

CLINTON, PUTIN MEET / DIFFERENCES OVER MISSILES

Mediation mooted on Chechnya

OSLO, Nov. 3. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton and the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Vladimir Putin, wrangled over the Russian offensive in Chechnya and U.S. plans for a missile defence system in a meeting yesterday described as "serious" in tone.

In the 50-minute meeting, the second between the two leaders, Mr. Clinton warned Mr. Putin that Russia's military offensive in Chechnya threatened to cause increasing civilian casualties, undermining world opinion of Russia and turn the opinion of Chechnya against it, a senior U.S. official said. The official said Mr. Clinton urged Mr. Putin to seek a political solution to the conflict, possibly through a mediator.

Mr. Putin in turn passed on a letter from the Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, warning that U.S. plans for a missile defence system would be "extremely dangerous" for the arms control process, and inviting U.S. input on a Russian-sponsored U.N. resolution on the issue. "It was a serious meeting and it was a frank meeting. It was a useful discussion," a senior U.S. official said. "There are some difficult issues in the relationship now."

Sizing up Mr. Putin, who was appointed in August, the official said: "He is extremely serious... He is extremely involved in the situation in Chechnya and has been looking at all aspects of the strategy... And he suggests that he is very much in command of that situation."

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Putin also discussed efforts to update the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty, which governs troop and conventional weapons deployment in NATO and

this problem as well. Extremists took the terror way and in their acronym ~~the~~ North Caucasus they are trying to cover their activities with religious slogans," he said.

The U.S. official said Mr. Clinton warned Mr. Putin of "significant humanitarian casualties" if attacks against rebels intermingled with civilians continued. But the U.S. President made no threats of political or diplomatic retaliation, the official said.

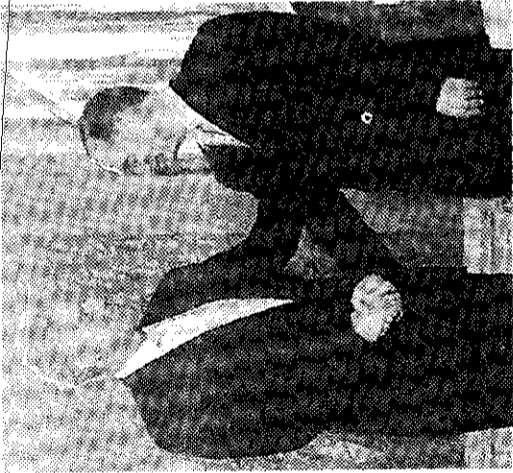
The U.S. recognises Russia's territorial integrity and that the conflict was set off by "significant attacks against lawful authorities," the official said.

On the missile defence issue, Washington wants to alter the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty to allow it to build a new missile defence system to protect itself or its allies from missiles launched by countries they consider "rogue States," such as North Korea.

Russia says this would undermine arms reduction deals that followed the ABM treaty, and weaken Moscow's nuclear deterrent.

The message to Mr. Bill Clinton notes, in part, that a collapse of the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty resulting from the deployment in the United States of systems of territorial anti-missile defence would have extremely dangerous consequences for the entire arms control process," a Kremlin spokeswoman said.

The U.S. official said Mr. Yeltsin proposed that the U.S. work with Russia on a U.N. resolution on the topic, and said Washington would be willing to do so as long as any resolution embodied principles already agreed to by the two countries. — Reuters



The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, greets the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Vladimir Putin, in Oslo on Tuesday. — AP

parts of the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Clinton and Mr. Putin met following a ceremony commemorating the fourth anniversary this week of the assassination of Yitzhak Rabin. At the ceremony, Mr. Putin called for the international community to help Russia fight rebels using "terror" in the North Caucasus region, which includes Chechnya.

Mr. Putin said the eradication of terrorism had become "one of the most serious challenges to the world community. Russia faces

Yeltsin tells summit leaders not to meddle on Chechnya

ISTANBUL: A combative Boris Yeltsin took on western leaders on Thursday over Chechnya, warning them not to interfere in Russia's fight against international terrorism in the republic, while U.S. President Bill Clinton cautioned him against feeding an "endless cycle of violence" with his military offensive in the breakaway region.

"You have no right to criticise Russia for Chechnya," Mr Yeltsin told the other 53 leaders at the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) summit here. "We are obliged to put an end to the spread of the cancer of terrorism."

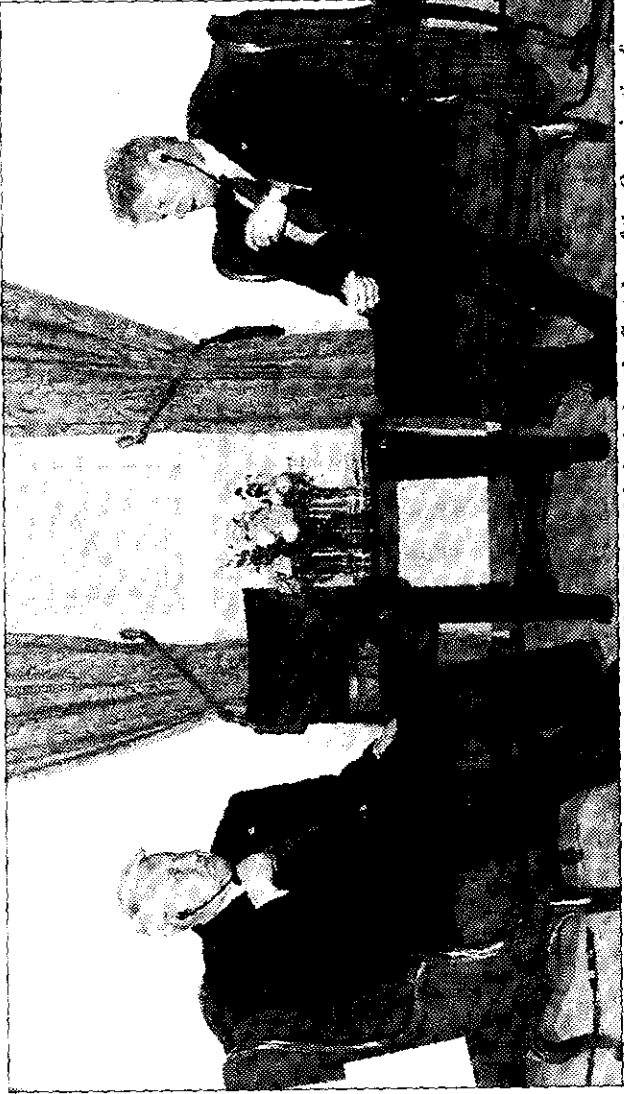
Asserting that Islamic extremists were preparing "thousands of mercenaries" to spread terrorism beyond Russia's borders, Mr Yeltsin brushed aside western demands to negotiate with Chechen leaders.

"There will be no negotiations with bandits... We need to completely eliminate the bandit formations," Mr Yeltsin said.

In a conciliatory response, U.S. President Bill Clinton, who spoke after Mr Yeltsin, said he understood Russia's need to combat terrorism but warned Mr Yeltsin that the suffering of civilians risked driving Chechens into the arms of the radicals.

"If attacks on civilians continue, the extremism Russia is trying to combat will only intensify," Mr Clinton told the summit. "The strength Russia rightly is striving to build, therefore could be eroded by an endless cycle of violence."

Mr Clinton, however, said the



U.S. President Bill Clinton meets Russian President Boris Yeltsin during the first day of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) Summit in Istanbul on Thursday.

U.S. believes "Russia has not only the right, but the obligation to defend its territorial integrity," yet the world should not stand by idle as the toll on civilians mounts.

Mr Yeltsin and Mr Clinton later held a one-on-one meeting, with Chechnya a major topic of discussion. Mr Yeltsin greeted Mr Clinton with a bear hug in their first meeting since June. After the meeting, Mr Yeltsin's adviser Sergei Prikhodko told reporters the meeting was held in an "open and honest atmosphere," Mr Prikhodko said

they discussed arms control and other issues, including Chechnya.

"Mr Yeltsin conveyed the Russian vision of that problem, talked about the government's efforts to normalise the life in regions freed from rebels," Mr Prikhodko said. "The U.S. side has taken this information with interest." Mr Clinton later told reporters Mr Yeltsin was "very vigorous and so was I." He indicated "no minds had been changed."

"He stated his position, I stated mine," Mr Clinton said. "But I

urged him to try to listen to Russia's friends at this conference. ... I'm hopeful we will see some progress here before we leave." The conference ends on Friday. The Chechnya issue dominated Thursday's opening session of the OSCE summit, which was supposed to have culminated with the signing by all member countries of a charter on European security meant to continue the OSCE's adaptation to a post-cold war role in preventing conflicts, promoting democracy and protecting human rights. (AP)

Canada's supreme court explains its ruling on Indian fishing rights

OTTAWA: Canada's supreme court, shaken by violence in the Atlantic lobster fishery sparked by its ruling on Indian rights, has issued a 30-page clarification of the ruling.

The court denied a bid by white fishermen to have the September 17 case reheard, but took advantage of that request to issue an explanation of what it had really meant in interpreting a 1760 treaty with the Mi'kmaq Indians.

Its original decision — which acquitted native Donald Marshall of fishing for eel without a licence and out of season right to any kind of 11 kinds of fishing and other "gathering activities."

But in its judgment on Wednesday, the court repeatedly underscored that the government was allowed to limit treaty rights: "the treaty right is a regulated right and can be contained by regulation within its proper limits."

Specifically, the court said: a closed season if required for conservation or other compelling reasons.

The court referred to "traditionally gathered things such as fruits and berries" and said it would have to be proved any further rights were originally intended.

The historical reliance on fishing by non-aboriginal groups, Lucra-five lobsters or salmon.

"It is up to the crown (government) to initiate enforcement action in the lobster and other fisheries it and when it chooses to do so," the court said. (Reuters)

China, Russia reaffirm key partnership

BEIJING, OCT. 1. The Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, has reaffirmed his resolve to reinforce the Sino-Russian strategic partnership in a congratulatory message to his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin, marking the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the People's Republic of China today.

"The Russian people earnestly hope to further reinforce the strategic cooperative partnership with China," official Xinhua news agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling Mr. Jiang during a phone call yesterday.

Xinhua said Mr. Yeltsin also congratulated Mr. Jiang on the completion of 50 years of diplomatic ties between the two Communist nations. The erstwhile Soviet Union officially recognised China, a day after its founding on October 1, 1949.

Mr. Jiang expressed satisfaction over the current state of bilateral ties and hoped that the two sides would continue endeavours to constantly reinforce and enrich their bilateral strategic partnership.

He told Mr. Yeltsin that he was looking forward to the latter's visit to China in November for the second ever Sino-Russian summit.

Meanwhile, Russian and Chinese warships are readying themselves for the first ever joint manoeuvres beginning tomorrow to mark the golden jubilee year of the founding of China.

Sources here said two Russian naval ships from its Pacific fleet, destroyer Burny and missile cruiser Varyag will dock at the eastern port of Shanghai from October 2-8 and hold joint exercises with Chinese warships.

Speaking at a recent symposium here to mark the day, Chinese and Russian diplomats and scholars expressed the hope that ties would further improve between the two neighbouring countries, who have resolved their boundary disputes.

Mr. Jiang Lansheng, vice-president of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Sino-Russian ties had developed smoothly and the two had achieved many common goals.

"Our bilateral ties have an important bearing on the world situation," Mr. Jiang. — PTI

THE HINDU

2 OCT. 1999

USA woos Russia to win missile treaty changes

19/10
51-9
PRESIDENT Clinton is offering special inducements to the Russians in return for an agreement to renegotiate the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, according to reports in Washington.

In a controversial move, the US has told the Russians it would help them to finish building their ballistic missile tracking radar, near Irkutsk in Siberia, if they allow the ABM Treaty to be updated so that the US can defend itself against the limited missile threat posed by maverick states such as North Korea, Iran and Iraq.

In the 1980s, the Americans forced Russia to dismantle a huge missile tracking radar site at Krasnoyarsk, Siberia, because it claimed it was in breach of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Washington is desperate to persuade the Russians to renegotiate the treaty because of the warning from the CIA that the US could face an intercontinental ballistic missile attack involving nuclear, chemical or biological warheads from countries such as North Korea, Iran, and "possibly" Iraq, within the next 15 years.

Strobe Talbott, the US Deputy Secretary of State, has been engaged in discussions with the Russians about possible quid pro quos for allowing the missile treaty to be revised according to the wishes of the American Administration.

Under its terms, the US and Russia are allowed only one ABM site at Moscow, and at Grand Forks, North Dakota in the US. However, to meet the perceived missile threat from the rogue states, the US believes it would be necessary to build a radar facility in Alaska and deploy up to 100 anti-missile interceptors there, as well as a similar complex at Grand Forks.

According to *The New York Times*, the US plan would also involve upgrading US early-warning radars in Britain, Greenland and the east and west coasts of America.

As part of the inducements to the Russians, the newspaper said, the US had also offered to help Moscow to complete another radar site at

The Americans are desperate to get Russia to agree to changes in the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty so that it can adequately defend itself against various 'rogue' states, writes MICHAEL EVANS and GILES WHITTELL

Mishelevka, 60 miles northwest of Irkutsk, which covers North Korea and other Asian countries, and upgrade a third radar site at Lyaki in Azerbaijan, facing Iran and other West Asia nations.

The Americans have been trying to reassure Russia that its plans for a limited ABM system would not undermine the credibility of their strategic missiles, but was aimed purely at protecting the US from states now developing ICBMs.

However, senior US officials have admitted that Russia has shown little sign of wanting to do a deal over the treaty.

Moscow was still in an unfavourable mood after Nato's air campaign in Kosovo and also regarded the missile treaty as the one surviving agreement which gave Moscow "superpower" status.

After the US Senate's rejection of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty last week, Moscow now plans to link up with China to seek support at the United Nations against US plans to change the ABM treaty.

In Moscow a senior Russian defence official said that the US offer of assistance in Siberia had come too late.

- *The Times*, London.

THE STATESMAN
19 OCT 1999

USA offers Russia deal on missile treaty

VASANTHA ARORA (S-11)
INDIA ABROAD NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18 -
The Clinton administration
has offered a deal to Russia,
envisaging construction of a
strategic radar defence site in
return for Moscow's agreement
to renegotiate the 1972 Anti-
Ballistic Missile Treaty.

US officials said negotiators
had made such an offer and the
proposed radar installation
would be located near Irkutsk,
Siberia, oriented across Russia's
vast south-eastern coast to keep
a watch on North Korea and
other radical nations.

The ABM treaty enables the
two countries to set up nation-
al missile defence systems but
bans construction of systems to
defend against ballistic missile
attacks.

White House chief of staff, Mr
John Podesta, said the USA
didn't want to weaken Russian
security. Secretary of state, Ms
Madeleine Albright, however,
said discussions on the subject
hadn't advanced past prelimi-
nary stages. Under the deal,
USA will offer millions of dol-
lars worth of assistance to com-
plete the half-built Irkutsk mis-
sile radar.

THE STATESMAN

19 OCT 1999

Russia warns USA of arsenal capacity: report

ST-10
27/10

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26. — Moscow has warned the USA that it has enough weapons to counter any anti-ballistic missile system, and threatened to deploy more atomic warheads if Washington builds a national missile defence system, the Washington Post reported today.

The Post quoted Mr Nikolai Mikhailov, first deputy defence minister, as saying yesterday that Russia's arsenal has such "technical capabilities" to "overcome" any anti-missile defences. He said the technology was available and would be used if "the USA pushes us toward it".

His comments followed last

week's meeting between Russian and US officials to discuss possible amendments to the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty.

Russia on Friday said talks with the USA on strategic arms cuts would be pointless if the ABM treaty was altered. Washington is trying to amend the treaty to build a limited defence against any attack on the USA or US troops stationed abroad by "rogue states".

The Clinton Administration said it will decide next summer whether to go ahead with a limited missile defence system, which would require changing or abandoning the treaty, but Russian officials have warned that such a move could unravel two decades of arms control

efforts.

Russia's key method of overcoming any missile defences would be to deploy more nuclear warheads atop its missiles.

Mr Mikhailov said Russia could target any ABM facility with a nuclear warhead. He also said that Russia lacks resources for an up-to-date conventional military force.

Referring to the high-tech weaponry that Nato deployed in the bombing against Yugoslavia, he said such advanced weapons make up only 30 per cent of Russia's armed forces, compared with 80 per cent in the west.

"This will cost us dearly," he said. "We will not catch up to western countries in 10 or 15 years."

Russia's position on missiles troubles U.S.



Albright

WASHINGTON: The U.S. said on Tuesday it was "troubled" by Russian warnings over its development of a missile defence system, as a dilemma facing President Bill Clinton over whether to build the system intensified.

"I was troubled by the reports today of some statements by the Russian military," Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said, referring to a top Russian defence official's statement that Russia could deploy more nuclear warheads to counter a US ballistic missile defence system.

She told a news conference that first deputy defence minister Nikolai Mikhailov's warning was an "over-reaction" to Washington's interest in developing a system to defend against attacks from "rogue states."

"We have a joint interest...in dealing with that problem, and so I don't want anyone, whether here or in Russia, to be reviving old problems," she said.

Clinton is to decide by next June on whether to go ahead with the system, which is under development. Congress in March over-

whelmingly backed deployment. The US is trying to negotiate amendments to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty, which bans missile defence systems, to allow what it says is its "limited" system. Clinton's dilemma is that Russia remains opposed to any changes in the treaty to permit the deployment of the system.

The US has, meanwhile, said it would withdraw two draft UN resolutions on nuclear disarmament because they were in danger of being exploited to score points in a dispute with Russia.

Robert Grey, the US representative to the General Assembly's Disarmament Committee, said on Tuesday the resolutions "address important and relevant issues...and would have been particularly timely this year."

But, he told the committee, they "ran the risk of being subjected to a campaign of amendment designed to introduce contention over the ABM Treaty in every possible way."

One of the resolutions, on compliance with arms limitation and disarmament and non-proliferation agreements, comes before the committee every two years. A spokesman for the U.S. permanent mission to the UN said its purpose was to enable member states to put themselves on record. (AFP)

U.S., Russia seek Indo-Pak dialogue

2110 HD-1
WASHINGTON, OCT. 30. The United States and Russia have agreed on the importance of India and Pakistan overcoming their legacy of confrontation and called on both sides to resume their political dialogue at the earliest opportunity.

A joint statement issued after the four-day "extensive consultations" between the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian affairs, Mr. Karl F. Inderfurth, and the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Grigory Karasin, which ended here on Friday, welcomed Pakistan's decision to withdraw troops from its international border with India and expressed hope that similar measures would be taken to reduce tensions along the Line of Control in Kashmir.

Russia and the U.S. reaffirmed their commitment to non-proliferation and reiterated the importance they attached to India and Pakistan signing the Comprehen-

sive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and taking other concrete steps to prevent a dangerous nuclear and missile arms race.

Though the main topic of discussion was Afghanistan, the U.S. and Russia discussed recent developments in India and Pakistan and reaffirmed their "common interest in peace, stability and friendly relations in south Asia". In this connection, they encouraged the military authorities in Pakistan "to take decisive steps to return the country to civilian, democratic and constitutional government, including announcing a timetable".

They welcomed the recent parliamentary elections in India as a confirmation and strengthening of the country's democratic traditions. "The two sides were in broad agreement on all significant issues in the region," the joint statement said. — UN1

THE HINDU
31 OCT 1999

US seeks pause in Russia loans, says treasury secy

Washington

1 SEPTEMBER

THE UNITED States will not support any more International Monetary Fund credits for Russia until there has been an adequate accounting of the money that has already been lent, treasury secretary Lawrence Summers told USA Today in an interview published on Wednesday.

In his first public comments on allegations that IMF money might have been diverted by organised crime through at least one US bank, Summers told the newspaper that the justice department has said it does not have evidence "at this time" to back up the charges.

But he added that law officials are investigating suspected money laundering by Russian mobsters through the Bank of New York, USA Today said.

The IMF is scheduled to release soon another \$640 million to Russia under an already agreed \$4.5 billion loan package. Since 1992, the IMF has lent Russia more than \$20 billion.

But the newspaper said Summers indicated the justice department investigation could delay the dispersal of the new money.

"The United States will not support disbursement of the next tranche without adequate safeguards to assure that any funds disbursed are used properly and without adequate accounting," Summers said in the interview.

The IMF is awaiting an outside auditor's report this month on what happened to the money it lent Russia to help the nation transform its economy.

But USA Today said Summers left open the possibility that the report, which will focus on the activities of the Russian central bank and its subsidiaries, might not be enough.

— Reuters

The Economic Times

2 SEP 1999

U.S., Russia unveil n-fuel monitoring technology

VIENNA, SEPT. 27. The U.S. and Russia today unveiled new technology designed to monitor nuclear fuel by remote control, to be used under a joint agreement to reduce nuclear stockpiles.

The U.S. Energy Secretary, Mr. Bill Richardson, was "caught red-handed" tampering with a drum of nuclear material, his photograph taken by a concealed camera in a demonstration of a range of new devices.

"This initiative is essential. It supports the American-Russian process of irreversible arms reduction," Mr. Richardson told reporters at the mock-up demonstration, standing alongside his Russian counterpart, Mr. Yevgeny Adamov.

The initiative, which includes remote cameras, electronic seals and other devices, is being developed in a trilateral agreement between Moscow, Washington and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Mr. Adamov said he welcomed the new technology, which is designed to reduce the need for actual physical inspection of nuclear materials removed from warheads. — AFP

THE HINDU

29 SEP 1999

UNCLE SAM PLAYS BIG BROTHER: INTERVENTION ONLY TO PROTECT US INTERESTS

US to reformulate Clinton Doctrine to pacify Russia

T.V. Parasuram

WASHINGTON 7 AUGUST

THE "CLINTON Doctrine" obliging the US to use its awesome military power and that of its allies to save minorities worldwide from ethnic cleansing and genocide will be reformulated later this year, sources here said.

This has become necessary, because the doctrine — used to justify Nato bombing to save Albanian Muslims in Kosovo from ethnic cleansing by Serbs — has now led to calls for its application against Kosovars who are killing and driving away the Serbs, they said.

The demand for application of the doctrine to Serbs in Kosovo was raised by no less a person than Greek Orthodox Church

Bishop Artemije who wondered on Friday: "Doesn't the Clinton Doctrine apply to threatened Serbs as well? If the international community really wants Southeast Europe to be integrated into European organisations, they must do everything to stop the violence in Kosovo." Angry Kosovars are reported to be killing and driving away Serbs from Kosovo.

Within hours, US state department spokesman James Rubin rejected the idea saying: "It is just not possible for Nato to be in a position to ensure that all the Serbs stay (in Kosovo) or that every Serb is free from violence."

The "Clinton Doctrine" is also being invoked by secessionists in several countries, who compare their plight to that of the Kosovars, to seek US intervention in their

the "tyrants beware" speech, which has become the basis of the doctrine, during his recent tour of Europe with these words about the Nato bombing of Kosovo: "If somebody comes after innocent civilians and tries to kill them en masse because of their race, ethnic background or religion, and it is within our power to stop it, we will stop it."

The doctrine will be reformulated, sources said, largely by US national security adviser Samuel Berger, to allay fears in Moscow and other capitals that Clinton is pledging to deprive US military as a global cop. Clinton's critics at home have slammed the doctrine as "nutshy-headed idealism."

"It is foreign policy as social work," said Senator John McCain,

an Arizona Republican running for the Republican presidential nomination.

In the first sign of rethink on the doctrine, Berger told the Wall Street Journal on Friday that the US will not intervene militarily to protect ethnic groups under siege unless it can line up Allied support and make sure military action will be effective.

Berger cautioned against thinking that Kosovo will become a paradigm for US action and sought to allay the impression that Clinton was committed to open-ended humanitarian intervention.

"One needs to be cautious about proclaiming doctrines. Foreign policy by metaphor gets you into trouble," he said.



Clinton: Good Samaritan

favour, prompting a rethink in White House circles.

President Clinton first made

— Reuters

Beyond Kargil: Indo-U.S. ties

By C. Raja Mohan

The Kargil episode — in particular the contacts between New Delhi and Washington — should give India the confidence to deal with the United States on the basis of pragmatism unencumbered by the ideological baggage of the past.

AS HOPE rises for an early withdrawal of the Pakistani forces from the Kargil sector, India will have to come to terms with the fact that Washington has played an important role in forcing a difficult decision down the throat of Islamabad.

By ensuring the diplomatic isolation of Pakistan in the international arena and exerting considerable direct pressure on the military brass and the political leadership in Islamabad over the last few weeks, the Clinton administration has left the Pakistani Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, with no choice but to end the Kargil misadventure.

Although India would have cleared the aggression on the basis of its military strength over a period of time, the unexpected support from the United States and back its forces from across the Line of Control (LoC) had created an unusually favourable international setting for India in managing the Kargil challenge.

To be sure, there will be an extended debate in India on the impact of American policy in ending the Kargil crisis, and its implications for the future of Indo-U.S. relations as well as the evolution of a broader regional dynamic involving Washington, New Delhi, Islamabad and Beijing.

It will take some time for the Indian political establishment to fully digest the significance of U.S. diplomacy on Kargil. But there is no question that it is one of those rare occasions when the U.S. ended up on the side of India in the many national security challenges it has confronted over the last five decades. It is also the first time that Washington has unambiguously backed India in the latter's series of confrontations with Pakistan over Kashmir since independence.

Two broad lines have emerged in the Indian debate on the U.S. policy towards Kargil. Both these views are somewhat extreme — one based on fear and the other on hope. The former sees a fiendish American plot against New Delhi and the latter a "paradigm shift" of the U.S. policy towards the subcontinent in India's favour. Not surprisingly, many in India fear that the American support on Kargil may be the thin end of the wedge that will inexorably lead to internationalisation of the Kashmir

aggressor in Kargil with a meeting in Washington on a major national holiday and a joint statement has left some unhappiness in New Delhi. It is also pointed out that the U.S. has found it necessary to offer a fig leaf — if not a face-saver — to Mr. Sharif in the form of an assurance from President Clinton that he will take a "personal interest" in accelerating the Indo-Pakistan dialogue. There is no anxiety in New Delhi that the U.S. is about to muscle in on a resolution of the Kashmir problem. Even at its weakest moments in the early 1990s, India successfully resisted the American attempts at "internationalising" the Kashmir question. There are enough assurances now from the highest level in Washington that the administration has no desire to either internationalise the issue or attempt mediation.

The real concern in New Delhi lies elsewhere — that Washington may continue to believe that Pakistan must be saved from itself. It is the repeated affirmation of this policy in Washington that has let Pakistan believe that it could get away with anything — whether it is nuclear proliferation or sponsoring narco-religious terrorism.

The U.S. must begin to see that the unprovoked aggression in Kargil is not an aberration or a miscalculation by rogue elements in Pakistan but as a conscious policy choice of a state that has become increasingly militant and ideological in its orientation.

Pakistan may indeed withdraw from Kargil under American pressure. But the leopard of radicalism that has been nurtured in that country is unlikely to change its spots. And it will remain the biggest threat to the people of Pakistan as well as peace in the subcontinent and beyond.

The time has come for Washington to review the core premises of its policy towards Islamabad and begin to address jointly with New Delhi the instabilities arising from Pakistan. India, on the other hand, needs to recognise that it will be a while before the U.S. can fully disentangle its past intensive relationship with Pakistan. The Kargil episode — in particular the contacts between New Delhi and Washington — should give India the confidence to deal with the U.S. on the basis of pragmatism unencumbered by the ideological baggage of the past.

China. There is a huge intellectual leap in this argument — in interpreting the potential for future changes in U.S. policy as having already occurred. All the factors mentioned in this view are of considerable importance for the future of Indo-U.S. relations. But none of them may have matured to the point where it begins to alter the foundations of Indo-U.S. relationship. The big emerging market of India is yet to materialise. The slow pace of India's economic reforms has long ended the hype in the U.S. during the mid-1990s about the attractions of the Indian market.

There are no real indications to suggest that the U.S. is anywhere near dumping

Pakistan. The American struggle against Islamic radicalism is far too complex to be reduced to India-Pakistan terms. And in the case of China, there is more interaction between Washington and Beijing in every sphere of activity than between New Delhi and Washington. The Chinese trade surplus with the U.S. is almost five times larger than the two-way trade between India and America.

In contrast to the extreme views on U.S. policy towards Kargil, the official assessment remains cautious and balanced. There is a quiet satisfaction that Indian diplomacy has been able to work the all-important U.S. factor in the international dynamics of Kargil in New Delhi's favour. There is appreciation that throughout the crisis, the U.S. has been transparent about its approach and has constantly kept India informed of its policy and actions.

India certainly values the U.S. pressure on Pakistan; but there is some wariness too. While India may be pleased with the main "product" of the Clinton-Sharif meeting, there is some nagging irritation at the "process" which has produced it.

That the U.S. chose to dignify the ag-

WORLD VIEW

Rooted in the past as it is, this view finds it hard to explain the American behaviour in the case of the Kargil confrontation. This school either does not want to take into account the changes in the region that have taken place since the end of the Cold War or believes that there is no fundamental shift in the U.S. policy towards the subcontinent in the 1990s.

The second school, on the other hand, perhaps tends to read too much in the changes in the regional order since the collapse of the Soviet Union. Those who proclaim a radical change or a "paradigm shift" in U.S. policy towards India believe that Washington has good reasons now to end its past tilt towards Pakistan and begin a new alignment with India.

This school of thought assumes that the U.S. is attracted by the huge market of India and that it wants to counter Islamic fundamentalism spreading from Pakistan and looks at India as a possible balancer to

Ties with U.S. stable, says Stepashin

WASHINGTON, JULY 25. The relationship between Washington and Moscow is stable despite the "serious damage" caused by the war in Yugoslavia, the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Sergei Stepashin, said in an interview released on Saturday on the eve of his first visit to the United States.

But Moscow's relationship with NATO is at an "impasse," the Russian leader told *Newsweek* magazine. "We are very concerned with NATO expansion eastward," he said.

The magazine asked Mr. Stepashin whether the NATO bombing of Yugoslavia had caused serious damage to U.S.-Russian diplomatic ties. "No doubt serious damage has been done," he said. "However, I believe that our relationship is stable and can't be shattered even by the war in Yugoslavia. We should draw lessons from Yugoslavia," he added. "If we are partners, and we are serious partners, we should respect each other's positions and strive for compromise before military action begins."

Mr. Stepashin's comments, in the August 2 edition of *Newsweek*, were released on the eve of his departure on Sunday for a three-day visit to the U.S., his first since becoming Prime Minister.

The visit also is a first by a Russian Prime Minister since the then Prime Minister, Mr. Yevgeny Primakov, turned his plane around over the Atlantic ocean on March 23 after being informed that NATO air strikes on Yugoslavia were inevitable.

The 78-day bombing campaign pushed U.S.-Russian relations to their lowest level since the Cold War until the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, broke the ice at a G-8 summit in Cologne, Germany, last month.

Mr. Stepashin, 47, told *Newsweek* he hoped to discuss economic matters, the reconstruction of Yugoslavia, and the ABM and SALT II missile treaties when he met the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore, and other members of the Clinton administration.

Mr. Stepashin, who had a number of telephone conversations with Mr. Gore during the Kosovo conflict, said he would be meeting the Vice-President for the first time and hoped to build on the relationship they had developed by phone.— Reuters

THE HINDU

26 JUL 1999

New US-Russia hotline connects 2 foreign offices

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US Russia
Singapore, July 26: US secretary of State Madeleine Albright and her Russian counterpart Igor Ivanov on Monday agreed to create a hotline between their two offices as they moved to restoring ties between Washington and Moscow marred by the Kosovo crisis.

The pair signed a memorandum of understanding establishing the direct telephone link before heading into a meeting expected to cover a wide range of issues from the Balkans to arms control and international financial assistance.

"The recent developments of the world demonstrate the need for having continuously operating, secure and reliable communications," Mr Ivanov told reporters, referring not only to Kosovo but to concerns over nuclear proliferation in South Asia and tension on the Korean peninsula.

Ms Albright agreed, saying the US-Russian relationship "remains as significant a bilateral relationship as any in the world."

"The memorandum of understanding... is another clear example of our cooperation," she said.

The new hotline will compliment the existing link between the Kremlin and the White House.

Ms Albright and Mr Ivanov were holding a working dinner in Singapore on the sidelines of the annual Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Forum as Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin visited Washington for talks with US President Bill Clin-

ton and vice-President Al Gore.

The meeting, expected to focus on Balkans reconstruction, was billed by US officials as part of series of recent gatherings aimed at improving relations in the wake of Nato's campaign over Yugoslavia.

Mr Ivanov made no secret of the fact that Moscow was still angered by the airstrikes conducted without United Nations approval against its long-time ally, which he said badly affected ties with Nato and also Washington.

"The crisis in the Balkans could not but negatively influence these relations and that is why we should double or triple our efforts now," Mr Ivanov said.

Ms Albright called for a "renewed cooperation" between the two sides not just on providing assistance to the Balkans — which is to be the topic of a summit this week in Sarajevo — and on details of the UN civilian administration in Kosovo, but also on arms reduction.

Ms Albright expressed hope that Moscow would soon begin to move on ratifying the START II weapons reduction treaty, negotiations over a future START III arms limitation pact as well as talks on amending the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Mr Ivanov said that his government would be pushing the Duma to begin consideration of START II when it reconvenes in September and said Moscow realised START III was in "our interests." (AFP)

THE ASIAN AGE

27 JUL 1999

STARTING BLOCK: AUGUST MEETING TO ALSO DISCUSS STAR WARS

US, Russia to hold talks on N-arms curbs in August

Arshad Mohammed
WASHINGTON 26 JULY

THE UNITED STATES and Russia will open talks on a new round of nuclear arms cuts in Moscow next month, US and Russian officials said on Tuesday.

Vice-president Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin announced the decision to begin negotiations on a START 3 treaty, which would reduce US and Russian nuclear warheads to below 3,500 each, after a Washington meeting.

They said the August meetings would also discuss making changes to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) that the United States wants to enable the possible development of a "Star Wars"-style US missile defence system.

"The United States and Russia have long understood that reducing nuclear arsenals is in our mutual interest," Gore said in a statement. "That is why we will continue to press for ratification of START 2 and will begin discussions next month toward START 3."

US and Russian arms control talks have been hampered for

years by the Russian Duma's failure to ratify the 1993 START 2 treaty, which was approved by the US Senate in 1996.

The goal of START 2 is to bring warheads down to a maximum of 3,500 on each side by the year 2003. Under START 3 they could go down to 2,000 on each side.

"We will try to bring START 2 to the forum again in the fall of this year," Stepashin told a joint news conference after his talks with Gore. The United States and Russia have explored the outlines of what START 3 might look like in recent years, but Washington has insisted it would not actually sign such a treaty until START 2 enters into force.

"You can engage more seriously on START 3, but START 2 has to be ratified before you can actually move on START 3," said a Clinton administration official who asked not to be named. The other topic on the agenda at the August talks will be amendments to the United States wants to make to the 1972 ABM Treaty, which sets limits on the type of systems Russia and the United States can deploy to intercept incoming mis-

siles. The changes are needed because legislation adopted by the Republican-led Congress in March commits Washington to put in place a defensive shield against limited missile attack. Russia is concerned that a US defensive system capable of shooting down incoming missiles would breach the ABM treaty and undermine the Cold War doctrine of mutually assured destruction.

The idea at the time of the ABM Treaty was that neither side would be likely to launch a nuclear strike if they knew they had no defences to prevent the resulting catastrophe.

But many military experts, diplomats and national security figures in Washington feel the ABM Treaty is a Cold War relic that has no place in a new, more dangerous world where so-called rogue states like North Korea and Iraq might attempt a missile strike against the United States.

The White House has pledged \$6.6 billion in its fiscal 2000 budget for the development of a missile defence, but will delay a presidential decision on building one until June 2000.

—Reuters

Russia, US look ahead to warmer ties after Kosovo

Janet Guttman
WASHINGTON 26 JULY

RUSSIA AND the United States on Tuesday promised new talks on arms control and fresh efforts on trade and investment, predicting a thaw in their relationship after the chill caused by the Kosovo war.

US vice-president Al Gore and Russian Prime Minister Sergei Stepashin, speaking at a news conference after two hours of talks on political and economic issues, admitted the Kosovo conflict had hurt ties between their countries.

Russia, traditionally allied with the Serbs, opposed Nato's air strikes against Yugoslavia, but the two sides patched up the worst of their differences during the Cologne, Germany summit of the Colonne. German soldiers are now serving alongside Americans in a Nato-led peace force.

"We are not in a Cold War any more. We are cooperating," Gore said.

"Of course there are tensions from time to time and old attitudes sometimes fade away slowly," he added.

—Reuters

U.S. cannot be global policeman: Stepashin

WASHINGTON, JULY 28. The visiting Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Sergei Stepashin, has warned the United States against assuming the role of international policeman.

"I don't think that either the United States or some other country is going to be a world guarantor in terms of observing human rights and establishing all rules and rule of law. It is very dangerous," he said at a press conference here yesterday.

Commenting on the Russian Prime Minister's observations, the *Washington Times* said he took a swipe at what some in the U.S. administration are calling the Clinton doctrine — the idea that nations have the right to intervene in other nations' affairs to prevent grave violations of human rights.

According to the *New York Times* Mr. Stepashin's observations indicate that relations between the U.S. and Russia remain frayed by the American-led military intervention in Kosovo.

The U.S. and Russia have agreed to begin a new round of negotia-

tions next month to reduce their long-range nuclear weapons.

The decision was made during talks between the Mr. Stepashin and Mr. Gore, co-chairmen of a U.S.-Russia commission.

But Mr. Gore, at a news conference, said a Start III treaty would not be signed until the Russian parliament ratified the 1993 Start II accord.

Despite repeated assurances by the Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, that he would push the treaty, it has been stalled by objections from nationalists and communists, as well as concern the pact would put Russia at a disadvantage unless it builds costly new weapons.

Even so, Mr. Stepashin said at a press conference that "we will try to get Start II ratified in the fall."

Mr. Gore said prompt action was unlikely in the aftermath of tensions over Kosovo. But he acknowledged, "that cannot explain the long delay."

"We are entering the 21st Century. We have to enter it as friends," said Mr. Stepashin. — AP

THE HINDU
29 JUL 1999

40-16 'Russian zone in Kosovo feasible'

MOSCOW, JUNE 13. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, today ended talks with the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, and reportedly said Russian troops in Kosovo would obtain their own "zone of responsibility".

The Russian news agency Interfax and other agencies said Mr. Talbott emerged from the talks saying they had mainly talked about the G-8 talks set to take place in a week's time in the German city of Cologne.

Mr. Talbott said the Russians had a claim to their own "zone of responsibility" in Kosovo and that the United States backed this claim.

But he did not specify which part of Kosovo the Russians could control or whose authority the Russian forces would operate under.

Russian news media said today it was possible those issues would only be settled at the G-8 summit, where Russia is to be represented by the President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin.

The Talbott-Ivanov talks were urgent because a standoff developed last evening between Russian and British troops in the Kosovo capital of Pristina. The Russian paratroopers were still refusing this morning to let the Britons into the airport.

On Russian television, news film showed a Russian armoured vehicle parked crossways, blocking the entrance and preventing the passage of a British tank.

Mr. Talbott departed for Washington after the talks. NATO had previously rejected Russia's demand for a separate zone on the

stated grounds that it could lead to the partition of Kosovo.

According to Mr. Talbott earlier, further Russian peacekeepers would not cross the border into Yugoslavia from Bosnia where they are currently deployed until an agreement had been reached on the status of the Kosovo units. Russia has 5,000 men in Bosnia.

In London, the British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Robin Cook, however had said NATO was determined not to allow the partitioning of Kosovo.

In a television interview, Mr. Cook said that the Russians had aspirations to take control of their own sector. "There is not going to be any partition of Kosovo, and there's not going to be any partition of Kosovo by allowing troops to settle in different areas," he said.

Meanwhile, Russian troops entry ahead of the NATO forces into Pristina on Saturday, coincided with the country's ninth independence anniversary from Communist rule, bringing a moment of joy to its people.

Mr. Anatoly Ivanovich Grishin, 64, with his 60-year-old wife Serafima, could not stop the tears of joy and pride for their nation when the Russian TV channels telecast the scenes of warm welcome accorded to the Russian peacekeepers by the Serb residents of Pristina.

"This is for the first time since the Second World War when Russian soldiers were welcomed with flowers and cheers in a foreign land," Mr. Anatoly Ivanovich said pouring Vodka in the glasses to celebrate the "great event". — DPA, IPI

THE HINDU
14 JUN 1999

US Senate panel holds Russia to ransom over Kosovo

Washington
18 JUNE

A US Senate panel, ignoring White House warnings that it could hamper Balkan peacekeeping efforts, threatened on Thursday to block some \$750 million in aid to Russia unless it cooperated with Nato forces in Kosovo.

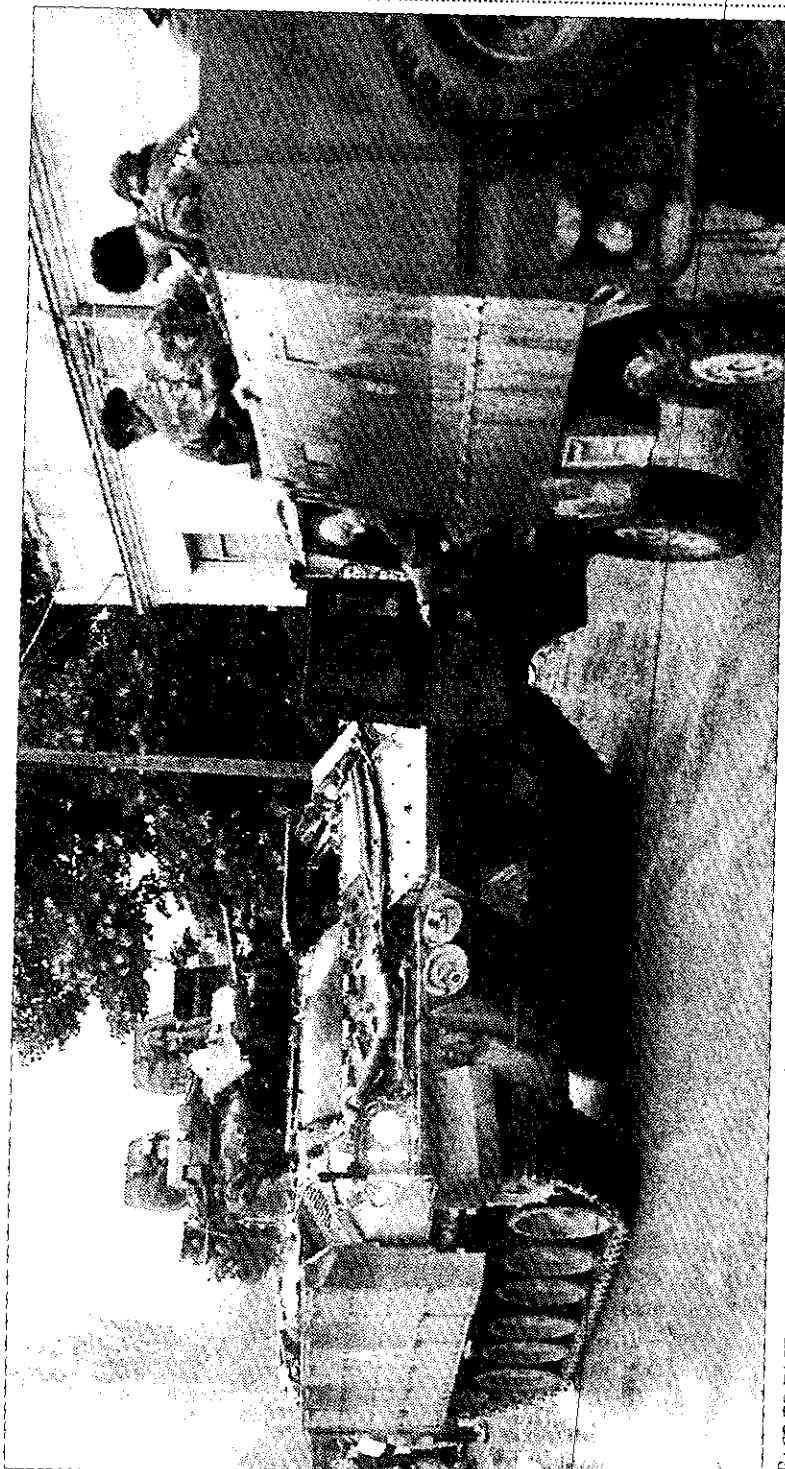
The provision was wrapped into a \$12.6-billion foreign aid Bill passed by the Senate Appropriations Committee that the White House promptly threatened to veto.

The White House called the spending measure "grossly inadequate" and warned that it would hobble the President's ability to react to overseas threats and would impede negotiations to stabilise Kosovo.

The measure, which passed with bipartisan support, included \$535 million to help Kosovo and its neighbours in the Balkans.

But it was \$1.8 billion below the White House request and \$700 million under current funding as tensions mounted between the Republican-led Congress and President Bill Clinton's democratic administration over paying for programmes for the fiscal year beginning October 1.

The White House complained that the committee's Bill put too



FACE TO FACE WITH THE LONG ARM OF NATO: A Warrior tank of the British 4th Armoured Brigade confronts a Serb military vehicle in the centre of Podujevo as British troops moved into this northern Kosovo town on Saturday

many restrictions on money for Kosovo and Russia, conditions it said could hamper efforts to bring peace to the Balkans and could disrupt negotiations with Russia on its role in Kosovo

peacekeeping. The threatened aid cut-off could also undermine the efforts of Russia to curb weapons of mass destruction, it said. The administration also com-

plained that the overall spending for foreign aid "would be grossly inadequate to maintain America's leadership around the world." The House, facing the chal-

lenge of crafting spending Bills that must be cut by an overall \$20 billion to fit in next year's Budget, has not yet moved its version of the Foreign Assistance Bill.

Russia, US begin third day of troop talks

Heisinki
18 JUNE

US AND Russian defence leaders, on Friday, began a third day of talks to end a dispute over Moscow's proposed military participation in Kosovo's Nato-led peacekeeping force (KFOR).

US defence secretary William Cohen and his Russian counterpart Igor Sergeev wound up a second day of talks shortly after midnight, then slept and resumed work at just after 11.30 IST after their military experts toiled overnight to settle differences.

Earlier, on Friday, Nato reported what were believed to be the first casualties of its push into Kosovo, and the Russian foreign minister said a partial agreement had been reached on his country's peacekeeping role.

A British military spokesman said two Italian soldiers were wounded when they walked into a minefield in their area of operation in the southern Serbian province.

— Reuters

US, Russia reach accord on Kosovo peacekeeping

Washington, June 19

US AND Russian negotiators have reached an agreement on Russian participation in Kosovo peacekeeping, following three-days of hard-bargaining in Helsinki and a week-long standoff between Russian soldiers and British forces in Kosovo.

US Secretary of Defence William Cohen and Russian Defence Minister Marshall Igor Sergeyev, announced the breakthrough and signed the agreement yesterday in the Finnish capital during a live television broadcast monitored in Washington.

Under the agreement, Russian troops would have a zone of responsibility within the US sector in southeastern Kosovo.

Russian soldiers also would oper-

ate in German and French zones, while Pristina airport, in the British zone, would be open to all peace-keepers.

Under the agreement, Russian troops would operate in the US sector in south-eastern Kosovo, also in French and German zone.

Mr Cohen said the agreement, which must still be presented to Nato's political body, "protects Nato's fundamental interests" of a unified military command. Like Bosnia, the Russian forces would be under immediate, direct com-

mand of Russian officers.

"This agreement recognises the stakes that Russia and Nato share in Europe's future," Mr Cohen said, reports Agency.

HTC ADDS FROM LONDON: The British are not quite happy at the deal brokered after 30 hours of wrangling in Helsinki.

The terms agreed between the two have been welcomed by the US President Bill Clinton but the British suspect that the stake given to Russian troops in three of the five zones administered by Nato could encourage President Milosevic, described by Robin Cook as a serial nationalist, to further misguided adventures.

Rather significantly Cook warned after the agreement was announced that Milosevic could now target Montenegro.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 JUN 1999

U.S., Russia bury the hatchet

COLOGNE, JUNE 20. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, today decided to put bilateral relations back on the rails and look to the future, notably re-opening dialogue on reducing their strategic weapons, on the sidelines of the G-8 summit here.

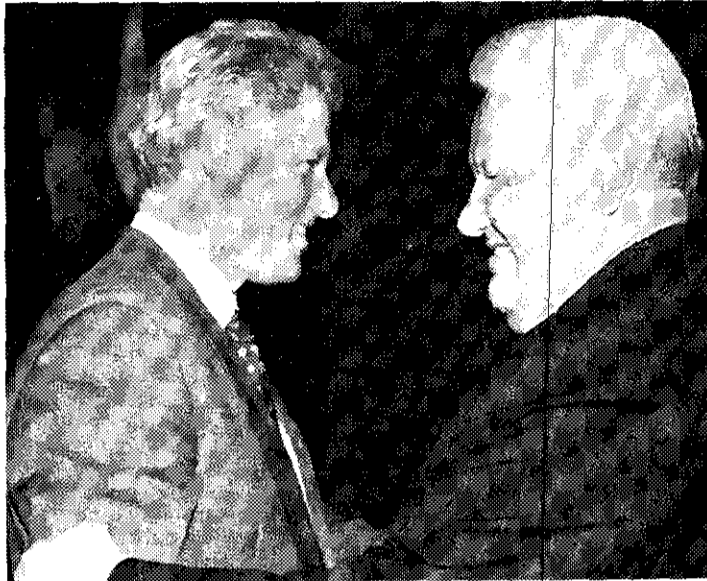
The G-8 leaders also issued a 49-point communique at the end of their three-day summit which called on all nations to open up their markets further while pressing for an effective, new round of trade negotiations to help pave the way for further integration of the developing countries into the world economy.

For the first time, the Russian President agreed to open talks on possible changes to the treaty on Anti-Ballistic Missiles (ABM) signed by both countries as also to resume talks on START-III, a top U.S. official said.

Both presidents agreed that it was "time to turn to the future" and to "put behind them" the tensions caused by the Kosovo conflict, to "cooperate on peace and to spend the remaining periods of their terms in office in getting things done between Moscow and Washington," said the White House Security Advisor, Mr. Sandy Berger.

He described the meet as "very good, productive and constructive." The two presidents decided to renew dialogue on strategic disarmament which Mr. Yeltsin had frozen in March to show his disagreement with the NATO strikes against Yugoslavia.

The Russian President also hoped to reactivate the U.S.-Russian economic and technology



The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, just before their meeting at Cologne in Germany on Sunday. —AP

committee led by the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore, and the head of the Russian Government.

The Russian President indicated that he remained committed to ratifying the START-II agreement, Mr. Berger said.

Open up markets: G-8

The G-8 leaders today called on all nations to resist protectionist pressures and to open their markets further and asserted that all the 134 WTO member-states should have a "stake" in the planned new round of trade negotiations later this year.

Chairman Germany, the U.S., the U.K., Italy, France, Canada, Japan and Russia are the members of the group.

"All countries should contribute and benefit from the new round," the leaders said in their communique issued at the end of their summit here.

Urging for a new round of broad-based and ambitious negotiations with the aim of achieving "substantial and manageable" results, the leaders wanted proposals to be made in areas where developing countries and in particular least developed nations can make "solid and substantial gains." The communique said an effective new round of trade negotiations should help pave the way for further integration of the developing countries into the world economy. — AFP

See also Page 16

THE HINDU

21 JUN 1999

Russia, US meet to resolve Kosovo crisis

Belgrade
12 MAY

RUSSIAN FOREIGN minister Igor Ivanov and US deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott met in Moscow on Wednesday at the start of a new round of diplomatic efforts to resolve the Kosovo crisis.

But there was no let-up in Nato's air assault on Yugoslavia, which entered its 50th day, with Serb media reporting civilian casualties in three separate overnight attacks.

The Moscow talks followed Nato's rejection of Russian and Chinese demands for an end to the bombing, and the alliance's move to widen its military base by gaining Ankara's agreement to let Turkish bases be used for the Nato campaign.

The ashes of three Chinese victims of last Friday's Belgrade embassy bombing arrived home on Wednesday, and the US and British embassies braced for fresh outbursts of grief and anger.

Some 20 people wounded in the Nato attack were also aboard the flight, together with several staff members of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and an investigation team led by a senior foreign ministry official.

A senior Nato military source said substantial numbers of US A-10 Thunderbolt tankbuster planes were being added to the alliance arsenal aimed at the Yugoslav army in Kosovo.

Serb media reported Nato attacks throughout Serbia and around the Kosovo capital Pristina early on Wednesday, the targets including a fuel depot in Bogotovac, near Kraljevo in central Serbia and Belgrade's industrial suburb of Pancevo.

Belgrade residents said they had also heard a loud explosion from the south of the city, where the air raid all-clear sounded just after 6 a.m. (0400 GMT).

Official Yugoslav news agency Tanjug said that at least 15 Nato missiles had fallen on residential areas in the central Serbian town of Paracin, injuring three people and hitting a youth hostel and a Bosnian refugee settlement.

The private Beta news agency said the refugees in Kosovo were victims of a Nato air raid on a collective farm in the village of Svetlje on Tuesday evening.

Serbian state television RTS and Beta said missiles were also fired at the nearby villages of Tresnja and Gornje Ljupee, killing an unspecified number of people.

RTS said earlier that a three-year-old girl was one of two people who had died when Nato bombs hit a residential area near a bridge in the centre of Vladicin Han in south-east Serbia late on Tuesday.

In Moscow, Russia's special Balkans envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin was expected to meet Mr Talbott on Wednesday and to present him with new ideas for resolving the conflict.

Mr Chernomyrdin returned on Tuesday from talks with Chinese leaders in Beijing and was asked if he had any new proposals for Mr Talbott. "I have," he replied without elaboration.

Russia's Interfax news agency quoted Mr Chernomyrdin as saying that China may be willing to take part in an international peace force for Kosovo if it had Belgrade's support and was organised by the United Nations, not Nato.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder flew into Beijing on Wednesday for a scaled-back 16-hour visit to apologise for the Chinese embassy bombing and urge China's leaders to take a positive role in helping to end the crisis.

Mr Talbott will go from Moscow to Helsinki to see Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, who could play a diplomatic role in the Kosovo conflict.

China, enraged by the attack on its embassy in Belgrade, has said the bombing must end before the UN Security Council can discuss peace moves.

But White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said in Washington: "We are going to continue prosecuting the air campaign until the Nato conditions are met, and that and that alone will be the cause of any suspension of bombing."

Nato is demanding that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic withdraw his forces from the southern Serbian province of Kosovo and allow the return of hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanian refugees under international armed protection.

Despite opposition from five Nato members on the Security Council, Beijing, on Tuesday, tried to get an official statement from the council strongly deploring the attack on its embassy after it failed to win approval for a stronger condemnation the previous night.

But council members were deadlocked and Western diplomats said the new version was still not acceptable.

Meanwhile, the United States made light of Chinese threats to obstruct a UN settlement until the bombing ended.

"We do not believe that if a diplomatic resolution is found where President Milosevic has agreed to Nato's conditions, that, at the end of the day, the Chinese will stand in the way," state department spokesman James Rubin said on Tuesday. — Reuters

Schroeder to apologise to China

Matt Pottinger

BEIJING 12 MAY

GERMAN CHANCELLOR Gerhard Schroeder said on Wednesday he would offer China's top leaders an unconditional apology for Nato's bombing of Beijing's embassy in Belgrade.

"I will make an apology without any ifs or whens," Schroeder told journalists after arriving in Beijing. He is on a one-day visit to try to persuade China to play a constructive role in the search for a solution to the Kosovo crisis.

Schroeder said he was dissatisfied with Nato Secretary General Javier Solana's explanation for the bombing and repeated his call for an investigation.

Schroeder's planned four-day journey to China was scaled back to 16 hours after a Nato strike hit China's embassy in Belgrade on Friday, killing three Chinese journalists.

Nato called the bombing a tragic mistake that resulted from faulty information. An incensed China called it a war crime and demanded the Nato bombing of Yugoslavia stop before it would consider peace negotiations.

The ashes of the three journalists also arrived in Beijing on Wednesday, an event that could rekindle the deep emotions that set off violent anti-Nato protests in major Chinese cities at the weekend.

Schroeder, representing the European Union's rotating presidency, was scheduled to meet President Jiang Zemin, Premier Zhu Rongji and foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan, and hold a news conference.

He was originally due to attend a Sino-European Union summit, but that became a casualty of the embassy bombing. Schroeder is the first Western leader to visit China since then.

"The aim is to bring China into the various diplomatic efforts that are currently going on," a German government spokesman quoted Schroeder as telling a cabinet meeting on Tuesday.

Schroeder, facing increasing domestic pressure for peace since the embassy was hit, has demanded a full inquiry into the incident, which has opened rifts in his centre-left government.

— Reuters

Balkans war casts a shadow on U.S.-Japan ties

From F. J. Khergamvala

H10-14
28/5
TOKYO, MAY 28. Earlier in the week, the Japanese Parliament's upper chamber passed the revised U.S.-Japan defence guidelines Bill, thus practically giving effect to an expanded role for Japan. That role is now coming under much scrutiny here because of the ongoing Balkans operations and the fear that the U.S. could railroad Japan.

The three Bills passed by the Diet last Monday are about the scope of Japan's role in cooperating with the U.S. to serve the redefined but not actually revised U.S.-Japan Security Treaty. There is a bill each on emergencies surrounding Japan; amending the law of the Self-Defence Forces (SDF) and one revising the Japan-U.S. Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement. The Treaty itself is now 48 years old, including a controversial revision done in 1960.

On the surface it seems quite odd that domestic reaction as well as the reaction of China is stronger this week than reactions after the passage of the Bills through the more meaningful Lower House last month. At that time, before the Prime Minister, Mr Keizo Obuchi travelled to the U.S. last month he had pulled out all legislative stops to ensure the passage of the Bills so that the visit could announce a stronger alliance rather than get mired in trade disputes at a time when U.S. politics takes on highly populist overtones. The Upper House passage this week was thereafter considered a mere formality after it was known that the ruling Liberal Democratic Party had the numbers.

Quite unexpectedly domestic reaction has been divided. The right-wing *Sankei Shimbun* played up the adoption of the Bills as indicative of "the maturity level of Japanese politics." As expected the conservative *Yomiuri Shimbun* applauded by deriding the opponent Socialists and Communists as suggesting that "Japan can remain safe by doing nothing but chanting peace prayers."

Last month, a pilots' union announced it would not obey instructions, demanding their services be requisitioned in case of an emergency requiring U.S.-Japan guidelines being put in effect. Certain

municipal and prefecture (State) legislatures are reluctant to adopt subsidiary legislation that permits their areas to come under the purview of the new guidelines. These opponents' views are echoed by the two mainstream dailies, the *Asahi Shimbun* and the Osaka area based national paper, *Mainichi Shimbun*. The *Mainichi* cautioned that the Bills were passed without much time or space given to a truly national debate. It asked "is it necessary to expand Japan's defence role at this time?" The *Mainichi* and the *Asahi* said both allies needed to cooperate to avoid emergencies taking place. The *Asahi* said Japan had a parallel responsibility to prevent the U.S. from making mistakes.

The *Asahi*, traditionally pacifist and left of LDP views said "The new arrangements should never be a mechanism for Japan's automatic participation in America's wars. The paper also warned that the quality of Japan's role was altered without actually revising the Security Treaty. The 1960 student protests took place when the 1951 treaty underwent revision.

There is much to be done still before the entire nation gets a legal framework to support U.S. actions. However, China for one expresses the maximum anxiety about the likelihood that the rampant U.S. behaviour in the Balkans could some day be a forerunner to similar attitudes in this region and Japan would automatically be bulldozed into brashness. The timing of these apprehensions is revealing. When the defence debate began in mid-March no action had begun against Belgrade. By now, it is clear to many Japanese that there is no clear achievable goal with enduring results there for the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

Japan is making efforts to allay China's concern Mr Sadaaki Numata the Foreign Ministry spokesman said on Tuesday "with a view to ensuring transparency about these bills and the Japan-US Security Arrangements, it is our intention to dispatch senior officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Defense Agency to, for example, the Republic of Korea within a few days and also to the People's Republic of China."

THE HINDU

29 MAY 1999

Russia accuses USA of 'blackmail' over sanctions against firms

AGENCIES

55-12-118

WS - Russia

MOSCOW, April 3. — Russia today accused the USA of "blackmail" for imposing sanctions against three Russian firms found selling anti-tank missiles to Syria, a country which is listed by the US government as a supporter of international terrorism.

The vice-premier, Mr Gennady Kulik, said the move was "blackmail" designed to intimidate Russia, the news agency Itar-Tass reported. The defence minister, Mr Igor Sergeev, called the sanctions unfounded.

The dispute comes at a time when relations between the two countries are already strained over Nato's air strikes against Moscow ally, Yugoslavia.

The sanctions mean that US firms or the US government cannot buy or sell arms to the three Russian firms.

The US Secretary of State, Ms Madeleine Albright, citing US national security interests, waived broader sanctions that could affect the Russian government's contacts with US firms.

In addition, Ms Albright waived financial penalties against the three firms or the Russian government. The financial penalties against the Russian government could have amounted to \$ 90 million.

The three firms were identified by the US state department as: the Tula Design Bureau, the Volsk Mechanical Plant and a company called Tsnitochmash.

The Russian government was informed of the new sanctions on Thursday, according to the state department spokesman, Mr James Rubin.

The CIA reported the sale of the Russian anti-tank missiles to Syria in its report to the Congress in 1998.

Syria remains on the state department's list of state sponsors of terrorism because of its aid to radical groups operating in Lebanon, including Hezbollah, and the Kurdish Workers' Party, PKK.

THE STATESMAN
- 4 APR 1999

No Russian decision to re-target missiles: US

US
HR-10

N C Menon
Washington, April 10

STATE DEPARTMENT spokesman James Rubin yesterday firmly denied reports that Russian missiles had been re-targeted against the U.S. and its allies as a sequel to a growing divide over the Kosovo mission.

According to some reports, Gennady Seleznyov, the communist Speaker of the Russian Parliament, who had recently returned from a trip to Belgrade, had insisted on Friday that President Yeltsin had decided to re-target Russian nuclear missiles against the U.S. and its allies.

"We have been in touch with the Russians at a variety of levels, and the Russians have assured us that no such decision has been made," Rubin told newsmen. "We even understand that the chairman who allegedly made the statement says he didn't make such a statement. There had also been the assurance that Russia had no intention of getting militarily involved in Yugoslavia."

The Spokesman acknowledged that the U.S. had a fundamental disagreement with Russia about whether it was appropriate for NATO to use military force to try to stop the atrocities and ethnic cleansing unleashed against ethnic Albanians in Kosovo. "What we can do in a situation like this is try to continue our dialogue, to talk to them in many different ways," Rubin said. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright had been speaking regularly.

Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and Vice-President Al Gore had been talking. Besides, Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott had been talking to his counterpart.

Albright and Ivanov had agreed that they would meet on Tuesday in Oslo, following the foreign ministers meeting on Monday in Brussels.

The spokesman suggested that the ongoing dialogue at various levels was intended to ensure that "the sympathy being expressed in the body politic in Russia for the

Serb people does not translate into something concrete."

In response to a question, Rubin clarified that the U.S. was aware of the shipment of Russian humanitarian supplies into Belgrade through Hungary and other routes. But the supplies were allowed to be inspected through the U.N. system to ensure that they were humanitarian supplies.

Other senior Western officials reported yesterday, however, that the U.S. had quietly warned Russia against providing military intelligence or assistance to Belgrade. The confidential warnings followed Moscow's vociferous opposition to the NATO airstrikes and its decision to send a Russian spy ship towards the Adriatic.

The Russian officials were told that any effort to intervene in a militarily significant way could have very serious consequences. One of the obvious prices Russia would have to pay would be the loss of desperately-needed Western loans. Similar warnings were delivered to Russia from Britain and other allied nations.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1 APR 1999

US wants Russia back into search for Kosovo peace

Carol Giacomo

BRUSSELS 13 APRIL

US SECRETARY of State Madeleine Albright meets Moscow's foreign minister Igor Ivanov in Oslo on Tuesday, offering no respite in Nato's air war on Yugoslavia but hoping to draw an angry, sidelined Russia back into the search for an eventual Kosovo peace.

Nato foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels, fudged some of their plans, dropping the Kremlin a wink that the West's former Cold War antagonist was still wanted on board. But for Yugoslavia's defiant President Slobodan Milosevic, there was no hint of a blink.

Nato restated all its demands, blaming Belgrade for a "massive humanitarian catastrophe" and vowing to escort hundreds of thousands of ethnic Albanians back to the southern Serbian province, to live without fear of Serb troops, police and semi-military gangs.

"Air strikes will be pursued until President Milosevic accedes to the demands of the international

community," the foreign ministers declared. By midnight, Nato cruise missiles were homing in again on targets near Belgrade.

"I've heard a series of distant explosions coming from the direction of the Pancevo oil refinery," reported a Belgrade resident. Fuel depots at the refinery burned spectacularly on Sunday night and Yugoslavia's official news agency Tanjug said early on Tuesday that it would be out of service for a long time.

"There are no flames like yesterday," the resident said. "I can hear many jets flying over Belgrade."

Yugoslavia reported scores of casualties from the day's Nato attacks, with 10 people killed in a train hit by a missile.

At the Albanian border, watchers saw a string of Kosovo villages shake with explosions then go up in flames, fire spreading from house to house and columns of smoke billowing to the sky. Refugees said members of Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority had been driven out of the villages since Nato's air war began

on March 24 and Serbs were now making sure there was nothing for them to go back to.

Serb forces and ethnic Albanian guerrillas fought most of Monday near Kosovo's western border. Albanian police said eight shells hit the village of Tropoje on their side of the frontier.

Nato missiles levelled much of the Zastava car and small arms factory in Kragujevac, Serbia's biggest industrial employer. The plant's director said 36 people were wounded.

Yugoslavia's official news agency Tanjug said three civilians were killed when a Nato missile hit a car on a road outside the Kosovo capital Pristina on Monday afternoon. As the Nato ministers met in Brussels, French and US helicopters and troops arrived in Albania, the vanguard of an 8,000-strong alliance mission to help Kosovo refugees.

The mission has prompted speculation that Nato is preparing to send ground forces into Kosovo, although alliance leaders again denied on Monday they had any such plan. — Reuters

The Economic Times

14 APR 1999

US, Russia head for serious collision

Paris

24 MARCH

THE US and Russia are heading towards a serious confrontation over Nato's announcement to launch airstrikes against Serbian targets anytime, with Moscow threatening to supply powerful armaments and military aid to Belgrade.

"Russia will immediately supply powerful armaments to Yugoslavia if Nato bombs Serbian targets," Itar-Tass quoted Duma Speaker Gennady Seleznyov as saying.

"Russia will reserve the right to supply military aid to Yugoslavia as a UN member country that is the victim of aggression," Itar-Tass said.

Strongly opposing any military intervention against Belgrade, Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov cancelled his US visit when he was halfway over the Atlantic.

Nato secretary general Javier Solana, on Tuesday night, ordered his men to launch airstrikes against Serbian targets following the failure of back-to-back talks between US troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke and Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

Mr Holbrooke told US TV

network CNN that Mr Milosevic refused to accept the proposed peace deal.

Meanwhile, US President Bill Clinton won support from Congress for military action against Yugoslavia.

"If Nato carries out its threat, Russia will be forced to reconsider its relations with Nato and take measures to protect its state interests and prevent the spread of the conflict," Xinhua quoted foreign minister Ivanov as saying.

Russian ambassador to the US Sergei Lavrov told reporters that Moscow would call a Security Council meeting in case Nato used force.

Chinese ambassador to the UN Qin Huassun described the Nato action as a violation of international law. "Nato's action will not be accepted by the international community," he said.

However, Britain, Australia and Bulgaria have fully backed Nato's decision.

President Bill Clinton said that if the US and its allies do not act, Mr Milosevic will treat it as a licence to continue killing Kosovars even as media reports in Washington said the airstrikes were likely to begin on Wednesday night.

— PTI

The Economic Times

25 MAR 1999

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US embassy in Russia attacked

by Austin
Moscow, March 28 (AP) — Gunmen armed with grenade launchers and an assault rifle attacked the US embassy today, but were driven off by the police guards firing pistols.

No one was hurt in the attack apparently linked to protests against Nato airstrikes on Yugoslavia. Several bullets hit the embassy, but caused little damage.

A white jeep pulled up in front of the embassy and two of the occupants aimed grenade launchers at the building, as shown in film of the incident on NTV television network. The police who saw the attackers opened fire with pistols.

One attacker in a ski mask and camouflage fatigues, who had climbed out of the jeep to aim a rocket launcher, jumped back in the vehicle when police bullets shattered one of the jeep's windows. One of the attackers then opened fire with a semi-automatic rifle, sending the police and bystanders diving for cover.

The two rocket launchers were left on the road as the jeep sped away. It was not clear if they had failed to work or if the attackers dropped them when the police opened fire. An embassy spokesman said nobody in the embassy had been injured, but would not comment further.

The jeep had been stolen, said the police, who would not confirm Russian news reports that it was a police vehicle. The jeep was found abandoned near the embassy.

Scores of police, including security troops with automatic

T-3 15/3
weapons and members of the FSB, the main Russian intelligence service, ringed the embassy after the attack.

People protesting the Nato airstrikes have been demonstrating outside the embassy for the past four days.

The Russian foreign ministry expressed its condolences for today's attack. President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin said on Echo Moscow radio that the shooting "throws a shadow on Russia, which is now making titanic efforts to mediate the crisis in Yugoslavia."

The attack came as three of Russia's top liberal officials set off on a peace mission to appeal to world leaders, including Yugoslav officials. US Vice President Al Gore and Pope John Paul II, to resume talks on ending the Kosovo crisis.

THE TELEGRAPH
29 MAR 1999

U.S. imposes sanctions on Russian institutions for N-proliferation

By David Briscoe

WASHINGTON: The United States imposed penalties on a Moscow university and two other Russian institutions on Tuesday, accusing Russia of failing to stop its scientists from helping Iran and other states from developing nuclear weapons.

National security adviser Sandy Berger, in announcing the economic sanctions, said Russia needs an export control system that is designed to work. "Only Russia can police its own borders, factories and technology industries," he said while asserting the Clinton administration's authority to act against foreign companies or agencies that violate international non-proliferation standards.

The penalties are against Mendeleev Chemical Technical University in Moscow, The Moscow Aviation Institute, and the Scientific Research and Design Institute of Power and Technology. The first two receive Russian government funding, according to administration sources.

The sanctions will ban all U.S. exports to the companies, all imports to the United States and any U.S. government assistance or procurement contracts with the companies.

In July, the administration penalised seven other enterprises, some of which had ties with the Russian government. They were accused of selling sensitive weapons technology to Iran, Libya and North Korea. None of those sanctions has been lifted.

In imposing the penalties, the administration did not specify the allegations against the three Russian institutions. But the action signalled continuing concern over the spread of nuclear technology to rogue states and terrorists. There was no immediate response from Moscow. Offices of the affected institutions were closed for the day when Berger made the announcement.

Presidential spokesman Joe Lockhart disputed a suggestion that the United States' gripe is really with the Kremlin and not with the individual entities.

"We continue to work with the Russian government. They have taken some steps. We believe they need to take further steps," he said. "These companies, we believe, were taking steps that made it impossible for the United States government to work with them."

President Bill Clinton in July signed an executive order that allows him to impose penalties when there has been an attempt to transfer technology as well as when transfers have actually occurred. (Agencies)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 JAN 1999

U.S. threatens Russian space plans

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. Raising the ante, the U.S. Government has threatened to cut back or even eliminate Russian launches of American-made satellites as punishment for aiding Iran's missile and nuclear weapons programmes. "When Russia's quota for launches is reviewed at the end of the year, we will take into account very seriously progress, if any, that we have made in getting Russia to stop its enticements from supporting Iran's missile programme," the State Department spokesman, Mr. James P. Rubin said yesterday.

The U.S. on Tuesday imposed economic penalties on a Russian university and two scientific research institutes after concluding they had assisted Iraq in developing ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons. In response, the Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Yevgeny Primakov yesterday sharply criticised the Clinton administration, saying, "Using force and exerting sanctions against our organisations are counterproductive for Russian-American relations, which we consider very important." The Russian Foreign Ministry issued a statement that the sanctions "can only complicate Russian-American relations."

Meanwhile, Iran on Wednesday denied U.S. allegations that it was engaged in missile and nuclear cooperation with three Russian scientific and research institutes.

A statement issued by the Iranian Embassy in Moscow said the allegations were a mere repetition of old accusations already denied by both Iranian and Russian officials. The statement said Iran had no knowledge of the Russian institutes except that there were a number of its students studying in Moscow University. At-

US threatens to freeze satellite launches using Russian rockets

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has threatened to freeze the number of satellite launches using Russian rockets unless Moscow ends "aiding" Iran's nuclear weapons programmes, a charge denied by Russia.

Alluding to the quantum of aid Russia is receiving from US state department spokesman James Rubin on Wednesday said 16 launches of American satellites have been authorised in Russia but "if we do not get

progress in the missile proliferation problem, we are not going to be able to support increasing that quota."

The U.S. threat came barely a day after Washington slapped sanctions on three Russian centres

— Moscow Aviation Institute, D. Mendeleev University of Chemical Technology and the Scientific Research and Design Institute of Power Technology — for allegedly helping Iran's nuclear and missile programme.

These launches, Rubin said, involve hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue for Russia.

The latest U.S. warning came despite strong Russian reaction to the U.S. move to impose sanctions. Iran also decried the U.S. decision on Thursday.

Russia on Thursday attacked the latest Washington threat and termed it "unfortunate." "It is regretful that some members of the U.S. administration have tried to

link fruitful and successful cooperation in space technology between our two countries with so-called Iranian programmes in Russia," a foreign ministry spokesman told reporters in Moscow.

A statement issued by the Iranian embassy in Moscow on Wednesday said the U.S. allegations were a mere repetition of old accusations already denied by both Iranian and Russian officials.

Russia disputes U.S. charge

MOSCOW: Russia's intelligence agency has disputed U.S. claims that three Russian scientific institutions helped Iran develop weapons, accusing US secret services of sloppy investigating.

The Federal Security Service, or FSB, the leading successor of the Soviet KGB, said on Thursday it checked the institutions and found no evidence to support US claims that they had provided weapons technology to Iran.

The agency said in a statement that the US move was the result of "misunderstanding, or, probably, oversight of the American secret services."

Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other senior Russian officials have denied Iran received any such technology from Russia and harshly criticised the Americans for placing sanctions on the three institutions, warning that the move could damage US-Russian relations.

The Americans fired back, accusing the Kremlin of ignoring the problem. The US also threatened to cut back or even eliminate American satellite launches in Russia. Russia receives tens of millions of dollars for each of these launches. (AP)

The statement said that Iran had no knowledge of the Russian institutes except that there were a number of its students studying in Moscow University. "Iran has no other connection and cooperation with the university," it added.

Meanwhile, an Iranian foreign ministry spokesman in Tehran alleged that the recent U.S. statements were an attempt

to violate Tehran's right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

The statement by U.S. National Security advisor Sandy Berger was aimed at diverting public opinion from Washington's "unsparing support to the Zionist regime which is a potential threat to peace in the region," he said.

He said Iran's missile industries were completely indigenous and that it did not rely on any other country.

(Agencies)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

16 JAN 1999

Russia accuses US of sloppy investigating in Iran case

Moscow, January 15

RUSSIA'S INTELLIGENCE agency has disputed US claims that three Russian scientific institutions helped Iran develop weapons, accusing US secret services of sloppy investigating.

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Russia receives tens of millions of dollars for each of these launches.

"At the end of this year, Washington will take into account very seriously progress, if any, that we have made in getting Russia to stop its entities from supporting Iran's missile program," State Department spokesman James Rubin said on Wednesday. (AP)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
16 JAN 1999

Moscow braces for 'battle' with Albright

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, Jan. 24. Russia and the United States will attempt to rescue their relations from sliding back to cold-war confrontation when the U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, arrives in Moscow on Monday for a three-day official visit.

The visit is the first high-level contact between the two sides since the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, came here in September last year. Ms. Albright's visit comes at a time when serious rifts have developed between Moscow and Washington.

The Kremlin furiously reacted to the U.S.-British air strikes against Iraq in November, briefly recalling its ambassador from Washington — something it never did even at the height of the cold war. The threats by NATO to bomb Kosovo to punish Serbs have set off more protests from Russia.

Earlier this month the U.S. stopped sanctions on Russian institutes, accusing them of transferring missile technology to Iran, and threatened to cut back on Russia's quota of international space launches if Moscow did not stop cooperating with Iranian weapons programmes. Russia rejected the allegations as baseless and described the US behaviour "unacceptable". The Speaker of the Russian Parliament's Upper House, Mr. Yegor Stroyev, accused the United States of trying to isolate Russia from the rest of the world "politically, economically and intellectually" by placing sanctions on the scientific institutes.

"Russia will never put up with an attempt to hold it hostage through the use of force by any

country in the world," he was quoted as saying by Interfax.

Last week Washington added the most potent irritant so far to bilateral relations with Moscow, suggesting that the 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty be renegotiated to allow the U.S. to build an ABM system against some rogue missiles. The Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, immediately ruled out any amendments in the ABM treaty, while Russian Defence Ministry officials described the U.S. proposal as a "threat to Russian security interests".

The ABM treaty, which stripped the two sides of a national defence against missiles, has been a sticking point to the arms control process between Russia and the U.S. Washington's plan to deploy an ABM system is regarded in Moscow as an attempt to gain unilateral strategic advantage over Russia. This would eliminate all Russian incentives for ratifying the START-II nuclear arms reduction treaty with the U.S., already shelved indefinitely by the Russian Parliament in protest against the U.S.-led attack on Iraq in November last year.

Another looming area of disagreement is Moscow's demand that the 1990 Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty be updated before NATO expands eastward in April. Moscow calls for abandoning the original idea of a balance between NATO and the now defunct Warsaw Pact and setting individual national arms limits and "territorial ceilings". This would affect three new NATO members — Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic, and Ms. Albright said the U.S. would not strike deals against their wishes.

The language Russian officials have recently used to comment on U.S. policies is highly reminiscent of the cold-war era. General Leonid Ivashov, chief of international cooperation in the Russian Defence Ministry, said Washington was pursuing an "increasingly aggressive policy" in an effort to "consolidate its military-strategic superiority over Russia both in conventional and nuclear weapons."

But Russia can ill afford all-out confrontation with the U.S., with its economy lying in ruins after seven years of bungled pro-market reforms. Its most immediate task is to secure a \$ 5 billion loan from the U.S.-controlled International Monetary Fund (IMF) to refinance its foreign debt.

The Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Ivanov, said Russia would not allow its differences with the U.S. to escalate into a head-on clash and would seek to engage Washington in a "constructive dialogue to remove existing irritants".

At the same time Moscow today is far less likely to bow to U.S. pressure than it was several years ago. With the President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, sidelined by illness, the country's foreign policy has passed into the hands of the Prime Minister, Mr. Yevgeny Primakov, who earned ~~himself~~ the board support in the Russian body politic for his firm upholding of Russian national interests during a two-year tenure as Foreign Minister. The replacement of the soft-speaking Russian Ambassador in Washington, Mr. Yury Vorontsov, this month with Mr. Yuri Ushakov, a 51-year-old career diplomat known for his toughness, is another indication of Moscow's firmness.

THE HINDU
25 JAN 1999

U.S. analysing grounds for Russian N-tests

WASHINGTON: U.S. intelligence analysts have been weighing if the three small underground nuclear tests that Russia conducted recently may have been part of an effort to design and build a new generation of tactical nuclear weapons.

The Washington Post, quoting administration sources, reported that the Russians could also have been testing the safety and reliability of their stockpiled nuclear weapons rather than new designs.

The tests, according to the newspaper's Sunday report, were small enough to be permitted under the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). The department of energy regularly conducts similar "subcritical" tests, claiming that it was doing so only to maintain the safety and reliability of nuclear weapons.

This is the first time that administration sources have admitted to what India said during the long and arduous debates on CTBT in Geneva — that the five permanent members were deliberately leaving a loophole through which not only safety and reliability tests but also new weapons could pass.

According to officials, the U.S. intelligence data was not clear about the aim. "The Russian tests were so small that we can only speculate what they were doing," one intelligence official familiar with intelligence reports told the newspaper.

Almost all analysts, *The Washington Post* said,

had agreed that with tests at such a low level, Russia could not be developing new strategic or long range nuclear weapons. However, they could have been linked to new design tactical nuclear weapons.

The confirmation by the Clinton administration that subcritical tests, permitted in the case of the five "recognised" nuclear weapon powers — the U.S., China, Russia, France and Britain — has come at a sensitive time when the U.S. has been trying to sell CTBT to India. Pakistan has said that it will accept whatever India accepts.

The U.S. has agreed that in the case of Israel, it will not apply any of the restrictions unless and until there is permanent peace between Israel and the Arab states.

The Soviet Union had always disfavoured first use of nuclear weapons. However, in 1997 President Yeltsin followed the American example and said that Russia would consider using nuclear weapons in response to a major attack by conventional weapons or if left with no other option.

The U.S. has maintained that it needs nuclear weapons indefinitely, all the more so now when it may have to use them against a third world state that uses or threatens to use weapons of mass destruction against the U.S.'s frontline forces or the forces or territories of its allies.

"Given the new doctrine of first use of nuclear weapons," said Joseph Cirincione, senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International

Peace, "it should be no surprise if the Russians are developing new weapons. There is no treaty to stop them and I am not aware of anything to prohibit them."

Of the 10,000 to 15,000 tactical land, sea and air tactical or battlefield warheads estimated to be ready for use in the hands of the five permanent members of the Security Council, the Russian arsenal is put at 4,000 by Bruce Blair of the Brookings Institution.

Mr Blair, who has been working with Russian military and civilian arms experts on mutual exchange programmes, said the Russians had been working on a 10-year recycling programme for their nuclear warheads and old tactical ones were to be replaced by new ones but at much lower numbers, perhaps in the low hundreds.

"The Russians removed their nuclear artillery and tactical missile warheads from East European bases and retired them under an oral agreement in 1991 between then Presidents George Bush of the U.S. and Mikhail Gorbachev of the Soviet Union," Mr Blair. Some 10,000 to 15,000 of those warheads are awaiting disassembly.

He added that the Russians had refused to permit their 50 tactical nuclear weapons storage facilities to come under the U.S. programme that pays for upgrading security. "We just don't know much about the (Russian) tactical weapons and right now, transparency is key." (PTI)

Primakov appeals to U.S. for support

A10-16 MOSCOW, Jan. 26 — The Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Yevgeny Primakov, and the U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, sat down to dinner on Monday night, nearly the 20th occasion that they had done so during the maturing of the relationship between a former university professor and a former spymaster.

The two leaders talked for three hours in an intimate wood-paneled dining room in the White House — the Government building here. They drank toasts, and when the subject turned to extremism in Russian politics, a troupe of two guitarists and a singer slipped in to enliven things.

One of the starkest points of the evening, as described by an American who took part, was Mr. Primakov's description of his recent trip to Siberia.

The Prime Minister talked of seeing bankrupt State enterprises and the disastrous results of failed Communist policies of the past. He made the implicit case, the participant said, that the United States should not abandon him, because he was the best man to deal with the problems. ~~"The message was... I have a big cleanup job and I'm doing the best I can."~~ said the American official.

Mr. Primakov was striking at the core of the problem that now worries the U.S. about Russia. Of uppermost concern is a collapse of central power in Russia, a collapse that some in the Clinton Administration say appears to be hap-

pening ~~ever~~ faster than anticipated.

A weakened Russia could threaten the U.S. in many ways including, officials say, increased leaks of nuclear materials, a turn toward authoritarianism and an inability to control uprisings.

For all the talk of a certain chemistry between Ms. Albright and Mr. Primakov, the former Director of the foreign intelligence service that replaced the KGB, there were two increasingly different views of the world at the table.

Ms. Albright reportedly described Mr. Primakov to colleagues this way: "He is what he was."

By this she apparently meant that Mr. Primakov's formative experiences as a Tass correspondent in West Asia during the height of the Cold War and his maneuvering and rise to the top of the Kremlin bureaucracy until the end of Communism left an indelible mark on him.

He continues to be suspicious of the intentions of the U. S. and wants to promote as much as possible the power of his country, which is now much smaller than it was.

Mr. Primakov, who was elevated from Foreign Minister last year, repeatedly said in the last few months what he reportedly said on Monday night: that the U.S. should back him because the alternatives were only worse. In delivering this message, he had also unmistakably telegraphed his resentment of American dominance. "Primakov is not working to diminish American influence per se," said a Russian Foreign Ministry

official. "But he is resentful of the American arrogance as it makes its foreign policy."

Thus, a central theme of Mr. Primakov's foreign policy at a time of such dramatic Russian decline is to stress the need for a multi-polar world. "He argues that the U.S. cannot act just as it sees fit," said the official. "He sees the only way of maintaining Russian interests is to have strong international checks and balances at a time of Russian weakness."

In an interview with several American journalists last summer while he was still Foreign Minister, Mr. Primakov said he was miffed at what he saw as unfair portrayals of him in the American press that stressed his former position as the head of the intelligence service. He was able to name American columnists whom he favored and those he did not.

He showed an ample knowledge of what was in the American press. "It's not because I want your audience to like me," he said at that time, as he gave sound bites on the essence of his foreign policy. "I believe it's possible to combine a number of things. One, protect the national interests of Russia. Two, do it without slipping toward confrontation. Three, to develop relations with every country."

The sense of despair in Moscow about Russia's tumbling stature and economic disarray has transformed itself into explicit expressions of bitterness toward the U.S. **New York Times**

Albright's mission to Russia a "failure"

10-16291 WASHINGTON, Jan. 26. — The Russians are not condoning U.S. plans to amend Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty and the visit of the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, to Moscow is a "failure", according to media reports here.

The reports said that Russians were not convinced by her argument about American plan to instal a limited missile defence, which required amendment in the U.S.-Moscow treaty on ABM defence, will not hurt Russian interests.

Without Russia's permission, the U.S. will have to opt out of the treaty by giving six months notice in order to build anti-missile defences as planned. "Senior Russian officials are irritated with Washington on several issues which include bombing of Iraq despite objections, announcing a \$6 billions increase in funds to build a national missile defence system, and resisting Moscow's efforts to gain a new infusion of cash from the international monetary fund," the *Washington Post* said.

Ms. Albright has conveyed to the Russian officials that their budget "defies gravity" which could lead to a vicious cycle of "weakened credibility", the *Washington Post* quoted a U.S. official as saying. She said that Russia's economic plans were unrealistic and strategic priorities skewed.

For their part, Ms. Albright and her aides "have watched in dismay as new Russian politicians have adopted economic policies viewed in Washington as counterproductive and as Russia has reaffirmed its policy of selling nuclear technology to Iran," the *Washington Post* said.

Even an announcement of increasing \$10 millions U.S. aid to Russia's independent newspapers and radio stations and fellowship for more Russian students in the U.S. by Ms. Albright has failed to generate any interest, the paper said.

Meanwhile, earlier today Ms. Albright spoke to the Russian President, Mr. Boris Yeltsin, on telephone and conveyed him that Washington and Moscow must push aside mounting foreign policy disputes to preserve their relations. — PTI

THE HINDU
27 JAN 1999