Ali Bhutto Issues Statement, Compares Himself to Nixon

—AP

ZULFIKAR ALI BHUTTO
The Final Days

New Dehli, India(AP) — Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the deposed Pakistani prime minister awaiting execution in his homeland, draws parallels between himself and former President Richard M. Nixon in an emotion-charged statement smuggled from his death-row cell. He warns that Pakistan's future depends on his survival.

"I was born to make a nation, to serve a people," wrote the condemned Bhutto. "I was not born to wither away in a death cell."

The statement, 80,000 words in all, was addressed to the Pakistan Supreme Court and smuggled from Bhutto's cell in Rawalpindi Central Jail. It was published in book form by Vikas Publishing House here after the military government in Parkistan blocked its release. Entitled "If I Am Assasinated," the book reveals much about the 51-year-old Bhutto's life style, personal philosophies, and fervent if not extreme belief in his own importance.

The former minister's chances of escaping the gallow are slim since Pakistan's Supreme Court last Tuesday confirmed in a 4-to-3 decision his 1978 murder-conspiracy conviction by a lower court. He was convicted of ordering 1974 murder of a political rival.

Four security officers convicted in the case also are condemned to die. Bhutto's main hope is executive clemency in response to appeals sent by President Carter, Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev, U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim, Pope John Paul II and Chinese Communist Party Chairman Hua Kuo-feng, among others.

Without a clemency or a stay, Bhutto could be hanged as early as Wednesday or Thursday, according to his lawyer Yahya Bakhtiar.

—United Press International

DEATH MARCH: Two sons of former Pakistan Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto (second and third from left) march yesterday in London to protest a court decision to execute their father.