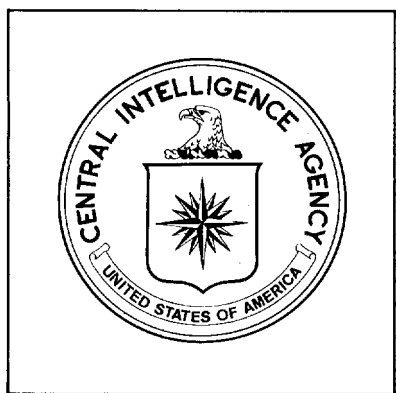


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MIDDLE EAST – AFRICA – SOUTH ASIA

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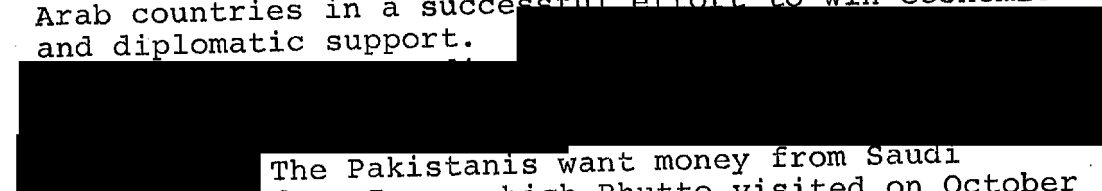
Pakistan-Saudi Arabia

Saudis Promise New Aid to Pakistan.

Prime Minister Bhutto reportedly obtained assurances of generous aid from Saudi Arabia during a visit there last month.



Pakistan has long furnished military technicians and advisers to the armed forces of Saudi Arabia and other Arab countries in a successful effort to win economic and diplomatic support.



The Pakistanis want money from Saudi Arabia--and from Iran, which Bhutto visited on October 2--partly for the purchase of arms from the US. Washington lifted its 10-year-old embargo on the sale of US arms to South Asia earlier this year, and Islamabad hopes this will enable it to obtain the more credible deterrent force it feels it needs in the face of India's military superiority.



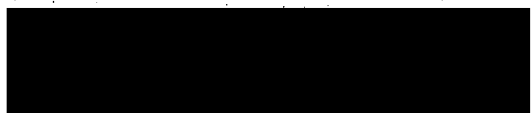
Since the coup in Dacca two months ago, Islamabad has been looking for ways to develop friendly ties with the new government and wean it away from the close relationship that existed between New Delhi and Dacca under the Mujib regime. Acceptance of Dacca's claim to a share in these assets would remove a long-standing and major bone of contention between the two countries.

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Since the coup in Bangladesh, Saudi Arabia has been at least somewhat responsive to Pakistani requests that it be friendlier to the new rulers than it was toward Mujib. Riyadh disliked Mujib's emphasis on secularism and appears sympathetic to the new government's more Islamic outlook. (SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM/NO DISSEM ABROAD/BACKGROUND USE ONLY/CONTROLLED DISSEM)



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Bangladesh

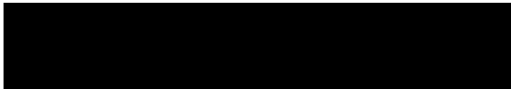
Arms Confiscation Program Continues

The government is continuing its campaign to round up the large number of weapons illegally held throughout the country. The campaign began in mid-September after few Bengalees had turned in arms during a six-day amnesty period. Since then large numbers of assorted weapons have been confiscated and over 1,500 people have been arrested, according to government statements. Most of those arrested will be tried according to the regime's martial law regulations, under which the death sentence can be imposed.

The campaign reflects the regime's continuing concern over internal security. In addition to the ever-present threat of terrorism by right- and left-wing extremist groups, the government is worried about reports that diehard followers of the late president Mujib may be seeking revenge. Many of those who belong to Mujib's now-banned party still have weapons given them by the old regime.

The new government claims that it has lists of those who illegally hold weapons and that it will continue the campaign "until the last bullet is found." It could be in for a difficult and even bloody campaign. Mujib made several efforts to confiscate arms with only limited success.
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