

EAST PAKISTAN RELIEF

Mr. GRIFFIN. Mr. President, all of us have been concerned about the very grave plight of the East Pakistani refugees.

Their suffering and the serious outbreak of cholera among them called for immediate and emergency action.

I am pleased to note that this Government has acted promptly and that over the past weekend the State Department announced several steps to bring food and medical supplies to the refugees and relocate many of them in less crowded areas.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the State Department announcement, dated June 12, be printed at this point in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the announcement was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

EAST PAKISTAN RELIEF

The Department of State announced today that three U.S. Air Force C-130 aircraft would leave Pope Air Force Base in North Carolina at 11:30 p.m., June 12, to join a fourth aircraft already in India, to carry out an airlift of East Pakistani refugees from the crowded Indian state of Tripura.

These aircraft, which were requested by the Government of India through the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, will carry one million doses of cholera vaccine produced in the United States to help contain the serious cholera outbreak which has occurred among refugees in eastern India.

The Department also announced that the U.S. has agreed to provide all transport for up to 300 tons of rehydration fluid and other anticholera supplies being assembled by the World Health Organization in Geneva.

In addition, the U.S. has agreed to provide to the Government of Japan, on a reimbursable basis, U.S. Air Force aircraft for transporting to India ten Jeep ambulances which the Japanese Red Cross is donating for medical work among the refugees in eastern India.

In connection with these announcements, Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South Asian Affairs, explained three basic elements of US policy in regard to the situation in East Pakistan. "The first", he said, "is that we are fully supporting international efforts to provide humanitarian relief assistance to the peoples of East Pakistan who have been affected by the civil strife. We are also providing full support to the international efforts to provide such relief assistance to the refugees from East Pakistan in India. Second, because of the possibility that the situation in East Pakistan and eastern India could escalate dangerously, we have counseled restraint on both sides. Third, we have made clear our belief that normalcy can be restored in East Pakistan only within the context of a peaceful political accommodation."

In regard to the last point, Sisco explained that a political accommodation in East Pakistan is important both to stem the flow of refugees and to create conditions in East Pakistan conducive to their return. In this connection, he noted the current visit to Pakistan and India of Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and hoped it would be helpful in seeking resolution of the refugee problem.

Summarizing U.S. participation in international relief efforts in East Pakistan and India, Sisco said that the US has now announced contributions of \$17.5 million worth of relief assistance for East Pakistani refugees in India.

This U.S. Relief Program is being coordinated by an inter-agency committee on Pakistani refugee relief chaired by Frank L. Kellogg, Special Assistant to the Secretary for Refugee and Migration Affairs, who departed for Geneva June 11 for discussions with the UNHCR. Following these discussions, Kellogg will be visiting India for discussions with relief officials there and for an on-the-spot examination of the problem.

The U.S. will provide food for 1,250,000 refugees and provide other assistance, such as medical supplies, shelter, and transportation. In Pakistan, the U.S. has urged the Government of Pakistan to request, and the United Nations to coordinate, a prompt and effective international relief effort. "We have been encouraged by reports of productive conversations this week between Pakistani officials and Mr. Imat Kittani, the Special Representative of United Nations Secretary General U Thant, and indications that a coordinated international relief operation in East Pakistan is being organized," Mr. Sisco said.

Within the framework of this international effort, the U.S. this week has signed an agreement with the Government of Pakistan to provide \$1 million in grant assistance for the charter of boats with crews from third countries to deliver food grains and other essential relief supplies to the cyclone affected areas in East Pakistan where serious food shortages now threaten. The U.S. stands ready promptly to provide additional assistance in water transport, food, and other supplies as may be required in East Pakistan.

MMR