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LETTER DATED 10 JANUARY 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF
INDIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On 21 December 1971, the Security Council adopted resolution 307 (1971) dealing with the recent armed conflict in the Indian subcontinent. On the same day, the Foreign Minister of India made a statement before the Council giving India's view on this resolution soon after it had been adopted. In this statement, he said: "The Government of India will give due consideration to the resolution of the Council and make further comments if they deem any necessary".

2. The Government of India have now further examined the resolution. They have confirmed that the Foreign Minister said on 21 December and have asked me to send you the following additional comments:

3. The requirement of the resolution for a durable cease-fire has not been fully met. On behalf of the Government of India, I have already informed the Council of several breaches of the cease-fire by the Pakistan armed forces since 21 November 1971.

In the western theatre, including the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, the Government of India are willing to open bilateral negotiations with the Government of Pakistan for effective withdrawal as soon as practicable of all armed forces. It is our hope that the Government of Pakistan will approach the remaining problems born of the events of last year and the recent unfortunate conflict with a view to ensuring a durable peace in the subcontinent.

As regards the withdrawal of Indian troops from Bangla Desh, both the Governments of India and of Bangla Desh are seized of the matter. This is to assure you that the withdrawal of the Indian armed forces will take place as soon as the two Governments consider it practicable. I should like to repeat my Foreign Minister's assurance to the Council that the Indian troops will not be in Bangla Desh a day longer than necessary. They are there at the request of the Bangla Desh Government.

4. The Government of India continue to refrain from any action which may aggravate the situation in the subcontinent or endanger international peace. However, they cannot but note with regret that public declarations made in the recent past by some Governments do not contribute to the objective the Council has in mind. It is also to be noted that public discussion of the attitudes during the period of hostilities, as also certain fresh developments, have tended to introduce new elements of concern in the region.

5. The Government of India are fully abiding by the Geneva Conventions of 1949.

6. With the establishment of the Government of Bangla Desh and the speedy process of restoration of normalcy in that country, the Government of India are glad to note that the Bangla Desh refugees in India, totalling nearly 10 millions on 4 December 1971, have started to return home. Until today, over a million refugees have already returned, and it is our hope that with the proposed arrangements by the Government of Bangla Desh, most of the refugees will go back home in the course of the next two months. Such co-operation and assistance as the Secretary-General can render for the rehabilitation of these unfortunate refugees will be greatly appreciated.

Your special representative, Mr. Vittorio Winspeare-Guicciardi, has recently visited India and Bangla Desh, and he will no doubt inform you of his views of the solution of the humanitarian problems, not only as regards the refugees but for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the devastated land of Bangla Desh and for the adequate protection of innocent members of the minority communities both in Bangla Desh and in Pakistan. We, on our part, will do everything possible to co-operate with the Governments concerned, as also with the United Nations organs, for a speedy and satisfactory solution to all the humanitarian problems that have arisen as a result of the military and brutal repression of the people of Bangla Desh for nine months by the Pakistan army and as an aftermath of hostilities.

It is requested that this letter may kindly be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. SEN

