

PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

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INDIAN AMBASSADOR AWARDED FRENCH DECORATION

Paris, April 17, 1956.

The Indian Ambassador to France, Sardar H.S. Malik, was awarded today the high decoration of Grand Officier de la Legion d Honneur by the President of the French Republic; Mr. Rene Coty. Grand Officier de la Legion d Honneur is one of the highest decorations awarded by the French Government for distinguished services.

Pinning the medal on the Ambassador's chest, the President made very warm and moving references to the Ambassador's past and present services. He recalled that the Ambassador's association with France began with the first World War. The President also referred to the Ambassador's personal association with him in Paris and at Rambouillet. "At Rambouillet" the President said "We had the pleasure of your company in hunting. But you have also played a notable part in hunting in a different field -- hunting in the skies of France for whom you shed your blood."

Mr. Coty recalled his predecessor in his high office Mr. Vincent Auriol, who held Sardar Malik in high esteem. "Indeed you are one of the most esteemed members of our diplomatic corps admired and loved by us all."

In conclusion the President expressed the hope for continued good work by the Ambassador for cordial relations between France and that "great and noble country India."

The Ambassador in his reply said how deeply touched he was by the President's noble and moving reference to him. He had known France since the first World War. Little did he know then that one day he would return to France to serve his country as India's Ambassador. When therefore he came to Paris as Ambassador in 1949, it was like 'a dream' to him.

Since then, the Ambassador said, he had the great honour and  
privilege...

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privilege to represent his country in France. He was so happy that during these seven years relations between the two countries had been brought so close leading to solution of problems that existed between them.

The Ambassador was accompanied during the ceremony by officers of the Embassy and Mr. Harmala Singh Malik, the son of the Ambassador, who was presented to the President.

Among those present at the ceremony were M De La Ahauniniere, Chief of Protocol of the French Government, General Ganeval, Military Secretary to the President and Mr. Louis Faucon, Deputy Chief of Secretariat of the Prime Minister who represented Mr. Guy Mollet.

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