

anti-Communist country, its membership in the Commonwealth, its strategic location and the opportunities for developing Canadian markets in Pakistan.⁵

H.O. M[ORAN]
for A.D.P. H[eeney]

[PIÈCE JOINTE/ENCLOSURE]

Note

Memorandum

SECRET

[Ottawa], July 12, 1949

ESTABLISHMENT OF MISSION IN PAKISTAN

It was agreed and announced on August 15, 1947, the date on which the new state of Pakistan came into existence, that the governments of Canada and Pakistan would exchange High Commissioners "when this is administratively possible". The announcement went on to say that "as a preliminary step in this direction, it is expected that Trade Commissionerships will be established in each country in the near future."

2. A Canadian Government Trade Commissioner took up his duties in Karachi on September 1, 1947. A Trade Commissioner has not been sent to Canada by Pakistan. However, on April 4, 1949 the Pakistan Government indicated its desire to appoint Mr. Mohammad Ali as its first High Commissioner to Canada. This appointment was agreed to and announced in Karachi on April 8. Mr. Baig came to Ottawa from the Pakistan Embassy in Washington on May 25 to open the mission as Acting High Commissioner. Mr. Mohammad Ali arrived in Ottawa on July 9.

3. The case for opening a Canadian diplomatic mission in Karachi may be set forth as follows:

(a) As we are publicly committed to exchange High Commissioners with Pakistan, and Pakistan has already taken action, it would be discourteous to delay very long before making our reciprocal appointment. Any long delay might be misinterpreted by Pakistan as prejudice in favour of her rival and bigger Commonwealth country, India, where our Office has now been set up for over two years.

The United Kingdom and India have, for obvious reasons, had High Commissioners in Pakistan since August 1947; an Australian Office under an Official Secretary was opened in Karachi in March 1948, and an Australian High Commissioner was recently appointed. Pakistan has not yet sent a representative to Canberra because, we understand, of lack of personnel.

(b) Pakistan is by far the largest Muslim state in population (approximately 74,000,000), though not in area, and enjoys a key geographical position as a country with close connections in the Middle East, based on ties of religion and culture,

⁵ Sanctionnée par le Cabinet le 13 juillet 1949. La nomination de David Moffat Johnson, à titre de haut-commissaire du Canada au Pakistan, reçut l'approbation du Cabinet le 18 novembre 1949. Approved by Cabinet on July 13, 1949. The appointment of David Moffat Johnson as High Commissioner for Canada in Pakistan was approved by Cabinet on November 18, 1949.