

Preface

There is a great dearth of books on the history of All India Muslim League which was established at Dhaka in 1906. In December 1947 it was decided to bifurcate it into two organizations — one for India titled “Indian Union Muslim League” and the other for Pakistan as “Pakistan Muslim League”. There is no doubt that a number of books/works have been published on the Muslim League but these are piecemeal studies, a comprehensive work is still being awaited. The NIHCR is working on a number of projects in this connection, but to fulfil the need of the hour a chronology encompassing all important events regarding the functions of AIML and the Pakistan Movement, was planned by the author two years ago. By the Grace of God the work has been completed encompassing all the important events such as party meetings including those of its General Sessions, meetings of the Council, Working Committee and the Committee of Action. Moreover, a summary of the happenings has also been given in order to enable the readers to understand the nature of the functioning of the party. The records show the organized functioning of the party whose documents are available in the National Archives of Pakistan. The author used them with the help of the Director and staff of the department particularly Mr. Mohammad Ramzan, the Director who was very kind to help me in this regard. Not only all the published sources have been consulted but the Indian Annual Register, the Archives of India Office and British Library, London and London Newspaper Library were also of tremendous help in

providing a lot of information in accomplishing this chronology. I am highly obliged to Prof. Sharif al Mujahid, founder Director of Quaid-i-Azam Academy, Karachi whose valuable suggestions helped me a lot in the improvement of the manuscript. I am thankful to Syed Umar Hayat, Senior Research Fellow, NIHCR for helping in finalization of the manuscript.

Senator Mushahid Hussain Sayed, Secretary-General of Pakistan Muslim League has been a great source of strength to me whose patronization was of real help. He not only encouraged but advised me on a number of occasions. President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Shaukat Aziz on 22 March 2006 jointly announced to celebrate the years 2006-2007 as the years of the Muslim League. The patronizing attitude of Ch. Shujaat Hussain, President of Pakistan Muslim League (Q) was also an august source of strength to me. A number of other Muslim League leaders were also of great help and I am thankful to all of them. I am particularly thankful to Syed Sharifuddin Pirzada, Senior Adviser to the Prime Minister for Law and Justice whose parental attitude and guidance was also a majestic source of inspiration to me. His pioneering work *The Foundations of Pakistan: All India Muslim League Documents, 1906-1947* (in 3 volumes) has proved to be a great source work on the proceedings of the AIML. My work would have not been accomplished had Lt. Gen. (R) Javed Ashraf Qazi, Federal Minister for Education not been an extensive source of inspiration in this regard. The co-operation extended to me by Prof. Dr. M. Qasim Jan, Vice-Chancellor, Quaid-i-Azam University whose tireless efforts have improved the academic and research environment at the Quaid-i-Azam University, is highly esteemed. I am thankful to all of them for their acts of kindness.

By going through the pages of this book the reader is expected to go through the history of All-India Muslim

League being a party which not only worked for the preservation and promotion of Muslim rights, but helped in organizing the Muslims of South Asia into a well disciplined and well-organized Muslim Nation which was able to achieve its goal of Pakistan as the largest Muslim State in the world within the shortest possible time of its history under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Mohammad Ali Jinnah. The book will also reveal how democratic was the Quaid who consulted his party on each and every matter of national importance making the party as the most authoritative representative organization of the Muslims of South Asia.

My staff has also been very helpful to me from the stage of typing to the stage of printing and binding. I thank to all of them particularly Muhammad Munir Khawar, Azhar Javed, M. Mushtaq-ur-Rahman, Syed Ahmad and others who cooperated in one way or the other.

Lastly I hope the book will fulfil the long felt gap of providing useful information on the activities of AIML and Pakistan Movement in a brief manner.

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(Prof. Dr. Riaz Ahmad)

T.I.

