

ARMS UNITY SEEN IN INDIA, PAKISTAN

Governor General in Karachi
Says That Kashmir Is Only
Issue Dividing Dominions

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KARACHI, Pakistan, April 21—Joint defense arrangements between India and Pakistan are foreseen by Khwaja Nazimuddin, Governor General of Pakistan. When these would develop, he said in an interview today, would depend upon factors now at issue between the two Dominions and perhaps also upon external considerations.

"A joint defense plan is a possibility when relations between India and Pakistan improve, or it may develop as necessity may compel," the Governor General said.

The implication of this remark is clear from the context of the question, in which it was suggested that an invader striking at Pakistan would hardly be doing so for the purpose of stopping here but would undoubtedly wish to control the entire subcontinent and the strategic waters that the huge peninsula dominates.

High officials of the Indian Defense Ministry, interviewed in New Delhi recently, also envisaged Indian-Pakistani joint defense arrangements sometime in the future but thought that the present moment was "premature."

Kashmir the Only Bar

Mr. Nazimuddin declared that, in his opinion, the question of Kashmir, which is to be settled by United Nations plebiscite on which Dominion that Princely State will join, is the only bar to the most cordial relations between the two countries that share the strategic subcontinent.

"If there were no Kashmiri problem there would be nothing in the way of extremely good relations," he said. "In fact, the two Dominions are so interlinked that they have no option but the best of relations."

While declining to comment upon Pakistan's attitude toward the British Commonwealth because of the delicacy of the negotiations now going on in London relative to India's becoming a republic in August, Mr. Nazimuddin said that he could not see that breaking away from the Commonwealth—if that occurred—need adversely affect the closeness of India's ties with Pakistan.

The Governor General called attention to the "fortunate" financial position of Pakistan. He added:

"I do not see how the Moslems of Kashmir can vote to join India when they now see that they will be no better off financially with India than they would be with Pakistan. India has been a good market for Kashmiri products but now we can export these from here and Kashmiri products reach Karachi by a far easier route."

River System Is Vital

He stated also that the Jhelum River system and canals, flowing from Kashmir into Pakistan, were vital to this Dominion. He would not like to see their headwaters controlled by another country.

Pakistan's second Governor General comes from Eastern Pakistan, a territory separated from Western Pakistan by more than 1,000 miles in Indian possession. The development of Dacca, capital of the rich

jute-growing East Bengal province of Chittagong, its port on the Bay of Bengal, may shortly be augmented by a new river port near the capital, he said.

Besides East Bengal's physical separation from Western Pakistan, the area has peculiar problems of a large religious minority—12,500,000 Hindus—communism and traditionally fractious other elements in the population, the Governor General said.

The religious minorities, he thought, were being persuaded now that their rights would be fully protected. But there remain the terrorists—"East Bengal is a nursery of terrorism," Mr. Nazimuddin said—who once devoted their energies to sabotaging the British. Now the Communists are drawing upon this native talent for making trouble, he added.

Commenting upon the trend in Pakistan to make this Dominion an "Islamic state," Mr. Nazimuddin declared that while Islamic law "would certainly apply to the Moslems as far as they were concerned," it was the Islamic principles of a way of life and not the Islamic law concerned with the devotional side that would apply to others.

These principles, briefly stated, are democracy and equality for all. Mr. Nazimuddin agreed with other progressive Moslems here that the term "Islamic state" was often misinterpreted abroad. Actually, these Moslems declare, to call Pakistan an "Islamic state" has about the same significance as to say that the United States is a "Christian state."

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