

E. Pakistan Cut Off From World As Heavy Fighting Rocks Cities; Sheikh Mujib Goes Underground

Russia Sees Something Sinister in U.S. Policy Of Smiles Toward China

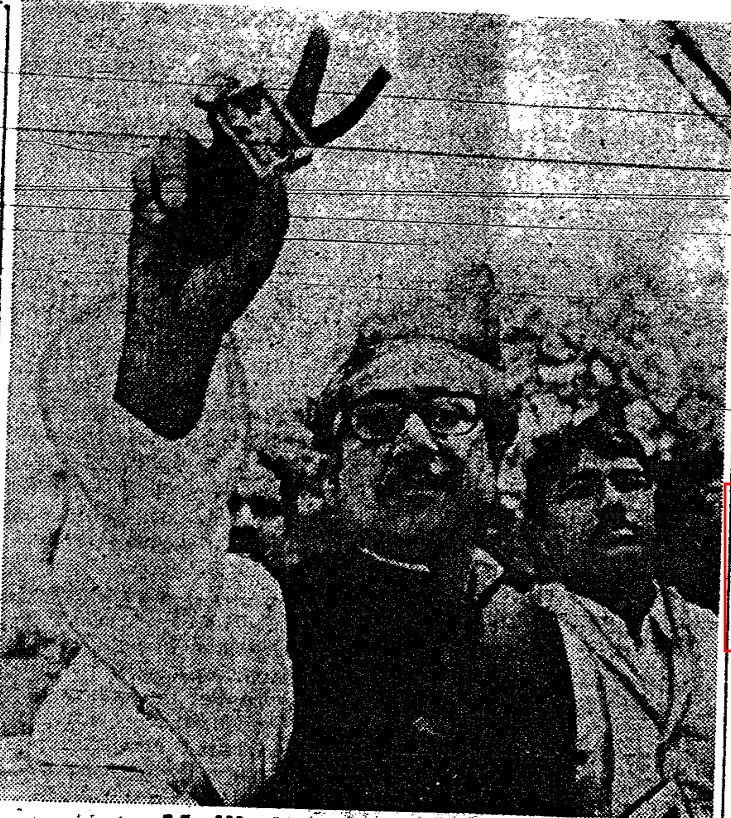
UPI—
MOSCOW, March 26—Moscow sees something sinister in recent Washington moves toward normalizing relations with the Peking Government, says an authoritative Soviet magazine, the weekly New Times.

The new American "diplomacy of smiles" toward China is motivated by a desire to fan anti-Sovietism.

The magazine said: "Precisely whenever Washington makes a move toward Peking a new campaign of anti-Soviet hysteria is launched in China." Last week, a statement in Peking denounced Soviet leaders as "revisionist renegates."

Jews Stream Out of USSR

MOSCOW, March 26—More than 500 Soviet Jews emigrated to Israel in the first 22 days of March, reliable diplomatic sources reported Friday. The diplomats' figure indicated that about 700 Jews have left the Soviet Union this year, only 300 less than the total number which



Mujib Waves to Crowd

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, East Pakistan's Awami League leader, gestures to the waiting crowd as he leaves a recent meeting at the residence of Pakistan President Yahya Khan in Dacca Friday. Current reports indicate heavy casualties and fierce fighting in East Pakistan which is seeking greater independence from the central Government.

Hundreds Reported Machinegunned by Yahya's Troops

By Ajit K. Das
UPI Correspondent

PETRAPOLE, West Bengal, March 26—The civil war that erupted in East Pakistan early today still raged tonight with gunfire clearly heard at this border town.

The trouble started soon after President Yahya Khan imposed total martial law in the rebellious eastern region.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the now outlawed Awami League which tonight declared East Pakistan's independence, reportedly went underground with his top advisers.

Reports flowing across the border from Benapole, the sister town of this last outpost to the east, said East Pakistan's Bengali-speaking Eastern Rifles and the state police force assisted by Awami League volunteers in the hundreds were fighting Army troops. The Army was patrolling the streets, enforcing a ban on the public assembly of five or more persons.

Gunfire could be heard from this border which had been the most used for traffic out of

U.N. Studies Problem Possible E. Pakistan Bid for Seat Is Seen

UPI—
UNITED NATIONS, March 26—The U.N. legal offices today began a study of possible legal implications of a request for membership in the organization by East Pakistan.

A spokesman said the U.N. Legal Counsel, Undersecretary-General Constantin Stavropoulos, was studying the eventual consequences of a possible request for admission to the U.N. but had refused to make any comments at this stage.

Gunfire could be heard from this border which had been the most used for traffic out of Dacca and other parts of East Pakistan since Sheikh Mujib's noncooperation movement started March 1, paralyzing government offices. Until today, the movement had succeeded in forcing Army troops back to their barracks and boycotting everything and everybody who was not a Bengali.

From the early hours of today, East Pakistan was virtually an island, cut off militarily from the rest of the world.

There was no commercial air service operating to Dacca or any other East Pakistani city. No bus service operated internally.

The streets of Dacca and other cities and towns turned into battlefields as young and old Bengali men and women freedom fighters confronted the Army with rifles, bombs, sticks and stones and anything else they could lay their hands on.

More Troops Land

AFP

CALCUTTA, March 26—East Pakistani riflemen, two-thirds of whom are East Pakistanis, and police personnel resisted martial law authorities and clashed with the federal troops from West Pakistan around midnight Thursday when soldiers moved in to seize the East Pakistani riflemen in their Dacca barracks.

Last night, six ships dropped anchor outside Chittagong bringing in more troops and sparking speculation that President Yahya Khan had been prolonging his talks with Sheikh Mujib in Dacca until his position in East Pakistan was bolstered.

Casualty figures in the fighting were unavailable tonight but reports reaching here claimed that hundreds of people had been machinegunned by the Army.

Jessore Airfield, near the Indian border, was said to have been the scene of a bloodbath as unarmed villagers tried to storm it. Troops posted at the airport reportedly machinegunned the 1,000 strong crowd.

Forced to Retreat

Forced to Retreat

Reuters

NEW DELHI, March 26—

Thousands of villagers have joined Awami League volunteers fighting West Pakistani troops in the streets of four major cities of East Pakistan, the Press Trust of India reported tonight.

It reported that forces loyal to East Pakistan leader Sheikh Mujibur Rahman had captured the Chittagong station of Radio Pakistan.

The news agency, quoting a "highly reliable report" reaching Calcutta, said Pakistani troops were forced to retreat from the station in the East Pakistan port after fierce fighting.

Heavy fighting was going on in Chittagong, Dacca, Camilla and Rangpur, the source said.

One report said 1,000 West Pakistani commandos had been flown into East Pakistan via

"Dacca Betar Kendra" is frequently monitored at this Assamese town near the East Pakistan border.

China during the past two days.

Indian agency reports said that at least 10,000 troops from West Pakistan had now been landed in the east bringing their strength in the territory to about 70,000 men.

All-India Radio tonight reported heavy fighting in Dacca despite the curfew.

An official spokesman said that Indian security forces along the 1,340-mile (2,160 kms) border with East Pakistan had been placed on alert.

India's Cabinet will meet tomorrow and is likely to discuss the situation in East Pakistan amid fears that developments there might have repercussions in India.