The 3rd June Plan suggested a notional division of the Punjab, which had been included in the Indian Independence Act 1947. It was stated that the "districts specified in the second schedule of this Act shall be treated as the territories to be comprised in the new Province of the West Punjab and the remainder of the territories comprised in the new Province of the East Punjab." But the notional division as the very name indicated was only for a short period and was to be replaced by the Punjab Boundary Commission Award. It had been stated in the 3rd June Plan that notional division was "only a preliminary step of a purely temporary nature as it is evident that for the purpose of a final partition of these Provinces (Assam, Bengal and the Punjab) a detailed investigation of boundary questions will be needed. As soon as a decision involving partition has been taken for either Province, a Boundary Commission will be set up by the Governor General, the membership and the terms of reference of which will be settled in consultation with those concerned."

Appointment of the Boundary Commission.

The first and the foremost work connected with the appointment of the Boundary Commission was the appointment of its Chairman. Mr. Jinnah suggested Sir Cyril Radcliffe, the Vice Chairman of the General Council of English Bar to be the Chairman of the Boundary Commission of Assam, Bengal and the Punjab. The Secretary of State for India confirmed the choice of

Sir Cyril Radcliffe whom he described as "a man with high integrity, legal reputation and wide experience." The formal proposal for the appointment of Sir Cyril Radcliffe (later on Lord Radcliffe) was, however, made by Lord Mountbatten in the form of a note dated 26th June which was accepted unanimously in the first meeting of Partition Council on 27th June 1947.

The previous decision that the members of the Boundary Commission were to elect their own Chairman was modified on the ground that the appointment of a European Chairman would expedite the work which was to be finished by August 15th.

According to the announcement of the Governor General on the 30th June, the following were appointed as members of the Punjab Boundary Commission:

1. Mr. Justice Din Muhammad.
2. Mr. Justice Muhammad Munir.
3. Mr. Justice Mohar Chand Mahajan.
4. Mr. Justice Teja Singh.

The Punjab Boundary Commission had just started its work when a significant change occurred in the structure of the Commission. An amendment was introduced in the Indian Independence Bill signifying that "In Section 4 of the expression award in relation to the Boundary Commission means the decision of the Chairman of the Commission, contained his report to the Governor General at the conclusion of the Commission proceedings." But

for this amendment the Commission could not work smoothly, because the Muslim members and the non-Muslim members were likely to be equally divided on account of their clash of the communal interests. The chances of any compromise were remote; firstly, because the members had no authority on behalf of their respective communities to strike a bargain with other communities; secondly, because the political atmosphere was too vitiated for any compromise. It, however, cannot be denied that this amendment practically reduced the Punjab Boundary Commission to a one-man Commission.

It was decided to have following terms of reference for the Punjab Boundary Commission:— "The Boundary Commission is instructed to demarcate the boundaries of two parts of the Punjab on the basis of ascertaining the contiguous majority areas of the Muslims and the non-Muslims. In doing so it will also take into account other factors."

It is very significant to note that the notional division of the Punjab, as incorporated in the Indian Independence Act 1947, had been based on the district boundaries and not on the Doabs or the geographical divisions marked by the rivers of the Punjab. The rivers in the Punjab did not fulfil the requisite conditions to form the boundaries of two distinct States as Dr. O.H.K. Spate writes that "only type of river really satisfactory as a boundary is one flowing through a deep rock-walled canyon or possibly through extensive marshes with fairly constant volume of water, without shifts of course, with few crossing-places,

useless for navigation or rafting, irrigation or hydro-electric power."

Statement of the Case -

According to the notional division of the Punjab the following districts had been included in the West Punjab:— Rawalpindi, Attock, Gujrat, Jhelum, Mianwali, Muzafargah, Shahpur, Dera Ghazi Khan, Jhang, Lyallpur, Montgomery, Multan, Gujranwala, Gurdaspur, Lahore, Sheikhupura and Sialkot. All the remaining districts of the British Punjab viz. Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hisar, Karnal, Ambala, Simla, Ferozepore, Ludhiana, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur, Amritsar and Kangra were included in the East Punjab.

Following the district pattern for division of the Punjab there was no dispute regarding overwhelming Muslim majority districts in the north west or overwhelming Hindu majority districts in the south east. On Western side such districts were Rawalpindi, Attock, Gujrat, Jhelum, Muzafargah, Mianwali, Shahpur, Dehra Ghazi Khan, Multan, Jhang and Sialkot and on the eastern side such districts were Rohtak, Gurgaon, Hisar, Karnal, Ambala, Simla, Kangra and Ludhiana. The Central Punjab constituted the disputed territory and the most contested area consisted of the following districts or some portions thereof:— Sheikhupura, Lahore, Montgomery, Lyallpur, Gurdaspur, Gujranwala, Amritsar, Jullundur, Hoshiarpur and Ferozepur.


However for the purpose of administration and posting of officers, the representatives of the East Punjab and the West Punjab in the Punjab Partition Committee had decided the following fourteen districts as disputed districts:- Ferozepur, Hoshiarpur, Jullundur, Ludhiana, Gurdaspur, Lahore, Sheikhupura, Gujranwala, Amritsar, Montgomery, Lyallpur, Multan, Hissar and Sialkot.

Procedure Followed -

The Commission followed a judicial procedure. Its first meeting was held on 14th July under the Chairmanship of Sir Cyril Radcliffe and it was announced that all interested parties should submit their memoranda to the Commission by the 18th July. Sir Radcliffe had planned to attend the meetings of the Bengal Boundary Commission first and he proposed that Justice Din Mohammed and Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan should preside over the meetings of the Commission alternately in his absence. But Justice Mehar Chand Mahajan showed magnanimity by proposing that Justice Din Mohammad should preside in the absence of the Chairman of the Commission as he was the senior most member of the Commission. The Punjab Boundary Commission held public sittings from 21st July to 31st July 1947 wherein eminent lawyers pleaded their cases. Mr. Mohammad Zafar Ullah, Mr. Seetalvad and Mr. Harnam Singh appeared before the Commission in order to argue the cases on behalf of the Muslim League, the Congress and the Shromani Akali Dal respectively. Dr. O.H.K. Spate, Lecturer in Geography, School of Economics, London was

invited by the Ahmadya community of the Punjab to plead the case before the Punjab Boundary Commission and he appeared before the Commission to support the Muslim case.

The Muslim Case -

The counsels for the Muslims viz. Justice Din Mohammad and Justice Mohammad Munir advocated that the boundary line to be drawn between the East Punjab and the West Punjab should be drawn near about the Sutlej. The core of their claim rested on population majority in the disputed areas and it was asserted that the population majority was the major test to be taken into consideration while determining the boundary. It was argued that the major political parties in India had agreed on partition of provinces on the basis of "Contiguous Muslim majority areas" because this basis was included in the 3rd June Plan itself. On this basis, it was argued that the disputed districts of Lahore, Gujranwala, Sialkot, Sheikhupura, Lyallpur, Montgomery and Multan could not either in whole or in part be taken away from the West Punjab because these districts were Muslim majority areas with following percentage of Muslim population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name of district</th>
<th>Name of Tehsil</th>
<th>Percentage of Muslims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>District Lahore</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lahore</td>
<td>60.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Chunia</td>
<td>60.99%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kasur</td>
<td>57.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gujranwala District</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gujranwala</td>
<td>70.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Wazirabad</td>
<td>76.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hafizabad</td>
<td>82.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Name of district</td>
<td>Name of Tehsil</td>
<td>Percentage of M.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sialkot District</td>
<td>Sialkot</td>
<td>62 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pasrur</td>
<td>66.2 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Narowal</td>
<td>54.9 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Daska</td>
<td>66.0 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sheikhupura District</td>
<td>Shekhupura</td>
<td>63.6 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Nankana Sahib</td>
<td>74.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shahdra</td>
<td>69.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lyallpur District</td>
<td>Lyallpur</td>
<td>62.8 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Samundri</td>
<td>72.3 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toba Tek Singh</td>
<td>68.4 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jaranwala</td>
<td>57.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery District</td>
<td>Montgomery</td>
<td>69.1 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Okara</td>
<td>69.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dipalpur</td>
<td>76.7 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pakpattan</td>
<td>Pakpattan</td>
<td>64.5 %</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multan District</td>
<td></td>
<td>78 %</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Besides this the following tehsils from the non-Muslim majority districts which according to the notional division were in the East Punjab were demanded for the West Punjab on account

12. P.P. Vol. VI., page 499
Great emphasis was laid on population factor and it was argued that the district of Gurdaspur should belong to the West Punjab as had been done in the notional division on account of majority of Muslim population:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tehsil</th>
<th>Percentage of Muslims</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ferozepur (Distt. Ferozepore)</td>
<td>55.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zira</td>
<td>65.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nakodar (Distt. Jullundur)</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jullundur</td>
<td>51.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ajnala (Distt. Amritsar)</td>
<td>59.4%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In case the line of argument followed by the Muslim members were accepted, there would have been no straight line demarcating the boundary between the East Punjab and the West Punjab and there would have been numerous pockets created in the East Punjab. Amritsar would have been left an island surrounded by Pakistan territory which would have created numerous administrative and international problems. More over **any** such demarcation would have done grave injustice to the other parties as in that case only population factor would have been taken into account and not the other factors mentioned in the terms of reference.

**Non-Muslim Case**

The counsel for the non-Muslims Justice Mehar Chand

Mahajan advocated that the boundary line should be near the Ravi including Lahore in the East Punjab and Justice Teja Singh advocated that the boundary line should be near the Chenab including parts of the districts of Sheikhupura and Gujranwala, Montgomery and Lyallpur in the East Punjab. The Hindu-Sikh case rested on the economic conditions as the non-Muslims had played major part in the development of the Central Punjab. The Bari Doab and more particularly the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Lahore had been described by historians and settlement officers as the "home land of the Sikhs", who owned more than two-thirds area and paid more than two-thirds land revenue of this tract. This Sikh peasant prosper proprietors' tract had been developed as a single unit along the Upper Bari Doab Canal which had been dug to resettle the disbanded Sikh soldiers after the Anglo-Sikh war. The colony districts of Lyallpur and Montgomery had been colonised by the sturdy Sikh Jats of Ambala, Jullundur and Amritsar districts. In a tract known as Shahidi-Bar which was constituted by a part of districts of Gujranwala, Sheikhupura and Lyallpur was mostly owned by the Sikh peasants who paid more than double of the land revenue paid by the Muslims. Historically this was the most important tract for the Sikhs as one of their most sacred shrine Nanakana Sahib was situated in this tract.

The Hindus and the Sikhs had played a major role in

15. P.P. Vol.VI, page 176. The total revenue of these districts was Rs. 5523439. The Sikhs paid Rs. 3231951 and Muslims Rs. 1588293 and others Rs. 702555. The total acreage cultivated was 375527 acres. Sikhs owned 2012783, Muslims 124804 acres and rest by others.


development of industry, commerce and trade of Lahore, the metropolis of the Punjab. More than 75% of commerce, banks and commercial institutions were in the hands of the non-Muslims. The survey of Lahore carried out by the Punjab Government Board of Economic Enquiry indicated that 80 per cent registered factories in Lahore belonged to the non-Muslims. Out of total capital investment in Lahore viz. 6.29 crores the non-Muslim share was 5.12 crores. Out of 90 bank branches only 3 belonged to the Muslims. Out of 80 offices of insurance companies only two belonged to the Muslims. Out of 36 High Schools only four (17) were run by the Muslims.

It was argued that about one-third of the Muslim population was not rooted in the soil and was essentially of a floating character and consisting of faqirs, weavers, herdmen, cobblers, potters, carpenters, oilmen, bards, barbers, blacksmiths, washermen, butchers and mirasis. According to the census report of 1931 out of total Muslim population of 14,929,896 this class of persons numbered about 45% and were divided as under:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Faqirs</td>
<td>2 565 33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jullaha (weavers)</td>
<td>5 125 79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cobblers</td>
<td>4 642 18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kumhars (potters)</td>
<td>4 235 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mussalis (Chamar converts)</td>
<td>4 123 00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carpenters</td>
<td>3 459 48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilmen</td>
<td>3 449 27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bards</td>
<td>2 443 20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

17. S. Harnam Singh, Sikh Memorandum to the Punjab Boundary Commission, pages 60-61.
Barbars ... ... = 196104
Blacksmiths ... ... = 241972
Washermen ... ... = 162224
Butchers ... ... = 127198
Mirasis ... ... = 243330
Herdsmen ... ... = 421347

In case the line of argument followed by the Hindu Sikh members were accepted the main consideration in that case would have been economic factors rather than population factor. It would have been contrary to the spirit and terms of the settlement arrived at between two major political parties - the Congress and the League viz. partitioning on the basis of contiguous Muslim majority areas. Justice Din Mohammad asserted that terms of reference followed the settled course decided by the major political parties, so much so that the terms of reference were even included in the 3rd June Plan in para No. 9 and to hold otherwise would shake the very foundation of the settlement.

Terms of Reference -

The terms of reference were very vague and at places inaccurate phraseology had been used which raised a lot of controversy. The use of word "demarcate" in the terms of reference was not only inaccurate but misleading also. It

18. Census Report, Punjab 1931 Table XVII, Race, Tribe or Caste.
19. P.P. Vol. VI, page 238. It was stated in para 9 of the 3rd June Plan, "It will be instructed to demarcate the boundaries of two parts of the Punjab on the basis of ascertaining the contiguous majority areas of Muslims and non-Muslims."
suggested surveying a line with theodolites and putting in concrete posts whereas the real object of the Commission was to define the areas and fix the boundary line. Mr. Setalvad, while arguing his case, read the meaning of "contiguity" from Murry Oxford Dictionary Vol II and urged that principal meaning of contiguity implied "actual contact in loose use of the term and it was not essential; mere close proximity without actual contact would be enough." On the other hand it was rightly argued that "contiguity" meant "adjacency" and nothing (20) else. The last sentence of the terms of reference was, "In doing so it will take into consideration other factors." It was preceded by the verbs denoting two different actions viz. "demarcating" and "ascertaining". The counsels for the Muslims contended that "in doing so" related "to demarcation" and "nature of those factors would be only such as might some how or other be related to the demarcation process." (21) The counsels for the non-Muslims rightly asserted that "in doing so" was related to ascertaining the contiguous areas" because the main function of the Commission was to determine the areas and not to demarcate the actual line which was to be drawn by the subsequent governments. The word "areas" mentioned in the terms of reference was the subject of a great controversy. The counsels for the Muslims asserted that "contiguous majority areas" should be determined on the basis of a Tehsil, a subdivision of a district whereas the counsels for the non-Muslims

vehemently opposed this assertion and argued that collection of villages of a community in a Tehsil was not necessarily contiguous in whole tehsil because "tehsil" was artificially demarcated area for purpose of collection of revenue. As a matter of fact all this controversy about the definition of "areas" was superfluous as the Punjab Boundary Commission like Boundary Commissions of Assam and Bengal was not to follow any set definition of the area which could vary according to the circumstances. Subsequently we find that the Punjab Boundary Commission awarded four police stations of Tehsil Kasur, District Lahore to the East Punjab and Tehsil Shakargarh of District Gurdaspur to the West Punjab.

The other factors as mentioned in the terms of reference raised a lot of controversy. According to David Lloyd George the "other factors" as used in the reports of Peace Conference, held after first world wars to determine the boundaries of new states meant "economic exigencies, historical association and vital strategic considerations." According to Orissa Boundary Commission (1928) "Language, race, the attitude of the people, geographical position, economic interests and administrative convenience all are relevant factors." Generally speaking both set of factors viz. population factor and other factors were to be taken into account and judicious adjustments were to be made for determining the boundary line. The crux of the problem was

22. Radcliffe Award vide Appendix of Chapter VI.
to decide to what extent the population factor was to be allowed to dominate or to what extent other considerations like location of the religious shrines of the Sikhs, disruption of irrigation system and economic factors were to be allowed to play their part.

The Sikh Shrines -

The Sikhs have been agitating for the inclusion of Nanakana Sahib, the birth place of Guru Nanak (1469-1539 A.D.), the founder of Sikhism, in the East Punjab. To stress their point of view they observed the 8th July as Nanakana Sahib Day. The Maharaja of Patiala approached the Viceroy to receive a deputation of the Sikh V.C.O's and Soldiers. The Viceroy agreed and the date and time had been fixed for this purpose. When Mr. Jinnah came to know about this he raised an objection to the Viceroy's meeting a Sikh deputation. He argued in the meeting of the Partition Council held on the 10th July that the question of demarcation of the Punjab boundary was being discussed by the Punjab Boundary Commission and the Viceroy could not discuss this question with the Sikh deputation. The Viceroy agreed and said that in case he met the deputation a special communique would be issued.

This had very adverse effect on the Sikhs, because the Sikhs thought that it was their right to represent their point of view to the Viceroy who could with the concurrence of the party leaders issue some instructions to the Punjab

Boundary Commission regarding the Sikh shrines. The Sikhs had accepted the 3rd June Plan in the hope that somehow or other the Viceroy would safeguard their interests. Now they realised the necessity of an interpreter who could represent their point of view to the Viceroy. Shri V.P. Menon, Constitutional Advisor to the Governor General, was in touch with Sardar Patel and Lord Ismay, the Chief of Staff of the Viceroy, with Mr. Jinnah. But S. Baldev Singh or the Sikh leaders had no such channel of communication. S. Baldev Singh, therefore, requested the Viceroy to recall and re-employ Major J.M. Short.

In 1947 Major J.M. Short had earned the reputation of being an expert on the Sikh affairs. He served the XI Sikhs and retired in 1931. He was re-employed in 1940 when the Sikh Squadron of Central Indian Horse refused to embark for the Middle East. He was successful in restoring the loyalty of the Sikh forces. During the war when the pro-Congress activities of the Akali Party were likely to affect adversely the military recruitment, he successfully persuaded the Akali leaders to have favourable attitude towards the recruitment of the Sikhs. He was able to effect understanding between the Akalis and the Unionist Government in the Punjab, which culminated in the Sir Sikander-Baldev Singh Pact. He explained to Prof. Reginald Coupland and Sir Stafford Cripps the Sikh point of view when they visited India in 1942. In 1946 he accompanied Sir Stafford Cripps when the Cabinet Mission visited India. He was attached to S. Baldev Singh when he

visited London in December 1946 along with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Mr. Jinnah.

Major J.M. Short was not unknown to Lord Mountbatten who had interviewed him while selecting his staff before coming as Governor General in India. Since the Viceroy was keen to pacify the Sikhs, he recommended Major Short's re-employment to the Secretary of State for India and instructed Lord Ismay who was in England to bring Major Short with him. Major Short reached India on the 22nd July, 1947. He writes about the political situation at that time (in a note to the writer):—

"soon after my arrival sensed two things: first, that our Hindustani and Pakistani heirs - apparent, and too many of us, were over complacent about Sikhs disliking the upshot of partition: second that the Sikhs generally were all too sure that, some how or other, we English, and in particular the Viceroy, would save them being unduly displaced and displeased by that upshot. But I was too fuddled to sense either of those things with sufficient keenness and clarity to influence the events effectually." As a matter of fact it had been settled that population was to be the basis of partition and the terms of reference for the demarcation of the boundary line defined. There was no scope for any change because Mr. Jinnah had adopted too strict and rigid attitude to allow any concession to the Sikhs.

However, the Shromani Akali Dal, a representative body of the Sikhs continued to exert for including the Sikh shrines in the East Punjab. One deputation was sent to England to mobilize the British public opinion in favour of the Sikhs.

27. Major Short's note to the writer.
The local Sikhs went in a procession to Downing Street to present a memorandum to the British Prime Minister regarding the Sikh demands.

On the 14th July Mr. Arthur Henderson, the Under Secretary of State in a reply said in the House of Commons, "The provision that other factors will be taken into account has been made primarily to enable the Commission to have regard to the special circumstances of the Sikh community in the Punjab where considerations such as location of their religious shrines can reasonably be taken into account up to a point." Mr. Jinnah and Liaqat Ali Khan were upset over this statement and argued with the Viceroy that the accepted principle of partition was "contiguous majority areas" and that the "question of religious shrines of any community had never been discussed before." The Viceroy agreed to convey their protest to the Secretary of State. Subsequently the copies of the statement and the Muslim League's protest along with its acknowledgment by the Secretary of State were sent to the Punjab Boundary Commission by telegram No.2329-S dated 15th July 1947. It is true that the question of the Sikh shrines had not been included in the terms of reference nor had it been discussed at any stage before, but it was a vital question.

28. Statement of S. Rawel Singh, President of Central Khalsa Jatha, Britain, 79, Sinclair Road, London (1964) who was one of the deputationists who presented the memorandum.
for the Sikhs. In order to ease the communal tension on this point some sort of arrangement was necessary. Justice Mahajan who was member of the Commission writes, "Lord Radcliffe's Secretary asked me whether I would be willing to treat the town of Qadian as neutral territory if the town of Nanakana was similarly treated. I had personally no objection to this course. It was not, however, acceptable to some of my colleagues." V.P. Menon made the suggestion that Mr. Jinnah should be approached and persuaded to declare Nanakana Sahib, "a sort of Vatican." This concession to the Sikhs might have had wholesome effect on the Sikhs and for Mr. Jinnah it would not have cost much. But the rejection of such a suggestion indicated the mutual tension which existed between the leaders of India and Pakistan.

Joint Control of the Canal System -

The States of Bikaner and Bahawalpur had a long standing water dispute over the canals taking off from the Ferozepur headworks. Both the States put forward their rival claims to the Governor General who advised them to present their cases to the Punjab Boundary Commission. Sir Cyril was of the view that some sort of agreement for the control of irrigation system in the Punjab was essential. He discussed this problem with his colleagues on the Punjab Boundary Commission. But no agreement was possible on account of

33. Michael Edwardes, Last Years of British India, page 212.
35. Lord Radcliffe's statement to the writer.
vitiating political atmosphere prevailing at that time. Even if joint control of the Punjab irrigation system would have been forced as has been suggested by some writers, it was bound to fail. Necessary goodwill for running any joint venture was lacking. Everything had been divided and the joint control would not have worked.

The Commission at Simla -

After the 31st July the Commission retired to Simla where Sir Cyril who had gone to Calcutta to attend the meetings of the Bengal Boundary Commission also joined. Justice Mahajan gives a very vivid description of the working of the Commission at Simla:- "Rather anxiously the non-Muslim and Muslim members never met together for consultation or discussion. Mr. Justice Din Mohammad frankly told me at the outset that so far as he was concerned he would write the report conceding the demands of the Muslim League and I could do what I liked. As a result of this all four of us wrote separate reports."

Justice Mahajan was the first to submit his report on the August 3, 1947. While discussing various points he suggested the following boundary line:- "In my view the frontier of India and Pakistan should be demarcated on the West of the Ravi and in the neighbourhood of that river as strategically speaking this is the only workable frontier. The frontier line will take the course of the Basantar river leaving the tract of Shakargarh Tehsil on the West side. This line should join the river Ravi at the confluence of the Basantar river with the river Ravi below Narowal. From there it should follow the course of the Ravi upto Shahdra. From Shahdra it should proceed via

Sheikhupura to Nanakana Sahib, include that town in the East Punjab and then it should join the Deg Nala up to its confluence with the river Ravi near Syedwala. From there the course of the Ravi should be followed till and then should adopt the border of Montgomery District with the Multan District and join river Sutlej some distance above Islam Headworks."

Justice Teja Singh submitted his report on the next day viz August 4, 1947. While emphasising the importance of the Sikhs, Sikh shrines and the contribution of the Sikhs in the development of the land he suggested the following boundary line:— "I would draw the north western boundary of the Eastern Punjab along the river Chenab from where it enters the Punjab go right up to Khanki and from there turn to the right bank of the lower Chenab canal up to Nanwana, then followed the bank of the Rakh Branch up to the place where it enters the Lyallpur District, go along the present boundary between the districts of Sheikhupura and Lyallpur right up to the point where Deg Nala joins the Ravi river, then follows the Ravi river and the present boundaries between Lyallpur and Montgomery districts, turn to Chonnu, then following first the present western boundary of the Montgomery district and then up to the banks of the river Sutlej and the present southern boundary of the Montgomery District come to Sulemanki where the districts of Ferozepur and Montgomery and Bahawalpur State join."

37. P.P. Vol. VI, page 180
Justice Din Mohammad and Justice Mohammad Munir submitted their reports on August 5 and August 6 respectively. Justice Din Mohammad mainly emphasised the importance of population factor. Justice Mohammad Munir replied points raised by the Counsel for the Sikhs. According to O.H.K. Spate "The Muslim case was much better presented technically. It presented a beautiful and a very comprehensive series of maps, excellently produced and covering all aspects of the problem." The counsals for the Muslims did not suggest any specific line but both strongly supported the boundary line suggested by the Muslim League. The boundary line proposed by the Muslim League was to divide Pathankot Tehsil in order to retain Madhupur Headworks in the West Punjab. A few miles it ran along the river Beas, then followed the crest of Swalik for some 80 miles. The line ran south-east, but near Rupar Headworks on the great bend of the Sutlej it turned west, and as far as the Rajputana boundary ran roughly parallel to the Sutlej along the Ludhiana - Ferozepur railway and the Bikaner canal both included within the West Punjab.

The last meeting of the Commission was held in the premises of the Services Club, Simla. Sir Cyril Radcliffe presided. Regarding fixation of the boundary line he said, "gentlemen you have disagreed and therefore, the duty falls on me to give the award which I will do later on."

40. Ibid, page 209.
APPELLEDIX - I

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH MEETING OF THE PARTITION COUNCIL
HELD ON THURSDAY, THE 10TH JULY, 1947 AT 10 A.M.

Case No. PC/31/4/47

DEPUTATION OF SIKH V.C.Os AND SOLDIERS.

Mr. Jinnah pointed out that although he was doing every thing in his power to retain a hold over the Muslim section of the population concerned to honour the undertaking given that the findings of the Boundary Commission, whatever they were, would be accepted, he had noticed that the Sikh leaders were still reported to be inciting their followers to offer active resistance to decisions which they might regard as unfavourable. It was reported that active preparations for resistance were being made and that oaths to resist were being taken. The impression on the Muslim mind was that the Sikhs were carrying on this agitation in order to influence the decisions of the Boundary Commission. In consequence any suggestion that a Sikh deputation was being received to raise the question of boundaries would have a most undesirable effect.

His Excellency reiterated that he had made it abundantly clear to His Highness the Maharaja of Patiala, S. Baldev Singh, Master Tara Singh and all other Sikh leaders, with whom he had had interviews, the consequences of any attempt to offer active resistance. No responsible government would tolerate for a moment such action, which would be met by the immediate employment of the regular armed forces of India. In view of the superiority in aeroplanes, tanks, artillery etc. that the armed forces enjoy, such action would inevitably result in very severe losses being inflicted on those who would only be armed with rifles and out-of-date weapons. He reaffirmed his
hope therefore that the Sikh leaders would be able to restrain their followers. His Excellency said he had been assured by Sir Cyril Radcliffe that he will be able to submit his reports by the 14th August. In conclusion His Excellency said that he would communicate with H.H. the Maharaja of Patiala, and make it clear that if he received the deputation no questions regarding boundaries could be brought up; and if the deputations were received this fact would be made very clear in a press note.

AGENDA FOR THE EIGHTH MEETING OF THE PARTITION COUNCIL (22ND JULY)

ADDITIONAL ITEM NO. 2 - ISSUES CONNECTED WITH THE PARTITION WORK IN THE PUNJAB.

NOTE BY THE VICEROY

1. I visited Lahore on Sunday, 20th July, and met the Punjab Partition Committee.
2. I put before that Committee the views of the Partition Council on the matters discussed at their meeting on 17th July, as recorded in Case No. PC/56/6/47.
3. It was agreed that the Government of East Punjab should in any case move all unessential personnel to Simla on 10th August.
4. It was further agreed that, if the decision of the Boundary Commission places Lahore in the West Punjab the remnants of the East Punjab Government should leave Lahore by mid-night 14/15th August; and that, if Lahore was placed in the East Punjab, the Government of the West Punjab should leave by Lahore by midnight 14/15th August - and that detailed plans should be made for this contingency before hand.
5. It was agreed that the posting of officers should continue on the basis of the notional partition except in the case of Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police in the districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar and Lahore.
6. In these three districts there happen now to be British Deputy Commissioners and Superintendents of Police. It was agreed that these should remain in control until the 15th August; but that each side should be entitled to nominate personnel ready to take over from them, and that there would be no objection to these personnel being attached to the
districts in advance of the 15th August, though without any executive authority. On the 15th August the British officials, and on or before that date the personnel of the Government not entitled by the award to assume control, will be withdrawn.

7. I am glad to be able to report that all the members of the Punjab Partition Committee, and particularly the Sikh member, Sardar Swaran Singh, declared that their parties would accept and abide by the decision of the Boundary Commission.

8. I told them that the Central Partition Council had decided to issue a statement assuring minorities and warning against disturbances. I am glad to be able to report that the members of the Punjab Partition Committee agreed to issue a similar statement signed both by themselves and by as many of the influential leaders in the Province as possible.

9. The Punjab Partition Committee was very keen that the decisions of the Boundary Commission should be promulgated at the earliest possible moment; and I am going to ask Sir Cyril Radcliffe if he can produce them by 10th August.

10. The members of the Committee told me that, apart from the two matters which they referred to the Central Partition Council, they had at present no other major points of difference, and things were going well.