

THE PROBLEM WITH CHINA

By WILLIAM FRANKEL in WASHINGTON

51-6
1873

WHAT to do about China is the hot topic in Washington's corridors of power. Last week President Clinton formally called upon Congress to adopt a Bill granting permanent trading privileges to the most populous nation on earth. Within the next month or two, before domestic pressures rule out action on practically any other subject than the election, Congress will be voting on that Bill.

A foreign affairs achievement in which the President takes great pride is the deal he negotiated last November which cleared the way for China's membership of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). The text of that agreement had been withheld for the past three months but, under pressure from legislators, the White House released it this week. Its 250 pages contain details of the commercial relations between the two countries and involves replacing the present system of an annual review by Congress in favour of a permanent most-favoured-nation status. The decision on that, however, rests with Congress.

Last November, few expected any difficulty in obtaining Congressional approval for a measure which is strongly supported by big business. But since then, the fiasco at the global trade talks in Seattle has encouraged the American trade unions which, together with environmental and consumer groups, had been responsible for the debacle. Each, for its own reasons, opposes this trade liberalisation.

The position became more complicated with the recent publication of an official policy paper on the island of Taiwan by China's State Council. It declared that China "will be forced to adopt all drastic measures possible, including the use of force" if Taiwan — at some unspecified time — did not accept reunification with the mainland.

America officially agrees with the Chinese position on Taiwan. But, nonetheless, it maintains a close connection with the island and is, by decision of Congress, committed to assist Taiwan should it be attacked. Since the publication of the State paper, the United States Defence Secretary has urged Taiwan to pursue peaceful negotiation and not seek independence.

HUGE MARKET

The Clinton administration has long been working to achieve what it calls a "constructive strategic partnership" with China. That policy was prejudiced when the State Council paper prompted the government of Taiwan to ask the United States for some of the most advanced weaponry to counter the Chinese threat. It is a request which presents the President with a dilemma. If

he grants it, he will antagonise China, which he is reluctant to do at this time. On the other hand, if he refuses, that would anger many Republicans whose support he needs for the passage of the China Trade Bill.

A positive Congressional vote on that Bill means a great deal to Mr Clinton as he moves towards the end of his final year of office. Its passage would be an achievement to his credit and, in his own words "a devastating setback" to the United States were it to be rejected. But both parties are divided on the issue. While the Senate is likely to be in favour, the House of Representatives on present calculations could defeat the measure.

Mr Clinton can count on substantial Republican support but in his own Democratic Party many Congressmen are reluctant to grant favourable trading terms to China because they oppose its aggressive posture towards Taiwan and because of its deplorable record on human rights and religious freedom. The President replies to this argument by claiming, as he did again in a major speech last week, that entry to the WTO will, by liberalising China's economy, inevitably lead it in the direction of political liberalisation too.

China has become one of the United States most important trading partners, though the relationship is heavily one-sided. Last year, America spent some \$70 billion more in China than it received from sales to that country. However, Mr Clinton and the businessmen who support him in this matter see the opening of the huge Chinese market as affording them a great economic opportunity.

FIGHT AHEAD

The United States Chamber of Commerce and the Business Roundtable are undertaking a \$12 million campaign in support of the China Trade Bill. The high technology companies in particular believe that free trade with China will bring them substantial benefits. Another campaigner for the Bill is the movie industry which welcomes the opportunity of increasing the number of films it can export to China.

It is assumed here that China will be joining the WTO later this year. Congress has nothing to do with that. But, says the White House, (though this is disputed by others) if Congress refuses to grant it normal trade relations, China could legitimately restrict its operations within its territory of United States companies.

The strongest opponents of the China Trade Bill are the trade unions, and its central organisation, the AFL-CIO, is undertaking a vigorous campaign against it. They argue that the present system of annual reviews gives the United States leverage in pressing Beijing to improve on human rights and on its labour policies. But probably a more powerful reason for union opposition is the fear that jobs will be lost if American companies are free to move factories to China where their labour costs would be much reduced.

President Clinton sees the outcome he desires as the mirror image of union apprehensions. Congressional rejection, he says, "will cost American jobs as our competitors in Europe, Asia and elsewhere capture Chinese markets that we otherwise would have served". And, on the day he sent his Bill to Congress he repeated "Congress will not be voting on whether China will join the WTO", only "whether the United States will share in the economic benefits of China joining the WTO".

It will require a major lobbying effort by the President himself to persuade wavering Democrats in the House of Representatives if the Bill is to pass. The fight will be tough against an incongruous alliance of conservative Republicans, labour unions and left-leaning environmental groups and the outcome is uncertain. Much of the responsibility now rests on China's posture during the next few months. If it continues to trumpet a hard line against Taiwan, the opposition to the Bill in Congress would be powerfully fortified.

THE STATESMAN

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ODD HANDED SANCTIONS

51-6 21 The MTCR is not binding

THIS may seem a bit bizarre. Sanctions are imposed on entities in Iran and Pakistan ostensibly for receiving items whose export is prohibited by the Missile Technology Control Regime to which China adhered informally in 1994, but not against the exporting country itself. The Americans have frequently talked of imposing sanctions against China, but have never actually got down to doing so, in spite of the various CIA and intelligence reports that have determined that China transferred missile and nuclear technology and components to Pakistan, such as the 34 M-11s in 1992, which are now an integral part of Pakistan's long range missile programme. In doing so, China takes advantage of a technicality in the MTCR which says that the export ban concerns only missiles carrying a payload of 500 kgs over a distance of 300 kms. The M-11s sold to Pakistan had a range of 280 kms, but the American estimation was that its "inherent capability" could exceed the range stipulated under the MTCR. The principal consideration as far as the Americans are concerned is the following: the missiles are being sold to a country which is nuclear weapons capable and engaged in a conflict, direct and indirect, with another nuclear weapons capable country in its neighbourhood. In such circumstances, missile range becomes irrelevant, what is crucial is the context in which proliferation is occurring and its long term implications. The same goes for Iran, which has Iraq and Israel in the vicinity, not to speak of its generally hostile attitude towards the United States.

China, for its part, steadfastly maintains that it has not infringed the 1994 agreement with the US, but that agreement allows China to export missile components and technologies not amounting to complete systems, an interpretation large enough to satisfy Pakistani requirements. The M-11s themselves were supplied in a broken down condition, which is one reason why the CIA took so long to determine that a transfer had taken place. Apart from the difficulty in pinning China down to the spirit of the agreement, if not its letter, there is also pressure from the powerful business lobby in the US. The MTCR does not function like an international treaty, like the NPT. It is an informal arrangement promoted and kept under surveillance by the US. The only sanctions imposable are those decreed by the US Arms Export Control law which, apart from affecting export of defence and dual-use technologies, has wider trade implications. This law is primarily meant to satisfy domestic opinion, that is, Congress, and in all the tussles over China between them and the business lobby — notably over the permanent normal trade relations act — it is the latter which has had come up trumps so far. It is unlikely that sanctions will affect the powerful strategic rationale that sustains Sino-Pakistani technological collaboration in any manner that either India or the US may consider significant. //

THE STATESMAN

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The US is ready to cut a deal with Beijing when Chinese proliferation does not impinge on its interests

A rewarding charade

BY BRAHMA CHELLANEY

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HF-10
28/11

FOR INDIA, there is an important message in America's decision to waive its domestic-law provision mandating economic sanctions against errant Chinese entities after having determined that they clandestinely engaged in missile trade with Pakistan and, to a lesser extent, Iran. The message is that Washington does not care whether Chinese transfers undermine India's security. As long as such proliferation does not directly impact on US interests, Washington is ready to cut a deal with Beijing's Leninist rulers.

Washington's latest deal with China stinks. For nearly a decade after Beijing's first M-11 transfers to Pakistan came to light, the US insisted that it was trying to make a sanctions determination. It justified the delay by claiming its domestic law demanded 'a high standard of evidence', higher than China's own acknowledgement that some such transfers had taken place!

When it reluctantly made the determination this month that various types of missile transfers indeed had occurred, it also struck a deal with Beijing that no sanctions would ensue. In one stroke, it forgave China for all its past transfers that were made in breach of Beijing's solemn pledges.

In essence, the newest deal is just like the earlier non-proliferation deals with Beijing: it is pivoted on a combination of Chinese promise and US reward. The unchanging story ever since the Sino-US nuclear cooperation agreement of 1985 has been that each time Washington discovers that China has reneged on a promise, it presents new carrots to wheedle out another Chinese promise. Every new Chinese promise is packaged by Washington as a major breakthrough.

The litter of broken Chinese assurances, however, shows that Washington has been rewarding Beijing for promises made, not promises kept. America's policy illustrates the adage that "insanity is doing the same thing over and over while hoping for a different result".

Indian security comes under direct pressure both ways — by the broken Chinese promises that result in the advent of offensive new systems to India's west, and by the high technology the US provides Beijing to win non-proliferation pledges.

US technology sales have significantly strengthened China's commercial competitiveness and aided its broad-based military modernisation. The first, which has yielded an annual trade surplus with America of nearly \$ 60 billion, feeds into the second. The flow of US technology, both official and illicit, has helped China to improve the reliability of its Long March rockets and boosted its programme to build a new generation of lighter, road-mobile missiles.

US policy-makers at present can take a relaxed view of China's technological improvements as the Chinese military remains far inferior to its American counterpart and the only weapons it possesses to threaten the US are 20 aging, 1950s-vintage strategic missiles of dubious reliability and range.

In contrast, China's military modernisation, exemplified by the deployment of hundreds of new medium-range missiles along its frontiers in the past five years alone, only adds to India's vulnerabilities. That in turn reinforces the psychologically deleterious view in Indian policy-making circles that New Delhi can do little to reverse Beijing's growing strategic ascendancy. The paralysis in India's China policy is a consequence of that thinking.

For India, the US-China deal is bad in every aspect. The double reward it carries for the world's largest autocracy is evident not only from China being fully absolved of its past misdeeds, but also from the fact that it gains space cooperation with the US and will get licences potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars to launch US commercial satellites atop its rockets. In typical Chinese way, Beijing is set to make money both ways from the deal: from continued missile exports to Pakistan, and from launching US satellites.

It is very illuminating why Washington pardoned the supplier but ostensibly slapped some sanctions

on the recipient States, Pakistan and Iran. The new sanctions were selected and imposed in a manner to purposely render them inconsequential. No one has better explained this charade than the State Department, whose spokesperson Richard Boucher had this to say on record: "Because of the ongoing US embargo against Iran, and pre-existing sanctions against Pakistan, the new sanctions will actually have very limited economic effect." Boucher even admitted that they "duplicate other sanctions" already in force.

The US was hardly issuing any licences for export of controlled items to Pakistan's Ministry of Defence and Space and Upper Atmosphere Research Commission. So the newest two-year sanctions on them are trifling in addition to duplicating already-existing punitive measures.

The sanctions on three Iranian institutions are a joke at best. Not only is the entire State of Iran under a stringent US trade embargo, the only real promise China has kept to date is a halt to all missile sales to Teheran.

According to America's own sanctions determination, China sold only missile components and materials to Iran, not complete ballistic missiles.

In contrast, China has given Islamabad "complete missiles, their major sub-systems and their production facilities", besides components and materials, according to the State Department.

China is unlikely to completely halt its missile aid to Islamabad given its repeated assertions that "Pakistan is our Israel". Missiles are at the heart of China's military force as well as its strategy against regional powers like India, Japan and Taiwan. As it improves their range, payload and accuracy and develops alternative delivery systems, particularly cruise missiles, it will have additional incentives to sell its older technologies to Pakistan so as to checkmate India and earn extra funding for its research and development programme.

In any case, with North Korea serving as a handy conduit, China already has found ingenious ways to route certain missile technologies and parts to Pakistan. That allows it to show its hands to be clean when it needs to, while dirtying them only for more critical transfers.

If the deal with Beijing is significant in any way, it is for what it fails to achieve. First, China has still given no signal that it intends to formally join the 32-nation, US-led Missile Technology Control Regime. All it has done is to agree to put in place a set of export controls 'of the same sort as MTCR', although it had pledged years ago to observe the MTCR guidelines.

Second, the entire deal hinges on Chinese assurances, with no provision for any kind of verification, as Boucher acknowledged. Third, China's 100-odd missile entities are under its Defence Ministry, but the deal is with the Foreign Ministry that has little control over them.

In his eight years at the White House, Bill Clinton — the most pro-China US President since post-World War II — has distinguished himself for turning a blind eye to Chinese proliferation. It speaks volumes that a sanctions determination that should have come during his first term in office was made when his administration had entered its 'lame-duck' final weeks in office after the presidential election — a period when the political propriety of the move has already been questioned by many Republicans.

And the determination was revealed as part of a joint statement with Beijing, with the official Chinese Xinhua news agency announcing the US decision to exempt China from sanctions 45 minutes before the State Department did!

It is impertinent of the Clinton administration to ask that "India should welcome" a deal that essentially lets China off the hook. If anything, this deal is emblematic of the Clinton team's disregard for Indian security concerns. Had the US been in India's place, it would have made a hue and cry over China's wayward conduct in proliferating missiles regionally. China would have been demonised.

Instead, as he leaves office, Clinton is asking India to stoically face the Chinese music while he again coddles the Beijing dictators.



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12/12 Selective Sanctions 25/11

The present US administration is to be commended for belatedly getting over its seven-year mental block regarding Chinese nuclear and missile proliferation to Pakistan. The timing of Washington's admission that China had in fact been guilty of proliferation is obviously related to the imminent change-over in the US Congress and the administration. This admission, accompanied by an assertion that the US has received assurances that there would be no more such future proliferation, is like a glass a quarter full and three-fourths empty. Washington's declaration that it has obtained such an assurance from Beijing is of some value, but it also exposes the US's wilful blindness to Chinese proliferation for seven years, even after it was admitted by the Pakistanis themselves. It is apparent that when American interests — either on strategic policy, as during the Afghan war in the 1980s, or on commercial gains, as in the present case — come in conflict with international proliferation norms, Washington will act in its own national interest. This is inevitable. But, by the same token, the US should not preach to us about our security or national interests. A current instance of this is Ms Condoleezza Rice's demand that India should be more transparent on nuclear matters and not go for further weaponisation. As Ms Rice is reported to be the national security adviser designate should Governor Bush become president, her pronouncements have to be taken seriously.

In fact, it is the US which needs to be more transparent regarding non-proliferation. The Republican party is a strong supporter of the US national missile defence (NMD). Though President Clinton deferred the decision on its deployment, the Democrats are also in favour of the NMD as and when the technology is proved. The NMD is intended to stop nuclear missile attacks on the US from alleged rogue states, all listed in the eastern hemisphere. In other words, Washington is convinced that the non-proliferation treaty, the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the Missile Technology Control Regime together are not adequate safeguards against new threats to the US. Similarly, India in close proximity to the alleged rogue states, is entitled to safeguard its security through development of an appropriate deterrent. By imposing sanctions only on Pakistan and Iran, the beneficiaries of proliferation, but not on the perpetrator, China, Washington has sent out a clear message that it dare not invoke penalties against Beijing. China is the only source which can proliferate to alleged rogue states missiles with a reach to hit the US. As such, the NMD is China-specific. The future dimensions of the Indian deterrent will have to take into account the China-US strategic relationship and Washington's response to any possible proliferation by Beijing. New Delhi's nuclear and missile decisions will have to be linked with Washington's moves regarding its NMD. In this context, it is necessary for New Delhi to launch a vigorous information campaign to educate the incoming Washington leadership as well as the Indian bureaucracy on this issue. There should also be a demand for greater transparency on the part of the US on its assessment of future proliferation risks and China's possible role in it. This would be the core of interaction between the Indian and the new US national security establishments.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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49-12

FOR A DIVIDEND BEYOND TRADE

THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION is obviously banking on the anticipated political-diplomatic spin-off effect of the latest vote by the U.S. Senate in favour of a trade bill concerning China. *Prima facie*, the bill extending to China the facility of 'Permanent Normal Trade Relations' (PNTR) is replete with economic consequences, conceivably positive, for both Washington and Beijing. As the updated version of an old-style practice of granting the Most Favoured Nation (MFN) status to a partner-country in bilateral trade relations, the PNTR facility can prove beneficial to China in some symbolic ways too. However, it is the U.S. administration which raised the stakes over this measure much more than the Chinese by incorporating trade as an essential ingredient of a policy of "engagement" with Beijing. With this bill having already received the approval of the House of Representatives, the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, feels vindicated that an issue with acute contentious connotations on Capitol Hill has finally been clinched in a manner that could augment the legacy of his leadership. He has argued for long that the best way to change the international profile of China, seen in the West as a hold-out communist state despite its reformatory zeal, is to engage Beijing by offering it a mixture of economic inducements and political disincentives. This diplomatic balance-sheet will now come under scrutiny with an eye to the future.

Piecing together a maze of statistics about the new economic opportunities for the U.S. in China — a subject not of much direct interest to the larger international community except in the case of countries such as Japan exercising some competitive say over matters of trade with Beijing — Mr. Clinton has now taken the line that Americans "will be far more able to sell goods" to the Chinese without having to move factories. With the latest U.S. nod for PNTR status expected to

clear the way for Beijing's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Washington's calculation is that a political chain reaction could be set in motion in China. The U.S.' expectation is that the "demise" of China's state industries may be accelerated and the role of the Government itself in the daily lives of the Chinese can be scaled down. The punchline in the Clinton-speak on this theme is that the U.S. will soon command "more influence" in China with "an outstretched hand than with a clenched fist". The wish-list is long on the eventual transformation of China as a U.S.-friendly state, but the view from Beijing is devoid of any dream merchandise of the political kind.

China, arguably ranking fourth among global exporters after the return of Hong Kong, recognises that its overall trade with the U.S. can still rise. Beijing, according to an estimate, may account for about \$90 billion in exports to Washington this year against the latter's anticipated bilateral tally of \$15 billion. China will no doubt keep this in focus ahead of a WTO-entry in the context of some cumbersome bilateral trade deals it had worked out with several key countries including the U.S. But Beijing's biggest gain in the short run is that it will no longer be placed in the dock, albeit over political issues concerning human rights, by U.S. law-makers year after year during their deliberations over bilateral trade issues. Knowing this, the U.S. is keen to package the latest trade vote as a carrot for the Chinese in "becoming more responsible members of the international community" so as to encourage more countries to trade under the WTO norms. However, in looking for such political dividends, Mr. Clinton is convinced that a "constructive" role by China, as seen from Washington, on issues of peace and non-proliferation would still need to be supplemented by a sustainable U.S. military presence around the world.

TENNESSEE BANJO! Democratic presidential candidate Vice-President Al Gore waving to supporters as he takes the stage at a campaign rally in Iowa on Wednesday. — AP/PTI.

THOSE who longed for a debate on the USA's China policy during this year's US presidential election must be disappointed by the low priority Republican candidate George W Bush accorded to foreign policy in general, and the China policy in particular.

Barely a year ago, US-China relations were brought to the brink of collapse by the Nato bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, the anti-China hysteria accompanying the release of the Cox Report alleging Chinese espionage against the USA, and former Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's talk about "state-to-state" relations between China and Taiwan.

Beijing's stake

The USA's China policy under Bush or Gore will vary greatly, says INXIN PEI

Republican foreign policy strategists openly predicted, and their Democratic counterparts quietly feared, that the China policy would become a campaign issue on which the Clinton administration and Vice-President Al Gore would be vulnerable.

But China was not mentioned in either party's campaign speeches. Such apparent calm may create an impression that Washington's China policy, which has been savaged by partisan politics, has escaped from being dragged into the maelstrom of presidential campaign politics. But that is not the case.

Although the China policy has not become a campaign issue, there are differences between the China policy of a prospective Bush administration and that of a Gore administration. There is also some ground to fear that, even in the event of a Gore victory, he will have limited room to improve ties with China. The differences between Mr Bush and Mr Gore's approach to China are pronounced and, in some ways, fundamental.

Though Mr Gore has avoided characterising US-China relations as moving "towards a strategic partnership" (a phrase widely derided in Washington), he and his foreign policy advisers believe that such ties should be centred on cooperation, rather than confrontation.

But Mr Bush and his advisers have taken a dark view of China. He has declared China a "strategic competitor", a label more appropriate for a potential threat than a partner. His characterisation of US-China relations as one centred on rivalry, rather than cooperation, is no mere campaign rhetoric. It is bound to influence the content of Washington's China policy should he win. The most immediate and likely strategic shift

by a new Bush administration would be a reorientation of the focus of the USA's East Asian policy.

In President Bill Clinton's first term, his Asian policy was adrift, leading to deterioration of relations between the USA and most East Asian nations. In his second term, Mr Clinton gave top priority to improving ties with Beijing, as he believed that managing a rising China should be the central goal of US diplomacy in East Asia. The focus of Mr Bush's East Asian policy will be Japan.

Within the Republican foreign-policy circle, many feel that Mr Clinton's obsession with Beijing led to a neglect of Tokyo. So the strengthening of Washington-Tokyo ties would both repair the damage done by Mr Clinton's policy and allow the USA to exploit the growing Beijing-Tokyo rift.

Such a shift of focus should result in closer US-Japanese political and security cooperation on issues sensitive to China such as Taiwan, missile defence and the South China Sea dispute.

Beijing is likely to find Mr Bush's position on Taiwan more troubling than Mr Gore's. On the most explosive Taiwan issue in Sino-US relations, Mr Gore's public pronouncements are identical to Mr Clinton's policy — adherence to a "One-China" policy and insistence on the peaceful resolution of the Taiwan problem. By contrast, Mr Bush has paid only lip service to the "One-China" policy — the Republican Party's platform contained the most perfunctory reference to "One-China".

Mr Bush said the USA would "help Taiwan defend itself". It is likely that a Bush administration would be more sympathetic to Taiwan's requests for hi-tech weapon systems and indifferent

Zhu hopes to woo Japan for more aid

By F.J. Khergamvala

TOKYO, OCT. 10. The Chinese Premier, Mr. Zhu Rongji arrives in Japan on Thursday for a six-day visit intended to convince the sceptical Japanese public that the aid programme is being well-utilised and that more aid is needed as Beijing begins the Great Western Development Project in the hinterland.

In recent meetings with the Japanese media and the political bosses in the ruling Japanese coalition, Mr. Zhu has been trying to play down the high-profile differences between the two Asian giants and look ahead. But, if Mr. Zhu is looking for additional Japanese aid, he might have to agree to Japan's demand that much of the assistance will be tied to supplies from Japan. Sino-Japan trade stands at about \$66 billion in 1999. Japan has given to China loans cumulatively worth 2.2 trillion yen until fiscal year 1998, grants of 111.28 billion yen and provided technical cooperation valued at 108.95 billion yen.

Japan set the tone and the terms for the Zhu visit. On Tuesday, both countries signed an agreement for a \$158 million low-interest loan to China for two transport related infrastructure projects, but not before firing a shot across the bow. A month and a half back, the Mori Government held back the approval. Beijing was given a "ten commandments" list by the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yohei Kono if it wanted to continue to be the largest recipient of Japanese aid.

Publicly, Beijing objects to Japan playing the aid card but China certainly wants to have the money especially for the western hinterland development programme for the 21st century. Two Ministers in Mr. Zhu's team are for this specific purpose. A natural gas pipeline from the Xinjiang Autonomous Region to Shanghai is the backbone of this scheme. The full cost is \$12.3 billion is more than 65 per cent of the total aid given by Japan to China over the last 20 years.

Facing French and German competition, Japan wants the Beijing-Shanghai bullet train turnkey project, worth about \$17 billion. Mr. Zhu will use the

bullet train and also ride the experimental linear motor magnetic levitation rail carriage. He wants Japan to set up an experimental track in China. Included in Japan's good behaviour wish-list is that China must desist from suspicious naval activities in Japan's Exclusive Economic Zone. Japan has reported 17 "intrusions" this year alone into areas that China says it does not recognise as being in Japan's economic zone. Japan's approval for the yen loans came only after a compromise was reached that both countries would begin establishing a mutual prior notification mechanism. Until both governments agree on base standards for delineating maritime zones, a notification mechanism is difficult.

China was also asked not to carp on Japan's conduct during World War II and before, like the Nanjing massacre. Instead, according to Japan, more needs to be done to tell the Chinese about how useful Japanese aid is to China. Japan felt outraged that the Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin in his 1998 visit to Japan, harangued his hosts by making public references to Japan's war-time history and atrocities.

Mr. Zhu seems to have got the message. In an interview to the Japanese media, he said "China should not use the war-time history to stir up the Japanese people." "The ordinary Japanese people of today and those back then should not be held responsible for that (Japan's militarism)." But, in an indication that China will refer to this issue, albeit with a different emphasis, Mr. Zhu added that Japan must not forget its war-time history. Last month, Mr. Zhu accepted that the words uttered by former Prime Minister, Mr. Tomiichi Murayama in 1995 constituted an apology for Japanese actions.

The Chinese Premier also agreed to reduce Chinese maritime activity near Japan and said he was unaware of the details until Mr. Kono's visit in August. In a televised town hall type meeting where he can reach the Japanese audience directly without subjecting his views to the media through the prism of Japanese bureaucrats, the charismatic and forthright Mr. Zhu might press home his conciliatory posture.

THE HINDU

11 OCT 2000

Clinton, Jiang hold talks on missile

missile exports

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (BRUNEI), NOV. 16. The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton and the Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin made progress on Thursday toward curtailing Beijing's missile exports and decided tentatively to resume human rights talks, a senior U.S. State Department official said.

The leaders met on the sidelines of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, an annual summit of Pacific Rim countries. It was the last international gathering for Mr. Clinton, who leaves office in January. Meeting Mr. Jiang, Mr. Clinton raised longstanding U.S. concerns about China's missile exports. "There was some progress made but I'm not going to detail it," said Mr. Stanley Roth, the Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. "We'll have more to say in the days to come." He described the missile discussions as general in nature. On human rights, Mr. Clinton told Mr. Jiang it would be helpful if the dialogue could resume. "Interestingly, President Jiang responded by saying he agreed, that he thought dialogue would be a useful way to go," Mr. Roth said. — AP

THE HINDU

17 NOV 1997

Clinton signs China trade Bill, scraps yearly review

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 11. — Ending the two-decade annual ritual of reviewing China's trade status, the US President, Mr Bill Clinton last night signed the China Trade Bill, designed to open the country's mammoth market to US business.

Describing the legislation establishing permanent normal trade relations with Beijing as a historic moment in US-China relations, Mr Clinton said the measure would open the Chinese market for US goods and services and pave the way for "economic freedom" of the Chinese people.

Mr Clinton's gesture came amid reports from Beijing that the final round of talks between the two countries over China's entry into the WTO had stalled and the US trade representative, Ms Charlene Barshefsky, had sought the intervention of the Chinese premier, Mr Zhu Rongji, to push the negotiations forward.

Indications here are that China is not in a hurry to enter the WTO and a decision in this

regard may be taken only next year. US business interests favoured the agreement as it would provide access to China's vast market of over one billion people. But critics here say the agreement would reward a "repressive" communist state and cost US workers their jobs.

Mr Clinton's argument has been that bringing China into the global trade regime would help make Beijing a more responsible member of the world community. The agreement also takes into account the fact that the Chinese economy, already among the world's largest, has expanded over the past 20 years at a phenomenal rate of nearly 10 per cent per annum.

During this period, US exports to China have grown from negligible levels to over \$ 14 billion a year. The legislation would also ease China's entry into the WTO.

China, has in turn, given significant concessions across virtually every economic sector including increasing access to agriculture, services, technology, telecommunications and manufactured goods.

China criticises US curbs on Pak, Iran

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, Nov. 23. — China today criticised sanctions imposed by USA on Pakistan and Iran for obtaining missile technology from Beijing and said such assistance was normal in state-to-state relations. "The US government, in accordance with its own domestic law, imposed sanctions on others. The US is the only nation in the world to do so and this isn't popular," foreign ministry spokesman Mr Sun Yuxi said.

"Our position on sanctions is that we are opposed to that, and secondly, we are not afraid of that," he said at a briefing.

He said Pakistan and Iran were friendly neighbours of China, sharing normal relations. "Both sides have all along maintained normal defence trade relations." Washington yesterday imposed fresh sanctions on defence establishments in Pakistan and Iran for receiving missiles and missile technology from China.

Mr Yuxi described reports of missile technology transfer as rumours aimed at undermining China's status as a big power.

"In recent years, some parties have spread rumours about the so-called proliferation of missiles by China. In doing so, they adopted ulterior motives with the purpose of undermining the international image of China," he said.

He said the Chinese government had all along pursued "serious policies," relevant laws and regulations to effectively control export of missiles and related technology. A Chinese foreign ministry statement had yesterday said "China has no intention to assist, in any way, any country in the development of ballistic missiles that can be used to deliver nuclear weapons. The specifications provided in the statement is considered significant since China claims it hasn't violated provisions of the Missile Technology Control Regime which prohibits sale of missiles capable of delivering a payload of above 500 kg to a distance of above 300 km."

THE STATESMAN

24 NOV 2002

US ban hits Pak, spares China

Jim - W 9-3 23/11

Washington, Nov. 22 (Reuters): The US yesterday said it was waiving sanctions against China for helping Iran and Pakistan with missile technology but imposing them on entities in these two countries for receiving Beijing's assistance.

"In consideration of China's commitment to strengthen its missile-related export control system, we've decided to waive economic sanctions required by US law for past assistance by Chinese entities to missile programmes in Pakistan and Iran," state department spokesman Richard Boucher said. He said this meant the US would resume processing licenses for commercial space cooperation between US and Chinese companies, and talks on extending a 1995

accord on international trade and commercial launch services.

"We are imposing sanctions against the Iranian and Pakistani entities and those sanctions will be announced in the federal registry shortly," he added.

This meant a two-year ban on export licenses for commerce and state-controlled items in all new US government contracts on the defence industries organisation, defence ministry and Armed Forces and Logistics in Iran.

In Pakistan, the ban applies to the defence ministry, space and upper atmosphere research commission and their subunits and successor bodies, he added.

Pakistan said today US sanctions were not justified and urged Washington to lift them.

THE TELEGRAPH

23 NOV 2000

Jiang Zemin to oppose U.S. missile shield plan at UN

BEIJING: Chinese President Jiang Zemin will use a speech at the United Nations next week to stress Beijing's opposition to a U.S. missile shield plan, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Thursday.



Jiang Zemin

"There are still certain countries which seek so-called absolute security for themselves and are speeding up the development and deployment of advanced anti-missile systems," the official said of Mr Jiang's September 7 U.N. speech.

He was referring to U.S. proposals to build a Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system in Asia and National Missile Defence (NMD) system to protect the United States from ballistic missiles from hostile states.

Mr Jiang would probably repeat at the U.N. Millennium summit in New York, China's frequent charge that the United States was driven by "Cold War thinking" in its proposal to build missile umbrellas, the official said.

The proposed systems would "seriously undermine the positive trend in international dis-

armament efforts", the official told reporters on condition of anonymity.

Jiang would probably also drive home Beijing's strident opposition to U.S. plans in his bilateral meetings with leaders of Japan, Russia and South Korea on the summit sidelines, the official said.

Chinese parliamentary chief Li Peng slammed the U.S. proposals in talks on Tuesday with U.N. secretary general Kofi Annan, the official *China Daily* reported on Thursday.

The United States wants to have a missile defence system in place by 2005, to shoot down a limited number of missiles from hostile states such as North Korea and Iran.

But Russia and China bitterly oppose the plan, yet to be given the go-ahead, fearing that a U.S. missile defence system could rapidly evolve to threaten their nuclear missile arsenals.

Beijing fears that the TMD system proposed by Washington for its troops and allies in Asia would be used to shelter Taiwan from mainland missiles, removing the threat of attack that is China's main means of deterring the island from declaring independence. (Reuters)

China angry
over suit

NEW YORK, SEPT. 3. China is demanding that U.S. officials dismiss a federal civil lawsuit charging a high-ranking official with human rights abuses stemming from the 1989 military crackdown that killed hundreds of student protesters in Tiananmen Square.

The lawsuit was filed on Monday in federal district court in Manhattan by five participants in the Tiananmen Square democracy movement. The suit was brought against Mr. Li Peng, the country's Prime Minister at the time and now the Chairman of the National People's Congress.

Chinese officials blamed the U.S. Government for not properly protecting Mr. Li from having a court summons served to him while he was visiting New York.

A process server handed the summons to a State Department employee who was guarding him. Though the State Department later said it could not accept such papers for foreign officials, a federal judge in Manhattan had ruled earlier that Mr. Li could be served through his guards. — *New York Times*

THE HINDU

4 SEP 2000

U.S. Senate votes China Trade Bill

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 20. The U.S. Senate has voted decisively in favour of the China Trade Bill with 83 law-makers going along with the legislation and only 15 voting against it. The President, Mr. Bill Clinton, who has been lobbying for the Bill at every available opportunity, has said this will promote prosperity in the U.S. and freedom in China.

The Congressional granting of the Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) means that the annual ritual of extending the Most Favoured Nation status is no longer on the cards. Conservatives on Capitol Hill have been using these occasions to lash out at Beijing on a range of issues, notably human rights, democracy, Taiwan and Tibet. The stage is now set for China's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

"In return for normal trade relations, China will open its markets to American products from wheat to cars to consulting services and we will be far more able to sell goods in China without moving our factories there," Mr. Clinton said. One estimate is that American exports to China could be boosted by about US\$ 13 billions in five years, with farm exports alone showing a rise of US\$ 2 billions yearly. This would cut down China's trade surplus with the U.S., nearly US\$ 68 billions.

The Clinton Administration, led by the President, has been making the point that the PNTR and WTO membership would have a profound effect on the people of China. "Outside competition will speed the demise of China's huge state industries and spur the enterprise of the private sector involvement. They will diminish the role of government in people's daily lives," the President said. The legislation now goes to the White House for Mr. Clinton's signature.

But the provision for a Congressional-Executive Commission to monitor human rights in China has attracted criticism from it; and at another level the Bill calls

for a mechanism to help American industries that are being hurt by Chinese imports. Beijing has said that the legislation contains "certain clauses that are irrelevant to trade and are intended for interfering in the internal affairs of China and harming China's interests".

The PNTR was strongly supported by the big business which saw newer opportunities in a mega market that was going to be more tightly governed by a rules based system. But labour and human rights groups have been opposing the PNTR and questioned the linkage between the passage of the bill and the improvement in Beijing's track record on human rights and governance. In specific terms, labour leaders have said that it would have an adverse impact on the U.S. where upto 150,000 textile related jobs could be at stake.

Human rights and democracy were not the only issues that were of concern to law makers. China's proliferation of nuclear technology, missile and missile technology to such countries as Pakistan and Iran became a matter of serious concern and debate on Capitol Hill. The argument of those who favoured slapping Beijing with punitive measures basically stemmed from a perception that Beijing has not lived up to international agreements or bilateral commitments.

THE HINDU

21 SEP 2000

U.S. Senate okays special trade status for China

WASHINGTON: The U.S. Congress has cleared the way for President Bill Clinton to grant permanent normal trade relations (PNTR) status to China, with the Senate on Tuesday passing the bill convincingly. The move was hailed as "historic" by Mr Clinton and described as "conducive" by Beijing.

However, China opposed the clauses which establish a monitoring mechanism of its human rights policies.

The bill, which was supposed to be highly controversial because of China's alleged human rights violations, was passed by the U.S. upper house by 83-15 votes. The House of Representatives has already adopted the measure by 237-197 votes.

The bill, which will become law when the U.S. President signs it, also opens the way for China's entry into the World Trade Organisation.

Mr Clinton termed the passage of the bill "historic" and said that "in return for normal trade relations, China will open its markets to American products. And we will be far more able to sell goods in China without moving our factories there."

In separate comments in Beijing, the Chinese foreign ministry as well as the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation (Moftec) welcomed the passage of the bill.

"We appreciate the great efforts made by the American people of the vision from the Democratic Party and the Republican Party as well as people of all circles concerned," Moftec spokesman Hu Chusheng said. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 SEP 2000

Foe as Friend

2/19
The US Senate has approved the bill on permanent normal trade relations with China by an overwhelming majority of 83 to 15. In this case President Clinton's lobbying got the better of those who objected to the measure on the ground that China's proliferation activities needed to be monitored and curbed, and pressure applied on it to improve its human rights record. It may be recalled that candidate Clinton campaigned for his presidency charging that the Republican administration was too soft on China. In his first term he also had a very distinct pro-Pakistan tilt. Now he is leaving office with both policies radically revised, illustrating the age old axiom in international politics that there are no permanent friends or permanent enemies but only permanent interests. Mr Clinton now believes that an extended hand will give the US greater influence over China than a clenched fist. He has also decided that India, as the largest democracy, needs to be treated as a partner; further that the Kashmir issue is best resolved bilaterally by India and Pakistan without resort to violence. While conspiracy theorists may spin new scenarios about the US agenda vis-a-vis China and India, the simple fact remains that it suits the US interests well economically, technologically and strategically to have better relations with both Asian giants. There is a major change in the global paradigm in the post-Cold War world in which the US has emerged as the sole superpower. The dominant strategy for major powers is no longer exclusive containment policy but one of engagement and containment through a balance of power.

India will be shortly welcoming President Putin and signing a large number of weapon deals without in any way impairing its growing friendship with the US. The logic of this new paradigm should be clearly understood in this country by people who have been conditioned by five decades of Cold War logic. Today, none of the major actors in the international balance of power — US, China, European Union, Russia and Japan — will go out to claim an adversarial relationship with the other. This even as they compete and often strongly disagree on major issues. If in this new paradigm, India is to play a global role, it has to improve its relations with China. Beijing should be persuaded that it's against its interest to continue to pursue its Cold War policies of weapons proliferation to Pakistan, especially given the latter's preoccupation with Islamic terrorism, narcotics traffic and its campaign against multicultural and multiethnic states. China, as a member of the Shanghai-five, has come out clearly against terrorism emanating from Afghanistan. Russia and Central Asian republics too are concerned with the growth of political Islamic terrorism. Quiet diplomacy and high level behind-the-scene contacts have brought about a change in Indo-US relationship over a period of time. Now it is time for New Delhi to take the initiative to develop similar contacts with Beijing. The Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji is due to visit India in the next few months. That visit provides an opportunity to wean the Chinese away from their residual Maoist and Cold War mindset.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 SEP 2000

China blasts U.S. for granting visa to Chen

SHANGHAI (CHINA), AUG 5. China criticised the U.S. on Friday for giving Taiwan's President, Mr. Chen Shui-Bian, a visa to stop in Los Angeles next week on his way to the Caribbean and expressed indignation at the island's annual effort to join the United Nations. *10/12*

But Beijing's reaction in both cases was moderate compared to the diatribes that similar actions by Taiwan have drawn in the past. China regards Taiwan as a renegade province. The Chinese Government urged the U.S. to reverse its decision to allow Mr. Chen the transit stop on August 13, saying the "comfortable treatment" sends the wrong signal to pro-independence forces in Taiwan. "Even if these transit stops have happened many times before, it does not mean we like that," a spokesman for the Chinese Embassy in Washington said. "We are sure that this will be used by the Taiwan side to promote their agenda."

When the former President, Mr. Lee Teng-hui visited Cornell University in 1995, Beijing broke off semi-official contacts with the U.S. and began conducting war games that culminated in firing missiles into the sea near Taiwan. Beijing's temper flared again when the U.S. granted Mr. Lee a transit visa in 1997. A State Department spokesman said granting Mr. Chen's stopover is part of a long-standing U.S. policy toward Taiwan's leaders. He said Mr. Chen would not meet any U.S. officials, but will meet Mr. Richard Bush, chairman of the American Institute in Taiwan, which handles unofficial U.S. ties with the island.

Taiwan also angered China by making a fresh attempt to join the United Nations, saying 12 allies had submitted a proposal asking the world body to grant membership. Taiwan makes the attempt every year and is each year defeated. Although this is the first such effort under Mr. Chen's administration, there is no reason to expect this bid to succeed. "The move constitutes a flagrant violation of the purposes and principles of the U.N. Charter.... a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, Mr. Zhu Bangzao, said. — *New York Times*

10/12

6 AUG 2000

10/12

Expelled Chinese poet arrives in exile in US

BY ANDREW QUINN

San Francisco, Aug. 27: A Chinese poet whose detention drew criticism from writers around the globe arrived in exile in the United States on Saturday, expressing shock and regret over an episode that briefly threatened to disrupt US-China relations.

"I have been out of China for too long, I forgot the price you pay for challenging (the government)," Mr Huang Beijing, 40, said in an interview after arriving in San Francisco on a flight from Beijing.

The Chinese police detained Mr Huang,

who writes under the pen name Bei Ling, on August 11 apparently for distributing a literary journal called *Tendency* he had launched in 1993 to showcase young underground writers.

Authorities also seized 2,000 copies of the quarterly, and subsequently accused him of seeking illegally to publish and distribute the magazine in China. Mr Huang, who is a Chinese citizen but holds a US green card allowing him to reside in the United States, was held for 16 days before US diplomats negotiated his release Saturday amid mounting international uproar over his

detention. Several writers, including Mexican poet Homero Aridjis, Irish poet Laureate Seamus Heaney, and American novelists Arthur Miller and Susan Sontag, protested the arrest in a letter to Chinese President Jiang Zemin, calling it "a poor indication of China's willingness to uphold internationally recognised principles of democracy and free expression."

The writers belong to PEN International, a literary association that defends freedom of expression. Mr Huang said he was sure that China's decision to free him was aimed at mollifying US authorities ahead of a visit

by Chinese President Jiang Zemin for talks with US President Bill Clinton next month and a UN summit. "The police told me the main reason they were freeing me was so that US-China relations were not affected," Mr Huang said. *Tendency* is published overseas for audiences in the United States, Europe, Taiwan and Hong Kong, but copies have circulated in China, where it is popular with intellectuals. US also lobbied for the release of Mr Huang and his younger brother, Huang Feng, who was detained last week just hours after US Ambassador Joseph Prueher expressed concern over the poet's arrest. (Reuters)

SPOTLIGHT

THE ASIAN AGE

18 AUG 2000

Missile sale to figure in talks

Anil K Joseph
Beijing, July 2

HF22 397
CHINA'S CLANDESTINE missile sales and technology transfer to its closest ally, Pakistan is set to be questioned at the upcoming Sino-US non-proliferation talks to be held here next week, diplomatic sources said.

Despite vociferous Chinese denials, US intelligence reports are going against Beijing, forcing the Clinton administration to raise

the sensitive question again with China, the source said.

On Thursday, China voiced strong dissatisfaction on opposi-

Sino-US meet

tion to the China non-proliferation Act put forward by several US senators denouncing it as only attacking and slandering the country. Commenting on the issue, foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao

pointed out that China has actually made great contributions to the global non-proliferation cause.

China has always opposed the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and has exercised strict and effective control over related articles, he claimed.

The Clinton administration has so far ignored US intelligence reports on China's missile sales to Pakistan, avoiding slapping of wide-ranging sanctions on China.

(PTI)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 JUL 200

China's nuclear missile aid to Pak threatens Sino-U.S. trade bill

By Ramesh Chandran
The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: The controversial trade bill establishing normal trade relations between the U.S. and China which is awaiting endorsement of the U.S. Senate is now under threat. This is due to Beijing's continuing assistance to Pakistan's efforts to build long-range missiles that could carry nuclear weapons.

American intelligence agencies, cited here by leading U.S. dailies on Sunday, have warned in a series of classified briefings, both the Clinton administration as well as lawmakers here, that despite repeated entreaties by top U.S. officials to their Chinese counterparts to desist from aiding its long-time strategic ally, Pakistan, Beijing had stepped up the shipment of "speciality steels, guidance systems and technical expertise."

Leading U.S. dailies, *The New York Times* as well as *The Washington Post*, reported that there have been conclusive proof that China has been impervious to American requests so far and the administration's leading non-proliferation hawk, John D. Holum will travel to Beijing later this week to once again restrain the extensive Chinese assistance in proscribed arms technology to Islamabad. Spy satellite and U.S. intelligence agencies have apparently

sighted "Chinese experts" at Pakistan's newest missile facility which is partially built on Chinese design and there has been a steady volume of Chinese shipments to Pakistan over the past eight to 18 months.

The question of Chinese-Pakistan nuclear and missile co-operation is a well-documented one familiar to the administration and among Washington's South

Asia security experts and foreign correspondents here have badgered State Department spokesmen over the years on this specific issue. For a long time, despite official confirmation from the CIA, the administration continued to maintain that it was still unable to corroborate if the shipment of the deadly Chinese-made M-11 missiles to Pakistan violated

Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) regulations. Twice in the past decade, the administration, however, was compelled to impose sanctions on Beijing for its assistance to Pakistan—once in 1991, then again in 1993.

During the 1996 presidential campaign, President Clinton opted to ignore a sale of Chinese equipment to Pakistan that helped it to produce weapons-grade uranium. And last month, a leading network, NBC, reported that Pakistan's nuclear preparedness and missile delivery systems was well ahead of India's—thanks to extensive Chinese and North Korean assistance.

NUCLEAR DEAL

- Nuclear co-operation is a well-documented fact
- India remains the greatest threat for both
- Pakistan is ahead of India in nuclear preparedness

THE TIMES OF INDIA.

3 JUL 2000

HD
7/7

Pallone calls for tough measures against China

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 6. Arguing that Pakistan and China had teamed up to surround India and create an alarming potential for instability in Asia, the Democratic Congressman from New Jersey, Mr. Frank Pallone, has urged the Clinton administration to impose sanctions on Beijing for its assistance to the Pakistani missile development programme.

"China and Pakistan both consider India to be their major strategic threat — which is absurd given that India has been the victim of both Pakistani and Chinese aggression. But given that shared strategic outlook on the part of China and Pakistan, it is clear that these two nations have teamed up to surround India and create an alarming potential for instability in Asia," the lawmaker said.

Mr. Pallone called on the administration to get "tough" with Beijing saying that while Pakistan remained under sanctions for its nuclear explosions and the military coup of last year, Washington had been trying to influence Beijing through a policy of "comprehensive engagement". In his view, this policy with respect to Pakistan was not working. "It's time to get tough with Beijing," he added.

Against the backdrop of recent intelligence reports of China stepping up assistance to Pakistan's long-range missile programme, Mr. Pallone, in a letter to the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, said sanctions must be imposed on China "forthwith", noting that China had been "penalised" in 1991 and 1993 for supplying M-11 missiles.

"As we work to heighten our cooperation with In-

dia on such issues as security, non-proliferation and terrorism, it seems inconsistent not to hold China accountable for actions that directly threaten the security of India and which will inevitably spur a heightened arms race on the sub-continent," he said in the letter.

China's continued, and perhaps heightened, support to Pakistan's nuclear and missile development programmes had given rise to serious concern on Capitol Hill; and the administration was anxious that the latest revelations — not very surprising though — would not come in handy to the Senate, now considering the issue of Permanent Normal Trade Relations status for China.

"... if the administration considers PNTR passage so important, it must demonstrate to Congress that it is serious about cracking down on China's violation of non proliferation agreements," Mr. Pallone said. The PNTR bill passed the House of Representatives and at one time it was said its passage in the Senate was only a matter of time, but now prominent Conservative Senators are thinking of attaching tough amendments which could prove troublesome for the White House.

Hardline Republicans have consistently pointed out that the Clinton administration, for political and economic reasons, had been looking the other way on China going back on its "commitments" on non-proliferation issues. For the last several years, intelligence agencies had been warning the administration of some of Beijing's dubious relationships and transactions with countries such as Pakistan.

JUL 11 1996

JUL 11 1996

China protests arms sales to Taiwan

BEIJING: China has again voiced strong opposition to the U.S. about including Taiwan under a proposed missile defence shield, state media quoted Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi on Sunday.

"China has again voiced its firm opposition to arms sales to Taiwan by any country, including providing Taiwan with TMD-related assistance and a TMD shield," Sun said, referring to the U.S.-proposed theatre missile defence scheme for Asia.

Beijing considers Taiwan part of its sovereign territory and has threatened to use military force if the island seeks independence.

The remarks followed the end of the first arms control talks in more than a year between the U.S. and China and the failed U.S. test of a proposed national missile defence (NMD) system that has united China and Russia in opposition. In comments carried by major newspapers, Sun said China expressed "serious concerns" to the U.S. about the missile defence schemes during the talks, which ended on Saturday in Beijing.

A senior U.S. arms negotiator said on Saturday

that the U.S. had not ruled out Taiwan's protection under an Asian missile defence umbrella. "We don't rule out the possibility that some time in the future Taiwan may have TMD capabilities," senior U.S. arms control adviser John Holum told reporters.

Sun said the talks between Holum and Chinese vice-minister of foreign affairs Wang Guangya, were frank and comprehensive, but differences remained. "Both sides agreed that the two countries have a number of common stances and interests in the areas of arms control and anti-proliferation, and at the same time some disagreement," he said, but gave no details. China, which has found common cause with Russia in opposition to the NMD, has said it may have to add to its strategic missile arsenal if the U.S. project goes ahead. Holum said the two sides also failed to bridge gaps over alleged Chinese sales of missile technology to Pakistan.

The *New York Times* said last week that China had stepped up shipment of special steels, guidance systems and technical expertise to Pakistan. (Reuters)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

10 JUL 2000

US missile talks run into China wall

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, July 10: The US has failed to persuade China to stop its renewed and vigorous assistance to Pakistan in developing missile systems which could be used against India.

"We raised our concern that China has provided aid to Pakistan and other countries," John Holum, senior adviser to the US secretary of state on arms control, said after talks with Wang Guangya, China's vice-foreign minister.

Holum who has been in China since last Wednesday claimed the two sides "made progress", which he refused to qualify, but confessed that "the issue remains unresolved". Another attempt may be made to influence China on the issue when US defence secretary William Cohen goes to Beijing this week.

The failure of the Sino-US talks has put India in a quandary with China's foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan arriving in New Delhi in a few days for talks which South Block is touting as proof of its claims of having improved relations with Beijing which were strained by the Pokhran nuclear tests in 1998.

South Block now has the option of continuing its weak-kneed policy of looking the other way while China arms and equips Pakistan against India or taking the bull by its horns and asking Beijing to explain its duplicity in pretending friendship with India even as it gets Pakistan into a state of battle-readiness.

American intelligence briefings here, which prompted Holum's visit last week spoke of fresh Chinese supplies of guidance systems, technical expertise and special quality steel for Pakistan's missile programme in the last 18 months.

At these briefings, US intelligence also cited instances of Chinese experts having been seen at

Pakistan's missile sites which have been built on Chinese design.

Washington fears that China is now providing crucial help to Pakistan in the development of a new long-range missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

Holum's talks in Beijing were the first between the US and China on arms control since the Nato bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in May last year.

China suspended talks with the US both on non-proliferation and on human rights in anger at the bombing.

Analysts here are not surprised at the failure of last week's dialogue. The Chinese are incensed that Holum's visit coincided with the controversial test of a new anti-missile system which the Clinton administration is considering. A Chinese official went on record as saying that the test and the timing of the talks were "insulting to China".

Secondly, Holum told reporters in Beijing that "we do not rule out the possibility that some time in the future Taiwan may have (theatre missile defence) capabilities".

Even before Holum arrived in Beijing, China reacted angrily to the anticipated prospect of the US giving advanced defence capabilities to Taiwan and including it in a future Asian missile shield.

Last week, Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji said in Rome: "The system would aim to put Taiwan in a sphere of protection. this would be blatant interference in Chinese affairs."

Analysts here believe that Chinese exports of missile technology to Pakistan — or at least the threat of such exports — would give Beijing a bargaining tool in any future talks with Washington on its own missile cover for Taiwan.

THE TELEGRAPH

11 JUL

Cohen to solidify fragile U.S.-China ties

BEIJING: With the U.S. defense secretary arriving in Beijing on Tuesday, China and the U.S. hope to solidify shaky ties between their militaries amid vocal Chinese opposition to American missile defense systems and arms sales to Taiwan.

Defense secretary William Cohen will try to assuage China's concerns about proposed missile defense systems for the U.S. and parts of East Asia while advancing ties between the militaries during a five-day stay.

Recent diplomatic break-



William Cohen

throughs between North and South Korea and preventing the spread of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons will be among topics discussed in his meetings with Chinese leaders, according to Defense Department officials.

Mr Cohen is the third high-level U.S. visitor to Beijing in as many weeks, signalling a return to more stable ties 14 months after the U.S. planes bombed China's embassy in Yugoslavia. In anger, China then suspended talks with Washington on military ties, arms control and human rights and cancelled a visit by Mr Cohen.

Following a visit last week by top U.S. arms negotiator John Holum, all but the human rights contacts have been restored. But differences

remain.

Mr Cohen will meet Chinese President Jiang Zemin, who also chairs the Communist Party's Central Military Commission, as well as defense minister Chi Haotian, Vice President Hu Jintao and other officials. On Thursday, he will deliver an address to the People's Liberation Army's National Defense University.

Chinese leaders consider Washington's development of a National Missile Defense system an attempt to blunt China's missile deterrent. Beijing has also warned Washington from including Beijing's rival, Taiwan, in a possible theater missile defense shield.

China demands Washington discontinue all weapons sales to Tai-

wan, saying it obstructs its goal of unifying with the island, which split from the mainland since the Communist Party's rise to power in 1949.

Mr Cohen, in a planned visit to Shanghai on Friday, may meet Wang Daohan, an elder statesman who is an influential adviser to President Jiang on Taiwan affairs. Allegations of Chinese assistance to the missile development programs in Iran and other countries have also rocked military dialogue.

Mr Holum was unable to resolve a dispute over reported missile sales to Pakistan in the early 1990s that could compel U.S. President Bill Clinton to level sanctions against China. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

US-China ties focus of Cohen visit

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REUTERS

BELJING, July 12. — The US defence secretary's China visit focussed on cooperation between the two countries despite deep discord over Taiwan and missile defence shields.

"We agreed that the region and the world are more stable when the USA and China work together to solve problems," Mr William Cohen said during his first visit to Beijing in more than two years.

"We may disagree on some issues, we benefit from this opportunity to explain our disagreements and to understand many of the issues which are many," Mr Cohen said.

Beijing believes common interests between the two countries outweigh differences,

Chinese defence minister, Mr Chi Haotian, said.

Mr Cohen's visit puts back on track a military dialogue which had been frozen since May 1999 when Nato bombs destroyed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade. But contentious issues like Taiwan, USA's National Missile Defence plan and arms proliferation lurked beneath the affable surface.

China has been vocal in its opposition of US plans for a NMD to protect vulnerable parts of the country from long-range missiles and a Theatre Missile Defence system for its troops and allies in Asia.

It fears that arch-rival Taiwan could be brought under the TMD's protective shield. And US arms control official, Mr John Holum, confirmed last

week that such fears are not unfounded.

Mr Cohen said he tried to reassure Mr Chi that the NMD is not directed against China. Washington points to Iraq, North Korea and Iran as the system's justification.

Mr Chi called on the USA to heed international opposition and abandon NMD as soon as possible. Yesterday, Beijing had said it would not change its vehement opposition to missile shields.

"The USA can only encourage potential enemies to design a better one, sparking a new race for military supremacy and causing world instability," the official China Daily said today.

Mr Cohen said the talks revolved mainly around Taiwan.

THE STATEMENT

13 JUL 2000

China accuses U.S. of scuttling Israeli deal

BEIJING, JULY 13. China today blasted the United States for Israel's decision to cancel the deal for supply of Phalcon advanced Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) to Beijing which would have considerably enhanced its military might.

Blaming U.S. pressure for the cancellation of the \$250-million deal, the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bangzao said, "No other country has the right to interfere in bilateral relations between China and other countries. It is a basic principle of relations between countries to honour the agreement reached between States," Mr. Zhu told a regular briefing.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ehud Barak yesterday announced the scrapping of the deal at the peace summit at Camp David in the U.S. following threats from Washington to cut existing aid as well as a reconsideration of future military assistance to the Jewish State.

The contract offered China the option to buy at least four more Phalcon systems to be installed in Russian-built Ilyushin-76 aircraft.

Reacting to the cancellation, the White House spokesman, Mr. Joe Lockhart, had said "We welcome the decision." The U.S. fears the supply of the warning systems would upset the military balance between China and Taiwan.

Commenting on the cancellation of the deal, diplomatic sources here said the Israeli action was widely expected since it removed a major obstacle to U.S. Congressional approval of an aid package to upgrade Israel's armed forces under an overall West Asia peace settlement. — PTI

THE HINDU

14 JUL 2000

Sr 5
15/7

US Congress seeks curbs against China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA *G. W. W.*

WASHINGTON, July 14. — In a sharp reaction to China's continued missile technology transfer to Pakistan and other countries, US Congressmen have sought imposition of sanctions against Beijing.

While 18 members are pursuing sanctions against China in the Senate, Congressmen Mr Frank Pallone, Mr Benjamin Gilman, chairman of the House International Relations Committee, and Mr Edward Markey, co-chairman of the non-proliferation task force, are pushing the issue in the House of Representatives.

Meanwhile, the US business community is lobbying hard to ensure that the Bill to give China permanent normal rights does not become a casualty in the process.

The Gilman-Markey Bill, called the China Non-proliferation Act, would require Mr

Clinton to submit annually a report "describing any person who engages in proliferation activities with China or within China".

It would allow the US President, Mr Bill Clinton, to "apply measures against the Chinese government in a phased manner" with increasing penalties unless the Chinese government mends its ways.

After the first annual report Mr Clinton could choose to stop "all military cooperation, assistance and other financial transactions and sales of munitions".

A year later, he could decide on "additional sanctions involving scientific and academic exchanges, financial transactions and sale of controlled technologies.

If the US President does not impose any measures, the Congress could pass a joint resolution mandating application of the measures.

THE STATESMAN

15 JUL 2000

China blackmailing U.S. with missile tech transfers to Pak ¹¹⁻¹⁰ ₁₈₇₇

BEIJING: China is using its covert military ties with Pakistan to blackmail the U.S. into curbing its arms sales to Taiwan, diplomatic sources here say.

The Chinese seem to be using nuclear and missile technology transfers to Pakistan as a bargaining chip to wrest concessions from the U.S. on the Taiwan issue, a diplomatic source here said. He was commenting on the recent Sino-U.S. arms control and non-proliferation negotiations here.

"They have adopted blackmail diplomacy on non-proliferation, a pet subject of Clinton administration, so that China could try and seize maximum benefits," the source said on condition of anonymity.

Though China and Pakistan have flatly denied long-range missile cooperation, senior U.S. offi-

cial confirmed that they had taken up the matter with China during the talks.

China, which views Taiwan as a rebel province, is vehemently opposed to continued U.S. arms sales to the cash-rich island while the U.S. justifies the sales citing the Taiwan Relations Act which requires Washington to aid the island in meeting its self-defence needs.

Beijing's repeated plea not to include Taiwan under the proposed Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system in East Asia has not been accepted by Washington.

The issue will be high on the agenda during U.S. defence secretary William Cohen's talks with the Chinese leadership here starting on Wednesday.

Washington insists that TMD is required to protect U.S. troops and

Allies in Asia from missile attacks from countries like North Korea. But China fears that the TMD system will be used by the U.S. and its allies to protect Taiwan and thwart the island's early reunification with the mainland.

Though China raised these issues during last week's non-proliferation talks, U.S. chief arms control negotiator John Holum refused to rule out selling TMD-related equipment to Taiwan, reportedly resulting in a deadlock over alleged Chinese assistance to Pakistan's missile programme.

Holum, senior advisor on arms control and international security affairs to Mr Clinton, told journalists here that the two sides had agreed to hold expert-level discussions in the near future on the issue.

Mr Holum, however, was quick to dismiss any U.S. plans to slap sanctions on China. "The objective of our policy and of sanctions legislation is solutions and that's what we are interested in working on," Mr Holum said.

However, Mr Holum said, both sides agreed that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction was not beneficial to the strategic interests of both China and the U.S. (PTI)

10-20 4/6

China rising

8/10/99

THE U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, has finally had his way. After days of uncertainty, the U.S. House of Representatives voted convincingly for Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status for the People's Republic of China. The historic vote does away with the annual circus of Beijing bashing at the time of the Most Favoured Nation Status renewal.

The fact that Mr. Clinton and his administration walked away comfortably from Capitol Hill in the first round does not mean that China is off the hook completely. For that matter, all the Democrats who voted for the Bill may have to pay a price if their constituencies have the requisite amount of labour and environmental votes.

And for his part, even if the support may have been somewhat muted, the Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore, may no longer be the darling of the labour unions. The fact that Mr. Gore wanted it both ways was not missed at all, not just by the Republicans.

But for the GOP's presidential candidate, Mr. George W. Bush, there was no doubt from the beginning — he was for the positive vote in the House and for China in the WTO.

In the very short term, the Clinton administration may have a problem in the sense that a few Senators may try and block the vote in the Senate where it is scheduled for this month.

For example, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Jesse Helms, has vowed to give a good fight. Mr. Helms and other hardcore conservatives are not only appalled always at China's human rights behaviour but also about where Beijing stands on such issues as nuclear and missile proliferation and its perceived belligerence towards Taiwan.

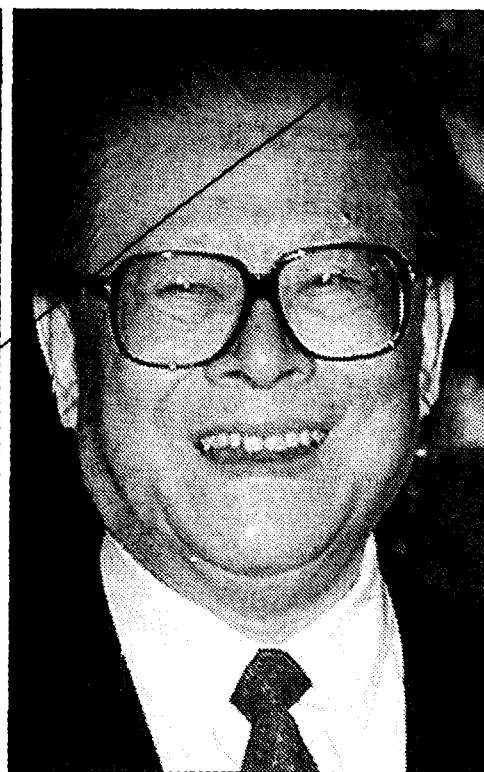
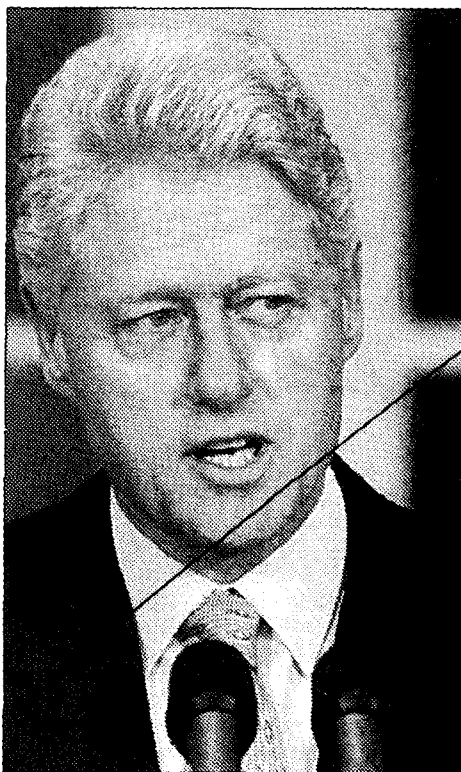
The general expectation is that the PNTR vote in the Senate will go off positively, for, the free-trade Republicans outnumber both the hardcore conservatives and the Democrats. The problem with the PNTR was that Mr. Clinton and his administration faced pressure not from the Republicans but from fellow Democrats. Two out of three Democrats in the House voted against the move that, among other things, approved the accord that facilitates China's entry into the WTO.

The really bizarre part of the pre-vote lobbying in the House was that Clinton-bashers in the GOP such as Mr. Tom DeLay were actively sought after and enlisted to make sure that the legislation passed. Even in an election year, the President did not hide the fact that he was totally dependent on the GOP on this particular China vote; and at the same time he really did not wish to push fellow Democrats to the wall by openly piling pressure to vote for the measure.

Mr. Clinton did what he does under such circumstances — a general talk on the virtues of getting China into the WTO and, when push comes to shove, burning telephone lines.

The bottomline in the China vote was

The China vote in the U.S. House of Representatives revealed two things: the distance travelled by the Clinton Presidency on China and the fact that Beijing will continue to evoke strong responses on Capitol Hill. SRIDHAR KRISHNASWAMI reports.



The U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin... overcoming hurdles.

the constituency factor — few members of Congress looked at this issue from a purely "what is good for the U.S." point of view. If they had, the vote would have been overwhelmingly for getting the PNTR for China and also it into the WTO.

But, pressured by Labour on the one hand and by human rights and environmentalist groups on the other, lawmakers found it very difficult to come out with a clear "yes" vote, even if they knew well in advance that the U.S. alone was not going to be able to prevent China's entry into the WTO.

Labour will try to make one last-ditch effort at the time of the vote in the Senate, but this will be not enough to prevent the Bill's passage. Big business, along with the administration, has been making the point that the WTO accord signed with China gives a lot of access to American companies in a range of areas that would include telecommunications and transport.

Labour's argument that China would flood the U.S. with "cheap" goods and therefore endanger the American worker has not stood up. And those hammering away at the human rights track record of Beijing have been told that a Commission will be there to look into this and other aspects on an annual basis.

The China vote in the House and the

lobbying of the administration revealed at least two things: the distance travelled by the Clinton Presidency on China; and the fact that China will continue to evoke strong responses on Capitol Hill.

For a person who started his Presidential campaign in 1992 on a strident anti-China note, Mr. Clinton has travelled to the other extreme, to the point that there is now the temptation to find excuses for the leadership in Beijing, of course conveniently couched in such "grand" concepts as strategic engagement, and long-term interests of the U.S.

On the other hand, administrations in Washington D.C. will not be able to get away with "anything" on China — at least Capitol Hill has said on several occasions that a lot of noise will be generated. The leadership in Beijing may rant and rave at some of the posturings of Capitol Hill, but the bottomline is that this is neither going to stop, nor are the lawmakers going to lose sleep over China's reaction.

With the Presidential and Congressional elections some five months away, perhaps it would do good for the leadership in Beijing to get used to "more of the same" from Washington politicians. Japan-bashing is no longer the favourite sport in town — the China-bashers have taken over.

China trade bill may have to wait

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

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NEW YORK, JUNE 14. At a time when the Clinton administration is hoping for a quick vote in the Senate on the Permanent Normal Trade Relations for China, it is getting the word that the Majority Leader, Mr. Trent Lott, is not in any great hurry to schedule a vote. Given the stakes in an election year, the administration and the White House came away with a big win in the House of Representatives last month and the Bill has little to no problems in the Senate. Mr. Lott's position, at least on the face of it, has little to do with politics or any intention to deny the President a triumph on a key foreign policy issue. His stance is that rushing to a vote will bring forth a number of attachments and amendments that could dilute the Bill, if not render it counter-productive.

The apprehension in some quarters is that the hardline Conservatives keen to leave their anti-China imprint on the measure — that among other things approves the deal to bring China into the World Trade Organisation — will offer amendments that would force the Bill into a conference session with the House and another round of voting in the House. It is believed that at least 63 Senators are for the PNTR, enough to over-ride any filibuster attempts.

Mr. Lott, for instance, is keen on addressing some of the concerns posed by his Republican colleagues before taking up the PNTR for a final vote. Mr. Fred Thompson, Senator, has called for legislation that deals with Beijing's weapons proliferation — a topic

that will surely have other Conservatives signing on to this. And there are other traditionalist Republicans who are keen on taking Beijing to task on human rights and belligerence towards Taiwan.

The administration and the White House used all their energies last month to get the measure passed in the House in spite of difficult obstacles placed by the Democrats who were obviously worried about the labour vote. In the Senate, there is a very broad bi-partisan support for the PNTR and a vote had originally been scheduled for this month. But for the solid support of the Republicans, the PNTR would have been defeated as two out of three Democrats voted against the Bill.

The major problem in the Senate passage is in the language as also in the kind of amendments that are going to come along with the Bill. The administration and the pro-PNTR forces know all too well that if the language differs between the House and the Senate it is back to square one; and a fresh vote is all the more troublesome as it would be even closer to election time and political campaigning.

The business community in the U.S. has been pushing for the PNTR and is obviously urging the Senate to get on with the voting. The organised labour has come to accept the ground realities; but at the same time is not expected to turn its back against the Democrats in the Fall election. In the vote in the House that was quite reflective of the constituencies' interest, individual members kept their vote banks in mind.

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15 JUN 200

Albright visit to boost ties

BEIJING, JUNE 19. The U.S. Secretary of State, Ms. Madeleine Albright, will visit China on June 22 and 23 for talks on Sino-U.S. relations and issues of common interest, the Foreign Ministry announced here today.

"Albright will be visiting China at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Mr. Tang Jiaxuan," said the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bangzao.

During the visit, "The two sides will exchange views on Sino-U.S. relations and some international issues," Mr. Zhu was quoted by the official Xinhua news agency as saying.

This would be the highest-level U.S. delegation to visit Beijing since NATO aircraft bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in May 1999, which plunged Sino-U.S. relations to a deep chill.

Last week, China indicated that it was willing to resume dialogue on arms control and nuclear non-proliferation, which was suspended in the aftermath of the embassy bombing incident.— PTI

20 JUN 2000

Albright urges China to reopen talks with Taiwan

BEIJING: U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright is urging Chinese leaders to reopen talks with Taiwan and to curb exports of missile technology. Albright also hopes to learn more about North Korea's overtures to South Korea and its mysterious leader Kim Jung Il.

However, her visit was overshadowed by Chinese criticism of a low-key meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, at the White House on Tuesday afternoon. The White House said in a statement that Clinton "welcomed The Dalai Lama's commitment to nonviolence and declared his strong support for the spiritual leader's steadfast efforts to initiate a dialogue with the Chinese government".

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said Beijing protested the meeting and accused Washington of meddling in Chinese internal affairs, according to the Xinhua news agency.

Albright's hastily arranged visit is a chance to accelerate a lowering of tensions in the region, but top aides stressed the Clinton administration would not relent in its exploration of a shield against North Korean missile attack. Even though the U.S. is set to announce negotiations to stop the development and export of North Korean missile technology, the program has progressed to the point it poses a threat, the officials said. If talks succeed, shipments to Iran, Pakistan and possibly other nations would end. Similarly, Albright is pressing for curbs on Chinese exports, a long-sought U.S. plea.

The negotiations, due to be announced shortly, follow a decision by North Korea to extend a moratorium on missile flight tests. Also due soon, is the announcement of a visit by a high-level North Korean official to Washington, as well as talks to reaffirm North Korea's pledge to halt a nuclear weapons program. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

23 JUN 2000

Albright begins China visit

■ Beijing voices displeasure over Dalai Lama-Clinton meeting

AGENCIES

BEIJING, JUNE 22

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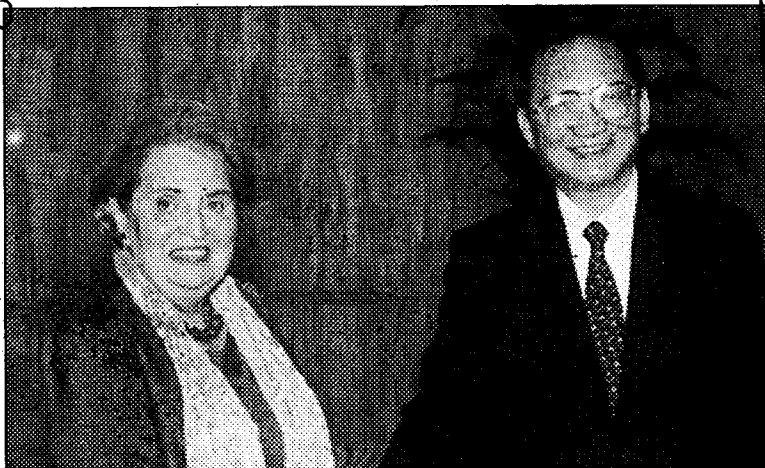
US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright began on Thursday what were likely to be tough talks with Chinese leaders over US defence plans for Asia at a time of regional euphoria over an easing of Korean tensions.

Albright is the most senior US official to visit China since US warplanes on a NATO mission destroyed China's embassy in Belgrade in May last year, plunging relations into crisis. Her trip sets the seal on a restoration of ties.

However, her visit is overshadowed by Chinese criticism of a low-key meeting between US President Bill Clinton and the Tibetan spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, at the White House on Tuesday afternoon.

The White House said in a statement that Clinton "welcomed the Dalai Lama's commitment to non-violence and declared his strong support for the Dalai Lama's steadfast efforts to initiate a dialogue with the Chinese government". Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said Beijing protested the meeting, also attended by US National Security advisor Sandy Berger, and accused Washington of meddling in Chinese internal affairs, according to the Xinhua news agency.

The implications of a successful first-ever summit between the two Koreas will be a focus of Albright's meetings



US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright with Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan in Beijing on Thursday —AFP

with President Jiang Zemin, Premier Zhu Rongji, Vice Premier Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

But Albright was also expected to press her hosts to respond to peace overtures by Taiwan's new President, Chen Shui-bian.

US officials said they were braced for Beijing to argue that the prospect of detente on the Korean peninsula meant US plans for a National Missile Defence (NMD) should be scrapped.

"We fully expect the Chinese to draw the line and say: 'Well, if peace is breaking out on the Korean peninsula, what about NMD? You don't still need that now, do you?'" said a senior State Department official. The North Korean

missile threat is a justification for the Alaska-based NMD, and plans on the drawing board for a parallel Theatre Missile Defence for Asia to be developed jointly by the United States and Japan.

Beijing's greatest fear is that the anti-missile shield will be used to shelter Taiwan and thwart its efforts to persuade the island, which it regards as a renegade province, to reunify with the mainland.

Albright's trip comes just days after North Korean "Great Leader" Kim Jong-Il met South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung for the first summit between the Koreas, still technically at war since their 1950-53 war ended only in a truce.

INDIAN EXPRESS

23 JUN 2000

Albright's Taiwan balm on China

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, June 23. — US secretary of state, Mrs Madeleine Albright, concluded her whirlwind tour of China today after assuring Beijing that the USA does not support Taiwan's independence.



Mrs Albright

"The US government does not support Taiwan's independence, one China, one Taiwan and Taiwan's membership in international organisations is open only to sovereign states," state-run Chinese media quoted Mrs Albright as telling the Chinese President, Mr Jiang

Zemin, during a late-night meeting yesterday.

"The US understands the importance and sensitiveness of the Taiwan issue," she said.

Mrs Albright said the USA remains committed to a "One-China" policy, the peaceful resolution of differences between China and Taiwan, and resumption of cross-strait dialogue.

The recent election of the President of Taiwan may provide new opportunities for dialogue, but it is up to China and Taiwan to choose the level and channel for talks, she said.

Mrs Albright said she urged China to be flexible and hold talks with Taiwan's new administration.

THE STATESMAN

24 JUN 2000

LEADING, JUNE 25

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright concluded her whirlwind tour of China on Friday after assuring Beijing that the US does not support Taiwan's independence.

"The US government does not support Taiwan's independence, one China, one Taiwan and Taiwan's membership in international organisations is open only to sovereign states," the state-run Chinese media quoted Albright as telling Chinese President Jiang Zemin during a late-night meeting on Thursday. "The US understands the importance and sensitivity of the Taiwan issue," she said.

Albright said the US remains committed to a "one China" policy, the peaceful resolution of differences between China and Taiwan, and resumption of cross-strait dialogue.

The recent election of the president of Taiwan may provide new opportunities for dialogue, but it is up to China and Taiwan to choose the level and channel for talks, she said.

At the same time, Albright said she urged Chinese leaders to be flexible and hold talks with Taiwan's new administration. But, China is

BRITISH Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon is scheduled to visit China next week as part of Britain's policy of engaging the Communist nation in an array of bilateral, regional and global security issues. Hoon will arrive in Beijing next Monday, where he will meet his Chinese counterpart, General Chi Haotian, the official Xinhua News Agency reported on Friday.

insisting that Chen acknowledge the principle of one-China before the two sides could agree on dialogue or a summit meeting.

Albright, who concluded her fifth visit to China on Friday, left here for Seoul around noon after meeting with Jiang, premier Zhu Rongji, vice-premier Qian Qichen and Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan.

The Chinese media also quoted Albright as saying that the "US government attaches great importance to Sino-US ties". Albright noted that China has made progress on issues such as non-proliferation, the environment, the rule of law, and counter-terrorism, but said that the US agenda is also concerned with "areas where we

HIGH LIGHTS AND NEWS

Describing Taiwan the most important matter in Sino-US relations, Jiang, also General Secretary of the ruling Communist Party of China, urged Washington to take actions to support the one-China policy and observe relevant commitments regarding Taiwan, which Beijing views as a rebel province that must be reunified at an early date.

"The leaders of China and the United States should, proceeding from the historical heights, face the future and push forward the continued development of bilateral relations," he said.

"This year is of major significance for both countries and maintenance of the trend of improving and developing Sino-US relations is conducive to the long-term interests of both countries," Xinhua News Agency quoted Jiang as telling Albright, the senior-most US official to visit Beijing after US war planes bombed the Chinese embassy in Belgrade in May last year.

The Chinese President also said that he is looking forward to his meeting with his US counterpart, Bill Clinton, during the coming United Nations millennium summit in New York in September.

ASSOCIATED PRESS LONDON, JUNE 23

THE Dutch driver of the truck in which 58 Chinese illegal immigrants died in an airtight compartment was charged on today with manslaughter, police said. Perry Wacker, 32, from the Dutch city of Rotterdam, was also charged with smuggling two survivors of the disaster into Britain, and attempting to smuggle in the dead victims, Kent County police said. Wacker was the first of five people being interrogated by British and Dutch police to be charged.

He has been held since the 58 victims, along with two survivors, were discovered late Sunday at the English channel Port of Dover. The illegal immigrants, all in their 20s, had been stowed with a cargo of tomatoes in an airtight container during a five-hour crossing from the Belgian Port of Zeebrugge. Kent County police are also holding two London-based Chinese suspected of involvement in a smuggling gang. In the Netherlands, police have arrested the 24-year-old owner of the trucking company, and a 55-year-old man. British newspapers quoted Dutch media reports saying that the 55-year-old, who was not identified, was Wacker's father.

Earlier, China charged that Western countries encouraged racketeers by granting political asylum.

Chinese spy fever strikes again in U.S.

WASHINGTON: Chinese spy fever has struck again in Washington with the revelation that the Chinese news agency Xinhua bought an office building within sight of the Pentagon without the U.S. government approval.

The State Department said on Thursday that it had told the Chinese embassy it must now seek approval, as required by a law covering all diplomatic purchases of real estate of the U.S., even though the sale has already gone through. One member of the Congress, Republican Dana Rohrabacher of California, said he was worried that Xinhua, which has close connections with the Chinese government, had bought a building so close to the heart of the U.S. military establishment.

"I'm very concerned to hear that what well could be an arm of Communist Chinese intelligence is now overlooking the Pentagon and has a bird's eye view electronically of everything we're doing," he said after a congressional hearing. "This is something I will look into and others in the government should look into," he added. A U.S. intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said he couldn't rule out the possibility that China used some Xinhua people for gathering intelligence. Over the past few years, Washington has had a series of flaps over alleged espionage by China or over Chinese government influence in business and politics.

But Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said a rejection of the sale would not be automatic. The Pentagon would evaluate the "pros

and cons" of having the agency in the neighbourhood and make a recommendation to the State Department. "We are mature enough to realise, and realistic enough to realise, that this building is subject to surveillance from a number of different directions and has been for more than 50 years and we obviously have a number of countermeasures we have installed over time to defeat or foil surveillance," Mr Bacon said.

The State Department and the Chinese embassy gave very different accounts of how Xinhua came to buy the building and what the U.S. law really requires. State Department spokesman Philip Reeker said: "The Xinhua news agency should have requested prior authorisation from the Department of State to purchase an apartment building. We have informed them that they must make such a request, and the State Department will have 60 days in which to authorise or deny such a request when it's made."

But an embassy spokesman said Xinhua was a private company "duly registered" in Virginia, where the Pentagon is, and did not require the approval of the State Department to buy property. Besides, he added, Xinhua did write to the State Department in late May to say it planned to go ahead with the purchase unless it heard objections by June 15. "They received nothing in return. So they decided to go ahead. It was only after this story hit the press that the State Department began to ask questions," he added. (Reuters)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

7 JUN 2000

From us
RD 12

Clinton hopeful of China Bill passage

25/6

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 24. The U. S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, has said that he expects the China vote in the Senate on the granting of Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) after the July 4 recess which means that the Chamber could vote on the Bill anytime after July 10. Mr. Clinton, who said that he hoped to get the Bill out of the way before July 4, maintained that he became very concerned when word came out that the delay in the Senate may run into September.

The President's confidence on the Senate vote stems from a White House meeting with a group of Senators from both the Republican and Democratic parties. And the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Trent Lott, has announced that he will get the PNTR out of the way by the end of July even as he gave no firm dates. Mr. Lott hastened to add, "It may not be as easily done as said".

After a comfortable win in the House of Representatives, the outcome in the Senate is relatively easy in that it is expected to pass by at least 70 votes, or enough to override any filibuster attempt. But hardline Conservatives have promised to give the Bill a fight in the Senate floor and the question to what extent the latest furore over Los Alamos is going to add to the troubles of the administration.

The problem is not Los Alamos as much as it has to do with proposals being planned by senior Republicans to have attachments to the Bill. The trouble here is that if the Senate comes up with something different from what has been passed by the House, it heads to a Conference Committee and a fresh vote, which is back to square one in the House of Representatives.

The proposals planned in the Senate in-

clude one by Mr. Fred Thompson who has called for some very severe penalties against companies and groups in China that violate non-proliferation treaties or export control laws of the United States. Mr. Lott is the co-sponsor of this anti-proliferation proposal; and the White House has started negotiations in the hope of thrashing out differences.

The China PNTR is a centre piece of the Clinton administration's foreign policy and will be one of the last "achievements" of the President when he lays down office by the beginning of next year. China has agreed that in return for the PNTR it would open up several markets including telecommunications to American corporations. When the Senate finally passes the PNTR, it would bring to an end the annual ritual of renewing the Most Favoured Nation status, an exercise that is more of a political circus in this city giving a field day to the anti-China bashers on Capitol Hill.

The recent security breach at Los Alamos may figure in the Senate debate but is unlikely to be the major rallying point for the anti-China law makers. The inquiry by the Federal Bureau of Investigation has not yet opened up an espionage front and it is maintained that the hard disks did not leave the lab premises.

In spite of all the grilling on Capitol Hill, the Energy Secretary, Mr. Bill Richardson, continues to enjoy the support of the Mr. Clinton. "I do have confidence in him", remarked the President. But the security breach at Los Alamos appears to have finished off Mr. Richardson's shot as the Vice-Presidential candidate on the Democratic ticket. The stinging attacks on him by Republican and Democratic lawmakers has more or less closed this chapter for now.

25 JUN 2000

US bans use of 'spy tower' by China

Washington, June 28

HT-29
29/6

THE UNITED States has banned China's Xinhua news agency from moving employees into a building it bought near the Pentagon, a purchase a furious congressman dubbed as a bid to erect a "spy-tower".

Xinhua has been put on notice not to move into the apartment block during a 60-day review of the purchase, state department spokesman Philip Reeker said.

Officials here say that Xinhua infringed rules under the foreign

missions act, which requires China to give a notice of its intention to buy real estate.

Reeker said the department on Monday received a copy of a letter from the Chinese embassy, dated May 22, which said Xinhua planned to buy the building.

The state department insists that no such letter was received in May, even though China is adamant one was sent by the embassy.

"The state department now has 60 days from the date of receipt of the letter, in this case June 26, in which to review a request for pur-

chase," said Reeker.

The Pentagon said it would make a recommendation to the State department on the matter during the 60 days.

US lawmakers meanwhile launched a new attack on Xinhua, accusing it of erecting a "spy-tower" overlooking Pentagon. The new accusations came after the House of Representatives on Monday made a bid to block the sale by voting to prevent the state department using any money to approve the move.

"The name of the complex,

Pentagon Ridge Apartments, vividly describes its strategic location," said Republican Congressman David Vitter in a statement.

The block could become a "spy tower, ideally suited to capturing our military secrets," he added, claiming that Chinese spies could move in and swipe data from Pentagon computers by decoding electronic impulses. Chinese eavesdroppers would also be able to use laser microphones to listen to conversations in the complex, he claimed. (AFP)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 JUN 2000

U.S., China await Chen speech

By F.J. Khergamvala *HD*

TOKYO, MAY 19. The Taiwan President-elect, Mr. Chen Shui-bian's inauguration speech is perhaps the most awaited event that regional analysts and governments have been speculating on, so far as its mainland China content is concerned.

W/S
Other than the people of Taiwan and of China, Mr. Chen's target audience includes the U.S. and the island's east Asian neighbours. What he says and how Beijing reacts is almost certain to have a bearing on next week's vote in the U.S. Congress regarding the Bill to grant China permanent normal trade relations (PNTR). Mr. Chen, who won the direct elections in March with a fairly narrow margin takes office on Saturday amid expectations that he will set the tone for the island's new policy on ties with the mainland. The party he leads, the Democratic Progressive People's party (DPP), was founded on a platform of promoting independence and

sovereignty for Taiwan. That, and Mr. Chen's apparently conciliatory expressions, are what makes the inaugural speech on Saturday a more eagerly anticipated event than a routine address by another Taiwanese leader.

In the absence of a clear defined majority for his party within the national legislature, Mr. Chen might not be able to offer any bold initiatives. He will seek to please every quarter and the most predictable position he could take, without enraging China or draw more fire at home, is to assure no change in the Constitution, no referendum on independence, no Statehood, even if he avoids mention of the key question. The key question is how Mr. Chen will address the one-China issue. Beijing has put considerable pressure on Mr. Chen, through the U.S., to make that leap of faith in accepting that Taiwan's status be negotiated with the pre-condition that there is one-China and that Taiwan is part of it. Mr. Chen, also willing to use

U.S. intermediaries, has been unwilling to go that far, stating that the meaning of "one-China" should be discussed between the mainland and Taiwan.

Mr. Chen has recently indicated that China will like what it hears. The mainland, in turn, has hinted that within the bounds of concession of a "one-China" principle, Taiwan's future could have many shades of freedom and flexibility. Analysts have discounted opinions voiced by some in the mainland that one-China does not necessarily mean the People's Republic of China. One of the most significant statements made by Mr. Chen is to put aside the extremely provocative statement made by the outgoing President, Mr. Lee Teng-hui last year that China-Taiwan, or cross-Strait relations should be on a "State-to-State" basis. Many Taiwanese already feel they are part of a separate nation but it is doubtful that they wish to have their current de facto Statehood flaunted in a manner so directly provocative.

THE HINDU

20 MAY 2000

20 MA 2000

HD-16

U.S. House set to vote on China Bill 2375

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 22. With barely two days to go for the critical vote in the House of Representatives on China's Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status, the Clinton administration and the labour are still counting the votes, each side acknowledging that neither has the 218 votes to pass or kill the Bill. With the efforts in the final stages, the administration and the organised labour are leaving no stone unturned to have their ways.

The President, Mr. Bill Clinton, gave up the idea to make a televised address to the nation on Sunday fearing that this would further jeopardise Democrats to come out and openly support him. Instead, the President chose to speak to either "converted" Democrats on the subject or the already free traders from among them arguing that giving the PNTR to Beijing was the economic, national security and moral imperative.

Mr. Clinton, who knows that he cannot pin the blame on the Republicans if the House rejects the PNTR, argued that bringing China in to the fold would unleash forces that would

bring an end to the one-party system in China. "By letting our high tech companies in to bring the Internet and the information revolution to China, we will be unleashing forces that no totalitarian operation can control", Mr. Clinton told Democrats at Hyde Park in New York.

For Mr. Clinton, the China vote is perhaps one of the last major foreign policy challenges of his eight-year Presidency. Coming to power on an anti-China platform that accused his predecessor of coddling up to dictators, Mr. Clinton, in a span of seven years, soon moved to the other extreme, at times even giving the impression of desperately taking Beijing's explanations at face value when most had brushed them off as dubious.

Two out of three Democrats in the House oppose the PNTR and the administration and the White House are literally scrambling for the votes and have gone to the extent of enlisting help and support from some of the bitter critics of the President in the Grand Old Party. The White House, which initially was under the impression that it could gather 218 votes to pass the measure, now finds that not many from

within the Democratic Party have not turned away from their original positions. And that makes it harder for the Republicans and the Free Traders who, backed by businesses, are pushing for the PNTR.

The biggest bug bear for the administration and the Democrats is their traditional ally — organised labour which has promised to spend every dollar it can muster to defeat the measure. And in an election year, labour does indeed have the will and the political muscle. This is one reason why the Vice-President, Mr. Albert Gore, is hesitantly supporting the entry of China into the World Trade Organisation.

The likely Republican nominee for the presidential election, Mr. George W. Bush, is backing the China vote. But not too long ago the House Minority Leader, Mr. Richard Gephardt, came out against the PNTR move but the saving grace was that he promised not to campaign for his line of thinking. Not more than 70 to 75 Democrats in the House are expected to support the Bill. If the measure passes the House this week, it heads to the Senate next month where the vote is much easier.

THE HINDU

23 MAY 2000

China trade Bill picks up momentum in US

Washington, May 24 (AP): Supporters of a measure to normalise US trade relations with China appeared to have nailed down a victory today for one of President Bill Clinton's top remaining foreign policy goals.

Republicans said they had obtained at least 150 votes for the pact, the goal they had set for themselves, according to party sources. And Democratic opponents of the measure conceded privately that they expected to lose at least 69 members of their rank and file. If those totals hold, that would assure passage in the 435-member House.

Even as he closed in on victory, Clinton was leaving nothing to chance, clearing his schedule to make a flurry of last-minute calls to wavering lawmakers, presidential spokesman Joe Lockhart said.

The House began debate on a critical test vote to set the terms of debate for the legislation that

would grant China permanent normal trade relations, ending 20 years of annual congressional reviews.

"I think we're going to make this PNTR (permanent normal trade relations) vote for China," a confident President Bill Clinton said late last night about one of his top legislative priorities for his final year.

Rep. David Dreier of California, who is chairman of the House Rules Committee, said negotiators had cleared away the last hurdles to a floor vote today with the inclusion of language sought by Rep. Christopher Cox, a California Republican, to specifically list human rights protections that a watchdog commission would examine each year.

"We are going to win tomorrow. I am convinced we are on track for victory," Dreier said.

The bill would extend permanent normal trade relations to

China, guaranteeing China the same low-tariff access to US markets that nearly every other country in the world has.

For the past 20 years, China has received this benefit, but only after an annual congressional vote, which gave opponents a platform to attack China's record on a host of issues from human rights to religious freedom.

In return for US support for China's bid to join the WTO, China has offered to lower high trade barriers American manufacturers and farmers have complained are costing them billions of dollars in lost sales annually.

American corporations have spent millions of dollars lobbying on behalf of the China trade Bill but they faced determined opposition from organised labour, which believes normalising trade relations will result in the movement of more high-paying US manufacturing jobs to China.

THE TELEGRAPH

25 MAY 2000

US House passes China trade Bill

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, May 25. — US lawmakers have approved a landmark trade Bill to grant Permanent Normal Trade Relation status to China, giving President Clinton a major foreign policy victory in his final year in office and ending a longstanding source of friction between the two countries.

China described the vote in the House of Representatives yesterday as "wise" but said an article in the Trade Bill that dealt with setting up a panel to review Beijing's human rights was unacceptable to it.

Some articles in the Bill, approved by 237 votes to 197 in the 435-member chamber, attempt to use human rights to interfere in Beijing's internal affairs and to damage its interests which are not acceptable to the Chinese government, said a spokesman for China's ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation in Beijing.

This was the first Chinese reaction to the passage of the bitterly contested Bill yesterday.

Mr Clinton, who championed the Bill as the top priority in his final year in office, described the occasion as a "historic" step towards continued prosperity in America, reform in China and peace in the world.

He had forged a strange alliance, to defeat the powerful organised labour lobby which opposed the PNTR because of Beijing's poor rights record. Some 73 Democrats joined 164 Republicans in approving the measure. A bulk of the Democratic lawmakers, however, opposed the measure.

The Bill, ending the 20-year-old annual ritual of reviewing China's trade status, now moves to the Senate where passage is virtually assured by mid-June despite opposition from Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman, Mr Jesse Helms, one of Mr Clinton's harshest critics.

"If the Senate votes, as the House has just done, to extend PNTR with China, it will open new doors for American trade and new hope for change in China," Mr Clinton added.

He said the measure would open China's vast marketplace, potentially the world's largest with 1.3 billion consumers, and increase stability in the region.

Business groups, which did a hectic lobbying for the bill, said it would benefit the US economy and create high-paying jobs. The Farm Bureau predicted it could double agricultural exports to China.

The Bill would permanently guarantee Chinese goods the same low tariff access to US markets as products from other nations. China would, in turn, open a wide range of markets, from agriculture to telecommunications, to US businesses under the landmark trade pact signed in November 1999, ushering Beijing into the WTO.

THE STATESMAN

25 MAY 2000

US opposes Israeli move to provide China with AWACs

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
DUBAI, APRIL 4

THE US has opposed the Israeli move to provide China with a sophisticated early warning aircraft, AWACs, saying the deal could alter the strategic balance in Asian region.

"United States does not support the sale of this kind of technology to China because of the potential of changing the strategic balance in that region," visiting US Defence Secretary William Cohen told a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday after his meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak.

The issue would be discussed again in the future, Cohen said, according to *Ha'aretz* newspaper.

"We are aware of American sensitivity on relations with China. We are also aware of our commitments to contracts which we sign. Similarly we believe in the need to coordinate and be in close touch with the United States on all matters which may threaten US interests ... traditionally our closest ally," Barak told reporters after meeting Cohen.

The deal signed with China in 1997 includes an option for building three additional aircraft.

INDIAN EXPRESS

5 APR 2000

China committed to WTO pact: Daley

Paul Eckert
BEIJING 7 APRIL

US COMMERCE secretary William Daley said on Friday the sweeping market-opening pledges China made to join the WTO would foster changes that would eventually answer the concerns of opponents of the trade deal.

Daley, on the first of two visits to the Communist state this month to campaign for key US trade legislation supporting Beijing's entry to the World Trade Organisation, touted China's commitment to broad change under the pact.

"The commitments made under the WTO agreement are rather substantial," Daley told reporters after discussions with foreign trade minister Shi Guangsheng.

"We strongly believe that continuing opening and change will help not only the economic rela-

tionship, but the other relationships and political issues like human rights that are important to us," he said.

China's accession to the WTO will require dramatic legal

reforms and diminish government control over the economy — developments that would over time buttress civil and political liberties, proponents of the trade deal say. Daley, who met China's

top leaders this week and held trade consultations with Shi, was set to return to Beijing next week with at least 15 U.S. lawmakers who are undecided ahead of a House of Representatives vote on China's trade status.

The vote on Permanent Normal Trade Relations (PNTR) status, scheduled for the week of May 22-26, is expected to be close, with Democrats siding with labour unions that oppose the bill based on Beijing's record on human rights and labour rights.

Human rights, "is an issue that I'm sure members of Congress will raise when they are here and will raise in the debate," Daley said.

He said he would take the congressional delegation to meet Chinese business leaders, especially those involved in the internet and other new economy undertakings.



DALEY GRIND: US commerce secretary William Daley talks to Chinese premier Zhu Rongji in Beijing on Thursday

AFP

— Reuters

The Economic Time

8 APR 2001

Concern over China's missile bases along border

N.C. Menon

Washington, April 7

HF-29 871 2

CHINA'S INCREASED military presence in Tibet and on India's northern border is part of an attempt to encircle its democratic neighbour, according to Congressman Benjamin Gilman, New York Republican and chairman of the House International Relations Committee. Gilman also expressed concern over India being surrounded by a "hostile coalition of forces directed and armed by China."

Gilman made the charge yesterday in a prepared statement at the opening of a hearing of his committee called to discuss the status of negotiations between China and Tibet.

"Now that Beijing shares a long border with

India, it attempts to keep India off balance by transferring nuclear weapons to Pakistan," Gilman declared. While Pakistan causes problems on India's western border, Gilman said, "China has been currying favour with the Burmese military government on India's eastern border by selling them nearly \$2 billion of arms." At the southern tip of India, he added, "China overwhelmingly remains Sri Lanka's main supplier of arms."

Quoting author Eric Margolis' recently published book "War at The Top of The World," Gilman noted that India's chief worry "is the steady increase of Chinese military power on the Tibetan plateau, which confronts India with the spectre of simultaneously facing serious

strategic threats on its western, northern and eastern borders."

Of all China's military emplacements on the Tibetan plateau, Gilman said, the most alarming to India was an extensive series of missile bases and nuclear installations. "At least 26 medium-range ballistic missiles are based in Tibet, as well as a sizable number of shorter-range tactical missiles, all carrying nuclear warheads", he said. "India's heartland and many of its major cities are now in range of Chinese missiles."

"China's dangerous expansion in Tibet and meddling in South Asia has brought the region to the brink of a nuclear catastrophe," Gilman said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

908 APR 200

16 APR 200

Embassy bombing: China for fresh probe

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
BEIJING, MAY 8

CHINA today marked the first anniversary of NATO's bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade by demanding the United States carry out a new investigation into the attack. Foreign Ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said the Chinese Government and people could "never accept any act that encroaches upon China's sovereignty," the official Xinhua news agency reported.

The spokesman urged the "US side to conduct a comprehensive and thorough investigation into the bombing and give the Chinese Government and people a satisfactory explanation." The bombing was a "serious international unlawful act which gravely infringed upon China's sov-

eighty, greatly hurt the feelings of the Chinese people and severely undermined Sino-US relations," said Sun. The United States has always insisted the bombing was a mistake caused by targeting errors and faulty maps, but China has repeatedly rejected US explanations and demanded those responsible be punished.

The bombing at the height of NATO's air war on Yugoslavia during the Kosovo conflict sparked four days of anti-US protests across China during which US diplomatic missions were pelted with stones and daubed with graffiti.

The US State Department warned Americans in China around the time of the first anniversary to "be alert" and keep a low profile. However the Chinese state-controlled press and senior

leaders have remained remarkably silent on the issue throughout the run-up to the anniversary, despite whipping up a wave of nationalistic fervor in the immediate aftermath of the bombing last year. There were no signs of increased tension or extra security in the streets around the US embassy compound in Beijing today, as tourists jammed the popular street market in the adjacent roads which specialises in selling fake Western designer clothes and trinkets.

While China has firmly rejected the findings of the US Central Intelligence Agency's extensive report into the bombing—in which three Chinese journalists were killed and 20 other people injured—the two sides have moved to put the incident behind them. In a compensation deal

reached in December the United States agreed to pay \$ 28 million for damage to the embassy on top of the \$ 4.5 million allotted to the victims' families.

China in turn agreed to pay the United States \$ 2.87 million for damage caused by Chinese rioters to US diplomatic missions in China. Analysts have pointed out the anniversary comes just weeks before US lawmakers are due to vote on whether to give China Permanent Normal Trading Relations (PNTR), saying Beijing was very keen not to antagonise the United States at this time. PNTR would give China the preferential trade conditions enjoyed by nearly all of Washington's trading partners without the annual debate on the issue, which is currently used to vilify China's human rights record.

INDIAN EXPRESS

9 APR 2001

China refuses to provide any assurances on N-transfer

WASHINGTON: China has refused to provide assurances against transfer of nuclear technology to third countries as required under the 1995 Clinton-Jiang agreement for the sale of American nuclear reactors to China, forcing U.S. to withhold 16 licences sought by China, media reports said.

The Chinese attitude has raised questions whether it is abiding by its assurances to the U.S. against transfer of nuclear weapons' technology to Pakistan and nuclear reactor technology to Iran which may be used by it later for manufacture of nuclear weapons, *The Washington Times* newspaper said on Tuesday.

China has opposed the U.S. request for certification against transfer of U.S. nuclear power technology, saying it has already developed indigenous technology for nuclear reactors. "If we develop nuclear power facilities and want to export to third countries, it will be hard to

determine if the technology is indigenously developed or from the U.S. and that is the reason we don't want to give the assurance." Zhang Yuanyuan, press spokesman for the Chinese embassy in Washington, told the newspaper.

The certification that China was not proliferating nuclear arms was required under the 1985 agreement. Mr Clinton made the certification in early 1998. According to an April 4 U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) memorandum, which reviews the U.S. energy department's export-licence applications from U.S. companies to sell nuclear reactor technology to China have been stalled since 1998 over the issue. A Central Intelligence Agency report made public earlier has also identified China as a major supplier of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and missiles around the world. The report said that China's promise to the U.S. to

limit nuclear cooperation with Iran "appears to be holding" but another Chinese pledge to halt exchanges with Pakistan was not.

The main benefit of the nuclear cooperation agreement with China was its promise to limit nuclear cooperation with Iran and the commercial aspects of the agreement have been limited, a White House national security advisor has said, adding Beijing has not placed any orders and is reviewing its plans. "As for the required assurances, the U.S. would not sell nuclear power technology to China until we get assurances," he said, adding "if they want to buy U.S. stuff, they have to agree to that provision." Meanwhile, Prof Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin University project on nuclear arms control, has urged the U.S. to hold firm on its refusal to export nuclear reactors and nuclear reactor technology to China unless it carries out its assurances. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 APR 2000

Bombing of Belgrade Embassy
**Beijing not satisfied
with Washington's
explanation**

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, April 13. — China today termed as “unacceptable” and “not tenable” the explanation given by the USA regarding bombing of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade during US air strikes on Yugoslavia and asked Washington to provide a satisfactory explanation.

“The accountability review results provided by the USA concerning the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are not tenable and the Chinese side found them unacceptable,” the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman said here.

“The US government should have a clear understanding of China’s solemn stand and position on the issue, and conduct a comprehensive and thorough probe” he said referring to the latest US explanations.

He also rejected the administrative punishment given to eight CIA officials for targeting the Chinese Embassy.

The US must bring the perpetrators to justice and give the Chinese government and people a satisfactory explanation, and remove the serious negative impact of the issue on Sino-US relations, he said.

He said the bombing of the Chinese Embassy was “an extremely serious international unlawful act which infringed gravely on China’s sovereignty, greatly hurt the dignity of the Chinese people and severely damaged Sino-US relations”.

The US repeated its version of investigation results it provided to the Chinese side in last June, admitting only that the US side used an inappropriate methodology to locate the target and that the review process at every level failed to find the mistake, the spokesman said.

The explanation that the entire review process went wrong in the same link because of the negligence of a number of people is obviously not tenable, and hence unacceptable by the Chinese side, he said.

THE STATESMAN

14 APR 2000

U.S. move against China fails at U.N.

GENEVA, APRIL 18. China today scored a victory when the main U.N. Human Rights Forum voted not to act on a U.S. resolution denouncing China's record.

The Nepalese Chairman of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, holding its annual session in Geneva, announced after the public vote: "The no-action motion has been adopted with a roll-call vote of 22 in favour, 18 against with 12 abstentions." Romania's delegation was absent during the vote by the 53-member State forum.

Earlier, as voting began on a host of resolutions, activists gathered outside calling for a 'free Tibet' and urging the session to hold Beijing accountable for alleged human rights violations.

"This call for urgent action comes...as the Chinese Government's most ruthless suppression of dissent since the trials of the

1989 protesters continues," the New York-based Human Rights in China said in a statement.

The talks were also due to vote on resolutions on States ranging from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Cuba, Iran, Iraq, Myanmar, Sudan to former Yugoslavia.

But a resolution tabled by the European Union denouncing Russia for rights violations in Chechnya was put off until April 25 to allow for negotiations with Russian officials on the text. Another on abuses in East Timor was also delayed for a week. The U.S. resolution urges China to release political prisoners and permit all religious groups to worship.

China, which enjoys wide support among the developing countries, has escaped the U.N. scrutiny every year since protesters were killed in and around Beijing's Tiananmen Square in June 1989. — Reuters

THE HINDU

19 APR 2002

5/11/93

Gephardt to oppose Bill on trade status to China

HPD-16
2/1/4

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, APRIL 20. In what is a setback to the White House, the Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, Mr. Richard Gephardt, has formally come out saying that he will oppose permanent trade benefits to China. The Democrat, who has been one of the staunch supporters of the Labour, has been playing his cards close to the chest for quite some time now. The only comfort to the administration is that Mr. Gephardt has said that he will not ask other Democrats to follow his lead.

According to Mr. Gephardt, the reason why he has come out against granting a Normal Trade Relations Status to China was that he had tried to get the White House agree on a parallel legislation that would have given Congress the power to impose sanctions against Beijing if human rights conditions worsened as also in insisting that American companies had to agree to a "code of conduct" that would have protected the rights of Chinese workers and the environment.

"Granting PNTR (Permanent Normal Trade Relations) this year surrenders all leverage we hold in our trading relationship to the Chinese Government and renders the United States powerless to protect our values and interests", Mr. Gephardt said in a speech.

The House Minority Leader, who is keen on Democrats taking control of the House of Representatives, has argued that Congress should wait until China can live up to international norms. The House vote on the China Trade Bill is set for the week of May 22.

The Clinton administration has wasted no time in expressing its disappointment over the decision of Mr. Gephardt, who has broken ranks with the senior leaders of the party, including the President and the Senate Majority Leader. Interestingly, the Vice-President, Mr. Albert Gore, or his campaign staff have not commented on Mr. Gephardt's stance. Mr. Gore himself broke away from the administration by saying that he would have negotiated a "tougher" deal with China.

The White House knows all too well that even if the Minority Leader has told fellow Democrats that they need not toe his line, many in the party will use this as a political cover for their votes against the China Trade Bill. At the same time, for political reasons, the administration maintains that it has the votes to see through the Bill in the House. The Republican-controlled Senate is expected to pass the Permanent Trade Status Bill without much difficulty with the vote coming in the first week of June.

Mr. Gephardt is known for his close ties with the Labour and his opposition to the Normal Trade

Relations with China is consistent with his voting record. Organised Labour with support on Capitol Hill from Democrats and some Republicans have vowed to spend every dollar at their disposal to oppose the trade deal with China.

The opposition to this measure stems from a belief that China would first have to improve human rights and working conditions before it is given a berth at the World Trade Organisation.

The White House has said that the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, will call top business leaders over the telephone on Thursday in an effort to drum up support for his efforts on Capitol Hill. Separately, the White House is also putting a positive spin on Mr. Gephardt's decision, arguing that fellow Democrats had been freed of voting on strict party lines and instead go by local interests.

Mr. Clinton needs 218 votes in the House of 435 Members. The arithmetic of the China trade vote being what it is, anywhere between 70 to 80 Democrats are needed to join some 150 Republicans to get the measure passed. The pro-China trade legislators are confident that the measure will get through. But if sufficient number of Democrats in the House of Representatives are not willing to come forward to support the President, the White House will find it difficult to turn around and blame the Republicans.

THE HINDU

23 APR 2000

21 APR 2000

Experts divided over U.S. policy towards China ^{Gr 19}

WASHINGTON: Foreign policy experts in the U.S. are divided over Washington's policy towards China as President Bill Clinton's national security adviser Samuel Berger prepares to travel to Beijing later this month on a significant mission to arrest the slide in relations between the two countries.

The *Washington Post* on Sunday devoted a whole page for articles by experts, who give conflicting advice to the Mr Clinton administration on how to handle Beijing.

The advice ranges from appeasing China in various areas of Beijing's concern, including pressuring India on nuclear issues and making common cause with Beijing against Russia, to a warning against a meek surrender to China.

The "stand firm" advice comes from Constantine C. Menges, former president Reagan's special assistant for National Security Affairs and professor and director of the Programme on Transitions to Democracy at George Washington University. While the just opposite "accommodate Beijing" school of appeasing Beijing is represented by Bates Gill, a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the liberal Brookings Institution, and James Mulvenon, an associate political

scientist at Rand Corporation, which frequently tenders advice to the Pentagon as a consultant.

Mr Menges warns that if the U.S. acquiesces in Beijing's use of force to take over Taiwan and on other issues, it would be a grave "strategic error." Appeasement will also make Japan lose faith in the U.S. and Tokyo may then go nuclear. Appeasement would enable Beijing to control the Philippines, Japan, Vietnam and Indonesia, which Chinese strategists have declared is the "first island chain" of defence for the country against the U.S., he said. Mr Gill and Mulvenon, however, argue that the U.S. should give China "firm commitments" on issues it sees important: permanent normal trade relations with the U.S., membership in the WTO, ratification of CTBT, and "constraints" on nuclear weapons testing and development by India.

They say that as high-level talks between Washington and Beijing continue, "We should try to use them to convince Beijing that it shares our interest in reducing the threat of rogue ballistic missile attack. This is likely to be tricky, since China played a role in developing the strategic weapons programmes of North Korea and Pakistan." (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

- 7 MAR 2000

China warns USA against selling arms to Taiwan

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEIJING, March 9. — China called today for the immediate cancellation of US plans to sell air defence equipment to Taiwan, warning that such sales inflame already tense relations.

But at the same time, the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman also urged Congress to grant Beijing permanent low-tariff trade rights. Yesterday, the US President, Mr Bill Clinton, submitted legislation to Congress to establish permanent normal trade relations with China.

The spokesman, Mr Zhu Bangzao, said China has made "solemn representations" to Washington over the Pentagon's intention to sell 162 Hawk intercept guided missiles for \$ 106 million and items needed to reconfigure Taiwan's TPS-43F air surveillance radar. Mr Zhu expressed "deep concern" over the planned sale. Noting that it comes at a "crucial moment" in relations between China and the USA and China and Taiwan, he urged Washington to "fully recognise the seriousness of its arms sales to Taiwan and correct its error immediately and stop all weapons sales".

Recent Chinese threats of war against Taiwan ahead of the island's 18 March presidential election have heightened ten-

sions.

China also is angry at a US Congressional Bill that would strengthen relations between the USA and Taiwan militaries.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, but Beijing regards the island as part of its territory. Washington recognises China's claim to Taiwan, but also is obliged by US law to help the island defend itself.

"The US side keeps on violating its commitments by selling a large amount of sophisticated weapons to Taiwan persistently," Mr Zhu said, speaking at a twice-weekly briefing for reporters. "It constitutes a severe encroachment on China's sovereignty and flagrant interference in China's internal affairs, and fans the aggressive flames of Taiwan independence forces to split the motherland."

The Pentagon said the radar and missile sale will help modernise and upgrade Taiwanese air defences but would not affect the basic military balance in the Asia-Pacific region.

While warning against the sale, Mr Zhu called for Beijing to be granted normal trade rights without conditions.

The legislation Mr Clinton submitted to Congress would scrap a contentious annual review of low-tariff trading rights for China. A US promise of permanent trading privi-

leges was part of a market-opening deal struck last year to allow Beijing to join the WTO, the Geneva-based group that makes world trade rules.

He hinted that China might not implement last year's deal if the trading rights are not granted permanently. He also warned that US business interests would be harmed. Normal trading rights "should be passed completely and in a once and for all manner", he said. "If this issue cannot be steadily resolved it will be detrimental to the interests of US enterprises in China and also not conducive to the US competition with the other WTO members on the Chinese market." Mr Zhu said China hopes to discuss the trading rights with US Commerce Secretary, Mr William Daley, and Agriculture Secretary, Mr Dan Glickman when they visit.

China move: China plans to draft new laws and amend existing ones to ensure social stability and fight secessionism, chairman of the Standing Committee of Chinese parliament announced here today, adds PTI. The proposed amendments to laws on regional autonomy aim to promote economic and social development, strengthen national unity, continue the process for unification of the country and fight separatism, Mr Li Peng said.

THE STATESMAN
10 MAR 2000

Clinton pushes MFN for China

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 9. In what is generally seen as his last foreign policy battle with Congress before he steps down, the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, has sent to Capitol Hill his Permanent Most Favoured Nation Bill on China. "I again publicly urge Congress to approve it as soon as possible," the President remarked during the course of a lecture on the subject at Johns Hopkins University.

The administration calls it the Normal Trading Relations Bill, which means that Congress would have to agree to depart from its annual certification of China — something usually accompanied by a lot of acrimony and shouting matches on Capitol Hill every year. But in striking the "landmark" agreement with Beijing over the latter's entry into the World Trade Organisation, Washington had to get over this annual event of granting trade privileges to that East Asian country.

The administration has taken the issue very seriously and in the last several weeks, many Cabinet Members have made speeches pointing out the criticality of getting the vote in Congress. In fact, the President himself argued on Wednesday that a vote against the Bill would cost America jobs, and competitors in Europe and Asia would stand to benefit. And Mr. Clinton argued that the WTO accord will move China in the "right direction."

By way of a strategy to ensure that no bungling takes place legislatively, the administration is keen on having the Senate vote on the NTR Bill. The thinking is that a vote there in favour of the mea-

sure will give the necessary momentum in the House of Representatives, where the measure is in deep trouble — from Democrats, a majority of whom are opposed to the move. But some key Senators like the Majority Leader, Mr. Trent Lott, have made the point that the administration has not showed enough seriousness in getting the measure passed. The administration disagrees with this perception.

The White House and the administration are undoubtedly leaning on free-trade Republicans both in the Senate and the House to get this NTR Bill passed. The idea is that the vote in both houses on Capitol Hill could come by May or June, but some hectic work remains to be done. The problem for Mr. Clinton is that the vote and debate on granting a permanent Most Favoured Nation trading status to China comes at a time when elections are around the corner. And to make matters worse, China has been saying and doing all the wrong things as far as Taiwan is concerned.

Free-trade Republicans may be in favour of the NTR for China Bill, but that does not mean they are going to let this one pass without extracting something back in return. Hardline Republicans and some Democrats may insist that the administration approve a major arms package to Taiwan as the price of the WTO entry for China. Washington is quite wary of upsetting the parameters of the present relationship with China, but critics have charged this Clinton administration of going out of its way to humour the leadership in Beijing.

THE HINDU

10 MAR 2000

'Taiwan may affect Sino-US relations'

China has also made a formal diplomatic demarche on the issue, Tang Jiaxu, Chinese Foreign Minister said

AGENCIES

BEIJING, MARCH 10

CHINESE Foreign Minister

Tang Jiaxu said on Friday the United States was responsible for tensions between Beijing and Taiwan and Sino-US relations were at a "critical juncture".

"What the United States has done on the question of Taiwan has inflated the arrogance of the separatist forces in Taiwan. Therefore, the United States bears unshakable responsibility for the tension in the Taiwan strait," Tang said.

"Both Sino-US relations and

cross-strait relations are at a critical juncture," he said, citing US weapons sales as the key issue with Washington.

"The United States has increased its weapons sales to Taiwan both in quantitative and qualitative terms," he said, adding that China's ambassador to Washington had made a formal diplomatic demarche on the issue in the last 24 hours.

"What the US says and does on the question of Taiwan would have a direct bearing on the future direction of the Sino-US relationship," Tang said.

"It will also directly bear on peace and stability in the Taiwan strait and also in the Asia-Pacific region."

Tang also mentioned the Kosovo bombing and said China was still waiting for the United States to provide a plausible explanation for the NATO bomb attack on its embassy in Kosovo nearly one year ago.

The two sides last year reached agreement on US compensation to families of three Chinese journalists killed and diplomats wounded in the attack last, may. They also agreed on reparations for the bat-

tered Chinese embassy building.

Beijing agreed in separate talks to pay for damages done to US diplomatic buildings in China during four days of violent demonstrations by Chinese against the bomb attack.

"But these agreements do not mean all conditions that I raised in the first place had been fully met, and put behind us," Tang told a press briefing amid the annual meeting of China's legislature, the National People's Congress.

"I continue to insist that the United States has the obligation to inform the Chinese side of the true

outcome of the investigation and bring the perpetrators of the bombing to justice," Tang told the briefing. China has rejected previous US explanations that the bomb attack on its mission in Belgrade during NATO air strikes against Yugoslav forces was a "tragic mistake" based on outdated maps of the city.

Beijing responded at the time by breaking off high-level military contacts, trade talks and human rights dialogue with Washington. All but human rights talks have been resumed between the two sides despite the US failing to satisfy all of Beijing's demands.

US expert raises Taiwan takeover spectre

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, March 13. — USA's policy of "appeasing" Beijing by not giving Taiwan the arms it has requested will lead to a massive missile attack and takeover of that island by China by force, an expert in strategic affairs has said.

The Clinton administration and a bevy of China experts want to portray Beijing's recent threats against Taiwan as empty bluster. In fact, a major conflict is looming.

President Jiang Zemin has declared recently that he intends to make reunification of the motherland his legacy —

that means at the latest by 2007 — Robert Kagan, an expert on strategic affairs, was quoted by *Washington Post* as saying yesterday.

Kagan quoted experts as saying that a massive, coordinated air strike employing hundreds of short-range ballistic missiles could cripple

Taiwan's air defences and early warning system, destroy its command, control and communications centres and demolish the country's eight primary airfields, thereby neutralising the Taiwanese air force as well as its naval ports.

The strategic affairs expert said Beijing's own military ana-

lysts write that China could achieve air superiority over a paralysed Taiwan within 45 minutes, suffering few casualties. It could then force Taipei to sue for peace on Beijing's terms.

This strategic plan, Kagan said, explains China's massive build-up of short-range ballistic missiles across the strait from Taiwan. In 1996, China deployed only 40 of the M-9 missiles. By the end of last year, it had 200 and was increasing its stockpile at the rate of 50 missiles per year, Kagan said.

The Pentagon estimates that China could have 800 missiles by 2005, all aimed at Taiwan. And thanks to China's acquisi-

tion of US technology, both by theft and by purchase, from America's corporations, these missiles will be highly accurate, he said.

"Ask a Pentagon official how the USA will respond to a Chinese missile attack on Taiwan, and you get a blank stare," he said.

"The US military has no capability and no plans for defending Taiwan in such a scenario even though it is more likely than a full-scale invasion."

He urged the Clinton administration to convince Chinese leaders that Washington "will not just twiddle its thumbs when an attack begins".

TRADE UNION

USA The Sino-US dialogue

IT is not necessary to establish a link between the current Sino-US confrontation over Taiwan and the passage of the Normal Trade Relations Bill in Congress, except to recognise that they are part of the dynamics of the relationship. The trade Bill, expected to pave the way for China's membership to WTO, will be determined by commercial considerations and powerful lobbies, mostly favourably disposed towards China. On the other hand, US domestic opinion is disturbed by China's belligerence over Taiwan which also has powerful lobbies. However, that is not relevant to the NTR Bill. What it will do is to confer MFN status on China for good, thus, taking away from Congress the principal lever for influencing the administration's China policy. Although, it must be said that, MFN status has been invariably renewed every year. Finally, Clinton has received a series of foreign policy rebuffs in recent times, beginning with the non-ratification of the CTBT. The mood in Congress is not obliging, there is an on-going questioning of the Clinton administration's overall foreign policy objectives, some of which also concern China.

Over Taiwan, the Chinese have begun training their sights directly on the US, which it sees as the principal supporter of Taiwan's separate existence. In question are US arms sales to Taiwan which, according to the US are needed to upgrade the island's defence systems without altering the military balance. What this does is to alter Chinese perceptions of bilateral relations based on sensitive notions of sovereignty, global status, as concrete strategic and commercial interests. Zhu Rongji has made it clear that China would not implement its part of the WTO deal if the NTR Bill were to fall through. This is understandable, especially when special concessions have been made to improve trading status. On the other hand, it is a reflection of increased tension in the relationship resulting not only from what China sees as incipient anti-Chinese tendencies within the Washington establishment, but also from US backing for Taiwanese "splittism", as Beijing puts it.

THE STATESMAN

15 MAR 2000

US says China's Taiwan stance is 'constructive'

Beijing, March 22: The US ambassador to the United Nations said on Tuesday that China's position on Taiwan was "very constructive", but President Jiang Zemin later reiterated that talks with the island were only possible on Beijing's terms.

Mr Holbrooke met Mr Jiang and foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan on the heels of a stunning victory in Taiwan's presidential election by Mr Chen Shui-bian, whose party advocates Taiwan independence.

"The talks were excellent," Mr Holbrooke told reporters after a two-hour meeting with Mr Tang, in which Mr Holbrooke said they talked "about everything", including Taiwan and human rights issues.

"The Chinese position this morning was very constructive." The official Xinhua news agency quoted Mr Jiang as telling Mr Holbrooke Taiwan was the biggest obstacle to Sino-US relations, and Beijing would not talk with Mr Chen until he accepted the principle of one China.

"The one China principle pro-

vides the basis and prerequisite for resolving the Taiwan issue peacefully," Mr Jiang said.

"I have openly stated that leaders across the Taiwan Strait can hold talks. But the prerequisite for such talks is the one China principle." Mr Chen, while offering a "peace summit" on terms China has said it cannot accept, said he could not hold talks based on the principle, although it could be discussed.

Premier Zhu Rongji told visiting Congo President Denis Sassou Nguesso that Beijing would not talk with anyone or any party in Taiwan advocating independence, Xinhua reported.

"We will never hold any negotiations with any people or party that advocate Taiwan independence," it quoted Mr Zhu as saying. Mr Zhu appeared to be restating in stronger words what Mr Jiang told the Congolese leader on Monday — China would talk about anything if Taiwan's leader embraced the one China principle. During the election campaign, Mr Chen backed away from his party's independence platform. (Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

23 MAR 2000

Fast growing dangers in Sino-US ties

HOW straightforward it used to be. For 22 years the USA did not recognise communist China. Taiwan occupied the Chinese seat at the United Nations and that was that. Then from the right, quite unexpectedly, came Richard Nixon and turned everything on its head. China was not only recognised and Taiwan ejected from its seat, the American business and journalistic communities were encouraged to fall in love with all things Chinese. As the Russian journalist Vladimir Pozner bitingly wrote at the time, "The Americans found that the Chinese were courteous, industrious, family-orientated, modest to the point of being shy. They had the most wonderful and ancient cultural tradition; they were wizards at ping pong; they loved giant pandas. In less than a year public opinion completely turned around. Everyone loved the so-recently hated and feared China."

Thus it continued, more or less, until Tiananmen Square when America's great strategic friend and pro-capitalist reformer Deng Xiaoping sent in the tanks and murdered two thousand or more protesting students, armed with nothing more than their bicycles. The Bush administration, determined to keep the relationship on an even keel whatever the cost, dispatched with unseemly haste the president's National Security Advisor, Brent Scowcroft, to reassure Beijing of Washington's solid, enduring, relationship. But China had lost for all time what it could not win back — the fawning attention of the American press and the warm feelings of the American people. Now Bill Clinton, when campaigning to unseat Bush, charged that Bush was soft on China and promised, if elected, that the age of conciliation would be over. But once in office it did not take long for Clinton to fall into line with the Nixon legacy — even though the main geopolitical reason for it — to balance the Soviet Union — was no longer relevant.

Today, however, the line of continuity is beginning to waiver. Part is business as usual in the Nixonian tradition — as with Clinton's push for Congressional approval for China's admittance to the World Trade Organisation. But part is, if still unclear and uncertain, a sea-change in Washington's long-time forbearance of Beijing's decision making. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has in

effect admitted that engagement with China has not brought about the promised amelioration in human rights. The situation, says a recent State Department report, if anything has worsened, and now the USA is going to vote to condemn China at the current meeting of the UN Human Rights Commission. The indications are, however, that it will not push too hard to line up sufficient European and Third World allies to secure a victory with this vote, but nonetheless it marks the end of a simpler era.

Meanwhile, since 1995, the US Congress has been enlisted in Taiwan's drive, led by the outgoing president Lee Teng-hui, to overturn long-standing agreements between Beijing and Washington. China itself doesn't make the situation easier. Its increasingly bellicose line towards Taiwan, growing in volume since the day it won back Hong Kong; the continuation of its provocative policy of being the only country in the world whose nuclear missiles are aimed at the

USA; its sometimes aggressive attitude in the South China Sea; and the apparent disregard for majority world opinion on human rights, give Clinton and his successor less and less room for flexibility. The USA-China boat is now sailing through uncharted waters. While nothing is clear nothing is certain, but there is a risk of it disintegrating on the rocks ahead.

The election result in Taiwan both makes the situation more serious and more easy. It is more serious in that the Taiwanese have made clear their own mind. In electing Chen Shui-bian as Taiwan's next president they have elevated a man who says he wants to be a peacemaker and not a trouble maker. He has already promised not to declare independence unless China attacks and has made it clear he is less inflexible than his predecessor.

Beijing now has an interlocutor with whom they can do business. But the bullying has to stop. That will lead nowhere. For China the best that can be achieved is the status quo ante — that is before President Lee made his infamous remark about the relationship between the two being "state-to-state".

A period of benign neglect of the Taiwan-China issue would now serve all parties well. Beijing, for its part, besides lowering its voice, needs to tone down its sense of urgency about the need for

reunification, and realise there is no point in gaining Taiwan if it loses the world. Make no mistake, an invasion of Taiwan would be widely interpreted as Tiananmen Square on a larger scale. Washington's contribution must be to resist the pressure to increase its arms sales and realise that its selling policy in the 1990s helped ratchet up Chinese anger. It does not exactly help America's case that it clings like a limpet to its base in Cuba at Guantanamo Bay. In this exceedingly complex three way relationship, clarity of vision is everything. While it is impossible to wind back the clock to simpler days one thing needs to be kept very clear: conflict will solve nothing. A non-military solution is the only solution. All three leaders must ensure they issue no ultimatums, deadlines or conditions from which they could not subsequently retreat. Grace is everything in the great issues of realpolitik.

**WORLD
VIEW**
By JONATHAN POWER

China is upset over U.S. game plan in S. Asia

BELJING: US President Bill Clinton's outright condemnation of Pakistan's role in exporting terrorism and comments that the U.S. and India are natural allies have raised concerns here as to Washington's new game plan in South Asia, analysts said here.

While China is attempting to play down the achievements of Mr Clinton's visit to India, they are worried over an apparent strategic shift in US policy towards India at the cost of Pakistan, an analyst said. Beijing's concern at the growing Indo-US friendship was clearly expressed by the Chinese People's Liberation Army's (PLA) mouthpiece, the *Liberation Army Daily*, in an article which focused on the difficulties "facing Indo-US relations". The paper said that countries like China and Russia would be attentive to the impact arising out of efforts by the US to broaden its strategic influence in South Asia through Mr Clinton's visit.

While China refused to condemn the massacre of 35 Sikhs in Kashmir by militants, Mr Clinton had expressed outrage at the incident. Analysts say Beijing kept mum on the incident as it did not want to criticise its "all weather friend" (Pakistan) in public. As Mr Clinton left Mumbai, the last stop of his five-day visit to India, China's state-run Xinhua news agency commented that Mr Clinton had a lot to take home in terms of multi-billion dollar business deals and several bilateral pacts.

All these were overshadowed by his failure in persuading New Delhi to change stand on non-proliferation and Kashmir, the two issues the world had been closely watching what Mr Clinton could do about during the visit, the first by a US President in 22 years, it said, trying to play down the visit. The US President did make some adorable attempts in this regard, Xinhua said on Mr Clinton's appeal to India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA
27 MAR 2000

'U.S. efforts to attack China on rights will fail'

BEIJING: China on Tuesday said that the U.S.' attempts to attack it on its human rights record at the upcoming UN Human Rights Commission conference are doomed to fail, and accused Washington of adopting "double standards" on the issue.

"Such attempts have failed many times," foreign ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said, commenting on the anti-China motion the U.S. is expected to put forward at the rights commission conference in Geneva.

"Rather than attack China, the US should seriously review its own human rights record, which is really bad in some aspects," Sun said, listing the increase in shooting incidents and abuses of human rights of blacks.

The spokesman accused Washington of adopting "double standards" on the human rights issue.

He said the UN Human Rights Commission conference should be a forum for dialogue among countries on an equal footing, rather than a place for political confrontation or for some countries' domestic political struggle between parties.

Sun urged the U.S. to give up being confrontational and return to dialogue with China on the human rights issue, however, warning that if Washington intended to confront China on the issue, it was ready to accept the challenge. Sun claimed that the over 1.2 billion-strong Chinese population was currently enjoying the best period in terms of economic and social well-being.

At the UN rights commission last week, U.S. secretary of state Madeleine Albright expressed concern about widespread denial of political, cultural, labour and religious freedoms in China.

Acknowledging that China had made great progress in furthering the economic well-being of its people in recent years, she said that the human rights situation had not improved. "Its human rights record does not match the obligations it has accepted," she said. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

29 MAR 2000

China objects to U.S. charge on human rights issue ¹¹⁻¹⁶ ¹¹²

BEIJING: China has reacted sharply to the proposed U.S. move to introduce a human rights censure motion against Beijing at the UN Human Rights Commission (UNHRC), saying it would amount to meddling in its internal affairs and hamper bilateral dialogue on the issue.

Terming the allegations of human rights violations in China as groundless, Chinese vice-foreign minister Wang Guangya said, "No one should venture to be the teacher of others."

The U.S. state department has said that it would push ahead with the human rights censure motion at the 56th session of the UNHRC in March in Geneva in view of the deteriorating human rights situation in China. "The proposed motion amounts to meddling in China's internal affairs," Mr Wang, who is in charge of China's rights dialogue with the U.S., was quoted as saying by the official *China Daily* newspaper.

He said it would render a serious setback to the Sino-U.S. human rights dialogue. "A dialogue on human rights between China and the U.S. will not be possible if no concrete steps are taken by the U.S. to eliminate the adverse effects of the anti-China resolution." Claiming

that China now had the best human rights situation in its history, he said, "Accusing China of human rights violation is without justification and doomed to fail." He added that eight similar attempts by the U.S. could not muster enough votes in Geneva.

According to him, the U.S. move reflected that some people in America were clinging to the Cold War mentality and using human rights as an excuse to undermine China's political stability. Charging that the anti-China rights resolution was driven by partisan campaigns for the next U.S. presidential election, he said even the U.S. had serious rights abuses and cited the use of military by the U.S. to suppress the branch Davidian cult.

"If the U.S. government can use military force to suppress the branch Davidian cult, how does it have the qualification to make irresponsible comments on China's ban on Falun Gong cult by law," he asked. Dismissing the allegations on human rights violations in Tibet as groundless, he said people in Tibet were enjoying far more freedom now than at any time in their history. "Tibetans and members of other ethnic groups have the freedom to manage the affairs of the autonomous region," he pointed out. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

- 1 FEB 2000

U.S told not to trifle with China

BEIJING, FEB. 4. The mouthpiece of the People's Liberation Army, furious over the United States Congress passing legislation to boost military ties with Taiwan, today warned the U.S. not to mistake China for Yugoslavia.

"China is not Yugoslavia. And Taiwan is not Kosovo," the *Liberation Army Daily* said in a commentary, referring to the U.S.-led NATO bombing of Yugoslavia last year over atrocities against ethnic Albanians in the southern province of Kosovo. The House of Representatives voted 341-70 on Tuesday in favour of the Taiwan Security Enhancement Act, which would establish direct military communications between Washington and Taipei and expand U.S. training of Taiwan military officers.

This Wednesday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry summoned the U.S. Ambassador to China, Mr. Joseph Prueher, to protest the Act and demanded the U.S. curb the sale of advanced weapons to Taiwan. The newspaper commentary said China would make good its threat to invade if Taiwan, which Beijing considers a breakaway province, declared independence.

"The Chinese Government has never compromised in the least on this kind of major issue of principle," it said.

The U.S. President, Bill Clinton, anxious not to upset the delicate balance between China and Taiwan, has threatened to veto the Act if the Senate also votes in favour. Taiwan's nationalist rulers, who fled into exile after losing a civil war to the Communists on the mainland in 1949, have many friends in Congress.

The U.S. has long supplied an enormous cache of arms to the wealthy and democratic Taiwan.
— Reuters

THE HINDU
- 5 FEB 2000

Sino-US talks on strategic issues

Beijing, February 18

US DEPUTY Secretary of State Strobe Talbott today met a senior Chinese general as part of what he called "very intense" talks on key strategic issues, including the extremely sensitive topic of Taiwan.

Mr Talbott held a breakfast meeting with Lieutenant General Xiong Guangkai before heading to the Foreign Ministry for further talks designed to patch up China-US ties and clear the air ahead of a presidential election in Taiwan in March.

Xiong, 60, is Deputy Chief of Staff for the People's Liberation Army and among the leaders of the Chinese Communist Party's powerful foreign policy group.

Last month he went to the United States for the first high-level defence talks since US warplanes destroyed the Chinese

embassy in Belgrade and plunged relations into crisis.

"I can just tell you that the talks are going very well indeed," Mr Talbott said as he left the breakfast meeting.

"It was very intense yesterday," he said. "I'm looking forward to the rest of the day. Overall, I think we're very glad that we came."

Talbott, heading a team of top White House and military officials, was to meet Vice Premier Qian Qichen and General Zhang Wannian, a vice-chairman of the Communist Party's powerful Central Military Commission, before leaving China later in the day.

Chinese and US officials say the talks were covering global and regional strategic issues, but thorny bilateral issues which continue to hamper slowly improving ties appeared to be high on the agenda. (Reuters)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 FEB 2000

HPD-177

U.S. denounces China's white paper

29/2

WASHINGTON, FEB. 23. The U.S. has denounced a new Chinese white paper that threatens the use of force if Taipei repeatedly rebuffed peaceful reunification with the mainland and said Washington had "abiding interest" in a peaceful resolution between the two nations. "We reject the use of force or the threat of the use of force as a way of resolving the Taiwan question. We believe the issue must be resolved peacefully," the State Department spokesman, Mr. James Rubin, said.

Expressing "concern" over the white paper, he said the Chinese statement was unhelpful and counter-productive.

"This is a new formulation. We think it is counter-productive to the purpose of achieving a cross-strait dialogue that can resolve this issue peacefully. That is why we find it unhelpful."

Stating that America had taken up the Taiwan issue with the Chinese both in Beijing and in Washington, Mr. Rubin said "it is up to China and Taiwan to determine what is the basis for dialogue, but we certainly have an 'abiding interest' in the peaceful resolution of differences between China and Taiwan." He said that though the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Strobe Talbott, discussed the issue extensively with China during his recent visit to Beijing, the

American delegation was not told about the white paper.

On China's military movements before the Taiwanese presidential elections, Mr. Rubin said: "We have a long-standing policy in this regard. And that is based on the Taiwan Relations Act. The President and Congress will determine any appropriate action by the U.S. under the circumstances."

Spokesmen from the other two platforms — the White House and the Pentagon — had the same message. Mr. Joe Lockhart, presidential spokesman, said, "We believe that peaceful dialogue and bilateral engagement between the two sides is the way to move forward. We have repeated, I think, in both actions and words that we view any threat to Taiwan with grave concern."

The Pentagon spokesman, Mr. Ken Bacon, pointed out that China did not have the force to take over Taiwan. "Therefore, the Chinese threat amounted to just rhetoric." Mr. Rubin, switching over to Iranian polls, said: "Clearly, the elections in Iran are historic. The people there have demonstrated a powerful desire for change. They have called for freedom and the rule of law in their own country and openness and engagement with the rest of the world." — PTI

THE HINDU
24 FEB 2000

Stop meddling in our affairs, China tells U.S.

BEIJING, FEB. 26. China today refuted the U.S. accusation of worsening human rights record in the country and told Washington to stop meddling in its affairs. *27/2/00*

"China expresses its strong displeasure and firm opposition to the U.S. State Department report criticising human rights situation in the communist country," a Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bangzao was quoted as saying by the official Xinhua news agency here. Mr. Zhu said the U.S. ignored its own human rights abuses and "wantonly distorted the situation in other countries which is unreasonable and done out of ulterior motives."

The U.S. State Department annual human rights report, released yesterday in Washington, said China's human rights record worsened noticeably in 1999 as the Government launched a crackdown on the China Democracy party, the Falun Gong spiritual movement, the media and unregistered churches. *27/2/00*

On virtually every count, from crackdowns against organised dissent to conditions in prisons, the report on China was quite harsh. "The (Chinese) Government's poor human rights record deteriorated markedly throughout the year, as the Government intensified efforts to suppress dissent, particularly organised dissent," the report said.

After noting actions against Falun Gong, the spiritual movement whose top leaders were sentenced to long terms in prison in December, the report charged that China "continued to commit widespread and well-documented human rights abuses in violation of internationally accepted norms. These abuses stemmed from the authorities' extremely limited tolerance of public dissent aimed at the Government, fear of unrest, and the limited scope or inadequate implementation of laws protecting basic freedoms."

The report's release came as the Clinton administration's relationship with Beijing has faced renewed pressure. Beijing this week announced a more belligerent policy toward Taiwan, a development that made it harder for the administration to win Congressional approval of a permanent trading relationship with China. But some members of Congress suggest that the tough language in the rights report offers the administration some cover in that fight.

The tougher language and the detail of Friday's report on China were warmly received by human rights groups and members of Congress who have complained in the past that the State Department's annual report was not sufficiently critical of rights abuses in China. Human Rights Watch, a New York-based group, called the assessment "refreshingly candid about the dramatic deterioration" of human rights. — PTL, *New York Times*

THE HINDU
27 FEB 2000

China returns rights missile

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

BEIJING, Feb. 27. — China today launched a blistering counter-attack on the USA, detailing America's "poor human rights" record in 1999 and questioned Washington's right to judge others.

A 10,000-word article, *US human rights record in 1999*, released by the Chinese government, lashed out at the "double standards" adopted by the US state department in its report yesterday, alleging gross human rights violations in the Communist country in 1999.

It noted that the US State Department rights report dismissed China's "improving" human rights and vigorously attacked Beijing out of its "unflinching political bias".

The report also criticised almost every other country for alleged human rights abuses, but was silent about the United States, the five-part article said, adding: "It is therefore quite necessary to have a look at the US human rights record."

China yesterday expressed "strong displeasure and firm opposition", to the US report, which said Beijing's rights situation deteriorated markedly last year.

The Chinese foreign ministry rejected the charge. Its spokesman said: "The USA ignored its own human rights abuses and wantonly distorted" the situation in other countries. "This is unreasonable and done out of ulterior motives," Mr Zhu Bangzao said.

The article, quoting us government statistics, media reports and other documents paints a dismal picture of America. Racial discrimination is deeply-rooted in American culture, a fact that Americans do not willingly admit, it said.

It points out that in the USA, the safety of the general public and individuals is threatened by the presence of a huge number of private firearms and widespread violent crime.

Quoting latest estimates by the US Department of Justice, the article says that there are 235 million private guns owned by Americans — almost equal to the total US population.

The incomes of the richest families, making up one-fifth of the total American families, account for half of the total incomes of American families, while the earnings of the poorest, about one-fifth of the total, claimed a mere four per cent of the total.

THE STATESMAN
28 FEB 2000

China details U.S. 'poor rights record'

BEIJING, FEB. 27. China today launched a blistering counter attack on the U.S., detailing America's "poor human rights" record in 1999 and questioned Washington's right to judge others.

A 10,000-word article 'U.S. human rights record in 1999' released by the Chinese Government, lashed out at the "double standards" adopted by the U.S. State Department in its report yesterday, alleging gross human rights violations in the Communist country in 1999.

It noted that the U.S. State Department rights report dismissed China's 'improving' human rights and vigorously attacked Beijing out of its "unflinching political bias". The report also criticised almost every other country for alleged human rights abuses, but was silent about the U.S., the five-part article said, adding "it is therefore quite necessary to have a look at the U.S. human rights record."

"China yesterday expressed strong displeasure and firm opposition," to the U.S. report, which said Beijing's rights situation deteriorated markedly last year.

It listed such examples as suppression of dissent and control over unregistered churches, restriction of fundamental freedoms of some minorities including Tibetan Buddhists, and increased manipulation of the media and the Internet.

The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bangzao, rejected these charges, saying "the U.S. ignored its own human rights abuses and wantonly distorted" the situation in other countries.

"This is unreasonable and done out of ulterior motives," Mr. Zhu had said.

The article, quoting U.S. government statistics, media reports and other documents paints a dismal picture of America. Racial discrimination is deeply-rooted in American culture, a fact that Americans do not willingly admit, it said.

Police violence stemming from racial discrimination occurs all too frequently, and cases of racial killings are constantly on the rise, it says.

It points out that in the U.S., the safety of the general public and individuals is threatened by the presence of a huge number of private firearms and widespread violent crime.

Quoting latest estimates by the U.S. Department of Justice, the article says that there are 235 million private guns owned by Americans — almost equal to the total U.S. population.

The U.S., known as the "land of the free," ranks first in the world in its proportion of prisoners to the entire population, the article says. Quoting official figures, it said the number of American adults in prison, on probation and on parole, topped 5.92 million in 1998.

The incomes of the richest families, making up one-fifth of the total American families, account for half of the total incomes of American families, while the earnings of the poorest, about one-fifth of the total, claimed a mere four per cent of the total. —

PTI

THE HINDU
28 FEB 2000

29/2 U.S., China hold talks on Taiwan 49.17

BEIJING, FEB. 28. Top military officials of China and the U.S. today kicked off two days of talks on defence cooperation and the sensitive Taiwan issue to avert a showdown ahead of the March 18 polls in Taiwan.

The commander of the U.S. forces in the Pacific, Admiral Dennis Blair arrived last night to hold talks with senior Chinese military officials, an U.S. Embassy spokesman, Mr. Bill Palmer told PTI here. However, he did not reveal the names of the Chinese military leaders Adm. Blair would meet.

Diplomatic sources said Adm. Blair was expected to hold talks with the Deputy Chief of Staff of

the Chinese People's Liberation Army (PLA), Lt. Gen. Xiong Guangkai, who is also Beijing's leading policy-maker on Taipei. They noted that Beijing's ties with Washington and Taipei were facing turbulent times since China released a white paper on the Taiwan issue on February 21, warning Taipei of military action if the island indefinitely postponed negotiations on reunification.

Adm. Blair would urge Beijing not to heighten tension in the Taiwan Straits ahead of the Presidential polls in the province and avoid a repetition of a Sino-U.S. standoff during Taiwan's last Presidential election in 1996. — PTI

THE HINDU
29 FEB 2000

China, USA begin defence powwow

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

27/2 Sino-US 55-5

BEIJING, Feb. 28. — Top Chinese and US military officials today kicked off two days of talks on defence cooperation and the sensitive Taiwan issue to avert a showdown ahead of the 18 March polls in Taiwan.

Admiral Dennis Blair, commander of US forces in the Pacific, arrived last night to hold talks with senior Chinese military officials. Mr Bill Palmer, US embassy spokesman, said.

Mr Palmer, however, did not reveal the names of the Chinese military leaders whom the Admiral would meet.

Admiral Blair is expected to hold talks with Lt Gen Xiong Guangkai, the PLA deputy chief of staff and Beijing's leading policy-maker on Taipei, diplomatic sources said.

Beijing's ties with Washington and Taipei is facing turbulent times since China released a white paper on the Taiwan issue on 21 February, warning Taipei of military action if the island indefinitely postponed negotiations on reunification.

Admiral Blair will urge Beijing not to increase tension in the Taiwan straits before the presidential polls and avoid a repetition of a Sino-US stand-off during Taiwan's 1996 presidential election.

In 1996, USA had deployed two aircraft carrier groups in waters off Taiwan after China carried out massive war games and lobbed missiles into waters off the island.

China had earlier said only declaration of independence or foreign interference would prompt an attack on Taiwan.

THE STATESMAN
29 FEB 2000

China to resume military ties with U.S.

WASHINGTON, JAN. 6. China has agreed to resume high-level military contacts with the United States, which it angrily suspended after U.S. warplanes bombed the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade last May, U.S. Defence officials said on Wednesday.

The deputy chief of the People's Liberation Army's general staff, Lt. Gen. Xiong Guangkai, is scheduled to arrive in Washington on January 24 for two days of talks that senior Pentagon officials hope will revive regular contacts between the U.S. and Chinese militaries. The main goal of the talks will be to arrange a series of exchanges over the coming year, including visits to China first by the Commander of U.S. forces in the Pacific, Adm. Dennis Blair, and then by the Defence Secretary, Mr. William Cohen, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The goal this year is to have a "net increase" in military contacts. "I acknowledge the delicacy of the environment, politically, and to take careful steps given what has transpired," a senior Defence official said. Although U.S. officials insisted that the bombing of the Chinese Embassy during NATO's air war against Yugoslavia was an unfortunate accident, China rejected the explanation and suspended talks on trade, human rights and military issues. Three Chinese were killed and 27 injured in the bombing.

But the Chinese animosity began to ease after the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton's meeting with the Chinese

President, Mr. Jiang Zemin in New Zealand in September and the Clinton administration's agreement in November on terms for China's entrance to the World Trade Organisation. In December, the U.S. agreed to pay \$28 million in compensation for the damage to the Embassy in Belgrade, clearing a final hurdle to a resumption of military contacts. It had already agreed on compensation for the Chinese victims and their families.

The Pentagon has long pressed the People's Liberation Army to open itself to more high-level military contacts, including port visits, officer exchanges and even, someday, joint military exercises. Pentagon officials say that regular contact between the two militaries can ease tensions in the region by providing better insights into each side's strategic thinking and by building confidence and personal relations among officers that can be called on in the event of crises.

Mr. Cohen, who visited China in January 1998, had planned to travel there again last June only to have the trip cancelled. Officials had hoped Mr. Cohen could reschedule the trip as soon as this month, but they now expect a visit later this year. Even before the bombing of the Embassy, the Pentagon's efforts to forge a closer relationship with Chinese military leaders, like the one that has developed with Russian officers, had moved slowly, reflecting China's wariness over issues like the defence of Taiwan

and the proposed deployment of national and regional missile defense systems.

A significant resumption of military contacts could depend on domestic politics in both countries. In this year's Defence budget, Congress imposed a series of restrictions on Pentagon relations with China's military, in part because of allegations of Chinese espionage to obtain nuclear secrets. The restrictions prohibit any contact or exchange that would give Chinese officers "inappropriate exposure" to U.S. military expertise in everything from logistics to defence against chemical or biological attacks.

The officials said the new restrictions would not prohibit any of the contacts the Pentagon is now considering, such as a "table top," or simulated, military exercise involving a relief operation. In China, too, many senior civilian and military officials remain distrustful of U.S. military objectives in Asia. In recent months, Pentagon officials have sensed a hardening of views toward the U.S. in commentaries by Chinese military officials.

"One of the rationales for more discussions and more interactions between the U.S. and China is that at least the Chinese interlocutors can experience the U.S. in a slightly different way than they might pick up in some of their own propaganda," the senior Defence official said. — *New York Times*

THE HINDU
- 7 JAN 2000

U.S. asks China to resume talks with Dalai Lama

489-1
1371
WASHINGTON, JAN. 12. The U.S. has called upon China to resume dialogue with Tibetan spiritual leader, Dalai Lama, to preserve Tibet's unique cultural heritage following reports that Beijing had launched a crackdown on the Tsurphu Monastery in Lhasa which the 17th Karmapa fled.

"We call on China to enter into a dialogue with the Dalai Lama to preserve Tibet's unique religious, cultural and ethnic heritage," the State Department spokesman, Mr. James Rubin, told presspersons on Tuesday.

The U.S., he said, has been disturbed about the human rights situation in Tibet and restrictions on Tibetan Buddhism. The U.S. is also concerned about reports that the monastery in the Tibetan capital which the Lama fled has been raided and two monks arrested, he said. "We will be trying to confirm this report."

"We have seen reports," Mr. Rubin said, "that officials of the Tibetan Government-in-exile have requested the India to grant him asylum. We have no information about the status of any asy-

lum request." The Indian Government said on Tuesday that it had received no 'formal request' for asylum but that any decision would be viewed in the context of historically close ties with Tibet. An External Affairs Ministry official said he was "not aware" of any communication from Beijing on the issue.

In a veiled warning yesterday, China had said that asylum to the Karmapa would be inconsistent with the Panchsheel. — PTI

Tibetans await Indian move: Page 14

THE HINDU

13 JAN 2000

U.S. move angers China

BEIJING, JAN. 13. Highlighting fragile relations with Washington, China castigated the United States today over defence and human rights issues and urged the President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to stick to a deal on its entry to the WTO. X10-16

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Zhu Bangzao, also slammed a U.S. intelligence report saying pro-Chinese companies posed an indirect threat to the Panama Canal, and accused a U.S.-based Chinese researcher of violating Chinese law.

The barrage of criticism came despite a gradual improvement in Sino-U.S. relations which had soured after last year's bombing of China's embassy during a NATO attack on Belgrade and allegations of Chinese nuclear spying.

Top of the list of Chinese complaints today were a U.S. plan to construct an anti-missile defence system and Washington's proposal to table a resolution critical of Beijing at the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva in March.

China said the anti-missile defence system contravened the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty (ABM) treaty between the United States and the then Soviet Union, and would only exacerbate the proliferation of missiles. "The U.S. decision is contrary to the trend of the times and not conducive to international arms control and disarmament efforts," Mr. Zhu told a news conference.

"It will have a broad and profoundly negative effect on international and regional strategic balance and stability," he said. "China expresses its serious concern at this."

Mr. Zhu said U.S. criticism of China's human rights record was a gross interference into its internal affairs and demanded Washington rescind its decision to table the U.N. resolution in Geneva. — Reuters

THE HINDU
14 JAN 2000

China revives military ties with US

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25/1

Beijing, Jan. 22 (AP): A senior Chinese general left today for the US for the first formal contacts between the nations' militaries since Beijing broke off the exchanges after Nato bombed China's embassy in Yugoslavia eight months ago.

Lt Gen. Xiong Guangkai, deputy chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army, will hold three days of talks in Washington next week with US undersecretary of defence Walter Slocumbe and other Pentagon officials.

Their meetings are the first high-level contacts between the militaries in 13 months and should further dispel the lingering ill-will that has clouded Chinese-US relations since the May 7 bombing.

Military exchanges have been among the most complex and hard-won gains of relations. Cut off after the PLA quelled the Tiananmen Square democracy protests in 1989, relations hesitantly resumed in 1993 and slowly progressed to include base visits and discussions of disaster relief operations.

After US warplanes fired satel-

lite-guided missiles into the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade on May 7, China broke off the military contacts, as well as consultations on arms control and human rights, and effectively suspended negotiations on entry to the World Trade Organisation.

Although China has never accepted Washington's explanation that the attack was accidental, a WTO deal in November and an agreement last month on compensation for the bombing allowed Beijing to agree to restart military contacts.

But the bombing heightened the Chinese military's suspicions of US intentions, and despite resuming contacts, the PLA remains wary, especially on Taiwan. The military sees itself as the ultimate defender of China's claim to the island, a former US ally which Washington by law must aid in defending.

Xiong is one of China's most politically influential generals and is known for his hardline views on the US. A former head of military intelligence, Xiong sits on the ruling Communist Party's committee that sets policy toward Taiwan.

THE TELEGRAPH

23 JAN 2000

Military ties with China back on track: Cohen

WASHINGTON, JAN. 28. The United States and China have agreed to resume normal military ties, Defence Secretary Mr. William Cohen said, following two days of meetings at the Pentagon between U.S. and Chinese officials.

"I think we are on track to getting military-to-military relations back at a normal state of affairs," Mr. Cohen told mediapersons yesterday.

China broke off military relations with the United States last May after the mistaken U.S. bombing of its embassy in Yugoslavia. Relations are also strained over disagreements on Taiwan and U.S. missile defence projects.

Mr. Cohen said he had a very cordial meet-

ing on Wednesday with People's Liberation Army Lt. Gen. Xiong Guangkai, and that the Chinese officer extended an invitation for Cohen to go to Beijing. Aides believe Mr. Cohen might go to China around April. He last visited China in January, 1998.

Lt. Gen. Xiong headed a Chinese delegation that held about 12 hours of talks, starting on Tuesday morning and ending on Wednesday evening, with the U.S. delegation led by Mr. Walter Slocombe, the Undersecretary of Defence for Policy. Mr. Slocombe said that neither side had changed the other's views on topics of disagreement, such as Taiwan and the Pentagon's effort to build a nationwide

defence against long-range missiles.

"There were clear statements of strongly different views on a number of subjects," Mr. Slocombe said, adding that there also were areas of agreement, such as the need to prevent North Korea from building nuclear arms. He said Lt. Gen. Xiong raised the issue of the U.S. bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade, "but it was not a big issue."

A former head of military intelligence, Lt. Gen. Xiong is one of China's most politically influential generals, and is known for his hard-line views on the United States. He is a member of the ruling Communist Party's committee that makes policy on Taiwan. — AP

U.S., China gear up for row over 'e-espionage'

HD-12 2001
BEIJING, JAN. 29. China and the U.S. are squaring up for a trade row over new regulations that will oblige businesses in China to allow government agents to inspect and approve their electronic communications systems.

U.S. officials on Friday gave warning that the new powers would force Western high-technology firms to hand over valuable programming secrets to Chinese officials. Under vaguely worded regulations, which take effect on Monday, a new Chinese encryption agency backed by the secret police, will have the right to inspect any encoding software sold, used, or simply owned by foreign and domestic firms. Such encoding, or scrambling, software is used in everything from internet browsers to mobile telephones. Chinese customers may also be barred from buying products containing foreign-designed coding software.

Encoding programmes are some of the most valuable trade secrets of the e-commerce age. They allow sensitive data, from credit card numbers to customer orders and internal e-mails, to be transmitted securely. The U.S. Trade Representative, Ms. Charlene Barshevsy, has promised to raise the subject of the new regulations with Chinese officials at Davos, Switzerland. Mr. Christopher Cox, a fierce Republican critic of China in the U.S. Congress, said China's behaviour "flies in the face of their stated willingness to live by the norms of the WTO." — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2000.

THE HINDU

30 JAN 2000

No U.S. assurance to China on arms sales to Taiwan

BEIJING: China has failed to get the U.S. assurance on the sale of sophisticated arms and equipment to Taiwan even as China emphasised that Taiwan was the "core issue" in the Sino-U.S. relationship. During the just-concluded Washington visit of deputy chief of general staff of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) Xiong Guangkai, the U.S. clearly told Beijing that arms sales to Taiwan would continue despite its resentment.

"We made clear that we will continue our sale of defensive arms to Taiwan so as to provide, in the terms of the Taiwan Relations Act, a sufficient defence capability," U.S. under secretary of defence for policy Walter Slocombe told reporters in Washington.

Meanwhile, China's official Xinhua news agency noted that during the visit, General Xiong told the U.S. that the two countries should handle their relationship, particularly the issue of Taiwan, with wisdom and strategic vision.

China is concerned by the recent sales of weapons to Taiwan, the attempt by some Congressmen to put the so-called Taiwan security enhancement for approval in Congress and the attempt to bring Tai-

wan into the U.S. Theatre Missile Defence (TMD) system, the Chinese General was quoted as saying.

Xinhua noted that US defence secretary William Cohen reaffirmed the principle of 'One-China' policy. General Xiong also expressed China's dissatisfaction over the delay in providing a satisfactory explanation by the U.S. on the bombing issue and urged Washington to finish a thorough and comprehensive investigation at an earlier date and punish those responsible, Xinhua said.

Gen. Xiong also used the meetings to oppose US attempts to wield global hegemony. Despite the trend of multi-polarisation of the world order, hegemonism and power politics still existed and had resulted in "gunship diplomacy, economic colonialism and new interventionism."

Such policies had undermined the sovereignty and independence of many countries and jeopardised the world peace and security, he said adding that history had proved that the doctrine of providing security by military build-up and alliance can neither ensure security nor safeguard world peace, Xinhua quoted him as saying. (PTI)