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India's attack interrupts US secret move

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8:— India's attack on Pakistan had interrupted secret negotiations in which it was believed President Yahya Khan would have granted virtual autonomy to East Pakistan, White House officials said last night, reports Reuter.

The officials, denying allegations that President Nixon was anti-Indian, said the United States itself favoured autonomy for East Pakistan as a solution to the crisis.

The officials revealed that Pakistan had made secret commitments to even talks with "Bangladesh" representatives in Calcutta and was considering a proposal that the separatists should be represented by delegates named by Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The White House officials said time was required to carry out the negotiations needed for movement towards a poli-

tical settlement. But, they said, India's attack on Pakistan on November 22, showed that the Indian Government wanted a military confrontation rapidly and was interested in a political collapse in East Pakistan rather than political evolution.

The officials, speaking with the authority of the President briefed reports to reveal the secret diplomacy conducted by the United States and to justify its decision to cut off military supplies and 87,600,000 dollars in development loans in an effort to weaken India's war-making potential.

The White House briefing was held shortly after Democratic Senators Edward Kennedy and Edmund Muskie challenged the Administrations' claim that it was neutral in the crisis, declaring that the President was favouring Pakistan.

Officials said charges that the Presidential Adviser Mr. Henry Kissinger, was anti-Indian were totally incorrect. The Administration had moved against India with great sadness and misapprehension, they said.

At the same time, they called on the Soviet Union, India's supporter, to work with the United States in efforts to end the fighting rather than for short-term political gains.

The officials said India's attack on Pakistan was an unjustified move that could lead to international anarchy. It was becoming an attempt to dismember a sovereign State.

