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KASHMIR REGION: CARTOGRAPHIC DEPICTION

***Note:** the following guidance does not represent a change in existing policy but is rather a compendium of existing policies.*

The Kashmir region is a disputed region under the *de facto* administration of China, India, and Pakistan. For purposes of cartographic depiction, it consists of 1) the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir, 2) the territories of Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas administered by but not constitutionally part of Pakistan, and 3) the Aksai Chin area administered by China but claimed by India. The United States Government considers this entire region to be in dispute.

The following guidance should be followed on any U.S. Government maps depicting this region.

India/Pakistan. The boundary between India and Pakistan should be symbolized as an international boundary until the southern terminus of the 1972 Line of Control. Pakistan refers to the segment of international boundary separating Indian-administered Jammu and Kashmir from the Pakistan province of Punjab as the “Working Boundary,” but the U.S. Government uses no label.

The 1972 Line of Control begins at the northern terminus of the international boundary and runs from 32°47'20N 74°27'36"E to 35°00'32"N 77°00'37"E. It should be labeled “1972 Line of Control.” No line should be shown beyond the northern terminus of the 1972 Line of Control. If the same land tone color is being used for both India and Pakistan, the area beyond the northern terminus of the 1972 Line of Control should be blank (see Figure 1). If different land tone colors are used for India and Pakistan, and where scale permits, alternate diagonal bands of each color should be drawn within a triangular area formed by:

- An imaginary line running from the northern terminus of the 1972 Line of Control to the Karakorum Pass [near 35°30'N 77°50'E]
- An imaginary line running due north from the northern terminus of the 1972 Line of Control, and
- The border with China (see Figure 2).

Wherever possible, avoid placing the country name labels for India and Pakistan inside the Kashmir region.

If internal administrative divisions are depicted, the same line used for first-order administrative divisions should be used for the boundaries of the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir and for the Pakistani-administered Azad Kashmir and Northern Area entities. Label the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir with the same font style as other first-order administrative divisions, but label the Pakistani-administered Azad Kashmir and Northern Area entities in italics. Where scale and space permit, add the following text marginally on the map: “Azad Kashmir and Northern Areas are not constitutionally part of Pakistan” (see Figure 1).

China/India. The limits of the Aksai Chin area should be portrayed using a line type distinct from that of international boundaries and administrative divisions. Where scale permits, the western segment separating the Indian state of Jammu and Kashmir from the Aksai Chin should be labeled “Line of Actual Control,” and the north and eastern segment separating China from the Aksai Chin should be

labeled “Indian claim.” If different land tone colors are used for China and India, where scale permits, alternate bands of each color should be used within the Aksai Chin area (see Figure 2).

If the Aksai Chin area is to be labeled, a font type distinct from those used for administrative divisions or countries is to be used. No sovereignty name should be placed within the Aksai Chin area.

If Chinese first-order administrative divisions are depicted, the line dividing Xinjiang and Xizang (Tibet) Autonomous Regions may continue through the Aksai Chin area to the Line of Actual Control (see Figure 1). The province names should not be placed within the Aksai Chin area, however.

There are four areas claimed by China and India south beyond the Aksai Chin extending to the Nepal tripoint: Demchok, Shipki Pass, Nelang, and Bara Hoti-Lapthal. Where scale permits, the claimed areas should be delineated with a type distinct from that of an international boundary and labeled in dispute (see Figure 2). The intermediate uncontested segments should be shown as international boundaries. If scale does not permit these distinctions, the entire boundary from the Aksai Chin to Nepal should be shown with a line type distinct from that of an international boundary and labeled in dispute.

China/Pakistan. Pakistan concluded a boundary agreement with China in 1963, ceding a substantial amount of territory to China upon demarcation. India never recognized this cession. The United States Government, nonetheless, depicts the boundary from the Afghanistan tripoint to the Karakorum Pass as an undisputed definite international boundary.

General. The standard disclaimer “Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative” must be applied when depicting the Kashmir region.

ACTION: Please disseminate this guidance to all personnel in your organization concerned with cartographic production.

William B. Wood

(signed)

The Geographer,
U.S. Department of State

Figure 1



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

Figure 2



Names and boundary representation are not necessarily authoritative

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