

Witness Biography: *International Court of Justice*
Atal Behair Vajpayee
Former Indian Prime Minister



Background:

Altal Behari Vajpayee was born into the high caste Brahmin. He has been involved in Indian politics all his life; he was even jailed for objecting to British rule. He obtained a masters degree in political science from Victoria College (now Laxmabai College). He later became the leader of the pro-Hindu Bharatiya Jana Sangh (BJS), a right wing political party that intergrated Kashmir into the Indian Union in 1953. He later formed the Bharatiya Janata Party in 1980. The BJP attracted a majority of the populous, speaking against the disliked “Congress Party.” As Prime Minister, Vajpayee formed a new government with a majority in the parliament, by reconstructing the political system. He was elected for 3 terms as Prime minister.

What he adds to the case:

Vajpayee has been chairman of the committee of external affairs, delegate to the United Nations, delegate to the Human Rights Commission Conference, the leader of the political parties BJS, BJP, received the Padma Vibhushan, and National Democratic Alliance (NDA), and the Prime Minister of India for 3 terms. In his younger years, he helps perform a hunger strike for the purpose of adding Kashmir to the Indian Union. In 1998, Vajpayee began talks of peace with Pakistan over disputed territory and to open up trade. He issued the Lahore Declaration which addressed mutual friendship. Talks of peace were shot after the 1999 Kargil War in which unidentified Pakistani soldiers infil”MJhS1P9P0MR0JeS89NT”3“J S.area KaJ S139““NR”139““NR””J S139““NR””J89NT”””JdS1P9P0M

Quotes:

“Let us freeze the Kashmir issue and discuss problems relating to trade, commerce and culture," he said, adding it was the duty of both the countries to maintain peace in the sub-continent since India and Pakistan have both gone nuclear.

“We are ready to discuss Kashmir with Pakistan under the Simla agreement," he said, stressing that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir, including Pakistan Occupied Kashmir, is legally and constitutionally an integral part of India.

Sources:

<http://pib.nic.in/profile/bajpayee.html>

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<http://www.jammu-kashmir.com/archives/archives1998/98december07c.html>