

UNION PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION
DHOLPUR HOUSE, SHAHJAHAN ROAD
NEW DELHI, INDIA

Personal
Confidential.

February 2, 1957.

My dear 'Khawaja'!

This year an International Oriental Conference is taking place at Munich from August 28 to September 4, 1957. For these International Conferences the Government of India occasionally sends Delegations abroad. I do not know whether you will be sending any delegates this year or not. Left to myself I should say that Government need not spend the money for this purpose. On the other hand a good case can be made out for literary and oriental studies being fostered by Government, and impecunious professors being sent abroad for refreshment of spirit.

If the Government of India does propose to send a delegation out I suggest that Iranian and Islamic studies should ~~be~~ also be represented. If three persons are to be sent, surely an Iranian or Islamic scholar ~~should~~ ^{could} certainly be included in the delegation. Among Parsees, a very suitable candidate would be Dr. Unwalla of Bombay. He has done a great deal of work and is a first-class scholar.

In Islamic scholars, pride of place must be given to Mr. W. IVANOW ("Seacroft", 104 Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Bombay 5) who is recognised as one of the foremost Ismaili scholars living. He has written over a hundred papers and published over 20 volumes. Born Russian, he is a naturalised Indian subject and holds an Indian passport. He is, therefore, undoubtedly an Indian National. None of the Ismaili scholars in India have produced even a fraction of what he has done. A good second choice would be Dr. Mohd. Wahid Mirza of Lucknow, and the third or fourth choice may be your humble servant.

This is a purely personal letter and not intended for the files. I do feel, however, that only one set of scholars should not monopolize the field but that we should take turns for the honour of representing our country.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely
seaf

(A.A.A.Fyzee).

Shri K.G.Saiyidain,
Secretary to the Government,
Ministry of Education,
New Delhi.

Encl. List of names.