



The U.S. Navy 7th Fleet.



This is a record from the horses' mouth of what transpired into the defeat of Pakistan in 1971, and the subsequent humiliation of the American intent. Here are excerpts from the American National Security Archive Electronic Briefing Book No. 79.

The National Security Archive, published on the World Wide Web 46, declassified U.S. government documents and audio clips concerned with United States policy towards India and Pakistan during the South Asian Crisis of 1971.

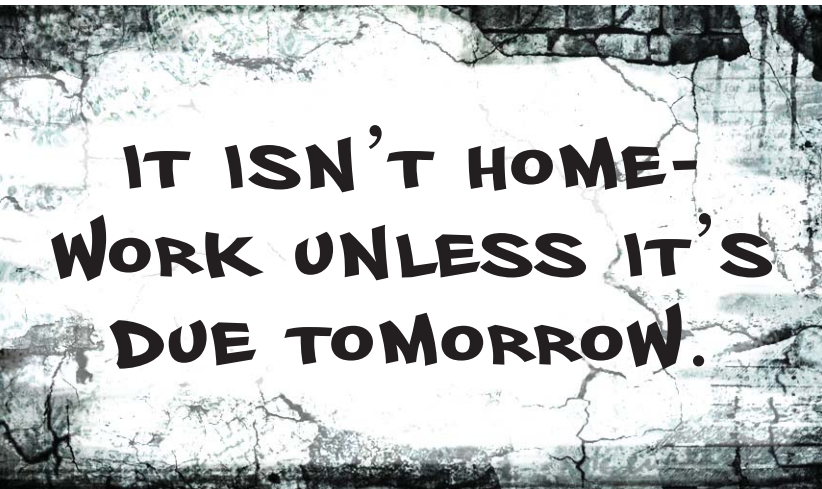
The documents, declassified and available at the U.S. National Archives and the Presidential Library system, detail how United States policy, directed by Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger, followed a course that became infamous known as 'The Tilt.'

Pakistan's December 1970 elections, the first free democratic elections for the National Assembly in Pakistan's history, saw Sheikh Mujibur (Mujib) Rahman's East Pakistan-based Awami League party (AL) win 167 out of 169 seats contested in Pakistan's Eastern flank, giving the AL a majority and control of the 313-seat National Assembly. This was the first time that political power in Pakistan would be concentrated in its Eastern half. The West Pakistan's loss of political power over East Pakistan was devastating. Threatened by this development, on March 1, 1971, with the Assembly set to open in two days, the military dictator General Agha Muhammad Yahya



Pakistani officers laying down their weapons as a mark of surrender to the Indian Army in East Pakistan.

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

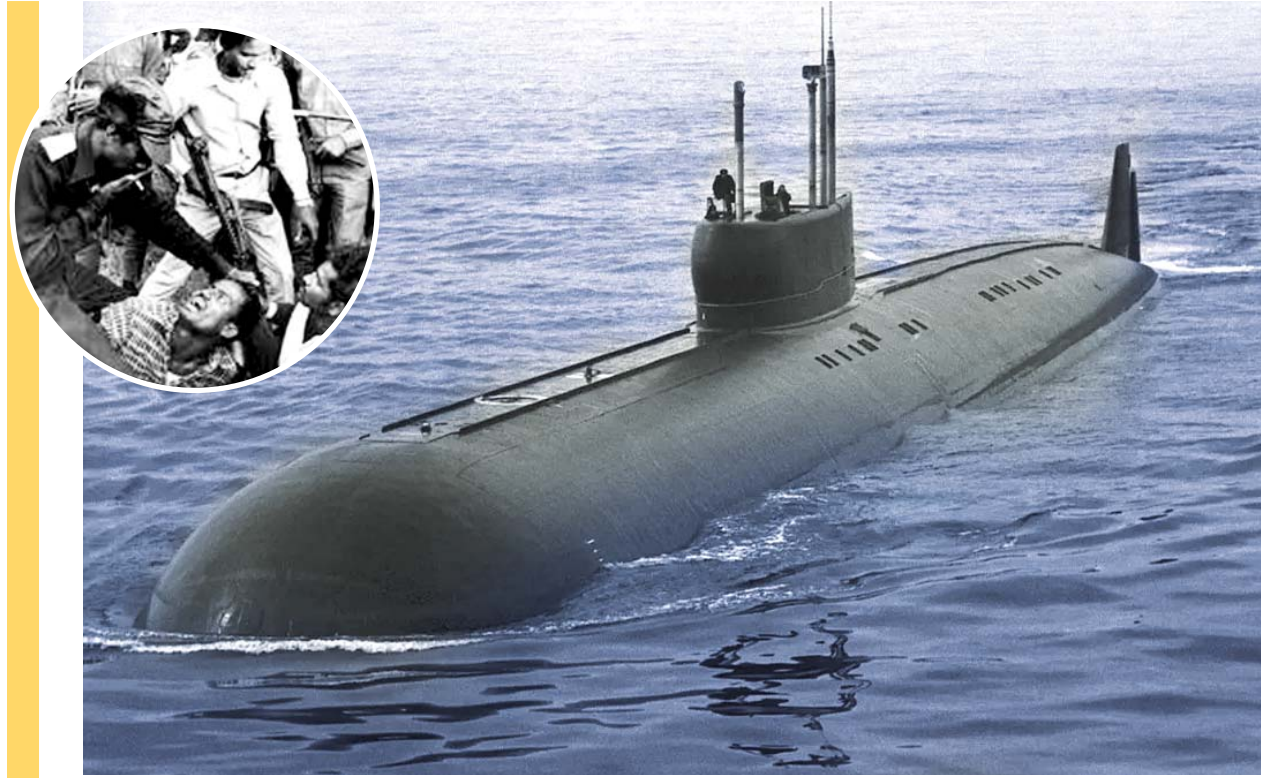
## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

## World Sherlock Holmes Day: A Toast to the Master Sleuth

very year on May 22, World Sherlock Holmes Day honours the legendary detective created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Celebrated on the author's birthday, the day pays tribute to Holmes' razor-sharp intellect, iconic deerstalker hat, and his enduring impact on detective fiction. Fans across the globe revisit classic tales, don costumes, and even attend themed events. From Baker Street to bookshelves worldwide, Holmes continues to captivate readers and inspire modern crime-solving stories. Whether you're a lifelong fan or a curious newcomer, today's the perfect day to say, 'The game is afoot!'



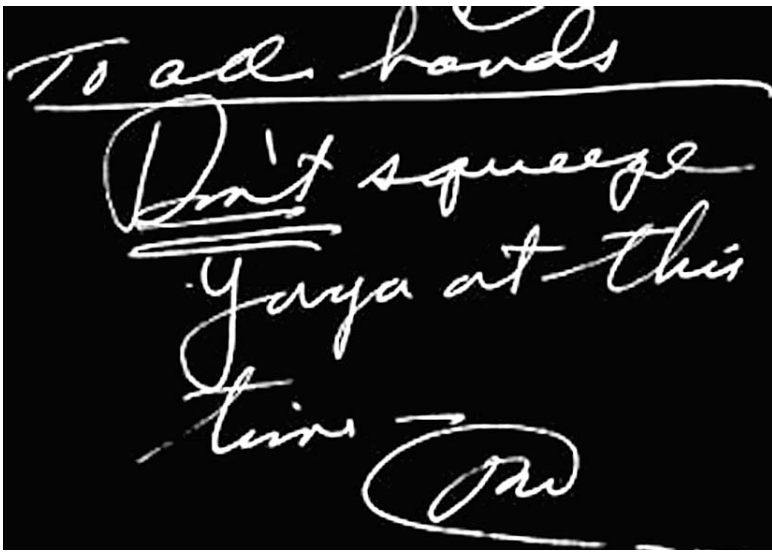
Russian Submarine.

# 'The Tilt' The U.S. And The Shameface

By using what Nixon and Kissinger called quiet diplomacy, the Administration gave a green light of sorts to the Pakistanis. In one instance, Nixon declared to a Pakistani delegation that, 'Yahya is a good friend.' Rather than express concern over the ongoing brutal military repression, Nixon explained that he 'understands the anguish of the decisions which Yahya had to make.' As a result of Yahya's importance to the China initiative and his friendship with Nixon and Kissinger, Nixon declared that the U.S. 'would not do anything to complicate the situation for President Yahya or to embarrass him.' Much like the present situation post 9/11, Washington was hesitant to criticize Pakistan publicly out of fear that such a tactic might weaken the dictator's support for American interests.



#1971



Nixon's Handwritten Message, "To all hands, Don't Squeeze Yahya at this time"

ment's historical declassification program. The record is far from complete: numerous materials remain classified both by the State Department, CIA and other agencies as well as the Nixon Presidential Materials Project. Nevertheless, the available documents offer many useful insights into how and why Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger made im-

portant decisions during the 1971 South Asian Crisis. The NSC Senior Review Group discusses the situation in East Pakistan and increasing tensions between India and Pakistan. The President indicates that 'the big story is Pakistan,' and he expresses his concern from the standpoint of human suffering. While Nixon suggests that some Indian and

Pakistani interest might be served by war, it is not in American interests as 'the new China relationship would be imperiled, probably beyond repair.' While stating that the Indians are more 'devious' than the 'sometimes extremely stupid' Pakistanis, the U.S. 'must not-cannot-allow' India to use the refugees as a pretext for breaking up Pakistan. Despite the condi-

tions in the East, which Ambassador Blood described as 'selective genocide,' Nixon states that, "We will not measure our relationship with the government in terms of what it has done in East Pakistan. By that criterion, we would cut off relations with every Communist government in the world because of the slaughter that has taken place in the Communist countries."

Indira Gandhi, in a letter to President Nixon, notes that the refugee flow has not slowed, and has reached approximately seven million. She questions U.S. efforts to work towards a political solution in East Pakistan as well as American arms transfers to Pakistan.

Kissinger, in a memorandum to Nixon, describes his talks with the Chinese Ambassador in Paris. Kissinger explains to the Chinese that the U.S. is prevented from giving any military assistance to Pakistan because of Congress, but supports Chinese assistance by stating that the U.S. would 'understand it if other friends of Pakistan will give them the equipment they need.' He also declares that the U.S. 'will do nothing to embarrass the government of Pakistan by any public statements.'

Kissinger discusses the developments in South Asia including Yahya's stand to not grant independence in the East, the serious insurgency movement underway in East Pakistan, and the continuing flow of refugees into India. He suggests that American strategy gives Yahya a face-saving way of taking the political steps necessary to re-establish normal conditions. While Kissinger wrote in his memoirs, "We had no national interest to prevent self-determination for East Pakistan," the documents show that he believed otherwise. In this record, at a time when rapprochement with China was in the national interest, Kissinger suggests that 'a U.S. effort to split off part of Pakistan in the name of self-determination would have implications for Taiwan and Tibet in Peking's eyes.'

The documents indicate that repression of intellectuals in the East continues, but on a reduced scale. Ambassador Farland advises that the best policy is to continue the current practice of 'persistent but quiet pressure on GOP towards better treatment of East Pakistanis in all categories.'

The U.S., disguising the movement of the nuclear aircraft carrier, the USS Enterprise, into the Bay of Bengal for evacuation purposes, gladly lets the ship movement represent possible American involvement in the conflict, especially if it expanded to a super-power confrontation. Admiral Weller from the NSC Staff indicates that the JS has approved, for planning purposes only the CIN-

PAC concept to ready a USS attack carrier to dissuade 'third party' involvement in the South Asia crisis.

Keating suggests that Gandhi is trying to 'cool' the political climate in India while continuing to exert pressure on Pakistan. The President's Briefing indicates, however, that India is stepping up its support for the guerillas fighting in East Pakistan, action that could 'goat' the Pakistanis into a full-scale war. In one of the messages, UN Ambassador Bush describes the December 10 meeting between Kissinger and the Chinese delegation to the United Nations. While discussing the India-Pakistan crisis, Kissinger reveals that the American position on the issue was parallel to that of the Chinese. Kissinger disclosed that the U.S. would be moving some ships into the area, and also that military aid was being sent from Jordan, Turkey, and Iran. Some of this aid was illegally transferred because it was American in origin. Bush also reports that Kissinger gives his tacit approval for China to provide militarily support for Pakistani operations against India. Bush expresses his personal doubts in the administration's 'Two State Departments thing,' and takes issue with Kissinger's style, in one instance calling him paranoid and arrogant.

The DIA assesses the limits and possibility of Chinese support to the Pakistanis. It opines that while Chinese support will be limited to political, diplomatic, and propaganda for the time being, the PRC could initiate small attacks in the high mountainous areas in the East, and therefore occupy Indian troops without 'provoking Soviet retaliatory moves.'

Heavy fighting is turning in favour of the Indians, while cease-fire plans continue to be in the works. A controversy is brewing with regards over the U.S. decision to send a nuclear carrier into the Bay of Bengal. The present trickle

of Mig-19's and F-104's will not hold off the Indians. Handwriting next to Mig-19s notes 'China' and next to F-104s notes 'Jordan.'

Keating describes his difficulty in explaining the rationale behind the deployment of a carrier task force. He also suggests that the decision to send the task force into the Indian Ocean has only encouraged Yahya to continue the Pakistani military effort.

India has ordered a unilateral cease-fire upon the unconditional surrender of West Pakistani forces in East Pakistan. Despite the cease-fire, American officials in Dacca report that 'no one seems to be in effective control of the situation,' and that fighting continues 'between Bengalis and scattered Mujahid/Razakar/West Pakistani elements.' Also, in a heavily excised paragraph, the CIA reports that a squadron of American origin, Jordanian F-104s was delivered to Pakistan on 13 December, despite an American embargo on military supplies to both India and Pakistan. 'This embargo includes third party transfers of American equipment to either of the parties. These are some telling notes.'

The Nixon administration, during the East Pakistan crisis convened meetings of the Washington Special Action Group (WSAG) to discuss the situation in South Asia. Records of these meetings were kept, and somehow leaked to Syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. Anderson's articles, based on classified WSAG minutes, became contentious, not only because they quoted from leaked classified material, but also for their racy content. Kissinger and others in the administration became upset at Anderson's exposure of White House policies because, among other things, it revealed the tilt towards Pakistan, despite the genocidal conditions in the East.

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Indira Gandhi- Richard Nixon.

#NO MORE

# Ab Tumhare Hawale...

He oversaw the planning, execution, and operation of all nuclear power projects across the nation.

Dr. M. R. Srinivasan, the former Chairman of India's Atomic Energy Commission, passed away on Tuesday, 20 May 2025, at the age of 96. The veteran scientist suddenly fell ill overnight in Ooty and peacefully passed away in the local hospital at 4 a.m. on Tuesday. M. R. Srinivasan was the former Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, who played a major role in developing India's nuclear power programme.

Malur Ramasamy (M. R.) Srinivasan, born in January 1930, was an Indian nuclear scientist and mechanical engineer who was also responsible for the development of a Pressurised Heavy-Water Reactor (PHWR) in India. After joining the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) in September 1955, Srinivasan worked with Dr. Homi Bhabha on the nation's first nuclear research reactor, Apsara, which achieved criticality in August 1956. In 1959, he was appointed as the



**PM Modi's Condolences**  
In a social media post, Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed condolences on the demise of veteran scientist M. R. Srinivasan. Modi highlighted how Srinivasan's role in developing India's nuclear infrastructure has been foundational for the industry.

Principal Project Engineer for the construction of India's first atomic power station, and later in 1967, he took charge of the Madras Atomic Power Station as its Chief Project Engineer.

In 1974, he became the Director of the Power Projects Engineering Division, DAE, and later, in 1984, he was promoted to the Chairman of the Nuclear Power Board, where he oversaw the planning, execution, and operation of all nuclear power projects across the nation. In 1987, he finally became the Chairman of

the Atomic Energy Commission and Secretary of the Department of Atomic Energy. He was awarded the Padma Vibhushan, India's highest civilian recognition for all his contributions to the Indian nuclear programme. M. R. Srinivasan completed his schooling in Mysore and later joined the engineering college (currently UVCE) by M. Visvesvaraya, where he finished his Bachelor's in Mechanical Engineering in 1950.

He also did his Master's in gas turbine technology from McGill University in Canada in 1964.

# Now A Star In The Sky

"Space has many complex organic molecules, so astrochemistry is now a fast-developing science." - Narlikar

India's renowned Astro Physicist V.V. Narlikar is no more. We, at Arbit, have the good fortune at this time of loss to pass on to our readers some of the observations from his

mostly silent man, please read on, but first, something about the man.

Narlikar was born in Kolhapur, India, on 19 July 1938, into an academic family. His father, Vishnu Vasudev Narlikar, was a mathematician and theoretical physicist who was a professor and head of department at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi. His mother, Sumati Narlikar, was a scholar of Sanskrit. Narlikar went to school at Central Hindu College (now Central Hindu Boys School) in Varanasi. He then studied at Banaras Hindu University. He continued his education at Cambridge University, where he was a member of Fitzwilliam College (as his father had been).

Narlikar began his research career as a doctoral student in theoretical cosmology, under the guidance of Fred Hoyle in Cambridge. He was then a postdoctoral fellow at King's College in Cambridge and earned an additional master's degree in astronomy and astrophysics. In 1966, Fred Hoyle established the Institute of Theoretical Astronomy in Cambridge. Narlikar was a founding member of the institute, while remaining a fellow at King's College.

In 1972, Narlikar returned to India as a professor at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research in Mumbai, where he led its theoretical astrophysics group. In 1981, Narlikar became a founding member of the World Cultural Council. In 1988, he was appointed the founding director of the Inter-University Centre for Astronomy and Astrophysics (IUCAA) in Pune.

Here is a rare interview for our readers- BY IPSITA HERLEKAR

up scared of science instead of being excited about it. Some others think of it as a subject that requires a lot of memorization. That kind of thinking should not be there. Children should be taught to appreciate science as a tool to answer many questions and feel more competent by learning to use it. In order to be able to achieve this, the way in which science is taught in schools has to change first.

**III: You have been in the field of astrophysics for many decades now. In which direction do you see the research in this area progressing?**

**JN:** One has to see the historical growth in this field. It all started with astronomy, observing the sky and stars. Later, human curiosity is such that people wanted to know why things happen. This led to advances in the field of astrophysics. Then, there was a time when a new aspect of astronomy, called astrochemistry, caught the attention of many researchers. Scientists previously believed that there occurred no chemistry in interstellar space, as there was hardly any matter in there, and therefore, found it largely uninteresting. But they turned out to be wrong, as it was found that space has many complex organic molecules. So, astrochemistry is now a fast-developing field of science. For example, I had guessed, the next direction the research is expected to take off in is astrobiology. For a very long time, people have been interested in finding out if life, as we know it, exists elsewhere in the universe. This is where the research will be headed next. Currently, there are more students taking up advanced studies in astronomy and astrophysics. But fields like astrochemistry and astrobiology remain unexplored. It will take time for research in these subjects to pick up and progress, especially in astrobiology.

**III: In what ways can scientists contribute towards science education in India?**

**JN:** Scientists can take part in various ways towards public education. On various aspects of science, for example, I had many school children come and ask me for autographs. And instead of just signing on a small plain piece of paper, I used to ask them to write a science question on a postcard and I would answer the question and sign it too. I felt that was one way of making children think about science.

**III: You have always advocated the need to cultivate a culture of science in society. How can one propagate the culture of science?**

**JN:** Today, planetariums are found in many of the larger cities in India. This spread or growth of planetariums, I have observed as I have grown older. The first planetarium, I remember, was first set-up in Kolkata and it was the only one for many many years, until one was built in Bombay. Now you have a chain of planetariums in many cities around the country, including one in Bengaluru.

**III: What is your opinion on the current system of science education in India?**

**JN:** Science should be a subject that children like. But that is not how it is most likely perceived. Many children grow