

## APPENDIX VI

### THE ESTABLISHMENTS ASSOCIATED WITH MAHATMA GANDHI'S MURDER

#### Delhi:

Birla House was acquired, after paying the market value, by the Government of India from the Birla family in the late Sixties and converted into Gandhi Smriti. K.K. Birla sold it to the government after extensive negotiations in 1966. The Government of India paid Rs.5.4 million and also gave seven acres of prime land in Delhi as compensation. It was due to the efforts and pressure put by Shashi Bhushan, Krishna Kant, who later became the vice-president of India, Mohan Dharia and Chandrashekhar who for a brief period was the prime minister, that the Birla House was finally acquired. Eventually, Shashi Bhushan sat on a dharna to hasten the process of acquiring it. K.K. Birla drove a hard bargain. According to one version, while deciding the sale price of the family mansion, he even calculated the value of the fruit bearing trees and all the saplings that had been planted to the price tag. Thus it was a generously profitable deal by any consideration. Unfortunately, in recent years a misconception has gained currency that the Birlas magnanimously donated their family home, so that it could be converted into a monument to Mahatma Gandhi. This is not so.