

WHAT INDIA WANTS

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Bombay (by mail).

WITH British Labor's overwhelming victory at the polls, all sections of Indian opinion are looking eagerly to the new government to take steps to smash the political deadlock in this country. They want to see the work done at the Simla Conference followed by fresh negotiations with the leaders of the political parties and the establishment of an interim National Government.

Although India carries bitter memories of the days when Ramsay MacDonald, in the name of the Labor Party, followed Tory policy, she is not basing her approach on Labor's past record. India is confident that the Labor and progressive forces in Britain will fulfill the pledges that were given at the Labor Party's annual conference.

The question arises now as to how the Labor government should approach the problem after the Simla breakdown.

It may be argued that Indian disunity makes advance difficult. But it must be firmly stated that it was Tory trickery that made agreement between the Indian parties difficult.

The request from Congress and the Moslem League for an equal number of seats each in a new Executive Council was changed by the Tories in such a manner that seats would have been

apportioned on communal lines—Hindu and Moslem.

This move, of course, immediately questioned the representative character of the League and the Congress. It meant that the Congress, for instance, would have been labelled a Hindu organization, whereas it actually has within its ranks many Moslems.

Two imperial voices spoke at Simla. Lord Wavell told the Congress that the League's demands were unreasonable, while his assistants told the League that the Congress' demand for Moslem seats would never be conceded. The League was also assured that no government would be formed unless they came in, thus giving the League power of veto during the conference.

The Tories here and in Britain think they have won. Mr. Attlee's government must, therefore, disillusion them and immediately take steps to reverse Tory policy.

Lord Wavell must be instructed to form an interim government on the basis of the maximum agreement already achieved at Simla.

This would mean that four out of five Moslem seats will go to the League and the fifth to a non-party Moslem acceptable to both the Congress and the League.

Definite assurances must be given to

the League that the interim government will in no way prejudice the issue of Pakistan (the League's demand for Moslem autonomy).

General elections must be held for the Central Legislative Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies and the interim government then reconstituted in accordance with the results.

India also expects the Labor government to declare a general amnesty for all political prisoners. This would include some who have been in jail for ten and fifteen years.

Indians want to see the Congress organizations legal again and the return of all funds and property to its committees. The rule of governors in the provinces must be ended and all ordinances curtailing civic liberties withdrawn. Indian workers want to see everywhere the recognition of their trade unions and to know that their right to collective bargaining shall not be infringed. They want their living standards raised and working conditions bettered.

These are the things that India needs and expects from the new Labor government. It is confident that this government will extend the hand of friendship and overcome the deadlock imposed by the once all-powerful Tory diehards.