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LETTER DATED 21 AUGUST 1957 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under instructions from my Government, I have the honour to bring to your Excellency's notice and through you to the notice of the members of the Security Council the following report regarding the commencement of execution of the Mangla Dam Project by the Government of Pakistan which appeared in the "DAWN" newspaper of Karachi on 26 June 1957.

"RAWALPINDI, June 25: The Azad Kashmir Government have issued necessary notification to acquire land in Mirpur District for the Mangla Dam Project.

The Project, which will involve an expenditure of 1,000 million rupees will cover an area of a hundred square miles.

About 122 villages, in Azad Kashmir territory will be affected with a total area of about 42,000 acres.

Out of this nearly 22,000 acres are at present under cultivation. The rest is barren and those who will be affected by the construction of the dam will be adequately compensated with cash payment or canal irrigated land -- Radio Pakistan".

..... The details of the project are given in the attached note.

2. The execution of this Dam project is a further instance of consolidation by the Government of Pakistan of their authority over the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir which they continue to occupy by force and of the exploitation of the resources of the territory to the disadvantage of the people of Jammu and Kashmir and for the benefit of the people of Pakistan.

3. My Government have asked me to invite your attention and through you the attention of the members of the Council to this further instance of violation by the Government of Pakistan of the Security Council

Resolution of 17 January 1948 which calls upon both the Governments of India and Pakistan "to refrain from making any statements and from doing or causing to be done or permitting any acts which might aggravate the situation".

4. The members of the Security Council are aware of the categorical assurances given to the Prime Minister of India by the Chairman of the United Nations Commission that Pakistan Government will not be allowed to consolidate their position in the territory they had unlawfully occupied, of clause A 1 of Part II of the U.N.C.I.P. Resolution of 13 August 1948 under which Pakistan troops are required to vacate the territory unlawfully occupied by them and of the recognition of the Government of the State of Jammu and Kashmir as the only lawful Government of the State underlying the Resolutions of 13 August 1948 and 5 January 1949. The commencement of the execution of the Mangla Dam project by the Government of Pakistan violates not only the provisions of the Security Council Resolution of 17 January 1948 but also the assurances given to the Prime Minister of India by the Chairman of the U.N.C.I.P. and the provisions of the two U.N.C.I.P. Resolutions.

5. I request that this communication may kindly be circulated as a Security Council document and be brought to the notice of the members of the Security Council.

Accept, Excellency, etc.

(Signed) Arthur S. Lall
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

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THE MANGLA DAM PROJECT

The Upper Jhelum Canal takes off from the river Jhelum at Mangla and irrigates areas in the West Punjab. The Mangla Headworks and the first 19 miles of the Upper Jhelum Canal lie in the territory of Jammu and Kashmir. The land required for the Upper Jhelum Canal and the Headworks was given by the Government of Jammu and Kashmir to the Punjab Government in 1904, free of cost, but on condition "that it shall always remain the property of the Darbar".

2. The details of the Mangla Dam Project given by Chaudhury Abdul Hamid, Superintending Engineer, Mangla Dam Circle, in September last were published in the Pakistan Times, Lahore, on September 17, 1956, and according to these "the dam will be located across the Jhelum river, about 2 miles upstream of the Upper Jhelum Canal regulator". The location of the Dam is thus in the Indian territory of Jammu and Kashmir.

3. The report gave the following further particulars of the project: "The main structure will be an earth embankment almost two miles long at the crest the elevation of which is 1,200 feet above the sea level. Its height at the deepest section from rock to crest will be about 360 feet. The reservoir so created will have an effective capacity of 3.5 million acre feet".

"The Dam will be flanked by a power plant on the left and a spillway structure on the right. The power house will have an installed capacity of 300,000 k.w. (four sets of 75,000 k.w. each), the power head varying between 180 to 315 feet. The tail race will outfall into the Upper Jhelum Canal".

"The spillway for flood water will be of one million cusecs capacity. It will be fitted with automatic gates. The water will shoot from the end of the structure and after falling in the trajectory about 200 feet vertically will flow back into the river Jhelum".

The Jhelum drains an area of about 13,000 square miles above the Dam site. "It has been found", continues the Superintending Engineer, "that the use of water originating in the Jhelum River is now about 10 million acre feet per year and that the remainder of the river flow, approximating 13 million acre feet in an average year, is wasted during the floods, which usually coincide with floods in other provincial rivers".

"A reservoir of 3.5 million acre feet effective storage capacity would control a release aggregating 16 million acre feet in every year. The initial gain in the supply of water from Jhelum River will thus be six million acre feet per year even in a period of drought".

"Practically all this supply of water, available for expanded irrigation use will be transferred to Chenab River through the Upper Jhelum Canal after its enlargement and would mingle with the Chenab water".

"The total indirect supply of the Mangla Dam will be nine million acre feet which will bring an additional area of 3,000,000 acres under irrigation".

4. The benefits accruing from the Dam after completion are stated to be:

(i) Supply of six million acre feet water from the Jhelum River and an additional three million acre feet from the flood flows of the Chenab River.

(ii) The installed capacity of 300,000 k.w. (all firm).

(iii) Improvement in communications.

5. "The construction of the Dam", asserts the Superintending Engineer, "will ... have a healthy effect on the Pakistan economy". The distance between Mirpur and Muzaffarabad will be cut down by 25 miles" by a new road which will be constructed. This road will also "shorten the distance between Jhelum and Mangla by five miles". With the help of cheap power Pakistan hopes to exploit bauxite deposits from which aluminium is extracted.

6. Last year, when there were protests against this Project from the people of the area, Chaudhri Ghulam Abbas, once President of the so-called Azad Kashmir Government, made the following significant statement in which he tried to persuade them to accept the project:

"I, therefore, feel it is my duty to exhort the people to be realistic and to accept gracefully and patriotically this position which no doubt will seek a great amount of sacrifice on their part. But it must be realised that the larger interests of Pakistan have in any case to be kept in view and that the entire economy as well as the stability of Pakistan ... now depends mainly on the Mangla Dam Project".

(Pakistan Times, Lahore, March 31, 1956).

7. That the construction of this Project in Indian territory, is intended to help Palistan in a big way, is clear from an editorial which was published in "DAWN", Karachi, of September 22, 1956. The editorial states:

"For a country, which is under a severe pressure to develop its land, water and power resources to cope with its growing population and economy, it is a welcome relief to know that the detailed investigations and designs of its largest multipurpose project, Mangla Dam are nearing completion and that construction work may start early next year ... The huge cost of the project which will be spread over five years, is well worth the far-reaching benefits that are expected to accrue to the economy of West Pakistan. The additional acreage which, for want of ample water, produces little or nothing, promises an impressive step-up in agricultural produce, more particularly foodgrains which a combination of natural and man made causes compels the Government to import at a disconcerting loss of foreign exchange urgently needed for development programmes. No less welcome will be the substantial accretion to West Pakistan's power potential which, despite the commendable advance in recent years, is still so far behind the consumption needs of the Province that a not inconsiderable amount of electric energy is purchased every year from East Punjab".

8. A report published earlier this year stated that the Government of Pakistan had already sanctioned Rs. 58 million for preliminary work, including construction of roads and quarters for the Staff.

(Pakistan Times, Lahore, January 7, 1957).
