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Policy Memo One: US Response to Jammu and Kashmir 2019 Incident

(724 Words)

Summary

The insurgence in the Jammu and Kashmir region has sparked tension between Pakistan and Indian. Our goal should be to ensure the US's interests by supporting India's claim as they are our most reliable ally in the region. The Jammu and Kashmir region has been a subject of dispute between Pakistan, India, and China. Among the three, India is the easiest nation we can influence; therefore, we believe that we will achieve the best outcome by steering the situation into India's favor. Prospective policy options that will aid our goal include; direct military support of India's operation, declaring the support of India's claim, offer to install a THAAD missile defense system under US command, or reducing the incident's exposure in the international community. Among these, the best option would be to reduce the incident's exposure in the international community. India has the dominant control of the region, and such control may grow expeditiously without foreign intervention. India is a strong strategic ally of the US, and her power growth will contribute to the longevity of the US hegemony.

Background

On February 14, 2019, 42 Indian forces were killed in a suicide attack in the southern part of India-administered Kashmir(AlJezeera). The major disagreement between Pakistan and India led to skirmishes of airstrikes and deadly

shelling(NYTIMES).On August 6, 2019, the President of India overwrote article 370, stripping the Jammu and Kashmir region's special status, allowing India to consolidate control(BBC). The revocation triggered a wave of concern regarding India's ownership over the disputed region, and both the EU and the US voiced the importance of stability. Two weeks after the revocation, Pakistan announced the plan to seek justice in the International Court over India's decision(AP NEWS).

Analysis

The Jammu and Kashmir region has long been contested territory, and expecting a peaceful outcome would be unrealistic. By the nature of the security dilemma, we are incentivized to support our allies and prevent our political adversaries from claiming the region(Jervis). Comparing the three nations that formed the dispute, the US has far more military cooperation with India(Forbes); therefore, supporting India would allow further development and reinforcement of the US' current hegemonic status.

Option One: Direct military support to ensure the region stays under India's control. The military action from the US will likely affect our NATO allies, which would emerge into a massive force that overwhelms any state or non-state actors in the region. However, the revocation of article 370 is exceptionally controversial; a US military support of such a claim may undermine our image of democracy.

Option Two: Declaring our support for India's control over the region by recognizing India's claim. The statement will attract attention from the international community, potentially escalating the tension. The rising pressure may push India to

look for an additional security plan, giving us a ground for negotiating with India, future firearm sales, and establishing our overseas military base.

Option Three: Offer to install a THAAD missile defense system under US command. The system will provide a significant boost to India's security, giving both India and the US a new layer of control over the whole region. However, the other two challengers - Pakistan and China- can be provoked by this deployment; consequently, transfer the region's pressure to us.

Option Four: Reducing the international exposure of the incident. As long as we show no political involvement of the region, the larger portion of the media will deem it not worth reporting. India is already in a dominant position, and the situation will change when foreign influences start to get involved. Our administration would be helping India by not turning the spotlight towards this issue.

Recommendation

India is a crucial part of our grand strategy since we have more influence over India than Pakistan and China. Our goal is to secure our interests in this incident, and we believe our best course of action would be to reduce the international exposure of the event. To achieve our goal, we would like to see the region capitulating to India. India is already dictating the situation, and by avoiding the incident, we are effectively giving India the time to consolidate its power over the region. Helping India secure dominance over the region will indirectly enable us to strengthen our power projection in the area, which is crucial in maintaining our hegemonic status in the world.

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