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"The Cripps Mission gave India, a post-dated cheque." Comment

Major changes occurred in world politics during 1941. Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union on 22 June 1941. At the same time, similarly Japan launched a surprise attack on the American fleet at Pearl Harbour & joined the war on the side of Germany & Italy. It occupied Rangoon in March 1942 & this brought the war to India's door-step. The British government now desperately wanted the active cooperation of Indians in the war effort. In such a scenario Cripps Mission came to India. The main proposals of the mission were -

i) An Indian Union with dominion status would be set up which would be free to decide its relations with the Commonwealth & to participate in the United Nations & other international bodies.

ii) After war a constituent assembly would be formed whose members were partly elected & partly nominated by the Princes.

iii) The British govt would accept the new constitution on two conditions. a) Any province not willing to join the Union will have separate Constitution & will form separate Union. b) A treaty would be signed for transfer of power.

iv) In the meantime, defence of India would remain in British hands & Governor-General's power would remain intact.

But the proposals made by the Cripps Mission failed to satisfy Indian nationalists because -

- i) It just offered dominion status instead of complete independence.
- ii) Right to provinces to secede went against the principle of national unity.
- iii) Representation of states by nominees & not by elected representatives was also objected
- iv) Absence of any plan for immediate transfer of power.
- v) Muslim League criticised the idea of a single Indian Union.

Thus, the proposals of the Cripps Mission were not acceptable to both the Congress & the Muslim League. August Offer already included the provision of Dominion status which was rejected by the nationalists. Cripps Mission did not offer anything new. It was a failed attempt to win over the support of the Indian people. Therefore, Grandhi called it a "post-dated cheque". Stafford Cripps returned home leaving behind a more embittered Indian ~~masses~~ masses whose frustration was evident during the Quit India Movement which was launched after the Cripps Mission.