

National Day of Indonesia



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MESSAGE

Assalamu'alaikum WR WB.
Today, the Indonesian nation celebrates the 48th Anniversary of Independence of the Republic of Indonesia. On this auspicious occasion, on behalf of the Government and the people of the Republic of Indonesia, I would like to extend warmest greetings to the Government and the fraternal people of the People's Republic of Bangladesh.

The joyous occasion today for the Indonesian nation comes at a time when the people of my country are enjoying the fruits of our independence. The new order government under the leadership of His Excellency President Soeharto has brought tremendous achievements in various aspects of our national development.

The Republic of Indonesia, in fact needs no introduction in Bangladesh. Exposure of the country, its people, culture, tradition and heritage in Bangladesh's media has been so extensive that Bangladesh's people instantly conjure up Indonesia as a friend at all times. Indonesian cultural performances in Dhaka last year and the years before enchanted people from all walks of life.

Exchange of visits by the heads of state and government of the two brotherly countries has further brought the people of the two countries much closer. Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had given political go-ahead for enhancing relations with Indonesia by making his first visit to Jakarta in 1978.

Indonesia feels proud in having exchange of its experiences with Bangladesh in various fields of development. More are in the offing. The major thrust in this regard is through the programme of technical co-operation among developing countries. In line with the emphasis put forward by His Excellency President Soeharto, Chairman of Non-Aligned Movement, it is earnestly hoped that such co-operation could be strengthened further for greater collaboration among the developing countries.

The governments of Indonesia and Bangladesh are actively pursuing policy on enhancing trade relations between the two countries. In this regard, businessmen of both the countries are showing increased interest to explore new market potentials including the potentials in the field of tourism.

The bilateral relations between Indonesia and Bangladesh entered new dimension when Her Excellency Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister of

the democratic Government of Bangladesh attended the tenth Non-Aligned summit in Jakarta last year and held talks with His Excellency President Soeharto. The two leaders had deliberated on ways and means to further boost the friendly relations that grew from strength to strength since early 1972 when Indonesia recognised the People's Republic of Bangladesh. The governments of Indonesia and Bangladesh are striving to make further strides in deepening relations between our two countries.

Indonesia looks forward to forging ever closer co-operation with Bangladesh in the years ahead for eventual realization of a better world and a better future for mankind.

May Allah the Almighty continue to bestow His blessings on all of us in the days to come.
Khoda Hafez, Indonesia-Bangladesh friendship zindabad.



R. M. Moertolo
Charge d'Affaires of Indonesia

Jakarta-Dhaka Relations Enter New Phase

by an Analyst

THE bilateral relations between Indonesia and Bangladesh are growing as days whizz past. Contacts between the two friendly Governments are ever increasing, amity between the two peoples burgeoning and trade volume on the rise. Thanks to the political will and determination of the leaderships in Indonesia and Bangladesh, the relations are now poised for new heights.

H E President Soeharto, during his meetings with leaders of Bangladesh in the past, had made it clear that the two countries were destined to deepen their ties in all fields. This was in fact reiterated during the Tenth Summit Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement in Jakarta held on 1-6 September last year when the Indonesian President and the Bangladesh Prime Minister H E Begum Khaleda Zia had fruitful bilateral discussions outside the ambit of the Summit. The two leaders had threadbare talks on fields of co-operation between the two active NAM member-states.

The two Asian countries have in fact their roots in common culture and tradition. The great religion Islam has further cemented the bonds of brotherhood between the two peoples of Indonesia and Bangladesh. That is exactly why Indonesia was one of the first countries in the world to have had recognised the People's Republic of Bangladesh in early 1972 only a few days after the country was fully liberated on December 16, 1971. Since then, the two countries set out for strengthening co-operation in different fields.

Significantly, it was Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman first to have laid the solid foundation for ever-lasting friendship with Indonesia when he became the first Bangladesh Head of State to have visited Jakarta on 27-29 July 1978. Shaheed Zia took keen interest in various development projects in Indonesia and exchanged views on replication of some of those in Bangladesh. His visit had left an indelible impress on the people of the Republic. It was highlighted in Indonesian media. In fact, Shaheed Zia was a trend-setter in Dhaka's quest for improving bilateral relations with Jakarta.

H E President Soeharto had reciprocated Shaheed Ziaur Rahman's visit by making a fruitful state visit to Bangladesh on 19-21 November 1979. He was overwhelmed by the warmth with which he was received and treated during his stay in Dhaka. Since then,



Monuments of the past — Hindu and Buddhist temples.



President Soeharto and Madam Soeharto

Education, Health and Social Welfare High Rated in Indonesia

THE Government of Indonesia has emphasised education as an important factor in social and economic development. The Fifth Plan envisages that 15.8% of total Government development expenditure devoted to education compared with 6.8% during the First Plan, 8.3% during the Second Plan, 10.0% during the Third Plan and 16.0% during the Fourth Plan.

The education system provides for six years each of primary school and secondary school, as well as various types of higher education including teachers' colleges, general universities and technical schools.

As of March 31, 1992, there were 41.2 million pupils and students, of which 29.5 million were enrolled in primary schools, 10.0 million in secondary schools, and 1.7 million in colleges and universities. The Fifth Plan envisages that the number of pupils and students will increase to a total of approximately 47.4 million, with 64.3% at primary level, 18.2% at junior secondary level, 12.2% at senior secondary level and 5.3% at higher levels. The ratio of enrollment to school age population in 1991 was 99.6% at the primary level, 45.0% at the junior secondary level and 33.7% at the senior secondary level.

As a result of the Government's efforts in mass education, the literacy rate of the Indonesian population has increased steadily over the past decades. According to the 1980 population census, the literacy rate of the urban population was 84.9% and that of the rural population was 67.9%. The national literacy rate increased from 47.0% in 1961 to 71.8% in

1980. According to the latest available estimates, following the October 1990 population census, the current literacy rate of the urban population is 90.5% and that of the rural population is 77.4%.

During the Fourth Plan, a total of 162,278 teachers were trained, bringing the number of teachers to approximately 1.7 million, consisting of 1.2 million teachers at the primary level, 300,000 at the junior secondary level and 200,000 at the senior secondary level. The construction of 120 industrial and agricultural vocation training centres was also completed, bringing the total number of training centres to 153 as of March 31, 1990. During the Fourth Plan, 332,336 students graduated from these centres and it is estimated that 600,000 students will be trained during the current Plan. During the Fifth Plan period, 14,550 new primary schools are to be built and 50,000 existing primary schools are to be rehabilitated.

In Indonesia, public health facilities are operated by the Government as well as by communities. As of March 31, 1992, Indonesia had 1,633 hospitals with a total of 121,721 hospital beds. This represented 9.2 hospitals and 678 hospital beds per million people. Of the total number of hospitals, 61% were operated privately. In addition, there were some 27,806 community health centres. There are currently 27,857 practising doctors in Indonesia.

During the Fourth Plan, 5,108 new community health centres were built and an additional 6,423 doctors and 44,630 nurses started practising. During Repelita V, emphasis continues to be placed on improving socio-economic conditions including health standards and life expectancy. During the Fifth Plan period, 36 new hospitals are projected to be constructed with an additional 9,200 hospital beds. The number of community health centres will also be increased to 33,835 and an additional 12,500 doctors and 61,588 nurses are anticipated to start practising. Indonesia currently trains 1,285 new doctors each year in 24 public medical schools. During Repelita V, average life expectancy is anticipated to increase by two years to reach 65 years. The infant mortality rate is expected to decline by 9.5% to 49.8 per thousand by the end of Repelita V.

During the First Plan period, the Government launched a serious effort in national family planning, with the long-term objective of reducing the birth rate in Indonesia by 50%. A National Family Planning Programme was created for implementation by the Ministry of Health through general hospitals, clinics and family planning service centres. Under the programme, the number of acceptors increased from 4.0 million

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Jakarta Pursues Pragmatic Foreign Policy on World Issues

(Excerpts of a statement by the Indonesian Foreign Minister H E ALI ALATAS at a Meeting attended by Indonesian and foreign media representatives in Jakarta recently)

THE stream of fundamental changes which have swept the world since the early 1990s continued to flow rapidly towards crystallizing points, the final form of which still remains elusive. The international situation through 1992 continued to be marked by a global transition troubled by upheavals, and replete with trends and events which impact positively and negatively on the international order and which pose opportunities as well as new challenges and problems for mankind.

The prospect of a new world order as propagated by the developed countries essentially remains a form of realignment or a shift in the constellation of world forces and has not taken the form of restructuring in the sense envisaged by Non-Aligned and other developing countries, including Indonesia.

On the one hand, the demise of ideological/military conflicts and rivalry between the major powers, the increasing propensity for dialogue and negotiations in solving various regional conflicts and the growing trends towards inter-dependence, integration, mutual accommodation as well as regional and international co-operation are to be welcomed.

On the other hand, it is a hard fact that internal strife and armed conflicts, aggression and foreign intervention, discord rooted in ethnic rivalry and religious intolerance, new forms of racism and the resurgence of narrowly conceived nationalism in many regions of the world has continued to imperil international peace and security.

The trend towards integration and interstate co-operation into larger groupings were simultaneously challenged by disintegrating tendencies in many states and nations. As has been frequently acknowledged, the progress made in the international politics has been matched in the economic field, where the relations between developed and developing countries continued to be marked by widening disparity, stark imbalances and injustices. Hence, poverty, under-development and sufferings resulting from famine, disease and natural disaster have emerged as the main enemies of mankind.

Recent trends were also marked by the resurgence of issues which were not essentially new ones but received increasing attention from the international community, especially the developed states. These issues pertain to the environment, human rights, democracy and democratization. The substance of these issues are indeed important and must be fully addressed. What is more, however, are the policies of certain countries to link co-operation and development aid to developing countries with the way the latter deals with these issues. If the attachment of political conditions to economic co-operation is not firmly challenged, it could create new points of friction between the North and the South and impede the efforts and sustainable development in developing countries.

The perseverance of unrest and war in the Republics of former Yugoslavia, especially the aggression against Bosnia-Herzegovina, has caused atrocities and horrendous human rights violations of such scale that it has provoked anger and condemnation on the part of the international community. With other members of the Non-Aligned Movement and the OIC or acting independently, the Indonesian Government has expressed its firm position on many occasions. We have deplored the atrocities and cruelties against the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina, the majority of whom are Moslems. In particular, we condemned the gross policy of 'ethnic cleansing' and demanded that aggression and territorial gain through force be stopped and that the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and cultural identity of Bosnia-Herzegovina be restored and guaranteed. Along with other OIC countries, we have taken further steps and urged the UN Security Council to take stronger measures, including the use of military force under Chapter VII of UN Charter to stop the bloodshed in Bosnia.

The recent Tenth Non-Aligned Summit in Jakarta agreed to form a Task Force on Somalia led by Indonesia as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement. This Task Force was charged to coordinate the flow of humanitarian assistance to Somalia with other organizations such as OPA, OIC and the Arab League and countries in the African Horn, to facilitate UN efforts to secure such assistance and to actively contribute to a political settlement to the strife in Somalia based on national reconciliation.

Indonesia also contributed its humanitarian assistance in the form of donations as well as by sending five military officers to act as military observers in UNOSOM, which was formed on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution No. 755. However, due to the severity of the situation arising from the civil war, it turned out that UNOSOM was not able to ensure the safety of humanitarian assistance. Therefore, at the initiative of the US and France, the Security Council adopted Resolution No. 794 which endorsed the offer to deploy US, French and other countries' forces to operate as a multinational force with a special mandate to secure the flow of humanitarian assistance.

Indonesia was invited to take part in that multinational force, but in line with our consistent stance we declined to do so because even though the formation of the multinational force was endorsed by the UN Security Council Resolution it was not a UN 'peacekeeping force' as such. But should one day UNOSOM be expanded and fully function after the current multinational force completes its tasks, Indonesia would certainly consider volunteering its forces under the UN banner.

One of the old problems which persevered and became more urgent to solve pertains to the heroic struggle of the Palestinian people to exercise the act of self-determination and establish the State of Palestine in accordance with the UN Resolutions. The Madrid peace process initiated since October 1991 indeed



constituted a breakthrough in so far as the conflicting parties agreed to attend a Conference on the Middle East, but their differences on some fundamental questions remained widely apart.

After eight rounds of negotiations, the Conference did not yield any significant results. Meanwhile, the deportation of 415 Palestinians by Israel has generated anger among the international community.

Apart from the above mentioned matters, 1992 was also marked by the convening of four Summit Conferences at the highest level on a global as well as regional scale which posed strategic importance for Indonesia's national interests and international development. President Soeharto personally led the Indonesian delegation to these four Summit Conferences, and in the Tenth Non-Aligned Summit the President led the Conference sessions. The four Summit Conferences were Fourth ASEAN Summit, Earth Summit, Tenth Non-Aligned Summit and Third Summit of G-15.

Well into its 25th year, ASEAN, in its Fourth ASEAN Summit in Singapore, resolved to take up strategic steps in the political, security and economic, social and cultural fields. In the political and security fields, the Fourth ASEAN Summit reaffirmed ASEAN's basic position which is fully in line with Indonesia's namely with regard to the strengthening of national resilience leading to regional resilience based on the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation and Declaration of ASEAN Concord. As to the relations with extra-regional states, the Fourth ASEAN Summit also decided to augment dialogue on political and security matters especially with ASEAN's dialogue partners through the PMC Forum.

One important step in promoting regional co-operation was the accession of Vietnam and Laos to the Treaty of Amity and Co-operation in South East Asia and their acquisition of observer status in AMM ASEAN sessions.

With regard to ZOPFAN, the post-Cold War situation is seen to approximate what was envisaged in 1971 when the Declaration on ZOPFAN was described and therefore, it was decided that the concept of ZOPFAN must be soon realized, including its important component NWZ, by heeding the changes in the post-Cold War situation.

Strategic steps in the economic field were also taken with the signing of the Economic Co-operation Agreement which now forms the basis for ASEAN's overall economic co-operation and economic ventures in the future. ASEAN economic co-operation is now entering a new era, which in a period of 15 years aims to attain an ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) through the Common Effective Preferential Tariffs (CEPT) scheme which started on 1 January 1993.

As a demonstration of Indonesia's utmost concern on environmental issues and development, President Soeharto personally led the Indonesian delegation to the Earth Summit (United Nations Conference on Environment and Development) held in Rio de Janeiro in July 1992. The Summit opened the way for co-operation and mutual relations between the North and the South as an important factor in dealing with environmental contamination and in ensuring sustainable development. Positive results were achieved in a number of important sectors as reflected in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, the Convention on Biodiversity, the Convention on Climate Change and Agenda 21. Indonesia supports the formation of the Commission on Sustainable Development which would be charged to monitor and promote the implementation of Agenda 21. Indonesia will also play an active role in realizing the decisions and recommendations of the Rio Summit.

Thirty-seven years after the Afro-Asian Conference, which gave the birth to the Bandung Principles, another great accomplishment was recorded by Indonesia with the successful convening of the Tenth Non-Aligned Summit on 1-6 September 1992. This was the first Non-Aligned Summit held since the Cold War ended, and its main challenge was to provide special meaning and new direction and strategy to the Movement. Such new direction and strategy were clearly outlined in the Jakarta Message and the Final Documents as well as in the Declarations and Decisions of the Tenth Non-Aligned Summit. Following tradition, President Soeharto, as Chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, led the Indonesian delegation to the 47th UN General Assembly and presented a speech which conveyed the vision and aspirations of the Movement.