

US wants Pak to soften stand on Kashmir ceasefire offer

Our Political Bureau
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THE US on Thursday said it hoped for a positive response from Pakistan to India's ceasefire offer. With Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Lone responding on behalf of the political outfit and chastising the militants, government sources hope it might be the beginning, not only of an acknowledgement of ground realities in Kashmir, but even a political process.

US assistant secretary of state Karl Inderfurth, here in the capital, said: "The initial statement from Islamabad when Vajpayee made his announcement was that Pakistan would watch developments carefully... We hope that Pakistan will respond positively."

Mr Inderfurth, who arrived here from Sri Lanka, will also visit Nepal and Bhutan but skip Pakistan.

The US endorsement is just the latest of peace missives hurled at an indifferent Pakistan. Positive noises have also been coming from Hurriyat leaders who are now openly calling for talks with India. Speaking from Islamabad, where he has gone to



GIVE PEACE A CHANCE: Indian paramilitary soldiers hold a banner that reads "Kashmiri brothers and sisters, congratulations for the peace" in Srinagar on Thursday. — AP

attend his son's wedding, Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Lone supported the Indian initiative. "We are trying to reach a consensus with the mujahideen. They should not act as an independent force, but follow the political leadership."

While the political outfit of the separatists, the Hurriyat, has extended cautious support to the

ceasefire, militant groups under the umbrella organisation, United Jihad Council, have rejected it outright, promising to step up attacks against India through the month of Ramzan.

Mr Lone was reportedly critical of this disjointed response and has called for the pre-eminence of the political outfit when responding to such offers.

The Economic Times

11/12/98

US rules out normal ties with Pak junta

Islamabad, Oct. 21: In the absence of democracy in Pakistan, the United States cannot have business as usual, said US ambassador in Islamabad William B. Milam on Friday.

Mr Milam stated this in his message, read by Lee James Irwin, public affairs officer in the US embassy, at the inaugural session of the Fifth American Studies Conference, organised by Area Study Centre for Africa, North and South America, Quaid-i-Azam University, at the American Centre.

Mr Milam said: "Dialogue yes, but full ties cannot be achieved with the comity of nations until Pakistan returns to democratic rule. If Pakistan makes its march successfully to the community of democracy, the US and the other industrial democracies would be ready to lend appropriate support in offering Pakistan prospects for better life for all."

The ambassador said no doubt Pakistan has taken some steps over the past year to put the economy back on the path to growth. He said

if Pakistan wants to meet the challenges of the new century and prosper, what it needs is fundamental political and economic reforms to meet two key challenges on the path: Sustainable growth and eradication of poverty.

Milam applauded the government's commitment towards sustainability and broadening of the tax base.

However, he said, the slogan of US independence movement "No taxation without representation" would be difficult to sustain in

Pakistan.

Taxpayers at all levels need to feel that their voices are heard on decisions relating to tax collection and spending, he added.

Even at local level, parents must have a voice through the democratic process in how funds are allocated for the education of their children, how responsibly the government exploits or uses its natural environment, how effectively deals with law and order and how well human rights are protected, he said.

The US envoy dwelt at length on the question of whether freedom of political participation and dissent was conducive to development. He found the remarks of the first Asian Nobel laureate in economics, Dr Amartya Sen, as most suitable reply who had stated: "Political participation and dissent are essential components of development. Democracy and dissent are not separate factors in increasing GNP or in promoting industrialisation. They are part and parcel of what enriches human life." (ANI)

'No evidence against Shahbaz in hijack'

BY SHAMIM-UR-RAHMAN
Dawn

Karachi, Oct. 21: The counsel for former Punjab chief minister Shahbaz Sharif in the plane hijacking case claimed on Friday that there was no circumstantial evidence remotely indicating any conspiracy between his client and other respondents in the case.

Khawaja Haris Ahmed was making initial submissions before a full bench of the Sindh high court, comprising chief justice Saiyed Saeed Ashhad, Justice Sarmad Jalal Osmani and Justice Wahid Bux Brohi. The bench was hearing state's appeal against the acquittal of his client and five others in the Oct. 12 plane case. At the outset he summarised the allegations of the prosecution against his client.

He said that the prosecution had implicated Shahbaz Sharif on the ground that he was present in the TV lounge of the Prime Minister house with Saifur Rehman and Saeed Mehdi and his personal

guard was outside. Mr Shahbaz's mere presence there was interpreted as union of mind by the prosecution. Mr Ahmed, however, submitted that the prosecution's case against his client was based on utterances attributed to Mr Mehdi and Mr Rahman but there were no overt act or utterances attributed to Mr Shahbaz to implicate him in conspiracy of hijacking, attempted murder, kidnapping and terrorism charges. The prosecution was under obligation to first establish that there was a conspiracy and then prove that my client was a party to it, he contended.

"Being brother of the Prime Minister is not a reasonable ground that Shahbaz Sharif was aware of and participated in the conspiracy," the counsel submitted.

Mr Ahmed argued that there was no written documentary evidence, no one heard any conversation which would constitute agreement of mind between Mr Shahbaz and the other co-accused.

Flooded Bangladesh may be under water for weeks

Dhaka, Oct. 21: Floodwaters in southwest Bangladesh were receding slowly in some areas but many places were likely to remain under water for weeks yet, local officials said on Saturday.

The official death toll in three weeks of flooding in the normally dry southwest region is just more than 130, but some residents say many others might be dead.

More than two million people are homeless after the heavy rains in the southwest of the country — a region which residents said had not been flooded for 100 years.

"It seems the flooding has come to stay... at least for weeks more," said an official in Jessore, 300 km southwest of Dhaka, echoing another in Satkhira, one of the worst-hit districts. (Reuters)



RECRUITMENT: Members of Pakistan's Jamat-i-Islami display posters of militants at a stall in Lahore on Thursday to attract young men wage a jihad in Kashmir. (AP)

Private experts to fight crime

By arrangement with Dawn

Islamabad, Oct. 21: The Pakistan government has decided to hire experts from the private sector to help the FIA in detecting white-collar crimes like bank frauds, kickbacks and bribery. Interior minister Moinuddin Haider, who visited the FIA headquarters on Friday, said that "properly qualified" people would be inducted in the FIA to investigate complicated cases of white-collar crime.

The minister approved the hiring of private individuals and compa-

nies, such as chartered accountants, auditors and cyber experts in cases where the FIA did not have expertise.

The minister announced that immigration and passports cells of the agency would be separated from it and handed over to the Nadra, says a press release.

The minister was briefed on the structure, administration, efficiency and discipline, operations, charter of duties and other matters of the FIA. He cited the examples of land scams, property builders, visa agents and investment partnerships

on which a large number of public complaints had been registered.

"People spend lots of money in these areas and one day someone disappears with it," the minister was quoted as saying. He directed the FIA officials to prepare recommendations and suggestions so that such complaints could be taken care of. The minister told the concerned officials to review those laws which had become redundant and obsolete with the passage of time and were usually misused by the corrupt elements in the department to harass the people.

Sanctions unwarranted, says Pakistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 23 Pakistan has dubbed the latest U.S. sanctions over alleged missile technology transfer from China "unjustified and unwarranted" even as political parties have said that the sanctions are a reflection of the failure of the military government on the diplomatic front.

A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Ministry has said the country's missile technology programme is consistent with the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and its missile development programme would not be affected by the sanctions.

In a statement the Pakistan Foreign office said "Pakistan has indigenous missile development programme which is part of our nuclear deterrent and indispensable to our security. This programme will be maintained and will not be affected by any discriminatory regimes such as MTCR". It said the U.S. had first raised the question of alleged transfer of missile technology by China to Pakistan in early 90s and the question resurfaced recently during the China-U.S. consultations. China has categorically denied the charge of supply of any missile technology or missiles to Pakistan, which violated the MTCR guidelines. Pakistan has also refuted the charge.

The Foreign Office said the U.S. has neither provided any evidence of the alleged transfer nor discussed the matter with Pakistan. "It is our hope that the U.S. will review the decision and remove these latest sanctions as well as those which it had imposed on many Pakistani civilian facilities two years ago".

In a separate statement issued from London the former Prime Minister, Mrs. Benazir Bhutto, expressed concern over the new curbs and said they could only further isolate Pakistan. "A democratic Pakistan enhances the international reputation of a country enabling it to make better diplomatic efforts to secure its position in the world community", she has said.

China flays sanctions

PTI reports from Beijing:

China today criticised sanctions imposed by the United States on Pakistan and Iran for obtaining missile technology from Beijing as unpopular and said such assistance was normal in state-to-state relations.

"The U.S. Government, in accordance with its own domestic law, imposed sanctions on others. The U.S. is the only one in the world to do so and this is not popular, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Sun Yuxi said.

THE HINDU

24 NOV 2000

After fudging the issue for years, US uses sanctions, but to serve commercial interests

Clinton gives Pak a parting kick

CHIDANAND RAJGHATTA
WASHINGTON, NOV 22

IN ITS twilight days in office, the Clinton Administration on Tuesday waived sanctions against China for its missile transfers to Pakistan while imposing fresh but largely meaningless restrictions against Islamabad.

US officials said the administration's move followed fresh guarantees from China that it would not transfer any more missiles or technology to Pakistan and Iran that violates international norms. China has pledged as much in the past and not kept its promise.

However, Washington's magnanimity this time is aimed at allowing American entities to have commercial transactions with Chinese space agencies that can launch US satellites for a fraction of what it would cost in the West. Pakistan, already in possession of complete Chinese missiles transferred in 1992-93, is an inconsequential bit player in this arrangement, having already stacked

up the missiles it has received from Beijing. As it cleared out of office, the Clinton Administration finally admitted to facts it has been obfuscating all these years: that China had transferred full missile systems and technologies to Pakistan as India had been saying all along.

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher acknowledged that some Chinese and Pakistani entities were involved in transfers of Missile Technology

Control Regime (MTCR) Category I items — that is, complete missiles, their major subsystems, or their production facilities. The US never publicly confirmed this. Boucher said China also helped Pakistan in MTCR Category II items, that is, components and materials used to make Category I missiles and subsystems. Moreover, all the entities involved knew they were in violation of agreements, he added. Just how serious Chinese transgressions were

with regard to Pakistan was evident in Boucher's disclosure of the China-Iran transfer. On a comparative scale, some Chinese entities and Iranian entities were only involved in transfers of MTCR Category II items to Iranian entities, Boucher revealed.

Despite this quantum difference, Cold War exponents in both the State Department and the Pentagon,

who have treated Pakistan as a surrogate state and

winked at its proliferation usually, made more noise about Chinese transfers to Iran. New Delhi complained often, and justifiably it now seems, that Washington was turning a blind eye to egregious proliferation in the sub-continent. Even then, the sanctions issue would not have come up but for the fact that Congressionally mandated US law enjoins the administration every two years to either waive or impose restrictions against the entities involved in proliferation.

Boucher said in consideration of China's commitment not to assist development of MTCR-class ballistic missiles in any way and to strengthen its missile-related export controls, the US is waiving the sanctions required against the Chinese entities. The administration, however, was imposing sanctions against the Iranian and Pakistani entities, he added.

The sanctioned entities in Pakistan are the Ministry of Defence and the Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission, and their sub-units and successors, Boucher said. The Iranian entities are the Defence Industries Organization, the Ministry of Defence and Armed Forces Logistics, and their sub-units and successors.

Boucher said the new sanctions will actually have very limited economic effect but they do send a strong signal that the US opposes these countries' missiles programmes. Pakistan and Iran are already under a variety of sanctions and the new restrictions do not further them in any way.

ARMS TECHNOLOGY

INDIAN EXPRESS

23 NOV 2000

'U.S. may declare some Pak. outfits as terrorists'

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3. The United States is considering declaring some militant groups in Pakistan as terrorist outfits and is "doing everything" to ensure that Islamabad created a conducive atmosphere in Kashmir for resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue, the Prime Minister's principal secretary, Mr. Brajesh Mishra said today.

"The U.S administration is now considering declaring some terrorist outfits in Pakistan as terrorists," Mr. Mishra told Star News while replying to questions on the Prime Minister's visit to the U.S. beginning September 7.

Asked if India wanted Pakistan to be declared a terrorist State, Mr. Mishra said, "we will tell them that according to all criteria, Pakistan is a State sponsoring terrorism. It will be up to Washington to take action as per its law."

Replying to another query, he said, "we are sure and we have been assured that the United States is already doing everything it can to convey to Pakistan" that Islamabad must create a conducive atmosphere in Jammu and Kashmir for resumption of talks with India.

Mr. Mishra said India would not talk to Pakistan "with a gun on our head" and that Islamabad must end cross-border terrorism for the dialogue process to begin.

He asserted that despite Mr. Vajpayee's truncated visit to the U.S., the Prime Minister had several important engagements including the address to the U.N.

General Assembly, especially in the wake of New Delhi's claim for a permanent membership of the Security Council.

On the business engagements, Mr. Mishra said it was likely that Mr. Vajpayee would be meeting business leaders in Washington on the 15th of this month.

On being asked why no plans had been drawn for a meeting with the Republican presidential candidate, Mr. George Bush, Mr. Mishra said there was a possibility of a meeting. He denied that Mr. Vajpayee's knee problem had overshadowed the visit and said except for the San Francisco leg of the tour, his schedule in New York and Washington basically remained unaltered. — PTI

THE HINDU

4 SEP 2001

Musharraf admits shift in US policy away from Pak ^{W/r 15}

Islamabad, September 11 ^{11/9}

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf has admitted that the US priorities regarding South Asia had lately shifted away from Islamabad but asserted that his country could not be sidelined.

In an interview to a Pakistani daily from New York, Gen. Musharraf said he was "satisfied" with the role of US President Bill Clinton on the Kashmir issue.

"India's non-cooperation is preventing any progress on the Kashmir issue," the Chief Executive of Pakistan told 'The News' daily, adding that he hoped Mr Clinton would try to play an important role in the Kashmir issue before his term as the US President expires in January next.

Responding to a question, he conceded that US priorities regarding South Asian region had changed lately. "(But) it does not mean that they are marginalising

Pakistan. Pakistan is located in a very strategic location, which cannot be denied. We cannot be sidelined," he added.

Stating that Pakistan was a "nuclear power of 140 million people" and "sitting in an area between South Asia, Central Asia and the

Middle East," the military ruler questioned "who can deny this geography?"

He said US had bilateral interests with India "but that does not mean it will be at the total cost of Pakistan."

Claiming his visit to the United Nations Millennium Summit as an "overall success", Gen. Musharraf said it

provided him an opportunity to tell the world leaders about the Kashmir issue "very strongly."

Asked whether Pakistan apprehended any military action by India after its diplomatic success, Gen. Musharraf said, "We are totally prepared for the worst. We have been prepared for many months." *(FTI)*



Tilts for and against

GENERAL PERVEZ Musharraf's remark that American priorities in South Asia have changed is probably the first admission by Pakistan of the shifting equations in the region. Long used to US patronage which was at its most blatant when the American Seventh Fleet sailed into the Bay of Bengal during the Bangladesh war to denote the 'tilt' fashioned by the Nixon-Kissinger duo in Pakistan's favour, the latter must be feeling somewhat friendless at the moment. The sense of loneliness may have intensified in view of the fact that the Pakistani Chief Executive's visit to the UN has not been a notable success. It is not only that a military dictator is no longer feted at world forums as during the Cold War when the US was their friend, philosopher and guide, even Bangladesh delivered a snub this time to General Musharraf by describing coups against civilian Governments as 'illegal'.

To retrieve some of Pakistan's lost importance in American eyes, the General has focused on his country's crucial geographical position to emphasise that it cannot be ignored. Indeed, it was this very location which made the US regard Islamabad as its cat's paw in the region. But the Pakistani dictator cannot be unaware that the locational advantage has since been turned on its head by the growing presence of Islamic fundamentalists in the Pakistan-Afghanistan region who now pose a threat not only to India but to all neighbouring countries, including Russia. As long as Pakistan harbours these so-called *jihadis*, there is every possibility of it being treated increasingly like a pariah, especially as long as democracy remains suppressed in the country.

If Washington is now tilting away from Pakistan, Beijing is seemingly edging a little closer to it, judging from the call for a virtual international intervention in Kashmir given by the Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister. Considering India's insistence on bilateralism, the observation was not only biased, it also denoted a change from the earlier position when China wanted the Kashmir problem to be shelved for two decades so that it could be tackled in a more conducive atmosphere. Taken together with another Chinese observation to the effect that India has not been serious about settling the Sino-Indian border dispute, there is reason to suspect a marginal hardening of the Chinese attitude vis-a-vis India. It is possible that this relatively new development is related to the perceptions of warmth in India-US relations, which have been noted with distress by both Pakistan and China.

Musharraf cool to new warmth in Indo-US relations

Saeed Azhar

KARACHI 15 SEPTEMBER

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ruler General Pervez Musharraf said on Friday that he was not concerned over a recent warming of ties between arch rival India and the United States.

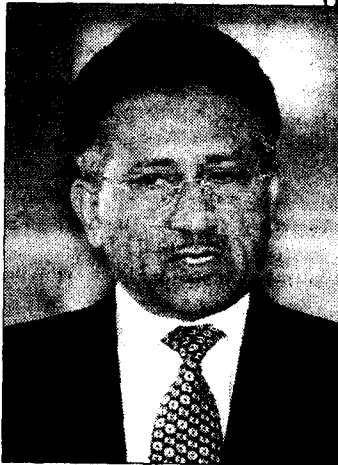
Mr Musharraf said emerging US-India relations should not affect Pakistan since it viewed its relations with United States — which it counts as a long-term ally — independently.

"My view is that our relations with United States should be seen independently and it should not be hooked on to US-India relationship," Mr Musharraf told a news conference at Karachi airport on his return from the United Nations Millennium summit.

"We would maintain relations with United States independent of Indian relationship with them," he said.

His remarks came a few hours after Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's landmark address to a joint session of the US Congress.

During the Cold War relations between New Delhi and



Musharraf: Unfettered

Washington remained frosty due to India's closeness to the former Soviet Union.

Mr Musharraf said economics were fuelling the recent strengthening of US-India.

Pakistan has seen its own relations with the United States sour over issues related to nuclear weapons testing and problems with Islamabad's backing of Moslem militant groups fighting Indian rule in the disputed Kashmir region.

Mr Musharraf, who reached

Karachi early on Friday morning, after a bomb scare delayed his flight from New York for more than five hours, said that at the UN summit he had successfully raised the Kashmir issue as a serious security threat in South Asia.

"Certainly they were all aware of why this security problem is there and that is Kashmir... I am glad that Kashmir has been highlighted," he said.

Mr Musharraf said he was also told by President Bill Clinton during an informal five-minute chat at a reception for delegates to the UN summit about US efforts to seek a solution to the dispute.

"He (Clinton) is concerned about what is happening in Kashmir and he is trying his best in the resolution of the issue," he said.

Clinton has in the past called the Asian subcontinent the most dangerous region on earth because the two neighbours have nuclear weapons and have already fought two of their three wars over Kashmir.

— IANS

The Economic Times

16 SEP 2000

US Congressional hearing grills Pakistan for harbouring terrorists

CHIDANAND RAJGHATTA
WASHINGTON, JULY 14

THE United States' increasing disquiet and annoyance over Pakistan's continuing sponsorship of cross-border and international terrorism was very much in evidence at a Congressional hearing on the subject on Wednesday. Administration officials and lawmakers minced no words in directly implicating Islamabad with the mayhem in Kashmir and warned that Pakistan would self-destruct if it continued its policy.

In a trenchant testimony that endorsed the views of many lawmakers, the State Department's coordinator for counter-terrorism Michael Sheehan told the House International Relations Committee that the US was concerned about the Pakistani Government's support to "groups we have designated foreign terrorist organisations."

Calling Pakistan a failed state, Sheehan said the country had become a "fertile breeding ground for terrorists" with its intelligence agencies supporting foreign mercenaries in Kashmir. As has been known for some time, the Washington has blown away the facade of Islamabad providing only moral and political support and said it is also providing material support to terrorists. The US has also rejected Islamabad's disingenuous attempts to parse the meaning of jihad and terrorism.

Sheehan in fact accused Pakistan of "tolerating" terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. "Numerous Kashmiri separatists and sectarian groups involved in terrorism use Pakistan as a base," he said.

He then went on to critique the very nature of the Pakistani state and society saying Islamabad's failure to tackle terrorism was because of its lack of 'political space.' Because of the disintegration of its social, economic and educational systems, young people are turning toward Madrassas (religious schools) for free education. These schools, "which incul-

cate extremism and violent anti-Americanism in their students, produce young men inclined to support the same causes championed by Osama bin Laden and other terrorists", he said.

Sheehan's colleague, acting Assistant Secretary for South Asia, Al Eastham, officiating in the absence of Karl Inderfuth, travelling in Japan and China — was equally tough on Islamabad. He told the House panel that acts of terrorism in Kashmir and the cold-blooded murders of political leaders and innocent civilians was "deliberate" and "reprehensible".

Both officials contended that Pakistan was sending 'mixed signals' by extending some sort of cooperation on extradition of certain terrorists wanted by the United States, but at the same time supporting Taliban as well as violence in Kashmir by Kashmiri militants. Acknowledging the view of some sections that Pakistan was a longtime US ally and needed to be helped out of the mess, Sheehan said Islamabad too bears "some responsibility for the current growth of terrorism in South Asia." The contention appeared to be a repudiation of the Pakistani claim that its terrorism problem was a legacy of the Afghan war and the US was responsible for it.

However Pakistan had its usual defenders, including the familiar Indiana Congressman Dan Burton, who criticised the administration for always finding fault with Pakistan and ignoring the Indian state's atrocities against the people of Kashmir and Punjab. The Clinton administration is pursuing a pro-India policy at the cost of a tested friend whom it wants to single out for criticism and penalties," Dan Burton said. "We must treat them with deference instead of singling them out for persistent criticism and sanctions," he added.

The hearing, the first to focus exclusively on terrorism in South Asia, clearly revealed the growing disquiet in both administration and legislative circles about Pakistan slide into

anarchy and its self-destructive policy of trying to bleed India. The Pakistani lobby had tried its utmost to have the hearing cancelled, but the attempt was rejected by the committee chairman Benjamin Gilman.

Gilman, who is also a leading member of the India Caucus on Capitol Hill, began the proceedings by accusing Pakistan of long-standing support to the Taliban on its Western borders and to "those bent on violence in Kashmir." He said Pakistan has made significant contribution to the emergence of terrorism in South Asia.

But the most scathing attack came from New York Congressman Gary Ackerman who in a written statement called Pakistan and "its vassal state, Afghanistan, 'crucibles of global terrorism'" and said the governments in Kabul and Islamabad are using terrorist tactics, employing terrorist groups or exploiting terrorist incidents as a means of surrogate warfare.

These governments view terrorism as a useful asset — as a cheap means of waging war. Pakistan, I believe, looks upon terrorism as a political tool to frustrate India's aspirations of emerging as a major and respected military, technological and economic power," Ackerman said. "It's from these two nations that fanatic forces of fundamentalist faith are spreading wanton mayhem and murder not only against India, a bastion of democracy, but also against Western democracies, values and interests," he added.

Ackerman, in fact, warned that — India, a long-time victim of cross-border terrorism, is bound to lose its patience and perhaps abandon its policy of restraint. Continued acts of terrorism against New Delhi from across its western border could well trigger a tit-for-tat and hot-pursuit response, which, in turn, can snowball into a major conflict. Therefore, if the region faces the possibility of a nuclear conflagration, the real culprits are those powers that cavalierly propagate and proliferate terrorism, he said.

INDIAN EXPRESS

INDIAN EXPRESS

15 JUL 2001

US blocks Pak's chances of becoming full ARF partner

Bangkok, July 27. *HT-128*

VIRTUALLY PUTTING a lid on Pakistan's bid to become a full dialogue partner in the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), a key security platform in the Asia Pacific region, the US today opposed further expansion of the 23-member grouping.

After the entry of North Korea into the ARF we support a period of consolidation...The current group of 23 members is considerable in size, US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott said in his intervention at the day-long 7th ARF meeting here.

Further expansion of the group would render it "unwieldy", Talbott said.

Pakistan had recently written to Thailand, the current Asean chairman, requesting for its inclusion as a full dialogue partner in the ARF. Islamabad is a sectoral dialogue partner.

The meeting is being attended by foreign ministers of 10-member countries of association of Southeast Asian nations and their counterparts from 12 other countries including India, Japan, US, Russia and China, and the European Union.

Besides India and the US, other countries opposed to Pakistan being granted full dialogue partner status included Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

Stating that the 1998 nuclear tests in South Asia posed a signifi-

cant threat to the nuclear non-proliferation regime, Talbott said "this is particularly important because of subsequent missile tests and because of the differences that exist between India and Pakistan over Kashmir and line of control."

US missile plan slammed: Russia, China and Vietnam joined forces to oppose the US over reportedly proposing to expand an already-controversial missile defence shield to cover all of East Asia.

The theatre missile defence system, envisioned to protect US troops in South Korea and Japan from attack by North Korea, has irked other nuclear powers as a threat to existing arms control treaties. *(Agencies)*

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 JUL 2000

Pak., U.S. discuss nuclear issue

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 16. The United States and Pakistan have concluded their ninth round of talks with the visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, meeting senior officials of the Clinton administration including the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright. The focus was on security and nuclear issues but Kashmir was also discussed, a press release issued by the Pakistan embassy here said.

"The U.S. Secretary of State appreciated the follow-up on the visit to the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and expressed the U.S. desire for maintaining strong bilateral relations and continuing exchanges between the two countries for expanding bilateral cooperation. These relations must continue to develop independently on the basis of shared interests," the Embassy release says.

Mr. Sattar on Thursday morning had a one-on-one meeting with Mr. Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State, followed by a working lunch. Later, he met Mr. Thomas Pickering, Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, and discussed India-Pakistan relations, democracy, economic issues, Afghanistan and terrorism.

"The talks on Pakistan-India relations, specially Kashmir, were a follow-up to the discussions that had taken place during Mr. Clinton's visit to Islamabad last March and Mr. Pickering's visit last month. Mr. Sattar specially appreciated the U.S. desire to be helpful and play a positive role in resolving problems and bringing down tensions in the region," the release said.

The two countries expressed satisfaction with the wide-ranging

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exchanges and agreed to continue and sustain the dialogue as an important dimension of bilateral cooperation and friendly relations. Mr. Sattar apparently told the Pakistani media here that the issue of terrorism did figure during the talks, but that the U.S. side did not make any reference to allegations of Pakistani involvement in the violence in Kashmir.

Pakistan was committed to combating terrorism and would cooperate with international efforts to tackle the menace as the country was itself a victim. "The Government is determined to tackle the issue firmly and take action against those responsible for terrorist activities," he said. "The U.S. side underscored its sensitivity to the challenges faced by Pakistan, specially for economic revival, and emphasised its willingness to be helpful."

On nuclear issues, Mr. Sattar reiterated his country's commitment to a policy of "restraint and responsibility" saying that Pakistan's nuclear capability was aimed at deterring aggression and posed no threat to any country. Islamabad was willing to consider steps for restraint on a non-discriminatory, regional and global basis and that it was opposed to a nuclear and a conventional arms build-up and pursued a policy of maintaining a minimum credible deterrence which could assure its security.

The Pakistani Minister briefed Mr. Talbott on the Command and Control System and the steps being adopted to ensure the safety of the nuclear assets. "We will take every step to reinforce risk reduction mechanisms and appreciate assistance for this purpose. Similarly, we were in the process of further strengthening our export controls system, fully

conscious of the responsibility that devolves on Pakistan as a state possessing nuclear capability," he said.

Mr. Sattar explained the Musharraf Government's priorities on revival of the economy, domestic reforms and restoration of democracy in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Court. The Minister also met Mr. Sam Brownback, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Sub-Committee on Near East and South Asia, and Mr. Doug Bereuter, chairman of the House International Relations Sub-Committee on Asia and the Pacific.

Israel offers help to tackle terrorism

TEL AVIV, JUNE 16. Israel today shared India's concern over cross-border terrorism and offered all cooperation to tackle the menace.

The issue figured prominently during the talks the visiting Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, had with the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak here.

"We have discussed issues relating to infiltration, border management, cross-border terrorism," Mr. Advani told presspersons referring to his talks with Mr. Barak and other Israeli Ministers and security officials.

All Ministers and top officials whom they met have unanimously appreciated India's concern over cross-border terrorism and if any cooperation is needed Israel was willing to extend it, Mr. Advani said.

The former Israeli premier and now the Minister for Regional Cooperation, Mr. Shimon Peres, had met Mr. Advani yesterday.—PTI

RECEIVED

17 JUN 2000

W-Pak
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U.S. unhappy with Pak. over support to Taliban

6/6 ✓

WASHINGTON, JUNE 5. The United States is disappointed with the Pakistani military regime for backing out on its commitment to cooperate in curbing Afghanistan-sponsored terrorism in South Asia and elsewhere, media reports said.

The *Washington Post*, referring to last month's assurance that the Pakistani military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf gave the visiting U.S. Undersecretary of State that he would use his country's leverage with Afghanistan to curb terrorism, noted that recent developments suggested other-

wise. Gen. Musharraf had initially supported a truly representative Government in Afghanistan and the U.S. officials had hoped that he would use his country's long-standing ties with the Taliban to press them to rein in the terrorist, Mr. Osama Bin Laden, and other alleged terrorist operations.

"But instead, Musharraf made several statements last week in support of the Taliban, saying their friendly relations are important to Pakistan's security and that his Government cannot interfere with Afghan issues," the paper reported.

"It is a telling change," said Mr. Rifaat Hussain, a professor of strategic studies at Pakistan's Quaid-I-Azam university, noting that it suggested that military and Islamic forces in Pakistan might have pushed Mr. Musharraf to back off on the Taliban, and this in turn could push Washington to find new regional collaborators.

The newspaper also said that post-cold war U.S. and Russia had suddenly found common ground in urging the Taliban to stop spreading religious extremism and violence in south and central Asia. — PTI

THE HINDU

- 6 JUN 2000

Pak not cooperating fully in move against terrorism: US

Washington, June 16

HF 14 17/6

PAKISTAN CONTINUES to be under serious and constant review for being labelled as a state "not cooperating fully" against terrorism, a senior US official has said.

"While the administration does not consider it appropriate to do so now, it is a fact that Pakistan has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory," State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism ambassador Michael Sheehan has said.

Sheehan noted at a hearing of the Senate foreign relations committee on Thursday that the US National Commission on Terrorism has suggested that the administration consider Pakistan as a candidate for the "not cooperating fully" designation under the 1996 law.

Pakistan has not been designated under this law but it continues to be under "serious and constant" review, ambassador Sheehan said, adding Pakistan's record on terrorism "remains mixed."

Noting Pakistan's cooperation in some areas, particularly arrests and extraditions, he said,

"Pakistan also has tolerated terrorists living and moving freely within its territory. But the areas of cooperation are real, and we are still in the game to make more progress."

Sattar holds talks with Talbott on N-security

THE UNITED States and Pakistan resumed an in-depth dialogue on nuclear security for the first time since the military seized power in Islamabad last year.

Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar held talks with US Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott on Thursday focussing on technical issues related to nuclear proliferation and fissile material, Pak officials said.

AFP, Washington

"Pakistan is also a victim of terrorism and understands that this threat undermines its own security," Sheehan added.

Meanwhile, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff General Henry Shelton has said that the

US must "exact a steep price" from those who insist on exporting nuclear, chemical and biological technology to those whose use of it will not be in the best interest of civilization.

To safeguard its future security, Shelton said in a commencement address at Fort McNair on Thursday, the US must continue to work to stop the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missiles that can deliver them.

The US must use every political, economic and diplomatic tool at its disposal, combined with an "aggressive, effective and intelligent" effort in this task, Shelton added.

From drug traffickers to failed states, from empires descending into chaos to bloody border battles over a few miles of barren land, from proliferation of nuclear weapons to asymmetric challenges to America's military power, the world remains dangerous, unsettled and unpredictable.

It is imperative, said the General, that the US prepare for the worst case and be ready to fight two simultaneous wars because "we simply cannot afford the luxury of basking solely in optimism."
(PTI)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 JUN 2000

US: Pak is a friend, can't be declared terrorist state

Washington, May 2

THE CLINTON administration has cited friendship as one of the reasons for not declaring Pakistan a terrorist state, despite "credible reports of official Pakistani support for Kashmir militant groups that engage in terrorism like Harkat Ul-Mujahideen (HUM)."

"I don't believe that Pakistan merits being designated a state sponsor of terrorism abroad, State Department's co-ordinator for counter-terrorism Michael Sheehan said yesterday while briefing on its annual report on terrorism, "Patterns to Global Terrorism - 1999."

"Pakistan is a friendly country. They co-operate with us on numerous terrorist issues, most recently with the extradition of an individual Al-Diq back to Jordan for trial. They have some issues that have been raised at the highest

levels by the President, Mr Bill Clinton, himself, when he was in Islamabad (in March), by the Secretary of State, Ms Madeleine Albright and others," he declared.

"When we look at the designation of a state sponsor, we look at the country's record on counter terrorism. And in the case of Pakistan, although we have some problems and issues with them, they were not designated a state sponsor. They do have problems, as I alluded to before, and we're pressing them to move forward on that," Mr Sheehan said.

He added: "We continue to work with them. But they definitely need to improve their efforts on this issue."

He said this following questions as to why the Bill Clinton administration had not gone beyond this report and included Pakistan in the United States' list of states sponsoring terrorism abroad.

Hearing on Pak

US CONGRESSMAN Sam Gadjenson, a Democrat from Connecticut and ranking member of the House International Relations Committee, has called for hearings on the state of democracy and the rule of law in Pakistan and the link between such issues and the growing threat of terrorism.

HTC, New Delhi

(UNI)

Take concrete steps for talks, U.S. tells Pak.

WASHINGTON, MAY 7. The United States has asked Pakistan to take "concrete steps" for the resumption of a "productive dialogue" with India and a return to the Lahore spirit with the proviso that there would be "no more Kargils".

Stressing that a solution to the problems in Kashmir would have to be "home grown" and not exported from outside, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl F. Inderfurth, said efforts being taken by New Delhi to address Kashmiri concerns were a positive development that would produce beneficial results over time.

In an interview to PTI, Mr. Inderfurth, in charge of South Asian affairs at the U.S. State Department, spoke of a new relationship with India, emphasising that Pakistan was not a factor in this. "The differences between India and Pakistan are obvious. Right now we have more opportunities to pursue with India, and frankly, right now we have many more concerns about the direction Pakistan is heading. But we are not making a choice between either and we are not attempting to tilt in this relationship. We would like to see the word 'tilt' consigned to a historical period that we have gone beyond."

Mr. Inderfurth expressed the hope that Pakistan would take "concrete steps that would allow a productive and serious dialogue" to be resumed with India.

The assurances Pakistan should give India for the talks to take place was to be determined by the two sides, he said, recalling that the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, had made it very clear "we are concerned and we see ourselves playing a supporting, encouraging role".

Asked whether the U.S. had any views on the opinion expressed by some about a possible option of the Line of Control becoming the border between India and Pakistan, Mr. Inderfurth said: "I don't think it will serve any purpose for me, on the record or even on background or off the record, to engage in a discussion about the possible settlement."

On U.S.-India relations, Mr. Inderfurth said what

Mr. Clinton did during his visit to India was to change the terms of the relationship. "Even though it is now over a month since the President was in India, that trip continues to resonate. But we are not stopping there."

He said he was reviewing the agenda for the meetings the Undersecretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering, would have with the Indian Foreign Secretary, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, at the end of this month. Discussions were on between the two capitals about the most convenient date for the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit to Washington.

Terms for lifting sanctions

Changing topics, he said the sanctions under which development loans worth \$ 1.5 billions were pending at the World Bank due to U.S. opposition, would be lifted when India "signed" the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Drawing a distinction between signing the CTBT and taking time to ratify it, Mr. Inderfurth said India's signature would be a clear statement of intent.

'Lapses in storing arms'

JAISALMER, MAY 7. The Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, today said there were lapses in storing the ammunitions during the last two years. However, he said steps would be taken to ensure that Bharatpur ordnance depot blast did not recur.

Talking to reporters here, he said a decision has been taken that the ammunitions would henceforth be stored in well-covered places and not in the open and the process would take one-and-a-half years to be completed.

Admitting that ammunitions were still being kept in the open in Jaisalmer, Mr. Fernandes said "during the last two years, there have been increasing slackness in storing ammunitions in different parts of the country and there is an urgent need to improve that. This will be done expeditiously." — PTI

THE HINDU

THE HINDU

- 8 MAY 2000

Marked difference in US attitude to Pakistan

N. C. Menon
Washington, May 19

WHITE HOUSE spokesman Joe Lockhart made it clear yesterday that a marked difference existed between the US attitude to a military-ruled Pakistan on the one hand, and democratic India and Bangladesh on the other.

At the daily White House briefing, Lockhart acknowledged that during his recent trip to South Asia, President Clinton had extended invitations to Prime Ministers Atal Behari Vajpayee of India and Hasina Wajed of Bangladesh to visit Washington. The spokesman confirmed that no such invitation had been extended to Pakistan's military ruler General Musharraf.

He was also asked about the recent ruling of the Pakistani Supreme Court that the prevailing corruption in Pakistan justified Musharraf's military coup, and the General did not have to call elections for three years.

Lockhart said, "We would disagree with the conclusion drawn by the justices."

Afghan team meets officials: A delegation of Afghan citizens, representing the Rome Process, met senior US officials this week to discuss the future of Afghanistan.

The Rome initiative was instituted a year ago under the aegis of former Afghan King Zahir Shah. It seeks to convene a "Loya Jirga" (Grand Council) to address the need to end the conflict in Afghanistan, establish a representative Government, and to combat terrorism and narcotics trafficking.

Among the officials whom the Afghan delegation met were Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Thomas Pickering and Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia Karl Inderfurth. Pickering reportedly expressed support for the initiative.

Pickering will arrive in Islamabad next week for three days of talks expected to touch on terrorism and Pakistan's relations with India, reports Reuters from Islamabad.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 MAY 2000

U.S.-Pak. dialogue to resume in June

By Amit Baruah

10-14
29/5

ISLAMABAD, MAY 23. The Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, is scheduled to visit Washington in mid-June to resume the stalled dialogue with the U.S. on peace, security and nuclear issues.

Announcing this at a press briefing today, a Foreign Office spokesman said that this would be a follow-up to the visit of the Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering, to Islamabad from May 25 to May 28. Mr. Sattar will be the new interlocutor of the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, in the U.S.-Pakistan dialogue. Eight rounds of talks have been held by the two sides since the May 28 nuclear tests conducted by Pakistan.

Referring to Mr. Pickering's visit, the spokesman said that he would arrive in Islamabad on May 25 and hold talks with the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam-ul-Haq, over the next two days. He would also call on the Foreign Minister and, possibly, the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Mr. Pickering's visit will be the first high-level contact between the two countries since the agenda-setting, six-hour-long stop-over of the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to Pakistan on March 25.

According to the spokesman, the entire spectrum of bilateral relations, India-Pakistan ties, Kashmir, terrorism and non-proliferation would be on the agenda of the talks. Mr. Pickering will have in Islamabad. To a question, he said the Russian statement threatening to bomb Afghanistan, if necessary, would have a "destabilising" effect. "Comments have to be based on objective reality," he maintained.

On Osama bin Laden, the spokesman said the Saudi-born rebel was neither a citizen of Pakistan nor was he on Pakistani soil. The issue, he said, involved Afghanistan and the U.S. and should be resolved through dialogue by the two parties.

Asked when Gen. Musharraf would visit Afghanistan, he said such a visit was on the cards and arrangements were being made. No date was supplied by the spokesman.

He announced that the Chief Executive would be in Teheran for the ECO summit on June 10 and would then visit Oman on June 11-12. The Indonesian President, Mr. Abdul Rahman Wahid, was likely to visit Pakistan some time next month.

Nuclear non-proliferation

In a related development, the

Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said in a statement that Islamabad was prepared to participate in "non-discriminatory" efforts to achieve the global aim of non-proliferation as enunciated in the recently-concluded NPT review meet in New York.

"We cannot accept the position taken by the review conference on the nuclear tests by India and then Pakistan in May 1988. It is important to recall that for over two decades, since the first Indian test in 1974, Pakistan vigorously pursued the goal of keeping South Asia free of nuclear weapons... While India's nuclear tests destabilised the security environment in South Asia, Pakistan's tests restored the strategic balance. Therefore, the distinction between the nuclear ambitions of India and the compulsions of Pakistan must be acknowledged and preserved," the statement said.

"Pakistan's nuclear deterrent now forms an indispensable part of its defence doctrine. Our nuclear capability is solely for the purpose of deterring aggression against Pakistan. We remain sensitive to international non-proliferation concerns. We are opposed to an arms race or introduction of weapons' systems which could destabilise the security environment of the region," Mr. Sattar said. Stating that India had embarked on a weaponisation programme, Mr. Sattar hoped that the NPT weapon-states and the international community would continue to support Pakistan's proposals for a strategic restraint regime, in both nuclear and conventional fields, in South Asia and resolution of the Kashmir issue.

THE HINDU

24 MAY 2000

U.S. warns Pak against conducting fresh N-test

By Ramesh Chandran
The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: Despite a categorical Pakistani denial, the Clinton administration, concerned by intelligence inputs of possible preparations for a new nuclear test, has warned Islamabad against conducting any further tests. Unnamed administration sources were quoted here as saying, "We have raised this issue with the Pakistan government and have received assurances that they have no plans to test again."

Coinciding with the second anniversary of Pakistan's six nuclear detonations in the Chagai Hills, there has been media specu-

lation about fresh detonations of a nuclear device by Islamabad—first fuelled by Pakistan's *Observer* newspaper. It has triggered intense speculation, although U.S. officials here remain tight-lipped about what specifically set off the alarms.

Reacting to the flurry of reports, a Pakistani foreign office spokesman, Iftikhar Murshed, was quoted as saying, "The report is utterly baseless. Pakistan has declared a unilateral moratorium on testing and the report has no foundation whatsoever."

Meanwhile, Washington's own lively group of South Asian analysts has been offering its interpretation of whether such a nuclear

test is actually possible and, if so, what the consequences are likely to be. David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security, was quoted in the *Post* as saying that his organisation, which investigates clandestine nuclear facilities worldwide, had begun analysing a high-resolution commercial satellite image shot in March of what is believed to be Pakistan's second nuclear test conducted in May 1998.

Mr Albright was reported as saying that his analysts had detected a "new road" that winds past what appears to be a crater from the 1998 nuclear test to smaller structures which had been built recently.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 MAY 2000

Improvement in U.S.-Pak relations unlikely

By Amit Baruah

ISLAMABAD, MAY 28. With little forward movement on issues of concern such as curbing terrorism, restoring democracy and reducing tension along the Line of Control (LoC) with India, chances of an immediate improvement in Pakistan-U.S. relations appear to be remote.

The two-day-long talks held by the U.S. Under-Secretary of State, Mr. Thomas Pickering, only go to emphasise the continuing difference of perceptions between Washington and Islamabad even as the two countries remain engaged.

The plainspeaking by the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, during his March 25 stop-over doesn't seem to have woken up the Government of Pakistan to the reality that Islamabad was on the wrong side of the fence when it came to issues such as terrorism, democracy and Afghanistan.

A question that arises from the Pakistan-U.S. engagement is simple: how long will the U.S. continue to hold talks with Pakistan without concrete progress on the core issues of that bilateral relationship? As of now, providing an answer appears to be a difficult task.

While setting out American concerns once again, Mr. Pickering also made it clear that Washington fully supported the economic renewal efforts launched by the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. "We discussed Gen. Musharraf's recent statement on economic policies that he is pursuing and I urged that he continue to remain on steady course on this

particularly important issue...." Mr. Pickering told Pakistani reporters on Saturday.

In a message which should be looked at seriously in New Delhi, the U.S. official made it clear that "as soon as Pakistan can meet the obligations it has with respect to the policies of the international financial institutions, we are ready to support the disbursement by those institutions of the funds they are committed to make available to Pakistan".

Mr. Pickering has linked the resumption of aid from international financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank to Pakistan meeting the conditions of these donor agencies on the economic front. It signals that other extraneous factors may not be introduced by the U.S. in this regard.

On the return to democracy and the Supreme Court judgment laying down October 12, 2002 as the date for restoration of elected rule, Mr. Pickering stated, "We believe that obviously any statement of the Supreme Court of Pakistan needs to be respected, considered positively and honoured..."

"We understand that many Pakistanis in the military Government currently feel that more steps and institutional changes and so on need to be put in place... We have said we would welcome further details on the plans and proposals of the Government to meet the three-year commitment that the Supreme Court has now placed before it... If things could be done before the three-year deadline we would not be disappointed, provided they could be done well," Mr. Pickering was quoted as saying.

On non-proliferation, he stressed the need for an early signature on the CTBT. "The notion that one country must test after another has, in my view, no relevance to the question of weapons developments which is the usual pretext for conducting tests."

"It indicates to me, in effect, how difficult the problem of proliferation in the sub-continent has now become and is deeply discouraging that tests should be conducted by one country only on the basis of tests conducted by another. This smacks of the worst elements of an arms race in the region."

According to him, any further nuclear test would be deeply deplored and produce no positive results for anybody in the region or beyond. "This," Mr. Pickering said, "was one of the reasons why we are redoubling efforts to get Pakistan and India to commit to the CTBT."

DPA reports:

Gen. Musharraf today reaffirmed the country's reliance on nuclear deterrence as Pakistan celebrated the second anniversary of its nuclear tests carried out in 1998. "Our experience tells us that no outside power would protect us against a belligerent India," he told a gathering of the scientific community in Islamabad.

However, the past two years showed that nuclear capability could not ensure economic and social emancipation of a nation, he said, referring to the adverse economic fallout of the tests. "We have to attain all-round national development by achieving progress in science and technology," he stressed.

THE HINDU

29 MAY 2002

U.S. to maintain 'pressure' on Pak.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, APRIL 6. In taking note of the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif's plan to appeal against the life sentence awarded to him, the Clinton Administration has said it would closely monitor this process. "We expect the government to continue to allow open access and open reporting on the proceedings and to continue to give Mr. Sharif the due process," an administration official said.

The White House said it was "pleased" that Mr. Sharif had been spared the death penalty and has called for a fair appeals process. Mr. P.J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council, said Washington hoped that the appeals process would be "fair and transparent".

The administration has said that while the legal proceedings are continuing, it would be inappropriate to evaluate the fairness of the proceedings thus far or comment on the verdict against Mr. Sharif. But the feeling is that the process thus far had been transparent and that Mr. Sharif's lawyer had also felt this way.

If the administration's official response is along expected lines, it is because the U.S. does not wish to be seen as getting too involved in a high-profile domestic trial. It is said that the administration, over the next few days, is unlikely say more than what has already been said but that the subtle diplomatic pressures would be maintained.

On the surface the verdict removes the prospect of a crisis that would have come about between Washington and Islamabad if the former Prime Minister was awarded the death sentence. The U.S. long made it known that on the one hand it expected the due process to Mr. Sharif and on the other said he should be spared the death penalty. "Justice can be served short of the gallows," a senior official remarked last year.

Even while urging the military government in Islamabad to en-

sure the due legal process in the trial, the Clinton Administration had privately told the Musharraf regime that the former Prime Minister should be spared the death sentence if Mr. Clinton were to visit Pakistan as a part of his South Asia trip. This, according to some, was one of the pre-conditions for the U.S. President's short trip last month.

But what had irked many in the U.S. Congress was that the administration "dumped" Mr. Sharif just hours after he was overthrown in a bloodless coup. Senior lawmakers questioned the posturing of the administration which they felt was giving the wrong messages and signals to democracies and dictatorships alike. The administration for its part said it was critical to remain "engaged" with Islamabad and that engagement did not mean endorsement.

U.K. reacts cautiously

PTI reports from London:

Britain has reacted cautiously, saying it would not take "a final view until the judicial process is exhausted".

The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Robin Cook, in a statement said, "From the outset, we have called for a fair and transparent trial. But we are disturbed about a number of aspects. These include changing the terms of the trial to include hijacking in the anti-terrorist laws after the alleged event, and the questionable judicial climate given the forced oaths of allegiances for the senior judiciary."

Meanwhile, the Commonwealth chief, Mr. Don Mckinnon, expressed concern at the severity of the sentence awarded to Mr. Sharif and urged that he be granted a full amnesty.

In Beijing, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Sun Yuxi, said, "We have taken note of the relevant reports and we believe the people of Pakistan will, starting from the supreme interests of the state and the nation, handle this issue properly."

THE HINDU

- 1 APR 2000

U.S. rejects Sharif charge on coup

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 2. The White House has rejected the assertion of the former Pakistan Prime Minister, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, that the West was responsible for the military coup in which he was deposed last October.

Asked to respond to a letter allegedly smuggled out of the jail cell of Mr. Sharif in which he makes the particular comment, the White House spokesman, Mr. Joe Lockhart, said, "I will reject the premise of the initial comment that somehow the West — whatever that means — was behind his situation".

Asked if Mr. Sharif's comment was a message asking for Presidential help, he said that the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, and others have insisted to the military regime that there be a "transparent process that follows the law" involving the for-

mer Prime Minister. "And I think we've been very clear on that," Mr. Lockhart said.

Asked to comment on reports that the Mr. Sharif's lawyers had quit because the military Government had "already decided to hang" Mr. Sharif, the spokesman said he had not seen those reports but added that if true they would be "counter to the public statements that we have made about making sure that he (Mr. Sharif) and any others are given the judicial openness and review that any citizen should be afforded".

The Clinton administration has been quiet on the ongoing trial of the former Prime Minister, but privately the impression has been that the message has been conveyed to the military regime in Pakistan that justice can be served short of the gallows. The argument has been that Washington had made this as one of the pre-conditions for the President to include Pakistan in his visit.

Seek specific guarantees, Senators tell Clinton

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 8. After consistently urging the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, not to travel to Pakistan for fear of sending the wrong messages, leading members of Congress are now asking him to make sure that he gets specific guarantees from Gen. Pervez Musharraf on democracy, terrorism and non-proliferation.

"Recognising that the President has made the decision to go to Pakistan, I expect him to demand concrete actions towards restoring democracy, curbing terrorism and non-proliferation. I continue to be troubled by Pakistan's relationship with organisations that have been linked to the hijacking of the Indian Airlines jet... I hope the President will use this opportunity to address our concerns on security", said Mr. Sam Gejdenson, the Ranking Democrat on the House International Relations Committee.

The Democrat from Connecticut, who introduced a resolution last October condemning the military coup in Pakistan, has made the point that despite many assurances to the contrary, Gen. Musharraf has taken no steps towards democracy and has further unravelled Pakistan's constitution and undermined the judiciary and the legislature.

"The return of democracy should be the main item on the agenda when President Clinton meets with Gen. Musharraf during the stopover in Pakistan", said Mr. Gary Ackerman, co-chairman of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, stressing also that the junta in Islamabad must take "verifiable steps" to stop the proxy war against India, especially in the state of Jammu and Kashmir.

"I will impress upon the administration that India continues to bear the brunt of fundamentalist terrorism emanating from across its western border. India is one of the biggest victims of state-sponsored international terrorism... Kashmir and its peace loving people have become victims of cross-border

terrorism. This murderous phenomena should be fought most decisively by all civilised societies and governments", the Democratic lawmaker from New York said in a statement.

Hoping that Mr. Clinton's visit will offer an opportunity for some "straight talk", the New Jersey Democrat, Mr. Frank Pallone, wants discussions on Islamabad's need to dramatically change its course in a number of key areas. "It is important that President Clinton express to Gen. Musharraf that the U.S. is very concerned about Pakistan's role in fomenting instability in Kashmir, about the links between Pakistan and terrorist organisations and about Pakistan's role in the proliferation of nuclear weapons and missile technology", Mr. Pallone said.

Arguing it was not right to acknowledge a military government with such a high level visit, Democratic Congressman from the State of Washington, Mr. Jim McDermott, said that he hoped Mr. Clinton will use the opportunity to press Gen. Musharraf on his "languishing plans to restore democracy to Pakistan" and that it is the President's duty to demand a return to the rule of law and full democracy.

Talking to the *New York Times*, the former American Ambassador to Pakistan, Mr. Robert Oakley, said too much energy has been spent on focussing on the question of whether Mr. Clinton should go to Pakistan, rather than on what will be achieved.

"Musharraf is not one to back down in the face of U.S. pressure. If he's prepared to send a message to the Indian Prime Minister through Clinton privately that he's willing to take credible steps on Kashmir", then the visit might be worthwhile, Mr. Oakley said.

UNI reports:

Several pro-Pakistan Congressmen, including Mr. Dan Burton and Mr. Tom Campbell (both Republican) and Mr. Tim Johnson (Democrat) talked of U.S. mediation in Kashmir in their statements welcoming Mr. Clinton's decision to visit Islamabad.

Clinton visit not to legitimise Musharraf rule

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 8. Senior administration officials here are making the point that the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, is going to Pakistan not because he approves of or acquiesces in the Government of Gen. Pervez Musharraf or to mediate the dispute in Kashmir but to advance Washington's interests.

These interests include avoiding the threat of conflict in South Asia, promoting the return of democracy in Pakistan, preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and creating an environment of regional peace and security.

"The President will go to Pakistan because the Pakistani nation is a friend, not because he approves of or acquiesces in the Government of Gen. Musharraf. He is not going to mediate the Kashmir dispute", remarked a senior official while briefing the White House media shortly after the official announcement on Mr. Clinton's trip to Pakistan was announced.

Arguing that it cannot be predicted when the next flare-up between India and Pakistan might occur but that tensions are higher now than at any time since the 1971 war, the official noted, "We are concerned that through misunderstandings or gradual escalation, the two countries could once again find themselves in conflict. The President has a responsibility to our nation and to the world to do what he can to avoid such a dangerous development. The President believes that it is crucial that he carry a message of restraint and dialogue to both capitals on this trip".

Washington has been saying since the military coup of last October that the military leadership in Islamabad will have to spell out an early timetable for the return of democracy. The official conceded that as of date there has been "no comprehensive road map or time frame for a return to civilian democratic rule", but there in a positive side.

"...the press and the non-governmental organisations are allowed to operate freely. There has been a commitment to local elec-

tions this year. There have been efforts to prosecute corruption...

And the trial of the former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, appears to be proceeding properly, including with due process. So the record so far is mixed. We believe it's too early to judge the record of the new government. These clearly will be the focus of the President's concerns that he'll express when he is there".

The administration is making it known that the prime focus of Mr. Clinton's South Asia trip is India; and that when he and the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, spoke on Monday it was mostly about the upcoming events in India "and how important it is for us to turn a new page in U.S.-Indian relations". The official said the hope is that Mr. Clinton's visit will mark a departure in U.S. policy towards India.

Mr. Clinton's trip to Pakistan is not to be seen as conferring legitimacy on Gen. Musharraf. "...our decision to travel to Pakistan, the President's decision, is not an endorsement, but is a statement of continuing engagement with Pakistan. We have had a long standing friendly relationship with Pakistan. And to avoid going there on this trip could send the wrong signal to the people of Pakistan that after many years of close relationship, that the United States was turning its back on a friend."

THE HINDU

- 9 MAR 2000

No endorsement of coup: Clinton

WASHINGTON, MARCH 10. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, said today that his visit to Pakistan this month did not constitute an endorsement of the military coup.

"It is certainly not an endorsement of the military coup," Mr. Clinton told reporters. "It is a recognition in my judgment that America's interests and values will be advanced if we maintain some contact and communications with the Pakistani Government."

Adding Pakistan to his five-day visit to India and Bangladesh would put the U.S. in a better position to push Islamabad to restore democracy and to help cool tensions with New Delhi, he said.

"I think it would be a mistake not to go, but it would be a grave mistake for people to think that my going represents some sort of endorsement of a non-democratic process which occurred there.

Pallone urges House to expedite motion against Pakistan coup

N.C. Menon
Washington, March 11

CONGRESSMAN FRANK
Pallone, Jr, New Jersey Democrat
and founder of the Congressional
India Caucus, has asked Speaker
Dennis Hastert to expedite pend-
ing legislative action to condemn
last October's military coup in
Pakistan.

A resolution to that effect had
been introduced in the House on
October 19, 1999, but the House
adjourned without acting on it.
Nor had the resolution been taken
up in the new session this year. The
resolution had been sponsored by
Congressman Sam Gejdenson,
Connecticut Democrat.

In a letter to the Speaker,
Pallone said: "Our nation has a sig-
nificant interest in promoting secu-
rity and stability in the South Asia
region. Furthermore, the
American people are deeply con-
cerned that the armed forces of
Pakistan respect the human rights
of all Pakistani citizens, including
those members of the national
government who are currently

detained and being tried in viola-
tion of their constitutional and
human rights. I believe it would
give great added weight to the
diplomatic and moral position of
the United States if what is often
called the "people's House" made
these statements or principle a
matter of record by adopting the
Resolution."

"It is important that President
Clinton express to Pakistani
General Pervez Musharraf that the
US is very concerned about
Pakistan's role in fomenting insta-
bility in Kashmir, about the links
between Pakistan and terrorist
organisations, and about Pakistan's
role in the proliferation of nuclear
weapons and missile technology,"
Frank Pallone said in his House
speech.

"I think that General Musharraf
and other leaders of the Pakistani
ruling junta must hear the message
that the US does not consider last
year's military coup to be accept-
able, that the overthrow of a civil-
ian government cannot be allowed
to stand as a permanent condition
in Pakistan."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
12 MAR 2000

Pak banks on Clinton visit to end sanctions

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, March 14. — Pakistan expects the US President's brief Islamabad visit to help in lifting international sanctions and re-starting important development projects.

Official sources here said that the military regime had been given to understand that one of the benefits of Mr Bill Clinton's visit could be the restoration of economic aid, absence of which is hampering development projects.

Mr Clinton's visit, the sources said, would open new avenues for relatively greater economic activities which were at present dormant. The World Bank and International Monetary Fund were expected to restore assistance to Pakistan as a result of some "give-and-take" deal. Pakistan is expected to assure

Mr Clinton of signing the CTBT, a crackdown on terrorists and plea to Afghanistan for Osama bin Laden's expulsion. The USA is expected to reciprocate by signalling the international donors and financial agencies to restore economic aid to Pakistan.

English-language daily *Dawn* said the US envoy to Islamabad, Mr William B Milam, who has "played an important role in convincing the State Department that the US President should visit Pakistan also", had

informed the authorities that the Clinton administration "was not interested in continuing to push for sanctions against Pakistan".

The issue of foreign investment will also figure prominently in talks.

The daily said the level of foreign investment remained stagnant at \$ 200 million to \$ 300 million a year for the last several years. One of the major factors was the lingering differences with the independent power producers, and an uncertain environment.

"The investment issue is very important for us as it is a major factor that directly contributes to our growth," said an official.

Security: Pakistan's latest weapon to prevent explosions during Mr Bill Clinton's visit

later this month has four legs and a wet nose and chews through a couple of pounds of meat a day, says Reuters. Police are already scouring Islamabad, using specially trained dogs to sniff out any possible bombs in streets or crowded markets. Dog trainer Mohammad Tanweer said the dogs are labradors and German shepherds and they eat bread, vegetables, eggs and 2.2 pounds of meat each a day, more than the average Pakistani family in three days.



Mr Bill Clinton

THE STATESMAN

15 MAR 2000

Pakistan tells militants not to make anti-U.S. statements

17/3
ISLAMABAD: U.S. officials are pressuring Pakistan's army rulers for a crackdown on militant Islamic groups, ahead of Bill Clinton's visit next week, but senior Pakistani officials resisted, saying that the militants pose no danger to the U.S. President.

Instead, the Pakistani leadership has ordered the militants not to make provocative statements or threats against the U.S. or India. "We have told them they should behave and not make irresponsible and baseless statements," Pakistan's interior minister Moinuddin Haider said in an interview, adding that the groups also were ordered not to organise rallies or display weapons.

Some senior Pakistani officials said that they were frustrated by what they maintain was the obsession in the U.S. and the West with militant groups and the unfair portrayal of Pakistan as the aggressor in Kashmir.

"Pakistan is paying the price of being misunderstood, of being maligned by India, a country with far greater resources, both militarily and economically, and they are using all of it to create a

negative image of Pakistan," said Jabbar, special adviser to General Pervez Musharraf. "And the West is buying it hook, line and sinker."

On the contrary, Pakistan's military government has "categorically condemned all forms of extremism," insisting "religion should not be exploited for the sake of politics," Jabbar said. Still, he said, the militant groups will not disband as long as the dispute over Kashmir smoulders. Fazal-ur Rehman Khalil, the leader of the most prominent of the groups, Harakat-ul-Ansar, said in Rawalpindi, "We are not terrorists."

"We are Mujahideen and we fight only in Kashmir," he said. "It is a great injustice to us that America has declared us a terrorist organisation."

While they may not like the U.S., the militants say Mr Clinton has nothing to fear during his March 25 visit to Pakistan. "Islam says that we must give maximum respect to our guest," said Abu Abdullah of Harakat-ul-Jehadi, another militant group. "Since he is coming as a guest we will do him no harm."

In Afghanistan, the Taliban have giv-

en refuge to Osama bin Laden, a Saudi financier the U.S. says masterminded deadly bombings of two U.S. embassies in East Africa in 1998. Washington is offering a \$10 million reward for his capture. The U.S. has pressed Pakistan to use its influence with Afghanistan's Taliban rulers, to secure Bin Laden's handover. But the Taliban say it is against Islamic tradition to turn a guest over to his enemy.

"To deliver Osama bin Laden is equal to breaking one of the fundamentals of Islam," the Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, wrote in a message circulated in Pakistan's deeply conservative northwest frontier, which borders Afghanistan.

"Osama is a Muslim, a mujahid and a guest. We will never deliver Osama, even if half of Afghanistan is destroyed." That same Islamic edict guarantees Mr Clinton's safety, Pakistani groups say. "Clinton is an honourable guest. He is not coming as an enemy," said another spokesman for Harakat-ul-Mujahideen, who gave only one name, Shahabuddin. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA
17 MAR 2000

McDermott, Pallone blast Pak regime

N. C. Menon
Washington, March 16

WHILE DISAGREING with President Clinton's decision to include Pakistan in his South Asian tour, Congressman Jim McDermott, Washington State Democrat, yesterday came down like a ton of bricks on the military regime of General Pervez Musharraf.

Pointing to the tendency in Pakistan for frequent military takeovers, McDermott noted that Gen Musharraf had said he would not permit a democratic process until major institutional reforms were in place. But the General had taken no action along those lines, confining himself to minor revenue reforms.

"Minor revenue reform is not what Pakistan needs," the Congressman declared. "The Pakistani economy has all but collapsed; the judiciary is operating under obscene loyalty oaths; a small upper class has a stranglehold on land and water rights, and the military and the intelligence services have carte blanche to fly in

the face of international law. Pakistan needs major overhauls of its institutions, not minor tax reforms."

McDermott set out a damaging set of statistics to prove Pakistan's parlous condition. It spends 50 per cent of its budget on debt service and 40 per cent on the military — a stunning ratio for a nation with nuclear weapons. Economic growth is less than 2 per cent, and foreign investment is almost non-existent.

"Musharraf has not demonstrated his desire to invoke real reforms," the Congressman charged. "If he did, he would tax for the first time ever, the agricultural sector. This sector contributes 25 per cent of Pakistan's GDP and employs 60 per cent of the population. But Musharraf is unwilling to take any steps that could anger the feudal landlords who run Pakistan. He has shown that he is more interested in remaining in power than returning Pakistan to democracy."

Referring to the total lack of justice evidenced by the fate of former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif,

McDermott feared that Sharif would be found guilty and executed in accordance with General Musharraf's law. "The degradation of the rule of law in Pakistan defies the sensibilities of the world and contradicts the definition of a modern nation-state," he added. "How can Pakistan take its place in the world community if it constantly allows its services to defy international law by conducting military and terrorist activities inside another nation?"

Referring to Musharraf's reported stand that the Clinton visit was an endorsement of "the righteousness of Pakistan's position on Kashmir," McDermott called upon the President to refrain from involvement in the Kashmir dispute. In his most devastating suggestion, he said: "Mr Clinton should put aside the gentle language of diplomacy and use this opportunity (of the visit) to demand that Pakistan move without pause towards full and fair elections. Pakistan is a sick state. Democratic elections will not cure what ails Pakistan; however, the healing process cannot begin with-

out them." Associating himself with the views of McDermott, Congressman Frank Pallone, Jr, New Jersey Democrat and founder of the Congressional India Caucus, also referred derisively to Musharraf's reference to the "righteousness" of Pakistan's stand on Kashmir.

"Pakistan's involvement in Kashmir has consisted of supporting an ongoing terrorist campaign that has cost the lives of thousands of innocent civilians, mostly Hindus, but also many Muslims," Pallone noted. Last year, Pakistan further escalated tensions by launching an attack across the Line of Control in Kargil. Pallone pointed out that it had been widely reported that Musharraf was the architect of the Kargil attack.

Pallone hoped that President Clinton's upcoming meeting with General Musharraf "will be an opportunity to demonstrate to him that he and the regime that he leads cannot continue with the current policy of suppressing democracy and provoking a conflict with India over Kashmir."

Clinton to tell Pakistan to stop exporting terrorism

Call made to respect LoC, show restraint, restore dialogue

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, March 21

IN A significant shift, the US today came out in clear support of India's stand that the dialogue with Pakistan can be resumed only if the Line of Control (LoC) is respected and cross-border terrorism is ended.

President Bill Clinton, after his talks with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, went on to tell mediapersons that he would convey this message to the Pakistani leadership when he stops over in Islamabad after his Indian visit this weekend.

Mr Clinton outlined four steps which he considered necessary for reducing tensions and restoring peace and stability in the region: Respect the LoC, show restraint, stand against violence and restore the dialogue.

The US President's specific reference to cross-border terrorism was a clear diplomatic triumph for New Delhi. During the talks, the one sticking point was Mr Clinton's preference for generalities while dwelling on terrorist violence in Kashmir. But Mr Vajpayee wanted the cross-border aspect of terrorism to be recognised. Mr Clinton eventually allowed himself to be persuaded on this score.

Last night's massacre of 35 Sikhs in the Valley also seemed to have played its part in the US endorsing the Indian position that talks with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue would be futile as long as it did not stop aiding and abetting cross-border terrorism. Mr Clinton denounced the killings in no uncertain terms.

"I recognise that India has real security concerns. We certainly share your outrage and heartbreak over last night's brutal attack. We offer our profoundest sympathies to the people, especially to the families of the victims," Mr Clinton said adding: "It (the massacre) reminds us of what tremendous suffering this conflict has caused India. The violence must end. This should be a time for restraint, for respect for the LoC, for renewed



US President Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea after planting a sapling at Rajghat in the Capital on Tuesday. Photo: Pradeep Bhatia

lines of communication."

Mr Vajpayee, condemning the outrage, declared that India had the "means and the will" to eliminate the menace of terrorism. "The attempt at cloaking acts of terrorism in the guise of 'jihad' (holy

war) carried no conviction. We and the international community reject the notion that jihad can be a part of any civilised country's foreign policy," he said.

Added evidence of Washington's new appreciation of the Indian

position was available in President Clinton's references to the circumstances under which Mr Vajpayee undertook his Lahore bus yatra. Mr Vajpayee, he said, took "some risk" in undertaking the Lahore initiative.

Then, even more significantly, he commented: "But you cannot expect a dialogue to go forward unless there is an absence of violence and a respect for the LoC."

At an official briefing later, Mr Brajesh Mishra, National Security Adviser and the Prime Minister's Principal Secretary, told a questioner: "There is no need to interpret his (Mr Clinton's) words. It is a clear statement."

The Indian Government, said Mr Mishra, had every reason to believe that President Clinton will pressure Gen. Pervez Musharraf to put an end to cross-border terrorism so that the dialogue process can be resumed.

As for Mr Clinton's call to Pakistan to respect the sanctity of the LoC, he said: "Such a specific statement on the LoC was not made before. The emphasis on ceasing cross-border terrorism is also of recent vintage."

Mr Vajpayee, at the brief interaction with journalists, dismissed possibilities of a war between India and Pakistan. Responding to Mr Clinton's description of South Asia as the "most dangerous place" in the world, he expressed his confidence that the US President would after his current visit here change his view.

The Prime Minister, during his remarks earlier, sought to impress upon the US that last night's massacre was only further evidence of the ethnic cleansing that has been underway for a decade. It was part of a pattern that has been experienced earlier, including during his Lahore visit last year. "The nation and the entire civilised community is outraged at this premeditated act of barbarism and joins us in condemning this act."

ON PAGES 12 AND 14

- Clinton visit diary, photo feature
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Can Clinton convince Musharraf?

By C. Raja Mohan
NEW DELHI, MARCH 22. If the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, can persuade Pakistan to end its cross-border terrorism against India, the Government would have no hesitation in resuming the talks with Islamabad, according to highly-placed sources here.

Senior Government officials believe that India has good reasons to feel vindicated by the U.S. President's public assertion that ending violence by Pakistan was an essential prerequisite for the resumption of the an Indo-Pakistan dialogue.

The Government is now waiting to see how successful Mr. Clinton will be in coaxing the Chief Executive of Pakistan, Gen.

Pervez Musharraf, to give up the current campaign of terror against India.

The sources point out that Mr. Clinton's emphasis on the "respect for the Line of Control and ending violence" reflects the growing consensus within the international community on the approach to reduce tensions within the sub-continent.

"This is a big gain for India", a senior government official said. Mr. Clinton's focus on the respect for the LoC does not mean, however, the official insisted, the U.S. is backing a solution for the Kashmir dispute on the basis of the LoC.

Sources believe that "it is unlikely" that Gen. Musharraf will publicly concede to Mr. Clinton's

pressure on ending terrorism. What India will look for, instead, is concrete "evidence on the ground". The sources argue that India will know when the cross-border terrorism sponsored by Pakistan comes to an end and then be ready to resume talks with Islamabad.

The Government is pointing to the dramatic increase in Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir since the Kargil conflict. Sources here say that Gen. Musharraf has sought to unify the terrorist groups operating inside Jammu and Kashmir and endorsed a "jihad" against India.

The sources argue that India has no problem with Mr. Clinton's basic approach to reducing Indo-Pak tensions. India has at

ways abided by the principles that Mr. Clinton has identified for peace in the region — restraint, respect for the line of control, rejection of violence and resumption of the dialogue.

The big question now is whether Mr. Clinton can get Gen. Musharraf to accept them. If the U.S. is worried about a nuclear flash-point in the sub-continent and wants the Indo-Pak. peace process to resume, it is up to Mr. Clinton now to convince Pakistan to get off the dangerous course it has embarked on.

Besides the new realism in the American position on Kashmir, officials here say, the visit will help India and the U.S. realise the full potential of their relationship.

Pakistan will talk tough with Clinton

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan prepared on Friday for some tough talk with United States President Bill Clinton, a day after statements from the two sides showed a gulf in their stances on democracy and Kashmir.

U.S. officials said Mr Clinton would push hard for military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf to back down in the conflict with India over Kashmir, and urge him to go further to restore democracy after last October's bloodless coup.

Gen Musharraf has already strongly rejected a remark from Mr Clinton this week in which the President came close to explicitly blaming some in power in the Pakistan government for supporting militant groups behind the violence in Kashmir. "No part of the government is involved in any violence. I totally disagree," he told a news conference on Pakistan's national day.

Gen Musharraf said he would ask Mr Clinton to play a role "in the background" for a settlement in Kashmir because India had rejected suggestions for mediation by Washington. "I will try to tell President Bill Clinton that there is a need to put an end to state terrorism in Kashmir to end killings of innocent people," he said.

Senior U.S. officials travelling

with Mr Clinton in India before his arrival here on Saturday said the U.S. was opposed to mediating the Kashmir dispute because Pakistan, outgunned by India in conventional weapons, would see it as a "security umbrella."

"It's very important to disabuse the Pakistanis of the notion that if they get into a conflict (with India), the international community will step in," said one U.S. official. "I think they feel they can be adventuresome because they feel the international community, particularly the U.S., will bail them out," the official said.

Gen. Musharraf said he would stress to Ms Clinton the Kashmir dispute was the core issue between Pakistan and India. He announced a timetable on Thursday for local elections, but rejected demands for a time frame for national elections, saying time was needed for economic revival and political and administrative reforms.

U.S. officials said it was a positive first step, but more was needed. "It is a positive step but what we are looking for is a road map to national elections and a restoration of democratic rule in Pakistan," White House spokesman Joe Lockhart told reporters in India. (Reuters)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 MAR 2000

Clinton talks tough in Islamabad

2613
 'No military solution for Kashmir; stop cross-border terrorism' Visit a good

Islamabad, March 25 X11
US PRESIDENT Bill Clinton today told Pakistan that there could be no military solution to the Kashmir problem and urged its military government to restore dialogue with India.

In a hard-hitting speech broadcast on the national radio and television network, he rejected Pakistan's appeal for mediation in the Kashmir dispute, lamented the return of military rule in Pakistan and wanted its government to prioritise economic development over the Kashmir dispute with India.

Clinton also emphatically told Pakistan to stop cross border terrorism, create conditions for resumption of Indo-Pak dialogue and warned Islamabad of "more isolation" if it continued to support violence.

In his 15-minute-long address, the US President also endorsed India's stance rejecting third-party mediation in Kashmir. "There is no military solution to Kashmir... We want to be a force for peace but cannot impose it," he said.

He also made a strong plea for the restoration of the Lahore process that had been initiated by Indian Prime Minister AB Vajpayee.

"I will do all that I can to restore the process of Lahore," Clinton said. Pakistan, he said, could not hope to win US support for its case against India as long as tension between the two countries persist-



US President Bill Clinton concluding his live television address in Islamabad on Saturday. Photo: AFP

vain to redraw borders with blood, the President argued, "It belongs to those who have the vision to look beyond borders for partners in commerce and trade."

He, then, went on to ask, "Will the endless costly struggle bring good schools for your children, will it make your cities safer, will it bring clean water and better healthcare?"

Meanwhile, in an ironic twist, both India and Pakistan reported

shelling across the Line of Control. Clinton also described Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme as a "tragic squandering of effort, energy and wealth on policies that make your nation poorer but not safer."

Urging the government to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), the President asked, "Are you really more secure today than you were before you tested nuclear weapons?"

Visit a good omen, says Musharraf

Islamabad, March 25

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY ruler today voiced satisfaction with US President Bill Clinton's 330-minute visit to Pakistan and said it was a good omen for the region's future.

"It augurs well for the future of our region," General Musharraf told a news conference less than an hour after Mr Clinton left.

Responding to President Clinton's appeal for resumed dialogue with India to end tension over Kashmir, Gen. Musharraf said he was ready for dialogue "anywhere, at any time and at any level."

He said that Mr Clinton had not asked him to close down Islamic militant groups based in Pakistan which have been accused of "terrorist" acts against civilians and the Indian Army in Kashmir.

Responding to President Clinton's lament about a return to military rule in Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf said that the army would rule no longer than necessary.

"On this issue, I could not give a timeframe (for a return to democratic rule) and reiterated my stand that I will not perpetuate myself," he said. Gen. Musharraf has said he will rule until Pakistan's economy is revived and its political institutions repaired.

(Reuters)

Musharraf offers talks, leash on terrorism

WS-Pak
51-1
26/3
DPA & PTI

ISLAMABAD, March 25. — General Pervez Musharraf today virtually offered to tone down terrorism in Kashmir as he said Pakistan is ready to hold talks with India “anytime, anywhere and at any level” after Mr Bill Clinton firmly told him there would be no US mediation.

Gen. Musharraf, however, said that India — which has said talks are possible only if Pakistan stops backing terrorists in Kashmir — must show “reciprocity” to reduce tensions in the region.

He told a crowded press conference that he had emphatically conveyed to the US President that “unilateral action is not possible by Pakistan. There is requirement of reciprocity to start dialogue” with India.

“Then we can also use our influence to moderate the activities of the freedom fighters” in Kashmir.

He had told Mr Clinton that Pakistan was “not involved in sending people across the LoC. What is happening there is indigenous”.

But Gen. Musharraf was grilled by foreign correspondents, who asked him what militants from the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and other outfits were doing in PoK. “Are they holding summer camps there”, one of them asked.

“There was no difference of opinion on terrorism,” in the talks with Mr Clinton, he said, “because we ourselves have been victims of terrorism and are opposed to all forms of terrorism.”

Earlier, the US President had turned down the Musharraf administration’s plea for mediation on Kashmir, and called upon the two neighbours to resume dialogue in pursuance

PM’S US VISIT

NEW DELHI, March 25. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee is planning to visit Washington around 6 September when he’ll attend the UN millennium summit, the national security advisor Mr Brajesh Mishra, said tonight. — PTI

■ More reports on pages 6, 12 & 13

of the Lahore declaration.

“We cannot and will not mediate in the Kashmir issue,” Mr Clinton said. “We cannot impose. We cannot resolve the problem, and only you and India can do that.”

In his 15-minute televised speech, he said Pakistan will lose international sympathy and support by provoking a bigger and bloodier conflict. “No matter how great the grievance, it is wrong to sup-

port attacks against civilians across the Line of Control.”

Gen. Musharraf, however, claimed the visit was “highly significant” and “augurs well” for strengthening mutual relations.

But he had a tough time answering pointed queries on Mr Clinton endorsing New Delhi’s stand on respecting the Line of Control, abjuring violence and third-party mediation on the Kashmir dispute.

Gen. Musharraf maintained the US President had offered to use his good offices to “facilitate” the dialogue process between New Delhi and Islamabad. “India is allergic to the word ‘mediation’,” he said.

He also sought to downplay suggestions that Washington’s ties with India was at Islamabad’s disadvantage.

The General admitted that Mr Clinton had not not extended him an invitation to visit the USA.

Osama bin Laden: Gen. Musharraf has promised Mr Clinton to talk to the Taliban to secure the expulsion of the Saudi-born Osama bin Laden.
Sharif trial: The USA today urged Pakistan’s military government not to execute Mr Nawaz Sharif. Gen. Musharraf confirmed that the issue had been raised, but said he had made it clear that the case was in court and he can’t pre-judge the verdict.

THE STATESMAN

26 MAR 2000

CLINTON AGREES

5/6 4/7 Pakistan must behave

PAKISTAN has got a scolding from Clinton, that's for sure. There seems to be a recognition in the USA now, both in the Administration and in sections within Congress, that Pakistan is a problem, not just for India, but also for the region and ultimately, for the USA as well. Madeleine Albright categorically held Pakistan responsible for trying to tamper with the Line of Control, while President Clinton acquiesced in India's view that "elements within the Pakistani Government...have supported those who engage in violence in Kashmir." General Pervez Musharraf strenuously denies the charge, as he must. He sees that the USA must be satisfied on a number of points. He, therefore, asked jihadi groups to shut up during the visit and ordered local bodies elections between December and May, prior to the holding of second and first tier polls at a suitably uncertain date.

The Americans are not impressed, the long-term worth of these measures are dubious. The *jihadi* groups, for instance, propagate and train freely in Pakistan and Afghanistan and the only explanation the Pakistani Ambassador to India is able to give is that this is part of the national upsurge on behalf of the oppressed people in Kashmir in which his government is not directly involved and can do nothing. The Americans may not buy that. Whether it is possible to objectively establish that radical Islamic groups are supported by "elements within the government", the Americans will nevertheless want to know how the Pakistani government permits activities which the US considers terrorist in nature, thereby endangering the security of the entire region. The language Clinton used in Islamabad about a possible nuclear crisis in the subcontinent has not abated. No change in the fundamental US posture on Kashmir — that it is in dispute — but it is closer to the Indian position on one point: no dialogue is possible as long as efforts to destabilise, emanating clearly from Pakistan, persist. One doesn't know how effective American pressure can be on the subject, qualified as it is with the corresponding anxiety about pushing Pakistan, now in a political void, over the fundamentalist precipice.

Musharraf is not convincing about democracy either. Parties are going to be kept out, which means he will have his own men running the government, under some kind of Army tutelage. The latitude that the Americans may be willing to give him on this will depend, once again, on how much he, and the Army, can be trusted to respect their concerns over terrorism, Kashmir and proliferation. The restoration of democracy may be an end in itself — dictators get a bad press — but it is better if it is linked to some vital interests. The ones just mentioned above are all tied up, from the American point of view, to the quasi-confrontation in the subcontinent and Clinton's principal thrust in Islamabad, in raising them, is to get the Indo-Pakistani dialogue back on the rails.

THE STATESMAN

28 MAR 2000

Old allies keep it going

THE UNITED States seems to have shifted emphasis on the Kashmir issue but the American President, Mr. Bill Clinton, may have come to appreciate the limits of leverage that Washington perceives it has over Islamabad. "It's all about our self-respect. Can we just go along and do whatever Mr. Clinton wants us to do? He must realise that this is simply not possible," a senior figure in the Musharraf Government told *The Hindu* some time ago.

For a U.S. President visiting Pakistan after 31 years (Mr. Richard Nixon came to Pakistan way back in 1969), there is little doubt that Mr. Clinton carried with him a "negative checklist" of what he expected from Pakistan. Unless some private deals were cut between Mr. Clinton and the Pakistani military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the U.S. President must have realised that the Rawalpindi-Islamabad ruling combine is taking a hard line on Kashmir, "jihad" and Afghanistan.

The U.S. President's six-hour stopover was linked to Washington's perception that it can still nudge or push Pakistan in a direction that it believes is good for Islamabad. However, if the General's public remarks are anything to go by, he is unlikely to quietly go along with American concerns. For countries which have frequently cooperated on the issue of terrorism — remember the handing over by Pakistan of Ramzi Yousuf and Mir Aimal Kansi — relations between Washington and Islamabad have hit a new low on the issue.

The U.S. has now clearly come to appreciate that Pakistan is not going to do anything on Osama bin Laden (for Islamabad itself is aware that its influence on the Taliban is limited) or on groups such as the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen just to meet American concerns. Increasingly, there are reports that higher echelons of the Pakistani military are said to be pulling in different directions, but as can be expected, there can be no "confirmation" of such reports. However, such differences could make things difficult for the Army to put forward a united front on different issues. Gen. Musharraf, however, has time and again dismissed such reports out of hand.

There is little doubt that the U.S. and Pakistan are countries which know each other well though their relationship has by no means been trouble-free. While announcing a visit to Pakistan on March 7, a White House statement said: "President Clinton has accepted an invitation to visit Pakistan as part of his upcoming visit to South Asia. The President expects to address a number of issues of common concern with Pakistan's leaders. These include a return to civilian, democratic rule, the need to fight terrorism, and measures to avoid a nuclear and missile arms-race and prevent conflict in the region. The President's decision reflects the importance of making efforts to continue dialogue with an important nation of the region, despite our serious concern about the lack of an elected Government there."

HD 15 28/3 26/3
There appears to be little doubt that Mr. Clinton has provided a window of opportunity to Pakistan. The U.S.-Pakistan equation, says AMIT BARUAH, is a complex one and operates in varied fashions.

A U.S. State Department spokesman clarified on March 10 that Mr. Clinton's visit to Pakistan was not a "reward" for the Pakistani leadership. Addressing a meeting in Washington on March 15, the U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, stated: "We are going to Pakistan because the United States has interests there which are important — and urgent. Our interests include avoiding the threat of conflict in South Asia, fostering democracy in Pakistan, fighting terrorism, preventing proliferation, and doing what we can to help create an environment of regional peace and security, and reaching out to a people whose history is one of friendship with the United States."

Writing in *The Friday Times*, Mr. Ejaz Haider, a staffer in the weekly, argued: "The U.S. concern about Pakistan relates to Washington's perception that the country might slip further into socio-economic chaos and political instability. Therefore, while the U.S. looks at India as a democracy that is economically growing, and is increasingly confident of its place in the world, Pakistan is perceived as an increasingly dysfunctional and insecure country that needs to be helped before all hope is lost... Its engagement with Pakistan is pegged to the fear that non-engagement could have negative implications for the region and beyond."

There appears to be little doubt that Mr. Clinton has provided a window of opportunity for Pakistan. A list of American do's and don'ts is now available. At a time when Pakistan's economy is linked to the IMF view of things, Islamabad is aware that it is susceptible to American-Western pressures. However, this equation is a complex one and operates in varied fashions.

At his press conference on Thursday, Gen. Musharraf, possibly on account of the new mood of the U.S. on the region, called for a "background role" from Mr. Clinton to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Like everyone else, the General is aware that the U.S. is unlikely to make noises about overt third-party mediation on Kashmir at a time when Indo-U.S. ties are on an upswing.

Such a suggestion is rooted in the ground realities of South Asia. Gen. Musharraf is aware that the American view of the Pakistani establishment is a poor one — Mr. Clinton has stated publicly that elements within the Pakistani Government have supported violence in Kashmir.

Such a formulation, though rejected by Gen. Musharraf, is indicative of the opinion about Pakistan in the world community. Kargil ruined Pakistan's reputation as a responsible player. Islamabad's "deniable foreign policy" of promoting terror and mayhem in the Kashmir Valley is now known to all — leaders such as Mr. Clinton have even started alluding to it in public.

In such a scenario, Pakistan must go out of its way to address growing concerns about the direction of its foreign policy and state image. "For more than one reason, Pakistan's

stand on Kashmir is becoming increasingly untenable... What options does Pakistan have? It cannot wrest Kashmir militarily; nuclearisation has created a deterrent in the region and thereby frozen the *status quo*: armed insurgency cannot break India's will and has in fact only brought Pakistan under pressure on the issue of terrorism, and continuing conflict would allow India to keep Pakistan from developing in areas where progress could contribute to a positive image of the country," Mr. Ejaz Haider wrote.

Even before Mr. Clinton came to Pakistan, the U.S. had time and again spelt out its agenda of concern. These issues, ranging from getting Osama to a return to democracy and maintaining regional peace, have now been directly brought home to Gen. Musharraf and his colleagues in khaki.

Now that the U.S. President has returned home, can Pakistanis expect a saner foreign policy — one that does not jeopardise their future? Or will be it simply be a case of more of the same — rhetoric substituting for reform? As Mr. Clinton must be aware, the time has come for Pakistan to make the right choices and take the correct decisions.

THE HINDU
26 MAR 2000

Clinton's Pak mission failed on three issues: U.S. media



Bill Clinton

WASHINGTON: President Bill Clinton's mission to Pakistan failed on three major issues — setting firm bench marks towards restoration of democracy, an end to violence in Kashmir so that India and Pakistan can resume dialogue, and reduction or elimination of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal, the US media has

said.

Major TV networks including ABC and NBC have said that the only thing he can claim for his Pakistan visit is that he was able to establish communication with the military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf.

Ironically, Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar told him how much the people were eager to have him in Pakistan. But Mr Clinton saw no people, only officials.

Gen Musharraf told US President Bill Clinton he did not expect to stay in power for long but did not want to lay out a precise timetable for a return to democracy, US officials said.

The officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, described Mr Clinton's meeting with Gen Musharraf on Saturday in Islamabad as frank talks in which the President urged Gen Musharraf to ease tensions with nuclear rival India over the disputed region of Kashmir, deescalate

Pakistan's nuclear programme, and set a path back to democracy.

"Musharraf is a serious man," said one official who flew with Mr Clinton from Oman to Geneva on Saturday following the President's Pakistan visit. "I think that this was a very high-toned exchange between these two leaders. It was very candid," the official said.

In a dramatic television address to the Pakistani people after his meeting with Gen Musharraf, Mr Clinton said Pakistan's dispute with India over Kashmir and its costly arms buildup was a "tragic squandering" of resources best spent elsewhere to improve life in his country.

"This era does not reward people who struggle in vain to redraw borders with blood," he said. Pakistan should ease tensions, he said, or risk "moving even closer to a conflict" with India, with which it has already fought three wars.

One of Mr Clinton's key objectives was to appeal to Gen Musharraf to set a clear road map for national elections after overthrowing elected prime minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup last October.

"On democracy, he (Gen Musharraf) said he did not expect to stay for long, but that he did not want to prescribe a timetable because if he prescribed an explicit timetable he essentially said the people would basically wait him out. That was his argument," said a senior US official. (Agencies)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

27 MAR 2000

110-1
9/2

Pak. 'signal' to U.S. on nuclear command

By Amit Baruah

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 3 A National Command Authority (NCA), with an "apex" Employment Control Committee (ECC), has been set up to "control and command" Pakistan's nuclear weapons following approval from the National Security Council. The apex ECC, which will be the final authority to decide on the use of nuclear weapons, will be chaired by the "head of Government".

The official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) news agency said late on Wednesday that the NCA will be responsible for policy formulation and will exercise "employment and development control over all strategic nuclear forces and strategic organisations".

Given the suddenness of the announcement, it would not be unfair to link the midnight statement to Pakistani "signals" towards the United States in relation to a possible Clinton stopover in Pakistan. For long, U.S. experts have been talking of credible command and control mechanisms (not that there was much doubt that the military controlled it all in Pakistan) and wanted that both India and Pakistan should institute these structures.

The setting up of the NCA is an indicator to the U.S. and the rest of the western world that Pakistan wants to manage its nuclear weap-

ons properly, consistent with a policy of responsibility and restraint. The NCA will comprise the "apex" ECC, a Development Control Committee (DCC) as well as a Secretariat to the Authority. This announcement, coming from a military Government, has the ring of permanence about it.

The ECC, with the head of Government (the words Chief Executive or Prime Minister have not been used) as Chairman, will also have the Foreign Minister (deputy chairman), Defence Minister, Interior Minister, Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee (CJCSC), the Service Chiefs, Director-General, Strategic Plans Division (secretary), technical advisors and others, as required by the Chairman.

The DCC, on the other hand, will be chaired by the head of Government and will include CJCSC (deputy chairman), Services Chiefs, Director-General, Strategic Plans Division and representatives of strategic organisations and the strategic community. "The Committee will control development of strategic assets (read nuclear weapons)," APP reported.

It is reasonably clear that while the ECC will be the final deciding authority on the "employment" or use of nuclear weapons, the DCC will develop Pakistan's nuclear weapons further. Interestingly, while there are several civilian

members of the ECC, the DCC is totally dominated by the military, barring the "head of Government", who as of now, is the Army Chief.

Ambiguity over control

The structure that has been laid out still does not convincingly explain who controls the "nuclear button" in Pakistan. Given the fact that Pakistan will eventually return to democracy, it would have been instructive to define the "head of Government". Also, whether the "Chairman" of the ECC will decide on the use, or the entire Committee will settle the matter, has not been settled in Wednesday night's announcement.

It is also clear that the military wants to retain full control of the development of nuclear weapon capability and does not trust civilians as far as "strategic assets" are concerned. However, when it comes to employment, the civilian component in that committee is strong.

Interestingly, the NCA has been formed "in accordance with Pakistan's well known nuclear policy of responsibility and restraint, as reaffirmed by the Chief Executive on several occasions, and with the objective of creating an institutionalised command and control mechanism, consistent with Pakistan's obligation as a nuclear power...."

THE HINDU
- 4 FEB 2000

U.S. reiterates commitment to be engaged with Pak.

HD 19
2/2

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 3. The United States intends to stay engaged with Pakistan despite the current difficulties it is facing, according to the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs, Mr. Karl F. Inderfurth. Speaking at the Howard University in Washington, D.C., the senior Clinton administration official remarked that the United States supported a vision of Pakistan — as presented by its new Foreign Minister — that was a progressive, modern, democratic, Islamic state.

"This is a vision we can support and Pakistan's potential as an example of progressive Islamic democracy is one reason for its importance to us today. But there are other reasons as well," he said.

"Pakistan is important because it is a link — both economic and political — between the Indian Ocean and Central Asia, because it has significant human and economic resources and because it has historically been a friend of the U.S. For all these reasons we intend to stay engaged with Pakistan despite the current difficulties it is facing," Mr. Inderfurth observed.

The U.S. has an expanding agenda in South Asia, the Mr. Inderfurth noted, going on to list at least four key items — democracy, economic reform, social development and integration into the global mainstream. On Pakistan and democracy the Clinton administration official hoped that the setback to South Asia by way of the October 12, 1999 military coup would be temporary.

"Our goal, which Gen. Musharraf says he shares, is to see Pakistan put back on the democratic path in the shortest possible timeframe. To the extent that we see evidence that this process is in motion, it will be in our own interest to see how we can most appropriately and effectively encourage it," Mr. Inderfurth remarked.

He made the point that in all of the four promising areas listed above "the full potential of our growing engagement with South Asia can be realised only if that region addresses some of the tough issues... in-

cluding proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and regional and social conflict."

This said, Mr. Inderfurth hoped that the time would come soon when these issues no longer dominated American thinking about South Asia and instead become deeply engaged in an agenda of economic growth, science and technology cooperation, cultural and educational exchange and joint efforts to combat infectious diseases.

The fact that a senior Clinton administration official has once again noted that Washington is committed to remaining "engaged" with Pakistan should not come as much of a big surprise. This is what the administration has been saying for a very long time, especially since the military coup of last October. In fact, it was Mr. Inderfurth who first commented at the time that the U.S. cannot "walk away" from what was taking place in Pakistan.

In the announcement of the President, Mr. Bill Clinton's visit to South Asia — India and Bangladesh — there is hardly anything to indicate at this time that Pakistan is formally off the list. On the contrary, there is everything to suggest that the administration here, for a number of reasons domestic and international, is trying to create an environment that would facilitate Mr. Clinton at least dropping by Islamabad.

India hailed

PTI reports:

Mr. Inderfurth described India, as "an emerging economic power house and world power, a dynamic nation forged from amazing diversity, and a successful democracy with over a billion people."

India, he said, is not only the world's largest democracy but a very intense, dynamic and, in almost every respect, a successful one. "This should make the U.S. and India, as the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, noted a year ago, 'natural allies'; and indeed it is quite unnatural that our two countries have for too long seemed at odds on many issues... In large part that was an unfortunate legacy of the Cold War."

Top US Congressman opposes branding Pak as a terrorist state

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
WASHINGTON, FEB 3

AN INFLUENTIAL US Congressman Douglas Bereuter has warned the Clinton administration against branding Pakistan a terrorist state, saying it will severely threaten America's national interest and India's own security.

"There is currently a move by some friends of India to legislate the placement of Pakistan on the State Department terrorist countries list... placing it on this list would mean that we have totally cut off Pakistan, that we thereby, effectively, no longer seek to influence the course of events in Pakistan," Bereuter noted. "I cannot believe that such a move is appropriate or

in the US national interest — certainly not on the basis of the information available and verified," Bereuter, who is also chairman of Asia Pacific sub-committee, said while delivering a speech yesterday.

"Our policy," said Bereuter, "should be to prevent Pakistan from becoming a true rogue state. If Pakistan goes the way of Afghanistan — adopting a Taliban-style leadership — the US national interest would be severely threatened, as would India's security." "The United States continues to wield considerable influence in Islamabad. We are able to encourage Pakistan's behaviour in many ways.

"Of course, our influence is not absolute. There will no doubt be occasions when the leadership in Pak-

istan will not heed our warnings. But at this point, it would be irresponsible to lump Pakistan together with the likes of North Korea, Sudan, Iraq and Libya," he warned. Bereuter's speech, together with warnings by the directors of the central intelligence and defence intelligence agencies before the Senate select committee on intelligence that war could break out between India and Pakistan over Kashmir, could have the effect of putting pressure on President Bill Clinton not to skip Islamabad when he visits South Asia, analysts said. Bereuter spoke before an event sponsored by the prestigious congress-funded think tank, the Woodrow Wilson Centre and the East-West Centre.

INDIAN EXPRESS

4 FEB 2000

A One-Way Friendship

US Systematically Exploited by Pakistan

By K SUBRAHMANYAM

THE planned visit to the sub-continent is a kind of credibility test for the US President, Mr Bill Clinton. He has visited all the major countries and the all continents during the last seven years of his presidency. In spite of US professions of support for democracy in the post-Cold War era, he is yet to visit two of the world's largest democracies — India and Bangladesh. The US is clearly a recent convert to supporting democracy in the developing world since during the Cold War era the US supported more dictatorships than the Soviet Union in pursuit of the rivalry between the two.

Backing Dictators

As a neoconvert, the US has, in recent years, been most vociferous in championing the cause of democracy. Given the long history of US support to dictators in all continents — Duvalier and Batista in the western hemisphere, Mobutu in Africa, Ayub Khan and Zia in Asia — there is always a question of how genuine the new US commitment is and how much of it is opportunistic posturing. The test of its democratic commitment is now provided by Pakistan and the US behaviour towards the military junta of that country.

Contrary to the popular view that Pakistan had been a staunch ally of the US and has consistently served US interests, the objective reality is that the Pakistanis have been able to exploit successive naive US administrations for their own purpose. Even while giving the US the use of the Peshawar airfield for U-2 flights and the Badber electronic listening post, Pakistan cultivated China at the height of that country's enmity with the US and sent troops to fight Israel during wars in West Asia. Pakistan had started its Afghan war much earlier than the US as revealed by General Nasrullah Babar and former CIA director Robert Gates. The Soviet Union was on the decline through the eighties and would in anyway have disintegrated even without its intervention in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani leadership was, from the very beginning, confident that it could take the US for granted through sophisticated blackmail. From the late '50s, at the height of the confrontation between China and the US, Pakistan started cultivating the former thereby holding out an implied threat that if the US did not oblige

it, China would be a fallback option. Pakistan treated with contempt US assurances to India that US arms supplied to Pakistan would not be used against India. It defied US warnings on the nuclear issue in the seventies and went ahead with an agreement with China to develop nuclear weapons.

General Zia termed the first US offer of military assistance as 'peanuts' and extracted from the US \$4.8 billion dollars of assistance including F-16 aircraft, acquiescence for its Chinese-supported nuclear weapons programme, and licence to produce and distribute narcotics. It twisted Ronald Reagan's arm to permit it to go right up to a nuclear explosive capability through the Pressler amendment which raised the sanction threshold. It was able to thumb its nose at the US and import missiles from China and North Korea.

It was, therefore, not a surprise that Pakistan's generals decided to dismiss the public US warning not to interrupt the democratic process in the country. After all, the Pakistanis were clever enough to hire and use a former US defence secretary to penetrate the US banking system and use it as an instrumentality of the notorious outlaw bank, the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) for money laundering, narcotics, arms traffic and other such transactions.

Working with Zia

Now the Pakistani military and intelligence establishment appear to be attempting to apply their skills to a more difficult test — to blackmail the US leadership to confer legitimacy on a military dictatorship, keep pumping in money to keep the Pakistani economy afloat and to persuade the US to intervene in the Kashmir dispute which is only a symptom of the core issue — the two-nation theory. This time, it is to be a three-fold nuclear blackmail — first, nuclear weapon technology may be transferred to a rogue state, second, the Pakistani aggression in Kashmir may be escalated to nuclear level and, third, if the Pakistani military dictatorship is not supported, then fanatical mullahs would take over and nuclear weapons would fall into the hands of Islamic extremists.

The record of the US administration in resisting Pakistani blackmail does not inspire confidence.

Pakistan's demands today are a repetition of what it succeeded in extracting from US secretary of state General Alexander Haig in 1981 when the latter, according to General Arif's disclosure in his book *Working with Zia*, assured Pakistan that the US would not interfere in the internal politics of that country nor would the nuclear programme become a lynchpin in the relations between the two countries. General Musharraf would not like to go down as a military dictator who could not achieve what General Zia and General Arif were able to.

History's Lesson

Unlike in 1981, when US indulgence of Pakistan's nuclear proliferation and military dictatorship was a quid pro quo for Pakistan's collaboration in proxy war conducted by the mujahideen, this time the US has to face direct nuclear blackmail. Considering the US inability to take a firm stand on the Chinese-Pakistani nuclear proliferation and to crack down on its narco-terrorism, it is doubtful whether the US will now be able to resist Pakistan's blackmail. The Pakistani military has developed close links with the Pentagon which, in turn, has a very high threshold of tolerance towards the military rulers of Islamabad. It has also an experience of 50 years of cultivating and manipulating successfully the lobbyists in Washington. It is because of these connections that in spite of 16 Americans being killed by Pakistanis and dozens of Pakistani narcotic barons being indicted and some of them being tried in the US that Washington is soft towards Pakistan's generals.

American apologists for Pakistan have been arguing that a policy of engagement is preferable to one of isolation and that a stable and moderate Pakistan will be beneficial to India and the region. While this thesis has been advanced to engage every Pakistani military dictatorship, history records that such an engagement did not yield results during any of the three dictatorships. Even while keeping Pakistan engaged, it has to be handled firmly. The US is likely to face the toughest test to its democratic commitment in the next few months in its dealings with Pakistan.



Pak may be a bad boy, but Clinton will go: *Newsweek*

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. — President Clinton may visit Pakistan irrespective of whether Islamabad meets US concerns about terrorism and other issues for fear that a “snub might add to the region’s instability,” says *Newsweek* in its forthcoming issue.

“Sources in Washington say there is little chance that the White House will make good on its threat to leave Pakistan out of the President’s South Asian trip,” the weekly reported.

“Experts worry that such a snub might add to the region’s instability, worsening the threat of outright war and a possible nuclear exchange between Islamabad and Delhi.

“Such a risk is unacceptable.

‘NUCLEAR STATUS’

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 7. — The Pakistani foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, has claimed that the USA has acknowledged Pakistan as a nuclear state, and that Islamabad’s signing the CTBT would not alter this status. — IANS

■ Details on page 6

That is why any gesture of accommodation from Islamabad will probably be rewarded by a visit from (Mr) Clinton”.

Newsweek said General Pervez Musharraf has begun efforts to cooperate with the Clinton administration — one sign was that “he is speaking of a possible visit to Afghanistan.”

(But UNI, quoting from a BBC

report on the General’s interview to a British newspaper, said it was unlikely he would return Pakistan to democracy within a definite timeframe.

(It would take “five to 20 years to set things right”, he said, vowing never to allow Mr Nawaz Sharif or Mrs Benazir Bhutto to return to power.)

Kargil tapes: Gen. Musharraf has admitted in a Doordarshan interview that the tapes of his conversation with Lt Gen. Mohammed Aziz during the Kargil war were authentic. He has, however, refused to accept the tapes prove Pakistan’s hand in the Kargil incursions.

“I agree with those tapes totally,” Gen. Musharraf said. “They are real but there’s nothing

■ See PAK: page 6

cf-10 PAK: 8/2
(Continued from page 1)

whatsoever to prove or indicate Pakistan’s involvement. It was normal dialogue that was going ... about our foreign minister who was going to India”.

‘Inflammatory’: Pakistan today said “the threat of another war by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee was reminiscent of the policy of bluster and intimidation ... (that India followed) after the nuclear tests. The belligerent tone of the Indian Prime Minister is regrettable,” a foreign office statement said. India “should know that such incendiary rhetoric is entirely counter productive.”

In reply, says SNS, the MEA retorted: “It is ironic that Pakistan which ... has created tensions, should talk about tensions being raised by a statement that reiterates India’s consistently stated position.”

Cong surprised: The Congress today expressed surprise at Mr Vajpayee’s statement that talks could begin only after Pakistan vacated PoK, adds SNS.

THE STATESMAN

- 8 FEB 2000

Senators want Clinton to visit Pak too

Senior lawmakers urge President to engage Pak to deal with terrorism

CHIDANANDA RAJGHATTA
WASHINGTON, FEB 10

AMID a continuing and wrenching debate in US political, diplomatic, and academic circles over President Clinton's visit to South Asia, several senior lawmakers on Tuesday urged the administration to consider a Presidential stopover in Pakistan — if only to save it from itself.

At a hearing of the weighty Senate Foreign Relations Committee, at least three generally well-meaning and fair-minded Senators urged a Pakistan stopover, suggesting that leaving Islamabad to its own devices could be dangerous. The motivation for the Senatorial plea for a Presidential stopover in Pakistan was not directed so much at US arbitration on Kashmir as to enable Washington get a handle over the issue of terrorism.

One of the Senators, Kansas Republican Sam Brownback, said the US needed to deal with terrorism and since international terrorism had shifted to the region "we need to be engaged with Pakistan to be able to deal with it."

"My fear is if the President goes to India and not to Pakistan, we further move Pakistan away from us, our ability to be able to deal with

them, and we actually strengthen the very hand that we seek to weaken that of the really militant fundamentalists within Pakistan," Brownback said.

Christopher Dodd, a Connecticut Democrat, also urged a Pakistan stopover, saying by doing so US could address Indian concerns about "certain actions that Pakistan has taken and events in Pakistan."

"I don't think there's much likelihood on resolving Kashmir in the next few weeks, nor are we likely to deal with the issue of the nuclear weapons overnight, but I think there can be some statements and some things done on democratisation and terrorism in the next few weeks which the Pakistani government could take," Dodd said.

If the administration was inclined to act on their suggestion, it was not immediately apparent in the remarks of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, who was testifying before the committee.

She stuck to the stand that no decision had been taken on the President going to Pakistan pending Islamabad addressing US concerns on terrorism, return to democracy and non-proliferation.

Apparently, the tentative moves of the Musharraf regime on

sanctions against Pakistan, urged the administration not to oppose international financial institution loans to India. "I would hope that those would be waived by the administration in our effort to broaden the relationship with India," he said.

Meanwhile, US officials said "too much need not be read" into Secretary Albright's remarks that not too much should be expected from President Clinton's trip to India and the visit does not suggest an approval of India's policies. The remark had been reported with great relish in the Pakistani media and led to the usual round of breast-beating in India.

In fact, administration sources say Secretary Albright is relatively out of the loop on South Asia — in part because of her preoccupation with Middle East — and the areas being handled almost entirely by Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott and Under Secretary of State Thomas Pickering.

Albright has had to defer even her trip to India ahead of President Clinton. Indian Foreign Secretary Lalit Mansingh, who arrived here last night, will also be interacting with Talbott and Pickering, and will be calling on the National Security Advisor Samuel Berger.

Pak fails to muster Congressional support for Bill Clinton's visit 19/2

N C Menon
Washington, February 18

DESPITE PULLING out all the stops in a sustained lobbying blitz, Pakistan has come up short in its effort to get members of Congress to persuade President Clinton to include Islamabad in his South Asian itinerary next month.

This became clear yesterday when it was learnt that the Pakistan lobby was able to muster just six signatures from Congressmen for a letter to President Clinton urging him to include Pakistan in his S Asian trip.

A Pakistani source said ruefully that last time such a letter had been attempted, on the subject of Kashmir, the Pakistan lobby had managed to get about 50 Congressmen to sign.

The indications are clear: Pro-Pakistan sentiment on Capitol Hill is rapidly going downhill.

The letter prepared for transmittal to the White House makes it plain that the signatories are well aware of their small numbers and the lost cause they are espousing. Despite President Clinton's statement at his Press conference on February 16 that he had not reached a final decision on a Pakistan visit, the letter plaintively pleads that "our purpose in writing is to ask for you to reconsider what we understand is your present inclination not to include Pakistan

on that visit."

The letter also lays out some ingenuous logic in support of a Clinton visit to Pakistan. It states: "We do not in the slightest overlook your concern over replacement of an elected government by a military government, and we completely understand if your intelligence advisers have informed you of any connection between the Pakistani government and the recent hijacking. However, at least on the public record, we understand that the administration is not maintaining it has any such information. And if, in fact, that be the case, then there is a tremendous value, we believe, in including Pakistan on your trip."

In other words, since the State Department has not formally acknowledged the link between the hijackers and the Pakistani government, President Clinton still had "deniability", and could usefully visit Islamabad!

The letter also warns President Clinton that his failure to "meet with officials of the Pakistani government might set back America's ability to serve a useful mediating role" between India and Pakistan in a situation where tensions are rising between two nuclear-armed neighbours.

Requesting President Clinton's reconsideration of what they believed to be his "tentative" decision, the half-dozen signatories of

the letter said they were hopeful that through the President's mediation, tension could be defused and a possible settlement achieved.

They declared: "It would be a tremendous opportunity missed if instead of pursuing that chance, your visit to the subcontinent caused one of the two countries to feel America is less willing to be an honest broker towards such a peaceful settlement." And that, after Clinton had made it categorically clear that he had no intention of attempting any mediation unless both sides asked for it.

Meanwhile, even as they came acropper in the House of Representatives, Islamabad had already got egg on its face with some propaganda about the Senate.

A Pakistani newspaper had reported that Senator Jesse Helms, North Carolina Republican and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, was organising an appeal to the White House to include Pakistan in the President's visit. That again, was to have been in the form of a letter to President Clinton, with the signature of several Senators.

A spokesman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee quickly scotched the report, making it clear that Senator Helms had no intention of drafting a letter urging President Clinton to visit Pakistan.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 FEB 2000

The U.S. pressure on Pak.

By Qamar Agha

PAKISTAN IS now under immense Western pressure to suppress religious extremism and terrorism. The United States and Britain are asking Islamabad to curb militant groups operating from its soil, make positive moves towards bringing about peace in Afghanistan, help apprehend the Saudi Arabian fugitive, Osama bin Laden, lay down a timetable for democracy, improve ties with India and sign the CTBT. But the differences between Pakistan and the West — the two allies of the cold war era — are widening on the perception of regional issues. The U.S. believes that "terrorism is the core issue" affecting the South and Central Asian region whereas the Pakistan leadership claims that "Kashmir is the core issue" and everything else, including terrorism, emerges out of the Kashmir problem.

The U.S. has now laid down tough conditions for future "engagement" of Pakistan, and Islamabad has no option but to accept them because of its total economic and political dependence on the western nations. When Gen. Pervez Musharraf captured power in a bloodless coup four months ago, he had declared that his administration would follow Turkey's secular model in which the army acts as guardian of the secular system of government. But this would have been a total departure from established practice in Pakistan, where the army acts as protector of the Islamic state and commits itself to helping establish shariat in place of secular governments in other Islamic countries too. Gen. Musharraf had also promised to encourage liberal Islamic values and curb militancy in the country.

But Gen. Musharraf has failed to implement his "liberal agenda". He has, rather, given more concessions to the militants. Liberal change in the Pakistan establishment is not possible as long as the army remains the most powerful institution of the country. Gen. Zia-ul-Haq completely "Islamised" the army which is largely influenced by the Jamaat-i-Islami and the Deoband school of thought. Any attempt to change its character would trigger yet another coup. Gen. Musharraf is not a reformer. He is essentially a shrewd person and his prime concern is to sustain himself in power. Therefore, he took no time to

declare jihadis or holy warriors "freedom fighters" and promise to continue Government support to them.

So the differences between the U.S. and Pakistan are widening on the question of terrorism. Washington is no longer dependent on Islamabad for the containment of Islamic militancy. It has also set up an Indo-U.S. Joint Task Force on Terrorism to deal with the problem. The U.S. is also dealing with Turkey to contain "terrorism" in Central Asia and Afghanistan. The growing U.S.-Bangladesh relations are also an indication that Washington no longer wants to be dependent on Pakistan

growing Chinese influence in the region. The western nations also do not want India to join the emerging Russia-China axis. Instead, they would prefer New Delhi, which maintains closer ties with Central Asian republics, to join their initiatives in the region.

But the prime concern of the western nations is to contain growing Islamic militancy. Although it still does not pose any serious threat to their security, Islamic militancy has the potential to destabilise the pro-western regimes in the Islamic world. And if it is not checked, the oil-rich newly-independent republics of Central

not been able to achieve any of its objectives with the help of Islamic militants. Its Kashmir policy, for instance, has failed. Militancy has only pushed South and Central Asia towards instability.

But the West at times has used Pakistan-backed Islamic militant organisations for its own interests in the Islamic world. Pakistan-backed extremists, for instance, succeeded in containing Iran's influence. The West was quite upset with the post-Islamic revolution Iran which called for "Azadi" (freedom), urging the Islamic world to shed Western influence. The Pakistan-backed Taliban was also involved in the containment of Iran as well as the Russian influence in Central Asia and the Caucasian region. The terrorist movement launched by the Afghan-trained Islamic militants in Egypt, Algeria, Tunisia and other Arab countries have also checked the growth of the democratic movements in these countries. The movement for democracy in many Islamic nations which began to grow in the post-Cold War era became a victim of terrorism. The militancy has helped the existing pro-Western regimes to consolidate their authority in the Islamic nations.

It is also a fact that the Pakistan-backed militant Islamic organisations were not popular enough to capture power in any of the Islamic countries except in Afghanistan where too the Taliban was directly helped by Pakistan's armed forces. Despite Islamabad's support, the Taliban has not been able to establish its rule over all of Afghanistan, civil war is still continuing. The Pakistan-sponsored militant Islamic movement may have served the Western nations' interests in the region, but now it is becoming counter-productive and some of the militant organisations have even turned against the U.S. Therefore, the West now wants Pakistan to contain terrorism. But Pakistan is on the horns of a dilemma not knowing how to deal with the militants. Mr. Clinton's visit to Islamabad depends on this crucial question. If Pakistan is willing to contain terrorism in the region, Mr. Clinton will oblige Gen. Musharraf. But, Gen. Musharraf is himself not sure whether he can deliver.

(The writer is a specialist in West Asia affairs.)

The differences between the U.S. and Pakistan are widening on the question of terrorism. Washington is no longer dependent on Islamabad for the containment of Islamic militancy.

Asia will have no alternative but to forge a strategic alliance with Russia, China and Iran to deal with the problem. The western nations have planned big investments in the Central Asian republics from where they plan to bring oil and gas through pipelines via Afghanistan to South Asia and Europe, bypassing Russia and Iran. This is possible only if peace returns to Afghanistan and the Pakistan-backed Taliban militancy is contained.

But Pakistan's military rulers are in no control of the situation. The Jamaat and the Deobandis are not only controlling most of the Islamic militant organisations but they are also influencing state institutions, including the Pakistan army. Therefore, any attempt to deal with the militants will surely lead to a revolt in the army ranks. That is why both Mr. Nawaz Sharif and Gen. Musharraf promised the U.S. they would contain militancy, but both failed. On the contrary, they had given much more concessions to the militants than any other government in the past.

So, Pakistan is now trapped. It can neither annoy the U.S. because of its dependence on western nations nor can it deal firmly with the militants. But, militancy is not helping Pakistan either. Islamabad has

U.S. warns Pak. against Masood's activities

140-1
87
WASHINGTON, JAN. 7. The United States has asked Pakistan to prosecute the militant leader, Masood Azhar, if it was found that he had violated Pakistani law and warned that it would hold Islamabad responsible for all his "terrorist" activities which threatened the lives of Indian and U.S. citizens.

"We would hold the Government of Pakistan responsible for Masood's activities which threaten the lives of our citizens," the State Department spokesman, Mr. James Rubin, said in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, yesterday referring to a speech by Masood Azhar in Karachi where he threatened Indians and Americans and vowed to continue the "separatist fight in Kashmir".

Mr. Rubin said, "with respect to the issue more broadly of the speech of Masood Azhar, we find deplorable and unacceptable his reported remarks about destroying America and India. Such lan-

guage feeds a climate of hostility against both countries and incites violence." "Pakistan must assure the safety of Americans, Indians and all foreigners in Pakistan," he said.

He called on Pakistan to investigate whether the activities of Masood Azhar, one of the three militants freed by India in a swap for hostages on the hijacked Indian Airlines plane, were legal and insisted that no country "permit terrorist activities to be organised from its soil".

"We urge Pakistan to investigate carefully whether his actions have violated any Pakistani law. If so, he should be prosecuted accordingly," the State Department spokesman said.

Asked whether Pakistan would necessarily be placed now on the list of countries that support terrorism or harbour terrorists, Mr. Rubin said: "I am not going to speculate on the future. I think I used some quite strong language

about our views on Pakistan's responsibilities here."

"When and if the Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, places new countries on the terrorist list, I will inform you and I don't think there is any need to speculate in advance of that," he replied.

Asked about the British Foreign Office statement that another released militant, Ahmed Umar Saeed Sheik, being a British citizen, could return to the United Kingdom, Mr. Rubin said: "I will have to check what the facts are before I can answer you directly."

Masood Azhar, who had crossed over to Pakistan from Afghanistan after he was released in exchange of the hostages said, "tell Indians and those who have suppressed Muslims that mujahideen (holy warriors) are a force of Allah and will hoist the flag of Islam in this world soon," he told the crowd. — PTL, AFP

US asks Pak to prosecute Masood

T.V. Parasuram

WASHINGTON 7 JANUARY

THE UNITED States has asked Pakistan to prosecute militant leader Maulana Masood Azhar and sternly warned that it will hold Islamabad responsible for all his "terrorist" activities which threaten the lives of Indian and US citizens.

"We would hold the government of Pakistan responsible for Masood's activities which threaten the lives of our citizens," state department spokesman James Rubin said in Shepherdstown on Thursday, referring to a speech by Masood Azhar in Karachi, where he threatened Indians and Americans and vowed to continue the "separatist fight in Kashmir."

Mr Rubin said: "With respect

to the issue, more broadly the speech of Masood Azhar, we find deplorable and unacceptable his reported remarks about destroying America and India. Such language feeds a climate of hostility against both countries and incites violence."

"Pakistan must assure the safety of Americans, Indians and all foreigners in Pakistan," he said.

Mr Rubin called on Pakistan to investigate whether the activities of Masood Azhar, one of the three militants freed by India in a swap for hostages on the hijacked Indian Airlines plane, were legal, and insisted that no country should "permit terrorist activities to be organised from its soil."

"We urge Pakistan to investigate carefully whether his actions have violated any Pakistani law.

If so, he should be prosecuted accordingly," Mr Rubin said.

The US knows that Masood Azhar is the "secretary general of the renamed terrorist organisation Harakat-ul-Ansar (now Harakat-ul-Mujahideen)," he added.

Asked whether Pakistan would now necessarily be placed on the list of countries that support terrorism or harbour terrorists, Mr Rubin said: "I am not going to speculate on the future. I think I used some quite strong language about our views on Pakistan's responsibilities here."

"When and if the secretary (of state Madeleine Albright) places new countries on the terrorist list, I will inform you. And I don't think there is any need to speculate in advance of that," he replied.

Asked about the British foreign office statement that another released militant Ahmed Umar Saeed Sheik, being a British citizen, could return to Britain, Mr Rubin said: "I will have to check what the facts are before I can answer you directly."

On Wednesday, Masood Azhar addressed a crowd of thousands at an Islamic seminary in Karachi, where he said the "struggle to rid Kashmir of Indian authorities will continue."

Masood Azhar, who had crossed over to Pakistan from Afghanistan after he was released in exchange of the hostages, said: "I have only come here because I need colleagues. I need mujahideen who can fight for the liberation of Kashmir."

— PTI

Pak. is being watched, says U.S. Congressman

By Harish Khare

NEW DELHI, JAN. 9. The U.S. Congressman, Mr. Sam Gejdenson, ranking Democrat on the House of Representatives' Committee on International Relations, has said that the U.S. would not be in all that hurry to consider India's demand that Pakistan be declared a 'terrorist state.' As far as the U.S. is concerned, according to this influential Congressman, it is not so much a question of Pakistan's alleged or real complicity in promoting terrorism as a matter of judgment that continued contact enables Washington to moderate the targeted country's behavior. Experience with other countries (like Syria which was declared 'terrorist' state) was that such declarations did not help much.

The Congressman has had meetings with the Prime Minister and other senior leaders in the Vajpayee Government, and is scheduled to meet the Congress(I) president and Leader of the Opposition, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, before he leaves the country on Tuesday afternoon.

As the senior most Democrat on the Committee on International Relations, Mr. Gejdenson is presumed to be working closely with the White House, and is probably in a position to reflect the broad contours of the administration's thinking, though he is quick to enter the caveat that he does not speak for the Clinton administration.

Mr. Gejdenson, however, says even if Washington would be reluctant to declare Pakistan as a terrorist state, he believes that the U.S. will be evaluating the evidence of alleged nature of Pakistani involvement in the recent hijacking of the Indian Airlines aircraft. Also Islamabad's actions, in the meanwhile, would

be carefully watched to see if there is an actual encouragement or abetment of the most dreaded international crime (of hijacking planes).

It is Mr. Gejdenson's understanding that during the recent week-long hijack drama there was 'communication' between New Delhi and Washington, and though he says he was not sure whether there was any cooperation but "every effort was made to be helpful." In any case, the hijacking has not helped Pakistan's case in the American Congress.

According to the Congressman, the expectation in the American Congress is that (1) General Pervez Mussaraff ought to be announcing a definite time-frame for the election process, leading to restoration of democracy; (2) it was not 'acceptable' the General should be thinking in terms of staying on endlessly. "The coup should not have taken place in the first place," says Mr. Gejdenson.

On the question of India's signing the CTBT, the Congressman was very categorical that the American policy was that "the nuclear-club does not expand." But he was hopeful that since the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, was "a very intelligent, creative, and diplomatic" Foreign Minister, he and Mr. Strobe Talbott should be able to find a way out. And, though he did not think that India's signature on the CTBT was a pre-condition for Mr. Bill Clinton's visit to India (tentatively scheduled for March), this was what would make a difference between a 'good visit' and a 'great visit.'

Like a good Democrat, Mr. Gejdenson thought that all those Republicans who opposed the ratification of the CTBT in the American Senate 'would pay a price' at the election time in coming November.

THE HINDU

10 JAN 2000

US, UK teams to arrive in Pak

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 11. — High-level British and US delegations will arrive in Pakistan this week to try and push the country's military rulers to set a time-frame for a return to democracy, diplomats said today.

A four-member Congressional delegation lead by Senate Democratic leader, Mr Tom Daschle, will arrive on Thursday, a day after Britain's chief of defence staff, Sir Charles Guthrie, was to arrive for a three-day visit.

"I know they will discuss the military's plans for a return to democratic government in Pakistan," a US embassy official said. USA and Britain both strongly condemned the military coup in October, which removed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and placed General Pervez Musharraf in power.

Mr Daschle's two-day visit was to have taken place before the coup but was delayed by a budget fight in the Congress. This will be the highest level US visit since General Musharraf came to power. The embassy official said he expected Mr Daschle's talks with Mr Musharraf to cover a range of topics, including regional security and the Nuclear Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

The visits come as Pakistan's relations with India have deteriorated further, with New Delhi accusing Pakistan of backing the recent hijacking of an Indian Airlines plane.

THE STATESMAN
12 JAN 2000

U.S. senators to visit Pak.

By Amit Baruah 11-13

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 12 For the first time since the coup in October last year, American Senators are arriving in Pakistan to engage the military leadership on a host of issues including terrorism, a return to democracy, the CTBT and other U.S. concerns.

While a four-member U.S. Senate delegation led by Mr. Tom Daschle arrived tomorrow for a three-day visit, Senator Sam Brownback, whose responsibilities directly concern South Asia, arrives on Saturday.

"During their visit, the U.S. Senators will discuss important bilateral and multilateral foreign policy and security issues with the Pakistani leadership," a statement issued by the Pakistani Foreign Ministry on the Daschle-led delegation said.

"The U.S. Senate delegation's visit is important as it would be the first Congressional visit after the change of Government last October. It will provide the U.S. Senators an opportunity to obtain a better understanding of the Pakistan Government's policies and priorities and the measures being taken for economic revival, rebuilding of institutions, democratisation and establishment of rule of law," the statement added.

In another development, the

Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, has denied questioning the "integrity and patriotism" of Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Jamaat-i-Islami chief, as part of the military government's pro-CTBT campaign.

This clarification came after Mr. Sattar was quoted as saying in *The Newstoday* about the Qazi that the "nation cannot allow those to issue certificate of treason (sic) who had opposed creation of Pakistan".

"Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar protested about the charge of 'treason' against those who support the signing of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty...nor did he make any comment in any conversation on the stance of Jamaat-i-Islami prior to 1947," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"There is no warrant for emotionalising the debate on the CTBT which may not even come into force....the nation should discuss and debate the merits. Only thus, he (Mr. Sattar) believes, can we rise above slogans to a higher and more sophisticated level of understanding of the requirements of our national interest," the statement said.

"The Government is determined to maintain and develop Pakistan's nuclear capability in order to ensure a credible and re-

liable deterrence against manifest threats to its security....when and if the CTBT comes into force, every State will be bound to refrain from conducting any nuclear test explosions. If, before the Treaty comes into force, another State conducts a test explosion, Pakistan too will have the option to do so irrespective of whether it has signed the Treaty or not," it added.

11 detained Israelis released

CALCUTTA, JAN. 12. All the 11 Israeli nationals, detained at the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose International Airport here last night due to "some errors" in their travel documents and visas, were released tonight for their onward journey to Bangladesh, official sources at the airport said.

The passports and intensive interrogation of the detained persons revealed that they were Israelis and not Afghans as reported earlier. "Such confirmation was made by the Israeli embassy in Delhi", sources said. All of them were on a "religious mission" to Bangladesh. They were allowed to board the Calcutta-Dhaka flight of the Biman Bangladesh Airlines late tonight.—PTI.

THE HINDU

13 JAN 2000

Jaswant-Talbott talks to focus on terrorism

By C. Raja Mohan
WASHINGTON, JAN. 16. Even as efforts to hammer out an Indo-U.S. nuclear accommodation reach a crucial stage, Pakistan and its support for international terrorism are looming large over the tenth round of the dialogue between the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, in London this week.

Going beyond the question of nuclear reconciliation, India and the United States will now devote considerable time to developing bilateral cooperation on combating terrorism and removing misperceptions about their respective policies towards Pakistan.

The Clinton Administration has included Mr. Michael Sheehan, U.S. Coordinator on Counter Terrorism, in Mr. Talbott's delegation to London. And on the Indian side, Mr. Vivek Katju, the point-

man for Afghanistan and Pakistan in the Foreign Office, will assist Mr. Singh.

Even as Mr. Singh and Mr. Talbott look at ways to create a positive environment to the proposed visit to India by the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, in mid-March, Pakistan has now become an important factor in the Indo-U.S. dialogue.

Following the brutal hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight, IC 814, there is increasing impatience in New Delhi over Islamabad's relentless support for terrorism in India over the last decade. As the war of words between India and Pakistan gathers momentum, there is a profound concern in the Clinton Administration that the tensions could degenerate into a full-blown nuclear conflict.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's call on the U.S. a few days ago to declare Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism reflected the exasperation in India.

But there is deep discomfiture in the Clinton Administration at being put in a spot by New Delhi with its public demands to declare Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism.

It is not that New Delhi and Washington disagree on the need for greater cooperation in combating international terrorism. Senior Indian officials have already had three rounds of dialogue with Mr. Michael Sheehan over the last four months on the sources of terrorism in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and the ways to jointly combat it.

But there are clearly differences between India and the U.S. on how to deal with Pakistan and its support for international terrorism. New Delhi has stated its preference for the isolation of Pakistan by the international community.

But the Clinton Administration may be quite some distance away from arriving at that decision, if ever. The Administration's even-

tual decision might depend upon the kind of evidence there is about Pakistan Government's direct involvement in the hijacking of IC814. Mr. Talbott and Mr. Sheehan are said to be keen to see what Mr. Singh and Mr. Katju have to offer in London on the Indian charge against Pakistan in this particular case.

But beyond the evidence is the more difficult political question on isolating Pakistan. While New Delhi might have decided that it is no longer possible to do business with Islamabad, the U.S. has not reached that judgment. Not yet.

There is concern in Washington that declaring Pakistan a terrorist state and cutting off all links with it would further radicalise the forces of fundamentalism and terrorism.

India believes that the time to confront these forces is now. New Delhi argues that continued American engagement of Islamabad would only appease the patrons of terrorism in Pakistan.

Curb terrorism, U.S. tells Pak.

2/11 By Amit Baruah HD-1

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 20. A strong, unequivocal message on the need to curb terrorism from Pakistani soil was delivered by the visiting U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Mr. Karl Inderfurth, in a meeting with the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, today.

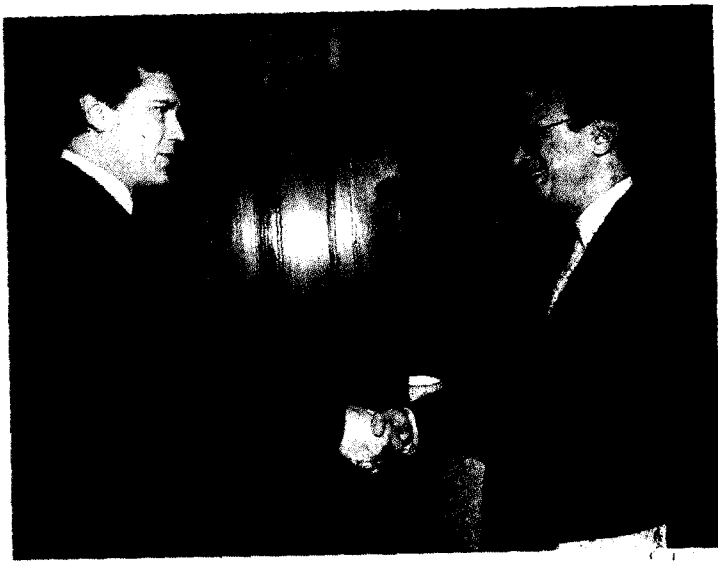
Mr. Inderfurth, who is accompanied by Mr. Michael Sheehan, State Department coordinator on counter-terrorism, and Mr. Donald Camp, a senior official at the National Security Council, also held a meeting with the Taliban Administration Minister, Mr. Amir Khan Muttaqi, who specially flew out for the meeting from Afghanistan.

In his meeting with Mr. Ahmad, which was sought by the Pakistani side, Mr. Inderfurth, apart from putting forward the strong message on terrorism, is also reported to have raised Washington's concerns about a return to democratic rule in Pakistan.

Interestingly, Mr. Inderfurth, who will be meeting the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, tomorrow, is not scheduled to meet with any political party representatives.

Informed sources said that while the message to Pakistan on the need to clamp down on terrorist activities was a strong one, there was no specific reference to the operations of groups such as the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, which is listed by the U.S. State Department as a 'terrorist outfit.'

In what appeared to be continuing public diplomacy on the terrorism issue, the U.S. Embassy for



The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inderfurth, (left) greeting the Pakistani Foreign Secretary, Mr. Shamshad Ahmad, at the Foreign Office in Islamabad, on Thursday. —AP

the second time placed an advertisement in Pakistani newspapers today, providing substantial monetary rewards for anyone giving information on possible attacks on American citizens or installations in the country.

The fact that these advertisement reappeared on the day Mr. Inderfurth arrived in Pakistan cannot be missed. On the meeting between Mr. Inderfurth and Mr. Ahmad, a Pakistani Foreign Office statement said that "several areas of regional importance, including nuclear non-proliferation, regional security and the recent developments in the region with special reference to Kashmir, Pakistan-India relations and Afghanistan were covered."

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakis-

tan, Dr. Maleeha Lodhi, was also present. Mr. Inderfurth also briefed the Pakistani side on the just-concluded discussions between the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, in London.

Militant escapes

SRINAGAR, JAN. 20. A top Lashkar-e-Taiba militant and Pakistani national, Irfan alias Abu Talha, today escaped police dragnet but his local associate was nabbed from his hideout in downtown Srinagar, a police spokesman said here. On a tip-off, police raided a militant hideout in Rainawari area this morning. On noticing the policemen, the self-styled Taiba deputy chief Abu Talha escaped.

THE HINDU

21 JAN 2000

U.S. Senators want Pak. to address terrorism threat

WASHINGTON, JAN. 21. The U.S. Senate Democratic leader, Mr. Tom Daschle, the Assistant Democratic leader, Mr. Harry Reid, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Christopher Dodd and the ranking member on the Non-Proliferation Subcommittee of the Government Affairs Committee, Mr. Daniel Akaka, have released a statement at the conclusion of their recent visit to Southwest Asia. The delegation conducted a series of discussions with senior Government officials and other important policy makers in India, Pakistan and Nepal.

"As the 21st century unfolds, Southwest Asia will assume a larger role on the international stage and in our own national economic and security considerations. This region presents the United States with significant challenges and important opportunities. During the course of our visit, we communicated our concerns to key leaders in each country. In our meetings with these leaders, we set forth the framework that the United States believes would allow relations in each of these countries to reach their full potential," the Senators said in their statement.

"Upon our return we will report on these discussions to President Clinton, administration officials and our colleagues. It is also our intention to closely follow developments in these countries and to address certain foreign policy initiatives concerning them as we deem appropriate," the statement added.

The Senators conducted lengthy discussions with key Pakistani leaders, including the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, representatives from the Pakistan Muslim League and several Opposition parties.

The Senators stressed five key principles that must be addressed by the current Pakistani leadership and that are of significant concern to the United States, including the urgent need to:

—address the threat of terrorism and militant religious fundamentalism, both within Pakistan and internationally;

Road map for democracy

—publicly declare a road map for the restoration of democracy that sets forth a firm time line and clear objectives;

—engage in broad economic reform in order to create the conditions that will permit democratic reforms to take root;

—sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and contribute to international efforts to control the spread of nuclear weapons; and

—ensure the political, religious and economic freedoms of all of its citizens.

The Senators said, "for five decades, Pakistan has been a loyal and trusted friend of the United States. However, for a variety of reasons, this relationship is now at a crossroads".

Call to India: Page 11

INDERFURTH'S BLUNT MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN

418-1 27/1 'Locate and bring hijackers to justice'

By Amit Baruah

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 21. The United States today bluntly told Pakistan to locate and bring the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar to justice and asked Islamabad to rein in 'those militant, violent groups' that are threatening foreign nationals.

Addressing a press conference at the end of his visit, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inderfurth, made it amply clear that U.S. concerns on terrorism vis-a-vis Pakistan now had the status of a 'core issue' between the two countries.

Stating that the hijacking issue figured in his discussions with the Chief Executive, General. Pervez Musharraf and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, today, Mr. Inderfurth said: "There is a clear need to take the next step with respect to the hijacking which is to find the hijackers and bring them to justice. We received assurances from the Government of Pakistan that they have every intention to undertake such a mission."

"We urged them (the Pakistani Government) to make every effort to determine their (hijackers') location and to do that we also informed them that we, the United States, will make that a priority as well.... and I know that having just returned from discussions in London with Indian officials they too have this as a priority," Mr. Inderfurth said.

"I believe that the hijackers will be found. I believe that they cannot simply disappear from the



The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Karl Inderfurth (right) with Gen. Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad on Friday. — AP

face of the earth and I think that once they are found and brought to justice it will only underscore the message that actions like this will not be accepted by the international community in any shape," the U.S. official said.

Asked whether the U.S. had asked Pakistan to crack down on groups such as Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Mr. Inderfurth said that the U.S. had "expressed grave concern regarding terrorism stemming from this region that directly affect and threaten the U.S. and Pakistan as well as the region and the world. We hope that the Government of Pakistan will take steps against such extremist groups which carry out acts of violence inside Pakistan as well as in the region, including the HUA-HUM (Harkat-ul-Ansar - Harkat-ul-Mujahideen)."

"We believe that the presence and activities of these groups gives Pakistan a bad international reputation in the world community and thus works against Pakistan's national interest.... as our statement suggests the issue of terrorism was our first priority in our discussions... again we shared our concerns... we hope that actions will be taken to address this because, fundamentally, this is an issue which we believe affects Pakistan's long-term security interests as well as those of the international community... we hope that every effort will be made to address those militant, those violent, militant groups that are threatening citizens of other countries as well as the long-term stability of Pakistan itself," Mr. Inderfurth maintained.

Help nab Osama: Page 11

Declare Pak sponsor of terrorism: Pallone

N. C. Menon
Washington, January 25

CONGRESSMAN FRANK Pallone Jr., New Jersey Democrat and founder of the Congressional India Caucus, yesterday wrote to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to seek the designation of Pakistan as a state sponsor of terrorism. Pallone intends to introduce legislation later this week to express the sense of Congress that the State Department should take such a step.

Pallone said his letter was prompted by serious concerns about the connection between the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and a recurring pattern of international terrorism. "The recently concluded Indian Airlines hijacking crisis is only the latest in a long series of incidents that point to Pakistan's role in promoting violence and instability in the South Asia region," Pallone added.

Quoting chapter and verse about Islamabad's acts of aid and comfort to terrorist outfits like the Harkat-ul Mujahedeen, Pallone noted that for much of the past decade, a series of reliable reports from western media sources had cited

Pakistan as a base and training ground for terrorist groups, and the Pakistani government's demonstrated reluctance to halt the use of its soil for terrorist organisations.

Tribute to India

AS THE US Congress reconvened yesterday after recess, Pallone put on Congressional record a tribute to India on the golden anniversary of its Republic. He pointed out that over the last 50 years, despite the challenges of sustaining economic development and promoting tolerance and cooperation amongst its many ethnic, religious and linguistic communities, India had stuck to the path of free and fair elections, a multi-party political system and the orderly transfer of power from one government to its successor.

HTC, Washington

Indeed, several reports had implicated Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) directly in terrorist activities, as well as in the international drug trade.

Pallone also pointed out that Americans and

other westerners had been the victims of attacks in Pakistan. The perpetrators of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Centre in New York and at the Central Intelligence Agency headquarters in Virginia had both surfaced in Pakistan. The Congressman urged the State Department to investigate India's allegations that it had intercepted radio conversations between militant groups in Kashmir, confirming Pakistani links to the hijackers.

Pallone also believed that the global struggle against terrorism could bring India and the US closer. In that context, he urged the State Department to explore ways to step up US-India cooperation in the struggle against terrorism.

The US Administration has often shied away from declaring Pakistan a terrorist state on the plea that the situation did not meet the exacting standards set up for such action. But Pallone, in his letter to Albright, requested "an explanation or clarification for what the threshold is for determining whether a nation's frequent associations with terrorist activities, movements and individuals must finally qualify that nation for designation as a state sponsor of terrorism."

Don't visit Pak, Clinton urged

N. C. Menon
Washington, January 27

CONGRESSMAN GARY ACKERMAN, New York Democrat, leading member of the House International Relations Committee, and co-chairman of the Congressional India Caucus, last night strongly urged President Clinton not to include Pakistan in the itinerary of his proposed visit to the Indian subcontinent in March.

In an address to the Indian community during a 50th anniversary Republic Day function in New York, Ackerman declared that the President should seriously weigh what signal the US would be sending to the world if he included

Pakistan in the trip. He expressed his strong belief that President Clinton must not visit Pakistan unless the US administration received ironclad guarantees on at least two key issues:

"Firstly, the Junta in Islamabad must undertake verifiable steps to stop its proxy war against India, especially in Jammu and Kashmir. This means, in effect, that terrorist organisations such as the Harkatul Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Toiba must be banished from Pakistani soil; this means that the regime in Islamabad must close down all the training camps that churn out these terror outfits; this means that Pakistan cannot be fully recognised among the world's decent nations until it hangs out

the sign that says, "Terrorists Not Welcomed".

"Secondly, the military dictator now illegitimately ruling the people of Pakistan must give a date-certain schedule to hold democratic elections in which all the political parties and political leaders could participate. The elections, which should be conducted under international supervision, must allow for genuine democracy to flourish. Controlled or managed elections will be unacceptable to the international community."

Usurpers of power throughout the world including the Junta in Islamabad, Ackerman maintained, must be made to realise that there is a heavy price to pay if democracy is throttled in their nations.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
28 JAN 2000

Pakistan may still be branded as a terrorist state, warns US

N C Menon
Washington, January 28

THE US yesterday issued a not-so-velled warning to Islamabad that it could be branded a state sponsor of terrorism if agencies of the Pakistani Government continued to support terrorist organisations, including the Harkat-ul Mujahedeen, which has been accused of the recent Indian Airlines hijacking.

"We do believe that agencies of the Pakistani government have provided general support to a number of groups active in Kashmir, including the Harkat-ul-Mujahedeen," State Department spokesman James Rubin said.

"This is a matter of extreme concern to us. If the Secretary of State determines that a government has repeatedly provided support of international terrorism directly, then she would be prepared to designate that country as a state sponsor of terrorism."

Rubin also denounced General Pervez Musharraf's midnight order requiring all super-

or court judges to swear an oath barring them from challenging military orders.

"This is contrary to the path of restoration of civilian rule the General pledged to follow when he took power in October, and his promise at that time to respect the constitutional order and human rights in Pakistan," Rubin said.

"This development only reinforces the view we share with much of the international community that General Musharraf needs to make clear in a comprehensive fashion how he intends to return Pakistan to an elected government with a functioning legislature and an independent judiciary under a democratic constitution."

Rubin also made it clear that no decision had been taken about President Clinton including Pakistan in his South Asia trip scheduled for March. In fact, he hinted that such a decision may not be made any time soon.

This was a matter on which Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would make a recommendation to the President taking all factors into

consideration. HF-15
"That is a question that the Secretary will wrestle with in the coming days and weeks as that decision comes to the fore," Rubin added.

The spokesman confirmed reports that the high-powered US delegation that visited Islamabad last week had not received the kind of concrete assurances that the US would have liked on such issues as nuclear proliferation, terrorism, democracy and regional stability.

"I think it is fair to say we have a long way to go in having Pakistan address our concerns in those four areas," Rubin acknowledged.

In response to a question, Rubin said the US had been concerned for some time about the ability of Osama bin Laden to operate in Afghanistan, and the links between elements of the Pakistani government and the Taliban. "Osama bin Laden is still in Afghanistan," Rubin pointed out and we do not believe that all ties between elements of Pakistan and the Taliban, who provide him the safe haven, have been cut.

Terror tag for Pak raised in US House

INDIA ABROAD NEWS SERVICE

SFI 30/1 WY PAK

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. — Two prominent US Congressmen — a Democrat and a Republican — have introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives urging secretary of state Mrs Madeleine Albright to designate Pakistan a state sponsor of terrorism.

Democrat Frank Pallone, founder of the Congressional Caucus on India, introduced the resolution along with the former Republican co-chair of the Caucus, Bill McCollum.

The resolution notes Western media reports of Pakistan as a base and training ground for terrorist groups, and Islamabad's reluctance to halt the use of its soil by terrorists. It quotes reports implicating the ISI directly in terrorism and international drug trade. It also notes reports of Indian Intelligence's interception of satphone conversations between Kashmiri terror groups that confirmed Pakistan's link with the hijackers of IC-814. Besides, the hijackers had, after the crisis was resolved, left Afghanistan for Pakistan.

The resolution also notes Pakistan as one of three countries that recognise the Taliban regime — the militia that assists and harbours Osama bin Laden. Islamabad, it alleges, has hindered US and global efforts to nab the alleged terrorist mastermind.

Pak rejects US warning: Pakistan today rejected an apparent warning from the USA that it could be branded a sponsor of terrorism, adds AP from Islamabad. "There is no warrant for any warning," the Pakistan foreign ministry said on comments from US state department spokesman James Rubin about terror groups based in Pakistan, specifically Harkat-ul Mujahideen.

■ Pak reports India to Annan, page 10

Pak reports India to Annan

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 29. — Pakistan today accused India of "provocative violations" of the LoC, and announced it had asked Mr Kofi Annan to send a personal envoy to prevent escalation of tension.

Pakistani foreign minister Mr Abdul Sattar said he had written to the UN Secretary General on "India's provocative violations of the Line of Control, escalating tension between the two countries."

He repeated Pakistan's old demand for third-party mediation in Kashmir. "Both countries should welcome any and every means of peaceful settlement of disputes. Negotiations are the first but not the only means. If they prove sterile, then other civilised means evolved by the community of states should be availed ...".

THE STATESMAN
30 JAN 2000