

# Statements by Mrs. Gandhi on Truce and Surrender

NEW DELHI, Dec. 16 (UPI)—Following are the texts of a statement issued today by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi on the cease-fire on the western front and of her announcement in Parliament on the Pakistani surrender in the East:

## Cease-Fire Statement

The Prime Minister has issued the following statement:

I have repeatedly declared India has no territorial ambitions. Now that the Pakistani armed forces have surrendered in Bangladesh and Bangladesh is free, it is pointless in our view to continue the present conflict.

Therefore, it is our aim to stop further bloodshed and unnecessary loss of life. We have ordered our armed forces to cease fire everywhere on the western front with effect from 8 P.M. tomorrow, Dec. 17 [9:30 A.M., Eastern standard time].

It is our earnest hope that there will be a corresponding and immediate response from the Government of Pakistan. This message has been sent to our Foreign Minister at

7:45 this evening. The Prime Minister has instructed our Minister of External Affairs to make this statement in the United Nations tonight.

## Surrender Announcement

I have an announcement to make which I think the House has been awaiting for some time. The West Pakistani forces have unconditionally surrendered.

Dacca is now the free capital of a free country.

The instrument of surrender was signed at Dacca at 4:31 P.M. by Lieut. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi on behalf of Pakistan Eastern Command, and Lieut. Gen. Jagjit Singh Aurora, commander in chief of Indian and Bangladesh forces in the eastern theater, accepted the surrender.

This House and the entire nation rejoice in this historic event.

## 'Quality and Capacity'

We hail the people of Bangladesh and their hour of triumph. We hail the brave young men and boys of the Mukti Bahini for their valor and dedication.

We are proud of our own

army, navy, air force and the border security force, who have so magnificently demonstrated their quality and capacity.

Their discipline and devotion to duty are well known. India will remember with gratitude the sacrifices of those who have laid down their lives, and our thoughts are with their families.

Our armed forces are under strict orders to treat Pakistani prisoners of war in accordance with the Geneva Convention and to deal with all sections of the population of Bangladesh in a humane manner.

## Indian Objectives Listed

The commanders of the Mukti Bahini have issued similar orders to their forces.

Although the government of Bangladesh have not yet been given the opportunity to sign the Geneva Convention, they also have declared that they will fully abide by it.

It will be the responsibility of the government of Bangladesh, Mukti Bahini and the Indian armed forces to prevent any reprisals.

Our objectives were limited—to assist the gallant people of Bangladesh and their Mukti Bahini to liberate their country from a reign of terror and to resist aggression on our own land. The Indian armed forces will not remain in Bangladesh any longer than is necessary.

The millions who were driven out of their homes across our borders have already begun trekking back. The rehabilitation of this war-torn land calls for dedicated teamwork by its government and people.

We hope and trust that the father of this new nation, Sheik Mujibur Rahman, will take his rightful place among his own people and lead Bangladesh to peace, progress and prosperity. The time has come when they can together look forward to a meaningful future in their Sonar Bangla [Golden Bengal]. They have our good wishes.

The triumph is not theirs alone. All nations who value the human spirit will recognize it as a significant milestone in man's quest for liberty.