

Pakistan Day

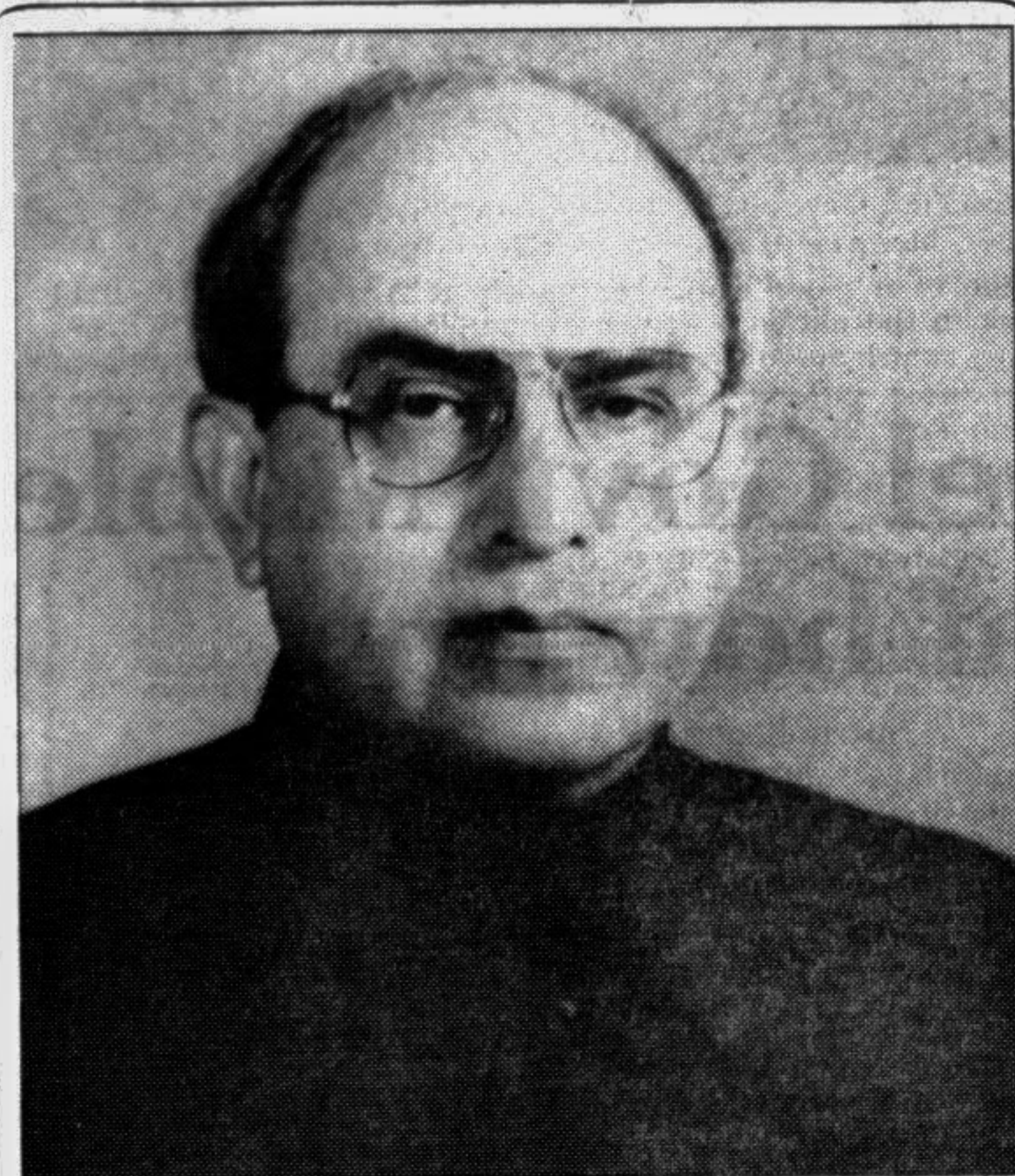
1997

Celebrating the Golden Jubilee

The Daily Star

Special Supplement

March 23, 1997



Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari
President of Pakistan

MESSAGE

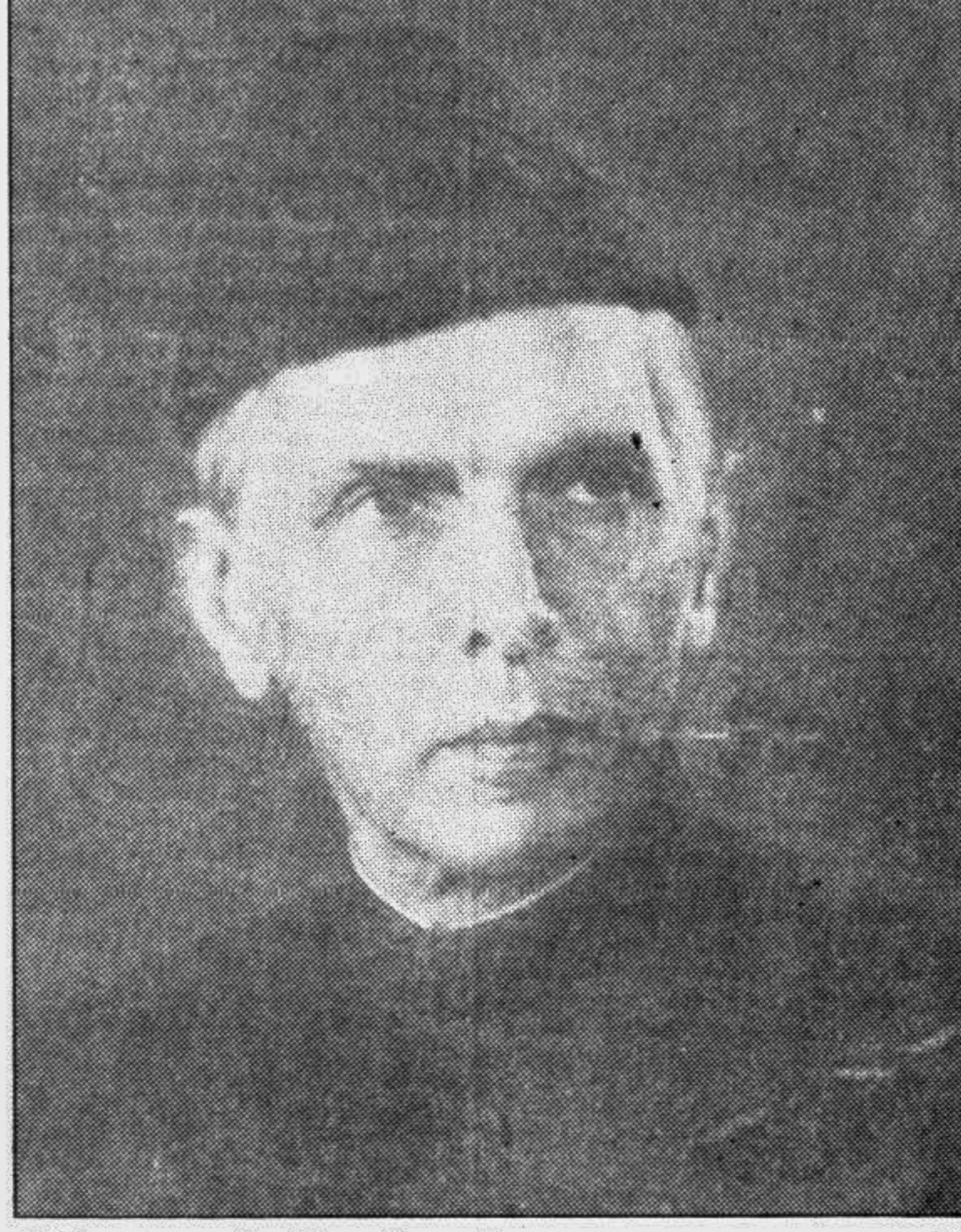
Today we are celebrating Pakistan Day. Fifty-seven years ago, on this day the Muslims of the sub-continent, through a formal resolution, had expressed their determination to achieve a separate homeland wherein they would be able to lead their lives individually and collectively, according to the tenets of the Holy Quran and the Sunnah of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). To achieve this lofty objective, millions of Muslims of the sub-continent waged an unprecedented struggle under the dynamic leadership of Quaid-i-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, and in a short span of seven years, with the blessing of Allah, transformed this dream into a living reality.

This year Pakistan Day has an added significance as we are also celebrating Golden Jubilee of our independence with a new government in power which enjoys massive support of the people expressed through a fair and free polls held on February 3, 1997. While celebrating this day we must thank Allah for His boundless bounties. On this day we should look back at our achievements during the last fifty years of our existence as a nation.

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FIFTY-SEVEN years have passed since the adoption of Lahore resolution in March 1940 by the All-India Muslim League, the largest representative party of the South Asian (British Indian) Muslims but the importance of this resolution popularly known as the Pakistan Resolution has not lessened. This resolution determined the contours of Muslim State of Pakistan established after seven years of its adoption. Basic nature of this Resolution, whose details are to follow, was to give the people of the majority Muslim areas of British India to exercise their democratic right to establish their own state in the South Asian sub-continent. This resolution reflected the will of Muslim India to separate from the majority Hindu areas as their grievances were not redressed. During the seven years following the adoption of this resolution no genuine effort was made on the part of the Indian Congress leaders to alleviate the Muslim grievances. Instead, the Hindu-Muslim differences intensified from worse to worst making the Muslims realize their cherished goal of Pakistan.

The Pakistan scheme of Quaid-i-Azam (Great Leader) Muhammad Ali Jinnah was presented at the 27th session of the All-India Muslim League held in Lahore in March 1940 in the form of a resolution. As the language of the resolution runs, it was put: "Resolved that it is the considered view of the session of the All India Muslim League that no constitutional plan would be workable in this country or acceptable to the Muslims unless it is designed on the following basic principles viz., that geographically contiguous units are demarcated into regions which should be so constituted, with such territorial re-adjustments as may be necessary, that the areas in which the Muslims are numerically in a majority, as in the North-Western and Eastern



Quaid-i-Azam and Pakistan Resolution of March 1940

by Dr Riaz Ahmad

Professor, Quaid-i-Azam Chair,
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Zones of India, should be grouped to constitute independent States in which the con-

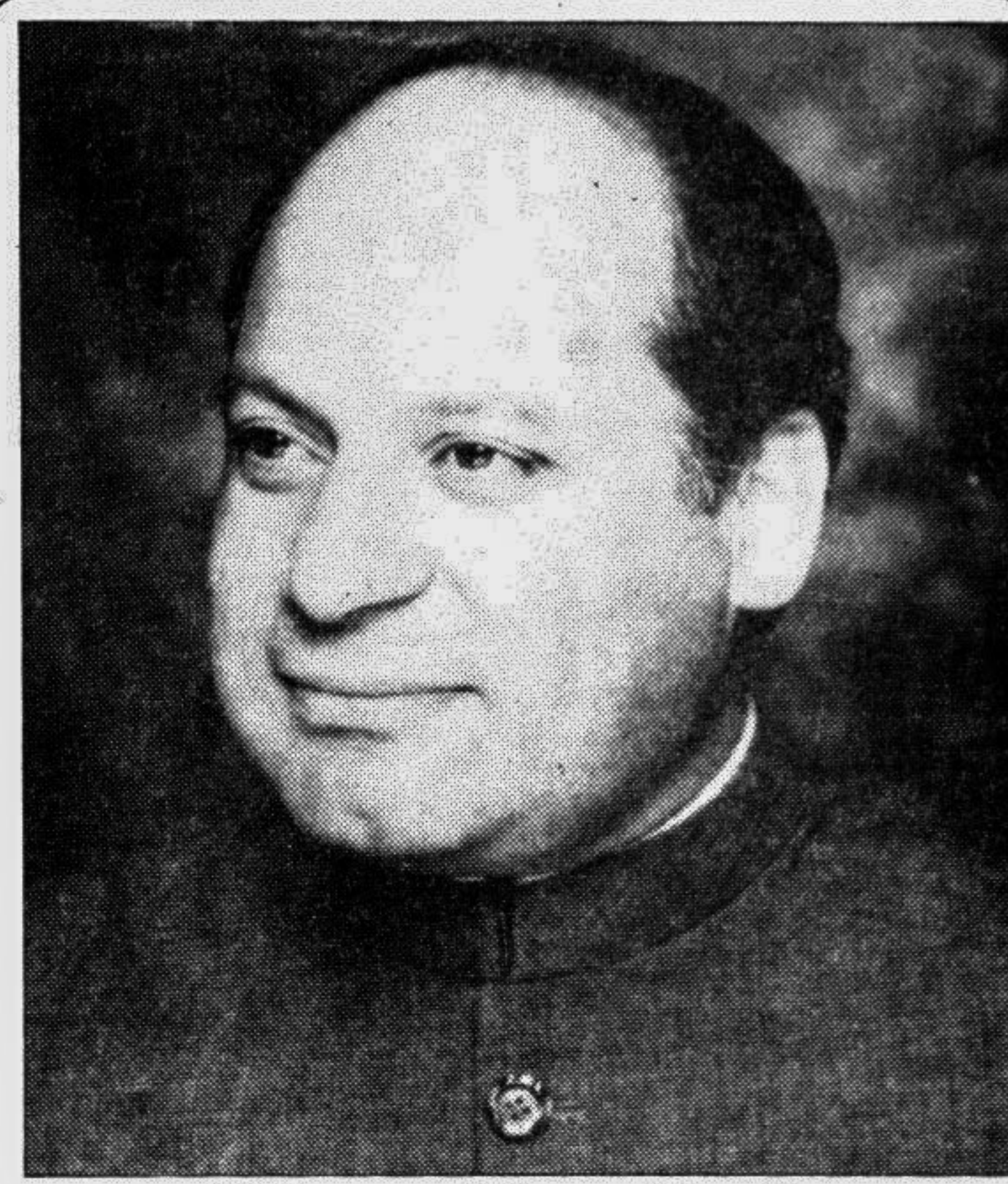
stituent units shall be autonomous and sovereign. This resolution was presented on 23 March and approved next day after having fully debated in which representatives from all parts of South Asia participated. As Jinnah planned, the resolution was moved by A K Fazlul Haq, Premier of Bengal. Choudhury Khaliquzzaman a leader from UP, seconded it. Maulana Zafar Ali Khan, editor of the popular Urdu daily Zamindar supported the resolution. Other leaders who spoke in favour of the resolution were Sardar Aurangzeb Khan, leader of the Opposition in the NWFP Assembly, Sir Abdullah Haroon, a veteran leader from Sind, Khan Bahadur Nawab Muhammad Ismail Khan, president of the UP Muslim League, Mohammad Isa Khan, a leader from Baluchistan, Abdul Hamid Khan, leader of the Muslim League party in the Madras Assembly, Ismail Chundrigar, Deputy Leader of the Muslim League party in the Bombay Assembly, Syed Abdur Rauf Shah, president of the CP Muslim League, Dr Mohammad Alam from the Punjab, Syed Zakir Ali, Begum Mohammad Ali, widow of late Maulana Mohammad Ali, and Maulana Ab-

dul Hamid. None of the speakers expressed against the resolution. After the debate was concluded on 24 March the resolution was passed unanimously amid great enthusiasm. This also enjoyed approval of over one lakh Muslims attending the session. Thus it was with the consent of Muslims of all regions representing the minority and majority Muslim areas that the idea of Pakistan was approved. This reflected and unity of the will of the Muslims of South Asia which backed Quaid-i-Azam in his scheme of Pakistan.

This was not a new idea. Various ideas for the division of South Asian sub-continent into Hindu zone and Muslim zone had already been put forward. John Bright in the late 19th century was the first to suggest in this direction. This idea was thus carried forward by various British, Muslim and Hindu thinkers. But all ideas were mere talking in the air; nothing doing with the favourable public opinion. It goes to the credit of Quaid-i-Azam and his followers that first they mobilised Muslim public opinion, both in the historical and political sense, and then presented the idea. An idea coming in this background duly enjoyed the support of the whole of Muslim India.

Quaid-i-Azam was the man who had strong sense of history. He not only rightly interpreted the historical development in the contemporary realities, but also was a person who thought in the line of giving new direction to history. He also understood the main forces which shaped history. At the national and international level it was the British Government which formed the greatest force of history. In the internal political developments it were Indian Congress leaders who were another big factor in history representing the Hindu majority will against the idea of Pakistan. Jinnah, in his long political career of working with the Congress leaders since his entry into politics in 1907, had visualised that the Congress leaders were not allowing the Muslims any respectable position in the body-politic of South Asia. For making the Muslims the third major factor in South Asia, Jinnah got the chance of Second World War started in September 1939. On this issue he challenged the Congress and negotiated with the British Viceroy and made him realise that the Muslims were the third major political force without whose consent the future of South Asia could not be determined. Through his wise policies Quaid-i-Azam brought unity amongst the rank and file of the Muslims at the sub-continent level. After having achieved this unity during the years 1934-39 he presented the goal of Pakistan for their approval in March, 1940. With the united Muslim support Jinnah was now ready to deal with the Congress leaders.

It was for the first time in history that the British Government came to appreciate Jinnah's importance in politics. Sir Henry Craik, Governor of the Punjab reported to the



Mohammad Nawaz Sharif
Prime Minister of Pakistan

MESSAGE

Today is a momentous occasion in our national life. Millions of Muslims of the sub-continent gave concrete shape to their hopes and aspirations on 23rd March 1940 by uniting under the banner of the Muslim League and by expressing their faith in the dynamic leadership of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. On this happy occasion, I congratulate the people of Pakistan.

The foundations of our country were laid by the Muslims of the sub-continent according to the wishes of the Quaid-e-Azam who enunciated the tenets of unity-faith-discipline. Fifty-seven years ago, the Muslim League and its leadership gathered in Lahore to guide the Muslim polity to its destined goal. This resulted in a realisation of the dreams and aspirations of Allama Iqbal. It is a matter of great joy that on this happy occasion the entire Muslim Ummah is also sharing our happiness.

It is also a matter of great satisfaction that by the grace of Allah, the Pakistani nation has once again reposed its confidence in the Muslim League - the founding political party of Pakistan. I bow my head in gratitude to Allah Almighty who has given us this opportunity to strengthen and better our country. We will try to live up to our promise to replace the present out-dated system with something more in consonance with the teachings and aspirations of our founder Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. A system which will also reflect the aspirations of the people and will put Pakistan on the road to prosperity.

On this eve, I appeal to the nation to firmly discard all parochial, linguistic and sectarian prejudices and to put our complete faith in Allah almighty and to foil the nefarious designs of our enemies.

On this historic day, I would like to review our covenant. Let us all declare that we will utilise our resources to make Pakistan a modern welfare state. I believe that this alone would be a fitting tribute to the leaders and martyrs of Pakistan movement, who rendered matchless sacrifices to achieve the Islamic, democratic republic of Pakistan.

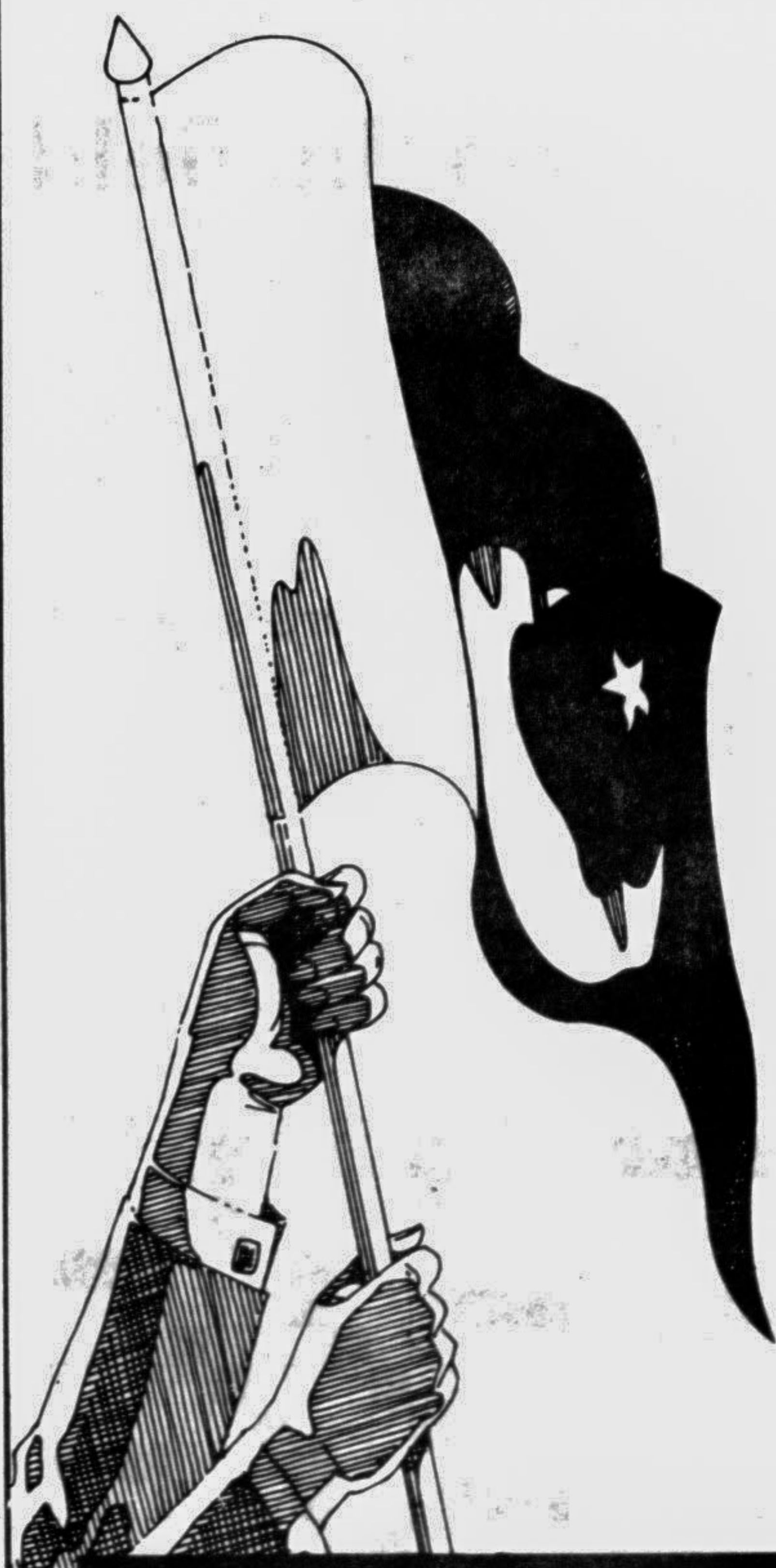
May God bless us all.

Viceroy Lord Linlithgow that the session has greatly enhanced Jinnah's prestige and influence and that the unanimity and enthusiasm shown at the session have given the League a position of far greater authority than it previously enjoyed" (Craik to Linlithgow, 31 March, 1940, Linlithgow Papers). But Lord Zetland, the Secretary of State for India, in his letter to the Viceroy expressed certain misgivings which were

soon cleared by the Viceroy by subsequent correspondence (Linlithgow Papers).

The realisation of the fact of importance of the Pakistan Resolution by the British Government made them to negotiate the matter with Jinnah in the coming years in the form of various commissions and deputations such as Cripps Mission, Cabinet Mission and finally ending with Lord Mountbatten's

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Heartiest Congratulations to our Compatriots abroad on Pakistan DAY

On the happy occasion of the anniversary of our Pakistan Day we extend warmest greetings to our expatriates and renew the pledge to continue strengthening the trade and cultural ties between the two friendly countries - Bangladesh and Pakistan.

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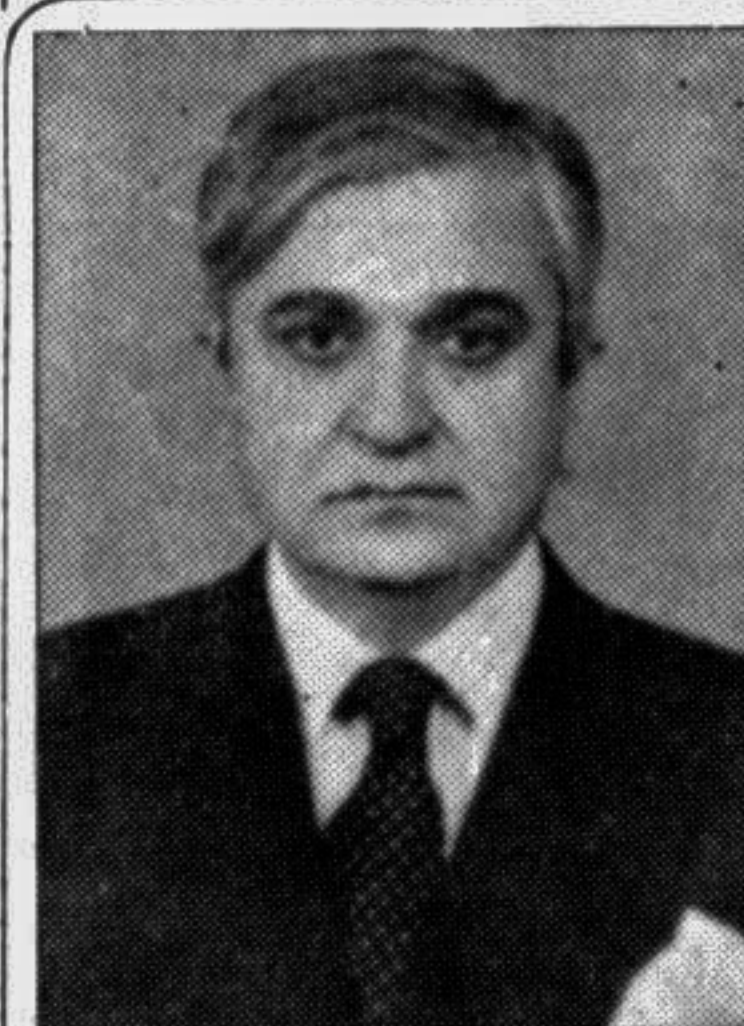
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Karam Elahi
High Commissioner of
Pakistan to Bangladesh

MESSAGE

Bismillah Hirrahman-I-Rahim
Pakistan Day today (March 23) is of exceptional significance to us as this year Pakistani nation is celebrating the Golden Jubilee of its independence. On this auspicious occasion I am greatly honoured to convey to the people of Bangladesh warm and sincere greetings and message of goodwill from President Farooq Ahmed Khan Leghari, Prime Minister Mohammad Nawaz Sharif and the people of Pakistan.

Twenty-three March reminds us of 1940 when the leaders of the Mussalmans from all over British India assembled in Lahore and demanded the creation of a separate homeland for themselves. They adopted the historical Resolution popularly known as Pakistan Resolution on the same day in 1940 proposed by M A K Fazlul Haq,

the then Premier of Bengal. Fraternity between the peoples of Bangladesh and Pakistan needs no elaboration. It needs no explanation. We have shared our history and struggle; our objectives and aspirations; our values and culture. We in Pakistan rejoice at every achievement and success of Bangladesh; be it in the field of economy or supremacy of the people's will; be it in the social sector or for that matter any other field. Similarly, we are saddened when Bangladesh is faced with any adverse situation. I have seen and felt similar feelings of friendship and amity for the people of Pakistan in Bangladesh.

I am confident that I speak for many when I say that our friendship has no parallel. It is unique. This is manifest in your keen interest in Pakistan's general elections of last month and your endorsement of the policies particularly in the economic sector to revamp Pakistan's economy and the steps the new Government has taken in this regard.

Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif, who was sworn-in as Prime Minister after his party's (PML-N) landslide and massive victory in last month's general elections, outlined his priorities in his first address to the nation on February 23.

He made a passionate appeal to the people for lending a hand to the Government for the revival of the bruised economy by rejecting dependence on foreign aid resources and to aim at self-reliance.

(b) launched a concerted campaign of Debt Retirement to pay off debts through indigenous means.

The new Government of Pakistan has initiated efforts aimed at socio-economic development of the country as well as strong measures against the corrupt, the defaulters, extem-

ists and racketeers. It is dedicated to make the country a technologically advanced, democratic society, free from exploitation and firmly rooted in its Islamic moorings. These steps will accelerate significantly the tempo of Pakistan's economic development.

About Pakistan's future foreign policy I would like to recall the Prime Minister's emphasis that his government would:

a) follow the Quaid-e-Azam's motto "Friendship with all and enmity with none."

b) honour all national and international agreements/commitments.

c) continue to look at the defence of Pakistan as its foremost priority. Reduction in the defence budget would not be possible until the Kashmir dispute was resolved and guarantees for peace in South Asia on equitable basis were ensured.

d) seek to promote trade, co-operative and good relations with neighbouring countries and strive for peaceful settlement of problems through negotiations.

e) continue its peaceful nuclear programme and maintain effective defence capability at all cost. Pakistan would resist unilateral and discriminatory pressure on its nuclear programme.

f) support UN and international efforts to combat all forms of terrorism.

g) continue to actively participate in the activities of SAARC and OIC.

Relations with Bangladesh occupy a very special place in our foreign policy. Our friendship is governed strictly by the principles of equality, respect of each other's sovereignty and non-interference in internal affairs. In his first address to the people of Pakistan, the Prime Minister, Mr Nawaz Sharif specially mentioned Bangladesh as our relations are based on historical, cultural and religious

affinities and would be promoted further. We are gratified that our bilateral relations have been expanding in every field. Pakistan remains a major importer of Bangladesh tea and jute and a major exporter of cotton. Bilateral trade in other fields also continues to grow although there is still a great room for improvement.

People to people contact between our two countries have further increased the educational, cultural and sports field. An important aspect is admission of students in each other's educational institutions and exchange of study tours by students. It is also heartening to observe successful participation in SAARC cricket tournament in Dhaka last month by Pakistan's cricket team 'A' which was awarded winning trophy by the Honourable Prime Minister of Bangladesh. I am confident that such exchanges will continue to expand in future.

I would like to make a special mention of the successful visit to Pakistan early this month by HE Mr Abulhasan Ali Nadwi, the BD Foreign Minister and earlier by the Foreign Secretary HE Mr Farooq Sobhan and we are pleased over the visit of your Prime Minister to Islamabad to attend the Extraordinary Session of OIC held to commemorate the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the independence of Pakistan. These visits will help in bringing our two countries even closer.

Before I conclude, I would like to express my strong conviction that Bangladesh-Pakistan friendship is bound to consolidate in the years ahead. We will stand shoulder to shoulder in our endeavours to ensure a better future for our people.

— Bangladesh Zindabad
— Pakistan Zindabad
— May Allah be with you all.