

abzada A.M. Raza,
HQA., HK., SPk.,

874
NSC 956

MOST IMMEDIATE

Sunder Rosh.
January 24, 1972

No.12(24)-ED/72

AL -
Make sure
this reaches
urgent
attention
AK

I have been commanded by the President of
Pakistan to convey the enclosed message to His Excellency
the President of the United States of America.

It is requested that this message be presented
to His Excellency the President.

pc

The Honorable
William P. Rogers,
The Secretary of State,
Department of State,
Washington DC 20520

Encl: as above.

Copy to Mr. Sultan M. Khan, SPk., SQA., PFS., Sec retary
to the Government of Pakistan, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Islamabad.

(N.A.M. Raza)
Ambassador.

Message from the President of Pakistan
to His Excellency the President of the
United States of America.

BEGINS:

Dear Mr. President,

For some years the rice shortage in East Pakistan has been met by exports from West Pakistan. This year's rice crop totalling about 400,000 tons is similarly available for East Pakistan. Unfortunately, because of tragic political and economic situation, which I have inherited, it is beyond my country's means to send this rice to East Pakistan in the normal manner. I, therefore, proposed to Ambassador Farland just before he proceeded to the United States that if your Government could assist by under-writing the export of this rice to East Pakistan, it would give me an opportunity, which would have very desirable political impact in East Pakistan and would be of great help to me in creating a climate of confidence there for pursuing the larger political objectives with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. At some suitable time in future, I would acknowledge publicly this contribution of the United States in helping Pakistan and for contributing to the restoration of permanent peace in the subcontinent.

I appreciate, Mr. President, that there are demands in the Congress to sell US rice abroad and that the United States has not undertaken this kind of economic assistance until now. My reason for approaching you personally is that we are facing an extraordinary situation and if some way can be found to meet my request, it will have electrifying effect on public opinion in East Pakistan.

I earnestly hope that some procedural method can be found to meet this request.

With kind regards,

Yours sincerely,

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

ENDS