

UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/6687
16 September 1965

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE MILITARY SITUATION IN THE AREA OF CONFLICT BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

1. The Security Council, in its resolution of 6 September 1965, asked me, among other things, to keep it informed on the situation in the area of conflict between India and Pakistan. I have, of course, no means of obtaining reliable information beyond the reports of the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) whose Observers are restricted in their observing and reporting functions to the area of the Cease-Fire Line (CFL) in Kashmir. I must say also that in the present war situation, confused as it is by claims, counter-claims, rumours and dramatic reports, it would be impossible for me to attempt to give an accurate and detailed account of the present military situation in the area. However, I have attempted, in the first part of this report, to provide some kind of guide to the present state of affairs by giving a very general sketch of the over-all military situation in the area. The second part presents a summary of the incidents reported to me by the Chief Military Observer of UNMOGIP, Lt. General R.H. Nimmo, since 6 September.

General military situation

2. The Cease-Fire Line in Kashmir has been violated at a number of points from both sides and fighting has now extended to the border of India and West Pakistan, amounting to a state of war between the two countries. The activities of groups of infiltrators across the Cease-Fire Line from the Pakistan side has been dealt with in a previous report to the Council (S/6651). A sizable number of infiltrators continues to operate on the Indian side of the Cease-Fire Line. Also, in addition to the regular forces engaged, tribesmen from the North-West Frontier are becoming increasingly involved in the conflict, arriving at the front for the most part through Rawalpindi. In both countries there is an ever-present danger of communal violence as a repercussion of the fighting.

3. The Cease-Fire Line has been crossed by Indian forces at Kargil in the east, in the area of Tithwal, and in the Uri-Punch bulge up to the Haji-Pir Pass. Further south, Indian forces have crossed the Jammu border in force toward Sialkot and the India-Pakistan border in the Dera Manak-Marawal area (thirty-five miles south-east of Sialkot) and also from Amritsar and Ferozepore in the general direction of Lahore. Pakistan forces in strength have crossed the Cease-Fire Line at its southernmost limit in the direction of Akhnur. The fighting continues, but in the last few days would appear to have been relatively static. Both sides have made extensive use of their air forces both in support of ground forces and on targets such as military installations and airfields behind the lines. There are also numerous reports on both sides of the dropping of parachutists. Around the borders of East Pakistan, the Pakistan Air Force has made a number of attacks on airfields and other targets, but there has been no significant fighting by ground forces.

Incidents reported by UIMOGIP

4. Incidents of fighting reported to me by General Nimmo since 6 September 1965 are summarized in the following paragraphs. These incidents, of course, relate only to the area along and near the Cease-Fire Line where United Nations Military Observers are stationed. It should also be noted that, as indicated by General Nimmo in his letter of 30 August 1965 to me (S/6651, p. 9), the list of incidents submitted by him is by no means complete in the sense that in the period covered there have been many more incidents which, for one reason or another, United Nations Observers have not been able to investigate.

5. Incidents in the Punch sector, on both sides of the CFL

(a) According to a report from United Nations Observers in the area, Indian troops crossed the CFL north of Punch on the night of 5/6 September and by the morning of 6 September had captured several Pakistan positions.

(b) On 10 September, United Nations Observers reported some artillery shelling in the area. They were informed by the Indian local commander at Punch that his troops had completed their junction with the Indian forces occupying the Haji Pir Pass at 0930 hours on the same day.

(c) On 12 September, United Nations Observers reported that Pakistan troops had shelled Punch with field artillery between 1230 and 1300 hours. The Observers were informed by the Indian local commander that Pakistan aircraft had dropped supplies in an area three miles on the Indian side of the CFL and fourteen miles north-east of Punch at 0430 hours on 12 September. The Indian commander claimed that all the supplies had been captured.

6. Incident in the Chhamb-Akhnur area, on the Indian side of the CFL

It was reported by United Nations Observers that Pakistan medium-artillery had shelled Akhnur on the afternoon of 6 September and the morning of 7 September. They also reported on 7 September that Indian troops were advancing westward from the direction of Akhnur against Pakistan forces which were east of Chhamb.

7. Incidents at Srinagar, on the Indian side of the CFL

(a) United Nations Observers in the sector reported that, on the afternoon of 7 September, Pakistan aircraft had attacked the Srinagar airfield. During the attack, a United Nations Caribou aircraft was hit and damaged beyond economical repair.

(b) It was also reported by the United Nations Observers that on 15 September, at 1825 hours, Pakistan aircraft had again bombed the Srinagar airfield. The information obtained by the Observers indicated that three bombs were dropped from two B-57 aircraft which were supported by five fighters. The replacement United Nations Caribou aircraft, which had arrived at Srinagar only six hours earlier, was slightly damaged on this occasion.

8. Incident at Rawalpindi, in Pakistan

On 7 September, the United Nations Liaison Officer at Rawalpindi was informed by the Pakistan local command that Indian aircraft had attacked Rawalpindi as well as Lahore, Dacca and Chittagong during the night of 6/7 September. The air attack on Rawalpindi was said to have been carried out with large numbers of Indian Canberra bombers. The Pakistan command claimed that the attack had been unsuccessful as the attacking aircraft had been intercepted by Pakistan fighters. The air attack on Rawalpindi was confirmed by United Nations Observers who heard the aircraft and inspected damage caused by the attack.

9. Incidents in the Sialkot sector, in Pakistan

(a) On the night of 7/8 September, the United Nations Observer team at Sialkot reported that at 2315 hours Indian artillery had started to shell the Sialkot area. At 0100 hours the shelling was intensified and Pakistan artillery returned the fire. The shelling on Sialkot reportedly subsided at 0230 hours.

(b) During the same night, the Pakistan local command at Sialkot complained to United Nations Observers that Indian troops had crossed the Pakistan-Jammu border on both sides of the Jammu-Sialkot road. On 8 September, the Chief of General Staff, Pakistan, informed the United Nations Liaison Officer at Rawalpindi that Indian troops had crossed the border from Jammu to Sialkot at three different places and that one group had reached the Phillora area (approximately twelve miles inside Pakistan and thirteen miles south-east of Sialkot) during the night of 7/8 September.

(c) On 8 September, United Nations Observers reported that Pakistan artillery was firing from Sialkot toward the east. They further reported that between 1540 and 1400 hours, two Indian jet aircraft had bombed Sialkot and that two bombs had landed on the military hospital. On 8 September at 2155 hours, the United Nations Observers heard some small-arms firing east of Sialkot.

(d) On 9 September, the United Nations Observers at Sialkot reported that Indian Troops had attacked the town on 8 September at 1700 hours from the north, south and east and that they had heard small-arms firing at approximately 500 yards north-east of their location. They further reported that during the night of 8/9 September, the city had been shelled by medium and heavy artillery and bombed by Indian aircraft.

(e) On 12 September, the Sialkot Observer team reported intermittent artillery shelling from both sides from and toward Sialkot during the night of 11/12 September and the morning of 12 September. They also reported that Indian jet aircraft had bombed Sialkot between 0300 and 0320 hours and again at 1000 hours on 12 September and that the Civil Employment Office of the Sialkot District Commissioner had ordered the evacuation of all civilian personnel.

(f) After Sialkot became an area of hostilities, the United Nations Observer team there found it extremely difficult to keep in contact with the Pakistan local command which appeared reluctant to keep the team informed of the situation and

gave the impression that they had no further requirements for the United Nations Observers. In the absence of General Nimmo, who had left for New Delhi to report to the Secretary-General, the Acting Chief Military Observer addressed a message to the CGS, Pakistan, on 11 September, to bring the matter to his attention and to call on him to rectify this state of affairs. In his reply, which was received by the Acting Chief Military Observer on 15 September, the CGS recalled that the function of the United Nations Observer teams was to supervise the Cease-Fire in Jammu and Kashmir and that the Observer team at Sialkot had been stationed there at Pakistan's specific request. Since, he continued, India and Pakistan were now at war, the United Nations team could no longer perform its duties until this war ended. Due to Indian attacks, he further stated, Sialkot now was in an operational zone and Pakistan could no longer guarantee the safety of the team. Therefore he requested the Acting Chief Military Observer immediately to withdraw the team from Sialkot. In view of this reply, the Acting Chief Military Observer instructed the Sialkot team to proceed to Bhimber, which is the closest United Nations Observers' station to Sialkot on the Pakistan side and to operate temporarily from there.

(g) On 14 September, the Sialkot team, which was proceeding from its temporary base of Bhimber toward Sialkot, was stopped by Pakistan military police at approximately thirteen miles east of the latter city and prevented from going further. They did not hear any shelling from the place where they were stopped and could not obtain any information on the battle situation in the Sialkot area.

10. Incidents in the Jammu sector, on the Indian side of the CFL

(a) On 8 September, United Nations Observers at Jammu reported that the town was attacked by Pakistan aircraft at 0810 hours.

(b) On 9 September, the Observers reported that Indian artillery had been firing continuously at the Pakistan side in the direction of Sialkot during the night of 8/9 September. They further reported that Pakistan aircraft had raided Jammu during the same night and that Pakistan artillery had fired at the town early in the morning of 9 September.

(c) On 13 September, Pakistan aircraft reportedly attacked Jammu between 1030 and 1105 hours and Samba between 1000 and 1050 hours. Investigations by the Observers indicated that military installations in the two towns had been bombed. Later in the day, the Observers reported a second air attack on Jammu, at 1445 hours, by eight Pakistan aircraft.

11. Incident in the Baramula sector, on the Indian side of the CFL

On 11 September at 0820 hours, Pakistan jet aircraft reportedly strafed Indian vehicles in an ordnance depot at Pattan on the Srinagar-Baramula road. This was confirmed by United Nations Observers who noted that the attack had caused little damage.

12. Incident in the Uri sector, on the Pakistan side of the CFL

On 12 September, the Indian local command at Uri confirmed to United Nations Observers that Indian troops had crossed the CFL in the Chhota Kazinag area during the night of 10/11 September and again during the night of 11/12 September and had occupied two Pakistan positions located at one mile and one-half mile from the CFL, respectively.

15. Incident in the Gangam-Kargil sector, on the Pakistan side of the CFL

On 12 September at 0900 hours, the Pakistan local command in the Gangam-Kargil sector complained to United Nations Observers that Indian troops were firing at that time with mortars from Kuru and Majunun pickets towards a village located approximately 1,000 yards on the Pakistan side of the CFL, inflicting casualties among civilians and their cattle. The United Nations Observers confirmed the firing which they stated was stopped at 0915 hours the same day.

