

NSC BRIEFING

18 March 1954

IMPLICATIONS IN MOSLEM LEAGUE
DEFEAT IN EAST PAKISTAN

I. Current Situation.

A. Prime Minister Mohammed Ali's Moslem League apparently defeated in East Bengal provincial elections by landslide.

B. United Democratic Front - mostly assorted leftists - wins ⁸⁵ ~~40~~ of ⁹⁶ ~~100~~ seats reported so far out of total of 237 possible. in House of 309 (12 seats to non-Moslem.)

C. Eighty-year-old Fazlul Huq will probably be new chief minister East Bengal. He has said he would not act without "cooperation" Karachi government. He is [REDACTED] who broke with Moslem League in summer 1953.

25X6F

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D. Factors in Moslem League's defeat.

1. Unpopularity local Moslem League leaders.
2. Basic failure Moslem League government improve economic situation.
3. Ethnic differences between East and West Pakistan - East resentment rule from Karachi.

II. Domestic Repercussions.

- A. Moslem League might make post-election deal with elements of Front - depending cohesiveness Front, which now loose federation, no common program.
- B. In any case serious blow Mohammed Ali prestige.
- C. Great encouragement provincialism - will make task central government much more difficult.

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1. Likely delay formulation new constitution - in works since 1947.
2. Confuse situation in constituent assembly in Karachi where East Bengal has 43 of total 75 seats. Assembly only representative body now functioning on a national level, constitution has not yet been approved.

D. Possibility Communist influence.

1. [REDACTED] total of only 14 25X1X4□
Communists, crypto-Communists running on Front ticket.
2. Communists, however, likely be strengthened and encouraged by victory with which they associated.

III. Foreign Policy Repercussions.

- A. US military aid not issue - but Moslem League used aid in attempt to build prestige.

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- B. Will be interpreted in India and in USSR as popular rejection of aid and of Turkish-Pakistani pact.
- C. May raise doubts Turks, others stability Pak government.
- D. But not likely affect Karachi attitude toward West.

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