

'Unity is greatest need of the hour'

Lahore meeting endorses Sheikh Mujib's demands

LAHORE, March 10: The four preconditions laid down by the Awami League chief for participation in the National Assembly were endorsed in principle at a meeting held here today by leaders of public opinion in the West Wing, including political figures of the front rank, retired top brass, eminent jurists, including a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, renowned Ulema of various denominations and veteran journalists.

A joint statement issued after the meeting, which was convened at the invitation of Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, former chief of the Pakistan Democratic Movement, said Pakistan stood at the crossroads and the only way to save this homeland of 13 crore Muslims from disintegration was to allow the National Assembly to function thus ending the impasse which was eating into the very vitals of the nation.

It was disturbing that internecine blood-letting was taking was the duty of every citizen of Pakistan to make his contribution towards preserving this State, which happened to be the sheet-anchor of the Muslims the world over.

CLARIFICATION SOUGHT

The statement, which was issued after taking stock of what had happened during the past two years, however, sought clarification from the Awami League chief, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, as the "mechanics and methodology" for filling the vacuum that would perforce arise from the lifting of the Martial Law and the transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people.

"Immediate action on the lines indicated," it said, "will help preserve Pakistan and save the fair name of the Armed Forces of Pakistan and this will generate mutual confidence between the two regions."

The statement vehemently refuted the suggestion that the people of West Pakistan, and particularly the people of the Punjab, were not willing to permit peaceful transfer of power.

This impression, it said, had to be dispelled in the larger interests of the unity of Pakistan. It was in token of its good faith that the meeting had examined and approved in principle the four-fold demand of the Awami League chief, it added.

NATIONAL CONVENTION

The statement viewed the present political crisis in Pakistan as direct outcome of the political blunders of the past and said it had led to a senseless loss of life in East Pakistan, which deeply distressed the peo-

ple in West Wing.

Words failed to express adequately the feelings of sympathy and compassion here for those who had lost their lives or suffered injuries in the course of the recent lawlessness and firing, it pointed out.

Steps were being taken for calling a national convention immediately, as mooted at the meeting, "so that the crisis facing Pakistan can be resolved at an early date," the joint statement said.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Mr. Justice B. Z. Kalkaus, Maj.-Gen. Umrao Khan, Mian Tufail Mohammad, Mr. M. Anwer, Bar-at-Law, Agha Shorish Kashmiri, Malik Mohammad Qasbi, Fed Siddiqui, Hasan Gilani, Mufti Mohammad Husain Naqvi, Allama Ehsan Elahi Zabeer, Nawabzada Iftikhar Ahmad Ansari, Hafiz Abdul Qadir Ropri and Sved Mohammad Sabir Jaffery.—PPI

MUFAKKAR'S SUPPORT

DACCA, March 10: Mr A. S. M. Mofakkar, Chairman of the Khilafat-i-Rabbani Party said here today that the bold stand taken by Shaikh Mujibur Rahman to establish people's rule in the country will be supported by each and every right-thinking citizen.

Mr. Mofakkar said, under the circumstances the four-point demands made by Shaikh Mujibur Rahman are not only justified but also the only way of saving the country from complete disaster.

He appealed to the President to immediately transfer power to the leader of the majority party. If this is not done, history must record Mr. Bhutto and those helping him in his game as the killers of Pakistani.

YAHYA'S DECISION

Syed Elias Ahmad Pirzada, a prominent Awami League leader of Rawalpindi in a statement said that President Yahya's decision to visit Dacca was a "most appropriate step".

Mr. Pirzada added that in order to avert the disaster, it is very essential that the President and Shaikh Mujibur Rahman should settle the crucial problems. Sardar Mohammad Ibrahim Khan, a former President of Azad Kashmir, has called upon the leaders of the two majority parties in the Assembly to sink their mutual differences and participate in the forthcoming session of the National Assembly for safeguarding the integrity and solidarity of the country.

Speaking at a reception arranged in his honour by Tanzeem-ul-Jehad in Lahore this evening he said the integrity of the country was more important than any other problem, and the people must forget everything else and should launch a vigorous movement for saving the country from disintegration.—

Mian Nizamuddin Haider MNA-elect and Chairman Bahawalpur Mutaheda Mahaz, and Makhdoom Noor — Mohammad, MNA-elect have in a joint statement in Karachi yesterday requested President Yahya Khan to immediately go to East Pakistan and hold discussion with the Awami League chief to resolve the constitutional crisis in the country.

They urged the President to save the country from destruction at this juncture no one

Qamaruzzaman thanks W. Wing supporters

DACCA, March 10: Mr A. H. M. Qamaruzzaman, Secretary General of the All Pakistan Awami League, congratulated the right-thinking people of West Pakistan today for expressing their unqualified support to the people's movement.

Every day's delay in conceding to these demands is leading towards a major conflagration and history will not forgive those who are responsible for it, he warned.

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Yahya's decision

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from among the political leaders could play an effective role, except the President, who they said had promised in so many clear words that he is anxious to transfer power to the elected representatives of the people, and send the Army back to the barracks.

They said it was high time for the President to come to the rescue and save the democratic values, which are the dire necessity and a constant demand of this country.

16 LAWYERS

PPI adds: Sixteen members of the Karachi Bar Association today demanded immediate transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people in whom they said the people had reposed their confidence. The signatories to the joint Press statement issued in Karachi yesterday are Mr Mohd Maqsood, Mr Nuruddin Sarki, Mr Ziauddin Ahmed Balq, Mr S. Abedi, Mr M. Shabbir, Mr Ziauddin, Syed Anamullah Al-Quadri, Mr Majiruddin Ahmed, Mr Hasan Jafri, Mr S. M. Kazmi, Mr M. Rafiullah Khan, Haji Mohiur Rehman, Mr K. T. Doshi, Mr Mohd Anisur Rahman, Mr Ehsan A. Syed, and Mr Massod Shahryar.

Politicians urged to