Excerpts From World Bank Group's Report on East Pakistan

WASHINGTON, July 12 — Following are excerpts from a report by the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development that visited East Pakistan last month and from a report on a survey of the western area of the province by Hendrik van der Heijden, an economist and member of the mission. The reports were obtained today by The New York Times.  

Mission's Report

The situation is very far from normal; nor are there any signs that normalcy is being approached or that matters are even moving in that direction. For this picture to be changed it appears that, as a minimum, some formidable constraints must be removed or overcome.

Minimum Conditions for Normalization

In the present political circumstance, it is impossible to predict what might constitute a sufficient set of conditions for a normal economic process to begin. There are, however, a number of necessary conditions. First, it is most unlikely that any significant movement in the direction of normalcy will occur until there is a realistic expectation of safety and security, and a just and equitable resolution of outstanding civil rights problems. Secondly, the food problem must be solved. For the present, this means programming the massive imports which will be required over the next 12—24 months, and re-establishing the import program. Thirdly, any remaining available resources must be directed first to rehabilitation and reconstruction to the greatest extent possible, and to breaking the most important and most persistent physical and organizational bottlenecks so as to make the economy go again.

One implication of this set of priorities is that a large amount of effort will have to be assigned to work on the roads. The roads are in a state of suspension for at least the next year or so. On the whole, this is certainly inevitable; however, there are some areas of extremely high priority where development programs should be resumed at their previous—or even higher—levels at the earliest opportunity. A list of such areas would include as a minimum: rice research, fruit and vegetable research, (mangoes and melons), rice, and mango promotion, seed production and improvement (rice and jute), food storage and distribution (including the rural works), irrigation and integrated rural development programs.

Economist's Report

JESSORE

Approaching Jessore, it became clear that this was the area where the army punitive action had been very severe from the air, total destruction of villages was clearly visible, a building was still on fire, and to the east of Jessore, if the runway good the many houses had been destroyed. The airport was heavily guarded by armed forces, who also controlled access to the airport. The authorities estimate that the population of Jessore itself is down from 50,000 to 100,000. Some 50,000 people were killed in Jessore. The city's center has been destroyed; commerce has come to a standstill. More than 50 per cent of the factories have been destroyed. Damage to housing in Jessore district is so severe that the authorities estimate that some 450,000 people have been affected out of a total district population of 2,500,000. Half a million people have fled to India.

The Jessore area is by no means secure. Government officers cannot move freely.