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OCI No. 1991/65


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
Office of Current Intelligence
8 September 1965

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

The India-Pakistan Situation
(Report #18 - As of 4:00 P.M. EDT)

1. Widespread air activity continued throughout the day with both countries accusing the other of indiscriminate bombing of civilian population. Karachi spokesmen claim that 31 Indian planes have been destroyed during the past 24 hours. Pakistani warnings that attacks on major cities "will be met" have been regarded as a threat that New Delhi may soon be a target. A complete blackout is in effect in the Indian capital tonight.

2. 

 The press reports, however, that Bombay had two air raid alerts on Tuesday. The importance of Bombay as a major Indian port cannot be overemphasized. Destruction of its docking facilities could have serious repercussions on the Indian economy.

3. There is no further information on the rumor of an Indian land attack against East Pakistan. American officials in Dacca report East Pakistan is quiet with the bulk of the population unexcited. A Pakistani official in Dacca commented to an American that the Indians "must have been insane" to launch air attacks on East Pakistan as they would unite the Eastern wing to the rest of Pakistan as no amount of propaganda could do.

State Department review completed

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4. The previously reported air raids at the Indians air base at Rawalpindi, near Calcutta, has been confirmed [redacted] All-India radio has accused Pakistan of escalating the war by their air strike which allegedly "has opened" the eastern sector to hostilities.

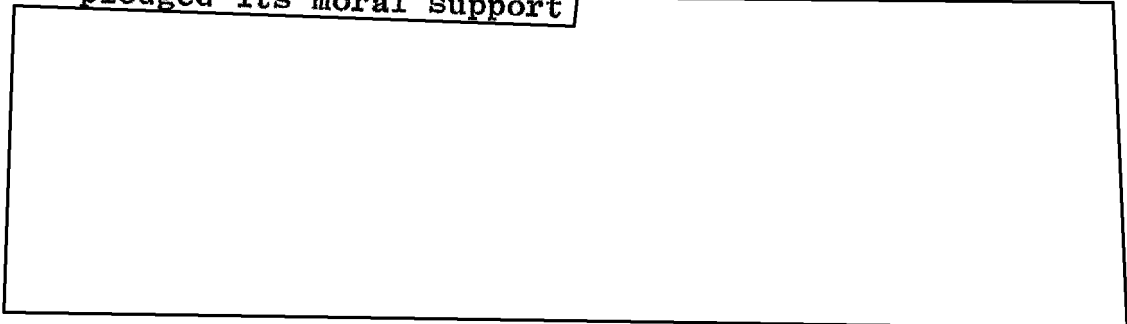
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5. The land war in the Lahore sector continues to be stalled. Indian spokesmen have referred to action underway at points just inside the border. Lahore airport, previously rumored as having fallen to the Indians, remains operational. Meanwhile, Karachi warned that a counter attack might be aimed at Indian territory inhabited by the Sikha, a religious minority, some of whose leaders frequently estranged from the Indian government in New Delhi.

6. U Thant leaves at 8 p.m. EDT for Pakistan and India. While an official Pakistani spokesman in Karachi had expressed the hope that Thant would not come to the area, the Pakistani Ambassador to the UN assured the Secretary General that his government would "be happy to receive him."

7. Karachi, meanwhile, continues to seek support from its allies. Foreign Minister Bhutto has warned that the future course of Pakistan relations with all countries will depend on the attitude those countries adopting the present crisis. Turkey has pledged its moral support [redacted]

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8. In New Delhi, Ambassador Bowles was told by Secretary to Prime Minister Shastri that India was not committed to an all-out war. Three basic

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points must be met, however, before a ceasefire would be possible: (1) Pakistani infiltration must be removed from Kashmir, (2) the UN apparatus must be revised to avoid further violation of the ceasefire line, and (3) Karachi must agree to take pressure off in its drive for a final settlement. He noted, however, that a major factor in the present Indian offensive was the desire of Shastri and other Indian leaders to refute Pakistani, Chinese and other accusation that Indian soldiers lack both the will and capacity to fight.

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