

# News Release from **FRANK CHURCH**

**U.S. SENATOR, IDAHO**



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, June 10 --- Following is the introductory statement of Senator Frank Church, given in the Senate today, upon introducing an amendment cutting off U.S. aid to Pakistan. The senior member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said:

"I introduce on behalf of myself and my distinguished colleague from Ohio (Mr. Saxbe) an amendment to the Foreign Assistance bill, which would suspend United States military and economic aid to Pakistan until food and medical relief, supervised by an international agency such as the United Nations, is instituted on a regular basis throughout East Bengal and the majority of Pakistani refugees now in India are repatriated.

"The people of East Pakistan, larger in number than the whole population of West Pakistan, have been hard-hit by two calamities in less than a year -- the cyclone-tidal wave disaster and a savage civil war in which an estimated half million have been killed, and millions more driven from their homes. Food, medical supplies, clothing and other essentials are desperately needed. A full-scale international relief operation is mandatory.

"There are now close to five million Bengali refugees in neighboring India, with approximately 40,000 more arriving each day. The economic and social disruption resulting from such a massive influx of people imposes an unbearable burden upon India itself. More dangerous to the outside world, however, is the serious threat the refugees pose to peace between India and Pakistan.

"The creation of another refugee problem along the Indian border, like that which plagues the Middle East, would be alarming in its implications for the future.

"Under these circumstances, the United States must apply such leverage as it can to alleviate this human tragedy through the implementation of essential international relief and the speedy repatriation of refugees. Such is the purpose of our amendment."

June 10, 1971