

A few days back, we were attacked by Pakistan in the Rann of Kutch. We faced the attack adequately. We had made it clear that unless Pakistan withdrew from Kutch completely, there would be no talks. This has been achieved. Pakistan has withdrawn from Kutch. She has no troops, no police and no posts in Kutch. India has complete civil control over the territory. An Agreement to this effect was signed. India accepted the Agreement as she was not in favour of disturbance of peace in any part of the world.

Even while we were negotiating about the implementation of this agreement. Pakistan invaded Kashmir. I use the word invasion deliberately. It is absurd to say that civilian raiders have infiltrated into Kashmir from the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Pakistan must bear full responsibility for the attack. Pakistan had banked upon an internal revolt in the wake of that attack. Pakistan intends to step up trouble in Kashmir. Under the circumstances, there is absolutely no scope for talks. We cannot even think of that. We want peace in Kashmir. But when we are attacked, it becomes the responsibility of the Government to meet force with force.

The people of Kashmir are facing the situation courageously. The Muslims, Hindus and Sikhs of Kashmir have stood up against the raiders unitedly. They are determined to throw out the raiders. The Kashmir Government headed by Shri G.M. Sadiq has handled the situation with courage. I congratulate the Kashmir Government and my brothers and sisters in Kashmir for their valour. On behalf of you all, I assure them that the nation stands solidly behind them, and our entire strength and resources are with them. We will throw out each one of the raiders. Our armed forces and our police are defending the border with courage. We are grateful to them.

A great responsibility rests on us. We must sink our differences. There is no place for agitations, hartals and movements. We have to march forward unitedly in order to remove the threat to our territorial integrity. If there are disturbances in the country, how can we defend our borders with single-minded devotion? We should eschew communalism and casteism.

What is happening in Kashmir might not end in a matter of days. It is

not as if the raiders would withdraw in a day or two. It is difficult to say how long this threat would last. Pakistan intended to annex Kashmir by force and it is likely that she would make it a prestige issue. We have our national self-respect too; we have certain responsibilities to discharge. I want to state categorically that Pakistan will not be allowed to take even an inch of our territory in Kashmir.

I am confident that every Indian will heed my appeal for unity and peace. We have to defend our borders and defeat the designs of those who cast an evil eye on us. The honour of the flag under which we stand today has to be upheld. We may perish, but we will not allow the honour of our flag to be sullied. India will continue to progress and prosper.