

U.S. WILL CANCEL LICENSES TO SHIP ARMS TO PAKISTAN

Order Due Today Will Halt
Arms Exports of \$3-Million
in Bengali Conflict

PIPELINE TO BE CLOSED
NOV 8 1971

China Calls for Subcontinent
Talks to Cut Tensions—
Criticizes Indian Role

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WASHINGTON, Nov. 7—The United States has decided to cancel licenses for the export of more than \$3-million worth of military equipment to Pakistan. Official announcement of the cancellation is expected tomorrow.

The action will, in effect, shut the controversial arms pipeline that supplied Pakistan with spare parts and other military goods even though the Administration imposed an arms freeze in early April.

[In Peking, Agence France-Press reported, China appealed to India and Pakistan to hold talks to reduce frontier tensions. The Chinese also accused India of having "crudely interfered" in Pakistan's internal affairs.]

In disclosing the cut-off of licenses, State Department officials emphasized that the action was being taken with the consent of the Pakistani Government, which is aware of the strong Congressional opposition to the continued shipment of goods to Pakistan for possible use in ending the rebellion by East Pakistan is seeking autonomy.

Some Spare Parts Exempt

The officials said that the ban would exempt \$16,000 worth of spare parts already cleared by United States Customs and awaiting shipment in New York when the dock strike ends.

The officials said that Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India was informed of the license-revocation decision shortly before she arrived in Washington Wednesday for talks with President Nixon. Diplomats here said that the action removed a major irritant in Indian-American relations.

Even though the amount of military equipment being sold to Pakistan in recent months has been described by the Administration as "insignificant" and of little military importance, many Indians viewed the flow as indicative that the Nixon Administration had a pro-Pakistani prejudice.

New Licenses Halted

Many United States Senators complained that the flow of spare parts and other equipment was helping the Pakistani Government crush the East Pakistani independence movement and contributing to the flow of refugees to India, who now total nearly 10 million, according to New Delhi.

Following the decision by Pakistan on March 25 to act

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against the autonomy movement, the United States halted the granting of new licenses for military purchases in this country. Actually, the American decision did not go into effect until April 6, and some licenses were approved in the interim, officials said.

Moreover, licenses valid as of March 25 that expired later were not renewed. A "hold" was put on certain heavy arms previously approved for shipment, but still in American military depots.

Officials said that at the time the decision to shut the "pipeline" took effect, Pakistan held about \$2.3-million worth of valid licenses. The revocation affects those licenses as well as about \$1-million in equipment in the American military depots that had previously been held up.

The Administration hopes that by removing this irritant in Indian-American relations, it may be able to persuade Indian officials to take steps toward removing the threat to war that exists along the Indian-Pakistan border.

India Rules Out Pullback

Mrs. Gandhi, in her talks with Mr. Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, and other United States officials, affirmed India's desire to avoid a war. She rejected American suggestions of a troop pullback from the borders and for talks with Pakistan.

Her position was that the situation in East Pakistan—which she calls East Bengal—was a result of Pakistan's intransigence and should be settled among the Pakistanis.

Interviewed on the National Broadcasting Company's television program "Meet the

Press," Mrs. Gandhi said the crisis was not one between India and Pakistan but "between the military regime of West Pakistan and the people and elected representatives of East Bengal (East Pakistan).

"India comes in because of the influx of the refugees, the acts of sabotage which are taking place on our side by people who have come in either disguised as refugees or in some other way," she said.

She said that this influx was causing problems for India and was a "real danger to us."

Asked whether she thought a political solution was possible, she said that "anything is possible which is accepted by the people of East Bengal. I don't think we have the right to say that they should accept

something or not. It is their country, it is their movement, and they must make the final decision."

In her talks with American officials, Mrs. Gandhi was reported to have asked the United States to exert pressure for the release of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the Bengali leader imprisoned by the Pakistani Government.

She said that "the only valid" solution would be one between Sheikh Mujib, whom she said was "the acknowledged leader" of East Bengal, and Pakistani officials. Mrs. Gandhi said that India did not want to negotiate directly with Pakistan "for the very simple reason that the problem is not one between India and Pakistan."