

INDIA AND PAKISTAN

AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE

SIACHEN GLACIER REGION - BORDER DISPUTE*

Pakistan and India have agreed in principle to work towards a comprehensive settlement of the border dispute in the Siachen Glacier region. The elements of this agreement were spelled out in a joint press release issued in Rawalpindi on June 17 at the conclusion of the three-day talks between India and Pakistan at Defence Secretaries level. The text of the press release is as follows:

"Pakistan and India agreed to work towards a comprehensive settlement, based on redeployment of forces to reduce the chances of conflict, avoidance of the use of forces and the determination of future positions on the ground so as to conform to the Simla Agreement and to ensure durable peace in the Siachen area. The army authorities of the two countries will determine these positions."

The parleys between the officials of the two countries will continue. No agreement in terms of a binding legal document has so far been signed.

*[This information was provided by His Excellency Admiral Tariq Kamal Khan, Ambassador of Pakistan, to Australia.]