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YAHYA ORDERS CEASEFIRE

Step in interest of peace

From M. A. MANSURI

RAWALPINDI, DEC. 17: PRESIDENT YAHYA KHAN THIS AFTERNOON ORDERED THE PAKISTAN FORCES TO CEASE FIRE WITH EFFECT FROM 1430 GMT. WHICH CORRESPONDS TO 7.30 P.M. WEST PAKISTAN TIME.

In a statement released here this afternoon, the President said "if India is sincere in its pronouncement of the ceasefire, then she should proceed through the United Nations to formalise it".

The President said he gave the order for cease-fire "in the interest of peace" and in pursuance of the resolution of the UN General Assembly.

APP adds: The President's statement said: "I have always maintained that war solves no problem and that there should be negotiations between India and Pakistan to resolve all outstanding disputes.

"In pursuance of this stand, Pakistan has accepted several proposals made by the Secretary-General of the United Nations and by friendly countries which could have averted the present tragic situation between India and Pakistan.

"Pakistan has also accepted three resolutions of the Security Council as well as the General Assembly Resolution calling for cease-fire, withdrawal of armed forces to their respective borders and a political solution of the problem facing Pakistan.

"The General Assembly resolution had the overwhelming support of 104 member nations of the international community and the world expected India to respond to it in the interest of peace.

"It is unfortunate that India showed total disregard to all these urgent expressions of world opinion, which would have spared bloodshed and suffering.

"Now India has made an offer of cease-fire on the Western front.

"Pakistan is already committed to a cease-fire along with other consequential steps through the acceptance of General Assembly Resolution and is willing to reciprocate within the framework of that resolution.

"If India is sincere in its pronouncement of the cease-fire they should proceed through the United Nations to formalise it.

"In keeping with the foregoing and in the interest of peace, I have in response to the Indian offer ordered my forces also to cease-fire today with effect from 1430 GMT, which correspond to 7.30 p.m. WPST and 5.30 p.m. EPST."

INDIAN CEASE-FIRE

APP adds: In New Delhi, an official spokesman confirmed today that Indian forces have been ordered to halt all kind of operations against Pakistan w.e.f. 2030 local (1430 GMT) today.

However, their orders were to hold any positions which came under attack after this time, the spokesman said.

Pakistan's decision to observe a cease-fire had been transmitted to the Indian Government through the Swiss and United States embassies.

NEW DELHI, Dec 17: An Indian Defence Department spokesman said the Indo-Pakistan cease-fire officially went into operation at 20.00 Indian standard time (14.30 GMT) and the Salem report was that by 21.00 (15.30 GMT) there had been no violation.—Reuter.

(Editorial on page 3)

BHUTTO'S CALL

Settlement with East Pakistanis and New Delhi

NEW YORK, Dec 17: Foreign Minister-designate Zulfikar Ali Bhutto has said his country should accept a ceasefire with India, the "New York Times" reported today.

The newspaper quoted Mr Bhutto in an interview at the United Nations as saying Pakistan should prepare to negotiate for a permanent settlement with the East Pakistani insurgents as well as with India.

He also said that Pakistan which is now ruled by a military regime, should return soon to civilian Government the newspaper said.

It added that Mr Bhutto said he would return home shortly to start laying the groundwork for sweeping domestic and foreign policy reforms as well as conditions with the Bengalis.

Mr Bhutto stressed, the newspaper said, that he did not concede the loss of East Pakistan as final.

He said he thought the ceasefire would be approved because it would be sheer madness to continue the war when none of his country's problems could be settled by the conflict.—Reuter.

Another report says: Mr Bhutto said yesterday he was prepared to ask the United States and China for military aid against India, but added that this would not include a request for troops.

Mr Bhutto was being interviewed, on the Columbia Broadcasting System Morning News Programme.

He was asked whether as the leader of his country's largest political party he was prepared to call on the US and China for military assistance, including troops.

The Foreign Minister replied: "I wouldn't say including troops, but we would be in consultation with them and — to the extent necessary, we would ask for assistance.

"We don't like to burden our friends. The United States and China have done enough for us already. We are obliged to them, and I would not like to see a single American on the soil of the Subcontinent for the defence of my country.

"But assistance — moral, political and other, we are prepared to seek", he added. "If they give it to us, we would be grateful; if they don't give it to us, well understand."

Turning Mr Bhutto said he felt Pakistan was entitled to call on the US for help under South East Asian Treaty Organisation (SEATO) and the Central Treaty Organisation (CENTO).

Pakistan is a signatory of both pacts.—Reuter.

UN COUNCIL MAY ADOPT US RESOLUTION

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 17: The UN Security Council, important to halt the Indo-Pakistani conflict for two weeks, was today poised to pass a ceasefire resolution after the war had virtually ended.

Observers here could not, however, exclude the possibility of Big-Power factoring causing the council-role UN body with executive power — to pass the burden on to the powerless General Assembly again.

When Dacca fell to Indian invaders Thursday all draft resolutions became meaningless," according to Soviet Ambassador Yakov Malik when the Security Council convened Thursday night.

He came up with a fresh draft calling for a ceasefire, transfer of power to the "legally elected representatives of the people in East Pakistan," but made no mention of troop withdrawals.

US Envoy George Bush then introduced a counter draft with Japan's backing, which called for a ceasefire, disengagement of both sides troops as soon as was practicable, and withdrawal from occupied territories.

The Security Council members might decide in favour of the American draft today observers said.

The 15-nation council, which now has a total of nine draft resolutions before it, met for less than half an hour before the President, Sierra Leone Ambassador Ismael Talbot-Kargbo, called a recess for private consultations.

An earlier Council meeting yesterday was similarly short after members heard of the end of fighting in East Pakistan, and India's unilateral ceasefire on the Western front starting today

(Continued on back page col. 8)

BLACKOUT TO CONTINUE

The Hyderabad Commissioner, and Deputy Commissioner of Civil Defence, Karachi, announced that black out will remain in force as usual until further order. —APP.

141 Indian planes destroyed

RAWALPINDI, Dec 17: PAF fighter-bombers again struck at enemy supply lines last night and bombed Bhatinda railway junction causing heavy damage to trains and other railway facilities.

Close support to Pakistan Army in various sectors of war was continued throughout today and last night. Enemy troops concentrations were bombed and a number of armoured carriers and trucks were destroyed.

Last night PAF aircraft again attacked IAF airfields at Amritsar, Sirsa and Bhuj. In an aerial combat near Natowal today PAF Sabres engaged two MIG-21 supersonic interceptors and shot down one of them. The other escaped. This takes the total number of IAF aircraft destroyed and damaged so far to 111.

The Pakistan Air Force lost an F-104 Star-fighter today when it was hit by ground fire near the Sind border.

TANK BATTLE

In a tank battle with the enemy in Shakargarh salient in Sialkot area our troops have taken a heavy toll of enemy men and armour, it was officially stated.

Our troops continue to counter the enemy in this area and inflict heavy losses. Details are awaited.—APP.

Chenab Express and Tezgam bombed at Ghotki: 40 casualties

From Our Correspondent

SUKKUR, Dec 17: The Indian war planes this afternoon bombed the Up Tezgam and Up Chenab Express at Ghotki railway station, killing at least 15 passengers and injuring at least 25.

Meanwhile, the number of dead bodies recovered from under the debris of fallen houses in the Railway Colony at Rohri, which was bombed by Indians last evening, has risen to fifteen.

HYDERABAD AND SANGHAR

Dawn Staff Correspondent from Hyderabad reported at least 12 civilians were killed and 33 persons, including four women, were injured seriously as a result of indiscriminate Indian strafing and shelling of the civil population in Hyderabad and Tharparkar districts during the last 14 days.

According to official sources, the bulk of the casualties took place in Tharparkar district, where 11 persons were killed and 29 injured. Besides this, several houses were also badly damaged when Indian planes had bombed Sanghar on Dec 9.

6 RAIDS ON LAHORE

A PPI report from Lahore said: Eleven persons were killed and 11 injured as a result of the Indian bombing of Misri Shah and outlying areas this afternoon.

The toll is expected to go still higher. More details are awaited.

Indian planes attacked Lahore five times today and dropped bombs and rockets. Some of these bombs fell in Misri Shah a thickly populated locality of Lahore, and some others in the area lying around it.

IAF planes also strafed the area around the historic Shalimar Gardens.

In Rawalpindi, blackout remained in operation tonight even after the declaration of cease-fire.

Air Commodore H. S. Ruz, Director General Civil Defence, when contacted said: "I have not yet received any instruction about lifting of blackout. Hence blackout will continue to observe till further orders."

Word of God

And hold fast by the covenant of Allah all together and be not disunited. And remember Allah's favour to you when you were enemies then He united your hearts so by His favour you became brethren. And you were on the brink of a pit of fire, then He saved you from it. Thus Allah makes clear to you His message that you may be guided. (Al-Quran: 3:102).

Dublin's complaint against Britain on Human rights

DAIRA, Dec 17: The Dublin Government yesterday lodged an official complaint alleging that Britain has violated the European Human Rights Convention in Northern Ireland.

The complaint, was handed to the Secretary General of the Council of Europe by Mr Mary Tunney, Ireland's Permanent representative at the Council. She requested that the complaint be forwarded to the European Human Rights Commission in Strasbourg.—AFP

Soviet cruiser seen off Singapore

SINGAPORE, Dec. 17: A Soviet cruiser was sighted by coastal watchers today off Singapore, turning north into the Malacca Strait and apparently heading for the Bay of Bengal.

The ship could not be indentified in detail but was believed to be the same 6,000-ton Kynda class cruiser reported by a Japanese Defence Agency spokesman to have been spotted with a submarine on Dec. 9 passing through the Tsushima Strait, off Japan's southern island of Kyushu.

The cruiser was sighted off Horsburgh, on the south-east tip of Singapore, at 0215 GMT this morning. It was doing about 20 knots.

On Tuesday, the U.S. nuclear-powered aircraft carrier "Enterprise" passed Singapore on its way to the Bay of Bengal. Latest reports from Washington said the carrier was continuing on course for East Pakistan.—Reuter.

White House blames India for conflict

KEY BISCAYNE (Florida), Dec 17: The US Administration would be seriously concerned if fighting continued in West Pakistan, a White House spokesman said yesterday.

He made the comment after India had ordered a unilateral cease-fire on its Western Front following the surrender of Pakistani troops in the East Pakistan.

The spokesman, Mr Ronald Ziegler, who continued the Administration's criticism of India in all the conflict, added that the possibility of a cease-fire in West Pakistan was an encouraging turn.

"If a cease-fire comes and the fighting is stopped, then our outlook on that will very seriously concern .... "But if reports we have seen about the situation is correct in terms of cease-fire in the West, this is an encouraging turn."

The White House announced that there may be some endorsement at the United Nations of a formal cease-fire arrangement, he said.

Mr Ziegler criticised India and confirmed that President Nixon has received a letter from Prime Minister Indira Gandhi in which she said the war could have been prevented if influential Powers, especially the United States, had exercised their authority to persuade Pakistan to release Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Mr Ziegler said: "My comment is that the way to avoid war and not to move equipment and forces with the objective of military action and confrontation". Asked who he felt was starting up tanks and putting bullets in rifles, Mr Ziegler replied "India".

He said the United States still maintains its position that both sides should withdraw forces from areas they moved into before the fighting started. But he declined to comment on suggestions he responded that the United States was, in effect, expecting Indian forces to withdraw from East Pakistan.

Mr Ziegler, when whether the United States had any commitment under the Southeast Asia Treaty Organisation (SEATO) to help Pakistan, replied "I'm not prepared directly on the treaty, but noted that Pakistan is a member of the United Nations.

"UN members have a very substantial responsibility not to allow the disintegration of one of their members," he said.

Mr Ziegler again refused to comment on reports that American Navy vessels were moving into waters near Pakistan.

Asked if President Nixon had been consulted on whatever movements the Fleet might be making, Mr Ziegler said this was obvious.—Reuter.

Haj sailing and flights put off

By Our Staff Correspondent

All sailing and flights for the current Haj have been postponed by the Government, so far only one ship has sailed for Jeddah carrying 2,802 pilgrims.

The air passage vouchers issued to the intending pilgrims have been cancelled.

The intending pilgrims who were bound to sail by ships have been asked not to report to the Haj Camp, Karachi, unless advised individually or through public notice, the Government announcement said.

Indian plan to disintegrate Pakistan stated

TEHERAN, Dec 17: Mr. Turget Mansur-Ologia, the retiring CENTO Secretary-General, has charged India with putting into effect "a well prepared plot directly aimed at the disintegration of its neighbour and potential strong rival in the region."

The CENTO Secretary-General, who is due to retire by the end of this month, told the Iranian daily "Kayhan International" that India had been patiently waiting for "such an opportunity" and the actual plan to invade East Pakistan was prepared "several months in advance" before Sheikh Mujib was arrested.

He said the Indians put the first phase of their plan into

(Continued on back page col. 7)

Heath leaves for summit talks

LONDON, Dec 17: British Prime Minister Edward Heath left here by air today for separate summit meetings with Canadian Prime Minister Pierre Trudeau and President Nixon.

CHOU ATTACKS INDIA, USSR

PEKING, Dec 17: Premier Chou En-lai said tonight that the attack in East Pakistan constituted "the starting point for a constant struggle on the South Asian Subcontinent and for the defeat" of the "Indian aggressor".

Mr Chou accused "social imperialism" the Soviet Union of having "supported the Indian aggression in order to build a world empire".

Chou En-lai also charged the U.S.S.R. has "sabotaged the armed struggle of the Pakistan people and the other peoples".

The Premier, speaking at a banquet in honour of a visiting Sudanese delegation, said that the fall of Dacca could not be considered as "a so-called step in the march of the Indian aggressors towards victory".

Diplomats of India the Soviet Union, Bulgaria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, East Germany and Mongolia walked out of the banquet hall as he spoke.

It was the first time for two years a Soviet Ambassador had walked out of a reception and diplomats here believed it indicated that Sino-Soviet relations were less friendly than at any time since the border conflict of March 1969.—AFP/Reuter.

SOVIET PROBES SUCCESSFULLY PHOTOGRAPH MARS

MOSCOW, Dec 17: The Soviet Mars-2 and Mars-3 automatic stations were oriented by means of independent systems of astronavigation, and the surface of Mars was photographed from different distances by commands from the earth.

After the processing of these photographs on board the stations they were broadcast to the earth.

Under the programme the Mars-3 and Mars-3 automatic stations put into sorocentric orbits on Nov 27 and Dec. 2 are successfully continuing the scientific exploration of Mars and the spaces near the planet in substantially differing orbits.

TASS

APPEAL TO EVERY PAKISTANI

In the times of our Holy Prophet (Peace be on him) when Jehad Fund had to be raised, Hazrat Abu Bakr offered whatever he owned and Hazrat Omar gave away half of his wealth.

Today we appeal to every Pakistani; rich or poor, businessman or landlord, to donate at least 10% of his wealth towards the DEFENCE FUND. Whoever pays more will earn a greater reward from God Almighty. Today our valiant soldiers are laying their lives to protect us and our homeland. We must donate and donate generously to the Defence Fund to strengthen the hands of our Armed Forces.

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018645 076599 117827 170117 233780 268150 326880 381258 440581
019904 078409 120616 174954 234377 274560 329933 386176 441970
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