

Nid 84-104JX

5/03/84

**INDIA: Religious Tensions in Punjab**

██████████ the sympathy of the largely Sikh state police force for the Sikh dissidents in Punjab is complicating New Delhi's efforts to control the insurgency. On Monday, New Delhi announced the formation of a special paramilitary task force to combat Sikh terrorism in three Punjab districts bordering Pakistan. ██████████

**Comment:** The confrontation between Hindus and the state police underscores the spread of Hindu-Sikh tensions to security forces in Punjab. Hindus are increasingly looking to the predominantly Hindu paramilitary units deployed by New Delhi for protection, while the Sikhs are demanding the withdrawal of these units. Prime Minister Gandhi's decision to increase the paramilitary presence in Punjab demonstrates her concern about the deteriorating security situation there and suggests she is skeptical of the short-term prospects for a negotiated settlement with the Sikhs. ██████████