THE FRONTIERS OF PAKISTAN

A Study of Frontier Problems in Pakistan's Foreign Policy

by

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ween the two countries. Only a year later, in July 1951, friction between India and Pakistan on the western frontier became as fierce as it had been on the eastern frontier in March 1950. At that time, Pakistanis were surprised to learn that India, contrary to its assurance under the Delhi Agreement, had not removed its forces from the borders.

In 1958 the East Pakistan-Assam border, where intermittent skirmishes had continued, again became the scene of more serious clashes. The conflict arose over the ownership of some fertile charlands on the Pakistani side of the Surma river. Pakistan had earlier claimed the entire channel of the river, but later accepted the mid-stream as a compromise boundary. India's objection to Pakistani fishermen fishing on their side of the river was resented by Pakistan. It maintained that half of the river channel was Pakistani territory, and that its nationals had every right to use that part of the river. The Deputy Commissioner of Cachar (Assam) refused to accept the Pakistani claim over any part of the Surma river. On the contrary, he gave a 'river ultimatum' to his counterpart in Sylhet (East Pakistan) to abandon Pakistan's claim over any portion of the Surma. Pakistan regarded this as a serious and highly provocative attitude.

Even then the matter might have been settled at the district level. But Indian leaders' utterances on the issue turned it into a more serious international problem. The Indian Defence Minister, Krishna Menon stated: "The Indian army could go to the aid of police guarding India's frontier in case there should be an attempt by anybody to walk on our soil." He further observed that India had no fears regarding its borders with Burma, China and the Soviet Union. Obviously, Menon thus singled out Pakistan as the only country whose frontiers with India could cause trouble.

Govind B. Pant, came out wanton shooting across the India's might would have to be there."

Pakistan's Foreign Office missioner and handed over its forces from was told that Pakistan too acts of aggression and the military action. The aide at the continued border in Pakistan; the massings of East Pakistan-Assam bore.

shimipur village in the Tepp firing on Pakistan's border ed a sober attitude in spite Prime Minister stated that than the complete eliminating though he had to pacify pi peaceful our policies may b by anyone else." The ten was mirrored by Dawn in i Expell the Aggressor: "If a < responsibility of defending I to be there."

Armed clashes had al sector. They had spread to states of the Sylhet district Lakshmipur, Patharia and reported to have opened fi: Sonargam, and Punji in th calm throughout the earli...

India alleged that the quence of the 'Operation CI Government of Pakistan.'

*According to the Indian Home Ministry's annual report, in 1969, 519 communal incidents took place in India, as against 346 in 1958. See Dawn, May 15, 1970. See also Dawn, May 18, 1970: "The Carnage and its Causes": Ibid., May 14, 1970: Pakistan Protest—"It is a matter of great regret that the Government of India seem to have taken no concrete steps under the Liaquat-Nehru Agreement of 1950". Ibid., "Bhiwandi and the Aftermath", May 16, 1970; Ibid., "140 Senas or 'Armies' operate in India...

Ibid., July 16, 1951 (Liaquat's Statement).


Ibid., August 8, 1958.
Ibid., August 9, 1958.
sibid., August 16 and 17, 1958.
The Hindu (Madras), Augu