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SECRET.

COPY NO.

C A B I N E T <sup>35</sup> ~~25~~ (25).

Meeting of the Cabinet to be held at 10, Downing Street,  
S.W.(1), on <sup>Tuesday</sup> ~~Monday~~, July the <sup>7<sup>th</sup></sup> ~~6<sup>th</sup>~~, 1925, at 11.30 a.m.

A G E N D U M .

THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN INDIA.

Note by the Secretary of State for India covering  
summary of conversations with the Governor-General.

(C.P.310 (25) - already circulated).

General statement to be made by the Governor-General.

(Sgd) M.P.A.HANKEY,

Secretary, Cabinet.

2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1.,

2nd July, 1925.

S E C R E T.COPY NO. /C A B I N E T 35(25).

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held  
at 10, Downing Street, S.W.1., on TUESDAY,  
JULY 7th, 1925, at 11.30 A.M.

PRESENT:-

The Right Hon. Stanley Baldwin, M.P.,  
Prime Minister. (In the Chair).

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| The Right Hon.<br>Austen Chamberlain, M.P.,<br>Secretary of State for<br>Foreign Affairs. | The Right Hon.<br>The Earl of Balfour, K.G., O.M.,<br>Lord President of the Council.                     |
| The Most Hon.<br>The Marquess of Salisbury,<br>K.G., G.C.V.O., C.B.,<br>Lord Privy Seal.  | The Right Hon.<br>W.S. Churchill, C.H., M.P.,<br>Chancellor of the Exchequer.                            |
| The Right Hon.<br>L.S. Amery, M.P., Secretary<br>of State for the Colonies.               | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Laming Worthington-Evans,<br>Bart., G.B.E., M.P., Secretary<br>of State for War.   |
| The Right Hon.<br>The Earl of Birkenhead,<br>Secretary of State for India.                | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Samuel Hoare, Bart.,<br>C.M.G., M.P., Secretary of<br>State for Air.               |
| The Right Hon.<br>W.C. Bridgeman, M.P.,<br>First Lord of the Admiralty.                   | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Philip Cunliffe-Lister,<br>K.B.E., M.C., M.P., President<br>of the Board of Trade. |
| The Right Hon.<br>Neville Chamberlain, M.P.,<br>Minister of Health.                       | The Right Hon.<br>E.F.L. Wood, M.P., Minister<br>of Agriculture and Fisheries.                           |
| The Right Hon.<br>Sir John Gilmour, Bart., D.S.O.,<br>M.P., Secretary for Scotland.       | The Right Hon.<br>Sir Arthur Steel-Maitland, Bart.,<br>M.P., Minister of Labour.                         |
| The Right Hon.<br>Viscount Peel, G.B.E., First<br>Commissioner of Works.                  | The Right Hon.<br>Viscount Cecil of Chelwood, K.C.,<br>Chancellor of the Duchy of<br>Lancaster.          |

The Right Hon. Sir Douglas Hogg,  
K.C., M.P., Attorney-General.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:-

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| H.E. The Right Hon.<br>The Earl of Reading, G.C.B.,<br>G.M.S.I., G.M.I.E., G.C.V.O.,<br>Governor-General of India.<br>(For Item 3). | The Right Hon.<br>Earl Winterton, M.P.,<br>Parliamentary Under Secretary<br>of State, India Office.<br>(For Item 3). |
| Sir M.P.A. Hankey, G.C.B.....   | Secretary.   |

SECURITY.

Draft Pact.

(Previous  
Reference:  
Cabinet 33  
(25), Con-  
clusion 1.)

1. The Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs informed his colleagues that he had received a letter from Lord Crewe, who had just handed the British draft of the proposed quadruple pact to M. Briand. In doing so, Lord Crewe had pointed out that the pivotal idea of the draft Pact was recourse to the League of Nations when difficulties arose. M. Briand had welcomed this information, which, he said, was his own central idea. No discussion of details had taken place.

THE FINANCE BILL.

Excessive  
Imports  
prior to the  
Imposition  
of the Duty.

Previous  
Reference:  
Cabinet 24  
(25), Con-  
clusion 7.)

2. The Chancellor of the Exchequer consulted his colleagues as to the excessive dumping of articles, on which a Duty was imposed by the Budget, before July 1st, the date on which the Duties took effect. The quantities imported before this date would have accounted for almost £2,000,000 of revenue, and nearly four months' importation had been forestalled. It would be possible to collect Duties in regard to articles falling within the category of the re-imposed McKenna Duties, but not on silk. If the former were enforced, £1,000,000 of revenue might be recovered. On the other hand, on June 24th a statement had been made to the effect that it was not proposed to impose the Duty retrospectively from July 1st, and some doubt was felt as to whether to do so would be in accord with our treaties with foreign nations.

The Cabinet agreed --

- (a) That, on the whole, the loss and inconvenience involved in not imposing the Duties must be accepted, and they approved the draft of an answer to a Question in Parliament to this effect which was read to them by the Chancellor of the Exchequer:
- (b) That the amendment of the Bowles Act, which had rendered possible the dumping of articles such as had recently taken place, should receive consideration.

INDIA.

Political  
Situation  
in.

(Previous  
Reference:  
Cabinet 47  
(24), Con-  
clusion 16.)

3. The Cabinet had before them a summary of the conversations which had taken place between the Secretary of State for India and the Governor-General on the general political situation in India and other subjects (Paper C.P.-310 (25)).

The greater part of the Meeting was occupied by a long statement by the Governor-General of India in regard to the topics covered in C.P.-310 (25), including the general political situation, the Reforms Inquiry Report, Indianisation of the Army, the attitude of the Indian Princes, and other matters. A short discussion followed, and the Governor-General gave explanations on various points of detail.

The Secretary of State for India agreed that, in his speech in the House of Lords on the same afternoon, he would have regard for the Governor-General's desire that no announcement should be made which excluded the possibility of the appointment of a Royal Commission before December, 1929, which was the latest date for setting up the Statutory Commission. The Secretary of State proposed to make it perfectly clear that he saw no evidence of a whole-hearted desire on the part of any large section of the Indian population to co-operate in the scheme of reforms such as would justify him in recommending the appointment of a Royal Commission now, but that he would welcome any evidence of a desire to co-operate. In the meantime no decision would be taken as to the date of a Royal Commission.

The Prime Minister, on behalf of the Cabinet, thanked Lord Reading for his very lucid and comprehensive statement, and welcomed the fact that, considering the circumstances of the day, the Governor-General was not devoid of hope.

NOTE:

The Secretary of State for India and the Governor-General considered that it was unnecessary to reproduce a summary of the Governor-General's Statement, in view of the comprehensive nature of the summary of previous conversations circulated by the Secretary of State in C.P.-310 (25).

HOUSES OF  
PARLIAMENT.

Condition of  
Stonework.

(Previous  
Reference:  
Cabinet 35  
(24), Con-  
clusion 5.)

4. The First Commissioner of Works informed the Cabinet that, according to information received from his experts, stones were frequently falling from the walls of the Houses of Parliament. It might be necessary for him to warn Members and even to prohibit access to the Terrace, owing to the danger involved.

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2, Whitehall Gardens, S.W.1,

July 7, 1925.