



D.O. No. 171-B

D. No. 1657-C  
of 1-7-40. Bhopal,

30th June, 1940.

Subject :- Buddhist relics.

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1/7.

*Morgan Edwards*

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Please refer to the correspondence ending with Mr. Wallis's D.O. letter No. 1919-C, dated the 13th April, 1940, as Political Agent in Bhopal, on the subject noted above.

As the relics in question were taken away from Bhopal State, and according to Sir John Marshall, the most suitable repository for them was the Museum at Sanchi, the Government of Bhopal regret their inability to agree with the Director-General of Archaeology that the British Museum, while quite willing to hand them over to the Mahabodi Society would not be prepared to return them for preservation to the place from where they were removed, viz:- Sanchi. In their opinion, the religious sentiments of the followers of Buddha would also be better attended to, if the Stupas at Sanchi were properly kept up, and brought as near to their original condition as possible. It should not be overlooked that Sanchi is as much open to the religious interest of the Maha-Bodhi Society as any other Buddhist place in India or outside.

As the relics in British possession have, in deference to sentiment, been already

returned to Burma and Ceylon, and to other countries to which they belonged, the Government of Bhopal have no doubt that their sentiments in respect of the relics in question will receive due consideration.

Perhaps, you would kindly take up the matter with the British Museum authorities in the light of the foregoing observations.

Yours Sincerely  
R. Haider Khan

To

Major C.G.N. Edwards, I.A.,  
Political Agent in Bhopal,  
BHOPAL.

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