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By 260 NARA Date 8/14/03

SECRETARY'S STAFF CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1974 - 3:10 P.M.

PRESENT:

The Secretary of State -- HENRY A. KISSINGER

Mr. Rush
Mr. Sisco
Mr. Donaldson
Mr. Sonnenfeldt
Mr. Easum
Mr. Kubisch
Mr. Ingersoll
Mr. Hartman
Mr. Davies
Mr. Vest
Mr. Lord
Mr. McCloskey
Mr. Buffum
Mr. Hylan
Mr. Buffum

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appeals to the people of Bangladesh to forgive and forget. And for his part, Mujib says that his people should forget and make a fresh start with the Pakistanis.

Now, this agreement clears the way for progress in the next phase of a similar process which began in '72.

So we would anticipate that there will be progress on resumption of trade among the three countries, resumption of diplomatic relations by India and Pakistan, and initiation of relations in Dacca and Islamabad, and restoration of communications, including over-flights.

So the outlook, as we see it, is for slow but continuing progress on this front, until the basic issue of Kashmir is hit, where we may come to a grinding halt.

The immediate implications seem to us to be that China will not oppose Bangladesh's entry into the United Nations. We would speculate that the Chinese might very well seek to establish influence in Bangladesh to compete with the Soviets and the Indians. And the agreement provides a basis for improvement in China-India relations and Pakistani-Soviet relations.

It has seemed to us, Mr. Secretary, that our basic direct interests in the sub-continent are not major, as far as our U.S. interests are concerned. We are interested in stability, social and economic progress,

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and seeing that the other power bloc does not exercise a predominant influence there.

So that this process seems to be in our interests and to point towards a continuation of our policy of encouraging normalization while sitting on the sidelines and trying to stay out from in between.

While the prognosis on the political side may be favorable, we look at the economic side with some concern. The demographic problem, which probably brought the split off of the Eastern Province from Pakistan, subsequent to the cyclone and the ineptitude of the West Pakistan Government in dealing with the consequences, the shortage of resources, all point to the population resource balance as being the major source of instability in the years ahead.

MR. SISCO: Could I raise one point. I will be seeing Moynihan on Friday. You will recall before you left he was waiting your go-ahead on whether he can open these discussions with the Indians. I think it would be very timely to tell him to go ahead when he goes back, Mr. Secretary. I know you are familiar with the substantive issue.

SECRETARY KISSINGER: When is he going back?

MR. SISCO: Sometime next week.

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SECRETARY KISSINGER: Maybe I can see him
before he goes back.

MR. SISCO: Sure.

[Omitted here is discussion unrelated to Bangladesh]

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