

Biharis Mob U.N. Envoy Inspecting Dacca Suburb

Reuter

DACCA, Feb. 12—Screaming Biharis mobbed a United Nations envoy today when he went to inspect conditions in Mirpur colony, where bitter clashes have exploded in the past few weeks.

Women grovelled and kissed the feet of envoy Vittorio Win-

spere-Guicciardi, who is visiting Bangladesh as the special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim. Some complained of killings and lack of food.

Winspeare-Guicciardi was invited by Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman to tour Mirpur and see

for himself the conditions in the colony, where 350 Bengalis and 46 Biharis have been reported killed in clashes that broke out Jan. 21. The area, on the outskirts of Dacca, has been sealed off since then while troops searched for arms.

Newsmen have not been permitted to go in and see how the Biharis, non-Bengali Moslems who sided with Pakistan in last year's conflict, were faring under Bangladesh rule.

Winspeare-Guicciardi said after his tour that he thought the Biharis were short of food, but not starving. He added that food and water were now beginning to go into the area.

Biharis were running short of money, the envoy said, because most of them had been out of work since Bangladesh became independent Dec. 16. The envoy said he saw no evidence of widespread, recent killings.

He said there appeared to be now only about a company of Bengali troops in the district and that they seemed well disciplined and under the control of officers.

In Karachi, Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto said today that martial law will soon be lifted and democracy restored in Pakistan.

Reprimanding a political worker who raised a slogan favoring the continuation of martial law, Bhutto said: "Don't raise this slogan. In-shallah (God willing), martial law will come to an end soon."

The Italian government today announced its recognition of the state of Bangladesh, following a similar announcement by France.