

**S E C R E T**

*Bangladesh* 25X1

**THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505**

November 8, 1975

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant to the President (National Security Affairs)**

**SUBJECT : Intelligence Alert Memorandum: Bangladesh**

The attached memorandum on the deteriorating situation in Bangladesh explains why we believe the chances of Indian military intervention have increased substantially in the last 24 hours.

[Redacted Signature Box]

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*for* W. E. Colby

**Attachment**

[Redacted Attachment Box]

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Copy No. 2 - Secretary of State  
3 - Secretary of Defense

**S E C R E T**

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November 8, 1975

**INTELLIGENCE ALERT MEMORANDUM**

**SUBJECT: Deteriorating Situation in Bangladesh and Increasing Possibility of Indian Intervention**

*The situation within the armed forces in Bangladesh is deteriorating. Unless promptly contained, it could lead in short order to civil war in Bangladesh, an exodus of refugees across the border to India, and result in open Indian military intervention.*

\* \* \* \* \*

1. The normal command structure of the armed forces has been disrupted with junior officers and enlisted men reportedly making demands of their seniors, even of the new strong man, Major General Zia ur-Rahman. Some of these mutinous groups appear to be radical in orientation, and rumors in Dacca suggest that some may be operating under Indian influence.

2. During November 8, we have received the following information.

-- A report [redacted] the new government has arrested "25 percent" of the Bangladesh army officer corps and confined them to the Dacca Army Cantonment. Many of these officers are believed to be supporters of Major General Musharraf, killed on November 7.

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-- The Dacca press has labelled the overthrow of Musharraf a "sepoy (enlisted man) mutiny." [redacted]

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-- Another report [redacted] indicates that a group of lower ranking officers and enlisted men, calling themselves the Revolutionary Military Council, met with General Zia on November 8 and made a number of demands, including the release of all political prisoners, egalitarian treatment of officers and enlisted men, and an ill-defined restructuring of the country's economy and government.

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-- The senior Bangladesh military representative in New Delhi has warned that if the eight majors who participated in the August 15 coup against Mujibur Rahman return to Dacca from their exile in Bangkok, the likelihood of Indian intervention will increase markedly. (Our latest information is that the majors are still in Bangkok.)

-- [redacted] the government placed the Eastern Command (headquartered in Calcutta) and the paramilitary Border Security Force on alert on November 7 after Zia assumed power. [redacted] Indian leaders foresee a serious possibility of civil war in Bangladesh and a breakdown of public order, a flow of refugees into India, and the necessity for eventual military intervention.

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-- Two [redacted] reports have been received that Indian troops, possibly up to 400 in number, were operating a few miles over the border into Bangladesh in the northern and northwestern sectors on November 7 and 8. These reports also allege that aircraft -- presumably of the Indian Air Force -- violated Bangladesh airspace on November 7.

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3. We doubt that India as yet has decided to intervene militarily in Bangladesh. Domestically, Prime Minister Gandhi, following her victory in court, is in a strong position. She has no need at present of a foreign victory to enhance her prestige at home. Therefore, we judge that she will not deliberately embark on intervention for internal political purposes. India's foreign relations would also argue against intervention -- at least until a good case could be made for it, such as would be furnished by a large movement of refugees into India. India's awareness that there would be a strong negative reaction from other countries, especially from the Muslim world, to intervention would be a major deterrent to precipitate action. Indian spokesmen have repeatedly warned, however, that the nation cannot be unconcerned over events in Bangladesh, and that chaos in that country followed by a movement of refugees into India, would force New Delhi to intervene regardless of the consequences. New Delhi has also warned that India would intervene if Bangladesh proclaimed itself an Islamic state.

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4. All elements of the intelligence community have placed their collection resources on full alert to watch for and report any movements or preparations for movement by Indian military units toward Bangladesh. While we have no Defense Attache in Bangladesh, we have also tasked all agencies to collect information on possible Indian support -- overt or covert -- to one or another of the factions within Bangladesh. In the

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5. This memorandum has been coordinated among the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Bureau of Intelligence and Research of the Department of State, and the National Security Agency.

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