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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Operations Center

India-Pakistan Working Group Situation Report #41

Situation in India-Pakistan as of 0700 hours (EST)
December 14, 1971

1. Possible Ceasefire in East (EXDIS)

In early morning December 14, Dacca time, Consul General Spivak was invited to meet East Pakistan Governor Malik and Major General Farman Ali to discuss a possible ceasefire and some form of "arrangement" with the Indian Army and the Mukti Bahini to avoid a "bloodbath" in East Pakistan. General Farman Ali said the Pak Army was cut off and outnumbered and he wished to avoid indiscriminate killing. He promised to present to Spivak a specific ceasefire proposal within a few hours which he wished to have communicated by the ConGen to Washington, Islamabad and Calcutta. In response to a question, Farman Ali said the proposal would have the signature of himself, Governor Malik and General Niazi and would be approved by President Yahya.

A short time after the foregoing message was sent, Governor Malik telephoned to Consul General Spivak to say General Niazi had stated that negotiations for a ceasefire are taking place between Central Government officials and Ambassador Farland and there is now no need for the ConGen to convey any proposals to interested parties.

In a still later message, Ambassador Farland said that in view of Dacca's messages he had asked for an urgent appointment with President Yahya to explore again the question of a ceasefire.

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2. East Pakistan Government Crumbling

Approximately thirty senior civilian officials of East Pakistan, including the Chief Secretary, have resigned and are moving into the Dacca Intercontinental Hotel under protection of the International Red Cross. The ConGen Dacca comments that these officials have obviously concluded the situation is hopeless and that for all intents and purposes the civilian administration headquarters has ceased to exist in East Pakistan. (Late note: Governor Malik has joined the group in the Intercontinental.)

3. Security Council Action

Predictably the Security Council again proved unable to agree to enforce the General Assembly resolution. On USC initiative, the Security Council was reconvened on the evening of December 13 to debate the American draft resolution which called for a ceasefire and mutual withdrawal of troops but which did not meet the Soviet/Indian insistence on arranging a fundamental political accommodation in East Pakistan. The debate reflected the hardened positions of participants and again gave an opportunity to the Chinese and Soviets to exchange insults. Indian Foreign Minister Singh also spoke. He insisted that the American peace initiatives, even though blocked by President Yahya, had not addressed the fundamental political problems of Bangla Desh. The vote was 11 (US, China, Japan)—2 (USSR, Poland)—2 (UK and France). Before the vote the Sierre Leonian SC President ruled against inviting Bangla Desh representatives, as such, to the meeting. He did allow Justice Chowdary, however, to appear as an individual.

4. Pakistan Willing to Move for Simple Ceasefire Resolution

Following the veto of the latest UN resolution on December 13, Pakistan representatives Bhutto and Shahi met Ambassador Bush and called on the U.S. to inform the Soviet delegation that we would be willing to table a resolution calling for a simple ceasefire between India and Pakistan with the provision that the Security Council would take up other aspects of the question at a later date. The USUN Mission notes that in the course of discussion on December 13, nearly all delegates were thinking in terms of including in any future resolution, more "political content" in an effort to gain support of

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the Indians and the Soviets.

The SC is scheduled to meet again in the afternoon of December 14.

5. Evacuation: Speculation on Movement of Seventh Fleet

Press reports in India, Pakistan, Washington and elsewhere continue to speculate on possible movement of U.S. Seventh Fleet units, particularly the aircraft carrier Enterprise, presumably to be ready for a possible evacuation of American citizens from South Asia. Meanwhile, a press report states that 36 UN personnel and about 90 to 100 other foreigners still remain in Dacca after the evacuation of approximately 420 foreigners carried out by the RAF on Sunday. Seventeen American "hardcore" USG personnel chose to remain in Dacca for the present; presumably most other foreigners in Dacca are also staying voluntarily.

6. Public Administration in Bangla Desh

The Indian newspaper, Hindustan Standard (HS), devoted a front-page article on December 11 to reports of plans by the Indian Government and the Bangla Desh Government (BDG) to set up a joint administration of civil authority in Bangla Desh as soon as permissible. The article also reports the two Governments plan to give top priority to relief and rehabilitation works in the region.

In a commentary on the article, the ConGen Calcutta notes that BDG's willingness to accept administrative assistance from the GOI may be based on a desire to forestall infiltration by radical groups. The Mission adds that it is uncertain how East Bengalis will react to strong GOI presence but predicts that the reaction will not be one of boundless enthusiasm if the Indian visit is an extended one.

7. Jordanian Aircraft Reportedly Flown to Pakistan

✓ We have received reports that eleven Jordanian F-104 fighter aircraft transited Dhahran on December 12 and 13, possibly en route to Pakistan. Embassy Amman is unable to confirm or deny these reports although some officials

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4

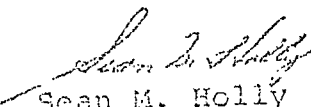
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have noticed a recent absence of fighter pilots from their favorite bars.

In Sitrep #22, dated December 5, Embassy Amman reported King Hussein received an urgent request from President Yahya for military assistance, particularly F-104's.

8. Military Situation

Military operations continue at a mild pace. Indian forces are now within artillery range of Dacca. Pakistani General Niazi in Dacca is still breathing defiance, but press reports indicate low morale among the rank and file of Dacca's defenders. The Indians report an offensive against Bogra and fighting at Khulna in East Pakistan, and refer accurately to a "comparative lull" on the western front.


Sean M. Holly
Deputy Director for Operations

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