

~~TOP SECRET~~

A N N E X

28 March 1950

INCREASED TENSION BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Tension between India and Pakistan has increased seriously during the past few days. In India, [redacted] press, public, and government feeling regarding the safety of the Hindu minority in East Bengal continues to run high [redacted]

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[redacted] The recent buildup of Indian Army troops and supplies near Pakistan's West Punjab border has led the Pakistan Government to urgently request the US, the UK, Canada, and Australia to counsel India to move its troops back from the frontier; and Pakistan Army leaders feel that they should have already countered India's military buildup by strengthening their own border forces.

Although the situation will undoubtedly remain explosive, there is some possibility that friction at the highest level between India and Pakistan might be lessened through a meeting of the two prime ministers; the US has strongly suggested to both governments that such a meeting is of "prime importance."

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[redacted] Although the two prime ministers are likely to have some difficulty in reaching agreement on the time and place, such a meeting may take place and could lead to a top level understanding on methods for reducing the present critical tensions between the peoples in the two countries.

State Dept. review completed

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