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TRIBUTES TO NEHRU

At the public condolence meeting at Ramlila grounds on May 29, tributes were paid to the late Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru by the President, Vice-President, Prime Minister, leaders of all political parties and the foreign dignitaries who had come to Delhi to attend the funeral. The following is the text of the tributes:

PRIME MINISTER OF CEYLON, MRS. BANDARANAIKE:

Mr. President, Mr. Vice-President, Your Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen: Close as we are in Ceylon to India, a visit to this country is an event which we look forward most eagerly and I am very sorry that the occasion for my present visit has been one of sorrow, rather than joy. I realise, however, from the thought that I have been able to represent the Government and people of Ceylon at the funeral of the late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and join with you in paying this final tribute to a great and good Indian who was also a great and good citizen of the world.

It is a sad and strange experience to wake up one fine morning in India and to find oneself in India without Jawaharlal Nehru. That experience would have been shared by us all here today and by the millions of India. Outside India and in all parts of the world countless persons would have realised with pride that this is today a world without Nehru.

In the melancholy duty that I perform today, I speak for the Government and the people of Ceylon but forgive me if I strike a personal note when I say that I speak also for my late husband who shared many ideals in common with Pandit Nehru, chiefly his devotion to the cause of peace, the liberation of subject peoples and the well-being of the common man.

When we think of modern India we recall to our mind at once the saintly Mahatma whose martyrdom was, as it

were, a ritual sacrifice performed on the occasion of the birth of independent India. There are numerous other Indians, philosophers, men of letters and men eminent who have made their country famous abroad but nothing can match the magnetic appeal, the name of Nehru had throughout the world. Everywhere in the world, even long before his death, his personality had come to be so closely and so intimately identified with all that is best in modern India and all that is most representative of it that one would be justified in saying that India was Nehru and Nehru was India.

Along with many others he devoted his full energies in the prime of his life to the struggle for India's freedom. He made great personal sacrifices for the cause he so dearly loved and in the position of which he played so important a part. At a time when most public men are on the verge of retirement, he assumed the greatest and most exacting responsibility of his life as Prime Minister that has already been marked by his strenuous endeavour.

During 17 long years as Prime Minister of India, he worked unremittingly to build a new nation and the horizon of his political philosophy went beyond the confines of his own country and by striving for regeneration and growth, he led the leadership and gave support to the advancement of the cause of world peace and everything that he could contribute to the world's improvement.

In many moments of crisis in international affairs, it was the voice of Nehru for which the world waited in certain convictions that it would be the voice of sanity, the voice of morality and the voice of hope. It is the custom of the materialistic world to perpetrate the memory of the departed great in imposing statues and magnificent buildings. There could be no more fitting memorial that could be erected in honour of the late Jawaharlal Nehru than the enumeration of his principles of gentle and serene humaneness and in the

of a world of individual liberty, mutual tolerance and international harmony.

We in Ceylon held the late Pandit Jawahralal Nehru in great affection and high esteem and will remember him as a sincere friend and well-wisher of Ceylon. On behalf of the Government and the people of Ceylon and on my own behalf, I wish to express to the members of the late Pandit Nehru's family and specially to his daughter, Indira Gandhi, our warm and heartfelt sympathy. By joining you all in paying homage to his memory I wish the Government and the people of India on behalf of the Government and people of Ceylon all happiness and prosperity under the leadership as enlightened, heroic and courageous as was provided by Pandit Nehru.

..H.E. MR. DEAN RUSK,...

E. MR. DEAN RUSK, SECRETARY OF STATE OF U.S.A.:

In all humility, Mr. President and Mr. Mayor, I thank you for inviting me to say a word as one of those who have come from all parts of the world to pay our homage to Jawaharlal Nehru and to comfort India at this moment of her deepest loss. The leaders of the world have settled their differences to join in this unity of common grief. The ordinary peoples of the world - men, women and children - know that they have lost a champion of peace, of human decency, of the brotherhood of man.

As one who has spent two years in India and has visited it many times, I have watched with profound respect and awe the rebirth of this great nation. As one who has worked in the United Nations, I have known the voice of India as the voice of sanity, of moderation and of hope.

Pandit Nehru had great confidence in the capacity of his fellow-men, the capacity of man at his best to take control over man at his worst. He reminded us that it is never too late to draw back from a crisis and attempt to find a peaceful solution and this attitude, which was once regarded merely as a maxim of politics has now become a most urgent practical necessity for the survival of man. When we need comfort in our sorrow, we must seek it in the works of the leaders who have left us.

The Indian democracy, the world's largest, represents Pandit Nehru's major imprint upon the history of our times. He spent his life to leave his best legacy to the Indian people and to the world. We in the United States with some of our colonial past and the second largest nation built upon democratic principles, share both India's griefs and hopes and when we look upon Pandit Nehru's works we see so much for which we ourselves have striven. Constitutional government providing as it does the rule of law with its

...promise of..

Mr. Dean Rusk (Contd.)

promise of human dignity for each individual; a design of social justice, with equal opportunity for all -- these are fundamental in India's great heritage. So we cherish them in common.

During our own recent tragedy in the United States, I remembered the words of Pandit Nehru when Gandhiji was lost to the world. He said:

"The light that has illumined this country for these many, many years will illumine this country for many more years, and a thousand years later that light will still be seen in this country, and the world will see it and it will give solace to innumerable hearts. For the light represented something more than the immediate present; it represented the living, the eternal truths, reminding us of the right path, drawing us from error, taking this ancient country to freedom."

And now the one who dedicated his life to the fulfilment of Gandhiji's dream of freedom has left us. He wanted us to think of him, he once said, as "a man who, with all his mind and heart, loved India and the Indian people," and as Pandit Nehru loved India and the Indian people he also loved all mankind.

Jawaharlal Nehru drew his strength from the Indian people. He is gone. But India and the Indian people live on, sustained by his wisdom and faith, to address themselves to the great unfinished tasks of freedom and social justice.

..... THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN..

THE FIRST VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS,
U.S.S.R., MR. ALENI KOSSYGIN:

It is with a feeling of deepest sorrow that we are speaking now about an outstanding statesman and political leader of our era, the leader of the Indian people, the Prime Minister of India ever since independence, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The demise of the leader of the Indian people, the fighter for independence and progress of his motherland, its real patriot and citizen whose entire life was dedicated to his people, has shocked very deeply and grieved all the Soviet people, and all those people of the world who stand for the cause of universal peace, democracy and friendship among nations. The name of Jawaharlal Nehru is dear to the Soviet people because it is closely connected with the efforts of the Indian nation aimed at the liquidation of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, at the solution of disputed international problems by peaceful means, through negotiations. He was an ardent champion of peace and a passionate advocate of the implementation of the principles of peaceful co-existence of the states. He was the architect of the policy of non-alignment, which is being pursued by the Indian Government. This wise policy has gained respect for India and is reflected in the fact that India now occupies a deserved place on the international arena.

The Soviet people will for ever preserve in their memories the days of Jawaharlal Nehru's stay in the USSR in 1955 and 1961, when in his person the people of our country greeted the leader of a great power which had resolutely broken away with imperialism and had stepped on the path of independent development.

The impressions of our personal meetings with Jawaharlal Nehru will never be blotted out of our memory. Never shall we forget his simplicity, modesty, humanism, sincerity, and his inexhaustible fund of goodwill. He personified a statesman deeply devoted to the idea of peaceful co-existence, who did his utmost for the implementation of this idea. The Soviet people take this irreparable loss to their hearts with particular feeling of sorrow as everybody in our country

knows what invaluable contribution has been made by the departed Prime Minister to the cause of development of Soviet-Indian relations and of strengthening friendship between our peoples, in order that our two countries, which earlier almost did not know each other, could become not only good neighbours but sincere friends.

The Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, N.S.Khrushchev, the Government of the Soviet Union, the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, L.I.Brezhnev, and the Supreme Soviet of the USSR have asked me, on their own behalf and on behalf of all the Soviet people, at this mournful hour to convey to the Government of India, to the Indian Parliament, to the whole Indian nation as well as to Smt. Indira Gandhi and other relatives of the departed most sincere condolences on the occasion of the passing away of the leader of the Indian nation, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

I would like to remind you of the words full of optimism spoken in 1960 by Jawaharlal Nehru, who was a great humanist of our times. "Let us open the windows of our minds to see our changing society in its proper perspective and to look into a new world in which sun rays are breaking through dark clouds. These rays show us a new peaceful Earth -- cooperation and goodwill among the nations and opportunities for progress for each country."

And the best monument to the outstanding statesman of the contemporary epoch, to the citizen and man of great wisdom and great heart as was the departed Prime Minister, will be the struggle for strengthening peace and friendship among the nations, the struggle for putting into life the principles of peaceful co-existence by which the peoples throughout the world live now. This monument will be our mutual efforts aimed at economic development of all states, raising of the standard of living of the peoples, and first of all, of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, who have quite recently won their political and state independence.

I would like to conclude with the words of the head of the Soviet Government, N.S.Khrushchev, who said that the best tribute to Jawaharlal Nehru will be the triumph of the great ideals of humanism, social progress and peace to which he had dedicated the whole of his wonderful life.

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..Prime Minister of..

Prime Minister of Yugoslavia, H.E. Mr. Peter Stambolic:

Mr. President and dear friends: It is a great honour for me to greet you on behalf of the people of Yugoslavia, and on behalf of our President Tito. At the same time I am expressing the feeling of deep grief of the Yugoslav people for the great loss your country has suffered at the passing away of your beloved leader, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The deep sorrow that we share with you is more than understandable that by his personality and guidance he gave that decisive direction in the struggle for independence and progress of the Indian people. These decades were also simultaneously a period of common struggle against colonialism, and in that struggle the most prominent contribution was that of your great leader, Jawaharlal Nehru.

Today the results ^{of that} ~~of that~~ gigantic struggle are obvious, and there is every reason to believe that in the near future the last traces of injustice and oppression ^{will be eradicated.} ~~will be eradicated.~~ The policy of peace and co-existence is as important and necessary to the peoples as the water and air they live by. These are the only conditions by which we can exist and prosper. This was the policy of Prime Minister Nehru, its most active and ardent supporter. Therefore, the name of Nehru has crossed the Indian frontier a long time ago and has become the property of the entire peace-loving and progressive world.

In the struggle for peace and co-existence, the unbreakable friendship between Yugoslavia and India and the personal friendship between Nehru and Tito have been forged and cemented and I am sure that the strong foundations that have been built by Marshal Tito (the late) Mr. Nehru of sincere friendship between our people, will be further developed for our mutual benefit and also for the benefit of world peace and cooperation. To these great and noble aims, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru dedicated all his life up to his last breath.

..... Minister of Cabinet..

Minister of the Cabinet, personal Representative
of General de Gaulle, France, Mr. Louis Joxe:

As soon as he learnt the tragic loss suffered by your country, General de GAULLE, deeply moved, decided to send me to New Delhi to convey to Mrs. Indira Gandhi, to the Government of India and to the people of the Union his feelings of sympathy and the condolences of the whole French Nation.

Yesterday in Paris, the French Cabinet, in a formal meeting under the chairmanship of the President of the Republic, heard a special salute to the memory of Jawaharlal Nehru, delivered by my colleague the Foreign Minister.

Paying a last tribute to the great leader, Mr. Couve de Murville declared that, taking into account the vast dimensions of India and the complexity of her problems, everyone in France felt that the character, the capacities and the elevation of spirit that Pandit Nehru has demonstrated imposed this gesture.

I had the opportunity yesterday to witness the immense sorrow of his countrymen who in hundred of thousands congregated themselves on the way followed by the funeral cortege to have a last glimpse of the man who inspired them affection and respect. Their mourning is not only national but also the mourning of the world; "a man is dead who was the honour of mankind". Humanity, in this hour, has lost one of the staunchest defender of the cause of tolerance, of freedom and of peace. But future generations will find

in his.....

in his life, in his action, in his speeches and in his works a source of unextinguishable inspiration for helping them to achieve the building of a better world. That is the great aim Nehru tried to realize in all spheres. One can say that he succeeded. Therefore he fulfilled his most noble ambition which he stated clearly in a sentence of his book "the Discovery of India". This sentence could constitute a worthy epitaph "All my life and strength were given to the first cause of the world: the liberation of mankind".

..Vice-President of UAR..

Vice-President of U.A.R., Mr. Hussein Shafei:

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, friends, it is a very sad occasion that we have to be here today to pay tribute to the great leader, the late Prime Minister. I profoundly regret to convey to you, on behalf of President Gamel Abdel Nasser and the people of the United Arab Republic, and on my behalf our deepest concern and condolences over the very sad and the most sorrowful event.

We in the United Arab Republic were looking forward to meet Jawaharlal Nehru on his way to attend the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' Conference in July. We were always eager to have him with us; we were always happy to exchange liberal views with him, to seek/wisdom and experience from him, but it is a great pity that circumstances have compelled us to come here to see him lie in state.

We believe, as you do, that he was an outstanding statesman, an eminent and leading figure and a distinguished thinker, who devoted himself to the last minute of his life to grant light to India, Asia and the whole humanity. We know quite well how you will be feeling now and we in the United Arab Republic share with you those feelings. We cannot express how deep our sympathies are with the people of India on this unfortunate event as we have followed with great admiration your devotion to your late Prime Minister.

The torch he had lit for all the world will remain always illuminated on the path of progress and freedom. Our hearts are heavy with grief that we have lost in Jawaharlal Nehru a great friend whose friendship we have always valued. He is no more with us now but his noble ideal and lofty aims will always continue to guide and give strength to those struggling for world peace and non-alignment.

He was a personality who symbolised the whole of India. A man like him is a rare boon to the world at large. I do not think I am able to express the greatness of that leader or the feelings his people surrounded him with after I have seen the vast sea of people who had gathered to pay homage to their leader. This indicates what kind of leader he was and what a great loss we all are suffering. May God be with you; may God help us to withstand such a great

REPRESENTATIVE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF UGANDA:

Mr. President, Mr. Prime Minister, Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, I stand here in the name of the Prime Minister of Uganda, Dr. Watanabe, the Government and the people of Uganda, to convey to you, Sir, to your Government and the people of India, the humble homage of our people on the passing away of the great leader, Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru.

The news of his death reached Uganda and East Africa in the early hours of Wednesday. Our Parliament met that afternoon and the Prime Minister in a short tribute told the news how the loss of Mr. Nehru was not only a loss to you and the people of India but also a personal loss to us in Uganda.

That evening the Prime Minister in a broadcast to the nation paid his own tribute to Mr. Nehru whom he looked upon as the torch-bearer of the torch of freedom not only to the greatness of India but also of the other nations which have not yet achieved self-government, those that have not yet achieved freedom. The Prime Minister said that Mr. Nehru was the founder of the principles on which a number of our own policies in Uganda such as passive non-alignment in foreign policies are based.

Sir, I wish, on behalf of our people and myself, those who have come here today, the Speaker of Parliament and the Deputies of the Opposition, to pay this humble homage on the passing away of a great leader and to say, Sir, that we trust that the principles for which he stood throughout his life will survive and will prove of benefit to mankind in the years to come.

.....H.E. Mr. Lee of S.Korea..

HIS EXCELLENCY MR. LEE OF SOUTH KOREA

Mr. President, distinguished guests and friends, it is a great honour and privilege for me to be here with you today and to give expression to our sense of sorrow, the sense of sorrow not only of the people of India but of the entire humanity.

The President of the Republic of Korea has entrusted me with the mission of conveying to you the feelings of deepest sympathy and best wishes from himself and the Government and the people of Korea. I consider it my personal good fortune to represent my country and our President and to assure you and the people of India the admiration and respect with which we have held Shri Jawaharlal Nehru and the great people of India.

In Korea the name of Nehru is India and India only signifies Nehru. That shows how great has been his sacrifice, devotion and contribution to India's freedom and independence. Even at this hour of grief and crisis, I have no doubt that you will carry on the task of national reconstruction which your beloved Prime Minister has left unfinished. As His Excellency Radhakrishnan has most eloquently described it, this is the best tribute you can pay to your great leader Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru.

New Delhi,
May 30, 1964 (Jyaista 9, 1886).

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