CONTENTS

NRB News 2017 01

50 years of Homecoming of Netaji’s Sword, 1967 12

Such was Our Leader: Excerpt from First Netaji Oration by S. A. Ayer 1961 30

A Letter from Lakshmi Sahgal 32

A Bunch of Old Letters from Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose to the Ministry of External Affairs 35

Restoration of the Wanderer Car 45

Archival Conservation 51
The inauguration of the 60th Anniversary Celebrations of Netaji Research Bureau was held at Netaji Bhawan on January 18, 2017, at 6 p.m. Shri Pranab Mukherjee, President of India, inaugurated this auspicious programme by unveiling the restored, historic Wanderer Car in which Sisir Kumar Bose drove Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from Calcutta to Gomoh on his Great Escape ("Mahanishkaraman") in January 1941. Professor Sugata Bose spoke about the significance of the great escape in India’s modern history. Professor Sumantra Bose read excerpts from Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose’s account of the escape. Shri Pranab Mukherjee paid rich tributes to Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose for steadfastly working to preserve the best traditions of the freedom movement. Professor Krishna Bose spoke at the conclusion of the programme.
The Wanderer has been restored to its original pristine condition with financial support from the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and with technical expertise provided by Audi, the original manufacturer. The supervision of the work of restoration was entrusted by Audi to vintage car specialists Pallab Roy and Saurav Roy. A team of skilled mechanics did a wonderful job of restoring the most prized possession of the Netaji Museum. Shri Pranab Mukherjee was delighted to take a seat in this historic car. Professor Sugata Bose drove the Wanderer down the driveway of Netaji Bhawan.
The Traditional Netaji Birthday Assembly was held at Netaji Bhawan on January 23, 2017, at 10.30 am. Pramita Mallick performed the opening music. Professor Sugata Bose gave the welcome address. The mechanics who restored the Wanderer car were presented medallions in recognition of their service. Major-General Sunil Yadav and Commodore Suprovo K. De paid tributes to Netaji on behalf of the armed forces. The Governor of West Bengal, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, presided over the function. Professor Krishna Bose presented the vote of thanks. Sourendra-Soumyajit with Meeryung Hall presented a special Netaji Birthday Concert.
On the same day at 6 p.m, the Netaji Oration 2017 was delivered by Ramachandra Guha on “The Long Life and Lingering Death of the Indian National Congress”. Professor Sumantra Bose was in the chair.
On April 13-14, 2017, Netaji Institute for Asian Studies and Netaji Research Bureau jointly organised a Two-Day National Seminar on 'Thinking History and Writing History: Asian Challenges and Experience.'

On July 8, 2017, Shri Keshari Nath Tripathi, Governor of West Bengal, in the presence of the poet Sankha Ghosh ceremonially released a CD of poetry readings by Krishna Bose “Rabindranather Bhasha Amaar Moner Katha” published by Bhavna Records. Tagore songs sung by Saunak Chattopadhyay, prefaced by English translations by Sugata Bose, followed.
A photographic exhibition on Netaji and the Indian freedom struggle was on display in New Delhi from August 1 to 9, 2017.

On August 10, 2017, Sugata Bose's book *The Nation As Mother and Other Visions of Nationhood* was released by Hon'ble Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former President of India. The author was in conversation with Shashi Tharoor, Member of Parliament, Lok Sabha, Pratap Bhanu Mehta, Vice Chancellor, Ashoka University, in the Teen Murti Auditorium, Teen Murti Circle, South Avenue Area, President’s Estate, New Delhi. Professor Seema Alavi of Delhi University moderated the discussion. Many parliamentarians, diplomats, scholars and students were present on the occasion.
On August 15, 2017, Netaji Research Bureau observed the 70th anniversary of freedom and partition. On the occasion Sugata Bose read excerpts from his book “The Nation As Mother..” The CD *Baishe Sraban*, script by Sankha Ghosh, readings by Subir Mitra and music by Pramita Mallick and Baikali, was released. Pramita Mallick performed a special selection of songs on the occasion.

Netaji Museum continued to be a major attraction for visitors from different parts of India and abroad. Many young students from disadvantaged background were allowed free entry. School students with their teachers visited the museum with great interest.
Distinguished visitors who came to Netaji Bhawan during this year included James Curran, Professor, Department of History, Sydney University, Australia and Lachlan Scully, Australian High Commissioner, New Delhi, on February 9, 2017, Hiroshi Hirabayashi, President, Japan - India Association and former Ambassador of Japan to India on March 11, 2017 and Shri Ananth Kumar, Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on June 15, 2017.

Mr. Iwao Horri, Vice Minister, Parliamentary Affairs, Government of Japan, visited Netaji Bhawan on December 9, 2017, and was received by Professor Krishna Bose.

Shri Ram Nath Kovind, Hon’ble President of India, visited Netaji Bhawan on November 29, 2017 to pay his tribute to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his first visit to Kolkata as Rashtrapati. He was received by Professor Krishna Bose and shown round the museum by Sarvani Gooptu, Biplab Ganguli and Madhuchhanda Ghosh.
President Kovind’s visit:
On 19 March 1967, at a historic and solemn ceremony at Netaji Bhawan, the sword of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was presented to the Netaji Museum by Lt. General Iwaichi Fujiwara, formerly chief of the liaison department of the Japanese Army with the Indian National Army.

More than five thousand people, from all walks of life, gathered at Netaji Bhawan at the invitation of Netaji Research Bureau to witness an unforgettable moving ceremony. The large dais, especially erected for the occasion, had most imposing back-drop of white marble effect, against which was displayed a super-size portrait of Netaji flanked by national flags of Japan and India. The dais was brilliantly lit up while the Bhawan grounds had diffuse and mellowed lighting, producing and altogether serene atmosphere. The proceedings, conducted strictly according to schedule, were relayed to the overflowing crowds around Netaji Bhawan. Shrimati Padmaja Naidu, Governor of West Bengal presided and with her on the rostrum were the Chief Minister Mr. Ajoy Kumar Mukherjee, members of the Consular Corp, General M. G. Dewan, G.O.C., Indian Army, Bengal Area, Dr. R. C. Majumdar, Chairman and other office-bearers of Netaji Research Bureau, Shri S. A. Ayer, representing the Provisional Government of Azad Hind, Central and State Ministers and members of Parliament. The Ministry of Defence, Government of India, sent the 30-man Bihar Regimental Brass Band to participate in the ceremony.
The sword was presented to Netaji in October 1943 when he visited Japan as Head of State, Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Supreme Commander, Indian Army. A token of goodwill and support for India’s freedom struggle, the presentation was made through the good offices of late Mr. Mitsuru Toyama, the grand old man of Japan’s political life. It was a present from a Japanese friend of India Mr. Shichihei Isono of Fukuoka, South Japan. The engraving in Japanese on the inside of the hilt of the sword reads: “Presented to His Excellency Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose of India by Shichihei Isono of Fukuoka. Respectfully made by Moritsugu and Norisada, residents of Fukuoka, Chikuzen, on this auspicious day of October 1943.” The writing on the lid of the original wooden box reads “Haja Kensho”, writing by Toyama himself when the presentation was made; it means “destroy evil and establish justice”. The writing on the lid of the newly made wooden box reads in Japanese: “The military sword carried by His Excellency Subhas Chandra Bose, Okinori Kaya.” The length of the blade is 2 feet 3 ½ inches, the total length being 3 feet.

Trumpets sounded by the Army Band signalled the arrival of the President and as the presidential procession wended its way to the rostrum, the Band played Mohammad Iqbal’s immortal tune “Sare jahan se achha Hindostan hamara”. After the distinguished guests had taken their seats the Netaji Research Bureau Choir led by Mr. Dilip Kumar Roy sang Tagore’s rousing song “Bandh bhenge dao, bandh bhenge dao” – a call to break all shackles and build a new order on the ashes of the old.
Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, then delivered the following welcome address:

Ladies, gentlemen, friends and comrades,

We have assembled here this evening to take part in a historic and solemn ceremony. And it is quite in the fitness of things that the Head of the State of West Bengal should preside at this assembly. Over the past few years Shrimati Naidu has become one of us and we feel delighted to have her with us this evening. My most important duty is to extend, on your behalf and on behalf of Netaji Research Bureau, a most cordial welcome to Lt.- General Fujiwara who is here to perform a sacred task. General Fujiwara is no alien to us. We welcome him as a valiant comrade – in – arms in the great crusade led by Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for Liberation of Asia and India. We have in our midst this evening a large number of friendly foreign countries including diplomatic representatives. We also have with us today leading men from all departments of our public and national life from different parts of our great country. We greet them all and welcome them to Netaji Bhawan.

To us in India this ceremony is at ones one of remembrance and rededication. Let me remind you that it was on the night of 18-19 March1944– we are in 1967– that the Indian National Army crossed the Indo – Burma frontier and hoisted the flag of Free India on Indian soil for the first time in two centuries. Let us therefore offer our salutations to the immortal heroes of the Azad Hind Fauj who laid down their lives so that India and Asia may be free. As we do so, let us remember that the blood of Japanese and Indian youth mingled freely on the hills and ravines of India’s North – East frontier so that India and Asia may be liberated once and for all from the shackles of Western Imperialism. That common blood sacrifice, more than anything else, has forged an indissoluble unity and friendship among the Japanese and the Indian peoples. Let us record on this momentous occasion – what we as a State and as a people have neglected to do in adequate measure for too long – let us record our gratitude to the people of Japan for the wonderful support they gave to India’s freedom fighters and the honour they did to our Leader during the crucial and final phase of our battle for freedom.

The sword that we shall be receiving today – sanctified with the touch of India’s greatest leader – will not be for us merely a relic of the past. It will remain for ever for you and the generations yet unborn as a flaming symbol of all that Netaji Subash Chandra Bose lived for. May it serve to perpetuate in our hearts indestructible faith in India’s destiny, remind us always of the unmatched velour and heroism of India’s revolutionary youth and of the supreme goal of our Revolution that Netaji set before us. May it instil in us afresh the faith and courage necessary to carry forward our struggle --- under the invincible banner of Netaji – to its ultimate fruition. May it, above all, serve to remind the Indian people, misled and misdirected often with false and wrong doctrines, that ‘Salvation does not come to the strengthless:’ Jai Hind

The Presidential address of Shrimati Naidu was next on the programme the full text of which follows: -

General Fujiwara, Mr. Chief Minister, Dr. Mazumder, Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose and friends,
Early in the New Year it was my prerogative to welcome on behalf of citizens of Calcutta sacred weapons of that almost legendary hero in our history, poet and mystic, teacher and fighter, Guru Govind Singh. Those weapons which were returned to India after a long exile were gazed upon with awe and reverence wherever they were exhibited, because they were tangible, visible relics of a glorious life. Today it gives me great pleasure and pride to welcome at this poignantly moving ceremony the sword of India’s greatest revolutionary who was known personally to many of us present here and who is adored by millions of his countrymen. This sword was presented to him when he went to Japan as Supreme Commander of the Indian National Army after having proclaimed the Provisional Government of Azad Hind. I would like to request General Fujiwara who has so graciously come to India to present this sword to the Netaji Museum, to convey to the people of Japan our gratitude not only for this gift but for all other gifts they have given to our fight for independence.

Once again today, as a few weeks ago when I was looking at the weapons of Guru Govind Singh, I am struck by the curious paradox of men of spiritual yearnings with the strain of mysticism deep-rooted in their ancient Vedic heritage, being associated with the cult of the sword. And yet, perhaps, in the case of Netaji it was inevitable. He had the great benediction of having as his teacher
during his childhood a man of great imagination who roused in him aesthetic and moral sense. He was barely fifteen when he underwent a great inner revolution – psychic, emotional, mental – after studying the writings of Swami Vivekananda with his scientific interpretation of the Vedanta and his concept of Yoga based on a rational philosophy. Swami Vivekananda’s lifelong dedication to the task of bringing about a reconciliation between science and religion through Vedanta gave a new vision to Subhas Chandra Bose’s questing eyes. And he adopted as his creed, as his life’s goal, Swamiji’s ideal of service to humanity. It was through Vivekananda’s writings that he learnt the gospel of Shri Ramkrishna Paramhansa with his uncompromising dictum that only through Renunciation could Realisation come and that it was not possible to have spiritual development without complete self-abnegation. These two sublime teachers laid the foundation of Subhas Chandra Bose’s inner growth. They inspired him and they gave to him that high sense of mission which was inseparable from every task that he undertook. He was a synthesis of their teachings and he believed that it was only through service to humanity that one could achieve any true and enduring self-realisation. All his life was spent in this search for avenues of service to humanity; for he was not satisfied with the narrow meaning of service to humanity in the sense of ministering to those in need. His conception of service to humanity was a widest coordinated endeavour to lead to national reconstruction on modern lines. And yet, that sensitive dedicated human being was driven through the relentless logic and compulsion of historical events into a sphere where effortlessly he became the chosen leader of a mighty armed crusade for the liberation of India from the degrading bondage of alien domination. The saga of that crusade is woven into the very warp and woof of the fabric of Indian history, of the triumphant struggle of India for freedom.

Today, this beautiful sword with its subtle inscription “Destroy evil, establish justice” has come to the home of Netaji to remind us of that stirring epoch in our history which will forever be associated with the name of Netaji. May all those who in the years to come visit Netaji Bhawan look upon the sword not merely as a weapon of destruction but as a symbol of strength, for the destruction of evil and the defence of might and right when they are allied together. Jai Hind

General Fujiwara delivered his speech in Japanese which was translated into English by Mr. Teru Sasaki. The English version of the speech follows: -

Madame Chairman, Members of Netaji Research Bureau, ladies and gentlemen,

It is over twenty years already since the patriot of the century and the great leader of the revolutionary movement of India disappeared from our midst. I speak of no other than His Excellency Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the great son of this city of Calcutta.

Twenty odd years is indeed a long time, but let me assure you, ladies and gentlemen, that the sentiments of respect and affection of our people of Japan towards Netaji remain as fresh and deep as our feelings of cordiality to the people of India. It is a matter of gratification that mutual understanding and good neighbourly relations between the two countries are deepening day by day.

To our great surprise and delight, ladies and gentlemen, the military sword carried by Netaji in the Southern front of Asia during second world war was found quite accidentally in Tokyo last autumn. This sword has been eagerly sought after for many years by some of us closely associated
with Netaji in the past. It was an offering made to Netaji by a Japanese well-wisher in 1943 with an ardent prayer for the success of struggle for the liberation of his motherland and Netaji, on his part, cherished it as a symbol of sincerity of the people of Japan.

The thought that such a precious and historic article should remain in a remote corner away from the land and the people he so deeply loved was unbearable to us Japanese – particularly to those of us who had the honour of associating with that great man in the past.

In view of this fact, we formed a committee consisting of, besides us, people who respect and admire Netaji and also those who are in close contact with your country now in various fields and considered the choice of a rightful place to which the sword should be removed and preserved permanently in a worthy manner. Then, we contacted your Ambassador in Tokyo, His Excellency Mr. Badr-ud-Din Tyabji for his kind advice.

I see no need of telling you, ladies and gentlemen, of our deep emotions on hearing of noble decision of the Netaji Research Bureau in Netaji Bhawan to heartily welcome the return of the sword and preserve it forever in his native Calcutta in the midst of people he loved and on the soil that reared him.

Following upon that decision, we had, with the consent and authorization of all those concerned with this memorable event, the honour of formally returning the sword to its rightful place through the good offices of His Excellency the Indian Ambassador on the 17th February last at the Chancellory of your Embassy in Tokyo, together with the expression of our respectful salutation to His Excellency the Netaji, our sincere affection towards the people of India as well as our ardent wishes for the deepening of the ever cordial relations between the two countries.

Today I stand before you, ladies and gentlemen, entrusted with the honorable duty at this splendid ceremony to deliver the sword to Netaji Research Bureau together with a message of goodwill from our people to its members and to the people of India.

Here is the sword which the great Netaji cherished. Please accept it and the warm feelings of the Japanese people which come with it.

Ladies and gentlemen, my mission is now coming to end. But before I conclude my short speech I have to crave your indulgence to permit me to add that all arrangements pertinent to the return of the sword have been made by the Japan National Foreign Affairs Foundation under its President Okinori Kaya assisted by the Indo – Japanese Association under its President Hisato Ichimanda.

In conclusion, I should be very grateful indeed to Netaji Research Bureau if it would be so kind as to find a small corner at Netaji Bhawan for the book I had written last autumn recording the cooperation of my “F Kikan” with the Indian National Army during the second Great War.

Madame Chairman and members of Netaji Research Bureau, please accept my profound thanks for the kindness and hospitality you are lavishing on me. I feel very grateful indeed to you all. Thank You!

After the conclusion of General Fujiwara’s speech, the Army Band played the Cariappa March and prepared the ground for the historic presentation that was to follow. As the martial strains gradually faded away, the President Shrimati Naidu called upon General Fujiwara to present Netaji’s sword to Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose for the Netaji Museum. The Army Band struck up the roll of drums
and amid deafening cries of 'Netaji Zindabad' raised by the emotionally surcharged audience, General Fujiwara formally presented the sword of Netaji to the Executive Director of Netaji Research Bureau. Both General Fujiwara and Dr. Sisir Bose were visibly moved and they warmly embraced each other after the presentation.

Shri S. A. Ayer proposed the vote of thanks in the following words: -

It is my pleasant duty to propose a hearty vote of thanks on this historic occasion. The Governor, who has presided over our function today, is not only the constitutional Head of the State of West Bengal, but is also daughter of an illustrious mother, Mrs. Sarojini Naidu, who was a front-rank nationalist woman leader and comrade of Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in Indian freedom struggle, and one who was a poetess of international fame.

I recall those days, some forty years ago, when, as a young reporter I used to interview Mrs. Sarojini Naidu in Bombay from time to time on the exciting developments in the political situation.

We, the young reporters, addressed her affectionately as “Akka”, meaning elder sister. And she was invariably kind, courteous and considerate to us, and reciprocated our affection with characteristic generosity. When I was working in Calcutta for a couple of years in the late 20's I interviewed Sarojini Devi at the residence of the late Deshapriya J. M. Sen Gupta across this very road, where she was staying as his guest.

We are thankful to the Governor for sparing the time to preside at today's ceremonial presentation of Netaji's sword to Netaji Museum.

We are thankful to the National Foreign Affairs Foundation of Japan for organizing the mission of Lieutenant General Fujiwara from Japan to India to present Netaji's sword to Netaji Museum at Calcutta. General Fujiwara is himself a part of the history of India's armed fight for freedom from outside India's border. On the Japanese side he played an important role in the formation of the first I.N.A. in Singapore under the leadership of the old revolutionary the late Rash Behari Bose and of General Mohan Singh.

In the 25 years since he witnessed the birth of the I.N.A. in Malaya in 1942, General Fujiwara (who was then a Major in the Japanese Army) has been a true and steadfast friend of India. When I visited Japan in 1951, General Fujiwara came down all the way from upcountry
to meet me in Tokyo. The glow on his face and the warmth of his words bore ample testimony to his happiness over the realization of our dreams of independence. He thus symbolises in himself the eternal friendship between Japan and India – in the past, at the present, and for all time to come in future.

In bringing Netaji’s sword to India, General Fujiwara has brought with him a piece of India’s history. Netaji proclaimed more than once that the British held India by the sword and they could be fought only with the sword. So, Netaji’s own sword is thus a sanctified symbol of India’s will to be free at all costs from 200 years of British rule which came to an end in 1947.

Our very sincere thanks are due to the Government of India – particularly the Ministry of Defence and the Army Headquarters – for sending an Army Band to participate in today’s programme. I am sure you all will agree with me that their contribution has made our function all the more impressive.

On behalf of you all, I should also like to thank the Netaji Research Bureau and all their sympathisers and supporters for the success of this function. Netaji Museum is a vivid and visual portrayal of Netaji, the revolutionary hero – patriot, and his miraculous achievements in the cause of India’s freedom. Netaji Research Bureau is not probing into a dead past but is engaging in projecting a dynamic past into the living present and potential future. The youth of today and generations yet unborn will be told all the facts about one of the greatest sons of India, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.

In years to come, the Bureau will tell the world in graphic detail about the magnetic personality, burning patriotism, selfless sacrifice, irrepressible optimism, rare courage, sturdy independence and far-sighted statesmanship of Netaji.

Once during the I.N.A. Movement in East Asia, someone said to Netaji, “Sir, we must write the history of the I.N.A.” Prompt came Netaji’s reply; “Let us make it, somebody else will write it”.

Thus Netaji made history that others may write. He created traditions that others may be proud of. He suffered and sacrificed that others may be happy. That sums up the philosophy of his life. Jai Hind.

After Mr. Ayer had concluded, the picture of Netaji holding the very sword that had just been returned to the Netaji Museum was projected on a screen. Renewed and full-throated cries of ‘Netaji Zindabad’ were raised by the audience once again.

The historic proceedings came to a close three national anthems – the Japanese and the Azad Hind anthems sung by the Netaji Research Bureau Choir and finally the Indian National Anthem played by the Army Band.
The ceremonial presentation of Netaji's sword to Netaji Museum in March 1967 was followed in December of the same year by an event of far-reaching historical significance. The sword was carried ceremonially across the country to India's metropolis and received and honoured inside the Red Fortress of Delhi by the President of the Republic of India.

The event was in a sense symbolic of Netaji's unfulfilled March on Delhi.

The visit of the sword to Delhi was sponsored by an All Party Parliamentary Committee with Mr. Sanjeeva Reddy, Speaker of Lok Sabha as Chairman and Mr. M. L. Sondhi, M.P. as the Convener. The event drew international attention.

Escorted by a team appointed by Netaji Research Bureau including its Executive Director Mr. Sisir Kumar Bose, Mr. Debnath Das of the INA and Mr. Samar Guha, M.P. Convener of National Committee on Netaji, the sword left the Howrah Station in a special coach with the Calcutta – Delhi Express on the 15th December, 1967. The sword was placed in the center of the coach in a glass case, flanked by Netaji's cap and boots in separate cases. A supersize photograph of Netaji looked down upon them. A rousing send-off was given at the station by a large gathering which included representatives of the State Government, the Consular Corps, leading citizens and leaders of political parties. A Youth Band was in attendance. Floral offerings were made on behalf of the Government, the Corporation, public institutions and individuals. As the train departed, the band played national tunes and the gathering raised rousing slogans viz. 'Netaji Zindabad' and 'Chalo Delhi'.

At all wayside stations, big and small - and at any time of the day and night – people gathered to have a glimpse of the historic sword and offer flowers. At principal stations receptions were arranged under State auspices as well as by public organisations. At Patna, a military guard of honour was presented in the presence of representatives of the State Government. Large crowds collected at Mughal Sarai, Allahabad, Kanpur, Ghaziabad and other stations. The reception organised at Allahabad was massive and singularly impressive. The special coach carrying the sword was detached from the Calcutta – Delhi Express on the morning of 17th December at Ghaziabad station and kept there till the afternoon. Throughout the day people from the surrounding countryside came in a continuous stream to see the sword and offer tributes. In the afternoon the coach was formed into a special train and taken to Delhi.

The special train carrying the sword steamed into the Delhi junction station at 4 p.m. amid tumultuous scenes. Platform No. 1, where the train
berthed was packed with people from end to end. It was with great difficulty that Shri Sanjeeva Reddy, Speaker of India's Parliament, followed by members of Parliament of all parties approached the special coach and formally received the sword. The sword was carried by the Speaker and members of Parliament to the military vehicle that was waiting outside the station to take the sword to the Red Fort in a procession. The sword was followed by Netaji's cap and boots and the banner of the Netaji Research Bureau. The Delhi Police band preceded the vehicle carrying the sword in imposing formation with thousands of people following them. Such a spectacle had not been seen in Delhi often. The crowd swelled to enormous proportions when the procession reached Chandni Chawk, the heart of ancient Delhi. Balconies of buildings, trees and all possible high points were occupied by enthusiastic people, young and old, who showered flowers on the sword. It was 6 p.m. when the procession, after traversing a mile and a half in about an hour, reached the ramparts of the Red Fort. Here the Army Band provided by the Defence Services took over as the vanguard. As the procession wended its way into the Red Fort towards the Dewan-e-Aam, a large and expectant crowd was waiting there. The President, the Prime Minister and other ministers arrived in time to receive the sword. At the outer gate of Dewan-e-Aam the glass-case containing the sword was taken off the vehicle and carried by senior I.N.A. officers, who had gathered in Delhi especially for the purpose, to the historic hall of Dewan-e-Aam to the accompaniment of the military band. The entire gathering rose to their feet and raised slogans, like 'Netaji Zindabad' as the sword, the cap and the boots were placed in the hall in front of a super-size portrait of Netaji in military uniform. The President formally received the sword and was the first to offer floral tributes. He was followed by the Prime Minister, other cabinet Ministers and members of Parliament representing different parties.

The President, Dr. Zakir Hussain delivered the following address in Hindustani:

Friends,

You have just witnessed the arrival of Netaji Subhas Bose's sword, boots and cap.

It is unnecessary to relate anything about Netaji to any Indian. These relics remind us of the time when he was engaged in the struggle for freedom.
The movement for freedom was going on in the country in a particular way. But Subhas Babu wanted to win freedom by a different method and he organised an army so that he could liberate India with the help of that army. Freedom could not be won by that army, but there is no doubt whatsoever that thanks to his movement, the attainment of freedom was rendered much easier and India gained her freedom. What is more, the crowning fact was that he demonstrated how Indians could organize themselves in one body, how people very different from one another and living in foreign lands could come together and be united. They set up an example of unity without which our country cannot go forward – an example which was demonstrated so well in that Army and in a manner not done anywhere else. We have to remind ourselves of it today because we are in great need of unity at the present time. So long as we do not have unity, so long as we do not accept one another as brothers, so long as we cannot work in all fields together, so long as we do not realize that what is more important than more shouting is to work, to exert ourselves and give ourselves to the cause, we shall not succeed. To win freedom was indeed a difficult task. But, somehow we achieved it. But to build and protect freedom, to reconstruct life anew in freedom is much more difficult, - that will need more unity, much more effort.

Let me hope that those who will come to gaze upon these relics – the sword with which Netaji and our other compatriots had resolved to win India’s freedom, the boots in which Netaji travelled throughout the world and fought from place to place for India’s freedom and the cap that sat on a head of such great wisdom and iron determination that eventually produced the results we have
seen- they will also similarly resolve in their hearts to spare no pains and do everything possible in thought and deed to make their country better, greater and stronger. If you do that there will have been some meaning in bringing and exhibiting these relics here. These relics are by themselves of no value – their worth will correspond to how and what you feel about them in your hearts. The more you will love them and the more they will influence your lives, the higher will be the ultimate value. I hope you will all derive such benefit from these relics. Jai Hind!

The President was followed by the Vice-President Shri V. V. Giri, who paid his tribute in the following words:

“Today marks an important and significant occasion in our lives when we have assembled here to pay our respectful homage to an eminent and illustrious son of India, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The sword which adorned the waist-belt of Neatji has acquired a halo of its own and symbolizes what the sword and its proud owner stood for – to destroy evil and glorify justice. Although many of us have not had the privilege of seeing Netaji Subhas in his Commander’s uniform, I can well imagine how impressive he must have looked in his imposing battle-dress with the shining sword glistening in his palms raised in the air for saluting the Tri-colour Flag or to give a clarion call to the freedom fighters of Azad Hind Fauj. I am particularly happy to be here on this historic occasion, because I am reminded of my close and active association with Netaji Subhas Bose, both of us belonging to the neighbouring districts of Ganjam and Cuttack where our fathers were distinguished lawyer and leaders of the respective Bars.

I feel proud that I should be associated with this function. As a comrade of Netaji in the freedom movement and in the organization of the working classes we stood shoulder to shoulder with one thought to make India free and to assure everyone equality of opportunities. I recall to my mind his spirit of selflessness, patriotism, discipline and dedication. In the many fields of nation-building activity that we worked together, I found him to be a real leader of men who breathed every minute the political freedom and economic salvation of the people. In the twenties in the organization of the working classes into trade unions, we were together whether it was organizing the labour in the mines, steel industry or the railways.

In 1938, when I was a Minister in Madras under Provincial Autonomy, I felt that only through Planning could we make India a really Socialist State and I approached Netaji, who was then the distinguished President of the Indian National Congress. Subhas himself was thinking along these very lines. To quote him: “Though it may be somewhat premature to give a detailed plan of reconstruction, we might as well consider some of the principles according to which our future social reconstruction should take place. I have no doubt in my mind that our chief national problems relating to the eradication of poverty, illiteracy, and to scientific production and distribution, can be effectively tackled only along socialistic lines. The very first thing which our future national Government will have to do would be to set up a Commission for drawing up a comprehensive plan of
reconstruction. This plan will have two parts – an immediate programme and a long – period programme". Subhas Bose’s response was spontaneous and he encouraged me in every possible way and extended in full measure his co-operation. We equally got the support of Sir M. Visveswarayya of revered memory and thus we formed a Provisional National Planning Committee as a preliminary step to the formation of the All India National Planning Committee. As President of the Indian National Congress Netaji secured the blessings of the Congress Working Committee in July 1938 at Wardha. Thereafter he presided over the Conference of the Industries Ministers of the Congress Provinces held at Delhi in October, 1938 to evolve a scheme for planning industrial development of India. After the spade-work was over, Subhas felt that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru’s Chairmanship of the Planning Committee would get together all sections and thus render the functioning of the Committee more effective. He wanted me to cable Panditji, who was then in U.K., request him to accept the position. Subhas relegated himself to the background; in all probability, he had a premonition that future activities of his would take him beyond the shores of India.

While the foundation of democratic planning was laid by that far sighted statesman Subhas Bose, the greater and more difficult task of bringing into reality the vision and the ideal was left to the

1 Crossroads PP 12-13
selfless and patriotic endeavors of respected Panditji. In this connection it may be of interest to note that not only Congress Government but also non-Congress Governments and Princely States took active part and also assisted the Planning Committee financially. What- to talk of planning – was once a fashion has today become a passion with our countrymen. This spade-work and pioneering endeavors truly laid the foundation of real and effective planning in India. With the result that we have today a Planning Commission charged with the over-all responsibility of transforming the entire structure of India and we are now working up the Fouth Five Year Plan.

Among the galaxy of national leaders who have put India on the world map Netaji Bose can legitimately claim a pride of place. He played a pivotal role during a very crucial phase of India’s historic march towards national liberation. The emergence of I.N.A may be reckoned as a significant landmark in the annals of India’s struggle for Independence and it was indeed a part of the Freedom Movement. Subhas could not brook any delay and he felt that action from all directions would help the Nationalist Movement to gather momentum. By creating a rather demoralising influence on British arms, the I.N.A. produced a salutary impact on the tempo of our freedom fight. The British felt that once the loyalty of the Armies was disturbed, The British Raj, which depended on military strength, would give way. The Indian National Congress under the inspiring leadership of Bapu not only worked for the political independence of our country but also set in motion the resurgent wave of emancipation in almost every subject nation of the world, specially in the Asian and African regions. Netaji’s parting message was that Germany might be defeated, Japan might be vanquished but India would remain invincible. He firmly believed that there was no defeat for India and he was determined to continue the fight for freedom as long as any life was left in him.

Netaji’s life is, thus, an inspiring saga of supreme sacrifice, a dream, a romance and something more. He coined the magical words “Jai Hind” and by sheer force of unalloyed patriotism, indefatigable energy, sterling character, unquenchable ardour for emancipating Mother India from alien bondage, magic power of speech, magnetic personality, resourcefulness and cool courage he carved out for himself an abiding niche in the annals of modern India.

Nothing would therefore, be a more appropriate form of paying our tribute to the beloved Netaji than to wage a ceaseless war against the fissiparous tendencies and parochial movements and against the erosion of moral values and deteriorating self-discipline. Our people will, I fervently hope, rise to the occasion and strive to emulate the illuminating example of Netaji and spread the fragrance of his inspiring ideals and achievements in promoting unity, goodwill, tolerance and mutual understanding.

To everyone of us Netaji symbolizes dedication and discipline, faith and fearlessness- the qualities that make any individual or a nation great. Today the problems that we face in the country are no less formidable than at the time India attained Independence. We are working and striving towards bringing the fruits of economic freedom to the common man. This calls for unity and dedication and I am quite sure the sword, the cap and the boots of Netaji will ever spur us on to multiply our endeavours towards the realization of the mighty goals with renewed vigour and zeal.”
The Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi offered her salutations in the following words in Hindi:

“So many of us who knew Netaji have assembled here today with hearts laden with emotion. His slogan was ‘Onward to Delhi’. He himself could not reach Delhi. But his sword has come here to-day and we welcome it warmly. Netaji was an example of India’s courage. I can still remember how when we were young and we looked into his inspired eyes, our hearts also filled up with fervour. We can therefore well understand how and with what fervour he organised the Azad Hind Fauj. And, our brave youth, both men and women soldiers, built up an organization that gave a new filip to India’s struggle for independence. We have become free as a result of sacrifices of many many people. The story of our freedom is a long one, it covers many years- a long period of time. And, in that Netaji’s name occupies a very values and high place. There is no Indian who does not have love and admiration for him- not just today but ever since he made his debut in our political life. From him our political movement received a new direction, a new enthusiasm and a new fervour. And, he was all the time restlessly looking for ways to go forward rapidly. He found a way out which was somewhat different from ours. But, as Gandhiji had said right at that time,- ‘the ways of the coward are wrong but whatever they may be, the ways of the brave are right.’ And there cannot be any doubt that the road that Netaji took was that of the very brave and that our freedom movement received a lot of assistance from his struggle.

The national song of the freedom movement was ‘Bande Mataram’ which was given to us by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee. After attainment of freedom, we chose ‘Jana Gana Mana’ to be our national anthem which we had received from Rabindranath Tagore. Likewise, our most powerful slogan today – the slogan which is familiar to everybody from NEFA and Nagaland and Kashmir to the far South is ‘JAI HIND’ and this slogan has been given to us by Netaji. We raise this slogan today both to remember him and also to remember the goal he set before us- the goal of unity- on which the President and the Vice-President dwelt at length today. But equally important is what Netaji himself symbolized and perhaps of which his sword is also the symbol- that a fire must always be there in the hearts of the people, the fire that burnt within him for the country’s freedom and in all those who participated at that time in the freedom struggle. That fire is no mean thing; it has nothing to do with petty things or internecine fights and efforts to gain advantage for one’s own group or state and such things; it is the fire that will burn within us for the progress and welfare of the entire nation and will give us the determination to do our duty regardless of any sacrifice or suffering, just as Netaji drew the sword and was prepared to face all possible tribulations and all kind of suffering. That was Netaji’s message.

And that message is equally important for us even to-day. We have, true enough, achieved our independence by following that road, but in respect of all-round freedom-economic freedom- which includes the task of raising every down-trodden citizen of India and of eliminating inequality- our journey is yet to be completed. Today, may be, we do not need to take up the sword in the same way; nevertheless, the idea that sword symbolizes continues to be extremely important for us and it must live on with us. And, if we wish to truly adore Netaji and keep his image alive, we must all be prepared to translate his dreams into reality.

JAI HIND
Shri Dindayal Upadhaya, M.P. said as follows**-  

Today at this historic Red Fortress of Delhi, we are receiving the sword of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the sword which he raised while giving the call to arms for India's freedom and the March on Delhi. If it were possible for us to welcome him personally, the joy, not merely of citizen of Delhi, but of the entire nation would be beyond description. Hope still lingers the hearts of our countrymen, whatever may be the official point of view.

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was among such great sons of Mother India who saw divinity in his native land and sacrificed his all for its independence, who was prepared to accept every possible method for the attainment of independence and he did so in actual fact. He drew inspiration from history. He drew inspiration from the life of Chhatrapati Sivaji Maharaj, who escaped from custody in a similar fashion and established Hind Swaraj in this land. He escaped from British clutches, went from country to country and lit the lamp of India's freedom. The freedom that we have today was given to us by him in his own lifetime. I would go further and say that he was the first person who functioned as the Head of State after winning freedom on his own strength. Moreover, in the area of Imphal where our flag now flies, his soldiers were first to hoist India's banner. In the Andaman Islands where innumerable freedom fighters had to suffer indescribable persecution, he was the first person to go and establish freedom. In my view, it will be very appropriate to rename the island as “Subhas Dwip” in his memory.

It is my view that we have to defend our freedom with the same means and methods which brought us freedom. Netaji was the first person to attempt to make a soldier out of every citizen of India and every Indian soldier truly national. He bridged the gulf that divides the citizen and the soldier. And today, if we go on with our work with the same feeling of unity and with the same spirit of nationalism, we can be certain that just he was able to abolish all separatist feelings in the Azad Hind Fauj, banish all evil from its ranks and unify them, we shall also similarly remain united, despite all the current manifestations of disunity, for the defence and prosperity of our country. And we shall also be prepared to accept all the possible roads leading to our goal. Let us understand that national independence is won by force of arms and has also to be defended by force of arms- that is what Netaji taught us. If we always remember that teaching and have the same conviction as we go on with our task, we shall really deserve to honour the sword- the symbol of matchless courage and strength.”

Shri Hari Vishnu Kamath, M.P. offered his tributes in the following words-  

“This is a red letter day in the annals of Independent India. The enthusiasm that you have shown today to welcome the sword of India's great and prodigious son is a manifestation of your love and regard for that immortal hero and fighter. The solemnity of this ceremony has increased manifold because it is being held in the historic Red Fort- the Red Fort which was the single goal of Netaji Subhas Chandra and his gallant Azad Hind Fauj. You will remember the strains of their war-song:

'Chalo Delhi' pukar ke
Quomi nishan sambhalke
Lal kille pe gar ke
Lahrae ja lahrae ja

" Free translation from Hindi
Among the luminaries who appeared in India in the course of our battle for freedom, Netaji Subhas Chandra occupies a very high place. If simultaneously with Mahatma Gandhi's 'Quit India' struggle, Netaji Subhas Chandra and his heroic Azad Hind Fauj had not given the 'Chalo Delhi' thrust, India would not have attained independence in 1947. Further, Netaji Subhas Chandra was the first President of the Azad Hind Government—the first President of free India. Netaji Subhas Chandra wanted to build a revolutionary political system of free socialist democracy on the firm foundation of India's history and culture. The matchless courage, statesmanship and absolute self-dedication that he displayed in the pursuit of this great ideal have become a saga of world history. And, today, as we remind ourselves of that saga, we are welcoming and honouring the sword of the great hero at the highest national level. This is a matter and an event of pride for us all. During World War II Netaji Subhas Chandra made his mark as an outstanding warrior, philosopher and statesman. In world history and particularly during World War II, there is none to equal his role as a warrior, philosopher and statesman at the same time.

He was a great votary of national unity. He inspired the Azad Hind Government and the Azad Hind Fauj with three great principles—unity, faith and sacrifice. The country badly needs these three principles today. And let me hope that our country will go forward inspired and enlightened by these great principles, achieve progress and prosperity and will become a leader of the world.

I had the privilege of coming close to Netaji Subhas Chandra and of travelling on the road shown by him. It would be no exaggeration if I were to say that Lokmanya Bal Gangadhar Tilak was the father of Indian unrest, Mahatma Gandhi the father of Indian struggle and Netaji Subhas Chandra the father of Indian Revolution.

In conclusion, let me express the hope—as has already been done by the President, the Vice-President and the Prime Minister—that following the road shown by Netaji our country may, as he himself hoped 'shine forth like the sun over the universe' (suraj ban kar jag par chamke) and may bring light to the world at large. With these words I salute the sword of our revered leader and deathless warrior.

JAI HIND

In the course of his speech, Mr. C.C. Desai M.P. recalled his association with Netaji as a student in England and said:

“While we knew that here was a Man of Destiny, here was a man whose name would go down in history, we did not realize at that time that ultimately in a great way, in a big way, he would be responsible for the liberation of the country. Actually, as you know, he became the first President of Independent India, working and functioning and operating on Indian soil. And, what did he not do to achieve this objective? The sword that he wielded was not for conquest, not for subjugation of the liberties of other people but for the freedom of this country.

If only he was with us now—if only he was with us from 1945 to 1947, the history of this country might well have been different. He was held in greater esteem by the Muslims, particularly by the Muslims of India and Mr. Jinnah than perhaps—and I do not want to say a disparaging word about
anybody: any other leader, Congress or otherwise. And if he was concerned with the independence and the fashioning of the future of India, things might have been different.”

Shri G. Viswanathan, M.P. also spoke.

The ceremony came to a close with deafening slogans of 'Netaji Zindabad' and 'Shan-a-Hind Zindabad' and the national anthem played by the Army Band.

Netaji’s sword, cap and boots were kept on view at the Dewan-e-Aam for three days and thousands of people of Delhi area visited the Red Fort during these days.
SUCH WAS OUR LEADER

- S.A. AYER

It was on the morning of 18th October, 1944. Netaji was taking the salute standing at the saluting base in one of the parade grounds in Mingaladon about fourteen miles from Rangoon City. The occasion was the first day of the Provisional Government Week, to celebrate the First Anniversary of the Proclamation of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind on the 21st of October the previous year at Singapore. The idea was to start the celebration on the 18th, three days before the historic day, and to conclude it three days after, namely on the 24th. But the very first day, and the very first function of that day nearly threw us into an abyss of disaster. How Netaji escaped being killed on the spot is even now a wonder to me.

The function started with an address from Netaji to the soldiers of the INA and girls of the Rani of Jhansi Regiment drawn up on the maidan. A row of chairs had been placed behind the saluting base, some five yards away, and I was seated on one of them along with Ministers of the Burma Government, my colleagues of the Azad Hind Government, senior IIL officials and INA officers, and Japanese military and civilian officers who had been invited. Right from the start of the parade, we heard intermittent reports of gunfire high up in the air. We thought that perhaps Japanese fighters were carrying out manoeuvres; so we did not pay much attention to those shots. Later it turned out that Japanese fighters were trying to chase away enemy planes approaching the skies over the parade ground. The morning was clear with bright sun-shine, and the Indian Tricolour proudly waving at the top of the flagmast next to the saluting base could be seen by enemy airman eight to ten thousand feet up in the air. And the troops drawn up on the ground and Netaji standing majestically in the uniform of the Supreme Commander provided unmistakable targets even for an airman moving at a high speed.

The ack-ack started thundering and then I saw a fighter plane painted in camouflage colours suddenly emerging from behind us, fly low over the tree-tops fringing the ground to our right, and the white pilot peering through his goggles over the port side of the cockpit at the parade ground below. All he had to do at the moment was to touch a button and his machineguns would have mowed down Netaji, the Ranis who were just then marching past and those of us who were seated just behind the saluting base.

Major General Zaman Kiani, Commander of the First Division, who was standing to attention on the ground to the left of the saluting base, turned to Netaji and begged of him to jump off the five-foot high base. Netaji did not budge, he did not even turn round to look at Kiani. Again Kiani shouted to Netaji; “Yeh, front nahin hai, sahib, mehrbani karke aap neche uthariye” (This is not the front, Sir, please step off the base).
By now, the girls had reached the other end of the ground, but then the soldiers were about to follow, and a splinter from one of the ack-ack guns whizzed past us, and hit a soldier at the base of his skull and killed him on the spot. The man actually fell within a few feet of where Netaji was still standing. Netaji could not any more resist the frantic appeal of Kiani who was bent on saving Netaji’s life from certain death. On his own, Kiani commanded the soldiers to disperse and take cover. Then Netaji coolly walked down the steps of the saluting base, strode unconcerned to the edge of the parade ground, and sat under a tree until the duel between the ack-ack guns and the fighters was over.
A LETTER FROM LAKSHMI SAHGAL

Dr. (Col.) Lakshmi Sahgal, I.N.A.
M.B.B.S., D.G.O.
Clinic : 8/193, ARYA NAGAR
KANPUR - 208 002
Tel. : 292607

Residence :
15/241, CIVIL LINES,
KANPUR - 208 001 (U.P.)
Tele. : 311393

Dated 28.1.2007

on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of Netaji
Research Bureau in Kolkata I feel as one of the remaining
officers of the INA will be failing in my duty if I do not
pay homage to Sisir Chandra Bose S/O late Sharat Chandra
Bose and nephew of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. Among all
the numerous nephews and nieces he was the closest to
Netaji. During his house imprisonment in Calcutta Sisir
Bose was one of the two persons who was allowed to visit
Netaji and spend long hours with him. During this period
Netaji confided in him his plans of escaping from Calcutta
and going out of India. He did not however give him all the
details regarding his future plans. It was Sisir Bose who
drove the car in which Netaji escaped and dropped him at
the railway station from where he took the train to Delhi
and later went on to Kabul. Sisir Bose was arrested by the
British, imprisoned and tortured but he revealed nothing
that could have been useful to the British authorities regard-
ing Netaji’s whereabouts.

The British may have been unsuccessful on the
battlefield in Europe and South East Asia but they were very
clever and successful in the battle of propaganda and mis-
information.

When Netaji reached South East Asia and contacted
the Japanese before taking over the leadership of I.N.A
the INA he was given full freedom to use all the radio stations in South East Asia to broadcast without censorship his future plans. Indians in South East Asia were also given this facility. However the British very cleverly jammed all these broadcasts and through their own propaganda machines made the Indian public believe that Netaji was a puppet in the hands of the Japanese and the INA and IIL had no individual powers or authority. This resulted in the INA not receiving any help or cooperation with our countrymen in India and the armed struggle for independence was launched on the Burma-India border and Arakan Hills when the Japanese surrendered and the INA failed. Indians taking part in the struggle were just loaded on five shire and sent back to India. Those INA officers and jawans who had been in the Indian Army did not have very much difficulty as they had all the necessary documents and were contacted and helped by their families and also by the ex-Indian army units in which they served. It was a different story for the civilian recruits numbering over thirty thousand who had joined the INA. Most of them had been in Malaysia two or three generations working in the rubber plantation and PWD in Malaysia and Burma of the village from which they originated. All they knew was that their leader Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose flocked there. It was at this stage that Sisir Bose came into the picture. Practically giving up his large practice as an eminent pediatrician, he very carefully and painstakingly questioned each one of them and was able to get a good and clear picture of Netaji’s activities in South East Asia and his leadership in the INA and IIL. Then he established the Netaji Research Bureau so that all the details could be kept permanently and the history of INA and its leader become known to the People of India and future generations. It was a very difficult task as people were still under the misguided propaganda which had been spread by the British. Political parties except for the Forward Block were also not prepared to accept Netaji’s role in the struggle for independence. However after the trial of the three INA officers in the Red Fort and due to Bhula Desai’s dynamic defence the truth could no longer be with held. The British government realized that if they want to escape alive from India that they will have to grant India independence immediately. They did this but only after cunningly taking advantage of Hindu-Muslim differences and partitioning the country India and Pakistan.

Sisir Bose did not finish off the Netaji Research Bureau
but kept adding to it in every possible way by visiting South East Asia, Burma, Germany and other places where Netaji had contacts. He was assisted by one Sri Sundaram who had been the member of Netaji’s establishment in Burma. He was very loyal and devoted and remained so to the end of his days. Another assistant was Kundan Singh a member of the Charwal Regiment. Later Sisir Chandra Bose started the annual feature at the Netaji Research Bureau on the 23rd January, Netaji’s Birthday. He invited members of the INA to every function so that people could learn all they could about Netaji and the INA. He even went to the extent of inviting ex-officers of the INA who had gone to Pakistan to come and deliver lectures. He also helped them in publishing books and articles on their experiences. It was from these people that India learned that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose always referred to Mahatma Gandhi as Father of the Nation. It is therefore only right that we acknowledge our deep sense of gratitude to the late Sisir Chandra Bose for the service he has done in keeping alive the memory of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the INA and IIL.

JAI HIND.

Dr. Col. Lajkhmi Sahgal
I N A.
A Bunch of Old Letters from Dr. Sisir Kumar Bose to the Ministry of External Affairs

No. 28/1303/74
1st October 1974

Mr. Kewal Singh

Foreign Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
South Block
NEW DELHI

Dear Mr. Kewal Singh,

With the approval and kind courtesy of your Ministry, we sent letters of invitation in 1972 to three gentlemen in Pakistan to participate in Netaji birth anniversary celebration in 1973. Owing to circumstances beyond our control there was no positive response to the invitation.

For the past few years Netaji’s birth anniversary celebrations organised by this Bureau have been taking an increasingly academic character. Important contributions are made by carefully selected invitees to a better understanding of Netaji and the Indian independence movement in general. In 1973 there was an International Seminar in which a large number of historians and former associates of Netaji from number of foreign countries participated.

On historical considerations, we should like to invite a number of persons from Pakistan who had played a notable role in the freedom struggle and worked with Netaji closely. The persons concerned are getting old. We therefore do not wish to delay matters if we can help it. We particularly have two persons in mind at the present
time. First, Mian Akbar Shah, who had played a very significant role in Netaji's escape from India in 1941, and second, Col. Habib-ur Rahman, who was the Deputy Chief of Staff of the INA, in-charge of the Officers' Training School and who accompanied Netaji on his last journey from Saigon. If the Government approve and would agree to forward the invitations, I shall draft the letters suitably and send them on to you. I should like to add that I shall be guided in the matter by the Ministry of External Affairs.

I shall look forward to an early reply.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sisir K. Bose
From the
Executive Director

NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU
AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
NETAJI SHAWAN
38/2 LALA LAJPAT RAI ROAD, CALCUTTA 20
No. 74/1180/75

9th August 1975

Shri Kewal Singh
Foreign Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
Central Secretariat
South Block
NEW DELHI

Dear Shri Kewal Singh,

In 1973 we held the first International Netaji Seminar which was a very fruitful meeting of Indian and foreign scholars researching on the Indian freedom movement. Participation of a number of persons directly involved in the freedom struggle and in historical events made the seminar all the more interesting. The first volume of the proceedings will be released next month and I shall be sending a copy to your Ministry. Prior to the seminar, at the suggestion of the Prime Minister, I sought the assistance of your Ministry to transmit invitations to a number of carefully selected persons in Pakistan to the seminar. By the kind courtesy of your Ministry such invitations were actually transmitted to Pakistan through the Swiss Embassy. The persons whom we invited last time were Col. Habib-ur Rehman Khan and Major General M. Z. Kiani both formerly of the I.N.A. and Mian Akbar Shah, a former Congressman, who had played a major role in the organisation of Netaji’s escape from India in 1941. Of course, for reasons over which we had no control, there was no positive response at that time to the invitations from Pakistan.

According to the programme fixed at the first seminar, the second International Seminar is going to be held on the occasion of Netaji’s birth anniversary in January 1976. The Organising Committee feels that participation of certain persons from Pakistan would contribute material to collection of information on important historical events of our freedom struggle, particularly contd. ....2
relating to Netaji's activities, since communications were established with Pakistan, I have received a letter from Col. Habib-ur Rahman in which he has expressed his desire to participate in the historical seminar in January 1976. I shall very much like to have the assistance and guidance from your side in the matter. If it is considered advisable, I shall be happy to send formal letters of invitations through our Government.

I shall be grateful if you will please advise me suitably in this regard.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sisir K. Bose
D. Mukharji,
Deputy Secretary(Pakaf)

No.PI/131/5/74 22nd August, 1975.

Dear Dr. Bose,

Would you kindly refer to your letter no.74/1180/75 dated the 9th August 1975 addressed to Foreign Secretary regarding an invitation to Col. Hafiz-ul-Rahman Khan to participate in the 2nd International Netaji Seminar.

2. As in the past, the Ministry of External Affairs would be able to forward your communications to the invitees in Pakistan through Swiss diplomatic channels, if you so desire. As you are aware, however, with the restoration of postal communications it would be possible for you to communicate directly with the invitees in Pakistan. In either case, I would request you to inform us of the final acceptances from Pakistan so that the Swiss Embassy can be advised to issue visas on application.

With best regards,

Yours sincerely,

(D. Mukharji)

Dr. Sisir K. Bose,
Executive Director,
Netaji Research Bureau,
Netaji Bhavan,
33/2 Lala Lajpat Rai Road,
Calcutta-20.

F. (Redaf) xerox 12 ao for ref.

H. F. Redaf (P)

F. Redaf.
From the
Executive Director

NETAJI RESEARCH BUREAU
AN INSTITUTE OF HISTORY, POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
NETAJI SHAWAN
38/2 LALA LAJPAT RAI ROAD - CALCUTTA 20
No.1544/75 25th September 1975

Shri D. Mukharji
Deputy Secretary (Pakaf)
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
New Delhi-II,

Dear Shri Mukharji,

I thank you very much for your letter No. PI/121/5/74 dated 22nd August 1974 regarding our invitation to Col. Habib ur Rahman to participate in the second International Netaji Seminar.

As advised by you I have sent a formal invitation direct to Col. Habib ur Rahman. The two other persons in Pakistan whom I have invited are - Major General M. Z. Kiani and Mian Akbar Shah. Major General Kiani was the Divisional Commander of the I.N.A. Mian Akbar Shah was the person who organised Netaji’s escape across West Frontier in 1941. Both of them therefore are in a position to contribute important historical data. I shall inform you if and when I receive acceptance to our invitations from Pakistan so that you may advise the Swiss Embassy to issue visas on application.

In this connection I should like to inform you that we have received acceptance of our invitation to the seminar from scholars in the United States, England, Germany and Japan. I desire to keep the Ministry of External Affairs informed about persons from foreign countries attending our seminar. Please let me know to whom I should send the names and the particulars. I should like to add in this connection that we are extremely careful in the matter of selection of our invitees. Only such persons who, we know, can make substantial contribution to historical studies on Netaji or any other aspect of the Indian independence movement are invited.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Dr. Sisir K. Bose
Mr. J. N. Mehta
Foreign Secretary
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India
Central Secretariat
South Block
New Delhi

Dear Mr. Mehta,

You will kindly refer to my letter No. 28/35/76 of 1 November 1976 in connection with our invitation to Mr. Kakitsubo of Japan and slain Akbar Shah of Pakistan to Netaji’s 80th birth anniversary at Netaji Bhawan in January next.

Mr. Kakitsubo, whose bi-data I enclosed with my last letter, will be giving the Netaji Oration 1977. We have requested Air India to give him a complimentary air ticket for which a clearance from you is necessary. I hope you will kindly give the necessary clearance at the earliest so that arrangements may be finalised by Mr. Kakitsubo and ourselves.

Mian Akbar Shah had a very distinguished role in the freedom struggle and played a key role in Netaji’s escape from India in January 1941. He has now confirmed his acceptance of our invitation to join Netaji’s birth anniversary in January 1977 and address the All-India History Seminar here on his role in Netaji’s escape. The seminar is being held here with the support of the Indian Council of Historical Research and historians from all parts of India will participate in it. I request that the necessary visa may please be granted to Mian Akbar Shah when he applies for it.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Netaji Research Bureau
38/2 Lala Lajpat Rai Road, Calcutta 700 020

Dr. N. K. Bose
M/s. Puri,
Deputy Secretary (PAKAF)
Tel: 371460

No.PL/121/5/74

December 27, 1976

My dear Khanna,

Dr. Sirir K. Bose, Executive Director, Netaji Research Bureau, Calcutta, has informed Foreign Secretary that Pakistan national Mian Akbar Shah, who played a key role in Netaji's escape from India in January 1947, has confirmed his acceptance of the Bureau's invitation to join Netaji's 30th birth anniversary celebrations in January 1977. Mian Akbar Shah is to address the All India History Seminar on that occasion.

2. J.S. (PAKAF) desires that when received the visa application of Mian Akbar Shah should be processed most expeditiously.

With kind regards and all good wishes for 1977,

Yours sincerely,

(S.M. Puri)

Sri O.P. Khanna
First Secretary (I&E),
Embassy of India,
Islamabad.

Copy to PVC
S.K. Puri,
Deputy Secretary (BAKAP)
TELE. 371460

No. FI/13/5/74                                  December 27, 1976

Dear Dr. Bose,

Please refer to your letter No. 22/1101/76 dated the 8th December, 1976.

2. We have instructed the Embassy of India in Islamabad to deal most expeditiously with Mian Akbar Shah's visa application when it is received by the Embassy.

Yours sincerely,

(S.K. Puri)

Dr. Sisir K. Bose,
Executive Director,
Netaji Research Bureau,
Netaji Bhavan,
33/2, Lala Lajpat Rai Road,
Calcutta- 700 020
IMMEDIATE

SISIR ROY
CARE OF S.S. ROY
CALCUTTA

YOUR TEL. OF 17 STOP

INDIAN EMBASSY ISLAMABAD INSTRUCTED REGARDING VISA
FOR COL. SHAUKAT MALIK

No. P/121/5/74

Sd/-
(2/Agency) 19.1.77
Under Secretary(Res.C)

25746

National Archives of India
Restoration of the Wanderer Car

The historic Wanderer car in which Sisir Kumar Bose drove his uncle Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on his Great Escape (Mahanishkraman) from Kolkata to Gomoh in January 1941 was restored to its original pristine condition with technical expertise provided by Audi, the manufacturer. A photographic record of the restoration process is presented here.
Archival Conservation

Netaji’s Cap

Before

After

Leopard skin, kept in Netaji’s bedroom

Before

After

Netaji’s personal leather suitcase

Before

After
Vol XXXX, January 2018  No. 1
Photographic & Documentary Materials
from the archives of Netaji Research Bureau

Cover Photograph:
Deshnayak ("Leader of the Country"): A portrait
of Subhas Chandra Bose, 1938

Copyright: Netaji Research Bureau
Edited by: Sugata Bose
Designed & Printed by: Virtual Media
Published by: Dr. Umasankar Sarkar
From:
Netaji Bhawan, 38/2, Lala lajpat Rai sarani,
Kolkata : 700020, India

Netaji Research Bureau