

## **Indian Suggests Rebel Recognition**

From News Dispatches

President Varahgiri Venkata Giri of India said yesterday his government is considering recognizing the secessionist rebel government in East Pakistan.

Giri told newsmen at Gurusar Sudhar, 200 miles northwest of New Delhi, that India's sympathies were with the rebels but it was up to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to make the decision on recognizing their Bangla Desh (Bengal Nation) government.

The Press Trust of India quoted government sources yesterday as saying Chairman Mao Tse-tung of Communist China had promised to supply modern weapons to the Pakistani federal government. Communist China has previously stated its support for the federal government against the rebels.

The Pakistani deputy high commission (consulate) in Calcutta declared its allegiance to the secessionists yesterday afternoon and hoisted a green, red and yellow Bangla Desh flag over the diplomatic compound.

In Karachi, West Pakistan, a purge of Bengalis from Pakistan's armed forces and key civil service posts was reported under way.

Unofficial sources said the aim was to remove "unreliable elements" from every aspect of the military government's drive against independence-seeking Bengalis of East Pakistan.

The purge has hit all ranks of the armed services, and particularly the air force, the informants said. Hundreds of Bengali servicemen have been sent on leave in West Pakistan but forbidden to return to their homes in the troubled eastern province.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, leader of the outlawed Awami League of East Pakistan who the army claims to have captured and imprisoned, was taken to another jail after treatment in the Combined Military Hospital in Rawalpindi, sources said yesterday.