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Bhopal Rulers Assurance to Mahabodhi Delegation.
Arrangements for Enshrinement of Budhist Relics
at Sanchi.

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Bhopal. Jan. 7 (A.P.I.) A link forged between Bhopal and Ceylon over 2000 years ago was further strengthened this morning at a memorable function held at the Qarsi-I-Sultani (Ruler's Palace) when His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal received and replied to an address from the Mahabodhi Society of Ceylon and Indian

A delegation of this society is now in Bhopal to discuss arrangements for restoration to Sanchi of sacred relics of Mahamongalana and Sariputa, two chief disciples of Lord Buddha. His Highness announced a personal ~~monetary~~ donation of Rs.25,000/- towards the cost of work connected with the enshrinement of these relics.

Those present on the occasion included and other high officials of the Bhopal Government.

Leaders Address.

Chief

After the Political Secretary had presented the leader and the members of the delegation to His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal the leader of the delegation read an address.....declared "Sir Alexander Cunningham once Archaeological Commissioner of India, who discovered the relics of Buddha's two disciples Sariputta and Moggallana removed these relics to England 60 years ago. We are delighted to be able to state that the Govt. of India in response to the ~~specific~~ appeal made by the Mahabodhi Society on behalf of the Buddhists has agreed to use its good offices for restitution of these relics. Our society has decided to enshrine them once more in Sanchi in accordance with the conditions to be agreed upon between Your Highness' Government and the Mahabodhi Society. we fervently hope that this act of graciousness on the part of Your Highness will serve to strengthen further ties make the State of Bhopal a centre of Buddhist pilgrimage".

Nawab's reply.

Replying..... His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal declared "passage of timeI consider it a great privilege that in order of things it has come under our care. Sanchi has been and shall continue to be looked upon by my State as a trust and it is in that spirit that we have endeavoured to the best of our power to preserve it in as good a condition as human knowledge would enable us."

Assurance to Delegation.

His Highness assured the delegation that there would be no difficulty whatsoever as to the terms..... and the proper provision would be made for their enshrinement.

"My Government shall always be glad to co-operate with the Mahabodhi Society in their efforts to restore Sanchi to its original greatness.....further strengthening the tie that bound your country and my State over 2000 years ago".

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157

Extract from the Bombay Chronicle, dt.12.1.1946.

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Bhopal & Buddhist Monuments.

Leading
Article.

His Highness the Nawab of Bhopal who was requested by a delegation of the Mahabodhi Society of Ceylon and India to provide facilities for their enshrinement in a befitting manner has already agreed to do so, declaring that the State would regard it as a privilege to co-operate in such a sacred project which is what is to be expected of an enlightened Ruler like His Highness

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