

NSA review completed

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DOS Review Completed.

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ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM  
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI  
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~~TOP SECRET~~ SENSITIVE CONTAINS CODEWORD EXCLUSIVELY EYES ONLY

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PLEASE PASS TO GOMPERT/BEMER FOR THE SECRETARY

OCTOBER 29, 1974  
MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER  
FROM: THE SITUATION ROOM  
SUBJECT: NOON NOTES

BANGLADESH CABINET CHANGES: PRIME MINISTER MUJIBUR RAHMAN ASKED FOR AND HAS RECEIVED THE RESIGNATION OF LEFTIST FINANCE MINISTER TAJUDDIN AHMED, THE MAIN ADVOCATE OF SOCIALISM IN THE CABINET AND A STAUNCH FRIEND OF THE SOVIET UNION AND INDIA. TAJUDDIN'S OUSTER LAST SATURDAY MAY WELL BE A SIGNAL TO MILITARY OFFICERS, POTENTIALLY MUJIB'S MOST POWERFUL CHALLENGERS, THAT THE PRIME MINISTER CAN ACT DECISIVELY, EVEN AT THE POSSIBLE COST OF SUPPORT FROM LONGTIME AWAMI LEAGUE STALWARTS. TAJUDDIN, LEADER OF THE RULING AWAMI LEAGUE'S LEFT WING, HAD LONG OPPOSED A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO ECONOMIC PROBLEMS AND FREQUENTLY ATTACKED GOVERNMENT POLICIES PUBLICLY. RECENTLY HE EXPRESSED DISSATISFACTION WITH MUJIB'S PURPORTED PLANS TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION TO ALLOW A MORE CENTRALIZED AND POSSIBLY AUTHORITARIAN PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT -- A CHANGE THE MILITARY OFFICERS APPARENTLY FAVOR. ONE POSSIBLE REASON FOR REMOVING TAJUDDIN MAY HAVE BEEN HIS OPPOSITION TO THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM THAT A CONSORTIUM OF WESTERN AID DONORS IS DEVELOPING FOR BANGLADESH. MUJIB COULD WELL HAVE CONCLUDED THAT TAJUDDIN'S CONTINUED PRESENCE IN THE CABINET WOULD HAVE MADE THE AID NEGOTIATIONS UNNECESSARY.

No Objection to Declassification in Part 2012/08/15 : LOC-HAK-550-2-58-5

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