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LETTER DATED 18 MAY 1949 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE
PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING
THE HYDERABAD QUESTION

I have the honour to refer to the document S/Agenda 425 indicating that a meeting of the Security Council has been called for the purpose of considering the Hyderabad question on 19 May 1949. I am to invite attention to the previous letters on the subject:

1. Letter dated 24 November 1948 from the Leader of the Indian Delegation to the President of the Security Council (circulated as S/1089).
2. Letter dated 10 December 1948 from the Secretary-General, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, to the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Security Council Affairs, United Nations (circulated as S/1115).
3. Letter dated 13 December 1948 from the representative of India to the President of the Security Council (circulated as S/1124).

I am to emphasize once again that there never was any dispute or situation in Hyderabad likely to endanger the maintenance of international peace and security or to lead to international friction; and since the withdrawal of the complaint by the Nizam of Hyderabad, there has never been even the semblance of any such dispute or situation. It is only a dispute or situation of such an international character that can be dealt with by the Security Council under the Charter. Pakistan, is, therefore, not competent to invoke the jurisdiction of the Security Council on this question.

All matters relating to Hyderabad are now regularly dealt with by the Government of India as matters of domestic jurisdiction; questions are put and answers are given on all such matters in the Indian Constituent Assembly to which the Government of India is responsible. India contains 25 to 30 millions of Muslims who are duly represented in the Constituent Assembly; and out of fourteen members of the Indian Cabinet, two are Muslims, two are Christians, one is a Sikh, and two belong to the Scheduled Castes. Any grievances which the Muslims in any part of India may have can be and are voiced in that Assembly; this is at once a safeguard against incorrect

/or exaggerated

or exaggerated statements and a means of securing prompt redress of genuine grievances.

As was stated in the letter dated 10 December 1948, to the Assistant Secretary-General in charge of Security Council Affairs (S/1115, page 2), there has never been any ban or restriction on anyone visiting Hyderabad to see things for himself; and without prejudice to the question of jurisdiction the Government of India has in the past furnished the Council factual information relating to conditions in the State.

The Government of India deprecates these recurrent attempts to agitate in the Security Council matters which are not only wholly within the domestic jurisdiction of India but for the redress of which - so far as the ascertained facts call for any redress - adequate constitutional means exist in India itself. I would respectfully suggest that the periodical resuscitation of this subject here serves no useful purpose and may have the effect of inflaming communal passions in India and thus threatening her internal tranquillity. For these reasons, I am respectfully to urge that the whole subject of Hyderabad be now removed from the agenda of the Security Council.

This subject was put on the agenda of the Security Council in Paris on 16 September 1948. It was, however, made clear at the time that the adoption of the item "would not in any way prejudice the competence of the Security Council" in the matter. Logically it would seem that the Council should consider the question of competence before hearing any statement on the merits. As the Government of India intends to confine itself to the question of competence, I am to request that India's representative be given an opportunity, before the Minister for Foreign Affairs and Commonwealth Relations of Pakistan is called upon to speak, to state more fully the Government of India's view on the question of competence as set out in this letter.

(signed) M. Gopala Menon
First Secretary

