



PRIME MINISTER

New Delhi,
December 6, 1971

Dear Prime Minister,

My colleagues in the Government of India and I were deeply touched by the message which His Excellency the Acting President Syed Nazrul Islam and you sent to me on December 4. On its receipt, Government of India once again considered your request to accord recognition to the People's Republic of Bangla Desh which you lead with such dedication. I am glad to inform you that in the light of the circumstances which prevail at present, Government of India have decided to grant the recognition. This morning I made a statement on the subject in our Parliament. I enclose a copy.

The people of Bangla Desh have gone through much suffering. Your young men are engaged in a self-sacrificing struggle for freedom and democracy. The people of India are also fighting in defence of the same values. I have no doubt that this companionship in endeavour and sacrifice will strengthen our dedication to great causes and the friendship between our two peoples. However long the road and however exacting the sacrifice that our two peoples may be called upon to make in the future, I am certain that we shall emerge triumphant.

I take this opportunity to convey to you personally, to your colleagues and to the heroic people of Bangla Desh my greetings and best wishes.

I should also like to take this opportunity to convey through you to His Excellency Syed Nazrul Islam, Acting President of the People's Republic of Bangla Desh the assurances of my highest esteem.

Yours sincerely,

(Indira Gandhi)

His Excellency Mr. Tajuddin Ahmed,
Prime Minister of the People's Republic of Bangla Desh,
Mujibnagar.