

U.S. Sent Arms to Pakistan Despite Pledge to Congress

By **BENJAMIN WELLES**
Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 — A Government study showed today that the United States Air Force was airlifting to Pakistan on a priority basis more than half a million dollars' worth of aviation spare parts in July, after Government spokesmen had assured Congress that arms shipments had been stopped. The shipments were said to include spare parts for F-104 Starfighter jets.

The survey of United States military assistance and arms sales to Pakistan was conducted by the General Accounting Office, an agency of Congress. It was released today by Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts.

The report also showed that after the Pakistani civil war broke out on March 25, the United States Government permitted at least \$3.8-million in military supplies to be exported to Pakistan despite repeated public statements that only "nonlethal" items were being sent. The study declared that

some of the items "were lethal."

Furthermore, the study declared that after the civil war began Department of Defense agencies continued to release from their stocks spare parts for lethal items in spite of "departmental directives issued in April" that ordered a hold on such items.

As Chairman of the Subcommittee on Refugees, Senator Kennedy has become a leading critic of the Nixon Administration's policy both before and since the Indian-Pakistani war and particularly of what he has termed Government "double-talk, incompetence or both."

Letter Stamped Secret

The survey, requested by Senator Kennedy on July 14, was released to him yesterday by Elmer B. Staats, Controller General of the United States. This was one day after comprehensive hearings by the subcommittee on United States policy toward India, Pakistan and the new nation of Bangladesh.

Committee sources charged today that release of the docu-

ment had been deliberately delayed to prevent Senator Kennedy from using it in an attempt to embarrass the Administration.

The study is stamped on each of 24 pages as "unclassified." It was accompanied by a covering letter from Mr. Staats stamped "secret." Nothing in Mr. Staats's letter appeared to be secret. The survey itself is replete with references to conflicting statements by spokesmen for the State and Defense Departments.

Qualified informants put the total of United States military aid and sales to Pakistan at \$860.2-million since the 1954 mutual assistance defense agreement.

In the year ended June 30, they said, the United States furnished \$28.5-million in military aid to Pakistan.

Between March 25 and Sept. 30, the accounting office report said, \$3.8-million in military items was exported on licenses valid before the outbreak of civil strife on March 25. However, accounting office sources warned that this figure

was misleading since it did not include the following:

¶ United States military items shipped after Sept. 30 but before Nov. 8, when the State Department halted all arms exports on licenses still valid.

¶ Arms exported from United States military depots, which do not require normal export licenses.

¶ Arms licensed for export in earlier years but shipped in 1971.

"The figure of \$3.8-million is far too low," a Congressional source said. "The State Department mentioned \$6-million in our October hearings and two days ago Senator Fong [Hiram L. Fong, Republican of Hawaii] mentioned \$7.5-million."

Mr. Kennedy, who plans to talk in Geneva with United Nations and Red Cross officials next week, expects to fly to New Delhi on Feb. 14 for a visit to India and Bangladesh.

He issued a statement that accused the Administration of having "consistently understated both the substance and the significance of American arms shipments to Pakistan."

The New York Times

Published: February 5, 1972

Copyright © The New York Times