

DECLASSIFIED

Authority EO 12958  
By RLO NARA Date 8/19/03

MEMORANDUM  
DECLASSIFIED  
A/ISS/IPS, Department of State  
E.O. 12958, as amended  
October 11, 2007

THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

ACTION  
703

2/22/84

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MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT  
FROM: HENRY A. KISSINGER   
SUBJECT: Congratulatory Messages to  
Pakistan and Bangladesh  
Prime Ministers

Pakistan's long-awaited decision to recognize Bangladesh was announced by Prime Minister Bhutto this morning (February 22). The decision marks an important new step in the process of normalization and improvement of relations among the countries of South Asia which began in mid-1972 with the Simla agreement between India and Pakistan. We do not know yet whether Pakistan's recognition was accompanied by new concessions from Bangladesh on their longstanding dispute over possible war crimes trials of Pakistani POWs. However, Pakistan's act of recognition should remove whatever remaining possibility there may have been that Bangladesh would go forward with such trials.

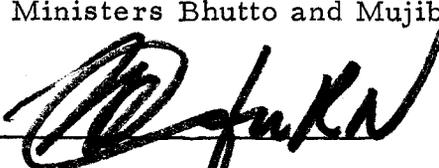
I believe that identical congratulatory messages from you to Prime Ministers Bhutto and Mujib would be appropriate, and I suggest that we send them the following message by telegram through our embassies in Islamabad and Dacca:

"I have learned with profound pleasure of the announcement of recognition of the Government of Bangladesh by the Government of Pakistan. You have my congratulations and best wishes. It is my earnest hope that this action heralds the opening of a new era of harmony in the subcontinent. ←

Sincerely,

Richard Nixon"

RECOMMENDATION: That you approve the above message for transmittal to Prime Ministers Bhutto and Mujib (Text approved by Mr. Gergen's office.)

Approve  Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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Clearance passed to State Ops 2045 2/22  
RCM