

Let Them Give Their Verdict

Pabna-2 constituency goes to poll today under the watchful eye of the nation. Had it not been for some convulsive circumstances of the past few weeks created around that by-election we would have felt relaxed about the microcosmic electoral activity with no need to appeal for calm. The by-poll was blown out of proportion in a chain of excited campaign over-killings leaving a heated atmosphere to cool doubly as fast as it had been built up. The beauty of the whole process has been somewhat lost through an overestimation of the stake as 'the end of the world' sort of thing, but all will be well if it ends well.

Since the actual voting has now begun, the contesting political parties must rest their oars allowing the small-size electorate complete freedom to choose their representative for parliament. Yes, there is a code of conduct, and yes also that the enforcers of it will be physically around; even so it should not be lost on the political parties that the basic responsibility lies with them to avoid the temptations of being in a race with each other to arbitrarily influence voter choice in 'improbable areas', or indulge in their zealous followers doing the same by hook or by crook.

In all modesty, our advice to them would be: You have no strategy to play out now after the campaign is over and that the only strategy you can have now is that of an open-minded waiting for the verdict to come. Let the EC perform its job and the voter express his or her mind on the contestants absolutely free from any form of intimidation by any quarter whatsoever.

No jumping to the conclusion, no vicious creation of conditions to make an issue out of electoral defeat but just holding the breath for the result and being respectful of whatever it turns out to be — that, in fact, should be line of thinking on both sides of the divide now.

We urge the participating political parties not to lose their calm and composure easily and maintain a dignified vigil of their own to let the voting take place without any incident. They must be prepared to accept the verdict of the voters, even if it be in the negative.

From Ideal to Reality

Born of the cataclysmic events of Second World War and a deep, instinctive understanding of the need for fundamental ties to bind peoples across the globe, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights stands as a monument to human dignity. Over the past half a century, the messengers of human rights have carried the word of the universal declaration to every UN member-nation. Indeed our struggle to establish human rights has a long history. Much has been accomplished, but the rest is awaiting achievement, and if it's re-written now, many more clauses would have to be added to the Declaration to make it compatible with present-day realities.

Since the Day gives us a chance to assess our own national situation, there are questions to be asked: where are we now and will we be fifty years from now? Will we still carry the weight of prejudice, intolerance and injustice of the past on our backs?

The re-establishment of democracy, the coming of a representative government without anxiety for military dictatorship, free and fair electoral process, and creation of a sovereign parliament are on the plus side. But is the right to information and freedom of expression which are central to the creation of an environment congenial to protection of human rights ensured? Free press and autonomous electronic media are vital safeguards for civic rights, an area where we have some distance to travel insofar as the audio-visual media is concerned.

Fulfillment of political rights is no guarantee that fundamental rights of the people would be automatically served. In fact, without a certain level of aggregative improvement in the socio-economic conditions of the people those rights would still be denied, what with a liberal political system. But this logic has been sometimes perversely exploited by military adventurists to step in pretending as the socio-economic messiah, and thereby driving human rights further away from the civilian grip.

Today, we should rededicate ourselves to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by grasping all the implications of our commitment to it.

Rokeya Remembered

The crusader for the emancipation of the backward Indian women, specially Muslims, Begum Rokeya Sakhawat Hossain is remembered practically twice in a year on her birth and death anniversaries. Born in 1880 in Rangpur, she established herself as the pioneer of women's renaissance in Bengal. She was a gritty and determined lady dedicated to the emancipation of the hapless and backward Muslim women. She was the first to have asked for equal rights for women in the Bengalee Muslim society. And she fought her battles relentlessly against all odds to liberalise the environment for women. Little wonder she is remembered for her tremendous contributions to educating the Muslim women.

In 1911 she established a high school for girls at Calcutta named Sakhawat Memorial Girls' High School, after her husband who had been a constant source of inspiration for her. Begum Rokeya realised that without education no fruitful movement was possible that could place the Muslim women on an equal footing with their male counterparts in the society. In order to organise the Muslim women in their efforts to establish their rights, she organised an association named Anjuman-E-Khawateen-E-Islam in 1916. Begum Rokeya lived a short life of 52 years but she left an indelible impression on the society and established herself as the torch-bearer of women's lib in the sub-continent.

In our complex environment today, we would like to have hundreds of Begum Rokeyas to take our women on to the path of education, equality and emancipation.

Turkey's Ocalan Concern

There is no doubt that Turkey has largely mastered the problem. Economic life in the southeast is pulsating and this will determine the shape of things to come. Some years ago the forces of Ocalan had virtually paralysed life in the region. Today it is a very different picture.



The Horizon This Week

Arshad-uz Zaman

certed that guerrilla activity has been greatly contained in the southeast.

Turkish forces have been following the policy of hot pursuit of the guerrillas in northern Iraq. It is well known that since the debacle of Saddam Hussein, when northern Iraq was virtually separated from Iraqi territory, the area became a virtual no man's land. Attempts have been made by Washington to set up a Kurdish entity by bringing the two warring Kurdish leaders Barzani and Talabani on the same platform.

Setting up a Kurdish state is viewed with extreme suspicion by all states, within whose borders sizeable Kurdish popula-

tion reside. The largest number is in Turkey followed by Iraq, Syria and Iran. None of them has any desire to see the birth of Kurdish state. Turkey carries out mop up operations including use of warplanes in northern Iraq and nobody seems to object.

And when tensions between Italy and Turkey had risen to a dangerous level that a very important football match was due to be played in Istanbul. The famous team Juventus of Italy was pitted against the ace team of Turkey Galatasaray. The craze for football in both Italy and Turkey is something to be seen to be believed. Turkey was at the top of the table, whereas Italy

was a lowly fourth. Because of the tension in the air the match was postponed by a week. Turkey put up a massive security net to hold the match a week later. It ended in a draw leaving the fans specially in Turkey in a festive mood. One journalist commented that it was the most correct 'diplomatic' result.

Abdullah Ocalan has declared unilateral cease-fire some time ago. There have been occasional violations of the cease-fire. Turkish authorities are no doubt weighing the pros and cons of the proposal. The fact, however, remains that Turkey considers the group operating in the southeast as a terrorist group and, therefore, the question of sitting at a negotiating table does not arise. Those who have taken up arms against Turkish state will have to surrender.

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the southeast is pulsating and this will determine the shape of things to come. Some years ago the forces of Ocalan had virtually paralysed life in the region. Today it is a very different picture.

The Kurdish question was advertised throughout the world and particularly Europe. Germany became a big centre of Kurdish propaganda. Since Turkey is successfully meeting the challenge at home, it is having its repercussions abroad. After all there are numerous Kurds holding very important positions within the Turkish administration. As education spreads and the economic activity continues to pick up in the region, the Kurdish question is bound to recede in the background.

Since Turkey mounted successful pressure against Syria and managed to get Abdullah Ocalan out of that safe haven, he has been on the run. From a guerrilla leader carrying on a successful campaign, he has been reduced to the status of a fugitive. The fuse is getting shorter by the day. What option Ocalan has other than an honourable surrender?

Pinochet: One Man's Mass Murderer is Another Man's Saviour

by Barrister Harun ur Rashid

While the Chileans are reported to be split in their opinions over Pinochet's detention, many of them perceive that Chilean sovereignty will be impinged if he is tried in a foreign land. A strong view prevails that he should be tried in his own country in Chile and not in Spain and this view is not to defend Pinochet but to establish a workable principle of international law.

In my previous article on the subject (DS: 25th October 1998), I argued that General Pinochet (83) could not claim diplomatic immunity simply because he travelled on diplomatic passport to Britain. The Law Lords (the highest court in Britain) recently ruled against the General's immunity from prosecution and kept the door open for his extradition until 11 December by the British government on request from the Spanish authorities.

I would argue that there are two separate issues involved in Pinochet's case. First whether he has diplomatic immunity and second whether he can be extradited in Spain by the British government. The first issue was resolved and the second one is yet to be determined. The discretion under Extradition Act is usually an administrative decision and in the instant case the discretion rests with the British Home Secretary (Home Minister).

Case for Extradition:

The extradition case appears to rest on the fact that General Pinochet is alleged to have committed crimes against humanity and genocide. Pinochet is being wanted by the Spanish authorities on charges of genocide, torture and terrorism and ordering the murders or 'disappearances' of about 3,178 people. His critics at home and abroad allege that he is a thug and a mass murderer, a man obsessed with power and is prepared to use terror to eliminate his political opponents. The human rights records during his rule from 1973 to 1990 were appalling — hundreds of political opponents were eliminated under direct or indirect orders.

It could be argued that the prosecution of a person charged with genocide defies national boundaries and is an obligation by the state parties to the Genocide Convention of 1948. (It has entered into force in 1951). Spain is a party to the Convention since 1968 and so also Britain since 1970. Article 1 of the Convention states 'that the contracting parties confirm that genocide, whether commit-

ted in time of peace or in time of war, is a crime under international law which they undertake to prevent and to punish'. Further genocide shall not be considered as 'political crimes' for the purpose of extradition (Article 6 of the Convention).

In international law, convention is an agreement between states and the accession by Spain and Britain is a positive statement to other nations that they intend to fulfil their obligations under that convention. One could argue that if they do not do so, they may be held accountable to the breach of the provisions of the Convention. If there is any dispute between the contracting parties with regard to the interpretation or application of the Convention, it shall be submitted to the International Court of Justice. (Article 9 of the Convention).

There is view that a prima facie case exists for the extradition of Pinochet to Spain for his alleged crime of genocide and he deserves to be tried in Spain.

Case for Non-extradition

Several arguments are also advanced against Pinochet's extradition. One view is that if the charge of genocide is extended to the policy of a State in its domestic or external matters, then no head of a State or Government appears to be safe from 'frivolous charges of genocide or murder' of the nationals or authorities of another State. This line of argument was one of the reasons for which the US did not sign the Statute of the Permanent International Criminal Court in Rome last July.

Generally speaking, on the first page of the passport whether diplomatic or non-diplomatic, the head of the state or the passport issuing country (Chile in this case) would request the head of the other State (Britain) to ensure the smooth travel of the passport holder. It is argued that while Pinochet is in Britain, his entry in Britain would require the British government to facilitate his travel without let and hindrance. One

can argue that if there is any criminal record in Britain against the passport holder, then it is entitled to initiate legal proceedings against the passport holder under the laws. It could be argued that no criminal record exists against Pinochet in Britain.

One could further argue that Pinochet's actions should be seen in the light of the Cold War in 1970s. Thousands of persons and villages were destroyed by the US in Vietnam to contain communism in South-east Asia. No criminal proceedings on the allegations of genocide appeared to have taken place after the Vietnam war. Nor is there any agitation by the Human Rights Organisations to punish the perpetrators. It is well established that the rule of law is to be seen to be fair and should be applicable to the weak and the strong equally. This principle could be tested by either a former leader of a strong and powerful country could be tried for genocide and crimes against humanity. If the answer is in the negative, one could argue that the rule of law is not universal and is highly selective and discriminatory.

Another fact could be raised that a significant number of Chilean nationals believe that Pinochet saved the Chilean economy from communism and should be given credit for handing over power peacefully to a democratic government. It is reported that the London-based MORI pollsters questioned 1190 Chileans across the country from 17 to 24 November whether Pinochet's detention was good or bad: 45 per cent thought the detention was bad while 44 per cent, good. It is reported that Chile has been split in two and no body is happy in that country on the Pinochet's case.

If General Pinochet is extradited to Spain, it could be argued that one of the unintended consequences would be that no head of Government or State or Foreign Minister / Home Minister would be able to move freely outside his country because any aggrieved country could level allegations against that individual for genocide or torture or

gross violation of human rights. One could even argue that Henry Kissinger could face prosecution for his complicity with the Pakistan military regime for the brutal massacres in Bangladesh in 1971. One could cite instances of the former Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng for the events in Tiananmen Square. President Reagan for the deaths resulted in bombing the Tripoli residence of Leader Gaddafi and President Clinton (after his Presidency) for the deaths due to the missile attacks in Afghanistan and Sudan and host of other dictators/leaders of the developing countries may not be able to travel safe in a third country.

While the Chileans are reported to be split in their opinions over their detention, many of them perceive that Chilean sovereignty will be impinged if he is tried in a foreign land. A strong view prevails that he should be tried in his own country in Chile and not in Spain and this view is not to defend Pinochet but to establish a workable principle of international law. The Chilean Foreign Minister took the similar position that General Pinochet was to be tried in Chile and a Chilean judge was reported to be investigating 11 law suits against Pinochet for torture and disappearances to determine whether they would merit a trial. There is a view that, he should be tried in Chile where the crimes were allegedly committed and an international tribunal may be set up in Chile to try General Pinochet.

Conclusion:

It appears that much can be said for and against the extradition of General Pinochet to Spain. However, the bottom line is that he should not escape trial for the alleged crimes. This will provide a warning that no dictator or leader of a country could get away from perpetrating serious wrongs upon the dignity of another human being.

The writer is former Bangladesh Ambassador to the United Nations in Europe, Geneva.

Will Chile Cheer or Will It Burn?

With General Augusto Pinochet facing the real threat of extradition and trial, some in Chile are rejoicing while other mutter dark warnings of coups and unrest. A Gemini News Service correspondent with first-hand experience of Pinochet's crimes puts Chile after the verdict into perspective. Luis Tricot writes from Santiago

On the evening of the day that five British Law Lords ruled General Augusto Pinochet was not immune from prosecution for genocide, a tearful elderly woman at a demonstration in Valparaiso commented: 'Chile is full of dead people that cannot rest in peace. It is their souls that are keeping the dictator in prison, not the British judges.'

One examines recent Chilean history one can see how much truth her words carry. On 16 October 1973 — 25 years to the very day before Pinochet's arrest — in Copiapo, 795 kilometres north of Chile's capital, Santiago, 13 people were taken from the local prison and massacred by army officers.

It was the dreaded 'Death Cortege' that, led by General Sergio Arellano under direct orders from Pinochet, murdered 72 prisoners in five different cities. In Copiapo the victims were accused of trying to escape, but few prisoners heard their cries as the soldiers were murdering them. Eleven of the bodies were located in 1991.

But since not a single empty cartridge was found, the prisoners cannot have been shot. 'They died a slow painful death,' said Maria de la Luz Salas, a human rights lawyer present during the identification process. 'They were massacred with knives. According to the available forensic evidence, there was no single mortal wound, which means that they just bled to death. Adolfo

Palleras, for example, whom I represent, died as a result of at least 20 small knife type injuries on his back. This can be inferred from his sweater, which was preserved due to the salty nature of the country's northern soil. In fact, it is believed that many of them were buried alive.'

Whatever the reports of the president's backing for Pinochet, and the cries of his influential supporters, the polls showed that up to 75 per cent of the population want Pinochet in jail. Right after the law was made public, people took to the streets spontaneously and peacefully. University professors stopped lectures to let students go out to demonstrate. At least 5,000 people marched from the headquarters of the Association of the Relatives of the Disappeared to Santiago's city centre. Hundreds of passers-by joined in. As has become customary, the police used water cannons to disperse the demonstrators.

As for Pinochet's supporters — among them the many who made fortunes out of the regime's botched privatisations — Augusto Pinochet Hiriart, the general's eldest son, called on to Chileans 'to close ranks' behind his father. Crowds reacted hysterically, attacking reporters, violently confronting the police, setting up street barricades and burning British flags. At around midday on 26 October the police conducted a controlled explosion of a suspicious package found under a

railway bridge. The army issued a threatening statement saying that the ruling had caused the institution 'frustration, indignation and uneasiness', adding that it offends in an extremely great fashion the 'sovereignty and dignity of the fatherland.'

Indeed, the 'sovereignty' argument has been used by the Right and government alike in order to defend the dictator as if Pinochet and the nation was one and the same thing. They aren't, they never have been and they never will be. Our nation, our people are not murderers, torturers, rapists. It was General Pinochet who raped our country, our people.

Pinochet's detention has not opened any old wounds. They have never healed. It is clear from the reactions that after 25 years very little has changed in Chile: the military are still in power and the civilian government is frightened to death of doing anything to upset them. 'We have asked to meet with President Eduardo Frei on at least 15 occasions in the past four years,' said Viviana Diaz, vice president of the Association of Relatives of the Disappeared. 'He has never received us.'

On the other hand, when Pinochet was arrested the current commander in chief of the army, General Ricardo Izurieta, held an urgent meeting with the government that very same night.

For Diaz it is obvious: the military still control the country. But she added: 'I was convinced that Pinochet was going

to be arrested sooner or later, that one day he would pay for his crimes.'

Diaz's father was detained and disappeared in 1976 and has never been seen since. Would she ever reconcile with those who kidnapped and killed his father? 'Not unless and until they repent from what they have done to us and are brought to justice.'

But the military never will, former commander in chief of the navy, Jorge Martinez, has just stated 'why should we repent? We are not responsible for the events of 1973.' Likewise, Lucia Pinochet, the dictator's daughter, declared in London 'my father has always wanted peace and the unity of our country.'

What kind of peace was she referring to? That of the mass graves, of long months of solitary confinement, of unconsciousness after the application of electricity?

No, Chile, has never found peace since General Pinochet and the Armed Forces took over power 25 years ago. That's why the dead of Copiapo, the dead of Chile are haunting Pinochet.

But it is up to us, the survivors, to fulfil their quest for justice. Only then can they rest in peace.

The writer is a Chilean journalist writing and broadcasting on Latin American affairs. He was imprisoned tortured under the Pinochet regime and subsequently spent much of the '80s in exile in Ireland and England.

ABDULLAH Ocalan is providing the leadership of the war that is going on in the South East of Turkey for nearly 15 years. The Turkish authorities have branded him a terrorist and he is the most wanted man on their list. Thanks to his taking refuge in Italy, the smooth and friendly relations between Italy and Turkey is under strain.

For many years, Ocalan operated from Syria, with whom Turkey has a fairly long border. Lebanon was a handy spot for training of guerrillas. Guerrillas would infiltrate through the Turkish borders and also through Northern Iraq. Recently, Turkey had enough of Syrian backing of Ocalan. Turkey made some menacing statements and backed it up by moving troops within striking distance of Syria. Turkey wanted an end of the stay of Ocalan in Syria.

Sensing that Turkey was serious in her threats, Ocalan was reported to have moved to Russia. Turkey has excellent bilateral relations with Russia, unlike Syria, and economic relations have truly blossomed. Turkish contractors are busy in virtual reconstruction of Russia and giant Turkish companies have established powerful foothold in Russia. Russia was not willing to sacrifice such profitable economic relations for the sake of Ocalan.

It is thus Abdullah Ocalan has found himself in Italy. Acrimonious debate has started between Turkey and Italy for extradition of Ocalan.

Italy has taken the stand that they cannot extradite Ocalan to Turkey, where capital punishment exists, which is not the case in Italy. Given the feelings of revulsion throughout Turkey against Ocalan, it

can be confidently predicted that he would be sent to the gallows. As an initial reaction, Turkey had recalled her Ambassador from Rome but has since sent him back to his post.

The fate of Ocalan is intimately linked with the murderous war that has been going on in the southeast of Turkey. The war has cost 30,000 lives in a war that has lasted nearly 15 years. Thus in Turkey the media is full of stories of atrocities carried out by guerrillas operated under the order of Ocalan and Turkish TV carries gory pictures of such massacres. Also visible are pictures of Kurdish guerrillas, their bodies lying prostrate. Turkish public opinion has not become numb by these daily incidents.

Ocalan's attempts to subvert public opinion in the Kurdish area of south eastern Turkey has totally failed. Against heavy odds the population has remained loyal to the Turkish state.

Turkish authorities for several years now have been trying to change the fate of the population of the region. This is going on side by side with the war effort. Thus the giant Atatürk Barrage has been commissioned turning the arid countryside into green. Money is continuously pumped to change the economic pictures. Educational institutions, which were the particular target of the guerrillas are coming back to life and education is fast spreading in a region, which has remained remarkably backward. It can be safely as-

To the Editor...

Letters for publication in these columns should be addressed to the Editor and legibly written or typed with double space. For reasons of space, short letters are preferred, and all are subject to editing and cuts. Pseudonyms are accepted. However, all communications must bear the writer's real name, signature and address.

"Poor Doctors"

Sir, After my innumerable 'encounters' with 'poor doctors' (on which I could write a book), I thought I had acquired some immunity, but I almost developed wild rashes after reading the 'opinion' of Dr Sabrina Q. Rashid, (In defense of Doctors, DS 4 Dec '98), which I presume, was written in 'defense' of 'birds of the same feather'. I'm not sure whether one should admire the writer's modesty or question and criticise her 'knowledge and experience', while in the same breath she says, 'our patient's general knowledge and knowledge about health and human body is so meagre...'. If that is so, then the doctor should not be writing in The Daily Star (or do the readers fall in that category too)? Also her tone of 'defense' is more in tune with that used to calm a whimpering child, rather than backed by logic and facts. I believe that if she had read the cover story of the 'Star Weekend Magazine' — 'Breaking Vows Most Sacred', published on the same date, the writer would not have chosen to write.

I was amazed to read: 'At times they are also too tired to get into long discussions', while presumably, they are not too tired to examine a long line of patients! (Perhaps considering that it brings in a receipt-less/tax-free fee!) Also I'm not sure, that when she suggests, that to get into long discussions, patients should go to doctors who are less busy, is she suggesting going to the doctors' chamber or the local tea stalls? I remember her reference to DS readers as 'lay men'. I wonder also why, after a long line of contradictory comments, she felt that the reference to India was necessary?

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Why 'A' Level?

Sir, A student wrote a letter titled above in the DS on December 7, 1998, bemoaning wasted time in having to pass 'A' Levels before medical educational institutions shall consider a local candidate eligible, and wanted an explanation from the education ministry as to why 'O' Levels ought not to be adequate. The person mistakenly compared a US (American) High School Diploma to be at par with Bangladesh High School Certificate, i.e. SSC.

I would like to correct this misinformation. High School education in the US is completed at grade 12, which is equivalent to HSC in Bangladesh. Furthermore, in the UK, students enter universities upon completion of both 'O' and 'A' Levels. So, I would encourage this young person to continue on and complete the 'A' Levels, and I am sure all doors of higher learning, be it medicine or otherwise shall be open for him (her).

Towhid Islam
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Noise pollution in Dhanmondi

Sir, Dhanmondi, a prime location of Dhaka city, has been regarded a residential area for quite a long time. It was mainly a residential area and a quiet locality with some grocery and necessity shops situated beside the main roads some years ago.

Nowadays it has become a chaotic place as hundreds of schools and dozen community centres have mushroomed here

and there. The noise from the car horns at daytime at the time of dismissal of schools and the queue of the bridegrooms and guests at night in various community centres have made the life miserable of the people living here. Concerts and carnivals are being arranged every month.

The gig from the loudspeakers are perturbing the normal life of the people living at these areas — especially in December. Our country lacks civic sense — the people arranging concerts do not care whether the area is being polluted with noise or not. During the eve before exams in December the students cannot study with concentration due to this barbaric culture. Especially the people arranging these do not care as they play music at the top of the volume without any consideration. They don't care if there is someone ailing or studying for exams. Let alone the traffic jam, the gig from these concerts have made the Dhanmondi-ites lives miserable.

Sania Tasneem
Dhanmondi, Dhaka

Helping Iraq

Sir, Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq and liberation of Kuwait by the multi-national forces led by the US, the poor Iraq has been razed to the dust. For over eight years UN economic sanctions are imposed on Iraq. Export and import from and to Iraq are totally banned. Iraq is totally cut off from the rest of the world. The socio-economic condition of the people of Iraq have been shattered and devastated. Thousands of children suffer from malnutrition and are deprived of medical care. Millions of Iraqis are languishing due to want, hunger and disease and their sufferings know no bounds.

Despite the appalling and heart-breaking situation in Iraq the western countries especially the USA and the UK insist on continuation of UN economic sanctions against Iraq for an indefinite period. Their only allegation and doubt is that Iraq is hiding nuclear and biological weapons, despite the fact that UNSCOM arms inspectors and the experts from Geneva based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have searched every nook and corner of Iraq including the controversial presidential palaces for the last eight years but have not found any trace of nuclear weapons.

True, President Saddam Hussein went emotional and berserk due to some differences of opinion with the Kuwaiti rulers and by dint of his great foolishness and mistake he invaded and occupied Kuwait for some time. But he was defeated in the Gulf war and Kuwait was freed.

Because of faux pas and insensitivity of some of their leaders, Germany, Italy and Japan also ventured to attack and occupy many countries during 1940s. But after the end of the war, the Germans, Italians and the Japanese did not suffer as the Iraqis are suffering. The western countries especially the US and the UK rushed to Germany, Japan and Italy with humanitarian aid and helped rebuild these war ravaged countries. But in the case of Iraq, they are quite averse and indifferent.

We would once again request the UN Security Council to do away with the UN economic sanctions against Iraq on humanitarian ground.

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