

Bangla Desh Hailed

By JEAN POWELL
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The two fellows running the Bangla Desh Information Center have every reason to subscribe to the words of the Christmas tune, " 'Tis the Season To Be Jolly" and to prove it opened the doors of their Capitol Hill house-office on 5th Street SE last night.

They, along with all other pro-Bangla Desh guests were jolly long before the season arrived. The India-Pakistan war earlier this month won recognition for the area of East Pakistan that is now Bangla Desh.

Kaiser Zaman, 27, who took the name "Mannon" when he began work at the information center, is going by his own name now. He still has a brother in Pakistan.

David Weisbrod, 24, the other half of the information team, and Mannon live and

work in the row house on 5th Street SE and David said that the \$3,000 monthly budget takes care of operation expenses and their salaries.

A Peace Corps worker in Nepal during 1968-70, David returned to the United States and enrolled in graduate school at the University of Wisconsin.

"I was interested in that part of the world and when I began reading about what was happening in Pakistan and the injustice of it, I got people in the college town to help. Funding for the information operation comes entirely from private citizens in the U.S."

By the end of August, David was asked to come to Washington to work at the center which opened last May.

Although the U.S. Government hasn't recognized the new country, M. R. Siddiqi is

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serving as "ambassador."

He ventured that Australia would be the next country to recognize Bangla Desh. He said that representatives of Bangla Desh had set up diplomatic offices in the Ukraine, the Philippines, Japan, Hong Kong, Stockholm and, of course, India.

Indian Ambassador Lakshmi Kant Jha expressed "great joy" in the birth of the new country. Also attending from the Indian Embassy were Minister for Political Affairs Maharajkrishna Rasgotra and several members of the press department.



-Star Photographer Ray Lustig

David Weisbrod (left) and Kaiser Zaman welcome another guest to a reception at the Bangla Desh Information Center last night.