

# **Report**

of

**The Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

on

the alleged disappearance

of

**Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose**

**Volume – IIB**

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**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.01.2003 to 31.01.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the earlier Status Report forwarded under Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/503(7) dated 13.01.2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, and Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
2. The Commission has been persistently asking the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, for their affidavit on existence / non-existence / availability / non-availability, etc. of the complete records of the proceedings of the trial of the I.N.A. personnel which is yet to be received.
3. Xerox copies of Prime Minister Office's letter No. 915/11/C/2/2000-Pol. dated 11.07.2002-Pol. and the Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(II)/132 dated 21.06.2002 were sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/315 dated 06.09.2002 wherein he was requested to kindly send immediately a true copy of the entire note dated 30.09.1993 of Shri A. K. Sinha, Under Secretary, A.P. submitted to J.S., A.P. which is available in the Ministry of External Affairs, as stated in the aforesaid letter dated 11.07.2002 of the Prime Minister's Office. The document called for is yet to be located by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and sent by them to the Commission.
4. With Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/372 dated October 10, 2002 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Xerox copies of Prime Minister Office's letter No. 915/11/C/2/2002-Pol. dated 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 addressed to the Commission, P.M.O.'s U.O. No. PMS-307 dated 05.01.1974 sent to Shri T.C. A. Nivasavardan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and d.o. letter No. 24/27/71-Pol.II (D.III) dated May 3/4, 1974 of the Home Minister addressed to Samar Guha, M.P. were enclosed and the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to kindly furnish to the Commission immediately the details of documents which could be secured by the Government of India and supplied to the Khosla Commission as also the particulars of the documents which could not be secured by them because of their non-availability along with

authenticated Xerox copies of different affidavits of the Ministry of Home Affairs filed before the Khosla Commission in the matter and of the reply given by the Home Minister in the Lok Sabha on 27<sup>th</sup> March, 1974 as stated in the aforesaid d.o. letter dated 3/4 May, 1974 of the Home Minister addressed to Shri Samar Guha, M.P. He was further requested to kindly send immediately an authenticated Xerox copy of the reply, if any, given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to Shri Samar Guha as requested in para 4 of the aforesaid P.M.O.'s U.O. Note No. PMS-307 dated 05.01.1974. The reports / particulars / documents as called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs are still awaited.

5. The Secretary, Prime Minister's Office has been requested by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(III)/188 dated July 12, 2002 to furnish the Commission immediately with the documents mentioned against four Com. Nos., Viz., com.11, 30(R)(2), 30(S)(2), and 30(V)(1), since those documents do not appear to have been submitted to the Commission as yet which is supposed to be done by the Prime Minister's Office as mentioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> para of the d.o. letter No. IV/8(66)/2001-2184 dated 12.12.2001 of Shri Sanjoy Sinha, Joint Director, IB, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, a Xerox copy of which has been enclosed with the aforesaid letter dated 12.07.2002 of the Commission. A Xerox copy of the list of exhibits marked as "Com. No." of Justice Khosla Commission of Inquiry was sent to the Director, Prime Minister's Office by Registered Post with Commission's letter No. 502 dated January 10, 2003 as desired by the Prime Minister's Office in their letter No. 915/11/C/2/2000-Pol, dated January 2, 2003. The documents called for are still awaited.
6. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested by Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(III)/121 dated June 14, 2002 to send immediately authenticated true copies of the papers / documents concerning Sl. Nos. (ii), (iii), (iv), (v), and (vi) of para 1 of the letter No. 281/12/1/2000-TS dated September 19, 2001 of the Cabinet Secretariat, Government of India, addressed to the Commission which indicates that those papers / documents have been sent to the M.H.A. by the Cabinet Sectt. A copy of the said letter of the Cabinet Sectt. has been enclosed with the Commission's aforesaid letter dated June 14, 2002. A self-contained reminder was sent by Registered Post to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs by the Commission's letter No. 339 dated 24.09.02. The reply given by the Ministry of Home Affairs in their letter No. 1/12014/13/2000-IS(D.V.) dated January 2, 2003 in the matter is being considered in the light of other relevant materials available on records.
7. Under Commission's Registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/236(3) dated August 1, 2002, the Secretaries, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of Home Affairs, and Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India have been furnished with Xerox copies of the d.o. letter dated January 3, 1974 of Shri Samar Guha, M.P. addressed to Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime

Minister of India and of the reply thereto dated January 9, 1974 given by Smt. Indira Gandhi to Shri Samar Guha and they have been requested to kindly send immediately to the Commission authenticated true copies of all the documents, copies of which were lying in P.M.O.'s File No. 12(226)/56-PM since destroyed, as also authenticated true copies of all those files which contain the said documents, the copies of which were lying in the said destroyed file as stated by the then Prime Minister in her aforesaid d.o. letter dated January 9, 1974. The Ministry of External Affairs has stated in reply that the documents belong to the files of the Prime Minister's Office. No reply of the Ministry of Home Affairs appears to have been received in the matter. The P.M.O. in their letter No. 915/11/C/2/2000-Pol. dated 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September, 2002 has referred to Commission's letter No. 228 dated 30.07.02 and Commission's aforesaid letter No. 236(3) dated August 1, 2002 and has sent a reply to Commission's aforesaid letter No. 228 dated 30.07.02 while their purported reply to Commission's letter No. 236(3) dated August 1, 2002 is not compatible with the contentions of d.o. letter No. 11-PMO/74 dated January 9, 1974 of Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister, addressed to Shri Samar Guha, M.P., a Xerox copy of which was enclosed with Commission's aforesaid letter No. 236(3) dated August 1, 2002. Besides, the said reply of the Prime Minister's Office to Commission's aforesaid letter dated August 1, 2002 adduces no-cogent reason for their inability to send their documents called for by the Commission in its letter No. 236(3) dated August 1, 2002.

8. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has been requested by Commission's registered confidential letter No. JMCI/Records/2000-01/37(II)/533 dated January 28, 2002 to let the Commission know what was the outcome of the action, if any, taken on U.O. No. 800/6/C/1/90-Pol. dated September 21, 1990 of the Prime Minister's Office addressed to Shri Naresh Chandra, the then Home Secretary, Government of India, wherewith a copy of the letter dated September 13, 1990 of Shri Amiya Nath Bose addressed to Shri V. P. Singh, the then Prime Minister of India and of the enclosure thereto which is a Xerox copy of the news titled, "Fresh Clue on Netaji's Death" published in the 'Times of India' (New Delhi), dated Sept. 3, 1990 were sent to the Home Secretary, Government of India, for appropriate action. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 28.01.2002 of the Commission that the said letter dated Sept. 13, 1990 of Shri Amiya Nath Bose with its enclosure and the said U.O. note dated Sept. 21, 1990 of the Prime Minister's Office are available in File No. 800/6/C/1/90-Pol. of the Prime Minister's Office, on the subject, "Netaji Subhas Bose - Bringing in the ashes of". A self-contained reminder has been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs by Registered Post vide Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/195 dated July 22, 2002. The reply of the Ministry of Home Affairs is still awaited.
9. (a) By Commission's registered letter No. 310 dated 06.09.2002, the attention of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was drawn to Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-

2000/37(III)/201 dated 27.07.2002 and he was requested to report to the Commission immediately the details of action taken on the letter dated 15.10.1970 of Shri M. L. Sondhi, M.P., Lok Sabha addressed to the then President of India and the outcome thereof. The said letter of Shri Sondhi was sent by the Prime Minister's Office to the Ministry of Home Affairs under the former's U.O. No. 2(64)/56-70-PM dated October 22, 1970 for such action as was considered appropriate. A copy of the said letter dated 15.10.1970 was also enclosed with the Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(II)/608(2) dated March 14, 2002 sent earlier to the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter. The report called for from the M.H.A. is still being awaited.

- (b) By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/226(2) dated July 30, 2002 the reports were called for from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Prime Minister's Office regarding the action taken by them on the letter dated 15.10.1970 of Shri M. L. Sondhi, M.P., Lok Sabha, addressed to the then President of India as mentioned herein before. In reply, the Prime Minister's Office has requested the Commission by their letter No. 915/11/C/2/2000-Pol. dated August 27, 2002 to approach the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter. The report called for has not been received from the Ministry of External Affairs [and also from the Ministry of Home Affairs as already stated.]
10. By d.o. letter No. JMCI/Records/99-2000/37(III)/359 dated October 3, 2002 of the Secretary of the Commission addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the attention of the latter was drawn to a special message from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose of the Provincial Government of Azad Hind (Singapore) broadcast on 31.42 Metres in 2115-25 hrs. daily "commentary in English" on August 18, 1945 which appears to have been monitored by the monitoring service of All India Radio, Simla, and presented to the National Archives of India by the Publication Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A copy of the said message has been enclosed with the said d.o. letter dated October 3, 2002 for ready reference. The Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was requested to throw some light on the points whether the message was live and a direct broadcast or whether the broadcast was of a pre-recorded message / speech of Netaji. The response of the said Ministry in the matter is still awaited.
11. By Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Study (PMO)-Follow Up/2002-2003/84/257 dated August 14, 2002, read with its registered letter No. JMCI/DOC (FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/348 dated 27.09.02, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to kindly send immediately a complete list of the names and addresses of all the Archives in Russia as also in other States which previously belonged to erstwhile USSR. We have received a list of 9 (nine) archives in Russia from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

with their d.o. letter No. 24/4/NGO-Vol. VIII dated October 21, 2002 but the complete list as called for is still awaited.

12. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs was requested by Commission's registered letters dated August 1, 2002 and dated 27.09.2002 to kindly provide the Commission with the particulars of the US documents on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose pertaining to the period from August, 1945 onwards, if any, which are available in the National Archives of the U.S.A. and Records Administration, Maryland, U.S.A. as also in other archives of the U.S.A. including Mac Arthy Archives, the Archives of the Princeton University, Hoover Institution, Stand Ford U.S.A. etc. The response is still awaited.
13. The letter No.281/12/1/2000-TS dated November 13, 2002 of the Director, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, which is in reply to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/374 dated October 10, 2002 addressed to the Secretary, Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi, does not contain the information about the Department / Ministry / Office, out of which the Cabinet Sectt. was formed or about the Department / Ministry / Office of the Government of India which used to look after the works now being looked after by the Cabinet Sectt., Rashtrapati Bhavan and the Cabinet Sectt., Bikaner House Annexe, New Delhi, as called for. The said information is still awaited.
14. By Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/235 dated August 1, 2002, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, was requested to report to the Commission immediately what action was taken on the P.M.O.'s endorsement No. 870/11/P/10/93-Pol. dated 08.04.1993 to the Home Secretary, New Delhi, wherewith copies of the letter dated March 22, 1993 of Dr. Shankar Dayal Sharma, the then President of India, along with a copy of the letter dated March 13, 1993, jointly authored by Shri Triguna Sen, Shri Amiya Kumar Mazumder, and Shri Aurobinda Nath Bose, some of the distinguished citizens of Calcutta, addressed to the President of India, were forwarded to the Home Secretary, New Delhi, for appropriate action, as also to report what was the outcome of the said action. The Ministry of Home Affairs have stated inter alia in their letter No. I/12014/13/2000-IS(V) dated 24.10.2002 received by the Commission on 30.10.2002 that the matter was referred to the Ministry of External Affairs for appropriate action. The Ministry of External Affairs, in their letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. VIII dated January 1, 2003 has stated inter alia that the letter dated 22.03.93 of Dr. S. D. Sharma, the then President of India, could be located in the records of the Ministry of External Affairs and that no follow up action was taken on it.
15. To expedite the matters, the Hon'ble Chairman went to Delhi on 28.10.2002 and met the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India. He requested the Hon'ble Minister to persuade the Government of the U.K. to declassify all relevant classified British documents and to take all steps in terms of the d.o.

letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. VI dated 26.09.2001 of the then Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs. Apropos the said discussion, the Commission's letter No. 398 dated 11.11.2002 was sent by Speed Post to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with the request to take appropriate action in the matter. The Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, in his d.o. letter dated 13.11.2002 addressed to the Hon'ble Chairman has stated inter alia : ".....since the Commission feels that these papers (i.e. classified British records on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) could be of vital importance with reference to its mandate, we have again taken up the issue of their release with the British Government and would keep you informed of the outcome in this regard.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure of all possible assistance from our side to facilitate the inquiry of the Commission."

Further development in the matter is still awaited.

16. Notwithstanding the statement made by Late Morarji Desai, the then Prime Minister of India , in the Lok Sabha, on 28.08.1978 regarding the availability of "further contemporary official documentary records", no such records could be located by the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Sectt., and the Ministry of External Affairs, as reported by them. The said reports would be considered by the Hon'ble Chairman at the appropriate stage to express his views thereon. The report called for in the matter from the Ministry of Home Affairs by the Commission's Registered letter No. JMCI/Records/N. Delhi/99-2000/37/177 dated 29.06.2001 has not yet been received in spite of several reminders.
17. On being requested by the Commission, the Indian Embassy in Japan has agreed on December 27, 2002 to solicit the services of an expert to re-examine the bones allegedly of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple "to seek his opinion on whether any material exists from which D.N.A. may be isolated for the purpose of a D.N.A. test". Further development in the matter is still awaited.
18. Shri Nandalal Chakraborty, one of the deponents of the affidavit No. JMCI/11, in his letter dated 01.11.2002 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, has requested the Commission to visit the USA, the UK, and Germany for reasons mentioned therein. A copy of the said letter has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in continuation of the Commission's letter No. 398 dated 11.11.2002 with the request to act accordingly. The reply of the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter is still awaited.
19. Some handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' were made over to the Government Examiner of Questioned Documents, Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, Simla, on 02.09.2002 along with some admitted specimens of the handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose for examination of the said questioned handwritings by comparing with the said admitted specimens of handwritings. The sealed report

of the said Government Examiner has been collected and brought to the office of the Commission on 25.11.2002. The aforesaid two sets of handwritings have been made over to another competent handwriting expert in the last week of December, 2002. The report of the second handwriting expert is yet to be received, on receipt of which the relevant documents will be referred to the third handwriting expert.

20. Shri Dwaraka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother, Late Sunil Chandra Bose, has conveyed in writing his willingness to donate his blood sample of 1 ml. for the purpose of proposed D.N.A. test. The Commission is still making efforts to collect the names and addresses of other eligible donors, if any, of Netaji's family and it is taking steps for arrangements of D.N.A. tests of the blood samples of willing eligible donors of Netaji's family. Shri N. K. Panja, Principal Private Secretary met Dr. S. E. Hosnain, Director, Center for DNA Finger Print and Diagnostics in Hyderabad on 23<sup>rd</sup> January, 2003 to discuss the modalities of collection of blood samples for DNA test as also to collect the Test Tubes and Syringes from him for the purpose.
21. The hearing of the Commission was held on January 9, 2003 in Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, on the contents of the paragraph 7(a) of the Status Report as on 28.11.2002, copy of which was sent to the authorities concerned with Commission's Registered letter No. 503(7) dated 13.01.2003.
22. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested by the Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/CPDC/2000/432 dated November 27, 2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan the original Register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.05.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original Death Certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose or Chandra Bose and the original Death Certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, since the Commission is essentially required to have an access to those documents in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the aforesaid letter dated November 27, 2002 of the Commission. A copy of the said letter along with copies of the enclosures thereto has also been sent to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on November 27, 2002 by Registered Post. Their response is still awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.02. 2003 to 28.02.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the earlier Status Report forwarded under Commission's Registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/534(7) dated February 10,2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division),Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for taking necessary action at their end.
2. Commission's Status Report from 01.11.2002 to 30.11.2002 was sent by Registered Post with A/D under Commission's letters No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/453(6) dated 9/11<sup>th</sup> December,2002 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, and Cabinet Secretariat with the request to send to the Commission within six weeks the replies/reports in respect of the paras concerning their respective Ministries/Departments/Offices in the form of an affidavit duly sworn by their respective authorised Officers, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India. No affidavit in response to the said letter has yet been filed by/or on behalf of any of the addressees of the said letters. While some of the addressees have not responded at all – much less complied with the directions contained in the said letter – others have, however, sent their responses without any supporting affidavit.
3. Xerox copies of Prime Minister Office's letter No.915/11/C/2/2000-Pol. dated 11.07.2002 and the Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(II)/132 dated 21.06.2002 were sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/315 dated 06.09.2002 wherein he was requested to kindly send immediately a true copy of the entire note dated 30.09.1993 of Shri A.K. Sinha, Under Secretary, A.P. submitted to J.S., A.P. which is available in the Ministry of External Affairs, as stated in the aforesaid letter dated 11.07.2002 of the Prime Minister's Office. The record called for is yet to be received by the Commission.
4. The attention of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was drawn by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/316 dated 06.09.2002 to the Ministry of Home Affairs' U.O. No.VI/11034/61/2002-IS (D.III) dated 19.07.2002

endorsed to the Joint Secretary (Co-ordination), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, wherewith a copy of this Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(II)/113 dated 21.06.02 was forwarded and the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, was requested to kindly furnish copies of the affidavit-in-opposition filed and the judgment Order dated 04.03.1987 delivered by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Bhargava of Rajasthan High Court as referred to in them. The Ministry of External Affairs with their No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated October 25,2002 has sent to the Commission a copy of their U.O.No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated 26.07.2002 endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs wherefrom it appears that the Ministry of External Affairs has referred back the matter to the Ministry of Home Affairs. A copy of the judgment dated 18.01.1986 of Justice S.N.Bhargava of Rajasthan High Court has been received from the Ministry of Home Affairs as also from the Ministry of External Affairs, but no copy of the judgment dated 04.03.1987 and of the affidavit-in-opposition in the matter has been received by the Commission. The Ministry of External Affairs in their letter dated 01.01.2003 has stated inter alia that no affidavit-in-opposition has been filed by the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter (obviously referring to the judgment dated 18.01.1986.)

5. From the d.o. letter No.281/12/2000-TS dated 31.12.2002 of the Cabinet Secretariat, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi addressed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs with a copy endorsed to the Secretary of the Commission it appears that a hard-copy downloaded from the Website of the Cabinet Secretariat regarding formation of the Cabinet Secretariat was sent by the Cabinet Secretariat to the Ministry of Home Affairs for onward transmission to the Commission. But the said hard-copy has not yet been received by the Commission from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
6. The Commission has been persistently asking the Ministry of Defence, Government of India, for their affidavit on existence/non-existence/availability/non-availability etc. of the complete records of the proceedings of the trial of the INA personnel. A complete list of all files pertaining to INA which were held by the History Division of the Ministry of Defence and were transferred by them to the National Archives of India, was furnished by Shri G.B. Singh, Director, Ministry of Defence, History Division Government of India, with his d.o. letter No.2191/NIC/H/99 dated February 16,2000 but the said list does not appear to include the list of files/documents relating to INA trial as reiterated in letter No.2191/NIC/H/99 dated February 25,2003 of the Deputy Director, Ministry of Defence, History Division, Government of India.
7. Some of the deponents before the Commission have in their affidavits and/or sworn testimonies asserted that documents containing clinching evidence relating to the points of the inquiry of the Commission are in the possession and/or under the control of different foreign Governments. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs was requested by the Hon'ble Chairman to take up the

matter with the Governments of the U.K., the U.S.A., Japan, Taiwan, Russia, etc. in his d.o. letter No.267 dated 21.08.2001 addressed to the then Hon'ble Minister who in his d.o. reply dated 26.09.2001 stated inter alia:

"The points raised in your letter under reference have been taken up with our Missions in the countries concerned. We would keep the Commission informed about outcome of their efforts in this regard."

As thereafter, positive response was received only to the extent that some Russian documents were sent through the Ministry of External Affairs and that the visit of the Commission to Japan had materialised, the Hon'ble Chairman met the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs on 28.10.2002 in New Delhi to expedite the long pending matters and, apropos the said meeting, the Ministry of External Affairs was requested, inter alia, in Commission's letter No.398 dated November 11,2002 to kindly pursue with the Government of the U.K. closely to get declassified all relevant classified British documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and/or I.N.A. which are in the possession and/or under the control of the Government of the U.K., so that those could be perused by the Commission and the relevant ones could be relied upon for the purpose of the inquiry as also to persuade the Governments of the Russian Federation, all other States which are now sovereign but previously within the erstwhile USSR, Japan, Thailand, Malayasia, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, Ireland, etc. to make available or accessible to the Commission at their earliest convenience, all documents classified/declassified/unclassified containing the evidence/materials relating to and/or having relevance to the points of the inquiry of the Commission, which are in the possession and/or under the control of the aforesaid Governments and/or in the various archives of those countries. In response, we have received on 10.02.2003 a list of archives in Kazakhsatan and the name, address, etc. of one archive in Kyrgyzstan and have also received on 24.02.03 lists of archives of Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Armenia as also the name and telephone No. of one archive in Georgia but all those do not indicate which of the archives are likely to have information on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose/INA as requested in Commission's letter No.415 dated November 15,2002 addressed to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Appropriate steps will have to be taken by the Commission for its visit to those foreign countries where relevant records/witnesses would be reported to it by the Ministry of External Affairs, to be available in those foreign countries.

- 8 Seventysix records/files, which are admitted by the Intelligence Bureau, Government of India to be available with them could not be perused by Shri P.N.Chakravarty, Senior Research Officer of the Commission when he visited the Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi as per programme in the second half of February,2003 with prior intimation to the Intelligence Bureau, Government of India. He was given to understand that the Micro-film system of the I.B. has become non-functional; that they are shifting their office to a new site and that it would take considerable time by the I.B. to make those records available for

inspection on behalf of the Commission , after shifting of the records was completed and the Micro-film system was restored

- 9 Some more specimens of admitted hand-writing of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose could be collected and have been sent to the second hand-writing expert.
- 10 The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs was requested by Commission's registered letters dated August 1,2002 and dated 27.09.2002 to kindly provide the Commission with the particulars of the US documents on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose pertaining to the period from August,1945 onwards, if any, which are available in the National Archives of the U.S.A. and Records Administration, Maryland, U.S.A. as also in other archives of the U.S.A. including Mac Arthy Archives, the Archives of the Princeton University, Hoover Institution, Stanford, U.S.A. etc. The response is still awaited.
- 11 Shri Nandalal Chakraborty, one of the deponents of the affidavit No.JMCI/11, in his letter dated 01.11.2002 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, has requested the Commission to visit the USA, the UK, and Germany for reasons mentioned therein. A copy of the said letter has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in continuation of the Commission's letter No.398 dated 11.11.2002, with the request to act accordingly. The Ministry of External Affairs in their d.o. letter dated December 3,2002 wanted clarification as to what action the Commission expects of the Ministry of External Affairs in so far as the letter dated 01.11.2002 of Shri Nandalal Chakraborty is concerned. The clarification has been issued in the Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2002-03/70/Vol.II/558 dated February 26,2003 stating therein to kindly take appropriate action to help the Commission have access to the documents referred to in the letter dated 01.11.2002 of Shri Nandalal Chakraborty.
- 12 The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was requested by the Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2000/432 dated November 27,2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan the original Register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.05.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit , if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original Death Certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose or Chandra Bose and the original Death Certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura since the Commission is essentially required to have an access to those documents in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the aforesaid letter dated November 27,2002 of the Commission. A copy of the said letter along with copies of the enclosures thereto were also sent to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on November 27, 2002 by Registered Post. The documents called for are yet to be received.

13. With Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/N.Delhi/99-2000/37(III)/372 dated October 10,2002 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, xerox copies of Prime Minister Office's letter No.915/11/C/2/2002-Pol. dated 3<sup>rd</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> September,2002 addressed to the Commission, P.M.O.'s U.O. No.PMS-307 dated 05.01.1974 sent to Shri T.C.A. Nivasavardan, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and d.o. letter No.24/27/71-Pol.II(D.III) dated May 3/4,1974 of the Home Minister addressed to Samar Guha, M.P. were enclosed and the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to kindly furnish to the Commission immediately the details of documents which could be secured by the Government of India and supplied to the Khosla Commission as also the particulars of the documents which could not be secured by them because of their non-availability along with authenticated xerox copies of different affidavits of the Ministry of Home Affairs filed before the Khosla Commission in the matter and of the reply given by the Home Minister in the Lok Sabha on 27<sup>th</sup> March,1974 as stated in the aforesaid d.o. letter dated 3/4 May,1974 of the Home Minister addressed to Shri Samar Guha, M.P. He was further requested to kindly send immediately an authenticated xerox copy of the reply, if any, given by the Ministry of Home Affairs to Shri Samar Guha as requested in para 4 of the aforesaid P.M.O's U.O. Note No.PMS-307 dated 05.01.1974. The reports/particulars/documents as called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs are still awaited.
14. The Secretary, Prime Minister's Office has been requested by Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow up)/99-2000/48(III)/188 dated July 12,2002 to furnish the Commission immediately with the documents mentioned against four Com.Nos., viz.,com.11, 30(R) (2), 30(S)(2), and 30(V)(I), since those documents do not appear to have been submitted to the Commission as yet which is supposed to be done by the Prime Minister's Office as mentioned in the 3<sup>rd</sup> para of the d.o. letter No.IV/8(66)/2001-2184 dated 12.12.2001 of Shri Sanjoy Sinha, Joint Director, IB, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, a xerox copy of which has been enclosed with the aforesaid letter dated 12.07.2002 of the Commission. The documents called for are still awaited.
15. By d.o. letter No. JMCI/Records/99-2000/37(III)/359 dated October 3,2002 of the Secretary of the Commission addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India, the attention of the latter was drawn to a special message from Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose of the Provincial Government of Azad Hind (Singapore) broadcast on 31.42 Metres in 2115-25 hrs. daily "commentary in English" on August 18,1945 which appears to have been monitored by the monitoring service of All India Radio, Simla, and presented to the National Archives of India by the Publication Division of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. A copy of said message has been enclosed with the said d.o. letter dated October 3,2002 for ready reference. The Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting was requested to throw some light on the points whether the message was live and a direct broadcast or

whether the broadcast was of a pre-recorded message/speech of Netaji. The response of the said Ministry in the matter is still awaited.

16. On being requested by the Commission, the Indian Embassy in Japan has agreed on December 27, 2002 to solicit the services of an expert to re-examine the bones allegedly of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple "to seek his opinion on whether any material exists from which D.N.A. may be isolated for the purpose of a D.N.A. test." Further development in the matter is still awaited.
17. Steps have been taken for holding the hearing of the Commission on 26.03.2003 and 27.03.2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, when, besides transacting other business, the Commission is expected to examine 9 (nine) witnesses.
18. Steps have been taken to collect blood samples on 04.03.2003 of Shri Subrata Bose, and Shri Dwaraka Nath Bose, who are sons of the elder brothers of Netaji as also of Shri Sadhan Kar who is a descendant from the maternal lineage of Netaji.
19. A proposal has been sent in Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Admn./99-2000/32(II)/560 dated 27.02.2003 for extension of the term of the Justice M.K.Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry for a further period of one year with effect from 15.05.03 showing therein the nature and extent of hurdles from different quarters which the Commission had to face in the past and has been facing presently and highlighting some of the main reasons for which the Commission is not in a position to complete its inquiry within 15<sup>th</sup> May,2003 upto which the present term of the Commission stands extended.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.03.2003 to 31.03.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003 forwarded under Commission's Registered letters No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/585(7) dated 07.03.2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
2. There has been no further development in the matters as stated in paras 2,3,4,5,8,10,11,12,13,14, and 15 of the aforesaid Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003.
3.
  - (a) Hearing of the Commission was held on 26.03.2003 and 27.03.2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, when seven witnesses were examined before the Commission.
  - (b) Orders in pursuance of the hearing of the Commission held on 09.01.2003 in respect of paragraph 7(a) of the Status Report as on 28.11.2002, were passed by the Hon'ble Chairman at the time of the hearing of the Commission on 26.03.2003.
  - (c) The next hearing of the Commission will be on April 03, 2003.
4. The Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his d.o. letter dated 13.11.2002 addressed to the Hon'ble Chairman has stated inter alia : ".....since the Commission feels that these papers (i.e. classified British records on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) could be of vital importance with reference to its mandate, we have again taken up the issue of their release with the British Government and would keep you informed of the outcome in this regard.

I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you of all possible assistance from our side to facilitate the inquiry of the Commission".

Since then the Ministry of External Affairs has sent a d.o. letter bearing No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(I) dated February 28, 2003 wherein it has been stated, inter alia, that the Indian Mission in London has taken up the matter with the authorities

concerned in the U.K. and has been following up with them; but "till date no response has been received from the British authorities."

- 5 (a) In view of the assertions of some deponents that documents containing clinching evidence relating to the points of inquiry of the Commission are in the possession and/or under the control of different foreign Departments, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India was requested on 11.11.2002, (apropos the Hon'ble Chairman's discussions with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India held on 28.10.2002), to take up the matter with the Government of the U.K., the U.S.A., Japan, Taiwan, Russia, all other States which are now sovereign but previously within the erstwhile USSR, Thailand, Malayasia, Singapore, Vietnam, Germany, Ireland, etc. to make available or accessible to the Commission at their earliest convenience, all relevant documents which are in the possession and/or under the control of the aforesaid Governments and/or in the various archives of those countries. In response, a list of archives in Kazakhstan and the name, address, etc. of one archive in Kyrgyzstan have been received on 10.02.2003, lists of archives of Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Armenia and the name and telephone No. of one archive in Georgia, have been received on 25.02.2003, and lists of archives in Belarus and Lithuania have been received on 11.03.2003. The Ministry of External Affairs has stated in their d.o. letters dated February 28, 2003 that the National Archives of Turkmenistan do not have any information on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; that the Ministry of External Affairs has asked the Indian Mission in Moscow to check with the Russian Foreign Office about the presence of any relevant documents in the archives of the Russian Federation with specific references to the archives mentioned in the list of Dr. (Mrs.) Purabi Roy; that the Indian Mission in the Russian Federation is checking with the Russian Foreign Office regarding the points raised by the Commission in its letter No. 398 dated 11.11.2002 concerning the list of archives in the Russian Federation, that the Indian Mission in Belarus "has also informed that all requests for service from the listed archives must be specific and all services rendered are charged"; and that information from the remaining countries are being procured and will be sent to the Commission as soon as received.
- (b) The Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested by Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/599 dated March 21, 2003 to kindly send immediately a copy of the reply received by the Indian Mission, Turkmenistan which was not received along with the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(I) dated 28.02.2003 as stated therein. He was also requested to kindly ask the Indian Mission in Belarus to inquire locally and report immediately whether any documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are available in the Archives in Belerus and Lithuania. He was further requested to kindly ask the Indian Missions in Ukraine, Turkmenistan, Armenia, and Georgia to make local inquiries and report immediately as to whether any documents relating to

Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and relevant to the inquiry of the Commission are available in the Archives of those countries.

- (c) The Commission has also written on March 21, 2003 to the Director, National Museum of History of the Great Patriotic War, 1941-45, Archives of Ukraine, the Director, Central State Historical Archives of Ukraine, the Director General, Lithuanian State Archives System, the Director, Lithuanian State History Archive, the Director, Lithuanian Central State Archive, the Director, Lithuanian New State Archive, the Director, Lithuanian Special Archive, and the Director, Lithuanian Literature and Arts Archives, as also to the Chairman, Committee for Control Over Archives and Documentation, Kazakhstan (through H.E. Ambassador of India in Kazakhstan) with a request to kindly favour this Commission with their reports on whether any documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose are available in their Archives and if so, to kindly furnish the particulars of such documents to this Commission as early as possible to facilitate its inquiry. The Lithuanian New State Archives has intimated that they do not have any documents concerning Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
6. The reports solicited from the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/446 dated December 5, 2002 on the outcome of further inquiry pursuant to the communication dated May 8, 2001 of Shri Harish K. Jain, Consul, St. Petersburg, addressed to the Embassy of India, Moscow, a copy of which was enclosed with the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated October 31, 2002, is yet to be received.
  7. The blood samples of Shri Subrata Bose and Shri Dwaraka Nath Bose, who are sons of the elder brothers of Netaji, as also of Shri Sadhan Kar, who is a descendent from the maternal lineage of Netaji, were collected by the Commission on 04.03.2003 and on that very day, an authorised officer of the Commission went to Hyderabad and deposited them with the Centre for D.N.A. Fingerprinting and Diagonistics, Hyderabad along with seven teeth found amongst the belongings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad, for D.N.A. tests.
  8. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was requested by the Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/CPDC/2000/432 dated November 27, 2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan the original Register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.05.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original Death Certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose and the original Death Certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura. A copy of the said letter along with copies of the enclosures thereto were also sent to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on November 27, 2002 by Registered Post. The Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India in their d.o. letter dated 11.02.2003 received

by the Commission on 24.02.2003 has stated, inter alia, that the matter is under reference to the authorities concerned in Japan and that the Ministry "shall revert as soon as a response is received from the Japanese authorities". Further development in the matter is still awaited.

9. The Commission has been persistently asking the Ministry of Defence, Government of India for their affidavit on existence/non-existence/availability/non-availability, etc. of the complete records of the proceedings of the trial of the I.N.A. personnel. But no such affidavit has been filed by the Ministry of Defence as yet. They have also not stated categorically that all the files of the Ministry of Defence on INA/Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose were sent to the History Division of the Ministry of Defence; that the History Division of the Ministry of Defence transferred all those files to the National Archives of India on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 1997 and that none of the files on INA/Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is presently available with any of the Offices/Divisions/Authorities under the Ministry of Defence, Government of India. The Deputy Director, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Government of India has, however, stated in his letter No.2191/NIC/H/99 dated February 25, 2003 that all files pertaining to INA which were held by the History Division of the Ministry of Defence were transferred by them to the National Archives of India. In reply to the Commission's letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rep./Compliance/2003/87/584 dated March 6, 2003, the Deputy Director of Archives, Government of India in his d.o. letter dated March 24, 2003 received by the Commission on 31.03.2003 has stated that "there are about 15 files which relate to trial/court-martial proceedings of I.N.A. personnel" and has furnished a list of the said 15 files.
  
10. On being requested by the Commission, the Indian Embassy in Japan agreed on December 27, 2002 to solicit the services of an expert to re-examine the bones allegedly of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple "to seek his opinion on whether any material exists from which D.N.A. test may be isolated for the purposes of a D.N.A. test." A reminder was sent to the said Indian Embassy by FAX on 11.03.2003. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/590 dated 13.03.2003 the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs was requested to take necessary action so that the Commission receives the opinion of a competent expert immediately on whether any material exists in the mortal remains allegedly of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept at the Renkoji Temple in Japan from which D.N.A. may be isolated for the purposes of D.N.A. tests, as called for by the Commission from the Embassy of India in Tokyo. Shri Biren Nanda, Charge d' Affairs of the Embassy of India in Tokyo in his communication dated 27.12.2002 (sic) sent by FAX and received by the Commission on 27.03.2003 has requested the Commission to correspond directly with the Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi on this matter.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.04.2003 to 30.04.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.03.2003 to 31.03.2003 forwarded under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A(II)/626(7) dated April 02, 2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
2. There has been no further development in the matters as stated in paras 3, 5, 8, 12, 13, 15 and 19 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003.
3. (a) The hearing of the Commission was held on April 03, 2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, when Shri Bijay Kumar Nag, the only witness who turned up on that day, was examined in full and the matters in the Status Report as on 24.03.2003 (forenoon) were discussed.  
  
(b) Notices have been sent for recording deposition of Shri Apurba Chandra Ghosh and Shri Sailendra Kumar Roy on 12.05.2003 by the Secretary of the Commission on being appointed as Commissioner for the purpose by the Commission.
4. By Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Stat.Rept./Compliance/2003/87/577 dt. 05.03.2003, the Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested inter alia to ensure strict compliance with the Commission's order as contained in the Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/453(6) dated 9/11.12.2002 and send to the Commission within six weeks the replies/reports in respect of those paras of the Status Report from 01.11.2002 to 30.11.2002 which are concerning the Ministry of Home Affairs, supported by an affidavit duly sworn by a competent Officer, not below the rank of Joint Secretary to the Government of India, as called for in the said Order. No such affidavit has been received from the Ministry of Home Affairs as yet.

5. The Commission in its letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/14 dated 10.04.2003 has indicated all the correspondence made by it and the replies/responses thereto received by it regarding feasibility of D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 10.04.2003 : 'Only positive reply in the matter has been received from Mr. Terry Milton..... but there is a precondition stipulated by him ..... This is "anthropological evaluation of remains, including photography". He has categorically written, "We would like to receive the anthropologist's report prior to proceeding".....

As the Commission is now in a fix as to how anthropological evaluation and other necessary scientific tests of the alleged mortal remains kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan should be done for ascertaining the feasibility of D.N.A. test on that mortal remains, it has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs with the request 'to take necessary action as early as possible to enable the Commission to get necessary anthropological evaluation and other necessary tests done for taking the next step for D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains'. A copy of the said letter dated 10.04.2003 along with its enclosures was forwarded for information and necessary action to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The response of the Government of India is being anxiously awaited.

6. A xerox copy of the letter dated 10.02.2003 of Shri Sunil Krishna Gupta and four others and xerox copies of the enclosures thereto, which is a list of documents exhibited by the witnesses before Justice Khosla Commission, were sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 with the request to kindly furnish to the Commission immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents mentioned in the said letter dated 10.02.2003 and its enclosures. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated March 28, 2003 of Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, it has been stated, inter alia, that copies/originals of all the documents related to Justice Khosla Commission would be available only with the Ministry of Home Affairs and that the letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1951 of Shri Subimal Dutta, the then Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, addressed to Shri A. M. Sahay, and the letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1952 of Shri A. M. Sahay to Shri Subimal Dutta were sent in original by Ministry of External Affairs to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Accordingly, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/15 dated 11.04.2003 to kindly send immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents as called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003, a copy of which appears to have been sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of External Affairs earlier in response to which the Ministry of External Affairs wrote the aforesaid d.o. letter dated March 28, 2003 to the Secretary of the Commission.

7. (a) The Director, Intelligence Bureau, was sent an extract of para 5.38 of Chapter Five of the report dated June 30, 1974 of Justice Khosla Commission with Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/N.D./99-2000/37(IV)/625 dated April 1, 2003 and was requested to kindly make available to the Commission immediately authenticated xerox copies of the three reports under Finney's signatures dated 5/10/1945, 10/10/1945, and 12/10/1945 respectively and of the report dated 7/10/1945 signed by Davies which were supplied to the Justice Khosla Commission by the Intelligence Bureau as stated in the aforesaid para 5.38.  
The response is awaited.
- (b) By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/624 dated April 1, 2003 attention of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs was drawn to Commission's letter No.JMCI/25/2000/413 dated 14.11.2002 followed by the reminders bearing Nos. 487 dated 30.12.2002 and No.525 dated 30.01.2003 and he was requested once again to kindly make available to the Commission immediately authenticated xerox copies of the reports allegedly prepared by M/S. Finney and Davies who were allegedly sent to the Far East along with Mr. H.K. Roy and Mr. P.K. De, both Indian Police Officers, to trace Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose after the alleged plane crash in Taipei in 1945. His attention was also drawn in this regard to para 5.38 of Chapter Five of the report dated June 30, 1974 of Justice Khosla Commission wherein it is stated, inter alia, that the three reports bearing Finney's signatures dated 05/10/1945, 10/10/1945, and 12/10/1945 and one report dated 07/10/1945 signed by Davies have been supplied to the Khosla Commission by the Intelligence Bureau.  
The response is still awaited.
8. The attention of the Director (IS-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India was drawn by Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/39 dated April 28, 2003 to the letter No.281/12/1/2000-IS dated 13.11.2002 from Shri Satrughna Singh, Director, Cabinet Secretariat as also to the letter No.1/12014/13/IS(D.V) dated 02.01.2003 of the Director (IS-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, and he was requested to clarify as to whether F.Nos. in the aforesaid letter dated 13.11.2002 denote File Nos. of the Cabinet Secretariat or those are identification numbers of some documents or classes of documents. He was also requested to let the Commission know which of the documents in the files sent by Shri Bhatia of the Ministry of Home Affairs can be related to the Sl.Nos. (ii), (iii), (iv) and (vi) at para 2 of the letter dated 13.11.2002 of the Cabinet Secretariat, if F. Nos. denote identification Nos. of some documents or classes of documents, since no files bearing F. Nos. mentioned in the said letter dated 13.11.2002 of Shri Satrughna Singh of the Cabinet Secretariat have been received by the Commission.

9. A complete list of the names and addresses of all the archives in the Russian Union, as called for in Commission's letter No. 134 dated 21.06.2002 followed by reminders No. 257 dated August 14, 2002 and No. 348 dated 27.09.2002 is yet to be received, though lists of some / all archives of some of the States which were within the erstwhile USSR could be received from the Ministry of External Affairs in pursuance of the Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/398 dated November 11, 2002 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on the subject : Documents, Records, Files, etc. relating to and/or having relevance to the points of inquiry which are in the possession or under the control of the Governments of the UK, the USA, the Russian Federation and other States which were within the erstwhile USSR, Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Malayasia, Singapore, Germany, Ireland, etc. wherein the attention of the said Joint Secretary was also drawn to the Commission's aforesaid letter No.348 dated September 27, 2002.

Further actions of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India on all the points mentioned in the said letter No.398 dated November 11, 2002 of the Commission are still awaited.

10. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs was requested by Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/CPDC/2002/432 dated November 27, 2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan original register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, so that the Commission may have access to these documents. It has also pointed therein that from the materials before the Commission it seems that one death certificate in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose was issued on 18.08.1945; that from the certified copy of extract from the original document on Cremation Permit in the name of Ichiro Okura it appears further that the certified copy of extract of the original document was issued on July 14, 1945 and that the original document on cremation permit was in existence on July 14, 1956 i.e., long after the end of the Second World War. In the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX-I dated February 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated, inter alia : "we have asked our Embassy to seek the requisite clarifications and obtain the desired documents from the Government of Japan. The matter is under reference to the concerned authorities in Japan. We are waiting to hear from them on this issue. We shall revert as soon as a response is received from the Japanese authorities." Since the Commission has not heard further from the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter it can be legitimately presumed that the Japanese authorities has not responded as yet.

11. Reports solicited by the Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/446 dated December 5, 2002 on the outcome of further inquiry pursuant to the communication dated May 8, 2001 of Shri Harish K. Jain, Consul, St. Petersburg addressed to the Embassy of India, Moscow, a copy of which was enclosed with the d.o.letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated October 31, 2002 of the Ministry of External Affairs, is yet to be received.
12. (a) The report of the second handwriting expert regarding verification of handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad with the admitted specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, is yet to be received.  
  
(b) The report of the Director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad regarding D.N.A. tests of the blood samples of two sons of the two elder brothers of Netaji and of one of the descendants belonging to the maternal lineage of Netaji as also of the teeth allegedly belonging to 'Gumnami Baba,' is yet to be received.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

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**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.05.2003 to 31.05.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.04.2003 to 30.04.2003 forwarded under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A(II)/50(7) dated May 06, 2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
2. There has been no further development in the matters as stated in paras 3,5,8, & 15 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003.
3. The Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in their letter No.1/12014/13/2000-IS (D.V) dated 28.04.03, have stated, inter alia, that despite various efforts, the Ministry of Home Affairs' File No.24/27/71-Pol.-II could not be traced. Hence, the reports/particulars/documents as called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs and mentioned in para 13 of the Status Report for the month of February , 2002 could not be obtained by the Commission from the Ministry of Home Affairs.
4. The clarifications sought for from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/39 dated April 28, 2003 in respect of Serial Nos. (ii),(iii),(iv),(v) and (vi) of para 2 of letter No.281/12/1/2000-IS dated 13.11.2002 of the Cabinet Secretariat are yet to be received.
5. The Commission in its letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/14 dated 10.04.2003 has indicated all the correspondence made by it and the replies/responses thereto received by it regarding feasibility of D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 10.04.2003 : "Only positive reply in the matter has been received from Mr. Terry Milton..... but there is a precondition stipulated by him ..... This is 'anthropological evaluation of remains, including photography'. He has categorically written, 'we would like to receive the anthropologist's report prior to proceeding'.....".

As the Commission is now in a fix as to how anthropological evaluation and other necessary scientific tests of the alleged mortal remains kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan should be done for ascertaining the feasibility of D.N.A. test on that mortal remains, it has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs with the request 'to take necessary action as early as possible to enable the Commission to get necessary anthropological evaluation and other necessary tests done for taking the next step for D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains'. A copy of the said letter dated 10.04.2003 along with its enclosures was forwarded for information and necessary action to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The response of the Government of India is still being anxiously awaited.

6. A xerox copy of the letter dated 10.02.2003 of Shri Sunil Krishna Gupta and four others and xerox copies of the enclosures thereto, which is a list of documents exhibited by the witnesses before Justice Khosla Commission, have been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 with the request to kindly furnish to the Commission immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents mentioned in the said letter dated 10.02.2003 and its enclosures. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated March 28, 2003 of Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, it has been stated, inter alia, that copies/originals of all the documents related to Justice Khosla Commission would be available only with the Ministry of Home Affairs and that the letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1951 of Shri Subimal Dutta, the then Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, addressed to Shri A. M. Sahay, and the letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1952 of Shri A. M. Sahay to Shri Subimal Dutta were sent in original by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Accordingly, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/15 dated 11.04.2003 to kindly send immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents as called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003, a copy of which appears to have been sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of External Affairs earlier in response to which the Ministry of External Affairs wrote the aforesaid d.o. letter dated March 28, 2003 to the Secretary of the Commission. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter is still awaited.
7. By Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./Compliance/2003/87/67 dated May 22, 2003 the attention of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been drawn to the Order of the Commission communicated to him by Commission's letters No. JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/453(6) dated 9/11<sup>th</sup> December, 2002 and No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./Compliance/2002/87/577 dated March 5, 2003 as also to the letter No. 1/12014/13/2000-IS(D.V) dated 28.04.2003 received from Mr. U.K.Kalra, Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, indicating, inter alia, the nature and extent of

repeated non-compliance of the order and directions of the Commission and communicating the directions of the Commission to ensure that the reports asked for in the letters dated 9/11.12.2002 and 05.03.2003 of the Commission, reach the Commission as early as possible, but not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003.

8. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs has been requested by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/432 dated November 27, 2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan the original register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, so that the Commission may have access to those documents. It has also been pointed out therein that from the materials before the Commission it seems that one death certificate in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose was issued on 18.08.1945; that from the certified copy of extract from the original document on Cremation Permit in the name of Ichiro Okura it appears further that the certified copy of extract of the original document was issued on July 14, 1956 and that the original document on cremation permit was in existence on July 14, 1956 i.e., long after the end of the Second World War. In the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX-I dated February 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated, inter alia : "we have asked our Embassy to seek the requisite clarifications and obtain the desired documents from the Government of Japan. The matter is under reference to the concerned authorities in Japan. We are waiting to hear from them on this issue. We shall revert as soon as a response is received from the Japanese authorities." The Commission has not heard further from the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter.
9. Report solicited by the Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/446 dated December 5, 2002 on the outcome of further inquiry pursuant to the communication dated May 8, 2001 of Shri Harish K. Jain, Consul, St. Petersburg addressed to the Embassy of India, Moscow, a copy of which was enclosed with the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated October 31, 2002 of the Ministry of External Affairs, is yet to be received.
10. The action taken by the Indian Embassy in Moscow regarding their checking with the witnesses indicated in the enclosure to the Commission's registered letter No. Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70 (Vol.II)/621 dated 01.04.2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

as mentioned in para 5 of the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol. IX dated April 22, 2003 of the Ministry is still awaited.

11. (a) By Commission's letter No.398 dated November 11, 2002 the Ministry of External Affairs have been requested, inter alia, to kindly pursue with the Government of the U.K. closely to get declassified all relevant classified British documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and/or INA which are in the possession and/or under the control of the Government of the U.K. as also to persuade the Government of the Russian Federation, the U.S.A., Japan, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Taiwan, Germany, Ireland, etc. to make available or accessible to the Commission all documents classified/declassified/unclassified containing the evidence/materials relating to and/or having relevance to the points of enquiry of the Commission which are in the possession and/or under the control of the aforesaid Governments and/or in the various archives of those countries. The Ministry of External Affairs in their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(I) dated February 28, 2003 have stated that no response has been received from the British authorities regarding declassification of classified British documents; that the Indian Missions in various countries have taken up the matter of making available all records, relevant to the points of inquiry, in their possession or under their control; and that regarding the matters furnished by Dr. (Mrs.) Purabi Roy as stated in the penultimate para of the Commission's aforesaid letter No. 398 dated November 11, 2002, the Indian Mission in Tokyo has been asked to check with the Russian Foreign Office about the presence of any relevant documents with specific reference to the archives mentioned in the list of Dr. Purabi Roy. After receipt of the said d.o. letter dated February 28, 2003 of the Ministry of External Affairs, we have received another d.o.letter from them bearing No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 wherewith some documents relating to the communication between President Truman and Gen. Mac. Arthur have been sent to the Commission and it has also received some papers from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated April 22, 2003. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/75 dated May 27, 2003 the attention of the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to the letter dated March 13, 2003 of the Director, Textual Archives Services Division of the National Archives and Records Administration, USA addressed to Shri S.K. Behra, Consular, Embassy of India (Chancery) which has been sent to the Commission as an enclosure to the aforesaid d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated April 22, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the Secretary of the said Ministry has been requested to kindly take up the matter immediately so that the Commission may get access to the records related to Subhas Chandra Bose alias Chandra Bose admitted

to be available in the records of the American Embassy and Consulates in India.

- (b) A complete list of the names and addresses of all the archives in the Russian Union, as called for in Commission's letter No. 134 dated 21.06.2002 followed by reminders No. 257 dated August 14, 2002 and No. 348 dated 27.09.2002 is yet to be received, though lists of some / all archives of some of the States which were within the erstwhile USSR could be received from the Ministry of External Affairs in pursuance of the Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/398 dated November 11, 2002 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on the subject : "Documents, Records, Files, etc. relating to and/or having relevance to the points of inquiry which are in the possession or under the control of the Governments of the UK, the USA, the Russian Federation and other States which were within the erstwhile USSR, Japan, Vietnam, Taiwan, Thailand, Malayasia, Singapore, Germany, Ireland, etc", wherein the attention of the said Joint Secretary has also been drawn to the Commission's aforesaid letter No.348 dated September 27, 2002.
- (c) By Commission's letters No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/71 dated May 27, 2003 and No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(II)/72 dated May 27, 2003, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, and the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, respectively have been requested to make endeavours to get the photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also the photographs taken at the hospital after the alleged death of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and to send to the Commission the print of those photographs along with negatives thereof as early as possible since para 4 at page 3 of a purported copy of three-page summary of information regarding Subhas Chandra Bose made by General Headquarters, United States Army Forces, Pacific, which has been sent as an enclosure to the letter dated October 11, 1945 of the General Headquarters, Supreme Commander For The Allied Powers addressed to the Chief of Staff, War Department, Washington 25, D.C. reveals that, according to Habibur Rahman, the said photos were taken at the scene of the plane crash as also at the hospital after the alleged death of Subhas Chandra Bose and that those photos were then in the possession of the Japanese War Office in Tokyo. It has also been stated in the Commission's said letters that those photos do not appear to have been produced before the Khosla Commission and the Shah Nawaz Khan Committee.
- (d) By Commission's letters No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/76 dated May 27, 2003 and No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/77 dated May 27,2003 the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs,

Government of India, and the Director General, National Archives of India, respectively have been furnished with copies of an article titled, "Jawaharlal Nehru and the Red Threat to India" authored by Elliot Ericson which allegedly appeared in February, 1954 in the National Republic, a monthly American Magazine, as stated in an affidavit, filed before the Commission and the said addressees have been requested to kindly obtain an authenticated copy of the article since the Commission has no Library of its own through which inter library loan service may be sought for from the Princeton University Library as suggested in the letter dated May 22, 2003 received by e-Mail from Ms. Mary George of Princeton University Library. The said addressees have also been furnished with copies of the said letter dated May 22, 2003.

- 12 (a) The report of the second handwriting expert regarding verification of the handwritings allegedly of 'Gunnami Baba' of Faizabad with the admitted specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, is yet to be received.
- (b) The reports of the Director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad regarding D.N.A. tests of the blood samples of two sons of the two elder brothers of Netaji and of one of the descendants belonging to the maternal lineage of Netaji as also of the teeth allegedly belonging to 'Gunnami Baba,' are yet to be received.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.06.2003 to 30.06.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.05.2003 to 31.05.2003 forwarded under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A(II)/93(7) dated June 4, 2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
2. (a) There has been no further development in the matters as stated in paras 3 and 15 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003.  
  
(b) There has been no further development also in the matters as stated in paras 11(a),(b),(c), and (d) of the Status Report for the period from 01.05.2003 to 31.05.2003.
3. The clarifications sought for from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/39 dated April 28, 2003 in respect of Serial Nos. (ii),(iii),(iv),(v) and (vi) of para 2 of letter No.281/12/1/2000-IS dated 13.11.2002 of the Cabinet Secretariat are yet to be received.
4. The Commission in its letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/14 dated 10.04.2003 has indicated all the correspondence made by it and the replies / responses thereto received by it regarding feasibility of D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 10.04.2003 : "Only positive reply in the matter has been received from Mr. Terry Milton..... but there is a precondition stipulated by him ..... This is 'anthropological evaluation of remains, including photography'. He has categorically written, 'we would like to receive the anthropologist's report prior to proceeding'.....".  
As the Commission is now in a fix as to how anthropological evaluation and other necessary scientific tests of the alleged mortal remains kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan should be done for ascertaining the feasibility of D.N.A. test on that mortal remains, it has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs with the

request 'to take necessary action as early as possible to enable the Commission to get necessary anthropological evaluation and other necessary tests done for taking the next step for D.N.A. test on the alleged mortal remains'. A copy of the said letter dated 10.04.2003 along with its enclosures was forwarded for information and necessary action to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

The response of the Government of India is still being anxiously awaited.

5. A xerox copy of the letter dated 10.02.2003 of Shri Sunil Krishna Gupta and four others and xerox copies of the enclosures thereto, which is a list of documents exhibited by the witnesses before Justice Khosla Commission, have been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 with the request to kindly furnish to the Commission immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents mentioned in the said letter dated 10.02.2003 and its enclosures. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated March 28, 2003 of Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, it has been stated, inter alia, that copies/originals of all the documents related to Justice Khosla Commission would be available only with the Ministry of Home Affairs and that the letter dated 1<sup>st</sup> November, 1951 of Shri Subimal Dutta, the then Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, addressed to Shri A. M. Sahay, and the letter dated 17<sup>th</sup> January, 1952 of Shri A. M. Sahay to Shri Subimal Dutta were sent in original by the Ministry of External Affairs to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Accordingly, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/11/2000/15 dated 11.04.2003 to kindly send immediately the original or authenticated true copies of all the documents as called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003, a copy of which appears to have been sent by the Ministry of Home Affairs to the Ministry of External Affairs earlier in response to which the Ministry of External Affairs wrote the aforesaid d.o. letter dated March 28, 2003 to the Secretary of the Commission. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter is still awaited.
6. By Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./Compliance/2003/87/67 dated May 22, 2003 the attention of the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been drawn to the Order of the Commission communicated to him by Commission's letters No. JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A/453(6) dated 9/11<sup>th</sup> December, 2002 and No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./Compliance/2002/87/577 dated March 5, 2003 as also to the letter No. 1/12014/13/2000-IS(D.V) dated 28.04.2003 received from Mr. U. K. Kalra, Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, indicating, inter alia, the nature and extent of repeated non-compliance of the order and directions of the Commission and communicating the directions of the Commission to ensure that the reports asked for in the letters dated 9/11.12.2002 and 05.03.2003 of the Commission,

reach the Commission as early as possible, but not later than 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2003. The reports called for has not yet been received.

7. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs has been requested by Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/432 dated November 27, 2002 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan the original register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, so that the Commission may have access to those documents. It has also been pointed out therein that from the materials before the Commission it seems that one death certificate in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose was issued on 18.08.1945; that from the certified copy of extract from the original document on Cremation Permit in the name of Ichiro Okura it appears further that the certified copy of extract of the original document was issued on July 14, 1956 and that the original document on cremation permit was in existence on July 14, 1956 i.e., long after the end of the Second World War. In the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX-I dated February 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary, CNV, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated, inter alia : "we have asked our Embassy to seek the requisite clarifications and obtain the desired documents from the Government of Japan. The matter is under reference to the concerned authorities in Japan. We are waiting to hear from them on this issue. We shall revert as soon as a response is received from the Japanese authorities." From the d.o.ter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(III) dated 11.06.2003 of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it appears that no positive response has yet been received by them from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
8. Report solicited by the Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/446 dated December 5, 2002 on the outcome of further inquiry pursuant to the communication dated May 8, 2001 of Shri Harish K. Jain, Consul, St. Petersburg addressed to the Embassy of India, Moscow, a copy of which was enclosed with the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated October 31, 2002 of the Ministry of External Affairs, is yet to be received.
9. The outcome of the action taken by the Indian Embassy in Moscow regarding their checking with the witnesses indicated in the enclosure to the Commission's registered letter No. Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70 (Vol.II)/621 dated 01.04.2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as mentioned in para 5 of the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol. IX dated April 22, 2003 of the Ministry is still awaited.

10. The report of the second hand writing expert regarding comparison of the hand writings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad with the admitted specimen hand writings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is expected to be available soon .
11. The reports of the Director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad regarding D.N.A. tests of the blood samples of two sons of the two elder brothers of Netaji and of one of the descendants belonging to the maternal lineage of Netaji as also of the teeth allegedly belonging to 'Gumnami Baba,' are yet to be received.
12. The evidence of two deponents available in Pune and one deponent available in Amrabati, Maharashtra, have been recorded by the Secretary of the Commission on its behalf during the last week of June, 2003,
13. Steps have been taken for holding the hearing of the Commission on 14.07.2003 and 15.07.2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, when eight witnesses are to be examined and one witness is to be further examined.
14. Seventy six records/files , which are admitted by the Intelligence Bureau , Government of India, to be available with them, could not be perused by Shri P.N. Chakravarty, Senior Research Officer of the Commission when he visited the Intelligence Bureau, New Delhi, as per programme in the second half of February, 2003 with prior intimation to the Intelligence Bureau, Government of India. He was given to understand that the Micro-film system of the I.B. has become non-functional ; that they are shifting their office to a new site and that it would take considerable time by the I.B. to make those records available for inspection on behalf of the Commission, after shifting of the records was completed and the Micro-film system was restored. The Deputy Central Intelligence Officer, Subsidiary Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, Kolkata, has verbally intimated that those records can be made available now by the I.B. for inspection on behalf of the Commission. Necessary steps have been taken accordingly.
15. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested by Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/75 dated May 27, 2003 to kindly take up with American Embassy and Consulates in India so that the Commission may get access to the records regarding Subhas Chandra Bose alias Chandra Bose with them as admitted to be available in the letter dated March 13, 2003 of the Director, Textual Archive Services Division of the National Archives and Records Administration, USA addressed to Shri S.K. Behra, Counsellor, Embassy of India (Chancery), a copy of which has been sent to the Commission along with the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated April 22, 2003 of the Joint Secretary(CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission. Further development in the matter is awaited.

16. The Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, and the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, have been requested by Commission's letters No.70(II)/72 and 70(II)/71, both dated May 27, 2003 respectively, to make endeavours to get the photographs of the scene of the plane crash as also the photographs taken at the hospital after the alleged death of Netaji and to send to the Commission the prints of those photographs along with the negatives thereof as early as possible since the enclosures of the aforesaid letters reveal that according to Habibur Rahman those photos were taken and were then lying in the possession of the Japanese War Office in Tokyo. From Memo No.I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated June 6, 2003 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, a copy of which has been endorsed to the Commission, it appears that the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat, the Ministry of External Affairs, the Ministry of Defence (History Division), Government of India, and the National Archives of India, have been requested to make efforts to locate the said photographs, if any, available in those Ministries/Departments and to communicate the result of the efforts to the Commission under intimation to the Ministry of Home Affairs. Further intimation in the matter is awaited.
  
17. By Commission's letter No.70/443 dated November 27, 2002, a copy of the letter dated November 1, 2002 of Shri Nandalal Chakravarty, one of the deponents of the Affidavit No.JMCI/11 has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in continuation of the Commission's letter No.56(IV)/398 dated November 11, 2002 with the request to take necessary action in the matter. In the said letter dated November 1, 2002 Shri Chakravarty has requested the Commission to visit the U.K., U.S.A., and Germany for reasons mentioned in his said letter. In response to the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VIII dated December 3, 2002 of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to the Secretary of the Commission, the Ministry of External Affairs has been requested by way of clarification to kindly take appropriate action to help the Commission have access to the documents referred to in the said letter dated November 1, 2002 of Shri Chakravarty. A reminder has been sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, vide Commission's letter No.70(II)/131 dated June 18, 2003. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**  
 For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**  
 'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT  
 (From 01.07.2003 to 31.07.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.06.2003 to 30.06.2003 forwarded under Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Stat.Rept./99-2000/33A(II)/150(7) dated July 7, 2003 to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their end.
  
2. There has been no further development in the matters as stated in –
  - (i) Paras 3 and 15 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003.
  
  - (ii) Para 11 of the Status Report for the period from 01.05.2003 to 31.05.2003, and
  
  - (iii) Paras 3, 8, 9 of the Status Report for the period from 01.06.2003 to 30.06.2003.
  
3. As far back as on 10/04/2003 the Commission wrote to the Ministry of Home Affairs (sent by speed post) with a copy of the same endorsed to the Jt. Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (sent by regd. Post), requesting them for taking necessary action as early as possible to enable the Commission to get necessary anthropological evaluation and other necessary scientific tests done (for taking the next step of DNA test) on the alleged said mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji Temple, Tokyo. Copies of the earlier correspondence made by the Commission with different authorities including some Indian and foreign DNA experts were furnished along with its aforesaid letter dated April 10,2003 to those authorities. The issue has also discussed with Mr. Kalra, Director (IS), and Mr. Zuha, Desk Officer, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on July 4,2003 when they came to the office of the Commission in Kolkata to sort out long pending matters. Mr. Kalra proposed a meeting of a representative of the Commission with the competent officers of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, and other Ministry/Departments concerned of the Government of India, to find out ways and means for holding the above test. A reminder was sent to the

Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India by Commission's letter No.83/173 dated 23.07.2003 (sent by speed post) and copy thereof was endorsed to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India (sent by regd. Post). No reply has yet been received to the Commission's aforesaid letter dated April 10,2003 and the proposed meeting referred to hereinbefore is yet to be fixed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. In this regard, the Commission's note for possible supplementary in respect of Rajya Savha 'provisional admitted' DY No.5563 tabled by Shri Prabhakar Reddy for answer on 06.08.2003 regarding mortal remains of Netaji sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on 31.07.2003 by fax and speed post, a copy of which is enclosed herewith, may be referred to

4. Apropos para 5 of the Status Report for June, 2003, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has sent their letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V(NCB)(Pt.) dated 23.07.2003 received by the Commission on 28.07.2003 which appears to be not specific about availability or non-availability of the document called for by the Commission's letter No. JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 read with its letter No.JMCI/11/2000/15 dated April 11, 2003, both addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
5. An affidavit sworn by Mr. Rakesh, Jt. Secretary (Security), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on June 27, 2003 was filed before the Commission on July 4,2003 regarding the contents of para 6 of the Status Report for June, 2003. The Hon'ble Chairman has been pleased to order that no further action on the affidavit is called for.
6. Apropos para 14 of the Status Report for June,2003, Shri P.N. Chakraborty, Sr. Research Officer of the Commission has perused the papers kept in five file covers as also the Micro-films of 12 files of the Cabinet Secretariat at the time of his visit to New Delhi in the middle of July,2003.
7. The report of the second handwriting expert regarding comparison of the hand writings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad with the admitted specimen handwriting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been received by the Commission on July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2003. Steps are being taken to get the aforesaid handwritings examined by a third handwriting expert.
8. Regarding the matter stated in para 15 of the Status Report for June, 2003, the Commission has received a d.o. reply bearing No. 25/4/NGO-Pol.IX(i) dated July 15, 2003 of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, enclosing a copy of the letter dated June 23, 2003 from the Deputy Chief of the Mission, Embassy of the United States of America, which are being examined by the Commission.
9. Regarding para 16 of the Status Report for June, 2003, the Ministry of Home Affairs has endorsed to the Commission their No. I-12014/13/2000-NCB dated

July 28, 2003 enclosing therewith the reports of the Prime Minister's Office, the Cabinet Secretariat (Rashtrapati Bhavan), the Ministry of Defence (History Division), and the Ministry of External Affairs, which indicate that the photographs called for by the Commission are not available with them. The Ministry of Home Affairs have already stated in their aforesaid Memo dated June 6, 2003 that they could not find the said photographs in spite of their vigorous efforts to trace them out. The National Archives has recently sent a report to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in the matter with a copy thereof endorsed to the Commission which states that those photographs are not available with the National Archives of India.

10. The original register of cremation permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for cremation permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for cremation permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, as called for from the Government of Japan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through its Embassy in Japan, are yet to be received by the Commission or made accessible to it.
  
11. (a) By d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. IX dated June 27, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been reported inter alia, that the issue of declassification of all relevant British documents is being pursued, that under the provisions of the US Freedom of Information Act, classified documents, if any, can be requisitioned only by giving specific details of the documents, that there is no relevant documents in Armenia, Turkmenistan, and Taiwan; that the requisite information regarding availability of relevant documents is awaited from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Lithuania, Georgia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malayasia, and Ireland; and that German Foreign Office has conveyed that the request made to them regarding availability of relevant documents is too general in nature. By his d.o. letter of even No. dated April 22, 2003 the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has stated inter alia that no relevant documents are available in Russian State Military Archive, State Archive of Russian Federation, and Russian State Historical Archive of the Far East; and that no information has been found about the fate of S.C. Bose in the Central Archives of Russian F.S.B., the Central Archives of the Ministry of Defence of the Russian Federation, the Manuscript Section of the Russian State Library, the Russian State Archives of Photographic Documents; and the Central State Archives of Russian Federation.

- (b) In reply to the reference made directly by the Commission, the Lithuanian New State Archives, the Lithuanian Literature and Art Archives, the Lithuanian Central State Archives and the Lithuanian Archives Departments have intimated by e-mails that they have no records relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
12. The hearing of the Commission was held on 14.07.2003 and 15.07,2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata, when 4 witnesses were examined in full, one witness was further examined, and 4 witnesses did not turn up. Besides, discussion was held on the Status Report prepared for the purpose of the said hearing.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.08.2003 to 31.08.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.07.2003 to 31.07.2003 forwarded by the Commission to all concerned for taking necessary action at their respective ends.
2. There has been no further development in respect of the matters stated in –
  - (i) para 3 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003;
  - (ii) para 11(a), (b), and (d) of the Status Report for the period from 01.05.2003 to 31.05.2003; and
  - (iii) Paras 8 and 9 of the Status Report for the period from 01.06.2003 to 30.06.2003.
3. The documents referred to at Serial Nos.(ii),(iii),(iv),(v) and (vi) of para 2 of the letter No.281/12/1/2000-IS dated 13.11.2002 of the Cabinet Secretariat and mentioned in Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(iv)/39 dated April 28, 2003 addressed to the Director (SI-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, are yet to be received. The reply given by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India by their letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V(NCB) Vol. III dated August 6, 2003 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission answers the query raised by the Commission in its aforesaid letter dated April 28, 2003 but does not furnish the documents sought for therein.
4. Regarding the matter of para 15 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2003 to 28.02.2003 the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting has sent a copy of the I.D. Note No.3/23/95/P-1 dated 02.01.2003 with their letter No. 2/5(10)2002-F(S) dated July 31, 2003 wherein it is stated inter alia that they "have not been able to find any recorded material or otherwise, which could throw light on the query" made in the Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/Records/99-2000/37(III)/359 dated October 3, 2002 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

5. Apropos para 5 of the Status Report for June, 2003, the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has sent their letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V(NCB) (Pt.) dated 23.07.2003 which does not specifically state about the availability / non-availability of the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 read with its letter No. JMCI/11/2000/15 dated April 11, 2003, both addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
6. In the matters concerning D.N.A. tests of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple as stated in para 3 of the Status Report from 01.07.2003 to 31.07.2003 the Ministry of Home Affairs in their letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V(NCB)Vol.IV dated August 13, 2003 sent by Fax has stated inter alia : "Decision regarding holding of anthropological evaluation for determining the feasibility of DNA test and selection of experts for the purpose fall within the purview of the JMCI and appropriate decisions have to be taken by it. A formal meeting in MHA with MEA and other Ministries/Departments to decide such matters is not considered necessary"., and the Ministry of External Affairs in their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/VoLIX dated August 4, 2003 has stated inter alia : ".....we would request the Commission to select an Indian and a Japanese D.N.A. expert to enable this Ministry to facilitate the process with the help of our Embassy in Tokyo". It is also stated in the said d.o. letter dated August 4, 2003 : "Shri Aftab Seth, Ambassador of India in Tokyo informed that the Mission had identified a Japanese expert for the purpose .....Ambassador Seth sought Ministry's advice on the parameters for identification of a suitable DNA expert .....". The particulars and the credentials of the DNA expert said to have been identified by the Ambassador of India in Tokyo have not been communicated to the Commission either by the Ministry of External Affairs or by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
7. The specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of the documents containing a number of questioned handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnamji Baba' of Faizabad have been made over to the third handwriting expert on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings.
8. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/207 dated August 18, 2003 sent by FAX as well as Speed Post, the Director, Centre for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, has been requested to kindly keep scientifically preserved for sometime more in his Laboratory the blood samples and the specimens sent to him earlier by the Commission for D.N.A. tests lest it is decided by the Commission to get a second opinion on this issue.
9. By Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/206 dated August 18, 2003 the Secretary, American Academy of Forensic Sciences, and by Registered letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/200 dated August 13, 2003,

the Chief Executive, Forensic Science Service, U.K., have been requested to let the Commission know inter alia about the feasibility of the D.N.A. tests on the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple, Japan. The nature and extent of the said mortal remains were also intimated to them in a nutshell. The replies are awaited from the said addressees.

10. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated July 15, 2002 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission sent a copy of the reply dated May 22, 2003 addressed to the Counsellor (Political), High Commission of India, London, by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, which states inter alia : "Virtually all records that are more than 30 years old have been released to the Public Record Office or the British Library. A few relevant papers from the files of the intelligence and security agencies are withheld (with the approval of the Lord Chancellor in accordance with the Public Records Acts). These papers do not add to the substantive account of the circumstances of Subhas Chandra Bose's death that is given in the files available at the British Library. They are withheld as a matter of principle, .....because the peacetime files of the intelligence and security agencies are not released, rather than because of their particular content. In addition, one paper from the files available at the British Library is withheld on the grounds of continuing personal sensitivity. I am sorry that I am not able to say anything more helpful on this."
11. It is reiterated that the original register of cremation permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for cremation permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for cremation permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, as called for from the Government of Japan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through its Embassy in Japan, are yet to be received by the Commission or made accessible to it.
12. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg as mentioned to be sent to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, is yet to be received by the Commission.
13. In the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated June 27, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it is mentioned inter alia that the requisite information regarding availability of relevant documents is awaited from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Lithuania, Georgia, Tajakistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan,

Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Ireland. Further development in the matter is awaited by the Commission. The report regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining archives of the Russian Federation and of the ceded States which erstwhile belonged to the USSR and an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation are yet to be received.

14. Summons have been issued to the seven witnesses who are likely to be examined by the Commission at the time of its hearing scheduled for September 16, 2003 starting at 11.00 a.m. and the Notice of the said hearing has been issued to all concerned.
15. Correspondence is being made by the Commission directly with the Hon'ble Mayor of Taipei as also with the Hon'ble Minister of Transport and Communication, Government of India of Taiwan regarding availability of the official documents with them concerning the alleged crash on August 18, 1945 at Taipei of the plane allegedly carrying Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and others. Their replies in confirmation of their alleged e-mail letters to Shri Anuj Dhar, a Journalist, on the aforesaid point, are still awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.09.2003 to 30.09.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.08..2003 to 31.08..2003 forwarded by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends.
2. The Status Note of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India sent under their letter No.I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.03 and received by the Commission on 26.09.03 in respect of para 5 of the Status Report for the month of February, 03; paras 4, 5, 6, 7, & 11(c) of the Status Report for the month of May, 03, and paras 3, 4, & 5 of the Status Report for the month of June, 03 is being examined.
3. The Commission had fixed a hearing on September 16, 2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata to examine seven witnesses and to hold a discussion on the Status Report as on 12.09.2003 (forenoon) prepared for the purpose of the said hearing of the Commission. Out of seven witnesses summoned, three were present and examined at the time of the said hearing when the Commission also held a discussion on the said Status Report.
4. Following a query raised by the Commission, the National Archive of the Government of the U.K. has given the Commission to understand that there are certain documents with them which may be of interest to it (the Commission) . Accordingly, steps have been taken to obtain photo-copies of three of those documents which purportly relate to the relevant period.
5. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected by/furnished to the Commission and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries including Taiwan for

examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries,

6. There has been no positive development as yet in the matter of DNA testing of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose allegedly kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan notwithstanding close persuasion of the matter during the last one year by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India as also with the Embassy of India in Japan and direct approach by the Commission to various organisations in India and abroad having expertise in DNA testing besides elaboration by the Commission to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India of various socio-political ramifications of the issue of handling of the said mortal remains and taking samples thereof for the purpose of holding various scientific tests including anthropological evaluation and DNA test. However, with Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245 dated September 05, 2003 the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has been furnished with a copy of the news item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has been requested to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, C.B.I. officials, etc. as reported in the said news item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent member of the C.B.I. and the DNA experts viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the U.K. as mentioned in the said news item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get the DNA tests of the alleged ashes done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. However, in reply to our earlier query, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has stated inter alia, in her d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX(I) dated 04.09.03 that the Indian Mission in Tokyo "had located Prof. Momoki Hirai, a DNA expert who is a Professor in the Department of Integrated Biosciences, Graduate School of Frontier Sciences, University of Tokyo."
7. The original register of cremation permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for cremation permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for cremation permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, as called for from the Government of Japan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through its Embassy in Japan, are yet to be received by the Commission or made accessible to it.
8. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of

the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, is yet to be received by the Commission.

9. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/270 dated September 23, 2003 the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has been requested to let the Commission know the further developments in the pending matters mentioned in their d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol(IX) dated June 27, 2003 including the matters of Azerbaizan, Belarus, Lithuania, Georgia, Tazikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Ireland. It has been mentioned in the Commission's said letter that the Directors, Lithuanian Literature and Art Archive, Lithuanian Central State Archive, and Lithuanian New State Archive have intimated in reply to our e-mails to them that there are no documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in their respective archives.
10. The reports regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining archives of the Russian Federation including the KGB Archive and an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation are yet to be received.
11. With d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.(IX) dated September 12, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a copy of the letter No.ANM.27/1 Jld.21(33) dated August 30, 2003 of the National Archives of Malaysia addressed to the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur which states inter alia : ".....we did not found (sic) any document/information on Mr. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Should we chance upon any information on him in future, we will certainly write to you again." Since the Commission's inquiry is time-bound the National Archives of Malaysia may be pursued further by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur.
12. Correspondence has been made by the Commission directly with the Hon'ble Mayor of Taipei as also with the Hon'ble Minister of Transport and Communication, Government of Taiwan regarding availability of official documents with them concerning the alleged aircrash on August 18, 1945 at Taipei of the plane allegedly carrying Mr. Subhas Chandra Bose and others. The replies by post, duly authenticated, in confirmation of their alleged e.mail letters to Shri Anuj Dhar, an Indian Journalist, on the aforesaid point are still awaited.
13. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in their letter dated June 27, 2003 has stated inter alia : "...all documents once declassified are no longer retained by the U.S. Government, and that these are stored in various Documentation Centres, like National Archives, etc..... we have further information that, under the provisions of the U.S. Freedom of Information Act, classified documents, if any, can be requisitioned only by giving specific details of the documents....." The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has also sent to the Commission with their d.o. letter dated July 15, 2003 a copy of the d.o. letter dated June 23, 2003 of the Embassy of the United States of America in New Delhi wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "There are no documents relevant to the period or to the disappearance of Mr. Bose in storage at either

the Embassy or the Consulates in India” and has also suggested therein : “As a practical matter, the Commission select an Indian Scholar or Graduate student working in the United States to perform..... archival research on various American Repositories of historical documents relevant to Mr. Bose.....”. Accordingly, the Commission by its letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003 has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class indicating /suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect of Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

14. There has been no further development in the matters as stated in – (I) Para 3 of the Status Report for the month of February, 2003, (ii) Para 11(d) of the Status Report for the month of May, 2003, and (iii) Para 9 of the Status Report for the month of June, 2003.
  
15. With Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/265 dated September 17, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, three notices have been sent with a request for their publication through the Indian Embassys/Indian Missions at Singapore, Bangkok, and Saigon in English as also in the respective local languages so that the people of those places may know about the Commission and the terms of its ongoing inquiry and depending upon response of the local people of the said places that may be evoked by the publication of the notices, the Commission may take a decision regarding its visit to the places for examination of the witnesses and collection of relevant documents and materials whichever may be available there. It has been also stated in the said letter dated September 17, 2003 of the Commission that it intends to publish a similar notice at Taipei, Taiwan, and for this purpose the Commission will seek the assistance of the “Economic and Cultural Center” of Taiwan in New Delhi as the Commission has been made to understand that no help in this regard will be available from the Government of India which has no diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. A copy of the said letter dated September 17, 2003 of the Commission has been sent for information to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The information regarding publication of the aforesaid notices at Singapore, Bangkok, and Saigon as called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.10.2003 to 31.10.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.09.2003 to 30.09.2003. forwarded by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends.
2. The Commission's Status Report as on 12.09.03 and its proceedings dated September 16, 2003 have been forwarded to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for their information and favour of taking necessary action at their ends.
3. Two Status Notes of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, sent under their two letters, both bearing No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V (NCB) Vol.V dated 31.10.03 received by the Commission by FAX on 31.10.03 in respect of paras 3,4, and 3,5 of the Commission's Status Report of July and August, 2003 respectively as also in respect of paras 4,5, and 11 of the Commission's Status Report dated 09.07.03 are being examined.
4. Preparatory steps have been taken for the purpose of holding the hearing of the Commission scheduled for November 27, 2003.
5. The reply given by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India under their letter No. I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.03 does not specifically state about the availability/non-availability of the documents called for by the Commission's letter No. JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 read with its letter No. JMCI/11/2000/15 dated April 11, 2003, both addressed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
6. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245 dated September 05, 2003 the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been furnished with a copy of the news item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The

Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has been requested to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, CBI officials, etc. reported in the said news item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent Member of the CBI and the DNA expert, viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the UK as mentioned in the said news item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get their DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Their response is still awaited.

7. (a) The Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, by her d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.IX dated September 24, 2003, called for from the Commission "full details of the communication received from the Taiwanese side" with a request : "that any information required to be obtained from Taiwan may be referred to the Ministry". It was further stated in the said d.o. letter : "We do not recognise 'Republic of China' or 'Taiwan' and hence we do not have any official dealings with them". In response to the said d.o. letter dated September 24, 2003, xerox copies of the e-mails claimed to have been received by Shri Anuj Dhar, an Indian Journalist, from the Mayor of Taipei, 'the President of the Republic China' and 'the Minister of MOTC, Taiwan', copies whereof were sent to the Commission by Shri Dhar by e-mail, as also Xerox copy of the communications received by the Commission from the Mayor of Taipei were furnished by the Commission to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC (FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/292 dated 17.10.03 for information and necessary action. The response of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.
  - (b) The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Transport and Communications, Taipei, Taiwan have been requested, inter alia, by Commission's letter No.258 and 257, both dated September 12, 2003 respectively, to kindly furnish the Commission with authenticated copies of relevant documents relating to the information allegedly furnished to Shri Anuj Dhar by the aforesaid e-mails. No response has yet been received from Taiwan to the said letters of the Commission.
8. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected by/furnished to the Commission and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to make them available to the

Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries including Taiwan for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.

9. The original register of cremation permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for cremation permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for cremation permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura, as called for from the Government of Japan by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through its Embassy in Japan, are yet to be received by the Commission or made accessible to it.
10. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, is yet to be received by the Commission.
11. The reports regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining archives of the Russian Federation including the KGB Archive and an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation are yet to be received.
12. With d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.(IX) dated September 12, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a copy of the letter No.ANM.27/1 Jld.21(33) dated August 30, 2003 of the National Archives of Malaysia addressed to the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur which states inter alia : ".....we did not found (sic) any document/information on Mr. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. Should we chance upon any information on him in future, we will certainly write to you again." Since the Commission's inquiry is time-bound, the National Archives of Malaysia may be pursued further by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, through the High Commission of India, Kuala Lumpur.
13. The Commission by its letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003 has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class indicating /suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect of Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

14. With Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/265 dated September 17, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, three notices have been sent with a request for their publication through the Indian Embassys/Indian Missions at Singapore, Bangkok, and Saigon in English as also in the respective local languages so that the people of those places may know about the Commission and the terms of its ongoing inquiry and depending upon response of the local people of the said places that may be evoked by the publication of the notices, the Commission may take a decision regarding its visit to the places for examination of the witnesses and collection of relevant documents and materials whichever may be available there. It has been also stated in the said letter dated September 17, 2003 of the Commission that it intends to publish a similar notice at Taipei, Taiwan, and for this purpose the Commission sought for the assistance of the Director, Economic and Cultural Center of Taiwan in New Delhi as the Commission has been made to understand that no help in this regard will be available from the Government of India which has no diplomatic relationship with Taiwan. (In response the said Director has sent a regret letter to the Commission at the end of October, 2003.) A copy of the said letter dated September 17, 2003 of the Commission has been sent for information to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. The information regarding publication of the aforesaid notices at Singapore, Bangkok, and Saigon as called for from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is still awaited.
15. The remnants of sealed specimens (teeth) and sealed blood samples have been collected from CDFD, Hyderabad on completion of DNA fingerprinting examination there and those have been made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata, for proper preservation since the Commission has decided to get a second opinion on the issue.
16. With Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(Vol.II)/621 dated April 1, 2003, two letters addressed to Prof. E.N. Komorov of Moscow, Academy of Sciences, Moscow, and Prof. Y.V. Pechenko of St. Petersburg University, each accompanied by a copy of the Notification bearing No.Notfn. No./010/99/JMCI dated 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 1999 issued by the Commission, were sent to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, by registered post, with a request to cause delivery of the said two letters with their enclosure to the respective addressees through the Indian Embassy in Russia. The relevant extract of the supplementary affidavit dated March 20, 2003 filed before the Commission by Dr. Purabi Roy was also sent to the said Secretary with a request to kindly approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the archives of the K.G.B. (F.S.B.), Federal Security Bureau, in view of the assertion made by Dr. Purabi Roy therein. A list of witnesses in Russia cited by Dr. Purabi Roy in her original affidavit dated June 8, 2000 was also sent to the said Secretary with the request to kindly cause verification through the Indian Embassy in Russian Union as to whether those

cited Russian witnesses will be available for their examination by the Commission and if so, to kindly ascertain and intimate to the Commission the convenience of the said persons as to the dates, hours and places when and where they like to be examined as witnesses. The Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his d.o.letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated April 22, 2003 stated inter alia with reference to the Commission's aforesaid letter dated April 1, 2003 : "As desired by the Commission, the two letters have been forwarded to Moscow and St. Petersburg, respectively. As regards the Commission's request for taking up the matter with the Government of Russia of access to the archives of the Federal Security Bureau, we would like to draw your attention to the note verbale dated 28<sup>th</sup> June, 2001 from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (copy forwarded with our letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VI dated 01.10.2001) which states that there are no records in the archive relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. In this connection, we are enclosing another note verbale dated 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2003 from the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs reiterating the same position. In view of this, it is felt that another reference to the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on the same issue will not be of much use." The Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in her d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2002 (received by the Commission on 28.10.03), in reply to the Commission's said letter dated April 1, 2003, has stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Moscow has sent communications in writing to all the listed witnesses" and has also sent the response in original received by the Indian Mission in Moscow from Dr. R.B. Rybakov, Director of Institute of Oriental Studies along with the English translation thereof. In responding to the said letter the Commission has pointed out (by its d.o. letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(Vol.II)/301 dated October 29, 2003) that it (her letter dated October 13, 2003) is either totally silent or does not convey the full information sought for and accordingly she has been requested to fully answer the queries raised therein.

17. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Admn/99-2000/33(II)/251 dated September 09, 2003 sent by the Commission to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, by Registered Post, the latter has been requested for extension of the term of the Commission for one year w.e.f. 15.11.2003 in view of the facts and circumstances mentioned and referred to therein. The Commission is going ahead of 14.11.2003 with its inquiry in anticipation of extension of the term of the Commission for one year w.e.f 15.11.2003.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.11.2003 to 30.11.2003)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.10.2003 to 31.10.2003. forwarded by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends.
2. The 25<sup>th</sup> hearing of the Commission was held on November 27, 2003 in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata in course of which three witnesses were examined/further examined. Three other summoned witnesses were however not present. Besides discussion was held on the Commission's Status Report as on 24.11.2003 (forenoon).
3. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.03 addressed to Shri Umesh Kalra, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that the Status Note of the Ministry forwarded under their letter No. I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.03 relating to para 6 and para 5 of the Status Report of May, 2003 and June, 2003 appears to have not stated specifically as to whether the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated 17.02.2003 are in existence or not. It has also been stated in the Commission's said letter dated 20.10.03 that if the said documents are in existence, the reason for which those have not yet been sent to the Commission in spite of repeated reminders may please be intimated to the Commission immediately. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter is still awaited
4. Following a query raised by the Commission, the National Archives of the Government of the U.K. has given the Commission to understand that there are certain documents with them which may be of interest to it (the Commission) . Accordingly, steps have been taken to obtain photo-copies of three of those documents which relate to the relevant period. The photocopies called for are being awaited from the said National Archives.
5. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected by/furnished to the Commission and the reports regarding

availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.

6. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245 dated September 05, 2003 the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been furnished with a copy of the news -item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has been requested to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, CBI officials, etc. as reported in the said news item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent Member of the CBI and the DNA experts, viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the UK as mentioned in the said news-item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get the DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Their response is still awaited.
7. The remnants of sealed specimens (teeth) and sealed blood samples have been collected from CDFD, Hyderabad on completion of DNA finger-printing examination there and those have been made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata, for proper preservation since the Commission has decided to get a second opinion on the issue. Efforts are also being made to collect blood samples of some more descendants of the sisters of Netaji for DNA tests.
8. In the d.o. letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(Vol.II)/330 dated November 11, 2003 of the Secretary of the Commission addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that xerox copies of relevant communications received by the Commission through e.mail from Shri Anuj Dhar and by post from the Mayor of Taipei on the point of the alleged plane crash at Taipei have already been sent to her by Registered Post with A.D. under Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/292 dated 17.10.2003. It has also been pointed out in the said d.o. letter of the Commission that since the Government of India do not recognize 'Republic of China' or 'Taiwan' and do not have any official dealings with them, as stated in the said d.o. letter dated 24.09.2003 of the Director (CNV), and since the Director, Taipei Economic and Cultural Centre, New Delhi, on being approached by the Commission for some

information relating to its inquiry has informed that they cannot render any help or assistance to the Commission, hence, in the interest of the ongoing inquiry of the Commission, it has no other alternative but to directly approach the authorities concerned in Taipei to procure relevant documents, getting information about some relevant places in Taiwan and collect the whereabouts of the relevant witnesses, if any, available there, keeping the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, informed from time to time of the development in this regard, notwithstanding the request made in the said d.o. letter dated 24.09.2003 of the Director (CNV) "that any information required to be obtained from Taiwan may be referred to the Ministry" i.e. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. In the said d.o. letter of the Commission, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has, however, been requested to extend all possible help and assistance to the Commission in the matter.

9. The Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Transport and Communications, Taipei, Taiwan have been requested, inter alia, by Commission's letter Nos. 258 and 257, both dated September 12, 2003 respectively, to kindly furnish the Commission with authenticated copies of relevant documents relating to the information allegedly furnished to Shri Anuj Dhar by them by e-mails. No response has yet been received from Taiwan to the said letters of the Commission.
  
10. (a) By Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/301 dated October 29, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of her d.o. No.24/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2003, which is professed to be in reply to the Commission's letter dated April 1, 2003, has been acknowledged and it has been pointed out therein that neither her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 nor its enclosure in English speaks about the fate of the two letters of the Commission addressed to Prof. E.N. Komorov of Moscow Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Y.V. Pechenko of St. Petersburg University which were enclosed with the Commission's said letter dated April 1, 2003 for causing delivery; that her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 is also silent about outcome of the request of the Commission to approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the Archives of KGB (FSB) as also about the outcome of the communication of the Indian Mission in Moscow to the witnesses mentioned in the list of the Commission sent to the Ministry of External Affairs with its aforesaid letter dated April 1, 2003. The Ministry of External Affairs was further requested in that letter to let the Commission know the result of the requests made in paras 1,2 and 3 of its said letter dated April 1, 2003. Their reply is awaited.
  
- (b) The reports regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining archives of the Russian Federation including the KGB Archive

and an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation are yet to be received.

- (c) The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. Under the Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/265 dated September 17, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with copy thereof endorsed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, three Notices have been sent with a request for their publication through the Indian Embassies / Indian Missions at Singapore, Bangkok and Saigon in English as also in the respective local languages so that the people of those places may know about the Commission and the terms of its ongoing inquiry and depending upon the response of the local people of the said places that may be evoked by the publication of the notices, the Commission may take a decision regarding its visit to those places for examination of the witnesses and collection of relevant documents and materials whichever may be available there. The d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 03.11.2003 of the Director (CNV) (received by the Commission on 21.11.2003) states that the aforesaid three notices have been sent by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to the Indian Missions concerned for publication as desired by the Commission and the said d.o. letter encloses copies of newspaper clippings dated 27.10.2003 / 28.10.2003 of the notice reportedly appeared in the leading English, Tamil, and Mandarin language newspapers in Singapore. Further development in the matter is awaited from the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.
12. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/323 dated November 6, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention was drawn to the second para of the letter dated 30.08.03 of the National Archives of Malayasia enclosed to her d.o. letter dated 12.09.2003 wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "Should we chance upon any information on him (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) in future, we will certainly write to you again" and the Director (CNV) was requested to kindly pursue the matter with the National Archives of Malayasia closely and keep the Commission informed of the outcome in time. Further intimation in the matter is awaited.
13. The Commission, by its letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003, has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class in the U.S.A. indicating / suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free

of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect of Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

14. The report of the second handwriting expert regarding comparison of the handwritings allegedly of 'Gunnami Baba' of Faizabad with admitted specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been received by the Commission on July 23, 2003. The specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of documents containing a number of questioned handwritings allegedly of 'Gunnami Baba' of Faizabad have been made over to the third handwriting expert on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings. Further development in the matter is awaited.
  
15. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.IX dated September 23, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, which is in response to Commission's letter No.JMCI/CPDC /2002/432 dated November 27, 2002 it has been stated inter alia : "After repeated reminders and follow-up by our Mission in Tokyo the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs has responded in the matter (of obtaining original documents relating to the alleged cremation of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) through a written communication dated September 10, 2003, conveying that they have not been able to trace the documents (Cremation Permit) sought for by the J.M.C.I.. A copy of the said written communication dated September 10, 2003 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan sent to the Commission as an enclosure to the said d.o.letter dated September 23, 2003 of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, states in para 2 of their said letter dated September 10, 2003 "We have tried our best to find out in our old files, a copy of the documents (relating 'Cremation Permits') required by Justice Mukherjee. However, we are not able to find it so far. You may understand how difficult it is to find out nearly half a century old documents" as also states in para 3 thereof : "If Justice Mukherjee has further specific inquiry, please let us know . We will try our best to cooperate for his effort" (sic.). The request made by the Commission to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in Commission's aforesaid letter dated November 27, 2002 has been: "the Government of Japan may be persuaded to get from the Government of Taiwan the original Register of Cremation Permits for the period from 18.08.1945 to 21.08.1945, the original application for Cremation Permit allegedly filed on 18.08.1945 in the name of Chandra Bose or Subhas Chandra Bose, the original application for Cremation Permit, if any, filed on 18.08.1945 or 19.08.1945 in the name of Ichiro Okura, the original death certificate allegedly issued in the name of Subhas Chandra Bose and the original death certificate, if any, in the name of Ichiro Okura so that the Commission may have access to these documents." In view of the aforesaid position the Commission by its letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/338 dated 24.11.03 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has again requested the Ministry to persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan all the documents asked for in the penultimate para of the Commission's aforesaid letter dated 27.11.2002 keeping in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said letter of the Commission dated 27.11.2002 as also the contents of paras 2 and 3 of the

above mentioned letter dated 10.09.2003 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan so that the Commission may have access to those relevant documents as quickly as possible.

16. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/333 dated 18.11.2003 the attention of Shri Umesh Kalra, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.03 and he has been requested to kindly send to the Commission the original letter dated 17.01.1952 of Shri A. M. Sahaya and the enclosures thereto addressed to Shri S. Dutta, ICS, the then Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of External Affairs, New Delhi, or authenticated copies of the said letter and its Annexures as soon as possible. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 18.11.03 that in the event of the failure of the Ministry to send the said original letter of Shri A.M. Sahaya and its enclosures or the authenticated copies thereof, the Commission may treat the copy of the letter and its enclosure filed by the deponents and annexed to the said letter dated 18.11.03 of the Commission, as bonafide true copies of the originals. A copy of the said letter dated 18.11.03 has also been endorsed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and favour of taking necessary action. Their response is awaited.
17. By Notification No. S.O. 1313(E) dated November 14, 2003 received by FAX on November 19, 2003, the term of the Commission has been further extended for a period not later than 14.05.2004 by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.12.2003 to 31.12.2003)

- 1
  - (a) This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.11.2003 to 30.11.2003. forwarded by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends.
  - (b) Xerox copies of the proceedings dated 27.11.03 and the Status Report as on 24.11.03 (forenoon) of the Commission have been sent by Registered Post to the authorities mentioned in para 1 (a) above on 22.12.03 for favour of taking necessary action at their ends.
  
- 2 By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings/(Follow-Up)/99-2000/48(V)/322 dated November 5, 2003 addressed to Shri Umesh Kalra, Director (IS) , Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in response to the factual position regarding para 5 as indicated in Shri Kalra's letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V (NCB)/Vol.V dated 31.10.03, it has been pointed out that the 317 files of Khosla Commission mentioned therein do not contain either the original or authenticated true copies of the documents produced before the Khosla Commission and marked as exhibits or the proceedings of the said Commission and that the bound volumes of unsigned and uncertified copies of the depositions of the witnesses before the said Commission (as received by us) appear to contain only some parts of its proceedings. The documents called for by the Commission by its letters dated 17.02.03 and 11.04.03 as referred to in the said para 5 are yet to be received.
  
3. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.03 addressed to Shri Umesh Kalra, Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that the Status Note of the Ministry forwarded under their letter No. I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.03 relating to para 6 and para 5 of the Status Report of May, 2003 and June, 2003 appears to have not stated specifically as to whether the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated 17.02.2003 are in existence or not. It has also been stated therein that if the said documents are in existence, the reason for which those have not yet been sent to the Commission in spite of repeated reminders

- may please be intimated to the Commission immediately. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs in the matter is still awaited
4. Following a query raised by the Commission, the National Archives of the Government of the U.K. had given the Commission to understand that there were certain documents with them which might be of interest to it (the Commission). Accordingly, steps were taken to obtain photo-copies of three of those documents which relate to the relevant period. The photocopies called for have since been received by the Commission and are being scrutinized.
  5. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected by/furnished to the Commission and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
  6. As far back as on September 05, 2003 the Commission along with its letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has sent a copy of the news item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has requested to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, CBI officials, etc. as reported in the said news item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent Member of the CBI and the DNA experts, viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the UK as mentioned in the said news-item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get the DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Unfortunately their response is still awaited.
  7. The blood samples of Smt. Tripti Nag, daughter of one of Netaji's elder sisters and Shri Nirupam Som, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, have recently been collected and made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Besides, the specimen teeth allegedly of one Gunnami Baba of Faizabad, and the blood samples of Shri Sadhan Kar, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, Shri Subrata Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sarat Chandra Bose and Shri Dwarka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sunil Chandra Bose, have earlier been made over to the CFSL, Kolkata. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22,

2003 the Director, CFSL, Kolkata have been requested for DNA profiling tests to fix the identity of the person to whom the said teeth belonged.

8. In his d.o. letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/330 dated November 11, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Secretary of the Commission has detailed all the circumstances which have compelled the Commission to directly approach the authorities concerned in Taiwan notwithstanding the request made in the d.o. letter dated 24.09.03 of the said Director (CNV), "that any information required to be obtained from Taiwan may be referred to the Ministry" i.e. Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. In the said d.o. letter dated 11.11.03 the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has, however, been requested to extend all possible help and assistance to the Commission in the matter. However, the Director (CNV) in her d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated November 25, 2003 has again stated : "JMCI should not send such communications directly to Taiwanese "Government" authorities. We are considering alternative options for seeking the assistance of other agencies / organizations for obtaining the requisite documents identified by you in your letter to the Mayor of Taipei. We shall keep you informed of progress in this regard". In pursuance of the letter dated November 25, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, the Commission has stopped communicating directly with the Government of Taiwan and the Mayor of Taipei with hope that the Ministry of External Affairs would do the needful to enable the Commission to obtain the relevant documents and information from Taiwan, but till now nothing further has been heard from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Since then, a letter dated December 4, 2003 has been received on 23.12.2003 from the Chief of Protocol Office, Taipei City Government, addressed to the Commission (which is in reply to the Commission's letter No. JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/289 dated October 17, 2003 addressed to the Hon'le Mayor, Taipei City Government) which states, inter alia, : "I regret to inform you that the Cremation Permits issued before 1968 by the Taipei City Government Department of Health were unfortunately destroyed."
9. In view of the correspondence amongst the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, and this Commission regarding the original register of Cremation Permit and the original Death Certificate pertaining to Subhas Chandra Bose or Chandra Bose and Ichiro Okura (vide d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO/Vol.IX dated September 23, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the letter dated September 10, 2003 of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Japan, and the Commission's letter No. 432 dated 27.11.2002), the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested in the Commission's letter No. JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/338 dated 24.11.2003 to kindly persuade the Government of Japan to get from the Government of Taiwan all the documents asked for in the penultimate para of the Commission's aforesaid

letter No.432 dated 27.11.2002 so that the Commission may have access to those relevant documents as quickly as possible.

10. (a) By Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/301 dated October 29, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of her d.o. letter No. 24/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2003, which is professed to be in reply to the Commission's letter dated April 1, 2003, has been acknowledged and it has been pointed out therein that neither her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 nor its enclosure in English speaks about the fate of the two letters of the Commission addressed to Prof. E.N. Komorov of Moscow Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Y.V. Pechenko of St. Petersburg University which were enclosed with the Commission's said letter dated April 1, 2003 for causing delivery; that her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 is also silent about the outcome of the request of the Commission to approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the Archives of KGB (FSB) as also about the outcome of the communication of the Indian Mission in Moscow to the witnesses mentioned in the list of the Commission sent to the Ministry of External Affairs with its aforesaid letter dated April 1, 2003 . The Ministry of External Affairs was further requested in that letter to let the Commission know the result of the requests made in paras 1,2 and 3 of its said letter dated April 1, 2003. Their reply is still awaited.
  - (b) The reports regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining archives of the Russian Federation including the KGB Archive and an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation are yet to be received.
  - (c) The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. Under the Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/265 dated September 17, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with copy thereof endorsed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, three Notices have been sent with a request for their publication through the Indian Embassies / Indian Missions at Singapore, Bangkok and Saigon in English as also in the respective local languages so that the people of those places may know about the Commission and the terms of its ongoing inquiry and depending upon the response of the local people of the said places that may be evoked by the publication of the notices , the Commission may take a decision regarding its visit

to those places for examination of the witnesses and collection of relevant documents and materials whichever may be available there. The d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 03.11.2003 of the Director (CNV) (received by the Commission on 21.11.2003) states that the aforesaid three notices have been sent by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to the Indian Missions concerned for publication as desired by the Commission and the said d.o. letter encloses copies of newspaper clippings dated 27.10.2003 / 28.10.2003 of the notice reportedly appeared in the leading English, Tamil, and Mandarin language newspapers in Singapore. Further development in the matter is still awaited from the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India.

12. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/323 dated November 6, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention was drawn to the second para of the letter dated 30.08.03 of the National Archives of Malayasia enclosed to her d.o. letter dated 12.09.2003 wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "Should we chance upon any information on him (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) in future, we will certainly write to you again" and the Director (CNV) was requested to kindly pursue the matter with the National Archives of Malayasia closely and keep the Commission informed of the outcome in time. Further intimation in the matter is still awaited.
13. The Commission, by its letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003, has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class in the U.S.A. indicating / suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect for Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.
14. The report of the second handwriting expert regarding comparison of the handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad with admitted specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been received by the Commission on July 23, 2003. The specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of documents containing a number of questioned handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad have been made over to the third handwriting expert on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings. Further development in the matter is still awaited.
15. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention was drawn to the copy of the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he was requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1)

Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.

16. In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48 (V)/376 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to letters No. I/12014/13/2000-IS(D.V) dated January 2, 2003 and No. I/12014/13/2000-IS-V-(NCV). Vol. V dated October 31, 2003 from Shri U. K. Kalra, Director (IS-II), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India to the Commission and it has been stated therein that none of the documents bearing no. F. Nos. 10/22/CF-68, 6/5/9/77-CF, 10/21/CF-68, 6/1/6/74-CF, and 6/5/1/91-TS as mentioned at para 2(ii), (iii), (iv), (v) and (vi) respectively of the Cabinet Secretariat letter no. 281/12/1/2000-TS dated November 13, 2002, though repeatedly called for by the Commission from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has been received by the Commission as yet. It has also been stated in the said letter dated December 26, 2003 of the Commission that the three documents mentioned at para 2(iii), (v) and (vi) could not be traced in Ministry of Home Affairs File No. I/12014/9/77-DIII, I/12014/6/90-IS(D.III), and 31/2/74-Pol.D.III (two Volumes), (already transmitted to the Commission), as stated by Shri Kalra in his aforesaid letter dated January 2, 2003, on scrutiny of the aforesaid files not only by the Officer of the Commission but also by one Ministry of Home Affairs official in course of his visit to Commission's office in Kolkata. It was also stated in the Commission's said letter dated December 26, 2003 that Shri Kalra's aforesaid two letters dated 02.01.2003 and dated 31.10.2003 tend to suggest that there is some uncertainty about availability of the documents mentioned at aforesaid para 2(ii) and (iv) and the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has been requested to make available to the Commission all the five documents mentioned at para 2(ii), (iii), (iv), (v), (vi) of the Cabinet Secretariat letter dated November 13, 2002 referred to above since those documents are not being made available to the Commission in spite of protracted correspondence made by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry into the Alleged Disappearance of

**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.01.2004 to 31.01.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.12.2003 to 31.12.2003. forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. A notice has been sent to each of the deponents and other parties concerned regarding the next hearing of the Commission on February 5, 2004 and, if need be, on February 6, 2004 as well in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, Kolkata and summons have been issued to five witnesses for their examination/further examination during the hearing.
3. The photocopies of the three documents called for from the National Archives of the Government of the U.K.as indicated in para 3(c) of the Status Report as on 24.11.2003 (forenoon), have since been received. Those documents seem to indicate that an investigation was made under the orders of the Governor of Taiwan in 1956 into the alleged death of Subhas Chandra Bose, leader of the Indian National Army, in Formosa.
4. With Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, has been sent to the said Joint Secretary with the request to kindly let the Commission know as expeditiously as possible, the result of the inquiry initiated by the Viceroy as mentioned in the aforesaid document bearing No.5190. Their response is awaited.
5. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/331 dated November 12, 2003, the attention of the Joint Secretary (CNV) has been drawn to the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 13.10.2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India , and he has been requested to kindly let the Commission know immediately the present position of the other pending matters mentioned in the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol(IX) dated 27.06.2003 of the Ministry

as also to send - a complete list of all the archives of the Russian Federation. The reports called for are still awaited.

6. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/394 dated January 8, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention has been drawn to her d.o. letter bearing No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 25.11.2003 and she has been requested to kindly send to the Commission a progress report in the matter of their exploring alternative options for seeking the assistance of other agencies/organizations for obtaining the requisite documents concerning the alleged air crash at Taihoku on August 18, 1945 and the alleged consequent death of Netaji and she has also been requested to make available to the Commission as early as possible all the relevant documents in the matter.
7. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad,, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
8. As far back as on September 05, 2003 the Commission along with its letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has sent a copy of the news -item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has requested him to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, CBI officials, etc. as reported in the said news- item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent Member of the CBI and the DNA experts, viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the UK as mentioned in the said news-item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get the DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Unfortunately, their response is still awaited.
9. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.2003 addressed to the Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that the report of the Ministry of Home Affairs sent to the Commission under their No.I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.2003 does not state specifically as to whether the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 are in existence or not. It has also been stated in the said

letter dated . 20.10.2003 of the Commission that if the said documents are in existence, the reason for which those have not yet been sent to the Commission in spite of repeated reminders may also be intimated to the Commission immediately. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs is still awaited.

10. (a) By Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/301 dated October 29, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of her d.o. No.24/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2003, which is professed to be in reply to the Commission's letter dated April 1, 2003, has been acknowledged and it has been pointed out therein that neither her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 nor its enclosure in English speaks about the fate of the two letters of the Commission addressed to Prof. E.N. Komorov of Moscow Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Y.V. Pechenko of St. Petersburg University which were enclosed with the Commission's said letter dated April 1, 2003 for causing delivery; that her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 is also silent about the outcome of the request of the Commission to approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the Archives of KGB (FSB) as also about the outcome of the communication of the Indian Mission in Moscow to the witnesses mentioned in the list of the Commission sent to the Ministry of External Affairs with its aforesaid letter dated April 1, 2003 . The Ministry of External Affairs has been further requested in that letter to let the Commission know the result of the requests made in paras 1,2 and 3 of its said letter dated April 1, 2003. Their reply is still awaited.
  - (b) The reports regarding availability of relevant documents in all the remaining Archives of the Russian Federation including the KGB Archives are still awaited.
  - (c) The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/323 dated November 06, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention has been drawn to the second para of the letter dated 30.08.03 of the National Archives of Malayasia enclosed to her d.o. letter dated 12.09.2003 wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "Should we chance upon any information on him (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) in future, we will certainly write to you again" and the Director (CNV) has been requested to kindly pursue the matter with the National Archives of Malayasia closely and keep the Commission informed of the outcome in time. Further development is still awaited.

12. The report of the second handwriting expert regarding comparison of the handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad with admitted specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose has been received by the Commission on July 23, 2003. The specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of documents containing a number of questioned handwritings allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad have been made over to the third handwriting expert on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings. Further development in the matter is still awaited.
13. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the copy of the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he has been requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1) Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.
14. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings/(Follow-Up)/99-2000/48(V)/322 dated November 5, 2003 addressed to Shri Umesh Kalra, Director (IS) , Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in response to the factual position regarding para 5 as indicated in Shri Kalra's letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V (NCB)/Vol.V dated 31.10.03, it has been pointed out that the 317 files of Khosla Commission mentioned therein do not contain either the original or authenticated true copies of the documents produced before the Khosla Commission and marked as exhibits or the proceedings of the said Commission and that the bound volumes of unsigned and uncertified copies of the depositions of the witnesses before the said Commission (as received by us) appear to contain only some parts of its proceedings. The documents called for by the Commission by its letters dated 17.02.03 and 11.04.03 as referred to in the said para 5 are yet to be received.
15. From the copy of the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated January 12, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, endorsed to this Commission, it appears that all the three Notices sent by the Commission to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with the request for their publication in leading English and local languages newspapers in Singapore, Bangkok, and Saigon have since been complied with and that the Indian Mission in Singapore is being requested by the Ministry of External Affairs to make inquiries with regard to the feed back received from one Mr. Joseph C. Pereira, a Singapore National of Indian Origin, by the Embassy of India, Hanoi. Mr. Pereira has furnished some particulars of the son and daughter of Mr. Gerald De Cruz who might have some relevant information. Mr. Pereira is also being requested to send a copy of the

book titled, "Kojaka Rebels" which was allegedly published by a Singaporean Publisher and to furnish the addresses of the said son and daughter of Mr. Cruz.

Steps are being taken for publication of similar notice/news in leading newspapers in Taiwan about the proposed visit of the Commission to Taipei.

16. The Commission by its letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003 has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class in the U.S.A. indicating / suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect of Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.
17. The blood samples of Smt. Tripti Nag, daughter of one of Netaji's elder sisters and Shri Nirupam Som, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, have recently been collected and made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Besides, the specimen teeth allegedly of one Gumnai Baba of Faizabad, and the blood samples of Shri Sadhan Kar, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, Shri Subrata Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sarat Chandra Bose and Shri Dwarka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sunil Chandra Bose, had earlier been made over to the CFSL, Kolkata. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22, 2003 the Director, CFSL, Kolkata have been requested for D.N.A. profiling tests to fix the identity of the person to whom the said teeth belonged. The report of the Director, CFSL, Kolkata, is awaited.
18. In reply to the d.o. letters No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83/444 dated December 5, 2002 and No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/420 dated January 20, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission, both addressed to the Director, Center for DNA Fingerprinting and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, seeking the latter's valued opinion on his study of the report of the Indian Embassy in Japan regarding the contents of the caskets kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan, the Director has informed : "CDFD is not competent to provide help in anthropological evaluation and necessary photographing of the mortal remains (allegedly of Netaji).....once the same has been identified, we certainly would be in a position to provide the D.N.A. testing including the mitochondrial D.N.A. examination....."
19. In Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/376 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out inter alia that the documents mentioned in para 2(iii), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the Cabinet Secretariat's letter No.281/12/1/2000-PS dated November 13, 2003 could not be traced out in Ministry of Home Affairs' file Nos. I/12014/9/77-D.III, No.I/12014/6/90-IS (D.III), and No.31/2/74-Pol. D.III (2 Vols.) in spite of thorough search not only by the Officers of the Commission but also by one Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs in course of his visit from New Delhi to the Commission's Office in Kolkata, though it has been stated in para 2 of the Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS (D.V)

dated January 2, 2003 that those documents are available in the aforesaid files of the Ministry of Home Affairs and that the documents mentioned at para 2(ii) 2(iv) could not be made available to the Commission. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has, therefore, been requested in the said letter dated December 26, 2003 of the Commission to kindly take all possible steps to ensure early transmissions of all the aforesaid five documents mentioned at para 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the aforesaid letter of the Cabinet Secretariat. Further development in the matter is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.02.2004 to 29.02.2004)

1. (a) This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.01.2004 to 31.01.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them)
  - (b) The hearing of the Commission was held on February 5, 2004 at the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700007. Of the five witnesses summoned, two witnesses have prayed for adjournment on the ground of their prior commitments, one witness prayed for adjournment on the ground of his illness and other two witnesses remained absent without any intimation. The parties present were heard in respect of the Status Report as on 29.01.2004.
  - (c) Xerox copies of the proceedings dated February 5, 2004 and of the Status Report as on January 29, 2004 have been sent by Registered Post to the authorities mentioned in para 1(a) above for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters therein as may be applicable to them).
2. With Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, has been sent to the said Joint Secretary with the request to kindly let the Commission know as expeditiously as possible, the result of the inquiry initiated by the Viceroy as mentioned in the aforesaid document bearing No.5190. Their response is still awaited.
  3. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/331 dated November 12, 2003, the attention of the Joint Secretary (CNV) has been drawn to the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 13.10.2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and he has been requested to kindly let the Commission know immediately the present position of the other pending matters

mentioned in the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol(IX) dated 27.06.2003 of the Ministry as also to send a complete list of all the archives of the Russian Federation. The reports called for are still awaited.

4. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/394 dated January 8, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention has been drawn to her d.o. letter bearing No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 25.11.2003 and she has been requested to kindly send to the Commission a progress report in the matter of their exploring alternative options for seeking the assistance of other agencies/organizations for obtaining the requisite documents concerning the alleged air crash at Taihoku on August 18, 1945 and the alleged consequent death of Netaji and she has also been requested to make available to the Commission as early as possible all the relevant documents in the matter.
5. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
6. As far back as on September 05, 2003 the Commission along with its letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/245, addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has sent a copy of the news -item captioned, "Government to authenticate on Netaji's ashes by DNA test" published in the Delhi edition of 'The Statesman' on Saturday, October 28, 1995 and has requested him to let the Commission know what has actually happened with regard to the reported decision of the Government of India to opt for DNA test of the alleged ashes of Netaji by forming a Committee consisting of DNA experts, CBI officials, etc. as reported in the said news- item and has also been requested to make available to the Commission the services of CDFD, Hyderabad, a competent Member of the CBI and the DNA experts, viz., Dr. Michalle Holland of the USA and Dr. Kevin Salevan of the UK as mentioned in the said news-item so that the Commission may with their help and assistance get the DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji done without any further avoidable delay. A copy of the said letter has also been endorsed to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Unfortunately, their response is still awaited.
7. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.2003 addressed to the Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that the report of the Ministry of Home Affairs sent to the Commission under their No.I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.2003 does not state specifically as to whether the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542

dated February 17, 2003 are in existence or not. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 20.10.2003 of the Commission that if the said documents are in existence, the reason for which those have not yet been sent to the Commission in spite of repeated reminders, may also be intimated to the Commission immediately. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs is still awaited.

8. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/323 dated November 06, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention has been drawn to the second para of the letter dated 30.08.03 of the National Archives of Malayasia enclosed to her d.o. letter dated 12.09.2003 wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "Should we chance upon any information on him (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) in future, we will certainly write to you again" and the Director (CNV) has been requested to kindly pursue the matter with the National Archives of Malayasia closely and keep the Commission informed of the outcome in time. Further development is still awaited.
9. The report of the third handwriting expert to whom the specimen handwriting of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of the documents containing a number of questioned handwriting allegedly of 'Gumnami Baba', Faizabad, have been made over on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings, is yet to be received.
10. (a) An interim report has been received in the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-VoIXI dated February 16, 2004 of the Director (CNV) addressed to the Secretary of the Commission in respect of the matters mentioned in para 10(a) and (b) of the Status Report for the period from 01.01.2004 to 31.01.2004. Further progress in the matter, as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 5 of the aforesaid d.o. letter dated February 16, 2004, is being awaited.
- (b) The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission], is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the copy of the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he has been requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1) Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed

to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.

12. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings/(Follow-Up)/99-2000/48(V)/322 dated November 5, 2003 addressed to Shri Umesh Kalra, Director (IS) , Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in response to the factual position regarding para 5 as indicated in Shri Kalra's letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS-V (NCB)/Vol.V dated 31.10.03, it has been pointed out that the 317 files of Khosla Commission mentioned therein do not contain either the original or authenticated true copies of the documents produced before the Khosla Commission and marked as exhibits or the proceedings of the said Commission and that the bound volumes of unsigned and uncertified copies of the depositions of the witnesses before the said Commission (as received by us) appear to contain only some parts of its proceedings. The documents called for by the Commission by its letters dated 17.02.03 and 11.04.03, as referred to in the said para 5, are yet to be received.
13. (a) By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/446 dated February 18, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of the two responses to the notice published in Bangkok and Saigon (Vietnam) through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were acknowledged and the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to let the Commission know about other responses to the said notice, if any, received subsequently. A copy of the said letter dated February 18, 2004 was endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and necessary action. Their further response is awaited.
- (b) By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(II)/432 dated February 5, 2004 Mr. Joseph C. Pereira who reportedly furnished some information to the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City in response to the publication of the notice of the Commission, was requested (on the basis of the aforesaid information) to kindly send to the Commission a copy of the book, titled, "Kojaka Rebels" published by a Singaporean Publisher as also to furnish the Commission with the address of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerals De Cruz, so that the Commission may officially approach them to elicit relevant information from them. The response is awaited.
14. The Commission by its letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/188 dated August 05, 2003 has requested the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars or students of Post-Graduate class in the U.S.A. indicating / suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the same archival research, free of remuneration for academic interest or for their love and respect of Netaji. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

15. The blood samples of Smt. Tripti Nag, daughter of one of Netaji's elder sisters and Shri Nirupam Som, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, have recently been collected and made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Besides, the specimen teeth allegedly of one Gumnai Baba of Faizabad, and the blood samples of Shri Sadhan Kar, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, Shri Subrata Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sarat Chandra Bose and Shri Dwarka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sunil Chandra Bose, had earlier been made over to the CFSL, Kolkata. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22, 2003 the Director, CFSL, Kolkata have been requested for D.N.A. profiling tests to fix the identity of the person to whom the said teeth belonged. The report of the Director, CFSL, Kolkata, is awaited.
16. In Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/376 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out inter alia that the documents mentioned in para 2(iii), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the Cabinet Secretariat's letter No.281/12/1/2000-PS dated November 13, 2003 could not be traced out in Ministry of Home Affairs' file Nos. I/12014/9/77-D.III, No.I/12014/6/90-IS (D.III), and No.31/2/74-Pol. D.III (2 Vols.) in spite of thorough search not only by the Officers of the Commission but also by one Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs in course of his visit from New Delhi to the Commission's Office in Kolkata, though it has been stated in para 2 of the Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS (D.V) dated January 2, 2003 that those documents are available in the aforesaid files of the Ministry of Home Affairs and that the documents mentioned at para 2(ii), 2(iv) could not be made available to the Commission. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has, therefore, been requested in the said letter dated December 26, 2003 of the Commission to kindly take all possible steps to ensure early transmissions of all the aforesaid five documents mentioned at para 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the aforesaid letter of the Cabinet Secretariat. Further development in the matter is still awaited.
17. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Taiwan/2003-2004/89/450 dated February 20, 2004 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/330 dated November 11, 2003, d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated November 25, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, and d.o. letter No. JMCI/Taiwan/2003-2004/89/426 dated January 22, 2004 of the Commission addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs (copies whereof were enclosed to the aforesaid letter dated February 20, 2004 of the Commission) and the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, has been kept informed of the endeavours being made by the Commission by contacting private agencies and individuals to make all necessary preparations for visit of the Commission to Taiwan via Singapore and has also been informed of the intention of the Commission to undertake the said tour from the end of March, 2004 till the first or second week of April, 2004 with the intimation

that a draft tour programme in this regard will be sent shortly for necessary approval and sanction. A copy of the said letter dated February 20, 2004 has been endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

18. A proposal has been sent in Commission's registered letter No.JMCI/Admn/99-2000/32(II)/443 dated February 17, 2004 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for extension of the term of Justice M.K. Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry for a further period of one year w.e.f. 15.05.2004 showing therein the nature and extent of the hurdles from different quarters which the Commission has faced in the past and has been facing presently and highlighting some of the main reasons for which the Commission is not in a position to complete its inquiry within May 14, 2004 (upto which the present term of the Commission stands extended). The said proposal for extension also enlists some important long pending matters of the Commission with the Government of India as also enlists some of the important matters which the Commission has been constrained not to pursue on the repeated failure of the Ministries/Departments concerned of the Government of India to comply with the directives of the Commission sent in that regard from time to time.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.03.2004 to 31.03.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2004 to 29.02.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Prime Minister's Office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Defence (History Division), Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The next hearing of the Commission is scheduled to be held on April 16, 2004 at 11.00 a.m. at the Seminar Hall in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 and six witnesses have been summoned for their examination/further examination during the said hearing.
3. Response from the Ministry of External Affairs in respect of a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, (vide the Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003) is still awaited.
4. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/331 dated November 12, 2003, the attention of the Joint Secretary (CNV) has been drawn to the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 13.10.2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and he has been requested to kindly let the Commission know immediately the present position of the other pending matters mentioned in the d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated 27.06.2003 of the Ministry as also to send a complete list of all the archives of the Russian Federation. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated December 12, 2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated that no information on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose is available with the Tajik, Central State Archive. Further report as called for is still awaited.
5. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/CPDC/2002/86/394 dated January 8, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India,

her attention has been drawn to her d.o. letter bearing No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated 25.11.2003 and she has been requested to kindly send to the Commission a progress report in the matter of their exploring alternative options for seeking the assistance of other agencies/organizations for obtaining the requisite documents concerning the alleged air crash at Taihoku on August 18, 1945 and the alleged consequent death of Netaji and she has also been requested to make available to the Commission as early as possible all the relevant documents in the matter. The d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.XI dated March 15, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, received by the Commission on 31.03.04, states, inter alia, the outcome of the efforts made by India-Taipei Association (ITA), a Non-Governmental Office in Taipei, at the request of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for assistance, inter alia, in obtaining the requisite documents concerning the alleged air crash at Taihoku on August 18, 1945. The said letter is being examined.

6. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
7. In Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/517 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Vijay Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/245 dated September 5, 2003 and its letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/238 dated September 3, 2003 as also to the correspondence made by the Commission with the Directors, the Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Copies of the aforesaid letters/correspondences have been furnished with the said letter of the Commission dated March 25, 2004 wherein it has also been also stated that in view of the possible ramifications of taking out the ashes from Renkoji Temple for preliminary examination and anthropological evaluation for DNA tests which, the Commission feels, can suitably be tackled only by the Government of India as also in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said letter dated March 25, 2004, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission desires to meet the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, for discussions to sort out the problems of DNA tests and Shri Gokhale has accordingly been requested therein to kindly arrange a meeting of the Hon'ble Chairman with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, as early as possible preferably in the first week of

April, 2004. The response from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

8. In Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/518 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, he has been requested to kindly make available to the Commission as early as possible a copy of the diary of Lord Mountbatten, if necessary by collecting the same through the Indian High Commission in London as the said diary is urgently required to be perused by the Commission in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said d.o. letter.
9. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/11/2000/295 dated 20.10.2003 addressed to the Director, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out that the report of the Ministry of Home Affairs sent to the Commission under their No.I/12014/13/2000-NCB dated 19/24.09.2003 does not state specifically as to whether the documents called for by Commission's letter No.JMCI/11/2000/542 dated February 17, 2003 are in existence or not. It has also been stated in the said letter dated 20.10.2003 of the Commission that if the said documents are in existence, the reason for which those have not yet been sent to the Commission in spite of repeated reminders, may also be intimated to the Commission immediately. The response of the Ministry of Home Affairs is still awaited.
10. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/323 dated November 06, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, her attention has been drawn to the second para of the letter dated 30.08.03 of the National Archives of Malayasia enclosed to her d.o. letter dated 12.09.2003 wherein it is stated, inter alia, : "Should we chance upon any information on him (Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose) in future, we will certainly write to you again" and the Director (CNV) has been requested to kindly pursue the matter with the National Archives of Malayasia closely and keep the Commission informed of the outcome in time. Further development is still awaited.
11. The report of the third handwriting expert to whom the specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of the documents containing a number of questioned handwriting allegedly of 'Gunnami Baba', Faizabad, have been made over on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings, is yet to be received. Two documents bearing handwritings and signatures of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which are said to be lying in the State Archives of the Government of West Bengal, have been called for from the Home Department of the Government of West Bengal to facilitate comparison of the alleged handwritings of 'Gunnami Baba' with the original handwritings of Netaji by the Handwriting Expert. Till now neither any reply nor the documents have been received.
12. By Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witness/2002-03/70(II)/301 dated October 29, 2003 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs,

- Government of India, the receipt of her d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2003, which is professed to be in reply to the Commission's letter dated April 1, 2003, has been acknowledged and it has been pointed out therein that neither her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 nor its enclosure in English speaks about the fate of the two letters of the Commission addressed to Prof. E.N. Komorov of Moscow Academy of Sciences, and Prof. Y.V. Pechenko of St. Petersburg University which were enclosed with the Commission's said letter dated April 1, 2003 for causing delivery; that her said d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 is also silent about the outcome of the request of the Commission to approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the Archives of KGB (FSB) as also about the outcome of the communication of the Indian Mission in Moscow to the witnesses mentioned in the list of the Commission sent to the Ministry of External Affairs with its aforesaid letter dated April 1, 2003. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XI dated February 16, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission, it has been stated, inter alia, that reminders have been sent to all the Russian witnesses, as requested by the Commission, that Dr. Rybakov has been asked to convey his willingness and convenience for appearing as a witness before the Commission; that no material on the fate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was found in the Central Archives of the Russian FSB (i.e. erstwhile KGB); that the Indian Embassy in Moscow is ascertaining the whereabouts of Mr. Pechenko and is continuing its efforts to locate Mr. V.N. Plastun, Mr. A.A. Kolesnikov and Mr. E.M. Morosov, while a reminder is being sent to Mr. Komorov; that Academician Bondarovsky, one of the listed witnesses, expired last year, and that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India would apprise the Commission "of further progress in the matter on receipt of inputs" from the said Indian Mission.
13. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
  14. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the copy of the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he has been requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1) Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.
  15. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/446 dated February 18, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs,

Government of India, the receipt of the two responses to the notice published in Bangkok and Saigon (Vietnam) through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were acknowledged and the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to let the Commission know about other responses to the said notice, if any, received subsequently. A copy of the said letter dated February 18, 2004 was endorsed to the Director CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and necessary action. Their further response is awaited.

16. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(II)/432 dated February 5, 2004 Mr. Joseph C. Pereira, who reportedly furnished some information to the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City in response to the publication of the notice of the Commission, was requested (on the basis of the aforesaid information) to kindly send to the Commission a copy of the book, titled, "Kojaka Rebels" published by a Singaporean Publisher as also to furnish the Commission with the address of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerals De Cruz, so that the Commission may officially approach them to elicit relevant information from them. The response from Pereira is awaited.
17. (a) The blood samples of Smt. Tripti Nag, daughter of one of Netaji's elder sisters and Shri Nirupam Som, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son have been collected and made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Besides, the specimen teeth allegedly of one Gumnai Baba of Faizabad, and the blood samples of Shri Sadhan Kar, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, Shri Subrata Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sarat Chandra Bose and Shri Dwarka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sunil Chandra Bose, had earlier been made over to the CFSL, Kolkata. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22, 2003 the Director, CFSL, Kolkata have been requested for D.N.A. profiling tests to fix the identity of the person to whom the said teeth belonged. The report of the Director, CFSL, Kolkata, is awaited.
- (b) The Director, CFSL, Kolkata, is yet to furnish the particulars of two eminent DNA experts available in Japan as called for from him.
18. In Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/376 dated December 26, 2003 addressed to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, it has been pointed out, inter alia, that the documents mentioned in para 2(iii), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the Cabinet Secretariat's letter No.281/12/1/2000-PS dated November 13, 2003 could not be traced out in Ministry of Home Affairs' file Nos. I/12014/9/77-D.III, No.I/12014/6/90-IS (D.III), and No.31/2/74-Pol. D.III (2 Vols.) in spite of thorough search not only by the Officers of the Commission but also by one Officer of the Ministry of Home Affairs in course of his visit from New Delhi to the Commission's Office in Kolkata, though it has been stated in para 2 of the Ministry of Home Affairs' letter No.I/12014/13/2000-IS (D.V) dated January 2, 2003 that those documents are available in the aforesaid files of the

Ministry of Home Affairs and that the documents mentioned at para 2(ii) 2(iv) could not be made available to the Commission. The Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs has, therefore, been requested in the said letter dated December 26, 2003 of the Commission to kindly take all possible steps to ensure early transmission of all the aforesaid five documents mentioned at para 2(ii), 2(iii), 2(iv), 2(v), and 2(vi) of the aforesaid letter of the Cabinet Secretariat. A reminder has been sent to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in the matter on February 9, 2004 requesting him to kindly give the matter his anxious thought and take appropriate action to ensure the transmission of the documents in question to the Commission with utmost despatch. Further development in the matter is still awaited.

19. In furtherance of the matter contained in para 17 of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2004 to 29.02.2004, Commission's Notice to the public has been published on March 19, 2004 in The China Post, a leading English daily of Taiwan, to explore the possibility of getting available evidence in Taiwan. In response to the notice, a letter by e-mail has been received from one NRI Indian based in Taiwan. Further response is awaited.
20. One set of three documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose received by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been forwarded to the Commission with d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated February 20, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission. Those documents have been examined.
21. The extension of the term of the Commission for a further period of one year w.e.f. 15.05.2004 as sought for in Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Admn/99-2000/32(II)/443 dated February 17, 2004 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.04.2004 to 30.04.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.03.2004 to 31.03.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The hearing of the Commission was held on April 16, 2004 at 11.00 A.M. at the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007. Of the six witnesses summoned, three witnesses were present and examined in full.
3. Response from the Ministry of External Affairs in respect of a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August, as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, (vide the Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003) is still awaited.
4. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/331 dated November 12, 2003, the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to report to the Commission immediately the present position of those matters mentioned in the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated 27.06.2003 of the Ministry which appear to be still pending as also to send an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation excluding the names of the Archives of the countries in the Russian Federation already furnished. Further reports as called for are still awaited.
5. In Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/517 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Vijay Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/245 dated September 5, 2003 and its letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/238 dated September 3, 2003 as also to the correspondence made by the Commission with the Directors, the Centre for DNA Finger Printing and Diagnostics, Hyderabad, the Centre for Cellular and Molecular

Biology, Hyderabad, and the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Copies of the aforesaid letters/correspondence have been furnished with the said letter of the Commission dated March 25, 2004 wherein it has also been stated that in view of the possible ramifications of taking out the ashes from Renkoji Temple for preliminary examination and anthropological evaluation for DNA tests which, the Commission feels, can suitably be tackled only by the Government of India as also in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said letter dated March 25, 2004, the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission desires to meet the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, for discussions to sort out the problems of DNA tests and Shri Gokhale has accordingly been requested therein to kindly arrange a meeting of the Hon'ble Chairman with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, as early as possible preferably in the first week of April, 2004. In reply, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has intimated : "In view of the Minister's preoccupation due to forthcoming elections, it has been suggested that a meeting could be scheduled after the elections".

6. (a) Particulars of two Japanese DNA experts have recently been received from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata, which are being examined along with the particulars of the Japanese DNA expert received earlier from the Indian Embassy in Japan through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.
  - (b) The Secretary of the Commission could learn from Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, Centre for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad on telephone on April 7, 2004 that necessary laboratory facility for DNA tests on the alleged ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji temple, Japan, has since been made available in his Institute. Dr. Singh has accordingly been requested by the Secretary of the Commission by his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/21 dated April 20, 2004 to kindly extend all necessary help and cooperation for the proposed DNA tests of the said alleged ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose as also to furnish information about the Japanese DNA expert as earlier requested by the Secretary in course of his telephonic conversation with Dr. Lalji Singh on April 7, 2004. The response of Dr. Lalji Singh is being awaited.
7. On being directed by the Commission, its Secretary had a discussion with Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on April 2, 2004 regarding some important pending matters including the proposed visit of the Commission to Taiwan and in pursuance of the said discussion the d.o. letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/08 dated April 6, 2004 of the Secretary was sent by Speed Post to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, wherein the latter's attention was drawn to para 5 of the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. VIII dated September 23, 2002 of the then Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission which read as follows :

“5. MHA may also kindly note that this Ministry would render assistance in making the logistics arrangements in Taipei but will not be in a position to make any payments on behalf of the Commission. Payment for all services in Taipei, including hotel accommodation, transportation and interpretation, will therefore need to be made directly by the Commission itself.”

Shri Rakesh was requested in the said d.o. letter dated April 6, 2004 to spell out the nature and extent of the “logistics arrangements in Taipei” mentioned in the aforesaid para 5 as also to clarify whether the logistics arrangements promised to be made with the assistance of the Ministry of External Affairs include reservation of hotel accommodation, arrangements for transport, interpretation, photography, etc. in Taipei, subject, of course, to the condition that payment should be made directly by the Commission and whether or not sanction of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is required for making the said payment by the Commission. It was also stated therein : “If expenditure cannot be incurred specifically on account of visit to Taiwan then it would be well-nigh impossible for the Commission to undertake visit to Taiwan.” No reply to the queries raised in the said d.o. letter dated April 6, 2004 has yet been received.

8. In Commission’s d.o. letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/518 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, he has been requested to kindly make available to the Commission as early as possible a copy of the diary of Lord Mountbatten, if necessary by collecting the same through the Indian High Commission in London as the said diary is urgently required to be perused by the Commission in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said d.o. letter.
9. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
10. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. By Commission’s letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the copy of

the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he has been requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1) Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.

12. The blood samples of Smt. Tripti Nag, daughter of one of Netaji's elder sisters and Shri Nirupam Som, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son have been collected and made over to the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata. Besides, the specimen teeth allegedly of one Gumnai Baba of Faizabad, and the blood samples of Shri Sadhan Kar, one of Netaji's elder sisters' daughter's son, Shri Subrata Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sarat Chandra Bose and Shri Dwarka Nath Bose, son of Netaji's elder brother Late Sunil Chandra Bose, had earlier been made over to the CFSL, Kolkata. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22, 2003 the Director, CFSL, Kolkata has been requested for D.N.A. profiling tests to fix the identity of the person to whom the said teeth belonged. The report of the Director, CFSL, Kolkata, is awaited.
13. The report of the third handwriting expert to whom the specimen handwritings of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and the first bunch of the documents containing a number of questioned handwriting allegedly of 'Gumnamu Baba', Faizabad, have been made over on August 28, 2003 for necessary comparison of those two sets of handwritings, is yet to be received. Two documents bearing handwritings and signatures of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, which are said to be lying in the State Archives of the Government of West Bengal, were called for from the Home Department of the Government of West Bengal to facilitate comparison of the alleged handwritings of 'Gumnamu Baba' with the original handwritings of Netaji by the said Handwriting Expert. Only recently the documents called for have been received from the Govt. of West Bengal and the same are going to be forwarded to the third handwriting expert soon.
14. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/446 dated February 18, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of the two responses to the notice published in Bangkok and Saigon (Vietnam) through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were acknowledged and the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to let the Commission know about other responses to the said notice, if any, received subsequently. A copy of the said letter dated February 18, 2004 was endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and necessary action. Their further response is awaited.
15. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XI dated February 16, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated, inter alia, that reminders have been sent to all the

Russian witnesses, as requested by the Commission; that Dr. Rybakov has been asked to convey his willingness and convenience for appearing as a witness before the Commission; that no material on the fate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was found in the Central Archives of the Russian FSB (i.e. erstwhile KGB); that the Indian Embassy in Moscow is ascertaining the whereabouts of Mr. Pechenko and is continuing its efforts to locate Mr. V.N. Plastun, Mr. A.A. Kolesnikov and Mr. E.M. Morosov, while a reminder is being sent to Mr. Komorov; that Academician Bondarovsky, one of the listed witnesses, expired last year, and that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India would apprise the Commission "of further progress in the matter on receipt of inputs" from the said Indian Mission. Further progress in the matter is yet to be intimated to the Commission.

16. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(II)/432 dated February 5, 2004 Mr. Joseph C. Pereira, who reportedly furnished some information to the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City in response to the publication of the notice of the Commission, was requested (on the basis of the aforesaid information) to kindly send to the Commission a copy of the book, titled, "Kojaka Rebels" published by a Singaporean Publisher as also to furnish the Commission with the address of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerald De Cruz, so that the Commission may officially approach them to elicit relevant information from them. The response from Mr. Pereira is still awaited.
17. Commission's Notice to the public has been published on March 19, 2004 in The China Post, a leading English daily of Taiwan, to explore the possibility of getting available evidence in Taiwan. In response to the notice, a letter by e-mail has been received from one NRI Indian based in Taiwan. Further response is awaited.
18. One set of three documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose received by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, from the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, has been forwarded to the Commission with d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated February 20, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission. Those documents have since been perused and kept on record.
19. Further to the position stated in para 18 of the Status Report from 01.03.2004 to 31.03.2004 it is pointed out that the copies of some documents referred to in the said para appear to have been sent to the Commission by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, with their letter No. 12014/13/2000-NCB.II/IS(D.III)(Vol.V) dated 06.04.2004 received by the Commission on 16.04.2004 which are being examined.
20. The extension of the term of the Commission for a further period of one year w.e.f. 15.05.2004 as sought for in Commission's registered letter No. JMCI/Admn/99-

2000/32(II)/443 dated February 17, 2004 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS),  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**  
 For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**  
 'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
 11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-70008 7

STATUS REPORT  
 (From 01.05.2004 to 31.05.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.04.2004 to 30.04.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The next hearing of the Commission is scheduled to be held on 23.06.2004 at 11.00 a.m. at the Seminar Hall in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700007 and four witnesses have been summoned for their examination/further examination during the said hearing.
3. Response from the Ministry of External Affairs in respect of a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August (year not mentioned), as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, (vide the Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003) is still awaited.
4. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/331 dated November 12, 2003, the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to report to the Commission immediately, the present position of those matters mentioned in the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated 27.06.2003 of the Ministry which appear to be still pending as also to send an exhaustive list of all the archives of the Russian Federation excluding the names of the Archives of the countries in the Russian Federation already furnished. Further reports as called for are still awaited.
5. Further to the position stated in para 5 of the Status Report from 01.04.2004 to 30.04.2004 it is pointed out that the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to take necessary action for arranging the proposed meeting of the Hon'ble Chairman with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, preferably by the middle of June, 2004. In this connection, the Joint Secretary has been requested to refer to the Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/517 dated March 23, 2004 and

has been furnished with a copy of the Commission's d.o.letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/46 dated March 26, 2004 addressed to Prof. N. Saitou, Department of Genetics, National Institute of Genetics, University of Tokyo, Japan, which gives the latest development in the matter of selection of a competent D.N.A. Scientist for D.N.A. tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple, Japan. The particulars of the said Japanese Scientist has been received from Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad and Dr. V.K. Kashyap, Director, Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata.

6. With reference to the Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/364 dated 18.12.2003 (Secret) and Top Secret letter No.I/12014/27/93-IS/D.III dated 29.12.2003 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India has been requested by Commission's letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/54 dated May 28, 2004 to send back their File No. I/12014/27/93-IS (D.III)-two files to the Commission by a duly authorised Special Messenger, as early as possible.
7. Further to the position stated in para 7 of the Status Report from 01.04.2004 to 30.04.2004 it is stated that the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in reply to his letter No.I/12014/2000-NCB dated May 14, 2004 has been intimated that the Commission wants to make a single composite programme for visit to Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore and that until and unless clarification sought for in the penultimate para of the Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/08 dated April 6, 2004 as also the reply to Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/Taiwan/2003-04/89/28 dated May 5, 2004 addressed to the Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, are received by the Commission, it is not possible to give a reply to the aforesaid letter dated May 14, 2004 of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, particularly the second para of the said letter and the Director (S) has accordingly been requested to kindly expedite the matter and send the requisite reply to the aforesaid two letters of the Commission to enable it to prepare a composite proposal for its visit to the aforesaid countries and forward the same to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
8. In Commission's d.o. letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/518 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, he has been requested to kindly make available to the Commission as early as possible a copy of the diary of Lord Mountbatten, if necessary by collecting the same through the Indian High Commission in London, as the said diary is urgently required to be perused by the Commission in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said d.o. letter.
9. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the

Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.

10. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
11. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.03 addressed to Shri Vijoy Gokhale, Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the copy of the enclosure captioned, "Directive to the Supreme Commander for the Allied Powers" bearing dated August 14, 1945 forwarded with his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.IX dated May 7, 2003 and he has been requested to kindly obtain through the Indian Mission in the USA authenticated copies of the (1) Proclamation, and (2) Instrument of Surrender which appear to have been enclosed to the original copy of the aforesaid directive bearing dated 14.08.1945. The documents called for are yet to be received.
12. Report of DNA profiling test of the teeth found in the alleged belongings of 'Gumnami Baba' of Faizabad (vide Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/371 dated December 22, 2003) from the Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata, is still awaited in spite of reminders with the request to expedite the move.
13. Further to the position stated in para 13 of the Status Report from 01.04.2004 to 30.04.2004 it is pointed out that the sealed report of the third handwriting expert has been received on May 28, 2004.
14. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/446 dated February 18, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of the two responses to the notice published in Bangkok and Saigon (Vietnam) through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were acknowledged and the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to let the Commission know about other responses to the said notice, if any, received subsequently. A copy of the said letter dated February 18, 2004 was endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and necessary action. With d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.X dated February 24, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the communications (in two pages) received by the Indian Mission in Singapore by FAX from a local resident in response to the Commission's notice

have been sent to the Commission for further appropriate action. Those papers have been perused and kept on record. No further response has been received.

15. In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XI dated February 16, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been stated, inter alia, that reminders have been sent to all the Russian witnesses, as requested by the Commission; that Dr. Rybakov has been asked to convey his willingness and convenience for appearing as a witness before the Commission; that no material on the fate of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was found in the Central Archives of the Russian FSB (i.e. erstwhile KGB); that the Indian Embassy in Moscow is ascertaining the whereabouts of Mr. Pechenko and is continuing its efforts to locate Mr. V.N. Plastun, Mr. A.A. Kolesnikov and Mr. E.M. Morosov, while a reminder is being sent to Mr. Komorov; that Academician Bondarovsky, one of the listed witnesses, expired last year, and that the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India would apprise the Commission "of further progress in the matter on receipt of inputs" from the said Indian Mission. Further progress in the matter is yet to be intimated to the Commission.
16. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas/2002-03/70(II)/432 dated February 5, 2004 Mr. Joseph C. Pereira, who reportedly furnished some information to the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City in response to the publication of the notice of the Commission, was requested (on the basis of the aforesaid information) to kindly send to the Commission a copy of the book, titled, "Kojaka Rebels" published by a Singaporean Publisher as also to furnish the Commission with the address of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerald De Cruz, so that the Commission may officially approach them to elicit relevant information from them. The response from Mr. Pereira is still awaited.
17. Commission's Notice to the public has been published on March 19, 2004 in The China Post, a leading English daily of Taiwan, to explore the possibility of getting available evidence in Taiwan. In response to the notice, a letter by e-mail has been received from one NRI Indian based in Taiwan. Further response is awaited.
18. Further to the position stated in para 18 of the Status Report from 01.03.2004 to 31.03.2004 it is pointed out that the copies of some documents referred to in the said para appear to have been sent to the Commission by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India, with their letter No. 12014/13/2000-NCB.II/IS(D.III)(Vol.V) dated 06.04.2004 received by the Commission on 16.04.2004 which are being examined.
19. Copies of the Commission's Status Report as on 13.04.2004 and its proceedings dated April 16, 2004 have been sent to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends in respect of such of the matters as may be applicable to their Ministry/Department/Office.

20. The term of the Commission has been extended for a further period of six months with effect from 15.05.2004. The retention order of the sanctioned posts of the Commission have accordingly been sought for a further period of six months with effect from 15.05.2004. The said retention order is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**  
For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.  
'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT  
(From 01.06.2004 to 30.06.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.05.2004 to 31.05.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The hearing of the Commission was held on 23.06.2004 at 11.00 a.m. at the Seminar Hall in the Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700007. Of the five witnesses summoned, four witnesses were present and examined / further examined during the hearing.
3. Response from the Ministry of External Affairs in respect of a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August (year not mentioned), as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, (vide the Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003) is still awaited.
4. (a) The Hon'ble Chairman met the Hon'ble Home Minister on 25.06.2004 in the forenoon in New Delhi and drew his attention to some long pending important matters relating to his Ministry.  
(b) The Hon'ble Chairman also met on 25.06.2004 in the afternoon the Hon'ble Minister of Foreign Affairs and drew his attention to some long pending important matters relating to his Ministry.  
(c) Apropos the discussion the Hon'ble Chairman of the Commission had with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, on 25.06.2004, the Secretary of the Commission has written a d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/93 dated June 28, 2004 to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, wherein the Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to kindly take necessary action to resolve the following pending issues to enable the Commission to complete its inquiry without any avoidable delay :-

- (i) Visit of the Commission to Russia for examination of the relevant witnesses in the Russian Federation : The names and addresses of five Russian witnesses which are available to the Commission have been indicated in the said letter dated 28.06.2004. It is also stated therein that the archives of the F.S.B., previously known as K.G.B. and other official archives in Moscow, Poddolsk, Omsk and Irkutsk are likely to contain relevant documents, according to some of the deponents before the Commission as also the documents in the possession to the Commission.
- (ii) The DNA tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in Renkoji Temple, Japan : The attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-XI dated 31.05.2004 and the Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/86 dated 17.06.2004 and the said Director has been requested to inform the Commission whether the Chief Priest of the Renkoji Temple has been formally requested to make available the said alleged ashes to the experts who may be appointed by the Commission for the required scientific tests of the same and if so, whether any reply has been received to such request.
- (iii) Commission's proposed visit to Taiwan : The attention of the Director (CNV) has been drawn to the Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/Taiwan/2003-2004/89/83 dated 15.06.2004 and he has been requested to kindly communicate the information sought for therein to enable the Commission to furnish the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with the probable expenses of the Commission in Taiwan. A copy of the d.o. letter has been endorsed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- (iv) The attention of the Director (CNV) has also been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji.
5. In Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/518 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, he has been requested to kindly make available to the Commission as early as possible a copy of the diary of Lord Mountbatten, if necessary by collecting the same through the Indian High Commission in London, as the said diary is urgently required to be perused by

- the Commission in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said d.o. letter. The diary called for is yet to be received.
6. No reply has yet been received from Prof. Saitou, Department of Genetics, National Institute of Genetics, University of Tokyo, Japan to Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/46 dated March 26, 2004 as mentioned in para 5 of the Status Report for May, 2004.
  7. Further to the position stated in para 6 of the Status Report for May, 2004 it is pointed out that File No. I/12014/27/93-IS (D.III) – 2 files have been received by the Commission through an authorized special messenger.
  8. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.
  9. Copies of the (1) Proclamation and (2) Instrument of surrender as called for by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as mentioned in para 11 of the Status Report for May, 2004 have been received and are being examined.
  10. The sealed reports of DNA tests of the teeth found in the alleged belongings of 'Gumnami Baba', Faizabad received by the Commission from the Central DNA Fingerprinting and Diagonistics, Hyderabad and from The Central Forensic Science Laboratory, Kolkata, as also the sealed reports of the three handwriting experts were opened by the Hon'ble Chairman during the hearing of the Commission on June 23, 2004.
  11. There has been no further development in the matters stated in paras 14, 16, and 17 of the Status Report for May, 2004.
  12. Further to the position stated in para 18 of the Status Report for March, 2004 read with para 19 of the Status Report for April, 2004, it is pointed out that copies of some documents referred to in the aforesaid paras received by the Commission from the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 16.04.2004, have been examined and kept on record.
  13. With reference to the position stated in para 9 of the Status Report as on 13.04.2004, it is pointed out that the reply received by the Commission from the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on April 12, 2004 given in her d.o. letter dated March 29, 2004 states inter alia, that out of the witnesses listed by the Commission, Prof. Y.V. Pechenko

and Academician Bondarovsky have already expired; that Dr. Rybakov has sent a copy of his earlier letter to the Indian Mission on being requested by the latter to convey his willingness and convenience for appearing as a witness before the Commission; that Mr. V.N. Plastun, Mr. A.A. Kolesnikov, and Mr. P.M. Morosov are yet to be located by the Indian Mission and that reminders have again been sent by the latter to Mr. A.A. Kirichenko, Mr. U.L. Kuznets, Prof. A.P. Gnachuk-Danielchuk, Dr. A.A. Kutsenkov and Prof. E.N. Komorov. Subsequent development in the matter is still awaited.

14. With reference to the position stated in para 20 of the Status Report for May, 2004 it is pointed out that the retention order of the sanctioned posts of the Commission has since been received.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**  
For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of  
NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.  
'B' Block, (Third Floor)  
11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT  
(From 01.07.2004 to 31.07.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.06.2004 to 30.06.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. Xerox copies of the proceedings dated 23.06.2004 and of the Status Report dated 21.06.2004 have been sent to the authorities mentioned in para 1 above for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters therein as may be applicable to them)
3. Response from the Ministry of External Affairs in respect of a copy of the official paper bearing No. 5190, which is an extract from a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the Secretary of State, and R. Arthur Henderson held on 27<sup>th</sup> August (year not mentioned), as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London, sent to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, (vide the Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/375 dated December 26, 2003) is still awaited.
4. Further development in the matters of para 4 (c) (ii) and (iv) of the Status Report for June, 2004 are still awaited.
5. In Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/518 dated March 25, 2004 addressed to Shri Rakesh, Joint Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, he has been requested to kindly make available to the Commission as early as possible a copy of the diary of Lord Mountbatten, if necessary by collecting the same through the Indian High Commission in London, as the said diary is urgently required to be perused by the Commission in view of the facts and circumstances stated in the said d.o. letter. The diary called for is yet to be received.
6. The report of the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg [as intended to be sent later to the Commission in para 4 of the d.o. letter No.24/4/NGO-Vol.IX(II) dated June 11, 2003 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, addressed to the Secretary of the Commission] is yet to be received by the Commission in spite of several reminders to the said Ministry.

7. There has been no further development in the matters stated in paras 14, 16, & 17 of the Status Report for May, 2004.
8. Present whereabouts of all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.
9. The Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, has been requested by the Commission in its letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/108 dated July 14, 2004 to fix a schedule for examination of the remaining 59 files of the Intelligence Bureau referred to in the former's d.o. letter No.IV/8(66)/2001-2184 dated 12.12.01 at his earliest convenience and send an intimation to the Commission so that an Officer of the Commission may again be deputed to the office of the Director (Intelligence Bureau) in New Delhi, for the purpose of examination of the said files. The response of the Director is awaited.
10. The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as was done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The response of the Ministry is awaited.
11. Efforts are being made to hold the next hearing of the Commission in New Delhi sometime in the first fortnight of September when two handwriting experts and some other witnesses are likely to be examined.
12. Further to the position stated in para 13 of the Status Report for June, 2004 it is pointed out that the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated 15.07.2004 has intimated that the Institute of Oriental Studies, Moscow, has suggested that Justice Mukherjee might like to consider visiting Moscow after September 20, 2004 or in October, 2004 instead of July-August, 2004 proposed earlier by the Commission so that the Hon'ble Chairman could hold his meeting with the Russian scholars as suggested earlier by the said Institute. Accordingly, provisional programme of the Commission for visit to Russia w.e.f. September 21, 2004 has been sent by FAX to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, by Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/112 dated 21.07.04 with a copy endorsed to the Joint

Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Their response in the matter is awaited.

13. The d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated 28.07.2004 received from the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in reply to the Commission's query regarding Hotel Tariff in Taipei is being examined. The Air India was requested by the Commission in its letter dated July 19, 2004, sent by FAX, to let the Commission know the air fares by First Class, Executive Class, and Business Class, for visit to Taipei from India either via Singapore or via Bangkok, i.e. air fares for journey from Kolkata to Singapore, Singapore to Taipei, Taipei to Bangkok, and also from Kolkata to Bangkok, Bangkok to Taipei, and Taipei to Singapore, to enable the Commission to prepare estimates of the expenses of the visit of the Commission to Taipei and other aforesaid countries of Asia. The reply of the Air India is still awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.08.2004 to 31.08.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.07.2004 to 31.07.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
  
2. A notice has been sent to each of the deponents and other authorities concerned regarding the next hearing of the Commission which is scheduled to be held on 08.09.2004 and 09.09.2004, and if need be, on 10.09.2004 at 11.00 O'clock in the forenoon on each day in the Committee Room 'C' of Vigyan Bhavan Annexe, New Delhi, and five witnesses (including two handwriting experts) have been summoned for their examination during the said hearing.
  
3. The Ministry of External Affairs in their statement containing parawise comments on the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004 sent with their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004 has stated that they have not received any response from the Indian Mission concerned regarding an official paper bearing No.5190 which is an extract of a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the then Secretary of State and R. Arthur Henderson held on August 27, 1945 as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London and that the Mission has been reminded by the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter. Further development is awaited.
  
4. (a) A provisional programme for visit of the Commission to Russia was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/112 dated July 21, 2004 of the Secretary addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. Acknowledging the receipt of the said programme, the Director (CNV) in his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 12, 2004 suggested : "that the itinerary of JMCI's visit to Russia including the dates of the visit should be finalized only after receipt of further inputs from our Mission in Moscow. We shall keep you updated in the matter". No further communication on the matter has been received. The Ministry of External Affairs has been reminded by the Commission to take necessary action so that the Commission can visit Russia within September 30, 2004 or at best by the first week of October, 2004 to avoid

the bitter winter of Russia vide Secretary's d.o. letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/186 dated August 30, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India.

- (b) In the Commission's said d.o. letter dated August 30, 2004 it has also been stated that finalization of the programme of the Commission's visit to Taiwan and some other places also depends on the time of the proposed visit of the Commission to Russia.
5. The attention of the Director (CNV) has been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji. In the statement forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter no. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004, it has been stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Washington has been requested to depute an Officer to look at the documents". Further development in the matter is awaited.
6. We have received from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on August 16, 2004, a copy of personal diary of Admiral the Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander, South East Asia, 1943-1946, edited by Philip Ziegler, which is being examined.
7. (a) In the d.o. letter No.JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/93 dated 28.06.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been requested, inter alia : "It may be intimated whether the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple has been formally requested to make available the alleged ashes to the experts who may be appointed by the Commission for D.N.A. test of the same. The Commission may also be informed whether any reply to such request,... has been received." The Commission is yet to receive any reply of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to the aforesaid queries of the Commission.
- (b) The Commission is still continuing its efforts to ascertain the prima facie feasibility of D.N.A. tests of the alleged ashes of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan.
8. Present whereabouts of almost all the relevant witnesses examined earlier outside India as also most of those mentioned anew reportedly living abroad, are yet to be collected and the reports regarding availability/non-availability of the relevant

documents are yet to be obtained/collected from most of the foreign countries concerned by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to make them available to the Commission on receipt of which the Commission might be required to draw up programmes for its visit to the relevant foreign countries for examination of witnesses and documents available there as also for inspection of important relevant sites in those countries.

9. With Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/166 dated August 26, 2004 addressed to the Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a fresh list of 18 files available with the Intelligence Bureau on Micro-film purported to be relevant to the inquiry of the Commission has been sent to the said Joint Director who has been requested to get those files ready under intimation to this Commission to enable the Commission to examine those files without any more loss of time. Further intimation of the Intelligence Bureau in the matter is awaited.
10. The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as was done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (vide d.o. letter no. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/106 dated July 12, 2004 of the Secretary addressed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The response of the Ministry is still awaited.
11. Copies of the (1) Proclamation and (2) Instrument of surrender, as called for by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/288 dated 16.10.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India have been received by the Commission from them. Those have been examined by it and kept on record.
12. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/446 dated February 18, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, the receipt of the two responses to the notices published in Bangkok and Saigon (Vietnam) through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, were acknowledged and the Ministry of Home Affairs was requested to let the Commission know about other responses to the said notice, if any, received subsequently. A copy of the said letter dated February 18, 2004 was endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for information and necessary action. With d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.X dated February 24, 2004 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, the communications (in two pages) received by the Indian

- Mission in Singapore by FAX from a local resident in response to the Commission's notice have been sent to the Commission for further appropriate action. Those papers have been perused and kept on record. It is presumed that no further response has been received to the Commission's said notices published in Bangkok, Saigon & Singapore.
13. Commission's Notice to the public has been published on March 19, 2004 in The China Post, a leading English daily of Taiwan, to explore the possibility of getting available evidence in Taiwan. In response to the notice, a letter by e-mail has been received from one NRI Indian based in Taiwan. No other response has been received as yet.
  14. In d.o. letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/170 dated August 26, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, his attention has been drawn to the photo-copy of the note dated 02.12.1954 of Shri M.O. Mathai which was endorsed to the then Joint Secretary (AD), Shri Prem Krishan under P.M.'s Sectt. U.O. No. D/S 13170 dated 02.12.1954 as could be found in the photo-copy of the top secret File No. 23(11)/56/57/PM of the P.M.'s office (Political Section) on the subject, "INA Treasure" wherefrom it appears that the Ministry of External Affairs received a small amount of Rs.200/- and odd along with the ashes and other remains of "Late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose" from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Director (CNV) has been requested to report on the following points :
    - i. When and under what circumstances were the alleged ashes of Netaji received by the Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo as mentioned in the aforesaid note dated 02.12.1954 ?
    - ii. Where were the ashes and other remains mentioned in the said note dated 02.12.1954 preserved ?
    - iii. If not preserved, what did happen to those ashes and remains ?

The reply of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.09.2004 to 30.09.2004)

1. (a) This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.08.2004 to 31.08.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
- (b) Xerox copies of the Status Report as on 02.09.2004 and of the Proceedings dated 08.09.2004 and 09.09.2004 have been forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters therein as may be applicable to them).
2. A notice has been sent to each of the deponents and other authorities concerned regarding the next hearing of the Commission which is scheduled to be held on 15.10.2004 at 11.00 O'clock in the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166 Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata-700007, and five witnesses have been summoned for their examination / further examination during the said hearing.
3. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in their statement containing parawise comments on the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004 sent with their d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004 have stated that they have not received any response from the Indian Mission concerned regarding an official paper bearing No.5190 which is an extract of a note of discussion between Lord Wavell, the then Secretary of State and R. Arthur Henderson held on August 27, 1945 as collected from the U.K. in course of the visit of the Commission to London and that the Mission has been reminded by the Ministry of External Affairs in the matter. Further development is still awaited.
4. (a) Further to the position stated in para 4(a) of the Status Report of August, 2004 it is pointed out that in Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/197 dated September 3, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia, that the d.o. letter dated September 8, 2004 of the

Director (CNV) is silent about Commission's proposed visit to Omsk, Paddosk, and Irkhutsk; that the Indian Mission in Moscow is reportedly still awaiting confirmation from the Russian Foreign Office regarding the request of the Commission for access to the archives in Russia and that their confirmation regarding the meeting of the Commission with the Scholars in St. Petersburg is also reportedly awaited from the Indian Mission there. It has also been stated in the said d.o. letter of the Secretary of the Commission : "As our past experience shows Ministry of Home Affairs take about three weeks or more to communicate approval of tour abroad and sanction for incurring expenditure. .... The deponents also need time to get Visa for visit to Moscow and other places in Russian Federation". There has been no further development regarding the visit of the Commission to Russian Federation before the onset of bitter winter season in Russia.

- (b) In the context of the uncertainty regarding the time of the proposed visit of the Commission to the Russian Federation, the Secretary of the Commission, in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/219 dated September 27, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, with a copy endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has communicated a tentative programme of the Commission for its visit to Singapore, Taipei, Thailand, Saigon, and Kualampur in course of a single tour during the period from November 15 or 16 to November 30, 2004 with the request for according necessary Government sanction and communication of the same to the Commission as expeditiously as possible.
5. The attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji. In the statement forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter no. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004, it has been stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Washington has been requested to depute an Officer to look at the documents". In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/191 dated 02.09.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia : "It may not be presumed that some specific documents have been offered by the American side which might be perused by an Officer to be deputed by the Indian Mission in

- Washington as it appears to have been stated" (in the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs at page 2 against para 4(c)(iv) of the said statement regarding the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004). It has also been stated in the said letter dated 02.09.2004 of the Commission : "What is needed is research work to find out whether there are relevant documents in the archival records in the USA". Further development in the matter is still awaited.
6. There has been little breakthrough as yet in the vital matter of DNA testing of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose allegedly kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan notwithstanding close persuasion of the matter during the last two years by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the direct approach by the Commission to various organizations of India and abroad having expertise in DNA testing. Formal consent of the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple to allow taking of samples of the said mortal remains for DNA test as solicited in Commission's letter dated 28.06.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is yet to be conveyed.
  7. In d.o. letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/170 dated August 26, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission, the attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to the photo-copy of the note dated 02.12.1954 of Shri M.O. Mathai which was endorsed to the then Joint Secretary (AD), Shri Prem Krishan under P.M.'s Sectt. U.O. No. D/S 13170 dated 02.12.1954 as could be found in the photo-copy of the top secret File No. 23(11)/56/57/PM of the P.M.'s office (Political Section) on the subject, "INA Treasure" wherefrom it appears that the Ministry of External Affairs received a small amount of Rs.200/- and odd along with the ashes and other remains of "Late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose" from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Director (CNV) has been requested to report on the following points :
    - i. When and under what circumstances were the alleged ashes of Netaji received by the Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo as mentioned in the aforesaid note dated 02.12.1954 ?
    - ii. Where were the ashes and other remains mentioned in the said note dated 02.12.1954 preserved ?
    - iii. If not preserved, what did happen to those ashes and remains ?

The reply of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is still awaited.

8. The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to

the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as has been done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (vide d.o. letter no. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/106 dated July 12, 2004 of the Secretary addressed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India). The response of the Ministry is still awaited.

9. With Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(IV)/166 dated 25.08.2004 a fresh list of 18 files (apparently found to be relevant) available with the Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, on Micro-films has been sent to the Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, with the request to get those files ready for inspection by the Commission under intimation to it. On getting clearance from the I. B. Shri P.N. Chakravarty, Sr. Research Officer of the Commission, has been advised to proceed to New Delhi on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2004 to examine Micro-films of those files of the Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, under intimation to the Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
10. Further to the position stated in para 14 of the Status Report as on 21.06.2004 it is stated that by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/192 dated 02.09.2004, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to advise the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City to contact Mr. Pereira so that he furnishes the Commission with a copy of the book titled, 'Kojaka Rebels' published by a Singaporean Publisher as also furnishes the addresses of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerald De Cruz, as quickly as possible.
11. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Admn/99-2000/32(II)/200 dated September 17, 2004 addressed to Shri U.K. Kalra, Director (Security), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, a report has been sent in reply to his letter No. 11012/61/2004-NCB-II dated September 9, 2004 indicating, inter alia, the extent of work done by the Commission, the work remaining to be done by the Commission, and the formidable considerations/constraints which stand in the way of the Commission to project a fixed time frame for completion of its inquiry.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.10.2004 to 31.10.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.09.2004 to 30.09.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The hearing of the Commission was held on 15.10.2004 at 11.00 O'clock in the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 and out of five witnesses summoned only, two were present who were examined during the said hearing.
3. Further to the position stated in para 3 of the Status Report of September, 2004, it is stated that the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.XII dated September 30, 2004 has stated, inter alia, that the representative of the Indian High Commission in London made an exhaustive search with the help of Research Advisers at the British Library and the National Archives of the U.K. and "could not find any relevant material relating to the inquiry initiated by the Viceroy as mentioned in Document No.5190."
4. Further to the position stated in para 4(a) of the Status Report of August, 2004, it is pointed out that in Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/197 dated September 3, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia, that the d.o. letter dated September 8, 2004 of the Director (CNV) is silent about Commission's proposed visit to Omsk, Paddosk, and Irkhutsk; that the Indian Mission in Moscow is reportedly still awaiting confirmation from the Russian Foreign Office regarding the request of the Commission for access to the archives in Russia and that their confirmation regarding the meeting of the Commission with the scholars in St. Petersburg is also reportedly awaited from the Indian Mission there. It has also been stated in the said d.o. letter of the Secretary of the Commission : "As our past experience shows Ministry of Home Affairs take about three weeks or more to communicate approval of tour abroad and sanction for incurring expenditure. .... The deponents also need time to get Visa for visit to Moscow and other places in Russian Federation". There has been no further development regarding the visit of the Commission to Russian Federation before the onset of bitter winter season in Russia.

5. Further to the position stated in para 4(b) of the Status Report for September, 2004 it is stated that the Government of India has called for a Proforma Report in respect of the visit of the Commission and has recently clarified to the Commission that the visit of Hon'ble Chairman and the Secretary of the Commission is also considered as their deputation to the foreign countries concerned.
6. The attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji. In the statement forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter no. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004, it has been stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Washington has been requested to depute an Officer to look at the documents". In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/191 dated 02.09.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia : "It may not be presumed that some specific documents have been offered by the American side which might be perused by an Officer to be deputed by the Indian Mission in Washington as it appears to have been stated" (in the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs at page 2 against para 4(c)(iv) of the said statement regarding the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004). It has also been stated in the said letter dated 02.09.2004 of the Commission : "What is needed is research work to find out whether there are relevant documents in the archival records in the USA". Further development in the matter is still awaited.
7. There has been little breakthrough as yet in the vital matter of DNA testing of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose allegedly kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan notwithstanding close persuasion of the matter during the period extending beyond the last two years by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the direct approach by the Commission to various organizations of India and abroad having expertise in DNA testing. Formal consent of the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple to allow taking of samples of the said mortal remains for DNA test as solicited in Commission's letter dated 28.06.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is yet to be conveyed.
8. In d.o. letter No. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/170 dated August 26, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission, the attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to the photo-copy of the note dated 02.12.1954 of Shri M.O. Mathai which was endorsed to the then Joint Secretary (AD), Shri Prem Krishan under P.M.'s Sectt. U.O. No. D/S 13170 dated 02.12.1954

as could be found in the photo-copy of the top secret File No. 23(11)/56/57/PM of the P.M.'s office (Political Section) on the subject, "INA Treasure" wherefrom it appears that the Ministry of External Affairs received a small amount of Rs.200/- and odd along with the ashes and other remains of "Late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose" from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Director (CNV) has been requested to report on the following points :

- i. When and under what circumstances were the alleged ashes of Netaji received by the Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo as mentioned in the aforesaid note dated 02.12.1954 ?
- ii. Where were the ashes and other remains mentioned in the said note dated 02.12.1954 preserved ?
- iii. If not preserved, what did happen to those ashes and remains ?

The reply of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is still awaited.

9. The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as has been done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India (vide d.o. letter no. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/106 dated July 12, 2004 of the Secretary addressed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India). The response of the Ministry is still awaited.
10. With Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(IV)/166 dated 25.08.2004 a fresh list of 18 files (apparently found to be relevant) available with the Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, on Micro-films was sent to the Joint Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, with the request to get those files ready for inspection by the Commission under intimation to it. On getting clearance from the I .B. Shri P.N. Chakravorty, Sr. Research Officer of the Commission, had been to New Delhi in October, 2004 and examined Micro-films of those files of the Intelligence Bureau, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. Further action will be taken on getting the study report of Shri Chakravorty.
11. The Ambassador of India, Kazakhstan has informed the Commission by his letter No. ALM/Pol/560/1/2002 dated September 17, 2004 in reply to Commission's letter dated April 28, 2003 addressed to the Chairman, Committee for Control over Archives and Documentation, Kazakhstan that there is no information related to the alleged

disappearance of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the Archives of various cities of Kazakhstan.

12. In Commission's letter No.JMCI/Meeting-Hearing/99-2000/57(IV)/160 dated 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated that Shri Priyadarshi Mukherjee, an Associate Professor of Chinese and Center for Chinese and South-East Asian Studies, JNU, New Delhi, stated, inter alia, in his affidavit filed before the Commission that an article written by a Chinese in the book titled, "Forgotten Images" edited by Dr. T.R. Sareen states, inter alia, that Netaji had been to Nanjing and Shri Mukherjee has also referred to No.2 Chinese Historical Archives, 3-9 San-Yat-Sen Road (East), Nanjing for materials on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and accordingly the Director (CNV) has been requested by the Commission in its said letter dated 24.08.04 to kindly write to the Government of the Peoples' Republic of China for relevant documents/records, if any, in the Chinese Historical Archives, named by the said deponent. In reply, the Director (CNV) in his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated September 17, 2004 has intimated that both the Chinese Historical Archives in Nanjing as well as the Nanjing Library have conveyed to the Indian Consulate in Sanghai that they do not have any such book containing historical references to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose.
13. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/228 dated September 28, 2004, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been furnished with a xerox copy of an article titled, "Netaji 'Your Criminal', Nehru wrote to Attlee" authored by Shri Samit Dutta, a retired Director of the C.B.I., and published in the Dainik Statesman, dated 19.09.2004 wherein Shri Datta has referred to one report dated 23.05.1946 sent by Mr. Danovan of American Consulate in Bombay (Mumbai) to the Home Secretary of the Government of the USA allegedly based on the information given to Mr. Danovan by his 'source'. A copy of the report and the particulars called for by the Commission in its said letter dated 28.09.04 have not yet been received.
14. By Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/192 dated September 2, 2004 the Director (CNV) has been furnished with a copy of the Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/432 dated February 5, 2004 in which Mr. Joseph C. Pereira, who reportedly furnished some information to the Indian Consulate in Ho-Chi-Minh City in response to the publication of the notice of the Commission, was requested (on the basis of the aforesaid information) to kindly send to the Commission a copy of the book titled, "Kojaka Rebels" published by a Singaporean publisher as also to furnish the Commission with the addresses of the son and the daughter of Mr. Gerald De Cruz, so that the Commission may officially approach them to elicit information from them and the Director (CNV) has been requested to advise the Indian Consulate in the Ho-Chi-Minh City to contact Mr. Pereira (from whom the Commission has not received any response so far) so that Mr. Pereira furnishes the Commission with a copy of the said book as also the said particulars called for from him by the Commission, as

quickly as possible. The response of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is awaited.

15. By Secretary's Fax Message dated October 5, 2004, the attention of Dr. V.K. Kashyap, Director, CFSL, Kolkata, has been drawn to the Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/103 dated July 6, 2004 to him regarding detection of latent finger prints in books, papers, etc. and he has been requested to kindly expedite the matter which is very urgent and important. The response of Dr. V.K. Kashyap is still awaited.
  
16. Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, Center for Cellular and Molecular Biology, Hyderabad, in his e-mail No.DCCMB/34 dated October 6, 2004 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission has acknowledged receipt of e-mails and Fax Messages of the Secretary to him and has stated, inter alia : "Unfortunately I will be out of Hyderabad most of the time this month. I would, therefore, suggest 8<sup>th</sup> or 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 for our discussion" (about photographs of ashes kept in the Renkoji temple). The Secretary requested the P.A. of Dr. Singh on phone for an early date and the P.A. has ultimately confirmed the date 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 2004 for the purpose of the discussion about the photographs of ashes allegedly of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose kept in the Renkoji temple as proposed by the Secretary.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.11.2004 to 30.11.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.10.2004 to 31.10.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The next hearing of the Commission is scheduled to be held on 09.12.04 and , if need be, on 10.12.04, at 11.00 O'clock in the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 and eight witnesses have been summoned for their examination / further examination during the said hearing.
3. The Commission in its letter No.JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56/503 dated 06.02.2001, requested the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to kindly persuade the Government of Russian Union as also the Government of the States which previously belonged to the remaining territorial limits of the USSR so that the archival documents concerning Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose / Indian National Army, if any, lying in their archives as mentioned in the affidavit dated 08.06.2000 of Dr. (Mrs.) Purabi Roy as also referred to by her in her deposition on oath / affirmation before the Commission on 22.12.2000, could be scrutinized by / or on behalf of the Commission and certified photo-copies for Micro-films / Micro-fiches of the relevant documents could be taken by the Commission immediately. A list of the said archives was attached with the said letter. A reminder was sent in the matter by Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56/27 dated 17.04.2001 enclosing therewith a xerox copy of the news item, titled, "Netaji Panel should visit Russia" authored by the P.T.I. and published in the 'Statesman' dated March 12, 2001.

In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2000-01/70/30 dated 19.04.2001 a preliminary programme was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, for holding of hearing of the Commission in Formosa, Russian Union and some other States concerned created out of the erstwhile USSR to peruse relevant records and to examine competent witnesses available there. Particulars of witnesses as could be gathered from the book titled, "Netaji Mystery" authored by Satya Narayan Sinha were furnished with the said letter. The letter was acknowledged by the Director (CNV) to have been duly received as it appears from the endorsement to the Commission of her d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.VI dated April 27, 2001 addressed to the Deputy Chief of Mission, Embassy of India, Moscow.

The urgent requirement of holding inquiry by the Commission in the Russian Federation, the other States which were in the erstwhile USSR and some other relevant countries including the USA was discussed by the Hon'ble Chairman with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs, Government of India, on October 28, 2002 in New Delhi and in pursuance of the said discussion as also in view of the assertions of some deponents that documents containing clinching evidence relating to the points of inquiry of the Commission, are in possession and/or under the control of different foreign Departments including those of the Russian Union and all other States which were previously within the erstwhile USSR, Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(IV)/398 dated November 11, 2002 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was sent.

With Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/621 dated April 1, 2003, the relevant extracts of the Supplementary affidavit dated March 20, 2003 filed before the Commission by Dr. Purabi Roy was sent to the Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with a request to kindly approach the Government of Russia for access of the Commission to the archives of the KGB (F.S.B.), Federal Security Bureau in view of the assertions made by Dr. Purabi Roy in her said Supplementary affidavit. A list of witnesses in Russia cited by Dr. Roy in her original affidavit dated June 8, 2000 was also sent with the said letter with the request to cause verification through the Indian Embassy in Russian Union as to whether those cited Russian witnesses would be available for their examination by the Commission and, if so, to ascertain and intimate to the Commission the convenient of the said person as to the dates, hours, and places, when and where they like to make themselves available for their examination as witnesses before the Commission.

In d.o. letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2002-03/70(II)/301 dated October 29, 2003 of the Secretary addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, in reply to her d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO/Vol.X dated October 13, 2003 a request was made to let the Commission know the result of the requests made in paras 1, 2, and 3 of its aforesaid letter No. 621 dated April 1, 2003 as those paras were not adverted in the aforesaid d.o. letter dated October 13, 2003 of the Director (CNV).

In d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XI dated February 16, 2004 of the Director (CNV) addressed to the Secretary of the Commission it has been inter alia, informed : "Dr. Rybakov ..... who has been only one to respond to the Mission's communications so far, has been asked to convey his willingness and convenience for appearing as a witness" ; it has also been stated : "our Embassy in Moscow is ascertaining the whereabouts of Mr. Pechenko from the Indian Consulate of St. Petersburg. The Embassy is also continuing its efforts to locate Mr. V.N. Plastun, Mr. A. Kolesnikov, and Mr. E.M. Morosov, while a reminder was being sent to Mr. Komorov. It has also been conveyed by the Mission that Academician Bandarovosky – one of the listed witnesses, expired last year. We shall apprise you of further progress in the matter on receipt of inputs from our Mission ....."

A reminder was sent to the Director (CNV) by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(II)/492 dated March 4, 2004 wherewith a list of witnesses, with their particulars as furnished by Dr. Purabi Roy, was sent.

In pursuance of the discussion of the Hon'ble Chairman with the Hon'ble Minister of External Affairs in New Delhi on 25.06.2004 the Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(III)/93 dated June 28, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was sent mentioning inter alia, the names and addresses of Russian witnesses available to this Commission with the request inter alia, to request the Government of Russian Federation to give access to the Commission the archival documents in their archives and to make the documents and records relevant to the point of inquiry available to the Commission. In reply, the Director (CNV) in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated July 15, 2004 has stated, inter alia: "the Institute (of Oriental studies) has just suggested that Justice Mukherjee might like to consider visiting Moscow after September 20, 2004 or in October, 2004. Such a time frame would help the Institute organise the proposed meeting in a proper manner."

In response, the Secretary of the Commission in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/112 dated July 21, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), communicated the provisional programme of the Commission for its visit to Moscow, St. Petersburg, Omsk, Paddosk, Irkhutsk and also stated therein that the Home Ministry would be moved for according necessary sanction, etc., after receiving the reply of the Director (CNV) in the matter.

In d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 12, 2004, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India has stated, inter alia: "it is suggested that the itinerary of JMCI's visit to Russia including the dates of the visit should be finalized only after receipt of further inputs from our Mission in Moscow. We shall keep you updated on the matter." In reply, the Secretary of the Commission informed the Director (CNV) in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/186 dated August 30, 2004 that the Commission wants to complete its visit to Russia before September 30, 2004 or at best by the first week of October, 2004 to avoid the bitter winter of Russia. A copy of the said d.o. letter was endorsed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

The Director (CNV) in his d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated September 3, 2004 has stated : "We have requested our Mission in Moscow to expedite the matter so that the itinerary of JMCI's visit to Russia can be finalized early".

The said Director in his d.o. letter of even No. dated September 8, 2004 has stated inter alia : "our Mission in Moscow is still awaiting confirmation from the Russian Foreign office with regard to the JMCI's request for access to the archives in Russia". In reply, the Secretary, in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/197 dated September 13, 2004 , has pointed, inter alia, that the aforesaid d.o. letter dated September 8, 2004 of the Director (CNV) is silent about Commission's proposed visit to Omsk, Paddosk, and

Irkhutsk and that the said d.o. letter also indicates that the Indian Mission in Moscow is still awaiting confirmation from the Russian Foreign Office regarding the request of the Commission for access to the archives in Russia and as such confirmation of the proposed visit to Moscow only for the meeting of the Russian Institute of Oriental Studies will result in splitting up of the programme of the Commission's visit to Russia. Besides, the said d.o. letter also shows that the confirmation regarding the meeting with the scholars in St. Petersburg is also awaited from our Mission there. Hence, the Commission has no alternative but to revise its programme after receiving further information on the aforesaid points.

While the Commission was anxiously awaiting further communication on the aforesaid points from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to enable it to submit its revised programme for visit to Russia, the letter No.11034/18/98-NCB-II dated 19.11.2004 of the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, was received along with a copy of the notification dated 14.11.2004 extending the term of the Commission upto 14.05.2005 wherein it has also been stated : "I am also directed to request that the Commission may complete and submit its report within the extended period as it has been decided that no further extension beyond 14.05.2005 will be allowed". In reply thereto, the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was intimated inter alia, by d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/292 dated November 23, 2004 : "I am directed to request you to note that in view of peremptory direction of the Government of India" in their aforesaid letter dated 19.11.2004 and in view of the fact "that the Commission cannot undertake its proposed visit, for the purpose of its inquiry to Moscow and other places of the Russian Federation including Omsk until the bitter winter season there is over - which is not likely before May, 2005 - the Commission is constrained to cancel its programme of visit to the Russian Federation". A copy of the said letter dated November 23, 2004 of the Secretary has been endorsed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

- 4 Further to the position stated in para 5 of the Status Report for October, 2004 it is pointed out that a draft programme for visit to Singapore, Taipei, Vietnam, Bangkok, Malaysia and some other countries of Asia prepared on the basis of flight information received by the Commission has been enclosed with Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/291 dated November 23, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with a copy of the letter coupled with its enclosure endorsed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, so that the process of according sanction might be initiated by the Government without any avoidable delay, pending submission by the Commission the required proforma statement (which has since been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 02.12.04). In the context of the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs that no further extension of the term of the Commission beyond 14.05.2005 will be allowed, it has inter alia, been pointed out in the said letter that necessary order of sanction be issued and communicated to the Commission with utmost despatch to enable the Commission to complete its visit to the abovesaid countries according to the enclosed programme after giving the deponents at least 3 to 4 weeks' notice from the date of commencement of the visit.

- 5 The attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA, indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji. In the statement forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter no. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004, it has been stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Washington has been requested to depute an Officer to look at the documents". In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/191 dated 02.09.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia : "It may not be presumed that some specific documents have been offered by the American side which might be perused by an Officer to be deputed by the Indian Mission in Washington as it appears to have been stated" (in the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs at page 2 against para 4(c)(iv) of the said statement regarding the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004). It has also been stated in the said letter dated 02.09.2004 of the Commission : "What is needed is research work to find out whether there are relevant documents in the archival records in the USA". Further development in the matter is still awaited.
- 6 There has been little breakthrough as yet in the vital matter of DNA testing of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose allegedly kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan notwithstanding close persuasion of the matter during the period of more than the past two years, by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the direct approach by the Commission to various organizations of India and abroad having expertise in DNA testing. In the context of the opinion of Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, CCMB at Hyderabad as expressed in his letter No. DCCMB/LS dated November 3, 2004, the Secretary in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/269 dated November 9, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with a copy to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has inter alia, requested the Director (CNV) to kindly intimate the Commission whether the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple would accede to a request to allow a competent person to be deputed by the Commission "to sort out the potentially less charred pieces of bones" from the Casket containing the alleged ashes of Netaji, for the purpose of ascertaining whether DNA may be extracted from the said pieces of bones . A copy of the said letter of Dr. Lalji Singh was enclosed with the aforesaid d.o. letter dated November 9, 2004 as also with the copy thereof endorsed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs. The consent of the Chief Priest of the Renkoji temple as sought for by the Commission, is still awaited.
- 7 In d.o. letter No. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/170 dated August 26, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission, the attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to the photocopy of the note dated

02.12.1954 of Shri M.O. Mathai which was endorsed to the then Joint Secretary (AD), Shri Prem Krishan under P.M.'s Sectt. U.O. No. D/S 13170 dated 02.12.1954 as could be found in the photocopy of the top secret File No. 23(11)/56/57/PM of the P.M.'s office (Political Section) on the subject, "INA Treasure" wherefrom it appears that the Ministry of External Affairs received a small amount of Rs.200/- and odd along with the ashes and other remains of "Late Shri Subhas Chandra Bose" from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo and the Director (CNV) has been requested to report on the following points :

- i. When and under what circumstances were the alleged ashes of Netaji received by the Ministry of External Affairs from the Indian Embassy in Tokyo as mentioned in the aforesaid note dated 02.12.1954 ?
- ii. Where were the ashes and other remains mentioned in the said note dated 02.12.1954 preserved ?
- iii. If not preserved, what did happen to those ashes and remains ?

In d.o. letter No.25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated November 5, 2004 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated inter alia : "The Indian Mission in Tokyo under instruction of New Delhi took over possession of the alleged ashes of Netaji at the Renkoji temple. However, with prior arrangement of Japanese Foreign Ministry and the temple authorities, the ashes were not disturbed with the understanding that they would remain so until a decision has been taken by the Government of India .....". The merit of the aforesaid reply, given by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to the Commission's queries mentioned above, will be considered by the Commission in due course.

- 8 The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested by Commission's letter No.JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/106 dated 12.07.2004 to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as has been done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. . The response of the Ministry is still awaited.
- 9 By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/228 dated September 28, 2004, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been furnished with a xerox copy of an article in Bengali titled, "Netaji 'Your Criminal', Nehru wrote to Attlee" authored by Shri Samit Dutta, a retired Director of the C.B.I., and published in the Dainik Statesman, dated 19.09.2004 wherein Shri Dutta has referred to one report dated 23.05.1946 sent by Mr. Danovan of American Consulate in Bombay (Mumbai) to the Home Secretary of the Government of the USA allegedly based on the information given to Mr. Danovan by his 'source'. The English translation of the said article has been sent to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of

- India, with Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC-64(VI)/2004/293 dated November 23, 2004 as desired by him in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated October 12, 2004. The report and the particulars called for by the Commission in its aforesaid letter dated 28.09.2004 are awaited.
- 10 Further to the position stated in para 14 of the monthly Status Report for October, 2004, it is pointed out that the Joint Secretary (CNV), in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XIII dated October 28, 2004 has intimated, inter alia, that Mr. Simon Tensing De Cruz, S/o. Late Gerold De Cruz, presently Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar has verbally informed the Indian Ambassador in Myanmar that his father did not serve as the Personal Assistant to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; that the correct title of book written by his father is Rojak Rebels; that the book has been out of print for long and no extra copy thereof is available; and that on being requested for a photostat copy of the book available with Mr. De Cruz, he has simply provided the Indian Ambassador with a photocopy of the Chapter which he considers to be relevant to Netaji. The said photocopy has been sent by the Joint Secretary (CNV) to the Commission with his aforesaid d.o. letter dated October 28, 2004 which is being studied.
- 11 By Secretary's Fax Message dated October 5, 2004, the attention of Dr. V.K. Kashyap, Director, CFSL, Kolkata, has been drawn to the Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/103 dated July 6, 2004 to him regarding detection of latent finger prints in books, papers, etc. and he has been requested to kindly expedite the matter which is very urgent and important. The response of Dr. V.K. Kashyap is still awaited.
- 12 Further to the position stated in para 10 of the Status Report for October, 2004, it is stated that the study report of Shri P.N. Chakravarty, Senior Research Officer of the Commission has been kept on record as desired by the Hon'ble Chairman.
- 13 By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC/99-2000/56(V)/289 dated 22.11.2004, the Joint Secretary (CNV) has been furnished with a xerox copy of the affidavit dated February 2, 2000 filed before the Commission by Shri Kamal Dutt of Vill. Station Road, P.O. Hojai, Dist. Nagaon, Assam 782435 with a request to furnish immediately information, if any available, regarding the Soviet Agent, Sayadyants V. who, according to Shri Kamal Dutt, the deponent, left Russia in 1959-60 permanently for India as mentioned in his said affidavit. The Joint Secretary was also requested to take necessary action so that the Ministry of External Affairs, Russian Federation is approached for the documents allegedly kept in the Russian Archives of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation as claimed by the deponent in his said affidavit. The response of the Ministry of External Affairs is awaited.

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.12.2004 to 31.12.2004)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.11.2004 to 30.11.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The next hearing of the Commission is scheduled to be held on 07.01.2005 at 11.00 O'clock in the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 when four witnesses, who have been summoned, are likely to be examined / further examined and arguments are likely to be heard. As agreed upon on the last date of hearing (09.12.2004), the Learned Advocate Smt. C. Alam appearing for the deponents, Shri Paras Dutta (Affidavit/23/2000), and Dr. (Mrs.) Purabi Roy (Affidavit/45/2000), is expected to argue first.
3. A copy of the Writ petition dated 26.12.2004 of ten deponents, which is likely to be filed in the Hon'ble High Court, Kolkata on 06.01.2005, has been received on 27.12.2004, the respondents whereof are, inter alia, the Union of India, the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the Chairman, Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry. The Writ petition is in the matter, inter alia, of the judgment dated 30<sup>th</sup> April, 1998 passed by the Division Bench of the Hon'ble High Court, Calcutta in W.P. No.281 of 1998 and the letter No. 11034/18/98-NCB-II dated 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2004 issued by the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, following a Notification in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) bearing No.S.O. 1265 (E) issued by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India on 14.11.2004 whereby the term of Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry has been extended upto 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2005 as the last chance.
4. The Secretary of the Commission in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/219 dated September 27, 2004 addressed to the Secretary (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, with a copy endorsed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, communicated a tentative programme of the Commission for its visit to Singapore, Taipei, Thailand, Saigon and Kualalampur in course of a single tour during the period from November 15 or 16 to November 30, 2004 with a request for necessary Government sanction and communication of the same to the Commission as expeditiously as possible. A revised programme prepared on the basis of the flight

information collected by the Commission has been enclosed with Commission's letter No.JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/291 dated November 23, 2004 addressed to the Director (IS), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, and the copy of the said letter coupled with its enclosures has been endorsed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, so that the process of according sanction might be initiated by the Government without any avoidable delay. The required proforma statement in the matter has also been sent to the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, on 02.12.2004. In the context of the decision of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, that no further extension of the term of the Commission beyond 14.05.2005 will be allowed, it has, inter alia, been pointed out in the said letter that necessary order of sanction is required to be issued and communicated to the Commission with utmost despatch to enable the Commission to complete its visit to the abovesaid countries according to the programme enclosed to the Commission's aforesaid letter dated November 23, 2004 after giving the deponents at least three to four weeks notice from the date of commencement of the visit. The date of commencement of the visit is January 11, 2005 as proposed by the Commission. An unsigned letter bearing d.o. No.24/4/NGO-Vol.XIII dated December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 purportedly of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India and addressed to the Secretary of the Commission has been received by FAX at 17.27 hours on December 30<sup>th</sup>, 2004 which states, inter alia :

- "2. The revised date of the visit have been conveyed to the respective Missions including ITA, Taipei. The ITA has informed that they had sought from you, details of the team's detailed programme in Taipei but have not heard from you so far. They have also indicated that it would be difficult to make arrangements for the visit, if it materializes now, given the fact JMCI has not yet conveyed specific information about the places that the team intends to visit or about the people it wishes to interview.
3. We would request you to provide the requisite information directly to the ITA, and periodically update it of the detailed programme under intimation to us."

The said "specific information" called for by the ITA, Taipei, appears to have not been solicited so far by the Indian Missions in Singapore, Saigon, Bangkok and Kualalampur. Besides, similar "specific information" was not solicited in the past by the Indian Missions in London and Tokyo who proposed the 'detailed programme' for the places desired to be visited by the Commission and the Commission approved the same.

However the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India was informed long ago by Commission's d.o. letter No. JMCI/Taiwan/2003-2004/89/426 dated 22.12.2004 of the purpose of the proposed visit to Taipei, the places the Commission proposed to visit in Taipei and the witnesses it proposed to examine. The India Taipei Association has not yet asked the Commission to furnish "specific information" for preparing detailed programme. The latest communication by e-mail from the India Taipei Association, reads, inter alia, as follows :

"We have been informed that JMCI will be in Taipei from 13-17 January, 2005. In anticipation of your visit we have already booked two rooms for the Commission at Grand Hyatt and Far Eastern Plaza Hotel. (booking at one of the hotel can be cancelled after you have made your choice).

2. Since it would be difficult for us make arrangements for the visit on a short notice, especially hiring of an interpreter etc., you are requested to intimate us about the arrangements to be made urgently.
3. You are aware that you would be required to carry sufficient cash for making payments of all your bills in Taipei. Owing to the nature of this office we do not have any arrangement for debiting expenditures to offices in India."

In order to enable the willing witnesses in Taipei to depose before the Commission, notice was published in a daily newspaper in Taipei.

5. The attention of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been drawn to Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas/Witnesses/2002-2003/70(II)/188 dated 05.08.2003 addressed to the Joint Secretary, (CNV), wherein the latter was requested to send particulars of some suitable willing Indian scholars/students of Post Graduate class available in the USA, indicating/suggesting the rate of remuneration, if any, acceptable to them unless they would agree to do the job of archival research at various American repositories of relevant historical documents relating to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, free of remuneration for academic interest or for the love and respect for Netaji. In the statement forwarded by the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with their d.o. letter no. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated August 18, 2004, it has been stated, inter alia : "Our Mission in Washington has been requested to depute an Officer to look at the documents". In Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/191 dated 02.09.2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, it has been stated, inter alia : "It may not be presumed that some specific documents have been offered by the American side which might be perused by an Officer to be deputed by the Indian Mission in Washington as it appears to have been stated" (in the statement of the Ministry of External Affairs at page 2 against para 4(c)(iv) of the said statement

regarding the Commission's Status Report for June, 2004). It has also been stated in the said letter dated 02.09.2004 of the Commission : "What is needed is research work to find out whether there are relevant documents in the archival records in the USA". Further development in the matter is still awaited.

6. There has been little breakthrough as yet in the vital matter of DNA testing of the alleged mortal remains of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose allegedly kept in the Renkoji temple in Japan notwithstanding close persuasion of the matter during the period of more than the past two years, by the Commission with the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the direct approach by the Commission to various organizations of India and abroad having expertise in DNA testing. In the context of the opinion of Dr. Lalji Singh, Director, CCMB at Hyderabad as expressed in his letter No. DCCMB/LS dated November 3, 2004, the Secretary in his d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/269 dated November 9, 2004 addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with a copy to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has inter alia, requested the Director (CNV) to kindly intimate the Commission whether the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple would accede to a request to allow a competent person to be deputed by the Commission "to sort out the potentially less charred pieces of bones" from the Casket containing the alleged ashes of Netaji, for the purpose of ascertaining whether DNA may be extracted from the said pieces of bones . A copy of the said letter of Dr. Lalji Singh was enclosed with the aforesaid d.o. letter dated November 9, 2004 as also with the copy thereof endorsed to the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs. The consent of the Chief Priest of the Renkoji temple as sought for by the Commission, is still awaited.
7. The Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, has again been requested by Commission's letter No. JMCI/Records/ND/99-2000/37(IV)/106 dated 12.07.2004 to take effective steps so that the File No.10/22/CM-68 is sent to the Commission without any further delay. He has also been requested that if the contents of the said file are still classified as Secret, the competent authority should be moved so that the file may be made available to the Commission at least for the perusal of the Hon'ble Chairman as has been done earlier in the case of more than one file in respect of which privilege has been claimed by the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. . The response of the Ministry is still awaited.
8. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC(FOR)/99-2000/56(V)/228 dated September 28, 2004, the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been furnished with a xerox copy of an article in Bengali titled, "Netaji 'Your Criminal', Nehru wrote to Attlee" authored by Shri Samit Kumar Dutta, a retired Director of the C.B.I., and published in the Dainik Statesman, dated 19.09.2004 wherein Shri Dutta has referred to one report dated 23.05.1946 sent by Mr. Danovan of American Consulate in Bombay (Mumbai) to the Home Secretary of the Government of the USA allegedly based on the information given to Mr. Danovan by his 'source'. The English translation of the said article has been sent

- to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, with Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC-64(VI)/2004/293 dated November 23, 2004 as desired by him in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XII dated October 12, 2004. The report and the particulars called for by the Commission in its aforesaid letter dated 28.09.2004 are still awaited.
9. By Secretary's Fax Message dated October 5, 2004, the attention of Dr. V.K. Kashyap, Director, CFSL, Kolkata, has been drawn to the Secretary's d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/103 dated July 6, 2004 to him regarding detection of latent finger prints in books, papers, etc. and he has been requested to kindly expedite the matter which is very urgent and important. The response of Dr. V.K. Kashyap is still awaited.
  10. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC/99-2000/56(V)/289 dated 22.11.2004, the Joint Secretary (CNV) has been furnished with a xerox copy of the affidavit dated February 2, 2000 filed before the Commission by Shri Kamal Dutt of Vill. Station Road, P.O. Hojai, Dist. Nagaon, Assam 782435 with a request to furnish immediately information, if any available, regarding the Soviet Agent, Sayadyants V. who, according to Shri Kamal Dutt, the deponent, left Russia in 1959-60 permanently for India as mentioned in his said affidavit. The Joint Secretary was also requested to take necessary action so that the Ministry of External Affairs, Russian Federation is approached for the documents allegedly kept in the Russian Archives of Foreign Affairs, Russian Federation as claimed by the deponent in his said affidavit. The response of the Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India is still awaited.
  11. Further to the position stated in para 14 of the monthly Status Report for October, 2004, it is pointed out that the Joint Secretary (CNV), in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XIII dated October 28, 2004 has intimated, inter alia, that Mr. Simon Tensing De Cruz, S/o. Late Gerold De Cruz, presently Singapore's Ambassador to Myanmar has verbally informed the Indian Ambassador in Myanmar that his father did not serve as the Personal Assistant to Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose; that the correct title of the book written by his father is 'Rojak Rebels'; that the book has been out of print for long and no extra copy thereof is available; and that on being requested for a photostat copy of the book available with Mr. De Cruz, he has simply provided the Indian Ambassador with a photocopy of the Chapter which he considers to be relevant to Netaji. The said photocopy has been sent to the Commission by the Joint Secretary (CNV) with his aforesaid d.o. letter dated October 28, 2004 but the same contains nothing which is relevant to any of the terms of reference of the Commission

(P. K. Sengupta)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.01.2005 to 31.01.2005)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.12.2004 to 31.12.2004 forwarded earlier by the Commission to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
  
2. (a) The hearing of the Commission was held on January 07, 2005 at 11.00 O'clock in the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 and out of four witnesses summoned only two witnesses, viz., Dr. V.K. Kashyap and Dr. Madhusudan Pal were present and examined / further examined during the said hearing. The deponents prayed for fixing another date for hearing of the arguments.. Their prayer was considered and allowed for fixing January 14, 2005 for arguments.
  
- (b) On January 14, 2005 three Learned Advocates, namely, Smt. Chandrei Alam, Shri Rudrajyoti Bhattacharya, and Shri Keshab Bhattacharya were heard and February 3, 2005 was fixed for the next hearing.
  
3. (a) The Hon'ble Chairman visited various establishments of the Government of Taiwan and the local Government of Taipei City on January 26 and 27, 2005. The Secretary of the Commission, who was to accompany the Hon'ble Chairman could not do so owing to his serious illness. On both the days, Shri Subrata Bose, one of the deponents in the Inquiry, was present all along. On January 27 Shri Nandalal Chakravarty, a deponent and Shri Keshab Bhattacharya, Learned Advocate of the Calcutta High Court appearing for some of the deponents were also present. The Hon'ble Chairman requested Mr. Sean Hsu, an Officer of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan to search for some relevant documents which were not readily available and to send true copies of the said documents to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India for onward transmission to the Commission. Mr. Hsu was kind enough to assure that he would do the needful within a fortnight. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(III)/401, dated 01.02.2005, the Joint

Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, has been requested to kindly pursue the matter.

- (b) On January 28, 2005 the Hon'ble Chairman visited Bangkok and examined Mr. H.B. Kapasi, the only witness made available to the Commission there. Shri Bose, Shri Chakravarty and Shri Bhattacharya were present at the time of recording the deposition of Mr. Kapasi. The Hon'ble Chairman came back to Kolkata on January 29, 2005.
4. (a) Further to the position stated in para 3 of the Status Report for December, 2004 it is stated that the Commission has no knowledge as to how the Writ matter referred to therein stands at present.
- (b) Shri Keshab Bhattacharya, Advocate for All India Forward Bloc and another has sent to the Commission on January 4, 2005 an advance copy of the affirmed application which he stated, would be mentioned on January 6, 2005 before the Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court to get the matter similar to the Writ petition mentioned in para 3 of the Status Report for December, 2004, heard on January 7, 2005. It is not known to the Commission how this matter stands at present.

(M. Roy)  
Officer on Special Duty

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.02.2005 to 28.02.2005)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.01.2005 to 31.01.1005 forwarded to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. It is not known to the Commission whether the Writ petitions mentioned in para 3 of the Status Report for December, 2004 and para 4 of the Status Report for January, 2005 have been dealt with and if so, what orders have been passed thereon.
3. The status of each of the matters of paras 5, 6, 8, and 10 of the Status Report for December, 2004 remains the same.
4. The Commission has heard arguments of the deponents and / or their learned Counsel as also of the Learned Counsel of the Government of India on ten different dates in February, 2005 and received written arguments from some of them. On conclusion of arguments the Commission has reserved its report of the inquiry.

(M. Roy)

Officer on Special Duty

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

88For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

**STATUS REPORT**

(From 01.03.2005 to 31.05.2005)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.02.2005 to 28.02.2005 forwarded earlier to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. The Commission was compelled to conclude / close its inquiry and hearing by February, 2005 and prepare its report to submit the same within 14.05.2005 as the Director (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India in his letter dated 19.11.2004 stated, inter alia, : "I am also directed to request that the Commission may complete and submit its report within the extended period" (i.e. up to 14.05.2005) "as its has been decided that no further extension beyond 14.05.2005 will be allowed." On such completion, the Commission wrote a letter No. JMCI/Admn/99-2000/32(III)/15 dated 02.05.2005 to the Joint Secretary (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, wherein it was stated, inter alia, "In the premises I am directed to request you to let the Commission know by return FAX the convenient date and time which will be suitable for a competent Officer of your Ministry to personally receive the report from the Officer to be deputed by the Commission for the purpose, unless the Commission hears from you otherwise in the meantime." In reply, the Deputy Secretary (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India, in his letter dated 04.05.2005 has stated , inter alia, : "The matter relating to the extension of the term of the Justice Mukherjee Commission is under active consideration. A formal communication will be issued on completion of the required formalities which may be awaited." Thereafter the Commission received a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 671(E) dated 14.05.2005 of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Security Divn.), published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary) which states, inter alia, : "The Commission shall submit its report to the Central Government as soon as possible but not later than 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2005."

3. By Commission's letter No. 421 (2) dated 16.02.2005 photocopies of the Commission's Status Report as on 04.01.2005 and 13.01.2005 and of its proceedings dated 16.12.2004, 07.01.2005, and 14.01.2005 were sent to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India and by Commission's letter No. 439(4) dated 09.03.2005 photocopies of the Commission's Proceedings dated 03.02.2005, 04.02.2005, 09.02.2005, 10.02.2005, 11.02.2005, 16.02.2005, 17.02.2005, 18.02.2005, 21.02.2005, and 22.02.2005 were sent to them for their information and favour of taking necessary action, if any, at their ends.
4. The consent of the Chief Priest of Renkoji temple, Japan was sought for in the d.o. letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-2003/83(III)/267 dated November 9, 2004 of the Secretary of the Commission addressed to the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India that the said Chief Priest would accede to a request to allow a competent person to be deputed by the Commission to sort out the less charred pieces of bones from the casket containing the alleged ashes of Netaji kept in the Renkoji temple so as to facilitate the DNA testing. The English version of the response dated 25.03.2005 received from the said Chief Priest which has been sent to the Commission with the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. XIV dated 25.04.2005 of the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India addressed to the Secretary of the Commission is silent about his said consent. This position has been explained to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in the Commission's letter No JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(IV)/33 dated 20.05.2005 addressed to him, a copy whereof has been endorsed to the Joint Secretary (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
5. Further to the position stated in para 3(a) of the Status Report for January, 2005, it is stated that copies of some of the documents of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Taiwan, called for by the Commission through proper channel were received by it on 28.03.2005 which included photocopies of their entries in the Cremation Register recorded during the period from 18.08.1945 to 24.08.1945. Those photocopies being all in Japanese language and having been transmitted to the Commission without English rendering thereof, the services of one Anglo-Japanese translator whose name along with other was collected by the Commission from the Japanese Consulate, Kolkata, were requisitioned for the purpose of examination of those entries of the Cremation Register. The translator examined the documents, translated into English the relevant entries and submitted his report to the Commission which has been marked as an Exhibit by the Commission. The remaining documents received with English rendering thereof were also perused by the Commission and kept on record.
6. In Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC/99-2000/56(V)/28 dated 18.05.2005 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government

of India, it has been stated that some documents were received through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India from three archives of the Russian Federation; that six archives of Russian Federation have reported through the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India that they have no documents concerning Netaji; and that eleven archives of Russian Federation do not appear to have sent any report regarding availability / non-availability of any documents / materials on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose relevant to the inquiry of the Commission. It has also been stated in the said letter that the Commission desires to visit Russian Federation in the second fortnight of July, 2005 in view of the term of the Commission having been extended for six months w.e.f. 15.05.2005, and the programme for the visit will be intimated to the Government after the next hearing of the Commission scheduled for June 10, 2005. A copy of the said letter with a copy of the enclosure has been sent to the Joint Secretary (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for information and for favour of taking necessary action.

(M. Roy)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 01.06.2005 to 15.07.2005)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.03.2005 to 31.05.2005 forwarded earlier to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceedings (Follow Up)/99-2000/48(V)/68(4) dated June 24, 2005, photocopies of the Commission's Status Report as on 08.06.2005 and its proceedings dated 10.06.2005 were sent to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat, as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for their information and favour of taking necessary action, if any, at their ends.
3. The next hearing of the Commission is scheduled to be held on 26.07.2005 at 11.00 a.m. at the Seminar Hall, Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700007 when the Commission will discuss the matter of the proposed visit of the Commission to the Russian Federation for holding its inquiry there.
4. Further to the position indicating in para 4 of the Status Report for the period from 01.03.2005 to 31.05.2005, it is stated that since no further response has been received in the matter, a reminder has been sent to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India by Commission's letter No. JMCI/EO/2002-03/83(IV)/75 dated 04.07.2005, a copy of which has also been endorsed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
5. (a) By Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(IV)/58 dated 14.06.2005 addressed to the Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a specific report was called for about availability / non-availability of materials / documents regarding Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose pertaining to the period from August, 1945

onwards in the remaining eleven archives of the Russian Federation, a list of which was sent to the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India with Commission's letter No. JMCI/DOC/99-2000/56(V)/28 dated 18.05.2005 since the Ministry have neither sent to the Commission any records / documents on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose from any of those eleven archives nor have they sent any report that no such records / documents are available in those archives. In its said letter dated 14.06.2005, the Commission called for true copies of some Russian publications and of some archival documents as mentioned referred to in the enclosure to the d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol. X dated 13.10.2003 of the Director (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, as also called for a report regarding availability, capability and willingness of the five Russian witnesses mentioned in Commission's letter No. ....../83(III)/93 dated 28.06.2004 to depose on matters relevant to the terms of reference of the Commission. The confirmation of the Russian Foreign Office to the effect that the Commission will be given access to the archives in the Russian Federation including those in Moscow, Poddolsk, Omsk, Irkhutsk during Commission's visit to the Russian Federation, was also called for in the said letter dated 14.06.2005 of the Commission, a copy of which was endorsed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

- (b) Pending receipt of the particulars / documents / reports / confirmation called for from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in the aforesaid letter dated 14.06.2005 of the Commission, the provisional programme of the Commission for its visit to the Russian Federation was conveyed in Commission's letter No. JMCI/Overseas-Witnesses/2000-01/70(IV)/61 dated June 17, 2005 addressed to the Joint Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, a copy of which was endorsed to the Joint Secretary (S), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- (c) The Joint Secretary (CNV), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, was requested, inter alia, by Commission's letter No. ....../70(IV)/74 dated July 4, 2005 to kindly arrange to propose a detailed programme keeping in view the provisional programme of the Commission (for its visit to the Russian Federation for holding its inquiry including perusal of relevant archival documents, examination of relevant witnesses etc.) as also the parameters laid down in the Commission's aforesaid letter dated June 17, 2005 to enable the Commission to finalize its detailed programme for inquiry and send the same to the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India for necessary approval, financial sanction and political clearance at least one month before commencement of the said proposed tour on 2<sup>nd</sup> August, 2005.

- (d) The Joint Secretary (CNV) in his d.o. letter No. 25/4/NGO-Vol.XIV dated July 4, 2005 addressed to the Secretary of the Commission has referred to the Commission's aforesaid letter Nos. ....../70(IV)/58 dated June 14, 2005 and No. ....../70(IV)/61 dated June 17, 2005 and stated, inter alia, :

“Our mission in Moscow has been requested to obtain the permission of Russian authorities, confirm the availability of relevant records and witnesses there during the period of the Commission’s proposed visit and make logistic arrangements as requested in the above mentioned letters of Commission so that it can complete the inquiries in Russian Federation as soon as possible.

The embassy of India, Moscow have informed that as most Russian institutions are officially closed in July – August, it is both difficult for them to obtain replies from the Russian foreign office as well as research institutions. They are, however, trying to elicit responses and will revert once they receive anything positive.

In view of above, the proposed visit in August may not be the best timing and the middle of September, at the earliest would seem to be better.”

Further communication from the Ministry is being awaited in the matter.

(M. Roy)  
Secretary

**Justice Mukherjee Commission of Inquiry**

For Inquiry Into the Alleged Disappearance of

**NETAJI SUBHAS CHANDRA BOSE.**

'B' Block, (Third Floor)

11/A Mirza Ghalib Street, Kolkata-700087

STATUS REPORT

(From 16.07.2005 to 15.10.2005)

1. This Status Report is in continuation of the Status Report for the period from 01.06.2005 to 15.07.2005 forwarded earlier to the Secretaries, Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat as also to the Director, Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
2. Photocopies of the Commission's Status Report as on 22.07.2005 and of its proceedings dated 26.07.2005 were sent on 29.07.2005 and the photocopies of its orders proceedings dated 05.10.2005 and 06.10.2005 respectively were sent to the Secretaries Ministry of Home Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs, Cabinet Secretariat as also to the Director of Intelligence Bureau, Government of India under Commission's letter No. JMCI/Meeting-Proceeding (Follow up)/99-2000/48(V)/151(4) dated 07.10.05 for favour of taking necessary action at their respective ends (in respect of such of the matters in the Status Report as may be applicable to them).
3. The Hon'ble Chairman and the Principal Private Secretary of the Commission visited Russian Federation during the period from 20.09.2005 to 30.09.2005. Six (6) deponents, the Advocate of the All India Forward Bloc and Dr. D..N.Bose, a nephew of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose attended the hearing of the Commission in Russian Federation at their own costs. The Commission visited some archives located in Moscow, Omsk, Irkhutsk and St. Petersburg as could be arranged by the Indian Embassy in Moscow in collaboration with the Russian Government. The Commission could not get any opportunity to visit the Central Archives of FSB (KGB) and the President's Archive of the Russian Federation.. The Commission examined Prof. E.M. Komorov, Mr. V.Turadzhev, Mr. A. Raikov and Mr. Solokov as could be arranged with their consent by the Indian Embassy in Moscow. Mr. Yuri Kuznets declined to depose before the Commission. Mr. A. Kolesnikov, another witness, could be ultimately traced by the Indian Embassy only after the Commission reached Moscow. He, however, could not be made available for his examination since he was reportedly posted in Turkey.

4. The last hearing of the Commission was held on 06.10.2005 at 11.00 A.M. at the Seminar Hall Annexe Building, Mahajati Sadan, 166, Chittaranjan Avenue, Kolkata 700 007 when the outcome of the visit of the Commission to Russian Federation for holding its inquiry there during the period from 20.09.2005 to 30.09.2005 was discussed and deliberated and the order dated 05.10.2005 of the Hon'ble Chairman rejecting the prayer of some deponents urging the Commission to visit Vietnam, was read out by the Hon'ble Chairman.

( M.Roy )  
Secretary