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LETTER DATED 8 MARCH 1972 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO
THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL.

1. I enclose the text of a statement of 14 February made by the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh. This statement was issued with reference to a letter dated 30 December 1971 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Permanent Representative of Pakistan (S/10487).
2. I should add that, since 14 February, when the attached statement was issued, the number of States according recognition to the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has increased from 35 and stands today at 51.
3. It is requested that this letter and its enclosure may kindly be circulated as an official document of the Security Council.

(Signed) S. SEN

Text of a Statement of 14 February 1972
by the Government of the People's Republic
of Bangladesh

1. The attention of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has been drawn to a communication dated 30 December 1971 addressed to the Secretary-General by the Pakistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations. It has been stated that the President of Pakistan has initiated direct discussion with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman "for political settlement of the East Pakistan problem". The Government of Bangladesh takes serious exception to this malicious attempt by Pakistan to misrepresent the facts of the situation in the United Nations.
2. It is but one more futile effort on the part of the Government of Pakistan to shut its eyes to the realities of the events that have taken place in Bangladesh since 25 March 1971. The unprovoked and barbarous attack of the Pakistan army on the innocent and unarmed people of Bangladesh on the night of 25 March 1971 ended all possibility for the two wings of erstwhile Pakistan to remain together in a single political entity. The elected representatives of the people thereupon declared the independence of Bangladesh, and the People's Republic of Bangladesh was formally proclaimed. A war of liberation was begun to oust the Pakistan occupation forces from Bangladesh territory. On 16 December, the Pakistan forces were compelled to surrender to the allied forces in Dacca.
3. During this period, the undisputed leader of the people and Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was held in illegal detention in Pakistan. The ignominious defeat of the occupation forces of Pakistan in Bangladesh and the mounting pressure of world opinion finally forced the Pakistan Government to release him, unconditionally.
4. Since his return to Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman has made various public pronouncements in which he has unequivocally stated that Bangladesh will remain a sovereign State and that there is no question of Bangladesh existing within the framework of Pakistan. Addressing a public meeting in Dacca on 10 January, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman said that "Bangla is today an independent and sovereign country, and this freedom will stay for ever". In his press conference at Dacca on 14 January, the first since assuming the office of Prime Minister, which was attended by a large number of foreign correspondents, he declared: "As regards our relations with Pakistan, I expect Mr. Bhutto to accept the reality of independent, sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh".
5. The Government of Bangladesh has established its firm control over the entire territory of what was formerly known as East Pakistan. More than 35 states, including the Soviet Union, the United Kingdom, France, India and Japan, have accorded recognition to the new State.
6. In view of the above, the statement of the Pakistan Permanent Representative to the United Nations can be motivated only by a desire to deceive the world about the real state of affairs in an effort to deny or delay recognition by other States and make it difficult for the eighth largest nation in the world to take its rightful place in the United Nations.

