

Dr. David Nalin
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02139

April 30, 1970

Dear Congressman:

We enclose a packet containing background material on the war in East Bengal. We hope that this will be of use to you during the coming weeks when the issues are discussed in congress.

We believe that proper understanding of the issues is vital to the long-range interests of the United States in Asia. The issues have been clouded by short-sighted governmental policies as well as an attempt to prevent the facts from reaching the public, as in the case of Consul Blood's dispatches from Dacca, which are not readily available to the Congress. American citizens who are government employees evacuated from the area have been threatened with loss of careers and other sanctions by their chiefs. if they reveal eye-witness accounts to the press.

The issues are (1) the suppression of a democratically elected majority by a minority military clique which has the backing of the "20 families" which hold the wealth in Pakistan; (2) self determination for an intolerably suppressed and butchered people; (3) A silence by world governments and the U.N. which amounts to conniving at continued slaughter of Bengalis. The horror of mass famine threatens the lives of over 2 million Bengalis in the cyclone disaster area; these people are entirely dependent on relief supplies until the next harvest, and all supplies have been cut off; (4) the annihilation of a people who admire the United States and aspire to our type of political system.

A word on the enclosed excerpts from the letter of Jon Rohde seems in order. This letter is understandably emotional, and the phrasing of remarks about Ambassador MacFarland is without tact. However, conversations with other Americans recently evacuated from Pakistan have made it evident that many people of varying political backgrounds share the opinions expressed, however tactlessly, in this letter. We ask you to accept this letter as evidence that the passionate defence of democracy is a primary concern of many Americans who have lived and worked in

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Sincerely,

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