

# THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

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## Kashmir in Pain; People Call for Peace



The delegate of Slovakia (center) from Security Council 1 giving a speech on how they should demilitarize the area

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By Arthur Ong

**SINGAPORE** - The Kashmir Conflict is an issue which has plagued the world for more than 7 decades. Not only has this complex problem caused the bilateral relations between India and Pakistan to turn sour, it also brought about many humanitarian problems. The territorial dispute in Kashmir has led to conflicts, such as the Indo - Pakistani War.

Though violence in the region has been comparatively reduced in recent times, the dispute remains highly contentious and is a significant impediment in the improvement of bilateral ties between India and Pakistan.

However, the issue is still unresolved, and tensions have come close to boiling over multiple times. Thus, the United Nations Security Council (SC1) has called for a debate on the best course of action to solve this conflict, preventing further fighting and humanitarian problems.

Nations from around the world, such as Germany, Singapore, China, Slovakia, India, Pakistan and more has gathered for a summit on this issue. Through their speeches and discussions during unmoderated caucuses, they have come together to discuss their views.

The delegate of India is unwavering in his view. The delegate thinks that India is the rightful owner of Kashmir, where the conflict should be resolved by gaining the territory of Kashmir (including Adlai Chin).

The delegate of India seeks to increase tensions with Pakistan if India's demands are not met, and a consensus is not reached soon. The only solution the delegate of India approves of is the complete annexation of the area of Kashmir into the Indian territory.

The delegate of Pakistan argues that although the dispute has been going on since 1947, the rightful owner of the area of Kashmir is to Pakistan. The delegate of Pakistan says that the state of Kashmir falls under Pakistan according to British causes when they left the area.

The delegate of Pakistan seeks to solve this issue peacefully and want Kashmiris to voice out their opinion on this issue. The delegate of Pakistan wants to follow the general opinion of the Kashmiris, which is likely to be an independent state of Kashmir, governed by neither India nor Pakistan.

While the delegate of Germany thinks it is important that the conflict is resolved, the delegate strongly feels that it is of utmost importance that humanitarian aid is provided to the people trapped in this deadly conflict first, some of which are forced to undergo torture, resulting in over 70,000 civilian fatalities since 1989.

Therefore, in order to provide aid to those the people of Kashmir efficiently, Germany is proposing a UN led Financial Assist for Restoration Tactics (UNFART). The delegate of Germany urges the delegates of other countries to support the cause, to provide a better life to people in the Kashmir.

Through many hours of debate and discussion, a general resolution was made. This resolution was to demilitarize the area around the Kashmir conflict, thus reducing the chances of further conflict due to the restriction of military presence. The demilitarization zone is to be 10000 km<sup>2</sup>. India would be allowed to keep troops as well as small artillery forces to deal with insurgency and terrorists in that area.

A Confidence Unit (CU) is to be built, as to build trust between India, Pakistan and Kashmir. This building would facilitate peace talks and improve trade relations between India and Pakistan, which would reduce the chance of conflict in the future. All in all, the bilateral ties between India and Pakistan would be improved as a result of the increased cooperation. Humanitarian aid is also to be sent in, by creating a buffer zone in the Kashmiri valley.

Altogether, the delegates hope that this would improve the economies of both India and Pakistan, leveraging on the fact that tourism would be a major source of income once both countries have made peace.