

Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru

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To Mahatma Gandhi¹

Kashmir is an extraordinary place. India and Pakistan are on its borders and the Soviet Union, China and Tibet are also close to the border. All these are big countries. Kashmir will have trade relations with all these countries. It had trade relations with them in the past also and they will be maintained. It may be a part of India, it is another thing. But that is not going to make any difference in its trade relations and other connections. Therefore, why this fear and panic? So it is not proper for the newspapers of Pakistan to exaggerate the importance of the issue by saying that it is matter of life and death, etc. [if Pakistan does not become part of Kashmir]. At the beginning of the military action in Hyderabad also they misled the people, and so it was a big shock to them when they heard the news of the surrender by the Hyderabad forces. Therefore, I say it is not proper to exaggerate things and incite the people.

[About India and Pakistan]

...It is obvious that a time will come, if not today, six months or a year hence, when these developments will come to an end [tension in Kashmir] and there will be normal relations between two neighbouring countries. There will be trade relations, people will visit each other's country and all other things will happen specially between such countries as have mutual relations for a thousand years. So all these things are bound to happen and it is absurd to say there will be mutual rivalries.

¹ Speech at a public meeting in Delhi on Mahatma Gandhi's birthday, 2 October 1948, A.I.R. tapes, N.M.M. L. (Original Hindi) Maulana Azad presided.