

Keating Cable to Rogers

Special to The New York Times

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5—Following, in slightly paraphrased form, is the text of a secret cablegram from Kenneth B. Keating, United States Ambassador to India, to William P. Rogers, the Secretary of State, on Dec. 8, 1971, made available to The New York Times by the columnist Jack Anderson:

Mr. Keating said he was very interested to read an article by The International Press Service [U.S.I.A.] correspondent in the morning's wireless file reporting "White House officials'" explanation of development of present conflict and United States role in seeking avert it. While he appreciated the tactical necessity of justifying the Administration's position publicly, he felt constrained to state that elements of this particular story do not coincide with his knowledge of the events of the past eight months.

Specifically, the I.P.S. account states that the United States Government's \$155-million relief program in East Pakistan was initiated "at the specific request of the Indian Government." His recollection, and he referred the State Department to his conversation with Foreign Minister Swaran Singh in New Delhi on May 25, is that the Government of India was reluctant to see the relief program started in East Pakistan prior to a political settlement on grounds that such an effort might serve to "bail out Yahya." [General Mohammad Agha Yahya Khan was the President of Pakistan at the time.]

In noting offer of amnesty for all refugees, story fails to mention qualification in Yahya's Sept. 5 proclamation that amnesty applies to those "not already charged with specific criminal acts," which Ambassador Keating took to be more than a minor bureaucratic caveat in East Pakistan circumstances.

Story indicates that both the Secretary [Mr. Rogers] and Dr. Kissinger informed Ambassador Jha [Lakshmi Kant Jha, Indian Ambassador to the United States] that Washington favored autonomy for East Pakistan. Mr. Keating said he was aware of our repeated statements that we had no formula for a solution, and our relief that the outcome of negotiations would probably be autonomy if not independence, but he regretted that he was uninformed of any specific statement favoring autonomy.

Also according to story, Jha was informed by department on Nov. 19 that "Washington and Islamabad [capital of Pakistan] were prepared to discuss a precise timetable for establishing political autonomy for East Pakistan." Ambassador Keating said the only message he had on rec-

ord of this conversation [a department message to him on Nov. 21] makes no reference to this critical fact.

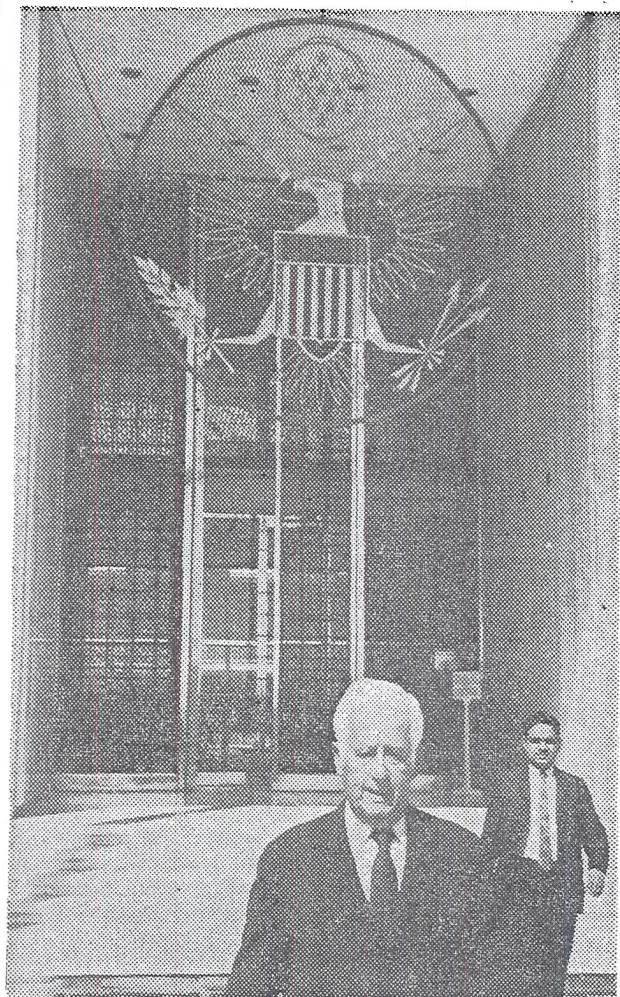
With vast and voluminous efforts of the intelligence community, reporting from both Delhi and Islamabad, and with his own discussions in Washington, Ambassador Keating said he did not understand the statement that "Washington was not given the slightest inkling that any military operation was in any way imminent." See [for] example DIAIB, 219-71 of Nov. 12 [Defense Intelligence Agency Intelligence Bulletin No. 219-71, of Nov. 12] stating specifically that war is "imminent."

Statement that Pakistan had authorized U.S. to contact Mujibur through his attorney seems an overstatement, since according to Islamabad 11760 [message from American embassy in Pakistan] Yahya on Nov. 29 told Ambassador Farland [Joseph Farland, United States Ambassador to Pakistan] nothing more than that a Farland-Brohi meeting would be a good idea since Ambassador Farland would be able to obtain from Brohi at least his general impressions as to the state of the trial and its conduct." Mr. Keating said he was unaware of any specific authorization from Yahya "to contact Mujibur" through Brohi. [Mr. Brohi was apparently the defense attorney for Sheik Mujib, leader of the East Pakistani autonomy movement, then imprisoned and on trial in West Pakistan.] In any case, as we are all only too unhappily aware, Yahya told Ambassador Farland on Dec. 2 (Islamabad 11555) that Brohi allegedly was not interested in seeing him.

The statement on G.O.P. (Government of Pakistan) agreement on distribution by U.N. of relief supplies in East Pakistan obscures the fact that the U.N. never had nor intended to have sufficient personnel in East Pakistan to handle actual distribution, which was always in Pakistani Government hands.

Mr. Keating said he made the foregoing comments in the full knowledge that they may not have been privy to all the important facts of this tragedy. On the basis of what he did know, he did not believe those elements of the story [reporting the background] either add to our position or, perhaps more importantly, to American credibility.

KEATING.



Raghubir Singh/Nancy Palmer

DIFFERED WITH WHITE HOUSE BRIEFING; Kenneth B. Keating, the U.S. Ambassador to India, outside the embassy in New Delhi. The gist of a message he sent to State Department was made public by Jack Anderson.

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