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LETTER DATED 18 OCTOBER 1965 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF PAKISTAN
ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have been instructed by my Government to bring to your attention the extremely grave and dangerous situation prevailing in the State of Jammu and Kashmir as a result of the atrocities being committed by the Indian occupation authorities on the people of the State in wanton disregard of all canons of justice and morality.

2. It will be recalled that the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir rose in an armed revolt on 9 August 1965, to throw away the yoke of slavery which was imposed on them eighteen long years ago. To quell this massive upsurge for freedom, the Indian troops unleashed the full might of their resources and resorted to the use of brutal methods killing innocent civilians, including women and children, and burning villages throughout the State in order to cow-down and terrorize the people of the State.

The banner of freedom is, however, being kept aloft by the people of the State of Jammu and Kashmir in spite of the untold atrocities and savage measures of repression of the Indian occupation authorities. On 9 October 1965 the students in Srinagar staged a mammoth demonstration against the Indian authorities to protest against the arrest of five leaders of the freedom movement who had openly challenged the Government of India's denial to the people of the State of their inherent right of self-determination. In an attempt to crush this fresh upsurge the Indian authorities have turned the capital of the State, Srinagar, into an army camp and more and more troops have been inducted into the State to further intensify the reign of terror which was let loose after 9 August 1965.

3. The facts of the recent demonstrations by students in Srinagar and the use of India's naked military force to terrorize them have been reported by numerous foreign correspondents from Srinagar.

The Frankfurter Allgemeine published a dispatch on 10 October by its Foreign Editor, Klaus Natorp from Srinagar, stating:

"This weekend serious disturbances have taken place in the capital of Kashmir. Ten thousand people, mainly students and pupils, have taken part in demonstrations on Saturday afternoon before Hazrat Pal mosque. During this demonstration the demand for plebiscite was repeated. After the demonstrations people came to blows with units of the police force. Police opened fire when they were hit by stones. According to reliable sources there have been twenty-two casualties in this encounter."

Klaus Natorp went on to say:

"The picture which Delhi is giving of the situation in Kashmir, at least as far as it concerns Srinagar, is completely wrong. Already before this weekend every day there were several disturbances led by pupils and students directed against Indian authorities and for plebiscite. Semi-military constabulary has repeatedly dispersed demonstrators by force. During these activities many persons have been wounded since police were very brutal. At least 30,000 policemen and soldiers have turned Srinagar into a huge army camp. All Muslim shops have been closed. Also taxi and bus drivers are on strike. About 400 people have been arrested in all, among them are many students. In spite of the curfew many incidents are reported in the night. Last few nights several houses were burnt down."

The BBC correspondent in Srinagar, Ivor Jones, reported on 11 October:

"Students and general public are still demonstrating for plebiscite in Kashmir and to crush this Indian forces are indulging in acts of arson and terrorism."

Rawle Knox, Delhi correspondent to the Daily Telegraph in a dispatch published on 12 October, said:

"Resentment and hatred is growing against the Indian army in Kashmir as it is burning houses of these persons who are charged with helping and hiding guerrillas."

The New York Times correspondent in New Delhi reporting the flare-up following the arrest of Mir Waiz Farooq, President of the Awami Action Committee, Mufti Bashiruddin, Secretary-General of the Committee, Maulvi Mushtaq, a member of the Committee, Munshi Ishaq, Acting President of the Plebiscite Front, and Maulvi Abbas, a member of the Holy Relic Action Committee stated that the "Awami Action Committee, Plebiscite Front and Holy Relic Action Committee are among the groups that have led the agitation for a vote by Kashmiris on Kashmir's future." The same correspondent reporting from Srinagar in a dispatch published in The New York Times of 13 October reports what was described by a Kashmiri leader, Maulana Masoodi, as "the slaughter of innocents" when the Indian police authorities

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opened fire on young students killing three boys. The New York Times of 14 October had a poignant tale to tell about how the young girls of Kashmir are joining their brothers in keeping up the fight against Indian oppression. The same correspondent had this to say in a dispatch which appeared in the paper's issue of 16 October:

"A tight curfew keeps people behind their doors at night and, in some areas of the city, during most of the day, too.

"And everywhere you turn - on street corners, on bridges, on the polo ground and in the botanical gardens - there are armed police and soldiers.

"Soldiers with rifles and sten guns rumble through the streets all day in jeeps and trucks. Check posts have been set up at all major entrances to the city.

"The Indian guns and lathis are now needed to control Srinagar's own people, many of whom are now openly anti-Indian."

The students have continued to take out protest processions in spite of the curfew imposed by the Indian occupation authorities. Their slogans have been "Quit Kashmir", "We Want Plebiscite", "Release Shaikh Abdullah", and "Death to Indian Imperialism".

4. In the month of August, Indian troops burnt down the town of Mandi and twelve villages adjoining it, including Azamabad, Mahar Kot and Bedar Balnoi in the Poonch district. Three families of Muslims in village Bedar Balnoi were burnt alive in their houses and many Muslims were shot down by Indian soldiers in cold blood in the presence of their families. Several girls were also abducted in the same village. Similar atrocities were committed in villages in Muzaffarabad, Fawal Kot and Mirpur Sectors.

The entire Batamaloo suburb of Srinagar inhabited by Muslims was set on fire and razed to the ground. Many Muslims were burnt alive in this suburb by the Indian Army. The burning of Batamaloo and other Muslim villages was reported by Richard Critchfield, correspondent of the Washington Star in that paper's issue of 1 September 1965.

The Pakistan Army authorities intercepted messages of the Indian Army regarding orders issued to local commanders to massacre the civilian population in villages along the cease-fire line. One battalion was solely in charge of burning villages in the Rajauri sector.

Miss Mridula Sarabhai, a well known Indian social worker, has testified that in the guise of taking action against the so-called "infiltrators" the Indian army had turned upon the entire Muslim population in Kashmir and perpetrated untold atrocities on them.

5. As a result of the atrocities committed by the Indian occupation army thousands upon thousands of Muslims have been forced to flee from the occupied territory and seek sanctuary in Azad Kashmir and in adjoining areas of West Pakistan. Since 9 August, 20,000 Muslims from occupied Poonch, whose houses were looted and burnt, have crossed over to Azad Kashmir. Altogether about 75,000 Kashmiris have so far sought refuge in Azad Kashmir. About 1,500 refugees are being driven across daily from the Indian occupied areas of the State into Azad Kashmir. Having failed to subdue the people of Kashmir the Indian forces have now stepped up their campaign of burning down Muslim villages. Extremists Hindu organizations like the Jan Sang and Mahasabha are supplying "goondas" (ruffians) who are being armed by the authorities to carry out their rapacious designs. It is clear that India is following a well-planned and premeditated programme to eliminate as many Muslims as possible in occupied Kashmir.

6. A correspondent of the Newsweek magazine, Everett D. Martin, made a tour of camps for refugees from Indian-held Kashmir. The magazine's issue of 11 October 1965 had this to say about Martin's tour: "There, Martin reported, he heard tale after tale of Indian atrocities against Moslems in Kashmir. 'I talked to people at random', Martin cabled, 'and they all told stories of India's butchering Moslem families, burning down villages, raping and torturing villagers. A ten-year-old girl told me she saw her parents shot. One woman, sobbing and hysterical, said her small children were cut into pieces and her husband taken away when Indian troops attacked her village.'"

7. The present campaign of repression is just a continuation of the reign of terror let loose by the Indian occupation authorities after 9 August 1965 in a vain effort to break the spirit of the valiant people of the State and crush their struggle to secure their right of self-determination as pledged to them by India, Pakistan and the United Nations. As the events of the past week have shown the Kashmiri people have not been and will never be reconciled to India's oppressive rule, however much she may try to use the brutal force of her armies through acts of arson, murder and terrorism.

8. The Government of Pakistan cannot remain indifferent to the continuation of this reign of terror in the State of Jammu and Kashmir on the part of the Indian occupation authorities. The United Nations must realize that it is the duty of the organization to make India abandon a course of action which is against the basic principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations as well as in the Human Rights Charter. If India persists in continuing these atrocities against the innocent people of Kashmir then the consequences will be of India's own seeking and she will be entirely responsible for them.

9. I shall be grateful if this letter is circulated as a Security Council document and effective steps are taken by the Council to stop the Indians from continuing these acts of genocide in Jammu and Kashmir. In the meanwhile, the Secretary-General of the United Nations may be requested to send immediately his personal representative to visit the affected areas in Indian-occupied Kashmir and gather first hand account of these atrocities and to visit refugee camps in Azad Kashmir.

Please accept, etc.

(Signed) Syed Amjad ALI
Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary
Permanent Representative of Pakistan
to the United Nations
