

INDIA - PAKISTAN - JOINT STATEMENT OF FOREIGN SECRETARIES ON
PROHIBITION OF ATTACK ON NUCLEAR INSTALLATION AND
OTHER MATTERS *

JOINT PRESS STATEMENT

Pursuant to the decision taken in the meeting between the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and the Prime Minister of India, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi on December 17, 1985, the Foreign Secretary of India, Mr. Romesh Bhandari visited Pakistan at the invitation of the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan Mr. Niaz A. Naik for official discussions from January 16 to 21, 1986.

During the course of his stay in Pakistan, Mr. Bhandari was received by the President of Pakistan General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq, and the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo. Mr. Bhandari also called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Sahabzada Yaqub-Khan, Minister for Finance, Planning and Economic Coordination, Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq and the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Zain Noorani and had wide ranging discussions on a number of key bilateral issues with the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, Mr. Niaz A. Naik. The two Foreign Secretaries also exchanged views on regional and international matters of mutual interest.

Mr. Bhandari conveyed cordial messages of greetings and good wishes from the President of India, Ciani Zail Singh and the Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi to the President of Pakistan, General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq and the Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammad Khan Junejo. These

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sentiments were warmly reciprocated by the President and the Prime Minister of Pakistan. The President recalled the recent meeting he had with the Prime Minister of India in New Delhi which was held in a very relaxed and cordial atmosphere and had yielded substantial and positive results. While stressing the necessity of implementing these decisions in letter and spirit, the President reaffirmed the abiding commitment of the Government of Pakistan to the development of tension-free and good-neighbourly relations between the two countries.

The Foreign Secretaries reiterated the resolve of their respective Governments to establish harmonious and cooperative ties on the basis of the time-tested and universally recognised principles of peaceful coexistence namely, sovereign equality, independence, non-interference in internal affairs, territorial integrity, justice and mutual benefit. They also reaffirmed the commitment of their Governments to the Simla Agreement.

The Foreign Secretaries agreed on the desirability of concluding a comprehensive treaty based on Pakistan's proposal of a Non-aggression Pact and India's offer of a Treaty of Peace, Friendship and Cooperation expeditiously. While observing that agreement on a number of provisions of the two drafts had already been reached in May 1984, they had a detailed discussion on certain important issues. The two sides explained their respective points of views

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on these issues and made proposals for achieving a merged comprehensive treaty. These proposals will be examined by the two Governments.

Recalling the understanding reached between the President of Pakistan and the Prime Minister of India during their discussion in New Delhi on December 17, 1985, prohibiting attack on each other's nuclear installations and facilities, the Foreign Secretaries agreed to solemnise this verbal accord through a written, legally binding agreement. The two sides exchanged drafts for the proposed agreement which have been merged. They agreed on the substantive elements of a unified text. There will, however, be further discussion on certain technical details.

The Foreign Secretaries noted with satisfaction the progress that had been made in implementing the decisions that had been taken at the second session of the Pakistan-India Joint Commission in July 1985. They decided that the four Sub-Commissions would meet in the first half of February 1986. The third meeting of the Joint Commission is scheduled to be held in Islamabad on March/April 1986.

Stressing the need of taking confidence building measures and of further promoting good-will and amity, the Foreign Secretaries agreed as under:

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- A concerted attempt would be made, out of humanitarian considerations, to locate the Indian defence personnel missing since 1971. The modalities would be finalised during the meeting of the concerned sub-commission.
- Civilian detainees who have completed their sentences would be repatriated on a reciprocal basis by their countries by March 31, 1986. The modalities would be finalised during the meeting of Sub-Commission IV and the exchange of civilian detainees would take place at the Wagah/Atari Check-post.
- The Cultural Agreement, which had already been initialled, would be signed during the next meeting of the Joint Commission.
- Exchange of books, periodicals and newspapers would be discussed during next meeting of Sub-Commission III.

The two Foreign Secretaries expressed satisfaction at the increase in people-to-people contact between Pakistan and India. They also decided that specific proposals for easing travel would be considered during the meeting of the Joint Commission. In this context, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan indicated that the Government of Pakistan is actively examining the possibility of opening the Khokhrapar route.

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The Foreign Secretaries also exchanged views on the Ministerial level meeting of SAARC countries to be held in Pakistan in March/April 1986 regarding multilateral trade negotiations and international economic issues.

The discussions between the Foreign Secretaries was held in a cordial and relaxed atmosphere. They had a candid and constructive exchange of views which was conducive to a better understanding of each other's perceptions.

Mr. Bhandari extended an invitation to Mr. Haik to visit New Delhi. This was accepted with pleasure. Mutually acceptable dates for the visit will be finalised through diplomatic channels.

The Foreign Secretary of India thanked the Government of Pakistan for the gracious hospitality extended to him and members of his delegation during their stay in Pakistan.

*[The text of this joint statement was provided by the Indian High Commission, Canberra].