

Space Lusitania: India and Pakistan

Move 1 U.S. Team Briefing

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What is your team's preferred end state for this crisis?

- De-escalation – no nuclear war
 - Facilitate dialogue between India and Pakistan
- Preventing an escalation through a conventional war – no invasions
- Want to create space between the Pakistani state and malefactors
- Undermine the trust of the world in China's willingness of being a good actor and constrain their ability to find collaborators and customers for their space systems
- Avoid PRC counter-space activity against US-MAXXAR constellation AND avoid being drawn into a space war with China
- Not set a precedent to use satellite systems for terrorist attacks
 - Holding someone responsible for terrorist activity
 - Reinforce the state's responsibility to ensure their systems are not being used for terrorist activity

What information does your team need from other teams?

- Useful, actionable intelligence – there was concern over harming our HUMINT asset if we acted on the intelligence that we already have
- Pakistan holding their terrorists responsible
- Need a clear explanation of China's intentions
- What are India's plans to respond if any further aggression comes out of Pakistan at this time?

What information can your team provide to other teams?

- Advance in a threat warning to the Indians of a ground-based and in-space attack against their assets

What actions does your team need to take?

- Need to be ready to counter Chinese actions – make preparations
 - Minority view:
 - The US WOULD posture as follows: 1) There would be active 24 ops center observation of the PRC co-orbital assets at both the USSPACECOM/USSF Operational Centers, the National Space Defense Center (NSDC) and Combined Space Operations Center (CSPOC), and the new Space Information Sharing and Analysis Center (S-ISAC).
 - 2) MAXXAR would be involved through the USSPACECOM Commercial Integration Cell and CSPOC commercial Cell, and S-ISAC.
 - 3) Because of the potential national security interests of the MAXXAR-hosted payload or SDA information coming off of it, it very likely would be seen as having national security interests, and the US would not want it denied or see it fall into PRC hands (via Co-orbital removal)
 - 4) The US might consider it preferable to intercept and prevent the PRC counter space efforts against the joint venture (which would just frustrate and not create debris) rather than risk an Indian DA-ASAT which would cause substantial debris and threaten US satellites
 - 5) Thus, the US would develop options for: its own counter space bodyguards (if it had them); Electronic warfare to interfere with uplinks, a Dazzling to interfere with RPO sensors, or a cyber ability to prevent successful command and control
 - 6) The US might consider it in its own legitimate self-defense to prevent a nuclear war, and peaceful use of space assets to prevent any future use of the Pakistani constellation to facilitate a terrorist attack on India.
- A line needs to be drawn and action needs to be taken to prevent China from continuing (i.e., India apologizing).
- The U.S. initiating multi-lateral dialogue between Pakistan, India, and the U.S.
- Communication and coordination with India and Maxar on the developing situation with those satellites

What legal arguments can India make that China's "support" of the attack was an act of war; on what basis could China claim the same of India's dazzling of its satellite?

- **For the first question:** India can claim that both China and Pakistan are responsible under the Outer Space Treaty – Pakistan would be liable under the liability convention
- **For the second question:** China could claim that it was harmful interference under Outer Space Treaty

Are there other legal contentions any of the teams need to anticipate or be prepared to make?

- Something related to state-sponsored terrorism