

Faiz on Anglo-Pakistanis

(Faiz Sahib's editorial of the Pakistan Times dated June 28, 1947. Original title: Anglo-Pakistanis)



Sometime ago we had occasion to refer to the politics of the Indian Christians. We sepa said that the future of small national groups was indissolubly linked with that of the bigger people among whom they were destined to live, and the sooner they made a choice of their alliances in the light of the new circumstances that have arisen, the better it would be. Hesitancy and indecision at this stage would be as dangerous as lack of political realism and fanciful wish-fulfillment. The problems of the small Anglo-Indian minority are very similar. The members of both these communities will henceforth be the nationals of two separate independent sovereign States and their loyalties should naturally lie with the State of which they are the citizens. We are glad that both the Indian Christians and the Anglo-Indians have accepted this position and a section of the Anglo-Indians have even renamed themselves, Anglo-Pakistanis. The name is appropriate, for to all intents and purposes, there is no entity called India—there are only Hindustan and Pakistan. It is not the name, however, that matters. What matters is the realisation that Anglo-Pakistanis or Anglo-Indians living in Pakistan, whatever the name preferred, will shortly be the nationals of a new State and any political alliances or affiliations which they might contract outside the State are not likely to do them much good. They will of course, have the ties of kinship and culture with the members of their community living outside Pakistan, the same as other people who will be divided into the two States that are coming into existence, but these ties should not deflect them from the path of loyalty to and co-operation with the new State. The leaders of Pakistan have already guaranteed full protection to the minorities living in their midst and we are quite certain that the Anglo-Pakistanis will have their rights of citizenship and services fully guaranteed. New State will certainly not endanger the security of their jobs or their distinctive culture. Anglo-Pakistanis will be a small group, but they have certain advantages in the matter of education, in their

traditions of industriousness and efficiency, and we are sure that in the Pakistan that is coming, there will be room to spare for all men and women of loyalty and goodwill. The Anglo-Pakistanis, therefore, if they are loyal to the State, and that is the supreme conditions, have little to worry about regarding their future in our area. We are not at all certain that the same can be said of Anglo-Hindustanis who might have to contend against ruthless revivalism and communal exclusiveness. Attempts are being made, we know, to jeopardise the future of Anglo-Pakistanis by conjuring up before them alluring picture of all sorts of Shangrillas but we trust, they possess better sense. As for the unfortunate controversy regarding their local leadership, we hope it is a passing phase and since there can, and should be no differences in political principles among Anglo-Pakistanis, we hope they will be able to compose personal differences too. A party might take a little time to find out who deserve to be the leader, but they always find it out in the end.

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