

# USA threatens curbs on Japan

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. — US President Mr Bill Clinton banned Japan from future access to fishing rights in US waters and threatened economic sanctions if it does not curtail an expanded hunt on whales.

Yesterday's action came in response to Japan's decision in July to expand its whale hunt to include Bryde's and Sperm whales, which have been safe from harpoons for years and are protected by US law. Japanese whaling previously had been limited to Minke whales.

"I hope that the steps we take today will encourage Japan to reverse its actions and respect the strong international consensus that has helped bring back some of earth's most majestic creatures," Mr Clinton said in a statement.

But US farm and agri-business groups said they were

worried that possible sanctions on Japan could damage sales to the number one US agricultural export market.

"The threat of trade sanctions is very, very worrisome to the wheat industry," said Mrs Barbara Spangler, head of the US Wheat Industry's Trade Education Committee.

The Japanese embassy in Washington said in a statement that any sanctions imposed by the USA would "adversely impact the trade relationship between our two countries" and that "a constructive dialogue in a cool atmosphere" is needed. The embassy said it would be against the principles of the World Trade Organisation to act unilaterally for the USA. It argued that Japan is hunting the whales for scientific purposes "to provide necessary data to establish a viable resource management scheme for whale populations." US officials scoffed at the claim. "Putting it plainly,

Japan is killing whales in the name of scientific research to satisfy a demand for whale meat in a few high-end restaurants and gourmet boutiques," said commerce secretary Mr Norman Mineta.

The International Fund for Animal Welfare welcomed the US announcement and urged Mr Clinton to follow up with "strong and meaningful economic sanctions."

Mr Clinton ordered that Japan be denied access to allotments for fishing Mackerel and Herring in US waters. There is currently no foreign fishing in US waters, but new allotments for such fishing are expected to be approved later this year. Unless Japan rolls back its whaling programme, it will be banned from consideration for access, Mr Mineta said. Officials also were studying whether to stop foreign vessels that sell export seafood to Japan from fishing in US waters.

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# Fujimori a threat: U.S. <sup>19-16</sup>

By Sridhar Krishnaswami <sup>20/5</sup>

<sup>19-10p</sup>  
WASHINGTON, MAY 30. The Clinton administration has moved swiftly to denounce the political developments in Peru even as the strongman there, Mr. Alberto Fujimori, went on national television defending the Sunday election and saying there has been a campaign to "satanise" the electoral process and to "misinform and disorient" the people.

The United States has maintained that the election was not "valid" and that Mr. Fujimori is a "threat" to the inter-American system and democracy.

"No President emerging from such a flawed process can claim legitimacy. The manner in which the Fujimori regime handled this problem is a serious threat to the inter-American system and its commitment to democracy", the State Department said.

The tough statement from Washington is intended to send a clear signal to Mr. Fujimori that despite the high profile cooperation between the U.S. and Peru on the narcotics and the drugs front, there could be no trade-offs when coming to an issue like democracy.

The Clinton administration has not detailed the irregularities it has seen in Sunday's run-off election, but the general impression has been that the entire event was a sham with Mr. Fujimori using every available resource including the military intelligence to muzzle the Opposition.

The main Opposition candidate, Mr. Alejandro Toledo, pulled out of the race two weeks ago, citing widespread irregularities in the process. But at the time of balloting, Mr. Toledo's name was still listed and he received some 17 per cent of the vote.

About 30 per cent of the vote was declared invalid and Mr. Fujimori was declared "elected" having secured 51.1 per cent of the total votes cast. Seeing a

farvical and a rigged process, Mr. Toledo urged his followers to write "no to fraud" in the ballot paper.

Mr. Fujimori is undoubtedly under pressure, not just from the Western world led by the U.S. but from his own neighbourhood which is worried about learning all the wrong lessons from the Peruvian experience.

With his back to the wall, Mr. Fujimori is arguing that the election was fair and that he would not disappoint the people "in initiating a more authentic democracy" in the next five years at the helm of affairs.

"This is the result of an election which is just, fair and transparent, and unfortunately, we couldn't have international observers as we wanted. We invited them. But this is not a dictatorship", Mr. Fujimori told CNN. The international monitors had called for a postponement of the final vote. The Organisation of American States, which is holding a special meeting in Canada this week, is expected to have something substantive against Lima.

Analysts say that at least two things are critical for Mr. Fujimori to feel the pressure. First, the extent to which the U.S. is willing to go to tighten the screws. Cutting off some \$ 130 millions for narcotics cooperation may not be the answer as Washington too would be paying the price. Where the U.S. will come to matter is in the international financial institutions. Blocking loans to Peru will have a damaging effect on the economy.

Second, much depended on how the Opposition in Peru rallied and sustained their pressure against Mr. Fujimori.

After a day of massive protests in and around Lima, the country is said to be relatively calm. Crucial at this stage is the military which seems to be solidly behind Mr. Fujimori.

THE HINDU

31 MAY 2000

# Uncle Sam is here to stay



Japan's Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, and the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton... enduring ties.

**T**HE JAPANESE Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, is obviously keen that Tokyo's current leadership of the Group of Eight (the seven major industrialised countries and Russia) should somehow define his administration on the slippery foreign policy front. So, even as he prepares to make a challenging foray to South Asia later this month, the focus in Tokyo lingers for the present on Japan's latest security-strategic concerns in East Asia.

The outgoing U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, had chosen the recent G-8 summit in Okinawa in Japan to excel in his abilities at spin-doctoring (as his critics say) a new message to East Asia. Speaking ahead of the summit and in a transparent response to the long-sustained sentiments of the Okinawans themselves, Mr. Clinton said the U.S. would seek to reduce its (military) footprint in the sub-sector of their concern. He certainly captured the imagination of those with visions of a possible new

*The word in the Mori administration is that, despite Mr. Bill Clinton's declarations, the U.S. military presence in Japan will not be reduced in the foreseeable future, writes P. S. SURYANARAYANA.*

security architecture in the Asia-Pacific.

However, the view from Tokyo is as clear as the relative good weather at present despite a storm blowing some way offshore. The unhesitant word at the moment in the top echelons of the Mori administration is that the American military presence in Japan will not be reduced in the foreseeable future and that the U.S.'s protective security umbrella will continue to define the strategic paradigm in the region for some time to come.

This categorical assertion, important in the context of Mr. Clinton's equally unambiguous declaration of intent, sounds credible for two reasons — the

entrenched force of the doctrinaire political logic of the American military presence in East Asia and the sheer scepticism of independent Japanese observers about the seriousness of a man in a hurry to make history in the months left for him in the White House.

Not pleasing to the observers is the perceived lack of much political purpose in the manner in which Mr. Clinton made two quick journeys to Japan in recent weeks, first for the funeral of Keizo Obuchi and later for the Okinawa summit by treating it as a diplomatic ritual which he could not miss in the midst of his frustrating attempt for a West Asian peace at Camp David.

Not in peril at this juncture is the omnipresence of the U.S.'s security profile in East Asia — the inexorable consequence of what a former Japanese leader, Yoshida Shigeru, had described as his country's "historic stumble" during the Second World War.

Nor has there been a sudden shift in Japan's stand on major international security issues such as nuclear non-proliferation and the like. However, and this aspect is coming increasingly into focus, the relative new refrain in official Tokyo in this context is the accent on Japan's "diplomacy with leadership" at the dawn of a new century.

For nearly half a century, Japan has practised, with varying degrees of finesse and intensity of purpose, the so-called "Yoshida Doctrine" of making hay on its domestic economic front in the sunshine of the U.S.'s guarantee of its external security. Now, it is already some time since this formula, be it a poignant imposition on Japan or a pragmatic covenant with adverse history, came to be reviewed, not necessarily for downgrading the U.S. military role in north-eastern Asia.

With Japan's aspirations to become a permanent member of the United Nations Security Council beginning to assume the proportions of a political passion ahead of the world body's millennium summit, Mr. Mori's diplomatic agenda is increasingly dominated by the challenges in his neighbourhood.

For the present, Mr. Mori is keen to play a G-8 statesman, and one challenge relates to the efforts of the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, who has already begun to exude some diplomatic "charm" on this stage by seeking to "tame" a wayward North Korea. While Mr. Mori understandably has no definitive strategy yet to neutralise North Korea, whose missile plans worry Tokyo the most, he does not find himself without any card for a diplomacy of the economic carrot.

The new disclosure about Mr. Kim's request for financial aid for a railway project across the dividing line in the Korean peninsula, conveyed through Mr. Putin no less, shows that Mr. Mori, still regarded by many as a novice in world politics, is not without options.

THE HINDU

13 AUG 2000

## U.S., Japan to play down differences at meet

By F.J. Khergamvala

**TOKYO, MAY 4.** On Friday, the U.S. President will receive the new Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori and both sides have decided that the common interests, not the vast differences between the two allies, will be highlighted.

A little more than a month away from an election that could legitimise his promotion by default, Mr. Mori is clearly keen to avoid opening any area of controversy that could spill over into the G-8 summit and almost certainly impact on the elections. The Clinton administration from its perspective too does not want the trade deficit and other areas with Japan to become an election issue.

Gaps on defence arrangements in Okinawa, telecommunications, insurance, construction contracts, energy costs, pharmaceuticals are some of the areas where the U.S. is applying substantial pressure, but not publicly. Japan, dithering between reforms and political expediency is changing at its own pace in some of these areas, but resisting in others, complacent in the knowledge that

it can drag out issues into the next U.S. administration.

For quite some time, Japan has been trying hard to convince the U.S. not to highlight differences in public, partly because of the fallout in the U.S. and partly because the U.S.'s triumphal hectoring was arousing intense passion among right-wing elements in Japan. Mr. Kunihiko Saito, former Japanese Ambassador to the U.S. who has recently returned, crafted the mutually beneficial public relations diplomacy whereby Japan should take U.S. complaints seriously if it wants its main ally to speak softly. The same applies to the U.S. "Speak softly if you wish to be taken seriously, because my Government cannot be seen to be bowing to pressure."

To Japan's relief, the Elian Gonzalez case and relations with China are adequate fodder for foreign policy issues in the U.S. campaign trail. Japan's nightmare is to have the U.S. public debate if Japan is not taking a free ride by keeping its markets closed to goods made by people whose sons and daughters may be put in harm's way to defend Japan. The Mori Government has postponed launching a

panel to study the construction of a large heliport in Okinawa province. This will await the end of the G-8 summit. The helicopter functions of a U.S. Marine Corps Air station at Futenma in central Okinawa are supposed to be relocated to northern Okinawa but among the issues hindering implementation is the number of years the U.S. can continue to occupy the new station. Japan requires a specified limit of 15 years to make it easier to sell the issue to the public. The U.S. cannot believe that a public that seeks the U.S. military's shelter is unwilling to endure certain inconveniences and the Japanese leadership is unwilling to lead.

This is the kind of debate Japan does not want to get into at this stage and it feels that bringing up such matters during Mr. Mori's talks with Mr. Bill Clinton will inevitably raise the profile of the controversy, in the U.S., in Japan during elections and also mar the G-8 summit in Okinawa in late July. On a related issue of the country's contribution towards maintaining the 47,000 U.S. forces on Japanese territory, Japan has dug in its heels against

increasing the costs paid by the taxpayer. Among the trade and services issues like steel exports to the U.S., insurance and telecommunications, the matter of deregulation and interconnection fees charged by the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. is the thorniest. Japan is not going to settle the matter through high-level deregulation talks before the two leaders meet. Mr. Mori might thus have to take some stick from Mr. Clinton.

The U.S. wants Japan's NTT to slash interconnection fees by 40 per cent. Japan has offered to cut them by 22 and a half per cent in four years. Local monopolies in Japan are able to withstand U.S. pressure primarily because of an apathetic Japanese public. The U.S. Senate unanimously passed a resolution on Wednesday in which it asked Japan to deregulate the telecoms market and cut interconnection fees. Even if to preempt a wider debate, Mr. Clinton might have to speak loudly to Mr. Mori on this. In 1998, only 35 per cent of Japanese schools enjoyed Internet access, compared to 95 per cent of schools in the U.S.

THE HINDU

25 MAY 2000

# U.S., Japan to renegotiate pact

By F. J. Khergamvala

**TOKYO, MARCH 13.** The U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. William Cohen, arrives in Japan this week to try and get Japan's moderates to continue to support the heavy financial outlay in maintaining up to 47,000 U.S. forces in Japan on about 40 bases on the Japanese archipelago.

Over the past few months, as the U.S. and Japan near the renewal of a treaty for host nation support, Japan has said that it wants to cut its costs in supporting U.S. forces on its soil. It has pleaded that a severe debt crisis at home and the booming U.S. economy necessitate a modification of the current agreement. The U.S. says any reduction would adversely impact on the bilateral alliance.

Annually, for the past five years since the agreement was last renewed in 1996, Japan has been paying 270 billion yen (about \$ 2.5 billions) for the upkeep that includes all yen-based costs on labour, utilities, training and base relocations. Popularly called "sympathy budget" in Japan, a term distasteful to the Americans, this amount excludes what the Japanese Government pays to individuals whose land is leased for use by U.S. bases. The current conditions are valid until March next year.

An added dimension that will influence the bargaining this year is the upcoming Group of Eight (G-8) nations' summit in Okinawa in late July. Okinawa is where there is the most awareness of the imbalance of U.S. forces stationed in Japan. Consequently, the loudest protest and most resistance to U.S. bases comes from Okinawa. The province accounts for just 0.6 per cent of the land area of Japan but 75 per cent of U.S. bases in the country are located there.

When the Prime Minister, Mr. Keizo Obuchi, selected Okinawa as the venue for the summit, one underlying motive was to give a fillip to the economy and mute protests against the terms of the U.S.-Japan Security Treaty's status of forces agreement and host nation support while the new terms are being negotiated. The host nation support for U.S.

forces began in 1978 and Japan agreed to pay 6.2 billion yen when the U.S. economy was in the doldrums (hence the "sympathy").

Japan is wary about this aspect of its most important relationship spilling over in a U.S. election year to trade matters and acquiring a high profile. The U.S. negotiators appear to feel the right way to pressure Japan is to let loose its supposedly very independent media to link the protection and trade issues and then extract concessions, in the face of a perceptibly growing Chinese threat.

There is a lobby in Japan that insists that those days are gone when U.S. forces were positioned in Japan for the defence of only Japan. Today, these critics say, the U.S. and Japan have a common and wider interest, as expressed in the revised security treaty, of being policemen of the Asia-Pacific region. A parallel lobby argues for reducing U.S. forces because their continuation perpetuates a senior-junior relationship that encourages the U.S. to demand unusual market access.

The Tokyo Governor, Mr. Shintaro Ishihara, may not have been elected because of his record of strong support for independent action, and lessening dependence on the U.S. But, he was elected despite his opposition to U.S. forces being positioned in Tokyo. Such nationalist appeals could fade if the economy recovers.

The hawks in Japan are drumming up support for keeping up the level of host nation support because Japan is solely dependent on the U.S. Mr. Hisahiko Okazaki, a former ambassador, now running a think-tank, feels that the treaty is Japan's military "brand name" and host nation support is the only contribution Japan can provide. In other words, Japan must continue to buy protection and in due course, take on additional military responsibilities.

The arguments of both sides converge in acknowledging that cooperation between the U.S. and Japan is essential for stability in the Far East. If Japan goes past the Okinawa summit, there is still time to go to the brink at the end of the year and reach a compromise with the U.S.

THE HINDU

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