

Address given by Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola at the Ceylon independence ceremony (10 February 1948)

Caption: On 10 February 1948, the High Commissioner to the UK for Pakistan, Habib Ibrahim Rahimtoola, gives an address during the festivities held to mark the independence of Ceylon.

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Last updated: 01/03/2017

Mr. Habib I. Rahimtoola,

for Pakistan in U.K.

SPEECH ~~TO BE~~ MADE BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON 10.2.48. AT THE
RECEPTION ~~TO BE~~ GIVEN BY THE CEYLON REPRESENTATIVE.

Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my proud privilege to say a few words on this happy occasion. I am indeed very happy to greet the peoples of Ceylon through Your Excellencies and convey my heartiest felicitations on this proud and glorious day for them.

A little over a month ago, we rejoiced in the attainment of sovereignty by our friends in Burma, and again today we gather, this time to celebrate and welcome the entry of Ceylon into the family of free nations. This smooth transition from the Colonial to fully independent and Sovereign rights within the British Commonwealth of Nations of six and a half million people, is a tremendous achievement on the part of the leaders of Ceylon. It shows also the sagacity and wisdom of H.M.G. in bringing about this change in such a peaceful manner. By this wise act they have strengthened their ties of friendship with the Ceylonese people and have created a new relationship as close allies.

Today, Ceylon proudly takes her rightful place in the Council of Free Nations, and we are confident that she will play her full part in the councils of the United Nations to promote goodwill and preserve peace.

/We ...

X
We in Pakistan are particularly happy to see the birth of a free nation, and we wish to assure the peoples of Ceylon of our fullest cooperation in promoting friendship and mutual understanding between us, the foundations for which have already been laid by the recent visit of the Prime Minister of Ceylon to Pakistan. We also assure them of our fullest goodwill.

Ceylon Zindabad. Z X