GOA FREEDOM STRUGGLE

VIS-A-VIS

MAHARASHTRA

Administration.


POLITICAL AND REFORMS DEPARTMENT PAPERS

Request of the Consul General for Portugal to the Government of Bombay to take action against certain persons connected with the "Portuguese India Annual for 1935" and the "Indo-Portuguese Review" in respect of certain articles appearing therein.

S. R. No. 76.

Bombay, 1st March 1935.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay, Political and Reforms Department, Bombay.

Sir.

As desired by the Government of Goa I have the honour to send you the enclosed copy of the "Portuguese India Annual" for 1935. printed and published by Mr. Lewis Dores Silva at the Alliance Art Printing Works, Girgaum, Bombay 4, and to request you to be so good as to move the competent authorities to take the necessary action against the editor of the same Annual in respect of two articles appeared in it under the signatures of T. Braganza Cunha and Carlos da Cruz, as these articles offend the national honour and through their medium a defamatory campaign is levelled against Portugal, its Government and Administration and also against the Government of Portuguese India, by twisting the veracity of the facts and by making entirely false allegations.

2. Further I beg to request you that action may also be taken against Mr. Carlos da Cruz who is residing at Kerrawala Mansion, 3rd floor, Carnac Road, Bombay, the same course not being possible to follow here in respect of Mr. Braganza Cunha as he is residing in Goa.

I have etc.

(Signed) Carlos Da-Mesquita.

Consul General for Portugal.
After issue of the accompanying acknowledgement the papers may be referred unofficially to
the Portuguese Translator to Government with a request to furnish translation or summary of the
two articles complained of by the Consul General.

Intd. T. B. C. (mitre).

U. O. R. to the Portuguese Translation to Government with the books.

(After issue of acknowledgement)

Dated 6th March 1935.

Returned with translations of the two articles in question.

Intd. 26-3.

Political and Reforms Department.

No. 9384-A.

POLITICAL AND REFORMS DEPARTMENT

Bombay Castle, 6th March 1935.

From:

H. T. Lambrick Esquire,
Deputy Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Reforms Department.

To

The Consul General for Portugal
at Bombay.

Sub.—Articles in the "Portuguese India Annual, 1935".

Sir,

I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 76,
dated the 1st March 1935, complaining against certain articles appearing in the "Portuguese India
Annual, 1935" and to state that it is receiving attention.

I have etc.

(Signed) T. B. CHITU,
For Deputy Secretary to Government
of Bombay, Political and Reforms Department.
Translation of an article in Portuguese published at page 3 of the "Portuguese India Annual, 1935"

"Naked truths regarding the course of administrative and political affairs in Portuguese India" by Carlos da Cruz.

In order to be able to appreciate dispassionately the atmosphere in which our country lives and to believe the facts in their complete nakedness it is necessary for one to know in the first place that within the frontier of Goa the voice of truth is choked and the liberty of speech is suppressed, which, however, exists in all its fullness to distort facts and to applaud all the administrative and political scandals. There, in the corner of the land which witnessed our birth, there is no "practical" right to protest against the ruinous commands of the powers that be, who have in their service half a dozen hirelings who enjoy complete liberty to deceive the unwary with false and interested propaganda. They are the lick-spittles, the subservients, who always inhabit the dirty lanes of all countries, in the same way as it is difficult to find corn without cockle. The right of assembly exists only for the henchmen of the Government to applaud it in the name of the country which bears the whole yoke with its hands tied. The spirit revolts and indignation is roused at seeing how, in the name of the gagged public, the Government aided by the "charanga" of the meneures sings hosannas dancing on the ruins of the country! One is reminded of Nero entertaining himself on the strings of the lyre in front of the City on fire!

And, to prevent the echo of this orgy the press interested in the good administration of the Country is muzzled. The evidence of this lies in the closing of the Pracksha press and in the birth of the Pradipa, in the ludicrous proceedings against the Sandalcalo, in certain proceedings against the Bharat, the Ultramar and the India Portugueza, and lastly in the official censorship which prohibits even mild criticism of Government measures. With the same object of silencing protests the right of assembly is torpedoed. A voice has been smothered which in the Municipal Corporation of Ilhas was planning for a conjoint meeting of the Municipal Corporations of the Country, which would have protested against the Regulations for the recruitment for military service. The voice was smothered of the President of the (Municipal) Corporation of Bardex, which was also protesting against those Regulations. The support of the Goan Union in favour of the same attitude was rendered useless. Attempts were even made to prevent the great and famous meeting of the emigrants in this City, who vehemently protested against the Colonial Act. The meeting called at Margao to pay a homage to the great leader, Lala Lajpatrai was torpedoed to prevent its being held. A vigorous motion of protest presented by the Vice President of the Municipal Corporation of Salsette was thrown into the dust-bin without even a mention being made of it in the respective record of the proceedings of the meeting of the Corporation. The members of the same Corporation were denied the right to record their
votes against the request for the re-appointment of the present Governor General. And all these arbitrary acts of the Corporation manoeuvred by Government were committed by invoking respect for the Political Constitution of the republic, for the Dictatorial President, for the Head of the Government, for the Governor of the Colony, a respect which means nothing less than pure (lit. authentic) tyranny. The press experienced hard consequences. In officialdom, one or the other dismissal, one or the other head of services punished, military officers and magistrates transferred. some (Municipal) Corporations dissolved, the Indian party persecuted

But, in contrast to the barefaced courage to lie for the purpose of deceiving, those in authority and their henchmen enjoy the greatest liberty, an undisciplined liberty, for false and ridiculous propaganda intended to create in the masses some sympathy for the agents noxious to the interest of the country. Witness the 3rd crop of rice in Siolim which promised to end the shortage of rice. The press friendly to Government created around it (the 3rd crop) a delirious fanfare though all the people knew that the crop produced on a span of the earth with manure and watering-pot in hand was not a crop which would end a crisis. The hosannas sung around the disastrous sale of the State lands, the cultivation of caju plants in the fields and the inauguration of bridges were sung too early. The most exaggerated description of the official visits of the Governor General provoked laughter because the henchmen lied and because the Governor himself proudly stated in the (Municipal) Corporation of Ilhas that during his visit to Damaun he had received " Magnificent and formidable" homages. And the speeches of the Governor General showed little scruple, as happened in the case of the Borim bridge in which he attributed to himself the works which did not belong to him. At the banquet offered to the same Governor by the State servants and contractors of Government works, it was stated that it was from the living forces of the State, though these did not exhibit any manifestation of sympathy towards the Government. The address thrust into the hands of the Hindus was an abuse committed by the henchmen of the persons in authority. The baptism given to the Borim bridge with the name of the Minister Oliveira Salazar is another intolerable abuse committed by the Governor and his adviser. The farce of plebiscite for the voting of the new Constitution of the Republic also proved how the Portuguese administration is carried on in a moral degradation. The Cortalim bridge is reported in the newspapers of Portugal as completed though a beginning has not yet been made of the works, which will take at least 4 or 5 years to complete. A year ago in a report current in Lisbon it was said that the traffic in the Port of Marmugoa had increased owing to the action of the Governor General though this traffic had actually decreased from 1922 to 1932 by 57.4 per cent., which is a formidable decline.

The lie, the false eulogy, the flattery, in contraposition to the truth which is suppressed, is evidenced by the few facts which I have pointed out and which unfortunately cannot, within the restricted ambit of these few lines, have greater and better elucidation. What has been stated above therefore contains the reason why many Goans live in a deception not knowing the true condition of the country of their birth. Having seen the form in which truth is enveloped let us now see some examples in order to have at least a faint idea of what to-day ruins and humiliates the country which yesterday was glorious and rich.
Administrative matters

Autocracy in matters of public administration has attained a very high degree. The laws which are made are dropsical. They indicate a lightness of spirit and premeditation to provide billets for fine lands, as was done in the competition opened for filling up the posts of Inspector of Primary Education and of the Director of the technical school at Valpoi and in the case of the posts of auxiliary professors of the Medical School and of the Sanitary Inspector and of the Health Officer of Marmugoa. The enquiries are dragged on eternally to the detriment of the Institutions and the interests of the State. Public funds are spent with great unconcern and even on objects of vanity. A bridge is going to be built at Cortalim the utility of which nobody contests, but the manner in which the works were estimated is scandalous and the procedure adopted to acquire the necessary funds was ruinous to the Country when we have 18 (?) lakhs of rupees lent to some of the Portuguese Colonies. But the Governor General speaking at the much advertised Imperial conference showed that there was no need of hurry to recover this colossal credit, which we need for improvements of great necessity or for the purpose of avoiding the burden of taxes, which are imposed without any compassion or mercy for the tax payer, or disasters such as the same of the State lands. The public works such as the bridge, at Borim, Usgao, Sanquem and Damaun are an eternal leak in the coffers of the State because only the repairs, the defects and the collapses exhaust thousands of rupees, as recent facts show the irresponsibility of the technical experts of the Government. Allowances and salaries go on increasing and entail enormous expenditure for the State as happens in the case of military pensioners, additional professors attached to the Normal School and the Lyceum. The funds of Corporations and charitable institutions are utilised for providing billets and for satisfying whims. For instance the funds of Hospicio of Margao taken possession of under an enquiry were made use of for creating new posts paid even at the price of gold and for constituting the communities of Velim, Assolna and Ambolim against which valient protests had been raised. The funds of Santa Casa were also used for the new communities. Money was taken from the funds of the (Village) Communities to defray the expenses of the return voyage of the Government adviser brought from Lisbon, where he was, and to create for him the post of Inspector of (Village) Communities with the perquisites pertaining to the 3rd crop and the commission on the profits derived from subletting the fields of village communities and the (drawing up of the) regulations which are dead. They (the rulers ?) deceived the village community of Carambolim by ordering it to purchase the shares of the new Village Communities, which after all constitute a dead capital. They did not feel any scruple to take away what was meant for charity. The funds of the Improvement Trust of Marmugoa are being squandered on unnecessary constructions, such as houses for being rented, which however remain without tenants, and on the creation of fat billets such as the post of Sanitary Inspector and the allowance for the Health Officer of Marmugoa. Then there are the enactments reducing the interest on Postal Savings, Bank Deposits, the unjuridical enactments to create a new kind of members of
village communities, the cession of lands, the refusal of the supply of water for winter crops to the children of the soil and ancient possessors of alienated lands. It would be fastidious to enumerate the long series of administrative errors committed by even exceeding legitimate powers as in the case of the immoral and permanent intervention of Government in the affairs of the Hospicio of Margao. One cannot, however, refrain from referring to taxes the necessity for which becomes greater every time owing to the squandering of funds and the fat salaries of the high officialdom and specially of the European military officers; whilst in all countries, in view of the depreciation of the value of products and of the economic crisis, a reduction is made in posts and salaries, in Goa the contrary is done. In a country so small that it is not in need of any defence, internal or external, we pay 10 lakhs of rupees to the military and more than 62 lakhs to the civil officials. We, therefore, have taxes of provisional character already tending to be permanent such as the servants of the Improvement Trust of Marmugoa, the attempted taxes on the Insurance business, the 20 per cent, of the hated judicial tax to give fat increase only to European Judicial Officers and only in India! And justice, which is otherwise very costly as only rich people can take advantage of her!

....We have also to bear the unnecessary expenditure which the Home Government imposes on us without having any regard to our financial condition and without consulting the colony as happened when it ordered us to contribute for defraying the expenses of the passages of the native African troops taken to be exhibited in Portugal, towards the expenses of the commercial exhibition such as those held in Paris, Seville. Antwerp, which were of no advantage to us, and lastly towards the expenses of the Colonial exhibition held at Porto, where in spite of the opposition of the country an ethical mission was taken to represent a characteristic which is not ours nor ever was. This mission, which was a humiliation inflicted on us cost us 26 thousand rupees. Now a days the Colony is not consulted before taxes are imposed or expenses are sanctioned. When it is the will of the rulers there is no need of consultation or vote, because autonomy has been done away with, which before only existed on paper. The Council assisting the Governor is only a Chancellory of Government and the (Municipal) Corporators are its modest branches. It is the feudalism which is about to be born. It is the feudalism which drags the country to an increasing fall in the sources of riches causing an annual commercial deficit of hundred lakhs of rupees, which is met specially by the emigrants who are in the service of the nations beyond frontier. It is the deficit of "assimilation" in which the Portuguese rulers take pride.

Political matters

To make our present unfortunate lot complete after we had been ruined materially the Central Government now comes forward to throw phelqm at our face openly in this fully enlightened century. This Government comes forward to announce to the peoples of the world that in a corner of India there is a people, which requires to be polished and civilised and that Portugal is going to undertake this social work. But supposing that this be true, the Portuguese do not feel ashamed to declare by their very mouths their incompetence and incapacity during a period of 500 years during which Goa has been under the domination of the Portuguese. The very legislation which the Government of the Dictatorship lately decreed for the colonies represents a formal dementi to the propaganda which the
Portuguese are making by praising their colonising enterprise. And for their greatest shame the Constitution is subject to the ridiculous and barefaced mockery of plebiscite which amounts to an expression of an unrestricted absolutism exhibiting to the world a backward people. We are however little interested in the analysis of that Magna Carta of Slaves. Let the Portuguese read it with devotion. We are interested, it is true, in the few references which the Constitution makes to us by sending us a Charter of Slavery.

(Here the author tries to prove, by comparing article 3 of the Political Constitution of the Portuguese Dictatorial Republic with article 132 of the same constitution and with the Colonial Act, passed under the latter article to form the Constitution of the Portuguese Colonies that the natives of the Colonies have been relegated to a position of inferiority and that they are no longer Portuguese Citizens as they were under the old Republican Constitution. The writer then proceeds:).

By the new Republican Constitution the Portuguese are invested with the powers of the lord and master of those whom the Republic of the 5th October called brothers.

The Goan repels and will repel affronts like the Colonial Act, seconded and approved by the Constitution of the Republic of the Portuguese, 2nd the Regulations for the recruitment for military service which treat us as subjects by "organic essence". I am not going to analyse the sections of these insolent diplomas……I wish simply to express my indignation showing at the same time that Portugal has no moral authority to insult us and consider us as savages……I deal with the subject only in principle to emphasise that Portugal, supported by the provisions of the Colonial Act, specially, is not in our country as guardian or owner of natives, the more so because there are no natives in the midst of our society.

(The writer then analyses article 2 of the Colonial Act which he says has reduced the natives of the Colonies, including the sons of Goa, to a Political position inferior to that of the natives of Portugal and cites the names of many illustrious sons of Goa who have actually according to the writer, exercised a civilising influence on the Portuguese in their own country, and then proceeds:).

These are the natives or assimilated who have educated and still educate the Portuguese. Ungrateful Portuguese of the Dictatorship of ungrateful Portugal. The Portugal which possesses nothing which it can be proud of or which has not its origin in the civilisation of India! Portugal had no place in the map when distant people used to come to India to learn medicine, philosophy, science. Europe was very backward when our civilisation had attained the apogee. It is, therefore, not we that have adopted the civilisation of Portugal but it is the Portuguese who have adopted our civilisation. It is not we who are natives to be civilised by the Portuguese, but we are the civilised who have to civilise the 70 p.c. illiterate Portuguese (Here the writer tries to refute some arguments said to have been advanced by Dr. Alves, the late Portuguese Consul General in Bombay, in defence of the Colonial Act. He then tries to prove that

The reference is to the people of Goa.

During which Goa has been under the domination of the Portuguese.

Those who have adopted the European civilisation.
Portugal cares less for her Colony in India than her Colonies in the other parts of the world because she can derive more material benefits from these and exclaims. Are we not the people who have been chosen as slaves to work for the other Colonies of Portugal and for the Metropolis? Is it not the Colonial Act which has aggravatred this situation of ours? Have we any right to work for our interest? No. The Metropolis rules us as serfs of ancient times were ruled. It gives no consideration to our people, who are admired everywhere. It has completely crushed our birthplace which is at present ruined morally and materially. Portugal has reserved for itself complete liberty, to do with country what it likes spurring all our representations. It is the Colonial Act, which gives this right to the Government of Portugal.

(The Writer then comments and discusses several other features of the Colonial Act which according to him lowers and humiliates the sons of Goa in the estimation of the world and concludes):

We are, therefore, administratively, a country possessing excellent conditions of riches on the road to ruination and politically a people possessing brilliant civilisation which is unjustly kept in chains. This is what Portugal has done with our country and our people after we had carried to the Portuguese not only our civilisation but also help to maintain their dominations.

New generation of the illustrious and noble Goa. behold the
Ungrateful Portugal!

(Signed) .....................
Portuguese Translator to Government.

Translation of an article in Portuguese published at page 9 of the "Portuguese India Annual, 1935"

"Goans and the Indian National Movement" by T. Braganza Cunha

The attitude of Goans towards the struggle of the independence of India reveals on their part the most perfect ignorance of their own interest. Both in Goa and abroad, whether it is through apathy, want of courage, calculation or false comprehension of their true position, our countrymen keep themselves aloof from the great liberating movement which is agitating the whole of India.

Some through indifference, fatalism and spirit of resignation arising from the total ignorance of the ties which bind their own destiny to this movement, others through deliberate ill-will and hostility more or less concealed and emanating from a false comprehension of their own interest and through a slaveish ideology of which they are victims, keep themselves nearly all of them prudently away from the emancipating struggle which a vague instinct however makes them to discern as their only salvation There are few of them who have dared to declare themselves in favour of the national struggle for the liberation of the country from the foreign yoke.

Looking through our press both in Goa and in Bombay it is very rarely that we can come across a writing which can be considered as a gesture of

The date on which the Portuguese Republic was proclaimed is 1910.
Those who have adopted the European civilisation.
solidarity with the formidable agitation which concerns us so closely. Our journalists and public men, precisely when they refer to events which are passing around us, think that they should view them in the attitude of imperial observers as if they were dealing with matters relating to a distant country. Even in the matter of great economic problems which are discussed between the British interests and the Indian opposition and which so deeply affect our own economic interests, these gentlemen do not abandon their strong attitude of benevolent neutrality, no doubt actuated by the desire to avoid the least suspicion which might stain their loyalty.

Matters are even worse. Among our thinking heads there are not wanting people who in a wonderful indifference assume airs of the very imperialists in discussing gravely about Indian politics. It would not be an exaggeration to say that a good number of our leaders of public opinion while emitting their opinion on the Indian national struggle think through the head of the "Times of India", the organ of the Anglo-Indian bureaucracy, and live in the blessed persuasion that they imbibe their knowledge in a clear fountain.

No wonder that the Goan opinion, served by such inspirers, ignorant and wanting in courage, remains indecisive and perplexed in the case of a movement on which depends its whole future and which exercises its influence on its present. Not even the vivid example of the sustained battle for the right of self-determination which is being fought around them and of the fighting spirits in the midst of whom many of them are living has succeeded in galvanising the energies of our countrymen and freeing them from the state of resignation and abject submission in which they have become accustomed to live. Their mental slavishness of ages and a long standing denationalisation constitute a powerful obstacle which prevents them from adapting themselves quickly to the new spirit which is dominating the whole of India.

Among the reasons which induce a large number of Goans to refuse their solidarity with the anti-imperialistic movement, the most important is the fact that they consider themselves as allied to the foreign rulers because they are bound to them by tie of one and the same religion. In their profound ingenuity some of our countrymen suppose that the Christian religion to which they belong has conferred on them rights equal to those of the rulers and that the preponderance of the non-Christian element in an independent India may one day deprive them of this supposed privilege. In fact, the flagrant racial distinction which exists in the fold of this religion even in the very ecclesiastical circles should have long ago opened the eyes of the most credulous. The close cooperation which exists between the foreign rulers and their missionaries, although there might sometimes result therefrom some small favours shown to the Indian Christians would be sufficient to show clearly the political complicity of these religious organisations who have as their object the aiding of the imperialist power in the latter's business of subjugating in India the Christians as well as the non-Christians.

But so deeprooted is the conviction of our countrymen that not even the new politics of the British Government, tending to appease the discontented and insubordinate element by sacrificing, if need be, their more loyal subjects, has succeeded in demonstrating before their eyes the Machiavellian motives which determine the tactics of the rulers. Thus, living apart from the national struggle and showing their hostility to it, they not only compromise their future by not having contributed their quota
to the struggle for the emancipation of their country, but they condemn themselves to isolation even in the present transitory phase of the national agitation in India. They are ostracised both by the rulers and the ruled.

Another powerful reason which contributes towards the separation of the Goan from the vigorous pan-Indian ferment is the narrow and wretched ambit in which the local politics in Goa moves. The parochial criterion which presides here for the solution of all our political and economical problems, which we vainly seek to solve by always ignoring the natural ties which bind us to the Indian continent, is the cause of the isolation and the despairing impotence to which we have been reduced. This local politics keeps itself aloof even at the present time from the great problems viewing them at most in the light of curiosity although these repercussions in our daily life are sometimes much more important and affect us more directly than some measures of the Portuguese Government which some times bring us troubles. Any monetary reform initiated by the British Government fixing the value of the rupee brings to us consequences more important than some of our taxes. Also the economic measures affecting the great Indian Industries and their high commerce cause in our internal economics greater repercussions than some of the local customs dues. But in our political life such factors pass unnoticed and attract less attention than the questions regarding confraternities and the salaries of Officials.

The cause of this strange aloofness does not lie merely in ignorance. If our local politics takes no interest in the great problems of general application and of the most vital importance, it is because it involves itself in the interests of a very small minority and little cares for the wellbeing of the masses. The local politics among us has never gone beyond the ambit of the restricted interests of the official class of the so called "rich" landowners and of certain merchants and businessmen.

It is just because the interests of the great masses of our population, which are confounded with the general interests of the country, are ignored and despised by our politicians that the problems affecting the general public totally escape their attention in the same manner as the close relation which exists between these problems and the national politics of India. This is the principal reason why the so called Goan "politics" is of a deepest anti-national character.

It is to the political domination of this small class of officials, landowners and merchants allied to the foreign power, that we owe the decay of our collective life. To their denationalising action we owe the decadence and ruin which manifests itself in all the branches of the activity of the country. It has been this class which in exchange for small privileges and favours granted by the rulers has always applauded and accepted the humiliating politics of assimilation by renouncing the traditions of a superior civilisation. It is this class which collaborates in a ruinous economic politics which separates us from India by an absurd customs barrier thus impeding our national economic progress and even ruining our primitive agricultural industry. It is also in the interest of this class and with their connivance, with a view to their being able to enter the bureaucracy, that a system of public instruction has been introduced here which is entirely useless for the general public, sacrificing as it does the language of the country condemned to illiteracy. It is with this class that the Government shares the profits of the fatal alcoholic industry the intensification of which leads us at rapid paces to the physical and moral degeneration of our
race. It is the active co-operation of this class with the foreign civil and ecclesiastical element that keeps the people in the most complete obscurantism.

It is therefore with the advent of a new element and of a new class in the public that we can expect an orientation more in conformity with our national interest. To widen the political horizon of Goa by integrating us in the great Indian national current it is first necessary to base our action on the great force of the masses by doing away with prestige gathered round a half a dozen persons representing the interests of an insignificant minority. This is a fundamental condition to inaugurate among us a political system based on a modern ideology and on the right of self-determination of the peoples. And such a political system is inconceivable in Goa without the most close union with the great pan-Indian movement.

In fact, the solution of all problems which dominate our collective life depends on a standing agreement with our neighbours and racial brothers. The regaining of our political liberties is intimately connected with the independence of India and it is materially unrealisable without it. Our economic progress demands an intimate understanding with the neighbouring country on which we are dependent in respect of almost everything and of which we form only a small geographical portion. Our social organisation the similarity of which with that of our neighbours is incontestable inspite of all superficial and misleading appearances to the contrary is subject to the influence of the reforms and transformations which operate in the social life of India. Our cultural progress which necessitates a solid foundation in the Indian tradition and which will be brought about through the vernacular having in view a practical application to the necessities of our environments, if it does not wish to be fossilised under the form of ridiculous, mimicking of a culture foreign to the country, is for this very reason inseparable from the general progress of India. So strong and numerable are the ties which bind us to India that the isolation in which our "illustrious" class try to remain in relation to it becomes inconceivable.

More than ever the lamentable situation in which the Goans struggle at the present time demands from them a more natural and national attitude in the face of the Indian National movement if they do not wish to comfort themselves eternally with their wretched condition by engaging in sterile criticism, futile recriminations and vain protests.

(Signed) ………………………
Portuguese Translator to Government.

S.R. No. 106 DV
Bombay, 27th March 1935.

The Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Reforms Department,
Bombay.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No. 76-DV, Proc. 606, dated the 1st instant, I have the honour to inform you that on the 1st issue of a review published in this city under the title of "The Indo-Portuguese Review" appears translated in English the same article "Goans and (he Indian National
Movement" that was published in Portuguese on the last issue of "Portuguese India Annual" of 1935 that, as I informed you in my above letter, is considered offensive and detrimental to the national honour.

I further state that these two reviews "The Portuguese India Annual" and "The Indo-Portuguese Review" belong to the same person.

Herewith I am enclosing a copy of the referred review.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) CARLOS Da MESQUITA,
Consul General for Portugal.
No. 9384-A,
POLITICAL AND REFORMS DEPARTMENT
Bombay Castle, 29th March 1935.

From: C.W.A. Turner, Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay,
Political and Reforms Department.

To
The Consul General for Portugal
at Bombay.

Subject.—Article in the "Indo-Portuguese Review" March 1935

Sir.

I am directed by the Governor in Council to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 106-DV, dated the 27th March 1935, complaining against certain article appearing in the "Indo-Portuguese Review" March 1435 and to state that it is receiving attention.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant

(Signed) T.B.
for Chief Secretary to the Government of Bombay.
Political and Reforms Department.

POLITICAL AND REFORMS DEPARTMENT

The Consul General for Portugal forwards copies of the "Portuguese India Annual" for 1935 and of "The Indo-Portuguese Review", March 1935 and requests that necessary action may be taken against the editor (Mr. Lewis Dores Silva) for the articles published in these magazines under the signatures of T. Braganza Cunha and Carlos da Crud. The article contributed by Carlos da Cruz criticises the administrative and political affairs in Portuguese India and that contributed by T. Braganza Cunha of which
an English translation has also been published in the "Indo-Portuguese Review" March 1935, exhorts the Goans not to keep themselves aloof from the struggle of independence carried on in British India. The Consul General also requests that action may be taken against Carlos da Cruz for the first article. Braganza Cunha is residing in Goa and therefore no action can be taken against him by us.

2. Similar complaints against editors or writers in different Portuguese Journals were received from the Portuguese Consul General, but it was not possible under the existing law to take any action against the editors or writers of such articles beyond giving them a warning that if they published offensive articles they would run the risk of being deported under the Foreigners’ Act. The matter was brought to the notice of the Government of India in 1933 but they did not contemplate taking any action to check such writings against the Foreign Governments in India.

3. The H.D. (Pol) may see these pp. U.O. to see whether any action can be taken against the Editors of the Journals and against Carlos da Cruz for the articles in question. Perhaps as Carlos da Cruz is a Portuguese subject, the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, may be asked to warn him that he is liable to be deported as was done in the case of others last years.

Intd. J.C.B.


Home Department (Political).

The Portuguese Indian Annual for 1935, which is in the third year of its publication is stated to be printed and published by Mr. Lewis Dores Silva. at the Alliance Arts Printing Works, Bombay. Mr. Silva and this printing press have not come to notice before for printing and publishing objectionable matter.

2. As regards the two articles in the Annual against which the Consul General for Portugal has complained as containing defamatory matter detrimental to the national honour to Portugal, no action can be taken in respect of them under the existing law in force in British India in so far as they attack the Portuguese Government or its administration in Portuguese India.

3. The second of the two articles, namely that by Mr. Braganza Cunha. (who resides in Goa), entitled "Goans and the Indian National Movement" has also been reproduced in English in the new Magazine styled "The Indo-Portuguese Review" in the first issue thereof for March 1935. This Magazine has been started as a result of the success achieved by the "Portuguese Indian Annual ", (vide the first para, of Current Topics in the first page of the magazine). The editor and the declared printer and publisher is Mr. Lewis Dores Silva (of the Annual). The magazine is printed at the Turf Printing Works of which apparently a woman, one Ichhabai Ranchhoddas is the declared keeper. This press has not come to notice before.

4. The article "Goans and the Indian National Movement" may be divided into two parts, the first of which (i.e., the first seven paras) refers to the British Government in India, and the second to local politics in Goa. The article, as a whole is a direct appeal to Goans to join the National movement for Indian Independence, because the Goans themselves are pure Indians. The Government in British India is referred to as "foreign" and in paras 6 and 7 it is stated that close agreement exists
between that Government and Christian missionaries which permits the subjugation and exploitation of Christians and Non-Christians in India, and that the British Government's new policy (i.e. the impending reforms), which tends to satisfy the discontented and insubordinate elements at the expense of the loyal subjects, is Machiavellian in its motives.

These passages are likely, directly or indirectly, to bring the Government established by law in British India into hatred or contempt and to come within the scope of clause (d) of Section 4(a) of the I.P. (E.P.) Act, The R.L.A. may be consulted if considered necessary. If not, we may consider the question of conveying a warning. In that case, Political and Reforms Department may be asked to refer the papers to the C. of P. to ascertain whether Mr. Silva is a Portuguese subject. If he is, C. of P. may be asked to call him up, warn him, as printer and publisher of the Annual and as editor and the declared printer and publisher of the Review, against publishing in future matter such as that contained in the two articles against the Government of Portugal and its administration in Portuguese India and against the Government established by law in British India, under threat of deportation. (Warnings of this nature given to other Portuguese subjects had salutary effects).

5. As regards the warning which Political and Reforms Department suggest should be given to Mr. Carlos da Cruz, the writer of the first of the two articles in the Annual, it may be noted that he was the writer of several Portuguese articles in "O Anglo Lusitano" against which the Consul General for Portugal had complained in April 1933. While the editor of that paper was warned, no warning was given to Mr. Da Cruz because he could have denied authorship and there was no evidence to corroborate the Consul General's information that da Cruz was the author: In the present case Mr. Da Cruz's name appears on the article as the writer. C. of P. may, therefore be asked to convey a similar warning to Mr. Da Cruz who, Political and Reforms Department say, is a Portuguese subject.

The Commissioner of Police may be asked to warn Mr. Silva and Mr. Da Cruz as suggested.

U.O.R. No. 528. Polt. 9th April 1935.

P. and R.D.

These papers may be referred u.o. to the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, with a request that he will give the warning to the two persons mentioned above that if they persist in writing against the Government of Portuguese India they are liable to be deported as undesirable foreigners.

U.O.R. to the Commissioner of Police,
Bombay. d /11.4.35.

R.W.C.

Both have been duly warned.

D.C.P.S.B.

Sir,

I beg to report that Messrs. Lewis Dores Silva and Carlos da Cruz are both Portuguese subjects. They may be warned in the terms of Political and Reforms Department note dated 11th April 1935.

Kerrawala Mension, 3rd floor.
Carnac Road,
Bombay, 16th May 1935.
To

The Chief Secretary to Government,
Political Department, Bombay.

Sir,

Be pleased to place before the Governor of Bombay the enclosed Memorial for his consideration.

I beg to remain.

Sir,

Your obedient servant.

(Signed) CARLOS da Cruz,

To

His Excellency,
The Governor of Bombay in Council.
Humble Memorial of Carlos da Cruz residing at Kerrawala Mansion, 3rd floor, Carnac Road, Bombay.

Sheweth:

1. Having been lately summoned before the Police Commissioner, at the direct or indirect instance of the Government of Portuguese India, in connection with an article of mine in Portuguese entitled "A plain talk on the Administrative and Political Progress of Portuguese India", appearing in the "Portuguese India Annual" 1935, I feel I must on behalf both of my fair name and of justice in general, give the Government of this Presidency an "expose" of my views and acts which I hope and pray will be given due consideration by that Government. So shall the charges of insinuations levelled at my person be taken at their proper value and the course of justice be promoted.

2. I am not a rebel seeking to attack the Portuguese Government under the broad aegis of the British flag. For even as a teacher in various Government schools in Goa and Daman, I was ever a journalist criticising such administrative acts as called for criticism and drawing public attention to official or semi-official scandals, in the interest of my country.

3. In consequence of my firm and incorruptible attitude towards questions vitally affecting public welfare and the principles of sound administration, the very same Government that had on several occasions commanded my magisterial services, took advantage of some writings of mine to dismiss me from their service by processes far from straight. Without giving me the chance of a full defence and even charging me gratuitously with forging documents in proof of my innocence. I need hardly add that the penalty then applied to me as well as my dismissal from the service, created a great scandal in the press in Goa.

4. Coming to Bombay I assumed the Portuguese Editorship of 'The Anglo-Lusitano', a bilingual weekly published in this city, and in its columns I carried on my criticism of whatever seemed to me harmful to the best interest of my country. It stands to proof that my writings in this paper fall considerably short of the license permitted to political
journalism by the Government of British India and sometimes even far below that license, which I had sometimes used with impunity within the Portuguese territory itself.

5. This activity of mine earned for the journal much hostility, chiefly moved by the Consul-General for Portugal in Bombay, as a result of which I preferred to lay down my charge, rather than compromise the integrity of my opinions. A few months later, however, I resumed the Portuguese editorship of the same journal and with it the same unwavering attitude. "Unwavering" is an ambiguous word liable to be mistaken for obstinacy. I appeal therefore to the columns of the journal during my editorship to prove that not a word was written there without sufficient grounds or even sufficient reference to documents or well known facts. History was to repeat itself; and the Government of the Portuguese India, impatient of the truth and growing uncomfortable at the enthusiasm and approbation with which the revelation of this truth was received by the public interdicted the journal in Portuguese India. This ban caused a slight flutter in the journal's management and once again I had to sever my connection with "The Anglo-Luistano" on the 25th January last,

6. It was some time before this date that I wrote the article "A Plain Talk etc.", for 'The Portuguese India Annual'. This article is, in part but an historical resume and a marshalling of facts quoted, as is open to inspection, with conscientious accuracy from the Government Gazette (Boletin Official da India Portuguese). The Consul General for Portugal himself admitted to me in a personal talk that there was not the slightest offence to truth in that article which would have passed almost unnoticed (or rather with that measure of notice which is accorded to ordinary journalist criticism), had the Goa Press and public enjoyed half the liberty of speech they enjoyed once or is granted by the British laws here in India today. The fact is that in Goa, as in the past of the Portuguese territory, the Censorship allows the publication only of whatever flatters the vanity or furthers the interests of the governing classes and this is the very point of the article in question, which is but a summary of much that I had previously written on the administrative and political progress of Portuguese India. Whereas here in British India, wrong alone pays the due penalty, there in Portuguese India truth itself is suppressed if bitter to the governing classes and falsehood is given a free rein if palatable to the same.

7. At this stage I feel I might as well set forth the motives of this journalistic activity of mine. The powers that administer the destinies of Portuguese India have, for some time past, shown for Goa and Goans a hardly dissembled ill-will, singling them out for quite unashamed oppression, presumably through jealousy of the Goan who has, by right of conquest, held the highest official appointments as well as won laurels in nearly every walk of life wherever he has chanced to be. I am moved not so much by the material aspects of the question as by its moral and political. Yet, even materially Goa is in a sad and shameful plight, being saved only by emigration, chiefly to British India. This has made Goa dependent politically on Portugal, and economically on England. The majority of Goans have, so to say, two flags, and a dual nationality. But if Goa is materially very backward, due mainly to its inefficient administration, politically it is no better. While here in British India the Government is granting an increasingly larger measure of freedom and independence to the natives, in Portuguese India age old rights are being
withdrawn and the people reduced to the level of slaves. Indeed, though it might appear a comic exaggeration, Goans enjoy today better and fuller rights in British India than in their own country. Not content with manufacturing laws calculated to humiliate Goans politically, a vigorous propaganda has been launched against them by semi-official organs, tending to degrade them from the highest and most responsible positions in the bureaucracy. One such journal, known to bask in the patronage of the Minister for the Colonies, has cast the basest and most unfounded aspersions against the Indian character, calling Goans a spiteful and dangerous race. Yet it is universally known that not only have Goans fulfilled everywhere with honesty and competence the highest official roles, but in numerous ways contributed to the culture and advancement of Portugal.

8. The Goans' honesty, intelligence and love of order need not be impressed by me upon the Government of Bombay, which has had ample evidence of them for nearly a century. Yet this semi-official journal, patronised by the Colonial Minister, has dared to suggest in no equivocal terms that Goans ought to be treated with kicks, lathis, etc., as (it adds) the British Indian natives are treated by the Government of India; that Goans ought to be regarded as slaves and beasts of burden as (the semi-official organ supposes) the Government of India regards its subjects. Such is their opinion of the British administration in India and such is the campaign carried out in Portugal against Goans under the shelter of the Press Censorship.

9. It is against this revolting and reactionary policy that my criticism has been directed. It is against the inefficient management of the public finance that my voice has been raised. It is against the deliberate idea of trampling upon the time-honoured political rights of Portuguese India that my feeble pen has been used. It is in short against the abuses of the public administration that my war has been waged. Can it be a crime to bring before the bar of public opinion the abuses of an administration? If it is, why is this "crime" permitted in British India?

10. This statement is not a challenge. It is a humble exposition of my past activity and of my present position. This position would be very awkward. I know if I continued to be exposed to arrows flying in the dark. But I hope and pray that the Government of Bombay will accept this my statement, subjecting it to thorough investigation, if necessary and not judge me unheard.

Bombay, 17th May 1935. (Signed) CARLOS DA CRUZ.

POLITICAL AND REFORMS DEPARTMENT.

This is a Memorial from Mr. Carlos da Cruz who was recently warned by the Commissioner of Police, Bombay, that if he persisted in writing articles against the Government of Portuguese India he would be liable to be deported as an undesirable foreigner. This warning was necessitated on account of his recent article in "The Portuguese India Annual, 1935", criticising the administration and political affairs in Portuguese India. Attention in this connection is invited to the G. L. to the Consul General for Portugal at Bombay, No. 9384-II-A, dated the 1st May 1935, and the notes underlying it.
2. Mr. Da Cruz has not made any specific request in the memorial. He however, has given a detailed account of his past activities and of his present position by way of justifying his writings against the Portuguese Government and he desires that his statement should be thoroughly investigated, if necessary, and that he should not be judged unheard. No action appears to be necessary on the memorial which may simply be acknowledged.

H. D. (Poll) and the C. of P., Bombay may however see these papers before they are filed.

(Signed) ……………………..

U. O. R. to H. D. (Poll) and C. of P., Bombay, dated 22nd May 1935.

Seen and returned with compliments.


GOA CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

(File o. 3036/38 l.)

Organising Goans Under Congress Banner

Goa Congress Committee Formed.

The Secretary of the Goa Congress Committee writes.—

On the 12th of this month a deputation on behalf of the Provisional Goa Congress Committee waited on Sjt. Subhas Chandra Bose. In accordance with his advice and suggestions we have taken up the work of organising the Goans in Bombay under the banner of the Congress and the newly formed Goa Congress Committee has opened its office on 2nd floor. 21 Dalal Street, Fort Bombay.

All those who wish to join the Goa Congress Committee can Kindly communicate to Mr. F. X. Gracias, Secretary.

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 22nd October 1938

Goa Congress Committee

A meeting of the members of the Provisional Goa Congress Committee was held a few days ago when it was decided to dissolve the Provisional Goa Congress Committee and a new Committee called the Goa Congress Committee was formed.

The Committee proposes to work on the lines chalked out by Mr. Subhas-Chandra Bose, the President of the Indian National Congress, when he received a deputation of the Goans.

The following members were elected to the Committee: Tristao Braganza de Cunha, President; F. X. Gracias, Secretary; A. Vicgas. P. Rodrigues, K. D'Souza, D. B. Divakar, M. J. Jayawant, Chandrakant Kakodkar and K. S. Pradhan, members.

The Committee has appealed for support in their fight for freedom and democracy.

All those desirous of joining the Committee should write to the Secretary, Goa Congress Committee, 21, Dalai Street, Fort Bombay.
Join the Congress

Goa Congress Committee’s Clarion Call

Mr. F. X. Gracias, Secretary of Goa Congress Committee writes:

By now, I am sure, you are quite aware of the formation of the Goa Congress Committee, a political national organization which has sprung up as a long-felt necessity. It is an organ of the peoples' revolt against unheard of exploitation let loose in Goa by the present Fascist Government.

It would be gross selfishness on our part to isolate ourselves from this national political institution. It is our duty to support it in every possible way to carry out its policy to a logical conclusion. The supreme need of India today is her freedom, and whoever contributes his quota to achieve that freedom performs his bounden duty as an Indian.

"I am confident that this clarion call will find a noble echo in responsive hearts of all Goans. Those who wish to join, kindly communicate with the Secretary, Goa Congress Committee, Fort, Bombay.

Sensational Political Arrest of a British Indian

Goa Police’s Charge Against School Master.

From a special correspondent according to the latest news received here the Goa police have arrested and detained in the Margao police lockup Mr. Bhat, a British Indian subject who earned his living by giving tuitions.

So far as could be ascertained the charge against him is that he entered into correspondence with Mr. Pradhan of the Bombay branch of the Goa Congress Committee and that he is believed to have been engaged in "communist" activities.

THE JUDICIAL VERDICT

It may be recalled in this connection that Mr. Pradhan himself, who was a teacher in the Asolna English School, was similarly arrested, detained and subsequently released. The 'Club Juvenil', a sporting organisation attached to the school was also suppressed and continues to remain so in spite of the fact that the Judge of Quepem Division who went through the evidence found nothing substantial against the members of the Club and accordingly the case was dropped.

It is interesting in this connexion to note that there is a British Consul in Goa who is responsible for safeguarding the legitimate interests of British Indian subjects. The case of Mr. Bhat has naturally created an afflout of general interest in all cricles.

Goans most Vote for Congress candidates

Mr. F. X. Gracias, of the Goa Congress Committee has issued an appeal to all Goans in Bombay to vote for the Congress candidates in the forthcoming Municipal Elections.
Goa Congress Committee

The Secretary of the Goa Congress Committee, Bombay, writes:

At a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Goa Congress Committee, satisfaction was expressed at the hearty response made by Goans from all over India to the appeal of the Committee for general enrolment of membership.

Since its formation the Goa Congress Committee has been very busy enrolling members and its undaunted efforts will in no way relax in building up a powerful political organisation capable of rousing every Goan political consciousness and achieving freedom.

Goans, like other Indians, have happily realised that the good of the people is incompatible with foreign domination and that no progress is at present possible either economically or culturally without political freedom.

National Movement in Goa

Congress Committee’s Appeal.

The Secretary, Goa Congress Committee, Bombay, writes:

Life and conditions in Goa are worse than in any of the most backward feudal States in India. Nature has blessed Goa with a salubrious climate and ample natural resources to enable its inhabitants to lead a happy and prosperous life. But man-made laws and institutions have reduced the honest and hardworking people of Goa to abject poverty. Without trade and industry worth the name, without the elementary human rights of citizenship with an expensive, top-heavy militarist, feudal administration, with archaic social institutions and with ignorance and superstition reigning all over the land the large majority of the people of Goa are in this 20th century, leading a life, a little better than that of mediaeval serfs.

In recent years owing to economic causes and a reaction to what is happening in India, a conspicuousness of their human rights is growing amongst the Goans and a demand for popular government and better economic conditions is being voiced. Scenting danger in this awakening of the people and in their desire for political freedom and economic betterment the Government in Goa, aided by all the reactionary elements in the territory, are seeking to crush them. But repression cannot kill a people’s movement, though in order to succeed it is necessary to organize the movement properly and to link it up with the wider national movement of the Indian people.

The Goans, as a class, have so far held themselves aloof from the national movement developing under the banner of the Congress. This has led to their isolation from the Indian people and has facilitated their repression by the authorities in Goa. It is high time that this indifference and isolation are ended and an active link is forged between the civic aspirations of the Goans and the Congress movement in the country. A large number of Goans are residing in Bombay and constitute an advanced section of the people of Goa. It is proper, therefore, that the first effort in this direction should be made in Bombay.
In view of these considerations the Goa Congress Committee has been formed at 21st Dalal Street, Fort, Bombay with the aims and objects. It is confidently expected that the Goans in Bombay will join the Committee in large numbers and enable it to open a new chapter in the struggle of the people of Goa for political liberation and social emancipation.

*The Bombay Chronicle, dated 14th March 1939*

**Goa Congress call to Goans**

"Join Congress and fight for your birth rights"

The Secretary of the Goa Congress has issued the following appeal to all Goans:

This is the age of nationalism and it is highly gratifying to note that our people have also begun to think in terms of nationalism. The determination of the people of Goa to be the sole masters of their land, is a welcome indication of the changed times.

Friends, we appeal to you, to join the Goa Congress which is planning a peaceful and legitimate struggle for our inalienable rights and privileges. Freedom is our birth right and in claiming it we have God Himself on our side. Those wishing to join the Congress are requested to communicate with the Secretary, The Goa Congress, Bombay Mutual Building.

*The Bombay Chronicle, dated 11th April 1939.*

**Bombay Branch of Goa Congress Committee**

A decision to organise a united association known as Goa Congress Committee (Bombay Branch) was taken at a meeting of the Goan Nationalists residing in Bombay.

This Committee will function in Bombay as a branch of the Goa Congress Committee founded in Goa in 1928 and recognised by the Indian National Congress under article III (F) of the Constitution in the open session, held at Calcutta in 1928.

The immediate object of the new united national organisation of Goans, which will work in conjunction with its parent-body, is to agitate for responsible government in Goa, Damaun and Diu, and for the restoration of civil liberties in these territories.

According to the wishes of the President of the Indian National Congress, a complete and well-documented survey of the real economic, social, political and administrative conditions in Portuguese India will be shortly published under the auspices of the Goa Congress Committee.

Mr. Ignatius Fonseca, Editor, "O Anglo-Lusitano " will be President of Bombay Branch of the Committee.

*The Bombay Chronicle, dated 20th April 1939*

**Goa Congress Committee.**

A Correspondent writes:

Apropos the inquiry about the Goa Congress Committee published in your journal on 27th instant will you permit me to point out that the Indian National Congress had maintained a Goa Branch for several years and that it had been in charge of Mr. Tristan da Braganza Cunha of Cansaulim who is also president of the recently established Goa Committee.
Mr. Braganza Cunha possesses a brilliant record of service to the cause of Indian nationalism and first came to public notice in Paris when he published the life of Mahatma Gandhi before Romain Rolland wrote his. He has written on India in, amongst other papers, *L'Europe Nouvelle* and *Charte* and has collaborated with the late Henri Barbusse who with his well-known gallantry had lent the influence of his name and pen to the neglected cause of Indian freedom in Europe.

On his return home, Mr Braganza Cunha has throughout with a courage and consistency that I have found rare in Goa, devoted himself to the cause: not merely of the Indian freedom but also that of the downtrodden Goan masses. He has worked under the most difficult conditions and apathy, and fear bred through centuries of foreign rule in awakening the national and cultural consciousness amongst all classes of people. The propagation, of swadeshi and temperance formed the most important feature of his activities as a writer and publicist; and the writings he has published reveal his exceptionally accurate understanding of the Goan political, economic and cultural problems.

Although the military dictatorship and the suppression of civil liberties including those of the press that inevitably followed made any work impossible, he has not been prevented from continuing his activities. He has faced a number of police prosecutions, imprisonment and has been indicated by the highest judicial tribunal. Those who know Goan conditions can appreciate what amount of self-sacrifice the work of the character involves.

Nor has it been wasted. Mr. Braganza Cunha represents the fine type of the educated and cultured Goan Indian and his work has achieved the crystallisation of a formidable consciousness and politico-cultural unity with the freedom movement in India although evidence of its free expression is rendered difficult if not impossible under the conditions of press censorship and suppression of ordinary, elementary freedom of association and expression. We respect and hold in affection this Goan intellectual not indeed for himself but as a representative and voice of the real Goan living and struggling under 400 years of foreign domination and the most humiliating slavery, intellectual as well as political and economic.

I do not know of any move of civil disobedience in Goa advocated by the nationalist leadership. Such a course of action could be advised only by those who have no proper understanding of Goan conditions. I may add that men like Mr. Hegde, Desai of the paper, *Bharat*, are reported to have joined the fascist organisation 'Uniao Nacional' (National Union) and I would solemnly warn your readers against swallowing the propaganda that is released by them as they have evidently chosen to grow a new complexion and cease automatically to speak in the name of the people of Goa.

**PROHIBITION APPEAL TO GOANS.**

Friends,

It has always been the burning wish of every Indian patriot, who has realised with bitterness what ravages alcoholism has worked on the teeming million-of India, to remove this scourge and as a result restore our country to its pristine greatness and loveliness. So long as we were powerless to enforce this wish, it only remained a wish, but with the happy advent of the government of the people and by the people the wish has already taken flesh in
several places and Bombay now, the premier city in the east is soon going to be dry and beautiful. You have no doubt realised the inestimable benefits that will accrue from this measure to a great majority of the people who liquidate a substantial part of their slender earnings on alcohol at the cost of the necessities of life both to themselves and their dependents. Most of these poor people hardly have a will of their own and the Government, therefore, which is of the people and for the people must perform come to their rescue and exercise a restraint on their individual liberty which unfortunately when left to itself brings misery, starvation and degradation to its owners. Consequently in the enforcement of a measure which leaves absolutely no alternative but to restrict the individual liberty of India's teeming millions, the consideration of a small minority who can either afford to drink or drink without fault, cannot but be obviously swallowed up with the thought of the good of a whole country or people. This restriction of individual liberty in the case of a minority might have called for serious consideration, however, if it affected something that was indispensable to man as such. Liquor, as has been proved by most medical men and scientists, is only injurious to the system. Hence the plea of restriction of individual liberty will not connect itself with prohibition.

As certain number of people who have been serving in the liquor trade will be affected and among these are our Goan barmen and waiters. But this incidental to prohibition is no exception as such incidentals are not foreign to many a good and sweeping measure all the world over. Surely, the plight of those concerned calls for sympathy in view of the tremendous sacrifice demanded from them for the good of the nation. It is really a very great sacrifice and those who stand equal to it will be doing an inestimable service to their country.

But opposition to the Government is useless in view of its iron resolve to enforce prohibition from August. The degree of the strength of this resolve is commensurate with the Government's overwhelming conviction of the ineffable good it will mean to our country. And yet a section of the Parsi community, with the backing of vested interests it is believed, is futilely trying to oppose the Government. Recently the press has been giving the people to understand that this same section is trying to exploit the discontented element in the Goan Community so as to reinforce the opposition to Prohibition and wreck it as far as possible. We would remind all Goan countrymen, who might otherwise be victimised by this irresponsible exploitation, that Goans unlike the Parsis, are foreigners and that the contemplated Foreigners Act, 1939 puts us Goans as much in the category of foreigners as the Germans or Italians. Any opposition that some of us therefore might raise against the Government will be treated in the light of our being foreigners and as people therefore who have absolutely no rights in Bombay. Besides do you think we can afford to bring on us the concern and ridicule which the Parsis have brought upon themselves by helplessly attacking the Bombay Government for a measure which is devoted to the good of the whole country and is being enforced in all the provinces.

The reasons why we should realise the delicacy and complexity of our position are obvious. Goa is economically dependent on the emigrants. A country whose exports are only Rs. 24,41,390 as against the imports of Rs. 1,32,78,972 thus making a trade deficit of Rs. 1,08,37,582 would have gone bankrupt and died of starvation long ago, were it not for the Goan emigrants who remit to Goa annually over a 100 lakhs of rupees and thus make up this outrageous balance in trade. You will hence understand why.
the Portuguese Government value emigration and why it has instituted the mock-fund (Goan Emigrants Fund) of Rs. 70,000 to make you feel that it has your interests at heart. If the Goans had not sent the money they send annually to Goa, the Portuguese would have long since quitted the land of our fathers as a hopelessly losing proposition.

In view of this, therefore, we must be well advised of what we do. Owing to the accident of history we are being stigmatised as foreigners in our own land. India is one and indivisible and we are ethnically one with our countrymen in the greater India.

There is, however, a very great reason why Goans in particular should welcome prohibition. This does not perhaps apply so much to our Hindu brethren as our Christians, who are a sort of westernised in their ways, and whether they can afford it or not, spend a good portion of their earning on drinks for Christmas, Easter, wedding and Christening ceremonies, birthdays, funerals and even on occasional visits of friends and relatives.

The drink evil in Goa, as you are aware, is a veritable curse as the Government patronises the sale of liquor from which it derives 8 lakhs of rupee revenue. It has hardly any other sources of revenue, the revenue on liquor being the second biggest among its receipts, and hence the reason why Goa is the most intoxicated country in the world. The average consumption is 5 litres per head which is 2 litres more than France. This sounds shocking and incredible but it is true and the Portuguese Government has been so very much ashamed of it that it has eliminated the statistics of the alcohol industry from the last edition of the Statistical Year Book. The tragedy of it is that even women and little boys drink, and the "litanies" as the Goan Christians are well aware are occasions for drink, which still continue in spite of the pastorals of the Patriarch. Such is the terrible condition of drink in Goa, that it is a devout wish of many a Goan patriot that prohibition were enforced in Goa too. But this cannot be done so long as a foreign Government, which sees nothing but its own interests even at the cost of our degradation, rules Goa. Year after year emigration is on the increase and people were finding it harder and harder to live in our own land, which both God and nature have endowed with riches. Goa is our land and we have our inalienable claims to it and rights over it. The sooner we realise this the better it is for us politically and economically. We have the national awakening all the world over as an open index to us. We have examples of patriots who can rise to win back the land of their fathers and their birth.

Issued By: The Goa Congress Committee (Bombay Branch).

Confidential

No. I/FOI/25

Office of the Deputy Inspector of Police, C. I. D.
Province of Bombay, Post Box No. 46.

Poona 5th March 1940.

My dear Trivedi,

I attach for your information a copy of a leaflet in Maralhi which was found in circulation at Poona, entitled "Problem of Rice in Goa" issued by the Goa Congress Committee, Bombay.

Yours sincerely.

(Signed) .........................
Rao Bahadur N. V. Trivedi, B. A. I. O.
Deputy Commissioner of Police, S. B.
Bombay.

Sir,

With reference to the attached letter from the Poona I. B. re: a pamphlet issued by the Goa Congress Committee, I beg to report it has been printed and published in Bombay. It, however, did not come to our notice here.

I have gone through the same and find that it is a statement issued by the Goa Congress Committee appealing to the natives of Goa to avoid sending monies to their relations in Goa territory, to lessen their expenses in Goa towards decreasing the indirect payment to Goa Government in the form of Customs duty, to bring about voluntary prohibition as the sale of liquor in Goa territory furnishes a revenue of Rs. 9 lacs to Goa Government, to avoid resorting to Goa Courts for any purpose, not to be misguided by the so-called social workers in Goa who are the satellites of Goa Government and to become members of the Goa Congress Committee. The statement in brief reviews the position in Goa territory of the agriculturists and points out they are overburdened with taxes and Customs duty, etc.

The Goa Congress Committee is recognised by the Indian National Congress since 1928. The Bombay Branch has its office at Room No. 16-B. Block ' G ', Ambewadi, Girgaum.

*The Bombay Chronicle, dated 28th January 1940*

**Goans Join Rally**

Bombay Friday.

A feature of this year’s Independence Day celebrations in the city was the prominent part taken by the Goans of Bombay who are Portuguese subjects. Earlier in the day the office of the Goa Congress Committee at Ambewadi was a hive of activity and a meeting was held in the morning when Sjt. Thomas Continho, Secretary of the G.C.C. read out the Independence Pledge to a large gathering of both Hindu and Christian members of the Goan community.

The pledge was read out in English, Portuguese, Marathi and 'Concanim' and solemnly repeated by everyone present.

Sjts. V. A. Karapurkar, President of the Goa Congress Committee, J. P. Lobo, Advocate, G. G. Palekar and V. N. Mayenkar addressed the meeting and explained the significance of the observance. In the evening they participated in the B. P. C. C. procession.

THE RICE PROBLEM IN GOA.

**An analysis of the extortionist policy of Government by the Goa Congress Committee.**

Consternation and despair prevails among the cultivators of Goa at the exorbitant enhancement of the rents of Comunidade (village community) paddy fields. This is a fresh burden that, at this critical time the government has imposed under a new legislation, which was ostensibly brought into existence in the interest of the people.

This prohibitive rent does not only affect the working classes who actually "till the soil but a large number of middle class landless families who lease
these fields and cultivate them with the help of hired labour. Many of these families have their bread winner abroad, where he ekes out a precarious existence and probably just saves enough—to provide for the expenses and rent of the paddy-field of the village community that is to provide enough home-grown rice for the family.

The outrageous increase of rent spells a disaster to all classes of Goans except a few landlords, the big share-holders of the village community and the government which derives a large revenue from this source. Our rulers do not feel the least compunction at the almost famine conditions that prevail among our people; their only objective is revenue, more and more revenue for the State.

This scandalous enhancement of rents is but another instance of the failure of the government to solve our rice problem. It is another proof of the patent fact that this problem is primarily the creation of the financial policy persistently fostered by our rulers for the sake of their own revenue and at the expense of the high cost of the staple food of the Goan people.

In its booklet "Portuguese India", the Goa Congress Committee had forecast this enhancement of rents when it pointed out the contradiction of "keeping high the price of rice while aiming at lowering the rent, when it is only well-known that the high price of the agricultural produce is the cause of the high rent."

As a matter of fact, the official experts who fixed the high rent took the high price of rice as basis for the assessment of the new rent according to principles established by the new law. They went further than the author of the law: they deliberately sabotaged the avowed purpose of the few good measures which were ostensibly taken in the interest of the small cultivator.

This explains why the elimination of the village community middleman (alcista) does not benefit the cultivator but only serves to raise the dividends of its shareholders and to increase to a great extent the government land-tax. For, the new rents have been automatically increased by an amount equal if not superior to the alca which the middle-man was collecting for himself from the cultivator. Thus, the rent which the cultivator must now pay directly to the village community will be the same, if not more than that he had to pay under the previous system to the middle-man. The only difference with the past is that the amount of the alca will now go to increase the dividends of the share holders and the land-tax of the government, instead of going into the pockets of the alcistas.

While in theory the avowed aim of the new law was to "protect the cultivators and bring about an increase in production and the prosperity of the people", as boasted in official booklets published in Konkani, in practice the government itself determined that the rents should not be lowered. It is clearly established in sec. 3 n° 2 that in no case the total income of any village community should be inferior to the total rent obtained by the last auction." The government did this in its own interest, in order to increase the land-tax. For, it even ordered a copy of the revised rent-roll to be sent to the Revenue Department even before the amount of the rent was settled with the cultivators "in order to serve as a basis for the revision of the corresponding land-tax" (sec. 3 n° 6). And the rent fixed in this arbitrary manner was to be accepted by cultivators without any possibility of reduction.
The result is that the meagre advantage of the right of preference accorded to the cultivator over the plot of land he is to cultivate has to be secured by him at a very high price. It is so high that fields would have been left uncultivated but for the fear of shortage of rice due to the war crisis, which compelled the cultivators to take them at any price.

But when the time for paying the rent comes and they find themselves unable to realise the amount, they will have to face the fines convertible into imprisonment of a day for every 8 annas of default. The poor cultivators will have no other choice but debt or prison. Not a few of them will have very likely to prefer prison. That only can open the eyes of the government and lead to a reform of the law.

Thus, once more the failure of a new method pursued by the government to solve the rice problem is already evident. According to its own words, "the condition under which the small cultivator has access to lands, the interference of the middle-man being inevitable, is what renders the cost of production excessively high." But, to the utter disappointment of the Goan cultivator the rents continue to be high even after the elimination of the middle-man and, in some villages, the cultivators will have to pay more than they did to this middle-man. This means that at the cost of poor cultivators the Comunidades will distribute higher dividends, give more money to churches and religious festivities and pay higher taxes to the government. This is the only change introduced by the new reform.

If the government is unable to solve this problem it is because the rice crisis is of its own creation. As the Goa Congress Committee has already pointed out, this crisis is mainly due to the ruinous policy pursued by the Government in order to draw in an incredible amount of revenue. It is this tariff customs policy which has increased the cost of living in Goa and consequently the cost of production of rice. We are unable to produce rice in our country at the same cost of cultivation of the neighbouring country because the wages of labour, the cost of ploughing, the transport, seed etc., are more expensive on account of the high cost of living produced by the high customs duties imposed by the government on the most important commodities.

Instead of trying to lower the cost of production of rice, the government added a new burden by its so-called protective policy. Under the pretext of protecting and increasing the local production of rice, the government further raised the price of the imported rice in order to assure a higher price to local producers. But in actual practice the high price of imported rice only succeeded in rendering even more costly the local rice production since the expenses of farming, such as labourer's wages, the cost of seed, etc., have again shot up with the rise of the price of rice which, being the basic food of the people and the most important article of general use reflects more than anything else on the general cost of living.

Nor does this high price benefit the cultivator, as the rice cultivated in Goa is done by each cultivator in such small and fragmentary plots that the quantity produced hardly suffices for his own domestic consumption, thus precluding the possibility of its being sold at all. As a matter of fact, the high cost of cultivation crushes the peasant and rains agriculture.

Under the oft-repeated pretext of protection the government collected within seven years, since its beginning, from 1931 to 1937, a super-tax on imported rice amounting to Rs. 18,30,837 in addition to the ordinary
customs duty which amounts to Rs. 12,41,119. The income annually derived since the super-tax was started is given below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Super Tax in Rs.</th>
<th>Ordinary Tax in Rs.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1931</td>
<td>71,181</td>
<td>1,77,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1932</td>
<td>4,03,286</td>
<td>1,93,030</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1933</td>
<td>4,88,779</td>
<td>2,34,704</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1934</td>
<td>5,87,684</td>
<td>1,84,644</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1935</td>
<td>68,950</td>
<td>2,10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1936</td>
<td>1,05,519</td>
<td>1,16,800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1937</td>
<td>1,05,438</td>
<td>1,24,561</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For seven years 18,30,837 12,41,199
Total : Rs. 30,72,036

Besides this enormous amount of 30 lakhs of rupees, we have to take into account the unreasonable profits allowed to the merchants under the system of permits. In consequence of these huge duties and profits, rice which constitutes almost the exclusive food of the Goan people and has to be imported in great quantities from British India where it is available at Rs. 6 per bag, costs in Goa Rs. 13 per bag and even Rs. 16 due to the profiteering of merchants.

Of these 30 lakhs of rupees collected under the pretext of protection to the local rice, not a pie has been used for the improvement of cultivation, increasing production or even reducing the cost of cultivation. On the contrary, this high imposition has only contributed, as we have already shown to render even more costly the local rice production.

The government sought to lower the rent of paddy-fields and at the same time to maintain high the price of rice when it is well known that the high rent is the result of the high price. The real reason for this contradictory policy is that the government does not wish to renounce a system which means for it a sure source of revenue every year. Unwilling to surrender this precious and easy income, it tries to throw dust in the eyes of the public by putting all the blame on the landowners, the middlemen in the village community and even the cultivators, against whom are now aimed the new laws and its infamous penalties of fines and imprisonments treating the whole agricultural population as a gang of thieves worthy of the only penalty which is jail.

In Nagar-Haveli, the Portuguese State is the sole owner of vast and fertile lands capable of producing large quantities of rice which could have made up the rice deficit in Portuguese India; but so exorbitant is the rent exacted even today on the estimate of the high prices of rice obtained twenty years back that the farmer population has preferred to emigrate en masse to the neighbouring Indian State, deserting this rich land which is left uncultivated. A fine example indeed of the way our government gives to our peasants free access to lands, protects the cultivators and brings about a rise in production and prosperity to the people.

The most important economic fact in Goa is that the high customs duties imposed on goods of primary necessity under cover of protection have raised the cost of living to the point of affecting the general cost of local production both of agricultural and industrial articles, decreasing the
country's productivity and impoverishing its people. The result is that the population thus deprived of means of living is forced to leave the country and at the same time the country has to import more and more goods which it is unable to produce at competitive cost and to export less and less. Both the mass emigration and the trade deficit are to a great extent a consequence of the government customs policy.

It is a well-known fact that our country is growing economically deficient since the value of its imports is several times superior to the value of its exports. In 1937, the latest year of which trade statistics are available, the value of imports was Rs. 1,41,87,413 as against that of exports of only Rs. 28,83,763, the deficit in the trade being registered at Rs. 1,13,03,650. This huge deficit of 113 lakhs of rupees per year is mostly balanced by the savings sent or brought to Goa by its emigrants since we have no other source of external income excepting the lotteries. It is this hard-earned money that serves to balance the total value of imports which is over five times the value of exports.

Therefore, it is the emigrants’ money that goes to pay for all new burdens resulting from the government's rice policy such as the high price of the imported rice, the enhanced rent of paddy-fields and consequently the increased dividends of the village community shares, the building of churches and the religious festivities to which the village communities contribute and the growing government land-tax.

The price of rice in Goa being more than twice as much as it is in British India, it follows that half of the money paid by the consumers for the imported rice goes to the Government coffers through the customs duties. By the same process, the emigrants' savings being spent in a country where the cost of living is double that of the country where they earn their living the emigrants are defrauded by the Goa government of half of their remittances. The burden of the high cost of living in Goa resulting from the levy of high customs duties on most essential goods is borne by the Goan emigrants.

Therefore, the emigrants burden being the highest is up to them to resist the ruinous financial policy of the Portuguese government. The government finances being absolutely dependent on their remittances, it is their duty to prevent this selfish exploitation. That is why the Goa Congress Committee appeals especially to the emigrants to use their power and move in this direction, acting in the following manner:

1. Reduce to an absolutely necessary minimum their remittances to Goa, which as we have shown, automatically depreciate there at least by half their value; and try as much as possible to invest their money in the country where it is earned.

2. See that as far as possible their remittances are not spent on goods subject to high duties which serve to fill the State treasury.

3. Exercise their influence on the members of their families not to rent the village community, fields at the high prices fixed by the government.

4. Prevent their savings from being spent on alcoholic drinks which are the Government's greatest source of income, that of customs excepting bringing in a revenue of nine lakhs of rupees per year and being responsible for the physical and moral deterioration of our people.
(5) Avoid as far as possible having recourse to government public services either administrative or judicial which only help to swell the income of the government especially through the stamp duty which amounts nearly to seven lakhs of rupees per year.

(6) Beware of the pernicious influence of the government's agents who under cloak of social work, guidance, assistance and charity are preaching resignation and thus helping the government in its exploitation of our people in Goa as well as in British India.

(7) Join and strengthen our Congress Organization which is the only Goan political body aiming at the defence of our birthright and at India's unity with the help of its most powerful institution, and seeks to do away with the customs barrier that separates Goa from the great India. This is the only way of lowering the cost of living in Goa and reducing the cost of agricultural and industrial production including that of rice.

SECRET.

INTELLIGENCE BUREAU (HOME DEPARTMENT)
Government of India,
Simla, dated the 20th June, 1940.

My dear U'ren,

You may be interested to see the attached copy of a letter on Goan politics addressed to T. Braganza Cunha, Salcete Goa by J. Dores Silva, Fateh Mansion, Mazgaon, Bombay.

Yours Sincerely,

(Signed) ………………

C.W.E. U'ren, Esquire, I.P.,
Deputy Commissioner of Police, S.B., Bombay.

Bombay, 12th May 1940.

My Dear Braganza Cunha,

Pardon my long silence. As you may be aware takes me so often away from Bombay for days together ; and add to this the many irons I have in the fire. Some get cold. But I believe I have been doing some useful work in recent times. You are right in assuming that the community, inspite of its unorganised condition, is splitting into pro and anti Congress tendencies. But that is desirable, and even a healthy symptom. Nationalism is growing. But there is no such thing as anti-nationalism : our trouble is national unconsciousness. The opposition to nationalism is confined to a small group led by C. F. who is naturally still hoping to make a bid for power after his dismissal from the management of the Fund. But he must be liquidated. That is the reason why I am trying to instal Fonseca as president of the, G. U., a very difficult task. You are probably not aware that it was definitely decided by the clique in possession of the Goan Union to nominate C. F. as president of the Union. Fortunately I got to know about the move in time and with sheer tactics. and with the assistance of a few friends defeated the plot. But the whole matter of the election is still hanging fire. The rival list for which I stood
was elected at the first meeting but the party in power with Altino Colaco in the chair demanded a poll which was irregular. At the adjourned general meeting we were again successful in resisting illegalities. It seems to me that eventually the matter will be decided in a court of law. I cannot give you details in a letter like this: very likely you have received cuttings of the proceedings. I understand Fonseca will go to Goa in a few days and you might meet him.

I do not know if you are informed about the correspondence that appeared in the *Examiner*. It was a fantical attack on the G.C.C., which I am glad, received a great deal of publicity and has now become much better known than it has ever been before. The argument against the Goa Congress was that it was originally started by an apostle that is you! The correspondence in the *Examiner* was mostly anonymous (though at least one priest was supporting). I believe the attack, much of it unreasonable as fanatical attacks always are, was from Correia Alfonso. But the sum total of the discussion was definitely calculated in putting the G.C.C. on the map. That was after all a splash in the pan- Personally I feel disappointed in the activities of the G.C.C. Very little real and constructive work is being done; and I am afraid the finances are again bad.

I appreciate the interest you take in all these matters and but for you the lights would be out. But I suppose work of this kind must develop gradually. The psychological effect is, however, great and the work must continue. The world is moving so rapidly and even Goa cannot resist the cataclysmic onslaught of the forces at work. If nothing else can be done here or there, we must at least see that enemies of the people are shown up. The present Committee of the Institute Indo Portuguese is more or less invertebrate; I do not suppose they are likely to carry on propaganda for their patrons. So it will be purely social work, pure and simple. Nobody need object to that. But the influence of the old gang is still there and must be broken.

The G.T. has in its English section been publishing a series of articles on the acts of omission and commission of the old Emigrants' Fund Committee. It strikes me that it would be a good thing if the echo of it was heard in the Goa press. I am glad you are anxious to receive cuttings. I am sending you some immediately. There has been a terrible mismanagement but much of it is difficult to expose due to the manner in which things have been done. Information received from reliable sources, from men connected with the Fund, cannot be substantiated; but if we only keep to reports etc., it still makes a good "copy". Could you make a series of articles in some good banner? In fact I should like you to send some important facts to most papers. The series I refer to still continues, and will do so for a couple of weeks more, but the cuttings I am sending you ought to keep you busy for some time.

I have to hand the last issue of the A. L. in which the new policy of S. is discussed. I will follow your instructions and do what I can in the matter.

With all good wishes,

Yours V. Sincerely,

(Signed) J. DORES SILVA,
Membership of Goa Congress

The Jt. Hon. Secy. Goa Congress Committee, Bombay Branch writes: —

The attention of Goans residing in Bombay is drawn to the fact that enrolment of membership of Goa Congress Committee has been started and any person can enrol himself as a member between 6-45 p.m. and 7-30 p.m. on any week day.

As a member of this Executive is an enrolment officer of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee facilities are available to the public for enrolment as members of the Indian National Congress in the office of the Goa Congress Committee, Ambevadi, Girgaon, Bombay.

Goa Congress Committee

Apropos' the announcement from the Joint Honorary Secretary, Goa Congress Committee, Bombay Branch published in your paper on the 19th inst may I draw your attention to the fact that the Indian National Congress closed down years ago the Goa Branch it once maintained? The Indian National Congress had since resolved officially not to maintain any Congress Committees either in the Indian States or the adjacent territory like Portuguese India and if any Congress Committee functions within the jurisdiction of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, its credentials must be examined.

From the correspondence published in the Roman Catholic official paper "Examiner", it appears that Father Raymond, a prominent Catholic Actionist, first supported this Committee. It also appears from the statements published by several Catholic Actionists and the Secretary of the Committee in the Jesuit paper that the Committee accommodates sectarianism that is totally opposed to the principles and policy of the Indian National Congress. The resolutions passed by the All India Catholics' Conference of Bangalore which was organized by Mr. Aloysins Soares, Chevalier Varkey and Mr. B. S. Gilani have produced the demand from the Head Office of the Indian National Congress to be furnished with evidence in support of the allegations made against the late Congress Ministers and the Congress. The 'atrocity' campaign launched by Mr. Soares in the "Examiner" and Mr. Gilani's statement that no Roman Catholic can take part in any political action without the permission of the hierarchy of the Church of Rome repudiate the contention of the Goa Congress Committee that the membership of this Committee is not incompatible with membership of Catholic Action.

The announcement you published is likely to mislead those who have to correct understanding of the background of Goan conditions and the position of the Church of Rome vis-a-vis the active membership of the Congress. The Indian National Congress accepts no hegemony from political or sectarian foreign agency and there is no justification for any Congress Committee for exposing the Indian National Congress to the compromise of the character. It is ridiculous, further, to imagine the Congress allowing its members to carry on anti-Congress propaganda of the kind that is being carried on by Messrs. Varkey and Gilani. In the circumstances, all Goan Nationalists should and must join the Indian National Congress and not any Committee set up under the inspiration, control or influence of Catholic Action.
The Bombay Chronicle, dated 31st August 1940

Goan Artists' Meeting

Under the auspices of the Goa Congress Committee a public meeting of Goan Artists will be held to-day (Saturday) at 6 p.m. to protest against the Art Exhibition in Goa. The meeting will be held at the offices of the Goa Congress Committee, Ambewadi, Girgaum, opposite Majestic Cinema.

The Bombay Chronicle, dated 30th August 1940

Goans Demand Prohibition

Promise Full Support To Bombay Prohibition Board.

The following resolution was passed by the Executive Committee of the Goa Congress Committee in its meeting held on August 19: —

This meeting of the Executive Committee having considered the beneficial effects of the Prohibition policy of the Congress Ministry of the Province of Bombay and of the immense good which the introduction of Prohibition in the City of Bombay did to the people of this city and to the Goans in particular, and having witnessed the immediate results of this policy evidenced by the raising of the moral tone of the Goan people and an improvement in their economic conditions, regret that the Government of this Province, now in being, has not given effect to the Prohibition policy of the Congress Ministry inspite of their declared intention to do so.

Having given full consideration to all these factors this Committee is of conviction that Prohibition is a necessity for the people of India, and hereby resolve to give full co-operation to the Prohibition Board of the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee in its efforts to re-introduce Prohibition in this Province.

Bombay, the 3rd September 1940.

Sir,

Reference attached, I beg to report that in accordance with the advice and suggestions of Subhas Chandra Bose some Goans organised in Bombay under the banner of the Congress and formed Goa Congress Committee in October 1938 having opened its office on the 2nd floor, 21, Dalai Street Fort, Bombay. Its office is now situated in room No. 16-B. Block “ G ” Ambewadi, Girgaum, Bombay. They have named it as the Goa Congress Committee (Bombay Branch).

This Committee is known as Goa Congress Committee (Bombay Branch).

Bombay, 5th September 1940.

The Commissioner of Police,

Bombay.

Dear Sir,

I beg to bring to your notice that a lawyer by name of J. P. Lobo, having his office at Jambulwadi, Dhobitalao, Bombay, Opposite Edward Cinema, is carrying on agitation against the subscriptions to the War Fund being collected in the Goan residential Clubs at Mazgaon.

I may add that he is from Goa and naturalized British subject. He is the President of the Mazgaon Federation of Goan Clubs, and also the
Manager of St. Joseph's Club, situated at Love Lane, Mazgaon. This man is active member of the Goa Congress Committee and though many Goans are loyal to the Kind Emperor and want to subscribe liberally to the Fund, this man is spreading sedition and injecting poison in the minds of illiterate members of the Mazgaon Clubs.

I hope you will be kind enough to order inquiries to be made regarding the truth of the above statements and take the necessary action if you think so.

Yours faithfully,
A Patriot.
Bombay, 7th October 1940.

Sir,

With reference to the attached I beg to report that J. P. Lobo is to be one Mr. Josep Piedade Lobo, Ch. (R.C.), aged about 48 years, occ. Advocate, Res. 36-40, Gowalia Tank, Bombay. He is a native of Goa and is a Naturalized British subject. He passed the matriculation examination of the Bombay University in the year 1918 and B.A. examination from St. Xavier's College in 1922. He passed the LL.B. Examination in the year 1925 and is practising in Small Causes and Police Courts in Bombay. He is a President of the Mazgaon Federation Goanese Club and Manager of the St. Joseph Club Mazgaon.

It is a fact that he is connected with the Goa Congress Committee in Bombay. Enquiries made in the locality go to show that Mr. Joseph Lobo has been collecting Funds for war purposes from Goanese people from Mazgaon and has appealed the Congress people from clubs at Mazgaon to contribute towards war funds. I could not get any corroboration of the allegations against him that he is carrying anti-war propaganda. Someone seems to have maliciously sent this anonymous petition against him.

Sd/—
Sub-Inspector of Police,
C.I.D., S.B. (I).

The Bharat Jyoti, dated 6th April 1941

National Week

Goa Congress Committee Plans : Bombay, Saturday.

The attention of all Goans is drawn to the celebration of National Week which begins on Sunday, the 6th instant and ends with the observance of Jallianwalla Bagh Day on Sunday the 13th instant.

The observance of National Week this year has a special significance for us, and should be observed in a special manner.

In order therefore that all Goans should celebrate this week in the manner set out by the Bombay Provincial Congress Committee, the Goa Congress Committee requests all its members to join in the observance of National Week according to the programme arranged by the District Congress Committees of the Wards in which they live.

Below copy of No. 215 dated 28th December 1941 with its enclosure from Railway Police Inspector, Special Duty, Goa Frontier Castlerock Regarding S. X. Mendis,
Confidential.

No. 2/IND/39-III

Province of Bombay, Post Box No. 46.
Poona 8th January 1942.

Forwarded with compliments to the Deputy Commissioner of Police S.B.I. Bombay, for information.

Assistant:

To The Inspr. Gen. of Police, C.I.D. Intelligences Branch Province of Bombay, Poona.

CL/GR

Sir,

There is nothing on record about S. X. Mendis.

Encl: 2
No. 215 of 1941.
Castlerock, dated 28th December 1941.

To,

The Deputy Inspector General of Police,
Criminal Investigation Department,
Province of Bombay, Poona.

Reference.—No. 7/FOR/1941, dated 8th August 1941.

Subject.—Incident of interest to C.I.D.

Sir,

I respectfully report that one S. X. Mendis, an Indian Portuguese National travelled by 28 Down on 27th December 1941 ex Goa to Bombay. On arrival of the train at Castlerock he was asked to declare about letters etc. in his possession. Amongst his papers a resolution passed by Goa Youth League at its meeting held on 22nd December 1941 was found. It is kept herewith for favour of information. He appeared to be a political agitator and expresses views against Salazar Regime for his double dealings and failing side with the allies.

From the conversation with him it transpired that he is a member of Goa Youth League and also Member of Indian Federation of Labour, Bombay. It is learnt that this individual with another colleague of his one R. Khatkade also a member of Goa Youth League sought for a political interview with his Majesty's Britanic Consul at Nova Goa to express their views on Salazar regime.

I beg to remain,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant.

(Signed)

Railway Police Inspector, Special duty
Goa Frontier Castlerock.
Goa Youth League.
Nova Goa.

This meeting of the Central Executive of the Goa Youth League fully sympathises with Russia, China, Britain and America for the heroic struggle they are carrying against the Fascist Dictatorship in the world. Allied force occupied Timor to check Fascist progress in the Far East. By protesting the occupation the time has now come for Salazar to decide once for all, instead of double dealings his stand in this war. And should Salazar choose to link the fate of Portugal with that of the Axis avowedly, the people of Goa firmly appreciate the step which for Britain would be inevitable to take as regards the Salazar regime in Portuguese India.

President.
Bombay, 20th January 1942

Sir,

With reference to the attached, I beg to state that we have no papers about S. X. Mendis or R. Khatkade mentioned therein. Both appear to be connected with the Goa Youth League and the Goa Congress Committee in Goa. Their names do not appear in our files of the Goa Congress Committee of Bombay and also the Goa Youth League, Bombay.

The Labour Branch has a file of the Indian Federation of Labour, but the names of either of them are not mentioned therein.

GOAN ASSOCIATION
361, Hornby Road, Fort,
Bombay, 25th July 1944.

The Consul for Portugal,
Portuguese Consulate,
Bombay.

Sir,

Reference.—Goan Union Mass Meeting and Goa Congress Committee’s Pamphlet "Attack on Indian Rupee" "Portuguese Fascism Exposed."

I beg to draw your attention to the report published by the Goan Union in the Goan Press in Bombay including the Goa Times, in its issue of July 22nd 1944 at page 9 under the caption "NAGOILET Rs. 1,00,00,000" and signed by Mr. J. P. Lobo, for Special Committee of the Goan Union. From the aforesaid report which is in konkani, you will readily see that it is introducing to the Goan public a booklet styled as "An attack on Indian Rupee" and "Portuguese Fascism Exposed", and alleged to have been published by the Goa Congress Committee, I am enclosing a copy of the said pamphlet for your ready reference and the same is at present available to the public at New Book Depot, on Hornby Road, Bombay. We have gone through it and find that it contains several false and malicious statements against the Portuguese Government with ulterior motives. On your perusal of the said pamphlet we feel sure that you will agree with us that the object of the writer is to bring the Portuguese Government to contempt in misrepresenting facts to the outside world. The Pamphlet also makes unfounded attack on Dr. Salazar, our Premier and his Government.
From the reports in the Press and the aforesaid report in the Goa Times dated 22nd July 1944, it is clear that the Goan Union is a party to bring the Portuguese Government to contempt in upholding such blackmailing publication against the Portuguese Government, and it appears from the said report that at the forthcoming meeting of the Goan Union fixed for on 30th July 1944 at 11-00 a.m. at the Instituto Luso Indiano’s Hall, Burrows Lane, Bombay the organizers of the meeting intend to expose the Portuguese Government in the same manner the author of the aforesaid pamphlet has misrepresented facts in the said publication.

In this connection I would draw your attention to the speech delivered by Mr. J. P. Lobo at the meeting of the Goan Union held on 23rd April 1944 at St. Annes Girls School, Burrows Lane, where he had publicly asserted that the merchants were charging 10 to 12 per cent "Vhattau" for exchanging British Indian currency into Portuguese Indian currency and that it seemed to him there was also the hand of the Government behind this business.

The organizers of the meeting have not cared to study the exchange problem nor it is apparent that their object is to solve the exchange problem but the meeting is being organized to avail of an opportunity of call a Mass Meeting with a view to bring the Portuguese Government to contempt. The reports published by the Special Committee of the Goan Union in the Press on 15th April 1944 and subsequent reports and the discussion held at the last meeting held on 23rd April 1944 all reveal that the organisers have not cared to study the subject and one of the reasons for adjourning the meeting was due to the House being convinced of the ulterior object of the organizers, were not prepared to allow them to pass any resolutions unless proper notice was given to all the existing institutions and members of the Goan Union so that all could come and enlighten the house on the issue. You will appreciate that no steps have been taken by the organisers to that end but instead ever since they have been carrying on mischievous propaganda with a view to have large number of people present at the meeting and there bring the Portuguese Government to contempt. If that was not the idea, then one sees no reasons why the aforesaid pamphlet has been referred to in the signed report of the Goan Union to the Press, and why they have not asked for co-operation or advice over this matter from other institutions who have already moved in the matter namely the "Instituto Indo Portuguese and the Goan Association", and inspite of the fact that all the papers edited in Bombay both vernacular and English have been publishing the reports of the steps taken by the institutions for the purpose of solving the Exchange problem. You too are aware Sir, that this institution has already moved H.E. the Minister for Colonies in the matter and the representation is at present before the authorities. It is, therefore, clear that there is no justification in the Mass Meeting of Goans under the auspices of the Goan Union when the other institutions long before the Goan Union thought of it had already done what was necessary, and the matter was pending decision of the Government.

As I have already stated above, the motives of the organizers of the forthcoming meeting is nothing but to carry on false propaganda with a view to bring the Portuguese Government to contempt and so that the authorities might not think that the Goan Community is behind this move in Bombay, I am approached to bring these facts to your notice, so that prompt action might be taken by you in the right direction to see that our Government is not ridiculed by some interested parties in British India in the name of Goans.
I may also state that on enquiries I learn that there is no such organization as "Goa Congress Committee" and it would be proper for you to send a copy of the aforesaid publication to the Intelligence Department with a request to find out who are the members, who is in the Committee, if regular meetings are held and minute book is maintained etc. As far as I understand with a view to avoid the clutches of law the name of the Goa Congress Committee is mentioned so as to show that the publication is made by the aforesaid Committee. It would be easy to find out from the New Book Co. as to who has been placing the book for sale there and also from the Press as to who had given the book for printing. The investigation Department I am sure, will be able to trace the necessary information and proper steps to ban a publication which is full of false propaganda.

You will be no doubt aware that at present no Meeting can be carried on without the previous consent from the Commissioner of Police, and as this meeting is most objectionable, I am sure it should not be difficult for you to represent the case as is apparent from the enclosed documents as to the authorities concerned, so that necessary measures are promptly taken.

I assure you that this Association will render you all possible Co-operation in the matter.

I have the honour to remain,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,
(Signed) POMPEIA VIEGAS,
(V S. de POMPEIA VIEGAS),
Hony. Secretary.

Encl. One Pamphlet
“An attack on Indian Rupee—Portuguese Fascism Exposed”.
A copy of the Goa Times, dated 22nd July 1944.

Copy to H.E. Dr. Oliveira Salazar,
H.E. the Minister for Colonies,
H.E. the Governor General of
Portuguese India, for information.

True copy.
Portuguese Consulate at Bombay 28th July 1944.
Vice Consul for Portugal Incharge
of the Consulate of Portugal.

Consulado General de Portugal
Na India Britanica
Bombay.
No. 387
Proc. 12.
The Commissioner of Police,
Bombay.
Bombay, 28th July 1944.
Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that yesterday I have written to the Government of Bombay requesting the ban of the sale of the enclosed
pamphlet entitled "An Attack on the Indian Rupee—Portuguese Fascism Exposed", published
by the Goa Congress Committee, and to take such steps as may be deemed necessary against the
author of the said publication, as it contains highly objectionable matter against the Portuguese
Government and their Premier Dr. Oliveira Salazar.

2. To-day, I have received a letter from the Honorary Secretary, "Goan Association "
forwarding a copy of the said pamphlet and also a copy of the newspaper "The Goa Times", dated
the 22nd instant, calling my attention to the Mass Meeting of Goan Community which is to be held at
the Instituto Luso Indiano Hall on Sunday the 30th instant at 11-15, in which letter, he states :-

From the reports in the Press and the aforesaid report in the Goa Times, dated 22nd July
1944, it is clear that the Goan Union is a party to bring the Portuguese Government to contempt in
upholding such blackmailing publication against the Portuguese Government, and it appears from
the said report that at the forthcoming meeting of the Goan Union fixed for on 30th July 1944 at 11
a.m. at the Instituto Luso Indiano Hall, Burrows Lane, Bombay, the organizers of the meeting intend
to expose the Portuguese Government in the same manner the author of the aforesaid pamphlet
has misrepresented facts in the said publication.

3. In view of what has appeared in the said " Goa Times " and the pamphlet and what has
been stated in the letter of the Goan Association's Secretary, I beg to request you to be so good as
either to prevent the holding of the proposed Mass Meeting of Goans, or in the alternative, to take
such steps as to prevent in the said Meeting any reference whatsoever to the said pamphlet and to
the offensive correspondence which has appeared in certain papers, as well as stop any damaging
statements or remarks against the Portuguese Government and Portuguese Authorities.

4. For your perusal and necessary action I enclose herewith a copy of the above mentioned
letter from the Secretary, " Goan Association " and also a copy of the said " Goa Times " in which
on Page 9 there appears an article under the heading " Nagolet Rs. 1,00,00,000" (Swindling of Rs
1,00,00,000), signed by J. P. Lobo for the Special Committee of the Goan Union. In this article the
signatory refers to the above mentioned pamphlet and calls the Goans to the Meeting in which he
proposes to give full details of the alleged swindling.

5. Trusting that you will be good enough to give serious and urgent consideration to the
subject matter of this letter and to take immediate and requisite measures, I thank you much in
anticipation

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.
(Signed)  ...................

Vice-Consul for Portugal, In charge of the
Consulate of Portugal.
No. 6251/4

To

The Vice-Consul for Portugal,
In charge of the Consulate of Portugal,
British India, BOMBAY.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 387/12-0-44, dated 28th July 1944. I have the honour to inform you that the question of prescribing objectionable literature rests with the Government of Bombay and not with me. I am, therefore, awaiting the orders of the Government of Bombay on your request addressed to it before taking any action in the matter of the pamphlet entitled "An attack on the Indian Rupee—Portuguese Fascism Exposed."

2. With regard to the meeting convened by the Goan Union at the Instituto Luso Indiano Hall, Burrows Lane, Bombay, I regret I am unable either to prevent the holding of this meeting or to control the subjects discussed therein as the meeting is legally a private one and does not, therefore, come under the general ban existing upon the holding of public meetings.

3. Much as I regret my inability to comply with your requests, it will be clear to you that I have no legal authority to intervene in this matter. and the only course open to you is, therefore, to approach the Government of Bombay.

I have the honour to be.

Sir,

Your most obedient servant.

(Signed)  …………….

Dated, 20th October 1944

Sir,

Two copies of the book English entitled "Denationalization of Goans" (Padma) have been purchased from the Padma Publication Limited, and Put up herewith. A review of this book is published on page 18 of the Bombay Chronicle Weekly, dated the 8th October 1944 and covers two third of this page.

A draft reply is put up below forwarding a copy of this book to Government as desired :—


O.C.

D.C.P., S.B.I.
An Attack on the Indian Rupee.

PORTUGUESE FASCISM EXPOSED: ISSUED BY THE GOA CONGRESS COMMITTEE.

DEBASING THE RUPEE.

Public opinion in India is unaware of an insidious attack launched on the Indian rupee, although this is going on for sometime within the Indian territory itself. Both the public and the Government of India seem to ignore that, under the inspiration of the Dictatorial Government of Portugal, British Indian currency has been forcibly depreciated in the neighbouring territory of Goa. Under its so called "neutral" war policy, the Portuguese Government is systematically undermining the value of the Indian current medium of exchange to the advantage of its own inconvertible paper notes.

The British Indian currency has circulated always freely in Portuguese India alongside with the Portuguese currency, for both the currencies have the same unit, the silver rupee. As a matter of fact, British Indian money was accepted in Goa at a small premium, as everyone knew it to be a sounder money. All of a sudden, taking advantage of a critical moment for Great Britain in the present war, an order was issued by the Portuguese Fascist Government to all its offices and departments to refuse British Indian currency notes and coins. It was for the first time in the history of Portuguese India that such an exceptional measure was taken against the Indian rupee. No public explanation was given for the newly introduced important change. It is most significant that no such step was taken in the first Great War, when Portugal fought as an ally of Great Britain, although the other economic and financial relations between the two countries were the same. The only condition in these relations which is not the same is that Portugal is ruled during the present war by a Fascist Dictatorship.

As it could be easily foreseen, this sudden order upset foreign exchanges, disorganized trade and most of the Indian rupee, causing harm to India's credit. As a result of Government refusal to accept British Indian metallic and paper currency although it is still permitted a restricted circulation in the country, the situation has completely reverted to the detriment of the Indian rupee. British Indian coins and paper notes are now exchanged at a great loss against the Portuguese bank notes. The Banco National Ultramarino, a bank controlled by State and the only one functioning in Goa, practically refuses to exchange British Indian currency notes, but a host of private money changers, allowed to trade freely with currencies against all clear dictates of law, only accept them at fantastic discount.

Following the Government example, one by one the other public institutions controlled by Government as the municipalities, the village community associations, the lottery and charity organizations, Santa Casa and Hospicio, also started refusing Indian currency and stipulated for payment in Portuguese currency. In its turn, even the Railway Company, although managed by a British concern, the Madras and Southern Mahratta Railway, found itself constrained, since December 1943, to accept only Portuguese currency and to refuse British Indian money. And gradually, the petty traders dealing with the so-called controlled-price articles, such as rice, sugar, kerosene, and oil, began refusing to accept payments in the Indian currency. As a matter of fact everyone in Goa, acts as if they had lost faith in the money issued under the authority of the Government of British India.
But the most extraordinary of all is that, after the fateful decision of the Portuguese Government, everybody accepts as unquestioned the stability of the Portuguese currency as compared with the British currency. Everyone seems to take for granted that the respective values have reversed due to the fortunes of the war. Although this is a direct consequence of Government's order the simple-minded new faith in the Portuguese currency is based on the ignorance of its true nature which is known to few people. A close examination will show how unreliable and risky is the credit attached to this currency which has nevertheless superseded the all-India rupee. It will show too, how low has sunk the credit of the British Indian rupee in the minds of the people in consequence of the Fascist move.

THE PORTUGUESE CURRENCY.

The monetary unit of Goa is the silver rupee and its whole monetary system is governed by the British Indian system. The Portuguese currency circulating in the country consists of small amount of coins minted by the Government and a great amount of paper notes issued by the \textit{Banco National Ultramarino} under State control. The only metallic coins minted by the State are those of small denomination made of silver, nickel, copper and some other alloy. Gold money has never been coined by Portuguese Government mints and even insufficient for the needs of local circulation.

It was precisely the incapacity of the Portuguese State to produce the necessary quantity of metallic coins for circulation that forced the government to allow, in spite of the law, the free circulation of the British Indian coins within the Portuguese territory. Due to this lack of coins, even in peace time Portuguese paper notes of one rupee, eight annas and four annas were circulating in Goa, some of them torn, mended, dirty and falling to pieces because no regular withdrawal of soiled notes and the issue of new ones was ever in use. That is why the main demand for small cash was and still is met by British Indian coins. It was due to lack of Portuguese coins that the Portuguese bank-notes were never convertible into silver rupee. They badly need British Indian coins which paradoxically enough they now deprecate. One can imagine the plight of the people who, have now to produce Portuguese coins even for their small purchases.

The bulk of the Portuguese currency consists of paper notes issued under legal control by the \textit{Banco National Ultramarino}. The huge amount of inconvertible notes issued by this bank is kept in circulation only by virtue of the power of State for it has no gold reserve and its fiduciary backing is insignificant. The fate of the issue depends entirely on the precarious stability of the bank and the fortunes of the Portuguese State. This currency is not accepted nor exchanged anywhere outside Goa, not even in other Portuguese colonies. Such is the money which is being given preference to the rupee linked to pound sterling and accepted all over India. To appreciate the instability of the Goan paper currency one has only to know the peculiar nature of the bank by whom it is issued.

THE "BANCO NACIONAL ULTRAMARINO"

The \textit{Banco Nacional Ultramarino} or the "National Overseas Bank" is a private banking institution which enjoys the monopoly of issuing banknotes, subject to Government legal control, throughout the Portuguese colonial Empire, with the exception of the Portuguese colony of Angola.
in Western Africa. It possesses no adequate metallic backing to ensure free convertibility of its notes into the standard value. The reserves of the bank consists of notes of the Banco de Portugal and other notes, coins and securities which in their turn have no adequate metallic backing.

The prime and almost the sole function of this bank is the emission of paper notes. It is of little or no use for financing industry and the trade of the country. It accepts deposits but they earn no interests. The government-controlled institutions are compelled by law to deposit their funds in the bank without receiving any interests, tens of lakhs of rupees being thus locked in Goa as well as in its Bombay Branch. It seldom grants loans and does at such high rates that they are almost prohibitive. Theoretically, the notes issued are convertible into the standard metal according to Article 40 of the law of July 26th, 1929 regulating the matter, but actually the bank was never able to fulfil its promise even in normal times. At present it is issuing notes to an amount of nearly Rs. 1,40,00,000. The exact figure is not disclosed since the monthly publication of its balance-sheets has been suddenly stopped for unknown reasons.

At the end of the last war, the Banco Ultramarino induced people to transfer their funds to Portugal predicting the escudo. Through the intermediary of its offices, large funds were transferred from India to Portugal but instead of the foreseen increase a catastrophic fall of the escudo caused the ruin of many Goan families who lost 90 per cent, of their remittances in the speculation. Under the present Dictatorial system the speculation goes on a bigger scale and at the cost of the Indian currency the number of victims being now unlimited and spreading outside Goa. For the bank is now all-powerful, some of its share-holders holding high posts in the Dictatorial Government of Portugal. Like most of the colonial banks, as it was well known in the case of the French Bank of Indo China, it has strong pro-fascist leanings.

ILLEGALITY AND SECRECY.

Under Art. 46 of the Dictatorial Decree of July 26th, 1929, the Banco National Ultramarino, being the only bank existing in Portuguese India, is bound to conduct the exchange operations at rates issued by official quotations. But after the order given by the Government to its departments to refuse British Indian currency not only did it cease to fulfil the legal obligation to regulate the exchange rate and issue and post the official quotations, but as we have already said, it simply refused to exchange British Indian currency.

The same article forbids under the pain of law to deal with foreign currencies without special license. But suddenly, after the new Government order, a host of money changers have appeared in the market and almost every merchant transacts with currencies, some accepting British Indian coins at a discount of As. 2 per rupee, others exchanging notes at a high rate of 15 per cent, to 20 per cent, and still others at more fantastic rates. Under the very eyes of the authorities or with their complicity, speculators act openly spreading wild rumours about the war the Japanese invasion, the Indian National Movement and the inflation in India. Thus in a truly Fascist manner the dictatorial rulers resort to the violation of their own law when it suits their purpose. Of course the deliberate lawlessness serves to conceal the gambling manipulations of the bank.
The whole operation is conducted in the typical Jesuits manner of the Portuguese Dictatorship. Every step taken in the matter was kept secret. No special law was issued to bring about such important change in the life of the country. Only a confidential order to refuse British currency was given by the government to its departments. Without making the slightest amendment to the law which regulates the function of the bank, it was quietly allowed to employ black market methods in dealing with British Indian currency. The bank was simply permitted to stop the publication of rates of exchange in contravention of the Article of the law. Without any public explanation the publication of the monthly balance-sheets of the bank in the government gazette was stopped. In spite of the penalty imposed by law, a multitude of money changers are freely allowed to speculate with the debased Indian rupee. The only official explanation given for introducing this revolutionary change in the economic and financial life of the country was a curt reference to the sovereign rights of the Government of Portugal to act in the matter without having to give account to anybody.

**THE GROWING DISCREDIT OF THE RUPEE.**

Alarmed by the increasing discredit of his money, the British Consul in Portuguese India, a special representative nominated for the period of war, summoned to his quarters some British Indian merchants dealing with exchanges and warned them for their activities prejudicial to British credit. But this did not bring any change in the state of affairs as they quietly pursued their transactions under the protection of the Portuguese authorities. The depreciation of the Indian rupee continued to grow at the same pace both to the disadvantage of the Indian credit and of the producers and consumers of Goa.

The discredit created by government action is so great that people have to get rid of the depreciated Indian currency and to hoard the valueless paper of the Banco Nacional Ultramarino as if it were a precious treasure. Goan emigrants coming back from British India and Africa with their hard-earned savings immediately on their arrival exchange the greater part into Portuguese notes and keep them safe to assure their future. They are unaware of the great risk they run in saving the worthless currency which is entirely dependent on the not very bright future of the Portuguese Colonial Bank. The panicky atmosphere is solely due to the abrupt and mysterious refusal on the part of the Government to accept a money which was previously accepted as of equal if not superior value.

The arbitrary action of the Government of Portugal is characteristic of the Fascist regime which aims at serving the interests of the big banks at the expense of common people. The forced debasement of the Indian currency, provoked for the sole benefit of the colonial bank is depriving Goan emigrants of many lakhs of rupees of their savings. It is well known that in normal years previous to this war the amount of their remittances to Goa was of more than a crore of rupees per year. It has considerably increased at present. Calculating at only 15 per cent. the discount they suffer, the total loss can be put safely at more than 25 lakhs per year. It is nothing less than a bare-faced robbery reminiscent of the method of plunder employed by the Nazis in the occupied countries of Europe. Besides, one shudders to think over the fate which awaits in future of the hoarded currency. Also great is the loss to the export
trade of Goa which is almost entirely done with British India. Previous to war the amount of the exports amounted to one fifth of the imports, while in 1941 they fell to one seventh.

As a matter of fact, even in normal times the very existence of the huge and valueless paper issue which the local population is forced to accept as legal tender was responsible for the rise in the cost of living which prevails in Goa. Automatically, it provoked a depreciation of the value of money which means a rise in the general level of prices, since this increase of money is made without any corresponding increase in the volume of commodities. For this currency has no stake in the country and is not related to any productive activity. Its use and circulation is assured by mere imposition of the Government for the exclusive benefit of the imperialist interests. Even its present revaluation does not benefit the country.

The higher rates of the Portuguese notes which prevail for the moment in the internal market may enable the Government officers and those who are paid in this currency to buy up everything cheaper than the common people who only possess British Indian currency and have to suffer greater privations. But it is an illusory privilege, for they too are affected by the rise in the general cost of living brought by the imposition of the inconvertible money and this rise is far greater than the benefit they gain by being paid in Portuguese currency. Both the existence of this currency and the high customs barrier established to increase the government income are responsible for the dearness of living prevailing in Goa in comparison with other parts of India. They reduced the purchasing-power of the rupee to half of its real value. They are the main instruments of the economic ruin of our country.

THE CUSTOMS BARRIER.

Concerning the customs policy of the Portuguese Government we have only to repeat here what we have explained more at length on other occasions. The high customs duties imposed on goods of prime necessity such as rice and other staple foods, under cover of protection to local agriculture, have raised the cost of living to the point of affecting the general cost of local production, thus decreasing the country's productivity and impoverishing the people. The main result is that the population, deprived of the means of living is forced to emigrate and at the same time the country has to import more and more goods which it is unable to produce at competitive cost of production and to export less and less. Both the Goan mass emigration and the unfavourable balance of trade are to a great extent a consequence of the customs policy linked with the Portuguese currency.

In fact, Portuguese India is growing economically deficient since the amount of its imports is several times superior to the value of its exports. In 1940, the value of imports was Rs. 1,45,74,060 as against that of exports of only Rs. 28,88,666 the deficit in the trade being registered at Rs. 1,16,85,394. Later on the position worsened, the value of imports being more than seven times superior to the exports instead of five times. The huge deficit of more than a crore of rupees per year is mostly balanced by the savings sent or brought to Goa by its emigrants since there is no other source of external income after the ban of Goan lotteries in British India. It is the hard earned money of the emigrants that serves to balance the value of imports.
Under the present Fascist Dictatorship of Salazar, the ruinous customs policy together with the extortionist currency system have been ruthlessly aggravated. Both have reduced the Goan population to a state of dire poverty forcing it to leave the country en masse as domestic servants or cheap menial or clerical workers. For the imperialist policy of the Portuguese " New State " is frankly based on the racialist doctrine of the Colonial Act or the Act Colonial of Salazar which emphatically denies the population of the colonies the right of self-determination and considers this to be an exclusive attribute of the Portuguese race of conquerors.

PORTUGUESE FASCISM.

Under the regime of this " New State " which is a replica of the Fascist " New Order ", Goans have been deprived of the most elementary rights. All civil liberties have been suppressed even in peace time. They are denied proper representation in public bodies. The authorities are not responsible to Goan interests and welfare. Long before the war the press has been subjected to a severe pre-censorship which does not allow the slightest criticism of the authorities and ruthlessly suppresses even well-known facts. The rupee problem is not allowed to be openly discussed in Goa. The country is under an arbitrary police rule. The new imperialism is run under the blasphemous symbol of the " Cross and Sword". More than ever Goans have been politically and mentally enslaved and have become so blind to their abject condition that their press willingly praises the racialist Salazar only for being a religious minded person. Indeed, Goa has become a Fascist outpost in India.

In every respect, the new political and economic regime of Portugal is akin to those of the Axis powers. In many of its aspects it draws inspiration from the Fascist and Nazi doctrines. The Parliament of the previous democratic republican regime has been suppressed and replaced by a decorative assembly packed with dummies. The elections are a farce. Political parties are forbidden excepting the Uniao Nacional which is a Fascist organisation. Its corporative feature has been copied from Italian Fascism. Politically, it is reactionary, culturally medieval and obscurantist and in every other respect backward. Its pro-Axis character was plainly shown during the Spanish Civil War, when Salazar boasted of its military participation in the fight against the republican democratic-forces at the side of the Spanish Falangists, the Italian Fascists and the Hitlerites.

One can thus easily understand why the sympathies of the Portuguese Dictatorship go to those who now fight against the democracies. It has, however, declared its " neutrality " in the present war paying at the same time lip homage to the " old alliance" between Portugal and Great Britain. To justify this dubious attitude, different from what was taken in the last Great War under the democratic republican regime, Salazar explained that he replied on the assurance given by Hitler " that he intended to respect the integrity of Portugal and of the Overseas Possessions should we remain neutral." But at the height of the Nazi victory in Europe, while the " old ally " was engaged in a life-and-death struggle, he took advantage of the " neutrality " to create a lack of confidence in the British Indian currency. And this was done precisely when most people believed in the invincibility of the Nazis and the British prestige was at its lowest ebb, in December 1940. The move, taken at this psychological moment, led the ignorant Goan people to get rid of the " unreliable " war currency.
Now that the position has changed in Europe the speculators on the political stock exchange still play on the probability of the Japanese invasion of India and the fate of the British Empire in the East with the unpredictable consequences for the rupee which ignorant folk consider as more British than Indian.

**INEFFECTIVE RETALIATION.**

The failure of the British representative in Goa to bring pressure on the Merchants led to a further discredit of the rupee. In retaliation for the Portuguese Government's adamant attitude in this question, all sorts of obstacles have been created on the British Indian side to Goan imports and exports, for which we are almost entirely dependent on the Indian market and transport thus completely upsetting trade relations with the neighbouring territory. But the retaliatory measures have proved quite ineffective since they do not affect the Government nor the Bank and only hurt the Goan population for whom the Portuguese imperialist rulers never had the slightest concern. That is why the indirect methods have failed to influence a Government absolutely indifferent towards our people. They have only increased the lack of the bare necessities and the state of starvation which the helpless population is enduring without a single protest. In fact, most of the sufferings now endured by Goans are due to this forced debasement of the Indian rupee.

Due to these reprisals, Goa is lacking in the most essential food and other articles of daily consumption. The scarcity has raised the prices to more than twice and thrice of those in the neighbouring country. Due also to lack of any rationing and effective price control, to the existing free profiteering and hoarding, Goa has become a great black market swarming with food racketeers. Rice which can be rarely had at the official price can be always obtained at about one rupee a seer. Sugar which is denied in the ration shops is available outside at one rupee or more a pound. And so on for other articles. The situation is so unbearable that even the moneyed class prefer to leave the country and settle in British India only to be able to assure the indispensable necessaries of life. The emigrant who returns home can see that the plight of his people is worse than of the peoples who are at war.

When the Goan seaman on British ships comes back home after escaping death in far away seas, he is met with sad reception at the frontier railway station of Collem. He is made to pay customs duties even for the small gifts he brings to his relatives, and for that he must produce Portuguese currency. As he is only able to pay with the British Indian currency at his disposal, he meets with a sharp refusal on the part of the customs officers. Since no registered money changers exist, he has to acquire Portuguese currency from suspicious looking persons who roam about the station. He depends entirely on them and has to bargain hard to save the value of his precious money, for no rates of exchange are fixed by any authority. In some cases emigrants received only a Portuguese bank-note of Rs. 5 for a British Indian currency note of Rs. 10. No wonder that on reaching home he thinks first in keeping safe his precious savings by converting them into a more "reliable" currency. Such is the power of the myth created by a simple order of the Fascist power.

How long are Goans to endure the unbearable situation?
How long are the Government and the public opinion of India going to tolerate the discredit of the Indian rupee?

As a result of the Goan lethargy and the olympian passivity of the official circles of India, the debasement of the British Indian currency can only go on increasing with the prolongation of war which puts a heavy strain on Indian public finance. Since the beginning of the treacherous operation started in Goa more than three years ago, the process has been going from bad to worse. People will continue to lose faith in British Indian financial stability to an extent that they will completely refuse payment in a currency which is forfeiting its claim to the title of money. And no one can foretell that it will not create a wide-spread distrust even outside Goa. A writer connected with the Banco Ultramarino trying to defend in a Bombay paper, confesses that large sums have been transferred from Bombay to Goa even by people who are altogether strangers to Goa. They too are bound to suffer from the final collapse of the inconvertible currency.

It is, therefore, high time to stop this speculation which is taking advantage of a great crisis to destroy confidence in the Indian currency. Such a matter cannot be dismissed under the pretext that Goa is of very small importance in India. Measures more effective than those already tried without success are badly needed. The failure of the past methods of appeasing the dictators is known to all by its tragic results. Yet the policy of calm complacency towards the minor satellites of the Axis powers seems to continue. They are even allowed to imperil the stability of the Indian rupee inside India. Unless an end is put to the mischief manipulation the present state of affairs will go on deteriorating. It is in the interest of India to save the credit of her money.

Sir,

Copies of messages from H. B. M. Consulate, Macao were delivered to (1) Dr. Jose Alban D'Souza, President of Goan Union, Bombay and (2) Mr. Michael Francis Santa Maria, Michael House, Dukarwadi, Girgaum, Bombay respectively and their acknowledgement taken. A draft reply is put up below for favour of approval.

R. W. C.

The text of the Messages from H. B. M. Consulate, Macao received through H. M. Ambassador at Chungking has been communicated to (1) Dr. Jose Alban D'Souza, J. P., President, Goan Union, Bombay and (2) Mr. Michael Francis Santa Maria, Dukarwadi, Girgaum, Bombay, respectively,

O. C.

D. C. P. S. B. I.

Bombay Chronicle, dated 6th February 1945."

"Attack on Indian Rupee"

Mr. G. G. Palekar, Secretary of the Goa Congress Committee, Bombay Branch writes:—

The Government of India has banned the pamphlet "An Attack on the Indian Rupee" issued by the Goa Congress Committee in June 1944 and has seized the copies in possession of the publisher and the printer. The
ban has come as a surprise to us and particularly as it comes six months after the appearance of our publication which aimed at re-establishing the credit of the British Indian currency in Goa.

In fact, the deliberate discredit of the British Indian currency in benefit of the inconvertible paper notes of the Banco National Ultramarino started in 1940 at the worst moment of the war for Great Britain, was definitely an hostile act. As a result British Indian currency was badly depreciated in Goa and suffered a regular discount of 15 per cent or more in relation to the inconvertible Portuguese paper currency. And through this speculation the Goan emigrants of the poor class were robbed of more than a crore of rupees on their remittances to Goa.

In consequence of our exposure a strong public protest was raised by the Goan community in Bombay which till then limited itself to making humble appeals to the civil and ecclesiastical authorities; and a Committee of Action was formed in Bombay to deal with the matter. Our booklet provoked the intervention of the Indian Chambers of Commerce. And as a result of the wide publicity given by the press to our full exposure within a short time, the Banco National Ultramarino started to accept British Indian currency at par, which it had refused systematically to do for more than three years and the discount of the British Indian Bank notes fell abruptly to 3 per cent even in black market.

The speculation on the Indian rupee still continues in Goa although in a much smaller scale than previously.

Bombay Chronicle, dated 15th September 1945.

Political Conference of Goans

The Honorary Secretary, Goan Congress Committee writes: —

Our experience of work in Goa has shown us that Goans are confronted with acute political, economic and social problems which are the consequences of four centuries of foreign domination. These problems cry aloud for solution. Besides, important issues have cropped up as a result of the end of war. These issues affect us as much as anybody else and we have a right to express our view on them.

With the end of war Fascism is supposed to have been laid low both in the east and west, but no notice seems to have been taken of the fact that it still thrives in Goa. In order to deliberate collectively over the problems and issues facing us, the Goa Congress Committee has decided to hold a Political Conference of all Goans in Bombay, Goa and elsewhere in the near future. We appeal to all nationalist Goans to give us their wholehearted co-operation and assistance by becoming members of the Reception Committee and Delegates and in every other way.

Rights of Goans Vindicated

T. B. Cunha, General Secretary, Goa Congress Committee, has issued the following statement:

The Goa Congress Committee welcomes the judgment of the High Court of Bombay that revokes the order of the Government of Bombay penalizing the Associated Advertisers and Printers Limited for printing our last book "Denationalisation of Goans."

"The momentous Judgement vindicates the rights of Goans to freely ventilate their home grievances in British India without being at the mercy of the whims of a foreign Power who may resent their legitimate demand for
freedom and other political activities

" In fact, it is known that in June 1944 the Goa Congress Committee issued two publications in Bombay; "The Attack on the Indian Rupee" and the "Denationalisation of Goans". The first booklet exposed the systematic discrediting of the British Indian currency in Goa during the war. This forced depreciation made in the benefit of the Portuguese bank and its inconvertible paper currency, caused a loss of more than a crore of rupees to poor Goan emigrants and upset the whole economic life in Goa. Soon after the publication of our booklet, the Portuguese bank started accepting British Indian currency and as a result the depreciation fell abruptly from 15 per cent. to nearly 5 per cent. Our second book the "Denationalisation of Goans " is a study based on historical facts and official data that aims at bringing a mental change among Goans and denounces the enslaving policy of the Portuguese imperialism.

" Last January, six months after their publication, both books were banned in British India and the copies forfeited. Last March a notice was served on the press forfeiting a security of Rs. 15,000 for printing our book " Denationalisation of Goans " as it was considered likely to prejudice His Majesty's relations with the Portuguese Government.

"Paradoxically enough, although both publications exclusively concern Portuguese Government, they were not banned in the Portuguese territory and are freely circulated and sold in Goa, but were banned in British India at a simple demand of the Consul for Portugal in Bombay. This queer situation resulted from the hasty action of the Consul who acted without being duly authorised by his Government".

" The judgment delivered by Mr. Justice Chagla on behalf of the High Court Bench represents an act of Justice to Goans whose publication have been suppressed."

Public Meeting

Under the auspices of the Goa Congress Committee Dr. A. G. Tendulkar spoke on the "Political Destiny of Goans" in the Forbes Gujerati Hall, Vithalbhai Patel Road on Sunday (23rd inst) morning.

At the outset he congratulated the Goa Congress Committee on their Victory against the Government of Bombay, in connection with the book " Denationalisation of Goans. " The judgment of the full bench of the Bombay High Court was now well known to all.

Dr. Tendulkar, proceeding said that in recent years a feeling of political consciousness had come over the people of Goa who wanted to merge themselves into India—India United and Free. The way to get freedom was not easy. They must surmount untold obstacles and difficulties just as the Indian National Congress had done. There may be failures at some stage but every failure would bring them nearer to success. There was such a thing called Victory" in Defeati."

There was no freedom of speech and press in Goa and some of the lawyers in Goans get together and work step by step to stand up against the Fascist regime of Portuguese rule. They, may have to court imprisonment and other forms of penalty but they will find for themselves a place in the heart of
every Goan. He also said that in the fight against foreign aggression they could get the help and
guidance of experienced politicians like Gandhi and Nehru.

Their methods and behaviour should be such as to create confidence in their own
countrymen. The Parsis, for example, in British India, some years ago were ashamed to call
themselves Indians and were extremely pro-British. But the Indian National Congress had created
so much confidence in them that to-day they were proud to be called Indians and were actually
helping the greatest political organisation of India.

They should be careful about people working in the wrong direction. This may be due to being
misguided or to mischief. If the former is the case they could be advised and reformed, if the latter,
then they should be dubbed as "Traitors".

Commenting on the difference that had arisen between the Goa Congress Committee and the
Goan Youth League he had heard complaints that whereas the Committee was going dead slow,
the Youth League was getting ahead faster. Personally he was of the opinion that it is better to be
slow and sure than to run fast and be nowhere.

Finally Dr. Tendulkar asked the Goans to get together irrespective of Christians or Hindus and
to adopt Indian habits of life. Especially the Christian ladies should wear Sarees than Gowns. He
hoped that the Goa Congress Committee would counteract the mischief that Missionaries were
doing in Goa. He expected the leaders of the Goan Community to organise one and a half lakhs of
people in Bombay on national basis as well as their entire population in their own soil in Goa so that
they could "localise" the enemy than to fight him against the windmill and get scattered. He
complimented Miss B. Branganza and others who were turning out good work for the "Freedom
Movement".

Mr. Juis Jose D'Souza, B.Sc. (London) proposed a vote of thanks to Dr. Tendulkar.

The meeting which commenced at 10-30 a.m. terminated—peacefully at 11-30 a.m. About
200 persons (including 25 ladies) were present.

J. D'SOUZA,
S. B. (I). C. I. D.

Sir,

After the meeting students belonging to the Goan Youth League who had assembled outside
the hall distributed leaf-lets.

**Goa Congress asks Portuguese to "Quit India"**

At a general meeting held on March 3rd the Goa Congress Committee passed the following
resolution: Although Goa cannot have any destiny of its own except that of our common motherland
India of which it is an integral part, it finds itself chained to day by bonds of political and spiritual
slavery to the bankrupt Portuguese Imperialism. We Goans are separated from the rest of Indians
by artificial barriers created by an alien Portuguese rule which is incompetent, corrupt and callous to
the needs and interests of Goan inhabitants:. An inglorious rule of 435 years has systematically
attempted to make us forget our culture and traditions and has landed us in complete economic
ruin. The Portuguese have robbed us and exploited us and have forced upon us a costly
bureaucracy and an alien civilization against which we revolt.
We are determined to end this rule which has forfeited all confidence is devoid of all moral sanctions and public support and to align ourselves with our brothers in India in common struggle for national liberation. Only a free India can look after and promote the national progress of her children. The Goa Congress Committee adhere to the national call of "Quit India" demand of the Indian National Congress and call upon the Portuguese to leave the shores of Goa, Daman and Diu so that we can achieve our destiny in common with the rest of India.

The Goa Congress Committee calls upon all the Goans in India and abroad to co-operate with us and lend us their active support for the liberation of our common motherland.

The following were elected for the Executive Committee:

- President: Dr. A. G. Tendulkar.
- General Secretary: Massillon Almeida.

Members:
- Peter J. Alvares.
- George Vaz.
- Laxmikant Borkar.
- Elphinstone Dias.
- J. S. Sukhtankar.
- Dr. Luis Monteiro.

THE GOA CONGRESS COMMITTEE BOMBAY.

Sir.

The Annual general meeting of the above Committee was held on 3rd March 1946. It was held at No. 35 Hamam Street, Fort, Bombay and was presided over by Dr. A. G. Tendulkar. The following members were elected for the year 1946.

- President: Dr. A. G. Tendulkar.
- General Secretary: Massillon Almeida.
- Members: Peter J. Alvares.
- Laxmikant Borkar.
- Elphinstone Dias.
- J. S. Sukhtankar.
- Dr. Luis Monteiro.

Treasurer: G. G. Palekar.

About 25 persons were present when the "Quit India" resolution was discussed and passed.

This information was given by the Editor, Goa Times, 1st Marine Street, Bombay, who has got some correspondence on the above subject.

F. J. D'SOUZA,

S. B. (I), 11th March 1946.