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### **Learning Lessons**

Sir,

Apropos of Mr Ajit Bhattacharjea article, "ZA Bhutto's Doublespeak" (May 3), it was not the first time that Pakistan turned defeat into victory. Mr Bhutto does not, therefore, deserve any more credit for such an achievement than Mr Jinnah does during 1947-48 and General Ayub Khan in 1965. The credit (or discredit) for Pakistan's thrice repeated performance must go to Indian leaders who allowed history to repeat itself so often.

In 1948, the Pakistani army was on the run every where in Kashmir when Nehru in all his wisdom accepted the cease fire. It enabled Pakistan to retain a substantial portion of captured territory. It is interesting to note that the commander-in-Chief of the Pakistan army, General Gracey, had, in his appreciation of the military situation, argued for not allowing the Indian army to "advance beyond the general line Uri- Poonch-Naushehra" so as to prevent India from sitting "on the door steps of Pakistan to enter at its will and pleasure". It goes to the credit of the Pakistani leadership of those days that even under conditions of military reverses, it was able to time the cease fire so as to make the Indian army halt exactly on the line marked by their commander-in-chief.

The gains of the 1965 war were also lost at the negotiating table. Reverting to the international border in the interest of peace, was, perhaps, understandable. But Pakistan was able to retain even the disputed territory of Kashmir which it had lost during the war. The worrying point today is whether India will allow history to repeat itself yet once again during its negotiations with the militants in Kashmir. The militants are no doubt on the verge of defeat. One can only hope that they are not allowed to turn their defeat into victory.

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