Farewell address
To
MR. N. RAGHAVAN
Consul General for India in Indonesia.

Honourable Sir,

We, the Indians residing in Batavia, deem it our proud privilege and pleasant
duty to offer you this farewell address on the eve of your departure as India’s Amb-
assador to Prague.

It was indeed the first milestone marking a glorious turning point in the history
of the Indian Community in Java that we had the honour of receiving and greeting
you as the first Indian Consul General.

Nearly a year ago, when our mother-country decided to open a Consulate Gene-
ral in Indonesia, we were more than overjoyed. And when it was announced that
you, Sir, would be the first Indian envoy to Indonesia, it made us happier still. We
had heard of your long experience in Malaya and of your intimate and sympathetic
acquaintance with the Indian Community there. And we knew, you would find
yourself no stranger with us.

During the last year, it has been our great fortune to have you and the ever
hospitable Mrs. Raghavan in our midst. Particularly, during the arduous phases
which our country has been passing through since reassuming her independent status
and when our greatest calamity tore away from us the Father of our Nation and we
missed his humane, affectionate and wise counsel. you, Sir, and your family, by your
very presence, offered great solace and comfort to us who were overwhelmed with
grief and distress.

Though we claim to speak only on behalf of the Indian community in Batavia,
we can assure you, Sir, that the 35,000 Indians resident in this country will agree
with us when we express our profound gratitude to you for the manner in which you
have inspired all of us during your stay here. Besides affording us relief and assist-
ance whenever we sought them, you have always been willing to give us guidance
and help in the matter of organising associations and bodies for our mutual welfare.
We are also thankful to you for constantly reminding us that each one of us, in his
own way, is an envoy of India.

We must admit, Sir, that all has not been smooth with the life of the Indian
community in this city. But, we were sure that with your presence amidst us, we
would be able to tide over the difficulties and today, it is no credit to us alone
that we have been able to forge ourselves into one body to work for the common
good of all Indians residing here.

And to your worthy spouse, Sir, it is difficult to express our gratitude for the
kindness, sympathy and sociable nature she has shown to all of us equally. In addition
to our own community, we have heard often the women of different nationalities in
this city express their admiration for her charm, kindness and dignity. While you
were India’s representative here, Sir, your lady proved to be a true and worthy
representative of Indian womanhood.

In your sudden departure, Sir, we do feel a sense of loss. We did not anticipate
that you will be taken away so soon from Indonesia where there is appreciation from
one and all not only for your great qualities of diplomacy but also for the remarkable
way in which you have upheld India’s honour and dignity. And we have no doubt,
Sir, that with such able ambassadors abroad like you, India will rise higher
and higher in the comity of nations and once more send to distant lands that mes-
 sage of peace and of the life everlasting, so much needed today by a world torn
between ideologies.

We wish you and Mrs. Raghavan and your daughter all godspeed.

We remain,
Sir.
Yours respectfully,

THE INDIAN COMMUNITY OF BATAVIA