

India, South Korea to strengthen political, economic partnership

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, JULY 31. As part of their effort to forge a new partnership, India and South Korea will deepen their consultations on regional security, U.N. reforms and other global issues.

In a conversation here with *The Hindu*, the visiting South Korean Foreign Minister, Mr. Lee Joung-binn, said the two nations were strengthening cooperation "for mutual reinforcement of peace and stability between our respective regions."

On the U.N. reform, South Korea is aware of India's interest in becoming a permanent member of the Security Council. Mr. Lee pointed out that there was no consensus yet on the reform proposals and that the two Governments would stay in touch on the subject.

Mr. Lee had an extensive session of talks today with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh. Mr. Lee, who had served as South Korean Ambassador here in the early 1990s, said he was happy to see the dramatic expansion of bilateral relations over the last decade.

South Korea has now become the fourth largest foreign investor in India, and its consumer brands have become popular household names in this country.

Reflecting on the early 1990s, when economic interaction be-



The South Korean Foreign Minister, Mr. Lee Joung-binn, being greeted by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, in New Delhi on Monday.

tween the two countries began their explosive growth, Mr. Lee said, "they were also the dawning years of the so-called 'new economy,' which would bring unprecedented opportunities for growth to countries with abundant intellectual and creative resources, such as India."

Mr. Lee disagreed with the proposition that political engagement between the two nations had not kept pace with growing commercial interaction. Insisting

that the "natural course of events is for the expansion of economic relations to be followed by political cooperation," he expressed confidence that Indo-South Korean political ties were deepening.

Referring to the new convergence of interests between New Delhi and Seoul, Mr. Lee said the two countries "share the ideals and values of democracy, with India being the world's largest democracy and Korea one of its new

champions." India and South Korea are now co-convenors of the "Community of Democracy Initiative," and Seoul will host the next meeting of the group in 2002. "India will be a close partner as Korea prepares for the meeting and plays its part to promote democracy around the world."

"India and South Korea are now fully conscious of the new security linkages between the sub-continent and the Korean peninsula. There have been disturbing reports, over the recent years, of nuclear and missile cooperation between Pakistan and North Korea.

Expressing concern over these media reports, Mr. Lee said, "such cooperation would have adverse implications for security on the Korean peninsula." He hoped that "Pakistan, as a friend of South Korea, will exercise utmost prudence in such matters."

Meanwhile, there has been a dramatic transformation of the prospects for peace in the divided Korean peninsula. The heads of State of North and South met last month for the first time since the peninsula was divided 55 years ago. The summit reflected the success of the "sunshine policy," initiated boldly by the South Korean President, Mr. Kim Dae-Jung, two-and-half years ago.

THE HINDU

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Japan looking for silver lining in the n-cloud

By P. S. Suryanarayana

TOKYO, AUG. 7 Japan is fast-forwarding its latest "initiative" for a "new era" of cooperation with India in the 21st century — it has started fine-tuning its diplomatic sound-bites to a new wavelength on issues such as nuclear non-proliferation and Kashmir, ahead of the prospective visit of the Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, to the subcontinent later this month.

Outlining the delicate nuances of these preparations, a high-ranking Japanese official said in a briefing here today that Mr. Mori, while not wishing to turn the entire spotlight on the nuclear arms question, would seek to convey his priorities concerning contentious political issues with much sensitivity.

Japan, given its post-Hiroshima pacifism as an article of diplomatic faith, is still cognisant of the "benchmarks" set out for India and Pakistan in the United Nations Security Council's resolution on their nuclear testing in 1998. However, Tokyo has now come to a firm conclusion on two counts in this sphere. One of these views should be acceptable to India and Pakistan, while the other argument is eminently reasonable as seen from the present perspective of official Tokyo.

"It is not realistic, at least in the short and medium term" to expect either India or Pakistan to accept the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) as "a final

law" on these matters, and to do so as "non-nuclear-weapon-States", the Japanese official noted. However, Tokyo is at present keen to look for a silver lining (from its standpoint, though).

According to the official, Tokyo is aware that New Delhi and Islamabad have, in the context of the Pokhran and Chagai detonations, "substantially expressed their intention not to (resort to) further testing". So, the new Japanese refrain is: 'If you don't go for further nuclear testing, why not sign the CTBT?' In Tokyo's thinking, the axiomatic logic of this equation should "not" prove to be a "very, very difficult" proposition for either India or Pakistan.

On sanctions, Kashmir

In seeing the nuclearised South Asia in this new diffused diplomatic light, Tokyo is not, however, willing to indicate with any finality whether it will ease or lift the economic sanctions which it imposed on New Delhi. The poser will be integral to any satisfactory discussion between Mr. Mori and the Indian leaders on the atomic arms issue.

On Kashmir, Mr. Mori is expected to convey to the Indian and Pakistani leaders the "hope" of the Group of Eight (the seven major industrialised countries and Russia) about a renewed dialogue between India and Pakistan, besides voicing the "concern" of the G-8 on the sustained tensions in the subcontinent.

Japan, it is said, has "never" offered to host any kind of international conference in Tokyo to bring India and Pakistan for talks on Kashmir.

Tracing the origin of certain misconceptions over this in the international media to a parliamentary statement made by the former Prime Minister, Keizo Obuchi, when he was still the Foreign Minister, the official quoted the late leader as having maintained that it would be very difficult for a third party to play a constructive role to resolve the very complicated Kashmir issue. All that Obuchi had, in effect, said in addition was that he would just study whether there could be a role, if any, for Japan in such a context, the official recounted.

The current indication is that two other mind-games can come to the fore during Mr. Mori's planned visit to South Asia.

A delicate question is whether Japan will support India for a permanent seat in the Security Council even as Mr. Mori seeks New Delhi's backing for a similar position. On a different front, Mr. Mori may need to keep Japan's ODA Charter in mind as he seeks to convey to Gen. Pervez Musharraf an "expectation" that Pakistan would address the problem of terrorism and move towards democratisation.

Tokyo, however, is not thinking of co-sponsoring a move by India at the U.N. ways to fight international terrorism, according to the Japanese official.

THE HINDU

8 AUG 2001

An India-Japan strategic partnership can provide equilibrium to the Asian power situation

Memento Mori

BY BRAHMA CHELLANEY

NO COUNTRY can build national security through defence preparedness alone. Diplomacy and strategy hold the key to the effective defence of national interests. If India were to focus just on building military counter-measures against the expanding threats from its regional adversaries, it will not only fail to safeguard its interests, it will also go bankrupt. Defence preparations, however robust, can never be adequate by themselves.

The non-military component of national security, if effectively utilised, can substantially reduce the military load of a country. Foreign policy involves much more than high-level visits and goodwill gestures. At its core is goal-oriented statecraft. No foreign policy can contribute to easing a nation's defence burden if it is not backed by a larger strategic vision, a clear strategy, political will and diplomatic skills.

India can be a major international player only if it first becomes a major player in Asia. Asia has more than half of the global population, the fastest-growing economies, the fastest-rising military expenditure, and the areas with the most serious potential for crisis flare-up. Asia now impacts on international relations the way Europe did in the 18th and 19th centuries. It is the task of Indian foreign policy to free the country from the confines of South Asia and make it a lead player in Asia.

To build that role, India has to do more than merely participate in the ASEAN Regional Forum, which is essentially a 'talk' not an 'action' group. It needs to, first and foremost, add strategic content to its relationships with Asian nations vital to its long-term interests. Without the bonding element from strategic substance, no bilateral relationship can really take off. The central problem with India's 'Look East' policy is that it has not been anchored in a tangible strategic plan. Some strategic filling is now being ad-libbed.

A web of strategic partnerships with crucial Asian states will foster not only mutual benefits, but also help India to increase its strategic space and ease the rigours of its adverse regional security environment. India's natural allies in the Asian region are (with the exception of Vietnam) all democracies — Japan, Russia, Mongolia, South Korea, Indonesia and Australia. A constellation of democracies linked by strategic cooperation can help build a stable Asia. Such a constellation will have to

include the United States, which heavily influences the Asian scene with its mesh of bilateral strategic alliances.

One bilateral relationship in Asia crying for strategic content is between India and Japan. Japan is the world's second biggest economic powerhouse, the third largest defence spender and a major maritime power. Strategic accommodation and partnership between Japan and India could profoundly impact on the Asian power balance.

These two intrinsically are natural allies: They have no clash of fundamental interests, only a commonality of interests. Both share core security concerns, whether over the growing power disequilibrium in Asia, or their heavy dependence on West Asian oil, or the safety of the sea-lanes. Few countries face such implacably hostile neighbours as India and Japan do. Not only do they have a treacherous neighbourhood, the two also are the targets of a common despotic rival that has used Pakistan against India and North Korea against Japan.

A key test of the present Indian diplomacy and strategy will be the ability to forge strategic partnerships in Asia that materially aid India's defence interests. Japan is the nub of that test. The early discussions on maritime and other cooperation that the Indian Defence and Foreign Ministers have had in Tokyo this year were a good start. The Indian military rescue of a hijacked Japanese merchant ship last year helped highlight possibilities of maritime cooperation.

India and Japan, however, have been slow to seize the opportunities for strategic cooperation. Such cooperation should figure prominently in the discussions when Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori soon arrives in New Delhi as part of his first overseas tour since his three-party coalition won a narrow victory in June elections. Mori's visit should say *sayonara* to the barren strategic

past and herald a new era of smooth and mutually profitable bilateral ties.

Mori, 62, is a heavy-weight in physical and political terms. A one-time rugby player, he mirrors the cautious, conservative thinking of the Japanese establishment, particularly its powerful ministry of international trade and industry (MITI) and ministry of foreign affairs (MoFA). His visit comes at a positive time: He has just emerged as a leader in his own right by winning national elections; the MITI minister and his senior foreign policy adviser, ex-Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, have been to India this year; and Tokyo has begun to rethink its future security.

The recession-stricken Japanese economy should rebound as a result of the ongoing financial-system reforms and the trillion-dollar stimulus packages. Japan has been going through a particularly bad patch: it has slumped in five years from the top to the seventh global position in per capita GDP, and its trade surplus last year contracted by 11.7 per cent to \$ 118 billion. It, however, remains the top aid provider to the world (and to India).

A political push is needed for Indo-Japanese ties to rise above the present bureaucratic mindsets and differences of little consequence in the larger scheme of things. It is true that Tokyo, enjoying nuclear-umbrella protection, responded harshly to India's 1998 nuclear tests: Not only did it suspend new ODA, it also acted negatively in the political arena, arguing that Kashmir was more than a bilateral dispute and supporting Pakistan's presence in forums where India was a participant, such as ARF. While the World Bank and ADB have eased their lending curbs, Tokyo maintains a hard-line position, linking full restoration of yen loans to India's CTBT signature.

However, it is also true that the MEA has not treated Japan with due importance and sensitivity.

Moreover, India's addiction to bilateral aid — something that China rightly views as demeaning — makes it difficult to pursue a relationship on an equal basis with any major aid donor. It is time India's Finance Ministry mandarins did a cost-benefit analysis of the current dependence on bilateral aid by a country that aspires to be a permanent Security Council member.

Neither India nor Japan can expect to balance the Asian power situation on its own. They both need strong, reliable partners. India is too diffident to be a major power player by itself. Japan's colonial history, its vulnerable geography and its unfavourable demography in terms of an aging population constrain its power potential. However, an economically resuscitated Japan, propelled by its high-tech civil and defence sectors, will certainly be an independent centre of power in Asia.

If an Indo-Japanese strategic partnership is developed to its full potential, it will constitute the most important stabilising force in Asia after the US-Japan alliance, the cornerstone of security in East Asia. This is a partnership that India should build even if it means holding back on its sense of pride and zealously courting Japan. Too often in the past, Indian policymakers have lost opportunities by allowing the larger picture and longer-term interests to be coloured by petty, bureaucratically driven issues.

India today is the only significant country without any real bilateral or multilateral alliance commitments either in the military or economic sphere. With India not even into conventional-arms exports, its taxpayers have to shoulder the full (and growing) defence burden. In the absence of strategic partnerships through which it could exact retaliatory costs from those jointly or singly undermining its security, India remains at the receiving end. This is a sad commentary on India's post-Cold War diplomacy and strategy. If this situation continues further, it will be only at India's peril.

The Mori visit provides India an opportunity to talk serious business with a key Asian player. An Indo-Japanese partnership could blossom if the Vajpayee Government invested even one-tenth of the effort it is currently putting into the building of another relationship pivotal to India's long-term interests — with the US. The road from New Delhi to Tokyo, contrary to the MEA's thinking, does not run through Washington.



Why Mori is wooing South Asia

By P. S. Suryanarayana

40-14
TOKYO, AUG. 13. The initiative by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, to seek a new diplomatic equation with India in particular, and South Asia in general, is guided by Tokyo's strategic-political calculations and economic compulsions, according to senior officials who are sorting out the issues here ahead of his subcontinental visit, scheduled to begin on August 19.

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The "strategic" complexion of the Mori initiative is primarily a conscious effort to safeguard sea routes for the passage of huge quantities of West Asian oil supplies bound for Japan. Peace and stability in the maritime zone of South Asia are necessarily an integral geopolitical aspect of this strategy, and this compels Japan to maintain good relations with India and Pakistan in a bid to keep them on talking terms with each other.

It is in this larger matrix that Japan is now updating its earlier stand on the twin issues of Kashmir and nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia. Tokyo now fully recognises the sensitivities of India and Pakistan, as also their own perceptions of national security requirements. Japan has, therefore, narrowed down its priorities to one of urging India and Pakistan to sustain their momentum towards signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in tune with their distinctive professions of favouring a moratorium on nuclear detonations.

This signifies a shift from the position that Japan took in 1998 that the two must accede "without condition" to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the CTBT. The suggestion regarding the NPT, made by the then Japanese Prime Minister,

Ryutaro Hashimoto, would have entailed a renunciation by India and Pakistan of their newly acquired status as "declared possessors of nuclear weapons" besides their acceptance of a document, whose discriminatory favours for the nuclear haves had long been denounced by New Delhi.

Even now, Japan's nuanced call for a forward movement by India and, therefore Pakistan too, towards the CTBT is fraught with the possibility of Mr. Mori being told of New Delhi's distaste for the diplomacy of non-proliferation "benchmarks" as fixed by nuclear haves. The task before Mr. Mori, therefore, is to ensure that Japan, despite its post-imperial pacifism, is taken seriously without being seen by India as a disarmament dream merchant whom it can do without in world of stability-related checks and balances.

On Kashmir, the question is whether the Mori administration is skating on thin ice by clarifying at this stage that Japan had "never" called for an international conference on the issue. The task before Mr. Mori is to convince India that Tokyo is not seeking an interventionist role of any kind. Japan's updated official view is that the issue should be resolved "bilaterally" with reference to the Lahore Declaration and the Shimla Accord.

The "political" dimension of Japan's latest move to woo South Asia is made up of a recognition that India is poised for a major role on the international stage. Pakistan and Bangladesh, besides Nepal, are seen by Tokyo as key regional players with bigger roles that might accrue to them in forums such as the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation or the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) as the case may be.

THE HINDU

14 AUG 2000

HD-14 Mori visit: just a symbolic exercise?

By F.J. Khergamvala 1578

TOKYO, AUG. 14. Barely five days before the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori's, visit to the sub continent, there is no indication that the visit will be any thing but symbolic.

The orchestrated hype being given in the Japanese media to some abstract concept of Government-level cooperation in Information Technology has reinforced the view that this is an issue to deflect attention from the very serious differences, especial-

ly on issues of vital national interest to India.

Mr. Mori's would be the first visit to India and the surrounding countries by a Japanese Prime Minister in ten years. The visit begins on August 19 and takes in a day each in Bangladesh, Pakistan, followed by the anchor visit to India for a little more than three days and ending with a day-trip to Nepal.

In a sense, it is good symbolism in that never before has a Japanese Prime Minister made the sub continent his first destination af-

ter being formally elected at the national elections. The routine priorities were the U.S., South Korea, the South East ASEAN partners and China. More often that not, before this circuit was done, the Prime Minister was changed.

The differences that mark Indo-Japanese relations merit a separate analysis. To deflect attention from these, especially on the nuclear and national security issues, Japanese spin doctors have successfully convinced a pliant and unquestioning local media that Mr. Mori was undertaking this mission as much in a bilateral context as the present leader of the G-8 industrialised democracies. With Japan's quest for a permanent seat at the U.N. Security Council not making much headway, Japan has placed much store by the G-8 and its membership in that group as it excluded China.

It is within the context of the conclusions of the recently held G-8 summit in Okinawa, that Japan is exploiting the IT issue to project the Mori visit as a follow-up mission by the leader of G-8. Japan had pledged \$ 15 billion to

assist developing nations in the IT field, but did not spell out how and what would flesh out this largesse. In fact, Japan, which is itself in its infancy in IT, should be a prime candidate in the implementation of the Okinawa IT-Charter which loftily aims to bridge the digital divide.

In the wake of Mr. Bill Clinton's visit to Hyderabad, Mr. Mori is scheduled to visit two software companies in Bangalore and has offered to accept more software engineers. The essential difference between the Clinton and Mori focus on the IT issue is that in 1998-99, the U.S. (and Canada) took in 61 per cent of Indian software, while Japan, four per cent.

Mr. Mori might be embarking on an ambitious exercise if he expected quality software engineers from India to inundate Japan. The huge language divide, an inbuilt resistance to accepting foreigners, the big cultural divide and the natural attraction of the U.S. for entrepreneurs in this knowledge-intensive field are great deterrents to Japan being a magnet.

15 AUG 2000

South Asia may focus on Mori's nuclear view

By P.S. Suryanarayana

TOKYO, AUG. 15. Japanese authorities are aware that South Asia will pay much, microscopic attention to what their Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, may choose to say on the nuclear "security" concerns of India and Pakistan during his visit there from Saturday this week. Given the proclivity of the political leaders and commentators in the Indian subcontinent for evaluating Tokyo's stand on this sensitive issue, the Japanese authorities have sought to turn the spotlight on the totality of Mr. Mori's prospective visit instead of allowing the nuclear question to define the new equation that he now wants to build with South Asia.

Japan and Australia almost led the powers without an atomic arsenal in voicing the most vehement criticism of India and Pakistan over their perceived nuclear adventurism in the late 1990s. Now, foreign diplomats in Tokyo, conversant with the changing Western attitudes towards India on the issue of atomic weapons, point out that major nuclear powers such as the U.S. have somewhat easily brought themselves to outlining a new *modus vivendi* in respect of their ties with a nuclearised India, and with Pakistan to a lesser extent, in the light of globalised strategic considerations. For Japan, in contrast, strategic calculations of the conventional kind, rooted in the matrix of balance-of-power considerations, can-

not obviously help redefine its ties with India, as long as the latter mulls over the pros and cons of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

In Japan's world view, traceable still in some ways to the MacArthur Constitution which Tokyo had come under in the wake of World War II, nuclear security is not a permissible doctrine of foreign policy for countries without such weapons at the time of the formulation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). One view in diplomatic circles is that Mr. Mori may find India in a tough mood if he were to imply that an act of testing nuclear weapons must be somehow punished, albeit in a purely diplomatic sense. Of relevance to Japan's dilemma of this magnitude is the manner in which Australia recently sought to downplay its differences with India on the nuclear question. The Australian Prime Minister, Mr. John Howard, took the stand that India's credentials as a steadfast democracy was a political aspect that "transcends" the bilateral differences on the nuclear question. In his view, Australia could, without really having to "retreat" from its earlier position, seek to "move on" with India on the overall bilateral front. The stated objective was to harness the commonality of an adherence to democratic values.

Whether the Australian thesis could now prove instructive to Tokyo, Japan's own status as a democracy may bring the issue of India's nuclear status into an altogether new light.

THE HINDU

16 AUG 200

Mori may announce more yen funds for India

By H.S. Balram

TOKYO: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori may stop short of announcing lifting of economic sanctions against India during his visit between August 21 and 25. Foreign ministry officials here say that the visit is, no doubt, aimed mainly at repairing the ties that have soured since 1998 after India conducted nuclear tests, but signing of the CTBT will remain a pre-requisite for lifting of sanctions.

Mr Mori plans to downplay the nuclear issue and demonstrate his resolve to expand bilateral relationship in such areas as political, economic, cultural and information technology. He is also expected to announce more funds for yen-aided projects. Japan sees it as a "friendly visit with a political purpose" keeping in mind the strategically important place that India

holds in global affairs at this juncture.

Officials say that given the trauma of the nuclear holocaust in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan cannot soften its stand on CTBT, although it recognises the fact that India has various domestic reasons against signing the treaty. The anti-nuclear sentiment in Japan outweighs India's security and strategic arguments. Japan, however, finds India's assurances against future nuclear tests sincere. The visits of external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and defence minister George Fernandes to Japan in the last few months have opened the doors for better relations. Japan is keen on reciprocating it. In early May, Japanese minister Takashi Fukaya visited New Delhi and had had talks with the Indian leaders on cooperation in various areas, information technology in particular.

Mr Mori is now keen on initiating a new era of cooperation. He has already made a beginning by announcing his government's plans to offer additional aid for yen-funded projects in India, such as the construction of a coal-powered thermal power plant in Simhadri and a subway system in Delhi. Expectations are that Mr Mori will make more such announcements during his visit. It will not only strengthen India-Japan ties but also encourage India to sign the CTBT. Before coming to India, Mr Mori will visit Islamabad where he is expected to discuss with the Pakistani leaders issues relating to terrorism, nuclear non-proliferation and restoration of democracy. As with India, Japan has also offered additional funds to the construction of irrigation systems in Pakistan.

India's great strides in information technology has fascinated Mr

Mori for long. He finds India attracting many industrialised nations as an abundant source of IT-related human resources, such as computer software engineers. Japan badly needs India's help for the development of its own IT-related industries. Hence, his decision to stop over at Bangalore, the bustling Indian version of U.S. Silicon City. Mr Mori chaired the Okinawa summit of the Group of Eight (G-8) countries last month, in which an IT charter was adopted as a common guideline for promoting IT-related services. Mr Mori also set up the IT strategic council to advise him on specific measures to promote Japan's IT-related industries. The council comprises prominent private sector experts and is headed by Nobuyuki Idei, chairman and CEO of Sony Corporation.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 AUG 2000

Japan announces IT initiatives for India

By F.J. Khergamvala

TOKYO, AUG. 16. The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, has moved swiftly to outline the steps which he hopes will deflect attention from the thorny nuclear and security-related subjects which divide India and Japan.

On the eve of a week-long visit to the sub continent beginning on Saturday, Japanese officials put out through the media that Mr. Mori's so-called IT initiative (Information Technology) would include: sending a 100-member IT mission led by a top Keidanren office bearer to India in October, to assess IT investment and partnership opportunities (Keidanren is Japan's apex business and industry body); holding an India-Japan IT summit in autumn, to include IT-related Ministers and leaders of Information Technology in both countries. While in India, Mr. Mori would also announce that Indian IT engineers to Japan would automatically be admitted for three years instead of the presently restrictive three months.

The last measure may induce more Indians to look closely at jobs in Japan, despite other factors that tend to divert them towards

English-speaking destinations. A three-year permit would also permit Japanese corporations to develop more enduring relationships with personnel, specifically trained and tasked for certain long term objectives, rather than rotate short term recruits.

Outside the IT field, Mr. Mori was expected to suggest to the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, that India and Japan institutionalise an official-level dialogue between the Foreign Ministry and defence officials, focussed on joint action to deter

and combat piracy along sea lanes from the Gulf to South East Asia. Additionally, this forum could also engage in a trading of transparency ideas and intentions in security-related areas, including disarmament.

Japan has a similar dialogue with South Korea and most South East Asian nations. An unstated purpose of such a forum was to keep under joint review the potential, the build up and the threat perceptions of a growing China.

Piracy was elevated on the Indo-Japanese agenda last year after the Japanese Government and media appreciated the Indian Navy's rescue of a Japanese cargo vessel that had been seized by a pirate vessel in the Indian Ocean.

Finally, Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Mori would agree to revive a defunct wise mens' group. Earlier known as the India-Japan Study Group, the forum of politicians, former diplomats, sociologists, representatives of business groups was overrun by lack of follow-up and several other factors. Hopefully, the newly composed forum would reflect the current reality of the ascendancy of private sector exchanges and be able to obtain some political push to implement its recommendations.

It is likely that the IT initiative sought to be pursued by Mr. Mori would be welcomed by India, but Mr. Vajpayee is expected to press Mr. Mori hard on breaking new ground after making a more realistic assessment of India's security requirements. In short, while Japan is keen to brush the differences under the carpet while seeking new pastures, India too is keen, in not only linking the relationship to the nuclear issue, but also in bridging these very serious differences.

THE HINDU

17 AUG 2000

Rift over normalisation of Indo-Japan ties

HD-14 By F.J. Khergamvala 19/8

TOKYO, AUG. 18. In late October last year, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Mr. Yohei Kono, told a news conference in Tokyo, that while paying due attention to India's views on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and "other matters," "we must think over our measures taken since India conducted nuclear tests."

Today, as his Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, packs his bags to visit the sub continent from Saturday, the two countries are as far apart as they have been. Trade and investment remain only marginally affected and defence ties are looking up. That is all that Mr. Vajpayee and his guest can boast.

Within a month of Mr. Kono's statement, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh visited Japan and both sides agreed that the relationship needed to be unhinged from the nuclear-related impasse. India also overlooked Japan's blatant tilt towards Pakistan on the Kargil intrusion in 1999.

Two months after Mr. Jaswant Singh broke some new ground, the Defence Min-

ister, Mr. George Fernandes visited Tokyo. In June, India went out of the way by sending Mr. Fernandes to attend the funeral of the former Prime Minister, Mr. Keizo Obuchi, who seemed keen to put things back the way they were.

By any reasonable assumption, both Governments were headed towards a gradual normalisation, which implied the easing, if not a complete removal of sanctions and an Indian move to edge towards implementing the norms of the existing global non-proliferation regime, without formally subscribing to its terms.

Bilaterally, India hoped to have the Emperor visit New Delhi in 2002, to celebrate the 50th anniversary of India's relations with an isolated country brought back into the Asian sunshine by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru. Japan, in turn had reciprocated by making India the first destination for bilateral soft yen loans assistance.

Ten months after Mr. Kono's hopes were aired, the ruling Liberal Democratic Party's largest faction, led by the former Prime Min-

ister, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, a group of young LDP Turks and the Foreign Ministry blocked a growing consensus in business, politics and academia to normalise ties with India. It was Mr. Hashimoto, who as Prime Minister during the Indian and Pakistani nuclear tests, had tried to pursue a highly ambitious and activist global agenda to totally isolate India. He then promised Pakistan that it could have all yen aid destined for India if Islamabad would refrain from tit for tat nuclear tests.

Before he was removed by the Japanese public two months later, Mr. Hashimoto also brought his Government to a heavy pro-Pakistan tilt within an overall policy of seeking to play the role of a sole mediator between India and Pakistan, on Kashmir. Today, Japan is also demanding that India formally support a Japanese initiative at the UN's Millennium Summit to declare a moratorium on nuclear tests pending the entry into force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. Without that, there would be no easing of sanctions.

THE HINDU

19 AUG 2000

Rebuilding Indo-Japan ties

By K. K. Katyal

The intention (of New Delhi and Tokyo) is to build on the commonalities in various areas and to institutionalise dialogue at the top political level.

WHAT PRECISELY is the state of Tokyo's relationship with New Delhi which nosedived two years ago in the wake of India's nuclear tests but shows an upswing now, as signified by the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori? It is in order to take a positive view, given their joint resolve to take tangible steps within the realm of possibilities, leaving out, for the time being, what is not feasible. The two sides have not been able to sort out their differences on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and sanctions and, as such, do not propose to bring these to the forefront in current dealings. Instead, the intention is to build on the commonalities in various areas — economic, strategic, cultural — and to institutionalise dialogue at the top political level. The fact that there is no history of conflict between the two countries should help.

The assessment of the medium-term evolution of the India-Japan relationship depends on the yardstick applied. If the removal of differences on the CTBT and sanctions is the test, the outlook would seem bleak. But if a realistic approach is adopted and the progress in the remaining areas is the measure, the prospects appear bright. Think of the stridency of Tokyo's reaction to the 1998 tests, reflected, apart from policy decisions, by the raw treatment of our diplomats and suspension of significant contacts. Contrast it with the present situation, with the Japanese Prime Minister's presence here, climaxing a series of important contacts, and the nature and scale of the advance in the bilateral area will be clear. If media reports from Tokyo and New Delhi on bilateral ties appear conflicting — at times confusing — the reason is the use of different yardsticks.

What are the commonalities to be invoked to expand the relationship? Enhancing economic dealings, in particular in information technology, is visualised in the measures planned by the two sides. There is scope for a major advance. Japan is strong in the hardware, India in the software — an ideal case for dramatic expansion. India's exports of IT software to Japan is a paltry four per cent of its global transactions, as against 60 per cent to the U.S. The scope for increase, thus, is mind-

boggling. Japan may soon announce an ambitious package, including relaxation of visa terms for Indian experts, an IT summit, which may take the Minister concerned, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, to Tokyo, joint steps to resolve the digital divide, and close cooperation in specified areas.

This is certain to give a fillip to the efforts to strengthen economic relations which, of late, have been stagnant as shown by the low level of investments. Japan explains that. It was not because of the reaction to the nuclear tests, but because of the problems faced by the economy there. The post-test period coincided with the preoccupation of the Japanese entrepreneurs with restructuring their domestic and external operations. Tokyo sees another reason — the experience of Japanese investors who, in the process of setting up new enterprises, are harassed by petty officials, in the matter of construction of road links and supplies of power and water. Then there is the over-bureaucratisation which, at times, causes exasperating delays. In support is cited the case of a five-star Japanese hotel, Nikko, that is coming up in New Delhi — it is required to get 40 licences to start the bar. Income-tax raids are among the other irritants.

The single-window, now created, may take care of most of these problems while a new set-up, the Foreign Investment Implementation Agency, could help monitor progress in individual cases. A high-level Japanese economic delegation, due here in October-November, is certain to find the investment climate more congenial, what with new opportunities to be created by the second-generation reforms, disinvestment of public sector undertakings and the opening of insurance and infrastructure sectors, telecommunications and transport in particular.

The global India-Japan partnership, the main objective, is to be based on identity of views in strategic matters. Japan counts on India's cooperation in securing the routes for oil supplies from West Asia and,

stopped the grants, except for humanitarian projects, but as regards soft loans, the approach was different — no commitments for new schemes and, in on-going cases, the commitments for single-phase projects were not to be affected while in regard to time-sliced or multiple-phase schemes, the commitment of funds for subsequent phases were to be made on a case-by-case basis. This affected the 17 continuing projects. Japan will be making an exemption in two cases — Delhi Metro and Sinhari power plant in Andhra Pradesh, making funds available for all the phases.

On nuclear issues, India appreciates the intensity of feelings against proliferation in Japan, the only victim of the atomic attack. On its part, Tokyo is not oblivious of New Delhi's security concerns but does not show the requisite understanding of the rationale of its nuclear tests. Japan could have seized upon India's commitment to a nuclear-free world and the announcement of a moratorium on the tests. Emphasis on commonality rather than on divergence could have helped prevent the chill. India would have liked a better understanding of its predicament by Japan which, despite its strong sentiments on the spread of mass-destruction weapons, has accepted the nuclear umbrella (as part of the security arrangement with the U.S.) and tolerated nuclear presence in its region. Maybe, at some stage, the gap in their positions is narrowed, if not bridged. On sanctions, too, it should not be hard for Tokyo to show a measure of flexibility to ensure that there is no uncertainty about the remaining 15 projects. There is reason to believe that Tokyo's prevarications on the Kashmir issue and India-Pakistan problems are a thing of the past.

Having already made known its feelings on the strong Japanese reaction to the tests, New Delhi could now concentrate on the positive. It could, for instance, have avoided the snub given to the former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, during his recent visit here. It was during his tenure in 1998 that bilateral ties suffered a setback. Mr. Hashimoto felt a sense of remorse because of that and, perhaps, wanted to make amends — partially. He did not get the opportunity.

in particular, is interested in joint anti-proliferation measures. The recent operations by the Indian navy in protecting a Japanese vessel have created a highly favourable impression. Both sides have equal stake in the stability of the region — a sentiment that found expression in the recent ARI meeting. The missile-related worries in the neighbourhood assail both the countries equally strongly. Both New Delhi and Tokyo are interested in regenerating the momentum for the reforms of the U.N., that had slowed down because of the activities of the "coffee group" including Colombia, Korea, Pakistan, Italy, — the countries which seek to spoil the chances of the deservingly candidates for inclusion in an expanded Security Council. However, they have yet to work out a strategy for joint efforts to mobilise support for their candidature. The proposed establishment of two fora — India-Japan parliamentary friendship association in New Delhi as a reciprocal gesture to Japan which already has such a body, and an eminent persons group — is intended to reinforce the Governmental efforts. When preparations for the G-8 summit (hosted last month by Japan) were on, the Japanese had mooted a proposal for interaction between this group of industrialised countries and Asian nations and suggested the presence of four Asian leaders — the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Presidents of China, Indonesia and South Korea. An emissary who brought the proposal to New Delhi got a positive response but the idea did not materialise because of China's lukewarm attitude. However, the gesture could not have gone unnoticed in New Delhi.

Japan's sanctions against India were regarded here as tougher than those in other cases (though Tokyo maintains there was no difference between its embargo and that of the U.S., for instance). Japan's Official Development Assistance (ODA) was the largest — over \$1 billion a year — and as such, the impact was the heaviest. They

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THE HINDU

21 AUG 2002

Japanese PM has a tough message for Pakistan

By Seema Guha

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori, who flew into Islamabad late on Sunday, will deliver a tough message to his host, General Pervez Musharraf.

Japanese diplomats here said that Mr Mori "will stress the early return to democracy and insist that Pakistan do its bit to curb the escalating violence in Kashmir".

Reining in the various terrorist outfits operating from its side of the border could be one way to create conditions to resume the stalled dialogue between India and Pakistan. Japan, like the rest of the international community, is anxious to break the impasse between India and Pakistan, particularly since both have nuclear weapons. Japan wants the two to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

It was Japan's harsh attitude to India's nuclear tests which for some time led to cold vibes between the two countries. As the only country in the world to face a nuclear holocaust, Japanese public opinion is very anti-nuclear, and no government in power can afford to ignore this.

From New Delhi's point of view, Tokyo committed the cardinal error of suggesting soon after the tests that it was willing to play host to a India-Pakistan meeting on Kashmir. This incensed India. Again during the early days of the Kargil intrusions, New Delhi was unhappy about what it believed was Tokyo's ready acceptance of the Pakistan viewpoint. All that has now been cleared. "Our views on developments in South Asia are well balanced and reason-

able," says Japan's ambassador to India Hiroshi Hirabayashi.

Knowing India's sensitivity to any dignitary equating India with Pakistan, Japanese officials are at pains to explain that Mr Mori's visit to Islamabad ahead of India is not deliberate but a matter of dates and schedules. Mr Mori begins the Indian leg of his tour from Bangalore, where he arrives from Islamabad on Monday.

Does Japan's change in stand have anything to do with the U.S. position and the fact that President Clinton had a successful visit in March? No, says Hirabayashi. "With time, emotions subside and we have been talking to Indian leaders to clear all misconceptions. Brajesh Mishra visited Japan. So did former prime minister I.K. Gujral and emissaries like J.N. Dixit. Finally, Jaswant Singh's trip to Tokyo cleared the air," Hirabayashi added.

The message from Tokyo for sometime has been that the two countries may have differences on specific issues, but this will not effect overall ties. "CTBT will of course come up, but the idea is to have discussions on a broad spectrum and not confine ties to the nuclear issue alone."

Mr Mori is now keen to look ahead and build a strong foundation for future ties. Like all politicians Mr Mori too wants to come up with a new catch word for India-Japan ties. His choice is "new Indo-Japan partnership for the 21st century." This in effect means an intensification of ties at various levels, especially economic and political. However, there will be "no vision statement" and no signed document will be released at the end of Mr Mori's visit.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 AUG 2000

COUNTRY'S BRAIN POWER OVERCOMES NUCLEAR HURDLES

Infotech warmth may help to thaw Indo-Japanese relations

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 21 AUGUST

AS JAPAN comes to terms with the existential reality of India as a nuclear weapons state (NWS), information technology (IT) appears to be a convenient ground for thawing relations with India. The foreign secretary, Mr Lalit Mansingh, on Monday, asserted that Japan's renewed interest in India also stems from a recognition of India's status in international affairs.

When Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori touches down in Bangalore on Monday evening, he is not under any illusion about the persuasiveness of Japanese demands for India signing the CTBT. But a growing Japanese interest in the Indian IT industry provides a much-needed platform for renewed Japanese investment in India as well as freeing Japan-India relations from the clutches of irreconcilable differences in the field of nuclear non-proliferation.

But, for the first time, Japan has worked hard at a course correction following the 1998 nuclear tests in India and Pakistan. While the economic sanctions turned out to be "counter-productive and an irritant to bilateral ties", Japan's holding bilateral ties hostage to CTBT aggravated things to the extent that not only did it hold out when the other G-8 countries proposed easing of MFI sanctions against India, the Tokyo Forum formed to discuss South Asian security issues riled New Delhi as did Japan's initial



Mori: Pol(IT)ical

ambivalence during Kargil.

In the intervening period, however, both Japan and India have tried to walk back from the edge, resuming foreign office consultations and the MEA-Miti dialogue. The ice was formally broken with the visit of Jaswant Singh to Tokyo in November, followed by a first-ever visit by defence minister George Fernandes. Former Japanese Prime Minister Hashimoto dropped by in February as the process got under way to free India-Japan ties from being held hostage to a single issue.

Information technology, though, has turned out to be the driving force in the new dawn. As the Japanese IT sector looks for cheaper investment centres, India has become the natural choice, given the crushing costs of IT start-ups in Japan. For this too, Japan needs to relax immigration laws for software profes-

sionals, a point that will be vigorously made in Bangalore.

It isn't as if the differences will vanish. There is a deep disquiet within the Japanese establishment about India as a nuclear state, and some of it stems from the Pandora's Box it opens within Japan's reaction to nuclear and arms control issues. The growth of North Korean Taepo Dong missiles and the uncertainties of a resurgent China have prompted a re-look at Japan's own security policy. Although there is a general sympathy for Japan's position as a victim of nuclear weapons, security analysts said Japan's large plutonium-recycling programme and satellite development programmes tell a different story of a "virtual deterrent".

For India, its galling that Japan should seek to preach nuclear propriety, when it rests secure in the protection of a US nuclear umbrella. During Kargil it took a lot of "persuasion" to convince Japan that the infiltrators were Pakistan army. This did not go down well here. Japan's continued assertion that Pakistan is a trusted friend, reiterated by Mr Mori to General Musharraf on Sunday, jars on Indian ears. Japan has also started building bridges with the Taliban, something India is bound to reject.

Finally, the Japanese sanctions, while slowing down some crucial infrastructure projects like Faridabad and Simhadri power projects, have had the unhappy effect of stopping new projects.

The Economic Times

22 AUG 2000

Japan sanctions no threat: Mansingh

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 21. — Sanctions are counter-productive is India's stand just as Mr Yoshiro Mori, the Japanese Prime Minister begins his visit to India.

The Japanese government imposed sanctions on India since the Pokhran blasts in May 1998, but foreign secretary Mr Lalit Mansingh today said that India has coped with sanctions very well.

"We have stood upto sanc-

tions," he said, adding that India had a point of view on the issue and there was hope that it would be appreciated. India largely sees the sanctions as an irritant and will make it known to Japan.

India, of course, favours sanctions against Fiji, but the government stand is that the current Fijian government is a "criminal regime."

Mr Mansingh added there was no link between India signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and the sanc-

tions that "Indian security was not negotiable."

Mr Mansingh added that India's views on the CTBT were well-known. He said that the government has made it clear that a political consensus would have to be prepared before a decision was taken.

Speaking about the effect of the Japanese sanctions, he said that several aid projects were "frozen" and there were no new aid proposals. Other projects were cleared on a case by case basis.

Yet, the Japanese said that gross disbursements of loan aid in 1999 amounted to approximately US \$900 million, the second-largest in the history of Japan's loan aid to India.

Mr Mansingh said the Security Council issue may come up for discussion during Mr Mori's visit. Both India and Japan appear to want permanent membership to the United Nation's Security Council.

Mr Mori today met information technology experts in Bangalore.

THE STATESMAN

22 AUG 2000

'India will not seek lifting of economic sanctions'

27/8
E. Asin
40-D

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, AUG. 21. An assertive India today said that it would not make a formal "request" to Japan to lift sanctions, but pointed out that restrictions imposed by Tokyo after the Pokhran tests were counterproductive.

"(This is) not a topic which involves appealing to the Japanese. We have a point of view which needs to be appreciated," the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, said while briefing the media on the visit of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, to India. Asked to comment on the Indian response to sanctions, he said the country had coped "quite well" and added that India would not be "intimidated" by economic curbs.

Responding to a question, Mr. Mansingh said India did not accept "any link" between signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and the Japanese

decision to lift sanctions. He reiterated that any decision on the treaty would be based on a still-evolving national consensus. "Sanctions are counter-productive and an irritant in bilateral ties. Our views on this are known to Japan and we hope they will show appreciation."

On Mr. Mori's decision to visit Pakistan, the Foreign Secretary said, "we have no veto on the travel plans of a foreign dignitary. There is nothing for us to say."

Mr. Mori, the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit India in a decade, began his trip today from Bangalore. While in India's hi-tech capital, he was likely to announce that Indian IT engineers would be allowed to stay in Japan for three years automatically, instead of three months.

The Japanese IT initiative was expected to result in the hosting of an India-Japan IT summit in autumn and a visit by a 100-member IT business delegation to In-

dia in October.

The visit of Mr. Mori was also expected to see both sides discussing security cooperation. Both Japan and India perceived the need to work together to keep the commercial sea lanes of the Indian Ocean safe. Japan, which heavily depended on energy imports from the Persian Gulf, was especially keen to obtain Indian support for safeguarding its oil-tanker movement. Both sides could also decide to institutionalise their cooperation for maritime security during the on-going visit.

Mr. Mansingh, however, clarified that both countries were not expected to sign any formal agreements during Mr. Mori's stay in the capital. The Japanese leader would be accorded a ceremonial welcome at the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan on Wednesday and would hold talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, on the same day.

THE HINDU

27 AUG 2000

Tap our market, Mori tells Indian software industry

By Our Special Correspondent

BANGALORE, AUG. 22. The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, today proposed a "Japan-India IT promotion and Cooperation Initiative" and asked the Indian software industry to take advantage of the vast Japanese market and its high technology.

He was addressing a group of industrialists and businessmen.

Acknowledging that India was an advanced country in the field of IT, he said the current level of cooperation between the two countries in the field was, however, low considering the huge potential. Mr. Mori promised to take up the proposed cooperative initiative with the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee.

Earlier, the Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. S. M. Krishna, noted that while the United States accounted for 64 per cent of the State's software exports, Japan imported only four per cent. He called for cooperation and Japanese investments in IT, biotechnology, infrastructure and automobile components.

Speaking in Japanese, Mr. Mori said IT was a major item at the recent Kyushu-Okinawa Summit and he was delighted that the Bangalore visit followed it. It gave him an opportunity to exchange views with Government officials and others in India on the utilisation of IT.

A new information society was being created with the Internet connecting not only computers but also mobile phones, home electronic appliances, automobiles and railways via the Intelligent Transportation System.

Here, the visiting leader pointed to his country's leadership and wanted Indian industry to take note of it. Japan aimed to make contributions in the fields of high-speed switching technologies and



The Karnataka Chief Minister, Mr. S.M. Krishna, greeting the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori (left), in Bangalore on Tuesday. — Photo: T.L. Prabhakar

optical communication technologies, indispensable for the broadband Internet of the future.

Assistance package

Stressing that Japan also intended to signal its leadership in promoting the use of IT in developing countries, particularly those of Asia, Mr. Mori unfolded a comprehensive assistance package totalling \$ 15 billions over the next five years, his Government had drawn up. India, with excellent software technology, should cooperate with Japan so that the global economy in the 21st century could surge forward.

A large mission led by the president of Keidanren, Japan Federation of Economic Organisations and Japan-India Business Cooperation Committee, would arrive in October. A Japan External Trade Organisation team, comprising representatives of small

and medium scale enterprises, would visit Indian IT firms in January 2001. The two teams would visit Bangalore. The promotion bodies of software in the two countries would sign an MoU on mutual cooperation, he said adding that the "India IT Symposium" in Tokyo in October would see private sector cooperation.

The training programmes for Indian engineers in Japanese business practices and language would accommodate 1,000 persons over the next three years.

Japan would soon begin issuing multiple entry visas to benefit Indian businessmen, Mr. Mori said.

(PTI reports from New Delhi that Mr. Mori arrived in the Capital from Bangalore this evening. He was received at the Palam Airport by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Ajit Kumar Panja.)

THE HINDU

23 AUG 2000

India, Japan to begin security dialogue

HO-13
23/8

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, AUG. 22. As part of their efforts to build a new partnership for the 21st century, India and Japan are all set to initiate a security dialogue. A decision to this effect is likely to be announced tomorrow after the talks between the visiting Japanese prime minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, and the Indian leaders.

Mr. Mori, who arrived here this evening from Bangalore, will hold substantive political consultations with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, tomorrow. The security dialogue is likely to involve senior officials from the foreign offices and the defence establishments on both sides.

The decision reflects the political determination on both sides to move the relationship forward despite the persisting differences on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and Japanese economic sanctions. India deeply resents the inability of Japanese establishment to lift the sanctions imposed after the nuclear tests of May 1998. But there is also an appreciation here of Mr. Mori's decision to mend fences with India by travelling to New Delhi against considerable domestic opposition.

Japan, despite its deep desire to see India sign the CTBT, is well aware that New Delhi is unlikely to

move beyond a reassertion of its commitment to abide by the unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. While finessing the divergence over the CTBT and economic sanctions, the two sides have begun to look at a broader agenda for future cooperation.

India's progress in the information technology sector and the Japanese desire to catch up with the United States on IT have combined to provide a useful anchor for future bilateral relations. As two major Asian nations, the two sides also recognise the importance of exploring common ground in the search for peace and stability in Asia.

The visit by Mr. George Fernandes to Tokyo in January last, was the first ever by an Indian Defence Minister to Japan, laid a useful foundation for greater interaction between the two defence establishments.

As the Asian geopolitical landscape evolves rapidly, there is a solid case for more intensive consultations between India and Japan on a whole range of strategic issues. The Indo-Japanese security dialogue will now provide the forum. In the current fluid political environment of Asia, most major powers are engaged in mutual military interaction. India already has on-going security consultations with most major powers including China.

THE HINDU

23 AUG 2000

Mori proposes IT summit

Japan to issue multi-entry visas to Indian professionals

HT Correspondent
Bangalore, August 22

JAPANESE PRIME MINISTER Yoshiro Mori today invited the Indian information technology (IT) industry for a Japan-India IT summit in his country.

Mr Mori proposed the summit as part of a major Japanese initiative to boost the existing low-profile IT links between his country and India.

The visiting Prime Minister also declared that Japan would issue multi-entry visas to enable Indian IT professionals to visit his country for business purposes.

In a far-reaching Information Technology policy initiative, Mr Mori said Japan would expand its training programmes for Indian engineers on Japanese business practices and the Japanese language so as to accommodate 1000 trainees over the next three years.

The Japanese Prime Minister was talking to a

select group of businessmen here, particularly those involved with the IT sector.

An MoU is to be signed on August 24 between the two countries for mutual cooperation in software in the private sector.

The "India IT Symposium" is also due to be held in October in Tokyo and the Japanese government will continue to encourage this kind of private sector interchanges, Mr Yoshiro Mori said.

The Prime Minister made it clear that Japan had woken up to the potential of IT, particularly in Asia. Over the next five years, Japan would assist in the promotion of IT use in developing countries, particularly in Asia, and towards this end it had drawn up a comprehensive assistance package totalling 15 billion US dollars.

Describing India as an "advanced" country in the information technology field, Mr Mori said India possessed "high software technology that leads the world and embraces rich and prominent human resources. Japan has one of the largest markets in

the world and high technology in manufacturing." This could complement the strengths of the two countries, he said.

Earlier, Chief Minister S M Krishna pointed out that the United States and Japan were the first and second largest IT markets in the world. "While Indian software trade with the US was 65 per cent, it was only four per cent with Japan," he said.

He proposed the setting up of an "IT Combinat" in Bangalore which could house residential township, major IT companies like Hitachi, NEC, Toshiba, Sony as well as wireless giant of the world NTT DoCoMo.

The Combinat could also have a language training centre and an institute of e-commerce besides a cultural centre, Mr Krishna said.

Earlier, the visiting Prime Minister toured the impressive centres of Infosys and Wipro in Bangalore's electronic city.

Mori gushes at Bangalore's IT strides — Page 11

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 AUG 2000

Mori tees off with infotech pillars

FROM RAMAKRISHNA
UPADHYA

Bangalore, Aug. 22: Swinging between golf and keyboard diplomacy, Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori today unwrapped a package aimed at putting bilateral ties on a four-pillar information technology platform.

The blueprint announced at Bangalore — Mori's launchpad for his tour of India — stresses training Indian engineers in Japan and easing visa restrictions.

The Japanese Prime Minister's carefully selected itinerary also included visits to two home-grown global software giants, Infosys Technologies and Wipro.

Mori also announced a \$15-billion package for promotion of infotech in developing countries, specially in Asia, with a view to "eliminate the digital divide".

Showering praises on an IT-

savvy India, Mori said the four-pillar approach will focus on:

- Training programmes in Japan for about 1,000 Indian engineers on Japanese business practices and Japanese language in the next three years, and liberalisation of multiple-entry visas to Japan for business purposes.

- An India IT symposium in Tokyo in October. It will be followed by a large Japanese business delegation to India at October-end and a team of small and medium scale entrepreneurs from Tokyo in January.

- Maintenance of closer dialogue on IT between India and Japan.

- Inviting Indian officials to Japan.

— But within the six hours that Mori spent on official engagements, he took care to blend e-business with pleasure. At the Infosys and Wipro offices, he mixed freely with the employees and was

generous in his appreciation of their achievements.

He was bowled over by the size of the audience. Looking at the thousands of Infosys employees, Mori joked about how he would have gained in the recent Japan elections if so many people had turned up. "I thought there is a cricket or a soccer match. There were general elections in Japan recently. If the crowd was as big as this, it would have been a landslide victory," he said.

After planting a sapling as a token of his visit, he took off his coat to play a round of golf — his favourite game — with Infosys boss N.R. Narayanamurthy, sending the ball soaring over the Infosys building.

The Japanese Prime Minister said he was convinced that there was scope for "strong complementary relations" between the two countries in infotech, but did not

forget to nudge India on non-proliferation. Diverting from his written speech — even taking his interpreter by surprise — Mori spoke of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki holocaust. "A single bomb killed thousands of people and millions of others suffered. We should never allow people to use those weapons of mass destruction. Cooperation between India and Japan will be used for bringing about peace and prosperity."

Chief minister S.M. Krishna proposed an "IT combinat" in Bangalore, offering residential township for firms like Hitachi, NEC, Toshiba, Sony, as well as wireless giants like NTT and DoCoMo. He also sought investment in infrastructure projects, including a Mass Rapid Transport System project in the city.

Governor V.S. Rama Devi hosted lunch in Mori's honour. Mori later left for New Delhi.

THE TELEGRAPH

23 AUG 2000

NO CHANGE ON CTBT, SANCTIONS

India, Japan unveil new global partnership

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, AUG. 23. Finessing their differences on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and economic sanctions, India and Japan today unveiled here "a new global partnership for the 21st century".

A Japanese decision to lift the sanctions imposed against New Delhi after the nuclear tests in May 1998, or an Indian move to sign the CTBT would have radically transformed the bilateral relations. But neither side could overcome the domestic political difficulties that stood in the way.

Satisfying themselves with some limited gains on these two key issues, India and Japan announced some decisions that would let them to travel together, hopefully, into the next century.

The visiting Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, did not hear from the Indian leaders the much vaunted promise to sign the CTBT. New Delhi, however, did reiterate its commitment not to test any more nuclear weapons.

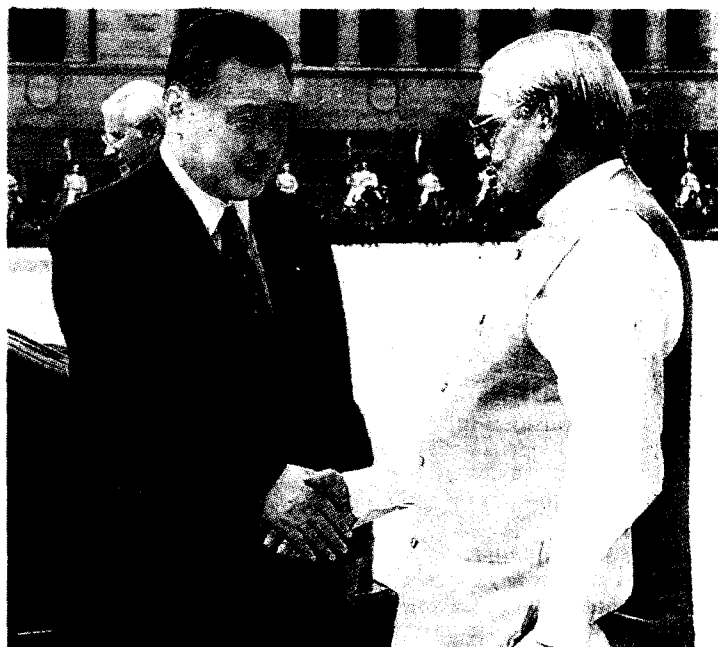
Briefing the reporters on the talks between the two Prime Ministers, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said the Government had conveyed to Japan the unambiguous nature of the voluntary Indian moratorium on nuclear tests.

"There is no time limit to this

moratorium," he said adding that India reaffirmed that it "will not stand in the way" of the eventual implementation of the CTBT. India was hinting that when key countries such as the United States and China were ready to breathe life into the CTBT, New Delhi would not be found wanting. On the economic sanctions imposed by Japan after the nuclear tests of May 1998, New Delhi refused to ask Tokyo to lift the economic sanctions. But it would no doubt have been pleased hear such a unilateral announcement from Mr. Mori.

While he did not go that far, Mr. Mori signalled his readiness to chip away at the sanctions regime. According to Mr. Singh, Japan will now "resume" lending for some of projects that were in the pipeline before the sanctions took effect.

Among the main beneficiaries would be the Delhi Metro and the Simhadri power project in Andhra Pradesh which are tied to soft loans from Japan. Among the moves that will consolidate the new partnership between the two nations is an agreement to start a formal Indo-Japanese security dialogue. The first round of this dialogue will be held later this year. The two sides agreed to intensify bilateral exchanges at the highest political level and Mr. Mori extended invitations to the



The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, welcoming the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, on the latter's arrival at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Wednesday. — Photo: N. Srinivasan

President and the Prime Minister to visit Japan. Preparations to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2002 would begin soon.

It was also decided to set up an eminent persons group to come

up with ideas for long-term cooperation between India and Japan.

Briefing Indian leaders on his talks with the military regime in Pakistan a few days ago, Mr. Mori reaffirmed the Japanese opposition to international terrorism in all forms.

Japan conveyed to India its desire to see a resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue while New Delhi insisted that Islamabad must create a favourable atmosphere first.

The visiting Prime Minister, who arrived last evening from Bangalore, was given a ceremonial welcome in the forecourt of the Rashtrapati Bhavan this morning. During the day, he met the President, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, and the Vice-President, Mr. Krishan Kant.

Later he held substantive talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, at the Hyderabad House followed by a banquet.

THE HINDU

24 AUG 2000

Mori, Vajpayee break ice over security issues

Indrani Bagchi
NEW DELHI 23 AUGUST

THE JAPANESE Prime Minister, Mr Yoshiro Mori, and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee decided to formally put behind a couple of years of frozen ties and diplomatic misunderstandings by initiating a security dialogue, to be conducted at the secretary level in both the countries.

Ending a day of formal interactions at the delegation level and personally between the two countries, Mr Mori also agreed to open up the loan programme for the Delhi MRTS project and the Simhadri power project, which had been casualties of the sanctions imposed by Japan after the nuclear tests.

The MEA-MITI dialogue, which has restarted almost a year after the tests, had, earlier this year, decided to move these two projects on the priority track as a signal to New Delhi that Japan was willing to move bilateral ties out of the ambit of a single issue — India's signature of CTBT.

Both projects have received initial tranches from Japan, but under the Japanese system of loan approval, the total amount is broken up annually. Therefore, while technically they are "old" projects, the "new" money infusion



MORE IN THE OFFING: Atal Behari Vajpayee with Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori at a press conference in New Delhi on Wednesday — AP

approved by Mr Mori will actually revive these projects.

The MRTS project will cost Rs 8,500 crore while the Simhadri thermal power project is pegged at Rs 4000 crore.

It was during Jaswant Singh's visit to Japan last November that the ball was set rolling to start a security dialogue between the two

countries. India and Japan have widely divergent views on security and arms control issues, and diplomatic sources here maintain that the dialogue will at least air the differences even if they took time at arriving at an understanding. Defence ties, international terrorism and nuclear issues are expected to dominate the dialogue.

Mr Mori is expected to lay out a business vision for the Indian industry on Thursday at a Ficci meeting. He has already announced an India-Japan IT symposium at Bangalore on Tuesday. Japan has pressed India incessantly to sign the CTBT, but recently events like the US Senate's failure to ratify the treaty

dealt a huge blow to Japan's efforts. Moreover, the sanctions, which are inextricably linked to CTBT, have been less effective than counter-productive, souring relations between two Asian powers.

The sanctions are likely to continue and the Indian government did not raise the issue either, according to informed sources. Japan had laid great stock by the consensus-building exercise on CTBT, the government promised. But with Thursday being the last day of the current Parliament session, it's unlikely this will be on the agenda.

Since energy security is top priority for both India and Japan, the security dialogue is expected to incorporate elements like protection of sea lanes for free flow of energy resources to East Asia. The Indian navy will be making a goodwill visit to Japan soon and the Japanese navy have been invited to participate in the international fleet review here next year.

Business ties between the two countries too have suffered due to the sanctions. But India's emergence as an international player in the new economy sectors has prompted Japan to take a relook at trade ties in the software sector. Japan forms only 4 per cent of India's software export basket.

India gives assurance on ^{VV} test moratorium

Japan lifts nuke freeze on cash

(W) 9. 5 Asia 5-1 29/8

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Aug. 23: Setting aside their differences, India and Japan today entered into a "global partnership" to face the challenges of the 21st century with the assurance that Delhi will not break its moratorium on nuclear tests and Tokyo reopening the loan tap.

The flow of Japanese funds, which dried up after Pokhran II, was resumed with clearance of loans for the Delhi Metro Rail and a power project.

After a meeting with his Indian counterpart and host A.B. Vajpayee, visiting Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori said: "India-Japan relations have entered a global partnership from today."

Vajpayee matched his warmth by saying: "Bilateral ties have gained a new dimension and depth" to meet regional and international challenges.

Japan is India's biggest aid donor and Mori's words will be comforting for the Indian leadership. To give Tokyo its due and in recognition of its regional and international role, India also agreed to have regular political-level dialogue with Japan. This mechanism will include annual interactions between the Prime Minister, the foreign minister and other

senior ministers of the two sides.

They also agreed to start a security and strategy dialogue, the first meeting expected at the end of the year or in early January. This will offer the opportunity to thrash out whatever differences they have on security issues.

An economic mission from Japan will visit the country next month to look for newer avenues of investment and the private sectors of the two nations will resume their high-level interactions.

Mori, who flew in from Bangalore and is spending four days in India, has made it clear that though his visit here is part of his South Asian tour, Delhi is his biggest port of call. He is the first Japanese Prime Minister to visit India in 10 years. The fact that he decided to come even without India's signature on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty is a clear indication of Japan's keenness to repair ties.

Relations deteriorated after the nuclear tests in May 1998. Japan had lodged a strong protest against the tests and was one of the last members of the powerful G8 countries to normalise relations. Though it never termed them sanctions, Tokyo imposed economic measures against Delhi and took a decision to slow most of its investments in projects

in India. The ice started melting with the Indian foreign minister's visit to Tokyo last November and Mori has come here to give the final healing touch to the damaged relations.

Yesterday in Bangalore, he heaped praise on Indian infotech entrepreneurs and accepted India as a leading player in the field.

Today's meeting with Vajpayee was meant to give political direction to bilateral relations. India, realising that the nuclear issue continues to be an important one for Tokyo, made no bones about acknowledging Japan's concerns about weapons of mass destruction, being the only country to have been a victim of them.

But it also made it clear that while Japan had its own compulsions for taking the stand it is on the issue, India, too, keeping the regional security environment in mind, had to take care of its own interests.

Vajpayee assured his Japanese guest that India has no intention of breaking the moratorium on nuclear tests. He said once all 44 countries signed and ratified the test ban treaty, India will not stand in the way of it coming into effect.

This reaffirms Delhi's commitment to signing the treaty once others have done so.

■ Picture on Page 6

THE TELEGRAPH

29 AUG 2007

Memories of elephants

EXPRESS FOCUS DIPLOMACY

Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori has been trying to breathe the new life into a once rosy, now rocky relationship with India. JYOTI MALHOTRA reports

ONCE upon a time, Jawaharlal Nehru gifted a baby elephant to the Tokyo zoo. The War had been declared over with the deliberate devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. At the International Military Tribunal for the Far East, or the "Tokyo trials" as they were popularly known, Radha Binode Pal had insisted on delivering a dissenting judgement to declaring the Japanese as "war criminals." The elephant, the gentle giant, Nehru may have thought, was the ideal gift for a traumatised people. Of course, there was only one name that came to his mind.

Indira grew up with generations of Japanese children, then simply died of old age. Over the years, as General MacArthur presided over the recreation of Japan and attempted to rebuild the nation in the Allied image, India, led by Nehru, went her temples-of-industry way. Two of Asia's oldest nations, elbowed determinedly apart by the selective prism of the Cold War, simply lost sight of each other.

Then, in May 1998, Pokharan happened. Japan, even as it threw dollops of Yen into its own fast-breeder reactor programme, slammed into New Delhi with the swiftness of a pre-programmed



Bangalore celebrated the Indo-Japanese joint initiative in IT by pasting 50 hoardings all over the city. Express photo by S. Eswar

boomerang, imposing economic sanctions, cutting off aid, hectoring, pontificating, finger-pointing. New Delhi reacted with sullen silence. But it got its own back in February when it refused to give former Japanese PM Ryutaro Hashimoto — the man responsible for imposing economic sanctions after Pokharan — an audi-

ence with Prime Minister Vajpayee when he came a-visiting as special envoy. Meanwhile in January, George Fernandes, visiting Tokyo in his role as Defence minister, announced that India would gift the city zoo another baby elephant. Surya, he would be called, the rising sun. Unfortunately, Surya (her

original name was Jaya) died en route to the Art Zoo in Tokyo, in Lucknow. A replacement has now been found in the Guwahati zoo, a seven-year-old baby called Mumtaz. Once she's renamed Surya, she will be shipped off to Tokyo, to arrive in time for Fernandes' visit there in a few months.

The elephant metaphor is just right for the Indo-Japanese relationship because both nations, old civilisations, have long memories. And despite recent differences, New Delhi is willing to lay out a large welcome for Japanese PM Yoshiro Mori when he arrives in the capital today. It is Jan-mashtami and its still too early to say if India will receive Mori as the latest incarnation of the *krishna karnavya*. (Interestingly, Clinton landed in India on Holi, another Krishna festival.)

Mori may not be Clinton, but at least he's trying to kickstart the relationship back to life. In Bangalore over the last couple of days, he's announced a major Information Technology initiative that is bound to deepen the colour in the rosy-cheeked Indian software entrepreneur. Japan's ambassador to India, Hiroshi Hirabayashi seems

to have already spoken to the bosses at both Wipro and Infosys — Mori visited both sites in Bangalore — and Tokyo's now hoping they will lead an Indian IT deluge in Japan.

Japan's vice-minister for Finance and International Affairs Haruhiko Kuroda, who was in Delhi earlier this month, may be credited with first painting this joint IT vision. At a speech in FICCI, Kuroda waxed eloquent about India's "dynamic entrepreneurial spirit." He seemed amazed by the fact that 46 per cent of all electronics engineer work visas issued by the US last year went to Indians. The second highest, 10 per cent, went to China.

All this, even though India scored terribly compared to China on the education-infrastructure continuum: in India, there are only 22 fixed-line phones/1,000 compared to 70 in China, 1 mobile phone/1,000 compared to 19 in China (50 per cent of Japan's population have mobile phones). Meanwhile, according to the World Bank, in China, 100 per cent of the population receives primary education, versus 77 per cent in India. As of 1998, 9 per cent men and 25 per cent women in China

were illiterate versus 33 per cent men and 57 per cent women in India.

What Kuroda was saying, and what Mori has said in Bangalore — adding, that Japan is willing to creatively help to bridge that gulf — is that the government must get its act together on this aspect of globalisation, otherwise the "digital divide" may get too hot to handle.

Clearly, Mori wants to be remembered by India as the man who reached out to end the hostility and bitterness that has been synonymous with the relationship since Pokharan.

"This (trip) is not a finger-pointing exercise," Hirabayashi said, adding, "India has shown itself to be self-confident and we want to re-establish a dynamic relationship where nuclear issues such as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty are neither at the centre or at the forefront of the discussions."

Japanese diplomats also rubish the lingering argument that the Japanese are following the US, like in most other things, in normalising ties with India.

Explaining that the anti-nuclear sentiment in Japan remains

very high, the diplomats point out that the tenor of Mori's request to India and Pakistan to sign the CTBT will be very different. "We highly appreciated the Indian government's desire to talk to the Hizbul Mujahideen, but unlike the Americans, we didn't want to comment on the breakdown of the talks," they added.

At least, Mori's visit shows that both sides are willing to end the Pavlovian reflex and talk to each other. In the last two years, if Tokyo demanded that India sign the CTBT and/or the NPT, New Delhi reacted by throwing back the "nuclear umbrella" argument in Japan's face (a protection the US obligingly offers).

The Japanese continue to fervently hope that New Delhi will sign the CTBT. It has been observing in spirit since Pokharan, and allow it to, once again, save face. The government insists it will do so on its own terms, but actually waits to see what the new administration does in the US. Meanwhile, Surya waits, to be transported and begin a new life in the Tokyo zoo.

Readers can send feedback to focus@expressindia.com

Ties on a new footing

The five day visit of the Japanese prime minister, Yoshiro Mori, will surely go down in the history of Indo-Japanese relations as a momentous event. The visit comes at a critical juncture for both countries and it is not surprising that there are expectations in India and in Japan too that it will break new ground in bilateral ties and go a long way towards removing the misgivings that have arisen in the recent past, especially since India carried out nuclear tests in 1998.

Mori is the first Japanese prime minister to visit India in 10 years. With the visit, New Delhi is likely to emerge out of the shadow cast by the nuclear tests. The visit is a sign that Japan is moving closer to India despite disagreement about the comprehensive test ban treaty. Japan, like other countries, maintains that its differences with India on the nuclear issue remain. But Tokyo wants to move ahead on other bilateral matters which are of common concern and interest.

Of all the critics of India's nuclear programme, China and Japan turned out to be toughest to handle after the 1998 blasts. India has already had a productive dialogue with the United States and the European Union. Some progress has also been made in the case of China after a series of top level exchanges, including the visit of the president, K.R. Narayanan, to Beijing and that of the Chinese foreign minister, Tang Jiaxuan, to India. But although Japan and India restarted their political dialogue — stalled by Pokhran II — after a lapse of over a year, it had not borne much fruit. But now, it seems, Japan too is willing to soften its stance.

The key question is whether Japan will lift the curbs against India. A Japanese newspaper, *Yomiuri Shimbun*, hinted last month at such a possibility and also that an announcement would be made by Mori in this regard during his visit to India. Earlier, in May, at a foreign policy meeting, a majority party in the ruling coalition, the Liberal Democratic Party, had felt the need for the Japanese government to lift the sanctions to prevent relations with India and Pakistan from deteriorating further. But the government consensus promptly ruled out lifting of sanctions, stressing that the two countries must first sign the CTBT.

A senior foreign ministry official was quoted by *Kyodo* as saying, "We really want to lift the sanctions if we can... But we must at least see the two nations sign the CTBT to keep our policy consistent." Japan's major companies are reported to have lobbied the LDP to lift the sanctions because of their declining business contracts in India and Pakistan. But there is still strong resistance from two of LDP's coalition partners, and the foreign ministry, which do not want to end the sanctions without the two nations signing the CTBT.

Japan is hesitant, therefore, to im-

Yoshiro Mori's visit shows that both India and Japan are interested in bilateral relations although disarmament remains a thorny issue, writes **Rabindra Sen**



A firmer hold on reality

mediately lift the sanctions unless India moves towards the CTBT, which is a symbol of Japan's opposition to nuclear weapons. As the only country in the world to have suffered a nuclear holocaust, Japan has an innate horror of nuclear proliferation. The Japanese fully understand that the CTBT is not perfect. But they say it is nevertheless good.

Mori's visit may result in some easing of economic measures. But even as Japan shows its willingness to reciprocate India's desire to remove constraints in the relationship, it will be naive to presume that Tokyo will lift sanctions at one go. It is instead likely to go slow on the issue and do it in a phased manner in the expectation that India will sign the CTBT soon.

The following observation made late last month by the Japanese ambassador to India, Hiroshi Hirabayashi, makes clear the message that the Japanese would like to convey to the government and people of India. While expressing his hope that the Indian prime minister, A.B. Vajpayee, would guide India to a consensus on signing the CTBT, he said, "I can't predict anything except say that we will be carefully watching the situation and hope that some progress will be made." Hirabayashi also pointed out that Japanese "feelings have been evolving" and that sanctions would not be the central issue of discussion during the visit. It would be wrong to think that Japan doubts India's sincerity in its

campaign against nuclear disarmament. However, it appears that Japan cannot lift sanctions without any gesture from India. The Japanese would keep reminding us that the ball is in our court.

Contacts between India and Japan during the Cold War period were far from substantive. The end of the Cold War also did not immediately bring about a dramatic change in the relationship. In July 1997, the Japanese foreign minister, Yukihiko Ikeda, visited India — the first at that level in 10 years. This visit signified Tokyo's commitment to an expanded relationship with India. India and Japan were even to open a defence dialogue under the aegis of the defence ministers of the two countries.

Echoing the new sentiment Ikeda had said that since India was a country of 900 million people with a seven per cent or so economic growth in recent years, all countries were bound to be interested in its "existence as well as its behaviour". The above statement was clearly indicative of Japan's interest in developing close relations with India and Japan's recognition of India as an important player on the world stage.

The fact is that Japan has interests in this part of the world, for example, in central Asia, Afghanistan and west Asia — to name a few. Given the decision of Japan to shed its longstanding inhibitions about seeking a greater political role in world af-

fairs, Japan considered it important to develop friendly relations with India.

But this new interest in India suffered a jolt in 1998 as a result of the nuclear tests. Japan's reaction was harsh, though understandable. It froze \$2.5 billion in overseas development assistance and held back \$12 billion in pledges to the Aid India Consortium. Japan's strong reaction was caused by heightening fears of nuclear arms races in the troubled Indian subcontinent and even beyond the region. Since then, Tokyo, the world's largest provider of foreign aid, has only offered minimal grant aid primarily for humanitarian purposes to India and Pakistan. Tokyo made the signing of the CTBT by India and Pakistan a condition for the lifting of sanctions.

Despite the hangover of the nuclear issue, Japan seems to be willing to broaden the relationship with India. The two countries have affirmed to strengthen trade, investment and industrial relations and ensure greater cooperation in the field of information technology. India and Japan have agreed to initiate a dialogue on infotech, focussing particularly on e-commerce, e-governance and promotion and facilitation of business-to-business cooperation in the sector. The two countries have also agreed to formulate a Japan-India IT business exchange programme towards the 21st century to promote and support infotech business.

Japan is planning to hire upto 10,000 Indian software engineers to meet an acute shortage of infotech personnel in that country. A major Japanese firm, Pasona, has already arranged to bring in the first batch of 50 Indian engineers in September and is likely to recruit many more over the coming years.

It is needless to underline how important Japan is to India. Japan has been India's largest donor of aid and fourth largest trading partner and foreign direct investor in India. Japanese investments in India increased from roughly \$ 17 million in 1991 to \$480 million in 1997. Given its growing interest in east Asia, India would be deeply interested in forging close relations with the countries in this region, especially Japan.

Countries belonging to the Association of South East Asian Nations envision a common market similar to the EU or North American Free Trade Association, and including China, Japan and South Korea. Thus continued efforts to strengthen ties with Japan should be one of the prime objectives of Indian foreign policy.

Now the two countries realize that bilateral relations should not be hostage to any single issue like differences on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament. This no doubt will continue to be a sore point. But it looks like both sides have agreed not to allow these differences to continue to sour the relationship.

Indo-Japan ties on upswing

Rift persists over CTBT • Curbs remain, under new name

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, August 23

HF 1 29/8

INDO-JAPANESE RELATIONS, which went into limbo following Pokhran II, entered a new era today with Prime Ministers Atal Behari Vajpayee and Yoshiro Mori giving the signal to a "multi-faceted global partnership" for the 21st Century.

After the two Premiers stepped out of their talks, which included a 45-minute one-to-one, Vajpayee said: "As a result of this visit, bilateral relations have acquired greater dimension and depth". On his part, Mori said: "As of today Japan and India are global partners".

However, Japan will continue to maintain "economic measures"—a new name for sanctions as it turned out—on aid for Indian development projects till such time as India enters the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) regime. The Japanese are careful in explaining this sticky point.

"India's stance on nuclear moratorium as explained by Vajpayee has been appreciated by

Mori. So additional funding of 19 billion Yen for the second phase of the Shimadri thermal power project and Delhi Metro has been cleared. India will continue to remain the biggest recipient of humanitarian and Overseas Development Agency (ODA) aid", a spokesman of the Japanese foreign office said.

India's External Affairs minister Jaswant Singh said the "economic measures" were in line with Japan's policy. "Being the only country to experience the impact of nuclear weapons we can understand Japan's concerns but we have assured them that we are in the process of building political consensus on this. Our moratorium on nuclear testing is not time bound and unconditional".

The single biggest breakthrough for India has been the revival of the defence and strategic dialogue process with Japan which got suspended after May 1998. The two sides have agreed to have regular consultations at the Cabinet level and the first meeting will take place this year itself. Disarmament and Piracy will be the key elements of this interface.

The political dialogue process will work on three levels—Prime Minister, Cabinet minister and senior official. A senior Japanese official said this was in recognition of India's growing importance as a force in global affairs. The spadework for this had been done during two visits to Tokyo this year by defence minister George Fernandes and one by Jaswant Singh last year.

An agreement on this, notwithstanding differences over the CTBT issue, speaks volumes for the Japanese interest in rejuvenating ties with India. Yesterday, in Bangalore, he laid down a detailed programme on tapping areas of potential synergy in the information technology sector. He followed it up today with the announcement of a trade consultation to be held in Tokyo in October and a fellowship programme in his name for academicians and artists.

On sub-continental affairs, Mori shared with Vajpayee the main points of his dialogue with Gen Musharraf. While condemning terrorism, he was clear on the need for revival of dialogue between India and Pakistan.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 AUG 2000

Mori empathy on Kashmir

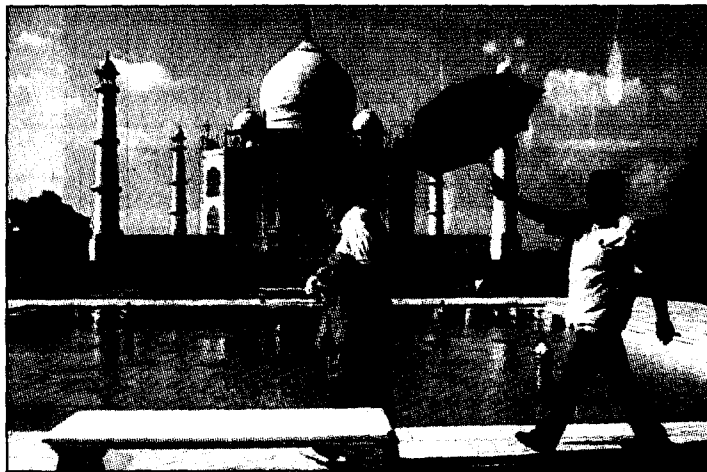
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 24. — While Japan has virtually taken India's side over Jammu and Kashmir, it is still to waive most economic measures it imposed after Pokhran II last year.

Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshiro Mori said Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's good intentions were betrayed by the "fighting in Kargil" last year.

He said the Prime Minister's Lahore trip last year had created hope of peace in South Asia and that he had recently "emphasised to Gen Pervez Musharraf to create an environment conducive to the resumption of dialogue with India".

He said he had also asked Gen Musharraf, during his brief visit to Pakistan this



Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshiro Mori at the Taj on Thursday. — AP/PTI

time, to ensure an early return to democracy and control terrorism. "There can be no justification for terrorist acts, no matter what their reasons may

be, and we roundly condemn terrorist acts in any form."

Clearly hinting at Pakistan, he said terrorism was a "serious problem" for India and he

shared "the indignation and the sorrow of the Indian people" as many citizens were dying every day in Kashmir and other areas. He regretted that the violence in Kashmir was even more deplorable as it occurred just as India was making positive moves to end the strife in the state, referring to the talks with the Hizbul Mujahideen.

He said: "I strongly expect India's early signature to the CTBT so that we can take initiatives together for nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation and further promote our amicable relations."

Justifying the economic measures against India, he said: "The nuclear tests by India came as a bolt from the blue to the Japanese people, to whom India was well-known as a peace-loving nation."

THE STATESMAN

25 AUG 2000

FROM TOKYO WITH LOVE: SNUS TO PAK, SUPPORT FOR SECURITY COUNCIL ROLE

The sun rises on Indo-Japan ties as Mori backs Delhi's security concerns

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 24 AUGUST

THE VOLTE face by Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori was music to Indian ears. Addressing the Fiche this morning, Mr Mori strongly endorsed India's position on terrorism and the country's candidature to the UN Security Council.

Renouncing the policy of equidistance between India and Pakistan, Mr Mori today put the onus of resumption of dialogue fully on Pakistan. "A few days ago, I emphasised to General Musharraf the need to take steps for an early return of democracy, to control terrorism and create an environment conducive to the resumption of dialogue with India."

Mr Mori's statement strongly vindicates India's position that Pakistan is behind the terrorist incidents in Kashmir and elsewhere. Condemning the recent terrorist activities in Kashmir, he said there could be no justification for terrorism: "We are aware that terrorism is especially a serious problem for India."

As Mr Mori worked overtime to put Japan-India relations back on track, he also added that since both countries were expected to play a more important role in the 21st century, they "were in the same boat" to an extent. "We wish to row the boat strongly forward for early realisation of the UN reforms, maintaining our close co-operation." This was as close as

Japan came to endorsing India's candidature, without actually saying anything.

There have been many questions about the reasons for Japan's renewed engagement efforts with India. IT is an obvious one; but for this it was not necessary for the Japanese Prime Minister to come to India, especially when he was fully aware that CTBT was not going to be a deliverable during

the visit and the economic measures against India would have to continue.

A larger canvas points to Japan's obsession with energy security and India's strategic role in securing international sea lanes for free flow of energy resources to east Asia. India has already been combating sea piracy in the South China Sea

Mr Mori however pointed to a

much larger strategic vision which, he believes will bind India and Japan to a common strategic future. "Indo-Japanese relations today," he said, "also have a strategic importance, which is quite obvious when we cast a glance at the world atlas." It was the closest Mr Mori got to proposing Indo-Japanese co-operation keeping a resurgent China firmly in their sights.

The Economic Time.

25 AUG 2000

Teeing off with Japan

In diplomacy, one swing of a golf club can sometimes carry greater meaning than the stroke of a pen. The 'Partnership for 21st century' document that Japanese prime minister Yoshiro Mori initialled along with his Indian counterpart in New Delhi on Wednesday arguably conveys less about the potential for bilateral relations between the two countries than the time he spent at the Infosys golf course in Bangalore the day before. Like other advanced industrialised countries, Japan too seems finally to have recognised the potential benefits of closer economic relations with India. For two-and-a-half years, Japan kept India at arm's length, stung as it was by the Vajpayee government's decision openly to go nuclear in May 1998. As the only country to have experienced the horror that results from the use of atomic bombs, Japan's moral opposition to India's tests was perhaps understandable. However, Tokyo's moralistic stand was both hypocritical and counter-productive. Japan has never taken its opposition to nuclear weapons to mean it should renounce the protection it enjoys from being under the US deterrent umbrella. Far from isolating India and forcing it to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, Japan itself ended up being one of the only countries to cling to a blindly rejectionist stance: West European countries quickly overcame their opposition to a nuclear India and the US too rolled back almost all the sanctions it imposed after Pokhran II. Sooner or later, therefore, Japan had to bow to the inevitable. It is to Mr Mori's credit that he has done so with grace.

As Asian powers, India and Japan have a lot in common and there is virtually no strategic conflict of interest between the two. Given the rising status of China as an economic and military player, it is inevitable that New Delhi and Tokyo should seek to ensure that the balance of power in Asia remains stable. However, Mr Vajpayee needs to do some plain speaking with his Japanese counterpart on the question of missile defence. The US plan to build ballistic and theatre missile defence systems may still be in its infancy but it has already touched off well-founded fears of a new and deadly arms race between the big powers. The Japanese government is enthusiastically cooperating with the US despite the fact that China feels threatened by such systems. By undermining Beijing's retaliatory strike capability, missile defence means China can no longer deter a US nuclear strike on its territory. Naturally, China will seek to develop its own missile defence system and increase the number of missiles it possesses, but these measures will adversely affect the security interests of other countries, especially India. Mr Mori should be made to understand that all talk of missile defence will make it extremely difficult for India to sign the CTBT. Japan cannot have its cake and eat it too. Either it works with India and other like-minded countries to force the US to abandon the NMD and TMD programmes or it must reconcile itself to not just India but other countries also exercising their right to protect their vital security interests in whatever way they see fit. On the economic side, Japan and India must ride the IT wave together. India needs Japanese investment and technology to harness its enormous resources of human capital; Japan needs the Indian market to expand the possibilities for its own industry. Mr Mori would do well to forget about the nuclear issue altogether.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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MEMENTO MORI

Japan outdid the rest of the West in denouncing India for the Pokhran nuclear tests. The then Japanese prime minister, Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, blamed New Delhi for letting loose the nuclear genie. Tokyo promised Pakistan all the aid Japan provided India if Islamabad desisted from holding its own tests. Tokyo's anger has subsided since then. The tone and content of the visit of the present Japanese prime minister, Mr Yoshiro Mori, are a measure of how much Tokyo has tenderized its original toughness. Mr Mori has a number of messages. First, while Tokyo still wants India to sign the comprehensive test ban treaty, it can live with India's moratorium on further tests. Second, with Japan opting for nuclear dialogue rather than confrontation, Mr Mori announced a significant watering down of economic sanctions. The freeze on sanctioned aid projects has been lifted. More important, Tokyo will no longer discourage largescale Japanese private sector investment in India. Third, Tokyo has aligned its position with Washington over what needs to be done to dampen nuclear friction in south Asia. During his visit to Islamabad, Mr Mori lectured the Pakistani leader, Mr Pervez Musharraf, on the need to curb terrorism and "create an environment conducive to the resumption of dialogue with India".

The change in Tokyo's attitude is driven by larger geopolitical concerns. Japan's strident anti-nuclear stance has two sources. One is the legacy of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The other is Japan's neighbourhood. It is both volatile and chock-a-block with nuclear armed or nuclear capable states. During the Cold War, Japan hid under the United States nuclear umbrella. After the Cold War, Japan embraced the creation of a global nuclear nonproliferation regime. The CTBT was the precursor to this regime. Hence Japanese anger, both public and official, at Pokhran. Not only did the tests awaken the ghosts of Hiroshima, they threatened the nonproliferation regime Tokyo had hoped would be its security blanket for the coming century. Since 1998 the nonproliferation regime has continued to fray — most notably because of the CTBT rejection by the US senate. If a global regime fails to coalesce, the alternative is every country for itself. The US is already hedging its bets by talking of putting up theatre and national missile defence systems. Mr Mori's visit indicates Japan is also preparing for a possible return of balance of power politics in Asia, a balance whose fulcrum would be nuclear arsenals. In such a scenario, Tokyo would be uncertain of US willingness to defend Japan. And Tokyo would need counterweights to China, such as India. Japan still dreams of a global nonproliferation regime. But it is preparing for an alternative world of individual, nuclear armed actors.

Japan's other concern is its economic stagnation. Tokyo wants to replicate the information driven productivity gains that have propelled the US economic boom. But Japan's attempts to get a foothold in information technology have not met with success. Two reasons for this are a lack of qualified English speaking programmers and astronomical startup costs in Japan. Japan has joined the long queue of countries wooing Indian knowledge workers to its shores and planning to set up software development centres in India. The only city Mr Mori visited other than the capital was Bangalore. Differences remain, but after a two year hiatus it can be said India and Japan once again share both security and economic goals.

THE TELEGRAPH

25 AUG 2000

8 Yen for India ^{HC-10}

IT IS one of the oddities of international relations that India and Japan have never been as close as they might have been. The fact that they have long been virtually the only democracies in Asia with worldwide influence should have made them natural allies. But the course of history ordained otherwise. The main reason for the seeming distance in the post-colonial period between the two was Japan's place in the American camp and India's in the non-aligned group, which had a pronounced anti-American bias. In addition, India was apparently too preoccupied with its immediate neighbourhood, especially Pakistan and China, and also with the Western world. For some strange reason, the so-called Far East — the ASEAN countries, for instance, as well as Japan — held little interest for India. Apart from their American connections, they seemed to belong to a cultural and intellectual world which was not only unfamiliar but also not worth knowing.

If the belief that sometimes things have to get worse before they can improve is true, then the recent course of Indo-Japanese ties has been ~~no exception~~. In the aftermath of the Pokhran II blasts, it might have been presumed that the chances of an improvement in the near future were extremely slight. Although the Japanese horror about nuclear weapons is understandable because of their unforgettable experience, that could not be a determining factor where Indian policies were concerned. But just when the relations appeared to have touched their lowest point, realpolitik intervened. And as it is becoming increasingly evident in today's world, it is the economic factor which influences national policies more than anything else. In Japan's case, it is the recognition of India's potential in this field, especially in the IT sector, which has evidently made it opt for a global partnership with this country.

Although the sanctions imposed by Tokyo will remain for the time being, it cannot be for long because Japan appears to have begun to appreciate both the compulsions for India for testing the atomic devices and its readiness to observe restraint unlike the established nuclear powers which have never paid anything more than lip-service to the concept of non-proliferation. Although it has come nearly half a century too late, the new bonds between India and Japan augur well for the future for they will give primacy to the ideals of democracy and economic growth in contrast to totalitarianism and fundamentalism which guide some of India's neighbours.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 AUG 2000

Sign CTBT, Mori tells Indian leaders

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, August 24

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Yoshiro Mori today condemned terrorism in Kashmir and disclosed that he had "emphasised to Gen Musharraf the need to control terrorism and to create an environment conducive for the resumption of a dialogue with India."

Mori also strongly urged India to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) at an "early" date, in order to enable Japan and India to take joint initiatives for nuclear disarmament, non-proliferation and "promote our amicable relations further."

On terrorism in Kashmir, Mori said: "It was very deplorable for me to learn that brutal acts were perpetrated at the beginning of this month in the state when the

very positive move for putting an end to violence had just commenced under the leadership of Prime Minister Vajpayee."

The visiting PM was addressing a meeting on India-Japan Global Partnership in the 21st Century organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Mori stated that the fighting which broke out in Kargil after Vajpayee's "historic visit" to Lahore was a betrayal of the Indian PM's good intentions.

The Japanese Prime Minister said that he understood the national security environment confronting India and its security concerns. However, the Pokhran nuclear tests came as "a great sur-

prise to the Japanese people, to whom India was a peace-loving nation in pursuit of disarmament," he remarked.

"I also believe that by signing the CTBT India will win due respect and praise from the international community as a responsible nation," Mori added.

He said he "appreciated" the assurance given yesterday both by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh on India's self-imposed moratorium on nuclear tests.

He said both Japan and India have a common goal of creating a nuclear-free world. Japan has strengthened its diplomatic efforts for nuclear disarmament and

attaches special importance to the CTBT coming into force at the earliest, he added.

Mori said that Japan had suffered a great tragedy due to nuclear weapons during the second world war and had decided as a fundamental policy "not to produce, possess or permit others to bring in nuclear weapons".

He observed that India and Japan have a great responsibility as major countries in the world. "We must defend and spread the values of democracy and freedom that India and Japan share," he added.

He said: "Even if there are issues over which our two countries have different views, I believe firmly that we share the stance of speaking candidly with each other as both our nations are built on the shared foundation of democracy and freedom." Photo on Page 11

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 AUG 2000

Japan to spend \$15 bn in promoting IT in Asia

Multiple entry visas for Indian engineers soon

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, August 24

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Yoshiro Mori on Thursday announced a \$15 billion package to be spent in Asia over the next five years to promote infotech in developing countries and eliminating the digital divide among the Asian nations.

While addressing a meeting on India-Japan global partnership in the 21st century organized by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Mori said that Japan is planning to launch expansive measures for issuing multiple entry visas to stimulate exchanges with Indian IT engineers. Through the provision of training IT engineers in Japanese language and Japanese business practices and the holding of an Indo-Japanese IT summit, Japan hopes to promote inter-

change in IT in the private sector.

The prime minister said that Japan is currently planning to invite 5,000 youngsters, including high school students from South-Asia to visit Japan during the next five-years. A Mori fellowship would also be set up to invite academics, researchers and artists from South-Asian countries to Japan to exchange cultural knowledge and understanding.

He said that in order to stimulate economic relations between India and Japan it has also been decided to dispatch an economic mission headed by chairman of Japan Federation of Economic Organizations and president of Japan India Business Cooperation Committee by the end of October. The interactions will be beneficial not only to solve the traditional problems relating to trade and investment, but also to find fields of cooperation, including infotech.

The prime minister said that economic activities in the private sector, technical assistance, granting assistance to grassroots projects conducted by NGOs and similar organizations as well as emergency and humanitarian aid had always been remained maintained unchanged even after the nuclear tests conducted by India.

Speaking on the occasion, Ficci president G.P. Goenka informed that the apex business chamber is in the process of setting up a Japanese language website which will hyperlink with the world wide web so that the language barriers can be bridged in the years to come.

Ficci believes that both India and Japan must address the divide between the 'haves and have nots' in the IT domain. Both the countries must also address the global divide between nations in this regard, the Ficci president added.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 AUG 2000

'KARGIL BETRAYED VAJPAYEE'S GOOD INTENTIONS'

Japan asks Pakistan to curb terrorism

H-1
25/8

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, AUG. 24. Japan today said it had asked Pakistan to curb terrorism and create grounds which could lead to resumption of dialogue with India.

"A few days ago, I emphasised to General Pervez Musharraf, Chief Executive, the need to take steps for an early return to democracy, to control terrorism and to create an environment conducive to the resumption of dialogue with India," the Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, said in an address on "India-Japan Global Partnership for the 21st Century" here.

Mr. Mori nearly blamed Pakistan directly for the Kargil war. "In February last year, Prime Minister Vajpayee made a historic visit to Lahore... However, the fighting that broke out in Kargil after the visit betrayed Mr. Vajpayee's good intentions, and we also deeply regretted it."

Mr. Mori also condemned the continuing violence in Kashmir and said terrorist acts could not be condoned, "no matter what the reasons are, and we roundly condemn terrorist acts in any form". He acknowledged that terrorism had become a serious problem for India and expressed his sympathies over the massacre of innocents not only in Kashmir but other parts as well. He came



The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, acknowledging cheers at the meeting organised by FICCI in New Delhi, on Thursday. The president of FICCI, Mr. G.P. Goenka, looks on. — Photo: V. Sudershan

down on the massacre of Amarnath pilgrims in Pahalgam, terming the series of killings attempts to derail the "very positive move for putting an end to violence in Kashmir... under the leadership of Prime Minister Vajpayee".

At the same time, the Japanese leader urged India not to give up on discussing the outstanding issue. "We must not abandon dialogue. Only through dialogue can

you understand the other side and overcome conflicts through dialogue."

Cooperation on global issues

Mr. Mori repeatedly mentioned Tokyo's resolve to walk in step with New Delhi on global issues provided it signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. These included initiatives to promote

disarmament, cooperation in moves to reform the United Nations and complementing Japan's prowess in the hardware sector with the large Indian IT workforce specialising in software solutions. "I strongly expect India's early signature to the CTBT in order that we can further promote our amicable relations. I also believe (that) by taking steps India will win due respect and praise from the international community as a responsible nation."

Mr. Mori acknowledged that both countries shared the common vision of reforming and strengthening the U.N. and were expected to play a more important role in the coming days. "In this sense we are in the same boat. We wish to row the boat further forward for early realisation of the U.N. reforms, maintaining our close cooperation."

Dwelling on the IT promotion and cooperation initiative, Mr. Mori said Japan was about to launch an expansive measure on issuance of multiple entry visas keeping Indian software engineers in mind.

In order to eliminate the digital divide, it had prepared a package of \$15 billion, which would be spent over the next five years. Part of this amount would be spent on promoting IT in other countries, specially in the Asian region.

THE HINDU

25 AUG 2000

FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2000

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25/8

DIPLOMACY OF SOME REALISM

THE THOUGHTFUL PROPOSAL by the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, for a definitive global partnership between India and his country is certainly not comparable to the Vision Statement which the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, had carefully crafted before unveiling with due celebration some time ago. In one sense, the move that Mr. Mori made during his talks with Mr. Vajpayee in New Delhi on Wednesday is in line with the indications by the Japanese officials ahead of their Prime Minister's latest South Asia tour that no sensational diplomacy of the kind that marked Mr. Clinton's talks with the Indian leaders was on the cards at this time. Now, given the subdued realities of the India-Japan ties, the Mori initiative needs a directional thrust despite being categorical about the feasibility of a bilateral partnership over issues of worldwide importance. A clear parameter that Mr. Mori himself has spelled out, according to a Japanese version, is that the global partnership is being envisioned so as to strengthen mutual ties. Is that a hint of circumspection about the plenary scope of the initiative or merely an affirmation of its inherent attribute of bilateralism? However, in view of the reciprocal bonhomie, Mr. Mori's idea, enthusiastically shared and co-authored by India, signals a welcome sense of realism. This is especially so in the context of persistent perceptual differences on the timing of New Delhi's possible accession to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and of Japan's decision sometime in the future to lift the sanctions in respect of new projects in India.

The planned dialogue on security-related issues — inclusive of the China factor as briefly discussed by the President, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, and Mr. Mori — can possibly lend substance to the idea of a new partnership. However, there is a political message in Mr. Mori's parting but compulsive call for India's

signature on the CTBT — an integral part of his address to Indian industrialists that followed his talks with the Government leaders. So, by stressing that India's accession to the CTBT could actually add value to the existing "amicable" bilateral relations, Mr. Mori has left no room for ambiguity about his preference. Yet, the Japanese camp is positively upbeat in regard to its belief that India is committed to observing a voluntary moratorium on nuclear arms testing regardless of the moves by other countries in the future. This appears to have buoyed Japan in its perception that India may not choose to conduct test-detonations even if Pakistan were to carry out one or more in course of time. There is no significant semantic gap between the Japanese understanding of this order and New Delhi's assertions that there is no time limit to its nuclear-test moratorium and that the Treaty would not be scuttled by it. Beyond these niceties, it is quite immaterial whether Mr. Mori's recent talks with Gen. Pervez Musharraf of Pakistan will help lower the temperature across the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, because Japan's diplomatic activism in this regard is now a thing of the past.

The linkage between Tokyo's clearly defined economic sanctions on India and the latter's aid-worthy new projects may still be in place as an aspect of Japan's domestic political milieu. But Mr. Mori has certainly succeeded in putting India's expanding digital dimension on Japan's information technology (IT) map. Truly substantive are his impassioned plea to the Indian IT technopreneurs to make a beeline for the Japanese market and his call for a resolute followup action of the interactive kind — meetings between the IT Ministers of the two countries, professional symposia and language lessons for Indian specialists. The mutual mood to open a new phase of bilateral political exchanges should also be prudently harnessed to be of real relevance to this sector.

THE HINDU

2 - AUG 2000

Time to go east

With timely watering Indo-Japanese ties will blossom

THERE are several reasons why India and Japan should want to work more closely together. Two of the most important just now are a common interest in furthering Asian strategic stability and in developing the potential of information technology for each of their economies. The surprise is that both capitals have taken so long to take the necessary steps towards improving the relationship. Yoshiro Mori's statements during his visit to India, the first by a Japanese prime minister in a decade, indicate clearly that Tokyo intends to get around the twin obstacles of India's nuclear tests and Japan's economic sanctions by setting them to one side, as it were, while Tokyo and New Delhi get on with other matters where progress is not only possible but essential for both countries. India has not advanced from the position it set out a year ago on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty; it observes a unilateral moratorium on testing and will not stand in the way of the treaty coming into force. Japan has had to be content with that especially since the near fatal blow dealt by the US Congress to the CTBT last year has left very little prospect of movement on the treaty anywhere in the world.

Consequently, Japan has pragmatically softened its stance on economic sanctions (now delicately referred to by both sides as "economic measures") imposed in 1998 and decided to resume loans for projects approved before Pokharan-II such as the Simhadri power station in Andhra Pradesh and the Delhi Metro. If private sector investment, humani-

tarian aid and aid to grassroots programmes run by NGOs, all of which continue, are also taken into account, the yen flows are not inconsequential. The decision to begin a security and defence dialogue is welcome in the context of a number of changes in the Asian scenario. There is China, an emerging economic superpower. Although it has been at pains not to project power and alarm its neighbours, the tensions with Taiwan and with some Asian countries over the Spratley and Paracel islands, cause constant concern. Meanwhile America's plans for a National Missile Defence and a Theatre Missile Defence in Asia have got Beijing worried. The scene is set in various ways for action which could upset the strategic balance. Japan and India can contribute greatly to peace and stability at this time by helping to establish new institutional mechanisms and consolidate existing ones to manage and resolve Asian differences.

It is astonishing that India's brilliant infotech industry has taken so long to discover Japan, the second largest economy in the world. It was Chief Minister S M Krishna who pointed out during Mori's trip to Bangalore the anomalies in India's software trade. While 65 per cent of India's software trade is with the US, he said, only four per cent is with Japan. Happily, that is now going to change. Japan, like Europe and the US before it, is doing its best to attract Indian IT professionals. India and Japan's proposal to establish an IT partnership is an idea with great potential. It should logically embrace telecommunications as well. Time for India's IT industry to go east.

INDIAN EXPRESS

26 AUG 2001

NOT MORIBUND

Indo-Japan ties on the mend

IT would seem that the Japanese have got themselves on a spot with their own sanctions. In May, the LDP, majority partner in the ruling coalition, was apparently itching to get them lifted, but backed down under pressure from other constituents. The business lobby is also somewhat worried over declining trade and investment with India. Part of the rationale for Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori's visit to this country, the first by a Japanese prime minister in 10 years, must have been to look for ways to get around the CTBT signature issue. Vajpayee, besides pointing out the moratorium declared on testing, gave him the bland assurance that India would not stand in the way of the treaty coming into effect as soon as the 44 other countries have signed it. Which means that India will sign it, because the treaty cannot come into effect otherwise? Or does he have other ways of not standing in the way, not amounting to signature, in mind? The moot point, anyway, is that 44 signatures are going to take a lot of time, meanwhile India and Japan can do business with each other as usual. The aid question is urgent too. Although foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh appears indifferent, \$ 12 billion in consortium funds is not a trifle. Otherwise, first Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and then Defence Minister George Fernandes would not have gone rushing to Tokyo to try and sort things out.

Mori has announced a small sum for the Delhi Metro project and some money for a power project in Vishakhapatnam. This is not really opening the loan tap, as some say, because lending from multilateral institutions, which Japan had blocked, had resumed even earlier. These are the yen loans that had been completely cut off, so this is a good sign. The Japanese say they gave \$ 900 million last year anyway, but from Mansingh's declarations one deduces that these disbursements relate to proposals made before Pokhran II. The sanctions were not just punitive, they were also meant to satisfy Japanese public opinion. Now that the nuclear ardour in the subcontinent has cooled off a bit, the Japanese can afford to release small tranches of ODA without inviting political backlash at home. Mori has to tread carefully, his majority is thin. The bottomline is that their economy is not in great shape and Japan needs to do business wherever it decently can.

THE STATESMAN

28 AUG 2000

Japan may lift sanctions on India

Tokyo, July 17

JAPANESE PRIME Minister Yoshiro Mori is likely to announce the lifting of two-year-old economic sanctions on India and Pakistan during his visit to the nations in late August, a report said today.

Business leaders and Mori's Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) persuaded the government over the issue in a bid to repair relations in particular with India, which is becoming one of the world's largest markets, the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper said.

Tokyo also feared further deterioration in the Pakistani economy could fuel activities among Islamic fundamentalists and cause political

instability, the Daily quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

An LDP official said in late May that the party would call on the government to lift the sanctions.

Japan froze fresh yen loans to India and Pakistan after they carried out nuclear tests in May 1998, heightening fears of nuclear arms race in the troubled region and earning both countries international condemnation and sanctions.

Since then, Tokyo, the world's largest provider of foreign aid, has only offered minimal grant aid primarily for humanitarian purposes to India and Pakistan. It has also continued to provide project aid pledged before the tests.

Previously, Tokyo had demanded India and Pakistan sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) if they wanted the sanction be removed.

Both countries have yet to sign the treaty, saying they are trying to evolve a national consensus on whether to do so.

The Daily Yomiuri said the government has decided to change that policy and remove the embargo because the two countries had not carried out new tests for nearly two years.

According to Japanese media reports Mori will tour India, Pakistan and Bangladesh in late August. But a Foreign Ministry official said no concrete decision had been made yet, both on the trip and the sanctions. (Agencies)

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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Japan coming closer to India despite CTBT

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, July 28. — Japan is hesitant to immediately lift the sanctions imposed after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests unless India moves towards the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty. However, it is clearly willing to “broadbase” the relationship between the two countries.

The five-day visit of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr Yoshiro Mori, from 21 August is a sign that Japan is coming closer to India despite disagreements about the CTBT. Senior Japanese officials said Japan did not doubt India’s sincerity towards nuclear disarmament and noted that India has clarified its position and is “of course, a protagonist for nuclear disarmament”. He is also expected to talk about restoring democracy in Pakistan with the Musharraf regime.

Mr Mori’s visit may result in some easing of economic measures. Japanese officials indicated that even during the sanctions, disbursement for development projects in India have increased, though they were older projects.

“I can’t predict anything except say that we will be carefully watching the situation and hope that some progress will be made,” the Japanese ambassador, Mr Hiroshi Hirabayashi, said yesterday. He added that India understands the situation around

the country and hoped that Mr AB Vajpayee, will guide India to a consensus on signing the CTBT.

He said the international community was watching the discussions in Parliament on the subject and also, what Mr Vajpayee would have to say on the CTBT during the Millennium session of the UN General Assembly in New York. He added that Mr Vajpayee had earlier stated that India would not stand in the way of the CTBT.

Mr Hirabayashi said Japanese “feelings have been evolving” and the sanctions would not be the central issue of discussion, merely one of the issues. It appears that Japan cannot lift sanctions without any gesture from India.

Two major subjects of discussion would be about the restructuring of the UN Security Council and the closer ties in the field of information technology. He said “India and Japan were in the same boat” when it came to reform of the UN as both countries may be supporting each other for permanent seats in the Security Council.

Information technology will be a major issue this time and the IT-minded Mr Mori will visit Bangalore where 40 Japanese companies are based before he meets Mr Vajpayee here. Though he will not go to Hyderabad, he has invited the IT-conscious Andhra Pradesh chief minister, Mr N Chandrababu Naidu, to Japan.

THE STATESMAN

India must sign CTBT: Japanese envoy

By S. Balakrishnan

MUMBAI: Indo-Japanese relations came under severe strain following the nuclear tests carried out by India, which is the only nation in the world to have witnessed the horrors of nuclear war, immediately imposed sanctions. Since then, a series of efforts have been made by New Delhi to put across the Indian viewpoint to policy makers in Tokyo. Even though public opinion in Japan is by and large strongly opposed to nuclear tests, the government led by Keizo Obuchi is willing to listen to what India has to say in its defence. In this context, The Times of India spoke to Hiroshi Hirabayashi, Japanese ambassador to India, who was here recently. Excerpts:



H. Hirabayashi

How do you rate the present state of Indo-Japanese relations?
Both the countries have had a long tradition of friendship which has been reinforced by cultural and spiritual ties. Economic relationship between Japan and India has also become strong over the years and the prospects have vastly im-

proved with India taking steps to liberalise and globalise its economy. The nuclear tests conducted by India have resulted in a setback to the ties between the two nations. Nevertheless, the both sides are interacting closely. High-level delegations from both the countries have had a frank exchange of views.

The perception in India is that Japan has overreacted to India's nuclear tests and that Tokyo did not react similarly when China and France conducted N-tests. Please comment.

There has been no overreaction from our

TIP OF THE TONGUE

side. Our response is to be seen in the context of the fact that Japanese expectations from India, the land of Lord Buddha, are very high. There is tremendous goodwill for India in Japan and we want India to emerge economically as a major force and take its rightful place in the comity of nations.

Our response to nuclear tests in any part of the world has been similar. We did take economic steps against China when it conducted its tests. We have always adopted a principled stand that all nuclear powers should do away with their nu-

clear arsenal and the international community as a whole should seriously work towards the creation of a nuclear-weapons free world.

Japan is protected from nuclear attacks by the U.S. defence umbrella. In sharp contrast, India is being confronted by Pakistan which is a nuclear weapon state. India also has to deal with the nuclear arsenal of China, with which it was involved in a border war in the early sixties.

Japan does appreciate India's security concerns. But, India's best defence lies in joining the mainstream and have the best of friends. India should sign the comprehensive test ban treaty (CTBT). This is a modest expectation. A large number of countries have already signed the CTBT. India should also follow suit specially since it has declared its intention of not conducting further tests.

Is further improvement in Indo-Japanese relations linked to India signing the CTBT?

Our relationship is not tied to a single issue. We want to work together with India in several areas and establish a nuclear-weapon free world. We have had several problems with China and economic friction with the United States. But, we have handled them with tremendous maturity

Japan ties beat test ban hurdle

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Feb. 15: Japan today agreed with India that bilateral relations should not be held hostage by "any single issue", like differences on nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

But Tokyo refused to give any assurance on whether the Japanese sanctions would be lifted without Delhi's signature on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Japan is India's largest aid donor and had cut off all non-development aid and suspended its \$5 billion loan after Pokhran II. Though it has softened its stand on the issue and resumed official contacts with India, it has not lifted the sanctions yet.

At the end of a two-day foreign office consultation, both sides adopted a "forward-looking approach". The Japanese side was led by deputy foreign minister Royuzo Kato, while foreign secretary Lalit Mansingh headed the Indians.

A foreign ministry statement said: "The two sides had an in-depth exchange of views regarding bilateral, regional and global issues of mutual interest. They briefed each other about their relations with major partners and exchanged views on United Nations reforms and the proposed expansion of the UN Security Council and agreed to cooperate in this regard."

India and Japan expressed understanding of each other's security concerns and Mansingh reit-

erated Delhi's position that efforts were on to build the "widest possible consensus" on CTBT.

Though this is not being seen as an endorsement of the nuclear tests, it indicates that Tokyo has finally come to terms with Pokhran II. But the fact that India's signature on the CTBT was essential for resumption of loans and investment became clear from foreign minister Jaswant Singh's interactions with the Tokyo leadership during his visit in November.

This point was stressed during Singh's meeting with the captains of Japanese industry. Even while saying that they would try to convince Tokyo to lift the sanctions, they urged Delhi to sign the CTBT at the earliest. Tokyo, which needs India's signature on the CTBT as a face-saver to convince its domestic audience to resume the loans, might be feeling disappointed at the lack of progress.

Indo-French deal

The fourth-meeting of the Indo-French forum today appointed coordinators in seven priority areas to provide fresh impetus to bilateral ties.

The meeting, chaired by R.K. Hegde and Jean Francois Poncet, decided to set up two laboratories in India to help the country overcome water problems. Hegde said the priority areas were agriculture, aids, culture, water management, information technology, media and environment.

THE TELEGRAPH

16 FEB 2000

Japan hopes to normalise relations with India soon

TOKYO: Japan on Sunday said that it would further strengthen bilateral relations with India, which suffered a setback after Pokhran II, during the visit of its special envoy Ryutaro Hashimoto to New Delhi as "things are now moving in the right direction".

"Things in India are moving in right direction and we expect early normalisation of our bilateral relations," a foreign office spokesman said. On the eve of the former premier's departure to New Delhi on Saturday, the Japanese government said, "We attach importance to Hashimoto's visit to India as we like to further strengthen our bilateral relationship with India based on achievements of the visit of Indian external affairs minister Jaswant Singh to Japan last November and also the visit of defence minister George Fernandes this January."

Mr Hashimoto, who is the senior foreign affairs advisor to Premier Keizo Obuchi, left here on Sunday on a solo political mission to normalise Japan's relations with India. Arrangements were being made for Mr Hashimoto's meetings with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr Singh and Mr Fernandes.

The foreign office spokesman, while assessing the importance of China in the context of whether it should be invited to the coming G-8 summit said: "From that point of view I think Japan attaches importance to its relations with India, and concerning China we should neither prejudice Chinese participation in G-8 nor the relationship between China and G-8."

Mr Hashimoto is being accompanied by Masaya Fujiwara, who heads the south-west Asia division in the Japanese foreign ministry. Mr Fujiwara said that Japan-India relationship had vastly improved since last year.

Terming New Delhi as a "strategic partner", the official said India's importance arose from its strategic position and convergence of "our mutual interests besides the huge scope of cooperation between Japan and India in regional and international affairs" which would be discussed during Mr Hashimoto's talks in New Delhi.

Mr Hashimoto is also expected to ask India to sign the CTBT during talks with senior leaders. The former Japanese premier will also discuss enhancing economic cooperation between the two countries during his four-day tour. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 FEB 2000

Hashimo to visit to focus on ties

TOKYO, FEB. 20. Japan today said it would further strengthen bilateral relations with India, which suffered a setback after the nuclear tests of May 1998, during the visit of its special envoy and former Prime Minister, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, to New Delhi as "things are now moving in the right direction".

"Things in India are moving in the right direction and we expect early normalisation of our bilateral relations," a Foreign Office spokesman said.

On the eve of the former Prime Minister's departure to New Delhi yesterday, the Japanese Government said, "we attach importance to Mr. Hashimoto's visit to India as we like to further strengthen our bilateral relationship with India based on the achievements of the visit to Japan of the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, last November and that of the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, this January."

Mr. Hashimoto, senior foreign affairs adviser to the Prime Minis-

ter, Mr. Keizo Obuchi, left here on Sunday on a political mission to normalise Japan's relations with India which derailed after New Delhi conducted nuclear tests in May 1998.

Arrangements were being made for his meetings with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr. Singh and Mr. Fernandes. — PTI

Japan, India discuss ways to strengthen ties

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 21. Despite differences over nuclear issues, India and Japan today began a new round of discussions for building a broad-based partnership in the economic and security spheres.

The visiting former Prime Minister of Japan, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto — currently the senior foreign policy adviser to the Japanese premier — today outlined ways to draw a closer security and economic relationship with India. The possible areas of common strategic interests to India and Japan were discussed during Mr. Hashimoto's meeting with the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes.

The meeting assumes significance as Mr. Fernandes was recently in Japan to institutionalise the security cooperation between New Delhi and Tokyo. The two leaders had also met during that visit last month. Earlier in the day, Mr. Hashimoto met the former President, Mr. R. Venkataraman.

Mr. Hashimoto's visit comes after a series of

meetings which were triggered by the visit to Japan by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, in November last. New Delhi and Tokyo had decided then to engage each other across a broad front. The thaw resulted in the meeting between the Defence Ministers, Japan's Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Royuzo Kato, also held discussions with the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Lalit Mansingh earlier this month, indicating that the relationship was beginning to acquire a new intensity.

According to Japan watchers, the two countries can rake up a common strategic ground as they have an enduring interest in ensuring energy security. Both are dependent on petroleum imports from the Persian Gulf with common shipping routes. They, therefore, are keen to work out an arrangement which will ensure the safety of oil transportation along the strategic sea lanes extending from the Indian Ocean to the Strait of Malacca. The area is especially prone to piracy and Indian warships were recently involved in apprehending Japanese pirated ship in Indian waters.

Despite the common ground which is waiting to be exploited, the differences between India and Japan over the nuclear issue, heightened by the Pokhran tests, are coming in the way of cooperation prominently. More specifically, Japan, cutting down the rhetoric for a nuclear rollback by India, after Mr. Singh's visit appears to be veering around to the view that India's signatures to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) are enough to unlock the post-Pokhran financial and high-technology flows. These curbs had been imposed after the Pokhran tests.

Significantly, after his meeting with Mr. Hashimoto, Mr. Fernandes said he was confident that the visiting leader appreciated India's security concerns better.

Later, delivering a key-note address on the "Lessons of the Twentieth Century and the Vision for the Twenty-first Century," Mr. Hashimoto pointed out that World Wars had driven home the message that efforts to ensure durable security were of "critical importance."

110-721 'Indo-Japan ties not hostage to nuclear issue' 23/2

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 22. In a clear signal of nuclear accommodation, Japan today reiterated that its ties with India were not hostage to its differences with New Delhi on the Pokhran atomic tests.

"It is our fervent desire that we should stop the stalling of Indo-Japan relations on account of a single issue. I wish to convey the same message to Indian leaders," the visiting former Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, who is in India in his capacity as senior adviser to the Japanese Premier said. Addressing a press conference this morning, Mr. Hashimoto indicated that the Japanese Government could bend the sanctions regime imposed against India even before New Delhi concluded its internal debate on the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Asked if the sanctions against India could be made less rigid even prior to India's signatures to the CTBT, Mr. Hashimoto said that "if India expresses a proposal which was good and specific, the

loosening of measures was possible. We are not denying that possibility." Japan, he said, was ascribing a "case by case" criterion for granting multilateral loans to India by bodies such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). To a question on the stalled Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to India revolving around the granting of concessional loans, Mr. Hashimoto pointed out that despite the existence of sanctions, a Japanese Government appraisal team had visited India in January for the ODA assisted Delhi-metro rail project.

While signalling accommodation on the nuclear issue, Mr. Hashimoto, however pointed out that India's subscription to the CTBT would make its integration in the international mainstream much easier. "If India signs the CTBT, it will be a symbolic event which will be beneficial for bilateral ties. By signing, it will join the mainstream of the international community." The visiting leader however pointed out that "all the

cards (related to the nuclear question) are in the hands of India."

India and Japan were beginning to explore the possibilities of strategic cooperation to safeguard the sea lanes between the Indian Ocean and the Straits of Malacca. Japanese oil tankers from the Persian Gulf pass through these routes which are prone to piracy. Mr. Hashimoto, in response to a question said that Indian Navy and Coast Guard had successfully apprehended a Japanese pirated cargo ship in these waters recently. "There is a need for expanded cooperation in that area", he said.

Refusing to describe Jammu and Kashmir as a nuclear flash-point, Mr. Hashimoto said that Japan was not in total agreement with perceptions of the United States on the happenings in the border State.

Expressing "sincere condolences" to the families of those soldiers killed in the Kargil war, he said that the Indian Government had shown exemplary restraint by not crossing the Line of Control (LoC) during the conflict.

THE HINDU

23 FEB 2000

CTBT will not hinder talks with India: Japan

TOKYO: The Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) does not stand in the way of expanded dialogue between India and Japan on political and security issues, Japanese foreign office spokesman has said.

Referring to senior foreign affairs advisor Ryuotaro Hashimoto's remarks during his recent visit to New Delhi that Japan should not link the CTBT issue to all bilateral issues with India, the spokesman said, "I think what Hashimoto said reflected what is going on in our bilateral relationship. CTBT does not stand in the way of expanded dialogue between the two countries to cover political and security issues". He said the Japanese foreign and defence ministers' visit to India depended on "scheduling, not CTBT" but refused to comment on when that would be possible. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 FEB 2000

Fernandes to initiate first-ever defence dialogue with Japan

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, JAN. 7. The Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, is travelling to Tokyo on Sunday to lay the basis for a new dialogue on defence and security issues with Japan. He will be the first Indian Defence Minister ever to officially visit Japan, and is expected to prepare the ground for greater interaction between the armed forces of the two countries and initiate systematic bilateral consultations on Asian security.

The Defence Minister has had a long-pending invitation from Tokyo. But the trip had to wait until the unfreezing of the post-Pokhran bilateral relations between the two countries. Indo-Japanese ties went into a deep chill after Japan reacted bitterly to India's nuclear tests in May 1998 and cut off all new economic assistance.

Mr. Fernandes' visit follows the return of civility to bilateral relations since the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, travelled to Japan recently. During Mr. Singh's visit, both the sides had agreed to resume the broad bilateral exchanges even as differences on the

nuclear question remain. The Japanese Defence Minister, Mr. Tsutomu Kawara, will play host to Mr. Fernandes during his five-day visit to Japan. Mr. Fernandes will interact with senior officials of the Ministries of Defence and Foreign Affairs, the Japanese Self Defence Forces, and senior political leaders.

Although India and Japan are two of the leading democracies in Asia and have had no direct clash of national interest, they have had little interaction on defence and security matters till now. As they found themselves on the opposite sides during the four-decade long Cold War, they had little to discuss on security issues.

After the end of the Cold War at the turn of the 1990s, the defence establishments in New Delhi and Tokyo began to feel each other out, if only tentatively. Since the mid-1990s, officials of the Japanese Defence Agency began to visit India, and the Indian Naval and Air chiefs travelled to Japan.

On the eve of Pokhran-II, India and Japan were all set to begin a security dialogue at the Defence Secretary level. But they fell out over

the nuclear non-proliferation issue, and Tokyo suspended all defence contacts.

Mr. Fernandes will now resume that dialogue at the political level. He will be accompanied by senior officials from the military and the Ministry of External Affairs. He is expected to have intensive exchange of views on the security and threat perceptions of the two nations.

The discussions are likely to cover the regional security environment and the prospects for greater interaction between the two military forces.

The two sides are also likely to discuss the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Tokyo is impressed by the efforts over the last few weeks by the Indian Government to build the broadest possible consensus on signing the CTBT.

Japan is no longer insisting that India ratify the treaty unilaterally, and is hoping that an early Indian signature would facilitate the lifting of all economic sanctions against India, and the renewal of broad-based cooperation between the two countries.

Curbs are an irritant, Fernandes tells Japan

By Mahendra Ved
The Times of India News Service

TOKYO: Defence minister George Fernandes on Wednesday told the Japanese leadership that the economic sanctions imposed in the wake of May 1998 nuclear tests were being seen by India "as a punitive action" and were thus "an irritant" in the bilateral relations that ought to be removed.

The decision on lifting the sanctions and resuming grants and loans India gets under the overseas development assistance (ODA) was "entirely" of Japan, he told his interlocutors during his meetings. "Their decision is okay for us," he told the media later. The visiting minister was reacting to "some misreporting" which created an impression that he was here to plead for resumption of loans and grants.

Tokyo newspapers published almost uniform reports on Wednesday, apparently based on foreign office briefing, about Japan asking India to sign the CTBT before the ODA-related economic ties could be resumed. While the Japanese language press had its own reports, the English newspapers carried a terse Kyodo news agency report, generally played down to a single column on an inside page.

Asked whether he had been able to narrow down the differences, Mr Fernandes said: "The issue had been raised by them. But there is so much that binds us, and we can do so much together, that we should not allow a single issue to cloud our relations and prevent them from being strengthened."

He was "more than satisfied", he said, with the visit judging by the

"total understanding" of Indian viewpoint and concerns among the politicians, officials, military brass, academics and religious leaders.

Among those Mr Fernandes met on Wednesday were former premier Ryutaro Hashimoto, during whose tenure the sanctions were imposed, and leader of the opposition and Democratic Party chief Yukio Katoyama. Mr Hashimoto sought the meeting with the Indian minister and offered to contribute his mite to the improvement in relations impaired by the sanctions.

Mr Hashimoto is due to visit India next month.

Mr Katoyama, accompanied by three opposition MPs, wanted to know from Mr Fernandes the status of India's relations with its neighbours and the CTBT, besides the state of coalition politics in India. The Japanese leadership was also keen to know about Indian response to the arrival of the

young Karmapa from Tibet. The cautious Indian response was that Karmapa had not yet sought asylum.

A senior Japanese defence official, during an off-the-record briefing, hinted at "very serious repercussions" for Pakistan, if confronted with convincing evidence of its involvement in last month's Indian Airlines hijacking or that it had borrowed its Ghauri missile technology from North Korea.

Such an evidence would have "a big impact" on Japanese thinking, he said. "We are strongly opposed to any action like hijacking. We are also opposed to North Korea exporting long-range missiles anywhere in the world," the official said.

Varsity recreation plan wins wide support

The Times of India News Service

TOKYO: The blueprint of an ambitious project to "recreate" the ancient Nalanda University, not far away from the ruins in Bihar, unveiled by visiting Mr Fernandes, won wide support among the Japanese leadership.

If it was the gift of an Indian baby elephant to the people of Japan on Tuesday, it was reviving an institution with which the Mahayana Buddhism, practised by millions of Japanese, that provided a thrust to the minister's interaction with the Japanese.

Seeing it as yet another opportunity to strengthen bilateral relations, Mr Fernandes said: "I believe it could become a lasting monument to Indo-Japanese friendship."

THE TIMES OF INDIA
13 JAN 2000

India favours widest consensus on CTBT

TOKYO, JAN.13. India today said it hoped to build the "widest possible consensus" in the "shortest possible time-frame" on the issue of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and indicated that the subject would acquire "greater momentum" during the budget session of Parliament.

"A national debate is underway in India on the CTBT and we hope to build the widest possible consensus in the shortest possible time-frame," Mr. Fernandes told Japan's premier think-tank National Institute of Defence Studies on the concluding day of his five-day visit to this country. At the same time, he ruled out any compromise on India's basic objective to maintain a minimum credible nuclear deterrent. Outlining India's security concerns and perspectives, he said New Delhi's record on export control and non-proliferation was an "exemplary one, far superior to that of some non-proliferation treaty (NPT) member States."

The Minister later told press-

persons later that "a positive international environment has to be created for India to accede to the CTBT. This issue will acquire greater momentum during the coming budget session of Parliament." He, however, maintained that "we perceive our new nuclear status as adding to our responsibilities, and we will ensure that we live up to the expectations of the international community."

Mr. Fernandes, first Indian Defence Minister to pay an official visit to Japan, made it clear that New Delhi's legitimate security requirements would only be defined by it. Japan had imposed sanctions against India following the latter's nuclear tests in 1998 and has been demanding that New Delhi must move towards signing the CTBT for Tokyo to lift the punitive measures.

Rounding off his "highly successful" visit, Mr. Fernandes said India and Japan, as members of the ASEAN Regional Forum, "will assume greater responsibility to ensure peace and security." —

PTI

THE HINDU
14 JAN 2000

FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 2000

49-12

NOW A SECURITY DIALOGUE

12/1

INDIA IS FORGING closer relations with Japan, this time in defence. Mr. George Fernandes became the first Defence Minister to visit Tokyo and agreed to initiate a new dialogue on security and defence. On a five-day visit to Japan, Mr. Fernandes had a productive meeting with his counterpart, Mr. Tsutomu Kamara, to launch this dialogue. Naval cooperation and military training may be at the core of this partnership, with officials on both sides slated to work out the details in due course. In the fast-changing security architecture of the Asia-Pacific region, it becomes imperative for New Delhi to look for and identify suitable partners to build a meaningful relationship with the Pacific. Since economic cooperation with that region, especially with Japan and South Korea, is moving on the fast track, it makes sense to work in parallel on the defence and security front. India must also work for a new partnership with Indonesia and its Navy, which is the largest in Southeast Asia. Given the troubled climate in many of the Indonesian islands, it can be mutually beneficial for New Delhi and Jakarta to foster closer naval cooperation. In the new millennium, the Navy must be given a major role in striking strategic equations in both directions, keeping in mind the nation's energy security.

Close on the heels of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh's visit to Japan, the Defence Minister seems to be working both on the political and the security fronts. The move to gift a fourth baby jumbo to Japan in five decades, comes as a goodwill gesture to mark this visit. Even the hijacking episode has been discussed. But, Mr. Fernandes could not succeed in achieving a diplomatic breakthrough on the nuclear impasse. Tokyo has once again proved to be more loyal than the king, taking the line that unless New Delhi signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), it cannot restore Official Development Assistance (ODA). Japan

suspended all ODA to India after Pokhran-II in May 1998 and this remains an 'irritant' in an otherwise cordial bilateral relationship. Japan and the West must see reason. The Vajpayee Government is trying to hammer out a national, political consensus on signing the CTBT. But the Treaty has faded away from the global centre stage after the U.S. Senate rejected the CTBT and Washington failed to ratify the Treaty after signing it. What is the use of any Government signing the CTBT without being sure that its Parliament will ratify it? At least when the former Premier, Mr. Ryutaro Hashimoto, visits New Delhi in the next few months, the two sides must strive to keep this sticking point out of the way so that the productive bilateral relationship can blossom into a useful partnership on regional and global issues.

Opinion is gaining ground that Asia must play a more pro-active role in global affairs. The expansion of the U.N. Security Council is still hanging fire and Japan has already staked a claim for the Managing Directorship of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). While it cannot afford to dilute the focus of its partnership with the U.S., it is high time Japan realises that it is essentially an Asian player and must work on a policy that can let it play a collective leadership role for Asia. To be accepted as a reliable representative of Asia, Tokyo must emerge from the shadows of the U.S. and come up with independent positions on issues affecting this continent. It is not enough to be the largest single donor in the aid consortia or a leading investor in some of the developing economies. Japan needs to build a political role for itself in the region before it can be accepted as a representative of East Asia and the Pacific in any global forum. For that to happen, Tokyo must formulate a regional perspective and programme, in which it must work in tandem with India, China, Southeast and East Asia.

THE HINDU
14 JAN 2000

Indo-Japan collaboration on clean coal technology likely

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, January 18

JAPAN MAY collaborate with India on clean coal technology. Fuel Research Institute Director Kalyan Sen said it is after 40 years that Japan is showing some interest in the coal technology of India. A 10 m dollar collaborative project is likely to be set up in India.

Representatives of Japan Coal Energy Centre (JCOAL) held discussion today with scientists from Central Fuel Research Institute, Council of Scientific and Industrial Research and technical experts.

Chairman of the JCOAL Mission was chief engineer Research and Development Mitsui Engineering and Ship building Company, Ken-ichi Nagata. In a joint statement, Dr Sen and Mr Nagata said this is the first step to build a strong relationship between CFRI and JCOAL for the "improvement of coal preparation technologies".

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 JAN 2000

Fernandes' Tokyo visit brings Indo-Japanese ties back on rails

By Mahendra Ved
The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: Military uniform is not popular among the Japanese youth. Yet, Japan spends on its defence four times more than India. Japan also retains the U.S. nuclear umbrella, even as opposition to nuclear weapons remains the cornerstone of its domestic and foreign policies.

Telling a people troubled by memories of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, who happen to be major donors and the largest foreign investors, that their selective pursuit lacks understanding of more complex Indian security concerns is a difficult task. Defence minister George Fernandes attempted it last week during what was billed as the first-ever visit by an Indian defence minister. No breakthroughs were aimed at or achieved. But after a measure of understanding doors were left wide open for a security dialogue and cooperation by the navies.

The visit was termed "historic" by both sides. It was so in that it marked an end to the cold war era in Asia. Japan, which remains close to the U.S.'s eye-view in world affairs, chose, by its own admission, to discuss security issues with a country it earlier perceived as part of the Soviet "camp". Indeed, this is Japan's first attempt at peeping outside the "camp" it belongs to. In his address at the national institute of defence studies, Mr Fernandes noted that Japan has taken initiatives vis-a-vis Russia, "a country which the Indian defence establishment knows well," and of India embarking on cooperation with the U.S.

"with whom Japan has a security alliance."

Asked by a Japanese journalist whether he was not risking generating anti-India sentiments, the minister said he was not making a value judgment. Each country has its security concerns and must decide its own course. India is doing the same, and wants a better appreciation from friends and other democracies, now that the cold war is over.

Paradoxically, the Pokhran nuclear tests proved fortuitous for this

—NEWS ANALYSIS—

process. Much of the world community was upset. But Japan led the charge, imposing economic sanctions on India. Deliberately or otherwise, India placed Japan low in the list of countries to which it sought to explain its action. The Japanese were hurt, and said so publicly. Both sides took time to allow the ice to melt. Helping it was the Kargil conflict last summer when Japan, like the others, realised that in Kashmir, a nuclear Pakistan could dangerously convert its proxy war into a direct one.

Two other incidents helped break the logjam. Indian navy and coast guard rescued a Japanese ship from pirates on the high seas. The need for a reliable partner in the Indian Ocean region was felt. Came the year-end hijacking trauma with a Japanese passenger on board. The Indian talk of terrorism, be it on the ground, the sea or the sky, finally began to make sense to many. Japan has been taking greater interest in South and South-West Asian affairs in the last decade. It did not

mince words while condemning terrorism in the form of hijacking.

Apparently, it has realised that the only stable polity in the region it can relate to is India which also happens to be the country with enormous economic potential, something that always interests Japan. Though separated by over 10,000 km, India and Japan have a common neighbour, China, whose growing power concerns them. Then there is North Korea, a troublesome neighbour of Japan, which clandestinely passes on nuclear spares and missiles technology to Pakistan.

India feels that the Japanese need to understand India's security concerns and deal with a country that has become a nuclear power. External affairs minister Jaswant Singh, in Japan a few weeks earlier, did not embarrass his hosts by asking that the economic sanctions be lifted. "I am not a trader," he told the media. A cautious Tokyo invited Mr Fernandes on being recommended by old friend Hosen Norota, a key member of the ruling coalition. Mr Fernandes too did not ask that the sanctions be lifted. But when the hosts raised the issue, making the CTBT a clear precondition, and fed the Tokyo media the CTBT-sanctions stereotype, Mr Fernandes responded: "To lift them or not is your decision. But we certainly think it is an irritant in bilateral relations."

The message has gone home. India will not compromise with its security requirements, come what may, but one thing it is willing to do—continue an unconditional dialogue with Tokyo.

'Nigeria, a promising destination'

9 Africa HD. 14

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 27. The Nigerian President, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, today assured Indian industrialists about his country's potential as an investment destination. Admitting that several problems continued to bedevil this West African nation, Mr. Obasanjo told industrialists of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) that the situation had improved since the return of democracy last year.

Referring to his speech at President-elect of Nigeria at the same forum last April, Mr. Obasanjo said his country was seen as riddled by corruption and crime and torn by civil unrest. His administration has been attempting to assure foreign investors by making appropriate changes in policy and legislation.

The President reckoned that the changes in the socio-economic and institutional structure have led to a general feeling of relief. On the ground level, the pow-



The Nigerian President, Mr. Olusegun Obasanjo, at the CII meet in New Delhi on Thursday. He is flanked by the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Ajit Panja, and the ex-CII chief, Mr. Subodh Bhargava.

easier by issuing visas to businessmen within 24 hours of receiving the application. A one-stop investment window is being set up by revamping the Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission, scaling down tariff barriers on exports as well as imports, fiscal concessions and toning up the infrastructure sectors.

An entrepreneur entering Nigeria will also have access to 15 other nations who are members of a regional bloc — Economic Cooperation Organisation of West African State (ECOWAS) — which permits free movement of goods and services and zero duty among member countries.

Referring to the decision taken during his meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, on reviving the Indo-Nigerian Joint Commission, Mr. Obasanjo said its first meeting will set new targets for investment, determining the level of cooperation and framing a new implementation strategy.

er situation has improved and strife in oil rich areas is being dealt with. Democracy has allowed freedom of expression which made the need to resort to violence largely redundant.

With the participation of people in electing their Government, the level of corruption has decreased and a legislative framework is being provided to curb it by framing an anti-corruption Bill which will be enacted in a couple of weeks.

Recounting the policy measures taken by the new Government, Mr. Obasanjo said entry into the country was being made

Japan gets ready to do business with India again



CHEERS: A Japanese economic delegation at a reception hosted by Japanese ambassador to India Hiroshi Hirabayashi in New Delhi on Monday. — PTI

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 31 OCTOBER

THE VISIT of Japanese premier Yoshiro Mori has resulted in the necessary political sanction to expand economic relations with India. A high-powered economic delegation of the Keidenran, headed by its chairman T. Imai, completed a series of discussions with Indian political and economic leaders on restarting a virtually moribund business relationship with India, which had gone into hibernation following Japan's strident opposition to India's nuclear tests.

Although the economic sanctions imposed then, continue to be in place, the bilateral relationship is no longer tied to the single issue. The Japanese delegation, in a rare meeting with the press on Tuesday, stressed that Japan needed to "understand" India better though the "perception gap" needed to be corrected, said

Mr Kawamoto, head of the Japan-India business committee.

Mr Imai also said Indian software exports formed less than four per cent of the Japanese import basket.

To increase such exports, the team will be travelling to the technology centres in Hyderabad and Bangalore to look for further cooperation.

Japan has announced a system of technology visas for Indian software professionals as well as a familiarisation programme for Indians in Japanese language and business practices.

The sound bytes from Japanese industry is markedly different today than it was even a year ago when the Indian foreign minister Jaswant Singh visited Tokyo. Then business leaders were almost dismissive about dealing with India unless a CTBT signature was assured.

But over the past year, with

sustained political and economic diplomatic efforts as well as India's emergence as a leader in the knowledge-based sectors of the economy, intensive engagement with the US and EU have led Japan to come round to the view that isolation of India is not in Japanese interests.

This view also gained currency after successful cooperation between India and Japan in the energy sector and in combating sea piracy.

India has played a pivotal role in this, attempting to secure sea lanes for freer energy flows to Japan from the West.

India and Japan have also taken up sticky issues, including proposals to waive 20 per cent withholding tax levied on subsidiaries of Indian software companies doing business in Japan and simplification of issuance of multiple business visas for Indian IT professionals.

The Economic Times

1 NOV 2 00

India-Japan move on high sea piracy

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

578
9/11
CHENNAI, Nov. 8. — Indian and Japanese Coast Guard vessels today conducted a joint exercise for the first time off the Chennai coast. This exercise is aimed at establishing joint working procedures for the two countries in anti-piracy operations on high seas.

Piracy on high seas is increasing and cooperation of countries all over the world is necessary to take stern action against the offenders, the director-general of Indian Coast Guard, Vice-Admiral JC De Silva, said here today.

Addressing the media along with the Commandant of the Japanese Coast Guard, Mr Shogo Arai, Mr De Silva said that the recent criminal activities on high

seas were carried out on an international level by very large organisations. "We need international cooperation", he said.

Mr Arai said that the idea for cooperation between India and Japan was mooted at an international conference on piracy held in Tokyo in April this year.

The conference, in which the ASEAN and East Asian countries participated and for which India was a special invitee, came to many conclusions. It was decided that there would be joint exercises, joint visits and exchange of information to check piracy, he said.

Earlier the Mediterranean Sea and the North Sea were the hotbed of high sea piracy. Now the Malacca Strait, South China Sea, Indonesian waters, and the waters off Brazil, Somalia and West Africa have

become the troubled spots, Mr De Silva said. However, one optimistic note is that while piracy has increased, killings have come down. For example, the gruesome killings of the crew of Chong Song, a Chinese ship, prompted the government to mete out capital punishment to prevent such crimes in the future. All the pirates, including 14 Chinese and one foreigner, were executed. Mr De Siva pointed out that this will send a stern warning to the pirates.

The joint initiative became all the more vital in view of the hijacking of Alondra Rainbow, a cargo ship carrying aluminium from Indonesia to Japan, in October last year. Following a world-wide alert and through cooperation of many countries, the ship was finally traced in Indian waters after a three-day chase.

THE STATESMAN

9 NOV 2000

Indian, Japanese Coast Guard conduct joint exercises

By Our Staff Reporter

CHENNAI, NOV. 8. A new era in Indo-Japanese cooperation opened here today, with the Coast Guard of both countries participating in a joint exercise, aimed at establishing joint working procedures for the two countries in anti-piracy operations in high seas. Both sides resolved to work for a common target — "safer, cleaner and secure sea."

The joint efforts were resultant of the Chiefs of both forces deciding to work jointly on piracy issues after the Anti-Piracy Conference in Japan, last April.

This has been necessitated by the growing incidents of piracy in the Asian region.

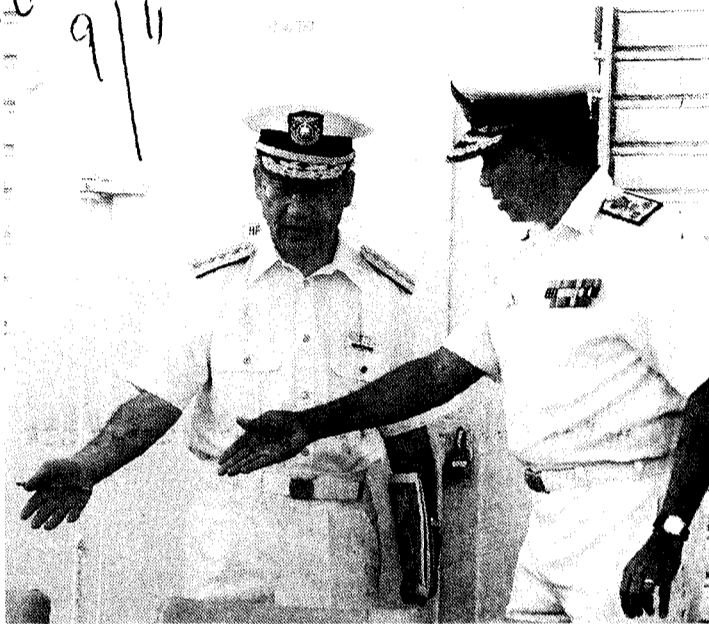
The Director-General, Indian Coast Guard, Vice Adm. J.C. D'Silva and the Commandant, Japanese Coast Guard, Mr. Shogo Arai, addressing presspersons on board the Japanese large patrol vessel, *Shikishima*, agreed that growing piracy in the region, especially in the Malacca Straits and South China Sea, was cause for concern. They said that both countries will work closely to check such incidents.

There would also be more such joint exercises, the Japanese Commandant said.

Vice Adm. D'Silva described the relationship between the forces as "very unplanned." The Japanese had great regard for the Coast Guard after it apprehended the pirated ship *mv Alondra Rainbow*, in Indian waters, last year. Japan had a cargo interest in the vessel.

Asked if the Coast Guard had failed to repeat its success in the case of the pirate ship *mv Gloria Kopp* alias *Kobe Queen-1*, Vice Adm. D'Silva said the fact remained that the ship had been involved in transporting narcotics before. "Everybody washed their hands off including the Ukrainian crew, the agents and the cargo interests.

A lot of circumstantial evidence led us to believe that the ship had



Mr. Shogo Arai, Commandant, Japan Coast Guard, (left) and Vice Adm. J.C. D'Silva, Director-General, Indian Coast Guard, on board the Japanese Coast Guard ship *Shikishima* in Chennai harbour. — Photo: Vino John

a shady past," he said. Its sister-ship, the *mv China Breeze*, was apprehended by the U.S. Coast Guard and a huge haul of narcotics, concealed in the hull, seized, he added.

Later, the Coast Guard DIG, Mr. Satya Prakash Sharma, Director, Operations, said that the cargo of the ship, *mv Gloria Kopp*, was sold for Rs. 18 crores recently. The ship too was up for sale and was expected to fetch a price of around Rs. 40 crores.

The operation against the pirates was definitely successful in this case too, he added.

So far, the International Maritime Organisation, has listed 1,920 incidents of piracy in the seas. In August and September alone, there were 12 such incidents, with nearly half of them being reported in the problematic Asian region. While the *mv British Skill*, an oil tanker, was attacked in the South China Sea, an attempt at taking over the *mv Libra Gas*, an LPG carrier, was made off

the Thai coast. *mv Andhika Adhiraksha*, *mv Zi Yu Shan* and *mv Stena Constellation*, all merchant vessels, came under attack in the Malacca Straits in the past few months.

Answering a question, the Japanese Commandant said that he was here for exercises. He was "not in a position" to comment if the ship's presence here signalled a softening of Japan's stance on India's nuclear status.

Among the Indian vessels the off-shore patrol vessel, *Varaha* and the in-shore patrol vessel, *Kit-tur Chennamma*, took part in the exercise.

The high point of the exercise was a mock drill in which a merchant vessel in high seas, seized by armed pirates, was intercepted by Coast Guard vessels.

A search and rescue operation was also conducted to "locate" the crew of the merchant vessel, who were put on board a small boat and set adrift.

THE HINDU

9 NOV 2000

Indo-Japan cooperation on e-governance ^{HD-10}

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 13. Japan today proposed cooperation with India in the area of e-commerce to form the Asia PKI (Public Key Infrastructure) Forum which would work towards promoting a unified e-commerce and e-governance system in Asia. This was disclosed at a meeting with the Japanese delegation led by Mr. Hisamitsu Arai, Vice Minister for International Affairs, MITI, Japan and senior industry representatives at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) today. The Japanese delegation emphasised the importance of establishing the Asia PKI Forum with support and cooperation from India in the absence of any united activity in Asia required for electronic signature, certification authority standards like that in the United States and the European Union.

The delegation expressed confidence in the capabilities of the Indian software industry as well as the scope of e-business and said India and Japan should interact on a more structured basis through development of this Forum on PKI and related technologies in e-commerce. The merit

of PKI use would be the realisation of seamless electronic Government across Asia. The members sought cooperation from other Asian countries, particularly India, and said a joint effort by the Government and the private organisations was required for e-Asia to happen.

Earlier, Mr. Arai said the recent visit of the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, had built the momentum for Indo-Japanese industrial relations. The re-opening of the CII office in Tokyo would further help expand the Indo-Japan cooperation.

The Vice Minister assured the members that they would be taking specific steps so that language did not become a hindrance for business with the introduction of language course for engineers.

Welcoming the delegation, Mr. Brijmohan Lall, past president, CII, said a high-level delegation led by the CII president was in Japan at the same time as this meeting with the delegation. The CII mission in Japan had a fruitful meeting with Mr. Mori in his office on Wednesday. These initiatives, he stated, would focus on the expansion of bilateral relationship.

Sec. 32(a) of Narcotics Act unconstitutional: SC

NEW DELHI, OCT. 13. In a major relief to persons convicted under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, the Supreme Court has held Section 32(a) of the act to be unconstitutional to the extent it barred courts from suspending the sentence.

Upholding arguments on behalf of an accused Jiti, a bench comprising Mr. Justice K.T. Thomas, Mr. Justice R.P. Sethi and Mr. Justice S.N. Variava said "Section 32(a) is unconstitutional to the extent it takes away the right of the court to suspend the sentence of a convict under the act." Justice Sethi, writing the judgement for the bench, also said that section 32(a) did not in any way affect the powers of the authorities to grant parole to the convict.

He said, "It is clear that parole did not amount to the suspension, remission or commutation of sentence which could be withheld under the garb of Section 32(a) of the act." Justice Sethi said in the absence of the right of suspending a sentence, the right of appeal conferred upon the ac-

cused was termed to be a right of infructuous appeal.

As judicial review was the heart and soul of the legal system, "the section, so far as it completely debars the appellate courts from the power to suspend the sentence awarded to a convict under the act, cannot stand the test of constitutionality," he said.

However, the bench, despite holding Section 32(a) partially unconstitutional, said "the section, in so far as it takes away the right of the executive to suspend, remit and commute the sentence, is valid."

Coming to the appellate court's power to suspend a sentence, Justice Sethi said a sentence awarded under the act "can be suspended by the appellate court only and strictly subject to the conditions spelt out in Section 37 of the act." However, he said the declaration of the Section 32(a) to be unconstitutional, in so far as it affects the functioning of the courts in the country, would not render the whole of the section invalid. —

PTI

THE HINDU

14 OCT 2000

India disappointed as Japan strikes a different note

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, APRIL 21. India is deeply disappointed at Japan's continuing inability to adjust its policies to the new strategic realities in the subcontinent. The latest offer from the Japanese Government to host talks between India and Pakistan is being seen here as not only gratuitous but also as reflective of a deeper problem with Tokyo's approach to the region since Pokharan-II.

Tokyo's insistence on maintaining parity between New Delhi and Islamabad, informed sources here say, run counter to the new approach outlined by the United States during the visit of its President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to India last month.

While many leading western nations are following the American lead in the subcontinent, Japan appears determined to drag its diplomatic feet. Of particular concern here has been the Japanese assessment of Mr. Clinton's visit to India. Two broad themes have stood out in the Japanese analysis of Indo-U.S. relations after the Clinton trip.

One is the Japanese complaint that Mr. Clinton was too soft on India on the nuclear question. And the other is Tokyo's objection to the fact that the U.S. is no longer seeking to maintain a balance between India and Pakistan.

On the first, it was known well before Mr. Clinton's sojourn in India that the two sides will do no more than articulate their well-known differences on nuclear issues. Nevertheless, Japan appears unhappy that Mr. Clinton did not put enough pressure on India to modify its nuclear policy.

While the U.S. and most of its western allies continue to affirm that they disapprove of India's decision to conduct nuclear tests in May 1998, they also

have begun to acknowledge that they have to deal with the new ground situation on a pragmatic basis.

But Japan appears to find it difficult to formulate a more realistic approach towards India on the nuclear issue. While New Delhi can understand the compulsions behind the Japanese hard line on proliferation, it finds it difficult to accept the Japanese insistence on preserving parity between India and Pakistan.

Immediately after Pokharan-II, Japan had sought to create a role for itself in promoting an Indo-Pak dialogue and in facilitating international intervention in the Kashmir dispute. During the Kargil confrontation, the initial Japanese reactions tended to fudge the question of Pakistani aggression across the Line of Control. The renewed Japanese offer of hosting Indo-Pak talks, observers here say, falls into the same pattern.

After the visit of the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, to Japan last November, Indo-Japanese relations had acquired a much broader footing. The Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, had travelled to Japan in January this year and initiated greater contact between the two security establishments.

Mr. Takashi Fukuya, who heads the Japanese Ministry of Industry and Trade (MITI), will be here for a day early next month. Mr. Fukuya will be the first Japanese Cabinet Minister to visit India since Pokharan-II.

While Indo-Japanese relations are certainly on the mend, analysts here suggest that inadequate Japanese appreciation of India's acute sensitivities on Kashmir and relations with Pakistan could continue to spell trouble.

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Indo-Japan joint meeting to lay emphasis on IT sector

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By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, MAY 17. The 22nd Joint Meeting of the India Japan Standing Committees to be held in Japan next week will give considerable importance to the information technology industry in order to forge major breakthroughs in tie-ups between the two countries.

The FICCI-Assocham (Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry-Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry of India) sponsored delegation to the IJBCC meeting will make presentations on the capabilities of the Indian IT sector, cyber laws being implemented and India's potential in software and hardware technologies.

The meeting assumes importance in the backdrop of recent initiatives taken by Japan to grant visas to over 10,000 software engineers from India to work in that country.

This is the first time Japan is contemplating such a step and is reflective of the enormous potential that exists in such tieups and synergy.

According to a chamber release, the high power delegation sponsored by the FICCI and

the Assocham will highlight the increased sourcing of software and other Internet enabled services from India by countries like the U.S. and Germany.

It will also make presentations on ways in which joint ventures and technical tie-ups have been evolved between American and Indian companies.

Although there is a recognition in Japan of India's strength in the IT sector, exports are now less than \$100 million which is less than one per cent of Japan's software market.

The JBC (Joint Business Council) study reveals that Japan's software requirements will spurt to \$1.3 trillion in the coming decade. Japan's new initiative to invite Indian software experts will help India achieve higher market share in the growing software market of Japan and get diversified into other Internet enabling services and knowledge based industries.

The FICCI-Assocham delegation will be led by Dr. V. L. Dutt, past president, FICCI, and Chairman of KCP Ltd., and will include repre-

sentatives from sectors such as IT, power, roads and agro processing.

The Japanese business team is keen to enter into collaborations in the agro processing sector for enhancing Indian exports. This is considered significant as it would help Indian companies overcome sanitary, phyto sanitary and other quarantine restrictions and norms imposed on Indian agro products.

The Indian side will identify strategies to enhance exports of value added food products including marine products, processed fruits and vegetables, tea, and floriculture.

It will also seek technology tie-ups and knowhow from Japan especially in the packaging sector and cold chain infrastructure and will seek the creation of a pre-inspection office by the Japanese Government to facilitate India's exports.

In the other key sectors of infrastructure, Japanese companies are keen to invest in such areas as power distribution, ports and roads. Both sides are expected to chalk out concrete strategies for channelling OECF funds in these sectors.

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