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THE  
NEW ZEALAND INDIAN  
CENTRAL ASSOCIATION  
(INCORPORATED)

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**31<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL REPORT**

AND

**BALANCE SHEET**

●

*CONFERENCE*

*20th April at Wellington*

[1957] 1957

# THE NEW ZEALAND INDIAN CENTRAL ASSOCIATION (INCORPORATED)

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The N.Z. Indian Central Association opened its 31st Annual Conference at Wellington on 20th April, 1957, in an atmosphere of good will and confidence. To commence the meeting all the delegates stood up to sing the National Anthem "Jan Man Gun," and adopted two minutes customary silence to commemorate the memory of those fallen worthy compatriots. The President, Mr. J. K. Natali, woefully contended that the community is very unfortunate in losing two of its worthy patriots, Messrs J. G. Nagar and Vasanji Bhai who rendered a very good service to further the cause of our organisation. At this stage the President called upon Mr. Inder Singh Randhawa to move a resolution of sympathy and condolence. Before moving the actual resolution Mr. Randhawa briefly outlined the noble efforts of our worthy veteran comrades and pointed out that they created an unshakeable record of sacrifices to enhance our worthy cause. The resolution moved was worded as follows:

The N.Z. Indian Central Association at its annual general meeting held at Wellington on the 20th April, 1957, records its heartfelt grief and sorrow at the passing away of our two worthy patriots, Messrs. Vasanji Bhai and J. G. Nagar, who rendered a brilliant service to further the noble cause of this organisation. The community could not afford to lose them as their assistance was required as great as ever. We would be mourning their separation with heavy heart and pain. The association sincerely sympathises with their beloved families in their sad bereavement.

The resolution was seconded by Mr. Lal Bhai Patel, (Auckland), Mr. R. C. Hari (Pukekohe) and Mr. Unka Bhai Kanji (Rotorua), who also paid eloquent tribute to the deceased. The resolution was adopted in a very passionate mood.

The President of the Wellington Indian Association, Mr. Lal Bhai, extended a warm welcome to all the delegates in very touching words. He asked all the delegates to feel themselves at home and sincerely wished the meeting a great success.

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## DELEGATES

### AUCKLAND:

Mr. Devjibhai K. Patel.  
Mr. Rameshbhai Patel.  
Mr. Khusalbhai Madhubhai  
Mr. Vallabbhai Dayabhai  
Mr. Lalbhai N. Patel  
Mr. Shanta Singh  
Mr. Dayal Kesery  
Mr. Bhanabhai Dandiker  
Mr. Maganbhai Dhirajbhai  
Mr. J. K. Natali.

### WELLINGTON:

Mr. M. G. Naik  
Mr. N. Vallabh  
Mr. H. Dahya.  
Mr. L. Morar  
Mr. L. Bava  
Mr. K. Parbhu  
Mr. D. Madhav  
Mr. K. Bhana  
Mr. D. Parag  
Mr. N. Hira  
Mr. J. Dahya  
Mr. G. Kanji.  
Mr. D. Naran

Mr. D. Chhiba  
Mr. R. Hira  
Mr. G. Morar  
Mr. S. Lala  
Mr. P. Nana  
Mr. D. Daji  
Mr. N. Manga

ROTORUA:

Mr. Jeram Bhana  
Mr. Munsha Singh  
Mr. Unka Kanji

COUNTRY SECTION:

Mr. Karm Singh  
Mr. Phuman Singh  
Mr. Some Perakash  
Mr. Indar Singh Radhawa  
Mr. H. S. Radhawa  
Mr. Chanan Singh  
Mr. Hukam Singh

WAIKATO:

Mr. M. C. Patel  
Mr. K. Bhagabhai  
Mr. D. Rama

CHRISTCHURCH:

Mr. Ismial M. Kara  
Mr. Govindbhai Bhaya

PUKEKOHE:

Mr. R. C. Hari  
Mr. Javala Singh  
Mr. P. K. Chhibha  
Mr. Ranji Unka  
Mr. Moto Ram Bhai Vallabh

MANAWATU:

TARANAKI:

Mr. Chhibabhai Lalabhai  
Mr. Gulabhbhai Vallabhai

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT.

Mr. J. K. Natali read his presidential report which runs as follows:

GENTLEMEN,

It gives me great pleasure to present the 31st Annual Report of the N.Z. Indian Central Association. The past year has been uneventful as far as the activities of our Association are concerned.

As directed by the last general meeting of our Association, your Executive arranged through the kind offices of Mr. D. C. Seath, M.P. for Waitomo, to interview the Ministers for Immigration and Internal Affairs.

A deputation headed by myself together with delegates from various branches waited on the Ministers concerned in July to discuss the various resolutions passed by the conference. We fully explained our point of view on various problems concerning our community to the Ministers, requesting their sympathetic approach to our problems. We made it clear that we were not there to ask any special favours but justice and fair play. The Ministers promised to give the matters their consideration and to let us have their reply in due course.

The following letters were received from Mr. D. C. Seath, M.P. for Waitomo.

**Office of the Minister of Internal Affairs, Wellington,  
28th September, 1956.**

D. C. Seath, Esq., M.P.,  
Wellington.

Dear Mr. Seath,

I refer to the deputation from the Indian Association that you introduced to myself and Mr. Hanan some little time ago. There are several Departments, other than my own and Mr. Hanan's concerned with this matter of Indian immigration and the whole subject is extremely complex and difficult—much more so than was suggested by the representations made by the Association. The De-

partments concerned are to meet next week for discussions after having studied the position from their own particular viewpoints.

I shall watch the matter and keep you advised.

Yours faithfully,

S. M. SMITH,  
Minister of Internal Affairs.

18th February, 1957.

Dear Mr. Seath,

I have looked into the position about the representations made to me through you by the Indian Association.

You will recall that a meeting was to be held between the Departments concerned, namely my own, the Immigration Division of the Department of Labour and External Affairs. There has been considerable difficulty in arranging this meeting, in the first instance due to External Affairs being very much preoccupied with the Suez crisis and more recently in this year due to the Immigration people being more than fully occupied with the Hungarian refugees. However, the meeting is, I understand, to take place at 10.30 on Monday, 18 February and as soon as I have the report, I shall write to you again.

With kind regards, yours sincerely

S. M. SMITH,  
Minister of Internal Affairs.

The matter of Chhajumia's baby son's permit was also taken up by myself through Mr. W. Anderton, M.P., and the Honourable Dame Hilda Ross, Minister for the Welfare of Women and Children, without any satisfactory result. We obtained from India various affidavits and a birth certificate signed by responsible officers of the Indian Government establishing the legal relationship between Chhajumia and his son. However, for some unknown reason these are not acceptable to the Immigration Department and they have declined to review this case.

The Indian Health Minister, Honourable Rajkumari Amritkaur, officially visited this country during the past year. On behalf of this Association she was welcomed in

Gandhi Hall in Auckland by our community. A very interesting person, she gave us a most illuminating address on Indian problems and progress since attaining independence, and later freely mingled with the crowd.

Her radiant personality and charming manner created a good impression and she will be remembered for many years to come by all she came in contact with.

Mr. Menon, as you know, has been appointed the new Indian High Commissioner in Australia and New Zealand. On behalf of this Association I informally met and welcomed him when he visited this country to present his credentials to the Governor-General. We are looking forward to officially meeting and welcoming him when he again visits this country. In the meantime we are sure he will follow in the footsteps of his predecessor, General Carriappa, in making many friends in Australia and New Zealand.

The High Commissioner for New Zealand was approached to meet our wishes embodied in Resolution No. 2 passed at our general meeting and the following reply was received:

**Indian Government High Commissioner in New Zealand,  
Wellington, 26th September, 1956.**

To The Secretary,  
New Zealand Indian Central Association Inc.,  
P.O. Ongarue, King Country.

Dear Sir,

With reference to your letter dated the 14th June 1956 and in continuation of our letter of even number dated the 21st June 1956 on the subject of requirement of execution of a bond by Indians before coming to New Zealand from India, I am happy to inform you that the Government of India have agreed to waive as a special case the production of proof of personal financial stability or financial guarantee in India subject of course to the production of an entry permit from the Immigration authorities in this country.

Yours faithfully,  
N. KESAVAN, Acting High Commissioner.

A cablegram was sent to Pt. Nehru on his birthday. "The N.Z. Indian Community send greetings on 67th Birthday and wish prosperous health and strength for many years to come." Radhawa.

The passing away of our two outstanding personalities namely Mr. VasANJI Bhai and Mr. Nagar, has created an unbearable loss to our community. They sacrificed their lots for the betterment and uplift of our community and they will always be remembered as our great veteran comrades. The Association heartily and sincerely sympathises with their beloved families in their bereavement.

I also take this opportunity in thanking all the members of my executive for their kind co-operation and support given to me.

Yours faithfully,

J. K. NATALI, President.

The report was duly approved and adopted.

The General Secretary, Mr. Harbans Singh Randhawa, explained to the house that all the remits and suggestions adopted at our annual meeting at Pukekohe were fully carried out in letter and spirit. The work of the general secretary was fully endorsed by the house.

The cablegram received from Mr. Ravji Hira, from India, was read to the meeting to which a vote of appreciation was recorded.

The Auditor, Mr. Khushal Bhai Madhu Bhai, certified that he had checked the financial item and found it right and correct.

A vote of thanks and confidence was recorded to the past officers who faithfully served the noble cause of the community.

The following officers were elected for the following year:

President: Mr. J. K. Natali, 25 Bay View Road, Brown's Bay.

Vice President: Mr. K. Derji, 217-219 New North Road, Eden Terrace, Auckland.

General Secretary: Mr. H. S. Radhawa, R.D. No. 3, Taumarunui.

Assistant Secretary: Queen Street, Waiuku.

Auditor: Khushal Bhai Madhu Bhai.

Committee: Messrs. Onka Bhai (Rotorua), D. Kesery (Auckland), Heri Bhai Dijer Bhai (Wellington), R. C. Heri (Puekekohe), Kanji Bhaga (Waikato), Ismail Mohamet (Christchurch), C. H. Patel (Taranaki), Some Pan-kash (Country Section)..

## RESOLUTIONS AND SUGGESTIONS ADOPTED

(1) Mr. Indar Singh Randhawa moved the following resolution:

The Association feels very proud and happy to congratulate Pandit Nehru for the Congress Party being returned to power in India's General Election. It is a fitting personal tribute to Pandit Ji for his great statesmanship which he rightly deserves. It is our sincere wish that Pandit Ji may long be spared to guide India to achieve its worthy place amongst the nations of the world.

It was seconded by Mr. Lal Bhai Patel, Auckland, and was adopted with great ovation.

(2) The Association sincerely thank Mr. Seath, M.P. for Waitomo, for his kind assistance in introducing our deputation to the Minister for Internal Affairs and the Minister for Immigration. Though the association regrets that no final word is received from the Ministers concerned in reply to the deputation so far, yet we wish and hope that Mr. Seath will help us through to get the final decision soon.

### **Office of the High Commissioner for India in N.Z.**

April 8th, 1957.

To the Secretary, Central Indian Association,  
P.O., Ongarue, King Country.

Sir,

I am constrained to bring to your notice that many instances have come to our notice where Indians resident in New Zealand apply to the Government of New Zealand for registration as New Zealand citizens just prior to their departure from New Zealand and just to get N.Z. pass-

ports for their travel. As the Government authorities apparently require sufficient time to examine such cases, the Indians are not in a position to get registration in time with the result that they seek the assistance of this office to obtain travel documents for their journeys. I want to make it clear that Indian nationals permanently domiciled in New Zealand are not Indian citizens under the Indian Constitution and if they wish to become Indian citizens, they will have to apply for registration as citizens of India. Their applications for registration will in future have to be forwarded to the Government of India for their consideration and we cannot anticipate how long they will take to come to a final decision.

2. In view of the above, this office will not also be in a position to help those persons who approach this office for registration and issue of passports just before their departure from New Zealand. It is, therefore, requested that this position may clearly be brought to the notice of all your members once again. All future applications for passports will be dealt with in terms of this letter.

3. The receipt of this letter may kindly be acknowledged.

Yours faithfully,

(A.R.G.K. Rao)

for First Secretary (Commercial).

(3) The letter from the Trade Commissioner for India in New Zealand was read to the meeting concerning the matter of Indian citizens while appreciating the spirit of the letter, it is contended that the Trade Commissioner for India should be in a position to lend immediate and timely help to Indian born citizens unless they embraced other nationalities. Such Indian citizens will naturally look upon India office for their passports.

(4) The Association is very concerned about its Manawatu and Hawke's Bay branch being absent from the annual meetings for the last two years. We call upon the said branch to take its proper place in the Association to fulfill their national obligation.

(5) The Christchurch Indian Association extended an invitation that the next session of the conference be held at Christchurch next year. The invitation was gratefully accepted. All the branches in their individual capacities thanked the Wellington branch for its great hospitality. The President, on behalf of the Association, paid great thanks to the management who spared no efforts to make the delegates feel at home.

#### UNIQUE OCCASION

All the delegates and even the members of all the branches were invited to partake in the marriage ceremony of Mr. T. Patel, eldest son of Mrs. P. K. Patel, Auckland, to Shanty, the eldest daughter of the late VasANJI Bhai, Wellington, which took place in the Technical College Hall, at Wellington, on the 21st April 1957, at 2 p.m. The spacious hall was packed more to its capacity. The marriage ceremony was performed by Mr. Ramesh, of Auckland, and the stage was conducted by Mr. Lal Bhai Patel, of Auckland. It was a glorious moment and we rarely witness such big gatherings. The parents of the couple deserve all our special thanks for staging such a huge international gathering as it apts to achieve more than the mere marriage ceremony. The speeches delivered by the worthy Mayor of Wellington, Mr. McAlister. The Right Hon. Mr. Nash, Mr. Natali, Mr. Benji and Mr. Inder Singh Randhawa, contributed materially to enhance the magnitude and importance of this worthy occasion. We all sincerely wish the couple to have long life full of happiness and prosperity.

## FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

### DEBIT

	Owing General Secretary ....	21	16	6
1/ 4/56	G.P.O. Rent ....	2	10	0
11/ 4/56	Printing of President's Report ....	4	11	8
			3	9
1/ 4/56	Chair Presented at Gandhi Hall ....	11	2	6
14/ 7/56	Telegrams to Mr. Nagar and Mr. Ranji Bhai Hira ....		4	0
14/ 7/56	Telephone Call to Mr. Natali ....		13	0
30/ 4/56	Printing Annual Report and Wrap- ping ....	20	6	0
30/ 4/56	Posting the Annual Report ....		18	0
31/ 5/56	Printing 300 Envelopes ....	1	14	9
1/ 5/56	Typing 18 copies Memorandum of Deputation ....		4	11 6
16/11/56	Garland presented to Rajkumari Amirt Kaur ....		2	1 6
14/11/56	Telegram Birthday Greetings to Pt. Nehru ....		1	0 0
4/12/56	Mahatma Gandhi Prize ....		5	0 0
28/ 2/56	Printing 2 Books of Association ....		2	13 10
28/ 2/56	Typing Letter ....		1	1 6
	Bank Fee ....			10 0
	Balance in Savings Account ....	387	7	9
	Balance in Bank ....		3	7 0
				471 13 3
	Less General Secretary Owing ....			2 13 0
				£469 0 3

## CREDIT

Balance in Bank of New Zealand	....	....	43	10	6
Balance in Savings Account	....	....	387	7	9
Affiliation Fees:					
Rotorua Indian Association	....	....	2	12	0
Waikato Indian Association	....	....	1	12	0
Taranaki Indian Association	....	....	2	0	0
Wellington Indian Association	....	....	19	18	0
Christchurch Indian Association	....	....	2	0	0
N.Z. Indian Association Country Section	....	....	10	0	0
			£469 0 3		

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The following is the Indian population according to the Census taken in 1951:

	Males	Females	Total
Full blooded Indians	1319	465	1784
of these under 16 years old	248	228	
of these New Zealand born	140	162	
of these unmarriageable age group	119	41	
of these marriageable age group	132	31	
Indian-Europeans (including Anglo-Indians)	213	194	407
of these New Zealand born	109	86	
Indian-Maori	105	115	220

