

14 PAKISTANIS QUIT AT MISSIONS IN U.S.

Bengalis Charge Crimes by the Yahya Government— Some Request Asylum

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WASHINGTON, Aug. 4 — Fourteen Pakistani diplomats—all of Bengali origin—resigned today from their embassy here or from the mission to the United Nations in protest against what they called “crimes against humanity” in East Pakistan by the Government of President Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan.

A spokesman for the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service said that some of the Pakistani diplomats who resigned had applied for permission to remain in the country under political asylum.

The spokesman said the State Department would be asked for its views as soon as personal data on the diplomats were collected. Although State Department spokesmen declined comment on the matter, there were indications that the Bengali diplomats, whose cause has strong support in Congress, would be permitted to remain.

A. M. A. Muhith, economic counselor of the Pakistani Embassy and leader of the group, said at a news conference at the National Press Club that he and his colleagues felt they could no longer remain silent while the Pakistani Government “violates elementary norms of

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civilized conduct and commits crimes against humanity."

The group announced that it would shift its allegiance to the "Government of Bangla Desh," or "Bengal Nation," which it said represented the "hopes and aspirations" of the majority of the people of "what used to be Pakistan."

The Pakistan Army moved last March to crush a movement for political autonomy in East Pakistan. Some of the movement's leaders subsequently proclaimed independence for Bangla Desh, and guerrilla resistance against the troops in the east has been reported.

East Pakistan, which is separated from West Pakistan by 1,000 miles of Indian territory, has 72 million people, mostly of Bengali stock. West Pakistan has a population of 55 million, mostly Punjabis and Pathans.

The resignations appeared to reduce the Pakistani Embassy's staff here by half. Of 10 civilian attachés listed in the State Department's Diplomatic List, six have resigned.

Atrocities Are Alleged

Mr. Muhith declared that Bengalis in East Pakistan are being hunted down by the army. Villages are being put to the torch, he said, women are being abducted and raped and young people are being "bayoneted or bled to death."

"Not only has a reign of terror been established, but it is heightened every day," Mr. Muhith said. "Yahya's 'final solution' of the Bengali question has since taken on an added sinister dimension — denial of food to starve Bengalis into submission."

Among the other diplomats who resigned today were S. A. Karin, deputy permanent representative at the United Nations; E. Karin, a minister at the embassy who is reported ill; A. M. S. Kibria, educational

counselor; A. R. Chaudhury, embassy finance and accounts officer, and S. M. Ali, third secretary.

The resigning diplomats alluded to yesterday's House of Representatives vote in favor of suspending aid to Pakistan and Greece.

"There absolutely cannot be any question of economic or military assistance to West Pakistan now," they said. "Such assistance will only have the effect of perpetuating genocide."

Within an hour of the diplomats' news conference, President Nixon, after a meeting with Secretary of State William

P. Rogers and Henry A. Kissinger, the President's national security adviser, criticized the proposed ban on aid to Pakistan, which now goes to the Senate for action.

Mr. Nixon said in a news conference that a suspension was likely to aggravate the problem of relief for East Pakistan refugees. He said it would hamper Pakistan's ability to work with the United Nations "as it presently has indicated it is willing to do in distributing the food supplies." [Opening statement, Page 16.]

Calling for continuing economic aid to Pakistan as the way to "influence the course of events" in the Indian subcontinent, Mr. Nixon announced that Secretary Rogers would confer next week at the United Nations with Prince Sadruddin Khan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and with other officials.

Rejecting rising Congressional and public pressure for public condemnation of Pakistan's military actions in East Pakistan, Mr. Nixon declared:

"We are not going to engage in public pressure on the Government of West Pakistan. That would be totally counterproductive. These are matters that we will discuss only in private channels."

White House sources said that President Nixon's reference to the "Government of West Pakistan" was not intended to imply that the United States recognizes two Pakistani political entities.