

# UNITED NATIONS



GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY



SECURITY  
COUNCIL

Distr.  
GENERAL

A/8665

S/10562

14 March 1972

ENGLISH

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH/RUSSIAN

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Twenty-seventh session

Item 34 of the preliminary list\*

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DECLARATION ON  
THE STRENGTHENING OF INTERNATIONAL  
SECURITY

SECURITY COUNCIL

Twenty-seventh year

I should be grateful if you would arrange for the Joint Declaration of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bangladesh to be circulated as an official document of the Security Council and the General Assembly.

The Russian and English texts of the Declaration are attached.

(Signed) Y. MALIK

Permanent Representative of the  
USSR to the United Nations

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\* A/8700.

JOINT DECLARATION OF THE SOVIET UNION AND THE  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH

At the invitation of the Soviet Government, the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, who was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs H.E.M. Abdus Samad, paid an official friendly visit to the Soviet Union from 1 to 5 March 1972.

During their stay in the Soviet Union, the Prime Minister and his party, in addition to Moscow, also visited Leningrad and Tashkent. The distinguished guests from Bangladesh had an opportunity to acquaint themselves with the life of Soviet people, the achievements of the Soviet Union in the fields of economy, science and culture.

The head of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and his party were everywhere accorded a warm welcome which testified to the feelings of sincere friendship and high esteem of Soviet people to the people of Bangladesh and its leaders.

Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman was received by the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU L.I. Brezhnev. He was also received by the President of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR N.V. Podgomy. Cordial and friendly discussions took place in the course of these meetings.

Talks were held between the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR A.N. Kosygin and the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in which took part:

From the Soviet side: Secretary of the Central Committee of the CPSU B.W. Ponomarev, Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR N.K. Baibakov and V.N. Novikov, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A.A. Gromyko, Minister of Defence of the USSR Marshal A.A. Grechko, Chairman of the State Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries S.A. Skachkov, First Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade M.R. Kuzmin, Deputy Foreign Minister of the USSR N.P. Firyubin, Ambassador of the USSR in the People's Republic of Bangladesh V.F. Popov, Head of Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A.A. Fomin;

From the side of the People's Republic of Bangladesh: Minister of Foreign Affairs M. Abdus Samad, Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission Dr. Nurul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs S.A. Karim, Secretary of the Finance Ministry Hattul Islam, General Director of a Department of the Foreign Ministry S.A.M.C. Kibria, Ambassador of the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the USSR Shamsur Rahman.

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The Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A.A. Gromyko had meetings and discussions with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of Bangladesh M. Abdus Samad.

In the course of the discussions and talks held in an atmosphere of cordiality and mutual understanding consideration was given to the questions of the bilateral relations and to the topical international problems.

On behalf of the people and the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh and on his own behalf, Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman expressed gratitude to the Soviet people and the leaders of the Soviet Union for an active and consistent support given to the people of Bangladesh in their just struggle for the freedom and independence of their fatherland, as well as for the assistance which is rendered by the Soviet Union. The Prime Minister informed the Soviet side of the programme worked out by the Government of Bangladesh for the economic recovery, the organization of the work of the state machinery, the consolidation of public order and the improvement of the living standards of the people, as well as of the future development of the country.

He emphasized the determination of his Government to carry out wide socio-economic reforms in close co-operation with all people in the country.

The Soviet leaders, for their part, informed the Prime Minister of Bangladesh of progress in the implementation of the decisions adopted by the 24th Congress of the CPSU, of the achievements of the Soviet people in the fulfillment of the Ninth Five-Year Plan for the development of the national economy, of the foreign policy of the Soviet Union aimed at strengthening international peace and the security of nations.

It was noted with satisfaction that first steps in the development of co-operation between the Soviet Union and Bangladesh - the signing of the Trade Agreement, the establishment of sea and air communications between the two countries, and the initiation of contacts between trade union, youth and other social organizations - testify to the existence of vast opportunities for an all-round co-operation and the consolidation of friendship between the peoples of the two countries.

The Soviet leaders and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed their firm conviction that the further development of friendly relations and fruitful co-operation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bangladesh in the political, economic, scientific, technical and other fields based on the principles of equality, mutual respect for sovereignty and independence, territorial integrity, non-interference in each others' internal affairs and renunciation of the use or threat of force meets the interests of the peoples of the two countries, the interests of the common struggle against imperialism and neocolonialism.

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Great attention was paid during the talks to the questions of expanding trade between the two countries on the basis of equality, mutual benefit and most-favoured-nation treatment. Mutual desire was reaffirmed to develop ties and contacts in the fields of science, art, literature, education, public health, press, radio, sports and in other fields.

With a view to gaining a deeper mutual acquaintance with the life, culture and achievements of the peoples of the two States, the Soviet Union, and Bangladesh will promote co-operation and direct links between governmental bodies and social organizations, including trade union, youth and womens' organizations, as well as enterprises and cultural and scientific institutions.

Having noted with satisfaction that the friendly co-operation between the Soviet Union and Bangladesh is successfully developing and strengthening, the two sides agreed that experts of the two countries will meet in the near future to work out specific proposals for the further development of co-operation in the economic, cultural and other fields of activities.

Having examined the question of co-operation, the construction of a thermal power station, radio broadcasting stations, an electrical equipment plant and in geological prospecting for oil and gas the two sides have reached an agreement and signed it.

The Soviet Union will render assistance to Bangladesh in the reconstruction of the merchant marine and in the development of sea fisheries. The Soviet Union will assist Bangladesh in the reconstruction of railway transport.

Assistance will be rendered in the training of national cadres for various branches of the industry and agriculture of Bangladesh, and consultative services will be also provided on the questions of the reconstruction of industry.

The Soviet Union will provide helicopters to Bangladesh for the improvement of air communication with the interior areas of the country.

The two sides have agreed to expand trade between the two countries. In particular, the Soviet Union expressed its readiness to purchase not only the goods traditionally exported by Bangladesh, but also other goods.

The Soviet Union regards with respect the policy of non-alignment and friendship among nations pursued by the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which is an important contribution to maintaining peace and reducing international tensions.

The People's Republic of Bangladesh highly appreciates the peaceful policy of the Soviet Union aimed at strengthening friendship and co-operation with all nations and all-round support for national liberation movements.

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With a view to actively promote international security and the development of friendly relations between States, irrespective of their social systems, and in the interests of developing the bilateral co-operation in all fields, the Soviet Union and Bangladesh agreed to hold regular political consultations between the two Governments at various levels on all important matters involving the interests of both States. Such consultations will be carried out through meetings of leading statesmen and sending official delegations and special representatives of the Governments, through normal diplomatic channels and in other forms.

In view of the mutual desire to further develop and strengthen friendship and co-operation between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bangladesh, it was agreed to study, with account being taken of the exchange of views which took place, additional measures that might be taken to consolidate in an appropriate manner the relations existing between the two States.

During the talks great attention was given to the situation existing on the subcontinent.

As a result of the exchange of views the Soviet leaders and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh noted with satisfaction that the emergence of a new independent State - the People's Republic of Bangladesh - is an outcome of the triumphant national liberation struggle of the people of Bangladesh. That struggle revealed with utmost clarity not only the attitude of different States to the just cause of the people of Bangladesh but also the true friends and the foes of the People's Republic of Bangladesh as a new independent State.

The Soviet Union and Bangladesh call upon all peace-loving countries to display the necessary vigilance, to rebuff resolutely all attempts at interference from outside and to preclude new complications in the relations between the countries of the subcontinent. They believe that the Governments of all countries which cherish peace on the subcontinent will direct their efforts towards an early normalization of the situation in that region. The recognition of the sovereign People's Republic of Bangladesh by an increasing number of States is convincing evidence of the realization of the situation actually obtaining in that area.

Unanimous opinion was expressed that an early political settlement taking into account the legitimate interests of the peoples of the subcontinent would considerably facilitate the advancement of the countries of the area along the path of economic and social progress.

The Soviet Union and Bangladesh state that a genuine political settlement on the subcontinent can only be achieved through negotiations between the States directly concerned, without outside interference and having regard to the actual situation, on the basis of the legitimate rights and interests of its people. They are convinced that the achievement of a genuine political settlement will contribute to the normalization of the situation on the subcontinent and will be an important contribution to ensuring international peace and security.

During the exchange of views on other topical international issues the two sides confirmed their willingness to continue their all-out support to the peoples fighting against imperialist aggression, for their national liberation

The Soviet leaders and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh expressed their deep concern over the situation in South-East Asia. They expressed themselves in favour of ensuring peace and security for the peoples of Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia and the realization of their legitimate rights to determine their own destiny in conformity with their national interests and free of any outside interference.

The Soviet Union and Bangladesh declare their profound conviction that the well-known seven-point proposals of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet-Nam constitute a realistic and constructive basis for a peaceful political settlement of the Viet-Nam problem.

They expressed their serious concern at the continuing Israeli occupation of Arab territories in the Middle East which creates a situation of tension and poses a threat to peace. The need was stressed for all States concerned to exert efforts in order to achieve a stable and just peace in that region on the basis of full implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution of 22 November 1967, and with the assistance of Ambassador Jarring's mission envisaged by that resolution.

Guided by the desire to contribute to the improvement of the international situation, the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh highly appreciates the efforts of the Soviet Union and other socialist countries aimed at convening an All-European Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe as an important step towards the relaxation of tension not only on the European continent but also throughout the world.

In the course of the discussions it was noted that the cessation of the arms race and the attainment of general and complete disarmament covering both nuclear and conventional armaments under strict international control are of primary importance for the preservation and strengthening of peace and security. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh supports the decision to convene a World Disarmament Conference, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on the initiative of the Soviet Union. The Conference may be helpful in working out practicable and generally acceptable ways of solving urgent disarmament problems.

In supporting the generally recognized rules of international law governing the use of sea space, the Soviet Union and Bangladesh pronounced themselves in favour of the need to establish the breadth of territorial waters in conformity with the practice of the overwhelming majority of States as well as to settle the relevant problems, and they express their readiness further to co-operate with each other in achieving these aims.

Guided by the ideals of equality of all peoples, irrespective of race or religion, the sides come out for a prompt and complete elimination of the vestiges of colonialism and for the unconditional implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. They resolutely condemn racism and apartheid in all forms and manifestations.

The Soviet leaders noted with satisfaction the statement by the Prime Minister to the effect that Bangladesh completely agrees with the principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and assumes all the obligations which the United Nations Charter imposes on States. In view of this, the Soviet Union will support the request of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to be admitted to United Nations membership.

During their stay in Moscow, Prime Minister Mujibur Rahman and his party took part in the meeting of representatives of the people of the capital and faculty members and students of the Lomonosov State University of Moscow held on the occasion of the establishment of the Society for Friendship between the Peoples of the Soviet Union and of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The Soviet leaders and the Prime Minister of Bangladesh declare their full support for the activities of the friendship societies established in both countries.

They attach great importance to the development of personal contacts at all levels between the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of Bangladesh and declare their mutual intention to expand exchanges of visits by statesmen, representatives of social, scientific, cultural and other organizations of the two countries.

The visit by the Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to the Soviet Union and the talks and discussions with the Soviet leaders held during the visit will undoubtedly contribute to the further development of the relations of friendship and comprehensive co-operation between the two countries and to the strengthening of peace and international security.

The Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman invited the General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee L.I. Brezhnev, the President of the Presidium of the USSR Supreme Soviet B.N.V. Podgorny, the Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR A.N. Kosygin and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR A.A. Gromyko to pay official friendship visits to the People's Republic of Bangladesh at a time of their convenience. The invitations were accepted with gratitude.

For the Union of Soviet  
Socialist Republics

A. KOSYGIN

For the People's Republic  
of Bangladesh

Sheikh MUJIBUR RAHMAN

Moscow, 3 March 1972