Telegram from the Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, A. Cadogan, to the Permanent Under-Secretary of State, Sir Orme Sargent, on Russo-Pakistani Relations, dated 10 February 1948

United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations, New York.

C O N F I D E N T I A L

My dear Moley,

1. Many thanks for your letter of January 29th, regarding Russo-Pakistani relations.

2. Our contacts with Sir M. Zafrullah Khan[[1]](#footnote-1) and his Delegation here in New York make it appear reasonably certain that the Pakistan Government at least do not contemplate any flirtation with the Soviet Government. And you will remember that your telegram No. 218, of January 16, showed that the Pakistan Ministry for Foreign Affairs had assured our High Commissioner in Karachi that there is no basis in fact for the rumours of Soviet approached to Pakistan. The Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations tells me that he is satisfied that Sir M. Zafrullah Khan is unaware of any interchanges with Moscow.

3. On the general question of this Delegation’s relations with that of Pakistan, I think it is safe to say that the attitude which we have adopted over the Kashmir issue has done much to restore Pakistan confidence in us.

4. I hope, and think that we have succeeded in ruling out an independent Kashmir. Although the Indians, still talk of it, they do not challenge the agreed formula in the draft resolutions. Noel Baker[[2]](#footnote-2) has referred at the Council several times to the two alternatives of accession to either Dominion without mentioning the possibility of independence, and this has elicited no challenge from the Indian Delegation.

Yours,

[signed] Alex Cadogan

Commentary by T. S. Tull (dated 21 February 1948) on the telegram from A. Cadogan, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, New York, to Sir Orme Sargent, Permanent Under-Secretary of State, on Russo-Pakistani Relations, dated 10 February 1948

Russo-Pakistani Relations

Sir A. Cadogan’s reply to Sir O. Sargent’s on F.1060/6/85.

There is no question that the present Government in Pakistan have no inclination to flirt with the Soviet Government, and this tendency will be strengthened by the sympathy which the Soviet Union and the Ukraine are giving to India’s case in the Security Council.

It is also true that our own attitude at Lake Success[[3]](#footnote-3) will have done much to restore the confidence of Zafrullah Khan and probably most of the higher officials in Karachi. There is, however, no evidence that public opinion generally in Pakistan has been influenced in this direction or that the feeling that we have let them down has been in any way dissipated. […]

The danger of Communism taking hold in Pakistan will remain as long as her very existence is threatened by the tribesmen on the one side and by the Sikhs and Indians on the other, and as long as the Kashmir dispute remain unsettled, the economic and administrative chaos is still as great as it ever was. The present Government will certainly keep clear of the Soviet Union but may itself be undermined and supplanted by a more dangerous regime.

The Secretary of State, in his minute at Flag B said he would like to discuss this matter with Mr. Noel Baker on his return, I do not know if he will still wish to do so, in view of Sir A. Cadogan’s letter, but the papers shall at any rate be sent to the Private Secretary.

T. S. Tull

21st February, 1948

[TNA, FO 371/69745]

Keywords: post-war order, post-war Asia

1. Khan, Mohammed Zafarullah (1893 - 1985) - Pakistani jurist and diplomat. Pakistani Minister of Foreign Affairs (1947 -1954), Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (1961 - 1964), President of the UN General Assembly (1964). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Noel-Baker, Philip J., Baron Noel-Baker (1889 - 1982) - British politician and diplomat. Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations (1947-1950). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. The first session of the drafting commission for the Bill of Human Rights took place at Lake Success, NY, USA, from 9 to 25 June 1947. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)