

Your Excellencies and dear friends,

I am grateful to the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Uzbekistan Republic for the very kind sentiments which she has expressed. I am also grateful for the warm friendship and hospitality which you have extended to me.

During the last two weeks, I have travelled much in the Soviet Union. Wherever I went, I met with overwhelming kindness on the part of all sections of people. I have formed a number of impressions which I must sort out at leisure. The foremost amongst my impressions is the grandeur of the progress which the Soviet Union has made in so short a span as 4 decades. This progress has been the more remarkable in the Central Asian Republics because of their conditions 40 years ago. Yesterday I came away from Stalinabad, a fine modern city, which, I was told, was just a little village, with a single street lamp, lit with kerosene oil, before the Revolution. Tashkent and Samarkand, too, have grown out of recognition. It would not be too much to say that many parts of Central Asia have, during the last 40 years, leapt from the mediæval, ~~or even the primitive~~ age to the modern period.

This transformation of Soviet Central Asia has a special ~~great~~ significance for countries ~~like mine~~ which are still underdeveloped. Our Government realises that they cannot wait for the slow and gradual disappearance of such evils as poverty, illiteracy, ignorance and disease. These require radical treatment. ~~What has been achieved in the Soviet Union has provided not only inspiration but encouragement and~~ assistance ~~in the development of our~~ *which the Soviet Govt have given to us*

I recall with pleasure the

economy. In many vital sectors, such as steel, oil, machine-building and pharmaceuticals, India ~~is~~ has had the benefit of the advice and assistance of the Soviet ~~Union Government~~<sup>experts</sup>; and Indian and Soviet technicians have been cooperating ~~like~~ brothers. The range and scale of such cooperation will be far greater in our next Five Year Plan, which will be decisive for India's future; and I have no doubt that the Soviet Government will extend its sympathy and help in ample measure to the execution of this Plan.

and collaborating with one another.

Yesterday I had the pleasure of visiting a city which always had a certain fascination for me, Samarkand. There, as elsewhere in the Soviet Union, I noticed with what reverent care you have been renovating ancient buildings, excavating old ruins and preserving your cultural heritage. Between India and Uzbekistan, there have been contacts of various kinds from time immemorial.

Indian history, written by foreigners, used to depict Timur simply as a storm which blew over India, destroying much and creating nothing. When one comes to Timur's capital, however, one appreciates that he was more than a mere conqueror. Let me also recall, with undiluted pleasure, that it was from ~~the~~ Ferghana that Baber, the Founder of the Moghul Empire, went to India and founded a truly Indian dynasty, which has few parallels in the history of mankind, for the humanity and urbanity which it displayed and the imperishable works of art, such as the Taj Mahal, which it has left behind. Unfortunately, during the last 3 centuries our relations ceased and we almost became strangers to each other. Now, our relations

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with Uzbekistan and, indeed, with the entire Soviet Union, have entered a new phase. There have been exchange of visits between your leaders, artistes, singers, dancers and writers, and ours. All this has increased the mutual esteem which we feel for each other and our common desire for peace. Wherever I travelled in the Soviet Union, I noticed the people's horror of war and yearning for peace. I also noticed how faithful your Government and, in particular, Mr. Khrushchev, whom we had the honour of welcoming to India twice, reflect and implement the peace-loving sentiments of the Soviet people. Mr. Khrushchev has been as untiring in his quest for peace as my own Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Let us hope and pray that their efforts and the efforts of all men of peace may, sooner or later -- sooner rather than later -- be crowned with success.

I now propose a toast to the health of our gracious hostess, the Chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Uzbekistan, to the further progress and prosperity of the people of the Soviet Union and to the ever-lasting friendship between our two countries.

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24, FERROZSHAH ROAD,  
NEW DELHI.

My Dear Dull,

I return this masterly account and I am most grateful to you for letting me read it. It is conspicuous for the observation, the penetration, the freedom from stereotypes and clichés, and the intelligence one would expect from you.

It confirms what I had been guessing for some time: the importance of USSR is primordial, & not merely for military reasons.

Yrs sincerely,

W. R. Crocker 63