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Gandhi Fast to Protest Killing

By PHILLIPS TALBOT

NEW DELHI, Nov. 8.—Mohandas K. Gandhi, announced today that he will begin a new fast-unto-death unless Hindus in Bihar Province quickly stop slaughtering Moslems.

As the 77-year old spiritual and political leader spoke from Calcutta, Jawaharlal Nehru and other government and military officials worked in the inflamed areas to quell Bihar's blood surge.

It is generally agreed that this disturbance began in retaliation for Moslem attacks on Hindus in East Bengal.

What has happened and what is happening is terrible," Nehru said, after visiting some of the ravaged villages "I can hardly believe that human beings can behave so."

Gandhi announced that he is already making penance of the "lowest diet possible," on which he has lived for several days, mainly for medical reasons.

POTENT WEAPON

The astute little mystic has forged such a sharp weapon with his fasting technique that even the threat of it frequently gains his ends. His political history includes 15 fasts, of which five were undertaken in prison, seven "as penance for political events in the country" and three as penance for the behavior of his colleagues.

Three times he has started fasting-to-death. Each time he has bent the British government or his own people to his will.

Gandhi left Calcutta this morning on a previously-arranged tour through Noakhali and other East Bengal districts, where the Hindus suffered recently from the hands of the Moslem majority.

He will probably visit Bihar next. Meanwhile, Sardar Baldev Singh, defense minister in the interim government, who is now at Patna, capitol of Bihar, ordered more troops into that province, where the Hindus outnumber the Moslems eight-to-one.

PROOF UNOBTAINABLE

Casualty figures are impossible to correlate. Moslem organs speak of the dead in thousands. The All-India congress provincial ministry has announced 150 killed in one village in the Perna district.

In the Monghyr district, casualties are believed to be heavy, the ministry says.

Bihar, which lies astride the Ganges River, just west of Bengal, is a rich agricultural province, with nearly 40,000,000 people.

Thousands of Biharis draw their incomes from Bengal, where they work in the mills and on the land. The bitter anti-Moslem fever rises partly because so many Biharis were affected in the great Calcutta killing in August.

Bihar peasants have long shown themselves to be capable of tempestuous action, but heretofore in the Nationalist cause. During the 1942 revolt against British authority, Bihar's legal government was unable for many days to establish contact with some parts of the province.

Among the attacks committed when the Bihar Nationalists set up their own government were the murders of two Canadian Royal Air Force officers.

Gandhi has described disorders in various parts of India as an "invitation to the British to retain their sovereignty over India."

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