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Of

The Papers of N. Raghavan



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**N. Raghavan
(1900-1977)**

A prominent leader of the Indian freedom movement in Malaya and noted diplomat in independent India, Nedyam Raghavan was born at Guruvayur, Kerala. He had his schooling in Trichur in the State of Travancore-Cochin and graduated from Madras University in history, economics and political science in 1920. He began his career as a journalist at the *Daily Express* in Madras but soon left for Penang in Malaya to take up a career in law.

Initially, he worked as an assistant to P.K. Nambiyar, a pioneer Indian barrister in Penang and founder of Penang Indian Association in 1924. Raghavan went to England for studying law, and qualified as Barrister-at-Law (Inner Temple), London in 1927. While in London, he was a member of the British Labour Party and Fabian Society. He started practice at Penang in 1928 and soon became a leading barrister at the Bar. For about 20 years he carried on a lucrative legal practice and founded the legal firm of Raghavan & Co at Penang. During these years he devoted as much of his time as possible to public work too. He worked towards betterment of wages for Indian workers in rubber plantations and other places in the cities, towns and villages of Malaya. He set up Indian Swadeshi stores, organized Penang Indian Chamber of Commerce, and wrote regularly leading articles in the weekly journal *Indian* espousing the cause of Indian freedom. He also became a Director of the *Indian*.

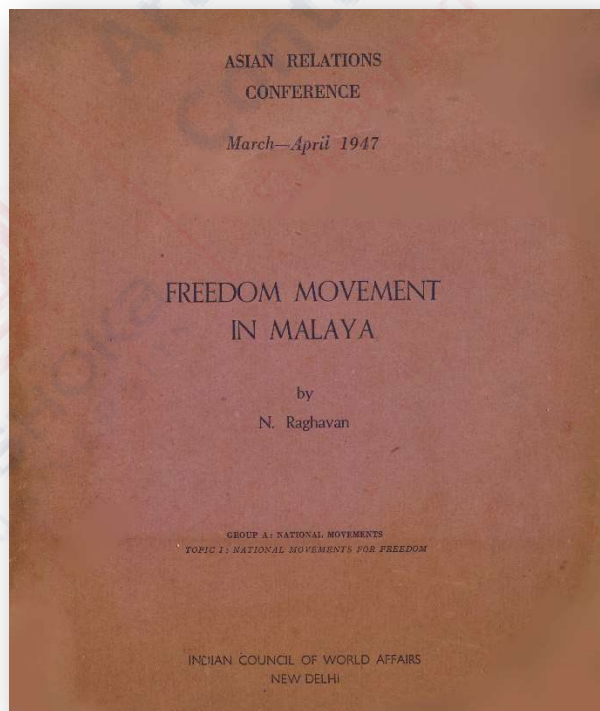
Raghavan was one of the prominent lawyers who drafted the constitution of the Malaysian Indian Chamber of Commerce (Penang) and served as Vice President, then President of the Straits Settlement Association (Penang). He was President of Penang Indian

Association and Central Indian Association of Malaya, 1930-37, 1938-1940, and formed the All Malayan National Congress in 1941.

Raghavan was closely associated with the Indian national movement in Malaya. He became a member of the executive committee of the Indian Independence League formed by Rash Behari Bose and headed the All Malayan Indian Independence League. He was also head of the Hind Swaraj Vidyalaya (India Swaraj Institute) in Penang which was set up to train workers for Indian Independence League. The Japanese occupation of Malaya led to the suppression of Indian Independence League and Hind Swaraj Vidyalaya and Raghavan was forced to leave public life. On the arrival of Subhas Chandra Bose he rejoined the Indian freedom movement. He toured South East Asian countries to garner support for the movement. He joined the Indian National Army of Subhas Chandra Bose. He became the Finance Minister of Azad Hind Government and in charge of Netaji Fund Committee. He was jailed by the British in Singapore, and after the end of war released in 1946. Jawaharlal Nehru visited Malaya in March 1946 to look into the conditions of Indian nationals who had suffered a great deal during the Japanese regime. Raghavan accompanied him on the tour of Singapore and Malaya. He went back to Madras in June 1946. He was appointed Vice-Chairman of the Indian Relief Committee founded by Jawaharlal Nehru.

In 1947, when India gained independence Raghavan entered the Indian diplomatic service, first as Consul General to Dutch Batavia as well as newly established Indonesian government, 1947-48 and then represented India at Prague, Czechoslovakia, 1948-50. He served as Ambassador of India to Belgium (and concurrently Minister, Luxemburg), 1950-51; Switzerland, Austria, and Holy See, 1951-52; China, 1952-55; Argentina, 1956-59, concurrently to Chile, 1956-1958; and France, 1959-1960. He retired in December 1961.

Wrote a pamphlet for the Asian Relations Conference (1947) titled *Freedom Movement in Malaya*. Also, later published *India and Malaya: A Study* (1954).



CATALOGUE OF THE PAPERS OF N. RAGHAVAN

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CATALOGUE OF THE PAPERS OF N. RAGHAVAN

I. SUBJECT FILES, 1952-1967

<u>S. No.</u>	<u>Description/Year</u>	<u>Comments/ No. of Pages</u>
1.	<u>1952-1955</u> Misc. personal correspondence of N. Raghavan (Ambassador of India, Peking) with Jawaharlal Nehru reg. posting in China; Report by Wu Leng-si, Head of the New China News Agency (1954); B.M Kaul's interview; record of talks between P.M. and Chou En-Lai (25-27 June 1954), note on 'Lenin's death anniversary' and press clippings	Typed/Holograph/ Autograph/ Printed/Press clippings/English/ 140 pp.
2.	<u>1953-1963</u> Correspondence of N. Raghavan with the Editor of The International Year Book & Statesman's Who's Who (1953); D.N. Kohli for the dictionary of important persons (1956); and P.K.K. Menon, Convener, 'Who is Who' of freedom fighters (1963) reg. his life sketch/biographical details	Typed/ Autograph/English/ 34 pp.
3.	<u>6-20 March 1955</u> Note on N. Raghavan's tour to North West China. Contains handwritten notes also on the visit	Typed & Handwritten/English/ 81 pp.
4.	<u>1956</u> Correspondence with K.P. Kesava Menon, Editor of <i>Mathrubhumi</i> reg. publication of N. Raghavan's article 'Looking Back'	Typed/Autograph/ 18 pp.

5. **Sept 1957-April 1967**
- Personal correspondence of N. Raghavan and Radha Raghavan with Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. Also contains drafts of some letters; stray letters of R.K. Nehru, Gopala Reddy, H.C. Sarin, M.J. Desai, B.V. Krishniah, K. Kamaraj and other officials
- Typed/ Holograph/
Autograph/
Printed/Press
clippings/
173 pp.
6. **1958-1959**
- Message/radio broadcasts as Ambassador of India in Buenos Aires, Argentina; interview to the representative of 'El Pueblo' paper; Republic Day 1959 messages; Note on 'Living Condition in Argentina' (Dec. 1958); Note regarding participation in the celebration of 93rd birthday of Rabindranath Tagore at Buenos Aires; Speech on India's Foreign Policy (28 Oct 1958); Handwritten notes
- Typed & Printed/
English/
86 pp.
7. **1959**
- Correspondence with Rashbehari Basu Smarak Samity, Calcutta and N. Raghavan's article 'Rashbehari Bose – As I Saw Him'
- Typed/
Autograph/
17 pp.
8. **1959-1960**
- Correspondence with N. Raghavan (Ambassador of India, Paris) with Jawaharlal Nehru and S. Sen (Jt. Secy, Ministry of External Affairs) on various subjects; Talks with Gen. De Gaulle, press cuttings of article in L 'Express' dt. 12 May 1960 and its translation into English, notes on Gen. De Gaulle, Technical Cooperation between Indian and France, and Transfer of Pondicherry to India
- Typed/Autograph/
Printed/Press
clippings/English/
83 pp.
9. **19 July 1965-30 September 1965**
- Papers related to the visit of N. Raghavan to the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. Contains speech by N. Raghavan titled 'The People's Republic on China: An Examination'
- Typed/
Autograph/
46 pp.

II. MISCELLANEOUS PAPERS

1. Articles: The Indian Panorama (1958); Whither China (1963); New Frontiers (undated); Learning Chinese papers and passports

Typed &
Printed/
Handwritten/
English/
Chinese

III. DIARIES, 1920-1967 (with gaps)

1. 1920-1921; 1923-1928; 1938-1939; 1948-1949; 1935-1956; 1958-1964; 1966-1967

25 diaries/
English

IV. POCKET DIARIES, 1940-1964 (with gaps)

1. 1940-1942; 1945-1948; 1952-1957; 1964

15 pocket
diaries/English

V. NOTEBOOKS

1. 1955; 1962-64

6 notebooks/
English

VI. MANUSCRIPT

1. 23 April 1946

Manuscript related to the independence movement,
India Swaraj Institute, Azad Hind Fauj

Typed/
English/
250 pp.

VII. SCARPBOOKS

1. 1940s
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose & INA (Photos) 59 pp.
2. 1930-1940
Newspaper clippings (Articles) 73 pp.

VIII. PRINTED MATERIAL

1. March-April 1947
Paper submitted by N. Raghavan at Asian Relations Conference titled *Freedom Movement in Malaya* Published by Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi/English/ 26 pp.

IX. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. Visit of Jawaharlal Nehru to China (October 1954) 57 Photographs
2. Misc. photos