

Specter Reports

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Indian Policy Needs 'Jury Probe'

By ARLEN SPECTER

NEW DELHI, India — This is a city stirring with excitement. The people here feel the surge of national pride following victory in the short war with Pakistan last month.

Mrs. Specter and I shared the drama of the fast-moving events in India's capital which gave a hero's welcome to Sheikh Mujibur Rahman when he arrived here in New Delhi from London. Pakistan had released the hero of the Bangladesh and had sent him to London. The Sheikh's return to Dacca was routed through New Delhi so Prime Minister Indira Gandhi used the event for a giant celebration and political speech-making at a parade ground near the airport.

The Indian press (Hindustan Times) reported a turnout of a million people to cheer the hero of Bangladesh. Like estimates on political crowds in Philadelphia, that figure appears excessive, but hundreds of thousands doubtless turned out for the event. In our discussions with Indian politicians, we were repeatedly told that several hundred thousand people do assemble for political rallies due

(Mr. Specter, District Attorney of Philadelphia, is on a trip to Asia, sponsored by the Peace Corps, during which he wrote the following dispatch for The Inquirer.)

to deep public concern over political events in this democracy.

Wherever we went, we heard great concern expressed over United States foreign policy toward India. As might be expected, the Anderson Papers had caused a sensation in India. Why, we were repeatedly asked, did the administration want to "tilt" in favor of Pakistan? That question led to long discussions of who provoked the war and which side was responsible for the problems which led to the war.

If we could only reach agreement on the underlying facts, there would be little left to argue about. (Perhaps a grand jury investigation on what really happened in the Indian-Pakistan War?)

I am very happy to report that the Peace Corps continues to do its job and promote goodwill with the Indian people,

even in the midst of the disagreements between the governments. We talked to many young Peace Corps volunteers who were living in Indian villages assisting on farm procedures or tractor maintenance or teaching English.

Two young men were from Philadelphia. Frank Bowers, 19, had been trained in farm mechanization at the Walter Bidle Saul High School of Agricultural Science on Henry Avenue in Philadelphia. Frank had transplanted his farming expertise from Roxborough to the Punjab. Donald Kensil, 25, who holds a masters degree in education, was using his Kensington charm in teaching English in a small Indian village.

Don and Frank expressed strong feelings that their "people to people" contact with the Indians could surmount any differences between the governments' formal policies. Their enthusiasm and determination to uplift the technology and education levels convinced me that they would succeed.

Young Americans in the Peace Corps, with that kind of idealism, are great ambassadors around the world.