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# WITHDRAWAL SHEET

## Ronald Reagan Library

**Collection Name** TAHIR-KHELI, SHIRIN: FILES

**Withdrawer**

SMF 9/2/2010

**File Folder** S T-K CHRON JUNE-DECEMBER 1988 [09/21/1988-09/28/1988]

**FOIA**

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BATTLE

54

ID Doc Type	Document Description	No of Pages	Doc Date	Restrictions
97097 MEMO	BURNS TO NEGROPONTE RE BRIEFING BY ZIA PLANE CRASH US INVESTIGATIVE TEAM LEADER	1	9/23/1988	B1
97098 MEMCON	PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH FM YAQUB	3	9/26/1988	B1
97099 MEMCON	PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NARISIMHA RAO OF INDIA	2	9/26/1988	B1

The above documents were not referred for declassification review at time of processing

Freedom of Information Act - [5 U.S.C. 552(b)]

- B-1 National security classified information [(b)(1) of the FOIA]
- B-2 Release would disclose internal personnel rules and practices of an agency [(b)(2) of the FOIA]
- B-3 Release would violate a Federal statute [(b)(3) of the FOIA]
- B-4 Release would disclose trade secrets or confidential or financial information [(b)(4) of the FOIA]
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- B-9 Release would disclose geological or geophysical information concerning wells [(b)(9) of the FOIA]

C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 21, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR COLIN L. POWELL

FROM: WILLIAM J. BURNS *WJB*

SUBJECT: U.S. Agency for International Development  
Deputy Administrator Visit to Bangladesh

Jay Morris met with John Negroponte on Monday, September 19. Attached at Tab I is a memo from you to the President forwarding Morris' report.

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign and forward the memorandum for the President at Tab I.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by:  
Shirin Tahir-Kheli

Attachment

Tab I Memorandum for the President  
Tab A Bangladesh Flood Report

T  
A  
B

I

## THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

INFORMATION

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: COLIN L. POWELL

SUBJECT: U.S. Agency for International Development  
Deputy Administrator Visit to Bangladesh

Jay Morris has just returned from Bangladesh where he delivered your letter to President Ershad. Mr. Morris reports that the recent floods are unprecedented and have caused a great deal of damage to food crops, livestock, and transport. Loss of life has been contained but 25 million people have become homeless as a result of the floods. As the flood report at Tab A indicates, the problems are severe with the next 6 months being the most critical. We are working with AID to find additional ways to be helpful to Bangladesh, including additional food supplies, water purification projects, assistance with food delivery, and provision of temporary shelter and vaccination programs.

President Ershad was grateful to receive your message of concern and told Jay Morris that he recalled his White House meeting with you with great affection.

## Attachment

Tab A Bangladesh Flood Report

T  
A  
B  
  
A

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY  
AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20523

DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR

September 19, 1988

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: DA/AID, Jay F. Morris *JFM*  
SUBJECT: Bangladesh Flood Report

Pursuant to your direction, I escorted our Disaster Assessment Team to Bangladesh and conveyed your personal concerns and interest to President Ershad. We arrived Monday morning, September 12, aboard a USAF C-5 carrying supplies and equipment identified as priority requirements by the Government of Bangladesh, our Embassy and the AID Mission.

The enormity of this devastating flood was immediately apparent as we made our descent toward Dhaka aboard the C-5. Bangladesh literally was covered with water from horizon to horizon. Only roofs of buildings and tops of trees, telephone poles and power lines were visible, along with widely scattered "islands" of higher ground. Patches of high ground, as well as roads and railway embankments were crowded with temporary huts put up by people displaced from flooded homes.

After overseeing the offloading of supplies from the C-5 at the airport, I went immediately to meet with President Ershad at the Presidential Palace, where I presented your letter to him. He was very pleased to receive it and recalled with affection his meeting with you. I reiterated to him the purpose of my visit, to assess the extent of flood damage and to report back to you, and described the possibilities and limitations of U.S. disaster assistance.

In addition to meeting with the President, I received a briefing from his Principal Staff Officer, Major General Latif, and met with a number of Ministers and Secretaries to discuss the extent of the flood damage and the most appropriate areas of concentration for U.S. assistance. I also signed a commitment for the first \$20 million of \$60 million in PL 480 Title III food aid for FY 1989.

The rest of my stay in Bangladesh was marked by meetings with senior members of the Embassy staff and A.I.D. Mission and leaders of the Disaster Assessment Team in preparation for this report to you. In addition, I was taken by officials of the Foreign Ministry on a helicopter tour, during which we touched down at several settlements isolated by the floods which had destroyed rail and road systems.

I also observed the operation of U.S.-supported disaster relief efforts. I accompanied by boat a delivery of U.S. food supplies to a village near Dhaka that had been cut off by the floodwaters and visited the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, a major AID-funded institution where thousands of victims of diarrhea and other water-borne intestinal diseases were being treated. I also visited the site where one of the two water-purification units brought in on the C-5 had been set up to ensure that it was operating effectively, and tested it by drinking several cups of the water it was producing.

Despite the worst flood the country has experienced this century, Dhaka and its people were remarkably calm and businesslike. Though many streets remained flooded, traffic was moving, shops were open and food was being distributed through normal channels.

You can be proud of the contribution our nation is making toward helping the people of Bangladesh get back on their feet after the devastating blow that has struck them, but much remains to be done. It is not possible, nor did you expect, that a full and complete assessment could be completed during such a short inspection trip.

However, even at this early stage, it is possible to say that the people of Bangladesh face a task of reconstruction and rehabilitation that would daunt people with any less resiliency and courage. Not only will much assistance be required from the donor community, but an international effort of unprecedented cooperation will be required to formulate and implement measures to ensure that a catastrophe of this magnitude is not visited again upon Bangladesh.



Based upon my observations and assessments, and those of the Disaster Assessment Team working with the AID Mission, I am submitting for your consideration the attached findings and recommendations which we believe merit immediate attention and which are appropriate to the capability and expertise of the U.S. Government.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

1. PRESIDENTIAL LETTER
2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
3. FINDINGS
4. RECOMMENDATIONS



THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

September 9, 1988

Dear Mr. President:

I have been saddened to see and hear of the terrible conditions brought on by the unprecedented floods in Bangladesh. On behalf of the American people, please accept my deepest sympathy as you and the people of Bangladesh cope with the devastating results.

As a mark of our concern, I am sending Jay Morris, Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, to your country. He will personally oversee our initial emergency assistance effort. In addition, the United States has already pledged expedited delivery of food in order to meet your urgent need. As always, we stand ready to do what we can to help.

Sincerely,

*Ronald Reagan*

His Excellency  
Hussain Muhammed Ershad  
President of the People's Republic  
of Bangladesh  
Dhaka

1 -

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

In late August 1988, exceptionally heavy rain in India and Northern Bangladesh simultaneously swelled three of the world's largest rivers, which meet in Bangladesh. These rivers rose to record heights and the resulting flood water inundated Bangladesh. Flood levels have receded throughout the country since then, but the devastation and suffering have been enormous.

In all, 53 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts have been affected, 25 million people rendered temporarily homeless and at least 900 deaths have been confirmed to date (principally by drowning and diarrheal disease). The damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure is equally huge -- 5 million acres of rice land were flooded, 100,000 cattle were lost and 43,000 miles of roads were damaged.

These statistics -- still incomplete -- do not capture the human suffering of millions of men, women and children as they huddle on the little remaining high ground, nor do they speak to the probable longer term consequences of the flood on their daily lives. The most important implications are:

- increase in child mortality because of increased malnutrition and water-borne diseases;
- loss of income and assets by the poor and landless and their consequent decline into absolute poverty;
- disruption of long-term development efforts and loss of future national development and incomes.

### FINDINGS

1. The government and people of Bangladesh are doing a courageous and commendable job of managing flood relief efforts. In important areas, like food security, prior U.S. Government foreign aid support has made important contributions.
2. Bangladesh faces a major problem with assuring the availability of food in the mid-term, especially for vulnerable groups like women, children and very poor families.

3. In the health area, critical needs are clean water to prevent the spread of water-borne diseases as well as treatment -- such as oral rehydration salts -- for victims of those diseases.
4. Both the Bangladesh transportation infrastructure and housing stock sustained catastrophic damage at a level requiring coordinated international rehabilitation efforts.
5. U.S. emergency relief efforts displayed superb coordination between the many federal departments and agencies involved and between Washington and embassy personnel.
6. Both U.S. and foreign private relief organizations operating in Bangladesh lack the resources they need to reach their full potential as partners in the relief process.
7. The magnitude of the disaster means that the people of Bangladesh, for the foreseeable future, will need continuous support from the U.S. and other donor nations.
8. Unless regional flood control is addressed, recurrent widespread flooding in Bangladesh, with great economic and human loss, is virtually inevitable.

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

##### A. IMMEDIATE

1. The U.S. should immediately provide additional food and other support to Bangladesh. These badly needed resources will give further critical support to national food availability, reduce foreign exchange depletion and provide targeted assistance to flood victims.
2. The U.S. should immediately provide oral rehydration salts (ORS), water purification tablets, and other urgently needed medical supplies. The potential for outbreaks of water-borne diseases in epidemic proportions remains high, as flood waters recede.

3. The U.S. should provide further disaster assistance and surveillance assistance in key areas, in collaboration with other donors. The U.S. should give priority to ensuring that the initial success of the Government of Bangladesh, the U.S. and other donors in responding to the floods is not followed by neglect of less dramatic, but potentially far more serious, medium term food, health and distribution problems.
4. The U.S. should continue to support relief efforts of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). These organizations provide an effective, efficient channel for both U.S. disaster funds and Bangladesh Government funds.

B. LONG-TERM

1. The core A.I.D. development assistance program should be continued. The U.S. development assistance program in Bangladesh has addressed the basic needs of that country and helped prepare it for the catastrophe it now faces.
2. A.I.D. should develop a disaster response and reconstruction proposal and support a multi-donor pledging session. The proposal should also address how AID and other donors can support further improvement in disaster preparedness in Bangladesh.
3. The United States should provide support to a multilateral effort to identify and resolve on a regional basis the long term causes of flooding in Bangladesh. We should support these efforts politically, and make available the technical resources of the United States to develop solutions, and encourage efforts to identify the means to implement them.





## FINDINGS

### I. THE FLOOD DISASTER

In late August 1988, exceptionally heavy rains in India and Northern Bangladesh simultaneously swelled three of the world's largest rivers, which meet in Bangladesh. These rivers rose to record heights and flood water inundated Bangladesh starting in the north about August 30, reaching its peak in Dhaka about September 6 and then flowing on to the Bay of Bengal. Flood levels have receded throughout the country since then, but the devastation and suffering have been enormous.

In all, 53 of Bangladesh's 64 administrative districts have been affected, 25 million people rendered temporarily homeless and at least 900 deaths have been confirmed to date (principally by drowning and diarrheal disease). The damage to crops, livestock and infrastructure is equally huge -- 5 million acres of rice land were flooded, 100,000 cattle were lost and 43,000 miles of roads were damaged.

However, these statistics -- still incomplete -- do not capture the human suffering of millions of men, women and children as they huddle on the little remaining high ground nor do they speak to the probable longer term consequences of the flood on their daily lives. The most important implications are:

- increase in child mortality because of increased malnutrition and water-borne diseases;
- loss of income and assets by the poor and landless and their consequent decline into absolute poverty;
- disruption of long-term development efforts and loss of future national development and incomes.

While the full impact of the flood will not be known for some time, this brief report provides a preliminary assessment of immediate and future relief and rehabilitation needs in the vital areas of food, health, water, shelter, transportation and purchasing power. The report makes seven specific recommendations for the United States response to immediate catastrophic flood needs, for longer term rehabilitation and for future flood control.

## II. DAMAGE ASSESSMENT

### A. FOOD SECURITY

An estimated 20-25 percent of the present standing crop may have been destroyed and the prospect of replanting the destroyed portion is very dim because in many areas standing flood waters and a lack of seedlings preclude planting by September 20th, when the current rice planting season ends. Considering the estimated total food grain requirements for 1988-89, the revised crop production figures, confirmed food imports in the pipeline, and the need for maintenance of stocks, the preliminary estimate of additional food grain requirements to be met through imports for 1988-89 is 1.9 million tons. An A.I.D. crop survey will be completed by October 15 to more definitively determine actual damages and projections.

Bangladesh was fortunate to have in storage at the time of the flood a national stock of some 1.4 million tons of food grains. National food stocks are decentralized in some 635 food warehouses. The World Food Program undertook a survey of food warehouses across the country and determined that only about one half of one percent of the stocks were damaged. The amount of personal and commercial stocks lost is not yet known. However, overall stocks appear to be good to excellent. Nevertheless, the problems of individual access to food, due to lack of purchasing power or the destruction of transportation systems, may be significant in the months ahead. We must closely monitor the distribution of basic food and medical supplies and assist the government in developing appropriate mechanisms.

There is significant malnutrition among women and children under normal conditions in Bangladesh. At best, the vast majority are marginally nourished. Even a short period of disrupted food supply is sufficient to push the marginally nourished to malnutrition. For the immediate situation, emergency feeding is being conducted by the government and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs).

The flood created a critical need for wheat seed to be used to expand plantings in the coming winter season. The seed must be available for planting by November 15. In collaboration with UNDP and the Ministry of Agriculture, emergency funding of more than \$2 million, including \$1 million from AID, has been provided to purchase and ship 5,000 tons of wheat seed, 500 tons of maize seed and several tons of vegetable seed. The

Bangladesh Government very expeditiously took action to secure and ship a portion of the grain seeds from within the region. These seeds will be distributed through the Public Seed Distribution System.

Nevertheless, critical food needs for severely flood affected areas will likely remain until the spring harvest, a duration of approximately six months. Normally, emergency food needs in Bangladesh are addressed through food for work and relief feeding programs. As large-scale Food for Work projects cannot be initiated before the end of October because of the rainy season, there is a possible need for a targeted food distribution program. After November, food needs can likely be met through Food for Work programs. The food distribution system will require continued monitoring because of the disruption of income-producing activities, normal patterns of transportation and the demands made on the system by the extremely large numbers of people who will require assistance.

#### B. POSSIBLE ECONOMIC FAMINE

The ability of the poor and landless to purchase food, shelter and health care over the next several months must be a matter of continued concern. The U.S. has vigorously addressed the supply side of the problem. The demand side is equally important. Loss of employment income and the forced sale of whatever few assets that are left to flood victims will drive them deeper into poverty. This may create conditions of famine and life threatening risks from infectious diseases due to their inability to obtain available food and medical supplies. The Disaster Assessment Team believes that these issues must be carefully monitored in the weeks ahead. There may be a need for addressing them through major feeding or Food for Work programs, or through village-level revolving credit programs. The United States will need to take a strong stand to ensure that these problems are monitored and addressed.

#### C. HEALTH

As previously noted, in Bangladesh under normal conditions, the nutritional status of women and children is poor. Because of the severe disruption in food supplies and income as well as lack of potable water, malnutrition will substantially increase. This will markedly reduce resistance to diseases and increase mortality, especially among children under five and pregnant and lactating women.

Of equal concern in the near future is an increase in measles and respiratory diseases, which are often fatal to children weakened by malnutrition. These diseases could easily spread among children in crowded refugee shelters which lack sanitation facilities. Hepatitis is likely to increase but this will not manifest for two to three months.

The most immediate needs are for targeting food to vulnerable groups, potable drinking water, oral rehydration salts, Vitamin A distribution to all children under age 3 and accelerated immunization efforts (especially measles) with particular attention to refugee centers.

We have initiated an immediate shipment of 2.8 million packets of oral rehydration salts and 10 million water purification tablets. Our A.I.D. staff in Bangladesh is reviewing intermediate needs for ORS and tablets and a list of essential drugs for potential U.S. procurement. Additional funding may be required to support local NGOs and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research in their efforts to treat and control disease. Epidemiological surveillance is being planned for the coming months to monitor disease patterns and position ourselves and the Bangladesh Government to respond to outbreaks.

#### D. TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

An estimated 70 percent of Bangladesh's road network and 66 percent of the rail network were inundated by the flood. Very rough preliminary estimates suggest that as much as 43,000 miles, or 50 percent, of the total road network has been partially or completely damaged. The total cost of this damage is currently (and very tentatively) estimated at \$11 million. The Bangladesh Government reports that 383 miles, or 22 percent, of the national rail network has been damaged, at an estimated cost of \$16 million. More precise data will become available as flood waters recede and detailed field assessments are completed.

Multilateral and bilateral donors are coordinating these damage assessments which will provide the basis for specific donor and government supported rehabilitation efforts. Three consultant firms, Snowy Mountain Engineering Corporation (Australian), Renardet, SA (Swiss), and Consulting Engineering Services (Indian) are being engaged with financing from the Australian Government, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank. In addition, A.I.D. consultant Wilbur Smith and Associates will be conducting a detailed assessment of damage to feeder roads in current A.I.D. road project areas.

USCINCPAC Engineers have completed a preliminary survey to determine possibilities for a limited short-term exercise aimed at rehabilitating one or more road segments. They propose to return to Bangladesh in late October after flood waters recede to explore sites for rehabilitation which could be completed between December 1988 and March 1989. Contacts have been established with the Bangladesh Army Corps of Engineers to examine a possible joint venture. A.I.D. engineers and consultants will provide liaison with USCINCPAC in obtaining information on local conditions and technical constraints.

Large scale rehabilitation works will be started in November and December as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, A.I.D. and other donors readjust priorities on existing projects (some of which have started in response to the 1987 floods). Additional funding will be considered following damage assessments.

#### E. SHELTER

The Bangladesh Government estimates that 25 million people were left without shelter. Until the waters recede, the actual extent of the loss cannot be determined. The initial U.S. emergency response was to provide 2.3 million square feet of plastic sheeting, which was brought in on the C-5. These 858 rolls of plastic sheeting will provide roofing material for as many as 18,000 families. Prototype models of plastic shelters have been constructed and specifications provided to the private voluntary organizations which will distribute the material to flood victims. In addition, our team in Dhaka is continuing to assess indigenous solutions to the housing shortage.

As we assist in the immediate provision of shelter we are ever mindful that natural disasters are a constant threat in Bangladesh. We are working with our Bangladeshi counterparts and other donors to institutionalize mechanisms which can more immediately and efficiently respond to shelter needs in future disasters.

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### A. The U.S. Should Immediately Provide Additional Food and Other Support to Bangladesh

The U.S. has already provided for immediate use 10,000 tons of wheat from the regular FY 88 program. This is being used for emergency feeding through CARE. In addition, we have pledged early delivery of \$20 million of PL 480 wheat of the \$60 million of FY 1989 Title III food. On September 13, I signed an agreement for the first \$20 million of this in Dhaka. Beyond that, we should authorize shipment of the full 80,000 ton regular Food for Peace program through CARE in FY 1989. To date, only 50 percent of this program has been authorized for shipping. In addition, we should authorize an additional 80,000 tons of PL 480 for FY 1989.

The losses to the current crop will not be known with precision until mid-October, when a UN-lead donor group makes an assessment. However, it is certain that Bangladesh will have very significant additional food import needs, perhaps as much as 1.9 million metric tons. Reducing for regular commercial projects, the first quarter needs will be approximately 300,000 tons. A.I.D. should immediately provide up to 80,000 tons of additional PL 480 food assistance -- beyond the regular 80,000 ton CARE program -- for emergency feeding, Food for Work programs and to support NGO relief feeding and rehabilitation programs. These badly needed resources will give further critical support to national food security, reduce foreign exchange depletion and provide targeted assistance to flood victims. The earliest possible announcement of the support is needed to ensure the maximum possible benefit on all counts.

### B. The U.S. Should Immediately Provide Oral Rehydration Salts (ORS), Water Purification Tablets, and Other Urgently Needed Medical Supplies

A.I.D. is currently procuring and shipping 2.8 million ORS packets and 10 million water purification tablets for immediate needs. A.I.D. should stand ready to support the rapid rehabilitation and expansion of the domestic ORS industry and, if needed, to supply imported ORS for the next six months. However, other donors should be encouraged to fund needed import requirements to the maximum extent possible. Priority attention and A.I.D. support should be given to maintaining the supplies available for distribution by NGOs and the private sector. Support for an emergency measles vaccination campaign

may also be necessary. A.I.D. should also continue to monitor the availability of essential pharmaceuticals to facilitate private U.S. donations of appropriate items and encourage other donor funding for them. Funding of local costs for NGOs responding to increased health care needs is also under consideration.

C. The U.S. Should Provide Further Disaster Assistance and Surveillance Assistance in Key Areas, and in Collaboration with Other Donors

The U.S. should give priority to ensuring that the initial success of the Government of Bangladesh, the U.S. and other donors in responding to the floods is not followed by neglect of less dramatic, but potentially far more serious, medium term food, health and distribution problems. The initial assessment shows the high possibility for significant loss of life and degradation of human welfare over the next three to six months. Further surveillance and assessment are vital, and A.I.D. should support these efforts in close collaboration with other donors. Critical priorities are:

1. Crop loss assessment to determine food import needs;
2. Health and nutrition surveillance to determine the need for nutrition and health campaigns;
3. Economic famine monitoring to determine food distribution needs.

The Disaster Assessment Team now in Bangladesh will prepare specific proposals for each of these areas in the next week.

D. The U.S. Should Continue to Support Relief Efforts of NGOs

The U.S response to the relief efforts of NGOs was swift, generous and effective. A.I.D.'s Office of Foreign Disaster Assistance approved the first NGO request (for \$40,000 by Save the Children) less than 24 hours after the Ambassador's disaster declaration. Cash assistance to NGOs of \$222,000 was provided within the first 10 days of the disaster. Airlifted supplies, valued at \$750,000, were turned over to the NGOs within 48 hours of their arrival.



A.I.D. has also restructured some of its ongoing projects to enable NGOs to carry out disaster relief work -- including provision of 10,000 tons of wheat valued at \$2.5 million. The Government of Bangladesh has been urged by the U.S., at the highest level, to provide further local currency support to the NGOs. The Disaster Assessment Team has developed a specific additional PL-480 food assistance proposal which would channel some \$20 million of local currency to NGOs and possibly the Grameen Bank for disaster relief assistance, including in the shelter area. In the days and week ahead, it is expected that NGOs will develop additional requests for A.I.D. support. These, too, should be given the greatest possible level of support.

E. The Core A.I.D. Development Assistance Program Should be Continued

A.I.D. has developed, in the 17 years since the birth of Bangladesh, a program to address family planning and child survival, food security and job creation. These are still the basic needs of Bangladesh.

The current A.I.D. program made a major difference in the 1988 flood to the survival of millions of Bangladeshis. The food security situation in Bangladesh is much improved from that of the early 1970s. It is dramatically different from the situation we have seen in Ethiopia and Sudan. This is in large part due to the policy reforms achieved by our Title III Program in dismantling a subsidized government food rationing and distribution system and creating an open, competitive system in which market forces and the private sector are now the principal players.

Erratic consumer price swings have been controlled and incentive prices for farmers have been established. Food assistance has also been targeted more efficiently to the truly needy through our Title II programs and policy dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh.

Health systems also have been considerably strengthened over the years by A.I.D. ORS was developed in Bangladesh and the International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research/Bangladesh is on the front line of diarrheal disease control around the world. Knowledge of ORS is widespread (more than 70 percent). NGOs are extensively involved in its distribution.

Our assistance in rural infrastructure in Bangladesh (rural roads, bridges and culverts and rural electrification) is also significant and provides a base for meaningful involvement in reconstruction and rehabilitation. Our private sector and employment generation efforts are needed now more than ever.

The United States can be proud that its programs served the people of Bangladesh well in their hour of crisis. The basic food and health security needs of millions of Bangladeshis were assured throughout the flood as a direct consequence of A.I.D.'s past and ongoing programs. These programs should continue.

F. A.I.D. Should Develop a Disaster Response and Reconstruction Proposal and Support a Multi-Donor Pledging Session

The Government of Bangladesh does not have the resources to finance the costs of rebuilding roads, reconstructing flood-control structures, repairing food storage warehouses, and a variety of other essential requirements. Major donor assistance will be required.

A specific prioritized disaster response and reconstruction proposal must be developed based on assessments of rehabilitation and reconstruction needs, possibly coordinated by the UNDP or the World Bank. The proposal should address the optimal utilization of PL 480 Title III local currency for rehabilitation and reconstruction and identify supplemental Development Assistance (DA) and P.L. 480 resources needed to support a disaster response and reconstruction effort. The proposal should also address how A.I.D. and other donors can support further improvement in disaster preparedness in Bangladesh.

G. The United States Should Provide Support to a Multilateral Effort to Identify and Resolve on a Regional Basis Long Term Causes of Flooding in Bangladesh

The causes of floods in Bangladesh are complex and have multiple technical, ecological, economic and political dimensions. There is a growing international consensus that it is simply not acceptable that the people of Bangladesh be victimized by widespread or excessive floods, year after year, particularly since solutions may largely be found outside of Bangladesh's borders. The United States should vigorously support an international effort to identify and resolve the

long-term cause of flooding in Bangladesh. We should support these efforts politically, and make available the technical resources of the United States to develop solutions, and encourage efforts to identify the means to implement them.

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Ronald Reagan Library

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TAHIR-KHELI, SHIRIN: FILES

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*File Folder*

S T-K CHRON JUNE-DECEMBER 1988 [09/21/1988-09/28/1988]

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C. Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in donor's deed of gift.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20508

7005

*Tahir-Kheli*

September 28, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR PAUL SCHOTT STEVENS

FROM: WILLIAM J. BURNS *ST-K/ba*  
SUBJECT: Bilateral With Foreign Minister Yaqub  
Khan of Pakistan

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum of conversation for the meeting with Yaqub Khan.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you review and approve the attached memorandum of conversation for record purpose.

Approve *[Signature]*

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Shirin Tahir-Kheli

Attachment

Tab I Memcon of Meeting with  
Yaqub Khan

DECLASSIFIED  
Sec. 3.4(b), E.O. 12958, as amended  
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006  
BY NARA *[Signature]*, DATE *9/2/10*

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

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NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

September 28, 1988

ACTION

MEMORANDUM FOR COLIN L. POWELL

FROM: WILLIAM J. BURNS *ST. K. Burns*

SUBJECT: Bilateral With Minister of External Affairs  
Narashimha Rao of India

Attached at Tab I is a memorandum of conversation for the meeting with the Minister of External Affairs Narasimha Rao.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you review and approve the attached memorandum of conversation for record purpose.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_

Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Shirin Tahir-Kheli

Attachment

Tab I Memcon for Mtg w/  
Minister of External Affairs for India

DECLASSIFIED  
Sec.34(b), E.O. 12958, as amended  
White House Guidelines, Sept. 11, 2006  
BY NARA *Amf*, DATE *9/2/10*

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Declassify on: OADR

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97099 MEMCON

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PRESIDENT'S MEETING WITH MINISTER OF  
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS NARISIMHA RAO OF INDIA

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