

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 NEW DE 11049 201550Z

43

ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-11

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 DRC-01

NEAE-00 /080 W

----- 128219

P R 201500Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3370

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMCONSUL MADRAS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NEW DELHI 11049

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, IN

SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDIA'S NEW PRESIDENT,
FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED

REF: NEW DELHI 8815

1. CONGRESS NOMINEE FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED WAS DECLARED THE WINNER OF INDIA'S 5TH PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION TODAY. HE RECEIVED 80.2 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL VOTES CAST. AHMED IS THE FIRST PRESIDENT TO HAVE MOVED DIRECTLY INTO THE PRESIDENCY FROM THE CABINET, AND IS THE SECOND MUSLIM TO HOLD INDIA'S HIGHEST OFFICE (THE FIRST WAS ACADEMICIAN ZAKIR HUSSAIN WHO DIED IN OFFICE IN MAY, 1969).

2. BOTH AHMED, 69 AND HIS WIFE 50, COME FROM THE HIGHTEST STRATA OF MUSLIM SOCIETY IN INDIA. AHMED TRACES HIS LINEAGE BACK TO THE GREAT URDU POET, MIRZA GHALIB. HIS FATHER WAS ONE OF THE FEW INDIANS WHO MANAGED TO RISE TO THE RANK OF COLONEL IN THE PRESTIGIOUS INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE. THE BRITISH COLONIAL GOVERNMENT REWARDED HIS SERVICE WITH CONSIDERABLE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 NEW DE 11049 201550Z

LAND AND WEALTH IN ASSAM, WHICH HIS SON LATER USED AS

A BASIS FOR A 30-YEAR CAREER IN ASSAMESE POLITICS.

3. AHMED WAS BORN IN NEW DELHI ON MAY 13, 1905. HE WAS EDUCATED AT NEW DELHI'S ELITE ST. STEPHEN'S COLLEGE AND CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY'S ST. CATHERINES'S COLLEGE IN ENGLAND. IN 1928 HE WAS CALLED TO THE BAR FROM THE INNER TEMPLE. HE RETURNED TO INDIA THAT SAME YEAR, JOINED THE CONGRESS PARTY AND BEGAN PRACTICING LAW. HIS CONGRESS ACTIVITIES DURING THE 1930'S AND 1940'S BROUGHT HIM INTO CLOSE ASSOCIATION WITH CONGRESS LEADERS JAWAHARLAL NEHRU AND MAULANA AZAD. FROM 1937 TO 1966, EXCEPT FOR A THREE YEAR PERIOD, HE HELD MINISTERIAL POSTS IN THE GOVERNMENT OF ASSA.

4. AHMED'S RISE IN THE NATIONAL CONGRESS PARTY HIERARCHY PARALLELS MRS. GANDHI'S RISE TO POWER. IN 1964 HE BECAME A MEMBER OF THE CONGRESS WORKING COMMITTEE AND JOINED THE PARTY'S HIGH POWERED CENTRAL PARLIAMENTARY BOARD AND CENTRAL ELECTION COMMITTEE SOON AFTER. IN 1966 MRS. GANDHI BROUGHT HIM TO DELHI WHERE HE HAS SERVED SUCCESSIVELY AS MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER, MINISTER OF EDUCATION, MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE. HE WAS ELECTED TO THE RAJYA SABHA IN 1966 AND THE LOK SABHA IN 1967. HE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN SUPPORTING MRS. GANDHI DURING THE 1969 CONGRESS PARTY SPLIT.

5. AHMED IS PERSONABLE, DEEPLY RELIGIOUS, SOFT SPOKEN, COURTEOUS, TACTFUL AND IS INTENSIVELY INTERESTED IN SPORTS. HE HAS BEEN TO THE UNITED STATES TWICE, ONCE AS A MEMBER OF INDIA'S UN DELEGATION IN 1957 AND AGAIN AS A GUEST OF THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE FOR PLANNING AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT IN 1964. HE ALSO TOURED THE SOVIET UNION IN 1955 AS THE LEADER OF AN INDIAN LAWYER'S DELEGATION. AHMED'S HEALTH IS UNCERTAIN. HE SUFFERED HEART ATTACKS IN 1966 AND 1970.

6. AHMED'S WIFE, BEGUM ABIDA, IS AN ARTIST WHO SPECIALIZES IN PORTRAITS. THEY HAVE TWO SONS AND ONE DAUGHTER. THE DAUGHTER, SAMEENA, IS MARRIED TO A DOCTOR
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 NEW DE 11049 201550Z

AND LIVES IN FLORIDA.

7. MORE DETAILED BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON PRESIDENT AHMED IS BEING POUCHED.
MOYNIHAN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION, PRESIDENT ELECT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974NEWDE11049
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740229-0350
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740833/aaaabcgI.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: NEW DELHI 8815
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Aug-2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON INDIA'S NEW PRESIDENT, FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED
TAGS: PINT, PINR, IN, (AHMED, FAKHRUDDIN ALI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005