ATROCITIES COMMITTED BY PAKISTANIS ON THE EVE OF SURRENDER

INTELLECTUALS BUTCHERED BEFORE SURRENDER

No one will ever know how many intellectuals, doctors, journalists and young men, most of whom were not involved in politics, were rounded up and herded off to disappear for ever.

Mrs. Moshina Pasha, the wife of Prof. Anwar Pasha, Assistant Professor of Bengali at Dacca University, is at present visiting the big pits in which the mutilated bodies of Bengali intellectuals were discovered to identify the body of her husband.

Like many others, Prof. Pasha was taken away two days before the Pakistanis surrendered to the Indian army and driven to a razakar execution camp.

Two colleagues, Mr. Rashidul Hasan, Lecturer in the Department of English, and Professor Santosh Bhattacharya, Professor of History, were rounded up on the same morning by the same group of armed razakars.

The Pakistanis of war maintain that they know nothing about the atrocities, but evidence has been produced alleging that the razakars were acting under the direct orders of a senior officer.

A memorandum discovered on his desk is said to have contained the name of one victim, Mr. Nizamuddin, with the comment "motivated stories"; Mr. Nizamuddin's name was ticked off.

The sole survivor of this pogrom, Mr. Dalwar Hussain, the Chief Accountant of the Greenland Mercantile Company of Dacca, said that on the morning of December 14, several razakars pulled him out of his house. After placing a blindfold around his eyes, they drove him by bus to a camp on the outskirts of Dacca.

He was forced into a room. A little later, the cloth around his eyes slackened and he discovered that he was in a room with a score or so of other prisoners. Some of them had been tortured. Toe nails had been ripped off and toes amputated.

After an hour, they were interrogated. The prisoners identified themselves as doctors, lawyers, professors and journalists. They were forced into a bus and driven out to marshlands on the outskirts of Dacca.

The razakars led their victims to a big tree where about another 130 prisoners were huddled. Several prisoners asked the razakars why they were killing fellow Bengalis. "One of them told us to shut up and gave an order", "finish the bastards off". Mr. Hussain said, "they started to shoot prisoners with rifles, and others were simply bayoneted to death. I managed to slip the rope off my wrists and made a dash towards the river. By a miracle I escaped".

(PETER HAZELHURST in THE TIMES, London—December 30, 1971)

200 LEADING INTELLECTUALS OF BANGLA DESH BRUTALLY MURDERED

...Outside Dacca, the Bengalis have found the bodies of 200 of their leading intellectuals, bayonetted, choked, or shot before the Indian troops arrived. That discovery has an immediacy that arouses horror, but Pakistan forces had slaughtered many others starting last March. Richard Nixon and Henry Kissinger have taken no public note of these horrors since they began. Will they face that reality now, or will they go on with their private fantasy of righteous American influence that no one else can see?

(ANTHONY LEWIS in THE NEW YORK TIMES—December 20, 1971)

CALCULATED LIQUIDATION OF INTELLECTUALS BEFORE SURRENDER

(Despatch by Arun Bhattacharjee from Dacca Secretariat, December 19, 1971)

The Secretary-General, Rahul Quddus, of the Bangla Desh Government, harshly accused the Pakistani army generals of calculated liquidation and mass murder of the intellectuals of Dacca before surrender.

Mr. Quddus was in tears when he said that the best doctors, professors, administrators and intellectuals of Bangla Desh were killed to cripple Bangla Desh. When I pointed out that Pakistani Army General Farman Ali and his staff were saying that these were done by the para-military forces and the Razakars, he said, "I know with certainty that the plan to liquidate them was hatched by these Generals in Dacca cantonment, and on their specific orders, the para-military forces arrested them and killed them inside the cantonment".

(THE AMRITA BAZAR PATRIKA, Calcutta—December 20, 1971)

BODIES OF DOCTORS, JOURNALISTS, WRITERS AND PROFESSORS DUMPED IN PITS

(Despatch from C. S. Pandit, dateline Dacca, December 19, 1971)

In the last week before the surrender of the Pakistani occupation army, about 120 intellectuals, including top doctors, professors, journalists, both men and women, were spirited away from their houses during curfew hours under military escort. Nothing was heard of them until about 36 bodies, with hands tied behind, were found dumped in the pits of some brick kilns.

The shock of the tragedy spread like wild fire among the people who started thronging the place. Among the dead were the bodies of Dr. Fazle Rabbi, a top cardiologist of Dacca Medical College; Dr. Alim Choudhury, an eye specialist; Mr. Nizamuddin, a journalist representing the BBC and one of Pakistan's two news agencies, Pakistan Press International; Mr. Shabihulah Kaiser, a well-known author and joint editor of a magazine; Mrs. Akhtar Imran, provost of women's hostel of Dacca University; Prof. Momin Choudhury, head of the Department of Bengali, Dacca University; Dr. Santosh Bhattacharya, Professor of History; Mr. Sirajuddin Hussain, news editor of Ittefaq; and many others.

(THE INDIAN EXPRESS, New Delhi—December 20, 1971)

BRITISH M.P. SAYS SENIOR PAKISTANI ARMY OFFICERS ORGANISED MURDER OF INTELLECTUALS

Ten senior Pakistani army officers were responsible for organising the recent murders of a large number of people, especially intellectuals, in Dacca, Mr. John Stonehouse, British Labour M.P., told PTI in an interview here this morning (New Delhi, December 20).

Mr. Stonehouse declined to name the officers but said they were of the ranks of Major-General, Brigadier, Colonel and Captain.

He said during his visit to Dacca yesterday (December 19), he got the names of these Pakistani army officers who organised the murders, and members of 'Al Radar', an extremist Muslim group, who carried out these heinous crimes just before the surrender of Pakistani forces in Dacca.

(THE HINDUSTAN TIMES, New Delhi—December 21, 1971)