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STATE

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SUBJECT: USG Expression of Concern on East Pakistan

1. Assistant Secretary Sisco called in Pak Ambassador Van Hollen and Fuller also present Hilaly for talk April 5. Sisco explained he wanted have regular contact and exchange views with Hilaly on difficult and complex situation in East Pakistan. Reported that QUOTE thinning out UNQUOTE of Americans in East Pakistan proceeding well and expressed appreciation for resolution of difficulties in that connection.
2. Hilaly asked that due allowance be made for behavior of Pak officials and others during what had amounted to QUOTE civil war for a few days UNQUOTE. Anticipated that Americans now coming out of East Pakistan will talk to press but hoped their stories would be calmly and objectively

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DRAPTED BY: NEA/PAF:ASCFullermbk:slb	DRAFTING DATE 4/6/71	TEL. EXT. 22119	APPROVED BY <i>[Signature]</i> SECRETARY
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CLEARANCES:

NEA - Mr. Van Hollen

S/S - Mr. Eliot

IO - Mr. Armitage (last para)

AID/NESA - Mr. MacDonald (last para)

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analyzed. Cited several QUOTE misrepresentations UNQUOTE in US press this connection.

3. In response Sisco question how situation was evolving, Hilaly referred to recent call on Tikka Khan by Nurul Amin and other (non-Awami League) Bengali leaders and also similar offer of cooperation with MLA by members of Dacca High Court Bar. Hilaly said that on hearing allegation Chittagong was in rebellion, he had recommended GOP take Consular Corps there to expose them to facts. GOP making arrangements to restore normalcy and food supply adequate.

4. Hilaly said he had gone to Senator Kennedy to question him re basis his statement on QUOTE indiscriminate killing UNQUOTE, etc. Kennedy reportedly explained he had wanted to move USG to associate itself with U Thant's appeal and to rouse conscience of American public to send food and medical aid. Hilaly said he explained ~~for~~ to Kennedy that foreign correspondents would ultimately be allowed to return East Pakistan, GOP QUOTE not ashamed UNQUOTE of

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situation, and true facts will be made known. Told Kennedy he did not wish to see US associating itself with moves such as India was making.

5. Sisco said that as long as present situation continued, there would be sustained press, and Congressional interest. public comments
USG had been circumspect in its ~~comments~~ in light of conflicting reports and in recognition this was internal matter for Pakistan. However, there was increasing concern in USG as evidence mounted up of loss of life and need for medical aid and food supply distribution. Sisco said we were pleased to hear Hilaly report GOP looking into unloading and distribution problems of food supply.

6. Sisco continued we particularly concerned re humanitarian aspects. Urged that GOP consider availing itself of international help and continue with initiatives taken to alleviate local situation which we believe would be in interest Pakistan.

7. Referring again to conflicting reports of situation,

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Sisco explained USG has associated itself with U Thant's offer of multilateral assistance. Indicated to Hilaly we wish to be helpful. Hilaly expressed appreciation restraint of USG to date and said he QUOTE could not have expected more of Department. UNQUOTE

8. Sisco went on to state that in context our desire to be helpful, American voluntary agencies could ^{also} render assistance. He reiterated US concern over situation and bloodshed and stated we would like to see peaceful solution as soon as possible.

9. Hilaly commented on Podgorny statement and Indian QUOTE intervention UNQUOTE along expected lines. Indians stated international norms were to be observed but their action belies their words.

10. Commenting on prior Pak political scene, Hilaly declared that Mujib's tactics had been QUOTE unacceptable. UNQUOTE The Awami League's 6 points were not equivalent to secession, but Mujib QUOTE fooled the Bengalis and fooled us UNQUOTE.

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Mujib ultimately revealed he a secessionist in proposal of ~~the~~ two Constituent Assemblies. Secession could not of course be tolerated.

11. While stating US not intervening in Pakistan's internal affairs, Sisco affirmed US would like to see bloodshed ended in East Pakistan. Cited use US arms which also of concern and is being criticized in press here. Sisco reaffirmed US willingness to be helpful. Hilaly then made critical reference to Ambassador ~~Keating's~~ ^{Keating's} description of developments in East Pakistan as QUOTE massacres UNQUOTE. Sisco responded that Hilaly should understand that in light of loss of life feelings of those in area were deep and strong. Department has cautioned missions to exercise discretion in public statements on East Pakistan situation and public statements re this matter are being made in Washington. Said we keenly sensitive to ~~problems~~ ^{problems and feelings on developments.}

12. Hilaly averted to erroneous US press reports and said they set tone other reporting. Sisco responded by

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pointing out sooner situation was normalized in East Pakistan press treatment would improve. Hilaly said he would not recommend further facilities Schanberg of New York Times but had urged Tillman Durdin's visa be extended. Stated GOP was going to be QUOTE sensible UNQUOTE in treatment correspondents.

13. Hilaly said great tragedy had befallen Pakistan and army had to kill people in order to keep country together. He hoped another Biafra would not develop and expressed confidence that GOP would prevail. Noted that Nigerian Ambassador had told him ~~during civil~~ ^{during civil} war there, Biafrans wouldn't talk to him, had to be removed from Embassy, but now back in Embassy employ. Hilaly mentioned he trying to restore balance in US reporting through urging that GOP press releases be cited along with other press accounts. Van Hollen pointed out that with foreign correspondents ejected from East Pakistan and censorship imposed country-wide, many newsmen had little ~~recourse~~ ^{recourse} to information

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except through Indian reports.

14. In response to Sisco question whether any early GOP political move contemplated which might help resolve situation, Hilaly thought GOP aware it cannot achieve reconciliation through an indefinite military operation East Pakistan. Asserted GOP more than willing to amend past injustices and asked, QUOTE Give us a ^{change.} ~~change.~~ UNQUOTE

15. In response Hilaly question about position on use of US arms, Sisco indicated we have said that our military aid agreements imposed no bar on use of such arms for internal security; however we are concerned over ^{any} situation in which US arms were used.

16. Van Hollen referred again to problem of press and Congressional reaction and Hilaly indicated he hoped see Senator Harris re his speech.

17. Hilaly asked re status implementation one-time ^{technical} ~~exception~~ exception on military sales. Sisco said no ~~discussions~~ discussions being pursued on this matter at present and

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suggested they talk about issue on occasion next call.

18. Hilaly requested Sisco pass to White House appreciation of President Yahya for USG posture to date on East Pakistan.

~~ORX~~

19. FOR ISLAMABAD. Ambassador should seek earliest possible appointment with ~~the~~ Foreign Secretary to reenforce points made above. In addition, emphasize ~~Emphasize~~ U.S. willing to associate itself with UNSYG or other international bodies in providing assistance to people East Pakistan if GOP desires and as peaceful conditions are restored to permit distribution of such relief throughout East Pakistan. State we are putting forward these suggestions in context our friendly relations with Pakistan as manifestation our desire to be of help if GOP wishes. However, we recognize decision is one for Pakistan itself to make.

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