Appendix V

Copy of a letter from Bethmann Hollweg to Indian
Rulers and Munshi

To Your Serene Highness I have the honour hereby to present
the greetings of the Imperial Government and to convey the expres-
sion of the friendly feelings which the German Empire has always
cherished towards India and its Princes. Ever since the English
established their foreign rule in India, they have done their best
to shut the Indian Princes and the Indian people off from any
contact with the non-English outside world. On the other hand
Germany, in scrupulous regard for the recognised rules of inter-
national intercourse, has made no sort of attempt to enter into
direct relations with the Indian Rulers. The war, wantonly brought
on by England and her allies Russia and France, which to the triple
alliance has already brought such heavy losses, but to Germany,
Austria-Hungary and Turkey incomparable successes, has released
Germany from the duty of reserve always minutely observed by her,
and gives her the opportunity of expressing to the Indian Rulers and
peoples her warmest sympathy in their struggle against British
oppression and arrogance.

Seeing that Your Serene Highness's reputation as one of the
most enlightened Princes and as one of the most enthusiastic in the
cause of the Fatherland, has penetrated even as far as this, I take
the liberty of addressing this note to Your Highness confident that Your Serene Highness will do everything to further the cause of India. As the English world empire must at this moment devote all its powers to meeting the dangers which threaten it in Europe, Asia and Africa, and as the final liberation of Egypt and of Persia from the English and Russian yoke is imminent, I am persuaded that Your Serene Highness will use every endeavour to set India free also and to secure for her as an independent empire that place in the council of nations which is her due. In these your endeavours Your Serene Highness will find the most energetic support in the Imperial Government and its exalted allies. Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Turkish Empire employ their military and economic forces with a view to bringing the war to a happy end not only for themselves but also for all others who join them. This war must be carried on until it is made impossible for England as hitherto to take the best from the people under her yoke and exploit them for her own purposes. Contrary to the slanders for years disseminated by our enemies Germany has never attempted to extend her dominion anywhere in the East. In accordance with her history, her tradition, her external situation and internal constitution she cannot do otherwise than welcome all efforts which may lead to the liberation of the ancient civilised nations of the East. True to these principles Germany and her allies have no thought of mixing in any way in the future internal constitution of free India. On the contrary, Germany, Austria-Hungary and the Turkish Empire will recognise this future Indian
Empire as having equal rights, and will cultivate the friendliest relations with her in politics, economic and culture.

Conscious of the unity of our interests I salute Your Serene Highness as a partner in the struggle against the English world power.