschüttert.

21

3. Projektbeschreibung:

CUSCON hat einen Rahmenplan für die Siedlungsentwicklung in den Elendsvierteln erstellt, der vom Ministerium für Planung und Entwicklung von Westbengalen gebilligt wurde. Es sollen vor allem Ergänzungen zum Slum-Verbesserungsprogramm der Regierung in Angriff genommen werden. Inzwischen hat CUSCON in dem Stadtteil Kasia Bagan u. a. eine Gesundheitsstation, in der monatlich 1200 Patienten ambulant behandelt werden, und ein Beratungszentrum für Ernährung und ärztliche Versorgung der Kinder eingerichtet. Außerdem wurden Ausbildungsprogramme für Sozialarbeiter durchgeführt. Die begonnene Gemeinwesenarbeit wird so weit wie möglich auf die Basis der Selbsthilfe (community action) gestellt. Zunächst werden kleinere Projekte angegangen wie: Vermehrung der Wasserzapfstellen sowie Latrinen, Bau einfacher Schulen, ärztliche Versorgung, Beratung bei der Errichtung von Handwerksbetrieben, Durchführung von technischen Aus- und Fortbildungskursen etc. Für diese Maßnahmen werden relativ geringe Geldmittel in der Größenordnung bis zu DM 20.000,-- benötigt. Zu einem späteren Zeitpunkt sind größere Vorhaben im Wohnungswesen (cheap housing scheme) und im Ausbildungssektor (Training-cum-Production Centre, Mobile Training Units) geplant. CUSCON verfügt über ausreichend Personal, das für die Aufgaben des community development in eigenen Kursen geschult wurde.

4. Finanzierung:

Die Einzelheiten dieser Projekte sowie eine exakte Kostenaufstellung können nicht lange vor der Durchführung festgelegt werden. Andererseits müssen die Mittel rasch zur Verfügung stehen, um die Entstehung von Initiativen nicht zu hemmen und einen Anreiz für den Selbsthilfewillen der Slumbewohner zu schaffen.

Es wird daher folgendes Verfahren vorgeschlagen:
Für einen Zeitraum von 2 Jahren wird ein Betrag von DM 200.000,-- bereitgestellt, der von der Evangelischen Zentralstelle verwaltet wird und von CUSCON zur Durchführung der oben geschilderten Maßnahmen nach Bedarf abgerufen werden kann. Sobald für ein konkretes Vorhaben Mittel benötigt werden, legt CUSCON einen detaillierten Antrag mit Kostenplan vor. Die Evangelische Zentralstelle kann sofort über dieses Einzelprojekt entscheiden und den erforderlichen Betrag überweisen. Nach Durchführung der Maßnahme übersendet CUSCON einen Bericht an die Evangelische Zentralstelle und rechnet über die Ausgaben ab.

5. Stellungnahme:
Die Unterstützung der von CUSCON durchgeführten Gemeinwesenarbeit wird von Herrn Pfarrer Helmut Donner vom Sozialpfarramt Dortmund, der das Programm und die Mitarbeiter von CUSCON aus eigener Anschauung kennt, sehr empfohlen. CUSCON hat bereits Zuschüsse von DICARWS, der East Asian Christian Conference und von anderen privaten Stellen in Calcutta und aus dem Ausland erhalten. Die laufenden Verwaltungskosten sind dadurch gedeckt. Die hier beantragten Mittel sollen daher ausschließlich für einzelne Projekte verwendet werden.

Die Evangelische Zentralstelle hält diesen Zuschuß zu den Programmkosten für unbedingt notwendig. Der finanzielle Beitrag soll dabei eine Initialzündung darstellen, um entstehenden Initiativen umgehend Rechnung tragen zu können. Die Evangelische Zentralstelle bittet daher um Bewilligung eines Zuschusses bis zu DM 200.000,--.

Bonn, den 7. Mai 1971

EVANGELISCHE ZENTRALSTELLE FÜR
ENTWICKLUNGSHILFE e.V.

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

2nd June 1971.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
Berlin.

8/6. Fin kurz 9/6. Reichsdeutsch 3.d.M. Montag

My Dear Dr. Berg,

Firstly let me thank you for your birthday greetings which arrived in time. But when one is over the 50 it ceases to become relevant, and on that day the other contents of your letter was of far more importance to me, and for your kind understanding of my feelings goes my special thanks to you. When I sit here in London and see the television reports on the terrible conditions existing in Calcutta which have been become even more intolerable due to the refugee problem from East Parkistan, you more than any one else will imagine how much my heart aches, and how much I would sacrifice to be in a position to help. Only this morning the first reports have come through the "Times" of the cholera outbreak among the 4,000,000 refugees reported to be in and around Calcutta. There were also pictures of refugees settling as far as DumDum airport. All this seems to make my memorandum even more real in its prediction, and once again my dear Doctor Berg, I must say with all sincerity, why oh why must we always wait for a catastrophy to come about before we seek the means to prevent it? is there nobody willing to think further than their nose about the problems of under ~~developed~~ developed Countries. I do so hope that you will give me a little of your precious time to pour out my heart to you on this subject. I still believe that of all the people I can turn to, you are the only person I know who has the courage of their convictions, the forsight, and the will to do, not only talk.

Enclosed please find a copy of the letter sent on your approval to Hamburg requesting my airticket. Be assured you will not regret this help to me, and re-payment will be made in full. With my greetings to you all in the Gossner House.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montagu

851 30 61
xxxxxxxxxxxx

18.Mai 1971
drbg/sz

Herrn
Robert Montag
12 Cheyne Close, Hendon,

London NW 4
England

Luftpost - Eilboten

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Eigentlich sollten gestern schon rechtzeitig einige Zeilen herzlichen Glückwunsches zu Ihrem morgigen Geburtstag zu Ihnen kommen. Es sollte Ihnen gesagt werden, wie herzlich wir mit allen unseren Wünschen Ihres neuen Lebensjahres mit weiterhin guter Gesundheit und alter Tatkraft sowie Behütung unseres himmlischen Vaters gedenken, aber als Ihr längerer persönlicher Brief an mich vom 14.d.M. von der Post gebracht wurde, schien es mir doch ratsam, nochmals 24 Stunden zu warten, um heute etwas ausführlicher als beabsichtigt, an Sie zu schreiben. Es ist wirklich schade, dass Sie bei Ihrem letzten plötzlichen Besuch mich so beschäftigt fanden, dass ich wirklich keine Zeit zu einem längeren Gespräch hatte, das Ihnen diesen längeren Brief erspart hätte. Nun, was soll ich sagen!? Eine kurzfristige Entscheidung wird nicht möglich sein, zumal die beiden anderen Brüder hier im Haus für fünf Wochen nach Afrika entschwunden sind und ich im Blick auf die Beendigung meines unmittelbaren Gossner-Dienstes im Herbst ohne die anderen beiden Freunde keine länger wirkende Entscheidung treffen möchte.

Zudem ist es im Blick auf Sie auch wirklich schwierig, Sie waren für uns in den letzten Jahren mehrfach hochgeschätzte "Feuerwehr". Sie wissen, wie sehr wir Ihren Dienst gerade im Blick auf Fudi (und noch anderes mehr) im letzten Jahr angesichts der Notwendigkeiten dort und der so nicht erwarteten Labilität von Bruder Hertel geschätzt haben. Da unser Engagement in Indien geringer wird und Sie gerade an diesem Teil der Welt und seinen Menschen mit Ihrem ganzen Herzen hängen, ist es nochmals schwierig, Ihnen etwas Befriedigendes anzubieten.

Ich glaube wirklich, dass Ihr Empfinden richtig ist, wenn Sie zweifeln, ob in Nepal im Rahmen der UMN mit uns der rechte Job zu finden sein wird. Eine gewisse feste "Missionsbürokratie" herrscht dort zweifellos und muss auch wohl sein bei einem Völkchen aus 10 Nationen und 30 Gesellschaften, die dort kooperieren. Das ist kaum etwas für Sie alten "Spähtruppler".

Bliebe einmal eine feste Verbindung mit der entstehenden und von Ihnen so erfreulich vorangetriebenen Gemeinsamkeit von Petromax/Cromelite. Aber das werden Sie selbst am besten übersehen können - vielleicht erst jetzt nach Ihrem beabsichtigten Besuch im nächsten Monat - ob da etwas Dauerhaftes für Sie drin ist. Möglicherweise möchten Sie nicht gern Ihre Freiheit gegenüber dem Chef von Cromelite dransetzen, sondern auch ihm gegenüber unabhängig bleiben. Ich übersehe das nicht ganz.

Landen wir also wieder bei Calcutta! Dass ein wirkliches Engagement unsererseits weit über die Kapazität von Gossner hinausgeht, wissen Sie. Ich bin nächste Woche bei Fräulein Urbig; ob ich auch Direktor Geissel sehen kann, weiss ich nicht. Ich will nochmals ernsthaft sondieren, aus sachlichen Gründen und auch um Ihrer Person willen, aber wie ungewiss das ist, wissen Sie selbst. Sie werden recht haben, dass mit dem Wechsel von Diehl zu Hahn eine wohl andere Policy dort verfolgt wird.

Das Ergebnis dieser Meditation mag und muss Sie wohl unbefriedigt lassen, aber sagen Sie selbst, ob mir ein anderes Echo möglich war. Ihre Frage soll damit nicht vom Tisch und aus meinem Herzen, aber da Sie ein baldiges Echo erwarten durften, konnte es im Augenblick nicht anders sein. Ich habe doch wohl auch richtig gelesen, dass Sie weniger aus drängenden finanziellen Gründen als vielmehr um einer sinnvollen und notwendigen Tätigkeit im Gesamtbereich christlichen Dienstes willen Ihren Brief geschrieben haben.

Um Ihre letzte konkrete Frage zu beantworten:

Ihr Flugticket nach Indien in den nächsten Wochen soll gern von hier übernommen werden, ob und wann immer Sie es ersetzen können; und das, obwohl der relativ kleine Verfügungsbetrag beim Missions-Rat in Hamburg schon in diesem Jahr aufgebraucht ist. Bitte bestellen Sie selber beim Missions-Rat zu Gossners Lasten Ihr Billett und nehmen Sie doch freundlich wieder den Weg über Berlin, weil sicher noch einiges zu besprechen sein wird. Ich bin nur in der Woche vom 24. bis 29.Mai abwesend. In den ersten drei Juni-Wochen hüte ich im wesentlichen das Haus. Ich nehme doch wohl richtig an, dass Herr Carnani nun doch nicht kommt, so dass Sie sich nicht nach den Terminen seiner Europa-Reise einrichten müssen.

Aber nun soll dieser längere Antwortbrief nochmals zum Anfang zurückkehren und Ihres morgigen Festtages sehr herzlich gedenken. Eingeschlossen ist Ihre liebe Frau, die es so lange Jahre mit Ihnen ausgehalten hat.

In alter Verbundenheit

Ihr

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

14th May 1971.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
1 Berlin 41.
Handjerystrasse 19-20.

Dear Dr.Berg,

I have just returned to England after spending 10 days in W. Germany. It was a great pity for me that I could not spend an hour or so with you during my one day in Berlin, I had so many problems I would liked to have spoken to you about, but I understand quite well that you were too busy with your conference, therefore I am writing this letter to try and explain my position.

Three years back I wrote you asking for your help in trying to find some place for me in Mission or Church work. This was after my return to Uk from India when my wife was so ill, and it turned out by the grace of God that her illness was at least cured in so far as one can be sure. At that time you decided that I should go to India for 3 months to assist Brother Schwerk, and also to try and get the entry visa for Brother Hertel. I think that you were satisfied with my work in both cases. At that time it was forseen that I should accompany Brother Schwerk to Zambia after my three months in India, but "man proposes but God disposes", and Das Diakonische Werk offered me the opportunity of going to Vietnam, which I readily accepted after you had agreed. I think that my year in that war torn country proved a success for the German Churches, and with the resignation of Pastor Diehl, who was in favour of the German Churches keeping their own representative in Vietnam, and the arrival of Pastor Hahn, who was in favour of handing over the work to the Asian Christian Service, my work in Vietnam came to an end. It is not for me to comment which policy was the better one. Almost immediately came the problem of Fudi, and again you sent me to India to implement my suggestion to Gossner Mission to form a trust Society for TTC, and to hand over the so called production to a private Company. Although this task proved difficult, and it is too early to say if the plan is successfull, the trust Society has been from what we can gather, not only registered, but is working smoothly. The production which was handed over to the firm of Cromelite, had a bad start, but I can quote from a letter I received from Mr.Karnani which he wrote on the 29th April, " I am leaving for Fudi tomorrow. Things look better now there. Dont worry." Which is of course very encouraging. So in this "auftrag" from your side I think that it is fair to say my work was carried out to your satisfaction.

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

There is now the possibility of the collaboration between Petromax in Germany and Cromelite in India. Enclosed is a copy of aletter which Mr.Karnani sent to Petromax, from which you will see that the two Companies will get together for the joint venture. I think that you are aware that my first interest in this collaboration is in the fact that Cromelite intend to set up the factory on the Compound of the GEL Church in Ranchi, and as you also know this would provide not only employment for many of our people in Ranchi, but would be of paramount importance in persuading the Ranchi municipality to keep their hands off our land in the Ranchi Compound.

The foregoing is quite well known to you all in the Gossner Mission, and you could probably say, "why does Montag not concentrate his efforts on the latter collabortaion, and put his services at the disposal of either Petromax, or Cromelite". I can only answer this question, if you care to put it, in two stages. Firstly my interest is not in earning money. This may have been the case some years ago, but since my work with the Gossner Mission, I have learned that helping people with Christian intentions, is a far more self satisfying life than living for personal gain. My own wants have become very frugal, of course I have to earn money to fullfill my committments to my family, but for me personally I have no desire for riches, any salary which has been offered to me was quite acceptable as long as it covered the needs of my family to live in moderate comfort. Secondly if I were to put my services at the disposal of an outside body, it goes without saying that my loyalty to that body must be given without question. For me such a situation could not be tolerable as my interests would always be with the third party, in this case with the Church. I would be dishonest if I were to accept employment with either side under such circumstances. One could also mention that my interests go even further, and that India has become for me, a sphere of work which reach out beyond normal thinking, you know how much I am willing to give myself for any help for the city of Calcutta.

You are aware that it is my intention to return to India in the the next two or three weeks, this time to bring the Collaboration Petromax Cromelite a further stage, and also it is my intention to gather firm proposals of projects for Calcutta from the West Bengal State Government. To the former I will not put myself in the position of accepting finances for such a journey. To the latter I am not sure to whom I should turn. I seem to sense that at this point there is really no organisation which is willing to get themselves involved with an aid programme for Calcutta to the extent of financing a survey. Therefore it is my conviction that it is my duty to my own convictions to bear the costs from my own resources. To bring this letter to you to a summing up

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

may I ask you to try and help me in two ways, namely:-

1. Is it possible that you could help me get my ticket return to India from your sources. I remember you once told me that you get a large discount for such journeys, which would of course mean that I could save quite a lot of money this way. I would of course repay such money to you.

2. Would you please try and help me in directing my work for the Church, especially India or Asia. Pastor Seeberg once mentioned that it was possible there would be a situation vacant in Nepal as hospital administrator. Although such a post would perhaps not perhaps utilise my talents to the full, I could at least be close to India, where my heart is, and could spend any time which was free to me, to give my help in that Country.

Dear Dr.Berg, please excuse me if I add to your already burdened life with my problems, somehow I have come to look upon the friends I have made in the Gossner Mission as more than just people with whom I have had casual connections with. I really would consider it a help if you would give this letter some thought, I am fully prepared to come to Berlin to discuss the contents with you if you could spare the time. My kindest regards to Frau Dr.Berg, and indeed all friends in the GM.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Matthew

CABLE: ASHOKKILA, CALCUTTA. POST BOX NO. 2853, CALCUTTA-1 DIAL { OFFICE : 22-7601 (3 Lines) WORKS : 66-3561 66-5279 RES. : 47-3115

Cromelite (India) Private Ltd.

MANUFACTURERS OF STEEL FOLDING FURNITURE.

Branch :
Crescent Chambers, 4th Floor,
Tamarind Lane, Fort,
BOMBAY-1.

Works :
38/39, Jay Bibi Road,
Ghusury, Howrah.

Regd. Office :
P-35, India Exchange Place,
CALCUTTA-1.
(INDIA)

C:EXP:4: 3097

April 29, 1971.

Messrs. Petromax Vertriebsgesellschaft MBH
P.O.B. 294
5990 Altena (W E S T F)

For kind attention : Mr. Amar.

Dear Sirs:

We are obliged to your letter No.RA/V/s of 14th instant personally addressed to the undersigned.

We are indeed glad at your consideration for agreeing to colloborate with our Company in principle and thank you.

We also appreciate your equipping us with the detailed information on the basis governing the proposed arrangement.

We feel we can always agree with the basis outlined therein.

To give final shape to the arrangement on the proposed basis we shall, of course, be pleased to personally discuss with you the matter at Altena. To enable the undersigned to draft his programme, he will appreciate knowing from you the date convenient for such a meeting.

We eagerly await the receipt of your samples of Stove and Power Lantern for comparing standards with those manufactured by our sister concern Prabhat. As desired we shall soon arrange to send you our samples for favour of your personal inspection and trial.

Concluding we must assure you that we are equally keen in availing your association and have every hope that our joint venture will prove to be stupendous success for ultimate good of the trade.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you soon and awaiting meanwhile to hear further from you, we remain,

Yours faithfully,
For CROMELITE (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED,

(D. R. KARNANI)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

c.c. to:- Mr. R. Montag,
12, Cheyne Close,
Hendon, London N.W.4.

Dear Mr. Montag:

I highly applaud your effort in successfully handling the matter with Petromax.

I fully endorse your course of action and the manner you are proceeding with them. You will hear more in my personal note being sent to you under separate cover.

(D. R. KARNANI)

CABLE: ASHOKRICHA, CALCUTTA. POST BOX NO. 7882, CALCUTTA. TELEPHONE: OFFICE : 22-7201 (3 lines) WORKS : 46-1561 46-5279 HOME : 47-3115

Cromalite (India) Private Ltd.

MANUFACTURERS OF STEEL FOLDING FURNITURE.

Branch :
Crescent Chambers, 4th Floor,
Tamarind Lane, Fort,
BOMBAY-1.

Works :
38/2, Jay Bibi Road,
Ghusury, Howrah.

Regd. Office :
P.15, India Exchange Place,
CALCUTTA-1.
(INDIA)

C.FXIT/4: 3097

April 26, 1971.

Messrs. Fetzmann Vermögensgesellschaft MBH
P.O.B. 294
8900 Aitona (W. G. T.)

For kind attention : Mr. Auer.

Dear Sirs:

We are obliged to your letter No.FA/7/a of 14th instant personally addressed to the undersigned.

We are indeed glad at your consideration for agreeing to collaborate with our Company in principle and thank you.

We also appreciate your supplying us with the detailed information on the basis governing the proposed arrangement.

We feel we can always agree with the basis outlined therein.

To give final shape to the arrangement on the proposed basis we shall, of course, be pleased to personally discuss with you the matter at Aitona. To enable the undersigned to draft his programme, he will appreciate knowing from you the date convenient for such a meeting.

We eagerly await the receipt of your samples of Cove and Tower Lantern for comparing standards with those manufactured by our sister concern Frankat. As desired we shall soon arrange to send you our samples for favour of your personal inspection and trial.

Concluding we must assure you that we are equally keen in availing your association and have every hope that our joint venture will prove to be a superabundant success for ultimate good of the trade.

Looking forward to the pleasure of meeting you soon and awaiting meanwhile to hear further from you, we remain,

Yours faithfully,
For CROMALITE (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED,

(B. K. SANDWANI)
MANAGING DIRECTOR

c.c. to:- Mr. R. Porter,
12, Cheyne Close,
London, London N.W.4.

Dear Mr. Porter:

Highly applaud your effort in successfully handling the matter with Fetzmann.

I fully endorse your course of action and the manner you are proceeding with them. I will bear more in my personal note being sent to you under separate cover.

(B. K. S.)

xxxxx 851 30 61

17. März 1971
drbg/sz

Herrn
Minister
Dr. E p p l e r
Ministerium für wirtschaftliche
Zusammenarbeit

53 B o n n / Rhein

Sehr geehrter Herr Minister!

Der so nicht erwartete, hocherfreuliche Wahlsieg von Frau Gandhi und der Neuen Kongresspartei gewährt die einzigartige Chance, Indien als in vieler Hinsicht besonders schwierigem "Entwicklungsland" mit seiner für die nächsten Jahre stabilen Regierung die Unterstützung zu gewähren, die diesem Land entscheidend voranhilft.

Dass im gleichen Augenblick Pakistan vor einer Zerreissprobe steht und Ceylon eine enge Bindung zur DDR eingeht, rückt den indischen Subkontinent mit seinen bald 700 Mio Menschen dieser Tage ins Zentrum der zukünftigen unvorhersehbaren Entwicklung.

Verleihen Sie - dies mein schlichter Appell! - im möglichen Rahmen der Planungen Ihres Ministeriums Indien während der kommenden Jahre Priorität in Hilfe, Beistand und Förderung! Eine Gesundung dieses zweitgrössten Landes der Erde unter einer jetzt mit der Autorität des überwältigenden Votums ihres Volkes ausgestatteten Regierung hat weltweite Bedeutung. - -

Ganz konkret: Ein Anerbieten, die Pestbeule "Calcutta" hilfreich anzugehen und dafür auch von deutscher Seite alle nur mögliche Unterstützung zu gewähren, würde möglicherweise die neue Regierung Indiens besonders dankbar aufnehmen. Ich möchte Sie dazu direkt ermutigen. Ich habe Herrn Dr.Lefringhausen als dem Geschäftsführer des "Forums für Entwicklungshilfe" der BRD ein Anstoss-Memorandum bezüglich Calcutta zugehen lassen, das er, wie ich hoffe, zum Anlass nehmen kann, der Regierung von Frau Gandhi in dieser sicherlich schwersten Sorge der Zukunft Indiens auch deutsche hilfreiche Mitwirkung im Rahmen internationaler Cooperation in Aussicht zu stellen - in welcher Richtung immer Heilungsprozesse in Gang gesetzt werden können.

Indem ich hoffe, dass die in den nächsten Wochen von Ihnen geforderte Rechenschaft über die Entwicklungspolitik unseres Landes Ihnen willkommene Gelegenheit gibt, deren Bedeutung erneut und vertieft sichtbar zu machen, bin ich mit den besten Wünschen

Ihr Ihnen sehr ergebener

Telegrams :
"GREASTERN" CALCUTTA

Telephones : { 23-2331 (12 Lines)
23-2311 (12 Lines)
Telex : 021-571

THE GREAT EASTERN HOTEL LTD.

CALCUTTA - 1.

22nd Feb. 1970.

Dear Dr. Berg,

This is my first report written on the very bad typewriter of the hotel. My arrival in Calcutta was badly timed as you will see from the enclosed newspaper reports. You will perhaps now understand that my "memorandum" was not at all an overstatement of the facts. Lufthansa had a car waiting for me at the Airport so that I could get into the city. It was lucky that I did not travel BOAC. As you will see from the cutting.

My first talks with Mr. Karnani were quite as I expected. He has agreed to pay the rent as arranged, which he had never refused to do, and also I will take the payment for the mini-bus with me. Apparently Mr. Hertel was in Calcutta a few days after I left. Mr. Karnani asked him if it were possible to offset some of his verky big investment by the Church foregoing the first six months rent. Mr. Hertel replied that Mr. K. should take up this matter with the Church. Mr. Hertel did not mention the money for the mini-bus so that it did not occur to Mr. K. that there was any undue urgency for this money, and it had slipped his mind completely. Mr. K. is quite disappointed in what seems to him a lack of co-operation from Fudi. On my advice he does not intend to send his son-in-law to Fudi, but did want to send an acceptable manager. On his request for some form of accomadation for this man he met with a blank. The living quarters occupied by Mr. Sokey was allocated to a Mr. Singh, on the request by Mr. K. for this quarters he was told that he would have to settle this matter with Mr. Singh, which quite naturally he was not prepared to do. In any event the whole matter does not appear to be serious at this moment, but unless there is co-operation from both sides it could be quite serious. From my side I must wonder why it took Mr. Hertel so long to write his report if he was aware of the facts a few days after I had left India.

22nd Feb.1972.

Dear Mr. Berg,

This is my first report written on the very bad typewriter of the hotel. My arrival in Calcutta was badly timed as you will see from the enclosed newspaper reports. You will perhaps now understand that my "memorandum" was not at all an overstatement of the facts. Matthews had a car waiting for me at the Airport so that I could get into the city. It was lucky that I did not travel NOW. As you will see from the cutting.

My first talks with Mr.Karnani were quite as I expected. He was agreed to pay the rent as arranged, which he had never refused to do, and also I will take the payment for the mini-bus with me. Apparently Mr.Hertel was in Calcutta a few days after I left. Mr.Karnani asked him if it were possible to offset some of his very big investment by the Church foregoing the first six months rent. Mr.Hertel replied that Mr.K. should take up this matter with the Church. Mr.Hertel did not mention the money for the mini-bus so that it did not occur to Mr.K. that there was any undue urgency for this money, and it had slipped his mind completely. Mr.K. is quite disappointed in what seems to him a lack of co-operation from Indi. In my advice he does not intend to send his son-in-law to Indi, but did want to send an acceptable manager. On his request for some form of accommodation for this man he met with a blank. The living quarters occupied by Mr.Sokey was allocated to a Mr.Singh, on the request by Mr.K. for this quarters he was told that he would have to settle this matter with Mr.Singh, which quite naturally he was not prepared to do. In any event the whole matter does not appear to be serious at this moment, but unless there is co-operation from both sides it could be quite serious. From my side I must wonder why it took Mr.Hertel so long to write his report if he was aware of the facts a few days after I had left India.

Telegrams :
"GREASTERN" CALCUTTA

Telephones : { 23-2331 (12 Lines)
23-2311 (12 Lines)
Telex : 021-571

THE GREAT EASTERN HOTEL LTD.
CALCUTTA-1.

There is no possibility of my leaving Calcutta before Tuesday as there is a general strike on at the moment. In any event Mr.Ks. manager returned from Fudi last night, and told me that Mr.Hertel was not on the Compound and had not been there for some days.

The Retromax business has been taken up. and a cable will go out requesting them to come to India. Mr.K. is still quite willing for the mantle factory to be placed in Ranchi. He is of course very gratefull for the negotiations which have so far taken place, and wishes me to inform you that under no circumstances is he prepared to allow the good relations which exist between himself and the GM in Berlin to be spoiled by the happenings in Fudi.

For today this is my news to you, I will write again after I hear the situation form the powers to be in Fudi. Please convey my kind regards to Pastor Seeberg. I did not want to disturb him at the early hour I left on Saturday.

Sincerely Yours

Robert Montag

There is no possibility of my leaving Calcutta before Wednesday as there is a general strike on at the moment. In any event Mr. Manager returned from Midnapur, and told me that Mr. Morrell was not on the Compound and had not been there for some days.

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Sincerely Yours

THE
SUNDAY STATESMAN
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Published Simultaneously from CALCUTTA and DELHI

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HOW MANY MORE?

If the sense of shock in West Bengal has not already been benumbed by the repeated assaults it has suffered it will be further ravaged by the death, by stabbing, of Mr. Hemanta Basu, the Forward Bloc leader who for the greater part of his career was associated so closely with the national movement. Thus another life, in this instance a distinguished one characterized by exceptional qualities of dedication and service, has been ruthlessly extinguished by the insensate violence that has been unleashed on the State. Such violence cynically masquerades as an election campaign and, it must now be conceded, recognizes no limits to what it can do for the advantage of those who wield it. Here undeniably is a further tragic invitation to consider once again the question whether so-called elections in the State are being held at a cost that is prohibitive in lives and also in the damage being inflicted on the electoral process. This process is an essential part of the democratic system; to debase it or expose it to mockery is in effect to repudiate it and open the way to the authoritarian doctrines of the committed. Thus more is at stake than the political fortunes of any single party; more indeed than the personal reputations involved in ensuring that somehow the "elections" are held according to schedule. The manner in which the Election Commissioner has brushed aside the possibility or desirability of a postponement seemingly makes no allowances for the increasing evidence in favour of it. No attempt has been made to refute this evidence of a daily ration of violence and murder and of the near paralysis by which the electoral machine may be seized if confidence is not restored. Yet the fatuous suggestion is made that the deterioration towards chaos may be arrested before polling day. By what means is not specified, and we are left to conclude that the Election Commissioner is inclined to turn a blind eye on what is plain for all to see. References to a legal obligation to carry through with the election, to the presence of the Army, and to the responsibility of the State Government are a feeble evasion of the ugly truth: that the State is in no condition to undertake an election and to attempt to do so would be a serious disservice to the democratic cause.

In recent times nothing has been more unreal than the Chief Election Commissioner's appeal to the political parties "not to encourage violence". It would seem that he is completely innocent of what has been happening in the State or is incapable of grasping it. Far from "encouraging" violence the parties are practising it with a deliberation and cynicism for which there can be no parallel even in the history of this sorry State. Mr Sen-Varma has moreover asked the voters to muster up their courage, much as though they were obliged to do battle when all they require is the opportunity to cast their vote freely and safely. That opportunity no longer exists in the prevailing climate of hostility, violence and suspicion. How many lives must be forfeited before Mr Sen-Varma concludes that a postponement is justified? His responsibility is to ensure electoral rectitude and enforce the rules of the game; consequently his perspective is clearly too limited to enable him to be guided by larger considerations. Thus the burden of deciding what is to be done must rest with the Centre and the advice it chooses to give to the President. It is inexcusable folly to persist with an election that promises to bring the State to near chaos and that will in no sense genuinely reflect the people's will. Postponement will also invite chaos but will not expose the electoral process to ridicule and will enable President's rule to attempt what it has so far miserably failed to do —to create the conditions in which law and order are once again respected as in the past. Meanwhile all concerned would be grateful for being spared Mr Sen-Varma's philosophising on the subject of violence. Mr Hemanta Basu's death, more than any other, must bring home even to the complacent in New Delhi the full extent of what this violence is costing the people of West Bengal.

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rrespondent

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Flights Affected

From Our Staff Correspondent

DUM DUM, Feb. 20.—Most of the passengers of international flights postponed their departure from Calcutta Airport today due to the situation in the city. The west-bound KLM flight overflew Calcutta Airport, and a spokesman of the airlines said that the passenger coach could not be sent to the airport from the city.

A BOAC spokesman said the company would not shoulder the responsibility of taking passengers to the airport from the city and that those who wished to fly today would have to arrange their own transport to the airport. Only one passenger was reported to have done so.

The Indian Airlines passenger coaches plied between the city and the airport with police escort. The departure of flights to Delhi and Bombay in the evening was, however, delayed.

Ramkay

DEPENDABLE

ELECTRICAL ACCESSORIES

SUPREME IN QUALITY

Retired Officers Back Gen. Cariappa

BOMBAY, Feb. 21.—A little "army" of senior ex-servicemen today declared its support to General K. M. Cariappa, who is contesting as an independent from the Bombay north-east Lok Sabha constituency, reports UNI.

The retired officers of the Army Navy and Air Force told a Press conference here that "we should be cowards if we kept silent when darkness is settling over our beloved motherland."

The former military officers said they were "disgusted and dismayed by defections and other disgraceful antics". They felt Gen. Cariappa could introduce an "element of discipline and honour wanting in the highest bodies of the land"

The supporters are: Lt.-Gen. S. P. P. Thorat, Rear-Admiral G. S. Karmarkar, Brig. B. S. Bhagat, Brig. A. J. R. Dover, Brig. Joginder Singh, Brig. J. F. N. Vakil, Col. G. C. Dubey, Lt.-Col. C. L. Proudfoot, Air-Marshal Ranjan Dutt and Lt.-Col. Chandavarakar

The Press conference was arranged by Mr Madhu Mehta, joint secretary of the Swatantra Party. The main contestants from the constituency are: Gen. Cariappa, Prof. M. S. Agaskar (Jana Sangh) and Mr Raja Kulkarni (Congress (R).

e read to be believed

Mr Kamaraj's speeches are rief and terse (within a very ew minutes he covers very arge ground) and informs. He peaks the ordinary man's lanuage. From the moment he tarts he is in rapport with his isteners. The people actually vait hours to listen to him The inal meeting last night, at Devakottai, was to have been held well before midnight—but as he got on the dais there were over a thousand women in the large crowd waiting patiently.

The welcome he received last night in this district, which in 1867 was virtually out of bounds of the Congress, was the kind that perhaps the Prime Minister, might have received. Large crowds lined his route, whole villages were out along the roadside to see him ('There goes Kamarasar they would say), and in towns whole families stood out on the housefronts to greet him.

His major promises to all of them was of a clean honest Government if the Democratic Front was returned to power. The corruption from top to bottom under the DMK rule had brought disgrace to Tamil Nadu he kept saying In his view they and their allies the Congress (R) had become a threat to democracy; this was why the forthcoming poll was "the most important one since independence".

Last night was the tenth consecutive night of his intensive

Dandekar Reiterates Charge Against Government

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.—No party or alliance will be able to secure an absolute majority in the coming elections to the Lok Sabha, but the National Democratic Front of four parties, "with a certain amount of cooperation from parties outside it", will form the future Government, Mr N. Dandekar, Vice-President of the Swatantra Party, said

GUEST KEEN WILLIAMS LTD

PRECISION PRESSINGS DIVISION

TENDER FOR PURCHASE OF SCRAP

Sealed offers are invited up to midday of Monday the 1st March. 1971 for the purchase of the following scrap from our Currie Road Works. Howrah. W. Bengal. for a three-month period from 17th March. 1971 :—

Approximate Quantity. per year/Metric Tonnes.

(1) Silicon Steel Cuttings and

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LATE CITY ✱

THE SUNDAY STATESMAN

Reg. No. C 193
Reg. No. MH 1858
Reg. No. M 8407

CALCUTTA SUNDAY FEBRUARY 21 1971

20 Paise

HEMANTA BASU MURDERED IN BROAD DAYLIGHT: TWO HELD

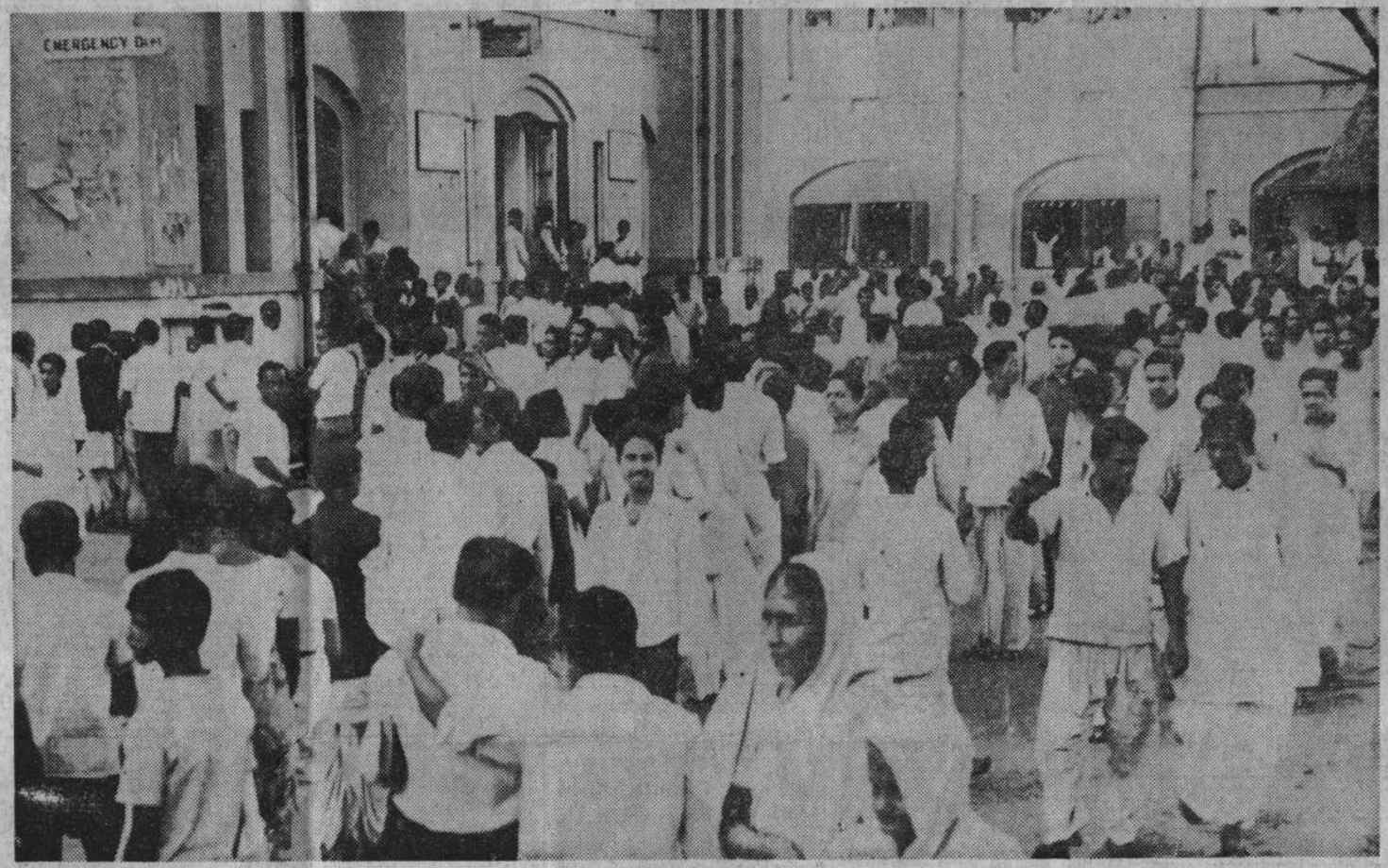
Spontaneous Hartal By People In Mourning

By A Staff Reporter

MR HEMANTA KUMAR BASU, THE VETERAN FORWARD BLOC LEADER, WAS STABBED TO DEATH ON BIDHAN SARANI, CALCUTTA, AT ABOUT 10-50 A.M. ON SATURDAY. MR BASU WAS ABOUT TO BOARD A TAXI NEAR THE TOWN SCHOOL WHEN HE WAS ATTACKED BY FOUR OR FIVE YOUTHS WHO STABBED HIM SEVERAL TIMES AND SLIT HIS THROAT. MR BASU SLUMPED ON THE PAVEMENT IN A POOL OF BLOOD. HE WAS DEAD BY THE TIME HE WAS TAKEN TO R. G. KAR HOSPITAL IN A TAXI CALLED BY HIS PARTY MEN, WHO CAME RUNNING FROM THEIR LOCAL OFFICE NEAR BY.

AS THE NEWS OF MR BASU'S DEATH SPREAD, SHOPS AND OTHER ESTABLISHMENTS CLOSED DOWN ALL OVER THE CITY AND STATE BUSES AND TRAMS WERE TAKEN OFF THE ROAD. GROUPS OF PEOPLE, WEARING BLACK BADGES AND WAVING BLACK FLAGS, TOOK OUT SMALL PROCESSIONS IN DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE CITY. A HUGE CROWD GATHERED NEAR THE R. G. KAR HOSPITAL TO PAY THEIR LAST RESPECTS.

FORWARD BLOC SOURCES SAID BEFORE HE WAS ATTACKED, MR BASU WAS APPROACHED BY SOME WOMEN. AS HE WAS TALKING TO THEM, THE GROUP OF YOUTHS RUSHED AT HIM. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCES, APART FROM BEING STABBED, MR BASU WAS ALSO SHOT AT FROM A PIPE-GUN. MR BASU WAS ON HIS WAY TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE CALCUTTA



A large crowd in mourning at the R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Calcutta, where Mr Hemanta Basu's body was lying on Saturday.—Statesman.

ULDF Call For General Strike On Monday

Rally At Sahid Minar On Wednesday

By Our Special Representative

Apart from creating a sense of shock, the murder of the veteral Forward Bloc leader, Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu, in Calcutta on Saturday, led to significant repercussions in both official and political circles in West Bengal, both of which had had contacts with Delhi during the day.

AT the political level, the United Left Democratic Front, of which the F. B. is an important constituent, gave a call for a hartal and general strike for Monday "in protest against the vile murder of the

Singh Nahar indicated that he was already in touch with the non-CPI(M) party leaders, particularly the F.B., to have a joint rally. The political implication of such a move was not missed by observers, especially in view of the imminence of the elections.

But a point emphasized by both ULDF and Congress(R) leadership was that apparently the present Government had failed to check violence and that the situation was going from bad to worse gradually. Under the circumstan-

other implications of the present situation.

At the administrative level the Home Department is said to have sent a factual report on the circumstances of Mr Basu's death, apart from a few contacts made at a sufficiently high level between Calcutta and Delhi (Some Congress(R) leaders also contacted Central leaders on the telephone, giving them a resumé of the situation.) A meeting of

(Continued from Page 6, Col. 1)

Silent Procession

Angry Crowd Jeers At Dhavan

By a Staff Reporter

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HE WAS A VALIANT FIGHTER

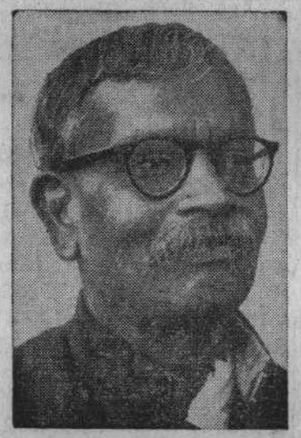
Elected to the West Bengal Assembly in the mid-term poll of 1969, Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu, son of the late Pourna Chandra Basu, was born in October, 1895.

He had been a member of the West Bengal Assembly since 1946. Connected with the Forward Bloc since its inception in 1939, he was president of the State unit for some time and then chairman of the party's all-India body.

Like Netaji, Mr Basu began his political career in 1914 by joining the same secret revolutionary society in Calcutta as a student member. Since then he consistently worked with him and also suffered long periods of imprisonment with him in the same jails or places of detention.

In 1924, together with Netaji, he worked hard for the relief of the flood-stricken people of North Bengal. In 1928 Mr Basu was adjutant to Netaji when he was General Officer Commanding the Volunteer Corps of the Calcutta session of the Congress, being in charge of the volunteers' training. In 1937 and again in 1938 when Netaji was president of the Indian National Congress, Mr Basu

As the news of the murder reached Shyampukur thana, which is about 1,000 yards from the scene of the crime, a large con-



Mr HEMANTA BASU

tingent of police rushed to the spot. The Police Commissioner, Mr Ranjit Gupta, who was at that time proceeding along Ballygunge Circular Road to investigate an incident near Deshapriya Park, was told of the murder over the wireless. He immediately turned back.

A police dog was requisitioned and, according to Mr Gupta, it followed a circuitous trail through narrow lanes to Raja Nabakissen Street and entered a house. A young man, Prabal Deb alias Goonda, was arrested. Another young man, Ashok Ghosal, was arrested near the Town School, Mr Gupta said.

Forward Bloc sources said although they had recently conveyed Chairman of the All India Forward Bloc. A bachelor, he used to stay with his elder brother in Srikrishna Lane near Town School. After the post-mortem examination, Mr Basu's body was taken in procession in the evening to Mahajati Sadan, where it was kept for the night.

On Sunday, the funeral procession will start at 9 a.m. from the Sadan. The procession will go to the two houses in which he lived, one at Rajballav Street and the other at Srikrishna Lane. Apart from the party office the procession will also be taken to the two statues of Netaji at the Shyambazar five-point crossing and on the Maidan as well as to the Netaji Bhavan on Elgin Road. The cremation will take place at the Keoratala burning ghat.

According to the Police Commissioner, Mr Basu's death was being investigated personally by the D.C., Detective Department, who was being assisted by a team of Special Branch officers.

Following the murder, patrolling by the Army was intensified in the Shyampukur area as well as in the Manicktala and Belighata areas as these had been the scenes of many clashes between the supporters of the CPI-

(continued on page 9 col 4).

STATE HOLIDAY

By Our Special Representative

The West Bengal Government has declared a holiday on Monday as a mark of respect to Mr Basu.

A large crowd in mourning at the R. G. Kar Medical College and Hospital, Calcutta, where Mr Hemanta Basu's body was lying on Saturday.—Statesman.

ULDF Call For General Strike On Monday

Rally At Sahid Minar On Wednesday

By Our Special Representative

Apart from creating a sense of shock, the murder of the veteral Forward Bloc leader, Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu, in Calcutta on Saturday, led to significant repercussions in both official and political circles in West Bengal, both of which had had contacts with Delhi during the day.

AT the political level, the United Left Democratic Front, of which the F. B. is an important constituent, gave a call for a hartal and general strike for Monday "in protest against the vile murder of the universally accepted leader". While the CPI (M)-led United Left Front fell in line with the ULDF call, as regards the date, the Congress (R) said it was calling for a general strike on Monday" in protest against the brutal murder by the CPI (M)." The State Government has declared a holiday on Monday as a mark of respect to Mr Basu.

The ULDF programme includes a rally at Sahid Minar on Wednesday, presumably to mourn the death of Mr Basu. On the other hand, the PCC(R) chief, Mr Bijoy Singh Nahar indicated that he was already in touch with the non-CPI(M) party leaders, particularly the F.B., to have a joint rally. The political implication of such a move was not missed by observers, especially in view of the imminence of the elections.

But a point emphasized by both ULDF and Congress(R) leadership was that apparently the present Government had failed to check violence and that the situation was going from bad to worse gradually. Under the circumstances, they were keen on having the elections held on schedule which might enable a stable and strong Government to be formed in West Bengal and to deal with the present situation.

POLITICS OF MURDER

While giving the call for the hartal and general strike on Monday, the ULDF, in a formal resolution, said that the politics of intimidation and murder "initiated by the CPI(M) has vitiated the political and social climate of this troubled State. Mr Basu is a victim of this nefarious politics. We call upon the people of West Bengal to rise against this politics of murder. We note with disgust the state of inaction of the administration under President's Rule."

That Mr Basu's death, closely following the murder of a Bangla Congress candidate in Ukhra, has created a somewhat different context for the elections as such was reflected in the CPI's decision to review the developments afresh. This is expected to be followed by a full meeting of the ULDF, probably on Wednesday, especially to review the political and other implications of the present situation.

At the administrative level the Home Department is said to have sent a factual report on the circumstances of Mr Basu's death, apart from a few contacts made at a sufficiently high level between Calcutta and Delhi. (Some Congress(R) leaders also contacted Central leaders on the telephone, giving them a resumé of the situation.) A meeting of

(Continued from Page 6, Col. 1)

Silent Procession

By a Staff Reporter

A SILENT procession was taken out by the Jana Sangh in the evening. It was led by the president of the State unit of the party, Prof Haripada Bharati. After passing through the streets of North and Central Calcutta, the procession went to Raj Bhavan where a memorandum was handed over to an official of the Raj Bhavan Secretariat.

UNI adds: Workers of almost all factories in North Calcutta walked off their jobs and held demonstrations at different places in protest against the murder.

Our Serampore Correspondent adds: Buses in almost all the routes in Hooghly District were taken off the road shortly after noon in protest against the murder of Mr Hemanta Basu. Shops were closed and ferry services between Serampore and Dhubi Ghat, Barrackpore and Chinsurah to Naihati were suspended.

Several processions by supporters of the Forward Bloc were also taken out at several places.

NO CAR RALLY

As a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu the Vintage Car Rally, scheduled for today, will not be held.

Polling Countermanded At Shyampukur

By a Staff Reporter

MR B. S. Raghavan, West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer, told reporters in Calcutta on Saturday that polling in the Shyampukur constituency in respect of the Assembly election would be countermanded.

Mr Raghavan said representations from two candidates for providing police protection had so far been received by him. Both had been forwarded to the State's Home Department. Home

lence. The date of the conference will be decided in consultation with the parties concerned.

Central Poll Official To Study Situation

From Our Special Representative

NEW DELHI, Feb. 20.—The Chief Election Commissioner, Mr S. P. Sen-Varma, has asked the Secretary to the Commission, Mr A. N. Sen, to visit Calcutta to make an on-the-spot study of the situation prevailing in West Bengal on the eve of the mid-term elections.

The commission maintains that the elections in the State should be held on schedule and the Government should take steps to restore law and order in which free and fair polling is possible.

However, it is likely that on hearing from Mr Sen, the Chief Election Commissioner might give his thought to the subject as to how polling can take place in peaceful conditions. The news of the murder of Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu has especially caused concern here.

The Deputy Chief Election Commissioner, Mr P. I. Jacob, is already in Calcutta on what is said to be a "routine visit".

The brutal slaying of Mr Basu

have the right man in the right place, the situation cannot be controlled. What is the use of keeping a person like Mr Dhavan as Governor after his incompetence has been established"?

See my report

Angry Crowd Jeers At Dhavan

By a Staff Reporter

The Governor, Mr Dhavan, who went to the R. G. Kar Medical College in the afternoon to pay his respects, could not enter the emergency ward where Mr Basu's body had been kept, as a large angry crowd kept chanting "Dhavan, go back", "Jyoti Basu's agent, go back", "This is the result of your indulgence to Jyoti Basu".

A hospital source said the crowd blocked the main entrance to the ward and efforts by policemen to make way for the Governor failed. Mr Dhavan then left the hospital and returned to Raj Bhavan.

Violent Clashes In Jorabagan

A wide area, under Jorabagan thana was the scene of violent clashes between supporters of the CPI(M) and Naxalites, according to police sources. The disturbances continued till late on Saturday night. Fifty people were arrested.

Police fired a total of 10 rounds from rifles and revolvers and two rounds of tear-gas shells to disperse the violent crowds. Three youths were admitted to the R. G. Kar Hospital from the area with bullet wounds. While the police could not give any idea of the number of people injured in the clashes, a thana source said a person who was found lying dead near the Nort Port Police Station might have been killed in the area.

In the evening the entire area, comprising Ahiritolla Street, Beniatolla, Sovabazar and Brindaban Basak Street, was cordoned off by police and a search began. The search it was learnt, was continuing till the time of going to press.

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STATE HOLIDAY

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In 1939 after Netaji had left the Congress and formed the Forward Bloc, Mr Basu joined him and became secretary of the Bengal Provincial branch of the Bloc.

In 1946, Mr Basu was returned to the Legislative Assembly of United Bengal on the Congress ticket. When, however, he found that the Security Act, sponsored by the then Bengal Cabinet with the avowed object of dealing with blackmarketing and profiteering was being applied freely against political workers, he virtually revolted against the Government policy and did his best to secure the release of political workers detained under this Act.

In 1948 Mr Basu was appointed Parliamentary Secretary by the West Bengal Chief Minister, but he refused to accept the offer. Mr Basu was also about this time Secretary of the Congress Parliamentary Party. His growing differences with the Congress, however led him ultimately to resign not only from this position but also from the membership of the West Bengal Legislature. In 1949 he stood for the by-election to the Legislature held for filling the vacancy created by his resignation and won it as an Independent candidate.

In the 1952, 1957, 1962 and 1967 elections he won with a big margin. Mr Basu was also associated with various workers' movements in the State. When the liberation movement in Goa started he went there to take part in it.

In the 1967 U.F. Cabinet, Mr Basu was Minister for Public Works and Housing. He also took part in the movement against the Ghosh Ministry when the U.F. Ministry was dissolved and courted arrest.

Mr HEMANTA BASU

tingent of police rushed to the spot. The Police Commissioner, Mr Ranjit Gupta, who was at that time proceeding along Ballygunge Circular Road to investigate an incident near Deshapriya Park, was told of the murder over the wireless. He immediately turned back.

A police dog was requisitioned and, according to Mr Gupta, it followed a circuitous trail through narrow lanes to Raja Nabakissen Street and entered a house. A young man, Prabal Deb alias Goonda, was arrested. Another young man, Ashok Ghosal, was arrested near the Town School, Mr Gupta said.

Forward Bloc sources said although they had recently conveyed to both the Home Secretary and the local thana their feeling that a free and fair election could not be held in the Shyampukur and Jorasanko areas because of the deteriorating law and order situation, they had never apprehended "such an attack on Hemantada". As a result, they had never felt it necessary to provide Mr Basu with a bodyguard.

Mr Basu, who was a candidate from the Shyampukur Assembly constituency, is the second candidate to have been murdered. The other candidate was Mr Devadatta Mandal, the Bangla Congress nominee for the Ukhra Assembly seat. Two other prospective candidates, Mr Sitapati Banerjee of Forward Bloc and Mr Jadugopal Roy of the Congress (R) have also been murdered recently.

Mr Basu, who was 76, was the

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(continued on page 9 col 4).

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Polling Countermanded At Shyampukur

By a Staff Reporter

MR B. S. Raghavan, West Bengal's Chief Electoral Officer, told reporters in Calcutta on Saturday that polling in the Shyampukur constituency in respect of the Assembly election would be countermanded.

Mr Raghavan said that earlier in the day he had talked over the phone with the Chief Election Commissioner, Mr S. P. Sen-Varma. Both the CEC and the CEO expressed their "great shock" over the murder of Mr Hemanta Basu, the Forward Bloc candidate, for the Shyampukur Assembly seat.

The countermanding of the Shyampukur Assembly election is the second decision of its kind in the State. Polling in Ukhra, Burdwan, in respect of the Assembly election has already been countermanded. Both in Shyampukur and Ukhra polling in respect of Lok Sabha elections will be held on March 10 as scheduled, according to Mr Raghavan.

Mr Raghavan indicated that he would shortly convene a conference of representatives of parties taking part in the election to condemn the recent incidents of violence. The date of the conference will be decided in consultation with the parties concerned.

Mr Raghavan said representations from two candidates for providing police protection had so far been received by him. Both had been forwarded to the State's Home Department. Home Department circles said that police protection was provided to a candidate at his request or on the basis of information that his life was in danger.

Explaining the arrangements for holding Assembly and Lok Sabha elections in the State on March 10, Mr Raghavan said polling teams had been constituted for all the constituencies.

Meanwhile, over a dozen people from other States had offered to undertake polling duty in West Bengal. The CEO had written back to them, thanking them and informing them that their services would, if necessary, be requisitioned.

Replying to questions, Home Department circles said Army personnel could not be appointed as polling staff. They could, however, assist police in respect of any of their duties in connexion with polling.

situation prevailing in West Bengal on the eve of the mid-term elections.

The commission maintains that the elections in the State should be held on schedule and the Government should take steps to restore law and order in which free and fair polling is possible.

However, it is likely that on hearing from Mr Sen, the Chief Election Commissioner might give his thought to the subject as to how polling can take place in peaceful conditions. The news of the murder of Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu has especially caused concern here.

The Deputy Chief Election Commissioner, Mr P. I. Jacob, is already in Calcutta on what is said to be a "routine visit".

The brutal slaying of Mr Basu added to the series of political assassinations in West Bengal recently, was regarded today as an ominous portent to the prospect of having elections in the State, but no political party has yet opposed the holding of elections there.

Mr Nijalingappa, Congress(O) President, in his talks with reporters today, expressed great concern at the continued violence in West Bengal and was even doubtful if elections could be held in the situation "if candidates are killed in this manner," but he said he did not know what suggestion to make at this stage.

He said it was a heinous crime to kill an outstanding leader like Mr Basu who was a noble soul, a distinguished freedom-fighter and a lieutenant of Netaji Bose.

CENTRE BLAMED

All this conclusively proved, Mr Nijalingappa remarked, that the Centre is totally incompetent and incapable of controlling the situation in West Bengal.

There seems to be an attempt on the part of anti-social elements to murder the candidates and it seems also that Government thinks it is usual for such murders to take place, he said.

When a correspondent said this was all due to the inefficiency of the Governor, Mr Dhavan, Mr Nijalingappa said: "He is a fellow-traveller".

When he was told that the Centre had deployed additional police force and Army units, Mr Nijalingappa commented: "I for one do not believe that if you

Give A Fitting Reply To Evil-Doers: P.M.

JABALPUR, Feb. 20.—The Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi, today expressed her shock at the murder of Mr Hemanta Kumar Basu, chairman of the Forward Bloc, reports PTI.

In a statement, Mrs Gandhi said that the "enemies of democracy" had been resorting to violence in West Bengal with the aim of terrorizing the people and upsetting the election time table. And now they had laid their "cowardly hands on an eminent and highly respected patriot".

The Prime Minister said no words were too great to condemn this crime.

"I have no doubt that the people of Bengal will, with even greater determination, rally round and give a fitting reply to the evil-doers who have no faith in our people and are out to wreck our national life".

Mrs Gandhi said every one must unite to enable polling to be held in West Bengal as in the rest of the country. If people are determined to assert their democratic rights, the assassins can be defeated".

"The Government on its part is doing every thing possible to aid the West Bengal administration in the maintenance of law and order", she added.

NARROW ESCAPE FOR ANADI DAS

The RCPI leader, Mr Anadi Das, had a narrow escape when bombs were thrown at him at Rajballabh Saha Lane in Howrah on Saturday, according to the CPI office in Calcutta, reports UNI. Mr Das is contesting for a State Assembly seat from the Central Howrah constituency.

DASTARDLY CRIME, SAYS F.B. LEADER

Mr Amar Chakravarty, a Forward Bloc leader, said in a statement issued in Calcutta on Saturday: "No language could describe the dastardly crime. Mr Hemanta Basu was a veteran freedom-fighter and a close associate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. He was above any petty politics and was loved and honoured by all sections of the people".—PTI.

INDIA 270 FOR 8

KINGSTON, Feb. 20.—India were 270 for 8 at lunch on the third day of the Test match with the West Indies at Sabina park here today, reports Reuter.

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xxxxxxxxxxxx

19.Februar 1971
psbg/sz

Herrn
Pfarrer
Martin R u n g e

2057 Wentorf über Reinbek (Bez.Hamburg)
Reinbeker Weg 27

Lieber Bruder R u n g e !

Bruder Montag hat gebeten, dass wir anliegendes Memo auch Ihnen zukommen lassen.

Ich habe in den letzten Tagen vergeblich versucht, Sie telefonisch zu erreichen. Ich sollte Ihnen vom Ehepaar Montag herzliche Grüsse ausrichten, da die beiden leider nicht mehr bei Ihnen vorbei kommen konnten.

Ich hörte, dass Sie in Ihrer Gemeinde daran interessiert sind, einiges vom Programm der Gossner Mission berichtet zu bekommen. Natürlich sind wir gern bereit, zu einem noch auszumachenden Termin Sie zu besuchen und anlässlich einer Gemeinde-Veranstaltung über unsere Arbeit zu berichten.

Mit herzlichem Gruss bin ich

I h r

Sg

Anlage

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19.Februar 1971
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Herrn
Pastor D i e h l

282 Bremen 77 - Lesum
Friedehorst

Sehr geehrter Herr Pastor D i e h l !

Auf Veranlassung von Herrn Montag/London übersende ich Ihnen das anliegende Memo über Calcutta.

Mit bestem Gruss

(Sekretärin)

Anlage

851 30 61
xxxxxxxxxxx

19.Februar 1971
sz

Herrn
OKR G. K l a p p e r

3 H a n n o v e r
Richard-Wagner-Str. 26

Sehr geehrter Herr Oberkirchenrat Klapper!

Auf Veranlassung von Herrn Montag/London übersende ich Ihnen das anliegende Memo über Calcutta.

Mit bestem Gruss

(Sekretärin)

Anlage

M e m o r a n d u m

CALCUTTA - AN INDIAN PROBLEM, OR A WORLD PROBLEM?

Calcutta is the Capital of the State of West Bengal. It is not a deep sea port, situated on the River Hooghly at the mouth of the Ganges, but is nevertheless considered vital for the exports of tea and jute to most parts of the World. It is perhaps as well to lay out the many problems which confront this city in specific points, so that we start with:-

POPULATION.

No precise census has ever been undertaken in the City, which spreads itself for many miles either side of the River Hooghly. Many guesses have been made to estimate the population, one can only say that it ranges between 5-7 millions of peoples. This figure can be compared with an estimated 2 millions before "partition". It would be true to say that this gigantic population explosion cannot be blamed on the ever popular world indictment, lack of family planning, or even to the influx of people from the rural areas seeking the shelter of the big city. Without a doubt the major number of the 3-5 millions of peoples entering the city since 1947 are simply refugees from Pakistan.

It is a fact that the refugee problem is very much one sided, and has been almost a one way traffic. The Hindu minority in Pakistan left the Country in millions, whereas the Mohammedan community living in the city of Calcutta decided largely not to abandon what they had eccepted for centuries as their homeland, and are today living in Calcutta in fairly secure conditions. They have integrated themselves into the life of the city, and despite occasional outbreaks of racial rioting, which have in the past even led to bloodshed, it can be fairly stated quite impartially, that the Mohammedans live, and are accepted, as citizens of India.

As a port, Calcutta could never boast to have been either the richest, or cleanest city in India, but then again most ports in the World have their own problems of dirt, squalor, bars, prostitutes, and indeed all the forms of vices which most ports seem to traditionally offer the thousands of foreign seamen who visit them. Today the picture in Calcutta has ceased to be in comparison with any conditions the rest of the World has to offer. No words layed down in this report could begin to describe the terrible conditions existing within the city. To those of you who may have found it necessary to spend a day or two in transit to the far east, the little you saw between DumDum airport and the city centre, will have surely shocked you. Some have been shocked to have found it more expedient to leave the city without delay.

In the year 1966, during the period of famine in India, whilst engaged in the Bread for the World "Feed the Children Aid Programme", and during many visits since that time, I found it necessary to live in the city of Calcutta for many months, it can therefore be assumed that it is with a fair amount of certainty I be allowed to express the opinion thet nowhere in the World is it possible to find more, or as bad, human suffering as in this City. Those conditions are a cancer in the very heart of what is said to be "the largest democracy in the World", and are bad

enough to allow the expression, human beings living in conditions we would not maintain for animals here in the West. For any God believing person one is shocked to the very foundation of Faith.

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Tonight when you retire to bed in your hotel you may be a little restless, especially if you allow your thoughts to stray to the city outside where nearly 1 million people will be sleeping in the streets, a mere piece of rag seperating them from the cold and dirty pavements. You may try and believe those who will tell you that people sleep in the streets to keep cool, I dont believe it, I have asked and know the answer. When I return to my hotel, sometimes late at night, I step over their sleeping forms with the utmost care, they are surely sleeping on my conscience.

I could go on and on, for pages and pages. It has not been asked of me to write a book, but a factual report.

The two questions which one is bound to ask must surely be:- firstly, what is the Indian Government doing about this abominable situation:- secondly if they are not in the financial position to alleviate such widespread human suffering and misery, why do they not appeal to the World for aid.

To the first question it must be answered that both the State and Central Government have, and are still making efforts to teckle the problem, it is furthermore to be said that no significant progress has been made over the years, mainly due to lack of finance, but certainly due to lack of organisation. To the second question one must answer that no Government heading any Country in the World would find it possible to even admit the true conditions which exist in Calcutta, never alone appeal for aid on a World wide basis.

There is a lot of justification for the actions of the Indian Governments in banning the filming of scenes in the city. In the past television teams have found it expedient to make such films with the sole aim of producing sensation. Calcutta cannot use the sensational media of our Western World news reports, even if such reports are used to collect monies for aid. Perhaps the peoples in the West, sitting before their television sets will be moved to donate money to the many organisations, who in turn, with all the goodwill in the world, will spend the money to alleviate the misery and suffering for a brief spell. This is not at all the needs of Calcutta. The need is a lasting remedy, monies spent must alleviate suffering on a permanent basis, we know it is not possible to do this for all the sick, homeless, and dying, but as a start the way must be pionieered for the few to help the many, and so bring about the beginning of the end to a situation which must surely be called by its true name "a disgrace to the so called civilized World".

POLITICAL SITUATION

Calcutta has often been called the barometer of India as far as politics is concerned. What happens in Calcutta today, will surely echo its way around India in weeks to come. The State of West Bengal has seen many ruling parties in the last 5 years, including a "United Front" in which the Communists took over a leading role. The United Government had two spells in office, each time found itself incapable of holding its majority, resulting in the State of West Bengal finding itself under "Presidents Rule".

Mrs. Indira Gandhi has now resigned her Government of the "Ruling Congress Party", general elections will be held in India in March 1971. There are many who claim that she took this step as a result of the rejection by the Upper House of Parliament, on her policy to the now famous "privy purse for the Princes" issue. There are others who claim she took her decision to prove that the split inside the Congress Party has still left her with a majority, so that she is confident on the outcome of an election. There are also the very loud voices of those who claim that Mrs. Gandhi, and her ruling Congress Party have lost their hold on the nation, even to the extent that they are no longer able to maintain the basic fundamentals of law and order in society, throughout India. To the last voices one must admit, that if Calcutta is an example, law and order has ceased to be a part of every day life in India. It is a fact, and those who have been in Calcutta in the last three months will verify this statement, the city is practically in the hands of revolutionary elements. It is no longer safe to walk the streets at night. It is even a hazard for International Airline busses to travel between the airport and the city, to say nothing of state and private transport. Industry has been severely affected, strikes have always been part of the every day life of the city, but never before in its history have so man factories been forced to close their gates. Murder, robbery with violence, arson, take place daily. It has become the practise to open one's newspaper and be confronted with at least ten cases of murder within the city, Ministers, University staff, businessmen, are usually the targets. Much of the blame for this activity of lawleness is put at the feet of a new faction which has appeared on the political scene in India under the name of "Naxalites", taking their name from a small town in West Bengal. Originally they associated themselves with Mao Tse Tungs movement, and immediately

attacked with open violence, followers of the Marxist Communists. After careful study of the Naxalites two important facts emerge. Firstly their followers usually are students coming from middle class famelies. Secondly, in the last few months they have dropped their guise of Chinese influenced communists, and have emerged as "revolutionary Nationalists".

These young people are demonstrating their bitter disappointment in the Government for failing to find places of employment for them on completion of their studies. It is a fact that the industrialisation taking place in India, has not kept pase with the number of technicians coming out of the Universities and Technical Colleges, and although no doubt this situation may even reverse itself in the next five years, this is poor consolation for those who find themselves unable to earn a livelihood within the profession which the Government has even sponsored for them to study.

Some months ago the Central Government took the extraordinary step of passing special laws to deal with the dangerous situation in Calcutta. Special powers were given to the Governor of West Bengal to implement these laws, but for some unknown reason he has up to date failed to make direct use of them. It is a widespread speculation that there are circles within the Central Government which have no objections to sit back and watch the Naxalites directing their main attacks against the Marxist communists, but even if this were true, it is no consolation to the citizens of Calcutta who live in fear and terror within the prevailing situation.

From my part I foresee the possibility of Mrs. Gandhi and her ruling Congress Party, together with a coalition of one or two smaller parties, being able to win the election and obtaining a narrow majority Government, However I also foresee this majority being so small that the Government could be defeated at the first major issue which arises in Parliament. Whichever party wins the election in March the same problem would be applicable, and a situation would arise which could be compared to that which existed in France in the late 1940's. In any Country in the World, a general election is bound up with huge financial outlays, this state of affairs would prove impossible in India. In my opinion there are only two alternatives, firstly that a coalation Government be formed which equally represents all the major parties, and a leader be chosen to represent such a coalition. The second alternative is that a Military Government will be formed. As the first solution would appear out of the question, even if one considers that the logical conclusion is that India, especially Calcutta will go communist, it is my firm conviction that communism will be rejected as it is not compatable with either the Hindu religious belief, or the sense of humour which most Indians possess, therefore it is fair to assume if the Indian Army is continually called upon to maintain law and order due to political unrest, it will not take too long before there appears in the Army circles those men who find it possible to insist that law and order be established.

There are many who shudder at the thought of 500 millions of peoples under a Military ruling government, and I am one of them. However one must face the fact the the Indian Army is a highly organised body, as an army second to none in the World. Amongst the officer corps one can find both members of the elite, and those who have risen from the ranks. One will also find that there are no community differences within the

Army organisation. Hindus, Mohammedans, Sikhs, Christians, all work together in complete harmony. Corruption is a thing almost unknown in the army, which unfortunately cannot be claimed by either the political party members, or the civil service.

In conclusion it can be confidently said that whatever the outcome of the political crisis in India, no ruling government will be able to obtain the confidence or co-operation of the masses unless they immediately implement a sweeping social reform programme, and this goes for Calcutta in particular.

REMEDY

Calcutta, as a project for aid, must be devided into two categories, and I would like to deal with them individually.

1. COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY

Firstly a committee of joint action must be established. Although it is possible for the Christian Churches to take their place on such a committee I foresee their role as minor. I must justify this statement by saying that there are many high ranking officials in India, and indeed large sections of the population, who consider the activities of the Christian Churches to be directed solely to the aim of converting non Christians. There may, or may not be some foundation to this suspicion, whatever the case, if help is to be directed to the source of need without complications, I would chose the following pertners:-

State of West Bengal,

Ram Krishna Mission,

Trade Unions,

Christian Churches.

and as we are dealing with peoples who are by far in the non-Christian majority, it would appear reasonable to chose the Ram Krishna Mission as the main religious representing body. The work of this mission is well known in India, and although they have achieved very little for the poor of Calcutta in the past, this fact can mainly be attributed to lack of funds. I believe that this mission would be very willing to work with any reasonable organisation to implement a social welfare programme in the city of Calcutta.

The trade unions must be brought on to the committee for obvious reasons. It will be with working and unemployed people that any programme will be dealing and although it is correct to say that the trade unions in Calcutta are in the main headed by communists, in the periods during which I came into contact with them, I found them quite willing to co-operate on a programme designed to improve conditions in Calcutta. It may be that they consider this was a means of "cashing in on the glory", but for whatever reasons they cannot be excluded from sitting on a committee.

The port of Calcutta provides jobs for many thousands of people in the city. Recently a new deep sea port came into operation on the coast of Orissa, and although destined for ships over the 50.000 ton calibre, unless the port of Calcutta improves its facilities for docking, handling, and turn round, it is a fact that foreign ships will avoid putting into Calcutta, and the port, together with the jobs of hundredthousands of workers will be doomed.

For many years now ships have found it difficult to manoeuvre and berth in Calcutta, due to the ever increasing presence of silt in the entrance to the harbour. There are one or two dredgers operating in the area, but if the situation is to be at least overcome, many more, and larger dredgers must be employed. Conclusion is that aid must be given for such a programme.

The equipment for handling cargo is either antiquated, or non-existant, making loading and unloading a slow and exasperating procedure. Conclusion is that aid to provide modern equipment must be foreseen.

The organisation of community centres for work amongst the peoples in the many districts must be undertaken. There is already in existence a block development system, started by the Central Government some years ago. During the "Aid for Feed the Children Programme" in 1966, we had occasion to work with this system, and were agreeable surprised to find that it functioned quite well. Its activities were very much restricted to administration work, this was of course due to lack of finance and directives for other jobs. I foresee the possibility of using such an organisation as the "block development offices" as a stepping stone for district social centres.

Hygiene is probably the most dangerous problem to be tackled in the city. Although fresh water is provided to most areas, and greatly improved over the years, drainage is either non-existant, or in deplorable condition. Each year, during the monsoon, there are days during which many of the main streets are one metre under water, bringing life of the city centre to almost a complete standstill. Apart from the disturbance to the industry of the city, the health hazard is enormous. In the slums it is possible to watch the sewage floating through the centre of the road, bringing with it all the potential dreaded illnesses caused by such conditions. Conclusion is that aid must be given to provide improvements to the existing drainage system, and great extension plans for those areas without drainage.

Calcutta is suitable for erection of multi-story buildings, so that any housing scheme undertaken should be of the skyscraper type. Within the city centre, and in the suburbs, there is land available for such schemes. Conclusion is that a re-housing scheme is essential to assist in clearing the slum areas, and wherever possible multi-storied buildings should be considered.

RE-HABILITATION OUTSIDE THE CITY

By far the greatest help which could be given to Calcutta would be the relief of congestion, so enabling plans for the city centre to unfold. It is my conviction that it would be possible to operate a pilot scheme to re-settle some 2000 families 50-80 miles from the city.

Such a scheme would have to provide the following essentials:-

Housing.

Agricultural programme.

Small scale industries.

Schools.

Dispensaries.

If possible each unit should be set up to receive 500 families, or in other words, self contained villages.

By far the most important activity would be agriculture,and probably would be the most costly. It would involve providing tube wells in sufficient numbers to make the villages almost independant from the monsoon. As far as possible market gardening should be encouraged, rather than rice planting. Calcutta would be a ready market for all that could be grown.

Industry should be restricted to handicrafts, or such merchandise that would not involve complicated machinery, (it may be some time before electrification could be carried out).

The families chosen to go to the villages must firstly be willing to do so on a permanent arrangement. They must be given a clean bill of health. They must be aware it would be prohibited to bring in additional close relatives, or friends, once settled in their new homes. The state Government should be given first priority in the choice of families for re-settlement.

A special committee should be formed to implement this project. The finances must remain in the hands of the organisation providing the funds. This organisation should form a Company to act as liason with contractors and supply firms, and buying of all necessary materials and equipment. Wherever possible all such materials and equipment should be purchased in India, and be of indigenous origin. (The problems of the import of spare parts for goods of foreign make should not be allowed to arise).

CONCLUSION

This report is by no means conclusive. A more intensive survey would have to be undertaken in the City of Calcutta before any large scale projects could be started. On the other hand this does not imply that

those who may read this report should cease to be interested untill such a survey is made. It is my firm conviction that we, and I am assuming that "we" will embrace all of us who consider ourselves to be good Christians, cannot shut our eyes to the disgrace of Calcutta. If we are to follow the expression of those who are always prepared to use that ever popular phrase "a drop of water on a hot stone", then I contend we have no right to even call ourselves Christians. No challenge was too great to be accepted by Our Lord, He performed miracles without doubting his own capabilities to do so.

Furthermore must we always wait untill a catastrophy occurs before we are prepared to use our resources for the benefit of humanity. If this is the case you may be very sure that such a catastrophy will occur in Calcutta, that the World has never before witnessed. You may be sure that any help we can give now will go towards preventing such a catastrophy. I therefore appeal to all who read this report, to think over it, do not forget it, improve on any suggestions it contains, and above all, call all those willing to help their fellow man, to action.

February 1971

ROBERT MONTAG

Please do not publish without reference to:-

Gossner Mission, 1 Berlin 41, Handjerystr.19/20

M E M O R A N D U M

CALCUTTA - AN INDIAN PROBLEM, OR A WORLD PROBLEM?

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POPULATION.

No precise census has ever been undertaken in the City, which spreads itself for many miles either side of the River Hooghly. Many guesses have been made to estimate the population, one can only say that it ranges between 5-7 milloions of peoples. This figure can be compared with an estimated 2 millions before "partition". It would be true to say that this gigantic population explosion cannot be blamed on the ever popular world indictment, lack of family planning, or even to the influx of people from the rural areas seeking the shelter of the big city. Without a doubt the major number of the 3-5 millions of peoples entering the city since 1947 are simply refugees from Parkistan.

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POLITICAL SITUATION.

Calcutta has often been called the barometer of India as far as politics is concerned. What happens in Calcutta today, will surely echo its way around India in weeks to come. The State of West Bengal has seen many ruling parties in the last 5 years, including a "United Front" in which the Communists took over a leading role. The United Government had two spells in office, each time found itself incapable of holding its majority, resulting in the State of West Bengal finding itself under "Presidents Rule".
Mrs Indira Gandhi has now resigned her Government of the "Ruling Congress Party", general elections will be held in India in March 1971. There are many who claim that she took this step as a result of the rejection by the Upper House of Parliament, on her policy to the now famous "privy purse for the Princes" issue. There are others who claim she took her decision to prove that the split inside the Congress party has still left her with a majority, so that she is confident on the outcome of an election. There are also the very loud voices of those who claim that Mrs.Gandhi, and her ruling Congress Party have lost their hold on the nation, even to the extent that they are no longer able to maintain the basic fundementals of law and order in society, throughout India. To the last voices one must admit, that if Calcutta is an example, law and order has ceased to be a part of every day life in India. It is a fact, and those who have been in Calcutta in the last three months will verify this statement, the city is practically in the hands of revolutionary elements. It is no longer safe to walk the streets at night. It is even a hazard for International Airline buses to travel between the airport and the city, to say nothing of state and private transport. Industry has been severely affected, strikes have always been part of the every day life of the city, but never before in its history

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have so many factories been forced to close their gates. Murder, robbery with violence, arson, Brandstiftung take place daily. It has become the practise to open one's newspaper and be confronted with at least ten cases of murder within the city, Ministers, University staff, businessmen, are usually the targets. Much of the blame for this activity of lawlessness is put at the feet of a new factionwhich has appeared on the political scene in India under the name of "Naxalites", taking their name from a small town in West Bengal. Originally they associated themselves with Mao Tse Tung movement, and immediately attacked with open violence, followers of the Marxist Communists. After carefull study of the Naxalites two important facts emerge. Firstly their followers usually are students coming from middle class families. Secondly, in the last few months they have dropped their guise of Chinese influenced communists, and have emerged as "revolutionary Nationalists".

These young people are demonstrating their bitter disappointment in the Government for failing to find places of employment for them on completion of their studies. It is a fact that the industrialisation taking place in India, has not kept pace with the number of technicians coming out of the Universities and Technical Colleges, and although no doubt this situation may even reverse itself in the next five years, this is poor consolation for those who find themselves unable to earn a livelihood within the profession which the Government has even sponsored for them to study.

Some months ago the Central Government took the extraordinary step of passing special laws to deal with the dangerous situation in Calcutta. Special powers were given to the Governor of West Bengal to implement these laws, but for some unknown reason he has upto date failed to make direct use of them. It is a widespread speculation that there are circles within the Central Goverment which have no objections to sit back and watch the Naxalites directing their main attack against the Marxist communists, but even if this were true, it is no consolation to the citizens of Calcutta who live in fear and terror within the prevailing situation.

From my part I forsee the possibility of Mrs Gandhi and her ruling Congress

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Party, together with a coalition of one or two smaller parties, being able to win the election and obtaining a narrow majority Government. However I also foresee this majority being so small that the Government could be defeated at the first major issue which arises in Parliament. Whichever party wins the election in March the same problem would be applicable, and a situation would arise which could be compared to that which existed in France in the late 1940's. In any Country in the World, a general election is bound up with huge financial outlays, this state of affairs would prove impossible in India. In my opinion there are only two alternatives, firstly that a coalition Government be formed which equally represents all the major parties, and a leader be chosen to represent such a coalition. The second alternative is that a Military Government will be formed. As the first solution would appear out of the question, even if one considers that the logical conclusion is that India, especially Calcutta will go communist, it is my firm conviction that communism will be rejected as it is not compatable with either the Hindu religious belief, or the sense of humour which most Indians possess, therefore it is fair to assume if the Indian Army is continually called upon to maintain law and order due to political unrest, it will not take too long before there appears in the Army circles those men who find it possible to insist that law and order be established.

There are many who shudder at the thought of 500 millions of peoples under a Military ruling government, and I am one of them. However one must face the fact that the Indian Army is a highly organised body, as an army second to none in the World. Amongst the officer corps one can find both members of the elite, and those who have risen from the ranks. One will also find that there are no community differences within the Army organisation. Hindus, Mohammedans, Sikhs, Christians, all work together in complete harmony. Corruption is a thing almost unknown in the army, which unfortunately cannot be claimed by either the political party members, or the civil service.

In conclusion it can be confidently said that whatever the outcome of the political crisis in India, no ruling government will be able to obtain the confidence or co-operation of the masses unless they immediately implement a sweeping social reform programme, and this goes for Calcutta in particular.

REMEDY.

Calcutta, as a project for aid, must be divided into two categories, and I

would like to deal with them individually.

1. COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT WITHIN THE CITY.

Firstly a committee of joint action must be established. Although it is possible for the Christian Churches to take their place on such a committee I forsee their role as minor. I must justify this statement by saying that there are many high ranking officials in India, and indeed large sections of the population, who consider the activities of the Christian Churches to be directed solely to the aim of converting non Christians. There may, or may not be some foundation to this suspicion, whatever the case, if help is to be directed to the source of need without complications, I would chose the following partners:-

State of West Bengal
RamaKrishna Mission,
Trade Unions.
Christian Churches.

and as we are dealing with peoples who are by far in the non-Christian majority, it would appear reasonable to chose the RamaKrishna Mission as the main religious representing body. The work of this mission is well known in India, and although they have achieved very little for the poor of Calcutta in the past, this fact can mainly be attributed to lack of funds. I believe that this mission would be very willing to work with any reasonable organisation to implement a social welfare programme in the city of Calcutta.

The trade unions must be brought on to the committee for obvious reasons. It will be with working and unemployed people that any programme will be dealing with, and although it is correct to say that the trade unions in Calcutta are in the main headed by communists, in the periods during which I came into contact with them, I found them quite willing to co-operate on a programme designed to improve conditions in Calcutta. It may be that they consider this was a means of "cashing in on the glory", but for whatever reasons they cannot be excluded from sitting on a committeee.

The port of Calcutta provides jobs for many thousands of people in the city. Recently a new deep sea port came into operation on the coast of Orissa, and although destined for ships over the 50,000 ton calibre, unless the port of Calcutta improves its facilities for docking, handling, and turn round, it is a fact that foreign ships will avoid putting into Calcutta, and the port, together

with the jobs of thousands of workers will be doomed.
For many years new ships have found it difficult to manoeuvre and berth in Calcutta, due to the ever increasing presence of silt in the entrance to the harbour. There are one or two dredgers operating in the area, but if the situation is to be at least overcome, many more, and larger dredgers must be employed. Conclusion is that aid must be given for such a programme.
The equipment for handling cargo is either antiquated, or non-existant, making loading and unloading a slow and exasperating procedure. Conclusion is that aid to provide modern equipment must be forseen.

The organisation of community centres for work amongst the peoples in the many districts must be undertaken. There is already in existence a block developmemt system, started by the Central Government some years ago. During the "Aid for Feed the Children Programme" in 1966, we had occasion to work with this system, and were agreeably surprised to find that it functioned quite well. Its activities were very much restricted to administration work, this was of course due to lack of finance and directives for other jobs. I forsee the possibility of using such an organisation as the "block develpment offices" as a stepping stone for district social centres.

Hygiene is probably the most dangerous problems to be tackled in the city. Although fresh water is provided to most areas, and has greatly improved over the years, drainage is either non-existant, or in a deplorable condition. Each year, during the monsoon, there are days during which many of the main streets are one metre under water, bringing the life of the city centre to almost a complete standstill. Apart from the disturbance to the industry of the city, the health hazard is enormous. In the slums it is possible to watch the sewage floating through the centre of the road, bringing with it all the potential dreaded illnesses caused by such conditions. Conclusion is that aid must be given to provide improvements to the existing drainage system, and great extension plans for those areas without drainage.

Calcutta is suitable for erection of multi-story buildings, so that any housing scheme undertaken should be of the skyscraper type. Within the city centre, and in the suburbs, there is land available for such schemes. Conclusion

is that a re-housing scheme is essential to assist in clearing the slum areas, and wherever possible multi-storied buildings should be considered.

RE-HABILITATION OUTSIDE THE CITY.

By far the greatest help which could be given to Calcutta would be the relief of congestion, so enabling plans for the city centre to unfold. It is my conviction that it would be possible to operate a pilot scheme to re-settle some 2000 families 50-80 miles from the city.
Such a scheme would have to provide the following essentials:-

Housing.
Agricultural programme.
Small scale industries.
Schools.
Dispensaries.

If possible each unit should be set up to receive 500 families, or in other words, self contained villages.
By far the most important activity would be agriculture, and probably would be the most costly. It would involve providing tube wells in sufficient numbers to make the villages almost independant from the monsoon. As far as possible market gardening should be encouraged, rather than rice planting. Calcutta would be a ready market for all that could be grown.
Industry should be restricted to handicrafts, or such merchandise that would not involve complicated machinery,(it may be some time before electrification could be carried out).
The families chosen to go to the villages must firstly be willing to do so on a permanent arrangement. They must be given a clean bill of health. They must be aware it would be prohibited to bring in additional close relatives,or friends, once settled in their new homes. The state Government should be given first priority in the choice of families for re-settlement.
A special committee should be formed to implement this project. The finances must remain in the hands of the organisation providing the funds. This organisation should form a Company to act as liason with contractors and supply firms, and

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buying of all necessary materials and equipment. Wherever possible all such materials and equipment should be purchased in India, and be of indigenous origin.(The problems of the import of spare parts for goods of foreign make should not be allowed to arise).

CONCLUSION.

This report is by no means conclusive. A more intensive survey would have to be undertaken in the City of Calcutta before any large scale projects could be STARTED ~~undertaken~~. On the other hand this does not imply that those who may read this report should cease to be interested untill such a survey is made. It is my firm conviction that we, and I am assuming that "we" will embrace all of us who consider ourselves to be good Christians, cannot shut our eyes to the disgrace of Calcutta. If we are to follow the expression of those who are always prepared to use that ever popular phrase " a drop of water on a hot stone", then I contend we have no right to even call ourselves Christians. No challenge was too great to be accepted by Our Lord, He performed miracles without doubting his own capabilities to do so.

Furthermore must we always wait untill a catastrophy occurs before we are prepared to use our resources for the benefit of humanity. If this is the case you may be very sure that such a catastrophy will occur in Calcutta, that the World has never before witnessed. You may be sure that any help we can give now will go towards preventing such a catastrophy. I therefore appeal to all WHO ~~that~~ read this report, to think over it, do not forget it, improve on any suggestions it contains, and above all, call all those willing to help their fellow man, to action.

[illegible] by [illegible] and [illegible]. [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

3. F.A.
Montag.

Vermerk

für die Herren P.Seeberg und Schwerk

Am 28.Juli 1971 teilte Herr Montag telefonisch mit, dass er sich habe entschliessen müssen, eine kaufmännische Stelle in einer deutschen Firma anzunehmen. Er wird ab Ende des Monats in einer Wohnwagen-Fabrik in Bad Kreuznach beginnen, um wahrscheinlich relativ bald nach Zweibrücken versetzt zu werden. Er gab diese Nachricht etwas bekümmert, weil er lieber im kirchlichen Dienst geblieben wäre und insgeheim doch noch gehofft hatte, von Stuttgart für die Mitarbeit an den riesigen Aufgaben für die pakistanischen Flüchtlinge gebeten zu werden.

Der Kontakt wird sich also, vollends wenn er in Deutschland arbeitet, auch in Zukunft noch erhalten lassen.

Berlin, den 3.August 1971
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24. März 1971
drbg/sz

Mr.
Robert Montag
c/o G.E.L. Church Head Office

Ranchi / Bihar
Indien

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Dass Ihr Brief vom 22.Februar 1971, auf den ich am 9.d.M. ein Echo gab, bisher das einzige Lebenszeichen von Ihnen war, hat uns weder verwundert, noch irgendwie besorgt gemacht. Wir wissen, dass Sie in mancherlei Dingen busy sind und keine Langeweile haben, auch sowieso nicht allzulange auf einem Schreibtischstuhl Platz nehmen, das ist ja bei uns "Bürokraten" anders und wir sind auch darauf gefasst, dass Sie rechtzeitig vor Ostern im Laufe der nächsten zwei Wochen irgendwann wahrscheinlich wohlbehalten und braungebrannt von der indischen intensiven Märzsonne im ersten Stock des Missionshauses auftauchen werden, mit gutem Ergebnis aller noch laufenden Verhandlungen und Bemühungen, die hoffentlich in der Etablierung einer Petromax-Fertigung auf dem Ranchi-Compound ihr Hauptziel haben.

Überlegen Sie doch bitte auf der Rückreise für ein entsprechendes Gespräch hier, ob Sie etwa im Mai/Juni sich frei fühlen, eine Werbe-Kampagne für eine "Fudi-Technical-Training-Stiftung" in deutschen Industriekreisen zu starten. Wir müssen das hier im einzelnen besprechen, Herr Lenz wird Ihnen gern beim Anfang hier in Berlin assistieren. Ihre lebendige und exakte Kenntnis der Gegebenheiten in Fudi wäre wahrscheinlich die entscheidende Ausrüstung für einen solchen Versuch. Es wäre also wiederum ein ad-hoc-Auftrag, lieber Bruder Montag.

Ich bin nicht ganz sicher, ob Sie dieser Brief noch vor Ihrer Abreise erreicht oder wie Herrn Kmittas Brief nach hier an Sie, Sie verfehlt. Wenn Sie diesen Brief bekommen sollten und noch Zeit haben, um in einigen Stunden in Calcutta dieses und jenes in eine Kiste verpacken zu lassen, so wären Frau Bergs Wünsche im wesentlichen folgende:

Holzelefanten jeder Grösse,
Filigran-Schmuck (möglichst echt indisch),
Messing-Sachen,
Salz- und Pfeffer-Streuer möglichst mit Tablett,
längere Seidenschals ca. 25 cm breit, mindestens 1,50 m lang oder sind das schon Seidenstolas?

Nun ist der Kummer, dass wir Ihnen dafür kein Geld mitgaben. Wenn Sie Ihrem Bekannten für ein- oder zweitausend Mark gut sind, lässt sich das hoffentlich gleich nach Ihrer Rückkehr regeln. Schade, dass wir nicht vor Ihrer Abreise daran dachten.

Das Ergebnis der indischen Wahlen haben wir mit grösster Anteilnahme verfolgt, wir sind jetzt nicht weniger gespannt auf Ihren Kommentar.

Dass wir Ende April Präsident Minz 8 Tage hier haben, werden Sie in Ranchi gehört haben und durch Dr. Dell und Dr.Singh wird im kommenden Monat die Gossnerkirche für uns sehr präsent sein. Vergessen Sie nicht, unseren unschätzbaren Freund Bengra, das solide Fundament im KSS-office sehr zu grüssen. Auch Herrn Karnani sollten Sie meine freundlichsten Empfehlungen ausrichten.

Herzlich und getreulich

Ihr

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9.März 1971
drbg/sz

Mr.
Robert M o n t a g
c/o G.E.L. Church Head Office

R a n c h i / Bihar
Indien

Lieber Bruder M o n t a g !

Schon die Tatsache, dass Ihr versprochener, dankenswerter Brief vom 22.Februar bis 8.März brauchte, um nach Berlin zu kommen, zeigt die schreckliche und bestürzende Situation in der grössten Stadt Indiens. Die paar beigefügten Zeitungsausschnitte haben den Ernst Ihres Calcutta-Memorandums unterstrichen und ich bin nur froh, dass Sie wohlbehalten in das Great Eastern Hotel gelangt und hoffentlich - wenn auch mit einigen Tagen Verspätung - nach Ranchi/Fudi heraufgekommen sind. Die beigefügte Kopie meines Briefes an Bruder Weissinger mag Ihnen zeigen, dass ich versuche, das Problem Calcutta auf die höchstmögliche Ebene in Deutschland zu schieben.

Wie Sie erwarteten, hat der Chef von Cromelite positiv in den von Hertel berichteten Affären reagiert. Gottlob, so dass nicht neue schwierige und die gegenseitigen Beziehungen beeinträchtigende Verhandlungen nötig waren. Sie werden besonders Direktor Aind sagen, dass er sich als Hausherr von Fudi die Pflege der Beziehungen zu der Firma und ihrem Chef besonders angelegen sein lässt, um Misstimmungen zu verhüten oder wieder abzubauen. Möchte sich Herr Hertel vor allen Dingen um seine Bauten kümmern, zu denen er wohl unterwegs war.

Dass Ihr Bericht über die Möglichkeiten mit Petromax Herrn Karnani sehr erfreut hat, glaube ich gern. Hoffentlich kommen Sie in den Verhandlungen mit ihm, dem deutschen Partner und vor allen Dingen auch mit Rev. Topno als Chairman des Property Board der Gossnerkirche ein entscheidendes Stück vorwärts, so dass wirklich auf dem grossen Ranchi-Compound eine neue, aussichtsreiche und wertvolle Produktion zum besten vieler entsteht. Nicht zuletzt auch auf dieses Ergebnis bei Ihrem Bericht Anfang April hier in Berlin sind wir gespannt.

Direktor Aind schrieb gestern noch einmal besorgt wegen der Registrierung der Trust-Society, aber an diesem Punkt haben Sie sicher sobald Sie da waren, eingegriffen, wobei das ja gegenüber einem Rechtsanwalt oder gar einer Behörde der indischen Verwaltung nur in begrenztem Umfang möglich ist; immerhin haben Sie den dafür massgeblichen Stellen gewiss etwas Eile machen können, weil die Aktionsfähigkeit des Fudi

Technical Training Centre davon abhängt. Für den Erwerb des neuen Ambassador haben Sie gewiss, wenn es noch nötig war, die erforderliche Hilfsstellung geben können.

Gut, dass Sie nochmals hier verschwanden, denn 10 sehr kalte Wintertage brachen ein, aber nun wird es wohl bei uns langsam Frühling werden, während Sie schon die beginnende Hitze zu spüren bekommen. Unsere kleine Berliner Wahl am kommenden Sonntag ist ein geringes Ereignis gegenüber dem, was aus den indischen Wahlen in den nächsten Tagen herauskommen wird und worauf wir gespannt warten.

Wenn Sie den Pramukh Adhyaksh sahen, werden Sie gehört haben, dass wir ihn Ende April im Anschluss an eine Genfer Visite einige Tage hier haben werden; das wird ganz nützlich sein.

Sicherlich konnten Sie in einer Reihe kleinerer Dinge - mögen es finanzielle Angelegenheiten oder andere Hilfsstellungen gewesen sein, Gutes tun.

Grüssen Sie alle sehr herzlich. In der Hoffnung, dass Sie gesund und wohlbehalten die Wochen in Indien verbringen werden und im wesentlichen gute Nachrichten zurückbringen, wird dies wohl das einzige Echo während Ihrer dortigen Zeit von hier sein, aber es sollte doch so rasch wie möglich zu Ihnen kommen,

- Ihr

Anlage

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9. März 1971
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Herrn
F. Weissinger

6503 Mainz-Kastel
Joh.-Gossner-Str. 14

Lieber Bruder Weissinger!

Eben kam ein Brief von Bruder Montag, dass er wohlbehalten die täglichen schrecklichen Ereignisse in Calcutta überstanden hat, um verschiedene Dinge dort in Ranchi/Fudi voranzubringen. Da fällt mir unsere kurze Debatte bei der letzten Sitzung über die Verwendung des Memorandums ein. Sie wollten darum bemüht sein, es Dr.Lefringhausen gelelentlich Ihrer möglichen gemeinsamen Sizilienreise in die Hand zu drücken mit der Empfehlung, es als Sekretär des deutschen Forums für Entwicklungshilfe zu placieren und wenn möglich eine internationale Kooperation zu erreichen. Das ist ja absolute Voraussetzung dafür,wenn man diesen dunkelsten Punkt und fast Schandfleck der menschlichen Gesellschaft wirklich angehen will.

Bruder Montag weiss selbst am besten, dass das, was er niedergeschrieben hat, nur ein Anstoss sein kann, sich erneut und ernsthaft dem riesigen Problem dieser Stadt zuzuwenden. Er sagte mir, dass er bemüht sein werde, noch vielfältiges Material zu einer Reihe spezieller Notpunkte von kompetenter Stelle in Calcutta mitbringen zu können, um seine Darlegungen und Empfehlungen zu substantiieren. Sie mögen das auch Dr.Lefringhausen wissen lassen, wenn er die relative Kürze des Montagschen Memorandums als noch nicht ausreichend für eine ernsthafte und konkrete Planung von Hilfsmöglichkeiten ansehen sollte.

Nun gehen die restlichen Wochen oder Tage in Kastel für Sie rasch zu Ende. Mit welchen Empfindungen mögen Sie Abschied nehmen von reichen, sicher oft schweren, aber doch auch sehr erfüllten Jahren. Sicher wird es Ihrer Familie auch so gehen. Mögen Sie, verbunden mit der Dankbarkeit dafür, einen guten Anfang in Vilbel bzw. Frankfurt haben, wo ich früher oder später hoffentlich Ihre neuen Bereiche einmal kennenlerne.

Der Versuch von Westkilver, für den 21.April in Mainz einen Gegen-Kandidaten aufzubauen, scheint offenbar misslungen zu sein. Fast hätte ich das Gegenteil gewünscht, um die echte Entscheidung des Kuratoriums in voller Offenheit in Erscheinung treten zu lassen.

Auf ein gutes Wiedersehen bis in etwa 6 Wochen bin ich in alter Verbundenheit

I h r

D/ Mr.Montag,
c/o G.E.L.Church Head Office, Ranchi

DIAKONISCHE ARBEITSGEMEINSCHAFT EVANGELISCHER KIRCHEN IN DEUTSCHLAND

Bund Evangelisch-Freikirchlicher Gemeinden in Deutschland · Bund Freier Evang. Gemeinden in Deutschland · Das Diakonische Werk der EKD
Die Heilsarmee in Deutschland · Europäisch-Festländische Brüder-Unität Herrnhuter Brüdergemeine · Evangelisch-Lutherische Freikirchen in Deutschland
Katholisches Bistum der Altkatholiken in Deutschland · Evangelisch-methodistische Kirche in Deutschland · Vereinigung der Deutschen Mennonitengemeinden

Geschäftsführung: Das Diakonische Werk der Evangelischen Kirche in Deutschland, Hauptgeschäftsstelle Stuttgart

BROT FÜR DIE WELT

7 STUTTGART 1
GEROKSTRASSE 17, TELEFON 241686
(Presse- und Informations-Stelle: 234000)

Eingegangen
20. JAN. 1971
Erledigt: .....

Dr. P.N. Mathew
St. Barnabas Hospital

Ranchi
Bihar
INDIA

January 15, 1971

II-Ba/ba

3.2.71

Sub.: Medical instruments

Dear Dr. Mathew,

Your list of medical instruments brought to Germany by Mr. Montag was passed on to us via Miss Urbig of Diakonisches Werk Stuttgart. After considerable deliberation we then passed it on to the German Institute for Medical Mission (Deutsches Institut für Ärtzliche Mission) at Tübingen. They kindly consented to supply you the same. However, we would like to bring to your attention that they did this only after some hesitation.

As you know from our letter to you at Vienna (dated April 2, 1970) we told you quite clearly that any request from the medical field in India has to be forwarded to us via the 'Coordinating Agency for Health Planning' (Dr. Sundaram). The efficiency of this Board can only be optimal if the procedure of submitting all applications to them is strictly adhered to.

Also it was remarked by the German Institute for Medical Mission that as all these instruments are manufactured in India, it would be of real help towards the medical industries in India to order these simple instruments from them, next time you require any.

With best wishes,
Yours sincerely,

Bartke

- Bartke -
Asia Desk

cc. Missionsdirektor Dr. Ch. Berg, Berlin

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11.Dezember 1970
drbg/sz

Herrn
Robert M o n t a g und
Herrn
Dipl.-Ing.Helmut H e r t e l
Technical Training Centre

F u d i P.O./Dt.Ranchi/Bihar
Indien

Liebe Brüder!

Die Tage im noch herbstlichen Deutschland eilen rasch dem Fest und dem Jahresende entgegen, überfüllt mit Arbeit, wie es in diesen Wochen zu sein pflegt, so dass es Zeit ist, Ihnen in Fudi herzliche persönliche Weihnachtsgrüsse zu senden. Eingeschlossen sind Ihre liebe Frau und Jan, Bruder Hertel, sowie Direktor Aind, Herr Haque und alle anderen Mitarbeiter, also letztlich das ganze TTC Fudi. Wir gedenken Ihrer in der schönsten Jahreszeit Ihres Landes - bisweilen durchaus mit Neid - wenn es hier nebelig, regnerisch und dunkel ist.

Wir haben umso mehr Anlass, Ihrer mit vielen Segenswünschen zu gedenken, seit nach längeren Wochen durch den ausführlichen Brief von Ihnen, Bruder Montag, der am 7.Dezember hier einging, neuere Nachrichten eintrafen. Es waren gute und ernste Mitteilungen, wie immer, wenn Nachrichten aus Indien oder Zambia eintreffen. Zweifellos ist die Unruhe unter der Mitarbeiterschaft unter den besonders gelagerten gewerkschaftlichen Bedingungen Ihres Landes eine recht ernste Sache. Sie müssen unendlich viel Mühe, Überlegung, Standfestigkeit und Flexibilität zugleich aufwenden, um der Sache Herr zu bleiben. Wie sehr können solche Wellen der Unruhe alle Planungen und den geregelten Ablauf der Arbeit durcheinander bringen und zu nicht nur erheblichen sondern schwerwiegendsten Hindernissen einer sowieso nicht einfachen Arbeit werden. Wir sind auf Einzelheiten des mündlichen Berichts sehr gespannt, lieber Bruder Montag, wenn Sie in Monatsfrist wieder hier sein werden, sofern sich die Terminpläne wie vorgesehen einhalten lassen.

Dass auf der anderen Seite die Entwicklung zum von allen drei Kirchen getragenen Trust offenbar ohne grössere Schwierigkeiten vorangeht, der juristische Mante im "geschneidert werden" begriffen ist und also der 1.Januar 1971 als Startbeginn der neuen Fudi-Aera vorgesehen werden kann, war eine erfreuliche Nachricht. Wenn Sie annehmen, dass wir

diesem oekumenischen Fortschritt die weitmöglichste Publizität verleihen werden, so haben Sie recht; wir werden das aber mit der Kuratoriumssitzung verbinden und wenn unser leitendes Gossner Gremium auf Ihren abschliessenden Bericht hin seine Zustimmung gegeben hat, die entsprechenden Veröffentlichungen erst dann vornehmen.

Ebenso hat uns natürlich herzlich gefreut, dass die Firma Cromelite in Calcutta, in dem ihr für sie angebotenen Pachverhältnis der Holz- und möglicherweise nun auch der Metall-Abteilung, eine positive Entscheidung gefällt hat. Wie wir vorgesehen hatten. In dieser Frage ist es ja besonders wichtig, dass die Arbeiterunruhen den von gleichen Dingen geplagten Unternehmer von Calcutta nicht verschrecken und er deswegen noch im letzten Augenblick zurückzuckt. Wie sehr hoffen wir alle, dass Sie mit einem klaren Vertragspapier zurückkommen und wir auch dieses Problem gelöst wissen. Welche Konsequenzen sich aus dem allen für Sie, Bruder Hertel, ergeben, das werden Sie schon jetzt reflektiert haben und Bruder Montag wird uns - sei es in einem Brief von Ihnen, sei es im mündlichen Report, Ihre Gedanken wissen lassen- Wir sind für alle Empfehlungen offen - nehmen jedenfalls gewiss doch zu recht an, dass wegen Ihrer für Sie an und für sich bis zu diesem Spätherbst limitierten Arbeitserlaubnis, keine plötzliche Barriere hochgezogen wurde, Sie vielmehr stillschweigend eine Verlängerung erhalten haben.

Was Sie sonst aus der Kirche schreiben, lieber Bruder Montag, ist ebenfalls der Andeutungen voll, wir können ermessen, dass ~~Selbst~~ der Silas Kujur als Adyaksh des Nordwest-Anchals in nicht geringem Masse hin- und hergerissen wird. Das von uns schon empfangene Protokoll der letzten KSS-Sitzung macht das deutlich. Man wird hier mit längeren Entwicklungen rechnen müssen, bevor diese Sache aus dem Schlamm auf festen Boden zurückgekehrt ist. Hier mögen die Grundzüge der neuen Verfassung, wenn sie eines baldigen Tages offiziell auf den Tisch kommt und in ihren Konturen überzeugt, die Wendung zum besseren einleiten. Wir betrachten also Ihren Brief, lieber Bruder Montag, gerade auch in diesem Punkt als Interims-Report und sind gespannt, auf vervollständigende Nachrichten.

Die Tage gleich nach Neujahr werden also sicher mit Sitzungen und dem offiziellen Beginn von Fudi in neuer Gestalt sehr arbeits- und ereignisreich werden. Wir hoffen auf eine gute Reise von Ihnen hierher, der wahrscheinlich dann sehr notwendige Wintermantel erwartet Sie in meinem Zimmer. Sonst ist hier alles wohlauf und schliesst sich meinen weihnachtlichen Grüssen von ganzem Herzen an. Getreulich Ihnen allen verbunden

Ihr

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON, LONDON, N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

28th November 1970.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
Berlin.

My Dear Dr.Berg,

Thank you for your letter, and although I can detect and feel that you are perhaps a little disappointed not to have heard from me sooner, I can assure you that it is because I have really been rushing around. I have been to Calcutta three times since my arrival here, but as it is so complicated to write the many reasons which made this necessary, I must ask you wait untill my return for a more detailed report. In any even here goes:-

1. You have by now received the minutes of the last meeting between the the three Churches, and know that they have all given a yes vote to form the Trust Society, hence my prescence in Calcutta. I have consulted one of the best firms of lawyers here, and they assure me that there are no undue complications in the formation of the Society, they are now preparing the draft of articles, and they see no reason why the Society should not function by the 1st January 1971. So it appears what seemed to be the most involved issue, has gone off very smoothly. I consider it really a great success, especially as it will be the first time in India that three major Churches, and especially the Roman Catholic Church, have decided to work together in this way. I feel sure that you will consider it very necessary to give this matter the widest possible publicity. I will from now on keep you posted of developments.

2. The firm of Cromelite have at last decided to take over the wood production as from the 1st January 1971. Mr.Karnani was supposed to come to Ranchi on the 5th December, unfortunately his eldest son was stricken by a severe stroke in the brain, the family were called even from London. The latest news is that he is a little better but still in a dangerous condition. However Mr.Karnani confirmed today that he is still sticking to his committment, and will take over at the time stated. He now plans to come to Ranchi on the 15th December. Apart from the wood section he would also like to take over part of the metal section, this will be discussed on his visit to Ranchi, and I somehow feel that the present ideas could really be a great thing in solving the many problems of "Fudi production centre".

3. And now to Fudi itself. I dont know if Mr.Hertel has already written to you, anyway let me tell you that the last two weeks there have been positively dramatic. If it were not the fact that the situation concerned live human beings, who were not aware of their situation, one

16 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON, LONDON, N.W.4
TEL. 202 4886

26th November 1971.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr. O. Berg,
Berlin.

My Dear Dr. Berg,

Thank you for your letter, and although I can detect and feel that you are perhaps a little disappointed not to have heard from me sooner, I can assure you that it is because I have really been running around. I have been to Calcutta three times since my arrival here, but as it is so complicated to write the many reasons which made this necessary, I must ask you with utmost my return for a more detailed report. In my even more case:-

1. You have by now received the minutes of the last meeting between the three Churches, and know that they have all given a yes vote to form the Trust Society, hence my presence in Calcutta. I have consulted one of the best firms of lawyers here, and they assure me that there are no undue complications in the formation of the Society, they are now preparing the draft of articles, and they see no reason why the Society should not function by the 1st January 1972. So it appears what seemed to be the most involved issue, has gone off very smoothly. I consider it really a great success, especially as it will be the first time in India that three major churches, and especially the Roman Catholic Church, have decided to work together in this way. I feel sure that you will consider it very necessary to give this matter the widest possible publicity. I will from now on keep you posted of developments.

2. The firm of Cromolite have at last decided to take over the wood production as from the 1st January 1972. Mr.Barnard was supposed to come to Ranchi on the 5th December, unfortunately his eldest son was stricken by a severe stroke in the brain, the family were called even from London. The latest news is that he is a little better but still in a dangerous condition. However Mr.Barnard confirmed today that he is still sticking to his commitment, and will take over at the time stated. Hence plans to come to Ranchi on the 15th December. Apart from the wood section he would also like to take over part of the metal section, this will be discussed on his visit to Ranchi, and I somehow feel that the present ideas could really be a great thing in solving the many problems of "Tuki production centre".

3. And now to Tuki itself. I dont know if Mr.Bertel has already written to you, anyway let me tell you that the last two weeks there have been politicly dramatic. If it were not the fact that the situation concerned live human beings, who were not aware of their situation, one

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

could really write a comic opera on the whole theme. Apparently the workers in the production centre, formed themselves into a Union, which on the face of it is in no way a bad thing, however they began by appointing as their adviser, a man in Ranchi who is well known as a political radical, furthermore in the past his main aim has been to close down factories through strikes, and so cause unrest amongst the working comminity, so gaining for himself a ready made body of potential revolutionists. It would take me pages to write all that happened, it must at this moment suffice if I tell you that an immediate strike which was supposed to have taken place last Thursday the 27th November, was called off. How this was averted I can only describe to you when I see you, it is probably unbelievable. More important was the fact that the take over by Cromehite was put in danger, you can well imagine that Karnani would not have been inclined to step into such conditions, he has his own worries in Calcutta. Furthermore I was able to observe the reactions of Mr.Hertel, this was even more serious, and I think that had I not have been in Fudi at the time, he would have been tempted to accept the impossible demands put up by the workers in Fudi, with all the serious consequences involved. My opinion that Mr.Hertel, a very honest and serious minded young man, is however totally imature to deal with any such situations, must be voiced. I can now really understand how he became involved in the Minz affair, which by the way will not be easy to solve.

As I had to travel to Calcutta after the strike action had been averted, I already had to postpone my journey at the urgent request of Mr.Hertel, and I had no intention of risking the formation of the Trust Society, I am not aware of the present situation, I will write you on this subject after my return to Ranchi.

4. Gossner Church affairs have reached a peculiar stage. At the KSS meeting the Pramukh and some officers had the intention of informing all those who had joined the opposition group that they were no longer members of the Gossner Church. I thought it wise to suggest that they gave a time limit before taking such action. They agreed that this was perhaps a more wiser method, and a resolution was passed by the KSS in just that manner. The Officers such as, Bage, Topno, Aind, are all very certain that the Adyaksh of the NW Anchal, Kujur, is sitting on fence in this issue, and they feel that he is giving way more and more to the opposition group, this if true is of course very dangerous for the Pramukh, and I have observed that he is very often on tour in the NW Anchal, and I suspect that Kujur is really causing some trouble which the Pramukh is making every effort to combat. In any event I must honestly say that I am at all times pleasantly gratified in the manner in which the Pramukh tackles his many problems, although he ouwardly gives the appearance of being weak, I am sure that this is not at all the case. His main supporter still appears to be C.A. Tirkey of Chainpur.

9 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON LONDON N.W.4
TEL: 202 8889

could really write a comic opera on the whole theme. Apparently the workers in the production centre, formed themselves into a Union, which on the face of it is in no way a bad thing, however they began by appointing as their adviser, a man in Kanoni who is well known as a political radical, furthermore in the past his main aim has been to close down factories through strikes, and so cause unrest amongst the working community, so giving for himself a ready made body of potential revolutionists. It would take me pages to write all that happened, it must at this moment suffice if I tell you that an immediate strike which was supposed to have taken place last Thursday the 27th November, was called off. How this was averted I can only describe to you when I see you, it is probably unbelievable. More important was the fact that the take over by Crosmaite was put in danger, you can well imagine that Kermani would not have been inclined to step into such conditions, he has his own worries in Calcutta. Furthermore I was able to observe the reactions of Mr.Hertel, this was even more serious, and I think that had I not have been in Kodi at the time, he would have been tempted to accept the impossible demands put up by the workers in Kodi, with all the serious consequences involved. My opinion that Mr.Hertel, a very honest and serious minded young man, is however totally inapte to deal with any such situations, must be voiced. I can now really understand how he became involved in the Mine affair, which by the way will not be easy to solve.

As I had to travel to Calcutta after the strike action had been averted, I already had to postpone my journey at the urgent request of Mr.Hertel, and I had no intention of risking the formation of the first society, I am not aware of the present situation, I will write you on this subject after my return to Kanoni.

4. Coaster Church affairs have reached a peculiar stage. At the KGS meeting the French and some officers had the intention of informing all those who had joined the opposition group that they were no longer members of the Coaster Church. I thought it wise to suggest that they give a time limit before taking such action. They agreed that this was perhaps a more wiser method, and a resolution was passed by the KGS in just that manner. The officers such as, Bage, Ogoro, Alad, are all very certain that the Adyakan of the Mn Anohal, Ayjur, is sitting on fence in this issue, and they feel that he is giving way more and more to the opposition group, this if true is of course very dangerous for the French, and I have observed that he is very often on tour in the Mn Anohal, and I suspect that Ayjur is really causing some trouble which the French is making every effort to combat. In any event I must honestly say that I am at all times pleasantly gratified in the manner in which the French handles his very problems, although he outwardly gives the appearance of being weak, I am sure that this is not at all the case. His main supporter still appears to be G.A. Finney of Onaingur.

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

The instructions as per money distribution ordered by you were carried out many weeks ago, the balance will be carried before my departure.

Your suggestion that I leave here on the 11th January also meets with my approval. Mr.Hertel was not very taken up with this idea, but have told him quite frankly that he must start to withdraw a lot of his control over Fudi, especially in the training section. As soon as the Society commences to Function, and Aind is re-appointed by the Society as Director, he, that is Hertel, must fade into the background. It is obvious that as long as he is in India he must remain at the disposal of the Society as an Adviser should they wish to call on him. I have even gone so far as to suggest to him that he moves his family to Ranchi. From there he can conduct the control of the final stages of the buildings in Ranchi Compound High School, and Chainpur school, which are so complicated, especially as far as the fiances are concerned, that he has his hands full to deal with this, and there is nobody in the picture enough to assist him.

Please accept this letter as an interim report, I will write again on my return to Ranchi, when I hope that a clearer picture will have emerged. My kind regards to all in the Gossner House, my congratulations on your very successfull bazaar.

With Sincere Greetings to you all,

Robert Montag

Wenn das dazu liest, was nicht geschrieben ist, sieht man noch genauer, wie man antworten soll. Zum Glück ist dies nicht mein Job – zum Unglück trifft es mich doch sehr unmittelbar.

The instructions as per money distribution ordered by you were carried out many weeks ago, the balance will be carried before my departure.

Your suggestion that I leave here on the 11th January also meets with my approval. Br.Hertle was not very taken up with this idea, but have told him quite frankly that he must start to withdraw a lot of his control over Rudi, especially in the training section. As soon as the Society commences to function, and Aind is re-appointed by the Society as Director, he, that is Hertel, must fade into the background. It is obvious that as long as he is in India he must remain at the disposal of the Society as an Adviser should they wish to call on him. I have even gone so far as to suggest to him that he moves his family to Ranchi. From there he can conduct the control of the final stages of the buildings in Ranchi Compound High School, and Chainpur school, which are so complicated, especially as far as the finances are concerned, that he has his hands full to deal with this, and there is nobody in the picture enough to assist him.

Please accept this letter as an interim report, I will write again on my return to Ranchi, when I hope that a clearer picture will have emerged. My kind regards to all in the Pioneer House, my congratulations on your very successful career.

With sincere greetings to you all,

851 30 61

xxxxxxxxxxxx

17.November 1970
drbg/sz

Herrn
Robert M o n t a g
c/o Technical Training Centre

F u d i P.O./Dt. Ranchi/Bihar
Indien

Lieber Bruder M o n t a g !

Die Zeit geht im Eiltempo dahin und da ich ab morgen für neun Tage vom Büro abwesend sein werde, während welcher Zeit wahrscheinlich eine erste Nachricht von Ihnen und Ihrem Ergehen kommen wird, sollen doch einige Zeilen heute an Sie geschrieben sein: Mit den besten Wünschen, dass Sie Schritt um Schritt das neue Arbeitsprogramm zum guten Ende bringen. Hoffentlich war Freund Hertel nicht zu negativ überrascht, dass Sie entgegen seinem Votum schon so bald wieder aufgetaucht sind. Dass dieser Entschluss richtig ist, darüber besteht bei mir nach wie vor kein Zweifel. Aus einem heutigen Brief von Dr.Bage entnahmen wir jedenfalls, dass Sie wohlbehalten angekommen sind und nach dem etwas längeren Aufenthalt in Calcutta noch rechtzeitig in den letzten Tagen der KSS-Sitzung in Ranchi eintrafen. Herr Bhengra hat hoffentlich die Möglichkeit erhalten, sogleich die Leute in Amgaon zu stärken, die in einem eigenen Brief kurz nach Ihrem Abflug eine dringende Bitte hierher sandten.

Der Basar ist übrigens mit Bruder Schwerk als Basar-Meister, der seine Sache gut machte, gut verlaufen. Die reiche indische Ausstattung wurde über die Massen gelobt. Wir haben dankbar Ihrer gedacht und es wurden DM 4.500,-- Einnahmen erzielt.

Der eigentliche Grund, weswegen ich heute diese Zeilen diktiere ist der, dass es u.E. gut wäre - sofern Sie einigermassen und wirklich mit Ihrem Arbeitsprogramm fertig sind - wenn Sie am 13.Januar 1971 wiederum zur Kuratoriumssitzung hier wären; am besten ein oder zwei Tage vorher, um die hoffentlich zu Ende gebrachte Neuordnung des TCC Fudi den Kuratoren etwas ausführlicher darlegen und erläutern zu können. Wir haben keine überladene Tagesordnung, so dass wir Fudi wirklich etwas Zeit widmen könnten. Buchen Sie doch also Ihr Return-Ticket entsprechend. Es ist ja nie schlecht, wenn man einen Termin vor sich hat, bis zu dem man möglichst alle Angelegenheiten erledigt.

Wir hatten den interessanten Besuch von Prinzipal Dr.Minz hier, der uns

vor allen Dingen sehr Aufschlussreiches über den Stand der Überlegungen für die neue Verfassung der G.E.L. Church entwickelte, an der er offenbar nicht unerheblichen Anteil hat; das klang alles nicht schlecht, was er entfaltete. Wenn es so wird, wie bisher gedacht, würde es einen wesentlichen Schritt zur Überwindung der tribal disturbances darstellen und das ist von entscheidender Bedeutung. Auch der Weg zu einer Union mit der entstehenden Kirche von Nordindien wäre wesentlich erleichtert. Lassen Sie sich doch einmal einige Einzelheiten von Präsident Minz oder Paul Singh erzählen, wenn diese darüber sprechen dürfen, was im Gange ist.

Die ungeheuere Flutkatastrophe östlich von Calcutta im Golf von Bengalen hat uns sehr betroffen gemacht und geschmerzt. Was für eine Fülle von Elend und Trauer ist also wiederum auf dem indischen Subkontinent eingekehrt.

Möchten Sie gute Tage haben und mit Ihren Dingen vorankommen. Wie gern würde man als Europäer im dunklen November jetzt im sonnigen Indien mit Ihnen tauschen. Herzliche und getreuliche Grüsse von allen hier im Haus

Ihr

30th Oct 1970

~~851 30 61~~

Mo/e

An das
Diakonische Werk
z.Hd. Fräulein Urbig
7 Stuttgart 1
Alexanderstraße 23

Dear Miss Urbig,

As promised during our telephone conversation, enclosed please find a request from Dr. Mathew for medical instruments. As I understood from our conversation you will send the instruments through the National Christian Council (CASA).

It was nice to speak to you on the telephone again. I will be in touch with you on returning from India, if you wish to contact me Dr. Berg can give you my address.

With sincere greetings to you all

12 CHEYNE CLOSE
HENDON. LONDON. N. W. 4
TEL: 202-9699

18th October 1970.

Gossner Mission
B E R L I N

attention Pastor M. Seeberg.

Dear Pastor Seeberg,

Confirming my recent telephone conversation with you I am pleased to be able to tell you that the result of my visit to USPG in London was from our point of view most satisfactory. I was put in touch with Cannon Salsman who is in charge of Indian affairs. He was most enthusiastic with the possibility of the GELC working together with the Anglican Church in Ranchi re-Fudi. He of course pointed out that it was up to the Bishop in Ranchi to apply for funds, but the USPG were very hopefull of supplying stipends from England for students at TTC Fudi. They are replying to your letter directly to Berlin, in the meantime Canon Salsman will meet me in Ranchi in the middle of December as he is going on a trip to India around that time. I will of course keep you informed on the outcome of this meeting when it takes place.

Enclosed please find some literature I picked up during my visit to USPG House. I think that not only will Brother Schwerk be interested in the Zambia brief, but it may well match in with a general conversation I had with Brother Schwerk about supplying the Gossner Buchhandlung with English reading matter. Perhaps we could discuss this further when I am in Berlin.

Also enclosed is a copy of Lutheran Woman, on pages 4 and 5 you will see the report on the activities of the USPG amongst the congregations here in Britain. Although I am all for working together of all the Churches, and I know that the this is the trend for the future, I think that perhaps this kind of idea could well be copied by us, especially in view of the report you gave to the Kuratorium recently on means of getting to the congregations. I hope that you do not think I am putting my nose into GM affairs, I think you realise my genuine ~~interest~~ interest.

With my kind regards to all friends at Gossner Haus, looking forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Martin

LUTHERAN WOMAN NEWS

Published by

THE LUTHERAN WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION OF THE LUTHERAN COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN

October 1970

Adresses of the Officers of L.W.A.

President: Mrs. W.Lewent,
25,Milford Close,
Allesley, Coventry.

Vice-President: Mrs. B. Belcher,
Lutheran Church House,
86,Cotton Lane,
Moseley, Birmingham 13.

Treasurer: Mrs. B. Bertulis,
82 Somersby Road,
Woodthorpe, Nottingham.

Secretary: Miss I.Mc.Namara,
51,Ottawa Road,
Leicester.

Ass. Secretary: Mrs. J.Machokas,
4 Abbotts Road,
Leicester.

Editor: Mrs. B. Schneider,
3, Woodstock Ave.,
London N.W. 11.

Remember? The Tenth Annual Convention of the Lutheran Women's Association held in Hothorpe Hall on June 13-14th, 1970

Theme:"Sent into the World".

The Convention was opened by Mrs. Lewent. An informal evening followed with slides about a school for blind people in India.(Friday)
Saturday began with a Communion Service at the chapel in Hothorpe Hall held by Pastorin Meyer.

1) Business Meeting:
   a) President's Report. Mrs.Lewent spoke about the activities of the L.W.A. during the past year and of plans for the future.
   b) Reports of the Treasurer,
   c) the Editor,
   d) the Vice-President followed. Mrs. Belcher talked about the various rallies.
   e) Mrs. Patkai reported on the 'British Council of Churches Inter-Cosultative Committee'. She spoke about their aim and programme and their lively interest in such topics as Education, Church in the East Block etc..
2) Election of Officers.
   The present President Mrs. Lewent and the present TreasurerMrs. Bertulis were unanimously re-elected for a further 2 yrs. of office.
3) Report by Mrs. Sundheim on the Bible Camps at Hothorpe Hall. Mrs. Sundheim said that between 60-80 children attend such a camp and how much they always enjoyed it. Contributions for these international Children's Camps were always very much appriciated.
   The offering taken was this time for Hothorpe Hall Projects, as it is Hothorpe Hall Year.
4) Projects 1970/71
   It was agreed that the present projects should continue to receive our support. (Support of children for the Bible Camp, Lutheran Student House, World Refugees.)
   Apart from that it was suggested for the Lutheran Women's Association to adopt a young child in India or one of the underdeveloped countries through the 'U.S.P.G.' by contributing approx. £30-£35 a year. No decision was reached and the matter was adjourned for further thought.
   More about it on the following pages of this newsletter.
5) Talk by Pastorin Meyer on the 'Lutheran World Federation', its origin, its gradual development up to the present time.
6) Pastor Litzner spoke about the year's theme 'Sent into the World'. He stressed the point that it is up to each one of us to fulfill the ministry of Christ. We are his ambassadors and should carry his torch owing allegiance to him above all other. This challenge was given to all of us and the ways and means left open to each individual. The oppurtunities are great, the choice and initiative are up to us!

A NEW PEOPLE FOR A NEW AGE.

You are probably tired by now of hearing about "the Future" or Living in the 70ties".
Nevertheless we have to face reality for ourselves and our children and certain facts as mentioned in an extract from a German newspaper which you will find printed below.
I quote" In practice it means for the individual a four-workday-week and the seven-day rythm will disappear."
Is not that going to be a complete change in our traditional weekly cycle?
Or "We will in future not only become older but remain young longer."
And how are we going to fill our lives usefully and satisfyingly.
These and other thoughts are behind the theme of the year which the Executive Committee of the L.W.A. chose at their meeting last month.
We took the wording from the Women's World Day of Prayer order for March 5th, 1971.
As we are now represented on the British organizing committee of this day we want to sponsor the thoughts behind it as well.
(If you want the new order of service, please let me know.)
German speaking women groups will find many hints and useful information in the "Laetarehefte" from the "Muetterdienst -Stein".
If you need any further assistance with the planning of your programmes, please write.
Why not use the article I mentioned (printed below) for a group discussion?
I see this as one of the tasks of your Executive Committee to come to the aid of those groups who want it.
Another is to further cooperation between Lutheran women in Britain by information through this paper about one another's activities.
And thirdly to create interests in problems other than the ones facing us daily at home, in our congregations, our groups. This is done through a project as described by Mrs. Schneider: "We adopt a child from overseas!"

Sometimes we get very disheartened when our good intentions are not recognized and efforts seem wasted. However new hope lies in prayer such as a verse from our "Convention song":

Wisdom grant, and courage, too, to proceed with patience daily,
Walking in Your footsteps gaily. Wisdom grant, and courage,too.

Waltraut Lewent.

Extracts from an article in a German newspaper.

Development of science and technology and their costs.
At the moment every 20 years the discoveries of important physicists and the number of students pro 1000 inhabitants double; every 15 years the number of students with degrees, the number of science journals, the members of science institutionsand of known chemical compounds double; every 10 years the number of telephones, of engineers and of used electricity doubles, and every 5 years we spend double the amount on science and development.

Distances shrink.
The capacity of computers become tenfold every two years.
In 1840 the highest speed with which men could move was 40 km/h. Today we fly to the moon with 40,000 km/h and the speed for trips to Mars is estimated with 120,000 km/h.

Population increases.
Every time our heart beats three children are born into this world, 4.100 per hour, 125 millions per year. The 3,4 milliards living probably on earth today will have increased to 7 milliards in the year 2000.

How will people live?
Towns and cities will increase with the population. Today there are approximately 500 million townspeople. In 2000 they will have increased to 80 or 85% of the worlds population, 4,5 milliards. Megapols will develop, city landscapes with 250 or 300 square km and 30 millions inhabitants or more.
There might - as Richard Maier from the University of Michigan predicts - 700 million people be living in the area of Calcutta. The town and country planning will gain importance in leaps and bounds. Oldfashioned ideas about ownership which hinders progress will be abolished; and there will be financial arrangements which do not envisage that men build for eternity. Nobody can envisage any longer - as in 1933 the Charta of Athens could - an ideal of a town. The mobility will be much more the aim; the idea is to build so that you can already change it tomorrow, after the principle of building bricks with new materials and methods, with standard elements, which you can exchange in levels that lie above one another.

continues...

Extract from an article in a German newspaper continued:

Time for leisure - time for work, a new problem.
Americans work approximately 2000 hours per year. Europeans a little longer. If we renounced the increase in our standard of living and were content with less 1100 hours per year would be sufficient. Then there would be 147 working days against 218 holidays. It is likely that the endeavour and productivity will be maintained during the next decades. But even under these conditions a decrease in working hours to 1600 per year is conceivableand is therefore to be expected. In practice this means for the individual a four-day-week and at the same time the seven-day rythm will dissolve.

Aspects of medical-biological research results.
Before we succeed to interfere with our genes and gain power over evolution in order to create supermen medical-biological developments will change completely our surrounding and our conscience. For years we have observed earlier puberty in children which lead to earlier sexuell desires. The change of life in women occurs later and later and through that follows a deep transformation of the role of women in modern society.
People become taller and probably through earlier maturity more intelligent. Height and intelligence may already tomorrow possibly be manipulated ad lib through the hormone for growth analysed by the American scientist Dr, Li. Mothers who have been injected during pregnancy with this hormone gave birth to children with a much higher IQ than normal. But their heads were so large that they had to be brought into the world by a Caesarian operation. At the same time more and more disease will vanish from our surroundings. Already in 15 years hence 70% of all cancer cases should be curable; heart troubles not be a medical problem and the barriers which still hinder the continous success of transplantations could be overcome. Specially reared pigs will serve as heart donors and organ banks will offer the needed tissues. Also gerontology and geriatry will advance greatly so that expectation of life will soon be lenghtened to 85 years and at the time physical and mental decay will be slowed down. We will in future not only become older but at the same time remain young longer. ----

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So much about the new age we are expected to cope with. In the following letter somebody from Nottingham tells us about the activities of their women's group:

From Nottingham: We meet twice a month on a Friday under the leadership of Mrs. Seger and start with a Biblereading. Our work is in German and English. Mrs. Seger is never tired of finding and discussing new ideas to help people in our own parish and overseas.
Nottingham is very proud to have a wonderful congregation in German and English and thanks to unceasing efforts of our Pastor we have now a wonderful centre for young and old - Frauenkreis - engl. Youthgroup - engl. Confirmation Classes - and now we have a German-English Playgroup.
Nottingham is so grateful to all concerned who helped to build up this Nottingham Centre, especially Pastor Seger and Mrs. Seger.
As a sign for our thankfulness we thought we could not keep the gift to ourselves, we had to do something for others.
Mrs. Seger found a wonderful way at the last years Kirchentag and she got in touch with "Aktionsgemeinschaft für die Hungernden" and had the idea to adopt a little boy from the Children's Garden School in Mylapore - Madras South India.
After writing letters and letters we now have a little boy. His name is C. Prabhaker, 7 or 8 years old. His health is not too good. His father is a servant at the school and has to work very hard, his mother is illiterate. So we decided together with the church council to undertake this task and find ways to pay for this little boy's education and to keep in touch with him. We promised to pay approx. £ 30 a year over 7 years and we hope we will succeed. We had already 2 jumble sales to pay for two years.
We are also busy working for Basars.
I mentioned the playgroup we formed. The reason for starting such an undertaking is in the same line.
We could not keep the rooms to ourselves alone and the response gave us the assurance that we were right in this.
I think very often of the Film "Paruschka" where a lovely young country girl answers a Student who tells her that he loves her all the time:
"Musst nicht immer sagen, musst auch tun!"

Another letter from Mrs, Kraemer in Liverpool follows on the next page.
p.t.o.

Mrs. Kraemer writes: At the end of last year we made over £100 from our Bazaar, from which we have taken almost £70 to pay for nine children belonging to our church for a holiday in Hothorpe Hall in July/August. We are all quite sure that this youngsters will have a grand time in this spacious, healthy and happy community.

We have just paid out £30 for plants, shrubs and trees which have been planted in the garden of our church, which , unfortunately, stands in the midst of poor and grim surroundings,but when one sees green grass and a colourful garden, it helps not to notice, too much, the neighbourhood.

This month (June) we are having a "Sommerfest" in our church hall. The tickets are selling very nicely. We will have gay German music, caterers to serve our refreshments, lager beer and wine to drink, and we are hoping to have a happy evening. How lucky we are here in Liverpool to have as our new Minister Pastor Volker and his wife from Berlin; they are young, energetic, friendly. Already the numbers have increased in the service as well as in our monthly meeting of the Women's Group which is held in the vicarage.
Pastor Volker welcomes all the ladies and then we have a discussion over"the theme" of the evening, for example "Die Bibel in der Hand des modernen Menschen".

The Volkers gave a coffee morning with "bring & buy" for the Christian Aid Week. Although the weather was miserable, cold and wet, £15.19.0 was raised.

The ladies of Liverpool send their greetings.

Last not least: Our - the Lutheran Women's Association's - Project.
Many of you will remember that it was suggested in Hothorpe Hall at the annual Convention to adopt a child through the L.W.A. as some congregations have already done and also private persons in our Lutheran Church on their own account. We feel quite sure that we could do it but of course we must be sure of your agreement and cooperation. At the end of this newsletter you will find a detachable slip. Please cut it off and send it to Mrs. Bertulis(the treasurer) accompanied by your cheque or postal order.
If you prefer you can send your agreement and donation as a group - it may save bother and postage. But - please do it soon to enable us to make the final arrangements.
The necessary information follows below.

Thank you,

the Editor.

UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL.

USPG SCHOLARSHIPS

What are Scholarships?

Uspg operates a Scholarship Scheme by which individuals and school or parish groups promise to send a certain sum of money each year either towards the support and education of a particular child in a Mission School or Hostel overseas, or towards the support and education of children in a particular Mission School or Hostel overseas.

The reason for the alternative schemes is because a number of people and groups prefer to feel they are helping a particular child, in whom they can take a personal interest, while others are content for their support to go to the school or hostel, and to receive news of any of the children who can be helped because the school or hostel can admit them.

In both cases USPG receives reports and newsletters about the schools or hostels generally, and in the case of individually supported children an annual progress report ist received, with additional letters written either by the children themselves or on their behalf. It must be remembered that not all children are able to write letters in English, but letters in the vernacular are always accompanied by a translation.
Where possible, snapshots of the children are sent to supporters and in many cases USPG is able to compile sets of small black and white photographs, simply mounted on card, which are lent to supporters if they wish to have them. In addition,there is usually visual aid material available in the form of transparencies or filmstrips.

continues -
p.t.o.

USPG Scholarships continued -

Why Scholarships?

Scholarships are always very much appreciated overseas; and they enable children to be taken in the Mission School or Hostel while attending Government schools who could not otherwise benefit from Christian education. Many, who in past years have received help through the USPG Scholarships, are now priests, teachers, doctors, or nurses, and are ministering to their own people. Very many others have married and are helping to build Christian homes in their own countries. Some of them are now parents with several children of their own. Knowing how much they themselves gained from a Christian education, they want to send their children to Christian schools, but find it difficult to pay all their fees.

How do they work?

The scheme has a wide appeal both to individuals and also to the children in their day schools and Sunday schools , in Adventurers' branches and weekly clubs; to members of parish Youth Groups; and to the different adult organisations as well.

What does it cost?

The cost of a Scholarship varies very much according to the place and whether the child is a boarder or day scholar. A day scholar may need about £ 10 a year, a boarder from £ 20 to £60. When one group cannot undertake a large payment each year, USPG tries to arrange for two or more groups to contribute towards the support of one child overseas, and therefore the promise of any amount, however small, is very welcome.

This scheme , however, does give a very narrow outlook on missionary work if Scholarship subscribers give all their money to one boy or girl overseas. Before we can support the individual child, we must have the priest and teacher at work, the church and hospital built. It is, therefore, vital to support the USPG General Fund. Then the child may fall sick and need hospital treatment, and the care of doctors and nurses; so the Medical Missions Fund is necessary too.

Therefore,we suggest that because many people like to have their special piece of work with its particular interest, they may choose to undertake a scholarship, but at the same time they should allocate part of their giving each year to USPG General Fund and to Medical Missions.
Thus a wider and more varied interest is assured and the whole work of the Church overseas is supported.

So far the information of USPG. This does seem a very appealing, sensible and simple way of helping others.
Please let Mrs. Bertulis have your answer soon.
Cheques and postal orders to be made payable to"Lutheran Women's Association."

And here the slip:

Our group/I wish to support a child in a mission school.
We/I understand that the amount is to be paid annually and that L.W.A. is responsible for the contribution of that amount until the scholar leaves that school.

We/I enclose a cheque for..... towards this year's contribution of the Lutheran Women's Association.

Date:..... Signature:.....

Address:.....

.....

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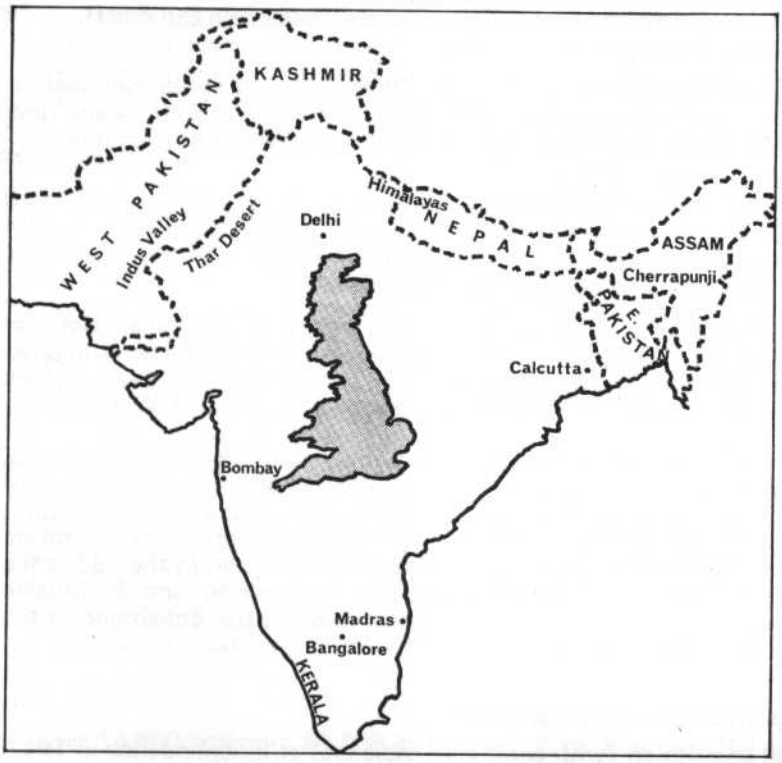
brief on INDIA

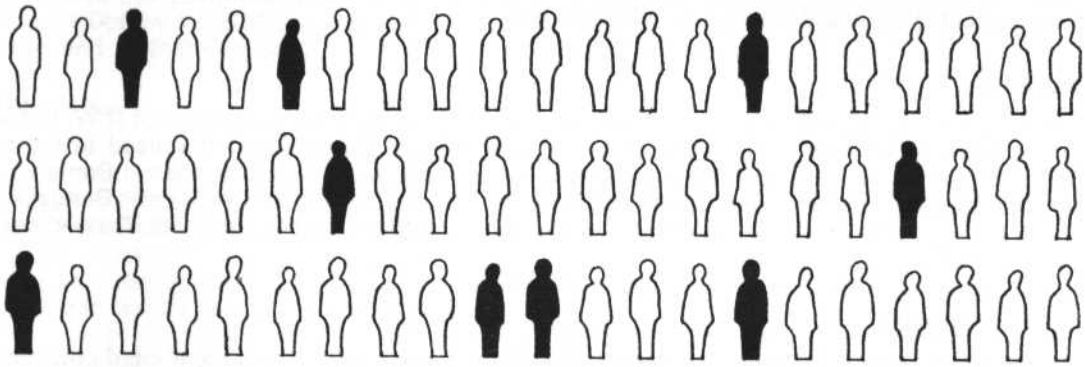
Price 6d.



Ten times the size of U.K. Ten times as many people

THE LAND

India is the seventh biggest country in the world. There are some 560,000 villages. She has part of the highest mountain range in the world, the Himalaya, and lands (like the Kerala rice fields) so low that the water has to be pumped out before crops can be sown. There are great deserts where it never rains, but at Cherrapunji in Assam it rains 150 inches in a few months. 80% of the people live in villages, but there are vast cities like Calcutta, with 6½ million people (the second largest city in the Commonwealth).



POPULATION

There are over 500,000,000 Indians, which means that one of every seven persons in the world's population is an Indian. But at the present annual growth rate of 2.5% the population will cross the thousand million mark by the turn of the century.

LANGUAGE

India is a single nation, but it has fourteen major languages and more than 2,000 dialects. So there is need for a link language. Since Hindi is spoken by less than half the population the only language which could easily meet the need is English (usable by many people in every part of the country). The passions aroused by language in India today (as in many countries) make the most obvious solution unacceptable – which would have been to use both Hindi and English as official languages. The problem remains involved and intractable.

HISTORY

2500 B.C – 1500 B.C.	Indus Valley civilisation.
1500 B.C.	Aryans from central Asia invade.
518 B.C.	Darius I of Persia invades.
483 B.C.	Buddha dies aged 80.
326 B.C.	Alexander the Great of Greece invades.
322 B.C. – 185 B.C.	Mauryan Empire (Asoka 273 – 232 B.C. became a Buddhist).
320 A.D. – 450 A.D.	Gupta Empire.

The fall of the Guptas marks the end of ancient India. There followed seven centuries of migrations and political confusion, which began with the invasion of the Huns. Many new peoples were assimilated into the Hindu system. Then came six centuries of Muslim rule:

1192	Turks conquer Delhi.
1193 – 1388	Delhi Sultanate (Tughluc Empire)
1398	Tamerlane invades.
1526 – 1750	Moghul Empire (Akbar 1556–1605 — exactly contemporary with Elizabethan England and no less civilised).

By 1803 the British were in Delhi. In 1885, with the first meeting of the Indian National Congress, modern India was born. Supported at the outset by a group of liberal-minded Englishmen (three were Presidents of Congress between 1885 and 1900), it sought a share in the direction of government and the process of legislation. After the first World War it sought self-government.

Gandhi transformed Congress from a western political body into the voice of the new India, with Hinduism as its common culture and way of life. The British contributions – the rule of law, the administration of India as a single country, – nineteenth century liberal thought in fact made India conscious of her nationality, and then led on to ardent nationalism. There are about six Hindus to every Muslim in the whole subcontinent of India, and in the 1930s the Muslims, led by Jinnah and fearing Hindu control of India, left Congress to form the Muslim League. From now on Congress was fighting on two fronts: to expel the British and at the same time to obtain sole control of the country.

15 AUGUST 1947, Independence – and Partition

The Hindu-Muslim split led to partition (with communal violence) at Independence in 1947, and to the establishment of two nations, India and Pakistan. By its Constitution the new State was declared secular, caste to have no legal force, and untouchability abolished. Nehru, its first Prime Minister, dominated the whole Indian scene. Under his astonishing personal ascendancy India pursued a policy of neutralism abroad and a controlled economy at home. Modern Indians, many of them Hindus, have adopted a Western view of equality and progress, and a scientific outlook. There has been a bold official campaign to abolish caste, and its force has diminished since Independence. But Hinduism itself resists these principles. It approves caste; personality is something not to be developed but to be shed; it renounces the world and thus conflicts with the Western scientific outlook.

PEOPLE

India has been occupied by three main racial types: Dravidians (the inhabitants of N.W. India driven south by the Aryans), Caucasians and Mongolians. These have intermixed to form, along with invaders from the north-west, the seven main racial types of today: Punjabis; Rajputs; the people of the Ganges and Jumna basins (the core of modern Hinduism); Bengalis; Gujaratis; Marathis; and the Dravidian peoples of the south – Tamils, Andhras, Kannadigas and Malayalis.

GOVERNMENT

The Indian Union is a federation. It has a written Constitution with power distributed between the central and state Governments. The balance of power is tilted in favour of the centre, and the concept of Parliamentary government is modelled on that of Britain. The head of the Union is the President in whom all executive power is vested, to be exercised on the advice of ministers responsible to Parliament. The Council of Ministers is headed by the Prime Minister. The Upper House is called the Council of States and the Lower House the House of the People, or Lok Sabha. A similar pattern of government is repeated in each of the 17 States. Every citizen over 21 has a vote. In the 1967 elections the Congress Party had its first set-back for 20 years. In eight States non-Congress governments took office, but these have in some cases had to resign. No single alternative party is yet capable of forming a government at the centre. The three main opposition parties are: Jan Sangh, the champion of Hindu revivalism and the Hindi speaking north; Swatantra Party, pro-Western and the lobby of the private sector rather than the public; and the Communist Party.

ECONOMY

Through the three Five Year Plans from 1950–1965, the national income increased by about 69%. There was a four-fold increase in electricity generating capacity, a three-fold increase in the freight carrying capacity of the railways, and a near-doubling of the mileage of surfaced roads. Industrial production increased, particularly in finished steel, aluminium ingots, machine tools, sulphuric acid, cement, nitrogenous fertilisers, coal, iron ore, and petroleum products. But now two bad monsoons, and two minor wars (China and Pakistan) have pushed Indian planning over the edge. The fourth Five Year Plan has been postponed. Advance now demands a new form of political stability, an increase in foreign aid and trade, and the development of agricultural production.

AGRICULTURE

The rainfall in 1967 led to more serious flooding than usual. But a record grain harvest has followed the unprecedented droughts of 1965-66 and 1966-67. In addition there is hope in the present Government policy of Intensive Agricultural Areas Programme (IAAP) which is to provide cultivators with the necessary facilities of irrigation waters, fertilisers, and tested seeds. In spite of the normal conservatism of villagers many farmers, though only a minority, are ready and willing to try new methods. Fertiliser consumption has increased by 50% in each of the last two years, and private investment in mechanical pump sets and wells has added millions of acres to irrigated land. Materials for plant protection, rural electrification, more tractors and implements, and improved rural transportation can make the agricultural revolution a reality. The size and complexity of the task is forbidding, but with vigour and vision India can emerge from the age of famine.

EDUCATION

70 out of 100 adults are still illiterate, but there are seventy Universities, 3,400 general and professional colleges and 133 engineering colleges. There are 500,000 schools, but out of every 100 children who enter primary school, nearly half drop out before Grade IV. There are over two million teachers but still a great shortage, especially in secondary schools.

HEALTH

India has 14,600 hospitals, 86,000 doctors and 45,000 nurses. The average expectation of life has increased from 32 to 50 since Independence. The death rate from diseases such as malaria, cholera and smallpox has dropped from 27 to 17 per 1,000, and infant mortality from 183 to 109 per 1,000.

UNDERLYING NEED

Agriculture is developing and it must. There are too many pupils for the teachers. The expectation of life has increased. All these factors make family planning a condition of tolerable life. The aim of the Government Family Planning Service is to bring the birth rate down from 41 to 25 per 1,000 by 1976. Free consultation and services are provided through a network of 1,634 urban and 20,869 rural family welfare centres and sub-centres.

RELIGION

Hinduism is a religion of indeterminable age and vast contemporary devotion. The Vedas, or four sacred books, are regarded as inspired revelation. The most important, the Rigveda, is an anthology of over 1,000 poems and was compiled about 1200 B.C. Some time after 500 B.C. two great epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, were composed, and Hinduism was born.

It is the most spacious of all religions, with comfortable accommodation for the disciples of one god, many gods or no god at all, for the worship of animals, ancestors and ideas. Yet there are certain beliefs held by almost all Hindus:

Each man possesses an 'atma' or soul, which is a spark of that Great Soul, or 'Parmatma', God himself. It is the highest duty of all to blow that spark through ceaseless devotion and obedience to the commands of the sacred scriptures, into the flame which will merge at last with the divine fire. In that ultimate absorption lies the only escape from the otherwise interminable miseries of life, death and rebirth.

Hinduism gives moral meaning to the whole system of caste, which is sustained by two concepts of Karma and Dharma. *Karma* (transmigration), proclaims that the Hindu is born into a particular caste because of his deeds in a previous life. *Dharma* (duty), demands that he should accept his station without protest, performing its functions as well as possible.

Hinduism is not a sect or a church. It is a body of customs and ideas. Each caste is an occupational division and the Hindu's duty is to preserve the family unit and its caste system. The outcastes are permanently the lowest grade in the system. Mahatma Gandhi achieved a beginning of their recognition within the Hindu community, calling them Harijans, (People of God). Muslims in India still number some 47 million, Sikhs 8 million, and Buddhists about 3½ million.

CHRISTIANITY

In India Christianity is in a curious position. The period of its expansion was the period of Empire, and thus to the Indian mind it is to some extent tarred with the imperialist brush. It is also alien to the Hindu past which forms so great a part of the nationalism of modern secular India. Christians, though 12 million, are few and far between in a nation of 500 million, and many are converts not from Hinduism but from tribal animism.

On the other hand Christian institutions (particularly hospitals and schools) have had an importance to India quite disproportionate to the size of the Christian community. Ninety per cent of the nurses in India today are Christians, to take only one example. Thus the focus of effort on the part of foreign missionaries in India is to pass on skills and responsibilities as quickly as possible to Indian nationals. Every foreign missionary in India knows that he or she is there on sufferance. The Government may at any time withdraw permission to work, and the work must be carried on by an Indian.

This does not mean the missionary effort is running down. Whether or not they are supported by the presence of qualified foreigners Indian church members will themselves continue the pioneering work they have in hand.

The National Christian Council of India represents the Anglican Church and many of the Protestant Churches throughout India, and speaks on their behalf, e.g. to the Government. CASA is the NCCI Christian Agency for Social Action, Relief and Development. Originally purely a relief organisation, it has now moved into community development and rehabilitation, with special emphasis on agricultural development. The National Christian Council also supports the Ecumenical, Social and Industrial Institute, constituted in 1963 to serve the rapidly growing industrial belt of N.E. India. Among the main aims of the Institute is the 'formation of Christian groups in industry and society and training of leadership in these areas. Bangalore is the largest industrial centre in South India, where a Christian group called Industrial Team Service is exploring the human implications of the technological explosion, and the Christian Institute for the Study of Religion and Society develops inter-faith dialogue at several levels.

These are small activities on the part of the small, and poor, Christian community, but they may be seminal in the building of India. If Christianity is influential in India it is not as a mass-movement, but as leaven or salt.

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

There are about 450,000 Anglicans and thirteen dioceses in the Indian part of the Church of India, Pakistan, Burma and Ceylon. All receive regular support through USPG. In 8 dioceses Anglicans are less than 1 in a 1,000. But despite the smallness of its numbers the Indian Church is already self-supporting in several respects. A village congregation, for example, pays most of the cost of its church building, and its share of the salary of its priest (who may have 14 other villages in his care). Very few of the USPG grants nowadays go towards the support of indigenous clergy or other workers, since this is regarded as the responsibility of the Indian Church. But the Church continues to require substantial help from outside for education, medicine and capital projects. Anglicans and six other non-Roman Churches hope by 1970 to unite as the Church of North India.

THE CHURCH OF SOUTH INDIA

The CSI was inaugurated in 1947, a Union between Methodists, Presbyterians, Congregationalists and Anglicans. It has 15 dioceses, and USPG supports missionaries in 4 of them, including members of the CSI Order for Women. There is a special CSI Aid Fund through which USPG supporters can send money to CSI.

POINTS FOR DISCUSSION AND PRAYER

1. Too many people + unreliable food supplies + extremes of poverty. Which elements in this problem call for action from the *tiny* Indian Church?
2. Foreign investment and aid helped to develop India's industry. Who is going to buy her products?
3. What is our British equivalent of the caste-system?
4. Ought we in the Church of England to expect the Indian Church to pay all its own running expenses?
5. Like Mahatma Gandhi many Hindus admire and revere Christ. What more should Christians expect of them?
6. Are there any special reasons why the Church of India is nearer unity than we are?

Published by

THE UNITED SOCIETY FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE GOSPEL

15 Tufton Street, London SW1

O.B.-5M-10.68

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24.August 1970
drbg/sz

Herrn
Robert M o n t a g
c/o Technical Training Centre
F u d i P.O. / Dt.Ranchi/Bihar
India

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Eben liegt nun in der Post das erste Lebenszeichen von Ihnen nach dem Sie vor 3 1/2 Wochen hier abflogen - und was für ein gewichtiges gleich! Sie haben also binnen weniger Wochen das Kunststück fertiggebracht, die höchsten Vertreter der katholischen und der anglikanischen Kirche mit unseren Gossner-Leuten auf dem TTC compound zu versammeln und das Steuer in Richtung Bildung des Trust zu stellen. Soweit es aus dem Protokoll hervorgeht, scheint das Echo ja sehr hoffnungsvoll zu sein und ich beglückwünsche Sie zu dem Erfolg. Mögen die nächsten unerlässlichen Schritte bald folgen, von denen der wichtigste zweifellos die formelle Zustimmung der 3 Kirchen ist, weil dann die technischen Details der Trust-Bildung eine wohl langwierige, aber sekundäre Prozedur darstellen.

Wir hätten hier natürlich eine Fülle von Detail-Fragen zu stellen, aber ich will sie unterdrücken, weil das im mündlichen Report von Ihnen eines Tages nachgeholt werden kann. Am interessierendsten ist natürlich die Frage, ob und warum Sie - wahrscheinlich bewusst! - die Industrie (Karnani) und das Government (etwa Distrikt Ranchi) herausgelassen haben, aber das hängt wohl damit zusammen, dass Sie zunächst nur den Bereich der Lehre und nicht die Produktion in den Trust einbringen wollen.
Nun, dieses heute kurze Echo sollte Ihnen und Bruder Hertel doch sagen, wie froh wir sind, dass die Dinge in verheissungsvoller Entwicklung sind. Vielleicht hat mein offizieller Brief an das TCC in der ganzen Frage, den ich Rev.Minz mitgab, ein wenig dazu verholfen.

Wir erwarten in absehbarer Zeit noch eine Nachricht von Ihnen, wie lange Sie zu bleiben gedenken und für wie lange Sie Ihren Aufenthalt für nötig erachten, Sie wissen, dass Bruder Seebergs Brief an Freund Hertel Ihnen bis November, dem offenbar nächsten Termin der vollen KSS-Sitzung, Zeit liess. Erwägen Sie doch, ob im Laufe der nächsten Woche eine Fahrt zu zweit zu den Schweizern in Süd-Indien zwecks wertvoller Informierung über den Weg, den die Entwicklung dortgenommen hat, erfolgen sollte. Einer von Ihnen dreien müsste wohl in Fudi bleiben, aber zwei könnten sich gewiss gut freimachen.

Übrigens erhielten wir von Rev.Minz sehr schnell Nachricht, dass Sie Ihren Botendienst erwartungsgemäss erfüllt haben. Die Regulierung hat sicher noch Zeit bis zu Ihrer Rückkehr oder? Nun, Sie werden von sich hören lassen.

Sagen Sie mit herzlichen Grüssen Freund Hertel, dass die Ersatzteile, die er dringlich erbat, besorgt sind, Absendung und spezifizierte Nachricht darüber folgen in diesen Tagen. Nun weiterhin guten Erfolg in allen notwendigen Aktionen. Mit herzlichen Grüssen für Sie und alle Freunde

stets Ihr

Auszug aus dem Brief von P. Seeberg aus Takarma vom 20.2.1970

Was wir uns merken sollten: Am 19. Mai will Montag in London sein, um seinen 50. Geburtstag und gleichzeitig Silberhochzeit zu feiern.

Nachträglich Ihre

Ihrer Familie Berlin gedenkt Ihrer
Doppelten Festtage mit herzlichen Segenswünschen

Christian Berg

Wiedervorlage 4.5.

Aufgegeben am 19.5.70

D

13. April 1970
drbg/d.

xxxxxxxxxxx 8513061

Mr. Robert Montag
Aid for Children Programme
266 Phan dinh Phung

S a i g o n
South Vietnam

3.V.71.

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Es war gut, Ihren Brief vom 3. April heute, 10 Tage später, wohlbehalten zu empfangen und daraus zu ersehen, daß es Ihnen in hektischer Arbeit und Betriebsamkeit an einer der unruhigsten Stellen der Welt wohlgeht. Möchte das so bleiben!

Was Ihre Arbeit dort betrifft, so habe ich doch nur eine verhältnismäßig beschränkte Vorstellung davon, stelle mir aber immer wieder vor, daß sie - bei sehr viel größeren Schwierigkeiten als vor 4 Jahren in Calcutta - sehr ähnlich angelegt ist. Das bedeutet natürlich, daß Sie bei der Größe des Engagements des Diakonischen Werkes in Deutschland auf eine entsprechende Selbständigkeit gegenüber dem Asian Chrstian Service achten müssen, wie es ja wohl auch damals in Indien gegenüber Cooke/P.C. Joseph der Fall war. Hoffentlich sind die Reibungen nicht zu stark und es läßt sich doch immer wieder eine brüderliche Abstimmung in der Hilfe an Tausenden ärmster Kinder erzielen. Nun, Sie werden ja dann näheres berichten, wenn Sie hoffentlich im Mai einmal einschauen und Sie wiederum gern gesehener Gast im Gossnerhaus sind.

Wann wird das übrigens sein? Auf Ihrem Hinflug nach London oder nach dem 19. Mai? Ich hoffe sehr, Sie nicht zu verfehlen, da ich am 3. Juni mit meiner Frau in den Urlaub aufbreche.

Was Ihre freundliche Absicht betrifft, die Sie eingangs Ihres Briefes zum Ausdruck bringen, nochmals für uns tätig zu werden, so handelt es sich um die Größenordnung von 4.000 britische Einheiten. Ich nehme an, daß der zweite Mann in Fudi aus seinem Nepal-Urlaub Anfang Mai zurück sein wird und Ihnen ab 10. Mai spätestens zur Verfügung steht und behilflich ist. Die Hälfte ist für die Arbeit von Dr. Singh bestimmt, die andere Hälfte bleibt beim TTC. Herr Lenz läßt Ihnen danken für die Erinnerung durch den Zettel, den Sie beifügten, aber die Sache war schon in Ordnung gebracht.

Herr Pastor Seeberg, nach dem Sie sich freundlich erkundigen, ist wohlbehalten mit vielerlei Eindrücken zurückgekehrt: In Fudi waren sie recht positiv, das Arzt-Ehepaar Horo hat den Vertrag mit Amgaon ab 1. Juli 1970 unterzeichnet, was eine große Entlastung für uns bedeutet, und die Spalterbewegung der Herren Tiga/Lakra/Minj beurteilt er auch nach einem zweiten Besuch in Ranchi Anfang März als ziemlich verheißungslos. Ihr Urteil bestätigt sich immer wieder, daß die jüngere Generation der Gossnerkirche von den Zerfereien der verbohrten Granden doch nichts mehr wissen will. Eine wesentliche Veränderung der letzten Verfassung hat sein Gremium nicht erreicht und auch wohl nicht erreichen können, aber darüber wird er Ihnen selber einiges sagen können, wenn Sie hier sind.

Schade, daß Sie den Besuch von Direktor Hahn nicht empfangen konnten. Es hätte ihm sicher gut getan, die konkrete Situation in Saigon zu sehen und Ihren Dienst würdigen zu können.

Wir erwidern jedenfalls aus dem Missionshaus Ihre Grüße und Wünsche aufs herzlichste. Übermitteln Sie solche auch Herrn Dr. Palla, den wir hoffentlich in der ersten Hälfte des Monats Juli hier begrüßen können.

In alter Verbundenheit und der Hoffnung, Sie in wenigen Wochen gesund und frisch in die Tür treten zu sehen, bin ich Ihr

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT - NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

April 3rd 1970.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
Berlin.

Dear Dr.Berg,

Many thanks for your last letter, the contents have been noted and I will arrange the matter on my way back to Europe in May.

May I also take this opportunity, although it is somewhat late, of wishing you, your family, and all my good friends in the Gossner Mission a very blessed Easter. I always feel at this particular Christian period that we should all try and follow the teachings of Him, and in our own small way try and imitate His life, especially all of us engaged in the work of the Christian Church.

I would be most interested to hear more about the outcome of Pastor Seeberg's visit to India, especially the latest happenings in the Gossner Church, and if it was possible for Pastor Seeberg to help make any drastic changes in the constitution. Please convey my kindest regards to him, and I trust that he returned to Germany in good health, the weather in India must have been warming up at the time he left.

My work here is still very hectic, and it is still not possible to know what the future of the work of Das Diakonische Werk will be. You probably know more about it than I do, as you must have discussed this at the last meeting in March. Pastor Hahn has just written to me and informed me that his proposed visit to Saigon has been cancelled, and that he would like to have my suggestions on this question. This is very difficult for me to answer, Stuttgart would like to work closely with the Asian Christian Service here in Vietnam, I have warned them that in my opinion the ACS cannot do justice to the work of such an important German Church Organisation, and they must surely realise that in this Country where only 15% of the population is Christian, and from that 15%, only 5% are protestant Christians, it is most essential to guard very carefully the image of our work. Personally I have always been most carefull to preserve this image.

April 3rd 1970.

Gossner Mission,
Association Director Dr.C. Berg,
Berlin.

Dear Dr.Berg,

Many thanks for your last letter, the contents have been noted and I will arrange the matter on my way back to Europe in May.

May I also take this opportunity, although it is somewhat late, of wishing you, your family, and all my good friends in the Gossner Mission a very blessed Easter. I always regard in the particular Christian period that we should all try to follow the teachings of Him, and in our own small way try and imitate His life, especially all of us engaged in the work of the Christian Church.

I would be most interested to hear more about the outcome of Pastor Seeberg's visit to India, especially the latest happenings in the Gossner Church, and if it was possible for Pastor Seeberg to help make any drastic changes in the constitution. Please convey my kindest regards to him. And I trust that he returned to Germany in good health, the weather in India must have been warming up at the time he left.

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AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT - NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

Recently I was going through some old documents and I found the original bill made out by Mr.Lenz for our friend in Calcutta, you will see there is a mistake of £300, I imagine that this has been taken care of, but am sending you the original paper as written by Mr.Lenz.

Looking forward to seein all my good friends in the Gossner House during the month of May, in the meantime I send you all my greetings.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag

Robert Montag.

11. März 1970
Drbg/kl

P Seeberg u. R z. Kt

Aid for Children Programme Vietnam
Mr. Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
Saigon/Süd-Vietnam

Lieber Bruder Montag,

wir sind ja mit Ihren Hausgenossen, der Familie P a l l a , nach dem Fingerzeig Ihres Briefes vom 18.2.1970, für den ich sehr danke, in freundlicher Korrespondenz, die hoffentlich mit Beginn des nächsten Jahres zu deren Mitarbeit in der Gossner Mission in Zambia führen wird. Haben Sie jedenfalls sehr Dank für diesen Mittlerdienst und grüßen Sie Ihre Hausgenossen, denen ich dieser Tage wieder schrieb, sehr herzlich.

Gerade wenn Herr Pastor S e e b e r g am kommenden Montag von uns zurück erwartet wird, und wir sehr gespannt auf seine mündlichen Erläuterungen des schriftlich Berichteten sind, muß ich in Stuttgart eine 2tägige intensive Sitzung von "Brot für die Welt" absitzen. Dabei werde ich u. a. sehr gespannt sein, was im Rahmen der Vietnam-Anträge und Bewilligungen Ihnen noch aufgepackt werden wird. Ich kann mir wohl voratellen von Ihren Calcutta-Erfahrungen 1966, mit was für einer Fülle von Kleinarbeit, Kontaktaufgaben und dgl. Sie jetzt täglich von morgens bis abends umtrieben sind. Da kann man vor allem nur gute Gesundheit und nervliche Wiederstandskraft wünschen. Sie haben ja von allen beiden eine gute Portion.

Ich verstand übrigens mein Gespräch mit E. U r bi g in Stuttgart vorigen Monat so, daß Sie beide im Wesentlichen darüber eins geworden sind, daß Ihr Dienst in Vietnam nicht schon im Frühjahr endet, sondern noch bis Ende 1970 weitergeht. Das ist ja wohl auch im Blick auf die begonnenen Programme unerläßlich.

Trotzdem haben wie allen Nachrichten entnommen, daß Sie in der zweiten Hälfte des Monats Mai einen kurzen Europa-Urlaub einlegen wollen und dürfen. Das finde ich wohlgetan. Dürfen wir Sie auch auf dem Hin- oder Rückweg in Berlin erwarten ? Und sollten Sie ohne Schwierigkeiten auf einem der beiden Wege in Calcutta/Ranchi kurze Station machen können, würden Sie noch einmal für uns tätig werden wollen ? Es würde sich um 110 Einheiten an das TTC Fudi (mit teilweiser Weiterleitung) handeln und wir würden London gegenüber mit 5 000 Einheiten plus 1 000 anderen Einheiten verpflichtet sein. Es braucht darüber jetzt kein direktes und vor allem nicht rasches Echo. Möglicherweise haben Sie darüber schon mit Pastor S e e b e r g eine Abrede getroffen, was ich nächste Woche erfahren werde, aber ich wollte es für alle Fälle noch einmal ausgesprochen haben. Bliebe zum Schluß, der Vorfreude Ausdruck zu geben, daß wir Sie im Mai hier hoffentlich sehen; und Ihnen nochmals

ausreichende Kraft zu wünschen für alle Aufgaben. Die Chotanagpur-Ereignisse sind so vielschichtig, daß wir sie am besten für das mündliche Gespräch hier aufbewahren.

In alter getreulicher Verbundenheit, bin ich mit herzlichen Grüßen

Ihr

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT - NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

18th Feb. 1970.

Director Dr. C. Berg,
Gossner Mission,
1 Berlin 41,
Handjerystrasse 19/20,
W. G E R M A N Y.

1) Pastor 3. Kto 24.2.70
2) P. Seeberg u. R
FrR
23/2.

Dear Dr.Berg,

You have probably heard from Pastor Seeberg that I met him in Ranchi the day after he arrived. I was able to make a trip to India to do some buying for my programme here, and chose the time of Tet, which is the Chinese New Year, and everything comes to a standstill for 1 week. I was only able to spend one day in Ranchi, but it was most enlightning for me, and I think that Pastor Seeberg and myself were able to spend some usefull hours of discussions, also included was the affairs of our friend Mr.Karnani, this is now much clearer to Pastor Seeberg, and he will give you further details when he returns to Germany, untill this time it can wait.

The situation in the Gossner Church appeared on the surface to be very dangerous, but I am still of the opinion that it is not possible for this Church to be split by a minority with their own interests at heart. Not only do I believe that the masses of Christians inside the Gossner church of both tribes are against such a split, it is also legally impossible for this minority to take action. It was of course to be forseen that this situation would arise after RevAind ceased to be Pramukh, and that Rev.Minz would be put under pressure. I did have the opportunity of talking to several of the main people concerned including the Pramukh, and strangely enough there was no air of panic to be felt in their re-actions. Even Dr.Bage was quite cheerfull and full of confidence. Let us hope and pray that the Gossner Bothers and Sisters will ride out this storm in the manner one would expect from true Christians, I personally feel that this whole situation may bind them more closely than ever before.

By now you have received the application from Dr.Palla for work in Zambia. I am afraid that I am still always thinking of the Gossner Mission, and took the liberty of mentioning Dr.Palla to

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Pastor Seeberg in Ranchi. It was at his suggestion that Dr.Palla write to you. I can only say that I live here with Family Palla in one house. They are the most un-complicated people. He is a very fine Doctor, with plenty of experience of tropical conditions, and war conditions, gained during his time served here.

My work here has reached the stage where my free time is now non-existant. I even work in my office untill the early hours of the morning to keep up with my work. In one way this is a blessing, as I do not find the time to think of much else other than the job in hand. On the other side it is of course quite a strain especially as the hot season is in full swing here, and unlike India there is no winter season, and the evenings are just as hot and humid as the day? Most of my time is taken up with Government officials, as the big feeding programme is being run in direct co-operation with the Ministry of Social Welfare. It is interesting for me to compare the difference between work in India and here. I find the most drastic difference is that although we Christians can work quite freely here with no hinderance on religous grounds, and although the people here have a far higher standard of living than the Indians, I find that working with the Indians far more gratifying. They are a more open hearted people, and show their true re-actions, whereas here it is most difficult to judge what the people are really thinking, they may smile at you, but in reality would just as soon stick a knife into one.

Please convey my kindest regards to your dear wife, and all friends on the 1st floor of the Gossner House, please tell Brother Schwerk I have written to him under seperate cover. With my very best greetings to you dear Doctor Berg, it is always a great day for me when I see a letter marked "Gossner Haus" Berlin.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag.

Robert Montag.

27. Januar 1970
drbg/d.

xmxmxmxmxmxmx8513061

Mr. Robert Montag
266 Phan dinh Phung

S A I G O N
South Vietnam

Z.d.A.
Montag

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Nachdem gestern Ihr seit einiger Zeit erwarteter Brief vom 22.1. - übrigens also relativ schnell - hier eintraf, sollen Sie doch so rasch als möglich ein Echo des Dankes empfangen. Wir waren nicht ungeduldig gewesen, da wir uns natürlich vor Augen hielten, daß Sie alle Hände voll mit wichtigen und aktuelleren Dingen zu tun hatten. Dennoch waren wir froh zu wissen, daß Sie wohlbehalten und gesund an Ihrer wichtigen Arbeit an gefährdetem Ort sind.

Übrigens hatte ich an dem Vormittag, bevor Ihr Brief eintraf, recht genau aus dem Protokoll von BROT FÜR DIE WELT von Mitte November die Ergebnisse Ihrer Vietnamanträge studiert und zu meiner Freude daraus ersehen, daß Ihre Absichten und Vorschläge dank der Mithilfe von Frl. Urbig doch auf großes Verständnis des Ausschusses gestoßen waren und schon wesentliche Bewilligungen gleich erreicht werden konnten; die restlichen werden hoffentlich am 15./16.3. erfolgen. Jedenfalls ist mir ohne weiteres deutlich, in wieviel umfänglicher Groß- und Kleinarbeit Sie stecken, vollends wenn Sie nicht reich gesegnet sind mit der erforderlichen Mitarbeiterschaft. Möchten Sie in all dem Jammer und den Nöten einiges Hilfreiche tun können.

Ich habe Ihrem indischen Freund in London, der zufällig auch gestern nachmittag anrief, Ihre weihnachtlichen Taten bestätigt und angekündigt, daß wir nun ihm gegenüber unsere Verpflichtungen sogleich einlösen werden, was ihn sichtlich beruhigte. Aus dem, was Sie über noch ausstehende bzw. strittige Verpflichtungen unsererseits schreiben, sind Herr Lenz, P. Seeberg und ich nicht ganz kluf geworden. Aber das schadet nichts. Wir haben Herrn K. gebeten, uns freimütig zu schreiben, was er noch erwartet, damit wir ihm gegenüber die festlichen Dinge bereinigen können. Er fragte übrigens interessiert, ob demnächst nochmal etwas zu erwarten sei. Ich mußte das ihm gegenüber offenlassen, weil ich nicht weiß, ob Sie an Ihrer Absicht festhalten, die Sie mir gegenüber im Oktober in Ranchi äußerten, zum Mai Ihren jetzigen Auftrag abzugeben und gegebenenfalls auf der Rückkehr in Indien Station zu machen und dann nochmals zur Verfügung zu stehen. Wenn ich mir das doch nicht ganz kleine Programm von BROT FÜR DIE WELT für Vietnam ansehe, das im März mit einer zweiten Zuweisung bedacht werden soll, kann ich mir schwer vorstellen, wie Sie dies Programm schon im Frühjahr beenden wollen. Wenn Sie mir also gelegentlich einmal eine kurze Nachricht geben, wie Sie selber Ihre Zeitplanung dort drunten ansehen, läßt sich über die Frage von Herrn Karnani genaueres vereinbaren. Sie jedenfalls, so nehme ich an, wären dann gewiß bereit, noch einmal (und damit wahrscheinlich zum letztenmal) tätig zu werden, nicht wahr?

Erfreulich war übrigens, was Sie über die guten Aussichten der Verbindung Cromelite/Fudi schrieben, daß der Stapelstuhl durch die Werbung und Angebote

der erstgenannten Firma Anklang im großen Land gefunden hat, so daß eine weitere, größere Beschäftigung unserer Freunde im TTC erwartet werden kann. Auch für allen hilfreichen Mittlerdienst in dieser sich seit vielen Monaten hinziehenden Sache Ihnen herzlichsten Dank, weil das für unsere indischen Freunde und besonders auch für Bruder Hertel recht wesentlich ist.

Uns ist es in diesem kalten Winter auch im Blick auf die Grippeepedemie verhältnismäßig gnädig gegangen. Wir alle hier in der Gossner Etage einschl. Frau Berg in Zehlendorf, die gerade den Besuch ihrer Enkeltochter und den Umtrieb durch sie hat, erwidern Ihre Grüße und Wünsche aufs herzlichste.

In alter Verbundenheit
Ihr

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT - NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phong
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

January 22nd 1970.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.O. Berg,
B E R L I N.

Dear Doctor Berg,

Thank you for your last letter, and I must say how sorry I am that I have not answered before today. The fact is that I am simply inundated with work here. Our feeding programme is starting up, and our rice, 1800 tons, arrived in from Thailand. As this time, unlike India 1966, I am on my own here, you can well imagine that I am busy from morning untill late at night.

Your orders for Christmas were carried out as requested by you. I gave all the money to Brother Hertel for distribution, as Mr.Bhengra was on Christmas holiday when I arrived in Ranchi. I also deducted Rs500 for my expenses in hotel in Calcutta, and airway ticket Calcutta/Ranchi, I had used this portion of the ticket you sent me for my trip in October, I trust that this meets with your approval. The payment to Mr.K. in London is not clear. Firstly, the payment Mr.Lenz gave me in Berlin in November, which was due, was incorrectly totalled. Secondly, the transfer made to London after I returned in October, was held over by me, although you had told me that it could be transfered at once. In the few days in between the DM was revalued, and as I pointed out to Pastor Seeberg, morally this extra amount should go to Mr.K. Your understanding with him made in Calcutta of 50-50 was only for the second sum payed during you stay in India. Please do not misunderstand me, I always have your interests at heart, on the other hand I personally have never earned one penny from either you, or Mr.K. from these transactions, therefore from a neutral point of view I know you would wish that I state my opinion.

With regards to Fudi and the chair business, this has now been agreed between Cromelite and Mr.Hertel. Cromelite have a counter claim against Fudi, Mr.Hertel and Mr. R. are meeting to clear up the account. The first re-actions of sales of the chairs have been very good, and already repeat orders have been placed, so we can hope that this will be a good business for both Cromelite and Fudi. In any event I am still of the opinion that

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Brother Hertel knows exactly what he is doing in Fudi. His business sense, although sometimes a little immature, he is really very much on the ball, and I forsee that he will bring Fudi to a point where they will run efficiently.

Please may I offer you all in the Gossner House my sincerest wishes for the year 1970, and all God's blessings for your work in the coming year. My kind regards to your dear Wife and family, with the hope to hear from Berlin when you find time.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag.

Robert Montag.

3. Sept. 1969
psb/d.

Mr. Robert Montag
Aid for Children Programme
Vietnam
266 Phan dßinh Phung

S a i g o n
South Vietnam

Lieber Herr Montag!

Herr Dr. Berg hat Ihren Brief vom 25.8. noch gelesen, bevor er seinen Urlaub angetreten hat, und nun habe ich also die Ehre, dem Executive Representative zu antworten und ihn zu grüßen.

Ihre Fragen will ich genau beantworten:

1) Die Gruppe erreicht Calcutta-Dumdum am Dienstag, dem 7. Oktober um 6.40 Uhr mit der LH 644.

2) siehe Anlage.

3) Abflug von Calcutta nach Ranchi: 9.10., 6.15 Uhr mit der IC 412.

4) Lt. anliegendem Durchschlag unseres Schreibens an die Wirtschaftsstelle in Hamburg haben wir heute Ihre Flugkarte Saigon-Calcutta-Saigon bestellt. Sie werden von dort direkt entsprechende Nachricht bekommen.

Wir halten es für sehr klug, wenn Sie etwa 5 Tage vor der Ankunft der Gruppe nach Calcutta kommen, um die notwendigen Vorbereitungen zu treffen. Ich übersende Herrn Hertel einen Durchschlag dieses Schreibens, damit er über Ihre Anwesenheit in Calcutta informiert ist und sich evtl. zu einem notwendig erscheinenden Besuch mit Ihnen bei Mr. Karnani nach Calcutta begibt.

Im übrigen sind unsere Gedanken und unsere guten Wünsche oft bei Ihnen und begleiten Sie auf Ihren schwierigen Wegen. Hoffentlich geht es Ihrer Frau in London und Ihren Söhnen ebenfalls gut.

Mit herzlichem Dank für Ihre Grüße, die wir alle gern erwidern,

bin ich Ihr

Sg.

PS. Herr Schwerk ist natürlich längst zurück und arbeitet seit dem 1. September bei uns im Gossner Haus als Verantwortlicher für unsere Afrikaaufgaben.

Durchschrift
Herrn Hertel

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT-NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

25th August 1969.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
19-20 Handjerystrasse,
1 Berlin 41.

Dear Dr Berg,

Time is drawing near to our meeting in Calcutta, and I must say that I am very much looking forward to an exchange of views with you. I intend to be in Calcutta at least five days before you and your party are due to arrive in that city. I must make the necessary arrangements for your hotel rooms, and also a sight seeing tour, also that P.C. Josephs has everything prepared for a tour of the school feeding stations. I would also like to make arrangements for the group to meet members of the State Government. Before I left Calcutta I had the opportunity of meeting the German Consul General, a Dr.Kopf, and on that occasion I informed him of the group which will be arriving at the Beginning of October, he said at that time he would very much like to meet them. Would you please let me know the following points:-

1. Exact date and flight number of the group arrival.
2. How many persons, with names, marital status etc.
3. Intended departure from Calcutta to Ranchi.
4. My air ticket return Calcutta - Saigon, and expenses.
5. Shall I take this from my programme and you return to Das Diakonische Werk?

Looking forward to hearing from you on the above points.

My Programme is running quite smoothly, at the moment I am working on about 20 different Projects of aid which has been applied for by various Vietnamese and other organisations. Things here are not improving, the war seems to have no end, and the situation of the people is becoming more and more precarious. How was my dear Brother Schwerks trip to Zambia? I do hope that the work of the Gossner mission is going to run smoothly in that Country.
My sincere regards to Pastor and Mrs Seeberg, Mr.Lenz, your own very dear wife, and indeed all friends in Gossner House.

Sincerely Your,

Robert Montag.

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM
CHUONG TRINH CUU TRO THIẾU NHI VIỆT-NAM
Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany
Executive representative: Robert Montes

Rue Pham Ngu Lao
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone: 21001

Fifth August 1969.

Gossner Mission,
Attention Director Dr. J. Herz,
19-20 Handjerystrasse,
1 Berlin 41.

Dear Dr Herz,

Time is drawing near to our meeting in Calcutta, and I must say that I am very much looking forward to an exchange of views with you. I intend to be in Calcutta at least five days before you and your party are due to arrive in that city. I must make the necessary arrangements for your hotel rooms, and also start seeing town, also that P.C. Joseph has everything prepared for a tour of the school feeding stations. I would also like to make arrangements for the group to meet members of the State Government. Before I left Calcutta I had the opportunity of meeting the German Consul General, a Dr. Kopf, and on that occasion I informed him of the group which will be arriving at the beginning of October, he said at that time he would very much like to meet them. Would you please let me know the following points:-

1. Exact date and flight number of the group arrival.
2. How many persons, with names, marital status etc.
3. Intended departure from Calcutta to Saigon.
4. Dr Herz's return Calcutta - Saigon, and expenses.
5. Shall I write this from my programme and you return to the Diakonische Werk.

Looking forward to hearing from you on the above points.

My programme is running quite smoothly, at this moment I am working on about 20 different Projects of aid which has been applied for by various Veterans and other organisations. Things here are not improving, the war seems to have no end, and the situation of people is becoming more and more precarious. How was my dear Brother Sommerfeld trip to Zambia? I do hope that the work of the Gossner Mission is going to run smoothly in that Country.
My sincere regards to Pastor and Mrs Sommerfeld, Mr. Lang, your own very dear wife, and indeed all friends in Gossner House.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montes.

21. August 1969
dvbg/k.

Mr. Robert Montag
~~Hotel Continental Palace~~

S a i g o n
VIETNAM

geändert
siehe Brief v. 1.8.69

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Wir haben seit über einem Monat nichts voneinander gehört, ohne daß es erforderlich gewesen wäre, etwas Wichtiges einander mitzuteilen. Sie werden tiefer in die Schwierigkeiten und Probleme des tragisch-ruhelosen Vietnam eingedrungen sein und hoffentlich einige Kanäle der Hilfe eröffnet haben, sei es, daß schon jetzt die Möglichkeiten dazu bestehen, oder vollends dann, wenn eines baldigen Tages hoffentlich die Waffen schweigen.

Wir nähern uns rasch dem Jubiläum in Ranchi, und dies ist wohl der letzte Brief, den ich vor einigen Urlaubswochen im September und dem Tag des Aufbruchs am 6. Oktober schreibe. Ich gehe fest davon aus, daß Sie uns am 7. Oktober in Calcutta erwarten, wenn nichts Außerordentliches geschieht, was Sie sonst im September noch nach hier mitteilen würden, und es mich Bruder Seeberg wissen lassen würde.

Wir haben ja bei Ihrem letzten Hiersein allgemein über das Programm in Calcutta gesprochen. Auch Sie hielten es für richtig, daß wir am Ankunftstag des 7.10. eigentlich nicht vor 16.00 Uhr etwas unternehmen sollten, damit die zum Teil betagten Herren nach der Flugnacht eine ausführliche Ruhe über mittag im "Great Eastern" und erste Gewöhnung an das recht veränderte Klima haben können. Vielleicht sollte man an diesem Nachmittag eine kurze Stadtrundfahrt machen und an einem Ihrer früheren eindrücklichen Speisungsplätze etwas halt machen. Wieweit Sie bei dieser Rundfahrt einen Bogen schlagen, möchte ich Ihnen überlassen.

Sie sprachen von der Möglichkeit, am 2. Tag, also dem 8. Okt., evtl. einen mehr oder weniger ausführlichen Empfang beim Generalkonsulat vermitteln zu können. Wenn das nicht allzu große Schwierigkeiten macht, wäre das wahrscheinlich recht wohlgetan. Eine Frage wäre auch, ob sich ein gleiches bei dem anglikanischen Metropoliten arrangieren ließe, der ja dadurch interessant ist, daß er wahrscheinlich das Oberhaupt der 1970 sich bildenden großen kirchlichen Union Nordindiens werden würde. Früher oder später werden wahrscheinlich Einladung an die Gossnerkirche zum Anschluß an diese und Verhandlungen darüber stattfinden. Von daher wäre auch eine solche Begegnung zu begrüßen. Ob ein Besuch des großen, in ganz Indien einmaligen "Kolonialmuseums" im Zentrum Calcuttas vorzusehen ist, hängt ein bißchen von der Fassungskraft unserer Gruppe ab. Interessant wäre dieser Einblick natürlich in die indische Geschichte der letzten hundert Jahre. Aber man darf auch diesen zweiten Tag gewiß nicht überladen, damit unsere Freunde Gelegenheit haben, persönlich in den interessanten Alltag Indiens und das Leben der Großstadt Calcutta Einblick zu gewinnen.

Ich selber sollte Gelegenheit haben, P.C. Joseph bei einer Teestunde oder bei einer Mahlzeit zu sehen, wenn ich ihm nicht einen Besuch in der Russel-Street machen muß; aber das kann nur am Rande geschehen.

Die kleine Gossner-Gemeinde würde ich jetzt zu Beginn nicht eigentlich in das Programm einbeziehen. Eine Begegnung könnte mit dem einen oder anderen Delegierten noch vorgesehen werden, der auf der Durchfahrt bzw. auf dem Rückweg nochmals Station in Calcutta macht.

Noch eine wichtige Frage: Können Sie für unsere ganze Gruppe Reservation im "Great Eastern" machen (womöglich zu einem Pauschalpreis), oder müßten wir selber das von hier aus tun? In einer angefügten Liste haben Sie nochmals Zahl und Namen der Gruppe.

Und dann bleibt es wohl dabei, daß wir am 9. Oktober das Frühflugzeug nach Ranchi nehmen, wie es für uns alle gebucht ist, und Sie dann mit uns kommen, nicht wahr?

Über die Finanzangelegenheit schrieb ich schon im letzten Brief - von mir aus bleibt es dabei. Ihr Freund in London hat uns bis zur Stunde noch nicht hier aufgesucht, so daß der Betrag für ihn noch auf Abruf bereitsteht.

Wenn sich am 8. Oktober noch eine Stunde des Einkaufs bei Ihrem früheren Gewährsmann einschieben läßt, wird das wahrscheinlich auch Wohlgefallen bei verschiedenen Herren unserer Gruppe hervorrufen.

Und von der Gossnerkirche in Ranchi selber: Nichts bewegend neues. Dr. Dell ist Vater eines dritten Kindes geworden und wird noch ein Jahr länger als bis 1971 bleiben. Freund Hertel schreibt zuversichtlich. Alle anderen Neuigkeiten werden Sie rasch hören, wenn Sie selber wieder den vertrauten Boden von Chotanagpur betreten.

Auf unser wohlbehaltenes Wiedersehen zu festlichem Anlaß freut sich

mit herzlichen Grüßen
Ihr

PS. Eben erinnert mich Frau Dreißig daran, daß wir vor einigen Tagen telefonisch aus Augsburg von Herrn Demmer die gute Nachricht erhielten, daß die kostbare Basar-Kiste bei ihm angekommen ist und sie sobald als möglich auf den Weg hierher gebracht wird: Schon jetzt genug Anlaß, Ihrer dankbar zu gedenken.

D.O.

Gossner Haus, den 22. August 1969

Lieber Herr Montag!

Wie Sie an der Adresse des beigefügten Briefes sehen, ist der Brief ins Hotel Continental gegangen, weil Dr. Berg sich trotz seines allgemein guten Gedächtnisses nicht daran erinnerte, daß ein weiterer Brief mit Ihrer Adresse bereits von Ihnen hier eingegangen sei.

Ich glaubte, Ihre neue Adresse schon gesehen zu haben, ließ mich aber überzeugen, weil ich meinem Gedächtnis nicht so trauen kann. Aber siehe da, diesmal habe ich das bessere Ge8ächtnis gehabt, denn heute finde ich in Frau Gordienkos Unterlagen Ihren Brief vom 14.7.

Damit Sie auch wirklich erfahren, was Dr. Berg Ihnen am 21. August geschrieben hat, schicke ich Ihnen eine Kopie des Briefes an Ihre neue Adresse.

Mit guten Wünschen für Sie und herzlichen Grüßen

Ihre

D

1 August 1969
drbg/go

Herrn Robert Montag
Aid for Children Programme Vietnam
266 Phan dinh Phung
Saigon (South Vietnam)

3-J.A.
Montag

Lieber Bruder Montag,

Ihr Brief vom 14. Juli sollte doch ein wenn auch kurzes aber herzliches Echo erhalten. Darum heute eine Antwort:

1.) Vietnam und Sie mitten drin in einem Zentrum des Weltgeschehens, vollends nachdem gerade Präsident Nixon in Saigon war. Ob Ihnen das freilich viel geholfen hat, weiss ich nicht, aber Sie werden sich nicht abhalten lassen, Ihre hilfreiche Tätigkeit für vor allem Kinder und von den Schrecklichkeiten des Krieges betroffene Menschen zu erweitern, auszudehnen und darüber realisierbare Vorschläge nach Stuttgart gelangen zu lassen. Ich nehme herzlich Anteil an Ihren Anstrengungen und habe gern auf die bewegenden Bilder geschaut, die Sie mitsandten.

2.) Der Brief von Mr. Pandey an Hertel, besonders auch, was die Passagen über Sie betrifft, ist haarig. Ja, so kann es einem gehen mit Leuten, denen man Bemühungen um Hilfe zusagt, ohne ihnen verbindliche Zusagen machen zu können. Meine Frage ist freilich, ob Sie sich in diesem Mann nicht doch etwas getäuscht haben, als Sie mir ihn als einen warmen Freund der Gossner Kirche empfahlen, der auch bereit sei, einen freundlichen Artikel für die Jubiläumsbiene beizusteuern? Ich fürchte, Sie waren zu gutgläubig, lieber Bruder Montag. Wie gut dass er nicht in aller Form gebeten wurde, jenen Artikel zu schreiben, denn sein Brief über Sie an Freund Hertel ist unter aller Kanone. Wenn er mir nicht so fern stände, würde ich geneigt sein, "grimmig und zornig"geworden zu sein. Aber so lasse ich diesen wohlhabenden und hochgestellten Granden von Neu Delhi sich austoben. Hoffentlich hängt das Scheitern der Main Road Site in Ranchi nicht auch mit seiner Person zusammen, worüber wir ja im Oktober noch persönlich sprechen wollen.

Fahrung

3.) Es bleibt doch hoffentlich dabei, dass Sie Anfang Oktober in Kalkutta sind. Ich bitte um den Transfer von £ 8000, die ich ihnen dann übergebe, aber möchte ihn heute schon vorsorglich anmelden. Ein Programm für die ca. 10 deutschen Gäste des Jubiläums, die wir am 7. Oktober früh in Dumdum anzukommen gedenken, schreiben Sie mir nach Ihrem Vorschlag vielleicht nochmal schriftlich. Vielleicht werde ich mich auch Ende des Monats nocheinmal dazu äussern. Müssen wir uns im Great Eastern 7. - 9.10. früh anmelden? Mr. Karnani/London hat sich übrigens noch nicht fest für sein Kommen nach Berlin angemeldet, aber wir erwarten ihn hier, nachdem wir den ihm schuldigen Betrag schon angewiesen aber nochmals storniert haben. Übrigens wird Bimal Minz/Gumla am 5.8. von uns hier erwartet.

Sonst geht es gut - Ihnen hoffentlich auch. In gut zwei Monaten werden wir uns hoffentlich wohlbehalten sehen. Darauf freut sich

mit herzlichen Grüssen
Ihr

r

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM

CHƯƠNG TRÌNH CỨU TRỢ THIẾU NHI VIỆT-NAM

Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany

Executive Representative : Robert Montag

266 Phan dinh Phung
SAIGON (South Vietnam)
Telephone : 91.005

14th July 1969.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C.Berg,
1 Berlin 41,
W. Germany.
Handjerystrasse 19-20.

Dear Dr.Berg,

1) As you will see the Diakonische Werk is now established in Saigon. I have already started my first work by giving a scholarship to four girls who are attending a course in Social Welfare Training. This course is run by Caritas, who also do fantastic work with starved children, this work I am also going to give the backing of the Diakonische Werk, and I am sending you a couple of pictures taken recently in the home being run by Catholic Sisters, whose work is really miraculous.

2) With regards to your remarks re-Mr.Pandey, I can only say that he is more than upset about a letter he received from Mr.Hertel, which I did not see. He took this opportunity to vent his anger on me, and amongst other things accuses me of not doing anything about the building of a Girls Hostel in Delhi. As you know we have both tried our best in this matter, and as far as I know it has not been turned down. It seems that if you tell an Indian you will try and help, it is taken as a definite promise. Anyway we should not get too excited about this matter, and I have written to Mr.Pandey asking him for an apology on his last letter to Hertel.

3) Mr. V.N. Karnani will be visiting Germany, and he may ask you for some assistance. His Father has told me that he is fully authorised to collect anything on his behalf, this is for your information.

My sincere greetings to you, your wife, and all friends in Berlin.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag

Robert Montag.

AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM
CHUONG TRINH CUU TRO THIEU NHI VIET NAM
Sponsored by The Protestant Churches in Germany
Executive Representative: Robert Morley

Res. Phon. Also Phone
SAIGON (Cent. Vietnam)
Telephone: 20 906

14th July 1969.

Gossner Mission,
Attention Mr.Dr.O.Barth,
1 Berlin 41,
W. Germany.
Henriettenstrasse 19-20.

Dear Dr.Barth,

As you will see the Diakonissen Werk is now established in Saigon. I have already started my first work by giving a scholarship to four girls who are attending a course in Social Welfare training. This course is run by Christians, who also do fantastic work with starved children, this work I am also going to give the backing of the Diakonissen Werk, and I am sending you a couple of photos taken recently in the home being run by Catholic Sisters, whose work is really wonderful.

With regards to your remarks re-Mr.Ranney, I can only say that he is more than upset about a letter he received from Mr.Gerfel, which I did not see. He took this opportunity to vent his anger on me, and amongst other things accuses me of not doing anything about the building of a Child Hospital in Delhi. As you know we have both tried our best in this matter, and earlier as I know it has not been turned down. It seems that if you ask an Indian, you will try and help, it is taken as a definite promise. Anyway we should not get too excited about this matter, and I have written to Mr.Ranney asking him for an apology on his last letter to Gerfel.

Mr. V.M. Kennedy will be visiting Germany, and he may ask you for some assistance. His wife has told me that he is fully authorised to collect anything on his behalf, this is for your information.

My sincere greetings to you, your wife, and all friends in Berlin.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Morley.

16. Juli 1969
drbg/d.

Mr. Robert Montag
Hotel Continental Palace

Saigon
VIETNAM

Lieber Bruder Montag!

Haben Sie sehr Dank dafür, daß Sie sich die Zeit nehmen konnten und genommen haben, am 1. Juli so ausführlich zu schreiben, nachdem offenkundig Ihr Brief aus Bangkok verlorengegangen ist und uns nicht erreicht hat. Alles, was Sie schrieben, hat uns sehr interessiert und bewegt, und ich darf, wie Sie es von mir kennen, in einer Reihe von Punkten darauf antworten:

1) Der Verkauf der Ranchi-Road-Side hat sich ja zu einer wahren Tragödie ausgewachsen. Ohne auf Einzelheiten einzugehen, sehe ich, daß die ganze Sache sich bis zum Oktober kaum mehr bewegen wird. Ob noch zu helfen und etwas nützliches zu bewerkstelligen sein wird, ist mir sehr zweifelhaft. Von Mr. Khess habe ich natürlich noch nichts gehört, und ich bin äußerst skeptisch, ob die Brüder in Ranchi Kraft und Fähigkeit haben, selbst ein solches Kaufhaus zu "fahren". Lassen Sie uns darauf gefaßt sein, lieber Bruder Montag, daß wir beide im Oktober mit den teuren Freunden nochmals die ganze Sache überprüfen. Wenn wir die 120.000,- DM Jubiläumsgabe zusammenbekommen, was ich immer noch hoffe, muß man dann nüchtern abschätzen, wie mit diesem Kapital am nutzbringendsten zu arbeiten sein wird. Ich halte es für gut möglich, daß wir auf einen ursprünglichen Gedanken von Ihnen zurückkommen müssen und es hier in Deutschland zum Besten der Theologischen Ausbildung in Ranchi anlegen, um der Gossnerkirche jährlich die Zinsen zu senden. Alles andere erscheint mir im Augenblick nebelhafte Hoffnungen und ungewisse Pläne zu sein.

2) Wir stimmen beide darin überein, daß es äußerst wünschenswert wäre, wenn die Umzäunung des Ranchi-Compounds fertiggestellt würde. Aber es geht darum, daß die Gossnerkirche ein echtes Darlehn empfängt, daß sie wirklich in klaren Terminen zurückzahlt, und zwar mit Zinsen. Denn ich kann die erforderliche Summe natürlich nur von der Jubiläumsgabe abzweigen, und die Beträge, die zurückfließen, sollen der theologischen Erziehung dienen. Dieses Angebot habe ich nach Ranchi übermittelt, habe aber bis zur Stunde leider noch keine Antwort. Hoffen wir, daß sich die Freunde ermannen und einen klaren Beschluß fassen, dann können sie das Geld bekommen.

3) Gestern hat Ihr Freund in Kalkutta die hier liegenden Beträge angefordert, heute hat er um stop bis September gebeten, weil er immer noch mit einer Aufwertung der Deutschen Mark rechnet. Ich frage mich freilich wieso, denn wir sind ja in Pfund nach London hin pflichtig und nicht in DM. Aber vielleicht will er in den nächsten Wochen vorbeikommen und etwas Urlaub in Deutschland machen, dann können wir die Dinge bereden. Sie brauchen zur Zeit nur zu wissen, daß wir zahlungsfähig - und -bereit sind - und gestern schon die gesamte Summe angewiesen hatten, die wir nun noch abwartend in Hamburg liegen lassen.

4) Was Sie über Ihre Eindrücke der Notsituation Saigons/Kalkutta schreiben, habe ich sofort exzerpiert und P. Dohrmann nach Wolfsburg geschickt. Wie Sie wissen, planen die Freunde ja im Rahmen der Urban and Industrial Mission-Aktivitäten, in Kalkutta tätig zu werden. Ihr unmittelbarer Eindruck ist also eine Unterstreichung der Absicht.

Nun, Sie leben in gefährlicher und offenbar in voller Entwicklung befindlicher Situation. Ich freue mich, wenn wir uns in Kalkutta im Oktober gesund wiedersehen und uns darüber austauschen können.

5) Daß Sie Ihre Arbeit ähnlich begonnen haben wie vor drei Jahren die Kinderspeisung in Indian, ist sicherlich sachgemäß und hat, soweit ich hörte, in Stuttgart nur Wohlgefallen erregt. Möchten Sie bald auf Grund der vielen Kontakte, die Sie sicher rasch gewonnen haben, hilfreiche Vorschläge an BROT FÜR DIE WELT machen können. Dort überschatten sowieso die Sorgen um Biafra alles andere, aber man wird froh sein, präzise Empfehlungen von Ihnen zu erhalten.

6) Mit diesem Brief geht auch als gesonderte Drucksache die Jubiläums-Nummer unserer "Gossner Mission", die allermeist Wohlgefallen erregt, wie wir von vielen hören, an Sie ab. Sie werden gewiß auch Ihre Freude daran haben.

Es ist ja noch Zeit bis zum Oktober, lieber Bruder Montag. Ich nehme an, daß ich Ihnen für die 1 1/2 Tage in Kalkutta in Verfolg all dessen, was wir besprachen, nochmals schreiben werde. Lassen Sie uns bis dahin auf ein gutes Wiedersehen hoffen. Zu tun haben wir in der Zwischenzeit beide sicher genug und übergenug.

In alter getreuer Verbundenheit

Ihr

WL 22.8.

Hotel Continental Palace,
Saigon.
Vietnam. 1st July 1969.

Gossner Mission,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
1 Berlin 41.
Handjerystrasse 19/20.

Gordienko
FGR

Dear Dr.Berg,

Thank you for your letter dated 26th June, and I must first of all tell you that the postal service here is about as reliable as India. I did send you a letter from Bangkok on the 6th June which you apparently did not receive, nevertheless I will again give you the news from Ranchi on the conditions I found there after my return on the 25th May.

1. The position about the leasing of the main road land had come to a complete standstill. Mr. Mohan Lakra had just recovered from a severe attack of Malaria and jaundice, which was true as I saw him the same day I returned and he was apparently still ill. After initial discussions it appeared that there had been a change of heart about direct leasing of the land, and the Ranchi comittee on properties had decided that it would be better if a shopping centre was built, with a possible advance of rent. As the position in the Church was again a little dangerous, due to the insistance of the people in the NW Anchal to an immediate change in the Constitution, and as the Pramukh was out of station, I felt it was not the time to flatly turn down this suggestion. Added to this there was a lot to be said for the building of such a shopping centre, providing the Church realised that this would not bring them immediate large sums of Capital, and that they themselves were not in a position to maintain such a centre, and collect rents, unless they were prepared to set up the necessary administration. I arranged a meeting with the parties interested inour land, and one of the gentleman concerned a Mr.Firalal, who owns the largest dept store in Ranchi, indeed in Bihar, was very interested in such a project, and was prepared to explore the possibilities of co-operating with the Church. Such a scheme would have the added effect of making the land adjoining such a shopping centre, much more valueable, which of course would be of great benefit to the Church. I must also say here that there is an inclination by outside parties to still treat the Church as a simple organisation, and there is little faith that the Church will develope the land, hence an unfair advantage is attempted by such parties. All this boils down to the fact that the Church would have to use the capital they would receive from Germany for the erection of a building, plus at least the same amount from some other source. I am enclosing the plan for such a centre, the details of building costs, and expected returns from rents was being prepared by the Ranchi Committee on properties as I left, and were supposed to be forwarded to your office. I have today written to Mr.Khess and asked him to do this immediately.

2. The building of the wall around the Compound is of course of major importance, and had things gone off smoothly with land leasing, had by now been finished. Although the importance should not be under

Hotel Continental Palace,
Saigon,
Vietnam. 1st July 1920.

Comrades Mlasidn,
attention Director Dr.C. Berg,
I Berlin 41.
Handjervatrasse 19/20.

Dear Dr.Berg,

Thank you for your letter dated 28th June, and I must first of all tell you that the postal service here is about as reliable as India. I did send you a letter from Bangkok on the 8th June which you apparently did not receive, nevertheless I will again give you the news from Bangkok on the conditions I found there after my return on the 28th May.

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estimated, I feel that the Gossner Church are pressing for the money, and not so much the wall. They had in fact started building when I arrived in Ranchi, they were using funds from rent collections. I feel it would do no harm in letting them take a major part in this completion. If the Gossner Mission could agree to say Loan them Rs25,000, if they themselves would guarantee the rest, I feel sure that they would make this possible. It would also prove to them that they themselves must make the supreme effort to help themselves, which after all shows our goodwill, and the Church that they must get around to financial autonomy.

3. It goes without saying that I intend to be in Calcutta on the 2nd October to prepare for your arrival in that city. I already talked over this point in Stuttgart before I left for Vietnam, and there was no objections from their side at all, especially as the time I spent in India was to be deducted from my annual leave due to me. It goes without saying too, that my heart is still very much with the Gossner Mission Berlin. How can I forget the enjoyable working relationship with your Mission Society, from both the side of working conditions, and more important the Christian and personal fellowship which is part of your every day life in Berlin.

And now for a short report on my work here to date. Firstly the conditions existing seem to very loose when one talks about "Voluntary Agencies". There are over 40 different organisations working here, together spending Millions of dollars, added to this the American Government is spending Billions, apart from supplying both war and other materials. It is hard to believe that this money is being spent wisely, and that there is still room for more organisations here. I am very happy that Stuttgart have decided not to start their own projects at this stage, but to co-operate with any organisation which can present us with smaller projects which they would like us to take part in. This policy I find to be very wise, and shows a complete lack of selfishness on the part of our German Church, which unfortunately one cannot say about other organisations which are working here. I have given the programme a name, and it is now registered with the Government of Vietnam, and we are awaiting our official contract, which entitles us to many things, including duty free imports, and full Government co-operation and assistance, the name is*-:

AID FOR CILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM.
Sponsored by the Protestant Churches in Germany.

It reminds one of the programme in India, and let us hope it has the same success. I have already established an office, letterheadings are being printed, but please use my hotel address untill I can give you our P.O. Box number which has been applied for. Some projects are now in the pipeline to Stuttgart, and I will send copies to you as soon as they are prepared and posted. I have taken up contact with most all other organisations, and Government offices, and I am sure you will appreciate the amount of time this takes up. You will be interested to hear that our old "friend" from Delhi, Mr.Douglas Cook is here in Saigon, he is with the Vietnamese Christian Service and is personnel Director. He met me for lunch, and much to my astonishment was more than friendly, insists on our being on Christian name terms, how the people change when the situation changes.

My dear Dr.Berg, the more I see of conditions here the more I am convinced that the World, and all of us involved in Christian Aid to other countries are falling down on their obligations to India. Regardless of all the impossible difficulties involved, I feel that the city of Calcutta is being neglected and ignored by us all. Nowhere here have I yet seen anything to campare, even though

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AID FOR CHILDREN PROGRAMME VIETNAM.
Sponsored by the Protestant Churches in Germany.

It remains one of the programme in India, and let us hope it has the same success. I have already established an office, letterheadings are being printed, but please use my hotel address until I can give you our P.O. Box number which has been applied for. Some projects are now in the pipeline to Stuttgart, and I will send copies to you as soon as they are prepared and posted. I have taken up contact with most all other organisations, and Government offices, and I am sure you will appreciate the amount of time this takes up. You will be interested to hear that our old "friend" from Delhi, Mr.Douglas Cook is here in Saigon, he is with the Vietnamese Christian Service and is personnel Director. He met me for lunch, and much to my astonishment was more than friendly, insists on our being on Christian name terms, how the people change when the situation changes.

My dear Dr.Berg, the more I see of conditions here the more I am convinced that the World, and all of us involved in Christian Aid to other countries are falling down on their obligations to India. Regardless of all the impossible difficulties involved, I feel that the city of Calcutta is being neglected and ignored by us all. Nowhere here have I yet seen anything to compare, even though

war is a terrible thing, and brings with it the destruction of homes, families, brings prostitution etc, we have seen this in our own Countries, and have long experienced this before Vietnam. But how can we close our eyes to Calcutta. The people in that city are living far far far below the standards of people in this Country, even if war is taken into account. I am prepared to do my job here in the best possible way for the German Protestant Churches, but I must tell you that when I see all that is being done, and plans for the future here in Vietnam, my heart bleeds for India, and especially Calcutta. I hope that when my work is considered finished here by Stuttgart, that I can find some "Allies" in Berlin, who will help me to bring home the true facts in India and Calcutta, if the World does not want to acknowledge the situation there, we are running the risk of a far greater catastrophy than the war which is being fought here. I am sorry that I have burdened you to read my thoughts on this matter, but it has at least made me feel a little better to know that you can evaluate my feelings in this matter.

My kind regards to your family, to Pastor Seeberg and Family, to Family Schwerk, and indeed to all my good friends in the Gossner House.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Montag

Robert Montag.

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My kind regards to your family, to Pastor Seeberg and family, to Family Schwerk, and indeed to all my good friends in the Gossner House.

Sincerely Yours,

Robert Mortes

26.Juni 1969

Herrn
Robert M o n t a g
Hotel Continental Palace
S a i g o n
S ü d - V i e t n a m

Lieber Bruder M o n t a g !

Gelegentlich eines Telefonats heute mit Fräulein U r b i g / Stuttgart hörte ich, daß gerade der erste sehr präzise Bericht von Ihnen eingetroffen sei, über den man voll des Lobes war. Ich freute mich für Sie und die Sache herzlich - - war aber zugleich, wie Sie es verstehen werden, ein wenig neidisch, weil uns nach Ihrer Abreise vor fünf Wochen bisher nur die Notiz aus Calcutta erreichte. Helen Bhe n g r a, der Sie so freundlich halfen, hat uns gestern nach ein paar guten Wochen in Deutschland verlassen: Ein erfreulicher Besuch.

Wenn nicht schon ein Brief von Ihnen unterwegs ist, zu dem Sie vielleicht in der Fülle neuer Aufgaben nur mit Mühe kommen, folgende Punkte:

1) Von A i n d traf eine Bitte ein, 60.000 Rps. als Darlehen für die Vollendung des Compound-Walls zu gewähren. Das ist fast ein untrügliches Zeichen dafür, daß der Verkauf der Main road pite gescheitert ist, aus dessen Erlös ja der Betrag u.a. genommen werden sollte. Stimmt das ? Woran lag es, wenn es sich so verhält ? Das wäre natürlich sehr folgenschwer und hochbetrüblich !

2) Sehr Dank für die Erledigung der finanziellen Aufträge ! Mr. Bhe n g r a hat den Empfang gleich bestätigt !

   Wir sind nach London hin zahlungsbereit, sobald wir von Ihnen eine Anweisung erhalten: Sowohl für März- w-ie für Mai-Transfer !

3) H e r t e l schrieb von einer schmerzlichen Verzögerung des Stapelstuhl-Patents und einem nicht erfreulichen Brief D u d e y s aus Neu Delhi. Wissen Sie die Zusammenhänge ?

4) Können Sie heute schon fest übersehen, ob Sie im Oktober in Ranchi dabei sein werden und unsere Delegation in Calcutta am 8. X. erwarten können, um einige Tage vorher das zwischen uns besprochene Programm vorbereitet zu haben ? Es wäre schön.

5) Übermorgen geht die "Jubiläums-Biene" mit Ihrem Beitrag sowohl nach London wie nach Saigon.

6) Die "Bazar-Kiste", die Sie so freundlich füllten, traf noch nicht ein; wir hoffen auf bald.

Viel Kraft und Bewahrung für alle neuen Aufgaben im heißen Saigon Vietnam !

In getreuer Verbundenheit

Ihr