INDIA
Belgium & Luxembourg

70 Years of Diplomatic Relations

Prime Minister **SHRI NARENDRA MODI** *with Prime Minister of Belgium*
MR. CHARLES MICHEL *at the Egmont Palace in Brussels on March 30, 2016*

INDIA
Belgium & Luxembourg

70 Years of Diplomatic Relations

सत्यमेव जयते

Embassy of India
Brussels

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI being greeted by people on arrival at his hotel in Brussels (March 30, 2016)

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PREFACE

On September 20, 1947, barely a month after India's independence, Prince Eugene de Ligne presented his credentials as the Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to India. India reciprocated this important political gesture from Belgium by establishing one of its first diplomatic missions in West Europe in Brussels in March 1948 with Shri Badr-ud-Din Tyabji as Charge d'Affaires. Diplomatic ties at Legation level were established with Luxembourg in 1948.

As India celebrates 70 years of independence, our Embassy in Brussels is also proud to mark 70 year of diplomatic ties between India and Belgium & Luxembourg.

Our bilateral ties with Belgium have been hugely invigorated with the Official Visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Brussels on March 30, 2016 at the invitation of the Prime Minister of the Kingdom of Belgium, Mr. Charles Michel. This publication includes photographs of official and community to underscore the vibrancy of bilateral ties and the strong impetus provided to them by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

On the occasion of 70 years of India-Belgium and India-Luxembourg diplomatic ties, we are happy to bring out this expanded publication with more facsimiles of documents and photographs focusing on bilateral ties and high level exchanges.

Facsimiles of key documents and photographs of our early years in Brussels were produced in a publication, "India and the European Union: Milestones", brought out by the Embassy in 2014. The foreword of that publication is being reproduced in this publication to reiterate my thanks to all those who made that publication possible. This publication also expands on that publication with many more copies of key facsimiles and photographs tracing the beginning of India-Belgium and India-Luxembourg diplomatic relations.

My special gratitude for Princess Yolande, daughter of Prince Eugene de Ligne, who was gracious with her time in recounting to me the heady days of New Delhi in 1947-48. I am thankful to Prince Michel de Ligne, grandson of Prince Eugene de Ligne for lending me a copy of his grandfather's autobiography.

This publication would not have been possible but for the generous help and support from:

- Philippe Falisse, author of the most outstanding works on India-Belgium ties, *Belgian Heritage in India and Inspirations,* which are the source of much material
- Professor Winand Callewaert, from KU Leuven and the doyen of Indology in Belgium

- The Archives of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of Belgium: Mr. Alain Gerard and Ms. Veronique Regibot with thanks due to Ambassador Peter Claes for the introductions
- Office of the Grand Ducal Palace, Luxembourg: Mr. Michel Heintz, Director of the Cabinet of HRH the Grand Duke and Ms. Erna Kroes
- The Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg: Mr. Marc Ungeheur, Secretary-General and Ms. Marcelle Mangen, Counsellor in the Archives Directorate
- Press Service of the Luxembourgish Government
- My colleagues, Ambassador Jan Luykx of Belgium and Ambassador Sam Schreiner of Luxembourg
- National Archives of India, in particular Joint Director Shri Tassadque Hussain
- Photo Division, Government of India, with special thanks to Shri Asish Maitra
- External Publicity Division of the Ministry of External Affairs and its web-based photo gallery
- Shri E.P. Teki, a friend and a former MEA colleague
- My colleagues in the Embassy, in particular Smt. Rakhee Mayuri Bulusu
- Macro Graphics Pvt. Ltd.

Manjeev Singh Puri
Ambassador of India, Brussels

January 2, 2017

FOREWORD
INDIA-EU MILESTONES

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met the President of the European Council, Mr. Herman Van Rompuy, on November 14, 2014 on the sidelines of the G-20 Summit in Brisbane, Australia. This was in the year when we are celebrating ten years of the "Strategic Partnership" among the two largest democracies in the world, India and the European Union (EU).

The India-EU "Strategic Partnership" was launched in 2004 at the 5th India-EU Summit in The Hague by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, the Dutch Prime Minister Dr. Jan Balkenende, who held the Rotating Presidency of the European Council, and the President of the European Commission, Dr. Romano Prodi.

Earlier, Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Portuguese Prime Minister Mr. Antonio Guterres and the President of the European Commission, Dr. Romano Prodi held the 1st India-EU Summit in Lisbon in 2000.

Ambassador G.J. Malik, who as Third Secretary was one of our first diplomats to reach Belgium, suggests in his autobiographical work, "A Sikh Diplomat", that the decision to set up a Mission in Brussels was to reciprocate Belgium's gesture of sending Prince Eugene de Ligne as the first West European Ambassador in Delhi in late 1947 ["not a single West European country had an Ambassador in New Delhi – the United Kingdom had a High Commissioner but France and the Netherlands only had Charge d'Affaires"].

Be that as it may, the decision to establish the Embassy in Brussels in early 1948 was a most prescient one as in 1956 the city hosted the International Conference on the European Common Market and then become the headquarters of the European Economic Community.

Contacts between India and the European Coal and Steel Community and the European Economic Community started soon after the formation of these entities. Indeed, in this volume we are happy to reproduce the facsimile of a letter sent by our High Commission in London to them as early as 1957.

In 1962, India became one of the first Asian countries to establish diplomatic ties with the European Economic Community when Ambassador K.B. Lall presented his credentials to Mr. Walter Hallstein, the first President of the Commission of the European Economic Community. Completion of fifty years of diplomatic ties with the European Union was another compelling reason to document this rich history.

Bilateral relations between India and the EU were significantly enhanced and taken beyond trade and economic cooperation after the signing of a Cooperation Agreement

in 1994. The European Parliament constituted a Delegation for Relations with India in 2007. Today, the European Union is India's largest trading partner and one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment in India. India is among the EU's ten largest trading partners and Indian corporates are increasingly investing in Europe.

This publication is not the official history of India's relations with the European Union, starting with the establishment of the Embassy in Brussels, but a tracing of the legacy of the Strategic Partnership. It seeks to showcase the significant events of history pertaining to India's vibrant relations with the EU through graphics in the form of rarest of photographs to texts of key documents pledging bilateral cooperation. The book, in particular, presents snapshots of high-level visits from India to Brussels and of our leaders and Ambassadors who have made outstanding contributions to our partnership with the EU over the years.

For me the imperative to bring out this publication also has a strong personal connection.

My father, Shri S.S. Puri, had served as Ambassador of India to Belgium, Luxembourg and the EEC in the early 1980s. My following in his footsteps would make the Embassy name-board doubly singular. It already had a unique feature - Ambassador K.B. Lall's name being noted twice.

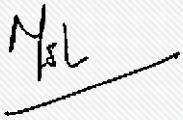
Moreover, Namrita, my wife, recalled a piece in the EASA Annual by Ms. Laila Tyabji on the setting up the Embassy in Brussels in 1948 by her father, Ambassador Badruddin Tyabji, while the Embassy's name-board began with Ambassador K.K. Chettur's arrival in 1954. This added hugely to my quest for the history of the Brussels Mission.

My children, Nooria and Sukrit, enthusiastically joined me in the excitement of working on this publication and are the source of many of the ideas that have gone into its making.

I would like to thank all those who were involved in this project, especially:

- Ms. Laila Tyabji, for confirming that it all began in 1948, and for permission to reproduce extracts from her father's autobiography, "Memoirs of an Egoist"
- National Archives of India, including Joint Secretary and Director General Shri V. Srinivas, and Assistant Director Shri Tassadque Hussain
- Photo Division of the Government of India – the archives on its website are an incredible source for landmark photographs – especially Shri Asish Maitra
- MEA archives - Joint Secretary Neena Malhotra
- The Archives of the European Union and, in particular, Mr. Hatto Kaefer, Chief of the Unit and Ms. Jocelyne Collonval, Archivist
- The audio-visual archives of the European Union – an amazing resource which has photographs of all Ambassadors who have been accredited to the EU and from high level meetings
- The websites of the European Union that contain all important documents and speeches
- Officials of the EEAS, in particular Ms. Maria Castillo-Fernandez and Mr. Peter Nagy, and the EU Mission in Delhi who helped locate photos and contacts of EU Heads of Mission
- Head of the EU Mission in Delhi and so many of the former Heads of the EU's Delhi Mission who sent us photographs of their presenting credentials

- Mr. Alexandero Spachis, former EU Head of Mission in Nepal, who had also served in the EU Mission in Delhi
- Ambassador P.M.S. Malik and Mr. Kiran Malik (UK)
- Ambassador Shivshankar Menon
- Shri Ramu Damodaran, Mrs. Myna Menon and Mr. Vijay Raghavan (New York)
- Shri A.S. Bhasin, MEA historian
- Joint Secretary (XP) Shri S. Akbaruddin and Director (XP) Shri Biswadip Dey
- Shri E.P. Teki, Consultant, PD Division, MEA – without his stepping in, it would not have been possible for us to complete this book
- Macro Graphics Pvt. Ltd. and its team members Shri Jeevan Singh Adhikari and Shri Khemchandra Sahu, who did all the design and art work for the Coffeetable Book
- And, above all, my colleagues in the Mission for their enthusiastic participation and immense contribution without which the publication would not have been possible:
  - Deputy Chief of Mission Renu Sharma
  - Counsellor Pooja Kapur, Counsellor Ankan Banerjee, First Secretary Dr. Praphullachandra Sharma, Second Secretary Soumya C.
  - My Personal Secretaries Shri Rohit Babbar and Shri K. Chakrapani
  - Assistants Shri Manish Kumar and Shri Amar Nath Sharma
  - Our long serving local staff with their uncanny ability to recall momentous events, Ms. Gerda Smaers, Mr. K. Parthasarthy, Mr. R.S. Dhillon, Mr. Devender Babbar, Mr. K.S. Gyani, Mr. Satnam Singh and Mr. Azmat Syed Maqbool. Special mention needs to be made of Ms. Daniela Godinho, who painstakingly gathered much of the material and put it all together.



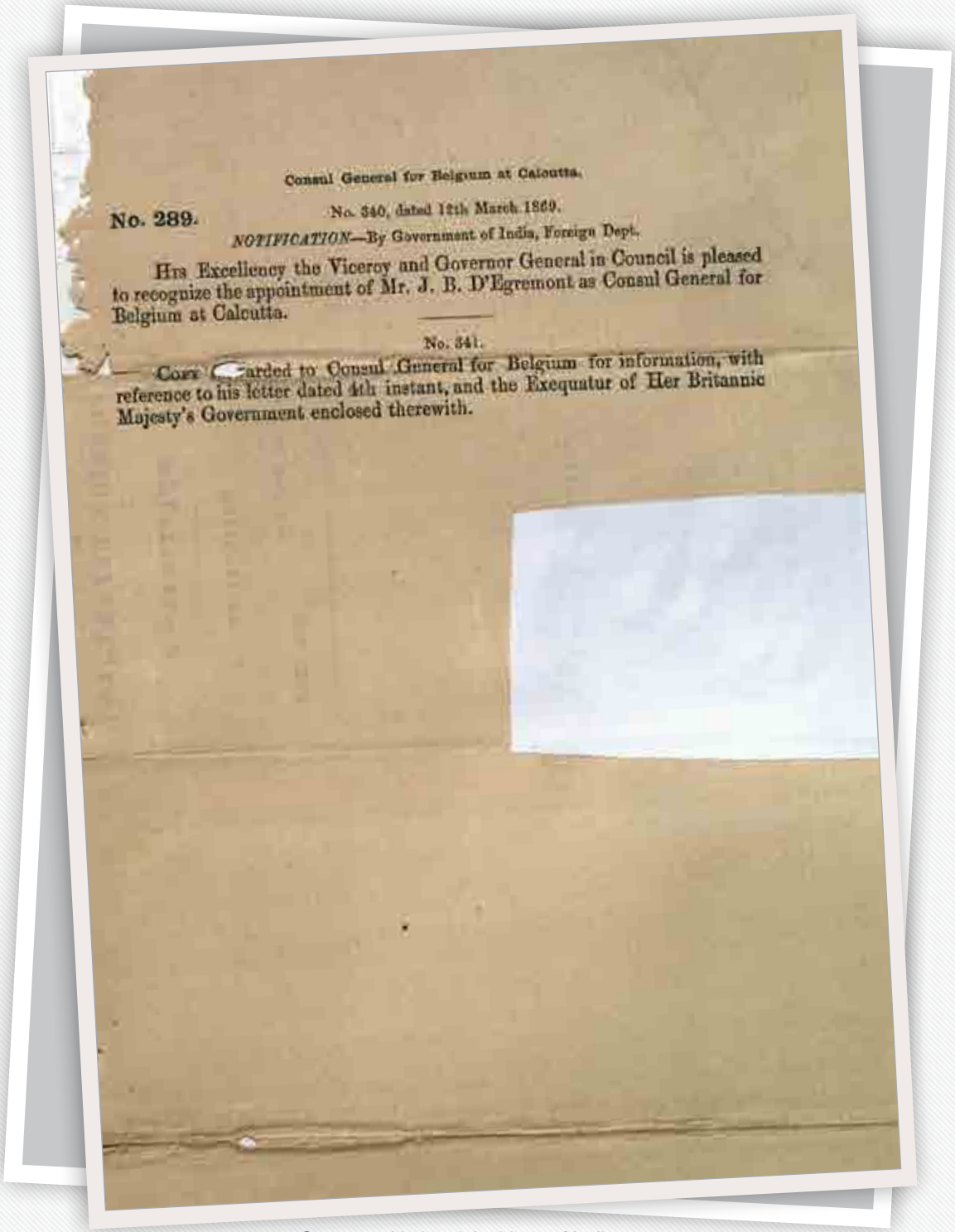
Manjeev Singh Puri
Ambassador of India, Brussels

November 17, 2014

EARLY CONTACTS

Trade brought Belgium to India with the grant of Letters Patents to the Ostend Company in the early 1700s. The Flag followed.

Archival records show the presence of Belgian Consulates in Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai from the mid 1800s.



Consul General for Belgium at Calcutta.

No. 289.

No. 340, dated 12th March 1869.

NOTIFICATION—By Government of India, Foreign Dept.

His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor General in Council is pleased to recognize the appointment of Mr. J. B. D'Egremont as Consul General for Belgium at Calcutta.

No. 341.

Copy forwarded to Consul General for Belgium for information, with reference to his letter dated 4th instant, and the Exequatur of Her Britannic Majesty's Government enclosed therewith.

Courtesy: National Archives of India

No. 12.

No. 84 (Political), dated India Office London, 20th September 1883.

From—The Secretary of State for India,

To—The Government of India.

In reply to the letter of Your Excellency's Government, No. 88 of the 27th July 1883, I have to communicate the confirmation by Her Majesty's Government of your recognition of Mr. P. Masotti as Acting Consul for Belgium at Bombay.

No. 13.

No. 2448G., dated Simla, 18th October 1883.

NOTIFICATION—By the Government of India, Foreign Department.

With reference to Foreign Department Notification No. 1854 G. of the 23rd July 1883, the recognition of the appointment by the Government of India of Mr. Paul Masotti as Acting Consul for Belgium at Bombay has been confirmed by Her Majesty's Government.

No. 2449 G.

Copy forwarded to the Government of Bombay for information, in continuation of this office endorsement No. 1855 G. of the 23rd July 1883.

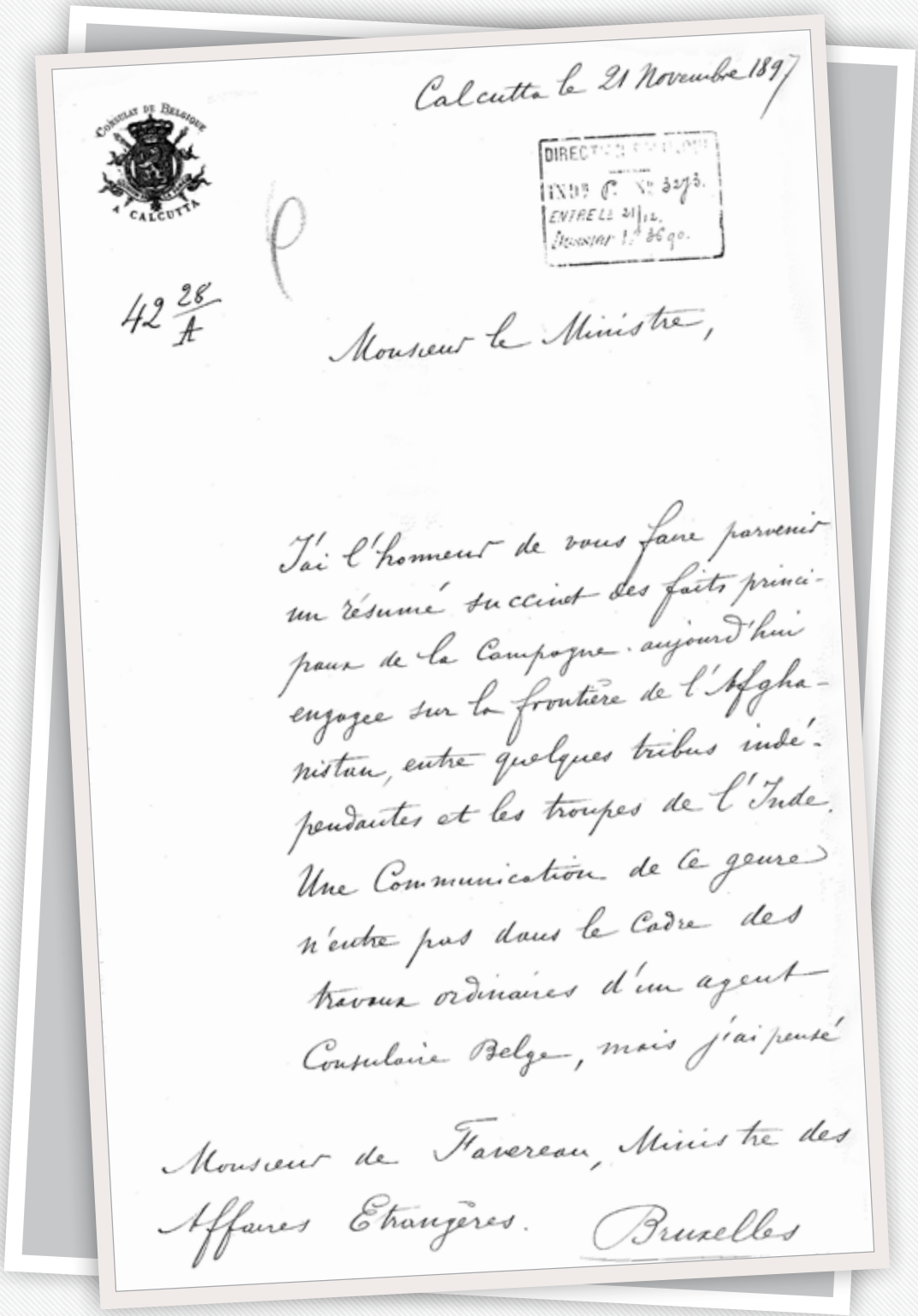
No. 2450 G.

Copy forwarded to the Acting Consul for Belgium at Bombay for information, in continuation of this office endorsement No. 1856 G. of the 23rd July 1883.

A—F—G—12-13—Gvt. Rd.—W. G. B.

Courtesy: National Archives of India

EARLY CONTACTS



Calcutta le 21 Novembre 1897

Consulat de Belgique à Calcutta

DIRECTION [illegible]
INDE C. N° 3273.
ENTRE LE 21/12.
Dossier 1.° 86 90.

42 28/A

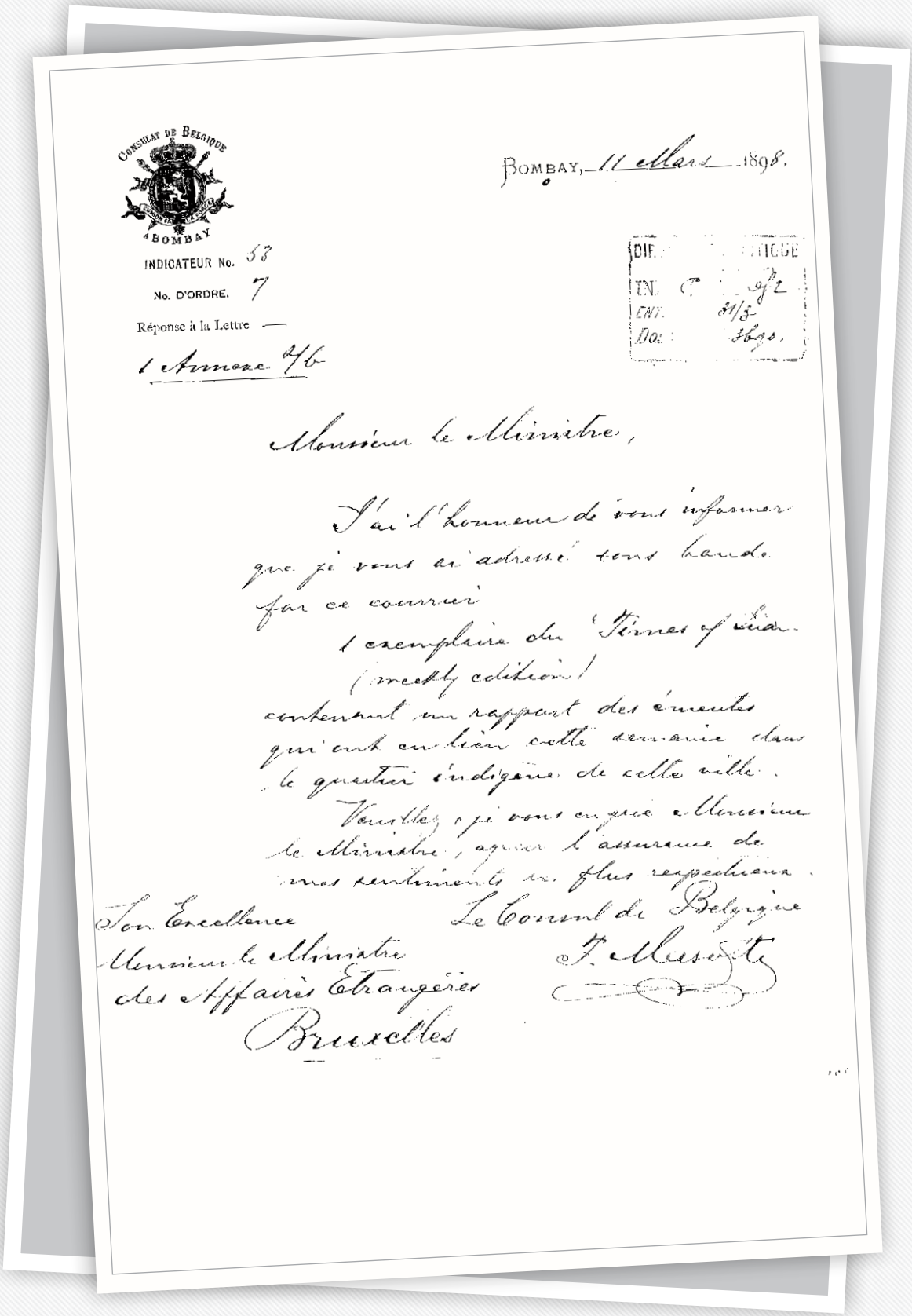
Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur de vous faire parvenir un résumé succinct des faits principaux de la Campagne aujourd'hui engagée sur la frontière de l'Afghanistan, entre quelques tribus indépendantes et les troupes de l'Inde. Une Communication de ce genre n'entre pas dans le Cadre des travaux ordinaires d'un agent Consulaire Belge, mais j'ai pensé

Monsieur de Favereau, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères. Bruxelles

Facsimile of letter from Belgian Consul in Kolkata dated November 21, 1897 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Brussels on the campaign on the frontier of Afghanistan with the Consul noting that "a communication on war does not fall within the scope of the ordinary work of a Belgian Consular Agent, but I thought ....".

Courtesy: Archives of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs of Belgium.



CONSULAT DE BELGIQUE
A BOMBAY

INDICATEUR No. 53
No. D'ORDRE. 7
Réponse à la Lettre —
1 Annexe 2/6

BOMBAY, 11 Mars 1898.

DIR... POLITIQUE
IN... 972
ENT... 21/5
DA... 1898.

Monsieur le Ministre,

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que je vous ai adressé sous bande par ce courrier

1 exemplaire du 'Times of India' (monthly edition)

contenant un rapport des émeutes qui ont eu lieu cette semaine dans le quartier indigène de cette ville.

Veuillez, je vous en prie, Monsieur le Ministre, agréer l'assurance de mes sentiments les plus respectueux.

Le Consul de Belgique
F. Masetti

Son Excellence
Monsieur le Ministre
des Affaires Etrangères
Bruxelles

Facsimile of letter from Belgian Consul in Mumbai dated March 11, 1898 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs in Brussels forwarding a copy of the "Times of India" (monthly).

Courtesy: Archives of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs of Belgium.

EARLY CONTACTS

Belgian Royal Family and India

On January 14, 1865, the Duke of Brabant, who became King Leopold II of the Belgians, was received by the staff of St. Xavier's College in Kolkata and conducted to a chair of State in the Hall. Addresses were read to the Prince in five different languages including English, French and Flemish. To the surprise of all, he replied with ease in each of these languages.

From: Belgian Heritage in India by Philippe Falisse.

In the course of his travels, the Duke of Brabant visited the Raja of Benaras.

Photo shows HM KING ALBERT I and QUEEN ELISABETH with the Raja of Benaras in 1926.

The Queen was never to forget India. At the age of 85, she asked the legendary yoga guru, MR. B.K.S. IYENGAR, to teach her to stand on her head (and did so).
From: Belgian Heritage in India by Philippe Falisse.

HM KING BAUDOUIN and QUEEN FABIOLA visiting the RAJA OF BENARAS during their State Visit to India in 1970.

India participated for the first time in the OLYMPIC GAMES IN ANTWERP IN 1920.

SHRI P.C. BANNERJEE, P.D. CHAUGULE, K.T. NAVALE, S. DATAR, D.D. SHINDE AND H.D. KAIKADI

Photo Courtesy: Ms. Margaret Makepeace's blog.

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Belgium

Rabindranath visited Belgium only once. He arrived in Belgium, on October 2, 1920, to deliver a lecture at the "Royal Artistic Circle" in Antwerp. Two to three days before leaving Holland for Belgium, he had received a letter from a certain Mr. Dubois requesting him to come to Brussels and speak at the "Palais de Justice" on October 4. We know that Rabindranath remained in Brussels till October 6 *[extract from an article by Philippe Falisse].*

In an interpretation of his famous anti-war allegory, The Boatman (1915), Tagore says that the sea-farer, who carries only "a white rose in his hand and a song on his lips" as he travels through a night "poisoned with black fear" is seeking an innocent country. The woman, who the war weary traveller finds on the shore represents Belgium, which was neutral to the First World War.

[from essay by Professor Alok Bhalla quoting EWRT 1: 173 and 3: 237].

Photo of bust of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore installed in KU Leuven in 2015.

STRUGGLE AGAINST COLONIZATION

The Conference of League against Imperialism was held at Egmont Palace, Brussels in 1927.

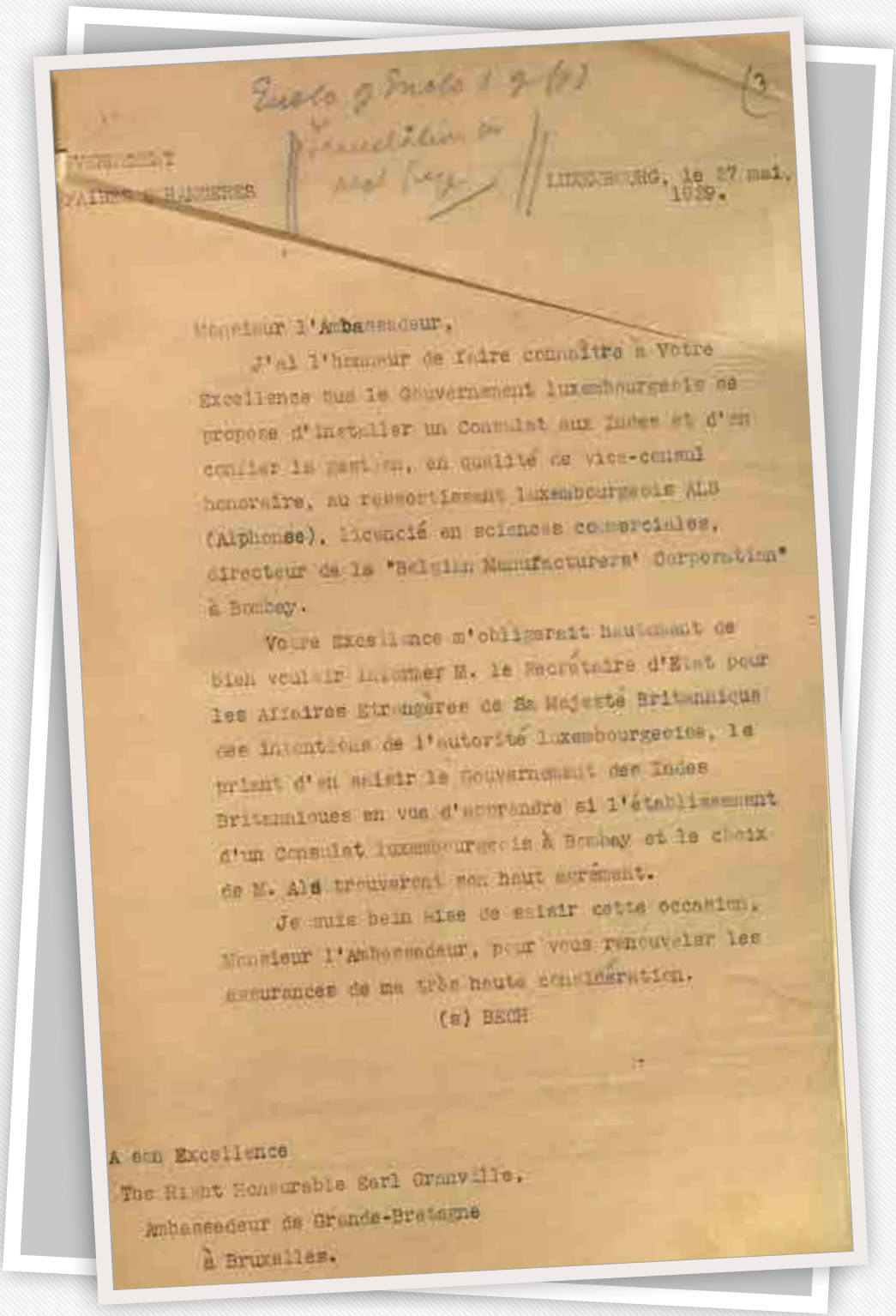
India was represented by PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU and SHRI VIRENDRANATH CHATTOPADHYAYA. Photo shows them both in a plenary session.

Earlier, in 1910, MADAME CAMA, DR. SAROJINI NAIDU and several other Indian freedom fighters attended a conference in Brussels for the independence of Egypt.

EARLY CONTACTS

Luxembourg and India

Letter from the Government of Luxembourg dated May 27, 1929 to the Ambassador of the UK in Brussels proposing the appointment of Mr. Alphonse Als as their honorary Vice-Consul in Mumbai.



LUXEMBOURG, le 27 mai, 1929.

Monsieur l'Ambassadeur,

J'ai l'honneur de faire connaître à Votre Excellence que le Gouvernement luxembourgeois se propose d'installer un Consulat aux Indes et d'en confier la gestion, en qualité de vice-consul honoraire, au ressortissant luxembourgeois ALS (Alphonse), licencié en sciences commerciales, directeur de la "Belgian Manufacturers' Corporation" à Bombay.

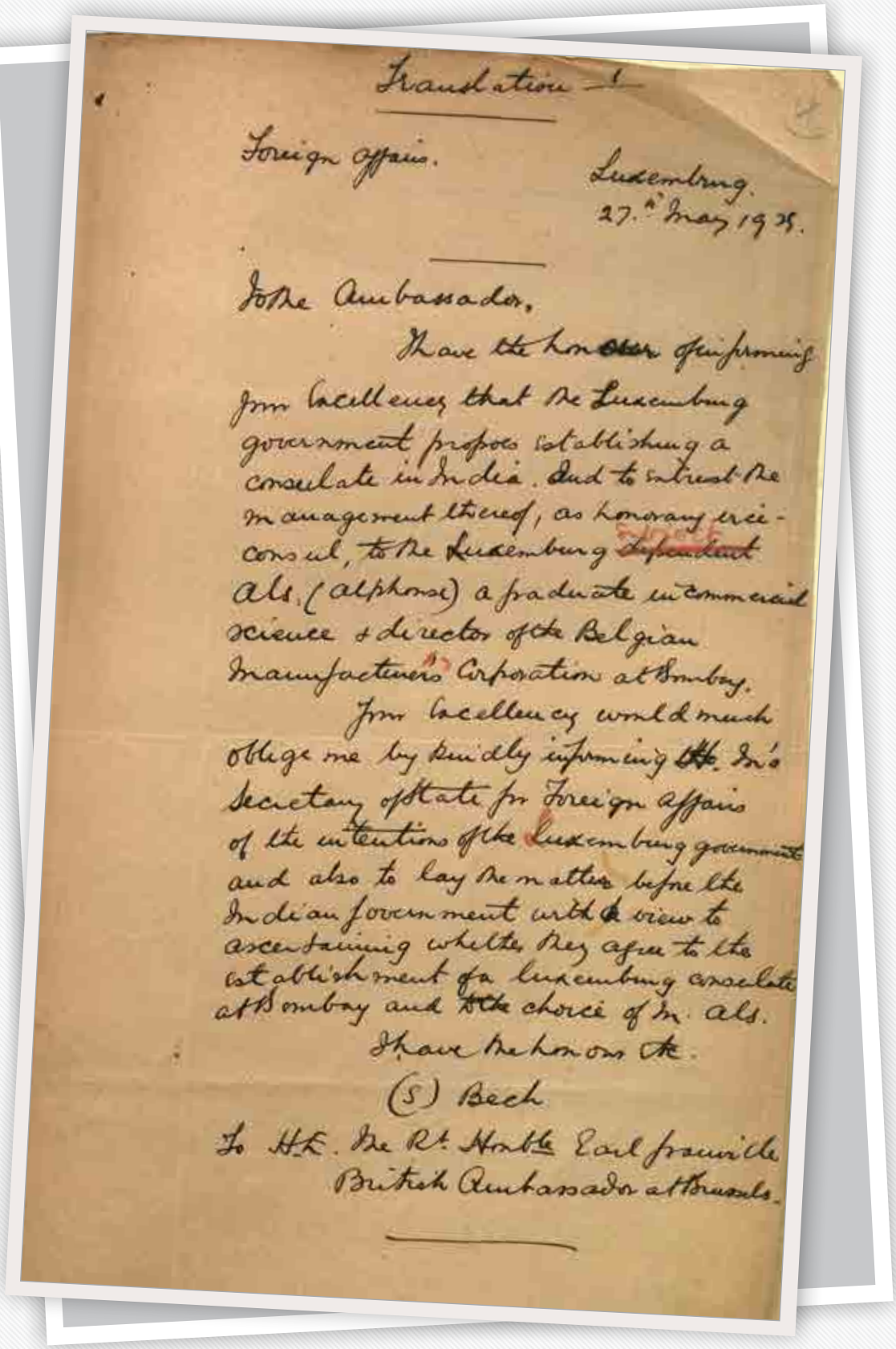
Votre Excellence m'obligerait hautement de bien vouloir informer M. le Secrétaire d'Etat pour les Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique des intentions de l'autorité luxembourgeoise, le prient d'en saisir le Gouvernement des Indes Britanniques en vue d'apprendre si l'établissement d'un Consulat luxembourgeois à Bombay et le choix de M. Als trouveront son haut agrément.

Je suis bien aise de saisir cette occasion, Monsieur l'Ambassadeur, pour vous renouveler les assurances de ma très haute considération.

(s) BECH

A son Excellence
The Right Honourable Earl Granville,
Ambassadeur de Grande-Bretagne
à Bruxelles.

Courtesy: National Archives of India



Translation —

Foreign Affairs.

Luxembourg.
27.th May 1928.

To the Ambassador,

I have the honour of informing Your Excellency that the Luxembourg government proposes establishing a consulate in India. And to entrust the management thereof, as honorary vice-consul, to the Luxembourg ~~Dependant~~ Als. (Alphonse) a graduate in commercial science & director of the Belgian Manufacturers' Corporation at Bombay.

Your Excellency would much oblige me by kindly informing the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs of the intentions of the Luxembourg government and also to lay the matter before the Indian government with a view to ascertaining whether they agree to the establishment of a Luxembourg consulate at Bombay and the choice of M. Als.

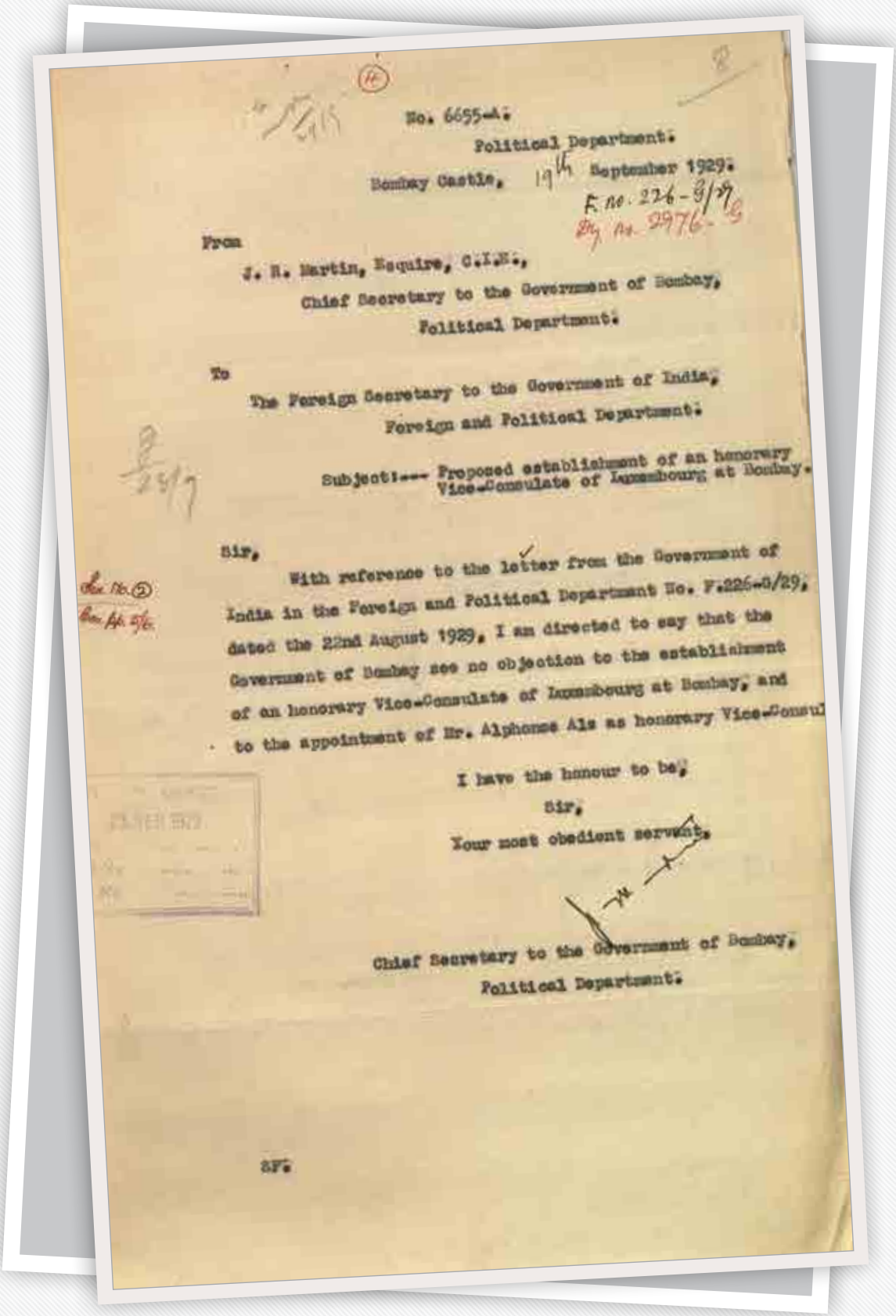
I have the honour &c.

(S) Bech

To H.E. the Rt. Hon.ble Earl Granville
British Ambassador at Brussels.

Courtesy: National Archives of India

EARLY CONTACTS



No. 6655-A.

Political Department.

Bombay Castle, 19th September 1929.

From

J. R. Martin, Esquire, C.I.E.,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

Political Department.

To

The Foreign Secretary to the Government of India,

Foreign and Political Department.

Subject:--- Proposed establishment of an honorary Vice-Consulate of Luxembourg at Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to the letter from the Government of India in the Foreign and Political Department No. F.226-G/29, dated the 22nd August 1929, I am directed to say that the Government of Bombay see no objection to the establishment of an honorary Vice-Consulate of Luxembourg at Bombay, and to the appointment of Mr. Alphonse Als as honorary Vice-Consul

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

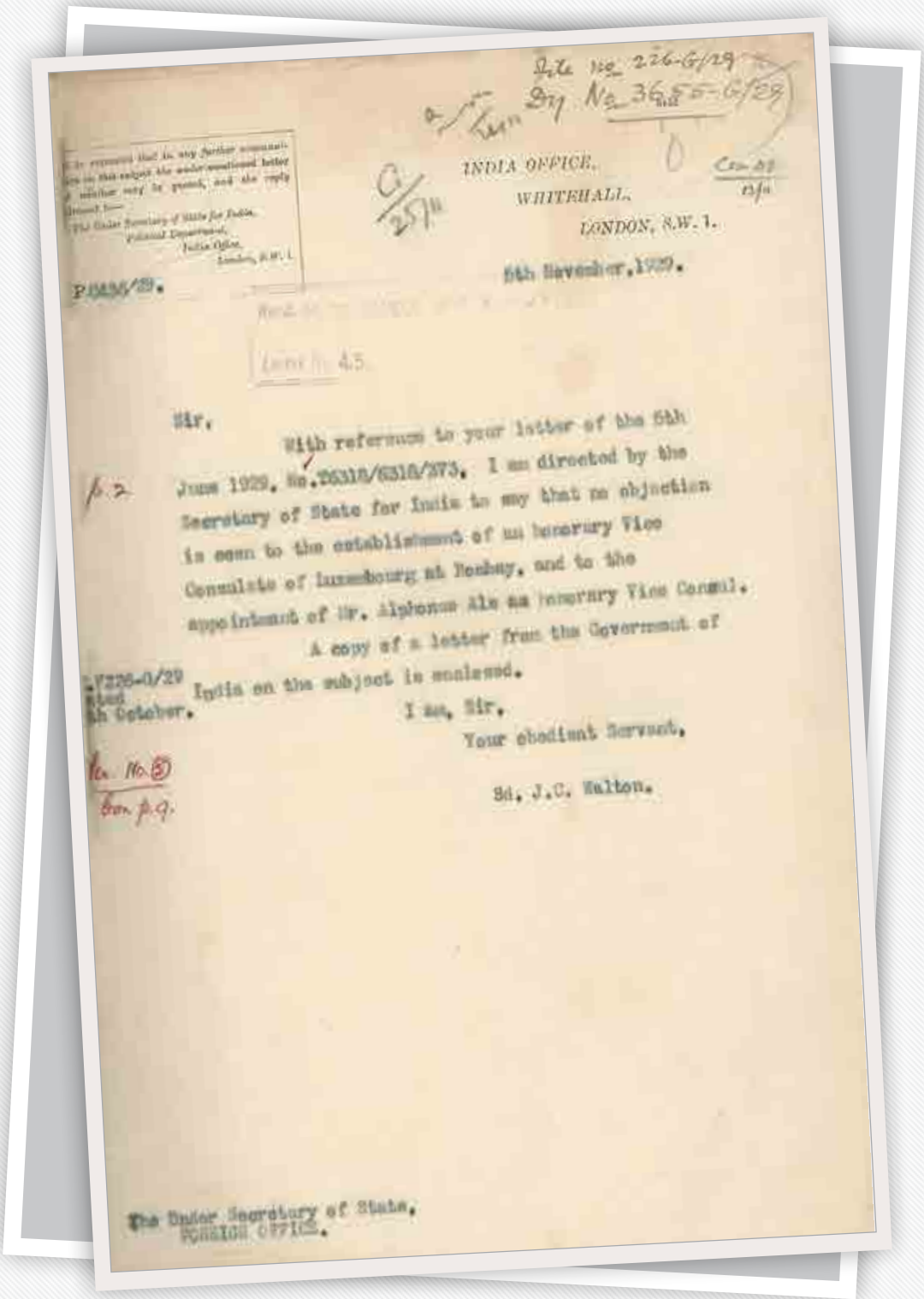
Your most obedient servant,

Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,

Political Department.

SF.

Courtesy: National Archives of India



File No. 226-G/29
Dy No. 3655-G/29

INDIA OFFICE,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON, S.W.1.

5th November, 1929.

P.3836/29.

Sir,

With reference to your letter of the 5th June 1929, No.26318/6318/273, I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to say that no objection is seen to the establishment of an honorary Vice Consulate of Luxembourg at Bombay, and to the appointment of Dr. Alphonse Als as honorary Vice Consul.

A copy of a letter from the Government of India on the subject is enclosed.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,

Sd. J.C. Walton.

The Under Secretary of State,
FOREIGN OFFICE.

Courtesy: National Archives of India

Letter dated November 5, 1929 from the India Office conveying “no objection” to the establishment of an honorary Vice Consulate of Luxembourg in Mumbai and appointment of Dr. Alphonse Als, Director of the Belgian Manufacturers Corporation as the honorary Vice-Consul.

An interesting sidelight to India-Luxembourg ties was the arrest in 1925 of the famous revolutionary, Shri M.N. Roy, in Paris on January 30 and his being deported to Luxembourg, from where he later escaped and made his way to Moscow. His letter to the “Ligue des Droits de l’Homme et du Citoyen” details the arrest.

EARLY CONTACTS

Belgian Jesuit Fathers helped establish St. Xavier's College in Kolkata and spread European education in India. Several also distinguished themselves as scholars of Indian languages and scriptures.

Indology and the study of Indian culture and languages was also introduced in Belgium. Sanksrit was taught for the first time in KU Leuven in 1841. Today, KU Leuven and the University of Ghent, among others in Belgium, have active programs pursuing studies of India.

Photo shows Father CAMILLE BULCKE being conferred the Padma Bhushan by President SHRI V.V. GIRI in 1974 for his "outstanding contribution to Literature and Education". His English-Hindi Dictionary, brought out in 1981, remains one of the most popular.

प्रधान मंत्री
PRIME MINISTER

नई दिल्ली
१० सितम्बर, १९९९

यह अत्यंत प्रसन्नता का विषय है कि लंदन में आयोजित होने जा रहे **"छठे विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन"** में भारत सक्रिय रूप से सम्बद्ध है। अब हिन्दी केवल भारत की ही भाषा नहीं रही बल्कि उसने विश्व-स्तर पर प्रगति के नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित किए हैं। अनेक देशों में उसके अध्ययन के प्रति अभिरुचि दिन-प्रतिदिन बढ़ रही है और विदेशों में बसे हिन्दी प्रेमियों ने इसके विस्तार में अपनी अनूठी भूमिका निभाई है, जिसके लिए वे निस्सन्देह बधाई के पात्र हैं।

ऐसे आयोजन देश-विदेश के हिन्दी प्रेमियों और विद्वानों को निकट लाने में अत्यंत महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं। **'छठे विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन'** का यह आयोजन **१४ सितम्बर** के उस महत्वपूर्ण दिन होने जा रहा है, जिस दिन हिन्दी को भारत की राजभाषा घोषित किया गया था और उल्लेखनीय है कि इसी दिन इसकी **"स्वर्ण जयंती"** भी मनाई जा रही है।

'छठे विश्व हिन्दी सम्मेलन' के अवसर पर विद्वान के रूप में आपको सम्मानित किए जाने पर विशेष बधाई देते हुए मुझे हार्दिक प्रसन्नता हो रही है। विश्वभर के हिन्दी प्रेमी आपकी निरंतर सर्जना एवं सेवा के प्रति आशान्वित हैं।

अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी
(अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी)

श्री विनांड केलवर्ट
बेल्जियम

PROF. WINAND CALLEWAERT taught at KU Leuven after having studied in Ranchi, Varanasi and Pune. Among his extensive works are the Dictionary of Bhakti Texts in English. He was recognized as a distinguished scholar at the World Hindi Conference held in London in 1999 and issued a letter of appreciation by Prime Minister SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE.

WORLD WAR I

"With Belgium, we have relations of blood. A little over 100 years ago, over 130,000 Indian soldiers fought in the World War I in Belgium under extreme adversities with over 9000 of them making supreme sacrifice. Our blood has flown in this country."

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the lunch hosted for him by the Prime Minister of Belgium in Brussels on March 30, 2016.

The Menin Gate in Ypres lists around 420 Indian soldiers for whom there is no known grave. Every day, at 8 pm, the Last Post is sounded at the Menin Gate.

In 2002, at the request of the Government of India, an Indian Memorial was erected on the lawn south of the Menin Gate. This was replaced in 2011 with a new one with the Indian National Emblem. Each year, on November 12, the memorial is the location of a remembrance ceremony for Indian soldiers.

General (Retired) V.K. SINGH, Minister of State for External Affairs, represented India at the commemoration of the centenary of the start of World War I, held at Nieuwpoort and Ypres in November 2014.

Photos show him in conversation with HM KING PHILIPPE of the Belgians at the function in Ypres and with Belgian Prime Minister MR. CHARLES MICHEL and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs MR. DIDIER REYNDERS at Nieuwpoort.

WORLD WAR I

The Embassy of India hosted an event at the Army Museum in Brussels in October 2014 to commemorate the participation of the Indian Army in WWI. Presentations were made at this event by Squadron Leader (Retired) RANA CHHINA of USI New Delhi, who has done pioneering work on the Indian Army in WWI, MR. DOMINIEK DENDOOVEN, the curator in In Flanders Fields Museum, Ypres, who has focused on the role of the Indian Army on the Western Front in WWI and Brigadier M.S. JODHA of Indian Army, whose grand-father had fought in WWI.

Photo shows them with General GERARD VAN CAELENBERGE, Chief of Defence Staff of Belgium and Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI.

Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI reading the Exhortation at the Last Post ceremony at Menin Gate.

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

Belgium establishes Embassy in Delhi

MINISTERE DES AFFAIRES ETRANGERES

Direction Générale de la Politique
Section II.

el Jonnès

Bruxelles, le 18 septembre

CIRCULAIRE D'INFORMATION N° 16.

L'établissement de relations diplomatiques entre la Belgique et les Indes.

Dès septembre 1946, les Indes britanniques - en voie d'entrer dans le Commonwealth avec le statut de dominion - prenaient contact avec différents pays en vue d'établir avec leur Gouvernement des relations diplomatiques.

Au moment où la question se posa pour la Belgique d'échanger des missions diplomatiques avec l'Inde, ce dernier pays avait déjà officiellement pris l'engagement d'échanger des Ambassades avec les Etats-Unis d'Amérique, la Chine, l'U.R.S.S. et la France. Le premier Haut-Commissaire britannique y était en fonctions, tandis que l'Inde était diplomatiquement représentée aux U.S.A., en Chine, en Australie, en Afrique Australe, en Birmanie, à Ceylan et en Malaisie et elle avait des conseillers commerciaux dans de nombreux pays.

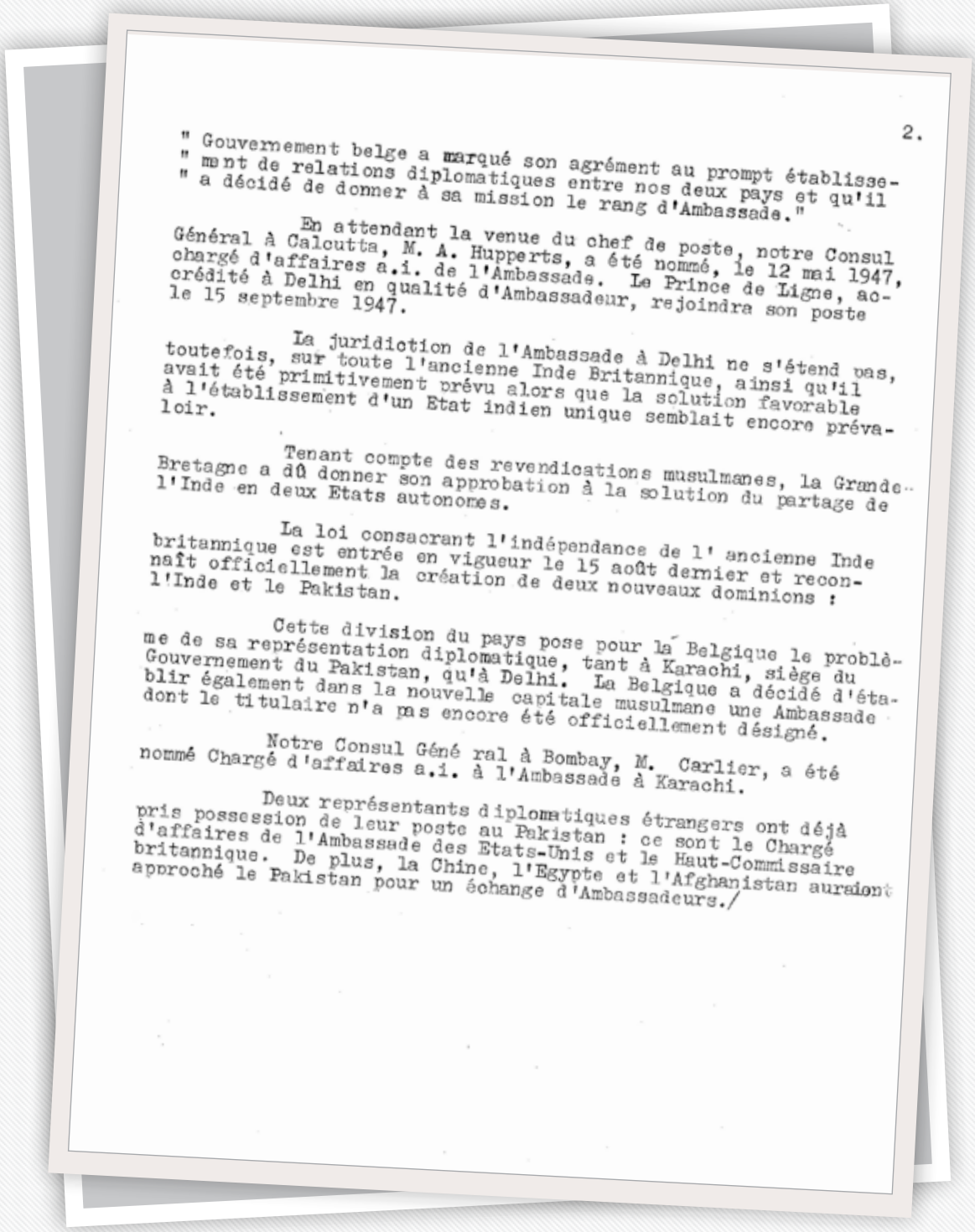
En janvier 1947, le Pandit Jawarhalal Nehru, Vice-Président du Gouvernement Indien et Ministre des Relations Extérieures, investit M. Krishna Menon ,d'une mission spéciale en vue d'étendre le réseau des échanges diplomatiques de l'Inde.

Pendant son séjour en Europe, M. K. Menon se rendit en Belgique où, au cours d'une audience que lui accorda M. P.H. Spaak, le 14 janvier 1947, un accord de principe fut a tteint d'établir sans retard des relations diplomatiques entre les deux pays par l'échange de missions de rang équivalent.

Le Conseil des Ministres, par sa séance du 31 janvier 1947, décida d'établir une Ambassade à Delhi.

Le 18 mars 1947, M. Spaak notifia officiellement à M. Nehru que "déférant au voeu du Gouvernement de l'Inde, le

"...



2.

" Gouvernement belge a marqué son agrément au prompt établisse-
" ment de relations diplomatiques entre nos deux pays et qu'il
" a décidé de donner à sa mission le rang d'Ambassade."

En attendant la venue du chef de poste, notre Consul Général à Calcutta, M. A. Hupperts, a été nommé, le 12 mai 1947, chargé d'affaires a.i. de l'Ambassade. Le Prince de Ligne, accrédité à Delhi en qualité d'Ambassadeur, rejoindra son poste le 15 septembre 1947.

La juridiction de l'Ambassade à Delhi ne s'étend pas, toutefois, sur toute l'ancienne Inde Britannique, ainsi qu'il avait été primitivement prévu alors que la solution favorable à l'établissement d'un Etat indien unique semblait encore prévaloir.

Tenant compte des revendications musulmanes, la Grande-Bretagne a dû donner son approbation à la solution du partage de l'Inde en deux Etats autonomes.

La loi consacrant l'indépendance de l' ancienne Inde britannique est entrée en vigueur le 15 août dernier et reconnaît officiellement la création de deux nouveaux dominions : l'Inde et le Pakistan.

Cette division du pays pose pour la Belgique le problème de sa représentation diplomatique, tant à Karachi, siège du Gouvernement du Pakistan, qu'à Delhi. La Belgique a décidé d'établir également dans la nouvelle capitale musulmane une Ambassade dont le titulaire n'a pas encore été officiellement désigné.

Notre Consul Géné ral à Bombay, M. Carlier, a été nommé Chargé d'affaires a.i. à l'Ambassade à Karachi.

Deux représentants diplomatiques étrangers ont déjà pris possession de leur poste au Pakistan : ce sont le Chargé d'affaires de l'Ambassade des Etats-Unis et le Haut-Commissaire britannique. De plus, la Chine, l'Egypte et l'Afghanistan auraient approché le Pakistan pour un échange d'Ambassadeurs./

Circular dated September 18, 1947 issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium on the establishment of diplomatic relations with India.

Following a meeting in Brussels on January 14, 1947 between Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr P.H. Spaak, and Special Envoy of India, Shri Krishna Menon, an agreement in principle was reached to establish without delay diplomatic relations between the two countries. On January 31, 1947, the Belgian Council of Ministers decided to establish an Embassy in Delhi.

Pending the arrival of the Head of the Mission, Belgian Consul General in Calcutta, Mr. A. Hupperts, was appointed, on May 12, 1947, as Chargé d'Affaires a.i of the Embassy. The Prince of Ligne, accredited to Delhi as Ambassador, is to join his post on September 15, 1947.

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

Copie conforme.

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE

Monsieur Mon Frère et Très Cher Cousin, Animé du plus vif désir de temoigner à Votre Majesté tout le prix que j'attache à maintenir et à resserrer de plus en plus les liens d'amitié si heureusement établis entre la Belgique et le Dominion de l'Inde, J'ai fait choix en qualité d'Ambassadeur extraordinaire et plénipotentiaire de Belgique à Delhi, de Son Altesse le Prince de LIGNE, Prince d'AMBLISE et d'EPINOY, Commandeur de l'Ordre Royal du Lion, Officier de l'Ordre de Léopold, Officier de l'Ordre de la Couronne, Titulaire de la Croix de Guerre avec palme, de la Croix de l'Yser, etc. etc. Les qualités qui distinguent Son Altesse, son dévouément à Ma Personne, les talents et le zèle dont il a fait preuve dans les hautes fonctions qui lui ont été précédemment confiées, Me persuadent que Votre Majesté voudra bien l'accueillir avec bonté et ajouter foi et créance à toutes les communications qu'il aura à Lui adresser conformément à Mes instructions, lesquelles auront principalement pour but de rechercher les moyens les plus propres à maintenir et à consolider les relations de bonne intelligence qui existent entre la Belgique et le Dominion de l'Inde. Je saisis avec empressement cette occasion de renouveler à Votre Majesté les assurances de la haute estime et du sincère attachement avec lesquels Je suis,

AMBASSADE DE BELGIQUE
AMBASSADE VAN BELGIE
TE DELHI
À DELHI

Monsieur Mon Frère
et Très Cher Cousin,
de Votre Majesté
l'affectionné Frère et Cousin

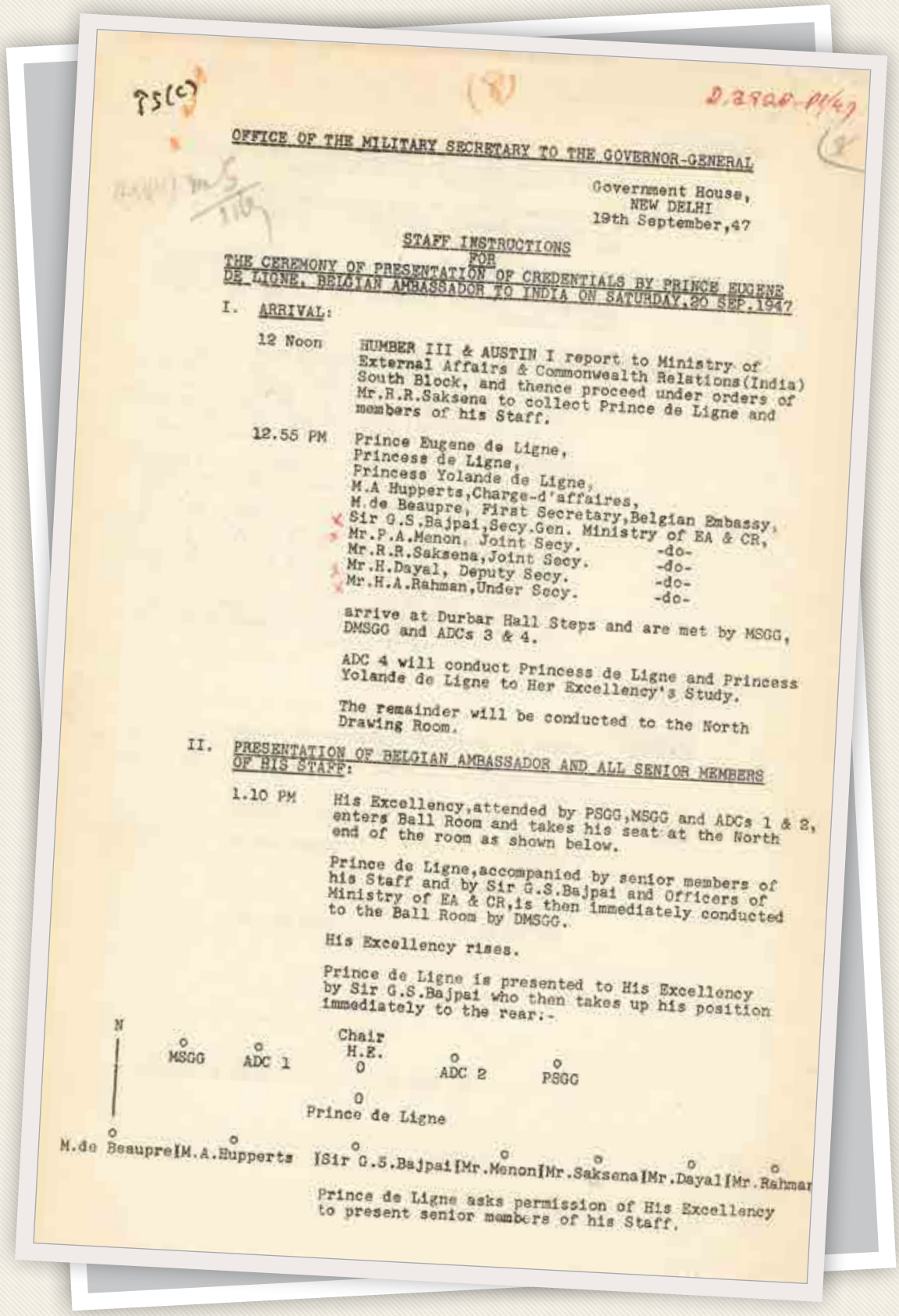
Au nom de Sa Majesté le Roi des Belges
(s) Charles
Prince Régent de Belgique

Palais de Bruxelles, le 2 Septembre 1947

(cs) P.H. SPAAK

A SA MAJESTE LE ROI DE GRANDE-BRETAGNE
D'IRLANDE ET DES DOMINIONS BRITANNIQUES
AU-DELA DES MERS

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India of credentials of Prince de Ligne. The original was sent to the King Emperor in London while a copy was presented to the Governor General of India.



OFFICE OF THE MILITARY SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL

Government House,
NEW DELHI
19th September,47

STAFF INSTRUCTIONS
FOR
THE CEREMONY OF PRESENTATION OF CREDENTIALS BY PRINCE EUGENE DE LIGNE, BELGIAN AMBASSADOR TO INDIA ON SATURDAY,20 SEP.1947

I. ARRIVAL:

12 Noon — HUMBER III & AUSTIN I report to Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations(India) South Block, and thence proceed under orders of Mr.R.R.Saksena to collect Prince de Ligne and members of his Staff.

12.55 PM — Prince Eugene de Ligne,
Princess de Ligne,
Princess Yolande de Ligne,
M.A Hupperts,Charge-d'affaires,
M.de Beaupre, First Secretary,Belgian Embassy,
Sir G.S.Bajpai,Secy.Gen. Ministry of EA & CR,
Mr.P.A.Menon, Joint Secy. -do-
Mr.R.R.Saksena,Joint Secy. -do-
Mr.H.Dayal, Deputy Secy. -do-
Mr.H.A.Rahman,Under Secy. -do-

arrive at Durbar Hall Steps and are met by MSGG, DMSGG and ADCs 3 & 4.

ADC 4 will conduct Princess de Ligne and Princess Yolande de Ligne to Her Excellency's Study.

The remainder will be conducted to the North Drawing Room.

II. PRESENTATION OF BELGIAN AMBASSADOR AND ALL SENIOR MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF:

1.10 PM — His Excellency,attended by PSGG,MSGG and ADCs 1 & 2, enters Ball Room and takes his seat at the North end of the room as shown below.

Prince de Ligne,accompanied by senior members of his Staff and by Sir G.S.Bajpai and Officers of Ministry of EA & CR,is then immediately conducted to the Ball Room by DMSGG.

His Excellency rises.

Prince de Ligne is presented to His Excellency by Sir G.S.Bajpai who then takes up his position immediately to the rear:-

N
MSGG ADC 1 Chair H.E. ADC 2 PSGG
Prince de Ligne
M.de Beaupre | M.A.Hupperts | Sir G.S.Bajpai | Mr.Menon | Mr.Saksena | Mr.Dayal | Mr.Rahman

Prince de Ligne asks permission of His Excellency to present senior members of his Staff.

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India of staff instructions issued by the Office of the Governor General for the presentation of credentials by Prince de Ligne on September 20, 1947.

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

(12)

(16

NEW DELHI.

23rd September, 1947.

Mr. Ambassador,

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 19th September, 1947, with which you have been good enough to send me two copies of the letters accrediting you to Delhi as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

I was delighted to meet Your Highness yesterday and wish to assure you that your desire to strengthen the links between the peoples of India and of Belgium is fully reciprocated by me and my colleagues. I am confident that, with your wise and cordial cooperation, we shall be able to achieve this common purpose, which is part of the wider purpose of consolidating world peace by promoting friendship amongst all freedom and peace loving peoples.

I take this opportunity to renew to Your Highness the assurances of my highest consideration.

sd/- Jawaharlal Nehru.

Prime Minister & Minister for External Affairs.

His Highness Prince Eugene de Ligne,
Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary
of His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Issued.

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India of copy of Letter dated September 23, 1947 from Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Prince de Ligne.

Prime Minister PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU and SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI with PRINCE DE LIGNE in New Delhi

Photo Courtesy: Princess Yolande

BEGINNING IN **DELHI & BRUSSELS**

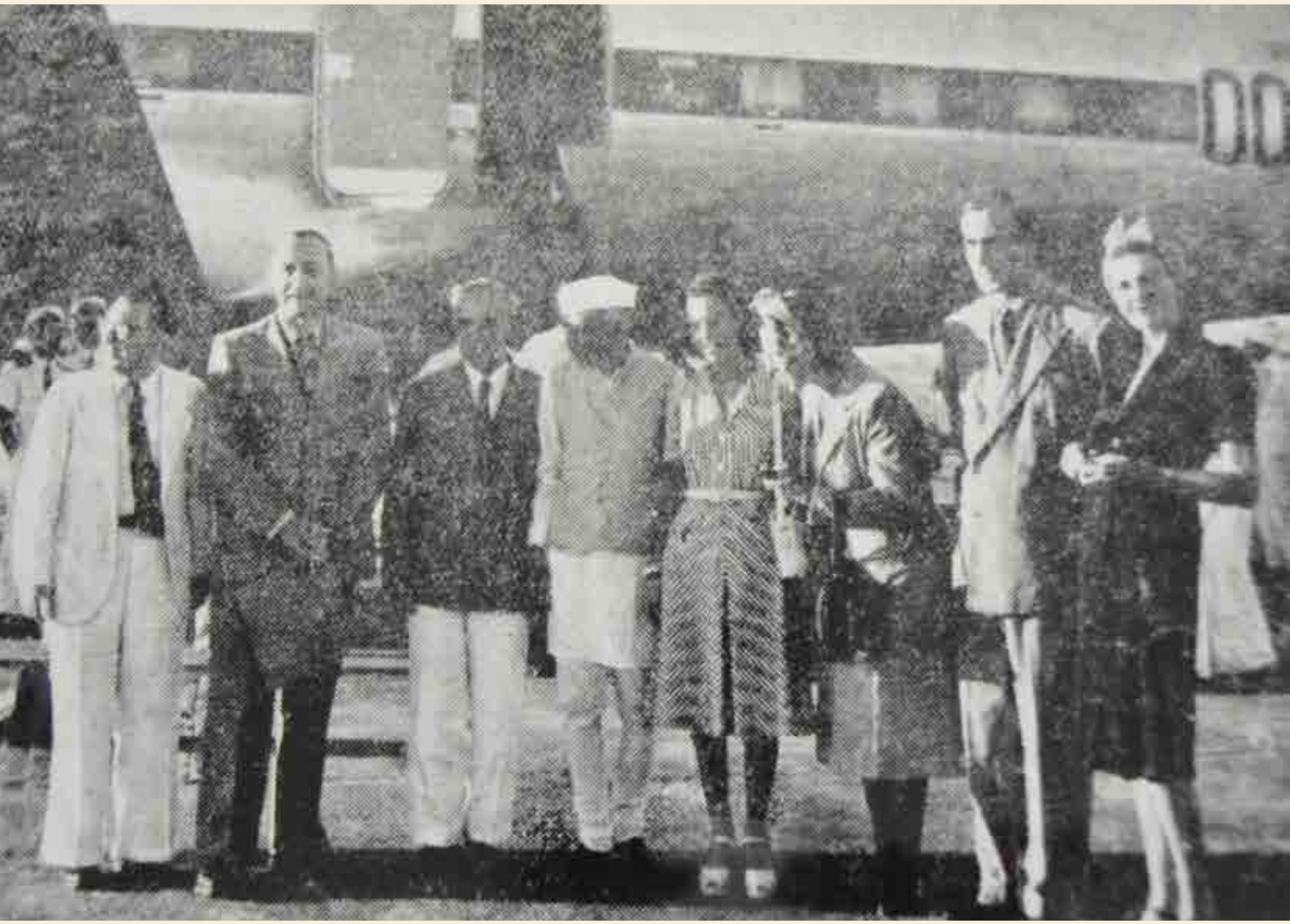
This photograph has an interesting story [narrated by Princess Yolande].

Prince de Ligne arrived in Delhi on a four engine DC6 aircraft belonging to Belgium's Sabena airlines along with its Chairman, Mr. Tony Orta, who had apparently been sold a "pipe-dream" that a direct air service from India to Brussels would be lucrative. [Ambassador G.J. Malik in Susan's Tiger].

Wanting to profile his presence in Delhi, Prince de Ligne offered Governor General Mountbatten and Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru a flight over the Himalayas, something that could not be undertaken by aircrafts available in India at that time. The Governor General excused himself but the Prime Minister accepted and took off with the Ambassador. Feeling left out, the Governor General landed up at the airport with Lady Mountbatten to receive the flight!

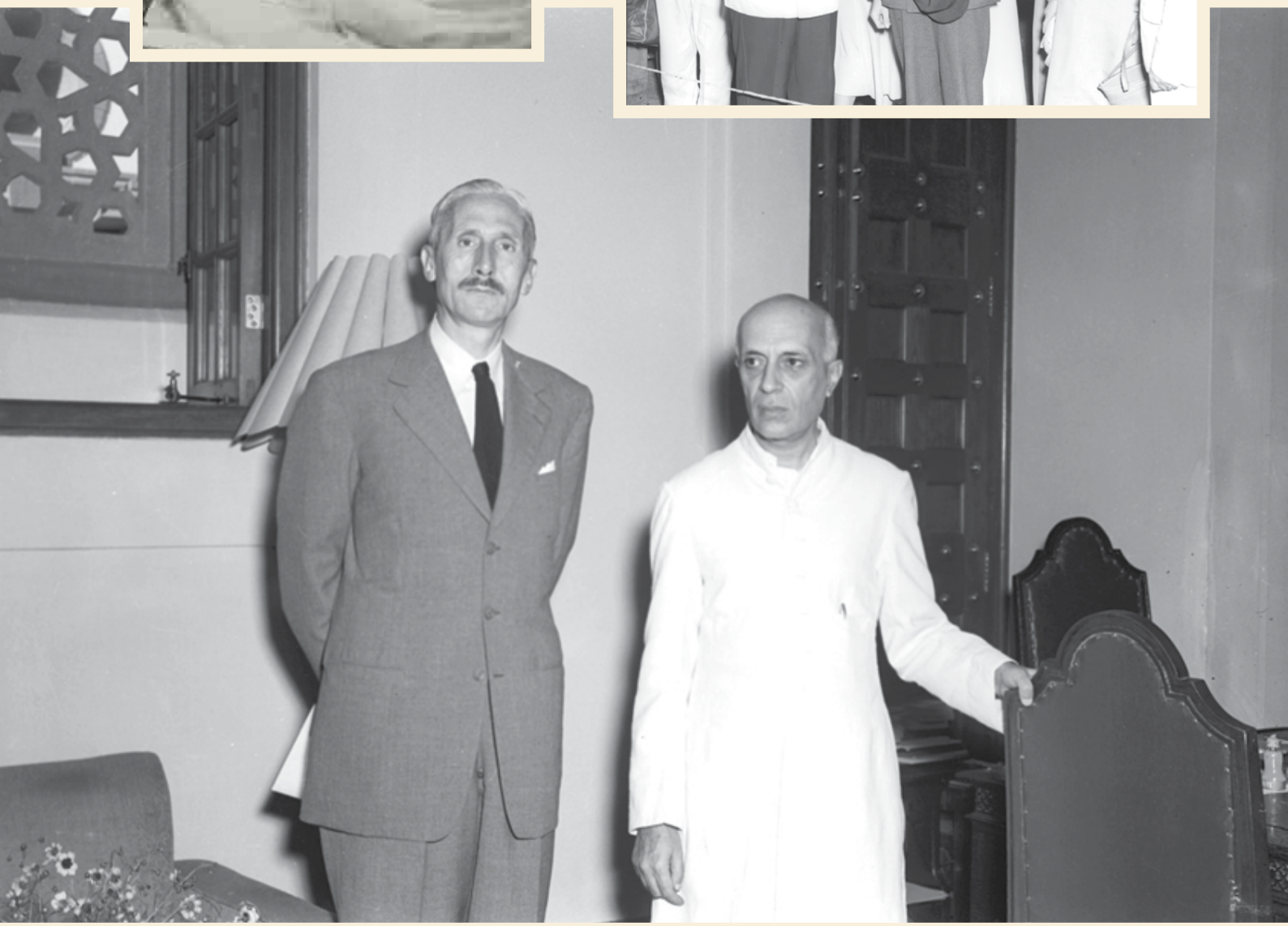
Photo shows the GOVERNOR GENERAL, LADY MOUNTBATTEN, PRIME MINISTER NEHRU, MR. ORTA and the DE LIGNES along with their daughter, PRINCESS YOLANDE, on the tarmac.

As far as a direct air connection between India and Belgium, several years later, Sabena did begin a service between Brussels and India.



Prince de Ligne greeting Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Home Affairs SARDAR VALLABHBHAI PATEL

Arrival of HRH CROWN PRINCE JEAN and CROWN PRINCESS ELIZABETH of Luxembourg at Delhi airport on July 6, 1950. They were received at the airport by PRINCE DE LIGNE and SHRI B.K. KAPUR, Chief of Protocol, Government of India



Ambassador STEPHANE HALOT *with Prime Minister* PANDIT JAWAHARLAL NEHRU *in New Delhi, December 1951*
Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

Opening of Embassy of India in Brussels

D.O.No. D.2348-Eur/47.

Ministry of External Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations,
New Delhi 3.

The 2nd Dec, 1947.

Dear Benny,

We have decided to open our embassies in France and Belgium very shortly. We are appointing Sir N.Raghavan Pillai, I.C.S., as Charge d' Affaires in Paris and Mr. B.F.R.B. Tyabji, I.C.S., as Charge d'affaires in Brussels. The Governments of Belgium and of the French Republic are being informed of these appointments through their Embassies here. We shall be grateful if you would advise His Majesty's Ambassadors at these two places.

2. We would also greatly appreciate if His Majesty's Ambassador in Brussels could be requested to make enquiries regarding suitable accommodation for the Chancery and staff. Tyabji will probably arrive in Brussels about the middle of January accompanied by his family and staff.

3. Sir Raghavan Pillai will be visiting Paris about the end of this year on his return from the Havana Trade Conference and will have the opportunity of making arrangements himself for the necessary accommodation required there.

Yours sincerely,

Sd. P.A.Menon

To

L.A.C. Fry Esquire, M.B.E.,
1st Secretary, United Kingdom
High Commissioner's Office,
NEW DELHI.

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India

(23)

Ministry of External Affairs and
Commonwealth Relations,
New Delhi 3.

The 30th November, 1947.

No.D.3473-Eur/47.

The Minister for External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations presents his compliments to His Excellency the Ambassador of Belgium and has the honour to say that the Government of India propose to open their Embassy in Brussels very shortly. Pending the appointment of an Ambassador accredited to the Belgian Government the Government of India have decided to appoint Mr. B.F.H.B. Tyabji, I.C.S., as His Majesty's Charge d'Affaires for India at Brussels. He is expected to reach Brussels about the middle of January. Mr. Tyabji has been a career officer in the service of Government and has held very important appointments.

2. Mr. Tyabji was educated at Bombay and Oxford and has been a career officer of Government for 16 years. At present he holds the post of Joint Secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.

3. It is requested that the Belgian Government may kindly be informed accordingly.

To

His Excellency the Ambassador
of Belgium, NEW DELHI.

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

No. 111 -EII.

Government of India.
Ministry of External Affairs and Commonwealth Relations.
.....
Dated New Delhi 8, the 1944. April 1948.

NOTIFICATION.

Mr. B.F.N.N. Tyabji, I.C.S., assumed charge of the office of His Majesty's Charge d' Affaires of the Embassy of India in Belgium on the 26th March, 1948.

Sd/- Devi Diyal

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

.....

Copy for information to:-

1. Accountant General, Central Revenues, New Delhi in continuation of the Ministry of External Affairs & Commonwealth Relations Memorandum No. F.43(1)-EII/47 dated the 6th December 1947. The charge certificate has already been forwarded to you direct by the Embassy of India in Belgium, vide their No. 1(1)-Belg/Est./48 dated the 17th March, 1948. The emoluments sanctioned for the post of Charge d' Affaires will be operative in the case of Mr. Tyabji from the date of his arrival in Brussels, i.e. from the 6th March, 1948 (forenoon).
2. High Commissioner for India, London.
3. Embassy of India in Belgium, Brussels.

By order, etc.,

Sd/- Devi Diyal

Under Secretary to the Government of India.

....

D.S.

Facsimile Courtesy: National Archives of India

Ambassador BADRUDDIN TYABJI and his spouse, SHRIMATI SURAYYA, at the wedding of the daughter of the first Belgian Ambassador in Delhi, PRINCE EUGENE DE LIGNE, at Chateau Beloeil, 1949

BEGINNING IN **DELHI & BRUSSELS**

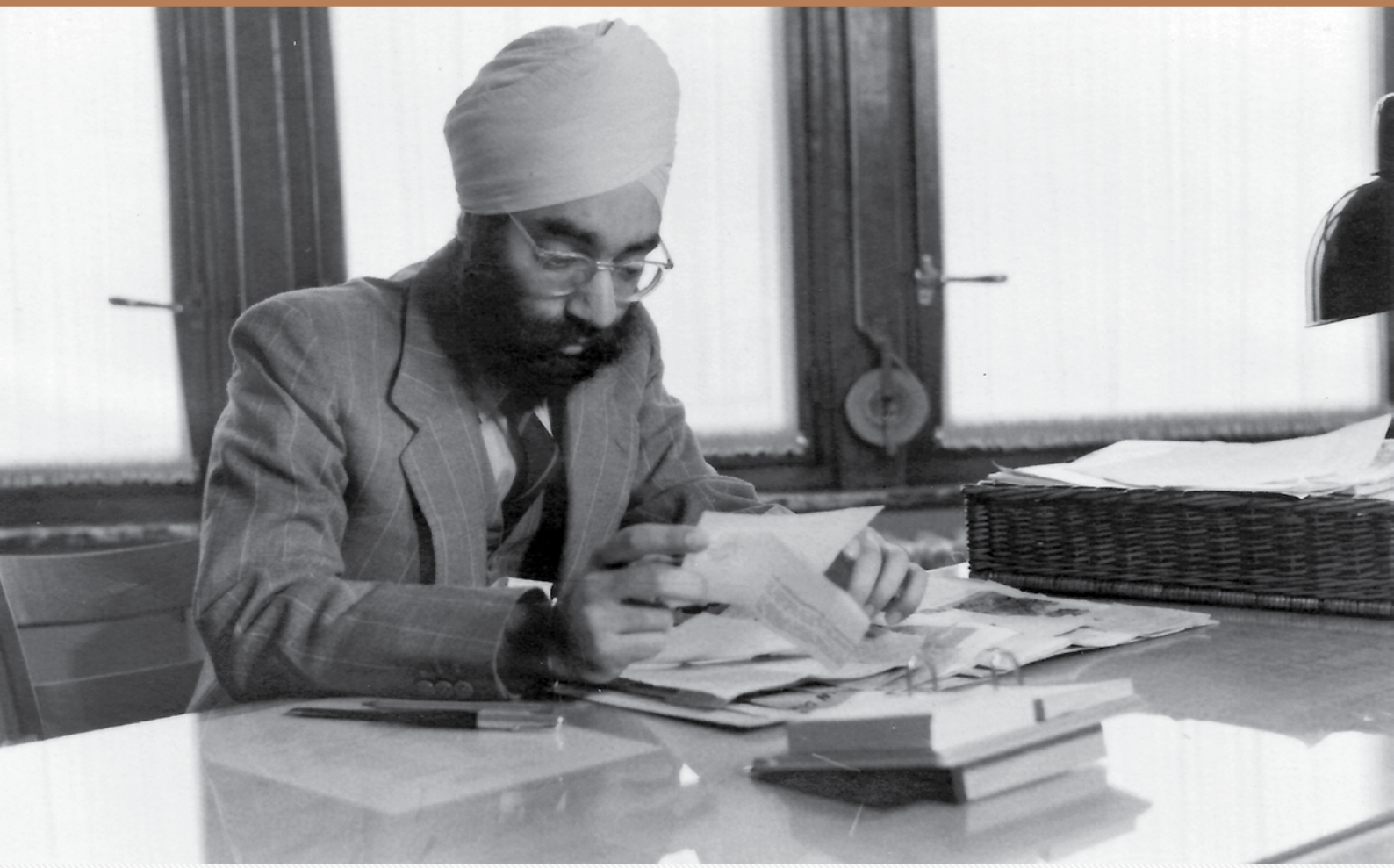


Photo Courtesy: Mr. Kiran Malik. It shows Third Secretary Gunwant Malik at his desk in Brussels

"I took the Humber saloon car along with me on the same ship on which I sailed for Ostend. There I was met by SHRI GUNWANT SINGH JASWANT SINGH MALIK, the Third Secretary of the Embassy, who had brought a chauffeur along to drive us in the new car to Brussels."

Memoirs of an Egoist" by Ambassador BADRUDDIN TYABJI

111 Boulevard St. Michel nowadays

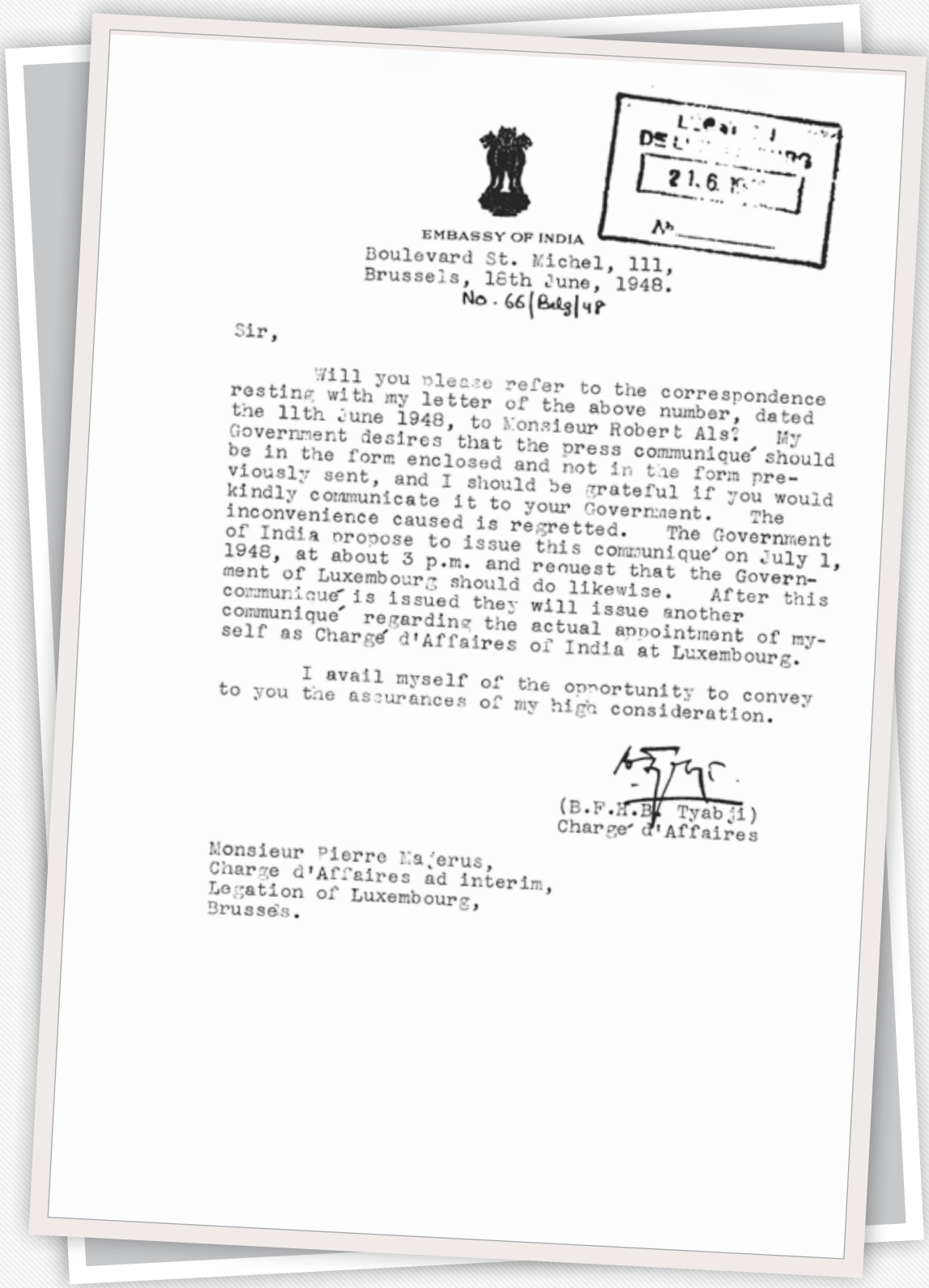
"In the course of my duties as India's representative on the IARA (Inter Allied Reparation Agency, headquarters of this organization was in Brussels), I paid a couple of visits to Germany. In Berlin, the head of our military mission was Khub Chand, a member of the UP cadre of the ICS. Khub Chand had been given the honorary rank of Major General in his capacity as head of the Indian military mission in Berlin." [Ambassador Tyabji on his other duties in Brussels]

"I thought I was fortunate in having in the de Lignes, the local representatives of the country to which I was being accredited, persons of refinement and a great deal of experience. But their ideas of what an Embassy should be were extremely old-fashioned. I was therefore led on by them to negotiate for the renting of a large mid-nineteenth century mansion in Brussels for our Embassy there. The house we had taken, 111 Boulevard St Michel, belonged to Lady Phipps, widow of a former British Ambassador. She was, I think, of Russian origin but had lived in Brussels for many years. After an uncomfortable few months stay at 111 Boulevard St Michel, we were lucky to find two small houses (within ten minutes walk of each other) on the newly constructed and fashionable Avenue Franklin Roosevelt. One of them we took for our residence and made the other our Chancery."

[From "Memoirs of an Egoist" by Ambassador Badruddin Tyabji]

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

Establishment of India-Luxembourg Diplomatic Relations



EMBASSY OF INDIA
Boulevard St. Michel, 111,
Brussels, 18th June, 1948.
No. 66/Belg/48

Sir,

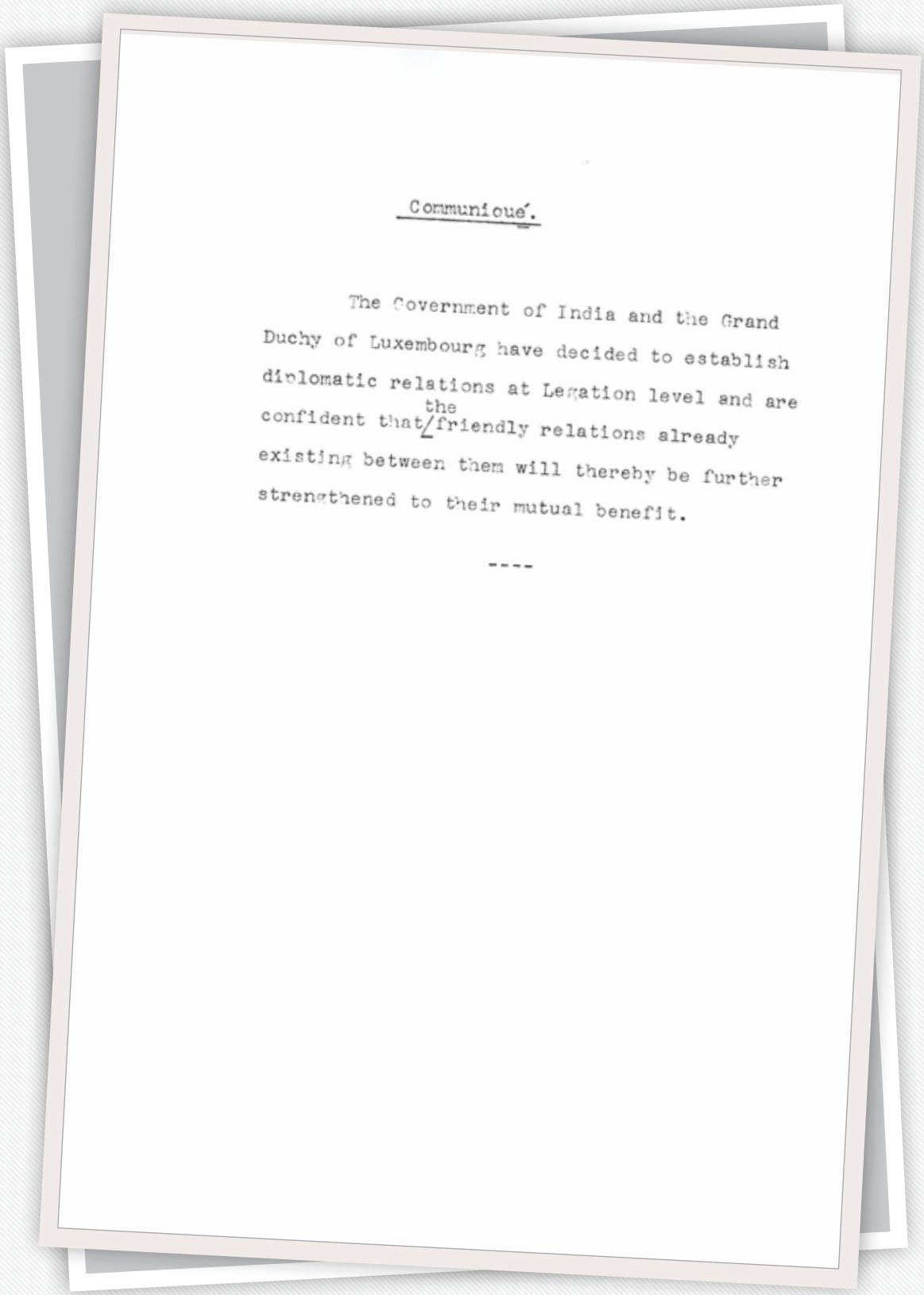
Will you please refer to the correspondence resting with my letter of the above number, dated the 11th June 1948, to Monsieur Robert Als? My Government desires that the press communiqué should be in the form enclosed and not in the form previously sent, and I should be grateful if you would kindly communicate it to your Government. The inconvenience caused is regretted. The Government of India propose to issue this communiqué on July 1, 1948, at about 3 p.m. and request that the Government of Luxembourg should do likewise. After this communiqué is issued they will issue another communiqué regarding the actual appointment of myself as Chargé d'Affaires of India at Luxembourg.

I avail myself of the opportunity to convey to you the assurances of my high consideration.

(B.F.H.B. Tyabji)
Chargé d'Affaires

Monsieur Pierre Majerus,
Charge d'Affaires ad interim,
Legation of Luxembourg,
Brussels.

Facsimile Courtesy: Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg.



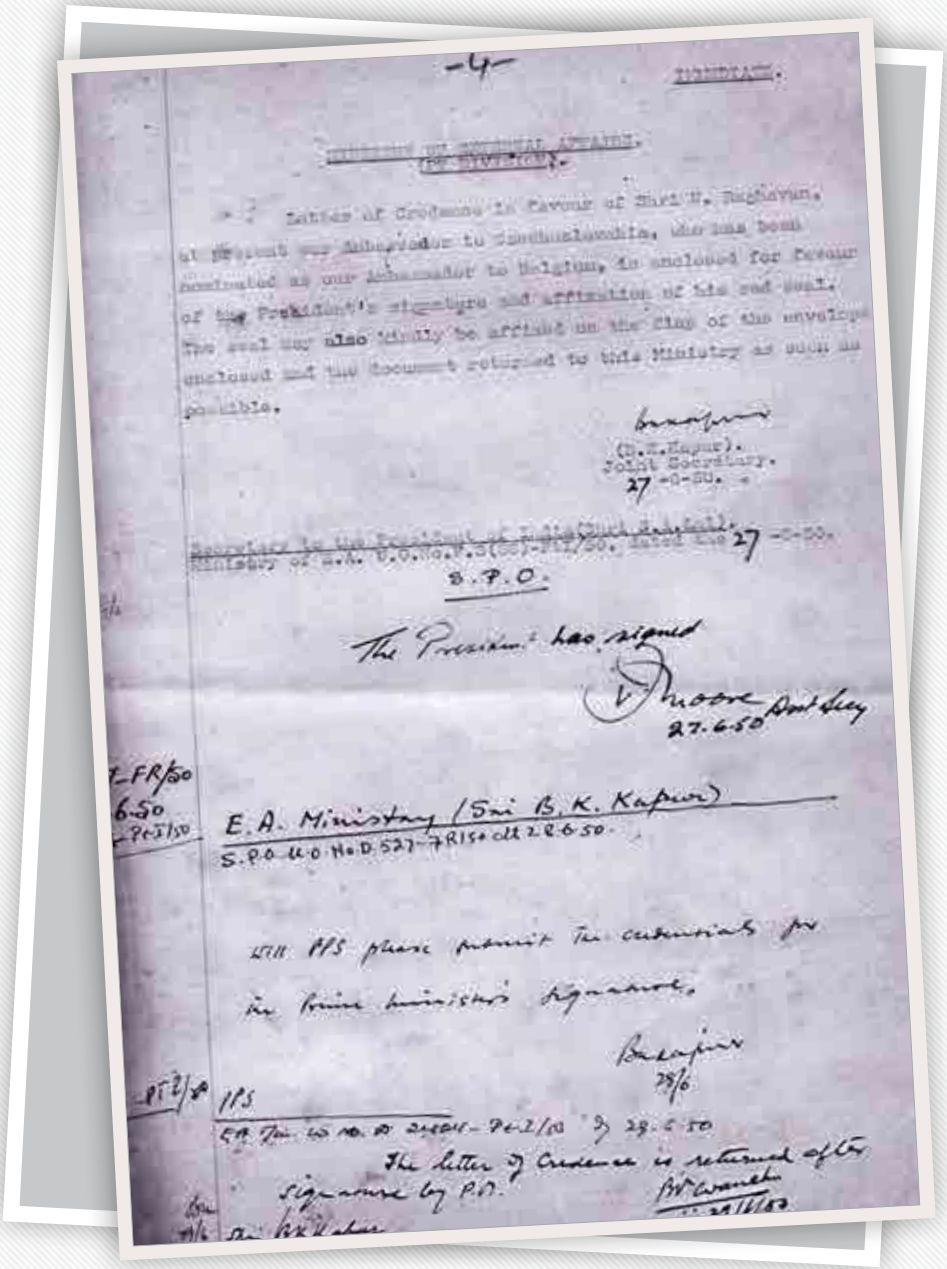
Communiqué.

The Government of India and the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg have decided to establish diplomatic relations at Legation level and are confident that the friendly relations already existing between them will thereby be further strengthened to their mutual benefit.

Facsimile Courtesy: Archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg of communiqué issued on July 1, 1948 establishing Diplomatic Relations between India and Luxembourg at Legation level.

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

SHRI N. RAGHAVAN was the first Ambassador of India in Brussels. His credentials were obtained from Rashtrapati ji in July 1950.



Ministry of External Affairs (PT Division)

Letter of Credence in favour of Shri N. Raghavan, at present our Ambassador to Czechoslovakia, who has been nominated as our Ambassador to Belgium, is enclosed for favour of the President's signature and affixation of his red seal.

The seal may also kindly be affixed on the flap of the envelope enclosed and the document returned to this Ministry as soon as possible.

B. K. Kapur
Joint Secretary
27-06-1950

CREST.

To His Majesty the King of the Belgians.

Great and Good Friend,

Being desirous of maintaining and strengthening the cordial relations which exist between our two countries, I have decided to accredit to Your Majesty as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary, Shri Nedyam Raghavan, a distinguished citizen of India. The qualities which distinguish him assure me of the care which he will take to acquit himself of the high Mission which is entrusted to him so as to obtain Your Majesty's confidence and thus merit my approbation. It is in this conviction that I request Your Majesty to receive him with Your usual graciousness and to attach faith and complete credit to all that he will say to You on my behalf and specially when he will convey to Your Majesty the assurance of my high esteem and my constant friendship.

SEAL.

(Sd) Rajendra Prasad.
PRESIDENT OF INDIA.

(Sd) Jawaharlal Nehru.
Minister for External Affairs.

New Delhi, the 26th June, 1950.

Facsmile Courtesy: Archives of the Ministry of External Affairs

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

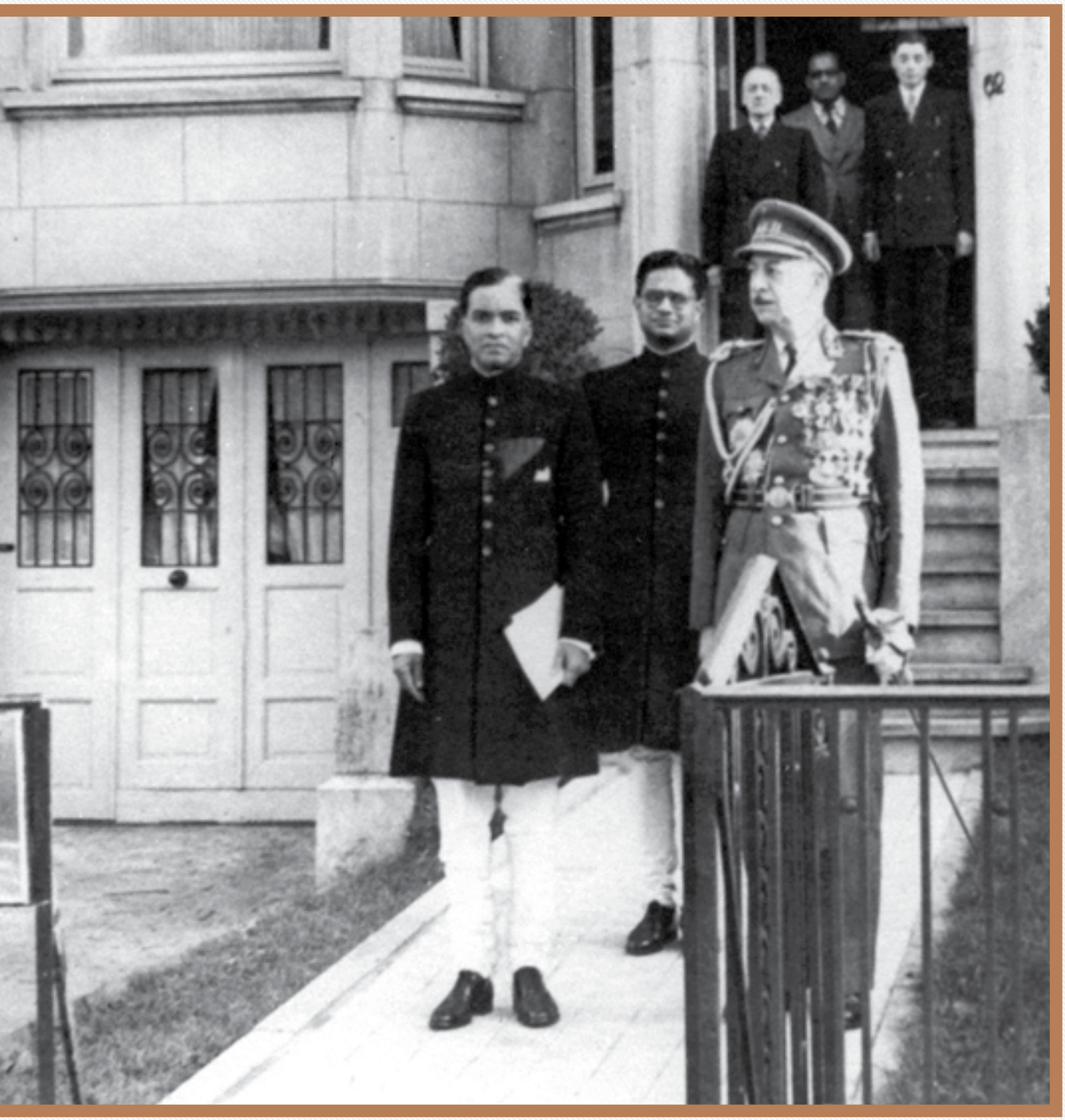
SHRI N. RAGHAVAN, *Ambassador of India, shaking hands with the President of the Swiss Confederation,* MR. E. VON STEIGER, *on the occasion of the presentation of Credentials at a ceremony held in Berne.*

July, 1951.

Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

Shri N. Raghavan was followed as Ambassador in Brussels by Shri P.A. Menon [1951-1953], Shri K.K. Chettur [1954-1956], Shri B.N. Kaul [1956-1958] and Dr. M.A. Rauf [1958-1961].

In 1962 Dr. K.B. Lall took over as Ambassador. He was the first to also be accredited to the European Community.



AMBASSADOR P.A. MENON, *being escorted by Aide d' Camp of H.M. the King, from the Indian Embassy at 62 Av Franklin Roosevelt when he presented his Credentials to the King of the Belgians at the Royal Palace.*

October 1961

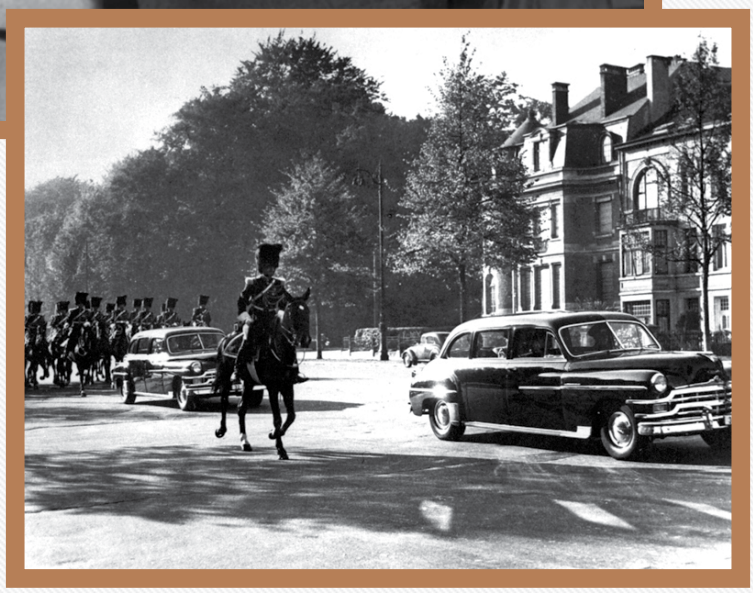
Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

BEGINNING IN **DELHI & BRUSSELS**

SHRI P.A. MENON, *presented Credentials as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of India to Luxembourg, at a ceremony held at the Palace of the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, in October, 1951. Photograph shows* SHRI P.A. MENON *chatting with* MR. P. DUPONG, *Prime Minister of Luxembourg, after the ceremony of presentation of Credentials.*

Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

SHRI P.A. MENON, *Ambassador of India to Belgium, shaking hands with* MR. M. VAN HOUTTE, *Prime Minister of Belgium at a reception held by him in Brussels to celebrate Indian Independence Day, 1952*



SHRI P.A. MENON, *Ambassador of India to Belgium being driven to the Royal Palace in Brussels for presentation of Credentials to H.M. King Baudouin, October, 1951.*

Photos Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

BEGINNING IN DELHI & BRUSSELS

Photos of Ambassadors CHETTUR, KAUL and RAUF in previous assignments

DR. M.A. RAUF, *Ambassador of India to Burma and* MR. U. KYAW MYINT, *Minister of Burma signing Trade agreement in Rangoon on October 1954.*

Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

SHRI K.K. CHETTUR, *Ambassador of India to Japan shaking hands with* MR. KATUSO OKAZAKI, *Japanese Foreign Minister, after signing the Indo-Japanese Treaty of Peace in Tokyo.*

June 1952

Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

SHRI B.N. KAUL, *Joint Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, being presented to* DR. RAJENDRA PRASAD, *President of the Republic of India, at a tea party held at Govt. House.*

June 1950

Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

Visit of Vice President of India DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN to Belgium and Luxembourg in June 1956

TUESDAY 5th JUNE

10.45 a.m. : Visit Monsieur Robert Gillon, President of the Senate.

11.30 a.m. : Visit Monsieur J.-J. Camille Huysmans, President of the Chamber of Representatives.

12 noon : Audience with His Majesty King Baudouin at Laeken Palace, followed by lunch.

5.45 p.m. : Attend Garden-Party by Her Majesty Queen Elisabeth at Argenteuil (Waterloo).

8 p.m. : Dinner by the « Association Belge pour l'Extrême-Orient » (A.B.E.O.), for short) at the « Cercle Gaulois ».

WEDNESDAY 6th JUNE

9.05 a.m. : Departure for Prague by special plane provided by the Governments of Czecho-Slovakia.

India

PROGRAMME

of the Visit of

Dr. S. RADHAKRISHNAN

VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

3rd - 6th JUNE 1956

SUNDAY 3rd JUNE

9.15 a.m. : Arrival at Melsbroeck Aerodrome (Brussels).
The Vice President will be received by Mr. Humayun Mirza, Chargé d'Affaires, and introduced to Mr. Minens, Chief of Protocol, Government of Belgium, accompanied by Mr. Bourgeux (Secretaire de Légation).
Also present will be His Excellency Mr. Lambert Schaus, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Luxembourg and Mr. Albert Bosseberte, Secretary Luxembourg Embassy.

9.30 a.m. : The Vice President of India, accompanied by the Chargé d'Affaires, will motor direct to Bastogne, escorted by gendarmes.

11.30 a.m. : Reach Bastogne where the Vice President will be met by Mr. Schultz, Chief of Protocol of the Luxembourg Foreign Office, and preceded by a pace of motorcycle riders, will continue his journey to Vianden for lunch with the Prime Minister of Luxembourg, Mr. J. Bech at his country residence.

3 p.m. : Motor to Luxembourg (Grand Hotel Brasseur).

5 p.m. : Audience with Her Royal Highness the Grand Duchess of Luxembourg.

8 p.m. : Banquet by the Government of Luxembourg.

MONDAY 4th JUNE

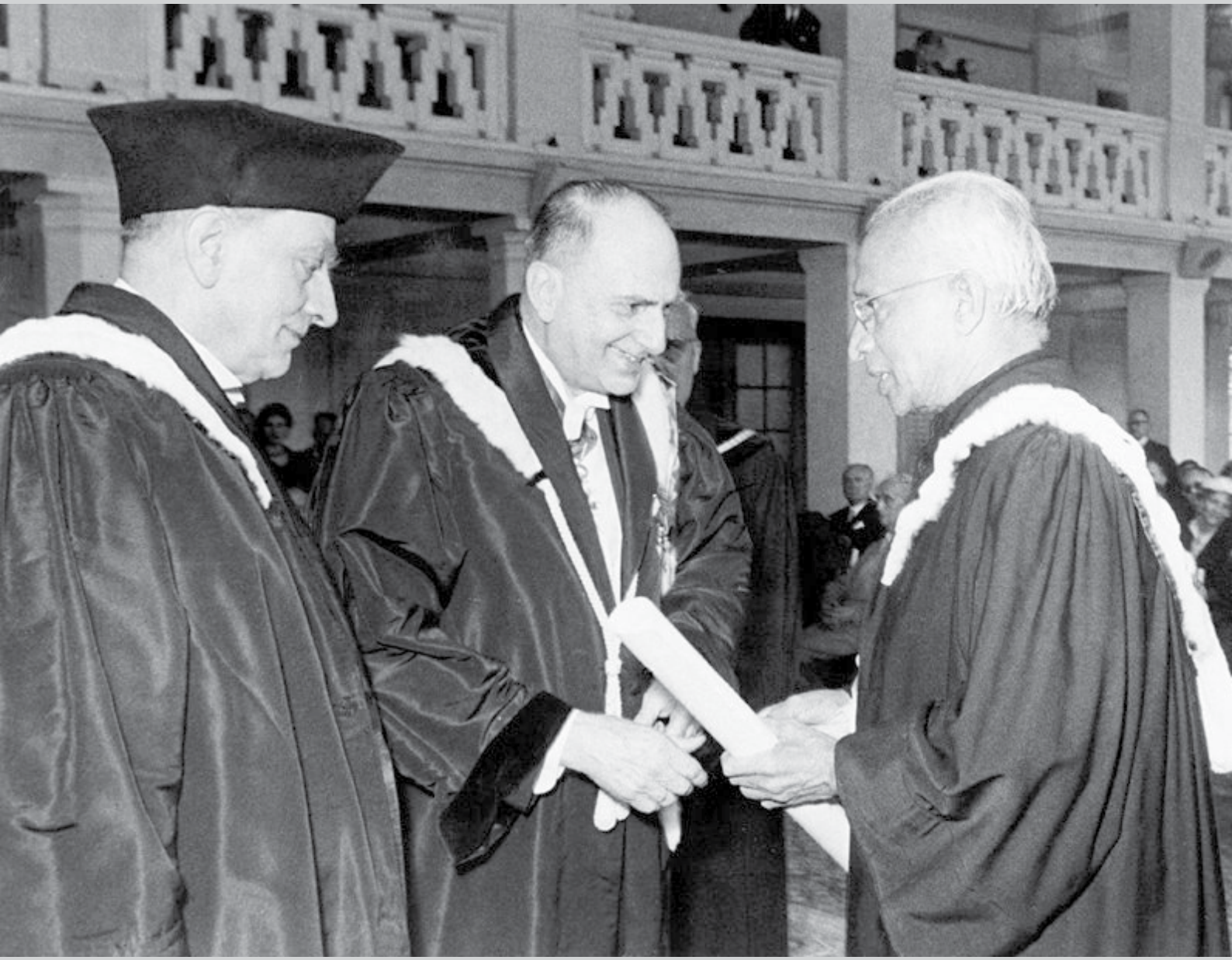
9 a.m. : Return by car to Brussels.
(The Vice President will take up residence at the Embassy of India, 10 drive de Lanrode, Rhode-St-Genese).

12.30 p.m. : Reach Brussels.
At the Embassy, the Vice President will be received by the Representative of the Foreign Minister.

1 p.m. : Quiet lunch.

3 p.m. : Address at the University of Brussels on « University Ideals ».
Conferment of degree of *Doctor honoris causa*.

8 p.m. : Banquet by the Government of Belgium.



Vice President DR. S. RADHAKRISHNAN *receiving an Honorary Doctorate of Philosophy from the Free University of Brussels during his visit to Belgium in June 1956.*

During his stay in Brussels, he stayed at the residence of the Ambassador, which had been recently acquired in Rhode St. Genese.

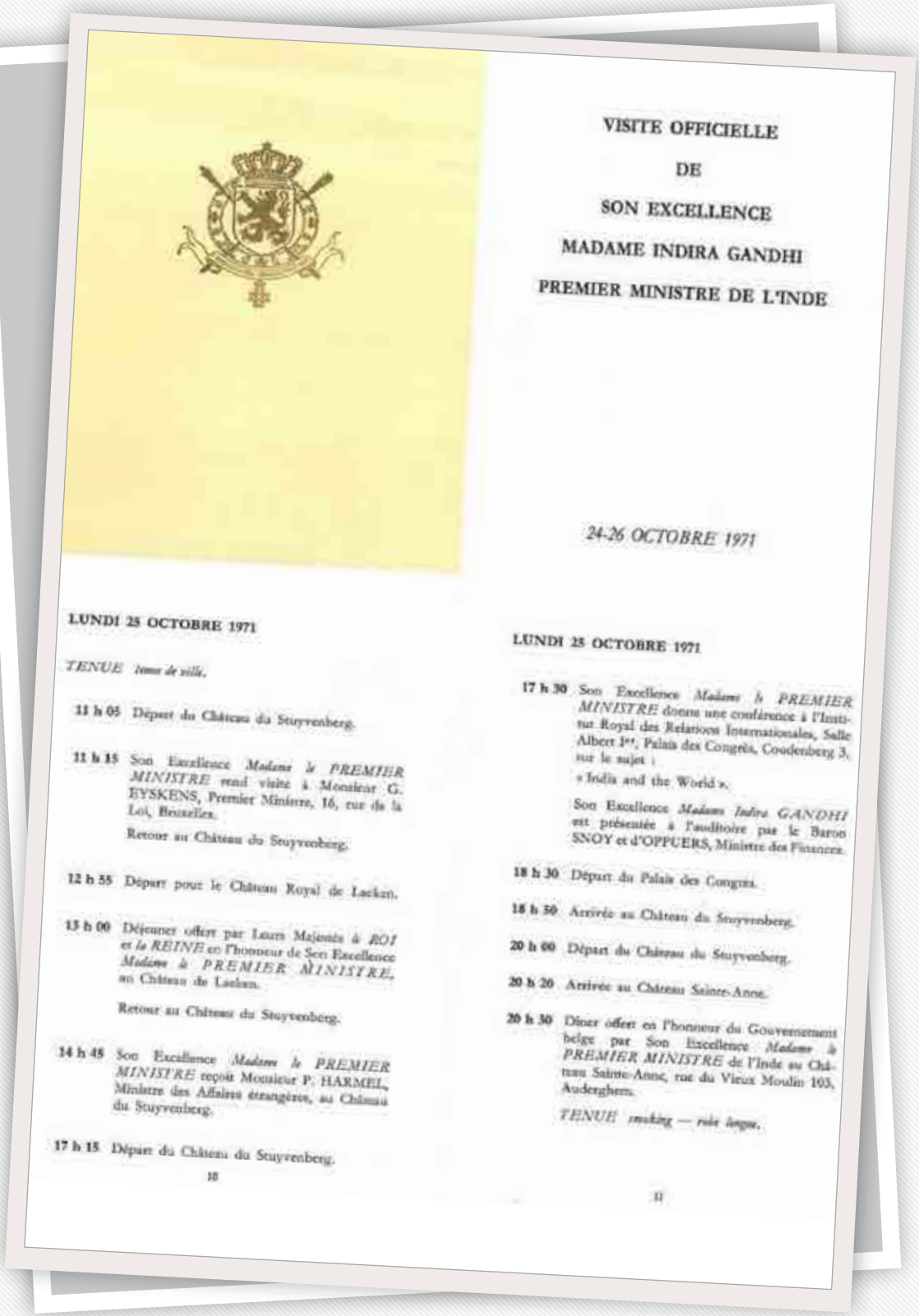
HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

State Visit of HIS MAJESTY KING BAUDOUIN of the Belgians and QUEEN FABIOLA to India, January 1970

HM KING BAUDOUIN *and* QUEEN FABIOLA *being received at Delhi Airport by President* SHRI V.V. GIRI, *Vice-President* SHRI G.S. PATHAK *and Prime Minister* SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI

HM KING BAUDOUIN *with President* SHRI V.V.GIRI *and Prime Minister* SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI

Visit of Prime Minister SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI to Belgium, October 1971



VISITE OFFICIELLE

DE

SON EXCELLENCE

MADAME INDIRA GANDHI

PREMIER MINISTRE DE L'INDE

24-26 OCTOBRE 1971

LUNDI 25 OCTOBRE 1971

TENUE *tenue de ville.*

11 h 05 Départ du Château du Stuyvenberg.

11 h 15 Son Excellence *Madame le PREMIER MINISTRE* rend visite à Monsieur G. EYSKENS, Premier Ministre, 16, rue de la Loi, Bruxelles.

Retour au Château du Stuyvenberg.

12 h 55 Départ pour le Château Royal de Laeken.

13 h 00 Déjeuner offert par Leurs Majestés *le ROI et la REINE* en l'honneur de Son Excellence *Madame le PREMIER MINISTRE*, au Château de Laeken.

Retour au Château du Stuyvenberg.

14 h 45 Son Excellence *Madame le PREMIER MINISTRE* reçoit Monsieur P. HARMEL, Ministre des Affaires étrangères, au Château du Stuyvenberg.

17 h 15 Départ du Château du Stuyvenberg.

10

LUNDI 25 OCTOBRE 1971

17 h 30 Son Excellence *Madame le PREMIER MINISTRE* donne une conférence à l'Institut Royal des Relations Internationales, Salle Albert Ier, Palais des Congrès, Coudenberg 3, sur le sujet :

« India and the World ».

Son Excellence *Madame Indira GANDHI* est présentée à l'auditoire par le Baron SNOY et d'OPPUERS, Ministre des Finances.

18 h 30 Départ du Palais des Congrès.

18 h 50 Arrivée au Château du Stuyvenberg.

20 h 00 Départ du Château du Stuyvenberg.

20 h 20 Arrivée au Château Sainte-Anne.

20 h 30 Dîner offert en l'honneur du Gouvernement belge par Son Excellence *Madame le PREMIER MINISTRE* de l'Inde au Château Sainte-Anne, rue du Vieux Moulin 105, Auderghem.

TENUE *smoking — robe longue.*

11

Prime Minister SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI *with* HM KING BAUDOUIN *and* QUEEN FABIOLA *(top) and with Prime Minister of Belgium* MR. GASTON EYSKENS

Photos Courtesy: The Archives of the Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs of Belgium

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

Visit of Prime Minister SHRI MORARJI DESAI to Belgium, June 1978

Prime Minister SHRI MORARJI DESAI *with* HM KING BAUDOUIN *and Prime Minister* MR. LEO TINDEMANS

Photos Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

Visit of Prime Minister of Belgium MR. GUY VERHOFSTADT to Delhi for the India-EU Summit, 2006

Prime Minister SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE, Prime Minister MR. GUY VERHOFSTADT and President of the European Commission MR. ROMANO PRODI at Hyderabad House, New Delhi

Visit of Prime Minister DR. MANMOHAN SINGH
to Brussels, 2010

Prime Minister DR. MANMOHAN SINGH with Belgian Prime Minister MR. YVES LETERME at Egmont Palace

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

State Visit of HIS MAJESTY KING ALBERT II of the Belgians and QUEEN PAOLA to India, November 2008

HM KING ALBERT II *and* QUEEN PAOLA *with President* SHRIMATI PRATIBHA PATIL *and Prime Minister* DR. MANMOHAN SINGH

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

State Visit of President
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE to Belgium,
October 2013

President SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE *with* HM KING PHILIPPE *of the Belgians*

President SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE inspecting the Guard of Honour at Egmont Palace, Brussels accompanied by Prime Minister ELIO DI RUPO of Belgium

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

EUROPALIA-INDIA FESTIVAL

Hon'ble President
SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE
being received by HM KING PHILIPPE
and QUEEN MATHILDE *of the Belgians*
at the inauguration of the Europalia-India
Festival, Brussels, October 4, 2013

Photo Courtesy: Mr. Didier Vandenbosch

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

Visits of CROWN PRINCE PHILIPPE of the Belgians to India

President DR. A.P.J. ABDUL KALAM receiving PRINCE PHILIPPE and Prime Minister DR. MANMOHAN SINGH in conversation with PRINCE PHILIPPE (2005)

President
SHRIMATI PRATIBHA PATIL
and Prime Minister
DR. MANMOHAN SINGH *receiving*
CROWN PRINCE PHILIPPE *in*
New Delhi (2010)

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

Visit of the Speaker of Lok Sabha SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN and Indian Parliamentary Delegation to Belgium, June 2015

The Speaker with the President of the Belgian Senate, MS. CHRISTINE DEFRAIGNE. *Photograph also includes MPs,* SHRI S.C. MISRA, DR. M.S. GILL, SHRI ARJUN MEGHAWAL *(now Minister of State for Finance),* SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI, SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR *and* SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTHALA *along with Belgian Senator,* MR. POL VANDEN DRIESSCHE

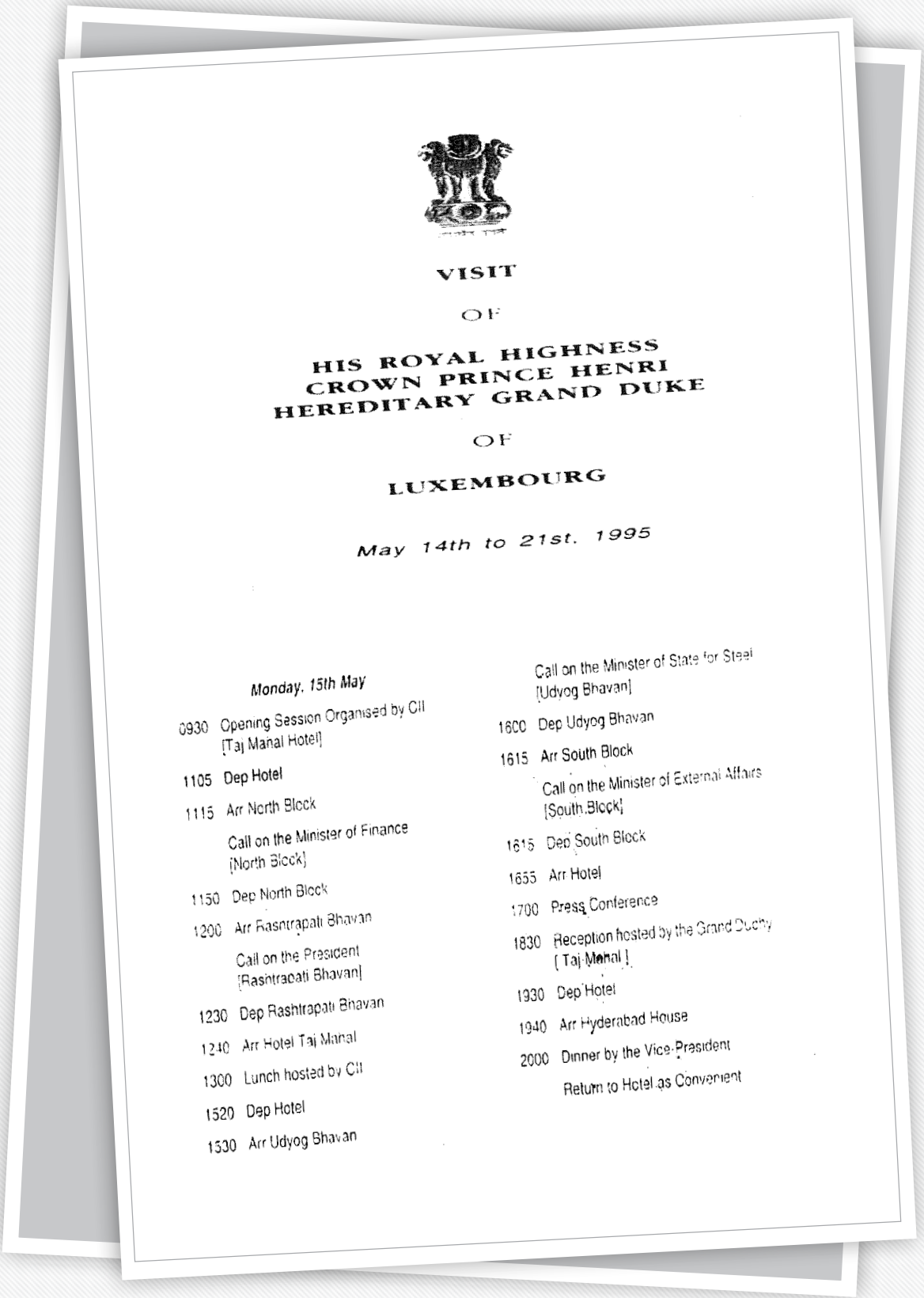
The Speaker with MR. SIEGFRIED BRACKE*, President of the Chamber of Representatives of the Federal Parliament of Belgium. Others in the photograph are Belgian MPs,* MS. SARAH CLAERHOUT *and* MR. PETER LUYKX

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

General (Retired) V.K. SINGH, Minister of State for External Affairs meeting MR. DIDIER REYNDERS, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium in Brussels, October 2014

SHRI M.J. AKBAR, Minister of State for External Affairs meeting MR. DIDIER REYNDERS, Deputy Prime Minister & Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of Belgium in Brussels, October 2016

Visit of His Royal Highness CROWN PRINCE HENRI HEREDITARY GRAND DUKE of Luxembourg to India, 1995



VISIT

OF

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS
CROWN PRINCE HENRI
HEREDITARY GRAND DUKE

OF

LUXEMBOURG

May 14th to 21st. 1995

Monday. 15th May

0930 Opening Session Organised by CII
[Taj Mahal Hotel]

1105 Dep Hotel

1115 Arr North Block

Call on the Minister of Finance
[North Block]

1150 Dep North Block

1200 Arr Rashtrapati Bhavan

Call on the President
[Rashtrapati Bhavan]

1230 Dep Rashtrapati Bhavan

1240 Arr Hotel Taj Mahal

1300 Lunch hosted by CII

1520 Dep Hotel

1530 Arr Udyog Bhavan

Call on the Minister of State for Steel
[Udyog Bhavan]

1600 Dep Udyog Bhavan

1615 Arr South Block

Call on the Minister of External Affairs
[South Block]

1615 Dep South Block

1655 Arr Hotel

1700 Press Conference

1830 Reception hosted by the Grand Duchy
[Taj Mahal]

1930 Dep Hotel

1940 Arr Hyderabad House

2000 Dinner by the Vice-President

Return to Hotel as Convenient

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

State Visit of President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN and SHRIMATI USHA NARAYANAN to Luxembourg, 1998

President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN inspecting the Guard of Honour at the Grand Ducal Palace

President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN laying a wreath at the National Memorial

President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN, SHRIMATI USHA NARAYANAN, HRH GRAND DUKE JEAN, GRAND DUCHESS JOSÉPHINE CHARLOTTE, *along with the present* GRAND DUKE HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS HENRI *and the present* GRAND DUCHESS MARIA THERESA *at the State Banquet at the Grand Ducal Palace*

President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN *and the Grand Duke*

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

Official Visit of Prime Minister MR. JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER of Luxembourg to India, January 1999

President SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN *and Prime Minister* SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE *receiving* MR. JEAN-CLAUDE JUNCKER

Photos Courtesy: Photo Division, Government of India

Luxembourg Prime Minister MR. XAVIER BETTEL at Celebration of 25 years of Indian Association, Luxembourg

Prime Minister MR. XAVIER BETTEL was the Chief Guest at the function held in October 2016 at Cercle Cite to celebrate 25 years of the Indian Association, Luxembourg. On the occasion, Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI presented him a copy of the 1929 letter (Page 17) from the India Office with its no objection to Luxembourg setting up an honorary Vice-Consulate in Mumbai.

HIGH LEVEL INTERACTIONS

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, *then Minister of External Affairs (now President of India) receiving* MR. JEAN ASSELBORN, *Foreign Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in New Delhi, 2007*

Photo Courtesy: Embassy of Luxembourg in New Delhi and the Press Service of the Luxembourgish Government

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ, *Minister of External Affairs receiving* MR. JEAN ASSELBORN, *Foreign Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg in New Delhi, March 2015*

Photo Courtesy: Embassy of Luxembourg in New Delhi and the Press Service of the Luxembourgish Government

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY, *Minister of Finance receiving* MR. ETIENNE SCHNEIDER, *Deputy Prime Minister of Luxembourg in New Delhi, March 2016*

Financial Services, including India's very significant place in the listing of Global Depository Receipts on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange, and cooperation in steel technology underpin India-Luxembourg economic ties.

SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH, *Minister of Steel being received by* MR. ETIENNE SCHNEIDER, *Deputy Prime Minister of the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, August 2016*

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Official Visit of Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI to Belgium, March 30, 2016

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI being welcomed at the Brussels Military Airport by Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI and SHRIMATI NAMRITA PURI

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI meeting Prime Minister MR. CHARLES MICHEL of Belgium. Also in the photograph are MS. SUJATA MEHTA, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India and MR. ANTOINE EVERARD, Diplomatic Advisor to the Prime Minister of Belgium

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI inspecting the Guard of Honour at Egmont Palace, Brussels accompanied by Prime Minister MR. CHARLES MICHEL of Belgium

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Prime Minister meeting Belgian Academics

Seen in the photos are DR. NELE DE GERSEM, DR. JAKOB DE ROOVER, DR. AYLA JONCHEERE, DR. SANDER HENS, DR. GEERT ROBERECHTS, DR. TINE VEKEMANS, DR. KAREN DE LOOZE, DR. SAARTJE VERBECKE

Prime Minister meeting Belgian MPs

MS. SARAH CLAERHOUT

MR. DAVID GEERTS. *Also in the photo is* MR. HENDRIK DAEMS

MR. HERMAN DE CROO

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI *laying a wreath at the Maalbeek Metro Station – scene of terrorist attack in Brussels on March 22, 2016, in which a member of the Indian community also lost his life. Also in the picture is* MR. DIDIER REYNDERS, *Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Belgium.*

Speaking at the lunch in his honour by the Belgian Prime Minister, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said "we will always join the efforts of a country that want peace by fighting terrorism. We would not allow the blood of our ancestors that have flown in Belgium to go in vain. We stand in solidarity with you".

India is Belgium's second largest export destination outside the European Union while Belgium is India's second largest trade partner in the European Union. A major contributor is the diamond trade with the Indian diamond merchants in Antwerp playing a most significant role.

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI *meeting Board Members of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre.*

For years Belgium was best known in India for glass and indeed, crystal was synonymous with Belgian Glass. The country's reputation as a supplier of top quality glass continues.

Photo shows Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI *and Prime Minister of Belgium* MR. CHARLES MICHEL *jointly inaugurating the ARIES Telescope in Nainital, India – a project for which the high quality mirrors were supplied by AMOS from Belgium.*

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

PM meeting Belgian CEOs

▲ MR. BARON PHILIPPE VLERICK, *Chairman of the Vlerick Group and the Belgo-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry being introduced to Prime Minister* SHRI NARENDRA MODI. *Also in photo is* MR. PASCAL LIZIN, *President of Essencia Wallonia.*

The Belgo-India Chamber of Commerce & Industry was set up in 1954 and has greatly contributed to promoting India-Belgium trade and economic links.

Ambassador REGINE VANDRIESSCHE*, Director, Federal Public Service Foreign Affairs introducing* MR. CHRISTIAN LEYSEN*, Chairman of Ahlers to Prime Minister* SHRI NARENDRA MODI*. Also in the photo are* MR. FRANCOIS FRONIERI*, CEO of Mithra Pharmaceuticals and* MR. HAROLD BOEL*, CEO of Sofina*

Belgian companies have long been active in India in the area of maritime infrastructure.

Photo shows MR. MARC VAN PEEL*, Chairman of the Port of Antwerp being introduced to Prime Minister* SHRI NARENDRA MODI*. Also in the photo is* MR. EDDY BRUYNINCKX*, CEO of the Port of Antwerp.*

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI being welcomed at the Community Function held at Brussels Expo in Brussels on March 30, 2016

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Representatives of Indian Community Organizations gathered to receive Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI. Among others, photograph includes MR. MILERENGAM DORAISWAMY VENKATARAMAN, Honorary Consul General of India in Luxembourg and MR. MARC HUYBRECHTS, Honorary Consul General of India in Antwerp.

OFFICIAL VISIT OF **PM SHRI NARENDRA MODI TO BELGIUM**

Prime Minister SHRI NARENDRA MODI with the team of the Embassy of India, Brussels

India-Belgium Joint Statement during the visit of Prime Minister to Belgium

(March 30, 2016)

Bilateral Relations

The Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Prime Minister of Belgium, Mr. Charles Michel met in Brussels on March 30, 2016.

The Leaders expressed deep shock and anguish at the dastardly terrorist attacks in Brussels last week and condemned them in the strongest possible terms. They reaffirmed their belief that no issue or cause can justify dreadful and indiscriminate acts of violence against innocent people. They agreed that the growing menace of terrorism knows no boundaries and its root causes and manifestations must be tackled through united efforts by the international community. Underlining that terror cannot defeat freedom and liberty, the leaders reiterated that these fundamental values have always strengthened our shared resolve to fight against such inhuman acts of terror. On behalf of India, a nation confronted with terrorism for decades, Prime Minister Modi expressed solidarity with Belgium in this tragic hour and offered heartfelt condolences for the loss of several lives and prayers for the speedy recovery of the injured.

The two Prime Ministers underlined the excellent relations between Belgium and India and their shared commonalities as two mature democracies committed to the rule of law, federalism and pluralism.

Noting that diplomatic relations between India and Belgium were instituted in 1947, the Leaders welcomed the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Belgium in 2017 as an occasion to commemorate and commit to further strengthening of bilateral relations.

They looked forward to a State Visit to India in 2017 by His Majesty King Philippe of Belgium as a key event in the commemoration.

Lauding the vital role played by, and the supreme sacrifice made by more than 9,000 Indian troops in Flanders fields, Belgium, during the First World War, the two Prime Ministers recalled India's participation in the inaugural commemorative events held at Nieuwpoort and Ypres in Belgium in October 2014 and welcomed the ongoing commemorative celebrations underway till 2018.

Both leaders acknowledged the growing convergence of views on regional and international issues and committed to work together in close partnership on a range of issues of mutual interest. In this context, the Prime Ministers welcomed the inception of an institutionalized political dialogue between India and Belgium.

Prime Minister Michel reiterated the support of Belgium for India to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council. India and Belgium underlined their shared interest in strengthening global non-proliferation objectives. In this regard, Belgium welcomes India's aspiration to become a member of the four multilateral export control regimes, namely, Nuclear Suppliers Group, Missile Technology Control Regime, Australia Group and Wassenaar Arrangement. India and Belgium agreed to work together for India to become a member of these regimes.

Taking note of the federal structure in both countries, the two Leaders encouraged mutually beneficial partnerships and cooperation, including at the level of the States and the Union Territories of India, the Regions and Communities of Belgium.

Security Cooperation

Condemning the terrorist attacks that have taken place across the world recently, the two Prime Ministers agreed that terrorism, in all its forms and manifestations, is an attack on fundamental

values and freedoms. They agreed that enhanced bilateral and international cooperation is necessary to prevent and combat violent extremism and terrorism, including early adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and strict compliance with all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions designating terrorists and terrorist groups. The two Leaders also resolved to work together to drive forward international efforts in forums like the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

Recognising the urgent need to disrupt terrorist networks and their financing channels, eliminate terrorist safe havens, training infrastructure and cross-border movement of terrorists, the two Prime Ministers underlined the need for all countries to effectively deal with terrorism emanating from their territory or territories under their control. Both sides reiterated that there should be zero tolerance for terrorism-related activities including those that are sponsored by state actors and entities and where terrorism is used as an instrument of state policy.

Reaffirming that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, India and Belgium resolved to work together to better understand the phenomenon of radicalization, and counter the misuse of religion by groups and countries for inciting hatred and violent extremism or perpetrating terrorist acts. Agreeing to facilitate regular exchanges of civil society to promote the values of peace, tolerance and inclusion, the two Leaders reaffirmed their shared conviction that the values of humanism will prevail in countering the divisive propaganda of hatred and intolerance espoused by the forces of extremism and terrorism.

Recognizing the need for enhanced cooperation in criminal matters, they committed to begin negotiations on bilateral agreements for Mutual Legal Assistance, Extradition and Transfer of Sentenced Persons at an early date.

Economic Cooperation

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the robust bilateral economic engagement between the two countries and took positive note of Belgium being India's second largest trade partner in goods in the EU and India being Belgium's second largest export destination outside the EU. Recognizing the importance of the diamond sector in bilateral trade and the ongoing cooperation in the framework of the Kimberley Process, they resolved to further consolidate this mutually beneficial partnership. They committed to further strengthening the economic engagement by diversifying the bilateral trade basket and expanding investment ties.

The Leaders recognized the key role of the services sector in the two economies, and encouraged partnerships between services sector industries particularly in the areas of Information Technology, Biotechnology, Pharmaceuticals and Renewable Energy. They acknowledged the valuable contributions made by skilled workers to the service sectors of the two economies and the importance of smooth movement of skilled personnel in the framework of people to people exchanges. The Leaders recognized the importance of global cross-border transfer of information by electronic means for business purposes and resolved to address regulatory issues.

They agreed on the need to tap into the full potential of the EU-India strategic partnership and looked forward to the resumption of negotiations on the India-EU Broad-based Trade and Investment Agreement on mutually-agreed terms.

The two Leaders discussed the various flagship development initiatives launched by the Government of India and agreed to explore enhanced cooperation in these areas, especially the Smart Cities and the Clean Ganga programmes including the management of water resources in the Ganga River basin.

The Prime Ministers noted with satisfaction, the presence of more than 160 Belgian companies in India and around 80 Indian companies in Belgium. They encouraged businesses on both sides to take advantage of the growing trade and investment opportunities, especially in sectors with

mutual complementarities like ports, railways, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, biotechnology, information technology, health, research and innovation.

Noting the vibrant passenger traffic between the two countries and recognizing the need for direct passenger flights, the two Prime Ministers hoped that efforts will be undertaken to maintain air connectivity between Belgium and India either through direct flight or through code-share operations.

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the conclusion of the amending protocol that makes the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA) more comprehensive and contemporary.

Energy, Ports and Information Technology

The two Prime Ministers welcomed the progress under the MoU on renewable energy between the competent Belgian authorities at federal and regional levels and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy of India, and the inaugural meeting of the Joint Working Group on 14 March 2016 identifying smart cities, waste to energy, small wind turbines, water purification technologies involving renewable energy and zero emission buildings as priority areas for joint collaboration.

The Leaders took positive note of the active cooperation in Science & Technology under the intergovernmental agreement between India's Department of Science & Technology and the Belgian Federal Science Policy.

Office, and looked forward to continued cooperation in this regard. They welcomed the technical activation of an optical infrared telescope in Devasthal in India, jointly developed by ARIES (Aryabhatta Research Institute of Observational Sciences) of India and the Belgian company AMOS (Advanced Mechanical and Optical Systems) as a concrete demonstration of successful collaboration. The two leaders also welcomed the upcoming signature of the finalized Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Biotechnology of India and the Research Foundation - Flanders (FWO) for cooperation in the field of Biotechnology.

Noting the long-standing cooperation between the two countries in the Ports sector, they welcomed the imminent extension of the agreement between the Government of Flanders and the Ministry of Shipping for another two years, as well as the ongoing collaboration between the Port of Antwerp and the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust to develop a Joint Training Center under the MoU signed in February 2015.

They also welcomed the ongoing negotiations to cooperate in the area of Information Communication Technology and Electronics (ICT&E) across a broad spectrum of domains including e-Governance/ mobile Governance, cyber-security, institutional framework between major research institutions, education and training in ICT and looked forward to early conclusion of an agreement.

People to People Ties

Affirming the importance of cooperation in the field of education, the two Prime Ministers welcomed the numerous projects in collaborative research, student mobility and exchange of faculty between higher educational institutions of Belgium and India. They looked forward to further strengthening of the academic engagement between institutions on both sides.

Noting that 40,000 Belgian tourists visit India every year and Belgium receives about 60,000 Indian tourists every year, the two Leaders welcomed the e-Tourist visa facility extended by India to Belgian nationals to promote tourism. They welcomed the upcoming signature of the agreement between the Government of India and the Government of Flanders on cooperation in the field of tourism.

Welcoming the envisaged adoption of the India-EU Common Agenda on Migration and Mobility and underscoring the importance of the growing people to people exchanges between India and Belgium, the Prime Ministers encouraged efforts to ensure easier mobility of people on both sides.

AMBASSADORS OF BELGIUM IN DELHI

Prince Eugène de LIGNE
1947 – 1951

Stéphane HALOT
1951 – 1954

Geoffroy d'ASPREMONT LYNDEN
1954 – 1959

Francis Léo GOFFART
1959 – 1961

Christian FELLENS
1987 – 1989

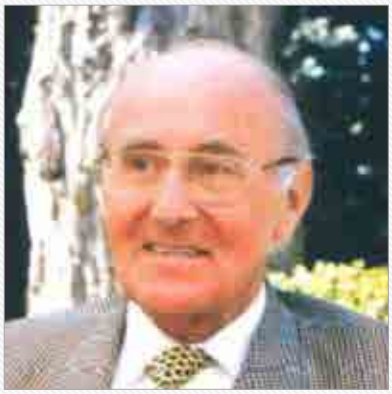
Guy TROUVEROY
1999 – 2003

André WENDELEN
1961 – 1965

Jean LEROY
1965 – 1970

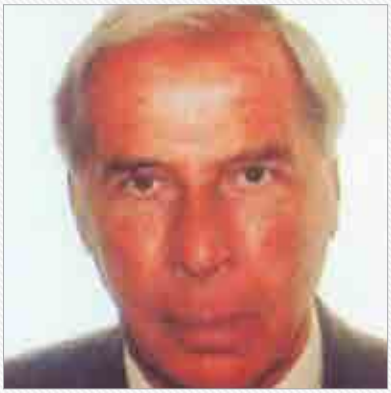
Charles KERREMANS
1970 – 1978

Jacques GRAEFFE
1978 – 1981



Kamiel CRIEL
1989 – 1991

Patrick DE BEYTER
2003 – 2006



Jan HOLLANTS VAN LOOCKE
1981 – 1984

Marcel VAN DE KERCKHOVE
1985 – 1986

Cristina FUNES – NOPPEN
1991 – 1995

Guillaume METTEN
1995 – 1999

Jean M. DEBOUTTE
2007 – 2010

Pierre VAESEN
2011 – 2014

Courtesy: Inspirations by Mr. Philippe Falisse

BELGIUM IN **DELHI**

Ambassador of Belgium to India MR. JAN LUYKX presenting his credentials to President SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE, September 2014

Belgian Ambassador JAN LUYKX and his wife, MRS. RAKA SINGH, at their Embassy in New Delhi

The iconic Belgian Embassy in New Delhi was designed by the well-known Indian artist, SHRI SATISH GUJRAL

AMBASSADORS OF LUXEMBOURG IN DELHI

PAUL STEINMETZ
2002 – 2007

MARC COURTE
2007 – 2011

GASTON STRONCK
2011 – 2014

Ambassador of Luxembourg to India MR. SAM SCHREINER *presenting his credentials to Rashtrapati* SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE*, September 2014*

AMBASSADORS OF INDIA IN BRUSSELS

B.F.H.B. TYABJI
Chargé d'Affaires
1948 – 1950

N. RAGHAVAN
1950 – 1951

P.A. MENON
1951 – 1954

K.K. CHETTUR
1954 – 1956

B.N. KAUL
1956 – 1958

M.A. RAUF
1958 – 1961

K.B. LALL
1962 – 1966 & 1973 – 1977

T. SWAMINATHAN
1966 – 1970

B.R. PATEL
1970 – 1973

P.K. DAVE
1977 – 1981

S.S. PURI
1981 – 1982

E. GONSALVES
1982 – 1986

N.P. JAIN
1986 –1989

G.V. RAMAKRISHNA
1989 – 1990

A.K. SENGUPTA
1990 – 1993

A.N. RAM
1994 – 1995

C. DASGUPTA
1996 – 2000

P.K. SINGH
2000 – 2004

R.M. ABHYANKAR
2004 – 2005

D. CHATTERJEE
2005 – 2008

DR. J. BHAGWATI
2008 – 2012

D. KHULLAR
2012 – 2013

AMBASSADORS OF INDIA IN BRUSSELS

HONORARY CONSULS GENERAL IN FLANDERS

Mr. Fernand Bertrand	till 1981
Mr. Paul Meeus	1983-2003
Mr. Marc Huybrechts	from July 8, 2008

HONORARY CONSULS GENERAL IN LUXEMBOURG

Mr. Jim Penning	1995-2009
Mr. M.D. Venkatraman	from May 27, 2010

His Majesty KING PHILIPPE *of the Belgians receiving the credentials from Ambassador* MANJEEV SINGH PURI

February 13, 2014

His Royal Highness GRAND DUKE HENRI *of Luxembourg with Ambassador* MANJEEV SINGH PURI *and* SHRIMATI NAMRITA PURI *while receiving the Ambassador's credentials*

June 18, 2014

INDIA IN BRUSSELS

The Embassy of India in Brussels moved from 111 Boulevard Michel to 62 Avenue Franklin Roosevelt, then to 485 Avenue Louise and 121 Avenue Molière.

After the Government had purchased the property, the Embassy shifted to its present location, 217 Chaussée de Vleurgat, in 1982.

INDIA IN BRUSSELS

The residence of the Ambassador, BHARAT BHAWAN, was purchased by the Government of India in 1956.

It is located at 13 Avenue des Erables/30 Dreve de Lansrode in Rhode Saint-Genese.

INDIA IN BRUSSELS

Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI *and members of the Embassy of India, Brussels*

INDIA IN BRUSSELS

Ambassador MANJEEV SINGH PURI *and the officers of the Embassy of India, Brussels*

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Prime Minister **SHRI NARENDRA MODI** addressing the Indian community, in Brussels, Belgium on March 30, 2016

Embassy of India
Brussels

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