

**NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION
(Inc.)**

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT
REPORT**

52nd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

held at

Gandhi Hall — Auckland

Saturday — 25th March 1978

THE
**NEW ZEALAND INDIAN
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION**

INC

President:

GULAB V. MORAL (New Plymouth)

Vice President:

Ganges B. Singh (Pukekohe)

General Secretary:

BHUKHAN LAL PARBHU (Wellington)

Under Secretary:

AMRIT L. VASAN (Wellington)

Auditor:

PARBHUBHAI KANJI (Auckland)

Executive Committee:

JAGDISH NATALI (Auckland)

BHANU PATEL (Waikato)

BHANA NAIK (Wellington)

HARBANS SINGH RANDHAWA
(Country Section)

MAGAN BHAI RANCHOOD
(Pukekohe)

RAMAN BHAI KHANDU (Manawatu)

SHIV LAL. B. MASTERS
(Rotorua)

CHHIBA L. PATEL (Taranaki)

RAMAN BHUDIA (Christchurch)

GANGES B. SINGH (Pukekohe)

CONFERENCE DELEGATES

~~1977~~
1978

Auckland:

1. Bhikhu Bhula
2. Chhotu Sima
3. Dayal Kesry
4. Dhiru Bhavan
5. Jagdish Natali
6. Kantaben Chiman
7. Nanu Bhana
8. Parbhu Kanji
9. Raman R. Patel
10. Thakor Parbhu

Christchurch:

Apology

Country Section:

1. Daulat Singh
2. Gurmit Singh Kung
3. Harkrishna Singh Kung
4. Ravinder Singh Powar
5. Santokh Singh Bhullar
6. Pratipal Singh

Manawatu:

1. Hari Naran
2. Vinon Ranchhod

Wellington:

1. Amrat Dullabh Parbhu
2. Bhana Naik
3. Bhupendra Naik
4. Chuni Dahya
5. Deviben Rama
6. Dr. Kapil N. Tiwari
7. Kanti Lakhu Vasani
8. Maniben Naik
9. Nagin G. Patel
10. Parbhu Rantanji

15 or More Conferences Attenders

Ravji C. Hari (Puke)
Parag Kanji (Puke)
Khushal Naran (Ak)
Chhima Vallabh (Ak)

Pukekohe:

1. Bhula Khushal Bhakta
2. Ganges B. Singh
3. Induben Panchia
4. Ishvar Rambhai
5. Kamlaben M. Ranchhod
6. Keshav Parsot
7. Khushal Naran
8. Magan Ranchhod
9. Raman Vallabh
10. Unka Chhiba

Waikato:

1. Bhanubhai Patel
2. Deojibhai Patel
3. Ashwinbhai Gulab
4. Raghuvir Singh Rana

Taranaki:

1. Chhagan Parag
2. Chhotu C. Patel
3. Parbhu Pema
5. Raman Sukha

Rotorua:

1. Chandu Mavji
2. Jayanti Chhima
3. Shivlal B. Masters
4. Magan Ranchhod
5. Ishvar Bhana

Attending Life Members:

1. Dojibhai Patel
2. Karam Singh Basi
3. Narsinh Vallabh
4. Ramesh Patel
6. J.K. Natali

Govind Bhagha Bhula (Ak)
Harbans Singh Randhawa (Cty Sec)
Piara Singh (Cty Sec)

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

1977/78

Ladies & Gentlemen,

It is with pleasure that I present my Annual Report for the year 1977-78.

As President of the Association it was my honour to officially open the Sikh Temple at Te Rapa. It was truly a grand occasion, with all sections of the local and national communities represented. This was the culmination of years of planning and endeavour by the Sikh members of the Indian Association. I know that they would be the first to thank all those other members who gave generously and so enabled a successful completion to their project.

1977 also saw the appointment of a new Indian High Commissioner to New Zealand. On behalf of the New Zealand Indian Association, I would like to welcome Shri B. Dava Rao and his family to New Zealand. I trust his stay will not be too onerous but a pleasant and happy one. We have already had an opportunity to discuss various topics, and he assures me that he would be only too pleased to join with District Associations on any special function they may be contemplating.

Films have always been an item of some importance during our meetings, sometimes being the major topic of discussion. At this point in time I think we have arrived at a solution to most of the problems that have arisen over a number of years, and I am confident that all member Associations are reasonably happy with the present arrangements.

Representations made over the years to Air India regarding a cheap return air fare to India has had a satisfactory result and though there are certain limitations, I am hopeful that in the near future these restrictions will be eased.

Historical reports have been received from some Associations and I trust all Associations will have forwarded further information by the time of our Annual Meeting thus enabling us to go ahead with the sifting, collating and eventual publication of the material received.

The telephone directory is almost ready for publication and should be posted out to Associations or members in the near future.

I would like to congratulate those students who received School Certificate Prizes from our Association, and trust that they have been just as successful in furthering their careers.

It is with regret that I must record the passing of Lalbhai N. Patel. He was a Past President and Life Member of this Association, well known and highly respected by the Indian Community throughout New Zealand. To his family I on behalf of the members of the Indian Central Association, wish to convey my sincerest condolences. Your loss is ours also.

To all delegates of the Associations, I trust that this conference will enable you to renew acquaintances, strengthen old friendships as well as to put forth new ideas and discuss old problems.

In conclusion I would like to thank all the officers and executive members for their help and co-operation throughout the year.

Gulab V. Moral
PRESIDENT

ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The 52nd Annual Conference was held in Gandhi Hall, Victoria Street, Auckland on the 25th March, 1978 under the auspices of Auckland Indian Association Inc.

The Conference commenced at 9.30 a.m. The host President, Chhotubhai Sima, welcomed the delegates, life-members and the guest speaker, Mr. David Lange, and expressed hope that the conference would renew old friendships and develop better understanding amongst our people and introduced the guest speaker, Mr. David Lange M.P. for Mangere.

Mr. David Lange felt it an honour to be invited as a guest speaker on this occasion. He spoke extensively of his recent visit to India as a member of a Parliamentary Delegation and the experiences and impressions he had of India. He said that India had come a long way since its independence in 1947. Despite the natural disasters it encounters each year, India has made tremendous technological progress. Today it is one of the 10 leading industrial nations of the world showing balance of payment surplus of 4,500,000,000 (four thousand five hundred million dollars) Agricultural products have also increased manifold but there is a lot to be done and desired in India for its vast multitude of people. He expressed regrets that Mahatma Gandhi's aspirations are not being realised. The bond between New Zealand and India was excellent evidence by the successful projects initiated with New Zealand's involvement. He spoke very highly of the New Zealand Indians and paid tribute to Late Lalbhai N. Patel who had greatly inspired his life and for the sacrifices Lalbhai made for the wellbeing of the Indian community. Mr. Lange then formally opened the Conference.

The National President, Mr. Gulabbhai Moral, in reply thanked the host President for organising the venue for the Conference and Mr. Lange for his informative and frank report of India today and adjourned the meeting for morning tea.

The meeting recommenced at 11.30 a.m. Two minutes silence as observed by the Conference as a mark of respect for those members who had passed away during the year. Apologies from Christchurch Indian Association for not sending any delegates, and Govindbhai Kanji (life member) were received and accepted. The President then presented the Life Membership Badge to Mr. Narsinhbhai Vallabh. Narsinhbhai expressed his gratitude for this honour which was bestowed on him last year and gave a brief account of his services to the community since his arrival in New Zealand in 1950. Golden Jubilee Commemorative Medals were then presented to Messrs Govind Bhagha Bhula (Past President), Khushalbhai Madhav (Ak), and Chhimabhai Vallabh (Ak) for attending the excess of 15 conferences. Each recipient expressed their appreciation for this honour.

The minutes of the previous Conference were read and adopted.

KANTI L. VASAN/NAGIN G. PATEL (WEL,

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting held in Te Rapa were also read and accepted. Bhana Naik (Wel)/Parbhu Pema (Tar).

A telegram from Rajyoga Centre, Wellington, objecting to the report in the Executive Committee minutes that the Ishvariya Vishua Vidyalaya does not believe in Sanatan Principles was tabled but no action was taken as the matter was correctly reported.

MATTERS ARISING OUT OF MINUTES

1. 1977 SCHOOL CERTIFICATE PRIZES

\$st Prize — Mahendra Singh Ran-dhawa 364 (Country Section)

2nd Prize — Hitesh Patel 356 (Auckland)

3rd. Prize — Anshu Dixit 339 (Auckland)

Prizes were personally awarded to the recipients who expressed their gratitudes for the awards and the inspiration these awards generates amongst the students of our community.

2. TELEPHONE DIRECTORY

The draft director was in the hands of Zodiac Print Ltd. and it was resolved that upon receipt of proof it be circulated to the Branches for correction and return within 21 days. The Secretary was authorised to proceed with the printing should the branches fail to return the corrected copies within the prescribed time. Parbhu Ratanji (Wel/ Raman Vallabh (Puke).

3. OLD AGE PENSION/SUPERANNUATION

It was resolved that Karam Singh, a life member of the Association should apply for the payment of these benefits to him in India as a test case. Kanti L. Vasam (Wel/ Karam Singh (Cty Section).

4. BRONZE CERTIFICATES

Mr. Dayalbhai Kesry reported that he, Nagin G. Patel (Wel), and the Secretary met His Excellency, Mr. B. Dava Rao, the High Commissioner of India on 15th March, 1978 and presented the details for obtaining the Bronze Certificates for Following persons:—

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Chhotubhai Sima, Auckland | 9. Ganeshbhai Sukha, Wanganui |
| 2. Dayalbhai Kesry, Auckland | 10. Dayalbhai Naran, Wellington |
| 3. Rambhai Unka, Hamilton | 11. Haribhai Jagu, Auckland |
| 4. Jerambhai Sukha, Waitara | 12. Parhubhai Jogi, Auckland |
| 5. Unkabhai Ranchhod, Wanganui | 13. Chhibabhai Lalbhai, New Plymouth |
| 6. Hirabhai Dheda, Papatoetoe | 14. Keshavbhai Jeram, Papatoetoe |
| 7. Jerambhai Ravji, Wanganui | 15. Ranchhodbhai Govind, Lower Hutt |
| 8. Govindbhai Nana, Wellington | 16. Dayalbhai Soma, Auckland. |

Vote of thanks was accorded to Dayalbhai Kesry for the preparation of the submissions. Ganges Singh (Puke)/ Amrit Vasan (Wel).

5. CONSTITUTION AND STANDING ORDERS

It was reported that the Constitutions is now formerly registered with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies with the following amendment to clause 16A providing for 1 months notice for convening the Annual General Meeting be in writing.

6. AIR INDIA

Mr. Preetam Chhugani the Manager of Air India, Auckland was invited to speak. He strongly urged for greater patronage of Air India by our Community and emphasized that this would reinforce their efforts to obtain competitive fares. He further welcomes any complaints, criticism and suggestions to improve their service to our community.

The meeting adjourned until 2.30 p.m. for luncheon which was provided by Mr. Maganbha Deva on the occasion of his sons marriage.

7. IMMIGRATION

The new criteria for the Re-Entry permit was distributed to Branches for circulation to their members. The secretary reported that he had taken the opportunity of raising the matter of the Immigration Department's declining applications of Indian on the ground that New Zealand is a signatory to the World Employment Conference Agreement which requires that New Zealand refrain from recruiting skilled personnel from Developing Countries which are themselves in need of such Skilled persons, with His Excellency; Mr. B. Deva Rao, the High Commissioner of India whilst a Parliamentary delegation comprising: The India's Minister of State of Labour and Parliamentary Affairs, The Additional Secretary, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, and Joint Director, Ministry of Labour, Government of India, was in Wellington and the content of the letter is quoted:

"I thank you for extending your invitation to receive Shri Ravindra Varma, The Minister of Labour & Parliamentary Affairs of India at the Wellington Airport at 3.40 p.m. on Sunday the 12 March and to a reception at 5.30 p.m. on the same day.

Sir, I feel this is an opportune time to raise a matter which has been of great concern to members of Indian Community. Recently the Immigration Department has been declining applications of Indians on the grounds that New Zealand is a signatory to the World Employment Conference Agreement which requires that New Zealand refrain from recruiting skilled personnel from developing countries which are themselves in need of them.

We are not aware whether the Indian Government is a signatory to this agreement but feel that the New Zealand Government is using this agreement as a shield in declining well deserving cases even for skills for which India has surpluses and recruiting of these workers will not in any way impede the development of India.

Perhaps, if the Indian Government could provide us the list of skills which they consider would be detrimental to the development of India if people with these skills were allowed to be recruited by the other countries, we may be able to strengthen the grounds for applications of members of Indian communities to immigrate to this country. I am aware that you have already taken steps to seek clarifications in this matter from the Indian Government but feel that if Shri Ravindra Varma is made aware of the situation first hand, matters could be quickly resolved.

I enclose a photocopy of a letter received from the Immigration Department in this matter and would request that should Shri Varma has an opportunity to meet the people concerned this matter could be discussed on behalf of the Indian community."

8. HISTORIAL REPORT

Secretary reported that information requested from Branches was not to hand and introduced Dr. Kapil Tivari, Senior Lecturer in Religious Studies, Victoria University of Wellington, a member of the Wellington Association and its delegate to the conference. Dr. Tivari expressed his desire to assist the Association in compiling and writing the Historical Report. He then presented to the Conference the outline of the proposed book brief details of which are as follows:

"TITLE 'THE NEW ZEALAND INDIANS AND THEIR CULTURAL HERITAGE' CONTENTS:

SECTION A: Historical survey: It will include the growth and development of the Indian community in New Zealand since 1901 and provide a brief survey of its various activities through the Association in general and individuals in particular. Branches will gather information by personal contact of the families whose members arrived here during the period 1901-1930 and give information pertaining to their adjustment to the new culture and the problem of identity they faced in the process of their adjustment. It would include their impressions of their religions and cultures and the extent to which they found them being encroached by the outsiders and what they thought of the entire situation. The formation of the Association and its various activities will be

discussed in a historical manner with the emphasis on its strength and weakness. This section will cover the Indian community in New Zealand.

SECTION B: The Indian Mind. Essentials of Indian Philosophy, religion and culture.

SECTION C: Texts and contents of the Bhagavad-Gita.

SECTION D: Sikhism: Its Essence and Manifestation.

SECTION E: Looking Ahead: India and the West in Search of a Central Question.

SECTION F: Modern Indian Religious Movements in New Zealand.

SECTION G: Wit and Wisdom.

SECTION H: Conclusion: Dos More Light Dawn in the East.

The length of the book would be around 350 typewritten pages of manuscript. The book will be the property of the Indian community and all the expenses in course of the preparation of the manuscript will be met by the Central Indian Association and would approximately amount to \$600. It will be compiled and edited by Dr. Tiwari but all profit will go to the welfare of the Indian community.'

Lengthy discussion took place on this issue and the following motions were received:

'That the Publication of the Historical Report as outlined in the minutes of 1977 conference be proceeded with. Dayalbai Kesry/Nanubhai Bhana (Auckland)' Lost.

'Dr. Tiwari be given every assistance in compiling the book as outlined by him to the conference. Maganghai Ranchhod (Puke) Kanti L. Vasani (Wel)' Carried.

'A Historical Sub-Committee of 4, with right to co-opt, be formed to assist Dr. Tiwari to compile the Book. Raman Vallabh (Puke) Nagin G. Patel (Wel)' Carried.

Committee comprising of Kanti Vasani (Wel, Chairman), Shival B. Masters (Rotorua), Ramanbhai Vallabh (Puke) and Harbans Singh Randhawa (City Section) was elected and branches were requested to complete the gathering of the information and forward them to the Secretary as soon as possible but not later than two months from the date of this conference.

INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE

1. NEW ZEALAND RAVIDAS SABHA

Letter received from the New Zealand Ravidas Sabha claiming that the last Conference's decision not to accord them the membership of the Association was hasty and requested that their application be reconsidered. Mr. J. K. Power, the President of the Ravidas Sabha was allowed to speak and was questioned by the Conference and as no new material facts were presented it was resolved that the New Zealand Ravidas Sabha should not be Accepted as member of this Association. Kanti L. Vasani (Wel)/ ~~Nanubhai Bhana (Auckland)~~

2. OPEN HEART SURGERY — GURVINDER SINGH

A letter received from Mr. K.S. Sachde requesting donations from the Conference to assist him to meet the cost of open heart surgery performed on his 20 month old son Gurvinder Singh was tabled by the Secretary Mr. Prithipal Singh of the Country Section Indian Association also pleaded for his cause and informed the conference that Gurvinder Singh had to be brought from India to Auckland to undergo this operation as such operations were not performed in India. Consequently Mr. Sachde who comes from a middle income family in Bhopa, India, had to borrow sixty thousand rupees to meet the payment of fares, operation, medical and other expenses and as this is a very large sum of money for any person of middle income family to borrow and repay in India, assistance of the conference was sought. It was resolved that the Branches discuss this matter at their Branch level and if deemed appropriate forward donations to the Country Section for Mr. Sachde.

A letter from the Taranaki Association advising the conferring of their Branch's Life Membership to Messrs Chhibabhai Lalabhai Patel (New Plymouth) and airambhai F. Patel (now residing in Auckland) was tabled by the Secretary, and he also informed the conference of the conferring of the Life Membership by Pukekohe Association to Messrs Ravjibhai C. Hari, Late Jwala Singh, Parbhubhai Bhikha, Paragbhai Kanji, Keshavbhai Parsot, and Motiram Vallabh the previous year but omitted to be recorded in the minutes.

Inward and outward correspondence were endorsed. Bhanubhai Patel (Waik)/ Ramanbhai Vallabh (Puke).

PRESIDENT'S REPORT:

That the report be Adopted.

Kanti L. Vasan (Wel)/ Chhotubhai Sima (Ak).

FINANCIAL REPORT:

The Secretary in presenting the report brought to the notice of the delegates that the cost of printing reports, postages, prizes, telephones were exceeding the income of the Association. The following motions were passed:—

'that the Branches increase their membership fees by suitable amount.'

Amrit Vasan (Wel)/ Parbhu Kanji (Ak). Carried.

'Branches in future should submit their Affiliation Fees together with the Financial Statement of their Account in Accordance with the constitution.'

Ganges Singh (Puke)/ Kanti L. Vasan (Wel). Carried.

'That the Officers look into the reinvestment of the Term Deposit at the higher rate of Interest with Bank of New Zealand.

Kanti L. Vasan (Wel)/ Nagin G. Patel (Wel). Carried.

'The Financial Statement be Adopted.

Bhanubhai Patel (Waikato)/ Kanti L. Vasan (Wel).

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Word of thanks was accorded to the outgoing officers and Gulabbhai Moral was nominated the interim chairman. Kanti L. Vasan (Wel)/ Chhotubhai Sima (Ak).

PRESIDENT:

Two nominations were received for the Office of President.
Thakor Parbhu — Bhanabhai Naik (Wel/ Shivalal B. Masters (Rotorua)
Gulab Moral — Maganbhai Ranchhod (Puke)/ Haribhai Naran (Manawatu).
Gulab bhai Moral was elected the President.

VICE-PRESIDENT

Ganges Singh (Pukekohe) unanimously re-elected.
Raman Vallbh/ Unka Chhiba (Pukekohe).

GENERAL SECREARY

Bukhan Lal Parbhu (Wel) Unanimously re-elected.
Bhanu Patel (Waikato/ Amrat D. Parbhu (Wel).

UNDER SECRETARY

Amrit L. Vasan (Wel) unanimously re-elected.
Chhotubhai Sima (Ak)/ Nagin G. Patel.

AUDITOR:

Parbhubhai Kanji (Ak) unanimously re-elected.
Nagin G. Patel (Wel)/ Chhotubhai Sima (Ak).

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. Chhotubhai Sima Patel (Auckland)
2. Ramanbhai Budhia (Christchurch)
3. Santokh Singh Bhullar (Country Section)
4. Haribhai Naran (Manawatu)
5. Uka Chhiba (Pukekohe)
6. Chandubhai Mavji (Rotorua)
7. Ramanbhai Sukha (Taranaki)
8. Bhanubhai Patel (Waikato)
9. Banabhai Naik (Wellington)

LIFE MEMBERSHIP.

The following names were received for the awarding of life membership:—
Ravjibhai C. Hari (Pukekohe), Uka Chhiba/ Khushal Naran.
Dayal Kesry (Auckland), Thakorbhai Parbhu/ Chhotubhai Sima.
Khushalbhai Madhav (Auckland), Nanubhai Bhana/

Khushalbai Madhav (Auckland), Dayalbai Kesry/ Bhikhubhai Bhula.
Haribhai Jagu (Auckland), Nanubhai Bhana/ Jagdish Natali.
Piara Singh (Country Section), Santokh Singh Bhullar/ Ravinder Singh Power.
Shivalal B. Masters (Rotorua), Chandubhai Mavji/ Ishwar Bhana.

A fairly lengthy account of the services rendered by the nominees for the life membership was given by the movers of their names and it was pleasing to note that all had given good services to our community in their respective branches and through their association with their branches to the Central Association and are still actively taking part in the affairs of the community.

Secret ballots were conducted and Messrs Dayalbai Kesry of Auckland and Shivalal B. Masters of Rotorua were elected as the Life Members of the Central Association. Life membership badges were awarded to both these recipients who expressed their deep gratitude and appreciated this honour bestowed on them by the conference.

REMITTS AND RESOLUTIONS

AUCKLAND:

1. Question of- Indian Graduates who have been graduated in India in such subjects as Law, Medicine, Accountancy, Chemistry, Architecture and so on are not accepted on their qualifications and are required to do further courses. This matter should be taken up with the concerning Authorities and the matter should be thoroughly discussed and our Indian community should be given full understanding where our Indian grade stands.

This resolution was discussed in depth and it was felt that as there are so many universities in India and the universities here have different rules for the recognition of various degrees from Indian University it will not be possible to obtain specific guide lines in this matter. However, Dr. Tiwari was requested to look into this matter and obtain what-ever information was available.

2. Discussion on Indian Youth — Where should they be heading?

It was generally felt that the youth were moving away from our society and to halt this trend branches were requested to promote activities which were youth orientated and thought to holding of youth conferences was also suggested.

3. Cultural and Educational tour for N.Z. born Indian children. This would be an organised visit to India. The aim is purely educational in an effort to preserve our culture and tradition among the younger generation in New Zealand. The following points will need to be taken into account in organising such a tour:—

A. The parents of the children who are chosen to go will need to approve the trip and bear all costs. Some parents will need to accompany the children.

B. The Indian High Commissioner will be requested to assist in planning the tour.

C. Air India will also be approached about the arrangement of special fares for those going on the tour.

D. The itinerary will include visits to Historical and Holy places and other important places.

E. The composition of the group can be discussed during the Annual General Meeting.

F. Since this is an educational trip, it is hoped that the group will be able to gather sufficient material, in the way of films etc and hold a seminar on their return to share their experiences.

As Wellington also had a similar Remit, 'That the Central Association look at the possibility of chartering a plane or organising a group tour for children during the School holiday for about eight weeks so that they can get acquainted with their relatives in India and learn of the Indian culture and heritage at first hand. Expenses to be paid by the parents of the children. '; these two remits were considered together.

These remits were very well supported by the conference as it also coincided with our objective in the previous remit. It was resolved that children of 15 years and over be sent on this tour which should be of about seven week's duration and could be organised during the final term holiday. Mr. Preetam Chhugani who was present at the Conference was requested to plan an itinerary and obtain the cost of the trip which will be approved by the Executive Committee.

PUKEKOHE

1. A person be sponsored to lecture on Indian Social Culture and Education.

This remit was lost by majority decision.

2. That the Association endeavour to get Religious films for New Zealand.

This remit was unanimously carried.

FILMS

The matter of 55/45% film hire between Auckland and Wellington that was raised at the Te Rapa Executive meeting and left in abeyance till Auckland and Wellington met and discussed it was raised at the conference. However as these two Associations had not met to discuss this issue the following resolution was passed "That Auckland and Wellington Indian Associations meet and come to some amicable settlement regarding the film hire. Harbans Singh Randhawa (City Section) Bhanu Patel (Waikato). Carried. Te Rapa Gurudwara was offered as venue by the Country Section and the President was asked to chair the meeting."

ACTIVITIES OF BRANCHES

Branches reported continued progress in the sporting arena with few of our sportsmen being selected for the national and regional teams. Religious activities also seem to have gained momentum in most branches specially in country section with the opening of the Guru Dwara and Pukekohe with the establishment of Gita Glass and Bhajan group. Pukekohe, Auckland and Wellington and other branches also took advantage and derived the benefit from

the lecture tour of Dr. Dilip Vadalanker. Various branches helped in raising funds for worthy charitable organisation by providing cultural items etc. Wellington Branch is in search of alternate hall sight and actively conducting fund raising project and successfully raising some \$7,000. Christchurch though not present at the conference has also reported to have now got their own hall. Some branches were critical of the major branches for not supplying films. Auckland reported that the supply of film has now become regular and films will be available to all minor Associations.

The various delegates expressed their thanks to the Host Association for providing fine facilities for the conference and the warm welcome extended to them.

GENERAL BUSINESS

Concern was expressed at the absence of Christchurch Branch for the last and this Conference and it was resolved that the Secretary write to the Christchurch Branch seeking their reasons for non-attendance at the Conferences and Executive Meetings.

Bhana Naik/ Amrit Vasan (Wel).

CONFERENCE 1979

Ukabhai Chhiba, the president of the Pukekohe Indian Association extended an invitation to hold the 1979 Conference in Pukekohe and expressed his Association's hope to make it a two days conference with emphasis on social and cultural activities with participation from the various branches. The invitation was accepted by acclamation, with the question of Garba Competition left to the Executive Committee to decide.

The President in his closing address thanked all the delegates for attending the conference and contributing towards the success of the conference. The Host Association was warmly thanked for fine facilities and interesting guest Speaker. He regreted that the conference had taken so long to complete but was pleased that contentious issues were resolved.

The conferences was concluded at 11.30 p.m. with the singing of the National Anthem Jan Gan Man.

Bhukhan Lal Parbhu
GENERAL SECRETARY

MINUTES OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD AT Sikh Temple, Te Rapa - 15 OCTOBER 1977

An executive Committee Meeting of the Association was held on Saturday the 15th October, 1977 at 12 noon in the Sikh Temple under the Auspices of The Country Section Indian Association.

Two minutes silence was observed in memory of the late Lalbhai N. Patel who had recently passed away. Djojibhai Patel spoke at length of the inval-

able unselfish service rendered by Lalbhai to our community throughout New Zealand and expressed hope that members of our community would follow his example and devote themselves in the betterment of our community.

Apologies to Christchurch Branch, Amrit Vasan, (Assistant Secretary) J.K. Natali, (Life Member) and Khushal Naran (Pukekohe) were accepted.

J.C. Natali/ Chhotu Mistry.

CORRESPONDENCE

TELEPHONE DIRECTORY:

Secretary reported that some branches had not returned the draft Directory forwarded to them for correction and that fair progress was being made. Auckland reported that the telephone numbers in their area were changing and requested the printing of the Directory be delayed till they have prepared their New Directory which they hope to release shortly. Branches were accordingly requested to provide details of any changes and new addresses by the 30th November.

BRONZE CERTIFICATE:

Secretary reported his personal meeting with the New Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Deva Rao in this matter and the correspondence he had exchanged with Dayaibhai Kesry. It was resolved that Dayaibhai Kesry, Gulabhai Moral (President) and the Auckland delegate meet and present submissions to Mr Rao whilst he would be in Auckland on 12th and 13th November to attend Auckland's Divali Celebration.

OPENING OF SIKH TEMPLE:

The Secretary reported that official invitations were received from Sikh Society to attend the opening ceremony of the Temple and that the Temple was Officially opened by our President, Gulabhai Moral. Bulabbhai expressed his gratitude for this great honour and thanked the President and the members of the Sikh Society who were present at the Executive Meeting. Mr Prithi Pal Singh the President of the Sikh Society welcomed and thanked the delegates and their Branches for the generous financial and moral support and said that funds were still required for remaining works to be carried out. He also sought the branches' co-operation to complete the fund collection in their areas where this was partially completed by them.

OLD AGE PENSION AND SUPERANNUATION:

Secretary advised that details requested from the branches had not been received. After some discussion it was resolved that in light of the present Economic condition prevailing in the country and the anti-immigration feeling current in the country, that the Officers be given discretion to pursue this question with the Government at the appropriate time. Maganbhai Ranchhod/ Shival Masters.

IMMIGRATION:

Two replies received in response to our letters were tabled and copies circulated to the delegates. One was in respect of increased number of skilled considered for immigration purpose and the other pertaining to the New Re-Entry Regulation. Whilst the delegates welcomed the New Re-Entry Regulation "All permanent residents of New Zealand (whether New Zealand Citizen or not) will qualify for multiple re-entry permit valid for four years;" they were unhappy with the reply in respect of list of Skills for permanent residence in New Zealand. "I must inform you that the list you refer to are used primarily by Immigration Division staff in deciding applications for permanent residence and although details will be given to the Employers' and Manufacturers' federations, they are not available for general distribution. I regret therefore that I cannot meet your request. I must also point out that the lists referred to in the press report apply only to the traditional source countries such as Britain, Canada, the United States of America and Switzerland, and do not apply to residents of either India or Fiji. I would stress very strongly that this is not a form of discrimination against such countries. Instead, it is a recognition of our international obligations not to recruit skilled workers from developing countries where their skills are in greater demand than in New Zealand and where a shortage of such skills may impede economic development."

It was thus resolved that we write to the Immigration Department expressing our disappointment and ask them to look as possibility of applying the criteria equally to all countries. Maganbhai Ranchhod/ J.C. Natali.

SAI BABA'S CHAIN LETTERS:

Correspondence relating to this subject was tabled by the Secretary with a draft circular in English and Gujarati which were approved and given to Branches for printing and circulating to their branch members. Bhana Naik/ Bhanubhai Patel.

THE RYDER CHESHIRE FOUNDATION OF NEW ZEALAND:

A letter requesting time to address and show film of about 20 minutes duration on the work done by this organisation in Dehra Dun, India, at our Conference to gain financial and moral support of our community was tabled. It was resolved that they be advised to contact the Branches direct as we have limited time and small audience at our conference.

HARE KRISHNA COMMUNITY:

A letter requesting our Support by sending them a letter of recommendation endorsing the work and achievements of their movement and whether or not we considered the Hare Krishna Movement to be a New Age Religion or a Bona Fide religious process. Resolved that it is not our practice to give such recognition to any organisations and they be advised accordingly. J.C. Natali/ Shivlal Masters.

INWARD AND OUTWARD CORRESPONDENCE WERE ENDORSED. Ganges Singh/ Harbans Singh

HISTORICAL REPORT:

Branches report reasonable progress being made but it was generally felt that deep extensive research should be done both within New Zealand and abroad. Dayalbai Kesry of Auckland presented a list of people in India who would be able to provide details and approval was given for his committee to contact these people for information and was resolved that branches may extend their research in one another's territory. Shivlal Masters/ Bhanabhai Naik. Copies of the questionnaire prepared by the Auckland Research Committee were given to Branches to aid research in their areas. Branches were requested to gather information and material and report at the annual Conference.

FILMS:

This matter was discussed at great length. Each branch presented their financial report pertaining to the films. These revealed that branches were making meagre profits. Admission tickets charged varied from branch to branch.

The question of Pukekohe's hirage and the loss they were sustaining were thoroughly discussed and it was finally resolved that Pukekohe should revert to the status of a minor branch and pay hirage and receive supplies of films accordingly subject to approval of their branch. Maganbhai Ranchhod/ Bhanubhai Patel. Further discussion produced the following resolutions which were carried:

1. That the film hirage between Auckland and Wellington be shared on 55/45 basis. Bhana Naik/ Maganbhai Ranchhod.
2. That this new Hirage be subject to approval of Auckland Indian Association. J.C. Natali/ Janardhan Patel.
3. That the question of 55/45 hirage between Auckland and Wellington be left on the table till the Annual Conference and in the meantime Auckland and Wellington should meet and discuss this matter. Shivlal Masters/ Harbans Singh Randhawa.

GENERAL:

Central Association was not represented at the recent funeral of late Lal-bhai N. Patel a life member of the Association. It was resolved that Central Association should be represented at a funeral of a life member or executive member by the President or an Executive member. J.C. Natali/ Shivlal Masters.

It was also resolved that life members be invited to attend Executive Meetings and Annual Conferences. J.C. Natali/ Bhanubhai Patel.

Mr. Preetam Chhugani, the new manager of Air India was given an opportunity to address the conference. He assured better personal service to members of our community whilst travelling on Air India and requested delegates to bring any complaints from the members of their branch to his attention for rectification. He also requested permission to forward circulars through the

branches upon payment of the necessary cost of postages and small charges. This was also approved. The question of regular cheaper fares to India was also discussed with him. He assured the meeting that his Air Lines is doing all it can to achieve this objective but it would take some time before any thing concrete could materialise. It was decided that this matter be handled by Air India.

The meeting was concluded by the President at 6 p.m. with words of thanks to the hosts, The Country Section Indian Association and the Sikh Society for the fine venue and hospitality.

Bhukhan Lal Parbhu
GENERAL SECRETARY

LIST OF SECRETARIES

The Secretary,
The New Zealand Indian Central Association (Inc.),
P.O. Box 1941,
Wellington.

The Secretary,
Auckland Indian Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 2622,
Auckland.

The Secretary,
Wellington Indian Association Inc.,
90 Tasman Street,
Wellington.

The Secretary,
Bay of Plenty (Rotorua) Indian Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 294,
Rotorua

The Secretary,
Waikato Indian Association,
43 Cunningham Road,
Beerscourt,
Hamilton

The Secretary,
Pukekohe Indian Association Inc.
P.O. Box 149,
Pukekohe

The Secretary,
Country Section Indian Association Inc.,
30 Old Taupiri Road,
Ngaruawahia

The Secretary,
Manawatu-Hawke's Bay Indian Association,
37 Epsom Road,
Palmerston North

The Secretary,
Taranaki Indian Association,
63 Egmont Street,
Patea

The Secretary,
Christchurch Indian Association Inc.,
P.O. Box 22423,
Christchurch.

Printed by
Zodiac Printing Co. Ltd
40 Courtenay Place
Wellington.