

Official Is Slain

Pakistan's Prime Minister and guiding light, Liaquat Ali Khan, was assassinated last night during an address at Rawalpindi. His slayer, Sher Akhtar, was described as an advocate of a "holy war" against India. The incensed crowd attacked the assassin and "tore him to pieces," the Pakistan office in London said. Story on Page 3.

Pakistan's Premier Slain by Assassin

KARACHI, Pakistan, Oct. 16 (AP)—Prime Minister Liaquat Ali Khan of Pakistan was assassinated today by a member of a fanatical religious sect demanding a holy war against India.

The Prime Minister was cut down by two bullets fired into his chest at point-blank range as he arose to address a meeting of the Moslem League at Rawalpindi, in the Punjab. He had gone to Rawalpindi—a hotbed of agitation between Pakistan and India in their bitter dispute over Kashmir—in an effort to soothe the angry atmosphere in the area.

A howling mob seized the assassin and tore his body to bits on the spot as the Prime Minister's body slumped to the floor.

Funeral Services Today

Liaquat died at a military hospital to which he was rushed for a blood transfusion that failed to save his life.

Funeral services will be held in the saddened capital Wednesday. Authorities identified the assassin as a member of the fanatic Khaksar religious sect which has been demanding a "holy war" with neighboring India in the dispute over control of the Kashmir region.

Radio Pakistan said the man's name was Sher Akhtar, a member of the Khaksar sect.

At United Nations, N. Y., Pakistan Foreign Minister Sir Mohammed Zafrullah Khan warned that the assassination will bring "great calamity and suffering." He was leaving for Karachi by air today.

Warren R. Austin, chief United States delegate, said the assassination "is a disaster to the cause of peace and particularly to the progress we had hoped for in the Kashmir issue."

The assassinated Prime Minister became Pakistan's strong man

in 1948 after the death of his revered chief, Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Since assuming the premiership, he had conducted the touchy negotiations with India over the Kashmir, in which threats of force have frequently been made. He demonstrated a leaning toward the British Commonwealth not wholly satisfactory to all his followers.

Liaquat was a bald, burly, chain-smoker with an elegance in dress that bespoke his wealthy upbringing and an accent that bespoke his Oxford education.

His rich family estates were taken over by the Indians in the stormy days of the 1947 partition of Pakistan from India. His claim for compensation has been awaiting its turn among many thousands of others.

Liaquat was born October 1, 1895, to a family which traced its descent from a famous Persian king, Neusherwan the Just. He spoke Persian, Arabic and Urdu. But said he did all his thinking in English.

He first became interested in the movement for Indian independence while at Oxford, where he took his law degree in 1921. When he returned to his native land in 1926, he was elected to the united provinces legislative assembly. He almost immediately became deputy leader of the Moslem League Party, under Jinnah.

He was a leader of the party in the Indian interim government which preceded partition. And when Pakistan was born, on August 15, 1947, his appointment as Premier followed almost automatically.

Liaquat is survived by his wife and two sons.

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