Kashmir Dispute Escalation

A Pakistan-based group has infiltrated India and has assassinated several important members of the Indian government. In response, India has accused Pakistan of complicity and has demanded that it stop supporting these separatist groups, arrest their leaders, and actively disarm them. Pakistan has denied culpability and India has mobilized conventional forces of uncertain but significant size and has deployed them in Kashmir and Punjab close to the Line of Control. Pakistan has mobilized in response and there have already been clashes along the border, with civilian and military casualties. In India, prominent politicians cite the 2001-2002 crisis as proof that Pakistan cannot be trusted to abide by its promises and press for a military solution. Pakistan has threatened to use nuclear weapons if India crosses the line. You are directed to formulate United States policy. You are to analyze military and diplomatic options (or some combination, even possibly inaction), which may be unilateral, multilateral through an ad hoc coalition, or multilateral through the United Nations. You will assume that all present signs indicate that if left unchecked, the conflict will almost certainly escalate into conventional war, which will open up the possibility of a nuclear exchange.

Research and Analysis

Your memo should begin with an introduction summarizing the few major points of your analysis that you want your busy readers to take away (Executive Summary). In the background section (Background of the Problem) frame the problem from your client’s perspective (e.g., the President of the United States) by tracing its history up to December 2018. This section should be as concise as possible. Next, present your assumptions about the preferences of the players involved. Enumerate the options available to your client and predict their consequences (Options and Analysis). This section is the longest and most important: you should list options that you will not be recommending, and you should carefully evaluate possible consequences (good and bad) of each alternative, including an assessment of their relative likelihoods of success. You must make full use of the strategic tactics we have discussed in class. Finally, weigh the alternatives from your client’s perspective, and recommend a course of action (Conclusions).

Mechanics

The memo should be typed, and at least 10 (but not more than 12) double-spaced pages long. You must endnote major sources of information and provide a bibliography. These do not count toward the page limit. The memo must use a font size of 11 points, and margins of 1 inch all around. Submit a cleanly printed copy. It will be graded using the criteria on the course website.

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1 You may use Wikipedia in the course of your research but you must verify all information obtained there from other sources. You must scrupulously credit other people’s ideas if you decide to use them in any way. You need not cite the lecture notes for the theoretical arguments. On the course website, I have provided two real world analyses to give you a feel of what these things look like. You are, however, to adhere to the structure I outlined above, not the one used in these examples. Discuss nuclear deterrence and crisis stability with reference to the capabilities of the opponents.