

## Rare Mahatma Gandhi Voice in English Recording Discovered\*

Ashfaque Swapan  
India-West Staff Reporter

A rare recording of an English speech by Mahatma Gandhi, India's apostle of peace, has reappeared after 60 years in Washington, D.C., following a chance encounter between John Cosgrove, a former president of the National Press Club, and Rajmohan Gandhi, the Mahatma's grandson, who was at the press club in spring to promote his new biography of Gandhi.

According to *Washington Post* reporter Shankar Vedantam, this is only the second known recording of an English speech by Gandhi.

"It had been lovingly preserved for 60 years by . . . Cosgrove," Vedantam wrote. "Cosgrove's copy came from Alfred Wagg, a journalist who recorded the speech in New Delhi and produced four 78-rpm LPs that included both Gandhi's voice as well as Wagg's own commentary about the Indian independence leader."

Gandhi delivered the speech on April 2, 1947, months before India's independence and his death. Even a cleaned-up audio provided on the Washington Post Website is hard to transcribe, due to the age of the recording and the fact that the speech was delivered by Gandhi at an old age when his diction was impaired.

The speech was delivered to a group of Asian leaders invited by erstwhile Congress Party leader (and later independent India's first Prime Minister) Jawaharlal Nehru.

Gandhi touched on themes that were his passion during his entire life, exhorting all the Asian leaders to pass on the wisdom of the East to an increasingly violent and fractious West.

The great message and wisdom of Asia is its message of peace, Gandhi said in his speech. All the old sages are from the East, he said, mentioning Zoroaster, Buddha, Jesus and Moses.

"What I want you to understand — if you can — that the message of the East, the message of Asia, is not to be learned through European

spectacles, through Western spectacles, not by imitating the tension of the West, the gunpowder of the West, the atom bomb of the West,” Gandhi said.

“If you want to give a message again to the West, it must be a message of love; it must be a message of truth; there must be a conquest” – Gandhi’s words are cut off here by applause.

But Gandhi wanted to have none of this.

“Please, please, please, that will interfere with my speech, and that will interfere with your understanding also,” he tells the audience. “I want to capture your hearts and don’t want to receive your claps. Let your hearts clap in unison with what I am saying and I shall have finished my work.”

He said that Asia has to conquer the West with its superior wisdom.

“I wish to continue with the thought that Asia has to conquer the West,” Gandhi said. “The question that a friend asked yesterday: Did I believe in one world? Of course I believe in one world. And how can I possibly do otherwise?”

“Then I become an inheritor of the message of love that these great unconquerable teachers left for us . . . you can redeliver that message now in this age of democracy, in the age of awakening of the poorest of the poor, you can redeliver this message with the greatest emphasis. Then you will complete the conquest of the whole of the West.”

Gandhi biographer Rajmohan Gandhi told Vedantam that the recording was rare archival material, because Gandhi was rarely recorded in his life.

“Remember that except for the last few months of his life, Gandhi always spoke in what was not an independent India. . . As far as the government of the day is concerned, no question of recording him, and even the techniques of recording were not widely available in India at the time.”

Rajmohan also said Gandhi’s remarks could be better understood in the proper historical context.

“Perhaps I should mention that on April 2, 1947, when this recording was

made, India was not yet independent but was on the way to independence. Independence was to come within a few months,” he said. “And although the great killings of August and September of ’47 were yet to come, some serious violence had already also taken place.

“So this was the kind of climate when the conference was convened. India was about to be independent, Pakistan was also about to be created but most other nations in Asia and Africa were still quite some distance from independence. So Gandhi was confronting these Asian leaders and he was trying to give them an idea what their new relationship with the West should be.”

Vedantam said few Indians had heard Gandhi even in Hindi or Gujarati, two of the languages in which he spoke. It was only after independence that his daily remarks after prayer each day were recorded by the government, but even that has not been disseminated.

In his 1947 speech, when Gandhi speaks about the exploitation of Asia, he also remembers Africa.

“I want to include Africa, and I hope that next when we meet in India, all of the exploited nations of the earth will meet if by that time there are any exploited nations of the earth,” he said.

That was never to be, because only nine months later, on Jan. 30, 1948, Gandhi was shot to death by an assassin.

Source: [http://www.indiawest.com:80/view.php?subaction=showfull&id=1216318660&archive=&start\\_from=&ucat=1](http://www.indiawest.com:80/view.php?subaction=showfull&id=1216318660&archive=&start_from=&ucat=1)

*\* Received by e-mail from [info@mkgandhi.org] on Thursday, July 24, 2008.*

=====

### **Heart Attack\***

Let’s say it’s 6.15 p.m. and you are driving home (alone of course) after an unusually hard day on the job. You are really tired, and frustrated... You are really stressed and upset...

Suddenly you start experiencing severe pain in your chest that starts to radiate out into your arm and up into your jaw. You are only five miles

from the hospital nearest your home. Unfortunately you don't know if you will be able to make it that far.

### **What to do?**

You have been trained in CPR, but the guy that conducted the course did not tell you how to perform it on yourself!!

### **How to survive a heart attack when alone?**

Since many people are alone when they suffer a heart attack, without help, the person whose heart is beating improperly and who begins to feel faint, has only about 10 seconds left before losing consciousness.

### **What to do?**

#### **Answer:**

Do not panic, but start coughing repeatedly and very vigorously.

A deep breath should be taken before each cough, the cough must be deep and prolonged, as when producing sputum from deep inside the chest.

A breath and a cough must be repeated about every two seconds without let-up until help arrives, or until the heart is felt to be beating normally again.

Deep breaths get oxygen into the lungs and coughing movements squeeze the heart and keep the blood circulating. The squeezing pressure on the heart also helps it regain normal rhythm. In this way, heart attack victims can get to a hospital.

*\* Article published on N. 240 of Journal of General Hospital Rochester.*