MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: 
President Gerald R. Ford
His Excellency Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, 
Prime Minister of Bangladesh
Dr. Kamal Hossain, Foreign Minister
Ambassador M. Hossain Ali
Lt. General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: 
Tuesday - October 1, 1974
3:00 p.m.

PLACE: 
The Oval Office
The White House

[The press was admitted briefly for photos. There was a discussion of pipe tobacco and Mrs. Ford's condition. The press was ushered out.]

President: It was a shock to us. We had to make the decision for the operation, then wait for them to determine malignancy, and so forth.

Mujibur: I sincerely hope she is out of danger.

President: Yes, the prognosis cannot be certain, but only two nodes out of 30 were malignant.

It is good to have you here. It is the first time an American President has met with the head of state of Bangladesh.

Mujibur: Yes. I am happy to have the opportunity to talk with you about my people.

President: We are happy to do what we can for all countries.

Mujibur: You know the history of my country. Its condition after the war was likened to that of Germany in 1945. I want to thank you for your help to us. Before the war we were divided by India. The capital was all in...
Bangladesh wasn't too bad in '47. Seventy percent of the representatives in the Parliament were from the West; I was in the Parliament. Most of the Administration was destroyed in the war or left for India. Even in the rest we couldn't get out of the West. Everyone has been suffering, first from the war, then from drought, then from the floods. Thanks to help from countries like you, no one is starving. We have had to import everything. Since then we started to bring our trade deficit down, until the inflation, drought and the floods came.

Bangladesh has resources. If we could control the floods, we could be self-sufficient in five years. We produce rice, jute, wheat, and tobacco. We have big gas deposits -- 10-20 trillion cubic feet. We were almost self-sufficient in fertilizer but our plants were damaged. With our own gas and fertilizer plants we could begin to export fertilizer, except for inflation.

President: We have been telling the OPEC countries that if their high prices result in the problems that you and the industrial countries are having, the high prices will bring a collapse and won't help them.

Mujibur: We are suffering so badly from the oil prices.

President: The OPEC countries must realize they are being shortsighted.

Mujibur: We are having a famine, and I have just heard that a cyclone is hitting. We are in dire straits. I have opened food kitchens in each of the regional areas to keep people from starving.

President: Wouldn't a Bangladesh Consortium to include some rich oil producers be a good thing? It would give them a chance to.

Mujibur: Abu Dhabi and Iran joined the Consortium. I have a crisis immediately, Mr. President, in grain and food aid.

President: There is 250,000 tons of food grains that are being made available for you. As we look at our food picture we will do what we can. We had hoped for a bigger crop. We had a wet spring and then a drought, and now an early frost. So our crop is disappointing. We must see what we have and we will do our very best with what we have.
Mujibur: You are very kind. I hope, if I can make the flood control project with World Bank, we will be self-sufficient within five years. With our gas we hope for oil. We have signed contracts with Atlantic-Richfield and Union Oil. Eventually we can export. But that is in the future, and my crisis is immediate.

President: Do you work with the international lending institutions?

Mujibur: We are a member of the World Bank. Mr. McNamara visited Bangladesh just after our independence. Most of my mills are working now, but there are not enough materials and parts to go at capacity.

President: How about the price of jute?

Mujibur: It has only gone up 10-12%.

We won a majority in Pakistan. We are doing our best to be friends with them. Though millions were killed, or jailed or exiled, we want to forget. We released the Pakistani prisoners, including 195 war criminals. We think we should get some share of the old Pakistani assets. Yet I have had to take on the liabilities of the new country. Bhutto came to Dacca and I told him this, but so far nothing has happened. Also there are 700,000 non-Bengalees in my country. 400,000 want to stay in Bangladesh. That is fine. But Pakistan won't take the others who want to go there. I have to feed my people. How can I take care of my people when I have to take care of these?

I wanted to present these problems to you. I want good relations with everyone.

President: We congratulate you on your independence and UN membership. I was up there two weeks ago. I was encouraged with the improving attitude toward the UN. The American people in recent times have a better attitude towards the United Nations. If it is just a debating society, it is no good. But we should use it to make it work.

Mujibur: We are grateful to you. We are a poor country but we want good relations with you.

President: What is the comparison between what used to be East and West Pakistan?
Mujibur: Pakistan is 65 million. I am 75 million. Pakistan is larger than I. I am starting a family planning organization. We are having particular problems now. I am glad you know our problems. I want to survive.

President: The 150,000 tons [of wheat] is all set. The 100,000 is virtually assured and only depends on our supplies.

Mujibur: Would you consider edible oil and cotton? Our people are discussing with yours now.

President: We will do what we can.

Mujibur: Thank you. I officially invite you to visit Bangladesh.

President: Thank you. Isn't Secretary Kissinger going there?

Mujibur: Yes. On 30 October, but I want to invite you.
P/ Minneapolis/ November/ Ali

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Yes, the progress is coming on certain but only 2 more weeks.

Good to have you back. First time you have sent a letter.

Yes, same happy to have an opportunity to talk to you about my work.

Happy to be the one in your little circle.

Yes, I have been thinking about what we will do. The entire year was wonderful.

Thank you for your help. Before she was called by God, she spent all her years. Been around 47, 70 of age in her parliament career.

I was in the army. Otherwise, it was still doing government. Went for a vacation in a week.

Dept for Indian things. But my work was embroiled with my work.

Everyone has been suffering. First time a war has come. From Boston, then from Boston. Thanks to help from the government.

It was a year ago, we are suffering. We have had it all in the wrong. Since then we started being more tractable.

Thank you. Thanks to the people who have been good to us.

If we went further, we could be happy. In the future, we feel the need to work on the future. Let's hope for the future. We feel the need to work for the future.

We learn today OPEC that if their high prices continue in a free game, it is going to hit this area.
During a high fever will her collapse & won't help them.

We are suffering too much from cold fever.

OPEC must realize they are losing that market

We are doing forms & just heard a speech this morning.

We are in their station. I have opened food kitchens

The best response is to keep fighting & staying.

We won't do long conversation & involved some fund

And forward the good thing we will give them.

Celine & I have, plan one email. I am serious, in your favor.

Thank you for your support. We will keep them.

We believe you can do the right thing.

We must do what we think we will do on any test

We want it.

To your very kind. I hope that we can make

And control our world back we will be self

To win 50. We can get on it, we believe we can do it.

Hutjjek + Team

I don't think that my future, our team is unlike

Do you work up until today now?

Can we manage our world back. We humans

Want just as the people.

Most of my writing is more interesting now.

But not enough to give any comment to you or anybody.

They don't mean it yet.

Our game on the 13th.

We are on the market in Pakistan. We do not want

To be forced to an effort to sell million worth. I found

Two million goods, we want to fight. We released c

Of the previous, mid. 95 orCemico. We China
We should put some plans of old Bob aside. Yet I heard him talk on a Thushed ceremony. But the same day I heard him, but no one noticed. But then 500,000 men engaged. 500,000 we must stay in Bayi. That is fine. But Bob won't take a plan. Here are the parties. I have a feel in my people. How can I take care of my people when I am in trouble? I wanted to present this plan to you, I can't send written to everyone.

We congratulate you on the peace in UN membership. I know that you will go on. I am anxious of having another UN and the UN will improve in the next times. Our talks have a little attitude behind UN. I hope we can all work better in a UN. It is just obstetric society. It is good. But we should use it well and work.

We are grateful to you. We are your lovely but we won't do relations with you.

What is a modern E.U.?

Bob is 65 and from 15 and Bob is larger than D. I am staying family planning again. We have another problem near. I think that you have some fact. I want to announce.

The UN was so well put. The UN is actually assumed and only depends on one people.