

# Halt US aid for Yahya, says shaken Kennedy

By DAVID LOSHAK in New Delhi

SENATOR EDWARD KENNEDY, who has been visiting refugee camps in eastern India, said yesterday he hoped the American Government would halt all economic as well as military aid to Pakistan until there was a "peaceful political solution" over East Pakistan.

As a result of his tour, he said in New Delhi he was convinced that the Pakistan military régime had committed genocide.

It is understood that the Senator, who is chairman of the Senate sub-committee on refugees, intends to make a major political issue out of the continuing American support for President Yahya Khan's Government.

In his tour of refugee camps, he was visibly shaken both by camp conditions and the extent of injury and sickness among the refugees.

He has been angered by President Nixon's decision to deny him access to official documents such as diplomatic cables relating to the Pakistan situation while he has been staying at the American Embassy in New Delhi.

## Arms supplies

Senator Kennedy may also raise the question of whether surplus American arms and other equipment from Vietnam are being funnelled to Government forces in East Pakistan. Information has reached him that this is the case.

The Senator said he had found the desire of the refugees to be free from Pakistan "overwhelming, without exception."

The best hope for a political solution was to free Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the East Pakistan leader now imprisoned in West Pakistan, whose secret trial was "an outrage" and a travesty of the fundamentals of international law.

Both Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and Mr Swaran Singh, Foreign Minister, had talks with Senator Kennedy yesterday.

## VEILED GIRLS HELP ARM GUERRILLAS

By CLARE HOLLINGWORTH in Dacca

HEAVILY-VEILED women smuggling arms are playing an increasingly important role among the Mukti Fouj insurgents operating within East Pakistan.

Indeed, they are vital to some operations when mines, grenades or bombs must be transported and hidden within urban areas.

Veiled women are absolutely safe when they carry weapons around because no soldier or policeman would dream of touching them.

Even the female searchers on buses and trains always pass over their veiled elders although they are extremely thorough in their "frisking" of European women.

Many lower middle class women who wear a veil as a status symbol—it proves they do not work in the fields—are enormously fat.

Covered with the Burka, an all-enveloping black cloak, hood and veil, they look like vast black sacks slowly moving around.

## Market to market

The keen young students working with the Mukti Fouj are safe, too, padded with ammunition and carrying mines in their baskets, for no one can see their faces or even their ankles.

The weapons are generally brought across the frontier by men who take them to the nearest country market where the heavily-veiled girls take over.