

Indian Express Aug 24, 1991

Kashmir Solution

Sir:

This refers to the letter "The Kashmir solution" (IE Aug 15) by Mr BS Patankar. The solution offered by Mr Ajit Bhattacharjea which in practical terms amounts to the creation of a mini Pakistan within India just for the satisfaction of upholding secularism in India (as he puts it) was bad enough, but the one offered by Mr Patankar in allowing Kashmir secede from India is worse still. Apparently, both are trying to make a virtue of surrender by calling it pragmatism. Mr Patankar probably realises that his suggestion, if accepted, can set off a chain reaction that may ultimately cause the complete disintegration of the nation but he is hoping that it doesn't. This only shows the extent to which we in India are prepared to go to find easy solutions to difficult problems.

What needs to be understood is that with the insurgency in the valley being sponsored, directed, and sustained by Pakistan, what we are up against is not insurgency as such but a proxy war launched by Pakistan with the avowed object of annexing Kashmir. Pakistan's stranglehold over the people of Kashmir created through terror is complete. Anyone caring to speak or write against the terrorism let loose by Pakistan must face death.

The greatest single factor that can see us through to victory is the will of the nation to fight. With a large number of intellectuals in India beginning to write against India continuing the fight even if it means surrender, shows that the will of the nation to fight and win has begun to weaken. This is something for the Indian Government to feel concerned about.

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