

TITLE: DA's special assignment in Bangladesh
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NOTES: Excerpted from letter to relatives in the U.S.

I guess by now you will all know that DA is in East Pakistan. This has been a special assignment to assess the health problems of the Bengali refugees and report directly to the Director General of WHO, Dr. Candau, who had been asked by U Thant for recommendations as to how to distribute the UN money.

WHO has no one in E. Pak. now. As a matter of fact there are supposed to be only 20 or 30 Americans left there out of several thousand. DA was rather dumbfounded by this assignment, but challenged and excited. I expect he had a much better idea of what he was supposed to do once he arrived. But it was full of unknowns.

He left Monday the 28th and this week cabled the DG saying he would start home on Sunday 11th traveling by way of Islamabad, capital of West Pakistan. And that is all we know at this end. The US Mission here seems to think it is really something that DA was asked to go. The whole thing can only be grim, of course.