

DIRECTORATE OF
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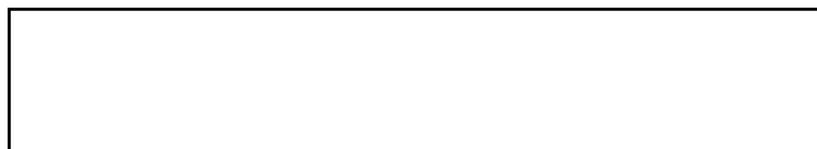
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PAKISTAN: A Bangla Desh negotiating proposal.



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A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EXILED BANGLA DESH GOVERNMENT TOLD AN OFFICER OF THE US CONSULATE GENERAL IN CALCUTTA THAT BENGALI LEADERS WOULD SETTLE FOR LESS THAN OUTRIGHT INDEPENDENCE. HE SUGGESTED THAT PRIME MINISTER GANDHI, IMPRISONED EAST PAKISTANI LEADER MUJIBUR RAHMAN, AND PRESIDENTS NIXON AND YAHYA KHAN MEET TO SOLVE THE EAST PAKISTAN PROBLEM.

THE BENGALI OFFICIAL DID NOT INDICATE WHAT SORT OF RELATIONSHIP HE ENVISIONED BETWEEN EAST AND WEST PAKISTAN, BUT SOME OF HIS PROPOSALS WOULD BE UNPALATABLE TO PRESIDENT YAHYA. FOR EXAMPLE, HE EMPHASIZED THAT MUJIB WOULD PLAY A KEY ROLE, ALTHOUGH YAHYA PLANS TO TRY MUJIB FOR TREASON. THE BANGLA DESH OFFICIAL ALSO SUGGESTED THAT BENGALI TROOPS PREDOMINATE IN FORCES STATIONED IN EAST PAKISTAN, BUT WEST PAKISTANIS MIGHT WELL SEE THIS AS AN ATTEMPT TO ASSURE THE SUCCESS OF THE NEXT REBELLION.

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