

## The Cabinet Mission Plan

On March 15, 1946, the British Government announced to send a deputation of its cabinet to India. It arrived India on March 23, 1946. The plan suggested:

- (1) There shall be a federal government in India including the native states. It would look after Defence, Foreign Affairs and Communications.
- (2) Any question raising a major communal issue in the Legislature shall be decided by majority of the representatives of each of the major communities as well as the majority of all the members present by voting.
- (3) The provinces shall be free to form groups of their own for common purposes mutually agreed upon by them.
- (4) Each province shall have the right, if desired by the majority vote of its legislative assembly, to ask for a change in the Constitution after an interval of every ten years.
- (5) A Constituent Assembly shall be formed to frame a Constitution for India. Each province shall be allotted a fixed number of seats in proportion



to its population.  
(6) A treaty shall be negotiated between the Constituent Assembly and the United Kingdom to settle certain issues arising out of the transfer of power India. However, shall have the right to go out of the Commonwealth.

(7) An Interim Government, enjoying the support of the major political parties, shall be formed as early as possible.

(8) British Paramountcy over the Indian native States shall lapse after the transfer of power.