

EASTERN PAKISTAN DESIRES FREEDOM

By JOHN P. CALLAHAN Special to The New York Times.

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Chief Minister of Province
Says It Plans to Become
an Independent State

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KARACHI, Pakistan, May 22 —The leader of East Pakistan, the largest province of Pakistan, said today it wished to become an independent state.

Fazlul Huq, Chief Minister of the province, made this statement a few hours after a closed-door meeting with Prime Minister Mohammed Ali.

Mr. Huq, an octogenarian with fifty years of political experience, including the chief ministership of his present domain when it was part of Bengal Province in undivided India, said the separation of West and East Pakistan by more than 1,000 miles of India was one reason for 42,000,000 Bengalis wanting their freedom.

At a two-hour interview, he reviewed several "cultural and economic points of disagreement" between the two zones. These included the language difference (Bengali is used in East Pakistan, Urdu in most of West Pakistan), the lack of a corridor across India other than by air, and the lack of revenue balance.

MMR JALAL

Plans Bengal Navy

During the election campaign earlier this year, in which Mr. Huq's United Front party defeated the nation's founding Moslem League, Mr. Huq frequently referred to the 'foreign exchange earnings of East Pakistani jute, which provide the Central Government with most of its dollar and pound revenues. East Pakistan produces about 70 per cent of the world's raw jute.

Mr. Huq, who is known as the "Lion of Bengal," also said during the election tour that the people of East Bengal (East Paki-

stan) resented a colonial status. He referred to what he described as "favoritism" in the Central Government offices, particularly preferences given to people of Punjab Province, to the exclusion of Bengalis.

After announcing today that he would complete the formation of his ministry early next month, Mr. Huq said the Cabinet of twenty would take up the issue of autonomy for East Pakistan.

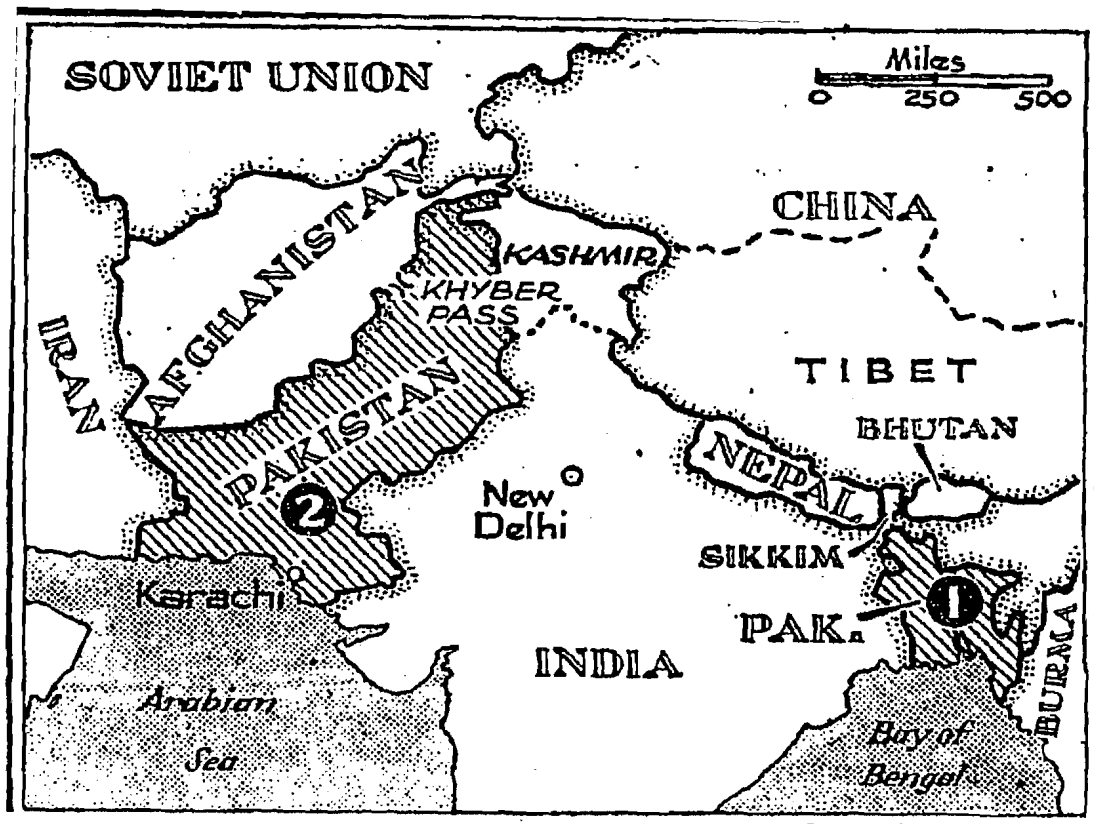
Discussing the possible partition, which would be the greatest blow to the two-nation theory in the subcontinent and conversely a victory for Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru of India, Mr. Huq talked about building a Bengali Navy and spoke of the province's "natural defenses."

Recent Riot Reviewed

He said he had no idea of how soon autonomy could be accomplished. "However, independence will be one of the first things to be taken up by my ministry."

"There is a trend for it," he added.

Asked what the reaction would be in the Central Government to a move for partition, Mr. Huq



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POLITICAL PARTITION URGED: East Pakistan (1) was said to be seeking independence from West Pakistan (2).

said: "Undoubtedly they will try to resist such a move. But when a man wants freedom, he wants it."

Pakistan was distracted last Saturday by the worst labor riot

in her seven-year history. More than 400 persons died following an outbreak of fighting in the Adamjee jute mill in Naryanganj in East Pakistan.

A few days ago, after the Prime Minister accused Communists of instigating the riot, Mr. Huq asserted that the Communists had nothing to do with it. He said he had asked the Central Government to help the province investigate the cause of the riot.

Mr. Huq arrived here last night for a meeting with Central Government officials to discuss the riot and for a meeting of the chief ministers of the provinces that begins Monday.

MMR JALAL