

Comprehension 32: CSS 1990

Read the following passage and answer the questions that follow.

Mountbatten was taking his family to Simla to snatch a few days' rest. He had brought with him a copy of the Draft Plan for the transfer of power (which he had sent to London for approval). Menon had come up and they were expecting Nehru for the week end. Mountbatten was delighted that Edwina (his wife) and Jawaharlal had taken to each other so much. It could only help his words and it seemed to do them both so much good.

Nehru himself had been fine inform, Mievile and George Nicolis (principal Secretary to Viceroy and Deputy Personal Secretary to the Viceroy respectively) had shown some dismay at Viceroy's openness with the Indian leader but Mountbatten chose to ignore them.

Despite his continuing optimism for the Plan Menon's contention that it would not be well received by the Congress had given him more than usual pause for thought. After dinner on Saturday night, he invited Nehru in the Viceregal Lodge for a nightcap.

The Viceroy handed Nehru his drink, and then quite suddenly crossed the room to the safe and unlocked it, taking out the draft Plan, handed him the papers (giving free run his instinct whatever the result). Nehru took the draft Plan eagerly and sat down with it, immersing himself in it immediately Mountbatten watched him..... the Indian had stopped reading the Plan, and was riffling angrily through the final pages. His face was drawn and pale. Mountbatten was shaken. He had never seen Nehru so furious.

Nehru made an effort to control himself. "I will try to summaries my thoughts and leave you a note of my objections. This much I can tell you now. Congress will never agree to Plan of India's fragmentation into a host of little states."

The following day, the Viceroy sat on the secluded rear terrace of Viceregal Lodge while V.P. Menon read over Nehru's Promised memorandum of objections.

Mr. Nehru only questioned certain sections of the Plan; said Menon.

Yes, the key ones! snapped Mountbatten. Look we have to redraft and resubmit

immediately, in the light of his comments. Can you, do it?

Very well Your Excellency, "said Menon.

I want it (the fresh draft) by six O'clock this evening.

Questions:

1. How did Lord Mountbatten view the relationship between his wife, Lady Edwina and Jawaharlal Nehru?
2. How did the officers on the staff of Lord Mountbatten view his close reactions to it?
3. Why did Lord Mountbatten show the draft Plan to Nehru?
4. Did Lord Mountbatten show the Draft Plan to Quaid-e-Azam? If not, what will be the showing of secret Draft Plan to Nehru alone will be called?
5. What motivated the drawing up of a fresh Plan for transfer of power?
6. Within what time was the fresh plan prepared and by whom?
7. Was the person who draw up the fresh plan, under orders of Mountbatten, a neutral and impartial person. Not connected with any Indian community?

(Ans 1)

Mountbatten, with his wife visited Simla for recreation. A meeting was expected with the Nehru. Mountbatten was happy to see the good and healthy relationship ~~between~~ ^{between} his wife Edwina and Jawaharlal Nehru.

(Ans 2)

Two officers ^{were} on the staff, Mireville who was a principle secretary to Viceroy and George Nicolis who was a deputy personal secretary to the Viceroy. Both were annoyed at the kindness of the Viceroy but he ignored them.

(Ans 3)

Mountbatten shown the draft Plan to the Nehru during the meeting at the Viceroyal Lodge. He did this because he was optimistic about the Congress. But the reaction of Nehru was not good.

(Ans 4)

Mountbatten did not show the draft plan to the Quaid-e-Azam. He only showed the plan to the Nehru and made amendments according to the wishes of Nehru. This showed a hypocritical behaviour of the Viceroy.

(Ans 5)

When viceroy showed his draft plan to Nehru, he had some reservations on the plan. Later the amendments were made on the Nehru's recommendations and a new draft was made.

(Ans 6)

New amendments were made on the demand of Nehru within the twelve hours. Menon made these changes on the order of Viceroy.

(Ans 7)

Menon, under the instructions of Viceroy, drew up a new plan. He was not a neutral person. He belonged to a Hindu community. Thus, he preferred Hindu interests to those of the Muslims while drawing up a new plan.