



NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTE FOR INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

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NDI SENDS SURVEY MISSION TO SOUTH ASIA

WASHINGTON, DC, APRIL 16, 1987 --The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs announced today that a survey delegation will visit Pakistan, Bangladesh, and India, from April 16-28. The mission, requested by both ruling and opposition parties, will examine potential political development projects for the Institute in the three nations.

"We want to undertake an objective assessment, without preconceptions or biases, as to possible NDI projects to help Pakistan and Bangladesh further develop their political parties and election systems," said Brian Atwood, president of the Institute. "The delegation will provide a comprehensive report to NDI's Board of Directors on efforts underway in these nations to restore full democracy."

In India, Atwood said, the Institute will explore the possibility of holding one of a series of symposiums that NDI is sponsoring on "successful democracies in regions of crisis." One such symposium was held in Israel last January and others are planned for Costa Rica and Botswana.

In Pakistan, the NDI survey team will be led by Leon Billings, a Washington-based consultant and former executive

assistant to Secretary of State Edmund Muskie and executive director of the Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee. Billings was a candidate for Congress in 1986, in Montgomery County, Maryland, and serves as Director of the Washington Politics Program for the University of Southern California.

Mark Siegel, who will lead the delegation in Bangladesh, is a member of NDI's Board of Directors and is a member of the Democratic National Committee. A former Executive Director of the DNC, Siegel served as Special Assistant to the President in the Carter Administration. Billings and Siegel will be joined by Elliott Kulick, also a member of NDI's Board of Directors and an international lawyer who resides in London, England.

The delegation will be accompanied by NDI senior consultants, Patricia Keefer and Patrick O'Malley. Keefer has directed a number of highly successful NDI projects, including most recently the "First Eleanor Roosevelt International Caucus for Women Political Leaders" in San Francisco. O'Malley is a Senior Policy Research Associate at the University of Massachusetts's McCormack Institute.

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs conducts nonpartisan political development programs

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overseas. By working with political parties and other institutions, NDI seeks to strengthen democratic institutions and pluralistic values in new and emerging democracies.

NDI received bipartisan acclaim last year for organizing, along with its Republican counterpart, the international observer delegation to the Philippines election. NDI has also conducted a series of democratic development programs in nearly 30 countries, including Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, Northern Ireland, Senegal, South Korea, Taiwan, and Uruguay.

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