UNITED NATIONS

SECURITY COUNCIL

GENERAL

S/2290
13 August 1951

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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1951 FROM THE REPRESENTATIVE OF INDIA TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL CONCERNING THE INDIA-PAKISTAN QUESTION

I have the honour to enclose a copy of the text of the telegram dated 9 August 1951 from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Pakistan in reply to the latter's telegram No. 3104 of 6 August 1951.

It is requested that this communication be circulated to members of the Security Council.

With the assurances of my highest consideration,

(Signed) B.N. RAU
Ambassador, Permanent Representative
of India to the United Nations

/Text of S/2290

Text of telegram dated 9 August 1951 from the Prime Minister of India to the Prime Minister of Pakistan replying to the latter's telegram of 6 August

1. Your telegram No. 3104 dated August 6th. This correspondence has already grown so voluminous and repetitious that it is with the utmost reluctance that I permit myself some brief comments on some of the points raised in your telegram.

(1) You have disputed the correctness of my statement that we had taken no steps to move our troops until the movement of your brigade in June towards Poonch. For this you rely on what you describe as the reinforcement of our armed forces in Kashmir by four battalions. There were no such reinforcements. There were, in some cases, reliefs. Our total force in Kashmir was reduced after the cease fire by nearly 40 per cent. After that, for every battalion that went in, one came out. With our forces in the State reduced to three fifths of their original strength no one could regard the mere relief of four battalions in that reduced force as evidence of any offensive intention against Pakistan. Per contra, the recent movement of your brigade to within immediate striking distance of Poonch could be capable of no other interpretation than an intention to attack Poonch.

(2) You continue to accuse us of threatening Pakistan with our armed might and describe what you call "the occupation of Kashmir" as wrongful and as an act of aggression against Pakistan. I regret I cannot go on arguing endlessly against a persistent distortion of facts and allegations which are the very reverse of the truth. Everyone knows that not a single Indian soldier went to Kashmir till it was invaded from Pakistan and part of Kashmir State had been subjected for days to loot, rapine and massacre. It was only then that Indian soldiers went at the request of the lawful Government and the people of Kashmir to defend them against the brutal aggression. In spite of your invasion of Kashmir and the military operations that followed, not a single soldier has set foot on Pakistan territory. May I remind you that the United Nations Mediator, Sir Owen Dixon, has held that Pakistan's action in Kashmir was contrary to international law.

/(3) You say

(3) You say that the peace plan proposed by you rules out war and aggression. But in effect you reserve freedom to yourself to attack Kashmir on the ground of our alleged aggression against the people of the State and against Pakistan unless we accept a settlement of the dispute on your terms. Considering that it is Pakistan that is the real aggressor in Kashmir, that Pakistan denied that aggression until it became too obvious to be denied, that Pakistan is constantly proclaiming jehad as the only effective means of solving the problem and making feverish preparations for it, no other conclusion is possible than that the real alternatives you offer us are surrender to your wishes or resort by you to force. This is not a genuine attempt to settle the Kashmir dispute peacefully. So long as this remains your attitude no Government of India can relax its precautions which are purely defensive.

(4) You also charge us with defiance of the United Nations. This is as baseless as your other charges. It is not defiance to ask that the United Nations honour their assurances to us.

(5) Your newspapers continue not only to preach war but some of them demand the conquest of India.

2. In spite of the provocation to which we are being deliverately subjected by distortion of facts, by baseless charges and by warlike propaganda, I assure you that we shall adhere to the unequivocal assurances that I have repeatedly given, namely that we wish to live in peace and friendship with Pakistan and that we are resolved not to attack it. With those assurances honestly and firmly reaffirmed, I am content to leave our conduct and our intentions to the judgment of history.