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WORLD ALMANAC  
FACTS

The NS (Nuclear Ship) Savannah, the world's first atomic-powered merchant ship, was launched July 21, 1959, at Camden, N.J. The World Almanac notes. The ship was 595 feet long and displaced 15,585 tons. There are three other nuclear-powered merchant

## Sequestered Non-Ben

MOHAMMEDPUR, Bangladesh (AP) — The government is assigning serial numbers to non-Bengali Moslems sequestered in refugee camps and asking them in questionnaires whether they want to remain in Bangladesh.

Foreign relief officials say they do not know the reasons behind the unpublicized move of Sheik Mujibur Rahman's government. Administration officials either refuse to discuss the situation or say there has been no change in government policy toward the non-Bengalis, or Biharis

Officially the government says the Biharis are welcome to leave the camps if they are

willing to accept Bengali as their mother tongue and pledge allegiance to the Dacca government.

A foreign source said he was informed by government officials that plans were being made to introduce the Biharis, many of them skilled laborers, into the mainstream of Bangladesh life. He had asked the officials about six Biharis trained as engineers by his company and learned that they were in camps. There are reports from some areas that a few Biharis are returning to their jobs.

The source said he was told the government plans to put to work Biharis who want to

stay in Bangladesh and exchange the rest for 400,000 Bengalis stranded in Pakistan. But nothing will be done for several months, he was told, because to act sooner would be politically risky

The foreigner said the government's secret rehabilitation plan is to resettle the Biharis in low-resentment Bengali areas, avoiding places like Dacca where some Biharis collaborated with the Pakistan government.

If this is the government's plan, the Biharis are not convinced.

Despair and uncertainty are apparent at the New Geneva colony, a camp established by

## gali Moslems Questioned

the International Committee of the Red Cross in Mohammedpur, a Dacca suburb.

Bihari spokesman say anxiety is widespread about two questionnaires.

The first, distributed in most of the camps in early August, was called a "statement of nonlocals" to be completed by all adult males.

This was superseded a month later by a seven-question paper under the heading: "Government of Bangladesh survey of Urdu-speaking nonlocals" This document asked if the Biharis wanted to live in Bangladesh and if not, the name of the country he or she wanted to go to.

Biharis received no explanation for the surveys and were told they would be punished if they gave false information. The questions dealt with family history and occupational skills.

The Biharis, Moslems like most Bengalis, flocked to camps by the tens of thousands during and after last December's India-Pakistan war that created Bangladesh in the former eastern wing of Pakistan. They feared Bengali reprisals.

Under the former Pakistani rulers, the best jobs and the best training went to the Biharis, a minority of fewer than 3 million in a land of 75

million.

Biharis migrated to East Pakistan in 1947 when the Indian subcontinent was partitioned, opting for the Islamic government in preference to the Hindu-dominated government of India. Most speak Urdu like the Punjabi majority in West Pakistan, but many young Biharis were born in East Pakistan, speak Bengali and were educated in Bengali-language schools.

Various Biharis who talk with visitors to the camps say their lives in Bangladesh are irretrievable and they want to migrate to Pakistan.

The conditions in which they live continue to be a fes-

tering sore on the independence of Bangladesh, although in truth their caged lives are easier than those of many Bengalis. The Red Cross and other relief agencies provide food, while outside the camps millions of Bengalis scrape for subsistence.

The government also is housing the Biharis, but at New Geneva, a community of 32,000 created when the government expropriated a Bihari school where the refugees had huddled for six months, the stench is abominable.

The Biharis claim 40 to 50 people share each hut of 375 square feet.