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RTC: Hazarvi backs Mujib's decision Bhutto criticised

By Our Staff Correspondent

Maulana Ghulam Ghaus Hazarvi, General Secretary, Jamiatul Ulema-i-Islam (West Pakistan) yesterday endorsed the decision of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman not to attend the proposed conference of the leaders of Parliamentary Parties in Dacca on March 10.

The better course, in his view, would have been to convene the inaugural session of the National Assembly and then postpone it for 10 days during which efforts at political and constitutional conciliation could have been initiated by President Yahya Khan.

Maulana Hazarvi, who was speaking at a reception held in his honour at Jabees Hotel, emphasised that constitution-making was a job done inside the Assembly and not in the public. It was wrong on the part of Mr Bhutto or Sheikh Mujib to take an uncompromising stand on constitutional matters beforehand.

He criticised Mr Bhutto of talking in the "language of ultimatum" and thus causing a crisis which could have been averted through mutual love, tolerance and understanding.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, he pointed out had shown a good deal of accommodation in his last statement the same day Mr Bhutto had talked in a rather provocative tone in Lahore. Had the Sheikh's spirit of accommodation and amity been reciprocated, a meeting of minds could have been possible in another round of Bhutto-Mujib meetings, he added.

Maulana Ghulam Ghaus said the people of West Pakistan had full sympathy for their brethren in East Pakistan during their present trying times. He hoped that even at this crucial hour some way out would be found so that Pakistan's integrity and solidarity remained intact and Islamic bonds between East and West Pakistan strengthened.

He praised President Yahya Khan for doing whatever he could to bring round Sheikh Mujib and Mr Bhutto — a job which he did on his own by visiting the Sheikh in Dacca and Mr Bhutto in Larkana. He hoped that the President's continued efforts in the larger national interests would bear fruit.

BHUTTO CONDEMNED

Maulana Hazarvi regretted that Mr Bhutto in his Lahore speech should have thought it fit to threaten the West Pakistan MNAs who went to Dacca to attend the National Assembly session (without his prior concurrence).

Mr Bhutto, he pointed out, (Continued on back page col. 5)

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should not forget that the One Unit had been undone and every Province had its elected representatives. Mr Bhutto could not, therefore, claim to be the spokesman of West Pakistan and, hence, he should not talk as authoritatively as he does on political and constitutional issues or threaten the MNAs-elect.

Maulana Ghulam Ghaus reiterated his warning that foreign powers and vested interests were hand in glove in their bid to disintegrate Pakistan. In this context he named an envoy of a Big Power moving all over the country and calling on the various political leaders.

The Government, he said, should take note of foreign influences at work and guard against the foreign agents who were trying to sabotage the country's integrity and independence.

Earlier, Maulana Asfand Yar Khan, Naib Amir of Jamiat's Karachi Zone, presented a welcome address. Maulana Abdul Hakim, MNA-elect from Hazara, also spoke on the occasion.

(Picture on page 10)