

12.45 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* TREATY OF  
FRIENDSHIP, CO-OPERATION  
AND PEACE WITH BANGLA-  
DESH AND JOINT DECLARA-  
TION OF THE PRIME MINIS-  
TERS OF INDIA AND  
BANGLADESH

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) I have the honour to lay on the Table of the House texts of the Treaty of Friendship, Cooperation and Peace and of the joint Declaration which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and I signed at Dacca on March 19, 1972

I should like to emphasise that the Treaty embodies the will of the two Governments to pursue common policies in matters of interest to both countries and solemnises the close ties friendship between our two countries and peoples cemented through blood and sacrifice. The Treaty and the Declaration will guide us on our journey into the future in quest of peace, good neighbourliness and the wellbeing of our two peoples.

The Joint Declaration emphasises the importance of close coordination and co-operation between the two countries in trade and payments, economic development and transit. I should like to invite the attention of Honourable Members to that portion of the Declaration which deals with the exciting prospect of harnessing the waters of Brahmaputra Meghna and Ganga to the benefit of the two peoples.

It is our earnest hope that the Treaty which affirms our common goals and ideals and reiterates our firm adherence to the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence, will lead to lasting peace and co-

operation not only between India and Bangladesh but in the sub-continent and the region as a whole.

TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP, COOPERATION AND PEACE BETWEEN THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH AND REPUBLIC OF INDIA

Inspired by common ideals of peace, secularism, democracy, socialism and nationalism,

Having struggled together for the realisation of these ideals and cemented ties of friendship through blood and sacrifices which led to the triumphant emergence of a free, sovereign and independent Bangladesh

Determined to maintain fraternal and good neighbourly relations and transform their border into a border of eternal peace and friendship,

Adhering firmly to the basic tenets of non-alignment, peaceful co-existence, mutual cooperation, non-interference in internal affairs and respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty,

Determined to safeguard peace, stability and security and to promote progress of their respective countries through all possible avenues of mutual cooperation,

Determined further to expand and strengthen the existing relations of friendship between them, convinced that the further development of friendship and cooperation meets the national interests of both States as well as the interests of lasting peace in Asia and the world,

Resolved to contribute to strengthening world peace and security and to make efforts to bring about a relaxation of international tension and the final elimination of vestiges of colonialism, racialism and imperialism,

Convinced that in the present-day world international problems can be solved only through cooperation and not through conflict or confrontation,

Reaffirming their determination to follow the aims and principles of the United Nations Charter, the Republic of India, on the one hand, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, on the other, have decided to conclude the present Treaty.

*Article 1*

The high contracting parties, inspired by the ideals for which their respective peoples struggled and made sacrifices together, solemnly declare that there shall be lasting peace and friendship between their two countries and their peoples, each side shall respect the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the other and refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of the other side.

The high contracting parties shall further develop and strengthen the relations of friendship, good-neighbourliness and all-round cooperation existing between them, on the basis of the above-mentioned principles, as well as the principles of equality and mutual benefit.

*Article 2*

Being guided by their devotion to the principles of equality of all peoples and states, irrespective of race or creed, the high contracting parties condemn colonialism and racialism in all forms and manifestations and are determined to strive for their final and complete elimination.

The high contracting parties shall cooperate with other states in achieving these aims and support the just aspirations of peoples in their struggle against colonialism and racial discrimination and for their national liberation.

*Article 3*

The high contracting parties reaffirm their faith in the policy of non-alignment and peaceful co-existence as important factors for easing tension in the world, maintaining international peace and security, and strengthening national sovereignty and independence.

*Article 4*

The high contracting parties shall maintain regular contacts with each other on major international problems affecting the interests of both States, through meetings and exchanges of views at all levels.

*Article 5*

The high contracting parties shall continue to strengthen and widen their mutually advantageous and all-round cooperation in the economic, scientific and technical fields. The two countries shall develop mutual cooperation in the fields of trade, transport and communications between them on the basis of the principles of equality, mutual benefit and the most-favoured nation principle.

*Article 6*

The high contracting parties further agree to make joint studies and take joint action in the field of flood control, river basin development and the development of hydro-electric power and irrigation.

*Article 7*

The high contracting parties shall promote relations in the fields of art, literature, education, culture, sports and health.

*Article 8*

In accordance with the ties of friendship existing between the two countries each of the high contracting parties solemnly declares that it shall not enter into or participate in any military alliance directed against the other party.

Each of the high contracting parties shall refrain from any aggression against the other party and shall not allow the use of its territory for committing any act that may cause military damage to or constitute a threat to the security of the other high contracting party.

*Article 9*

Each of the high contracting parties shall refrain from giving any assistance

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

to any third party taking part in an armed conflict against the other party. In case either party is attacked or threatened with attack, the high contracting parties shall immediately enter into mutual consultations in order to take appropriate effective measures to eliminate the threat and thus ensure the peace and security of their countries.

*Article 10*

Each of the high contracting parties solemnly declares that it shall not undertake any commitment, secret or open, toward one or more States which may be incompatible with the present Treaty.

*Article 11*

The present Treaty is signed for a term of twenty-five years and shall be subject to renewal by mutual agreement of the high contracting parties.

The Treaty shall come into force with immediate effect from the date of its signature.

*Article 12*

Any differences in interpreting any article or articles of the present Treaty that may arise between the high contracting parties shall be settled on a bilateral basis by peaceful means in a spirit of mutual respect and understanding.

**DONE IN DACCA ON THE NINETEENTH DAY OF MARCH NINETEEN HUNDRED AND SEVENTYTWO**

**Sd. (Smt.) INDIRA GANDHI**

*Prime Minister*

*For the Republic of India*

**Sd. SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN**

*Prime Minister*

*For the People's Republic of Bangladesh*

**JOINT DECLARATION OF THE PRIME  
MINISTERS OF INDIA AND BANGLA  
DESH ON 19TH MARCH, 1972, AT  
DACCA**

At the invitation of his Excellency the Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Prime Minister of India, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, visited Dacca from the 17th to 19th March, 1972. The Indian Prime Minister was accompanied by the Foreign Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh, Professor S. Chakravarty, Member of the Planning Commission, Mr. P. N. Haksar, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. T. N. Kaul, Foreign Secretary, Mr. P. N. Dhar, Secretary to Prime Minister and other officials. During her stay in Dacca the Prime Minister addressed a mammoth public meeting and was accorded a Civic Reception. The affection and warmth shown by the people of Bangladesh on these occasions towards the Indian Prime Minister were symbolic of the close friendship and fraternal feelings that characterise the relations between the peoples of India and Bangladesh.

The two Prime Ministers discussed matters of mutual interest at length on several occasions during this visit. The Indian Foreign Minister, Sardar Swaran Singh, also held separate talks with the Foreign Minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Abdus Samad Azad, on bilateral relations and on the international situation.

The opportunity of this visit was utilised to have substantive discussions at the officials, level on all aspects of relations between the two countries and also to review the international situation with special reference to the problems that Bangladesh and India face in the context of recent developments in Asia. On the official level talks on political matters the Bangladesh side was represented by Mr. Ruhul Quddus, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. S. A. Karim, Foreign Secretary, Mr. S. A. M. S. Kibria, Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs,

Bangladesh Ambassador to India, Dr. A.R. Mallick, Mr. Justice Munim, Law Secretary, and Nurul Islam of the Home Ministry.

At the talks on economic matters the Bangladesh side was represented by Dr. Nurul Islam, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, Dr. Musharraf Husain, Member, Planning Commission, Professor Rehman Sobhan, Member, Planning Commission, Mr. Matuil Islam, Finance Secretary, Mr. B. M. Abbas, Adviser to the Prime Minister on Irrigation and Flood Control, Mr. Nur Mohammad, Commerce Secretary, Mr. A. Samad, Transport Secretary, Mr. Al-Hussainy, Secretary, Power and Irrigation and other officials.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed admiration for the valiant armed forces of India who made supreme sacrifices in fighting shoulder to shoulder with all sections of the brave Mukti Bahini to end the tyrannical colonial rule of Pakistan in the sacred soil of Bangladesh. He mentioned with appreciation the impeccable behaviour of the Indian troops during their brief stay in Bangladesh. Having accomplished their mission, the last units of the Indian armed forces had withdrawn earlier than the deadline agreed upon.

Reviewing the international situation with particular reference to recent developments in Asia, the two Prime Ministers took note of the forces threatening the security, stability and territorial integrity of countries of the region. They affirm their solidarity in resisting these forces. Both the Prime Ministers express the confidence that the close and firm bonds of friendship between the peoples of India and Bangladesh would effectively counter efforts by interested countries to reverse the course of history.

In this context the two Prime Ministers declare their determination to continue to adhere to the policy of non-alignment

which has played a positive and constructive role in strengthening national sovereignty and independence and the forces of peace, stability and prosperity in international relations.

To give concrete expression to the similarity of views, ideals and interests between India and Bangladesh, the two Prime Ministers decided to sign a treaty of friendship and cooperation and peace.

The two Prime Ministers further decided that in order to strengthen cooperation between the two countries regular consultations shall be held between the officials of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Defence, Planning Commissions and the Ministries and Departments dealing with economic, commercial, cultural and technical affairs of the two Governments. Such consultations will take place periodically, at least once every six months.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh drew the attention of the Prime Minister of India to the plight of the Bengalee population in Pakistan and emphasized the imperative need for their early repatriation. The Prime Minister of India assures the Government of Bangladesh of all assistance facilitating the process particularly in giving transit in facilities for such repatriation.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh apprised the Prime Minister of India of the steps taken by the Government of Bangladesh to expedite the trials of members of Pakistani armed forces and civil servants who are guilty of committing war crimes, genocide and crimes against humanity in Bangladesh, in accordance with international law. Both the Prime Ministers express the hope that these trials will bring the guilty persons to justice and also bring home to the world at large the enormity of the sufferings of the people of Bangladesh. The Prime Minister of India assures the Prime Minister of Bangladesh that the Government of India will fully cooperate with the Government of Bangla-

[Shrimati Indira Gandhi]

desh in bringing those guilty persons to justice who are responsible for the worst genocide in recent times

At the same time the two Prime Ministers agree that seriously sick and wounded prisoners of war, who are not guilty of war crimes, will be repatriated to Pakistan as a matter of priority by mutual consent

In the context of the declared adherence of the Government and the people of Bangladesh to the ideals and objectives of the United Nations Charter the Prime Minister of India assures the Government of Bangladesh of the Government of India's full support and cooperation for the admission of Bangladesh to the United Nations and other U N agencies Both the Prime Ministers agree that the Bangladesh joining the U N would be a significant step forward in promoting world peace and ensuring stability in South Asia

The two Prime Ministers declare that the Indian Ocean area should be kept free of great power rivalries and military competitions They express their opposition to the creation of land air and naval bases in the area It is their conviction that this is the only way of ensuring the freedom of navigation and safety of the sea lanes in the Indian ocean for trade and commerce which is vital to the development and stability of the littoral States The two Prime Ministers further express their determination to endeavour to make the Indian Ocean area a nuclear free zone

Consistent with the decisions taken at the meetings of the Foreign Ministers of Bangladesh and India in January, 1972, and of the Prime Ministers early in February, 1972, to strengthen economic and developmental cooperation, the two Prime Ministers decide

(a) To establish a Joint Rivers Commission comprising of experts of both countries on a permanent basis to carry out a comprehensive survey of the river systems shared by the two countries, formulate projects concerning both the countries in

the fields of flood control and to implement them

Experts of the two countries are directed to formulate detailed proposals on advance flood warnings flood forecasting study of flood control and irrigation projects on the major river systems and examine the feasibility of linking the power grids of Bangladesh with the adjoining areas of India, so that the water resources of the region can be utilised on an equitable basis for the mutual benefit of the peoples of the two countries

(b) The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed his gratitude to the Prime Minister of India for the economic assistance extended so far and for assurance of future assistance according to the requirement of Bangladesh The two Prime Ministers reviewed the progress of deliveries of supplies of foodgrain and other commodities under the economic assistance programme and recognised the need to accelerate deliveries under this programme in view of the urgent economic need of the rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh

(c) Both the Prime Ministers approved the principles of the revival of transit trade and the agreement on border trade

They directed that these agreements as well as the general trade and payments agreements should be signed by the end of March, 1972

Keeping in view the important role that science and technology plays in accelerating economic and social development, the two Prime Ministers direct that experts and officials of the Governments of Bangladesh and India shall have consultations and exchange information on

- (I) Peaceful uses of nuclear energy,
- (II) Technological and scientific research for industrial development
- (III) Utilisation of future space research for communication purposes.

Conscious of the close historical and cultural affinities between the peoples of India and Bangladesh, the two Prime Ministers decide that concrete steps should be taken by the appropriate agencies of the two Governments to strengthen cultural relations between the two countries. The two Prime Ministers direct that the concerned authorities of the two Governments should undertake immediate discussions for the signing of a bilateral agreement on cultural, scientific and technological cooperation.

The two Prime Ministers are fully satisfied at the progress made and the concrete results achieved during their talks at Dacca and express the hope that these understandings and agreements would constitute a sound and durable basis for cooperation between India Bangladesh for the mutual benefit and prosperity of the two countries.

The Prime Minister of India thanks the Minister of Bangladesh for the hospitality, affection and kindness shown to her and her colleagues by the Prime Minister and Begum Mujibur Rahman, the Government and the people of Bangladesh during her visit to Dacca. The Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed satisfaction that the Prime Minister of India found time in spite of her many preoccupations to visit Bangladesh.

The two Prime Ministers express the conviction that the bonds of fraternity and friendship forged during the freedom struggle of Bangladesh and cemented by the sacrifices made by the peoples of both the countries, shall continue to grow and become a vital factor in strengthening the forces of peace and progress in Asia and the world.

**Sd-SMT. INDIRA GANDHI**  
*For the Republic of India*

**Sd-SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN**  
*For the People's Republic of Bangladesh*

**DR. RANEN SEN (Barasat) :** We are not satisfied. She should narrate a little bit of her experience in Bangla Desh. We are crying for it.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Every thing has appeared in the radio, T V and so on.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur) :** The newspaper reports are something; but her narration is some thing different.

**SHRI PILOO MODY (Godhra) :** Her personal experience.

**MR. SPEAKER :** We will have to request her to come to the Central Hall some time.

**Dr. RANEN SEN :** Agreed.

**SHRI S. M. BANERJEE :** That may done in the Central Hall. But Sardar Swaran Singh can narrate his experience here.

**MR. SPEAKER :** For the present, we confine our selves to the Railway Budget.

12.47 hours.

#### RAILWAY BUDGET, 1972-73—GENERAL DISCUSSION—*Contd.*

**SHRI K. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY (Nalgonda) :** At the outset, I heartily congratulate Shri Hanumanthaiya, the Railway Minister, on presenting us a surplus budget this year, and I expect that in future he will be able to achieve a profit also. I also congratulate the railwaymen and the officers who have worked hard and whose performance in the recent Indo-Pak war was excellent. But for their hard work and sacrifices, we could not come out so victorious.

As regards punctuality, the railways have worked very hard and have given a good account of themselves for which also they deserve the congratulations of the House.