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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
19 December 1971

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2001

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(As of 0900 EST)

Political Situation in Pakistan

1. US officials in Islamabad report that there were no major public demonstrations against President Yahya in the Pakistani capital yesterday, and periodic checks of the president's compound uncovered no sign that he was under any form of arrest. Press speculation continues that Yahya is on the way out, but there is no good evidence that his ouster is imminent.

2. Prime Minister-designate Nurul Amin announced at a meeting of his United Coalition party yesterday that he could not accept the prime ministership, according to Associated Press which reports on an interview with Amin. At the meeting, party leaders passed a resolution demanding the immediate resignation of Yahya and said they were having difficulty restraining party members from holding protest demonstrations against the president and the cease-fire. Karachi radio reported early today that Amin met with Yahya yesterday and later appealed to the people to unite and exercise discipline at this time of trial. The radio made no mention of Amin's reported refusal to serve as prime minister.

3. Associated Press says Amin's withdrawal clears the way for Z. A. Bhutto, the deputy prime minister-designate, to form a civilian government under the new constitution. US officials in Islamabad report that many people there are looking toward

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an early assumption of power by Bhutto. While Bhutto was at the UN this week, however, his own party held demonstrations against Yahya, and it is uncertain whether Bhutto can marshal enough support within the military to become prime minister. Bhutto left Washington yesterday for Islamabad; he plans to stop in Tehran on Monday to meet with the Shah. His expected arrival time in Pakistan is not known.

The Cease-fire

4. No significant violations of the cease-fire, which went into effect at 0930 EST on Friday, appear to have occurred, although each side has charged the other with violations.

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The Situation in Dacca

5. US officials in Dacca report that the city was calm on the surface today although a few random gunshots could still be heard. Tension is very high in the Bihari (non-Bengali) section of the city, mainly as a result of the recently discovered massacre allegedly by Biharis of some 200 Bengali intellectuals two or three days before Dacca fell.

6. The US Consul General in Dacca reports that visible steps toward the establishment of an effective Bangla Dash government are extremely scarce. The Consul General points out that although the law and order situation has improved since immediately after the fall of Dacca, the situation is still volatile, and the only chance for the prompt establishment of stable conditions appears to lie in the presence of a functioning government under Sheik Mujib, who is still in prison in Pakistan.

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