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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
20 December 1971

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2001

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(As of 1530 EST)

New Regime in Pakistan

1. President Bhutto spoke to the nation at 1200 EST. The address contained no real surprises. He termed the present time one of the most critical periods in Pakistan's history and pledged to build a new and strong country. He reiterated that East Pakistan is an "inseparable and indissoluble part of Pakistan."

2. US Ambassador Farland met Bhutto's plane at the airport at 0040 EST this morning, but was unable to make his way through the crowd of well-wishers to speak with him at that time. Farland did have an opportunity at the airport to discuss the possible shape of the new government with Foreign Secretary Sultan Khan. All vestiges of the military government, according to Khan, are to go, and a purely civilian government is to be installed. The Foreign Secretary thought that Army Chief-of-Staff Abdul Hamid and several others who had been close to Yahya would be removed from power, but added that he doubted very much if Yahya would be subjected to trial, as advocated by Air Marshal Asghar Khan, among others.

3. Ambassador Farland later met with Bhutto. The latter explained that he had met with Yahya following his return to Rawalpindi, and "in a short but dramatic exchange" Yahya had resigned. Bhutto

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NLNP

Mandatory Review

Case NLN 80-07

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said that although he had thereby become martial law administrator, as well as president, he had no intention of maintaining martial law for any length of time. He said, however, that he would "hit hard" on the subject of law and order in his first address to the nation and that a new constitution would be written as soon as possible.

4. Bhutto expressed his deep and sincere appreciation for the courtesies recently extended to him in Washington and New York and stressed his country's great need for aid and assistance. He said that, unlike the US, China had not fulfilled its obligations to Pakistan, and he saw no need to visit Peking in the near future to discuss Pakistan's new situation. (According to press reports, Bhutto saw the Chinese Ambassador immediately after his talk with the US Ambassador.)

5. Bhutto also told Farland that he would make an effort to reunite the two wings of Pakistan, perhaps in some loose confederation, and that any people who were presently detained for political reasons would be released. He did not name names nor did he allude to the fate of the Bengali leader, Sheik Mujibur Rahman.

6. [REDACTED] leftists in Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party believe that their image has been damaged by China's failure to come to the aid of Pakistan. These leaders, whose strength lies mainly in the Punjab, believe that the leftist cause can yet be saved if Bhutto will take a strong position on the need for moving the country further toward socialism. They fear he will proceed too slowly, however, and plan to press him by organizing street demonstrations in support of their demands.

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7. US officials in Karachi report that anti-Yahya and anti-Soviet demonstrations continued today with rowdy crowds roaming the streets burning liquor stores (in protest against Yahya's alleged excessive drinking), and attacking Soviet air line and trade offices. In spite of a call for a general strike by several political groups, most businesses opened for at least part of the day and public transport was available at all times. As a crowd-control measure, a "brownout" has been laid on for Karachi tonight.

Relations with Afghanistan

8. The US Ambassador in Kabul reports the Afghan Government is deeply concerned at the prospect of having to deal with Bhutto. King Zahir Shah has described Bhutto as an "unbalanced man" and a "pathological liar," who is inflexible one moment and wavering the next. The King assumes that Bhutto will attempt to strike a bargain with the military, but he questions how enduring such a bargain will be.

9. The Afghan Government intends to pursue a neutral policy regarding developments on the subcontinent, but is worried over the prospect of increasing controversy there, particularly between the Soviets and the Chinese. Kabul believes Bhutto will draw closer to China and fears that its attempts to follow a neutral course will come under increasing Soviet pressure to act against Pakistan.

Developments in Bangla Desh

10. In Dacca, after an initially poor response to official appeals for government, semi-government, and private employees to return to work, office staffs are now beginning to take up their former duties. Bus and rail transport has been restored in some areas, and orders have

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been given to renew steamer and launch service. Telephone and radio links between Dacca and the outside world are gradually being reestablished, although TV broadcasting, which had earlier been resumed, has now been cancelled. Banks are expected to reopen by 27 December and many shops--mainly owned by Bengalis--are open. Bangla Desh government ministers are, according to the press, slated to arrive in Dacca from India in less than a week. The Bangla Desh secretary general is quoted as saying that the arrival of the ministers has been delayed due to "certain exigencies."

11. In a Bihari area of Dacca, a large number of men, women, and children reportedly were killed by rampaging Bengalis during the period from 16 to 18 December. Many of the men killed wore Razakar uniforms and were apparently attacked by vengeance-seeking Mukti Bahini. Many of the latter have now been disarmed, and the situation since 19 December, when four other Razakars were killed at a rally in Dacca, seems to have settled down considerably. Joint Mukti Bahini - Indian Army patrols have been established in various parts of the city, and Indian guards have been assigned to foreign consular establishments following looting attempts at the Japanese and Nepalese consulates on 18 December.

12. Pakistan's defeated General Niazi and Major General Farman Ali, the military adviser to the former West Pakistani-appointed governor of East Pakistan, have been brought to Calcutta from Dacca. There is no indication that the Indians plan to bow to Bengali demands that West Pakistani prisoners-of-war should be tried as war criminals for the killing of a large number of Bangla Desh intellectuals shortly before the fall of Dacca.

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The Military Situation

13. Sporadic light weapons firing--both Indian and Pakistani--continues along cease-fire lines in the west, and [REDACTED] indicate that the Pakistanis are laying mines to protect their positions. The Indians may be actively seeking out enemy forces who stopped fighting while still on Indian territory; Indian [REDACTED]

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14. The Indian Army will continue to maintain positions on the border with West Pakistan so long as a political settlement is not reached with Pakistan, according to Lt. General K. P. Candeth, the Western Command's commander-in-chief.

15. [REDACTED] one battalion of West Pakistani troops had crossed over from East Pakistan into Burma by 17 December. The Burmese requested that the Pakistanis disarm, but the latter refused and the local Burmese authorities have not attempted to force the issue. They are keeping the Pakistani forces under close watch pending instructions from Rangoon. Although some of the Pakistanis have crossed into the Chin Hills area of Burma, the majority are to be found in Arakan state, the same area where a substantial number of Bangla Desh refugees, who fled from East Pakistan months earlier, are also to be found.

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In India

16. Anti-American demonstrations are continuing at various US official installations throughout India. Police protection has been adequate, and little damage has occurred. With the rumored departure of US Seventh Fleet ships from a course into the Bay of Bengal, the potential for violence should further decrease.

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17. Indian Defense Minister Jagjivan Ram acknowledged the new Pakistani President during a public rally today in which he extended India's "hand of friendship" towards Pakistan. He expressed the hope that Bhutto would look at recent developments "in their true perspective" and recognize Bangla Desh and release Sheik Mujibur Rahman. Ram also expressed his pleasure at the fact that India's "glorious victory" had led to the end of military rule and the restoration of a civilian government in Pakistan.

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