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NSC BRIEFING

29 April 1954

THE COLOMBO CONFERENCE

- I. Background: Conference five South Asian prime ministers (Ceylon, India, Pakistan, Burma, Indonesia) opened Colombo 28 April. No fixed agenda.
- II. Opening Session Stresses Indochina:
- A. Press reports conference "accepted" only part Nehru's Indochina peace plan.
1. Immediate cease-fire.
 2. Guarantee full independence.
- B. Rejected following:
1. Direct negotiations France, Associated States, Viet Minh.
 2. Nonintervention agreement US, UK, Communist China, USSR.
- C. Agreed no action adverse to progress Geneva.
- D. New Indian draft to be presented

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III. Reported flare-up Nehru versus Mohammed

Ali (Pakistan):

- A. Mohammed Ali suggested peace Kashmir before world problems.
- B. Nehru irritated. Reported agreed discuss Kashmir if also consider US aid to Pakistan.
- C. Mohammed Ali likely needle Nehru further Kashmir. Talks might break down into mutual accusation session Pakistan vs. India, due Nehru's sensitivity this subject.

IV. Indonesia: Reported suggest recognition Communist China which Nehru opposed. Will also call for more inclusive conference Asian-African states.

V. Probable Results:

- A. No agreement likely detailed plans action re Indochina.
- B. Revival Nehru-Ali feud could break down conference.

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- C. But more probable broadly worded resolution Indochina, hitting "colonialism," urging quick peace. Such result would save appearances, important all concerned.
- D. Overall result could be major diplomatic defeat Nehru, if Pakistan and Ceylon hold firm anti-Communist line.

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