Sheikh Mujib flies in and sees Heath

Plea for aid

By RONALD PAYNE, Diplomatic Correspondent

SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN, the 51-year-old "Father of Bangladesh," who made a surprise arrival in London at dawn yesterday, spent an hour last night in extremely cordial conversation with Mr. Heath.

The Prime Minister became the first head of government to speak man to man with the President of Bangladesh, who came to ask for millions of pounds and recognition for his newly-liberated country.

A good deal of time was taken up discussing the new republic's need for aid, both in the matter of refugees and in re-establishing the State's finances.

Anxious to help

Mr. Heath told the Bangladesh leader that his Government was anxious to do what it could to help.

The Prime Minister put forward his point of view that the United Nations was the best agency through which to channel international help to quell the tide of human misery.

But he also agreed that if Britain, with her special Commonwealth ties, could help directly and bilaterally she would.

With Sheikh Mujib was his former adviser on constitutional affairs, Dr. Kamal Hussein. The Prime Minister had with him Mr. Ian Sutherland, of the Foreign Office who had spent a good deal of time earlier with the President of Bangladesh.

During the talks the question of British recognition of the new State arose. Mr. Heath explained in some detail the normal British criteria for giving recognition.

While looking forward to future friendship and co-operation between the two countries, he made it clear that Britain did not intend to give immediate diplomatic recognition. The President's disappointment was accepted by the friendly warmth of Mr. Heath's welcome to him.

President Mujib gave Mr. Heath a complete account of the events leading up to his arrest earlier in the year. Even more usefully he described his talks last week with President Bhutto of Pakistan.

Mr. Heath, like everybody else, wanted to know why Sheikh Mujib had chosen to fly to London as soon as he was released from prison and house arrest.

Sheikh Mujib told him that he had discussed where he should go with the Pakistan President and both Mr. Bhutto and Mr. Creed supported his wish to come to Britain.

MR. HEATH shaking hands with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman outside 10 Downing Street last night as he left after meeting the Prime Minister.
Mr. Heath speaking tende with Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Prime Minster of Bangladesh, outside the British Parliament last night after his return from the United States. In a press conference, Mr. Heath, who had been in the United States, with the President of Bangladesh, said he was confident of a move towards better relations between the two countries. Mr. Heath said there would be no immediate diplomatic recognition. The President's disappointment was moderated by the news of the meeting with Mr. Heath's welcome of Mr. Heath.

President Mufti gave Mr. Heath complete account of the arrest earlier in the year. Even then, he had had the same cordial response as always. The President explained in some detail the

"We intend to go ahead with our football campaign in spite of the competition from the British Bobby. We are not afraid of the opposition," he said.

The best team broke on Friday night, but Mr. O'Farrell announced that they were not afraid of the opposition. "We have been to the last minute to win," he said.

Yahya under house arrest

President Bhutto of Pakistan made a surprise visit to the home of the late President, and the former Prime Minister of India, in London, to see the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Yahya Khan.

"There is no such thing as a political interest that I am not interested in," Mr. Yahya said. "I am interested in the interest of the people of Pakistan."

"If this decision was not made earlier, it was in the interest of the people, therefore, there should have been a move towards better relations between the two countries."
Sheikh flies in

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night that a chartered Air India Boeing 707 had left Bombay earlier to take Sheikh Mujib to India on his way to Dacca. Mrs. Gandhi, Indian Prime Minister had invited him to visit New Delhi.

The leader of the Awami League has been in gaol ever since his party won elections in East Pakistan last March. In London on Thursday, "I cannot wait a single moment to return to my people."

He told of a mock trial in which he was condemned to hang. "I was mentally ready to die. The day I went to gaol I didn't know whether I was to live or not, but I knew that Bangladesh would be liberated."

Tired by travel. He admitted he was not physically fit, although the intense heat and solitary confinement were almost unbearable.

Sheikh Mujib said Pakistan had played a "dirty game" in the 13 days of trial for the mass murder.

President Bhutto released him last week, now he told the press that the Pakistanis agreed to allow him to return home by way of London.

Tired after his long journey, Sheikh Mujib appeared wearing his glasses and looking grim.

Leader at last. The conference, in an elegant blue salon, was a remarkable occasion. The handsome, refined, the popular television lights were a surprise, as was the presence of Pakistan's leader, again an old friend.

His tan dimmed by prison, he spoke with the dignity of an old-fashioned monarch. He declared that he would work for the establishment of a new state, a federation of the two countries.

Apart from that he had little to say. He could only respond to the question of the relationship between Bangladesh and Pakistan from his own point of view. He was independent and free, he declared.

So long forcibly out of touch, there were many things that he did not know. How could he do a Pakistan prison have heard of developments and changes in his own world? and how did the world outside Bangladesh's country's world change?

The threat of the global wars had not cleared his mind enough to picture the world of current political information. All this showed the weakness and the weakness of the audience which had brought together, Pakistanis, Indians and people from Bangladesh, even though they were United.

By a strange coincidence, the Indian High Commissioner, also called. But his name is not known. It seems that the new territorial division of the country should be understood. Sheikh Mujib was coming to some kind of agreement with President Bhutto.

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Gaoler 'hid Sheikh' A Bangladesh official said in London last night that Sheikh Mujib, Bhutto's former Prime Minister, was in the country. He said the gaoler knew of the situation, but he did not know where he was.

Many reported that the gaoler had been removed from his post. It was not known, he said, whether the gaoler was independent, or whether he wanted to continue to hold power.

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