

# Colonial-Born and Settlers Indian Association.

Phone 498.

P.O. Box 1905.

02976

Durban, 15th December 1933  
Natal.

J.D. Rheinalt Jones Esqr.,  
C/o Witwatersrand University,  
Johannesburg.

Sir,

Our Association has convened a Natal Provincial Conference to be held at Durban on the 30th instant and the following days.

The opening of the Conference takes place on the 30th instant.

Our Association will be thankful to receive a message from you in order that it may be read at the opening.

In case you are not conversant with the objects of our Association, we beg to enclose herewith a copy of our Manifesto and Constitution.

Yours faithfully,

*J. S. Chetty*

Joint Hon-Secretaries.

Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association.

P. O. Box 2395,  
Johannesburg,

22nd December, 1933.



CONFIDENTIAL.

Dear Mr. Rheinallt Jones,

In accordance with our telephone conversation this morning I am writing to say that the Agent, after full consideration, feels that in his official capacity he cannot recognize the Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association. The Agent in the past has always recognized the South African Indian Congress as representing political opinion among Indians in South Africa and he will continue to accord that recognition. The Colonial Born and Settlers Indian Association has split from the Congress over the question of co-operation with the Union Government Colonisation Enquiry Committee and is a political Association, and it would be inconsistent for the Agent to give official support to both bodies.

The Agent particularly asks me to say that he hopes you will regard this letter as strictly confidential.

Yours sincerely,

J. D. Rheinallt Jones, Esq.,  
P. O. Box 1176,  
JOHANNESBURG.

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*to*  
Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, Ph.D.,  
Oxford University,  
OXFORD, England.

Dear Sir Radhakrishnan,  
the time  
I trust by/this letter reaches you, you will be in  
harness again at the University.

There was a conversation at the Marine Hotel lounge a few days before you left Durban between Mrs. Rama Rau and myself regarding the amalgamation of the Congress with the Colonial Born Association, when Mrs. Rama Rau suggested that we should leave the new name to the choice of Mahatmaji. Subsequently I have been working for unity the matter was again mentioned at a lunch at Phoenix on the lines suggested by Mrs. Rama Rau, and have so far attained a measure of success. I have had several talks with Mr. Christopher separately and then with him and his colleagues along with Mr. V.S.C. Patner, Mr. S.R. Naidoo and myself, and as a result of these interviews arrived at a formula that the only question standing in the way of unity, viz: the name of the amalgamated body, be submitted to Mahatmaji for his decision, and that to be adopted as final and binding on both sides. The Committee Meetings of both the Congress and Colonial Born Association are being held tomorrow to adopt the formula, and thereafter the same with a Statement from each side will be forwarded to India. The Mahatmaji in his wisdom may feel that the name Congress shall remain more so that it is a body created by him and today he is in that atmosphere in India where the name of Congress is a household word. However, I feel that to ensure an everlasting unity and peace, and to create a spirit of goodwill on both sides there should be a name which is independent of the existing names. It would not make members of either side feel that they are joining a body which they at one time disliked. In course of time when all animosity has faded away.../

away we might revert to the name of Natal Indian Congress. I would esteem it a favour if you will kindly write to him from Oxford and impress upon him the importance of this factor which has occurred to me as the only way in eliminating all friction and working towards a lasting unity. At one time in 1913 Mahatamaji <sup>himself</sup> owing to differences with obstinate officials of the Congress broke away from it and formed a body called Natal Indian Association. This name seems to me as acceptable. Please treat this suggestion as private and confidential, but I do beseech you to communicate with Mahatamaji immediately. I am enclosing a copy of a message from Mr. Rama Rau, which he sent us for tomorrow's meeting.

I have not received back my Autograph book which I handed you at the Durban Railway Station. Perhaps you have forgotten my request to write an inspiring message in it. Will you please let me have the book back with the message desired by me at your convenience.

I have received from the Typist the typewritten matter of your Durban lectures which I enclose herewith. Please have them corrected and returned to me as early as possible. It is intended to print them in book form by the Gandhi-Tagore Lectureship Trust.

I trust you are well and that you had a pleasant journey back.

Please convey my and my wife's kind regards to Lady Radhakrishnan. Please also accept my and my brother's and members of our families love and affection for you.

Yours sincerely,

*Satyajit Prasthna*

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PROPOSED TERMS OF JOINT AGREEMENT ACCEPTED BY THE  
NATAL INDIAN CONGRESS AND THE COLONIAL BORN AND  
SETTLERS' INDIAN ASSOCIATION.

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1. Since the year 1933 there has been a serious division of opinion in the Indian community with the result that there exist in Natal two Political Organisations - the Natal Indian Congress and the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association.
2. Both Sir Sayed Raza Ali and Mr. B. Rama Rau, the last and the present Agents-General have immediately on their arrival at Durban made attempts at securing unity, and recently Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, who toured the Union on a cultural mission, appealed to the Indian community to unite.
3. The Indian community as a whole recognises that in unity alone lies their salvation in this country, and in view of the unsettled and changing conditions under which Indians live, it is most essential that all differences should be settled and a lasting unity achieved in order that one political body should speak and act for the community as a whole.
4. With this object in view it has been resolved by the Committee of the Natal Indian Congress (Durban Headquarters) and of the Colonial Born and Settlers' Indian Association that both these political organisations should amalgamate as the best and only means of uniting the Indian community and that the choice of a name for the amalgamated body should be left to Mahatma Gandhi. Each of the bodies may submit any name or names with its reasons therefor from which Mahatma Gandhi may choose a name or decide upon any name independently of those submitted and his matured decision shall be taken as a final settlement of the differences.

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