

E. Pakistanis Prepared to Flee to India

By Lee Lescaze

Washington Post Foreign Service

DARSANA, East Pakistan, April 16—What remains of the Bengali resistance movement in East Pakistan is poised at the Indian border, ready to take flight.

According to Bengali and independent reports, armed resistance is almost completely ended in the western provinces which were largely controlled by rebel forces two weeks ago.

Chuadanga, the provisional capital 10 miles from here, was bombed twice this morning and the air raids appeared to have destroyed whatever was left of rebel morale.

Two jeeploads of rebels arrived from Chuadanga shortly after the first air strike and crowded into this small town's police headquarters.

"We are dying and we will continue to die," a member of the provincial assembly declared. "We have no defense against their planes."

See PAKISTAN, A17, Col. 1

Bengali Resistance Reported Ending

From available reports, there is no defense against anything. Kushtia, Chuadanga and all the major towns near the Indian border have been largely evacuated and armed defenders have been taken over and reached Calcutta already.

The Pakistan army took over Kushtia, which had appeared to be among the best defended rebel towns, yesterday and apparently moving down roads in trucks without opposition. Chuadanga appears certain to be taken without much firing in less than 24 hours.

The provisional government of Bangla Desh (Bengal) which was announced earlier this week has been moved from Chuadanga to Meherpur, according to Bengalis here. Meherpur is on the Indian border, and some of the East Pakistani leaders are believed to have crossed over and reached Calcutta already.

[An official Indian spokesman in Calcutta said about 100,000 refugees had crossed into West Bengal from East Pakistan in the last fortnight. He said about 16,000 were staying in 10 reception centers throughout the state, the rest will friends and relatives. Reuter reported.]

In this dusty town, there is no pretence that the resistance has long to live. But one is interested in what happened to Bangla Desh. The talk is of what might have been.

The men are particularly bitter that the United States never spoke out against the brutal Pakistan army attacks on civilians. From the beginning of their short, tragic civil war the Bengalis have believed that foreign countries would consider their cause just and provide military assistance. None has and one Bengali here said: "We have been left to die in barren land."

Rhetoric is the only strong suit here. Over and over, the men fresh from the Chuadanga bombing deplored foreign indifference to their cause, but none was making plans to resist the ground attack on Chuadanga known to be only hours away. There is talk of many wounded by the bombing, but no answer when they are asked where the wounded have been taken care of or who is caring for them.

"Jai Bangla" (victory for Bengal) is only whispered here—and most often by those walking away from their homes toward the Indian border two miles away.

The educated men appear to be among the first leaving East Pakistan. A school principal and civil engineer who wore Bangla Desh ribbons and escorted visiting reporters around Chuadanga 12 days ago have moved with their families to some vacant railwaymen's houses a few hundred yards on the Indian side of the border.

They appear embarrassed to recall their confidence of two weeks ago—"We must fight the West Pakistanis or die," the principal says quietly as he stands in front of his temporary home in India.

"They can never crush the spirit of the 75 million East Pakistanis," the engineer adds.

"We are not cowards. But we have nothing to fight back with," he says.

Most of the guns visible in Darsana today were shotguns. "Our guns are for shooting ducks," one man said. "But we don't expect the West Pakistanis to be sitting ducks."

The East Pakistanis were. Over all the years that they have complained about the economic and political discrimination they suffer from the western half they have never prepared to fight.

They placed all their hopes on last December's election which, for the first time in Pakistan's history, gave the east representation appropriate to its 56 per cent of the population.

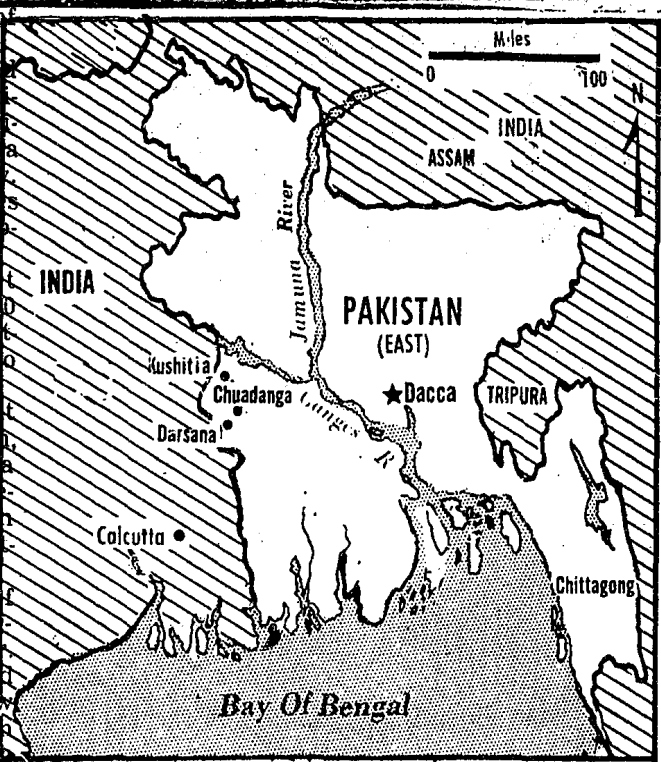
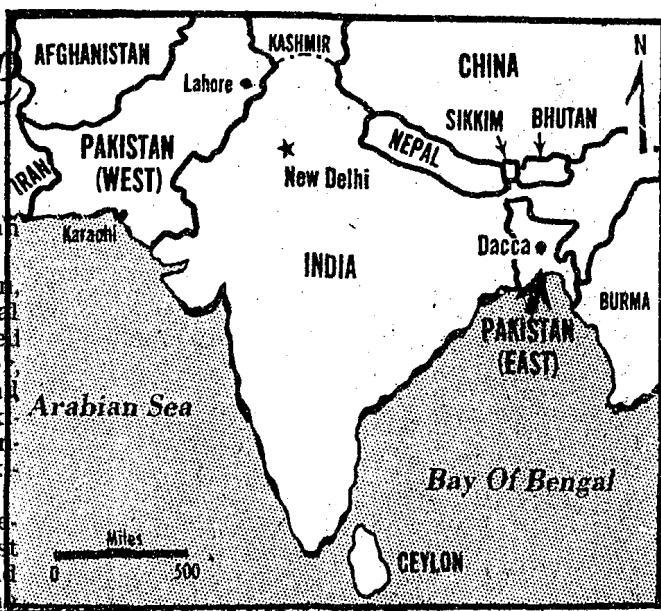
When the Pakistan army attacked in Dacca to prevent the east from realizing the economic autonomy it had voted for, the Bengalis were certain their cause was just and believed its justness would bring foreign aid.

"We have learned it is not a just world," one of the men crowded into Darsana's police station complained. The army has subdued East Pakistan with about 40,000 troops, but it will be impossible to garrison the whole countryside and East Pakistan has been crushed, not pacified.

The East Pakistanis seem likely to take a long time to recover from the shock of their defeat and the savagery of the army's attacks. But their hatred of West Pakistanis has only been deepened and they have been taught in the last three weeks that force of arms is of paramount importance in deciding how the country is governed.

India Says Pakistan Committing Genocide

From News Dispatches
In its strongest statement to date on the situation in Pakistan, India today charged Pakistan President Yahya Khan's government with "systematic genocide" in the eastern region of the country but made



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