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HOSTILITIES BETWEEN INDIA AND PAKISTAN

Statement by the Prime Minister, Sir Robert Menzies

The Australian Government is deeply distressed by the armed hostilities between India and Pakistan, hostilities which appear to be widening and growing in intensity.

All Australians deplore the loss of life and destruction of property of two great nations for whom we in Australia have an affectionate feeling and profound goodwill. It would be a great tragedy if great damage should be done to what has been achieved in recent years in their economic development and social progress.

We welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, U Thant, acting with the backing of the Security Council, to do all that he can to try to end this state of affairs. He has the full support of the Australian Government in his important task.

I have sent individual messages to the Prime Minister of India and the President of Pakistan setting out our views along these lines and urging that they do everything within their power to make the efforts of the Secretary-General fruitful.

CANBERRA,
8th September, 1965.