



Gandhi alighting from S.S. Rajputana at Marseilles, September 11, 1931



Gandhi arriving at St. James' Palace, September 1931



Gandhi with Sarojini Naidu in London, 1931

WITH  
P.&O. (S) 1278/31  
INDIA OFFICE,  
MILWAUKEE, WIS. U.S.A.,  
P. & O. (S) 1278/31.  
9th September, 1931.

Dear Colonel Carter,

Confirming my recent telephone conversations with you. We have been definitely informed by the P. & O. Co. that Mr. Gandhi and party will come overland from Marseilles by the P. & O. Special leaving Marseilles on Friday next and due at Folkestone about 1 P.M. on Saturday, the 12th.

A letter has been sent from this office to Mr. Gandhi to be delivered to him at Marseilles, and we believe that similar letters have been sent by his friends, suggesting to him the desirability of his coming up to London from Folkestone by road. I understand also that Mr. C.S. Andrews has gone to Marseilles partly to impress on him the desirability of falling in with this suggestion. We hope, therefore, that Mr. Gandhi will adopt this arrangement, which was agreed to at the informal conference held here on the 3rd September, in the circumstances the best to adopt. If by any chance he refuses (and you may have noticed in to-day's evening press that Mrs. Naidu has telegraphed Mr. Polak — from whom we have confirmation of the story — protesting against an arrangement which would prevent the people of England from seeing the Mahatma) we ought to know of his refusal early on Friday, as both the Consul General at Marseilles and the P. & O. Agents there, not to mention Mr. Andrews, have been asked to telegraph definite information on the point.

Assuming that he agrees to come by road he will, we understand, go straight to the Friends meeting House near Euston for a reception. Mr Vincent, who is going down to Folkestone to meet him, will try and arrange that the cars reach the Friends Meeting House about 5.39; I will arrange to get confirmation of this from Vincent.

After arrival at the Friends Meeting House Mr. Gandhi's further movements are a matter wholly for himself and his friends but, we believe that after a reasonable interval he will go straight down to the Kingsley Hall Settlement in Bromley in cars provided by his friends.

In the event of his firmly refusing to come from Folkestone by road arrangements will have to be made to deal with a possible demonstration when the P. & O. Special reaches Victoria at 3.30 p.m. In any case, as was mentioned to Superintendent Parker, Maulana Shaukat Ali will be arriving by that train and there is likely to be quite a considerable crowd of Moslems to meet him with which I suppose the Metropolitan Railway Police would have to make arrangements to deal.

I promised Superintendent Parker to let you have a copy of the telegram we received from the Government of India as to the necessity of protecting Mr. Gandhi while he is in this country, and I now enclose it. (As a matter of fact I have run together the text of two separate telegrams received from India). As regards a visit to Lancashire, or any other provincial center, I understand that this possibility is now not very great. If, however, Mr. Gandhi does accept an invitation for such a visit we should know 4 or 5 days before hand and would let Scotland Yard now at once. I understand from Superintendent Parker that in such an event all necessary arrangements would be made by Scotland Yard with the local police authorities.

If there is any sudden development I will let you know of it as soon as I hear of it myself.

Your Sincerely,

(Lieut. Colonel J.F.C. Carter, C.B.E. New Scotland Yard.



WITH  
P.&O. (S) 1278/31  
Extract from New Scotland Yard Report dated 11th November, 1931.  
P&O/S  
1636  
1931

Mahatma Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi.

A party of eight Indian Communists was received by the Mahatma Gandhi at 88, Knightsbridge, S.W., on the evening of 30th October, for the purpose of receiving from him his replies to a questionnaire containing 14 queries prepared by the group.

The leader and spokesmen of the deputation were Mutyala Jaya Surya Naidu (son of Mrs. Sarojini Naidu) and Niharendu Datta Mazumdar. Others of the group were Hansraj Aggarwalla, Saiyed Saijad Zaheer and Gayha (Dhirenda Mohan Saha).

The speaker accused Gandhi of being an ally of the capitalists, and of being "inspired by imperialism". A pointed argument ensued.

Upon leaving Mazumdar expressed disappointment at the "strength" of Gandhi in resisting their attempts of influence him in the direction of a Communist control of India.

The Indian Medical Association of Great Britain, which was due to give a reception to Gandhi, received a request from Shapurji Saklatvala, through Dr. Chirilal Bimhai Vakil, for ten tickets to be sent him. Dr. K.V.R. Menon, the Association's Secretary, said that he sent them to Saklatvala on condition that there should be no disturbance at the gathering.

Dr. B.C. Sekar, seen at Dr. Menon's house, stated that Dr. K.M. Pardhy (Birmingham) was endeavouring to persuade Gandhi to stay with him for two days and address two Meetings — one at the International Club and the other at the Indian Union.

A reception in honour of Gandhi (mentioned above) was given by the Indian Medical Association of Great Britain at Veeraswamy's Indian Restaurant, 99 Regent Street, W., on Wednesday, 4th November.

Although Saklatvala was expected to attend, having taken the ten tickets referred to, he, it was learned, preferred to send his children and some of his friends. The reason stated for this was that he did not wish to be blamed for any trouble that might have been caused directly or indirectly by himself or through his presence thereat, which would have reacted against his friend, Dr. K.M. Pardhy, the President of the Association.

Speakers at the function were Gandhi, Dr. Pardhy and Dr. Ghotla.

Pardhy plainly wished to take advantage of Gandhi's attendance by collecting money for the Indian Hospital scheme. At the termination of the proceedings Pardhy privately remarked that Gandhi's speech was so very vague that it would be instrumental in yielding but very little to the fund, although nearly £493 had been obtained from the Round-table Conference delegates.

It has been submitted as a definite conviction that Pardhy's self aggrandisement is the prompting factor in this canvassing which opinion was voiced by Dr. Kasargod Somnath Bhat in a conversation during the function.

A feature of the gathering was the obvious solitariness of Dr. A.M. Shah, he being patently suspected of being a spy.



With Charlie Chaplin in Canning Town (East London), September 1931.



With French Writer and poet Romain Rolland at the latter's home Villa Ogla, Villeneuve, Switserland, December 1931. The two men met like old friends and treated one another with tenderness of mutual respect. Gandhi asked Rolland to play Beethoven for him.