

**Fw: NYTimes article on Kashmir**

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RELEASE IN FULL

**To:** Hillary Clinton hr15@att.blackberry.net

**Subject:** Fw: NYTimes article on Kashmir

Fyi

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From: LaVine, Christopher M  
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Cc: NEWS-SCA; Pauli, Rosemarie; Bommer, Ashley F; Helton-Floyd, Kathleen L; SES-O  
Sent: Thu Jan 29 22:45:04 2009  
Subject: NYTimes article on Kashmir

Colleagues,  
Ops thought you might be interested in this NYTimes article on Kashmir for tomorrow's edition. Thank you,  
Regards,  
Chris LaVine  
Operations Center

U.S. Removes Kashmir From Envoy's Mandate; India Exults

By Emily Wax  
Washington Post Foreign Service  
Friday, January 30, 2009; A09  
NEW DELHI, Jan. 29 -- Inside a chandeliered ballroom Thursday, Indian diplomats and business leaders and American officials held forth about a new "Cooperation Triangle" for the United States, China and India. But little mention was made at the Asia Foundation's conference on Indo-U.S. relations of the Indian government's recent diplomatic slam-dunk. India managed to prune the portfolio of the Obama administration's top envoy to Pakistan and Afghanistan, Richard C. Holbrooke -- basically eliminating the contested region of Kashmir from his job description. The deletion is seen as a significant diplomatic concession to India that reflects increasingly warm ties between the country and the United States, according to South Asia analysts.

Indian diplomats, worried about Holbrooke's tough-as-nails reputation, didn't want him meddling in Kashmir, according to several Indian officials and Indian news media reports. Holbrooke is nicknamed "the Bulldozer" for arm-twisting warring leaders to the negotiating table as he hammered out the 1995 Dayton peace accords that ended the war in Bosnia, a peace that has stuck.

"I think it is time for us -- having fobbed off Holbrooke -- to sit quietly and ask where are we and how do we manage the situation," said C. Raja Mohan, an Indian strategic analyst who served on India's national security advisory board in 2006. Mohan's comments captured the public glee many Indians feel over their country's latest diplomatic success. It follows the government's victory in securing a deal with the United States that gives India access to civilian nuclear technology, even though it is not a party to the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

India and Pakistan have made slow but steady progress on Kashmir over the past four years, but relations quickly chilled after the November attacks in Mumbai; India accused Pakistan of aiding in the three-day assault.

Few places represent the region's complexities more than Kashmir, a territory that has been disputed since the 1947 partition of India and Pakistan. The nuclear-armed nations have fought two wars over Kashmir, and the United States stepped in to head off a third one in 2001. Both countries claim Kashmir and both control parts of it, with the United Nations monitoring a cease-fire line between them.

"No matter what government is in plac