

HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL - DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE
BOSTON CITY HOSPITAL

HARVARD MEDICAL UNIT

THORNDIKE MEMORIAL LABORATORY AND
SECOND AND FOURTH MEDICAL SERVICES

818 HARRISON AVENUE
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02118
AREA CODE 617
424-

May 18, 1971

Dear Senator:

The news that West Pakistan is reversing its initial refusal of UN. aid for devastated East Pakistan is very welcome. To determine that this aid actually reaches the Bengalis will require on the spot observation by U.N. observers. In addition there is an acute need for an impartial assessment of the amount of aid needed for the 10 to 30 million Bengalis affected most severely by the conflict and the antecedent cyclone.

The need for international monitoring of relief distribution stems directly from the fact that most of the damage was wrought by West Pakistani troops fighting against Bengalis. Letters from Americans in Dacca now attest to the continuation of killing and looting and of village resistance to the occupation.² Dacca, Chittagong and other cities are still ghost towns. A real danger is that foreign food aid will be used in political bribery to force the villagers either to submit to the West Pakistani occupation or starve.

West Pakistan is anxious to convince the U.S. that it can change the image it has earned by slaughter and repression. Such a change of posture is a prelude to another attempt to obtain crucial American aid. This aid was apparently refused recently when the West Pakistani economic advisor M.M. Ahmed conferred with President Nixon.³

The State Department has announced a temporary embargo on U.S. arms and aid to West Pakistan, but only "when the conflict is in progress".⁴ This leaves open the possibility that arms and monetary aid to West Pakistan will be resumed when West Pakistan announces a return to "normal" in East Pakistan and a new "receptive" attitude to East Pakistani relief.

The acceptance of U.N. aid can mask the progress of famine reported by foreign observers to be already under way in the cyclone-affected areas of the Ganges delta. The fact that desirable propaganda value can be achieved with a pittance is illustrated by the press reports of the Communist Chinese delivery of two tons of milk powder to West Pakistani authorities in East Pakistan--an

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amount of no real value to 10 million hungry people⁵

There is real danger that the U.S. will be lulled into resuming aid which will ultimately finance a long, costly military occupation of East Pakistan. The best interests of America will be served if we support the right of East Bengalis to democracy and self determination rather than sponsor their suppression. Legislative action by congress is urgently needed to save American taxpayers the enormous cost of yet another smouldering Asian war.

Sincerely,

David R. Nalin, M.D.
David R. Nalin

J. O. Taylor, M.D.
James O. Taylor

References

1. New York Times, May 10, 1971
2. Letters of Dr. Henry Mosely, Dr. Jon Rohde, others; Reports of Eric Pace and others from Pakistan, from N.Y. Times and Baltimore Sun, Washington Post, week of May 12.
3. Highly placed U.S.A.I.D. official
4. Letter of May 12, 1971 from Senator Edward W. Brooke
5. New York Times, , May 18, 1971

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June 15, 1971

Dear Sir:

We strongly urge that you read the enclosed article from this week's Sunday Times of London remembering that the author is not a Bengali, but a leading WEST Pakistani journalist who has spent the major portion of his professional life as an assistant editor of the Morning News of Karachi--a paper that has faithfully given the West Pakistani government's view for the past decade. He was sent by the West Pakistan government to East Pakistan two weeks after the start of the bloodshed to support the government claims of "return to normalcy". In order to write this remarkable and moving document of what he actually saw, he has had to give up his career, his home and possessions and leave the land of his citizenship.

We are sure that if you read this document carefully you will be deeply moved by the enormous human tragedy that is occurring in Bengal, and also will realize that this is not some natural calamity but the result of a direct policy of genocide, ruthlessly carried out by the government of West Pakistan.

If U.S. aid is continued we will become responsible for financing the atrocities which we fought against in World War II. We will in effect deal a massive and cruel blow to India by worsening the critical refugee situation, effectively sabotaging her economic progress and seeding extremism and violence in the world's largest democracy.

We have heard the argument that "if we don't give aid the Chinese will". We reject this argument. Should we pay for killing because China might if we don't? We believe that it would be better for others to be guilty of financing these crimes than for America to do it. In fact, the Chinese response has been somewhat muted and there is economic evidence that China could not supply massive economic aid now in any case.

After you have read this article, we ask you only one question: Can the government which pursues this policy in East Pakistan administer effective and humane aid to the very victims of this policy? If we continue to give any economic aid to the government of Pakistan, we must share responsibility for the crimes it is committing.

We strongly urge that you support the Saxbe-Church bill to end U.S. aid to Pakistan until peace is restored there.


David R. Nalin, M.D.

Sincerely,

Anna Braun Taylor


James O. Taylor, M.D.

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May 8, 1971

THE PRESIDENT OF
THE UNITED STATES,
RICHARD M. NIXON,
THE WHITE HOUSE,
WASHINGTON, D.C.

Dear Mr. President,

American aid money and arms are being used by the West Pakistani army to massacre East Pakistanis and their democratically elected leaders and, in the process, to destroy a billion dollar U.S. aid program. Death through famine now threatens the millions who survive the military carnage.

WE APPEAL TO YOU:

(1) To rescue democracy in Pakistan by putting an official embargo on all arms and aid as we did during the Indo-Pakistani war of 1965. That embargo stopped the war. It can now stop the frantic and atrocious killing of civilians.

(2) To avert famine by using American political and economic pressure to force distribution of available grain, Red Cross and Care supplies to cyclone victims and refugees.

(3) To initiate discussion of the crisis in the United Nations.

We thank you respectfully for your attention to our plea.

Anna Braun Taylor
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Dr. David R. Nalin
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