

U.S. Aid Still Flows to India Despite 'Cut-Off,' Officials Say

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By BENJAMIN WELLES

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WASHINGTON, Jan. 8—The United States is continuing to send relief supplies to India for the approximately nine million East Pakistani refugees still there—despite a marked reluctance by many Administration officials to talk about it.

"The bureaucracy is over-reacting," said one State Department official. "The word has filtered down that Nixon's mad at India, so everyone's clamoring up about what we're doing for India."

In fact, according to highly qualified spokesmen, the much-publicized "cut-off" of United States economic assistance to India—announced Dec. 6, three days after the outbreak of hostilities between India and Pakistan—had far less effect than widely supposed.

On that date, the State Department announced "suspension" of \$87.6-million in loans

earmarked for India. Charles W. Bray 3d, the State Department spokesman, said at that time:

"The United States is not making a short-term contribution to the Indian economy to make it easier for the Indian Government to sustain its military effort."

However, there has been no corresponding suspension of \$104-million in letters of credit extended to the Indian Government. Nor, officials note, has the United States suspended \$28-million more in loans to India for specific development projects. Meanwhile, the \$90-million United States program of humanitarian relief is continuing.

"Every day we get 30 to 40 letters from Congress and the public asking what the United States is doing about the refu-

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ges in India," said one State Department source. "There's tremendous public interest."

Within the last fortnight, three United States-Chartered ships with food for refugees have docked at Calcutta and seven are on their way there, officials say.

Furthermore, they add, every other day a DC-8 chartered by the State Department from Seaboard World Airlines takes off from Charleston, S. C., bound for Calcutta with blankets. The United States is contributing 1.2-million blankets toward a United Nations goal of seven million blankets.

Sixteen charter flights have been made to date and five more are planned. On arrival at Calcutta, the blankets are taken in UNICEF truck convoys to the refugee camps.

On Dec. 18—shortly after the fighting stopped—Calcutta and received priority handling by the Indian authorities.

Since the start of the Pakistani crisis last March, officials say the United States has shipped to India for refugee relief: 15,406 tons of high-protein foods of a planned total of 35,365 tons; 90,000 tons of rice of a planned total of 96,700 tons; 32,216 tons of vegetable oils of a planned 50,852 tons, and 5,000 tons of bulgar wheat—a specially nutritive, dried, cracked variety.

United States aid to refugees still in India is directed by the Interagency Committee on Pakistani Refugee Relief, headed by Francis L. Kellogg. This program has supervised the \$90-million contribution by the United States out of a world contribution to date of about \$298,200,000.

The question of United States relief for refugees once they return to East Pakistan, where Bengali separatists here announced the formation of Bangladesh (Bengal Nation), and for the ravaged region itself, remains "under review" by the Administration.

"We're waiting for the United Nations to reorganize its mission out there and tell us how we can help," one official said.