

All Britain Honors Gandhi; Truman Deplores Tragedy

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LONDON, Jan. 30—Mohandas K. Gandhi, in death, has won the unanimous tribute of Britons—something he never hoped for or expected during his life. Nowhere outside of India has

the shock of his assassination contained the feelings and emotions evident here today because Britain and Mr. Gandhi have been linked for good or evil over the last forty years.

In a special broadcast to the British people tonight the Prime Minister said:

"The voice which pleaded for peace and brotherhood has been silenced, but I am certain that his spirit will continue to animate his fellow countrymen and will plead for peace and concord."

[President Truman and Secretary Marshall expressed their grief and condolences in messages to India. Members of Congress were apprehensive. Leaders of many other lands joined in paying tribute and in deploring the manner of Mr. Gandhi's death.]

The sincerity of today's expressions of regret, which came from the King and Queen, the Prime Minister, the political parties—even the Communist—and from many humble Londoners who filed silently into India House this afternoon to pay tribute, cannot be doubted.

Those many quarrels when Mr. Gandhi fought with his passive resistance against the imperial power of Britain are truly things of the past. Mr. Gandhi himself paid high tribute to Britain for her policy of freeing India and of trying to help to keep the two dominions at peace with each other.

The British, on their side, have

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ALL BRITONS UNITE TO ACCLAIM GANDHI

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been full of admiration for Mr. Gandhi's successful efforts at Calcutta and recently at Delhi to bring about a better communal feeling through fasting.

That is why the tributes come first and they mean what they say. They are tributes to the character and career of Mr. Gandhi but almost all of them express the fervent hope that his death will lead to a sense of common Hindu-Moslem loss and will bring a reaction of a favorable nature to soothe communal feeling.

There was a frank sigh or relief when it was learned that the assassin was a Hindu, not a Moslem. It is realized that before the common people everywhere get to understand this fact there is going to be some trouble but it should die down soon, according to calculations here.

Prime Minister Attlee's message on behalf of the British Government, for instance, after a personal tribute to Mr. Gandhi, ended with these words:

"During the last months of his life he exerted with success his powerful influence to restrain com-

munal bitterness and to promote the cooperation of all Indians for the common good. It is the earnest hope of the British Government in the United Kingdom that this example will be followed and that his moral influence will continue to guide men in the paths of peace."

Royalty Joins in Tribute

The message of the King, sent to Earl Mountbatten, Governor-General of India, said:

"The Queen and I are deeply shocked by the news of the death of Mr. Gandhi. Will you please convey to the people of India our sincere sympathy in the irreparable loss which they and indeed mankind suffered."

Winston Churchill, Opposition leader, said: "I am shocked at this wicked crime."

Sir Stafford Cripps, Chancellor of the Exchequer, was one of the many personal friends of Mr. Gandhi who pointed out that this loss will be deplored throughout the world.

The Earl of Halifax, who as Viceroy from 1926 to 1931, was closer to Mr. Gandhi and more respected by him than any Governor General of this century, also expressed the hope that the "effect of his tragic death may be to bring all his countrymen to understand and practice the principles he so constantly and faithfully preached."

Lord Pethick-Lawrence said: "I know there is one wish he would have made—that his death should

not be revenged or made the occasion for further bloodshed but that it should lead to reconciliation among all the peoples of the sub-continent of Asia."

Communists Suggest Link

Aside from the government leaders, there were tributes from the Most Rev. Geoffrey F. Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury and Anglican Primate, and from Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster and Catholic Primate.

The Communist party's statement was not without its irony for it said that Mr. Gandhi was "in close association with all progressive democratic elements in India, including the Communists." It is a matter of record that Mr. Gandhi at all times hated and feared communism because of its atheism.

A tribute that Mr. Gandhi would have appreciated came from his old political enemy (as he considered him) L. S. Amery, wartime Secretary of State for India. Mr. Amery expressed deep regret and conceded that "no one contributed more to the particular way in which the chapter of British rule in India has ended than Mr. Gandhi himself."

This statement points to old quarrels and it would, indeed, be hypocritical not to remember that many Britons over many years have had very low opinions of Mr. Gandhi. These men—rulers of India, civil servants and military men—considered him more or less

of a charlatan. They felt that he was an unscrupulous politician, using his saintliness for political blackmail.

However, tonight it is recognized that final judgment can be left to history. No one denies that Mr. Gandhi was a very great man whose loss will be felt everywhere although especially in tortured India.