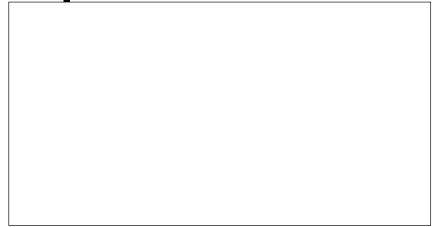




Director of
Central
Intelligence

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National Intelligence Daily

Monday
9 February 1987

K/S



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Abbreviations for compartmented codewords are:
M - MORAY S - SPOKE U - UMBRA
R - RUFF Z - ZARF G - GAMMA

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NR Record

Special Analyses

India-Pakistan: Force Levels, Tensions Remain High 10



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Special Analysis

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INDIA-PAKISTAN: Force Levels, Tensions Remain High

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The agreement this week to reduce forces in the border area is likely, if implemented by both sides, to reduce tensions and to provide the basis for continuing efforts to defuse the current situation. New Delhi appears determined to follow through with the Brass Tacks IV exercise, however, which is scheduled to continue until April, and each side is almost certain to retain a higher-than-normal military presence in sensitive border areas at least until the exercising forces return to garrison.



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So far, both sides have deployed forces to provide defense against a sudden attack by the other. With the juxtaposition of heavily armed regular Army forces, a shooting incident could escalate quickly to more intense fighting, which could involve major forces on each side. Both countries appear prepared for a localized border conflict now.



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Although India and Pakistan have taken steps to increase their overall military preparedness, particularly in the immediate border area, neither has taken the steps it would consider necessary for offensive action. Forces in the immediate border area are primarily infantry divisions, not the armored or mechanized units that both sides would rely on to press a major assault.



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India, if unconstrained by efforts to conceal the transition to a war footing, would be prepared to launch a major invasion of Pakistan and to bring the country to a war footing in 48 to 72 hours. Islamabad could achieve similar preparedness in 48 hours.



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Ground Forces



India now has some 160,000 men and 600 tanks in position near the border. These forces are backed up by the cream of the Indian Army—including 100,000 troops and 1,100 tanks—in the desert training area near the border but out of position to support an invasion of Pakistan. Islamabad considers these armored and mechanized forces to be the greatest threat, and their movement out of the training area probably would be seen as unambiguous evidence that India was preparing to invade



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Pakistan has some 145,000 troops and 850 tanks near the border, including its two armored divisions held in strategic reserve opposite Kashmir and Punjab. Islamabad considers these two divisions as necessary to counter any Indian



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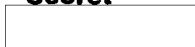
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Warning Indicators

Indicator	Pakistan	India
Armor and mechanized forces move to preinvasion positions.	Both armored divisions field deployed; one to return to garrison.	Strike corps remain in desert training areas.
Air Forces would fly to dispersal fields and stand down to conserve fuel and spare parts.	Pakistan planning countrywide exercise this month.	Tactical training continues; SAMs deployed to most airfields.
Navies would depart for the Arabian Sea.	Fleet at Karachi.	Most warships in port; amphibious force on east coast.
Ammunition depots show heightened activity.	No significant activity.	Minor activity at two border munitions depots.
Civilian assets mobilized, such as trucks, rail, and hospitals.	No significant activity.	Some civilian trucks being used for exercises; military rail traffic given priority.
Stepped-up propaganda; hostile statements by senior officials.	Public officials making conciliatory statements.	Press beginning to question Gandhi's crisis management style.

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[Redacted]

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breakthrough: New Delhi sees them as the primary Pakistani invasion forces [Redacted]

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Air and Naval Forces

The Air Forces of both sides—already among their most combat-ready units in peacetime—have further increased their readiness.

[Redacted]

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Both Air Forces could undertake major operations or support ground combat with little warning [Redacted]

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Navies have not traditionally played a major part in Indo-Pakistani wars, and current naval dispositions probably are not considered threatening by either side. Both Navies are on alert, but most ships remain in port. [Redacted]

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Continued Risks

During the initial implementation of the limited withdrawal agreement, Indian and Pakistani forces probably will continue to take additional steps to increase readiness elsewhere. The momentum of India's buildup should begin to slow next week, however. Because either side could gain a substantial advantage by cheating on the agreement, both will continue to eye each other warily; a perception of cheating could trigger new deployments and a new round of increased tensions.

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[Redacted]

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