

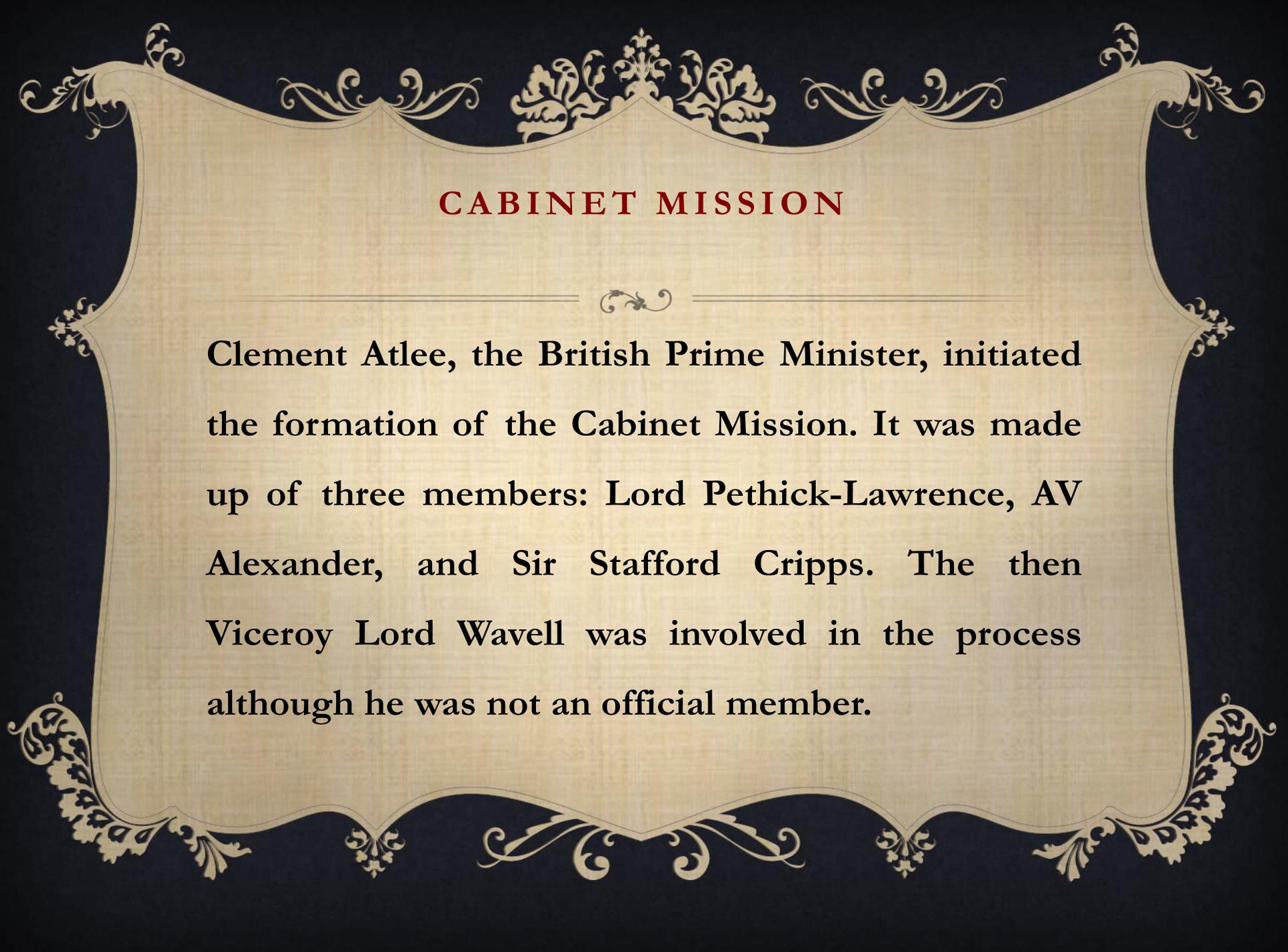
# TOWARDS FREEDOM WITH PARTITION

---

*Presented by :*

*Dr. Amiya Ghosh*

*Suri Vidyasagar college*



## CABINET MISSION

---

Clement Atlee, the British Prime Minister, initiated the formation of the Cabinet Mission. It was made up of three members: Lord Pethick-Lawrence, AV Alexander, and Sir Stafford Cripps. The then Viceroy Lord Wavell was involved in the process although he was not an official member.

## **CABINET MISSION - OBJECTIVES**

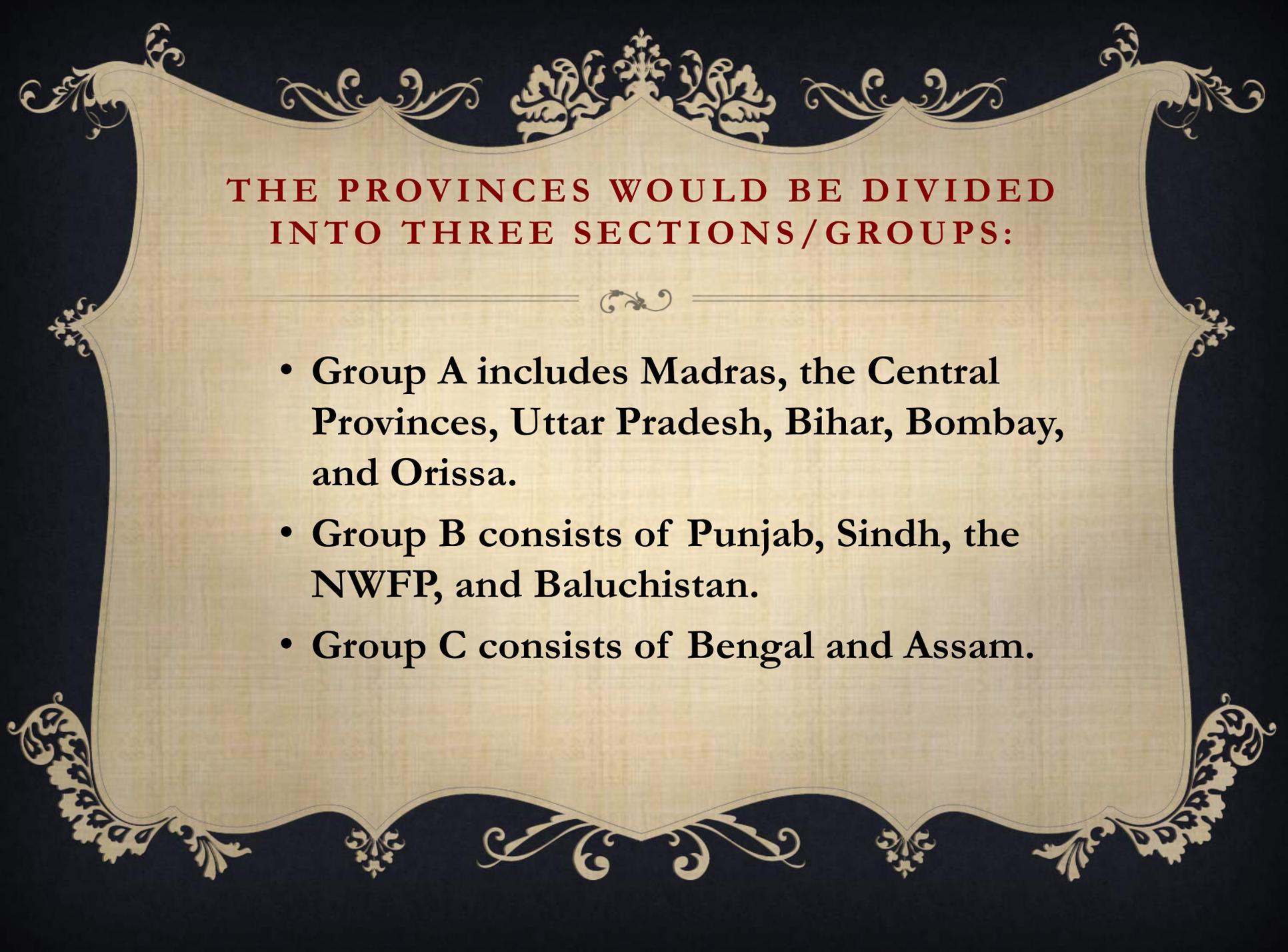
- ❖ **To reach an agreement with Indian leaders on the creation of a constitution for India.**
- ❖ **Creating a constitution-making body (the Constituent Assembly of India).**
- ❖ **To form an Executive Council with the support of the major Indian political parties.**

## ARRIVAL OF CABINET MISSION

On March 24, 1946, the Cabinet Mission arrived in Delhi. It held lengthy discussions with Indian leaders from all parties and groups on the issues of: interim government; and principles and procedures for drafting a new constitution that would grant India independence. Because the Congress and the League were unable to reach an agreement on the fundamental issue of India's unity or partition, the mission proposed its own constitutional solution in May 1946.

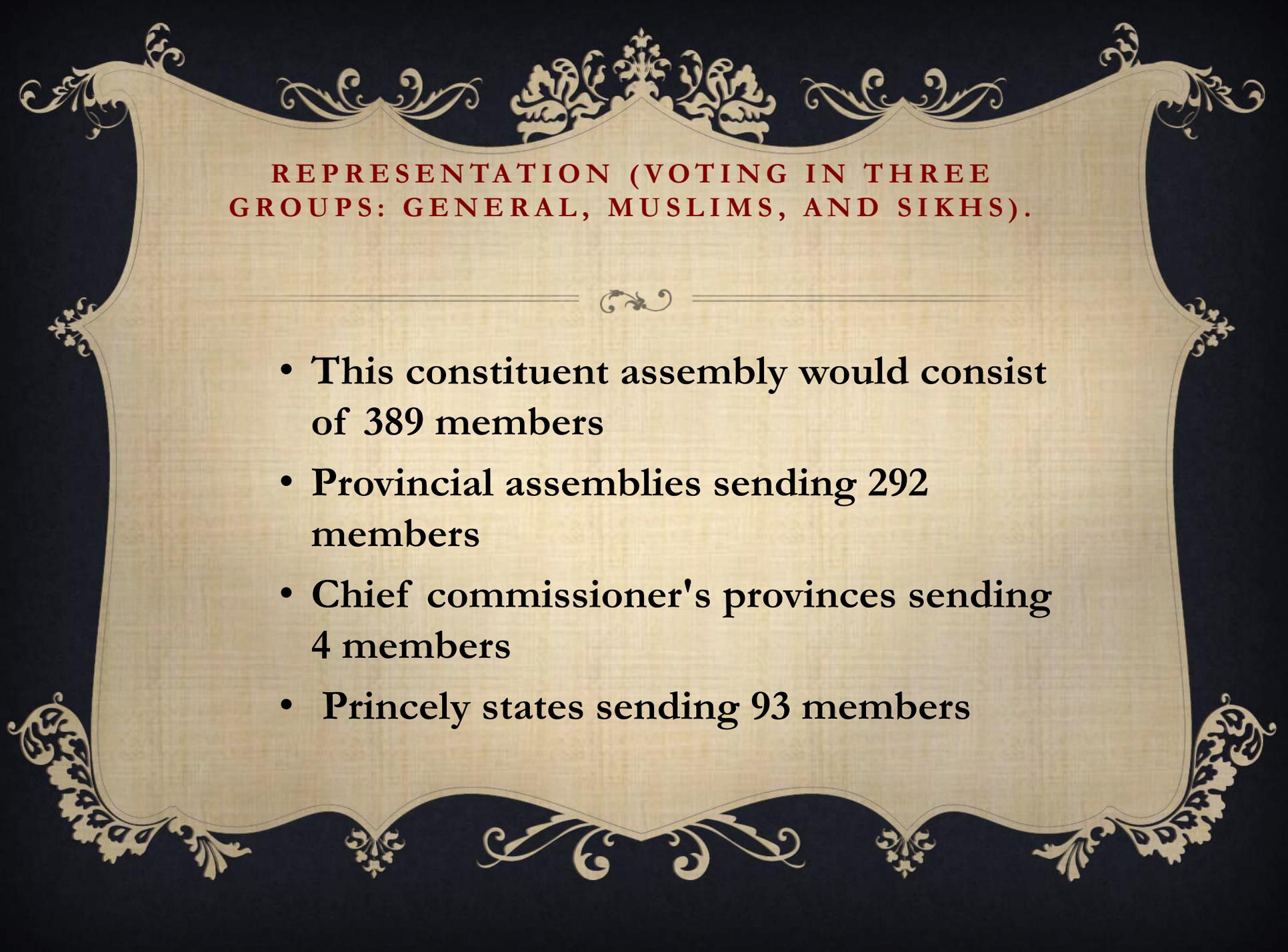
## PROPOSAL FOR CABINET MISSION

- ❖ Rejection of the demand for a full-fledged Pakistan because:
  - such a formation of Pakistan would include a large non-Muslim population—38% in the North-West and 48% in the North-East;
  - the very principle of communal self-determination would demand separation of Hindu-majority western Bengal and Sikh- and Hindu-dominated Ambala and Jalandhar divisions of Punjab.
  - deep-rooted regional ties would be jeopardized if Bengal and Punjab were partitioned;
  - partition would cause economic and administrative problems, such as the problem of communication between Pakistan's western and eastern regions; and
  - the division of the armed forces would be dangerous.



**THE PROVINCES WOULD BE DIVIDED  
INTO THREE SECTIONS/GROUPS:**

- **Group A includes Madras, the Central Provinces, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, and Orissa.**
- **Group B consists of Punjab, Sindh, the NWFP, and Baluchistan.**
- **Group C consists of Bengal and Assam.**



**REPRESENTATION (VOTING IN THREE  
GROUPS: GENERAL, MUSLIMS, AND SIKHS).**

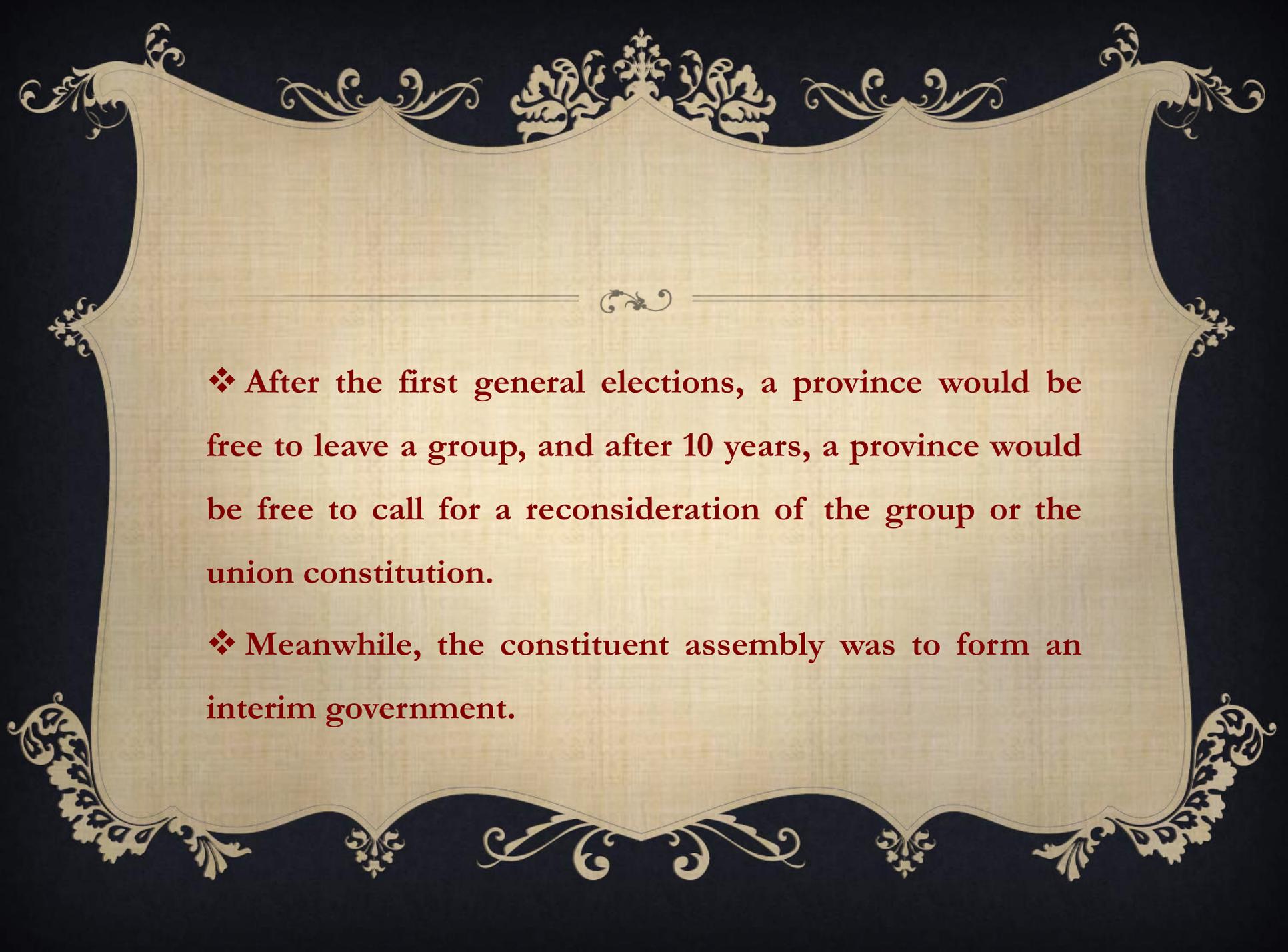
- This constituent assembly would consist of 389 members
- Provincial assemblies sending 292 members
- Chief commissioner's provinces sending 4 members
- Princely states sending 93 members

## **CABINET MISSION: PROPOSAL**

- ❖ The entire constituent assembly (all three sections A, B, and C combined) would then convene to draft the union constitution.
- ❖ A centralized command would be in charge of defense, communication, and external affairs. India was to have a federal structure.

## CABINET MISSION: PROPOSAL

- ❖ In the central legislature, communal questions were to be decided by a simple majority of both communities present and voting.
- ❖ Provinces were to have full autonomy and residual powers, and princely states would no longer be subject to the British government's supremacy.



---

❖ After the first general elections, a province would be free to leave a group, and after 10 years, a province would be free to call for a reconsideration of the group or the union constitution.

❖ Meanwhile, the constituent assembly was to form an interim government.

# REACTION OF THE PARTIES

- ❖ The Cabinet Mission Plan, according to the Congress, was opposed to the creation of Pakistan .
- ❖ Provinces should not have to wait until the first general election to break away from a coalition. They should be able to choose not to join a group in the first place.
- ❖ The absence of a provision in the constituent assembly for elected members from the princely states (they could only be nominated by the princes) was unacceptable.

# MUSLIM LEAGUE REACTION

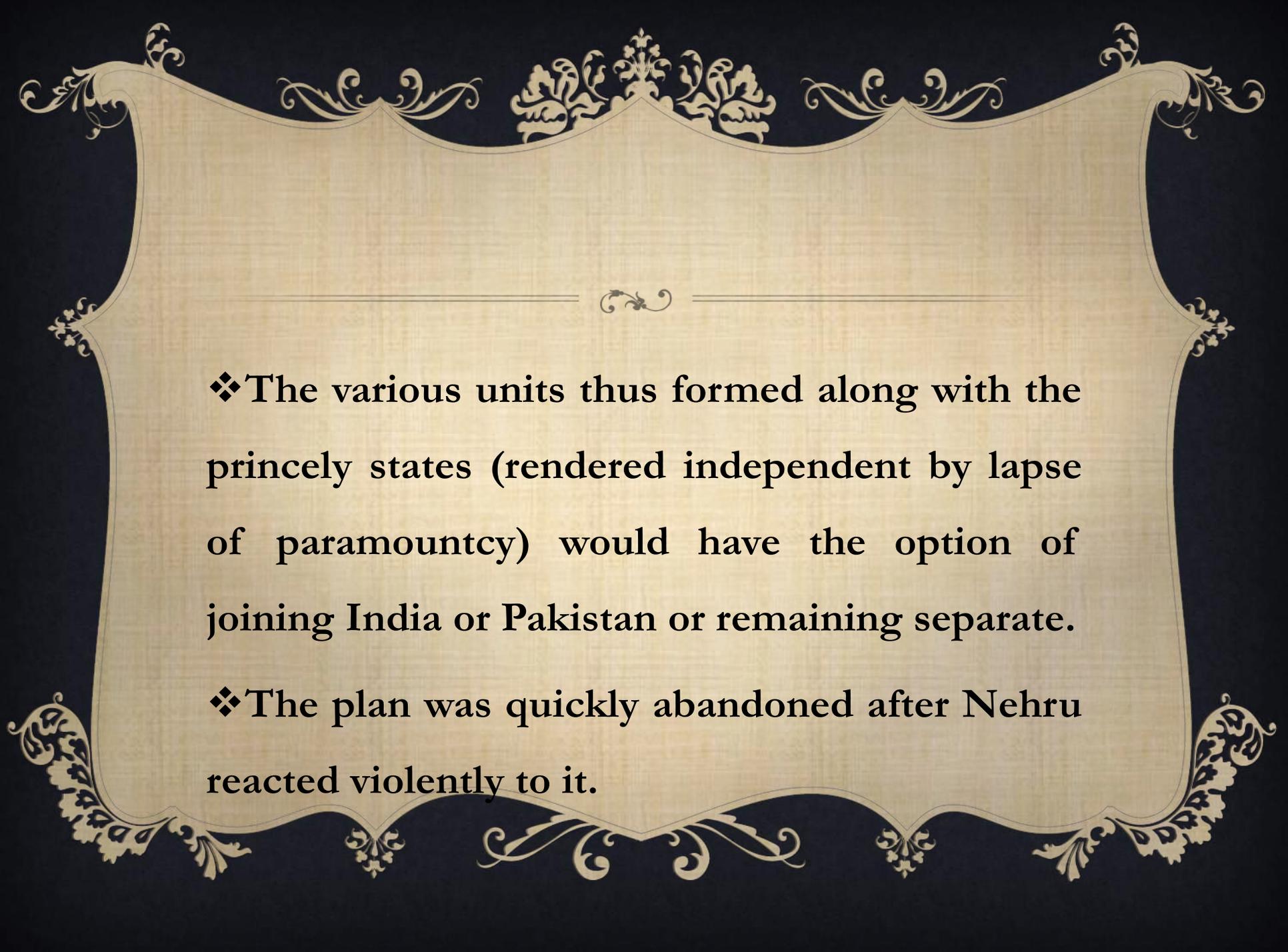
- ❖ Pakistan, according to the Muslim League, was implied in the compulsory grouping.
- ❖ Sections B and C should be forced to form solid entities in preparation for future secession into Pakistan.
- ❖ The League expected Congress to reject the plan, prompting the government to invite the League to form an interim government.

## FAILURE OF CABINET MISSION

Congress and the Muslim League, respectively, accepted the Cabinet Mission on June 24, 1946, and June 6, 1946, respectively. The League then withdrew from the agreement and urged direct action to secure Pakistan's independence. Following the collapse of Cabinet Mission 1946, Atlee issued a statement in which he set a date for the transfer of power and evacuation from India.

# PLAN BALKAN

- ❖ Between March and May of 1947, Mountbatten decided that the Cabinet Mission Plan had become untenable and formulated an alternative plan.
- ❖ This plan envisaged the transfer of power to separate provinces (or to a confederation, if formed before the transfer)
- ❖ Punjab and Bengal were given the option to vote for partition of their provinces.



❖ The various units thus formed along with the princely states (rendered independent by lapse of paramountcy) would have the option of joining India or Pakistan or remaining separate.

❖ The plan was quickly abandoned after Nehru reacted violently to it.



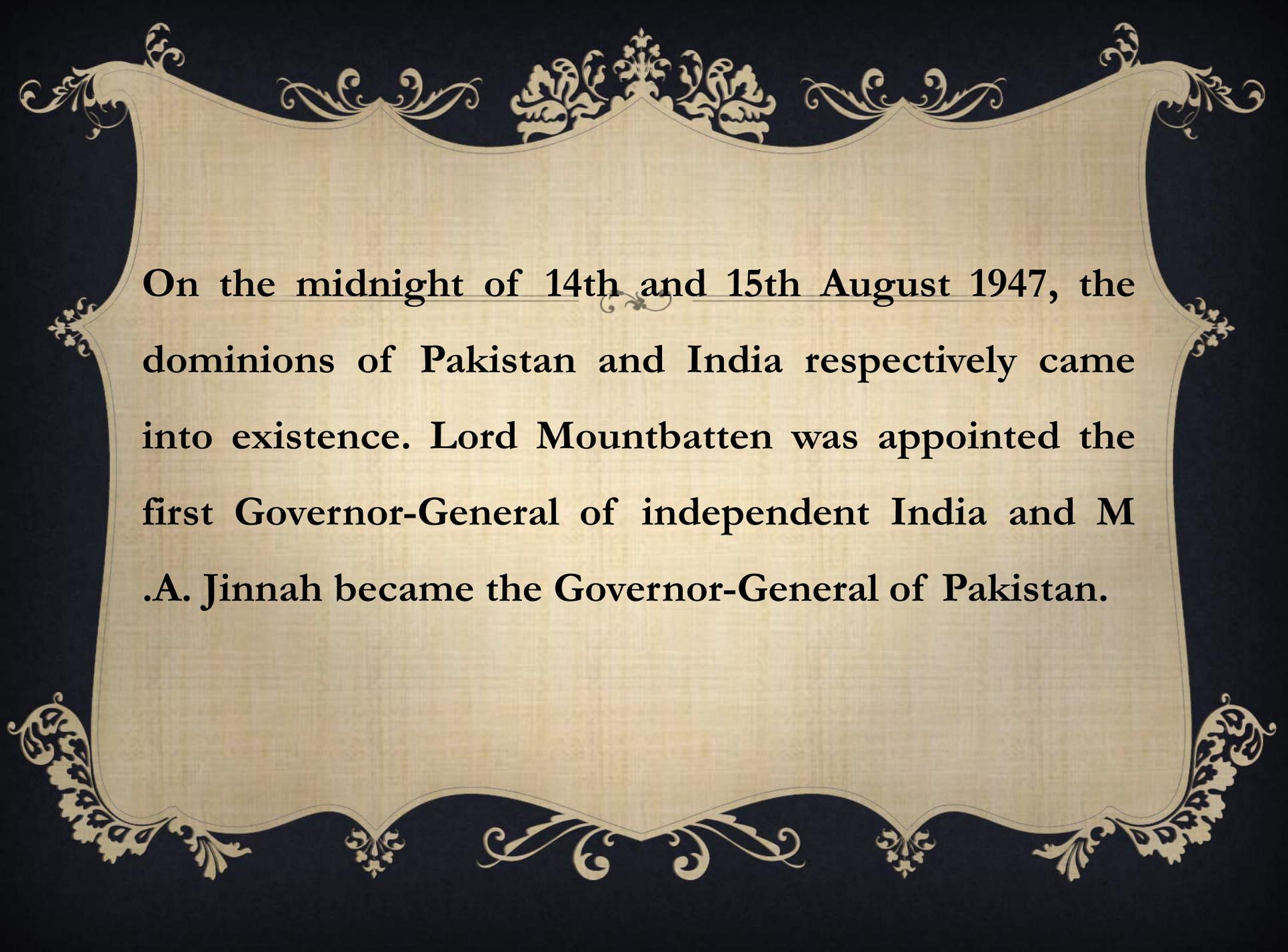
# MOUNTBATTEN PLAN

## ‘DICKIE BIRD PLAN’.

- ❖ Lord Mountbatten came to India as the last Viceroy and was assigned the task of a speedy transfer of power by the then British Prime Minister Clement Atlee.
- ❖ In May 1947, Mountbatten came up with a plan under which he proposed that the provinces be declared independent successor states and then be allowed to choose whether to join the constituent assembly or not. This plan was called the ‘Dickie Bird Plan’.
- ❖ Jawaharlal Nehru when apprised of the plan, vehemently opposed it saying it would lead to Balkanisation of the country. Hence, this plan was also called Plan Balkan.

# THE JUNE 3 PLAN

- Then, the viceroy came up with another plan called the June 3 Plan. This plan was the last plan for Indian independence. It is also called the Mountbatten Plan.
- The June 3 Plan included the principles of partition, autonomy, sovereignty to both nations, right to make their own constitution.
- Above all, the Princely States such as Jammu and Kashmir were given a choice to either join India or Pakistan. The consequences of these choices would affect the new nations for decades to come.
- This plan was accepted by both the Congress and the Muslim League. By then, the Congress had also accepted the inevitability of the partition.



On the midnight of 14th and 15th August 1947, the dominions of Pakistan and India respectively came into existence. Lord Mountbatten was appointed the first Governor-General of independent India and M .A. Jinnah became the Governor-General of Pakistan.