

INDIA-PAKISTAN: JOINT STATEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SIMLA AGREEMENT

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August 30, 1972

INDO-PAKISTAN OFFICIAL LEVEL TALKS

JOINT STATEMENT ISSUED ON AUGUST 29, 1972 IN NEW DELHI

In pursuance of the recent exchange of letters between the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan, representatives of the two sides met in New Delhi from 25th to 29th August, 1972. The Pakistan delegation comprised Mr. Aziz Ahmed, Special Envoy of the President of Pakistan, Mr. Rafi Raza, Special Assistant to the President of Pakistan and Mr. Abdul Sattar, Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Indian delegation comprised Mr. P.N. Haksar, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India, Mr. T.N. Kaul, Foreign Secretary, Mr. S.K. Banerji, Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs and Mr. A.S. Chib, Joint Secretary.

(2) The two sides reviewed the developments since the signing of the Simla Agreement and the need to resolve any doubts that may have arisen on either side and to ensure the smooth implementation of the Agreement. They reaffirmed the determination of the two Governments to implement the

*[Reproduced from the text provided by the Embassy of India at Washington, D.C.]

[The Simla Agreement of July 3, 1972, appears at I.L.M. page 954.]

provisions of the Simla Agreement, in letter and in spirit, for the establishment of a durable peace in the subcontinent.

(3) The two sides made the following recommendations to their respective Governments:

(i) The line of control in Jammu and Kashmir resulting from the cease-fire of December 17, 1971, will be delineated along its entire length and respected by both sides without prejudice to the recognised positions of either side. Maps showing this line will be exchanged by both sides. The inviolability of the line of control will be ensured by both sides in accordance with paragraph 4(2) of the Simla Agreement. It was agreed that the delineation of the line will be completed by the 4th of September, 1972.

(ii) In view of certain practical difficulties that have arisen, it may not be possible to complete the process of withdrawals within the period specified in the Simla Agreement. Accordingly, withdrawals to the international border will be completed by the 15th of September, 1972.

(iii) Political leaders from Tharparkar will visit areas of Sind occupied by the Indian forces in order to assure the inhabitants of the area that they will be welcome to remain in or return to their homes in Pakistan in safety and dignity from the camps in India in accordance with the plan given by the Director of Military Operations of Pakistan to the Director of Military Operations of India on August 21, 1972 (vide annexure). The Indian side will give necessary facilities to ensure the full implementation of the plan.

ANNEXURE

THE OUTLINE PLAN FOR THE RESETTLEMENT IN SIND OF THE SECTIONS OF THE MINORITY COMMUNITY DISPLACED AS A RESULT OF THE WAR, HANDED OVER BY THE D.M.O. (DIRECTOR OF MILITARY OPERATIONS) OF PAKISTAN TO THE D.M.O. OF INDIA ON 21ST AUGUST, 1972.

1. The President of Pakistan is anxious that all persons displaced as a result of the war shall be rehabilitated in their homes as soon as possible and that the lives, properties and rights of the affected minorities are to be fully safeguarded to enable them to resume life where it was disturbed by the war.

2. To this end, under the direction of the President, necessary machinery has been set up, plans made and material resources allotted to enable speedy resettlement of the displaced persons.

3. This plan, in the outline, is based on the following:

(a) That the Indian authorities have agreed in the first instance that they will arrange for as many as possible of the displaced Pakistani nationals who left for India during and after the war to return to their homes before vacating the areas in Sind.

(b) That the remaining Pakistani nationals who are unable to return for any reason

in the first instance are kept temporarily in the camps on the Indian side.

- (c) That as soon as the Indian forces vacate the areas in Sind, Pakistan forces shall move forward to re-occupy these areas. Immediately afterwards civil administration shall be established which will have a special component organised to implement the resettlement and rehabilitation.
- (d) Simultaneous with the re-establishment of civil administration, police and paramilitary forces will establish a network of posts with mobile reserves at the Union level for enforcing necessary authority to curb any hostile activities against the returning minorities.
- (e) Relief committees, social welfare bodies and teams consisting of the members of National and Provincial Assemblies of all denominations from the affected area and other notables will move in to ensure harmony between all sections of the people.
- (f) The next step will be to establish reception centres at suitable places near the border inside Pakistan to receive the balance of the displaced persons held in the Indian camps.
- (g) The displaced persons received in these

Reception Centres will be gradually moved to their homes.

- (h) As far as possible, only after the steps in para 3(a) the displaced persons of the majority community presently held in camps in the interior of Sind, who belong to areas where the minority community is also living, will be brought forward and resettled.
- (i) The strength of the police command, other law enforcing agencies is to be substantially increased in the affected area with a view to providing more effective protection to the minority community.

Footnote regarding para 3(b) above.

Indian authorities will be intimated when these Reception Centres are ready to receive.