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... were bases of any kind in "Azad Kashmir" or in any part of  
... he alleged that India herself was massing armed forces  
... the frontiers of West and East Pakistan, and was planning to  
... the Moslem population of Kashmir to an "ineffective  
... by settling non-Moslems in the State. Mr. Nehru's state-  
... concluded, had confirmed his view that continuation of  
... negotiations no longer held any prospect of a settlement, and  
... dispute would therefore revert to the Security Council.

... Mr. Nehru announced on April 13 that as U.S. military aid  
... Pakistan, and Pakistan's membership of SEATO and the  
... Pact, had "destroyed the entire basis for a plebiscite  
... Kashmir," he had suggested to the Pakistani Government  
... the holding of discussions to settle the question by a demarca-  
... of the border on the basis of the present cease-fire line.  
... Mr. Mohammad Ali, however, declared on April 14 that this  
... proposal was "preposterous," and said that there was no  
... chance of Pakistan ever considering it; Mr. Nehru, he added,  
... had made a similar proposal in October 1948 and again in May  
... 1950, but on both occasions the then Prime Minister of Pakistan  
... rejected it outright.

... The Pakistani Foreign Ministry announced on April 17 that  
... Pakistan's permanent delegate to the U.N. had informed the  
... Security Council that direct negotiations with India on the  
... border question had failed, and that the Council would  
... therefore be asked to resume consideration of the dispute.

... In a statement to the House of the People on May 27, Mr.  
... Nehru had claim to Indian suzerainty over Chitral, which had  
... been under Pakistani administration since the partition of  
... British India in 1947.

... Mr. Nehru recalled that Chitral had been under the suzerainty of  
... the Ruler of Kashmir since 1876, and that the Ruler of Chitral  
... had paid an annual tribute to the Government of Kashmir. In 1947 the  
... Ruler of Kashmir had acceded to India, and this accession  
... included "the entire territories within the suzerainty of the  
... Ruler." The Government of India was not aware of any formal  
... accession of Chitral to Pakistan, although it had been incorporated  
... into that country. Referring to the incorporation of Chitral in the  
... Province of West Pakistan, Mr. Nehru added: "There is no  
... question of the Government of India having recognized this change  
... of status of Chitral." Mr. Nehru also put forward India's claim to  
... suzerainty over the principlalities of Hunza, Nagar, and Puntial, which are  
... situated in the Pakistani-held area of "Azad Kashmir."

... The north-westernmost of the former Indian States, was  
... included in the North-West Frontier Province on its creation in  
... 1956, together with the neighbouring States of Dir and Swat. In  
... 1956 the Frontier Province had decided by a referendum to  
... accede to Pakistan. The Rulers of the three States signed instruments of  
... accession to that country. Under the "one-unit" scheme all three  
... States were merged in 1955 in the Province of West Pakistan,  
... along with the other areas of the former North-West Frontier  
... Province.

... Mr. Nehru's statement caused great indignation in Pakistan.  
... The Pakistan Assembly unanimously passed a resolution  
... strongly condemning the statement; affirming that  
... Chitral was an integral part of Pakistan and that the other  
... States formed part of Azad Kashmir; and rejecting  
... any encroachment on Pakistani territory by India or any  
... other country.

... On May 30, Mr. Hamidul Huq Chowdhry (Foreign  
... Minister of Pakistan) denounced Mr. Nehru's "territorial ambitions"  
... and accused him of "forgetting his own emphatic assertions whenever  
... the issue was at stake." Mr. Chowdhry declared that when Junagadh had  
... acceded to Pakistan, Mr. Nehru had said that he was not prepared to  
... recognize that accession as valid because the Ruler was a Moslem and  
... the population predominately Hindu. In that case he had claimed  
... that sovereignty had reverted to the people after the departure of  
... the Ruler, and that it was therefore for the people to decide by  
... referendum in which country they should accede. On this plea Indian  
... troops subsequently marched into Junagadh, which had been  
... acceded to India. In the case of Kashmir, however, Mr.  
... Chowdhry reversed his argument and India had marched her armies  
... into Kashmir on the plea that the Maharaja had acceded to India.  
... Mr. Chowdhry's statement "Mr. Chowdhry concluded, "is yet another  
... instance of the double standard which Mr. Nehru seeks to justify his illegal and  
... encroachment on Pakistani territory by India or any other country."

... On May 19, in a speech at Srinagar, Mr. Krishna Menon  
... Minister without portfolio, and Mr. Nehru's principal  
... spokesman in foreign affairs) had indicated that if the Kashmir  
... issue was brought before the Security Council, India would  
... refer the Council to settle "in unambiguous terms" the  
... issue of India's original complaint about Pakistan's  
... "aggression" against Kashmir. Mr. Menon  
... stated that "Pakistan comes into the picture only as the  
... result of there can therefore be no question of her having  
... any claim over Kashmir."

... These developments a series of frontier incidents had  
... been occurring along the Indo-Pakistani borders, for which each side  
... claimed the other of responsibility. Details of these incidents  
... are given in chronological order.

**The Assam Border Incidents.** Indian and Pakistani troops  
exchanged fire across the River Surma, on the border of East Pakistan  
and Assam, on Feb. 24-25 and on March 1, one Indian civilian being  
killed in the first incident and two (including a policeman) seriously  
wounded. A cease-fire was agreed between the Assam and East  
Pakistan Governments on March 2. Maps issued by the Indian  
Government before partition differ on the position of the river,  
some showing it as wholly in territory now in Pakistan, others as in  
present-day India, and yet others giving the mid-stream as the  
boundary.

**The Chhad Bet Incident.** Shots were exchanged on Feb. 19 between  
armed Pakistani police and Indian troops at the island of Chhad Bet,  
in the Rann of Kutch, on the border of Kutch and West Pakistan;  
three Indian soldiers were wounded, two of them seriously. On the  
approach of an Indian force on Feb. 25 the Pakistani police withdrew  
from the area.

A Pakistani Government statement issued on Feb. 26 claimed that  
Chhad Bet was situated in the former Sind Province and now formed  
part of West Pakistan, that India had never been in possession of it,  
and that Indian forces had violated Pakistani territory there on  
Feb. 17, 19 and 24. Mr. Nehru, on the other hand, maintained in a  
statement in the Lok Sabha on March 3 that Chhad Bet was situated  
some miles south of the boundary between Kutch and Sind, which had  
been finally settled in 1923-24, and that by occupying the area  
Pakistani police had thereby violated Indian territory. He added that  
attempts by the Government of Pakistan to claim the area had been  
rejected by India on May 9, 1955, and that no reply had been received  
either to this Note or to another of Jan. 12, 1956, complaining of  
previous Pakistani incursions into Chhad Bet. Chhad Bet, he  
explained, was an uninhabited islet which was under water for four  
months of the year and was otherwise used as a grazing ground.

**The Punjab Border Incidents.** In order to repair flood damage to  
the Ferozepur headworks of the Divalpur canal (which supplies water  
to Pakistan) Indian labourers began early in March to remove earth  
from a mound on the right bank of the Sutlej River, the ownership  
of which is disputed between India and Pakistan. Although this  
operation had been agreed upon between the two Governments,  
a number of incidents occurred between March 8 and 19 between  
Indian troops, who had been sent to protect the workmen, and  
Pakistani troops, who disputed the right of the Indian troops to enter  
the area, and shots were exchanged along the frontier between  
Muthianwala, near Khemkaran (25 miles S.W. of Amritsar) and  
Huseiniwala. In the most serious clash, in the Huseiniwala area on  
March 18-19, ten Pakistani and four Indian soldiers were killed and  
12 Indian and five Pakistani soldiers wounded; firing, in which  
mortars and automatic weapons were used, lasted nearly 12 hours  
until a cease-fire came into effect, each side accusing the other of  
having fired first. Further shooting occurred during the night of  
March 20-21 at Nushera Dali, in the Wagah district about 20 miles  
west of Amritsar.

Measures for the avoidance of further incidents, the undisturbed  
repair of the headworks at Ferozepur, and the withdrawal of all  
additional troops brought into the area as a result of the incidents,  
were agreed by the Commanding Generals of both sides on March 22  
and 26. Indian and Pakistani police officials who met at Wagah  
on March 26 agreed that trenches and other defence works near the  
border in that area should be demolished, and that a joint inquiry  
should be held into any future incidents.

Mr. Mohammad Ali announced in the Pakistani National  
Assembly on March 19 that he had proposed to the Indian  
Government the setting-up of a joint boundary commission  
and the signing of a declaration repudiating war as a means of  
settling disputes between the two countries.

He alleged that India had created a "war psychosis," started a  
"vicious and immoral" propaganda campaign to deter the U.S.A.  
from giving military assistance to Pakistan, and "staged border  
incidents to create insecurity." In all the incidents which had  
occurred, he declared, "it has been aggression from the Indian side."  
These incidents had arisen because the Indo-Pakistani border on the  
West Pakistan side was not properly demarcated, and he had there-  
fore sent a personal message to Mr. Nehru on March 17 proposing that  
a boundary delimitation commission should be set up and that a  
meeting at ministerial level should take place. In the interests of  
peace and good neighbourly relations, he added, India and Pakistan  
should sign an agreement pledging themselves not to go to war against  
each other and to settle all disputes by negotiation and mediation, or,  
failing this, by arbitration.

Mr. Nehru replied to Mr. Mohammad Ali's speech in the  
House of the People on March 20, when he welcomed his  
proposal for a "no war" declaration.

Stating that he had read the speech with "sorrow and surprise,"  
he denied that India was conducting a propaganda campaign against  
Pakistan or had been responsible for the recent incidents. He referred  
in this connexion to the frequent appeals for *jihad* (holy war) against  
India made in Pakistan, to the mass migration from East Pakistan to  
India, and to Pakistan's failure to take action against those responsible  
for the Nekowal incident (see 14656 A). He welcomed, however, Mr.  
Mohammad Ali's proposal for the demarcation of the frontier and a  
"no war" declaration, and pointed out that proposals by India for  
such a declaration had been rejected in the past by Pakistan (see  
13925 A).