

President is permitting India to fall under Soviet dominance

WASHINGTON — We have dug out more evidence that President Nixon, apparently because of a personal rapport with Pakistan's President Yahya Khan, is permitting India to fall under Soviet dominance.

Not only is India the world's second most populous nation, whose democratic government should make it a natural U.S. ally, but Nixon's moves have opened the way for Russia to fulfill its dream of penetrating deep into Southwest Asia.

The Nixon Administration has rung down the censorship curtain on the backstage developments. Since censorship isn't supposed to be tolerated in the U.S., the White House has merely swept all the awkward facts under the secrecy label.

However, we have broken the censorship and can expose Nixon's duplicity.

His private policymaker, Henry Kissinger, assured reporters during a background session last week that the administration wasn't at all biased against India. "There have been some comments," he said, "that the administration is anti-India. This is totally inaccurate."

Behind the guarded doors of the White House Situation Room, however, Kissinger sang a different tune. He told top planners, who gathered on December 3 to map strategy: "I'm getting hell every half hour from the President that we are not being tough enough on India."

Nixon's orders

The same hush-hush group, known formally as the Washington Special Action Group, got a similar earful at their strategy session on the next day. The State Department's man, Asst. Sec. Samuel DePalma, questioned presidential instructions that the U.S. should confine its criticism at the United Nations to India alone.

"The President says either the bureaucracy should put out the right statements on this, or the White House will do it," snapped Kissinger.

"We will have difficulty in the U.N.," cautioned DePalma, "because most of the countries that might go with us don't want to tilt toward Pakistan to the extent we do."

"Whoever is doing the backgrounding at state is invoking the President's wrath," warned Kissinger. "Please try to follow the President's wishes."

Kissinger also implied to reporters that the U.S. was treating India and Pakistan alike in regard to economic aid. But he instructed the Situation Room strategists to the contrary on December 4.

"On AID matters," he said, "the President wants to proceed against India alone."

Kissinger also spoke to reporters about the Nixon Administration's deep concern over the suffering of the refugees and the "strain on the already scarce economic resources of (India)."

Behind the guarded doors, he reiterated

that "we don't want to cut off humanitarian aid." But the State Department's Ambassador-at-Large Alexis Johnson warned at the December 6 strategy session that the liberated Bangla Desh territory will become "an international basket case."

"It won't necessarily be our basket case," retorted Kissinger.

During his meeting with reporters, Kis-

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singer took pains to emphasize that the U.S. had stopped all military shipments to Pakistan except for non-lethal spare parts already in the pipeline.

Planes for Pakistan?

But this, too, isn't the whole truth. At the secret session on December 6, the question of emergency military requests from Pakistan was raised.

"The President may want to honor those requests," declared Kissinger. He stressed that the President "isn't inclined to let the Paks be defeated."

He asked whether the U.S. has the legal right to authorize Jordan or Saudi Arabia to transfer U.S. arms to Pakistan. Chris Van Hollen, a State Department expert, replied flatly: "The United States cannot permit a third country to transfer arms which we have provided them when we, ourselves, don't authorize sale direct to . . . Pakistan."

Yet a secret message was flashed to L. Dean Brown, the American Ambassador in Jordan, to keep open the possibility of authorizing King Hussein to rush several U.S.-supplied P-104 fighter planes to Pakistan.

"Whole subject remains under intensive review at very high level of USG (U.S. government)," Brown was advised.

During his press backgrounder, Kissinger cautiously acknowledged to reporters that Pakistan "started the process which has led to the (Indian-Pakistani conflict)."

The truth, of course, is harsher. Last March, Pakistan clamped military rule on East Bengal. Pakistani soldiers terrorized the Bengali populace, causing millions to flee across the border into India. The majority, clearly, want independence, not Pakistani rule. The invading Indians, though they made the first military move in the war, have been welcomed as liberators.

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