WHEN TANKS TOOK OVER THE TALKING

Troops battle rag-tag rebels

Pakistanis rally to sheik's call

From Australian Associated Press

NEW DELHI, March 28.—East Pakistan's rag-tag rebel army is fighting for its life, facing a superior West Pakistan troops backed by tanks, artillery and jet bombers.

* An Indian news agency report said an estimated 10,000 East Pakistanis had been killed in less than two days of civil war.

Each side claimed to have the upper hand.

HOWARD WHITTEN, of AAP-Reuter, one of 35 correspondents expelled from Dacca during the weekend, filed this eye-witness account on: Sheik Mujib's non-co-operation movement which paralyzed the government, education and commerce for over three weeks.

On Friday, menacing plumes of black smoke curtled above Dacca and sporadic bursts of automatic fire crackled in the silent night. 18 hours after the army rolled in to crackdown on Sheik Mujib's followers.

The first sign that the military regime had lost patience with wrangling politicians was a sudden influx of troops into the Hotel Intercontinental, where journalists were staying.

A captain ordered nobody to move outside, on pain of being shot.

Troops then hauled down and burned a giant Bengali flag (Bengal nation) that the hotel staff had made and hoisted 12 hours earlier.

By then rumors spread that President Yahya Khan, who had spent 11 days here trying to solve the crisis, had left. Phone calls to his house went unanswered.

Soon the whole phone and cable system went dead and dustily lay army convoys trundled past the hotel. At 1 a.m. a news call to Sheik Mujib's home established he was there, but half an hour later the line was dead.

A dozen isolated pistol shots were followed by the boom of recoilless rifles.

Pigs began to light the horizon. The militant Bengali nationalist paper, The People, was blazing near the hotel and even bigger fires in the university residence hall and on the airport road could be seen.

Patton tanks clattered along the roads and tracer bullets flailed the sky as truckloads of troops shuttled back and forth.

Saturday: toast of the course
Sunday: back to milking the cow

DIRECTORS WARN ON LEOPOLD

CABINET TO GET TEACHER CRISIS REPORT

By RICHARD TEAGUE and IAN DAY
State Cabinet will meet today to discuss latest moves over the controversial "anti-strike"