

NID 85-031JX

INDIA-PAKISTAN: Major Military Exercises

Large Indian Army field training exercises in northwestern India are provoking protests by Pakistan. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Pakistan is expressing concern about the size of the deployments, the participation of major engineering units, and New Delhi's failure to give advance notification of the exercises. An Indian spokesman yesterday called the latest Pakistani objections baseless, insisting that India has not broken its agreement to inform Islamabad about special troop movements.

Comment: The exercises are the largest training maneuvers since 1983. The large number of armored, mechanized infantry, assault engineering, and bridging units involved underscores the Army's growing offensive capability. [REDACTED]

New Delhi's failure to notify Islamabad before the exercises is a break with its past practice. It will sharpen Pakistani suspicions about Indian intentions and about the sincerity of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's stated desire to improve relations. Islamabad's decision to make an issue of the matter follows earlier efforts to get the US and other Western countries to persuade India to provide the usual notification.

[REDACTED]