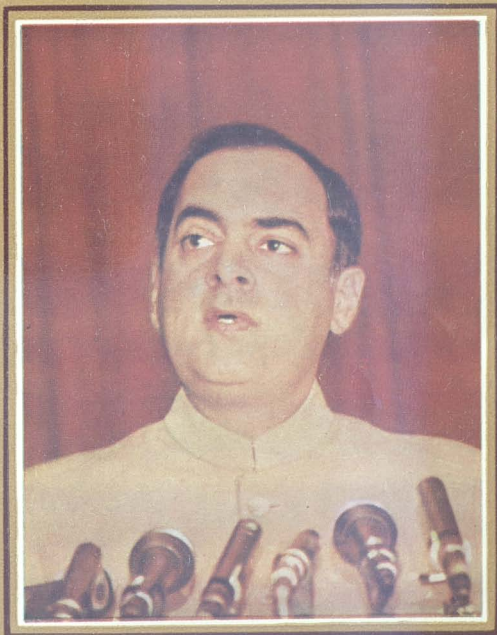


PRIME MINISTER RAJIV GANDHI



STATEMENTS ON FOREIGN POLICY
NOVEMBER 1984 - APRIL 1985





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Prime Minister
RAJIV GANDHI

Statements on Foreign Policy
November 1984 - April 1985

PUSTAKA PERDANA



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This is a collection of selected speeches and Press interviews on international relations by the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, during the period November 1984 to April 1985.

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“We will build for an India of 21st Century”

Fellow citizens,

Yesterday the mortal remains of Indira Gandhi were consigned, as she had wished, to the mighty Himalayas. Her immortal spirit beckons to us to build the India of her dreams.

Mahatma Gandhi breathed new life into our ancient land. He brought us freedom and taught us that the highest virtues are truth, love and non-violence. Jawaharlal Nehru laid the foundations of a politically and technologically modern India — democratic, secular, socialist, non-aligned.

Indira Gandhi built firmly on these foundations. She made the sovereignty of the people a reality and strove to ensure that policies and laws secured their rights. She fought against fanaticism and narrowness in all their forms. She made the nation self-reliant in agriculture, industry and several branches of technology. She battled relentlessly against poverty. Hers was the foremost voice for international peace in our tense and troubled world.

Most important of all, she infused us with self-confidence and a sense of purpose. She gave us back our pride. This splendid heritage has been left to us by Indiraji. I pledge to

Broadcast to the nation on November 12, 1984.

preserve this precious legacy and to work for a united, strong and prosperous India, an India devoted to the cause of peace.

Nothing is more important than the unity and integrity of our nation. India is indivisible. Secularism is the bedrock of our nationhood. It implies more than tolerance. It involves an active effort for harmony. No religion preaches hatred and intolerance. Vested interests, both external and internal, are inciting and exploiting communal passions and violence to divide India. Answering communalism with communalism will only help these subversive and secessionist forces. The combined might of the people and the Government will thwart their designs. There is only one India. It belongs to all of us.

BASIC AIM: REMOVAL OF POVERTY

Speedy removal of poverty is our basic objective. The Government is judged by the degree and quality of change it can bring about. Five years ago, when the people recalled Indiraji to office, she promised an effective Government and she kept her promise. Food production and energy output have touched record levels. Science has surged forward. Industry has resumed its dynamic movement. Employment opportunities are expanding. The economy has withstood the most severe natural calamities and international crises. The political and economic standing of India in the world is higher than ever.

I reaffirm our adherence to socialism and planning. Without planning we could not have reached where we are. Our aim is continuous modernisation, higher productivity and rapid advance of social justice.

In our Plans, rural development will have priority; greater production of cereals, pulses and oilseeds; spread of irrigation; support for small industries and handicrafts and all-round induction of new technology. Large expansion of employment, specially for rural and urban youth, is essential to reduce economic disparities and to ensure social peace. For this, high rates of growth in agriculture and industry will have to be achieved.

The public sector has played a historic role in laying the foundation of a modern economy. It has to shoulder greater res-

possibilities; and to become more efficient to generate surpluses for investment.

Within the framework of national policies, the private sector has adequate scope to enhance the productive potential of the economy. But it should acquire the strength competition provides by reducing costs and absorbing new technology. Both public and private sectors must venture out into new fields, improve quality and develop indigenous technology.

Kisans and workers are the pillars of our economy. The focus of our policies on their welfare will be sharpened.

Government will remain unwavering in its resolve to improve the living and working conditions of the scheduled castes, the scheduled tribes, backward classes, artisans, agricultural labour, women and the urban poor. The 20-Point Programme of Indira Gandhi, which aims to fulfil the immediate needs of the people, will be faithfully and effectively implemented.

Our greatest wealth is our people. We must enable individuals and families to realise their potential to the full. For this we shall stress programmes of family planning, nutrition, welfare of women and children, control of disease, elementary and adult education, sports and better communications.

IMPROVING QUALITY OF SERVICE

I am committed to improving the quality of service to the people. I want to tell all those involved in this task that if they work with integrity and dedication, they will have full protection from outside pressures and interference. But I also want to tell them that no quarter will be given to the corrupt, the lazy, the inefficient.

Our administrative system must become more goal-oriented. A new work-ethic, a new work-culture must be evolved in which Government is result-bound and not procedure-bound. Reward and punishment must be related to performance. A strong concern for efficiency must permeate all institutions.

The last few years have witnessed notable advances in science and technology. Indira Gandhi had a fine partnership with scientists, which helped the nation. I shall keep up this interaction.

The creative arts give to life the vision of inner truth and beauty. We owe much to our craftsmen who have carried on centuries old aesthetic traditions and to our artists and writers. We have to conserve our priceless heritage and to create an environment in which art will flourish.

Our educational system needs to be reconstructed as a dynamic force for national growth and integration. I intend to initiate a comprehensive review of the system and to build a national consensus for reform.

PEACE WITH OUR NEIGHBOURS

For nation-building, the first requisite is peace — peace with our neighbours and peace in the world. Our security environment has been vitiated. Sophisticated arms have been inducted on a large scale into our neighbourhood and into the Indian Ocean. We can depend on our armed forces to ensure the country's inviolability. The Government will continue to do all it can for the modernisation of defence and the welfare of our service personnel and their families. I take this occasion to greet our jawans and officers, in whose hands the nation's honour and integrity are safe.

Eminent leaders and representatives of the world's nations came here last week bringing to us their people's sympathy. I made it clear to them that India will continue its work for international peace, friendship and cooperation.

FOREIGN POLICY

Jawaharlal Nehru bequeathed to us a foreign policy which Indira Gandhi so creatively enriched. I shall carry it forward. I reaffirm our adherence to the United Nations, to the Non-Aligned Movement and to our opposition to colonialism, old or new. We are determined to work for narrowing international economic disparities.

We want to develop closer relations with each one of our immediate neighbours in a spirit of peace, friendship and cooperation. This is what we have offered to Pakistan. We have always believed that non-interference, peaceful coexistence and