

ACTION COPY

FROM: U.K. HIGH COMMISSIONER IN PAKISTAN

D. Karachi 16.16 hours, 17th March 1953
R. 14.32 hours, 17th March 1953

CYPHER
PRIORITY

No. 489

My telegram No. 482. (34)

PUNJAB SITUATION

Sir Khizar Hiyat whom I saw this morning, tells me that Central Government are divided among themselves as to right line to be taken with Daultana. Prime Minister in particular cannot make up his mind. Officials are in favour of a strong line. Khizar thinks Cabinet underestimate seriousness of situation in Punjab and that there is some risk of Daultana after all managing, despite the direct attack on the position of the Central Government represented by his notorious communique, to wriggle out.

2. Given known weakness of Central Government, their anxiety to avoid trouble at almost any cost, and their possible wishful thinking that matters have now settled down again in the Punjab, I would not exclude possibility of their being so short sighted as Khizar suggests. Position may be clearer after Iskander Mirza's return from Punjab on Thursday.

Copy to:-

D.II

C.R.O.

Miss Hanchet

Mr. W.J. Smith

P.S. to Prime Minister (2)

Foreign Office Mr. R.A. Burrows

✓ *[Signature]* 18/3

ALLOTTED TO POLITICAL AFFAIRS DEPT.