

10 San Francisco Chronicle

Sat., Feb. 5, 1972

Official Study

Arms to Pakistan-- Congress Not Told

Washington

A Government study showed yesterday that the United States Air Force was airlifting to Pakistan

on a priority basis more than half a million dollars' worth of aviation spare parts in July, after Government spokesmen had assured Congress that such strategic arms shipments had been stopped.

The shipments were said to include spare parts for F-104 Starfighter jets.

The survey of U.S. military assistance and arms sales to Pakistan was conducted by the General Accounting Office, an agency of Congress. It was released yesterday by Senator Edward M. Kennedy (Dem-Mass.).

The report also showed that after the Pakistani civil war broke out on March 25, the U.S. government permitted at least \$3.8 million in military supplies to be exported to Pakistan despite repeated public statements that only "non-lethal" items were being sent. The study declared that some of the items "were lethal."

LETHAL

Furthermore, the study declared that after the civil war began, Department of Defense agencies continued to release from their stocks spare parts for lethal items in spite of "departmental directives issued in April" that ordered a hold on such items.

As chairman of the Subcommittee on Refugees, Kennedy has become a leading critic of the Nixon administration's policy both before and since the Indian-Pakistani war and particularly of what he has termed government "double-talk, incompetence or both."

The survey, requested by Kennedy on July 14, was released to him Thursday by Elmer B. Staats, Controller General of the United States. This was one day after comprehensive hearings by the subcommittee on U.S. policy toward India, Pakistan and the new nation of Bangladesh.

Committee sources charged yesterday that release of the document had been deliberately delayed to prevent Kennedy from using it in an attempt to embarrass the administration.

'SECRET'

The study is stamped on each of 24 pages as "unclassified." It was accompanied by a covering letter from Staats stamped "secret." Nothing in Staats' letter appeared to be secret. The survey itself is replete with references to conflicting statements by spokesmen for the State and Defense departments.

Qualified informants put the total of U.S. military aid and sales to Pakistan at \$860.2 million since the 1954 mutual assistance defense agreement. In the year ended June 30, they said, the United States furnished \$28.5 million in military aid to Pakistan.

Kennedy, who plans to talk in Geneva with United Nations and Red Cross officials next week, expects to fly to New Delhi on February 14 for a visit to India and Bangladesh.

He issued a statement that accused the administration of having "consistently understated both the substance and the significance of American arms shipments to Pakistan." *N.Y. Times Service*