

# Pakistan rejects allegation Refugees are victims of Indian propaganda

ISLAMABAD, May 24:—Pakistan has rejected as totally false, malicious and unwarranted the Indian allegation of deliberate expulsion of people from East Pakistan through a campaign of terror, reports APP.

Replying to India's note of May 14, Pakistan has pointed out that under the guise of expressing concern for the refugees, the Indian Government had attempted to arrogate to itself the right to sit in judgement over the developments in East Pakistan and to dictate to the Government of Pakistan certain courses of action in regard to matters which are exclusively Pakistan's own affairs.

In a note sent to the Indian High Commission, Pakistan invited India's attention to its obligation under the Charter of United Nations and the principles of international law which enjoins the member states to desist from meddling in the affairs of other states.

The note added that it was the Government of India which largely has to accept the blame for whatever refugees there might be in India. These people became the victims of the conditions created by India's armed infiltration into East Pakistan, the false and distorted Indian propaganda and the highly exaggerated accounts of incidents put out by the Indian news media the credibility of which now stands thoroughly exposed.

The note said: It appears to the Government of Pakistan that the refugee problem has been deliberately allowed to take certain dimensions by the Government of India with some ulterior motive. This apprehension is further confirmed by the fact that instead of treating the question of refugees on a humanitarian basis, a callous campaign has been launched by India for political purposes.

While Pakistan has welcomed the return of its bonafide

and law abiding citizens to their respective homes, India has been persistently refusing to take back over half a million Indian nationals evicted by her from Assam, Tripura and West Bengal to East Pakistan, the note added.

Pakistan has taken serious exception to the use of the terminology East Bengal and has demanded that in future the Government of India should refer to East Pakistan by its accepted official name only, it pointed out.

## **Pakistani note**

Following is the text of Pakistani note:

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its compliments to the High Commission for India in Pakistan and with reference to note No. D. 4622 PII/71, dated May 14, 1971 from the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to the Pakistan High Commission (Continued on page 6 col 3)

# Allegation rejected

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in New Delhi, has the honour to state as follows:

The nature of demand made against the Government of Pakistan the note under reference is indeed extraordinary. Under the guise of expressing concern for the refugees the Government of India has attempted to arrogate to itself the right to sit in judgement over the developments in East Pakistan and to dictate to the Government of Pakistan certain course of action in regard to matters which are exclusively Pakistan's own affairs.

Similarly, the allegation of deliberate expulsion of people from East Pakistan through a campaign of terror is totally false, malicious and unwarranted.

The allegations as also the demand made against the Government of Pakistan by India constitute, direct interference into the internal affairs of Pakistan. The Government of Pakistan, therefore, rejects as totally unacceptable the note under reference. In this connection, attention of the Government of India is invited to obligation under the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of international law which enjoin the member states to desist from meddling into the affairs of other states.

The figure of refugees as

istani citizens to return to East Pakistan.

This is in sharp contrast with India's persistent refusal to take back over half a million Indian nationals evicted by her from Assam, Tripura and West Bengal to East Pakistan. These refugees have been a great economic burden on the Government of Pakistan for the last ten years. The Government of Pakistan demands that India should take immediate steps for their return and rehabilitation in their own properties in India.

Lastly, the Government of Pakistan takes serious exception to the use of the terminology East Bengal. The Government of Pakistan demands that in future the Government of India should refer to East Pakistan by its accepted official name only.

## Indian note

Following is the text of the Indian note dated May 14:-

"The Ministry of External Affairs presents its compliments to the High Commission for Pakistan in India and has the honour to state as follows:

As a result of military action taken by the Government of Pakistan in East Bengal, nearly two million Pakistani nationals have been forced to flee from their homes and to take shelter in the adjoining areas of India. This deliberate expulsion of such large num-

The figure of refugees as mentioned in the note is highly exaggerated and bears no relationship with the realities of the situation. Again, it is the Government of India which largely has to accept the blame for whatever refugees there might be in India. These people became the victims of the conditions created by India's armed infiltration into East Pakistan as well as the false and distorted Indian propaganda and high exaggerated accounts of incidents put out by the AIR and the Indian Press, the credibility of which now stands thoroughly exposed. Public encouragement given by the Indian leaders has also contributed to the influx. In this connection, mention may be made of the statement by the Prime Minister of India on March 27, 1971, in which she is reported to have said that India would keep her borders with East Pakistan open to receive any refugees who might come.

In the circumstances, it appears to the Government of Pakistan that the refugees problem has been deliberately allowed to take certain dimensions by the Government of India with some ulterior motive. This apprehension is further confirmed by the fact that instead of treating the question of refugees on humanitarian basis a callous campaign has been launched by India for political purposes. In this connection, the insinuation contained in para two of the note under reference and the statement of the Indian Prime Minister at Rani-Khet on May 19, 1971, in which referring to the refugee problem, she is reported to have said that India "is fully prepared to fight against Pakistan) if a situation is forced on us" is ominous.

In so far as Pakistan is concerned there has never been any question of withholding permission to the return of its bonafide and law abiding citizens to their respective homes. In this connection, attention of the Government of India is invited to the statement made by the President of Pakistan on May 21, 1971 urging the Pak-

take areas in the adjoining areas of India. This deliberate expulsion of such large numbers of people from their homes has created a human problem of unparalleled magnitude which is capable of producing serious repercussions in the area leading to a threat to peace in the region.

Investigations carried out by the Government of India reveal that the bulk of these refugees who have sought temporary shelter in India, originate from the area within a 50-mile belt of Pakistan territory bordering on India. It has also been established that these East Bengali refugees are the victims of a deliberate campaign of terror launched against them by the Armed Forces of Pakistan.

The Ministry of External Affairs is gravely concerned at the fact that the Government of Pakistan have displayed total indifference and unconcern at the fate of these people, who are Pakistani nationals. The Ministry of External Affairs would, in this connection remind the High Commission for Pakistan of the relevant provisions of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights and other universally accepted instruments of the United Nations, which guarantee the right of persons to return to their country. The Government of Pakistan are under an unquestionable obligation to facilitate the return of these refugees to their homes.

The Government of India, therefore, hold the Government of Pakistan fully responsible for creating such conditions forthwith as would facilitate the return refugees to their homes. It is hoped that for this purpose, the Government of Pakistan will desist immediately from continuing the terrorising activities of the Pakistan Army. At the same time, the Government of India reserve the right to claim from the Government of Pakistan full satisfaction in respect of the additional financial and other burdens that the Government of India have had to shoulder for affording relief to these Pakistani nationals.