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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY: Pakistan/India

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SUBJECT: New Role of H. S. Suhrawardy in East Pakistan

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SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.



1. H. S. Suhrawardy, ex-Premier of undivided Bengal, is in Dacca.\* There he is rallying the Forward Blocists and the leftists including the Communists of East Pakistan. He is popular with Muslims and Hindus alike and is gaining strength among the peasantry and among the lower middle classes who have been hard hit by the economic crisis in East Pakistan. He has gathered around him active youthful lieutenants who are definitely leftists and non-communal in outlook.

2. Suhrawardy is supported by three prominent Muslim leaders, all of whom have left the Muslim League:

Main Iftikaruddin, a wealthy, Cambridge-educated Muslim leftist in the Punjab.

Moulana Husrat Mohani, an aged pro-Soviet Muslim leader, who generally resides in India, who was a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly, and who has some following in the Punjab.

Moulana Umar Sobhani, once a Pan-Islamic leader with leftist sympathies who visited the USSR in 1948.

3. Suhrawardy is now proving to be a serious thorn in the side of Liaquat Ali Khan's administration. His large mass following however has made the Pakistan government reluctant to arrest him.\*\*

\* Comment. The dates of Suhrawardy's stay in Dacca are not made clear by the report. The newspaper article quoted below establishes his presence there on 21 July and indicates that he might have been leaving within a week of that time.

\*\* Comment. The following article appeared in the Calcutta Statesman on 22 July 1950:

Dacca, July 21.-- Although no official confirmation is as yet available regarding restriction on Mr. Suhrawardy, it is gathered that while

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no definite order has been served, a request was conveyed to him yesterday on behalf of the East Bengal Government by the Home Secretary asking him not to take any tour of East Bengal but to confine himself to professional activities.

It is also reported to have been suggested to him that he should leave Dacca after he has presented the case of his client in the Tangail by-election before the tribunal, which is expected to conclude some time next week.

Yesterday evening, Mr. Suhrawardy addressed a meeting of Awami League workers which was attended by some members of the East Bengal Assembly.

The Awami League has decided to publish a manifesto, to prepare which one worker has been selected from each district to form a provincial committee.

The Home Secretary of the East Bengal Government, Mr. M. Azfar Ali, called on Mr. H. S. Suhrawardy, ex-Premier of undivided Bengal, and President of the Awami League yesterday afternoon in the Hanna rest house where he is staying.

Interviewed later, Mr. Suhrawardy said: "I can only describe the action of the Pakistan Government in placing restrictions on me as unjust. I did not come here to create any difficulties or cause any embarrassment even to this Ministry and I claim that whatever I am doing or saying is really in the interests of Pakistan and its people and in the interests of humanity, although my views may not suit the authorities in power."

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