

South Asia

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Directorate of Intelligence
16 December 1971

APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: AUG 2001

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report
(AS of 0600 EST)

Indians Announce Surrender of Pakistani Forces in Dacca

1. Prime Minister Indira Gandhi announced this morning that Indian troops had entered Dacca and that the commanding general of the 36th Pakistani Division had surrendered as the first Indian column entered the East Pakistani capital.

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confirmed the arrival in Dacca of Major General Jacob who was to negotiate the surrender of Pakistani forces. There were no immediate reports of casualties suffered by either side in the 48 hours of fighting for the city, but news correspondents reported seeing the bodies of "collaborators" in villages lining the route to Dacca.

2. As of 0400 EST there still was heavy firing in the streets of Dacca. All consulate personnel were reported to be laying low and staying off the streets. Five heavy fires were reported to be burning as the Pakistani army was apparently destroying petroleum dumps and essential military supplies. The firing may be attributed at least in part to the presence of numerous Mukti Bahini who have reportedly been waiting for just such an opportunity.

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Military Situation in the East

3. [REDACTED] press reports indicate that fighting had continued throughout the rest of East Pakistan, at least during the earlier cease-fire in Dacca. Prior to the surrender of Dacca combined Indian and Mukti Bahini forces captured the industrial towns of Sitakund and Mireshwari in their drive toward the port of Chittagong and were reported within three miles of the city. Heavy fighting also continued near Khulna in southwest East Pakistan and also in the north.

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Military Situation in the West

4. Neither side has achieved any significant military gains in the past twenty four hours. Fighting continues in the Sialkot sector where the Pakistanis claim to have beaten back an Indian attack with heavy casualties. The Indian press reports that the Indian Air Force had destroyed two Pakistani supply trains, one carrying petroleum and the other carrying a large number of tanks. The Pakistanis claim to have destroyed four Indian fuel and ammunition trains. The Pakistanis also claim that the Indian Air Force has moved three squadrons of aircraft from the east to the western front.

5. Radio Pakistan reported that 30 people died last night during the Indian air raid on Karachi, West Pakistan. The raid, which was the first on the city in five days, may have been one of the heaviest on the city since the war began. The Pakistanis claim that they shot down one and damaged another of the four Indian Canberra bombers that took part in the raid.

6. Since 0230 EST on 15 December, Lahore has been subjected to several Indian Air Force attacks. One of the attacks centered on the Lahore railroad station where five people were reportedly killed. The Lahore press and radio have not yet

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carried Gen. Niazi's request for a cease-fire. However, the general public is gradually becoming aware that its forces in East Pakistan have suffered a severe defeat. The US Consulate General reports a general malaise among the city's inhabitants and states that the enthusiasm for civil defense and other defense related activities seems to have decreased.

Pakistanis Report Mining of Chittagong Harbor

7. In Islamabad today the US Defense Attache was advised by Pakistan's Director of Naval Intelligence that the approaches to the port of Chittagong had been mined by the Pakistani Navy. The Director said he felt the US Navy must be warned of this fact. The mines are magnetic-contact, moored types dispersed in a random pattern.

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10. The Chinese take a cautious approach to activity near their borders. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] an increase in patrolling and some other preliminary military preparations would be the type of activity that the Chinese could engage in without becoming provocative. However, such activity does give the Chinese an improved capability for limited action along the border.

[REDACTED] the Chinese are currently trucking supplies to the Pakistanis along the Karakoram Highway from Sinkiang China. [REDACTED] (noted in a previous Situation Report) had also indicated Chinese shipments along that route.

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