Appendix VI

Declaration on behalf of the Provisional Government of India to the Indian Rulers and Princes

At the time of the outbreak of this world-war on the 1st of August 1914 we were convinced that this struggle was to release the oppressed, helpless and trampled nations from the clutches of heartless, plundering and cruel England, Russia and France. Accordingly we at once started for Berlin and then went to Constantinople. At these places we obtained a written agreement from the German and Turkish Governments to the effect that if the Indians would rise up and expel the English from India those two Powers in conjunction with their Allies, Austria-Hungary and Bulgaria, would recognise them at once as belligerents and not as rebels. Further that if possible they would assist them with men and material and that if they succeeded in turning the English out of India and in establishing a stable Government in their country they would not only themselves recognise their Government but would get it approved by other Powers at the time of general peace. At the same time the Turkish and German Governments have given out in clear terms that they have no desire to establish their own rule in India but simply want to liberate her.

The Provisional Government of India has in its possession such complete documents as would furnish clear proof of the aforesaid conditions and would be published at their proper time.
Our Indian brethren must understand that the attainment of these privileges costs nations ages of warfare and loss of life and property, but it is due to nothing but her good luck that India has already secured them. Secondly, if the present opportunity which is afforded to India today is once lost it cannot be expected again for a thousand years. Thirdly, the English have become extremely exhausted by two years' fighting and even the slightest effort would suffice to overthrow them. Fourthly, the Irish revolt has already shown that the downfall of the British is near at hand and none can stop it. Fifthly, now the tyranny of the English has reached its zenith and the hour of the tyrant's fall has struck. Ponder a little and you will find how many promising youths were hanged by the English this year, how many were transported to the penal settlement and how many were sent to prison for life? Sixthly, how did the English maltreat your Sikh brethren in Canada and with what cruelty the heroes of the Komagata Maru were murdered and how the Ghair sepoys who came from America to fight for you have been put to trouble. This proves that the English are our enemies and can never be our friends.

The Provisional Government has arranged to make a properly organised attack on the English and that attack will soon take place. All the people of Hindustan should be on the look out for this attack and when it takes place they must arrange to kill the English and drive them out of India. Oh! Nawabs and Rajas of India, the time has come for you to wipe the stain of servitude from your
foreheads and become free and fit to be called human beings.
Don't wait for the impending attack, be free now and arrange to
set up a free Government. Combine to devise your plans for war so
that when the time comes you will not be found wanting. Oh! Indian
sepoys, in spite of the fact that your prowess and perseverance and
your steadfastness and gallantry in battle are known to the whole
world, yet you are looked upon as wild beasts because you at the
bidding of the impure English who are desolating your dear country
and ruining your fellow-countrymen. This crime and sin will blacken
your faces both in this world and in the next. The time has now
come for you to wipe away with your own hands the dark stain on your
forehead. When the attack on the English comes kill your English
officers, join the army of liberation and help them to kill the
English. To free Mother India and your Indian brothers follow the
example of the soldiers of Bosnia Herzegovina, Dalmatia of Russian
and Serbian stock. When Austria sent them to fight the Russians and
the Serbians they deserted to their Russian and Serbian brethren
with their arms.

Oh! Indian Police Constables, you are the eyes, ears, hands
and feet of the English, who are robbers and aliens. It is through
you that they learn the innermost secrets of your Indian brethren
and get the most complete information though they neither know your
language nor care to meet you. It is through you that they hang
hundreds of respectable young Indians, you that they hang hundreds
of respectable young Indians, transport thousands of them and entomb
lakhs of them in fetters in jails. There are no worse sinners than
you in the world. For the sake of foreigners you dishonour your own
kith and kin, plunder their wealth and ruin their lives. Come to
your senses and realise that the time has come to punish the English
for their oppression, cruelty, falsehood and treachery. If you will
render assistance in releasing Mother India from the clutches of
these transgressors you will obtain the absolution of your sins.
All that is required of you is to allow the liberators of their
country to work unhindered and when the fighting begins keep them
informed of the movements of the British troops. Now-a-days you
fight like dogs over the bone thrown amongst you by the English,
but to-morrow you will become masters of your own land. The wealth
and riches of India are so vast that they will suffice for the
necessities and luxuries of life of all persons. By the imposition
of heavy taxes on the land, by the suppression of arts and industries
by means of laws, by monopolisation of commerce and trade by themsel
and by reserving all high civil and military posts for their fellow-
countrymen, the English have created in India ever present famine,
cholera and plague. In some years starvation and plague carry away
more lives from India than have been lost during the last two years'
world-war. The English have purposely spread these calamities in
India and the hour has arrived for you to free yourselves from this
misfortune and take matters into your own hands.
Oh dear children of India, Hindus, Muhammadans, Jains, Parsis and Native Christians - the Provisional Government of India looks upon you with love and wishes to turn the marauding English out of India. All the races and religions of India should live together like brethren, they should encourage arts and sciences, turn the whole human race into one family by promoting civilisation to the highest degree and turn the face of the earth into heaven and make it a fit abode for the pious.