

# Space Lusitania: India and Pakistan

Move 3 India Team Briefing

June 15, 2023

# What might be the best way to de-escalate the conflict? Who should take the lead in doing what toward this end?

- Immediate response
  - U.S. as an intermediary, using their diplomatic ties with both India and Pakistan to communicate and prevent further escalation, leveraging all available channels, including the United Nations, to address this matter
  - Since the Indian response was proportionate and the US had a converging stance with India, they are well placed to negotiate a stand-down
- Assurance of non-aggression
  - Explicit, public statements asserting that India will not use nuclear weapons, considering Pakistan's refusal to retain a no-first-use policy and India's deterrence-only stance
- Cooperative defense
  - India's take the lead terrestrially to respond to the domestic audience
  - US taking the lead in the space domain, which will serve to discourage further action from China

# What might be the best way to de-escalate the conflict? Who should take the lead in doing what toward this end?

- UN Security Council involvement
  - Having the US and the international community declare the attack a threat to India's territorial integrity can provide a diplomatic backing to India's defensive measures, and might deter further aggression
- Investigation and legal action
  - If Pakistan indeed lost control of one of its terrorist groups, which resulted in the attack, this should be investigated by an independent, objective third party, such as the UN or an international court
- Long-term diplomacy
  - Takes more time than the game allowed but should be pursued

# What would be the optimal state of relations between the U.S. and India before the conflict? What is the best way to achieve this optimal state?

- Strategic convergence
  - India should have aligned itself more strongly with the U.S. and other democratic allies, emphasizing the shared risks of instability in the Indo-Pacific region
- Enhancing intelligence sharing
  - Both nations should establish a robust intelligence sharing agreement, akin to the Five Eyes network
- Multilateral institutional relationships to facilitate a closer partnership
  - Including collaborative wargame exercises and simulations involving dual-use satellite capabilities
  - Increase joint interoperability, intelligence sharing, and trust
  - Forums such as the Quad
- Space and commercial agreements
  - U.S. and India should revise ITAR to ease restrictions to allow for greater technological collaboration
  - Take advantage of the unclassified nature of commercial space intelligence can streamline cooperation; agreements should be made to allow India access to this information

# What would be the optimal state of relations between the U.S. and Pakistan before the conflict? What is the best way to achieve this optimal state?

- Robust Bilateral Diplomatic Channels
- Military and Intelligence Partnerships
  - Specific offices within both countries' military and intelligence communities should establish direct ties with their counterparts to facilitate communication and coordination
  - Essential for mutual understanding, trust, and cooperation
- On-Ground Communication
  - Defense attaches can provide real-time, on-ground insights and maintain direct communication between the two countries
- Rapid De-Escalation Mechanisms
  - With U.S. diplomatic influence, the U.S. can lead in the case the Pakistani military and ISI were caught off guard
- Crisis Communication
  - The U.S. could play a significant role in establishing direct lines of communication between Pakistan and India to prevent a nuclear fallout in South Asia
- Addressing Kashmir
  - U.S. can play a mediating role, acknowledging Pakistan's concerns while also steering conversations towards de-escalation and addressing the immediate crisis
- Counter-Terrorism Cooperation

# What are the benefits and the risks of tilting U.S. relations towards either Pakistan or India?

- Risks
  - Ostracizing or isolating the other
  - Loss of influence – if Pakistan sees the US tilting toward India, Pakistan will not be as open to consulting or listening to the US. If India sees the US tilting toward Pakistan, they will take unilateral action.
  - If the US tilts toward Pakistan, Pakistan could play both sides – utilizing the benefits of working with the US and China. If you tilt toward India, you don't have that same risk with China because of the India-China relationship.
  - It could push Pakistan (if seeing a tilt toward India) toward China, and India toward Russia
- Benefits
  - If Pakistan sees the US tilting toward them, they would be much more willing to open dialog immediately with the US as a trusted broker. Pakistan would know that the US would pressure India not to do conventional strikes, and would de-escalate the crisis. The US, as it did in the Cargill conflict, become a mechanism for dialog.
  - If US tilts toward India, India would consult the US before taking any escalatory decisions on military operations. India would confirm with the US about who would take which action. India would trust the US to respond to the Chinese aggression in space toward the US-India constellation. India would restrain itself, knowing that the US has its back.

# Should any of the teams have shared more information, officially, earlier in the game?

- Pakistan's response inadvertently led to an Indian escalation because Pakistan was constantly targeting India as the "red herring" while refusing to share any raw intelligence.
  - Human casualties raise the stakes. This is a time you would expect Pakistan to state it was not responsible for those deaths and that it regretted the attack.
  - Pakistan's "pearl-clutching," claiming that India was causing a threat to international peace and security because of its dazzling of the Chinese satellite, without responding to the actual death and destruction.
  - It was only at the very end of the game that Pakistan stated that it was investigating and taking in Genera Khan for interrogation, only after India had launched its cruise missiles.
- The U.S. was slow to share information
  - The U.S. initially said nothing at all and then decided that the tactic was to flood with a whole lot of public information.

# Should any of the teams have shared more information, officially, earlier in the game?

- Complete breakdown of any kind of communication with China
  - Did Pakistan have access to U.S. intelligence on the ground to share information about its dialog with China
  - Had India known that Pakistan was trying to get China to exercise restraint, it would have changed the dynamic with India – India thought this was a Chinese-Pakistani collaboration. This is why India moved its aircraft close to the border.
- India should have gotten on the same page with the United States earlier in the conflict
  - We simply ran out of time in crafting our response – we had a laundry list of things to do to respond
  - This created a constraint in collaborating with the U.S.
  - India could have reached out to other allies and multilateral groups – when you isolate a country and force them up against the wall, you get this escalation. When you feel you are part of a group of multilateral allies you are less likely to escalate.
- Sharing of information from the commercial parties was really powerful. Would there have been any other commercial entities that could have served as another communication channel.
  - What would the role of commercial operators who have a strong interest in maintaining the space environment be in de-escalating to protect the space environment – their interests are at stake.



# What treaties, national laws, and international political understandings, if any, should nations be held to regarding how non-state actors might be able to access commercial, dual-use satellite services?

- Article VI of the OST and the Liability Convention state that nations are responsible for what occurs within their state – this requires strong domestic governance and control within a state’s borders.
  - If it is a nongovernmental entity – a rogue actor is a gray zone. There needs to be much more development in this area.
  - Launching state is generally seen as the responsible party for multinational corporations
- There are various high-level, multilateral discussions taking place. The responsible behavior agreements are not going to happen overnight.
- Broadening existing political alliances
  - The work being done in the UN about the responsible uses of space – this applies to states and how states regulate activities on their territories
- CSpO – A defense partnership among the US, Australia, Canada, UK, France, Germany and New Zealand - do we expand out this sort of military alliances and needs to be grown.

Extra slides

# What would be the optimal state of relations between the U.S. and Pakistan before the conflict? What is the best way to achieve this optimal state?

- Need to leverage the U.S.-Pakistani diplomatic channels – bilateral military and intelligence sharing agreements and partnerships
  - Specific offices within the military and IC that would have some relationship with their counterpart in Pakistan and they would be in communication with each other.
  - Defense attaches in country would provide communication on the ground
- This would allow the U.S. to be a lead in the case that the Pakistani military and ISI were caught off guard. This would have allowed us to de-escalate more quickly.
- If Pakistan's ISI and military were really unaware of these , the first step would have been to reach out to India RAW intelligence and the U.S. would play a very significant role. U.S. biggest concern is to have nuclear fallout in South Asia.
- In the game, the Pakistani government did not know if it was a terrorist attack. If they had been unaware, they would have been asking around to those knowledgeable of these terrorist groups.
- Pakistan, instead of stating that they were unaware of the terrorist attack, kept bringing up Kashmir

# What would be the optimal state of relations between the U.S. and India before the conflict? What is the best way to achieve this optimal state?

- Do we need an agreement, under the National Defense Authorization Act - that goes beyond the GNSS system (PNT and timing signal)? If we replace India with the United Kingdom, would the US have been more forthcoming with intelligence?
  - In the game, the US was reticent to share intel and the intel came through Hawkeye and Planet, who released it to CNN
  - One benefit the U.S. has with the commercial space aspect, is that all that information and everything the companies are doing is unclassified, so they don't have to go through declassification – making life a lot easier on the US Government.
- The U.S. appeared hesitant to cooperate with India after it dazzled the Chinese satellite, but after China permanently damage the Maxar satellite, they were much more willing to collaborate.
- While India and U.S. have many joint statements and rhetoric about being democracies and coming together, there are no real institutional mechanisms to put these partnerships in place.
  - Had the U.S. and India conducted some wargame or tabletop exercise with satellites that had dual-use capability, it may have put them in a better position to respond
  - This would also bring about joint interoperability and intel sharing.
  - We need to identify the institutions with India and the U.S. that could do this:
    - Diplomatic – State Department
    - Indian Defense Space Agency and US Space Force (as well as the other services)
    - There is absolute possibility of this type of tabletop