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India-Pakistan Standoff (2001-2002): Chinese Diplomacy to De-escalat

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ABSTRACT

An eye ball situation emerged on India Pakistan border after terrorists targeted the Indian parliament in 2001. This situation created a tense environment in the region. International and regional powers played their due role to remove the tightness between the two nuclear rivals (India and Pakistan). Chinese diplomatic efforts to remove the war like situation between south Asian neighbors, has key importance because she is not only international and regional power but also neighboring the both states and having cordial relations with both states. This paper is an attempt to highlight the role and efforts of Chinese leadership to de-escalate tension between the two states. This study also highlights that the time tested friendship between China and Pakistan is not changed as many scholars believed that after Ding Xiaping the Chinese attitude changed towards Pakistan. Secondary data in the form of books, newspapers (both from India and Pakistan) and material from foreign office is used to conduct study. Qualitative method is used to analyses data.

Introduction

Pakistan and India were engaged in three full-fledged wars (1947-48, 1965 and in 1971) since they became the sovereignty states. Their military might expanded when both states became nuclear power after May 1998. Nuclear weapons has increased their deterrence capability on one hand while on other hand it has increased the risk of usage of these nuclear arsenals in case of confrontation, conflict or full scale war between the two states. Such a situation emerged in 2001 when two nuclear rivals came in front of each other.

The start of 21st century did not bring some sort of pleasant news for whole humanity as the world had witness wave of terrorism. Terrorism or terrorist that did not belong to any nation caste and creed created rifts among many nations of the world. Such incidents of terrorism happened in India in October and December 2001

and created tense situation between India and Pakistan. Tension arose between South-Asian states (Pakistan and India) in the second week of December (2001). The main cause of tension was the attack on the Parliament of India by five terrorists. Indian government considered this attack, as an attack on the democracy of India. The government of India even before going for initial inquiry accused religious groups of Pakistan responsible for this act of extremism (Dutt, 2016). The government of India not only accused Pakistan but also threatened Pakistan with critical penalties after this terrorist attack. India blamed Lashkar-e-Tayaba (Army of God) guilty for this terrorist activity. The terrorists attack conducted by LeT on Indian Parliament building was condemned by international and regional players and also by the government of Pakistan. The government of China condemned the terrorists attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in early October and recent attacks on the Indian Parliament (Jain, 20008). American President G. W. Bush reinforced the stance of India that LeT had conducted the terrorists attack on Indian Parliament. He believed that LeT was an extremists association of Kashmir and was indulged in terrorist and extremist activities. After this attack in 2002, the U.S labeled LeT as a 'Foreign Terrorist Organization' (C.Christine, 2018). Pakistan plainly condemned the attack on Indian Parliament. Pakistan offered to extend every possible support to Indian government against the terrorists. Just after one month of this attack Pakistan officially banned LeT in January 2002. The government of Pakistan offered Indian government that if they thought that any Pakistani group or outfit was responsible for this attack, than they would have to provide proof. In the light of their provided evidence Pakistan would take strict action against those who were responsible of this attack. Indian leadership not only rejected the offer extended by Pakistan but also threatened her to ready for grave consequences. They threatened Pakistan that they would infiltrate through Line of Control (LoC) to penalize the extremist elements working in Pakistan (Mir, 2001). Indian leaders also overruled the offer of a mutual investigation and it also rejected the offer made by U.S.A to engage the 'Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)', in the inquiry of terrorists attack. India rejected all these proposals for joint investigations; she endangered Pakistan with military action (The Nation, December 25, 2001).

During this phase of tense environment, the President of Pakistan Gen. Musharraf made an official visit to China. He went for China on December 20th. His visit prolonged for five days. During his stay at China, he discussed the regional situation with Chinese leadership beside other matters of national interest. Although the visit of Musharraf was schedule previously but it coincides with terrorists attack. Musharraf requested the Chinese leadership to use their diplomatic means to reduce the stiffness between the two nuclear rivals. He further said that it was our desire to cultivate cordial ties with all our neighbours. He also exhibited doubts about the approach of Indian government to put blame on Pakistan for the terrorists attack. He expressed his readiness to take the action against those who were responsible for this attack but if Indian would provide the evidence against the suspected ones. He further explained that the government of Pakistan had already taken strict actions against those who were suspected to involve in any activity related to extremism or terrorism in Pakistan or anywhere else in the world (Dawn, December 27, 2001). President, Zemin appreciated the Musharraf for his firmness to stand against terrorism. He

lauded the stance of Pakistan to resolve the long lasting issue of Kashmir by peaceful means. China accepted the request of Pakistan to resolve the ongoing border conflict between India and Pakistan. She was ready to mediate between India and Pakistan. Chinese leaders not only offered mediation but also suggested both states to show patience and resolve their conflict through dialogue. China raised its concerns over the exchange of fire on India-Pakistan border. Chinese Foreign Ministry issued a statement that also reflects the concerns of China on ongoing border conflict between India and Pakistan. In that statement also China warned both states to resolve the issue by using bilateral means rather than going for war that would be disastrous for whole region (Hasan, 2002).

All the concerns and offers of China were rejected by India and she took three main steps to aggravate the ongoing border tension with Pakistan.

- From January 1, 2002, India had banned its airspace for Pakistan (Rehman, 2002)
- India not only 50% reduced its diplomatic staff but also called back its ambassador from Pakistan (C. Christain, 2018)
- And massive deployment of Indian troops along its border with Pakistan.

This was largest deployment of Indian forces since the 1971 war. Pakistan retorted by moving its forces from the west-border, where they were assisting U.S. military actions in Afghanistan. Due to the blockage of airspace by India for Pakistan, Musharraf reached to Nepal by using Chinese airspace to participate in the 11th South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Summit (Dawn, January 2, 2002). In his way to Nepal Musharraf stayed at China for a night. At China he was accompanied by Foreign Secretary, Inam-ul-Haq, who was called immediately from Nepal. During this overnight stay at China Musharraf met with Premier Zhu although this was the time of week-long Chinese national holidays (Amir, 2002). The meeting of Musharraf-Zhu lasted for almost one hour. According to Major Gen. Rashid Qureshi, the Press Secretary of President, this meeting was highly successful. The main agenda of this meeting was the current India-Pakistan confrontation and the steps taken by India to aggravate the ongoing situation. Musharraf told the Chinese leaders that Pakistan had good intension to resolve the conflict and did not want any confrontation with India. He asserted that international player especially, China, America, and U.K could use their influence to realize the government of India to act in a sensible and mature way because she was running out of patience and the way she was going to opt was devastating for whole region. He also told Chines Premier that he was going to attend the SAARC meeting with an open mind. Chinese Premier valued the wisdom and patience showed by Pakistan. He expressed that, "The whole world has seen with appreciation the farsighted and statesmanship like policy pursued by the Pakistan government (The Nation, January 4, 2002)."

After the Musharraf-Zhu meeting, the press secretary of the President said that China was a reliable and close friend of Pakistan and she had proved it time and again. He stated that "China would always stand by Pakistan, at all times (Dawn, January 4, 2002)." On this statement strong reservations came from American analysts. They expressed that this statement might give some sort of strength to Pakistan. Even U.S secretary of state Colin Powell, expressed his reservation by saying that Pakistan would not conceive this support of China as a source of encouragement to step-back from its pledge to curtail extremism and go against India. On the other hand no statement was issued by Chinese (Amir, 2002).

Rather than bothering the American reservations China continued its efforts to ease the tension between India and Pakistan. Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan, contacted both India and Pakistan, and encouraged them to hold peace talks and also warned them about the consequences of war. He said India-Pakistan confrontation would threat regional stability and also had negative implications for the peace talks going on in Afghanistan. Jiaxuan also expressed his concerns to Powell in this way, "If the situation gets out of control and results in large scale armed conflict, not only India and Pakistan both suffer, it would also influence the peace process in Afghanistan and endanger the stability and development of South Asia and even all of Asia (Dawn, January 4, 2002)."

Jiaxuan and Powell both stressed on India and Pakistan to resolve the issue by using peaceful means. China even used the forum of SCO to motivate India-Pakistan to solve the ongoing conflict by negotiations (Nawa-i-Waqat, January 8, 2002).

Meanwhile India provided the list of twenty suspected persons to Pakistan that they think were involved in terrorist attack. On commenting the provided list of India CJSC Gen. M. Aziz said India only provided the list of suspected ones but not provided any evidence, so it would be difficult task for Pakistan to take action against nominees of India without solid evidence (Hasan, 2002). India not only provided the list of suspected ones but also threatened Pakistan that if he would not take action against the suspected persons then she would be ready to face grave consequences even India threatened Pakistan to use nuclear weapons against her. India P.M Vajpayee said once war started with Pakistan then India would use every possible weapon against Pakistan and even he threatened Pakistan to change its map by using nuclear arsenals. Vajpayee realized his mistake to threatened Pakistan with nuclear arsenals on very next day he changed his statement and said India would try to resolve the conflict with Pakistan through dialogue. On contrary to Vajpayee statement defence minister of India also gave warnings to Pakistan, he said "If conflict would not solve through diplomatic means then we would take such military action against Pakistan as America did against Afghanistan." On such irresponsible and hostile attitude of India, Pakistan responded very calmly. During his address to nation on January 12, 2002 President Musharraf said Pakistan would avoid war by every possible way and use bilateral means to resolve the ongoing conflict with India. This stance of Musharraf to resolve the conflict was highly appreciated by Chinese leadership. Chief of General Staff and Vice Chairman of Central Military Commission of China categorically acknowledged and appreciated the stance and policies of Pakistan. Mr. Yuxi, the foreign ministry spokesman highly appreciated the policies of Musharraf to settle the problem through negotiations (Dawn, January 16, 2002). He also said that China admit and acknowledge the efforts of President Musharraf to bring peace in the whole region. He further stated that Pakistan was deeply interested to resolve the conflict with India through negotiations and dialogue. But India always escaped from negotiations on the issue of Kashmir that is the core issue. The timing of Yuxi statement was very significant. The statement came at the time when Jaswant Singh the foreign minister of India said China had no intension to interfere in the India-Pakistan conflict and it would not act as mediator. Singh issued this statement when Premier Zhu was on an official visit to India (January 11-15, 2002). The visit of Zhu was although schedule in November before the start of conflict between India-Pakistan and it was delayed due to certain reasons (Atul, 2002).

Zhu official visit to India was reciprocated by a Congress delegate under the supervision of Sonia Gandhi. The delegate met with Prime Minister Zhu, who condemned Indian Parliament attack during his discussion with members of Indian delegates (The Hindu, January 16, 2002).

After the visit of Congress delegation to China, Gen. Aziz went on an official visit to China where he met with President Zemin. The Chinese President stated that Chinese government appreciated the way government of Pakistan to want to resolve the Kashmir issue and its efforts to tackle the prevalent rigidity. Mr. Zemin also valued all the measures declared by Musharraf to resolve the current conflict during his discourse to the Pakistani nation. Chinese ambassador Mr. Liu stated that government of China was trying to avert the clouds of war. He expected that both India-Pakistan would act in a mature way to handle the conflict and avoid the war. War was disastrous for both states because they were growing economically and war would send them at-least one decade back. He discussed that China would not favour the war at any cost because in case of war between the two nuclear rivals than its consequences would not be limited to both states but in fact it would bring devastation and damage for the whole region. The effect of war could also be seen at international level too (Nawa-i-Waqat, January 17, 2002).

To continue its efforts to minimize the chances of war the President of Pakistan also requested the U.S.A to realized India to find the solution of Kashmir issue by possible peaceful means. Musharraf stated that through the mediation of major players of world the long lasting Kashmir conflict would be resolved. Chinese government also supported the government of Pakistan and requested to America to support the cause of Pakistan to avert the chance of war between the two neighbouring states. The President Jiang requested the American President to strengthen the determinations of Musharraf to divert the war. Mr. Tang stated that Chinese government encouraged the both states to resolve their clashes in a nonviolent way. He said that government of China was always ready to play its positive role to strengthen the unity of whole region. Vice-foreign minister Yang Wencheng also supported the Mr. Zemin and Mr. Tang stance and said that Chinese government

entirely maintained and supported the position of Pakistan to solve the issue of Kashmir through nonviolent way (Dawn, February 23, 2002).

Mr. Tang came to Islamabad on an official visit. The purpose of his visit was to avert the ongoing tension on India-Pakistan border. The visit of Chinese foreign minister was happened a day before the arrival of US assistant secretary of state Christiana Rocca to Pakistan (The News, April 5, 2002). In Pakistan Mr. Tang met with Abdul Sattar and said that the Kashmir conflict was long lasting and it was obligatory to resolve this issue by diplomatic means. He not only visited and discussed the current situation with Islamabad but he was also in-touch with his Indian counterpart, Jaswant Singh. During his conversation with Singh on phone he hoped that the stiffness in South Asia would soon be over. Mr. Tang also discussed the prevailing situation with Powell on phone. He said that there was a need to adopt a sensible and unbiased approach to resolve the current situation in South Asia. He also communicated his thought by saying that if world major players would play their due role than there would be minimum chance of catastrophic war in South Asia. He also conveyed the worries of his government on the ongoing situation in the region. _Mr. Kong Quan 'Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman', said in a media conference that Chinese foreign minister argued the prevalent situation with U.S secretary of state over phone and conveyed the desire of government of China to resolve the matter by peaceful means (Dawn, May 15, 2002).

The prevailing situation aggravated when India ousted the High Commissioner of Pakistan from India. On this action of India Mr. Kong Quan said reconciliation between the two South Asia states was in the interest of both. U.S alerted the action of India as "dangerous". Reaction also came from European states; they warned India that it was running out of tolerance to tackle the situation (The News, May 25, 2002). American Congress delegation including Court Weldon visited China, where the delegate members met with President Zemin. The congress delegate also discussed with President Zemin the situation of India Pakistan. After their discussion with the Chinese President, they told the media that Mr. Zemin assured them that now China had friendly ties with both India and Pakistan, so in case of war between these states it would not take side of any state. Chinese foreign office on high grounds rejected the statement given by Congress delegate to media. Spokesman of foreign office of China said that our government would support Pakistan in case of war but it was the strong aspirations of Mr. Zamin that India and Pakistan would disentangle the skirmish by negotiations and discussions. He further expressed that the statement of American delegate was baseless and there was no facts in it (Abrar, 2002).

The efforts of Chinese government brought fruits and Pakistan and India fixed to decrease the military troops along the border. Pakistan had taken number of steps to stop the intrusion into Kashmir that was administrated by India. Pakistan guaranteed that it would not permit its land to be used for any aggressive and fierce activity. Moreover it would also condemn all terrorist doings anywhere in world including India. United Kingdom and America assured the India about the seriousness of Pakistan in struggling against the terrorism. They also guarantee about the seriousness of the Musharraf's government to stop the penetration of the activist

into IoK. The improvement in India-Pakistan relations was succeeded after the deep and concentrated pressure from major powers of the world. China and Russia took leading role to deescalate the tension between nuclear rivals. Even they had utilized the forums of security conference "Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia" at Almaty to defuse the tension between India and Pakistan. On the sideline of this congerence Mr. Zemin met with the leaders of India and Pakistan and he tried to persuade them to slove the ongoing conflict between them by peaceful means. Mr. Putin took it as a personal mission to resolve the matter. During his efforts for peace, he requested from Pakistan to stop, "'terrorism' in Kashmir and advised Pakistan and India to resolve their difference peacefully" (The Nation, June 9, 2002). These efforts brought positive results and dragged the nuclear rival back from war. CNN highlighted and acknowledged the efforts of Mr. Putin to de-escalate the tension. According to CNN his personal efforts were highly appreciable to bring peace between India and Pakistan. Moscow efforts were also encouraged and acknowledged by the government of China. During a press briefing the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao said that China appreciates the tireless efforts of Moscow to mediate to resolve the dispute. Kong Quan, the Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesman specified that India and Pakistan knew the pros and cons of war that would lead to economic instability besides other devastations. He further stated that war would lead to shattering effect on their economies. War between two states economically compelled them few decades back that would not bring positive outcomes for the common people of both states. Chinese defence minister Chi Haotia anticipated that both states should settle their disputes through negotiations rather than threatening and showing each other their nuclear muscles. Threatening each other with nuclear deterrence would not bring some positive results, so they have to sit on negotiation table to find out some solution. The same point of view was given by Vice Premier Qichen. He stated that our government was expecting that this issue would be solved through negotiations (The News, June 3, 2002). Mr. Qichen said that the Chinese leadership would continue its efforts for stability in south Asia and force both states to settlement their disputes through dialogue (Ihtashamul, 2002). Qichen valued the Musharraf's determinations to solve the current dispute through peaceful means. Musharraf assured that he was willing to find out some solution of current dispute other than war and he was showed his willingness to hold talks and negotiations with India without any condition. Musharraf gave this assurance while his meeting with Mr. Zemin. Musharraf stance was appreciated by China. China lauded the flexibility and willingness of Musharraf to ready to talk with India on the current issue at any "level, time and where (Reddy, 2002)." President Zemin requested from the International players to play role to persuade both states to find out the peaceful solution through negotiation because the effect of war was not limited to this region but it would affect the whole world. Chinese President also stressed India to hold talks with Pakistan. During the meeting of Zemin and Vajpayee at Almaty, Mr. Zemin asked him to find peaceful solution of problem by negotiations (Ihtashamul, 2002). Chinese ambassador, Zang Chunxiang, stated that our country was putting efforts for reconciliation and stability. Mr. Chunxiang, desired that both states would try to find out their differences through negotiation and pull out their troops from their international borders. He also stated that it was the obligation of the whole world to pressurize India and Pakistan to resolve their disputes especially half century old unresolved Kashmir issue through negotiation. While convincing both India and Pakistan the international community had to sustain balanced attitude because it was disproportionate to pressurized one state (Pakistan) only (The News, July 1, 2002).

After taking the charge as minister for foreign affairs, Inamul-Haq, he paid first official visit to PRC. The visit was materialized in the backdrop of current India Pakistan stand-off. Mr. Inam discussed the latest development going on in South Asia. In China he met with his counterpart besides meeting with other leaders. He expected that Chinese leadership would carry on its efforts to convince the world community to ease the tension between South Asian neighbours. China valued the determinations of Musharraf to start the negotiation with India. Mr. Liu Jianchao stated that, "We highly appreciate the efforts made by President Musharraf and his government to ease tension in South Asia, which has gained the understanding and support of the international community (The Nation, July 1, 2002)."

He stated that the world had acknowledged the efforts and struggles of Musharraf. Chinese foreign minister also stated that Musharraf efforts were obliged and appreciated by the world community to bring peace in the region (Navi, 2002).

To continue its effort to bring peace and defuse ongoing tension, the leaders of China raised the issue with foreign secretary of U.K, Jack Straw, who visited Beijing officially. Chinese government discussed with British Secretary that U.K would support to endorse and generate such situation that was encouraging for peace and stability in South Asian region. Chinese leadership told him that the security of South Asia was in danger due to tense situation emerged between India and Pakistan (Navi, 2002). Foreign Minister of China assured to Straw that Chinese leadership was prepared to defuse the tension between the two neighbours. China reinforced the determinations and struggles done by US and UK to de-escalate the tension in South Asia. Vice foreign minister Wang Yi stated that the stratagems of Musharraf were precise and on right path. He further said Kashmir dispute would not be interrelated with any sort of terrorist activities. The issue of Kashmir was a "left over from history, from the aftermath of British Colonialism and it involved very complicated territorial and religious issue." Mr. Yi said the Kashmir issue would not resolve by using military muscles, negotiations and to hold talks was obligatory between two states to resolve this matter. Mr. Quan stated with regards to Indian accusation on Government of Pakistan to intrude extremists across the LoC that China believe Pakistan stood steady in its pledge to root out terrorism (The Nation, September 26, 2002).

After the successful visit of Colin Powell to India, the Indian government showed its readiness to recommence negotiations with Pakistan. Indian government announced that it would be ready to hold talks with Pakistan but the condition was if the agenda of talks were terrorism and cross border intrusion (The Nation, August 3, 2002).

Musharraf officially visited PRC in the first week of August (2002). While commenting on his visit 'Minister for Information and Media Development,' Nisar Memom, said that Musharraf was visiting the states of South Asia and he was using the air-space of China to access these states so he categorical took the advantage of the prospect to look up the Chinese government over the progress in South Asia. Memon said Musharraf was a strong supporter of peace and he did not want a war or would not start a war until it was imposed on him. Chinese President stated that PRC was backing the struggles that would lead to lighten the rigidity in the region (Foreign Office Year Book, 2002). The former ambassador to China, Akram Zaki assured that China was a state of peace loving populace and they wanted diplomatic solution of current dispute instead of war. BBC, while giving comment on Musharraf visit to China mentioned that the transitory visit of President was very significant as it was designed to lead a strong message to India that Pakistan still has influential contacts (Suryanarayana, 2002).

After passing of ten tense months between the two states, in October 2002 Chinese diplomatic efforts bring fruits and both states had taken the decision to pull out the military troops from their respective borders. Zhang Qiyue, 'Chinese Foreign Ministry Spokesperson' stated at a media session that Beijing applauded the Indian commitment to take out troops from its western border (Foreign Affairs Pakistan, 2004).

Pakistani leadership acknowledged and appreciated the political and diplomatic efforts of Chinese government to bring peace in South Asian region. China not only put all its efforts and energies to defuse the tension but also stress upon the whole world to pursue South Asian nuclear rivals to sought out their problems through negotiations. Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri, Foreign Minister, lauded the efforts of Beijing and said that China played a practical part to decrease stiffness in South Asia. Jalil Abbas Jilani, 'Foreign Office Spokesman', said Pakistan recognized "positive and constructive role of China in Pakistan-India relations right from day one (IPRI Fact-file 2005)."

Analyzing the ten months critical situation between Pakistan-India and the efforts of China to bring peace in the region, few analysts get a chance to criticize the 'Long Lasting Friendship of China-Pakistan'. They commented that the Beijing 'all-weather friend' of Pakistan did not support her during the whole situation. Beijing hardly had issued few statements and these statements were ambiguous not clearly taking the side of Pakistan. They were of opinion that Pakistan had lost the support of Beijing as she got in 1960's (Bhandara, 2002). They defined two main causes of loss of Beijing support in favour of Pakistan. Firstly, China was now different in its policies to deal the world. Beijing was following the policies of its former leader Deng Xiaoping, means it had adopted the policies of openness without interfering in others matter (Faruqui, 2002). Secondly, now Beijing's relations with India were not hostile as it were in 60's and it was evident that during whole situation China had appreciated the policies of India too (Yasmeen, 2004). China had normal relations with Dehli and

she did not want hostile attitude towards India because it would create some other complications in the region and such a deed might push India closer to Western bloc (Faruqui, 2001).

The study did not support the argument of these analysts. The analysis shows that the Beijing strengthen the strategies and steps taken by Musharraf during the current situation that lasted for almost ten months. The maximum chain of command of China had given announcements and statements to strengthen the positive and peaceful determinations of Pakistan and put its efforts to persuade India to initiate cooperation with her western neighbour. Beijing also influenced world major powers and their leaders to espouse impartial approach towards South Asian neighbours to solve the ongoing conflict between them rather than exerting pressure only on government of Pakistan.

Conclusion

After terrorists attack on Indian parliament in December 2001, India even before the primary investigation put all blame on Pakistan and its involvement in the attack. This allegation was rejected by Pakistan and denied its involvement in attack. Pakistan offered India to provide proof so Pakistan could start investigation against culprits but instead of providing any proof India threatened Pakistan and moved its troops along international border with Pakistan. China played a very constructive role to defuse tension between India and Pakistan. China not only condemned terrorist attack but also forced both states to solve their disputes including Kashmir issue through dialogue and negotiation. China also motivated other international players to play their role to de-escalate the India-Pakistan standoff. China argued to international community to be unbiased in their approach to dealing with India and Pakistan. It raised its concerns that it was unjust to pressurize only Pakistan, both states should be equally treated and on equal grounds forced to move back their forces. Chinese leadership appreciated the Musharraf's efforts and policies to defuse tension with India.

Few analysts have reservations that China had not supported Pakistan as she did in sixties. The analysis of this papers shows that China has raised voice for Pakistan as she raised concerns and asked international community to treat both states equally not to pressurize Pakistan only. Now the international environment and situation is changed from the sixties. Sixties was an era of military might and now the military might was replaced by the economic might. If China has friendly relations with Pakistan, it has cordial relations with India too. So in international political environment one cannot react stagnantly, it has to transform its policies and opinion accordingly. Chinese cordial relations with India is also in favour of Pakistan as China diplomatically convinced both states to de-escalate tension and solve their problems through negotiations. It was the Chinese efforts that forced both states to defuse ten sion after almost ten months tense situation.

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