

**PROCEEDINGS AND RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED DURING 37TH SESSION OF THE
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY OF BHUTAN HELD ON 4TH DAY OF THE 8TH MONTH
OF THE WATER RAT YEAR**

**HIS MAJESTY'S ADDRESS ON THE OPENING DAY OF
THE 37TH SESSION OF THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON SEPTEMBER 10, 1972**

I wish to address this Assembly today briefly on the subject of the passing away of my late father His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, who was the parent of our country's welfare and our most beloved and precious ruler. To the great misfortune of the nation His Majesty fell seriously ill sometimes ago and departed for Nairobi, the capital of Kenya to receive treatment. Despite the medical attention and religious ceremonies performed for his recovery, His Majesty suddenly passed away there at 10.30 p.m. on July 21, 1972. Terrible grief has therefore come to us all as if night had fallen during the light of day. Speaking for myself also, the personal sorrow on the decease of my own father is indeed very great.

However, just as we having been born will all have to die, it should be remembered that my father has only succumbed to the transient nature of worldly existence. Our grief is also some-what lessened when we recall that during the period of His Majesty's lifetime, besides serving him well and with full loyalty, none of us acted other than in accordance with his wishes. Now, there is no benefit to be gained by abiding in our grief and I am sure it would be much better if, instead, you all prayed for his departed soul.

During His Late Majesty's reign all his actions were qualified by his desire to benefit the nation. It is as a result of this that Bhutan, from being a remote and isolated country, has now entered into the main stream of world affairs. All of you are aware that His Late Majesty not only acted for the present and immediate welfare of the country but also looked to its future security.

With regard to the cremation rites of my late father the most fitting place for its performance may be seen to be Thimphu as the capital. However, when His Majesty was suffering an illness at Phuntsholing last year, he said that since all his forebears had been cremated at the temple of Kurjey Lhakhang in Bumthang, he himself would be very pleased if the same could be done for him. The preparations we are making for His Late Majesty's cremation ceremonies at Kurjey Lhakhang are therefore in accordance with his will.

In respect of the government works which we share and which have to be undertaken from now on, I feel that for some time it would be best to continue in line with the wise policies laid down by my father.

Although I myself do not possess wide experience in Government work, I shall be able to consult with the Royal Advisory Council and with the Lhengye Shuntshog. In addition to this, it will be convenient to refer important matters of state to the biannual meetings of the Assembly. Speaking for myself, I have an earnest desire to serve out beloved country and its people as best as I can. I also hope that all of you, the monks of the state monasteries, the government servants and the public will assist me as well as you assisted my late father.

With regard to the question of regency, in Clause No. 7 of an agreement drawn up by this Assembly, there is a provision for the appointment of a Council of Regents by this Assembly until I reach 21 years of age. It will be very useful, therefore, if you can pass a resolution as to who should be appointed to this Council of Regency.

I would also like to say that I hope very much that our relations with the Government of India a which has been so greatly assisting us up to the present, will grow even stronger.

The state of peace and happiness which our country has been able to enjoy up to the present is in general due to the fact that since ours is a Buddhist country everyone is able to give recognition to the Lord Buddha, the Dharma, and the Sangha and therefore believe in the Law of Cause and Effect. In particular, our condition of peace and happiness is due to the strong and undefiled sense of faith and loyalty which has existed between the ruler and the subjects. I believe that if the Monk Body, the Government servants and the public give careful consideration to the welfare of the kingdom and dedicate their full loyalty, the Kingdom will be able to enjoy its state of peace and prosperity for a long time to come.

1. MATTER RELATING TO THE DECISION NOT TO APPOINT A COUNCIL OF REGENTS

The grievous loss sustained in the passing away of His Majesty the King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the third hereditary monarch of Bhutan, on July 21, 1972, fell upon the entire

nation as if night had fallen during the day. However, thanks to the good fortune of the Kingdom, the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness the Tongsa Penlop, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, succeeded as the fourth hereditary monarch of Bhutan.

According to an agreement resolved upon by the National Assembly in its 32nd session in 1970, provision had been made for the appointment of a Council of Regents. In clause 7 of this Agreement, it was stated that if a Crown Prince should succeed to the throne on the death of his father before attaining the age of twenty one, while the Crown Prince would be enthroned king, a Council of Regents would be appointed by the National Assembly consisting of four members, namely one representative of the Monk Body, one representative of the Public, one representative of the Government and one member of the Royal Family.

His Majesty had commanded the National Assembly to form a resolution as to the appointment of the members of this council. An unanimous decision, however, was reached by this Assembly, without any need of debate, that since the aforesaid Agreement was originally drawn up with the case in mind of a Crown Prince too young in age to reign in a proper manner, and in view of the fact that the Crown Prince was now eighteen years old and fully capable of reigning as King, and taking into consideration the fact that he himself had given a clear declaration to this Assembly that he intended to follow the policies laid down by His Late Father, the entire public was overjoyed, and with full faith submitted that it would be most grateful if His Majesty would take upon himself the right to rule.

It was therefore, decided that the Council of Regents as had been provided for in the agreement drawn up and passed by Assembly in 1970 would not be appointed.

2. MATTER RELATING TO A MEMORIAL FOR HIS LATE MAJESTY

Taking into account the fact that Bhutan's long history of Deb Rajas and Kings had never produced a monarch such as His Late Majesty, the father of the nation who led it to modernization, the Assembly requested that his mortal remains be preserved forever. It had, however, already been decided to cremate the body of His Late Majesty in the forecourt of the sacred temple of Kurjey Lhakhang in Bumthang in accordance with the last wishes of His Late Majesty. Also in accordance with His Late Majesty's last wishes, it was decided to construct a stupa containing a three storied temple, the expenses for which would be borne by members of the Royal Family.

While, therefore, it would not be possible to preserve the mortal remains of His Late Majesty in perpetuity, this stupa nevertheless, would act as a fitting memorial. The public would also be permitted to make voluntary contributions of any amount towards the memorial.

3. MATTER RELATING TO THE CORONATION CEREMONY OF THE FOURTH HEREDITARY MONARCH OF BHUTAN

Two days after the sudden passing away of His Late Majesty the King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, at seven O' clock in the morning of the 13th day of the 6th month of this the Water Rat Year, the Crown Prince, His Royal Highness the Tongsa Penlop, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, was enthroned King in a simple ceremony. At a later date a more extended ceremony would be performed during which His Majesty would be crowned as the fourth hereditary monarch of Bhutan and the beloved leader of the country. The country would remain in a state of mourning until the 10th day of the 6th month of the Water Bull Year. At a suitable date following this period of mourning the coronation would be held on a grand scale, and if funds were not sufficient to cover expenditures, the balance would be sought in aid from friendly neighbouring countries.

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