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**Press Release - Muskie Urges an End to Pakistan Aid and
Immediate Restoration of Refugee Relief; Calls on President to
Give Assurances to Mrs. Gandhi**

Edmund S. Muskie

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Immediately
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MUSKIE URGES AN END TO PAKISTAN AID
AND IMMEDIATE RESTORATION OF REFUGEE RELIEF;
CALLS ON PRESIDENT TO GIVE ASSURANCES TO MRS. GANDHI

Senator Edmund S. Muskie (D-Me.) today called upon President Nixon to give needed assurances to Prime Minister Indira Gandhi of India that the United States will ~~no longer~~ ^{not} support Pakistan until a settlement is reached in East Bengal.

Muskie proposed three steps: first, to provide without delay the \$250 million of refugee relief that was contained in the foreign assistance bill; second, an end to development assistance to Pakistan until the situation in East Pakistan is normalized; and third, a complete ban of further shipments of military equipment to Pakistan.

"I call upon President Nixon to give assurances to Prime Minister Gandhi during her visit to the United States that all these steps will be fully supported by the Administration," Muskie said.

"At the heart of our frayed relations with India is the human tragedy taking place in East Pakistan -- and the policy of continued support for Pakistan that our government has insisted upon."

In making his proposals, Muskie emphasized that American leaders have "a responsibility to put concern for human life back into our equation for foreign policy." He accused the Nixon Administration of treating the Pakistani crisis "in secrecy, with deception and half-truths, with clarifications and restatements and ambiguity and sometimes even silence."