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[Despatch Abstract.]

Grant. The Indian Students' Union
and Hostel, London - Construction of
buildings. Sanctioned.

Back Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.

Further Papers.

G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.	G.O.	No.	Department.	Date.
Letter	2863	Eu/61-9 Edu St 16-8-61					

President:
RAJA SIR MAHARAJ SINGH, C.I.E.

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W. M. HUME

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS. INDIA, BURMA & CEYLON

PATRON: HIS EXCELLENCY THE VICEROY

Telephone:
Calcutta 2136

April 24th, 1947.

Telegrams and Cables:
"Watchman, Calcutta"

5, RUSSELL STREET,
CALCUTTA.

T. Avanashalingam, Chettiar, Esq.,
Education Minister, Madras Government,
The Secretariat,
Fort, MADRAS.

Dear Sir,

1 I take the liberty of enclosing an appeal on behalf of the Indian Students' Union & Hostel at 112 Gower Street in London. The appeal is for funds for the rebuilding of the premises which were totally destroyed during the London 'blitz' in September 1940. You are doubtless aware that this famous Institution was established in London 27 years ago and has been maintained all these years by the Indian National Council of Y.M.C.A's. Since the destruction of the building in 1940 the work is being carried on in rented quarters kindly leased by the London University.

2 Plans are now completed for the erection of a new building on the same site. The building when completed will be a credit to India and will cost us about £ 75,000. We expect to receive about £.10,000 from War Damages Commission in London. The India Government has sanctioned a minimum grant of £ 10,000 and the Bombay Government has recently sanctioned a non-recurring grant of £.2,500. In response to our appeal a few subscriptions have already been received including £.2,000 from the Cochin State (£ 1,000 as a personal donation from H.H.The Maharajah of Cochin and £ 1,000 from the Cochin State), Rs.25,000 from Sir John Burder of Jardine Skinner & Co. in Calcutta and some smaller donations. A total of about Rs.3,80,000 has thus been secured in cash and promises (including the expected War Damages) out of a total of Rs.9,75,000, leaving a balance of nearly Rs.6,00,000 to be raised in India within the next few months.

3 Madras Government has always taken a keen interest in our Hostel all these years and has been giving us a maintenance grant of Rs.3000 annually. We do trust that the Government would give us a most generous non-recurring grant towards the building fund.

4 You will remember that early in January I called on you with Mr.A.V.Thomas and you were kind enough to grant us an interview in connection with this special request. Since I saw you last we have received the Bombay Government grant of £.2,500.

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With much appreciation of the Government's continued interest in our work and with respectful regards,

I am,

Yours sincerely,

T. D. Santwan

(T.D.Santwan).
NATIONAL GENERAL SECRETARY.

TDS/Vcs.

Enclos.

PATRON
His Excellency Field Marshal the Right Honourable Viscount Wavell of Cyrenaica and Winchester G.C.B., G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., C.M.G., M.C.,
Viceroy and Governor-General of India.

Telephone:
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of
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Telegrams and Cables:
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5, RUSSELL STREET, CALCUTTA

1st July 1946

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INDIAN STUDENTS' UNION AND HOSTEL, LONDON

DEAR SIR,

1 We wish to draw your attention to the following information which, we feel sure, will be of interest to you.

2 All the many post-war plans for India acknowledge that there is a great need in this country for trained men to carry on the various schemes that are advocated. This is necessary if India is to take her proper place in the world. Well-equipped technicians of all kinds, Engineers, Railway Men, Irrigation Experts and so on must be found. This means that a great number of students will be sent abroad for the fuller training that cannot yet be obtained in India. Some have already left and begun their studies abroad. The Government of India, the Provincial Governments, the Universities and many private enterprises are providing scholarships for this purpose. The majority of these students will go to Great Britain for their training. It is of the greatest importance that some organisation should help in all matters concerning these young men that are not included in the official curricula, e.g. their living conditions, their contacts with the home-life of the people of Britain, their recreation and the openings that will enable them to understand the life of the country to which they go as visitors. This cannot be done by spasmodic efforts from India, nor can official arrangements meet all the needs. Some organisation with experience, sympathy and understanding is urgently required for all such as wish to avail themselves of its services.

3 The National Council of Y.M.C.A.'s of India, Burma and Ceylon has maintained an Indian Students' Union and Hostel for this purpose in London since 1920. Here the young Indian student or traveller can go, on his entrance into the country, can get information about accommodation, can put up for a few weeks or months till he gets settled, can find out about money, banks, food, clothes, books, transport and the many details that a stranger in a new country wants to know. He meets other students from India as well as students of Great Britain and other countries, can read his Indian newspapers, can get Indian food at reasonable prices, can get to know English people socially and be invited to their homes, can get advice on recreation and can find out about tours for his holidays which enable him to see the historical sights and beauty spots of the country. In other words, he not only comes to know a great many things that newcomers always want to know, but finds himself amongst a group of young people who wish to do the same things that he wishes to do and whose friendship is open to him at all times. The Indian Y.M.C.A. with its international outlook and its long experience in this sort of service is specially adapted to serve India at this time in this particular way.

4 Already eight thousand Indian young men, mostly students from all parts of India including Indian States, have passed through this Union's membership. Hundreds of others have been helped and piloted by its staff through many difficulties. Suitable living accommodation for many hundreds has been found in

London and in provincial University towns. It has provided a place where Indian students can entertain their English friends. Through its hospitality programme it has introduced students to English homes resulting in many lasting friendships. It has brought to its lecture platform distinguished Britishers and Indians to address students on current affairs. In short, it has always striven to bring the best of India to Britishers and the best of Britain to Indians, and has thus been a means of increasing understanding between the two peoples.

5 This Y.M.C.A. Union and Hostel building at 112 Gower Street was destroyed by enemy bombing on the 23rd September, 1940. The building had been purchased in 1923, remodelled and equipped at a cost of £25,000/-. The expense of operating the Union was met by membership fees, room rents, takings from the restaurant and certain grants from the Government of India and from Provincial Governments and from some Indian States. The Sir Dorabji Tata Trust, Sir Ratan Tata Trust and N. M. Wadia Trust have also given generous grants towards the maintenance of this institution during the past few years. The Indian National Council of Y.M.C.A's. with Headquarters in Calcutta, controls and guides the work with the active goodwill and approval of the English Y.M.C.A. Since the bombing a limited programme has been carried on in rented quarters. It is now proposed to erect a new building on the Gower Street site, which will more adequately accommodate the work. It is estimated that £75,000 or Rs. 9,75,000/- will be required. Of this amount about £12,000 are already assured. The remaining £63,000 must be raised from those who are in sympathy with this service and who appreciate the qualifications of the Y.M.C.A. to do this type of work.

6 In view of the urgent need mentioned above and the value of such an institution to the many students who will follow on, we feel that financial support for this project should come mainly from those in India, Indians and Europeans, who realise how much the future of the country will depend on the leadership of these young men. We trust that you are interested in this service, given without regard to creed or caste, to young Indians who go abroad and confidently ask for your financial help to make possible at an early date the rebuilding of the Indian Students' Union and Hostel. Donations may kindly be sent to the Hony. Treasurer, National Council of Y.M.C.A's, 5, Russell Street, Calcutta. Any further information which you may require will be gladly supplied at the above address.

Yours faithfully,

Kaung Suji
President.

John Ruman
Vice-President.

T. S. VanLwin
General Secretary.