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 EO 12356, Sec. 1.3 (e) (  
 FROH/DR by TD 10 / 17 / 94  
 Withdrawal No. 273-76

2. NEHRU DISTURBED OVER POSSIBLE CONSEQUENCES  
 OF HIS KASHMIR POLICY

US Cons Gen  
 Madras  
 4 Feb 57  
 SECRET

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Indian prime minister Nehru is at his "wit's end" as to what to do about Kashmir, according to elder statesman Rajagopalachari. Nehru is fully aware, as is Rajagopalachari, that a plebiscite there would go against India.

Nehru will continue to argue that Kashmir has belonged to India since 1947 and that the UN has no competence to probe into a nation's internal affairs. He fears, however, that such a stand will compromise his own moral position and that Indian refusal to accept the Security Council resolution of 24 January will damage the authority of the UN.

Nehru is said to fear Pakistan border raids which may eventually involve the Pakistani armed forces and end in war, and to feel that President Eisenhower is "our one hope of restraining the Pakistanis."

Comment Nehru's reported attitude probably reflects a recognition that his position on Kashmir is seriously threatened for the first time

Since the UN last considered the case in 1952, India's prestige has risen and Nehru feels particularly sensitive to attack on moral grounds. He may also feel that the capability of the United Nations to deal with such problems as Kashmir has increased. If Pakistan withdrew its troops from Kashmir--removing India's strongest objection to holding a plebiscite--New Delhi would have only the dubious legality of the Maharajah's accession in 1947 on which to lean. The 10-0 vote in the Security Council on 24 January may have convinced Nehru that this argument will be received unsympathetically.

*✓ x*