

## **BANGLADESH PM'S PLEA FOR AID, RECOGNITION**

Bangladesh Prime Minister Mr. Tajuddin Ahmad's appeal to Nations, dated June 13, 1971

Bangladesh Prime Minister Tajuddin Ahmad, today called upon the Big Powers, "in the name of the wronged people of Bangladesh", not to "interfere", in favour of a "blood-thirsty Pakistan against the forces of democracy".

"I urge them also not to try to prop up the crumbling economic base of the oppressive Government at Islamabad either, directly or through the World Bank and the IMF, unless it withdraws its occupation army of Bangladesh. Let there be no doubt anywhere that aid given to Islamabad now will be sucked, in cynical and devious ways, into its war machine and used to hold down the people of Bangladesh", Mr. Ahmad said in a broadcast to the nation from the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

Renewing his appeal to the world for arms for the freedom fighters of Bangladesh, Mr. Ahmad said they were fighting for democracy against a brutal dictatorship to uphold the freely expressed wishes of a vast section of mankind for a just political and economic order.

Appealing to the nations of the world to accord recognition to the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said this Government alone represented legitimacy" in our land, founded, as it is upon the freely expressed will of its people. Our people have completely repudiated the colonial rule based in West Pakistan and are now fighting to defend their freedom", he said.

### **Appeal to Arabs**

Mr. Ahmad said "their case for recognition was based on this rather than on their suffering which had few parallels in history". I should like to assure those who have taken no position on our struggle or been only lukewarm towards it or opposed it outright, that the People's Republic of Bangladesh is on the map of the world and the determination of its 75-million people will keep it there".

"Is it rational in the interest of the nations to ignore so vast a section of mankind?" he asked.

In a special word to those in other Muslim and Arab countries who had not yet found it possible to condemn the mass slaughter in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said : "It is a tragic error on their part to think that Yahya's hordes are waging a war of Islamic righteousness in Bangladesh. Their silence, therefore, condones colonialism and barbarism, their moral in some cases barely concealed. Material support to

Islamabad puts them on the side of dictatorship and its well-documented crimes of arson, loot, rape and murder".

Mr. Ahmad said : "I want the Arabs to recall how they once fought to free themselves from the colonial rule of the Turks who were Muslims. Our struggle against West Pakistan-based colonialism is exactly analogous to their struggle against the Turks not very long ago".

### **Support sought**

Reminding the foreign countries that the people of Bangladesh had vowed to continue the war till the enemy was liquidated or forced to withdraw from their soil, Mr. Ahmad urged the nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America to support their struggle in the same way as, we supported their struggle against colonialism and imperialism. We say to the Big Powers : "Please step out of the strait-jacket of your short-sighted prudence and come out on the side of justice and democracy".

"You cannot regard massacres involving 75-million people and forcing five million to move out of their homes into another country as the private amusement of any government. Do not use your aid to aggravate the monumental wrong done to a peace and freedom-loving democratic people. Instead, use the lever to bring the paranoiacs in Islamabad to their senses", he added.

Mr. Ahmad said the war of liberation was now in its 11th week and the valiant freedom fighters had put despair into Yahya's heart. The staggering casualty figure of the West Pakistan army testified to the success of the defensive operations. The twin methods of massive terror and murder had not succeeded in breaking the will of a nation determined to fulfil its destiny in freedom. The usurping enemy, on the other hand was in a hopeless mess.

He said the refusal of the people to co-operate had resulted in an economic crisis which the military junta could not resolve without foreign aid. They had now resorted to demonetization of Rs. 100 and Rs. 500 currency notes without paying their value. This was not only a plain admission of their economic desperation but a shameless attempt to rob the people of what was theirs in order to replenish the void in Islamabad's coffers.

### **Right cause**

Congratulating the people of Bangladesh on their heroic resistance, the Prime Minister said in the new phase of their struggle, the freedom-fighters were better organized and their ranks were swelling with new recruits. And they had a cause : Their inalienable right to govern them-

selves and live with dignity in their own land.

The aim of the genocide, driving out the people of Bangladesh, the elimination of the intellectual and political leadership and the destruction of the present economic base was a complete political and economic subjugation of the Bengalis to the military lords and capitalists of West Pakistan, he said.

"To say that the methods employed by them (West Pakistan) to achieve their objectives is barbarous is inadequate. To call them bestial is a little unfair to some beasts".

"These methods and these objectives, however make absolutely clear the nature of our enemy and the cause we are fighting for. We want the world to understand that we are fighting for nothing less than our existence as a nation", Mr. Ahmad added.

Mr. Ahmad also accused the Big Powers of having "a large share" in the tragedy that was being perpetrated in Bangladesh today.

He said the Big powers assisted the rise of dictatorship and in the setting up of a capitalist-bureaucratic-military obligarchy in Pakistan by giving it arms and economic aid without regard to the manner of their use.

#### **U. S. accused**

Without naming the Big Powers, the Prime Minister said they let this obligarchy grow at the expense of democratic Bangladesh. They must now recognize that the blood that stains Yahya's hands" is also on their hands. It is being realized by Americans themselves that the economic and military aid given to Pakistan by their country made possible the carnage in Bangladesh".

The Prime Minister complimented India for her efforts to shelter several million evacuees from Bangladesh who had fled following the Pakistani army's plan of depopulating Bangladesh through systematic massacres and a ruthless scorched earth policy.

The Pakistani plan had succeeded in creating for India the problem of looking after the evacuees, which had constituted an undoubted strain on the economy.

Mr. Ahmad said : "We are grateful to India for what she has been doing to relieve the distress of this mass of uprooted war-scarred men, women and children who have been forced to throw themselves on her generosity"

### **Rain, Epidemics**

Mr. Ahmad added : "I however, note with regret that even after the appeal of UN Secretary-General U Thant, which did not come a day too soon and which was the first indirect recognition of the situation created by the continuing terror and genocide in Bangladesh, the offer of help has not been commensurate with the dimension of the problem". "And now the monsoon and epidemics have added to the already unbearable distress of the evacuees" he said.

The Prime Minister, however, assured all concerned that the evacuees were keen to come back home and were actively trying to hasten the day of their return by joining the liberation forces. This was the only way they could return home.

"I also solemnly promise that those citizens of Bangladesh who have been unlawfully dispossessed of their houses, land and other property since 25 March will have these restored to them on thier return" he said.

Sounding a note of caution about the attempts of Gen. Yahya Khan to whip up communal tension like the one he had done between Bengalis and non-Bengalis' Mr. Ahmad said in this, Yahya's aim was to weaken the liberation movement by destroying their unity and to distract the world's attention from the genocide committed by his army in Bangladesh.

But his machinations would not succeed because the people regarded the present struggle as one of every Bengali irrespective of class, community or creed, he added.

(PATRIOT, New Delhi-June 14, 1971)

