

APR 22 1952

TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCES ON INDIA,
March 26-27, 1952

Herewith is a copy of the Agenda for these meetings as prepared for me by Mr. Weaver. I believe it has been discussed in all Divisions. I have not made any changes in this paper but I should like to begin the meeting with a statement from each Division as to what if anything is actually being done at present in India, Pakistan and Ceylon. I imagine this will take only a few moments.

C.I.B.

March 25, 1952

The India Conference
(Including Pakistan and Ceylon)

It seems to me that this conference might usefully adopt as a general scheme for procedure:

First, to expose and pool those major facts and insights, concerning India and her problems, which exist in the minds of those who have had long experience in India, as well as those who have made recent trips there; and then to list and discuss, against this background of fact and insight, what appear to be the major opportunities for RF activity in India, together with the difficulties which surround these opportunities.

Second, to then inquire - having looked at the facts, the needs, the opportunities, and the difficulties - what is the over-all case for RF activity in India, either on a general or on a divisional basis. Should there be an "India Program" and if so, why? Or should India be recognized as a country within which any Division may develop a project, just as they would in England, or Brazil, or Denmark?

Third, to present and discuss, Division by Division, any specific recommendations that have emerged from recent studies, whether these be of divisional or general character.

The question here listed as second - namely is there a case for special or preferential treatment of India as compared with other areas of the world - is in one sense the underlying question that should be considered. Also, it is the question we tend to forget when we have recently visited India, but not Africa, Australia, Japan, Brazil, etc. But I think this question, despite its basic character, has to be considered second, rather than first: namely after the special circumstances in India have been exposed and discussed.

If this is a satisfactory general scheme, then perhaps the actual agenda might be something like the tentative draft shown on the next two pages. In each case the names listed indicate the persons responsible for the initial statements on the various topics.

Tentative Draft of Agenda

I) India and the Modern World

It is intended that, for each of the fields listed, the speakers would cover five aspects: 1st, they would give a concise summary of factual background; 2nd, they would outline what seem to be the major and pressing problems; 3rd, they would indicate what attacks are being made on these problems by Indian, U. S., or other agencies; 4th, they would state what seem to be the main possible opportunities for RF activity; and 5th, they would attempt some estimate of the difficulties and the prospects of successful outcome if these activities were undertaken.

- 1) Social, Economic, and Political Situation (including population problem)

Evans - Balfour (40 minutes)

- 4) ~~2)~~ Cultural and Educational Problems

Gilpatric (40 minutes)

- 3) Medicine and Public Health

Gregg - Watson - Grant (40 minutes)

- 2) ~~4)~~ Agriculture

Harrar - Mangelsdorf - Weaver (40 minutes)

(adjourn for lunch at 12:40 - reassemble at 2:00)

II) What is the Case for RF Activity in India?*

- 1) Need and opportunity
- 2) Strategic importance of India
(politically, socially, culturally)
- 3) Dangers
(political or social instability - administrative confusion - ideological and cultural handicaps - caste - language - vastness - complexity - conflicts between oriental philosophy and democratic procedures)

* It is almost certainly not sensible to try to discuss the topics listed under this heading in any rigidly serial fashion. They are intimately interconnected. Furthermore, these topics are the general interest of all of us. Therefore it does not seem useful to assign names or times to these topics. Presumably several persons will want to speak to this group of topics as a whole.

- 4) Relevance of RF assets to Indian problems
(money, experience, flexibility, stability, standards, etc.)
- 5) What should be the basic characteristics of any RF activity in India?
(selectivity - emphasis on quality of personnel - time factor - indigenous solution - training - economic practicability - joint learning - internal problems vs. outside planning approach)
- 6) How are we going to operate in India?
(various RF representatives living there - all-RF office - general program - purely divisional activities)
- 7) World-wide budget of RF - competing opportunities.
(Have Divisions any idea of what they might be prepared to commit to India?)

(adjourn at 5:00 p.m.)

(at Principal Officers Conference - Thursday, March 27) - *no report received*

III) Specific Recommendations or Proposals

- 1) SS
- 2) H
- 3) MPH
- 4) NSA

*for filing other
than Secretary's
minutes.*