

Pakistan

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the most classic distortion of this immense tragedy is the Pakistan Government's "White Paper", a most incredible document in which everything is distorted and the Bengalees are blamed for the genocide!

Now, some of the conditions. In some areas there is an acute food shortage, making the awful spectre of starvation very near about which the excellent World Bank Report of June warned. Many people have not returned to work. Towns and cities have greatly reduced populations, some to less than half, and others have become almost deserted. Factories are running at a minimum still, and some are still closed. Transportation is very seriously affected, especially by the guerilla action. The burning and the looting and the killing in the villages continues, amply illustrated by the increased flow of refugees. A reliable outside source has estimated that up to the present, more than 3500 villages have been destroyed. People are still living in constant fear of terrible and merciless reprisals. It is no longer safe for foreigners to move beyond Dacca without proper protection.

Many are being ordered to go to work, while still others are being arrested as in the case of 12 professors and lecturers at Dacca University being arrested several days ago. Dacca University which normally had about 10,000 students, a few weeks ago had only 63. Chittagong University with a previous enrollment of 2000 has only 16. Rajshahi University has no students. In fact, all the Vice-Chancellors of these Universities are in exile and are actively engaged in the liberation of Bangla Desh. Many colleges are in the same position as the Universities, and many of them are empty, for most students are in the Mukti Bahini.

Another very reliable source, from careful observation during a recent fact-finding tour, has estimated that about 100,000 illegitimate babies will be born within the next few months the result of large scale raping by the Pakistani soldiers. This alone will create an enormous social problem, as illegitimacy is considered a terrible disgrace.

This, then is something if what the the situation of Bangladesh is like, so agonizing and pathetic with no clear end in sight, and if anything, increased suffering and more gloom. Much more can be written here, but perhaps too much has been written and said since March 25, with what real and tangible results.

Reactions for Immediate Action

Bangladesh is for real and here to stay, and its suffering will be in direct proportion to the inaction of the World Community, the Government in particular. India has done so much, thank God, and is prepared to do even more to alleviate the suffering of the Bengali people, but how much longer can she be expected to do this mostly on her own, is the question we all must face. And why should she. This is an international tragedy. This is not an 'internal matter' of Pakistan, nor is it only a matter between India

and Pakistan, which Pakistan is trying to prove to the world that it is. If foreign countries are still believing this then they are guilty of irresponsibility and even downright callousness to the terrible suffering of millions.

As I moved about the Refugee Camps, I just could not envision this situation continuing any longer. The plight of millions of people cannot be adequately described or fully felt. Nor it is possible to imagine the increasing problems which grow daily, for example the problem of morale, of education of the children, of the coming colder months, of crime, etc. How can the government possibly control this appalling nightmare. How can the government find time to do work for its own people when all the administrations in the area have been released for the Relief effort. Thousands of persons, both Government Officials and volunteers are working round the clock to cope with this massive task.

A political solution must be found very soon for Bangladesh. Six months have already passed and I do not think that many more months or even weeks can go by before something decisive will happen to either alleviate the horror, or to make it even more tragic. If this explodes into a greater tragedy this will be because the proper action required by the International Community is not forth-coming, as it does not want to get its fingers burned as in Biafra. Also the World Governments the UN included, is afraid to embarrass the Pakistan Government! Why. Why is the bloody Pakistan Government a mere handful of power-hungry

Generals, more important than millions of innocent people only desiring freedom. Why. Why. The Pakistan Government and Army have broken every possible civilized canon of behavior, it has violated and broken all the Human Rights Charters ever devised by civilized man, it has acted in the most vile and inhuman manner imaginable against the 75 million Bengalees who are supposed to be Pakistani citizens, something no longer possible, and yet the governments of all the civilized countries of the world are afraid of embarrassing the Pakistan Government! This kind of inaction is shameful and painful. All the back-room quiet diplomacy, and all the dirty diplomatic delicacies, amount to naught and adds up to sheer callousness. This is a radical situation, full of madness and demands radical treatment, not diplomatic rebukes and letters, etc. But which country has the guts besides India to risk dealing decisively with this explosive situation.

What about the United Nations.

Forget it! Or should we give it just one chance to see just what it will do in the forthcoming Assembly. Or will it just make a huge debate out of this tragedy and pass pious resolutions and sympathy, Human rights, brotherhood, etc.

Certainly the United Nations cannot work miracles, and no one expects it to, but it can really move, as all the provisions are there in charter to take action in a situation such as Bangladesh. I am afraid that the United Nations is the biggest false god that modern man has created. The job of the Secretary-General is merely that of high-priest, performing a ritual that does not have much or any relation to the real agonies of our world. The United Nations is

really a "closed club", at least it has been for so long with China not permitted to join, and the rules of the game are well established and well established and well executed by its by its membe.s who are not about to change the staus quo. If it is not this, then why the inaction. What we need in the United Nations, if indeed it is salvageable, is radical and new patterns of behavior. All the genteel diplomacy, the shilly-shallying, the doing of the World's "business" over cocktails, etc. Patterns developed in the past, are no longer relevant in today's radical world. We need new and



A sketch by a Bengal artist living in Calcutta.

radical leadership and new patterns that are in touch with realities. We must give U Thant due credit where it is due, but perhaps his leaving the post of Secretary-General is very timely. Why the hue and cry about his leaving. Maybe he has done as much as is possible.

Another very disturbing fact about the United Nations is to discover that the present UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Prince Saddrudin holds a Pakistani passport, and has considerable investments in Pakistan. How can he possibly be open on this tragic refugee situation. I raise this question for very seriously, especially in the light of Pakistan's claim that there are only 2 million refugees! He made a visit here several months ago, too, and now Pakistan is clamouring for a UN investigation into the numbers. This is simply incredible, and is an obvious stalling tactic. Meanwhile, refugees continue to pour in, and people continue to die! And what could be more preposterous and insensitive to suggest that the UN place observers on the border to ensure the return of refugees. This will never happen unless there is a political solution. Pakistan is finished.

The point of no return for Pakistan has been since mid-night March 25! The Pakistan that the world has known, and still "wants" to keep intact is no more; for the Pakistan Government has in fact dismembered the country, a political and geographical absurdity. Surely, we do not have to wait upon history to press home this point!

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