

Pakistan Arrests

Ex-Leaders

By United Press International

Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto last night arrested former President General Agha Yahya Khan and former Army Chief of Staff General Abdul Hamid Khan.

Both are blamed for losing East Pakistan to Bangladesh rebels in the disastrous 14-day war with India.

A Pakistani spokesman said both Yahya and Hamid are under house arrest "in the supreme interest of the state and people of Pakistan."

Charges Withheld

The spokesman did not say on what charge they are being held.

Bhutto assumed the presidency from Yahya on December 20, three days after Pakistan lost the 14-day-war against India.

Yahya and Khan, along with other generals, were held responsible for the loss of East Pakistan to rebel Bangladesh troops. Yahya yielded the presidency to Bhutto.

Yahya had taken over the presidency in March, 1969, after five months of social-political violence forced Marshal Mohammad Ayub Khan to quit and hand over the government to the military.

Yahya, in a bid to put Pakistan on the road to democracy, held National Assembly elections in December 1970, which Sheikh Mujibur Rahman's Awami League won in the east wing, gaining an overall majority.

Civil War Starts

An autonomy movement by the Awami League triggered a civil war in East Bengal that forced Yahya to send West Pakistani troops in March, 1971, to crush the Bangladesh independence movement.

The military crackdown triggered a massive refugee problem that subsequently brought India into the conflict, which exploded into a full scale war Dec. 3.

On Dec. 19 former Air Marshal Asghar Khan said Yahya, 54, should be tried on three counts: for abrogating the 1962 constitution, losing the east wing and leading West Pakistani forces in defeat.