

4. On hearing from you, the schedule for holding such meetings, particularly those arising out of the provisions of the Simla Agreement, can begin. But, in the meantime, I think it is important to make renewed and purposeful efforts to improve the climate of our relations by firmly curbing propaganda which creates mistrust of each other, and desisting from steps which may be hostile to the interests of the other country. The recent statements and observations about India emanating from your side have caused us concern and have given our people the impression that Pakistan wants to arouse suspicion regarding India's policies and intentions towards her neighbours. This is regrettable and hardly conducive to the fulfilment of the Simla Agreement to which you have referred in your letter. We are convinced that none of the countries on the sub-continent can benefit from tensions. In order to progress more purposefully towards the promotion of the welfare of our peoples, we should recognise the logic of our inter-dependence and the need for a cooperative relationship.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Indira Gandhi.

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COPY OF PRIME MINISTER OF PAKISTAN  
MR. Z. A. BHUTTO'S LETTER DATED 18TH  
APRIL, 1976 TO OUR PRIME MINISTER

Dear Madam Prime Minister,

I thank you for your letter of 11th April.

I was impelled to write to you in an earnest effort to resume the process of normalisation of our relations by resolving the impasse over the issue of overflights and airlinks.

Your response suggests that we should now be able to take another step towards that objective. We would welcome your Delegation to visit

Islamabad to conclude an agreement on restoration of overflights and airlinks and to discuss resumption of diplomatic relations and other matters mentioned in your letter. My Foreign Secretary has been instructed to contact his counterpart to arrange a mutually convenient date.

I agree that both countries should eschew hostile propaganda against each other. How can we not share the view that causes of tension in our relations should be removed.

However, I regret to note that you think that it is Pakistan which is at fault. On our side, we are not unmindful of a number of statements which have recently emanated from India and which cannot possibly help in creating a climate conducive to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Simla Agreement.

This notwithstanding, I believe that, given goodwill on both sides, we should be able to overcome impediments to the normalisation of our relations as envisaged by that Agreement.

With regards,

Yours sincerely,  
(Sd.) Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

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DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat): A statement regarding Maulana Bhashani's march to Farakka is also to be made.

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11.25 hrs.

COMMITTEE OF PRIVILEGES  
EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION  
OF REPORT

SHRI M. C. DAGA (Pall): I beg to move;

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presen-

session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M.P., at Patna on the 5th August 1974."

MR. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do further extend upto the last day of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Committee of Privileges on the question of privilege regarding handcuffing of Shri Ishwar Chaudhry, M.P., at Patna on the 5th August, 1974."

*The motion was adopted.*

11.26 hrs.

#### NATIONAL LIBRARY BILL

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (PROF. S NURUL HASAN): I beg to move\*:

"That the Bill to provide for the administration of the National Library and certain other connected matters, as reported by the Joint Committee, be taken into consideration."

Sir, the hon. House would recall that in 1972 the National Library Bill was moved in this House. At that time, I had taken the liberty of explaining the main purposes which had led the Government to come out with this motion, and I will not take the time of the House in repeating the arguments which I had then put forward. The House was pleased to appoint a Joint Committee along with the other House which held a very large number of meetings, heard a number of interested persons and organisations, took extensive evidence and has come out with many valuable changes. I would like to take this opportunity

of expressing my gratitude to all the hon. Members who had served on the Joint Committee and who had made their valuable contributions to the Bill as it has now emerged. The most important change which the Committee has introduced is to provide for a very broad-based Board for the administration of the Library. The membership of the Board would be drawn from the members of the two Houses, the University Grants Commission, universities, library profession, scholars in different disciplines covering humanities, science, social sciences, medicine, engineering, technology and law, representatives of the employees and officers of the government. The induction of these members in the Board, I have no doubt, would go a long way in improving qualitatively the intellectual atmosphere of the library, which, it is hoped, would become an active centre of research. Because it was felt that there should be a fairly large board with all the different interests represented therein, it was necessary that for the actual administration, there should be an executive council. Therefore, the Joint Committee has proposed that there should be an executive council, which will perform the duties which the Board might delegate or which might be prescribed under the rules. The Director of the Library, who will be the Chairman of the executive council, will be appointed by the President of India, who will be the visitor of the library. This innovation has been deliberately added by the Joint Committee in order to lend further prestige to the national library, because notwithstanding the fears that have been expressed in certain quarters, the national library is the most prestigious library we have in the country. Its position is guaranteed by the Constitution and the Government would like to do everything in its power within the constraint of financial resources to ensure that the national library is able to perform the duties which a national

\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.