

MORE ARMS HELP TO PAKISTAN SEEN

Symington Says U.S. Plans to Allow Shipments, Despite an Implied Embargo
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By **BENJAMIN WELLES**
 Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, July 23 — Senator Stuart Symington disclosed today that the Administration still intended to permit approximately \$15-million in arms to be shipped to Pakistan despite repeated official statements implying that a total embargo had been imposed on arms since civil war broke out in East Pakistan March 25.

Senior officials privately confirmed that about \$15-million worth of arms now in the hands of Pakistani Government officials in this country may be transported to Pakistan as soon as shipping and other administrative arrangements could be arranged.

Mr. Symington, Democrat of Missouri, accused the Administration in a long floor statement of "semantics, ambiguous statements on the public records without clarification and no effort to present the actual facts until pressed to do so."

As of mid-July, he declared, the value of unshipped material for Pakistan in the United States was well over \$10-million. Mr. Symington said that he had learned from "press sources," which he did not

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Continued From Page 1, Col. 4 identify, that State Department officials had confirmed that the present worth of material "in the pipeline" was about \$15-million.

Charles W. Bray 3d, the State Department spokesman, announced that Agha Hilaly, the Pakistani Ambassador, had met with Secretary of State William P. Rogers today. The principal subject of the meeting was President Nixon's recent disclosure that he intended to visit China before next May, Mr. Bray said.

In his statement Mr. Symington, who is chairman of the Foreign Relations subcommittee on Near Eastern and South Asian affairs, charged the Administration with sowing confusion through statements interpreted as meaning "that we had not shipped arms to Pakistan since March 25; also that

we had nothing in the pipeline to be shipped to Pakistan." "That impression was wrong," Mr. Symington declared, "and we have continued these shipments, not because we were powerless to stop them but because we decided not to stop them."

On March 25 President Agha Mohammed Yahya Khan of Pakistan ordered the army to suppress a movement for political autonomy in East Pakistan. Since then widespread loss of life and destruction of property have brought East Pakistan's economy virtually to a standstill and have caused about seven million East Pakistanis to flee to India.

To help stem the growing threat of famine and disease, the United States has allocated approximately \$70-million for aid to refugees in India, plus some \$35-million to help refugees and others in East Pakistan.

Mr. Symington contrasted repeated statements implying that the United States had ceased all arms deliveries with subsequent evidence that, in fact, arms deliveries were being continued under a variety of bureaucratic subterfuges.

On April 15, he said, a State Department spokesman asserted that "no arms have been provided to the Government of Pakistan since the beginning of this crisis and the question of deliveries will be kept under review in the light of developments."

Mr. Symington cited a letter of April 25 from David M. Abshire, an Assistant Secretary of State, to Senator J. Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, which reported: "I would say that in the present circumstances we are not giving any arms at all."

Put Hold on Deliveries

In early April, Senator Symington said, the Administration put a "hold" on the delivery of foreign military sales items to Pakistan. It suspended the issuance of new licenses to items on the munitions list for either the foreign military sales program or for sales through commercial channels, and held in abeyance actions on a one-time exception that had been delivered to the Government of Pakistan or its agents. Nothing relating to that one-time exception was scheduled for delivery, he said.

"This did not mean, however," he continued, "that other military equipment had not gone to Pakistan. By early April the Government of Pakistan or its agents had obtained legal

title to and were in possession of some military items still in the U.S. In a legal sense, however, the 'delivery' of these items to Pakistan had apparently taken place."

Mr. Symington further disclosed that Defense Department contractors and other commercial suppliers had continued to utilize valid licenses issued before early April. He said that some of the items had been shipped "and additional supplies under these licenses will be shipped in the future."

In a separate development, the State Department sharply criticized Senator Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, for divulging confidential State Department cables at a hearing of the Judiciary subcommittee on refugees yesterday. The messages discussed the "specter of famine" over East Pakistan.

Mr. Kennedy retorted that "high officials of the Government refuse to be candid and apparently deliberately mislead and suppress information." He accused the Administration of trying to "whitewash one of the greatest nightmares of modern times."

See 8 Nov 71, this file
 16 Dec 71 (Anderson)

See this file 17 Jul 71, SFOChronicle, "Nixon's China Trip Plans -- How Kissinger Did It," p. 2, note.

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Pakistan Famine Peril

(Chronicle, from Washington Post Service)

..... Informed Senate sources said there was growing belief in Congress that the Nixon administration is playing down the tragic consequences in East Pakistan - as well as continuing arms shipments to President Yahya Khan - out of deference to Yahya.

The Pakistan president has been widely reported as playing a [<]key role in getting presidential adviser Henry Kissinger into China on July 9.

According to one source, Chairman J. William Fulbright asked Assistant Secretary of State Joseph Sisco at an executive session of his Senate Foreign Relations Committee last Monday whether Washington's refusal to stop arms shipments to Pakistan was the price the U.S. must pay for "Pakistan's complicity" in Kissinger's visit.

Sisco, according to this source, replied: "I don't know. I wasn't a part of it."

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(Times, Benjamin Welles, Washington)

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