

# Help solve Kashmir problem, says Pakistan

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KUALA LUMPUR: Pakistan wants the international community's attention on Kashmir to remain focused, despite the latest easing of tensions with India over the 22-year-old problem.

Pakistani special envoy Najumuddin A. Shaikh, who made the appeal, said world attention on the Kashmir dispute had "peaked" and should not abate without a solution being worked out as the possibility of war still existed.

"The international community's attention must remain on

Kashmir, otherwise the wounds will continue to fester.

"The turbulence in South Asia continues to be a dangerous phenomenon to the world, and more should be done by world leaders to seek a solution," he said in an interview at the Pakistan High Commission here on Thursday.

The bitterly disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir has been the focal point of two of the three wars between India and Pakistan since independence from Britain in 1947.

The envoy, who is among the five despatched by President Pervez Musharraf to various

parts of the world, had on Wednesday met Deputy Prime Minister Datuk Seri Abdullah Ahmad Badawi to brief him on the latest situation along the Line of Control (LOC) in Kashmir.

Najumuddin handed Abdullah a letter from Musharraf for Prime Minister Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamad, and later met Defence Minister Datuk Seri Najib Tun Razak and Dewan Negara president Tan Sri Michael Chen.

Najumuddin, who is Pakistan's former Foreign Secretary, said he had explained Pakistan's stand to Abdullah and had urged Malaysia to help in

efforts to find a remedy.

He said Musharraf had stressed that Pakistan would not begin a war with India but would defend itself if attacked.

Despite India taking several measures to ease tensions, the envoy said that with hundreds of thousands of troops amassed along the LOC, the situation remained dangerous.

Najumuddin, who had earlier visited Jakarta and Singapore on a similar mission, said Pakistan would certainly agree if Malaysia offered to act as mediator between Pakistan and India. He left yesterday for Tokyo.