

Not to be published or broadcast before  
the morning of Monday, March 15, 1965.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY

\*\*\*

SIR JOHN COCKCROFT TO VISIT INDIA

BOMBAY, March 15, 1965.

Sir John Cockcroft, F.R.S., one of the outstanding physicists of our time, is arriving in Bombay today for a 4-day stay at the invitation of Dr H.J. Bhabha, F.R.S., Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission and Director, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research.

Sir John Cockcroft was made an Honorary Fellow of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research last year and this will be his first visit to Bombay since then. He was in India last in January 1961 at the time of the formal inauguration of CIR at the Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay.

As is well known, the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research is the national centre for advanced study and fundamental research in nuclear science and mathematics and is one of the outstanding scientific institutions of its kind in the world. Honorary Fellowship of the Institute is conferred on eminent scholars in recognition of their distinguished contribution to knowledge in subjects in which the Institute is interested, or on persons who have rendered eminent service to the Institute, or on persons who have made a noteworthy and lasting contribution to the cause of fundamental research in India. Sir John shares the distinction, which is the highest token of the Institute's regard, with Prof. P.A.M. Dirac and Prof. C.L. Siegel. The late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru, to whom the development of science in India

...2/-

owes so much, the late Prof. Niels Bohr and the late Dr John Mathai, were also Honorary Fellows of the Institute.

Sir John Cockcroft, now Master of Churchill College, Cambridge, was responsible in 1932, along with Prof. E.T.S. Walton, for developing at Cambridge the first piece of equipment for accelerating particles artificially to energies high enough to produce disintegration of nuclei. The Cascade Generator which he developed for this purpose is now a standard piece of equipment for research in nuclear physics, and one has been in operation at the Tata Institute since 1953. The first transmutation of nuclei by artificially accelerated particles using this equipment was produced by Sir John, when he bombarded the nucleus of lithium by protons. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Physics in 1951 and has been honoured by universities throughout the world for his research into the nature and application of nuclear energy.

Sir John was a Member of the U.K. Atomic Energy Authority and the first Director of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment at Harwell where all research leading, among other things, to Britain's outstanding position in the peaceful uses of atomic energy was done.

In the early days of India's atomic energy programme Sir John gave valuable advice and it was he who suggested, at the time studies were undertaken to build a reactor at Trombay, that India should go in for a reactor of the swimming pool type.

Sir John, who is on his way to Australia as Chancellor of the Australian National University in Canberra, will be accompanied by Lady Cockcroft.