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31 March 1981

# South and East Asia Report

(FOUO 2/81)

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## SOUTH AND EAST ASIA REPORT

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(Yoshimura;	ASAHI SHIMBUN, 10 Mar 81)	1

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JAPANESE NEWSPAPER INTERVIEWS BHUTTO'S DAUGHTER

OW110937 Tokyo ASAHI SHIMBUN in Japanese 10 Mar 81 morning edition p 7

[Article by correspondent Yoshimura]

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[Text] Lahore, Pakistan, 9 March--Mass arrests of officials of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and other opposition parties continue in Pakistan amid mounting political tension. Benazir Bhuttho, 27, the late Prime Minister Bhutto's eldest daughter who is a leader of the PPP, reportedly went underground on 8 March to evade the police. This reporter interviewed her before she went into hiding. Opinions are divided about her views and political program. However, this reporter was impressed by her respect for her deceased father and her passion for justice.

The interview took place at the Bhutto residence in the suburbs of Karachi on 1 March. The residence is a mansion surrounded by a 4-5 meter-high concrete wall with an iron gate. No policemen were seen posted there. However, while the interview was underway, Benazir received a report that her secretary had just been arrested while out on business and that the telephone line had been cut. The situation around Benazir was tense. Of the PPP leaders, President Nusat Bhutto, the late prime minister's wife, a leftwinger, is regarded rather as a moderate, whereas Benazir is generally regarded as a radical. Following are the questions and answers exchanged during the interview.

[Question] The antigovernment opposition has become more spirited since February. Why at this of all times?

[Answer] Let me begin with the background of our struggle. The PPP has been engaged in a struggle for democracy and the sovereignty, prestige and unity of Pakistan. As you know, Pakistan is a federated entity. It is important, therefore, for the people of the four states to participate in a single government and regard it as their own. Yet Ziaul (President Haq) seized power by force and has been suppressing the people with martial law. This is bound to breed confusion. Many countries in the world want Pakistan to be stable, but it must be understood that stability is impossible under a dictatorship. We are fighting for the recovery of the people's rights. I want you to fully understand that the only way for Pakistan to achieve stability is through democracy.

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Nine opposition parties issued a joint declaration on 6 February in this very house (the Bhutto residence). That resolution called for the immediate resignation of the president and the holding of a general election. That declaration has spurred a nationwide struggle. The mountains and seas, the valleys and rivers are reverberating with voices demanding democracy. Students launched a spontaneous struggle in various parts of the country, and the struggle is spreading among lawyers, physicians and teachers. Despite many arrests, activists are still moving about in the country, causing trouble here and there. It is important to maintain the present pace of the struggle.

[Question] Why are you involved in politics?

[Answer] From time to time I have been asked why I do not give up politics and go abroad for a few years. Take a glance at the history of civilization and democracy. It tells us that when there is oppression, poverty and discrimination, all, men and women alike, must rise up and openly say: "This is not right. Why do these injustices exist?" Without this, civilization cannot progress.

[Question] Would you tell me about the late Prime Minister Bhuttho?

[Answer] He was a wonderful politician rich in imagination. He was a prime minister elected in the first and only election that was ever held in our country. He fought against poverty and injustice and worked hard to rebuild the country (devastated by the third Indo-Pakistani war). He did not succumb but maintained his fortitude even after his arrest. All these things make me proud of him. In the depth of my heart. He reminds me of a beautiful tapestry. He possessed warmth and strength, kindness and tolerance. He was one of the most eminent statesmen. He was loved and respected by all those who knew him, whether they live in the east or the west, in advanced countries or developing countries. I can never forget the way (President) Ziaul Haq treated my father.

[Question] I would like to know what your views are on international relations? What do you think of U.S. President Reagan and the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan?

[Answer] The previous U.S. president lacked consistency. He preached human rights. However, when my father was executed, he evaded the issue saying that was Pakistan's internal affair. I hope that President Reagan will earnestly consider the world's stability and that of Pakistan. I also hope that he will carry on the attitude of favoring dialogues with the Soviet Union.

The Afghan issue, in my opinion, is an internal affair of Afghanistan. Afghanistan and Pakistan, being neighbors, must search for a way to achieve coexistence. It is necessary to begin talks (with the Karmal regime).

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