

Bhutto Hanged In Pakistan Jail For Murder Plot

Body Is Reportedly Taken to Hometown for Burial

By **ROBERT TRUMBULL**

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ISLAMABAD, Pakistan, Wednesday, April 4 — Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, the former Prime Minister of Pakistan, was hanged early today in the Rawalpindi District Jail, where he had been confined since his conviction last year on charges of conspiring to murder a political opponent in 1974.

A senior spokesman for the military Government said the execution had taken place at 4 A.M. The spokesman, Wing Commander Mohammed Afzal, stated that the body had been taken immediately to Mr. Bhutto's birthplace near Larkana in Sind Province and buried in a ceremony attended by family members.

Jail sources said that the hanging had taken place in the presence of officials of the military Government, which is headed by President Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, the army general who overthrew Mr. Bhutto on July 5, 1977. Mr. Bhutto had ruled for five and a half years.

The decision to hang Mr. Bhutto was made by General Zia despite a flood of petitions for executive clemency from dozens of world leaders, including President Carter, Leonid I. Brezhnev, Hua Guofeng and Pope John Paul II, besides thousands of Pakistani citizens who admired Mr. Bhutto's policies and his ability to communicate with the masses in this nation of 75 million people.

Policemen and Troops Deployed

Policemen and troops were already heavily deployed at key points in the main cities and towns as news of the execution spread, according to reports from

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Frederic Ohringer / Nancy Palmer Agency

Zulfikar Ali Bhutto

several provincial centers.

The main organizers among the millions of Pakistanis loyal to Mr. Bhutto were jailed on Government orders weeks ago, apparently in anticipation of disorders if he was hanged, and the martial-law authorities were apparently carrying out plans to deal with any disturbances after the execution.

Close aides to General Zia had insisted until late last night that the President was still undecided whether to order the hanging carried out or to commute the death sentence to life in prison. They said he was unlikely to act for several days.

However, the news of the hanging came out in extra editions of several Urdu-language newspapers early this

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morning, on the basis of reports from prison sources. By midmorning here, the Government had still made no official announcement.

According to the first accounts of the execution, the once suave and worldly Mr. Bhutto, who was 51 years old, was taken from his cell on death row sometime after midnight and was given a bath and then allowed to listen to prayers for the condemned read from the Koran by a Moslem clergyman.

As Mr. Bhutto was led away to the gallows, other inmates of death row lined up behind their cell doors and chanted a traditional dirge for the condemned, according to the accounts.

Mr. Bhutto was then taken to the gallows and the hangman's rope was placed around his neck while his arms were held away from his sides by two officers.

Mr. Bhutto had been convicted, along with five former security officers in his secret police, of having planned to kill a parliamentary critic, Ahmed Raza Kasuri. In an ambush early in the morning of Nov. 11, 1974, Mr. Kasuri's car was fired on as he and his family returned from a wedding reception. Mr. Kasuri escaped uninjured but his father was killed in the attack. All five defendants were sentenced to be hanged.

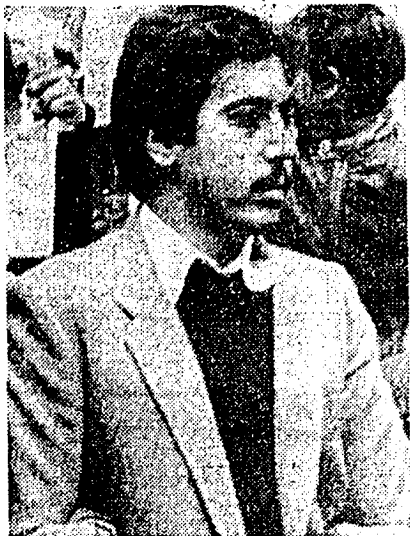
[Reuters reported that the other four men were also hanged today. They were identified as Mian Mohammed Appas, Guylam Mustafa, Arrad Iqbal and Rana Isti Khar.]

Long Visit With Family

A possible clue that the execution was imminent came yesterday when Mr. Bhutto's wife, Nusrat, and daughter Benazir — who are under house arrest — were allowed to spend three hours instead of their usual half hour with him in his cell. [Reuters reported that Mrs. Bhutto, in a note smuggled to her lawyer, said she had been told it was to be their last visit.]

As the nation waited tensely yesterday for a presidential decision on the fate of Mr. Bhutto, a security force raided three houses owned by the former Prime Minister and seized official papers that he had collected while in office.

A close aide to General Zia privately told several American correspondents last night that the President first turned



United Press International

Mir Murtaza Bhutto, a son of former Pakistani Prime Minister, in London in February during one of many protests he led to stir opposition to death sentence for his father.

against the former Prime Minister when shown a list of his political opponents. The aide said that some names on the list had been marked, in Mr. Bhutto's own hand, for "elimination."

'Secret Documents' Found

An official statement issued by the police in Sind Province said yesterday that officers who raided Mr. Bhutto's homes in Karachi, his home town of Larkana and the village of Naundero had recovered "secret documents of an extremely sensitive nature pertaining to state security, including defense and foreign affairs." The statement said that most of the documents were found hidden in secret closets, inside mattresses and in cabinets behind mirrors in the Karachi house.

Mumtaz Ali Bhutto, a cousin of the former Prime Minister who served him as Information Minister, told reporters that the security police also raided three ancestral villages of the Bhuttos Monday night, forcibly entering women's quarters traditionally forbidden to men except family members and "beating up servants."