

NEW DEMANDS SET BY EAST PAKISTANI

Break With Western Wing
of Country Is Averted

By Reuters

KARACHI, Pakistan, March 7
—Sheik Mujibur Rahman, East
Pakistan's nationalist leader, of-
fered breathing space today in
the Pakistan crisis by issuing
new demands rather than forc-
ing a break with the western
wing of the country.

Sheik Mujib said at a public
meeting in Dacca that he was
demanding an end to martial
law and a return to popular
rule before he would consider
attending the National Assem-
bly meeting called by President
Agha Mohammad Yahya Khan
for March 25, the Pakistani ra-
dio reported.

[The Associated Press re-
ported that Sheik Mujib also
called for partial strikes in
East Pakstan, ordering that
all government offices, courts
and schools be closed and
that no revenue be paid to
the Government starting
Monday.]

There had been fears that the
50-year-old leader of the
Awami League would declare
independence for East Pakistan,
precipitating a civil war.

Instead, he set four condi-
tions that he said must be met
before he would attend the
Assembly, the radio said. The
conditions were that martial
law be ended, that troops re-
turn to their barracks, that an
inquiry be held into killings in
strife-torn East Pakistan last
week and that power be trans-
ferred to the elected represent-
atives of the people.

His Reply to President

The demands were Sheik Mu-
jib's reply to President Yahya's
announcement yesterday of the
new date for convening the As-
sembly, charged with drafting a
new democratic constitution for
Pakistan.

The President had postponed
the opening session of the As-
sembly, originally set for last
Wednesday, after it was boy-
cotted by the West Pakistani
political leader, Zulfikar Ali
Bhutto. The postponement in
turn set off strikes and rioting
in Dacca.

In elections last December,
Sheik Mujib's Awami League
won almost all the Assembly
seats from East Pakistan and a
majority of the whole Assem-
bly.

Mr. Bhutto, a former Foreign
Minister whose West Pakistan-
based People's party has the
second largest bloc of Assem-
bly seats, has now agreed to
attend the Assembly meeting.

Sheik Seeks Autonomy

Sheik Mujib, champion of the
impoverished Bengali masses of
East Pakistan, has been hailed
by his followers as the founder
of Bangla Desh, or Bengal Na-
tion.

It was his call for virtual
autonomy for the nation's east-
ern wing—separated from West
Pakistan by 1,000 miles of In-
dian territory—that brought on
the present crisis.

He told his followers today
that they must be prepared to
continue their struggle for
emancipation "at any cost," ac-
cording to the radio report.

But he also was quoted as
saying, "We can live like broth-
ers if we solve our problems."

Sheik Mujib said that he was
not consulted before the Presi-
dent announced the date of the
Assembly session, and he de-
scribed this as a "lack of con-
sideration" for the leader of the
majority party.