

UNITED NATIONS
SECURITY
COUNCIL



Distr.
GENERAL

S/5668
24 April 1964

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 24 APRIL 1964 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF INDIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Under the instructions of my Government, I have the honour to enclose a copy of a note containing the protest lodged by the Government of India with the Government of Pakistan against a dastardly attack by the Pakistan Armed Forces on an Indian police patrol on 21 February 1964. In consequence of this grave violation by Pakistan of the cease-fire line and the Cease-fire Agreement, proven by the findings of the United Nations Military Observer Group for Indian and Pakistan, fourteen valuable lives were lost and nine members of the patrol captured and unlawfully detained.

This is the second serious incident in which the United Nations Chief Military Observer has had to give an award against Pakistan in recent months. The first was in the case of Chaknot on which I had the honour to address two letters to you on 27 November 1963 and on 3 January 1964 (S/5467 and S/5503).

It is quite clear that the Government of Pakistan are deliberately trying to create tension and conflict across the cease-fire line, in utter disregard of the provisions of the Cease-fire Agreement.

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

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) B.N. CHAKRAVARTY
Permanent Representative of India to the
United Nations

Ministry of External Affairs,
New Delhi.

21 April 1964

1. The Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, presents its compliments to the High Commission for Pakistan in India, and has the honour to bring to its notice a grave violation of the Cease-fire Agreement by the Pakistan Armed Forces.
2. On 21 February 1964, an Indian armed constabulary patrol was ambushed on the Indian side of the cease-fire line near Keran by Pakistan troops. Fire was also opened on the patrol from across the Kishenganga River. Only two members of the patrol managed to return.
3. Admission of this attack on the Indian patrol which was on routine duty was given great prominence in the Pakistan Press on 23 February 1964. The Kyber Mail of 23 February 1964 reported with bold headlines: "Heavy casualties were inflicted on the Indian soldiers who intruded into Azad Kashmir territory today, it was officially stated here tonight. The engagement took place near Bor village on the KEL Sector of the cease fire line, it was stated. ... An official source said the Azad forces opened fire on the Indian intruders in self-defence." The same newspaper in its issue of 29 February 1964, reported a statement by Mr. K.H. Kurshid, the so-called "Azad Kashmir" President, in the following words: "All Indian intruders were either killed or captured by Azad Kashmir troops along with their arms and ammunition. Mr. Khurshid said that intrusion into Azad Kashmir territory on Friday was a deliberate and well-planned act on the part of Indian rulers as that was the day when the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Chou En-lai had arrived in Rawalpindi. The Indians, by precipitating a situation in Kashmir, wanted to mar the atmosphere of goodwill and amity that had been created by Mr. Chou En-lai's visit and thus to focus the attention of the Western Powers on Kashmir to the disadvantage of Pakistan. This sinister move of Indian rulers, Mr. Khurshid said, however, proved very expensive for India. Friday's incident on the cease-fire line, the Azad Kashmir President said, was the biggest one since the termination of hostilities in Kashmir in 1949 in view of the number of casualties, prisoners taken and arms captured."

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4. The version of the event as given out in these reports widely published in Pakistan newspapers, has been proved to be a fabrication by no less an authority than the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan which investigated the incident following an Indian complaint of cease fire line violation against Pakistan Armed Forces. The award given by the Chief Military Observer states (vide letter No. F.326-60, dated 26 March, 1964):

"Tangdhar No. 101 - (BOR area). One (Indian) patrol, strength one pl of the Armed Constabulary on way from Keran to Bor on 21 Feb 64, was ambushed at approx 1100 hrs. by Pakistanis in area Nullah-Track junction NL 969802. One head constable and one constable have returned to Keran. There is no news of remaining twenty-three police troops.

Extensive investigations were carried out by United Nations Observers in the area. These were started whilst physical evidence was still discernible in the snow and on the rocks by the River. There is no doubt that the Indian platoon, moving Northwards towards BOR, was ambushed by Pakistani troops on the Indian side of the CFL in the vicinity mentioned in the complaint. Fire was also directed from across the Kishenganga River. Two Indians escaped; nine were captured; and the remainder are missing, believed killed. The bodies have not been located by United Nations observers.

Violation by Pakistan for crossing the cease fire line.

Violation by Pakistan for firing.

It is requested that the captives should be returned to India at an early date, and that their names and numbers should be communicated to Indian Army Headquarters. It is also requested that armed forces of any kind avoid the section of BOR village situated South of the CFL and within 500 yards of it. The villagers would be delighted if they did."

5. The Government of India strongly protest against this deliberate and carefully planned violation by Pakistan of the cease fire line and the Cease-fire Agreement, the result of which has been a heavy loss of valuable Indian lives. The Government of India take the most serious view of this incident. They call upon the Government of Pakistan to honour the terms of the Karachi Agreement and hope there will be no repetition of such incidents in the future. The Government of India also demand an immediate return of the nine Indian constables captured by the Pakistan armed forces.

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6. The Government of India demand of the Government of Pakistan full compensation for the relatives of fourteen members of the patrol who lost their lives as a result of the illegal and aggressive action by the Pakistan armed forces in violation of the cease fire agreement.

The Ministry avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the High Commission for Pakistan in India the assurances of its highest consideration.

Seal.

High Commission for Pakistan in India,
New Delhi.

