

East Pakistan Is Reopened to Newsmen

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KARACHI, Pakistan, June 20 — The Pakistani Government announced last night that foreign newsmen, who have been barred from East Pakistan since March 25 except as participants in Government-conducted tours, are to be readmitted without restrictions.

The announcement said that "foreign correspondents can visit East Pakistan on their own completely unescorted and unattended in view of the fact that the law and order situation is now fully under control in that wing."

Last March 26 about 40 foreign newsmen covering the strife arising from Bengali separatist aspirations were expelled from East Pakistan by martial-law authorities. All their notes, film, manuscripts

and personal papers were confiscated by authorities.

Since then, one group of six correspondents and another of 10 have been permitted five-day tours of East Pakistan accompanied by military authorities.

Two weeks ago the Government announced that all foreigners were to be permitted to travel in East Pakistan but that journalists remained barred. Travelers have been required to sign affidavits that they are not journalists.

The Pakistani Government contends that foreign reporting on events in East Pakistan has been biased and distorted, with heavy prejudice in favor of Bengali separatists.

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