



EMUN

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May 1999. Asia's Berlin Wall.

After three bloody wars, violence is close to erupting **once again** at the India – Pakistan border. Pakistani infiltrators are **once again** being able to make it across the border, thanks in part to the lacklustre reactions of the Indian security forces. National security and regional peace are **once again** at risk.

The Kargil War Council brings together some of India's key politicians and shrewdest advisors to, once and for all, find a solution to Pakistan's belligerence at its border. Diplomacy and war time aggression will have to be carefully interwoven in order to secure the Indian border and recover the land that rightfully belongs to India. In hindsight, many of the greatest problems we face today have come about as a result of world leaders severely underestimating the depth of the issues they faced. Delegates, do not make such mistakes. I do not expect you to perfectly replicate the actions of the Vajpayee cabinet of 1999, I expect that all of you will consider more closely the forces that cause constant skirmishes on the border and critically evaluate the repercussions of the decisions you will make.

Way too many times have the Indians been taken for granted. Be prepared for war.

Vande Mataram.

Your Chairpersons,  
**Sankalp Bothra and Raj Bhuva**

**NOTE TO ALL DELEGATES: COMMITTEE BEGINS ON  
THE 1<sup>st</sup> of MAY, 1999**

## Kargil War Council

### Origins of Kashmir

According to the Act of Independence, it was decided that the rulers of princely states would have the right to decide the country that would administer their state. Jammu and Kashmir, a primarily Muslim populated region was ruled by Maharaja Hari Singh, a devout Hindi follower. Initially, Singh decided that the state would accede to neither country.

In October 1947, Pashtun tribesmen from Pakistan's North-West Frontier Province invaded Kashmir. There had been persistent reports of communal violence against Muslims in the state and, supported by the Pakistani Government, they were eager to precipitate its accession to Pakistan. Troubled by the increasing deterioration in law and order and by earlier raids, culminating in the invasion of the tribesmen, the ruler, Maharaja Hari Singh, requested armed assistance from India. The then Governor-General, Lord Mountbatten, believed the developing situation would be less explosive if the state were to accede to India, on the understanding that this would only be temporary prior to "a referendum, plebiscite, election". According to the terms of the Instrument of Accession, India's jurisdiction was to extend to external affairs, defence and communications.<sup>1</sup>

*"I hereby declare that I accede to the Dominion of India with the intent that the governor-general of India, the Dominion Legislature, the Federal Court and any other Dominion authority established for the purposes of the Dominion shall, by virtue of this my Instrument of Accession but subject always to the terms*

<sup>1</sup> N.n. *Kashmir: The Origins of the Dispute*, BBC World News. 16 Jan, 2002. Web 15 Nov., 2014  
<[http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south\\_asia/1762146.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/1762146.stm)>

*thereof, and for the purposes only of the Dominion, exercise in relation to the State of Jammu and Kashmir ..."*

### Indo - Pakistani War of 1947/1948

Just before the signing of the instrument of accession, war broke out between the two nations and lasted until the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 1948, when the UN intervened. The UN Security Council Resolution 47 imposed an immediate cease-fire and called on the Government of Pakistan 'to secure the withdrawal from the state of Jammu and Kashmir of tribesmen and Pakistani nationals not normally resident therein who have entered the state for the purpose of fighting.' The Government of India was also asked to reduce its forces to minimum strength, so as to ensure that the 'optimum' circumstances to hold a plebiscite would be created.

In November of 1948, the proposed plebiscite process was stalled when Pakistani forces failed to withdraw from Kashmir. The Pakistani government argued that the lack of Pakistani troops in the region would result in a biased plebiscite. 11 new proposals were made by UN arbitrators regarding the demilitarization of the region, all of which were rejected by India but accepted by Pakistan. All concerned resolutions were passed under Chapter VI of the United Nations charter and therefore, are non - binding.

### The Simla Agreement of 1972

Following the Indo - Pakistani wars of 1965 and 1971, Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, signed a treaty in Simla that converted the cease-fire line of December

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17, 1971 into the Line of Control (LOC) and it was agreed that *"neither side shall seek to alter it unilaterally, irrespective of mutual differences and legal interpretations."*

### Two Nuclear Powers

**India** - India's first nuclear weapon explosion was carried out in 1974 at the Pokhran test range in Rajasthan. India's second nuclear test in 1998 included a fusion bomb test explosion. The Agni - II missile, capable of carrying a nuclear war head, was first tested on April 11, 1999. Military experts of the time put the range of this nuclear - capable missile at 2,100km, extending to Saudi Arabia in the west.

**Pakistan** - A few weeks after India's second nuclear test, the Pakistani armed forces carried out their first nuclear weapons test in Balochistan.

India has rejected all six of Pakistan's proposals for regional non - proliferation of nuclear weapons<sup>2</sup>. However, both nations have agreed not to attack each other's nuclear facilities and have regularly exchanged lists of all facilities since 1989. Both nations blame each other for instigating an arms race in South Asia and are facing heavy economic sanctions from the US, UK and other western powers.

*"[Pakistan] is prepared to match India, we have the capability.... We in Pakistan will maintain a balance with India in all fields" ~ Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif*

### Events Leading Up to May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 1999

#### **Operation Meghdoot**

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A.1

The Indian army launched Operation Meghdoot on the 13<sup>th</sup> of April, 1984 when a London based outfitter informed them of large arctic suits purchase from the Pakistanis. As a result, the Pakistani assault on the Siachen Glacier was nullified with the Indian gaining 2300 km<sup>2</sup> of territory. Pakistani efforts to claim the region continued with Pervez Musharraf masterminding a plan to use elite Pakistani commandos to oust Indian forces that was eventually abandoned.



Figure 1: The Siachen Glacier Following Operation Meghdoot  
(Source: Tribune India)

#### **1987 Legislative Election Results**

Post the legislative elections of 1987, the Muslim United Front accuses the local government of rigging the elections.



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Following the imprisonment of the MUF's leader, Hizb-ul-Mujahedin is born, a separatist movement that aims to return 'Kashmir to its rightful owners'. Anti - India protests and extremist activities in the region rise and are further affected by the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, with foreign extremists and arms entering the Kashmir region through the porous border. Local extremists are reportedly said to have received training in camps organized by the ISI and at the hands of Afghan Warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

### Other Extremist Groups

*Lashkar – e – Taiba* – Another the group that aimed to facilitate the introduction of Aghani Mujahedeen fighters into Kashmir, this group was founded in the early 1990s by Hafiz Saeed. Headquartered in Murdike, the LET are suspected to have close ties to the ISI with intelligence reports suggesting that crucial ISI leaders often meet with LET leaders. So far, however, no concrete proof has been presented to the Indian government for the same.

*Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front* – A secular group that has sought the separation of the region from both Pakistan and India. One of the oldest militant groups in the region, the JKLF are believed to have received support from the Pakistani military under the regime of General Zia – ul Haq in the 1980s but have since then said to have renounced the use of violence for their objectives.

### Lahore Summit

Signed on the 21<sup>st</sup> of February, 1999, the Lahore Declaration signaled the resolve of the Pakistani and the Indian leaders to

notify each other of ballistic missile tests as well as unexplained or accidental nuclear explosions. At a time of such mistrust, many experts believed that the agreement was simply a false show of cooperation by both nations, who were beginning to heavily arm their borders even as the summit took place.

### Indian Politics – The Players Making the Decisions

#### Indian National Congress

With the lowest tally ever in the general elections, the Congress stands decimated. There is increased talk of electing Sonia Gandhi being elected as party leader leading to rifts with sects of the Congress and their Lok Sabha opposition leader, Sharad Pawar. With a history of being 'soft' on Pakistan, the Congress has been considered a weak, ineffective party when it comes to dealing with foreign affair crises.

#### Bharatiya Janata Party

Having lost the trust vote in parliament by one vote, Vajpayee is simply the caretaker Prime Minister until the next general election. The BJP's anti Pakistani views, though not openly voiced so far, are believed to have been shared by prominent leaders in their last crucial meeting.

#### All Jammu & Kashmir Patriotic Peoples Front

The group is a pro-Indian faction, linked to the so-called *counter-insurgents* (paramilitaries). Muslim Mujahedin was an Islamist guerrilla group, that turned themselves in to the government in 1995 and developed

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cooperation with the Indian army. Muslim Mujahedin had been formed as a splinter group of Hizb-ul-Mujahedin in 1993. Patriotic Peoples Front was formed by Muslim Mujahedin as a structure for contesting elections. The forces of Muslim Mujahedin were demobilized around 1997-1998, but later parts of the group reorganized. After 1997 PPF supported Farooq Abdullah's Jammu & Kashmir National Conference government in Kashmir

### The Kargil Hotzone

With a 99.5% Muslim population, Kargil is the only district in the Ladakh subdivision to have a Muslim majority.

National Highway 1D is the only road capable of allowing for the sustained flow of large vehicles to Kargil from Srinagar. The district is bounded by the Himalayan range with mountain posts on the LOC and sharp hills towards Leh effectively isolate the region. Zoji La, the only mountain pass connecting Kargil to the Kashmir region can only be used in June when snowfall is minimal.



Figure 2: The LOC and Regions Surrounding Kargil (Source: Times of India)

### **Indian Military Might and Border Control**

Though not essential, it could be useful to know a little about the weapons available to the Indian Armed Forces. Although limited, the Indian air force has aircraft capable of flying in extremely difficult weather conditions, included the French made Mirage 2000H which is capable of dropping laser guided bombs. Swedish made Bofors are also available to the Indian Army for extensive shelling on variable terrain.

India has over 3000 troops at the Siachen glacier border. The Border Security Force, formed in 1965 is charged with the duty of collecting trans-border intelligence, anti-infiltration exercises and during times of war; provision of intelligence, holding assigned and captured enemy territory.

### **Pakistani Military Capabilities and Suspected Extremist Links**

Pakistan's border security apparatus includes unmanned aerial vehicles and fire finder radars provided by the US. With sufficient experience in dealing with conflicts on mountainous terrain, the Pakistani army has been known to have a number of training camps on the LOC.

The links between the ISI and extremists have never been proved, however, high level ISI officers have been seen visiting extremist leaders. Beyond this, however, there is no evidence to suggest any sort of ISI involvement with extremist militants.



## **Appendix**

### **A.1**

- A joint Indo-Pakistan declaration renouncing the acquisition or manufacture of nuclear weapons, in 1978.
- South Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, in 1978.
- Mutual inspections by India and Pakistan of each other's nuclear facilities, in 1979.
- Simultaneous adherence to the NPT by India and Pakistan, in 1979.
- A bilateral or regional nuclear test-ban treaty, in 1987.
- A South Asia Zero-Missile Zone, in 1994

### **A Note on the Study Guide**

**It must be noted by all that the study guide is a mere starting point for further research. This is just a stepping stone and a way for delegates to become familiar with topic before doing the expected, extensive research on the topic. Research must not be restricted to this study guide as supplementary research is a requirement for the committee to function efficiently.**

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