

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

1.0 Checklist

Nominees may find the following checklist useful before sending the nomination form to the International Memory of the World Secretariat. The information provided in italics on the form is there for guidance only and should be deleted once the sections have been completed.

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Summary completed (section 1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nomination and contact details completed (section 2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Declaration of Authority signed and dated (section 2) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | If this is a joint nomination, section 2 appropriately modified, and all Declarations of Authority obtained |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Documentary heritage identified (sections 3.1 – 3.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | History/provenance completed (section 3.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Bibliography completed (section 3.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations recorded (section 3.6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of owner completed (section 4.1) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of custodian – if different from owner – completed (section 4.2) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of legal status completed (section 4.3) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of accessibility completed (section 4.4) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of copyright status completed (section 4.5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Evidence presented to support fulfilment of the criteria? (section 5) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Additional information provided (section 6) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Details of consultation with stakeholders completed (section 7) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Assessment of risk completed (section 8) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Summary of Preservation and Access Management Plan completed. If there is no formal Plan attach details about current and/or planned access, storage and custody arrangements (section 9) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Any other information provided – if applicable (section 10) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Suitable reproduction quality photographs identified to illustrate the documentary heritage. (300dpi, jpg format, full-colour preferred). |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Copyright permissions forms signed and attached. Agreement to propose item(s) for inclusion on the World Digital Library if inscribed |

Nomination form International Memory of the World Register

title of item being proposed

ID Code [*Internal use only*]

1.0 Summary (max 200 words)

Give a brief description of the documentary heritage being nominated and the reasons for proposing it.

*This is the "shop window" of your nomination and is best written **last!** It should contain all the essential points you want to make, so that anyone reading it can understand your case even if they do not read the rest of your nomination.*

The speech delivered by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on 7th March, 1971 was the most famous of all speeches delivered by this founding father of Bangladesh, who led the people of Bangladesh to independence in 1971. The speech was delivered at a time when the Pakistani military rulers refused to transfer power to the Bengali nationalist leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose party Awami League gained majority in the National Assembly of Pakistan in the general election held in 1970. The speech effectively declared the independence of Bangladesh.

The struggle for establishing democratic rights of the Bengalis turned into the War of Liberation following the genocide unleashed by the military rulers of Pakistan in the night of 25 March 1971. Although Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was arrested by the Pakistani military rulers in the same night and kept imprisoned in West Pakistan for subsequent nine months, his speech continued to act as the source of inspiration for the Bengali youths to take up arms and fight for the independence of Bangladesh.

The speech was included in the book "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History", by Jacob F. Field, as one of the most inspirational wartime speeches in the last 2,500 years. The speech constitutes a faithful documentation of how the failure of post-colonial nation-states to develop inclusive, democratic society alienates their population belonging to different ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious groups. In fact, the speech triggered the first successful war of liberation by means of cessation since the international boundaries had been redrawn after the World War II. The message of this historic speech is still relevant today for countries around the world who fail to establish an inclusive democratic society that effectively addresses the political, economic and socio-cultural aspirations of various ethnic, linguistic, cultural or religious groups within their territory.

The speech was extempore and there was no written script. However, the speech survived in the audio as well as AV versions.

2.1 Name of nominator (person or organization)

- 1) Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh represented by the Permanent Delegation of Bangladesh to UNESCO, Paris, France
- 2) Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh

2.2 Relationship to the nominated documentary heritage

- 1) In the absence of National Memory of the World Committee in Bangladesh, the Permanent Delegation of Bangladesh to UNESCO represents the State of Bangladesh, which owns a part of the documentary heritage.
- 2) Liberation War Museum, a non-profit entity of Bangladesh which owns a part the documentary heritage.

2.3 Contact person(s) (to provide information on nomination)

- 1) M. Shahidul Islam, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Bangladesh to UNESCO
- 2) Mofidul Hoque, Trustee, Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh

2.4 Contact details

Name	Address
1) M. Shahidul Islam	Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Bangladesh to UNESCO Embassy of Bangladesh to UNESCO 109 Avenue Henri Martin 75016 Paris, France

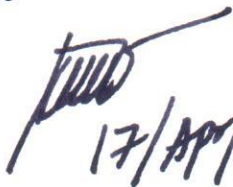
Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+33 1 46 51 90 33	+33 1 46 51 90 35	Shahidul.mofa@gmail.com diplomatic@bangladoot-paris.org

Name	Address
2) Mofidul Hoque	Liberation War Museum 5 Segun Bagicha Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+880-2-9559091	+880-2-9559092	1) Mukti.jadughar@gmail.com 2) mofidul_hoque@yahoo.com

2.5 Declaration of authority

I certify that I have the authority to nominate the documentary heritage described in this document to the International Memory of the World Register.

Signature

17/Apr/2017

Full name (Please PRINT)

M SHAHIDUL ISLAM

Institution(s), if appropriateAmbassador and Permanent Delegate of
Bangladesh to UNESCO

Date 17 April 2017

3.0 Identity and description of the documentary heritage**3.1 Name and identification details of the items being nominated**

If inscribed, the exact title and institution(s) to appear on the certificate should be given

In this part of the form you must describe the document or collection in sufficient detail to make clear precisely what you are nominating. Any collection must be finite (with beginning and end dates) and closed.

Title : The Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman

The documentary heritage related to the 7th March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman consists of: i) the original unedited audio recording, ii) the original 45 RPM record (edited version), iii) original 35 mm film footage, iv) subsequent edited and standardized audio-visual recordings to ensure preservation and access, and v) transcripts.

The components of documentary heritage mentioned at i), iii), iv), and v) above are the property of the Government of Bangladesh. The element of documentary heritage mentioned at ii) above is the property of the Liberation War Museum, a non-profit entity located within the territory of Bangladesh.

3.2 Catalogue or registration details

Depending on what is being nominated, appending a catalogue can be a useful way of defining a collection. If this is too bulky or impractical, a comprehensive description accompanied by sample catalogue entries, accession or registration numbers or other ways of defining a collection's size and character can be used.

This nomination file includes the following documentary heritage:

- a) Original unedited audio recording of the 7th March speech as broadcast by the then Radio Pakistan on 8 March 1971 and held under the custody of Bangladesh Betar (state-run radio service). This unedited original version of the speech is 19 minutes long.
- b) The audio-record of the speech, in an edited version, produced by Pakistan International Film Corporation Ltd in 1971 as a 45 RPM record, now conserved under the custody of Liberation War Museum. The contents of the speech is identical to a) above, but the length came down to 15 minutes due to editing.
- c) The original 35 mm film footages and standardized audio-visual documentary of the speech prepared by Department of Films and Publications (DFP) in 1972, now preserved under the custody of Bangladesh Film Archive.
- d) Digital version of the 7th March speech with improved digital technology prepared by Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) in 2013.
- e) Coloured version of the 7th March speech with improved technology prepared by Information and Communication Technology Ministry in 2014.

As a result of the unprecedented popularity of the speech, many other versions including video footages and sound recordings have been used by many private persons for producing documentaries and publicity material. The present nomination does not include those video footages and sound recordings.

3.3 Visual documentation if appropriate (for example, photographs, or a DVD of the documentary heritage)

It is useful to append photographs (or in the case of audiovisual material a CD, DVD, USB key of all or some of the material), where this adds additional information, to help the assessors visualize or listen to the collection or document.

The following are attached with the nomination file:

- 1) Still photograph of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman delivering speech on 7 March 1971.
- 2) Link to the Film recording of the 7th March speech.
- 3) Link to the sound recording of the 7th March speech.
- 4) Transcripts of the speech (in Bangla and English).

3.4 History/provenance

Describe what you know of the history of the collection or document. Your knowledge may not be complete, but give the best description you can.

The 7th March speech did not have any written script. The audio recording and audio-visual preservation of the speech was done under most difficult circumstances, as the then military rulers of Pakistan instructed the staff of Radio Pakistan not to record the speech. Notwithstanding this official ban, some

brave Bengali staff of Dhaka station of Pakistan Radio and Films Division, Government of East Pakistan as well as some journalists ensured the survival of the speech through sound recording and audio-visual footage.

Original audio recording: The speech was supposed to be broadcast live by the Radio Pakistan Dhaka Centre. Radio Pakistan, Dhaka Centre had their facilities ready but the military rulers at the last moment did not allow live broadcast of the speech and also put ban on recording of the speech. In spite of the ban, Mr. Nasar Ahmed Chowdhury, a Bengali Program Organizer of Radio Pakistan Dhaka station tape recorded the speech in full. In protest of the cancellation of live broadcast of the speech, all the Bangali staff and technicians of the radio station left their work and threatened to stop regular radio broadcast indefinitely. Finally, the Government of Pakistan had to bow down and allowed to broadcast the recorded speech on the following day, i. e., 8 March 1971.

After the Pakistani Army began indiscriminately killing the Bengalis from the night of 25 March, the two tapes containing the 7th March speech were secretly sent to the newly created *Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro* (Free Bengal Radio Station) by the Bengali nationalist forces. This recorded speech was played everyday during the next nine months by the *Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro* to inspire freedom fighters. After Bangladesh was freed from the occupation forces of Pakistan, the tapes of the speech became the possession of the Bangladesh Betar, which began to function from 22 December 1971 as the state-run Radio of the newly independent Bangladesh. The original tapes are preserved by Bangladesh Radio in a controlled climatic condition.

45 RPM record: Mr. M A Khair, Member of the Provincial Assembly and owner of the label "Dacca Record" of the then Pakistan International Film Corporation Ltd., arranged to make audio-recording of the speech. The audio-recording of the speech came out as a 45 RPM record on 17 March 1971, only 10 days after the speech had been delivered. This version of the speech is identical to the original unedited tape as regards content, but the length of the record came down from 19 minutes to 15 minutes due to editing. The 45 RPM record continued to remain in the personal custody of Mr. M A Khair and his heirs until it was donated to the Liberation War Museum in 1996. The Liberation War Museum is the custodian of this version of the speech, which is kept in a glass case under controlled climatic condition for display.

Audio-visual recording: Mr. Mohibur Rahman Khoyer, Chief of the Films Division, Government of East Pakistan, a sympathiser of the Bangali independence movement, arranged film-recording of the entire speech. It was not possible to record the voice and the scene at the same time with the analogue technology available at that time. So ARRI cinematograph camera was used for visual coverage on 35mm film and a high quality Nagra recorder was used for audio coverage of the speech. It was possible to tape record the speech without break. However, it was not possible to shoot the speech first to last without break as the cameraman had to change magazine of film every four minutes. Thus visuals of about five minutes were lost. The cameraman, Mr. M A Mobin, is still alive.

Many local and international journalists also covered the 7th March speech by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on that day and filmed the speech. Based on those video footages, selective parts of the speech were usually used by television channels and documentary filmmakers throughout the liberation war of Bangladesh in 1971 and later years.

The first initiative to compile the entire speech in the audio-visual form was taken by the Department of Films and Publication (DFP) one year later when Bangladesh became an independent country. In 1972, the 35mm film negative of the speech held by DFP was processed and the audio recording from the Nagra recorder was punched into the film at the Bangladesh Films Development Corporation (BFDC). Since some visuals were lost due to frequent change of film magazine during shooting with analogue technology, a number of repeated shots of the vast audience and surroundings were used to match with the sound recording of the speech to cover up the lost visuals of about five minutes. This first audio-visual documentary of the speech remained with DFP until Bangladesh Film Archive was established in 1978. DFP handed over the first standardized audio-visual of the speech to Bangladesh Film Archive on 03 October 1979.

In 2013, Bangladesh Film Archive produced a digital version of the 7th March speech with improved digital technology. A coloured version of the 7th March speech with improved technology was prepared by Information and Communication Technology Ministry in 2014.

Transcript: In January 2012, Department of Films and Publications published a collection of 'speeches of Bangabandhu', that includes the complete transcription of the 7th March Speech. The English translation of the speech was also made available by the Department of Films and Publications for wider access.

3.5 Bibliography

A bibliography demonstrates what others have independently said and written about the heritage you are nominating. It is best if you can cite scholars from several countries, rather than just your own country, and if they are authoritative voices clearly independent from both your own institution and UNESCO.

1. Archer K. Blood, US Consul General in Dhaka in 1971 in his book "The Cruel Birth of Bangladesh – Memories of an American Diplomat" (Published by the University Press Ltd., Dhaka, 2002) wrote :

"Mujib arrived at the rally uncharacteristically late (by an hour and fifteen minutes). Prior to his arrival the crowd was led in chanting various slogans such as "take up arms and destroy enemy armed forces", "Make Bengal independent", "Victory to Bengal," etc."
2. Siddiq Salik was a young Pakistani Major working in the Pakistani Eastern Command in Dhaka. He wrote in his memoirs "Witness to Surrender", published by Oxford University Press, Karachi, Pakistan :

"At the end of his speech, he counselled the people to remain peaceful and non-violent. The crowds that had surged to the Race Course dispersed like a receding tide. They looked like a religious congregation returning from mosque or church after listening to a satisfying sermon. They lacked the fury which might have motivated them to charge on the cantonment – as many of us had apprehended. The reaction to the speech in the Martial Law Headquarters was that of relief".
3. Herbert Feith, Australian Professor of Political Science and Convenor of Victorian Committee for Support Bangladesh has delivered Flinders Lecture on September 14, 1971 on Bangladesh. He wrote :

"7th of March, was the day when Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the man who had led the Awami League to victory in the election three months earlier, launched his movement of civil disobedience against the Pakistani authorities. It established him as the virtual ruler of East Bengal or East Pakistan, and it marked the beginning of what has sometimes been called the Prague spring of East Bengal, the period of high elation, big commitment and high sense of unity, when Bangladesh as a state of mind was born."

3.6 Names, qualifications and contact details of up to three independent people or organizations with expert knowledge about the values and provenance of the documentary heritage

Name	Qualifications	Contact details
Jacob F. Field	Historian and writer	University of Cambridge
Dr. Syed Anwar Husain	Historian	Supernumerary Professor University of Dhaka, Bangladesh Email:syedanwar_husain@yahoo.com
Simon Dring	Journalist	Daily Telegraph's war correspondent, London, UK Email: simon_j_dring@hotmail.com

The referees you cite will be asked for their opinions. UNESCO may also contact other authoritative referees so that a good spectrum of opinion is available for assessment purposes.

4.0 Legal information

4.1 Owner of the documentary heritage (name and contact details)

The nominated item, combination of the audio and audio-visual recordings of the 7th March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, is available in the public domain. The original or oldest available documentary heritage related to the 7th March speech is the unedited audio-recording, which belongs to Bangladesh Betar (Radio). The original 45 rpm record has been gifted to Liberation War Museum by the owner of the recording company. The detailed ownership status of all the components are as follows:

1) The State of Bangladesh is the owner of the following components of the nominated documentary heritage:

- (a) The original unedited recording of the speech is held by Bangladesh Betar, Ministry of Information.
- (b) The original 35mm footage - both in negative and positive, is held by Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA), Ministry of Information.
- (c) The first audio-visual documentary on the speech is held by Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA), Ministry of Information.
- (c) The improved coloured version of the audio-visual recording of the speech is the property of the Ministry of ICT.

2) The first 45 RPM audio recording form of the speech is the property of Liberation War Museum, Bangladesh.

Name	Address
1 (a) Mr. A K M Nessar Uddin Bhuiyan	Director General, Bangladesh Betar 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Shahbag, Dhaka-1000.
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i> <i>Email</i>
+ 88-02-9660003	+ 88-02-9662600 1) dgbetar@btcl.net.bd 2) rrc@dhaka.net
1(b) Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain	Director General, Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA) 121, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue Shahbag, Dhaka-1000
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i> <i>Email</i>
+88-02-9672259	+88-02-8650823 1) jhn21bd@yahoo.com 2) bfarchivebd@gmail.com
1(c) Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan	Director General, Department of Films and Publications(DFP) 112, Circuit House Road Dhaka, Bangladesh
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i> <i>Email</i>
+88 02 833 1030	+88 02 833 1034 1) Liaquat5000@gmail.com 2) bd@dfp.gov.bd
1(d) Mr. Shyam Sundar Sikder	Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication Technology Bangladesh Bangladesh Computer Council BCC Bhaban, E-14/X, Dhaka 1207, Bangladesh
<i>Telephone</i>	<i>Facsimile</i> <i>Email</i>
+8802 818 1547	+8802 818 1565 sssikder@ictd.gov.bd
<i>Name</i>	Trustee, Liberation War Museum
2. Mr. Mofidul Hoque	5 Segun Bagicha Dhaka-1000 , Bangladesh

Telephone	Facsimile	Email
+880-2-9559091	+880-2-9559092	1)Mukti.jadughar@gmail.com 2) mofidul_hoque@yahoo.com

4.2 Custodian of the documentary heritage (name and contact details if different from the owner)

Same as stated at 4.1 above

4.3 Legal status

Provide details of legal and administrative responsibility for the preservation of the documentary heritage

The audio and audio-visual versions of the speech are in the public domain.

Bangladesh Betar (Radio) is the owner of the unedited audio-recording.

The original 45 rpm record has been gifted to Liberation War Museum by the owner of the recording company.

4.4 Accessibility

Describe how the item(s) / collection may be accessed

All access restrictions should be explicitly stated below:

Encouraging accessibility is a basic objective of MoW. Accordingly, digitization for access purposes is encouraged and you should comment on whether this has been done or is planned. You should also note if there are legal or cultural factors that restrict access.

The original unedited audio-recording under the custody of Bangladesh Betar has limited access, as wider access may compromise the integrity of this rare document.

Copies of the original 45 RPM record are available in both the Liberation War Museum and its Kiosk.

The audio-video version and transcript of the speech are available in the public domain.

4.5 Copyright status

Describe the copyright status of the item(s) / collection

*Where copyright status is known, it should be stated. However, the copyright status of a document or collection has **no bearing** on its significance and is not taken into account in determining whether it meets the criteria for inscription.*

. The speech is in the public domain.

5.0 Assessment against the selection criteria

5.1 Authenticity.

Is the documentary heritage what it appears to be? Have identity and provenance been reliably established?

The carriers and the contents of the speech of 7th March 1971 of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have no problem on authenticity.

The unedited tape recording of the speech was broadcast on 8 March 1971 by Radio Pakistan, Dhaka Centre. After the Pakistani Army began indiscriminately killing the Bengalis from the night of 25 March, the two tapes containing the 7th March speech were secretly sent to the newly created Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro (Free Bengal Radio Station) by the Bengali nationalist forces. This recorded

speech was played everyday during the next nine months by the Swadhin Bangla Betar Kendro to inspire freedom fighters. After Bangladesh was freed from the occupation forces of Pakistan, the tapes of the speech became the possession of the Bangladesh Betar, which began to function from 22 December 1971 as the state-run Radio of the newly independent Bangladesh. The original tapes are preserved by Bangladesh Radio in a controlled climatic condition.

The original 45 RMP record continued to remain in the personal custody of Mr. Abul Khair and his heirs until it was donated to the Liberation War Museum in 1996. The Liberation War Museum is the custodian of this version of the speech, which is kept in a glass case under controlled climatic condition for display.

Mr. Mohibur Rahman Khoyer, Chief of the Films Division, Government of East Pakistan, a sympathiser of the Bangali independence movement, arranged film-recording of the entire speech. The first initiative to compile the entire speech in the audio-visual form was taken by the Department of Films and Publication (DFP) one year later when Bangladesh became an independent country. In 1972, the 35mm film negative of the speech held by DFP was processed and the audio recording from the Nagra recorder was punched into the film at the Bangladesh Films Development Corporation (BFDC). Since some visuals were lost due to frequent change of film magazine during shooting with analogue technology, a number of repeated shots of the vast audience and surroundings were used to match with the sound recording of the speech to cover up the lost visuals of about five minutes. This first audio-visual documentary of the speech remained with DFP until Bangladesh Film Archive was established in 1978. DFP handed over the first standardized audio-visual of the speech to Bangladesh Film Archive on 03 October 1979.

In 2013, Bangladesh Film Archive produced a digital version of the 7th March speech with improved digital technology. A coloured version of the 7th March speech with improved technology was prepared by Information and Communication Technology Ministry in 2014.

In January 2012, Department of Films and Publications published a collection of 'speeches of Bangabandhu', that includes the complete transcription of the 7th March Speech. The English translation of the speech was also made available by the Department of Films and Publications for wider access.

The audio and film recording left no doubt about its authenticity. In the era of reprography there are many copies available and that made any tempering on the original almost impossible.

5.2 World significance

Is the heritage unique and irreplaceable? Would its disappearance constitute and harmful impoverishment of the heritage of humanity? Has it created great impact over time and/or within a particular cultural area of the world? Has it had great influence (positive or negative) on the course of history?

The historic 7th March speech has remained the most influential speech in the known history of Bangladesh and has enduring presence in the Bengali political culture. In his speech, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman called upon 70 million Bengalis to continue civil disobedience but also instructed them to prepare for the struggle for emancipation and independence of the Bengali people. At the national level, the speech inspired youths to take up arms and fight against Pakistani military occupation during the next nine months until the Pakistani army surrendered on 16 December 1971. At the regional level, the speech was instrumental in reshaping the political contours of South Asia by giving birth to a new sovereign state of Bangladesh. The 7th March speech also found its place among the most influential speeches delivered in the human history. The speech was included in the book "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History", by Jacob F. Field, as one of the most rousing and inspirational wartime speeches in the last 2,500 years.

The speech has great world significance for its contexts and contents, as well as its far-reaching impact on the key assumptions on which the post World War II international system was built. One of the assumptions was that the international borders redrawn after the WW II were sacrosanct. Even the

most arbitrarily and hastily drawn national boundaries of post-colonial states were considered not to be put into question. The 7th March speech constituted a compelling case of how the failure of post-colonial nation states to develop inclusive, democratic society could alienate their populations belonging to different ethnic, cultural, linguistic or religious groups and lead to the dismemberment of nation-states. In fact, the speech triggered the first successful war of liberation by means of cessation since the international boundaries had been redrawn after the World War II.

In a broader context, the struggle of the Bengali people was in conformity with the principle of the right of the peoples to self-determination, further reinforced by the UN Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, exercised at a later part of decolonization period. Pakistan, a unique state formed with two-wings separated by more than thousand miles of physical distance, became a kind of colonial state in practice. As held by Professor Herbert Feith in his Flinders Lecture delivered on 14 September, 1971, "Bangla Desh's achievement of independence would indeed be the first case in the post-war world where a secessionist movement had succeeded in changing territorial boundaries. But the demonstration effect of that would not be very great because the Bangla Desh movement is unique in speaking for an area which is far away from its metropolitan mother country. Indeed it is much more like an anti-colonial movement than any of the other would-be breakaway causes of the Third World. It is an anti-colonial movement in every major sense except in not being directed against a European power."

Some of the messages of the 7th March speech went beyond the context of South Asia and has universal appeal. The 7th March speech was delivered at a time when the Pakistani military rulers refused to handover power to the Bengali nationalist leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, whose party Awami League had gained majority in the National Assembly of Pakistan in the general elections of 1970. The refusal of the Pakistani military rulers to accept the results of the 1970 general elections and handover power to the elected Bengali leader ended all hopes to establish the democratic rights of the Bengalis within the framework of Pakistan. The 7th March speech began with the phrase "we tried with our lives", referring to the utmost effort of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to have a negotiated settlement of the political deadlock created by Pakistani army's refusal to handover state power to him as the elected civilian leader from East Pakistan. He then expressed his utter frustration at the long history of oppression and deprivation of Bengalis within the framework of Pakistan and declared; "Now the people of Bangla want freedom". The message of this historic speech is still relevant today for various countries who are failing to address the political, economic and socio-cultural aspirations of their population.

In 1947, when the British colonial rule in India ended with the establishment of two states - the Muslim-majority Pakistan and the Hindu-majority India, the Bengalis eagerly joined Pakistan. Very soon they became victims of discrimination, oppression and gross political, economic and cultural marginalization by the ruling elites of West Pakistan. They realized that while religion was an important element in the making of Pakistan, the new state structure was unable to guarantee cultural, economic and political emancipation of the Bengalis. That was the beginning of the popular movement of Bengalis spearheaded by their nationalist leader Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman for defending their democratic rights and realizing greater autonomy and eventually independence. Thus, the struggle for Bangladesh highlighting liberal secular values as reflected in the speech carries significance for a world torn apart on religious, cultural, ethnic and other divides.

The 7th March speech has been translated in many major languages of the world. The speech is part of humankind in their search for freedom and emancipation and has greatly influenced the past with relevance for the present. It has the power and potentialities to influence the future as well.

5.3 Comparative criteria:

Does the heritage meet any of the following tests? (It must meet at least one of them.)

1 Time

Is the document evocative of its time (which may have been a time of crisis, or significant social or cultural change)? Does it represent a new discovery? Or is it the "first of its kind"?

The 7th March (1971) speech was delivered at a critical time when the Bengali people were at the peak of their civil disobedience movement for greater autonomy of East Pakistan, a movement that was increasingly transforming into independence movement. Having acquired a clear majority in the 1970 general election of Pakistan, the Bengali nationalist leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was engaged in negotiations with the military authority on how to form a civilian government and to draw the constitution of Pakistan, how the new constitution will accommodate democratic rights of Bengali people - all of these taking place in an atmosphere of uncertainty, mistrust and fear of military reprisal. The 7th March speech briefly covered the entire history of popular movement of the Bengali people to establish their rightful place within Pakistan, including the language movement of 1952 when many Bengali youths were killed for demanding Bangla to be recognized as a state language of Pakistan, the election results of 1954 that gave majority to the Bengalis but they were not allowed to form the government, the "Six Point Movement" of June 1966 demanding greater autonomy of East Pakistan, the "Mass Movement" of 1969 that ousted President Ayub Khan from power, the election of 1970 that gave majority to the Awami League party of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the refusal of President Yahya Khan to convene the National Assembly to work out plans for handing over powers to the elected civilian government, and the civil disobedience that followed in protest against the postponement of the session of the National Assembly. The Bengali people of East Pakistan were impatient for their long-cherished independence, the 7th March speech literally acted as a spark that set on fire the forest of resentment accumulated over decades.

On the international plane, the Seventies was a complex period of history. While the right of self-determination of nations got recognition in the United Nations, yet any kind of secessionist movement was condemned and discouraged as no one knew its limits. The speech was an unique example of how a nationalist leader in a post-colonial nation state tried to establish a delicate balance between the international and regional political structure that were against independence through secessionist movement and to remain faithful to his responsibility of leading popular movement of a large, motivated population to self-determination. The 7th March speech gave legitimacy to the national liberation war of the Bengali people and led many countries of the world to support their right to self-determination. At the national level, the speech inspired youths to take up arms and fight against Pakistani military occupation during the next nine months until the Pakistani army surrendered on 16 December 1971. At the regional level, the speech was instrumental in reshaping the political contours of South Asia by giving birth to a new sovereign state of Bangladesh. The 7th March speech also found its place among the most influential speeches delivered in the human history. The speech was included in the book "We Shall Fight on the Beaches: The Speeches That Inspired History", by Jacob F. Field, as one of the most rousing and inspirational wartime speeches in the last 2,500 years.

2 Place

Does the document contain crucial information about a locality important in world history and culture? For example, was the location itself an important influence on the events or phenomena represented by the document? Does it describe physical environments, cities or institutions that have since vanished?

The 7th March speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made reference to many places of the then East Pakistan and West Pakistan. He mentioned about the killing of Bengalis in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna, Rajshahi and Rangpur by the military forces. Dhaka, the provincial capital of East Pakistan at the time, became the capital of Bangladesh later. In his speech, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman mentioned "Bangla" on a number of times and "Bangladesh" and "Purbo Bangla" once each to denote East Pakistan. The speech made reference to Peshawar and Karachi, two major cities of today's Pakistan.

The expressions such as Purbo Bangla, Bangla, East Pakistan or West Pakistan do not carry the same meanings as they did when the 7th March speech was delivered, although the term Purbo Bangla is sometimes used in the Bengali literature and popular culture to distinguish the territory what is now Bangladesh from the West Bengal province of India.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman addressed the mammoth gathering of over one million audiences at the Ramna Race Course Ground in Dhaka in the afternoon of 7th March, 1971. On 16 December, 1971 after the nine-month long war, the Pakistan Army surrendered to the joint command of Bangladesh Liberation Forces and the Indian Army, and the surrendering ceremony was held in public in this very ground. Thus the place has become a part of history, now a memorial site.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Ramna Race Course Ground was renamed *Shurawardy Udyan* (garden) after Huseyn Shaheed Suhrawardy, the last Prime Minister of the undivided Bengal province during the British Raj and political mentor of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

3 People

Does the cultural context of the document's creation reflect significant aspects of human behaviour, or of social, industrial, artistic or political development? Or does it capture the essence of great movements, transitions, advances or regression? Does it illustrate the lives of prominent individuals in the above fields?

When Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman made the historic 7th March speech, he was holding the leadership of Awami League, the party which just secured the majority in the December 1970 general election, and who was poised to take over as the Prime Minister of the entire Pakistan. Nevertheless, his main strength and popularity emanated from the fact that he epitomized the hopes and aspirations of the oppressed and often looked down upon Bengalis within Pakistan, who wanted to establish equal rights either within Pakistan or even by creating a separate state for them. The political-military elites of West Pakistan refused to hand over power to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, postponed the National Assembly session on the 3rd of March, and the security forces shot dozens of unarmed Bengali protestors. The people of East Pakistan became impatient for their long-cherished independence, when the 7th March speech raised their emotion through the historical facts of political deprivation and persecution, and gave them the much needed courage and direction to prepare for the Liberation War.

In the 7th March speech, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman gave a brief account of the past struggle of the Bengalis of East Pakistan to establish their political, social and economic freedom, and how brutally those efforts were suppressed by the authorities of West Pakistan. He summarized: "I have to tell painfully the pitiful history of twenty-three years, the bloody history of Bangalees being tortured in Bangla itself". He mentioned that "we have tried with our lives" and then came to his point after those historical references: "Now the people of Bangla want freedom. The people of Bangla want to live. The people of Bangla want their rights". He made it clear that if the "people of Bangla want freedom", they needed to think of something bigger, the only way to get their rights was through the Liberation War. He also reminded the countrymen of the past sufferings, "The history of the last 23 years is the history of the wailing of dying men and women. The history of Bangla is the history of staining the streets with the blood of the people of this country". Whenever he spoke about the people who were killed during several movements, he showed due respect by addressing them as "martyrs". In some places he called them "my children", and he emphasized that the brave sons of Bengal had been snatched from the chest of their mothers.

These word choices (son, mother, children) made people feel that all the people of Bangla are a family, so they felt the urge to do something for the family as an instinct. People could find a sense of family bonding, a sense of kinship in these quotes, so they made people into sympathizers, conscious against the oppressor, as well as strengthened the idea of national unity. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman reminded people that "whenever we tried to gain power.....they assaulted us" and "the marks of blood have not dried yet". The speech also encouraged people to show their bravery; "since we have given blood, we will give more". These emotional appeals worked very effectively to raise the thirst for freedom among the people, and this thirst effectively led people to think about the Liberation War.

Bangabandhu's modest language, the style of the speech, his rigorous voice and his representation of the arguments in a step-by-step way gained the trust of the audience and built his credibility. Despite all the conflicts, Bangabandhu addressed the West Pakistanis as "brothers." Those who sacrificed their lives became his "children." Through these words he could establish his humane approach even towards his worst enemies that made people feel more attached to him. At the same time, he did not forget to take a strong position, reminding them that he is the leader of "not only Bangla but also the majority of Pakistan," and added that he would not join the National Assembly as he could not trample the blood of his countrymen. He also showed the same humane approach when calling for social disobedience, and when mentioning that the poor people should not suffer so that the labouring class would not stop working. Like this, throughout his speech he always gave the public interests and human consideration the highest priority, which convinced people to act on his directions.

The response of the audience was naturally overwhelming. When Sheikh Mujibur Rahman asked the crowd if they had faith in him, there was positive response from the audience. His credibility further

enhanced when he declared, "I don't want the prime ministership. We want to establish the right of the people of this country". Finally, he came to the main point of his speech: "The struggle this time is the struggle for our emancipation. The struggle this time is the struggle for our independence". Thus, a nation got ready to fight till death for achieving independence.

4 Subject and theme

Does the subject matter of the document represent particular historical or intellectual developments in the natural, social and human sciences? Or in politics, ideology, sport or the arts?

As stated above (section 3 - People)

5 Form and style

Does the document have outstanding aesthetic, stylistic or linguistic value? Or is it a typical exemplar of a type of presentation, custom or medium? Is it an example of a disappeared or disappearing carrier or format?

In the age of television the art of public speech has taken another form, but the speech of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman reflected the best of the era when personal communication was held supreme and the success of a politician depended greatly on his mastering of the art of public speech. The speech of 7th March represented the best of such speech.

Not only the content of the 7th March speech but also its form and style constituted an interesting phenomenon. Sheikh Mujibur Rahman' modest language, the style of the speech, his rigorous voice and his representation of the arguments in a step-by-step way gained the trust of the audience and built his credibility with the audience. Some of the aspects of the 7th March speech were unique even at the time it was delivered. Like always, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in his 7th March speech addressed the audience "thou" (tu in French) instead of "you" (vous in French), which was generally considered offensive to seniors at the time but everyone had accepted this style of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman due to his loving personality and immense popularity. Despite all the conflicts, Bangabandhu addressed the West Pakistanis as "brothers." He also addressed his political adversaries like Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, former Prime Minister of Pakistan, with respect by adding "sahib" at the end of the name. Through these words he could establish his humane approach even towards his worst enemies that made people feel more attached to him. This particular trait of showing respect and courtesy to friends and foes alike is becoming a rarity nowadays.

6 Social/ spiritual/ community significance:

Application of this criterion must reflect living significance – does documentary heritage have an emotional hold on people who are alive today? Is it venerated as holy or for its mystical qualities, or revered for its association with significant people and events?

(Once those who have revered the documentary heritage for its social/ spiritual/ community significance no longer do so, or are no longer living, it loses this specific significance and may eventually acquire historical significance.)

The speech as living legend reflects its intrinsic values and continues to inspire Bangladeshis in the face of adversaries.

6.0 Contextual information

6.1 Rarity

The speech of 7th March is a unique event in the nation's history. The original audio recording and audio-visual footages are invaluable as documentary heritage. Although the subsequent digitization of the audio and video contents of the original recordings and footages has ensured their survival, the originals will remain important as part of the national history and invaluable documentary heritage of Bangladesh.

6.2 Integrity

The audio recordings and 35 mm film recordings included in this nomination file are the only authentic versions available. These components are in good condition. No part of the content is missing.

The digitization of the contents of the original elements has ensured preservation of the contents. There are also other photographs and reports on the 7th March speech.

7.0 Consultation with stakeholders

7.1 Provide details of consultation about this nomination with the stakeholders in its significance and preservation.

Apart from the nominating institution itself, have other organizations or groups been consulted in the process of preparing the nomination – and, if so, did they support it or oppose it, or have useful comments to make?

Widest possible consultation has been undertaken with a broad spectrum of stakeholders for the purpose of preparation and submission of the nomination file, which in turn raised awareness of the significance of this documentary heritage and encouraged the stakeholders to ensure best available preservation programs for these documents. Consultations in person and through correspondences have taken place with the following organizations and individuals:

- a) Mr. Abul Hassan Mahmood Ali, Foreign Minister of Bangladesh
- b) Mr. Mofidul Hoque, Trustee, Bangladesh Liberation War Museum
- c) Mr. Monaem Sarker, Director General, Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research
- d) Mr. A K M Nessar Uddin Bhuiyan, Director General, Bangladesh Betar
- e) Mr. N I Khan, Curator, Bangabandhu Memorial Museum
- f) Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, Director General, Bangladesh Film Archive (BFA)
- g) Mr. Liaquat Ali Khan, Director General, Department of Films and Publications (DFP)
- h) Mr. Sohorab Hussain, Secretary General, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO
- i) Mr. Md. Monjur Hossain, Secretary, Bangladesh National Commission for UNESCO
- j) Mr. Sarwar Alam, Secretary, Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission, Dhaka

8.0 Assessment of risk

Detail the nature and scope of threats to this documentary heritage.

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

Be accurate and honest. If your document(s) is at risk for any reason, say so. UNESCO needs to know its true situation.

The item is not at risk. The locations of the components of the documentary heritage are housed in modern buildings that are far from the coastal floods or cyclone prone area.

The preservation of the original unedited audio recording of the 7th March speech is ensured under the custody of Bangladesh Betar. Technical support from UNESCO MOW Program to ensure retaining the sound quality will be most welcome.

The preservation measures undertaken by Liberation War Museum for the original 45 rpm record of the 7th March speech is adequate.

Bangladesh Film Archive has been preserving the oldest existing footage in 35mm film both in the form of positive and negative print of the speech in its specialized temperature and humidity controlled film vault

since 03 October 1979.

9.0 Preservation and Access Management Plan

9.1 Is there a management plan in existence for this documentary heritage?

YES NO

If yes, attach a summary of the plan. If no, please attach further details about current storage and custody of the materials.

The custodians of the documentary heritage related to the 7th March Speech by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman have their own preservation and access management plans.

Liberation War Museum values the original 45 rpm recording as one of their most valuable collections and takes adequate care of the item. The original record is on display in an air controlled glass case. They are committed to preserve as well as make the item available to the widest possible audience.

The preservation of the original unedited audio recording of the 7th March speech is done under the custody of Bangladesh Betar. Technical support from UNESCO MOW Program to ensure retaining the sound quality will be welcome.

Bangladesh Film Archive has been preserving the oldest existing footage in 35mm. film both in the form of positive and negative print of the speech in its specialized temperature and humidity controlled film vault since 03 October 1979. They have proper management and access plans.

10.0 Any other information

Detail any other information that supports the inclusion of this documentary heritage on the International Memory of the World Register. If the nomination is successful, how will you use this to promote the MoW Programme?

Attach a separate statement if space insufficient.

The inclusion of the item on the MOW International Register will help promote to the wider world the history of people's struggle for emancipation in Bangladesh. The struggle to uphold national right based on cultural-linguistic identity, essentially secular and liberal, will contribute in building a society of tolerance and harmony in today's strife-ridden world.

As of now, the people of Bangladesh are aware of World Heritage List and Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, since Bangladesh has inscriptions on those two lists. The inscription of the Historic 7th March Speech of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on the MOW International Register will raise awareness of the documentary heritage and the importance of its preservation in Bangladesh. The inscription will also give a strong impetus to the establishment of a National MOW Committee, an initiative that is under process.