

YUNMUN XXXI

SPECPOL 2021

UN Peacekeeping Missions: India and Pakistan

A key feature of SPECPOL is the maintenance and regulation of peacekeeping efforts that the UN conducts throughout the world. Peacekeeping in particular is delved into through SPECPOL's subcommittee, the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations. This subcommittee was created in 1965 to conduct a "comprehensive review of all issues relating to peacekeeping" and reports to SPECPOL and thereby the General Assembly regarding the state of affairs of each peacekeeping mission that is being conducted and tries to investigate if there is a continuous need for the missions in play.¹

India and Pakistan have been at odds with each other for decades, and the debate over local territory, particularly Kashmir, has been a key feature of their intense conflict. In 1947 when Britain abdicated their imperialist rule over British India, the land was split into India and Pakistan, two countries which became their own independent states on August 15th. The partition of this land has sparked many consequences, many violent, as millions of people were displaced on religious lines which created intense, long-lasting refugee crises in the two new countries. The violent nature of these two countries has continued until the present with tremendous hostility and anger on both sides; who should control Kashmir, a deeply disputed territory, is the nature of our discussion.

The dispute over Kashmir, who was free to join either of the two nations has escalated into three wars between India and Pakistan featuring several other violent conflicts as well. Kashmir's choice of India became a large dispute for decades as Pakistan opposed their accession and India opposed Pakistani violence, resulting in major territorial disputes. "In January 1948, the Security Council adopted resolution 39, establishing the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate and mediate the dispute. In April 1948, by its resolution 47, the Council decided to enlarge the membership of UNCIP and to

¹ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/role-of-general-assembly>

recommend various measures including the use of observers to stop the fighting.”² This ultimately led to the need for peacekeeping in the region with UN troops which started in January of 1949 where UN military observers were sent in to oversee a ceasefire between the two nations and prevent things from escalating, creating UNMOGIP, the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan. Due to increased uprisings and “renewed hostility” in the region in 1971, “UNMOGIP has remained in the area to observe developments pertaining to the strict observance of the ceasefire of 17 December 1971 and report thereon to the Secretary-General.”³

Our specific peacekeeping mission has been going on for a very long time, regulating a very deep, complicated conflict and we need to consider the following issues when understanding if this is a necessary ordeal for the UN to continue meddling in. Please consider the following questions to prepare for our session:

- How does your country view the role of peacekeeping? Is peacekeeping preventative or reactionary? In our specific peacekeeping mission of Kashmir, what should our exit plan be from your country’s perspective?
- Is the Kashmir peacekeeping mission sufficient? Is this mission relevant anymore? Is this a necessary feat for a third-party to be involved in or should the two countries figure it out on their own?
- Does your country think peacekeepers should be able to use force in an offensive manner?

In your research, investigate the history of peacekeeping in this territory and the nature of peacekeeping across the board. Explore SPECPOL and its Special Committee on Peacekeeping’s previous efforts to maintain peace in this region and in others and consider what would be appropriate for the territory at hand to operate in the most optimal way. Be sure to understand your country’s history with this particular conflict in how it relates to both India and Pakistan and how that might impact the way they view the pursuit of continued peacekeeping in Kashmir.

² <https://unmogip.unmissions.org/background>

³ <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/mission/unmogip>

Make sure your understanding of this topic is not only grounded in this specific peacekeeping mission, but that you can articulate a clear position on the nature of peacekeeping related to the specific questions above. Please note that this year SPECPOL will be operating as a technology committee. For more information on technology committees, please see the FAQ sheet, Technology Committee Procedure Guide, and YUNMUN Technology Committee Explained which will all be posted on the YUNMUN website.

Remember that as a delegate it is your responsibility to represent the beliefs of your country accurately. If you have any questions I can be reached via email at jweinst1@mail.yu.edu.

Best of luck,
Josh Weinstein
Chair, SPECPOL