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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY  
Directorate for Intelligence  
6 December 1971

## INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

India-Pakistan Situation Report  
(As of 1230 EST)

West Pakistan

1. The Indian strategy to destroy Pakistan POL reserves in the west has met with only limited success thus far. Heavy Indian air strikes at Karachi have apparently failed to destroy the off-loading capability in Karachi harbor or cause significant damage to the refinery there.

Of the storage tanks hit by the Indian air strikes, only two remain out of commission. The Indians, however, are continuing to push toward the Karachi area on the ground with the apparent intention of interdicting rail lines going north and are continuing to bomb the area heavily. Indian air strikes have been more effective at the Attock refinery near Rawalpindi which

has been put out of commission. The Attock refinery is the only one in West Pakistan outside of the Karachi area.

the Indians have inflicted damage on the Pakistan POL reserves in the Multan area.

2. During the early hours after midnight on 6 December, Karachi suffered its eighth air strike. The attacking planes concentrated in the vicinity of the Muripur airbase and fire was heavy in various parts of the city. The US consulate in Karachi has not been able to confirm reports of downed aircraft from the last two raids.

State Dept. review  
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3. Sporadic air attacks continue on Lahore. Most raids are aimed at the Ravi bridge or the cantonment area and no reports of significant damage have reached US consular officials.

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all PIA aircraft are out of service and parked in Tehran or Jidda. Crew members remaining in Karachi were evacuated yesterday.

East Pakistan

5. Although India and Pakistan agreed to a temporary stand-down in air attacks on Dacca today to facilitate the evacuation of UN-associated personnel, the evacuation has not taken place because planes with Bangla Desh markings have strafed the airport. The incident reinforces a previous report from UN officials in Bangkok, where the evacuees are to be flown, that the Indians insist that negotiations for a stand-down must include representatives of Bangla Desh. There is little question but that the planes and pilots were actually Indian or that the strikes were flown from Indian territory.

6. The chief of staff of the Indian Eastern Command told the press this morning that the Indian Army had just taken Feni, thus cutting rail and road connections between Dacca and Chittagong. He said that heavy fighting was under way in the Hilli area and that Comilla was virtually encircled. He added that the army is still proceeding toward Jessore and that the towns of Kalora and Latu in Sylhet District had been captured. The Eastern Command was generally satisfied with the progress of the war. According to this officer, the Pakistanis were fighting fiercely probably because they had no escape routes. He noted that a number of captured troops had indicated that the Pakistan Army was being told to "hang on"--the implication being that fighting was going so well in the west that fresh troops could be released and sent to the east.

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7. A US newsman reported that during a trip to Darsana he found the population ecstatic in welcoming the Indian Army and the news correspondents. He was told that the Indian strategy was to bypass and cut off Jessore, hoping for large-scale surrenders. The correspondent saw massive convoys moving up pontoon and prefabricated bridges. He said that the few Mukti Bahini he saw felt left out of the action.

In India

8. According to US officials in New Delhi, the capital has been under complete blackout from dusk to dawn since 3 December. Several air raid alerts have sounded, but so far there has been no raid. No curfew has been announced, and private cars are moving at their own (and considerable) risk. Vigilante-type crowds have been roaming the streets at night, stoning cars and threatening drivers who travel even with lights shielded. The crowds do not seem to be particularly anti-American, but anti-American sentiments are getting increasing play in the press, and one newspaper carries a story accusing "some" US Embassy officials of violating blackout rules. Another refers to diplomatic missions "friendly to Pakistan" having tended to ignore the blackout.

9. Press items out of India this morning report that Bombay came under attack just after nightfall on 6 December. Anti-aircraft guns reportedly opened fire as the planes approached.

On the Diplomatic Front

10. The UN Security Council will reconvene this afternoon at 1530 EST. Reports this morning from New York indicate that a simple cease-fire resolution will be offered to the Council by Italy. The Soviets have not had to respond to such a text in the voting so far, but both their private and public remarks imply that another veto is likely. There is much corridor talk to the effect that the matter should now be referred to the General Assembly. Assembly activity would necessarily preempt the Middle East debate, and any resolution adopted there would be merely a recommendation.

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11. In the meantime, Bangla Desh "representatives" at the UN have lost little time in hailing the "pro-people" role played by the Soviet Union since the crisis began last March and in criticizing Washington as the "shameless abettor of genocide unparalleled in the world's history." Although less harsh language was used to describe Peking's actions in the crisis, the Chinese came in for their share of the blame for supporting the "Islamabad military machine to suppress brutally the people's struggle."

12. Although Islamabad broke relations with New Delhi following the latter's recognition of Bangla Desh today, press reports from the Indian capital say that India has not broken relations with Pakistan.

13. Peking has stepped up its condemnation of India, charging "naked aggression" against Pakistan and stating that Soviet instigation and support of India are the main reasons for the tense situation in the subcontinent. An article by "Commentator" in the People's Daily of 6 December repeated Chinese accusations made four days earlier that India is pursuing an expansionist policy aimed at annexing East Pakistan. The author drew a parallel between the creation of Bangla Desh and the Japanese creation of the puppet state of Manchukuo in the 1930s. The article also repeated earlier parallels drawn by the Chinese between alleged Indian creation of a Tibetan refugee problem and India's handling of the refugees from East Pakistan.

14. Commentator launched the strongest Chinese charges yet against the USSR, accusing Moscow of forcing Pakistan to submit to the Indians in order to expand the Soviet sphere of influence in the subcontinent. The article also repeated an earlier charge that the Indo-Soviet treaty of last August was a "military alliance in essence." Commentator, however, did not go beyond previous expressions of Chinese support for Pakistan and repeated Peking's call for a negotiated settlement.

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15. Chinese media appear to be preparing their readers for an eventual Pakistani defeat. In contrast to earlier treatment, Peking's accounts of the fighting in the last three days have projected a totally gloomy picture by omitting any reports of Pakistani military successes.

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