

PRESS NOTE

PRIME MINISTER'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND

PANDIT NEHRU'S APPEAL

Pandit Nehru has issued the following appeal:-

At no time has the necessity of giving relief to vast numbers of our suffering countrymen been so great and urgent as it is today. This is not merely a humanitarian task but one affecting the future of India. We cannot permit the real wealth of India, as represented by the millions of men and women, who have been dispossessed and driven away from their homes, to waste away with no opportunity of settling down again and taking full part in the creative and constructive activities of the nation. We cannot permit the growing generation to be deprived of home and education and training and opportunities of becoming efficient and productive citizens of India. We have passed through disaster and suffering on a colossal scale. The effort to overcome it and to rise superior to it must be on an equally extensive scale.

The Government of India are diverting their energy and resources to this end. But that is not enough; the cooperation of all our people, including those who have suffered, is essential in this vast enterprise. That cooperation has, to some extent, been forthcoming. Even more is necessary.

There have been many relief funds and generous donations have been given to alleviate suffering. Many donors have sent me spontaneously their contributions for relief work. I feel that it would be desirable to have a central relief fund which can be used for any type of emergency relief of distress but which must now be especially used for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Pakistan who have come to India.

I am, therefore, starting a fund called "The Prime Minister's National Relief Fund" and I invite donations to this Fund. To begin with, this Fund will be managed by a committee consisting of

The Prime Minister  
The President of the Indian National Congress  
The Deputy Prime Minister  
The Finance Minister  
A representative of the Tata Trustees  
A representative of Industry and Commerce to be chosen by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce.

This Committee may be added to. Further particulars about the administration of the Fund will be announced later.

Donations, which will be announced in the Press, may be sent to the Central Bank of India, New Delhi, or any of the branches or sub-branches of the Bank. They may be earmarked for specific purposes such as medical relief, education and care of orphans.