

---

---

# Security Council revises sanctions on Baghdad

New York, November 30 UN

AMID CONTROVERSY over American threats to attack Iraq as part of its anti-terrorism campaign, the UN Security Council met last night to agree on a revised plan for sanctions against the country.

Russia, which has previously blocked British and American proposals for "smart" sanctions against Iraq, backed a compromise deal under which a new list of the items controlled by sanctions will take effect from June next year. In the meantime, existing sanctions will continue.

Yesterday, the US played down talk of early military action against Iraq. The suggestion "that something is on the verge of happening has no particular underpinning substance to it", the secretary of state, Colin Powell, said. In London a Foreign Office spokesman hailed the change in sanctions as "a step

forward and a return to unanimity among the international community". He said implementation of the new list would mean "no sanctions on ordinary imports into Iraq, only controls on military and weapons-related goods".

He added, "Iraq will be free to meet all its civilian needs, and the measures will leave the Baghdad regime with no excuses for the sufferings of the Iraqi people." The list of controlled items those that need approval from the UN sanctions committee before they can be imported by Iraq has led to essential civilian goods being blocked on the grounds that they might also have military uses.

This delivered a propaganda victory to Iraq and became a big factor in the breakdown of the international consensus on sanctions. One of the key aims of the "smart" sanctions proposal was to make the list less controversial

while depriving the Iraqi regime of its military supplies.

Despite American and British satisfaction over the new developments at the UN, it appeared last night that Russia would want further discussion on the detailed contents of the list before June.

The US has accepted a Russian request for a closer look at steps that might be taken towards resuming weapons inspections and lifting sanctions. But Britain's Conservative party leader, Iain Duncan Smith, said that the UK should be prepared to support military action against Iraq if there was evidence of it supporting international terrorism. Some observers, however, have accused the US of confusing Iraq's effort to develop chemical and germ weapons with terrorism, saying that they should be dealt with as a weapons proliferation issue.

The Guardian

# UN prods Afghans on council nominees

**Bonn, Dec. 2 (Reuters):** The UN prodded rival Afghan factions today to finalise a post-Taliban government after two decades of war, but said it could take another day to agree on names for an interim administration.

The dominant Northern Alliance, which controls most of the country, and three exile factions have agreed to the outline of a power-sharing government during six days of intense talks in Germany, but are still haggling over its 25 to 30 members.

Billions of dollars in reconstruction aid rest on a deal, a carrot the UN and big donor countries keep dangling as delegates scurry between bargaining ses-

sions in a top-security hotel shrouded in mist on a hill outside Bonn.

In the early hours of Sunday, UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi, exhausted by the grueling negotiations and fasting like many delegates during Ramadan, presented a draft seven-page agreement to the four different factions.

UN spokesman Ahmad Fawzi told a news briefing the groups would report back to Brahimi on the draft this afternoon.

"We're aiming for hopefully a clean text by tomorrow morning," Fawzi said. "The missing link is the list of names."

"This is my first foray into

Afghan politics but those with more experience than me in these matters say you can have a beautiful agreement but when it comes down to names it gets very difficult," he said.

According to the draft proposal, the interim authority would be composed of an administration of up to 28 members, a supreme court and a special independent commission to convene a Loya Jirga, or traditional grand assembly, in about six months.

It also refers to the need to deploy a multinational force as soon as possible to secure Kabul, seized last month by the Northern Alliance, for the new interim

government.

The draft proposes that 87-year-old former king Zahir Shah will play a symbolic role in calling the Loya Jirga, which would elect a transitional authority to govern for about two years until a constitution is drawn up and elections held.

One delegate said the talks would definitely not reach a deal yesterday and Western diplomats in Bonn cautioned the haggling could even stretch beyond Monday. "Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed," warned one envoy.

"The names are going to be chosen maybe tomorrow or today," said Hamid Siddiq, an ad-

viser to the group backing the ex-king, who has lived in Rome since he was toppled in 1973.

Alongside the Rome faction, the second biggest in Bonn after the Northern Alliance, there are two smaller exile groups — the Pakistan-based Peshawar group and the Cyprus group of intellectuals.

Sidiq said the delegations agreed to an interim government of around 30 members with his group choosing the prime minister, but said the structure could still be modified.

"Of course, after 23 years of crisis in Afghanistan, to come up with an agreement is not easy," he said.

# UN freezes Pak group's assets

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. — The UN Security Council has ordered the freezing of assets of a Pakistani group and three other Pakistani individuals for their suspected links with Osama bin Laden.

Announcing the UN decision, the Security Council committee, which monitors sanctions against Afghanistan, said Ummah Tameer-e-Nau (UTN) and three individuals, including two nuclear scientists, were suspected of having close links with Osama and Mullah Omar.

The UN action followed the US freezing of the assets of UTN last week. Washington said UTN was believed to be an organisation that claimed to feed the hungry and the needy of Afghanistan but in fact provided information about nuclear weapons to the Al Qaida. The Security Council's move now makes it mandatory for all the UN member nations to freeze any assets of the group and the individuals.

The two nuclear scientists targeted by the Security Council were Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood and Abdul Majeed who were suspected by the FBI of passing on knowhow on nuclear weapons to the Al Qaida. The identity of the third Pakistani individual was immediately known. While Mehmood remained at the head of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, Majeed was a former chief engineer in the same commission.

UN secretary-general Mr Kofi Annan has written to India's Prime Minister Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's President Mr Pervez Musharraf asking them to avoid actions and statements that would "escalate tensions." Mr Annan appealed to them to make every effort to foster a "calmer atmosphere".



Pakistani soldiers man a camouflaged anti-aircraft gun at Karachi on Thursday. — AP/PTI

## US air strike kills 40 Afghans

Rangers

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 27. — At least 40 people were killed when US jets bombed Afghanistan's eastern Paktika province, sources in Pakistan's border tribal rim said today.

"The attack took place when the people were asleep," said one source quoting witnesses from Naka village, which was among those reportedly hit.

At least five houses were destroyed in the bombardment, including the house of one commander in the vanquished fundamentalist Taliban, Maulvi Taha, the private Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press said.

Witnesses said he was not in the house at the

time and was unharmed, AIP said.

The source in the Waziristan tribal agency on the border with Paktika said 40 people were killed, up to 60 wounded and 25 houses destroyed in the raid.

AIP put the death toll at 25 with four wounded and quoted witnesses as saying the bombing was so severe that it was difficult to identify some of the dead.

The villagers said they did not understand why they had been bombed, saying that no members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda militant network were in the area. "Neither Osama nor any other foreteller is in our village," the source quoted one villager as saying. The villagers said they supported the new UN-sponsored interim government in Afghanistan, the source said.

The report of the attack comes a week after US planes hit a convoy that Washington insists was carrying Al-Qaida leaders and their Taliban protectors in neighbouring Paktia. Local residents and survivors said the convoy was en route to the inauguration of the new interim government of Hamid Karzai at the weekend in Kabul when it came under attack. About 65 people were killed.

Abdul Hakim Mumbi, a local elder, today said Mr Karzai had promised he would ask the USA to halt aerial attacks on Paktia.

He said Mr Karzai had also appointed a team to investigate the incident.

US officials have insisted the convoy had opened fire on US aircraft just before it was bombed and had been carrying leaders of Al-Qaida and the Taliban.

## Islamabad-Kabul stand-off continues

Press Trust of India

KABUL, Dec. 27. — The stand-off between Pakistan and Afghanistan after the collapse of the Pak-backed Taliban regime continued, with Afghan foreign minister Mr Abdullah Abdullah refusing to set any time frame for resumption of their diplomatic ties.

Asserting that Pak-Afghan relations had to be now based on clear declaration by Islamabad for mutual respect of sovereignty and non-interference, the Afghan foreign minister insisted last night that the issue of reopening of Pakistan mission here was a bilateral one and under discussion.

Pakistan foreign minister Mr Abdul Sattar during his weekend visit here handed a letter to Afghanistan's interim leader Mr Hamid Karzai from President Mr Pervez Musharraf inviting him to visit Pakistan and expressing Islamabad's keen desire to reopen its mission here.

Pakistan closed their mission here as forces of the new government advanced towards Kabul weeks before the fall of the Taliban regime.

According to residents, the Pakistani diplomats here had moved out along with Taliban cadres as they fled in panic after continuous US bombing raids.

During his media interaction, Afghan foreign minister Mr Abdullah Abdullah said he wanted Pakistan to hand over all Taliban leaders and their ranks to the proposed UN international war crimes court, which is being contemplated.

# UN rebuffs US stand on W Asia

UNHQ, December 21

THE UNITED Nations, in a resolution which apparently rebuffs the US stand, said Yasser Arafat has a central role in the West Asia peace process.

The resolution, adopted last night with overwhelming majority, calls for establishment of a "monitoring mechanism" to protect civilians in the occupied territories which Israel opposes and demands an end to the 15-month violence.

Washington had cast a veto in the Security Council to kill a similar resolution. But it has no veto in the UN General Assembly.

The resolution comes in wake of Israel declaring Arafat "irrelevant" to the peace process. But unlike the council resolutions that are mandatory, the assembly resolution is not enforceable though they have more moral authority as decision is taken by the entire membership of the United Nations.

Meeting in an emergency session after the US vetoed the Arab sponsored resolution in the 15-member council, the 189-member assembly adopted a resolution that emphasised that the Arafat and his administration remain the "indispensable and legitimate" party for the peace.

## ISRAEL MAY BAR ARAFAT FROM BETHLEHEM

ISRAEL WILL ban Yasser Arafat from visiting Christ's birthplace Bethlehem in the West Bank this Christmas unless the killers of Israeli Tourism Minister Rehavam Zeevi are arrested, Israeli radio reported on Friday. The Minister of Tourism was assassinated on October 17 in east Jerusalem.

"Yasser Arafat has not yet presented a request to go to Bethlehem, but if he did it would be turned down so long as he has not had the two killers of the minister arrested," said an official who asked to remain anonymous.

The official also demanded the arrest of Ahmed Saadat, head of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestinian (PFLP), which claimed the assassination. He said the three men were in the Palestinian autonomous zone of Ramallah in the West Bank.

Arafat usually heads the celebrations of the nativity, attending the midnight mass. An official of the Roman Catholic patriarchate said it would be "arrogant of the Israeli authorities" to refuse Arafat permission to attend the Christmas ceremonies and "we very much hope he will attend."

Representatives of the Christian churches had met Arafat on Monday in Ramallah and the Palestinian leader had vowed to "go to Bethlehem even if he had to come on foot," a Christian leader who asked not to be identified told.

AFP, Jerusalem

The resolution, adopted by 124 votes to six with 25 abstentions, also called for "preserving fully" the Palestinian authority and said Israel is an obstacle to peace. The United States, Israel, the Marshall Islands, Nauru and Tuvalu voted against the resolution that the American ambassador John Negroponte said does not address the "terrible dynamics" of the region.

The session was requested by Egypt on behalf of the Arab league and South Africa for non-aligned movement. The assembly also approved another resolution by 133 votes to four with sixteen abstentions which endorses the one adopted by the international conference in Geneva on December 5e which called on Israel, "the occupying power", to stop "willful killing and torture" and end unjustified

HF-11 22/12  
restriction on free movement of the Palestinian people.

Welcoming the resolution, Palestinian observer Nasser al-Kidwa accused Israel of considering itself above law and expressing contempt for the UN resolutions.

Meanwhile, Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo have expressed their "support" for the policies of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, who on Sunday ordered a halt to armed operations against Israel.

Ministers and other representatives of the 22 states of the Arab League in a final communique yesterday expressed their "support for the position of the Palestinian authority, that is looking to achieve a political solution based on the creation of an independent Palestinian State, sovereign and with its capital Jerusalem."

**Hamas ceasefire:** The Palestinian militant group Hamas today ordered an end to suicide bombings and mortar attacks in Israel.

A senior Hamas official in the West Bank said the decision was made to preserve Palestinian unity.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

## ***UN warns U.S. against extending war on terrorism***

UNITED NATIONS: The UN has warned the U.S. against extending its war on terrorism to Iraq, saying that such an action would exacerbate situation in West Asia.

But simultaneously, the world body was critical of Iraq too, pointing out that it has made no movement to allow United Nations weapons inspectors back into country and urged it allow them in as demanded by the security council.

Media reports have often said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein might still be trying to develop weapons of mass destruction. The inspectors are expected to ensure that he does not do so and set up a monitoring system.

A report by them that Iraq does not possess the capacity of producing weapons of mass destruction and does not have them is a key condition for lifting of the more than decade old sanction against it.

UN secretary general Kofi Annan, replying to questions at his year-end press conference, said he had indicated on several occasions that it would be "unwise" to attack Iraq now.

"I have not seen any evidence linking Iraq to what happened on 11 September. Of course, any attempt to do that can exacerbate the situation and raise tensions in a region that is already under strain because of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict".

At the same time, he said, Iraq has to begin responding to the security council's resolutions and allow inspectors to go back into the country. "When I saw the Iraqi foreign minister here during the general debate, he repeated the Iraqi position and had nothing new to tell me. But I think there is pressure on Iraq to respond to the council's request to return the inspectors", Mr Annan said.

To a question, he said the discussion about extending war on terrorism was going on outside the United States and the security council.

"This is not a security council decision, such as that concerning the Afghan operations or the decision to bring Al Qaida to justice. This is discussions that is taking place mainly in Washington and of course other governments have also taken part", he added. "I have indicated that I think in the longer term, on a broad basis, we need to focus on using resolutions that the security council has passed", he said. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 DECEMBER 2001

21 DEC 2001

# USA vetoes UN draft on West Asia

AGENCIES

UNHQ, Dec. 15. - The USA today vetoed a UN Security Council draft resolution that it said ignored the recent spate of Palestinian attacks against Israelis, exercising its veto power for only the second time in over four years.

Israel welcomed, but the Palestinians condemned, the US veto today that killed a UN resolution urging international monitors in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

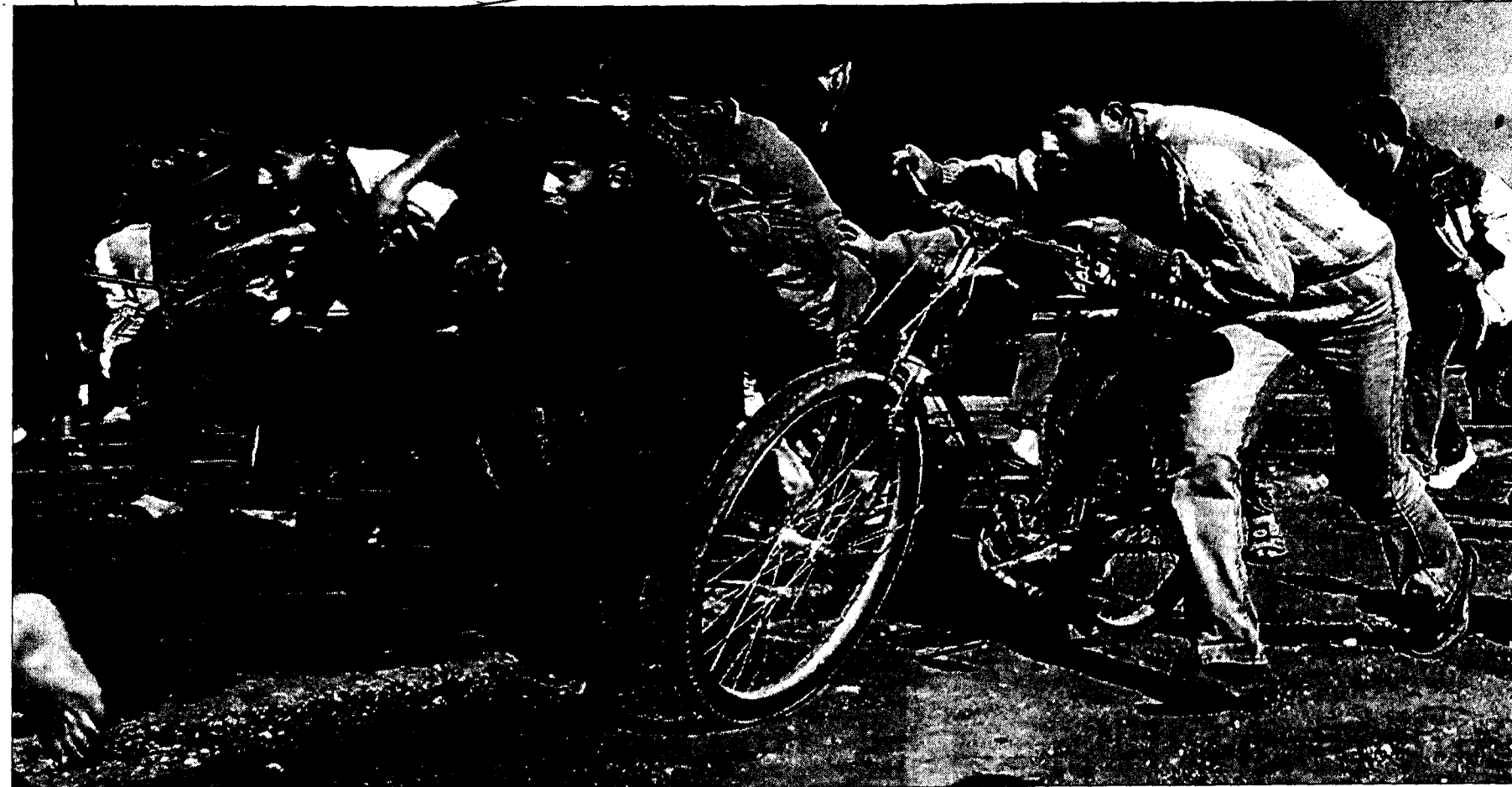
"It is with regret that the USA has decided to make use of its veto to block this resolution," said US Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr John Negroponte, during the meeting of the Security Council.

"Unfortunately the resolution before us fails to address the dynamics at work in the region. Instead its purpose is to isolate politically one of the parties to the conflict," Mr Negroponte said.

Twelve members of the Security Council voted in favour of the resolution, with two abstentions by the UK and Norway. The resolution, co-sponsored by Tunisia and Egypt, condemns "all acts of terror, in particular those targeting civilians," and "all acts of extra-judiciary executions, excessive use of force and wide destruction of properties."

The text further called for the immediate cessation of "all acts of violence, provocation and destruction," a resumption of talks between Israel and the Palestinians and implementation of recommendations made in the Mitchell Report on violence in West Asia.

The resolution also encourages establishment of a "monitoring mechanism" to aid in



*Palestinian protesters run for cover as the Israeli army opens fire at Beit Hanun, Gaza Strip, on Saturday. - AP/PTI*

implementing the Mitchell Report and to "help create a better situation in the occupied Palestinian territories".

But Mr Negroponte said it was fundamentally flawed because it did not even mention "recent acts of terrorism" against Israelis or those responsible for them.

Meanwhile Palestinian leaders vehemently criticised the US move.

"The American position will not be useful to the peace

process and establishing quiet in the region," Mr Nabil Abu Rdainah, advisor to Palestinian President Mr Yasser Arafat, said.

Israel was however upbeat. Mr Raanan Gissin, an advisor to Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon, praised the stand taken by USA.

"The USA is honest and follows its own policy announcement that you can't on the one hand support terrorist activity instigated by the Palestini-

an Authority and at the same time fight against terror in Afghanistan," he said. "Monitors have never stopped terror activities. They have only complicated the situation," Mr Gissin said.

The draft resolution warned of a dangerous deterioration in the region and called for an immediate halt to violence.

It encouraged "all concerned to establish a monitoring mechanism" to help ease conditions in the West Bank and

Gaza.

The resolution also sought to bolster Mr Arafat days after Israel severed ties with him and branded him "irrelevant" in response to the spate of attacks on Israelis this month. In March, the USA vetoed a similar resolution that called for an observer force which Israel opposes.

At least 777 Palestinians and 233 Israelis have been killed since the uprising against Israeli occupation

flared in September last year after US-mediated peace efforts collapsed.

**Israel pulls out of Gaza town:** Israel today began to withdraw its troops from a Palestinian-ruled town in northern Gaza. Palestinian officials said Israeli tanks left Beit Hanoun tonight after ploughing into the area earlier in the day. Israeli troops shot four Palestinians during the raid.

About 30 tanks stormed into

the town overnight after Israeli warplanes bombed Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat's compound in Gaza City for a third straight night.

Evoking memories of the early days of the Palestinian uprising, hundreds of Palestinian youths hurled stones at the tanks in a sign of defiance of the intense Israeli military and political onslaught.

"Everyone was scared. It's war," said one Beit Hanun resident.

Any hope for diplomatic efforts to contain the nearly 15 months of violence were further crushed as the USA made plans to pull back peace envoy Mr Anthony Zinni, whose mission has been wrecked by a bloody escalation of anti-Israeli attacks and retaliatory strikes.

**Mubarak-Zinni talks:** Egypt's President Mr Hosni Mubarak began talks with Washington's two main West Asia envoys today to discuss mounting violence between Israel and the Palestinians, presidential sources said. Mr Mubarak, accompanied by Egypt's foreign minister, Mr Ahmed Maher, met retired Marine Corps Gen Anthony Zinni and US assistant secretary of state, Mr William Burns at the Salam Palace in Cairo.

Mr Mubarak and Gen Zinni will "discuss the latest developments in the Palestinian territories in the light of Egyptian and US efforts to contain the deteriorating situation in the region and to revive the peace process", Egypt's semi-official *Akhbar el-Yom* newspaper said today.

The talks are also likely to discuss Washington's decision to veto the UN resolution demanding an immediate halt to violence in West Asia.

# Brahimi endorses Pak. view

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 2. The United Nations Special Envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, has given an impression that he endorses the view of the military government in Pakistan that Taliban elements in some form or the other would have to find a place in the future set-up in Afghanistan if the political alternative to Taliban has to survive.

Mr. Brahimi, who is on a tour of the region for a first hand assessment of the situation in Afghanistan and views of various groups connected with the future set-up in Kabul, left for Teheran this morning after spending four days here.

At a news conference, Mr. Brahimi said that the United Nations would continue its efforts for promotion of 'political acumen' among the people of Afghanistan to help pave way towards a lasting peace.

In the course of extensive discussions with all those who matter, Mr. Brahimi has left no one in doubt that finding an alternative viable set-up to Taliban would be an Herculean task that required patience. "I have come here to Islamabad, just as I will go very soon to Teheran and other capitals around Afghanistan to seek the views of Afghans and their neighbours on the future of Afghanistan. I will have to be back in New York for the start of the debate at the General Assembly, but I will return again to the region as soon as possible."

Mr. Brahimi said his discussions with various groups and key players in the future of Afghanistan, including the Pakistani authorities, have been informative, constructive and cordial. "I fully concur with President Musharraf that the unity of Afghanistan and its territorial integrity must be

preserved. I also agree that a broad-based, multi-linguistic and fully representative Government must be established, and that the new power structure must be homegrown and truly representative of the Afghans' wishes."

The comments made by the U.N. Envoy assume significance in the context of the efforts made by the United States and its allies to give a boost to the Northern Alliance to march towards Kabul by intense bombing of the so-called frontlines of the Taliban in the last few days.

He said the future Government would also have to maintain friendly relations with all its neighbors and not allow its territory to be used for any kind of hostile acts abroad. The U.N. has a clear commitment from the international community that it should play a central role, and has faith that all those concerned will support these endeavour to assist the people of Afghanistan.

## Desecration of idols triggers violence

BULDHANA, NOV. 2. Curfew has been imposed in Buldhana district of Maharashtra after communal violence erupted following desecration of images of God on Thursday night, police said here today.

"Police have declared indefinite curfew from 2 p.m. to control the situation," senior police officials said, adding, the situation was tense but under control.

## Tension in Bihar town

Communal tension gripped Mehsi, a small town in East Champaran district of Bihar, today following a rumour that an idol was desecrated by members of a particular community.—PTI

THE HINDU

H9-12

167

## U.N. AND AFGHANISTAN

H9-12

AS THE U.S.-LED coalition against terror pursues its military objective of hunting down Osama bin Laden and his outfit and bringing them to justice, the Taliban army is either regrouping around its stronghold of Kandahar for a threatened guerilla war or, more likely, disappearing across the border into ethnic-friendly areas of Pakistan. In all probability, the motley crowd of non-Afghan mercenaries has faded as fast as it emerged on the scene six years ago from the madrassas. A week of positive, swift developments thus brings relative calm ahead of the holy month of Ramadan and sees the global coalition's task rendered much less exacting. Also, early fears among the international community that the victorious Northern Alliance may launch reprisal killings have largely proved unfounded. For understandable reasons, however, the simultaneous effort to put in place an administrative setup and acceptable power-sharing arrangement in Kabul has not kept pace with the military gains. Washington, which was keen on an interim setup being headed by the former king, Mr. Zahir Shah, has been unable to locate Pashtun leaders who could get on board and ensure that the concerns of its ally, Pakistan, are met. Its unheeded advice to the Northern Alliance not to march into Kabul perhaps reflected these concerns. Pakistan, which co-sponsored the Taliban and remained faithful to it till the very last possible day, is unreconciled to the loss of its strategic depth and the return of the Northern Alliance. For now, it is perhaps the worst loser, having also to contend with the backlash at home. For Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the most immediate nightmare must be that Pakistan's rugged, mountainous tribal agencies bordering Afghanistan offer impregnable hideouts for the retreating Taliban.

As the Northern Alliance consolidates its gains and extends its successes to southern and

eastern Afghanistan, speed of action on the part of the U.N. is of the essence. The Security Council has acted with commendable urgency to approve a plan for the country's political future drawn up by its experienced special representative, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi. The plan calls for a broadbased interim administration to rule for two years when a constitution will be ready. A multinational force will also be deployed in the country to keep the peace among the different factions divided along ethnic and sectarian lines. The unanimity in the U.N. Council will ensure that Mr. Brahimi is no more undermined by the different geopolitical interests which have for centuries brought havoc to Afghanistan. He has the unchallenged authority to keep meddling neighbours at bay and India will hope that he will exercise the power effectively.

The scenes of jubilation witnessed in Kabul after the capital was liberated from the harsh Taliban regime provided perhaps the first tangible justification for the global action to rid the country of the obscurantist elements. The speed with which the Taliban forces have been scattered, as much by the Northern Alliance's efforts on the ground as by unprecedented American bombing, has called the bluff of the sponsors of the outfit. It has also underscored the validity of the decision of the majority of the United Nations members not to grant recognition to the regime headed by the Taliban which had secured control of most parts of the country. In fact, in the continuing battle for peace in Afghanistan, the United Nations appears to have gained a rightful leadership role. It is a time of critical test for the U.N and its voiceless majority to prove themselves especially after the doubts about the viability of the organisation raised by a series of unilateral actions in the past decade, highlighted in the former Yugoslavia.

**THE HINDU**

16 NOV 2001



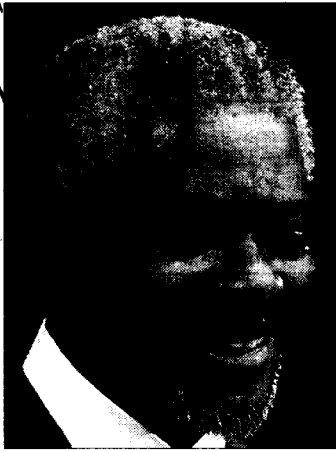
# Anti-terror war will hurt welfare plans: Annan

UN  
5-9-11  
REUTERS

UNHQ, Nov. 11. — Developing nations have warned that poverty and poor living conditions breed extremists.

At the same time, the UN Secretary-General, Mr Kofi Annan, said at the annual General Assembly debate where more than 150 Presidents, Prime Ministers and foreign ministers were present that the fight against terrorism would overshadow programmes to combat poverty, disease, and education.

"The number of people living on less than \$1 a day has not decreased," since the 11 September attacks, he said yesterday. "South African President Mr Thabo Mbeki said it was obvious the fundamental conflict in the world today is the deprivation of millions "co-existing side-by-side with islands of enormous wealth and prosperity." "This breeds a sense of injustice, social alienation, despair and a willingness to sacrifice their lives among those who feel they have nothing to



Mr Kofi Annan

lose and everything to gain," he added.

Nine Latin American Presidents spoke, most saying they had direct experience with terrorists, with Colombia's Mr Andres Pastrana and Peru's Mr Alejandro Toledo having been victims of kidnappings.

"Unequal distribution causes frustration and despair ... and generates the conditions that give rise to conflicts and clash-

es where different types of fundamentalism are at work," Argentina's President Mr Fernando de la Rúa said.

The French foreign minister, Mr Hubert Vedrine, warned wealthy nations that building up a just global community "instead of just talking about it or yearning for it, will mean giving up privileges, sharing wealth and power in new ways, and rewriting certain rules hitherto held to be inviolable."

The US President made his first speech at the UN, and then watched speaker after speaker support anti-terrorism steps he had advocated. "The time for action has arrived," he said.

Noting the short distance between the UN headquarters and the WTC, Mr George Bush said "many still lie in a tomb of rubble". Despite the support for counter-terrorism action, the war in Afghanistan made a few nations uneasy, especially Pakistan and Iran, who have supported opposing Afghan factions over the past decade of civil war.

THE STATESMAN

12 NOV 2001

# Powell holds post-Taliban strategy meeting at UN

WILLIAM ORME  
UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 13

tance had been collapsing over the previous 48 hours, said an emergency peace-keeping force may be needed soon to ensure a calm transition to a new regime, participants at the session said. Brahimi told reporters later that he expected Afghan opposition factions to convene for coalition talks 'very, very soon' — perhaps as early as this week.

"We have always insisted that this process should be home-grown," he said. There were no Afghans at Monday's closed-door strategy meeting, however, even though the pre-Taliban Afghan regime maintains a recognized diplomatic mission at the United Nations.

Iran, on Monday, initially urged further consultations before the formation of any new UN-endorsed in-

terim regime, diplomats said. But, Iran joined the other seven countries, which include Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, in unanimously endorsing the establishment of a new "multithematic, politically balanced, freely chosen Afghan administration," composed of groups "both within Afghanistan and from among the Afghan diaspora."

Though Powell did not speak publicly before or after the meeting, it was clear that the Bush administration has managed to forge a broad support among UN leaders for the decision it took almost two months ago that the Taliban regime should be overthrown. Immediately following the session, Powell attended an open meeting of the Security Council, which after an hour of debate unanimously approved an American-backed resolution call-

ing on UN member states "to intensify their efforts to eliminate the scourge of international terrorism."

Kofi Annan, the UN secretary-general, opened the Security Council session with a strong defense of the U.S. contention that deliberate violence against civilians must be repudiated and criminalized, regardless of the cause it ostensibly serves. "There must be moral clarity here," Annan said. "Like war, terrorism is an immensely complicated phenomenon, with multiple objectives and causes, a multitude of weapons and agents, and virtually limitless manifestations. The only common denominator is the calculated use of deadly violence against civilians for political purposes."

The meetings provided further evidence that the administration is using

UN forums as pivotal instruments for achieving its foreign policy goals, even as many UN members voice criticism of the US military campaign in Afghanistan.

As one indication of the importance the Bush administration attached to the "six-plus-two" meetings, Powell was accompanied to the session by virtually the entire top-level US foreign policy team for Afghanistan, including Richard Haass, the overall "coordinator" of the administration's Afghanistan policy, Zalmay Khalizid, the chief Afghanistan expert at the National Security Council, who is of Afghani descent; and James Dobbins, the recently named special US envoy to the region. The United States and its allies don't have a lot of time, warned Annan.

INDIAN EXPRESS  
14 NOV 2001

# Kabul rejects talks with UN

Islamabad, October 31

THE TALIBAN leadership today rejected contacts with the UN special envoy on Afghanistan, accusing the world body of being "a tool" of the United States.

Tensions between the two sides emerged over a meeting between the Taliban's ambassador to Islamabad, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, and the UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

UN spokesman Eric Falt said Brahimi had "no time" to meet Zaeef to discuss the US-led air strikes against the Islamic militia.

But Taliban leader Mullah Omar was reported to have ordered the ambassador not to meet the special representative of UN secretary general K Annan.

"It is now proved 100 per cent that the United Nations is not impartial. It has become a tool in the hands of America," Omar was quoted as saying by the Afghan Islamic Press (AIP).

The UN envoy arrived on Sunday for his first trip to the region since the September 11 attacks.

Brahimi has been discussing options for a possible post-Tal-

iban Government with a range of people. He met Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf and exiled Afghan leaders yesterday.

The Taliban has pulled out of past UN-backed peace talks with opposition forces, accusing the UN, which has imposed sanctions against the fundamentalist regime, of being a US puppet.

AIP quoted Zaeef as saying that Brahimi's office had expressed an interest in a meeting. "We contacted Kandahar and the Amirul Momeneen (Omar) rejected the request."

Zaeef did meet UN high commissioner for refugees Ruud Lubbers yesterday to discuss the growing humanitarian crisis.

But he said, "We are not interested in meeting Brahimi. Nobody has any right to install a broad-based Government in Afghanistan."

Brahimi has said the demilitarisation of Kabul is essential to the success of any new Afghan Government. But yesterday he said there was no political solution that could remove the Taliban from power in Afghanistan.

APP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES  
1 NOV 2001

# UN orders freeze on Taliban assets

ASSOCIATED PRESS

28/11  
**CHARGE AGAINST 650: ASHCROFT**

UNHQ, Nov. 28. — The United Nations has ordered a global freeze on assets held by every member of the former Taliban government in Afghanistan and accounts of Afghan-related businesses, including one held at Citibank in New Delhi.

The new list names 152 Taliban officials, beginning with Mullah Mohammad Omar.

The list, which incorporates many of the names made public by the George W Bush Administration as part of its anti-terrorism campaign, was adopted yesterday by the Security Council committee enforcing binding UN resolutions requiring all nations to comply with the freeze order.

The Bush administration has been trying to get countries to

respond to the lists it has made public so far.

A Saudi charity appears on the new Security Council list as well as the entire Al-Barakaat financial network, a Somali-based money transferring network with operations in north America.

Osama Bin Laden, his deputies and suspected several terrorist outfits operating in Central Asia, appear on the new list.

Militant anti-Israel groups such as Hamas and Hizbullah are not on the list.

On 9 October, a Security Council committee, enforcing sanctions on the Taliban, ordered states to freeze the assets of 13 individuals and three companies in addition to 11 terror groups named two weeks

earlier by the Bush Administration. A 28 September UN resolution requires all 189 UN member states to deny financing, support and sanctuary to terrorists.

The US attorney general, Mr John Ashcroft, said federal criminal or immigration charges have been brought against more than 650 people, including a number of "suspected terrorists" and suspected members of the Al Qaida network, since 11 September.

At a news conference yesterday, Mr Ashcroft said about 550 people remained in custody on immigration charges. "We believe we have Al Qaida members in custody and we'll use every constitutional tool to

keep suspected terrorists locked up," he said without giving any details.

Mr Ashcroft said a "a number of individuals" facing criminal or immigration charges were "suspected terrorists." The new figures represented a more precise breakdown than that given on 5 November when the administration said 1,182 people had been arrested on federal, state or local charges, detained for immigration violations, or held as material witnesses. Some of the 1,182 have since been released.

Of the 104 people facing federal charges, 55 were in custody, Mr Ashcroft said, adding that the justice department is trying to find those responsible for the hijacked-plane attacks on New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

28/11/2001

29 NOV 2001

# UN races for interim govt

FROM CHARLES ALDINGER AND ROSALIND RUSSELL

Kabul, Nov. 20 (Reuters): US bombers attacked the last Taliban strongholds in Afghanistan today as the UN set talks in Germany next week to begin mapping the road to peace for a country still very much at war.

Skippping steps in its original plan, the UN today proposed setting up a small transitional administration for Kabul immediately because of the fast-changing situation in Afghanistan.

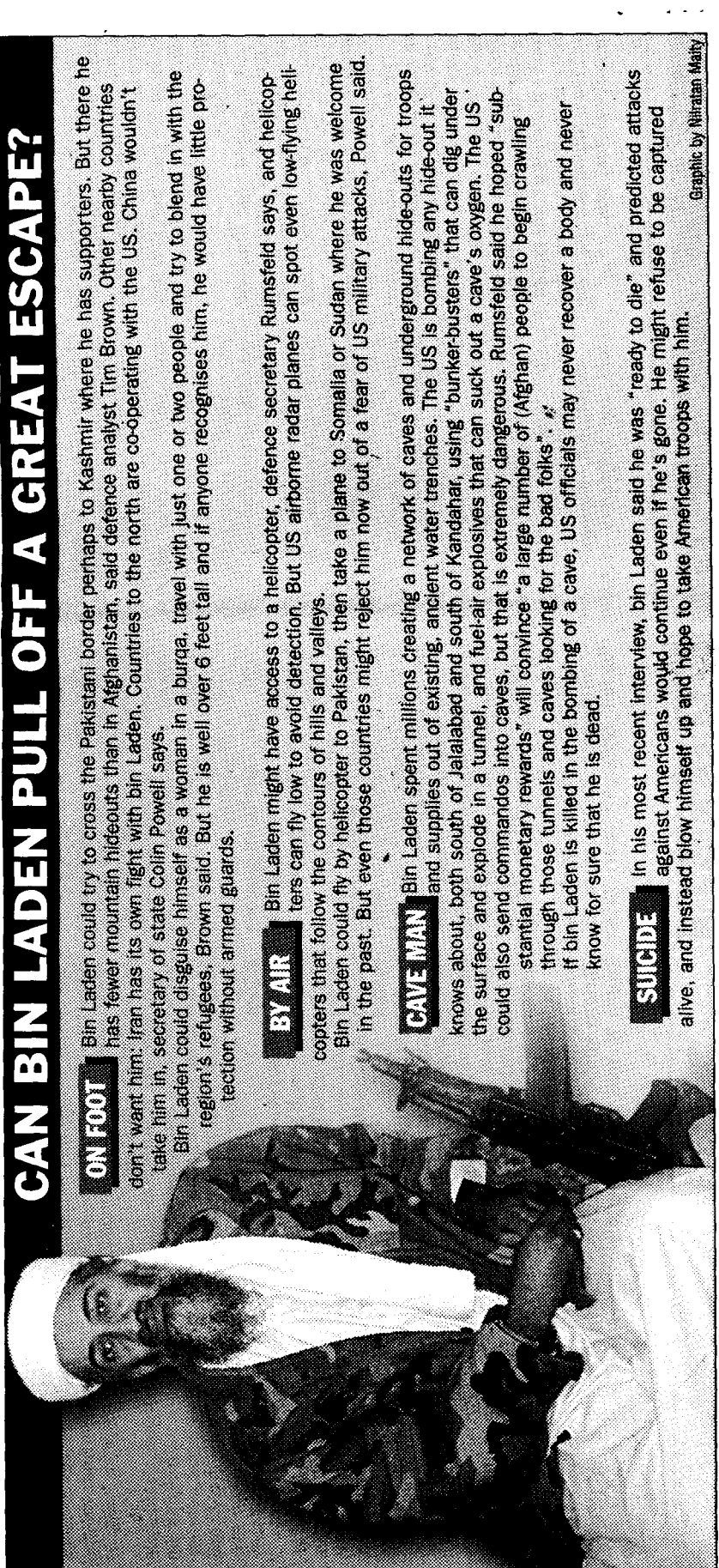
Lakhdar Brahimi, Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special representative for Afghanistan, said he wanted Afghans meeting in Berlin on Monday to set up a smaller body to take over the running of Kabul before a larger, more representative group was convened. Originally, he had proposed a large provisional council, which would then choose the transitional administration.

Thousands of Taliban fighters trapped in the northern enclave of Kunduz were trying to negotiate a surrender as US planes bombed the militia's remaining stronghold of Kandahar and stepped up the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

In Kunduz, where more than 10,000 Afghan Taliban fighters and Pakistani, Arab and Chechen comrades linked to bin Laden's al-Qaida are encircled by Northern Alliance troops, the Taliban were seeking to end the fighting.

Afghan Taliban commanders have said they are willing to surrender to the UN but will not give up the city to the alliance for fear of a massacre.

But the United Nations said it did not have the means to handle the surrender of thousands of Taliban forces under siege in Kunduz and urged the forces surrounding the key northern Afghan town to respect the laws of war in dealing with them.



Graphic by William Mealy

## CAN BIN LADEN PULL OFF A GREAT ESCAPE?

### ON FOOT

Bin Laden could try to cross the Pakistani border perhaps to Kashmir where he has supporters. But there he has fewer mountain hideouts than in Afghanistan, said defence analyst Tim Brown. Other nearby countries don't want him. Iran has its own fight with bin Laden. Countries to the north are co-operating with the US. China wouldn't take him in, secretary of state Colin Powell says.

Bin Laden could disguise himself as a woman in a burqa, travel with just one or two people and try to blend in with the region's refugees, Brown said. But he is well over 6 feet tall and if anyone recognises him, he would have little protection without armed guards.

### BY AIR

Bin Laden might have access to a helicopter, defence secretary Rumsfeld says, and helicopters can fly low to avoid detection. But US airborne radar planes can spot even low-flying helicopters that follow the contours of hills and valleys.

Bin Laden could fly by helicopter to Pakistan, then take a plane to Somalia or Sudan where he was welcome in the past. But even those countries might reject him now out of a fear of US military attacks, Powell said.

### CAVE MAN

Bin Laden spent millions creating a network of caves and underground hide-outs for troops and supplies out of existing, ancient water trenches. The US is bombing any hide-out it knows about, both south of Jalalabad and south of Kandahar, using "bunker-busters" that can dig under the surface and explode in a tunnel, and fuel-air explosives that can suck out a cave's oxygen. The US could also send commandos into caves, but that is extremely dangerous. Rumsfeld said he hoped "substantial monetary rewards" will convince "a large number of (Afghan) people to begin crawling through those tunnels and caves looking for the bad folks."

If bin Laden is killed in the bombing of a cave, US officials may never recover a body and never know for sure that he is dead.

### SUICIDE

In his most recent interview, bin Laden said he was "ready to die" and predicted attacks against Americans would continue even if he's gone. He might refuse to be captured alive, and instead blow himself up and hope to take American troops with him.

Pakistan urged the United Nations today to prevent what it feared could be massacres in Kunduz. A foreign ministry statement quoted President Pervez Musharraf as calling for a "humanitarian response to offers of surrender by Afghan forces previously allied" with the collapsing Taliban movement.

UN officials said they had been formally contacted in Islamabad late yesterday by two individuals — one of them a religious leader — who said Taliban commanders trapped inside Kunduz wanted to surrender to the United Nations. But they said the world body had no forces on the ground in Afghanistan and therefore could not agree to accept the surrendering troops.

In nearby Taloqan, alliance commander Mohammad Dawood said face-to-face negotiations were under way and some Taliban fighters were already switching sides. "About 1,000 local Taliban have already defected and thousands more want to defect, and many escaped Kunduz," Dawood said.

"Today we will have more direct talks with Taliban commanders," he said. "I am not optimistic about the foreign Taliban surrendering, and some leaders of our (Afghan) Taliban as well." The opposition says foreign volunteers were fighting to death and have ex-

ecuted 470 Afghan Taliban troops who wanted to give themselves up.

Alliance warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum, who said he had suspended ground assaults on Kunduz, said Afghans, but not foreign fighters, would be offered an amnesty. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he was against any deal that would let the defenders of Kunduz escape. "My hope is that they will either be killed or taken prisoner," he said.

UN and German officials announced talks would begin in Berlin yesterday to discuss a framework for a new, broad-based government in the battered central Asian country.

Key Afghan factions, including the Northern Alliance which swept into Kabul last week and representatives of the country's exiled former King Mohammad Zahir Shah, agreed to attend.

But the Taliban, who imposed their strict vision of Islamic purity on Afghanistan for five years before wading into war against the world's sole remaining superpower over the fate of their Saudi-born "guest" bin Laden, would be excluded, officials said.

"It seems to all of us that the Taliban as a movement, as a structure, is on the verge of collapse," UN envoy Francesco Vendrell told a news conference in Kabul.

While the UN talks planned to

focus on Afghanistan's political future, U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell opened a conference in Washington, attended by 21 countries, to discuss reconstruction of the country.

"We are going to have an enormous obligation, not only the United States but the whole international community, to not leave the Afghan people in the lurch, and not to walk away as has been done in the past," Powell told delegates.

The Taliban, its rule crumbling under 45 days of unrelenting attacks by the US and alliance forces, came under attack around its last major stronghold of Kandahar in the south.

THE TELEGRAPH  
21 NOV 2001  
21 NOV 2001

...opinion, they might come for a rally, goes, Delhi is not too far for them.

## Handshake at the UN

HR 8 15/11

IT WOULD not do to rush to conclusions. Nor may the gesture be of the same genre as Kissinger's secret air-dash to Beijing which led to the overturning of the then Cold War equations. But few would doubt the potential significance of the handshake at the UN on Monday between US Secretary of State Colin Powell and Iran's Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi — the first between cabinet ministers of the two countries since 1979, when the US-backed Shah was ousted and Islamic militants held 52 Americans hostage in Teheran for 444 days.

Iran and America have been sworn enemies since then. "Death to America" is the chant that has emanated all these years from the mosques of Qom, the nursery of Iranian theocracy. The US froze billions of dollars of Iran's assets that lay in the American financial system since the days of the Shah and proceeded to strangle it economically, forbidding even its business corporations — as well as those of its allies — from engaging in transactions with oil-rich Iran. Shia militants have since then regularly struck at American targets in West Asia.

It is pertinent to keep in mind that the Powell-Kharrazi handshake has come at a time when US is trying to route the Taliban which had pretensions to establish an Islamic Emirate, and ending the free run that Osama bin Laden has been enjoying from his Afghan hideout. Two other parameters are also relevant here: Iran is the world's first Islamic theocratic state which came into being through the revolutionary process and that the US-led war in Afghanistan has attracted loud denunciations from the streets in the Islamic world.

Complex processes are at work here. The foreign ministers of the two countries shook hands when leading representatives of several countries met to deliberate on the future of the post-Taliban scene in Afghanistan. Since President Syed Mohammed Khatami took charge in 1997 and offered a moderate face to the world, the US and Iran have made infructuous moves to re-establish ties. It is to be seen if the handshake at the UN will be a precursor to a refashioning of ties, which will be a signal for far-reaching political changes in West Asia.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 NOV 2001

# UN prepares roadmap for new Afghanistan

## Proposal gets Atal backing

Evelyn Leopold

UNITED NATIONS 14 NOVEMBER

**W**ITH THE Taliban abandoning the Afghan capital of Kabul, the United Nations on Tuesday outlined a road map for a multi-ethnic two-year transitional government backed by a security force drawn from a variety of nations.

Lakhdar Brahimi, the UN envoy for Afghanistan, said UN political personnel had been asked to go to Kabul immediately, beginning with his deputy, Francesc Vendrell, a Spanish UN career official, now in Islamabad.

He said he was organising a conference immediately of all Afghan factions and called on the international community to get food and other supplies to ordinary Afghans, millions of whom risk starvation as the winter snows set in.

Without calling for an end to US bombing of the Central Asian nation, Mr Brahimi made clear his work would be difficult if it continued much longer.

"The men and women of Afghanistan have suffered much and have been disappointed often," he told the UN Security Council. "They do not understand why their country is being

attacked, why what little infrastructure is there is being destroyed and civilians, including children are being killed by stray bombs."

British foreign secretary Jack Straw told reporters he hoped the meeting of Afghan parties and UN officials would take place "in the next few days."

Mr Brahimi, a former Algerian foreign minister, proposed establishing an all-Afghan provisional council. This council would eventually set up a transitional administration, to last up to two years, and draft a constitution for a new government.

At the same time he said a Loya Jirga — a grand assembly of tribal elders — should be convened to approve the transitional administration and authorise it to draft a constitution. Afghans have been trying for more than a decade to organise a Loya Jirga without success.

The UN has been charged by the US and other countries to try to bring a political solution to Afghanistan so any future government would have international legitimacy and not appear to be imposed by Washington.

The United States began bombing Afghanistan five weeks ago in an

attempt to stop its Taliban rulers from protecting the Al Qaeda organisation and its leader, Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, whom Washington accuses of planning and financing the September 11 attacks that killed more than 4,600 people in New York, Washington and Pennsylvania.

Addressing a number of foreign ministers whose countries have seats in the Security Council, Mr Brahimi said security was of utmost concern, especially around Kabul, the capital. The opposition Northern Alliance, known in the past for gross human rights abuses, has broken through Taliban lines.

Mr Brahimi said there were three choices, the best of which was an "all-Afghan" security force. But he doubted one could be organised quickly. UN peacekeepers, he said, would also take too long.

Mr Brahimi proposed a multinational force, which might include Muslim troops from Turkey and Jordan as well as European troops. Such a force could "preserve the political space in which negotiations toward the resolution of the problems could proceed," he said.

— Reuters

New Delhi

14 NOVEMBER

PRIME MINISTER Atal Behari Vajpayee signalled on Wednesday he favoured a proposal for a United Nations-supervised administration in Afghanistan after the ruling Taliban fled the capital, Kabul. "There are many suggestions... the suggestion that the new administration run under the supervision of the United Nations is concrete," Mr Vajpayee told reporters at his home.

Mr Vajpayee's remarks came soon after the United Nations outlined the first political blueprint for Afghanistan, involving a broad-based two-year transitional government and a multi-national security force. India, a supporter of the Northern Alliance whose troops took control of Kabul on Tuesday, has been wanting a greater say in the formation of a post-war government in Afghanistan.

It has already called for the hardline Taliban to be left out of any future governments in Kabul. New Delhi has never recognised the Taliban rulers, for their support to terrorism in Kashmir in collusion with Pakistan.

— Reuters

# Zahir vital to Kabul future: UN

Washington, November 16

THE UNITED Nations has said that former Afghan King Zahir Shah has a vital role to play in Afghanistan's future and that India and Pakistan do not qualify for a peacekeeping force.

"Shah has a vital role to play in Afghanistan's future," said Francesc Vendrell, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's deputy special representative.

Vendrell referred to a poll conducted by officers of the UN special mission in Peshawar that shows overwhelming support for the former King among newly arrived Afghan refugees, Sada reports.

Mentioning Burhanuddin Rabbani, still recognised as the head of state in Afghanistan by the UN even after the overthrow of his government by the Taliban, Vendrell said: "If he does return, of course he has the right to call himself the President of Afghanistan."

"It is up to him to choose the title he takes, but it is for the international community to recognise any new government in Afghanistan."

Vendrell said India, Pakistan, Russia and Iran did not qualify to be part of a multilateral peace force, under the UN umbrella, as these nations had interests in Afghanistan.

To a question about the possibility of a UN peacekeeping force in the country, he said: "Blue helmets mean a force to maintain peace, it is a force that does not act aggressively, that does not have a robust mandate. There is no agreement yet to verify this and there is no peace agreement, so the issue of a classic blue helmeted force does not arise at the moment."

Instead, he stressed on an "international security force that would be available to maintain order, help a new provisional or interim council work inside Kabul, and assist the UN in its functions in Afghanistan".

He said the UN was trying to

help the Afghan people start some kind of an interim administration that would eventually lead to a provisional government, and finally to elections. Vendrell stressed that the world body was not trying to decide upon a legitimate government for Afghanistan.

The UN Secretary General wants both a political and a humanitarian affairs office in Kabul, he said.

The UN envoy is to visit Kabul where he intends to meet leaders of the Northern Alliance. "I will invite the United Front (Northern Alliance) to a meeting of various Afghan groups that Lakhdar Brahimi (UN special representative to Afghanistan) wants to hold at an appropriate place at the earliest opportunity."

He clarified that the UN humanitarian and political presence in Kabul had nothing to do with recognising the Northern Alliance.

"The legitimisation of any authority in Afghanistan is in the hands of the Afghan people and for that there needs to be an internationally acceptable process, such as elections or a very carefully convened Loya Jirga (grand council of elders)," he explained.

## UK envoy for Kabul

The Blair Government has named the diplomat it will send to Kabul in days, claiming that he will be the first representative of a Western government to reach the Afghan capital after the strikes began.

Stephen Evans is regarded as one of the Foreign Office's most knowledgeable Afghan experts and has served in Pakistan and Afghanistan in a UN mission in 1996 and 1997.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw told a news conference on Thursday: "This emphasises the fact that we always saw the military action as an essential part but a first part of the total strategy."

Indo-Asian News Service  
& Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 NOV 2001



# UN gives nod to Afghan revival blueprint

REUTERS  
UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 15

**T**HE UN Security Council approved on Wednesday a blueprint for the international community to follow to fill the void in Afghanistan after the unexpected flight of the Taliban.

In a resolution adopted by a 15-0 vote, the Council supported plans by Lakhdar Brahimi, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan's special envoy for Afghanistan, who is trying to convene an urgent meeting of Afghan factions to form a provisional government. Brahimi has also proposed an international security force to guard major cities, especially Kabul, the capital.

The resolution said a new Afghan government should be multi-ethnic, respect human rights of all people regardless of gender or religion, and combat terrorism and illicit drug trafficking.

Somewhat ambiguous was a provision that "encourages" countries to "ensure the safety and security of areas of Afghanistan no longer under Taliban control." British, French and Russian ambassadors said the resolution did not authorise a follow-on peacekeeping force and a new measure would be needed for that purpose. For the moment, the resolution appears to



leave the US maximum flexibility to prosecute a war launched in an effort to root out militants blamed for the attacks on the US.

An international security force would begin with British or American troops already in the area, diplomats said. French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine said in New York his country would contribute to such a force. Other nations being considered included

Australia, New Zealand, Germany, Turkey, Bangladesh and Jordan, UN officials said.

The first step, however, is to organise a meeting among the country's factions. The US and other governments have pushed the UN to the forefront of organising a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan so that it would have greater global

**'UAE to host Afghan meet'**

**■ ABU DHABI:** The proposed UN-sponsored conference on Afghanistan will be held in the United Arab Emirates, Abu Dhabi television said on Wednesday. "The UAE has agreed to a UN request to host a conference of Afghan factions," the satellite TV said.

An Afghan conference is a part of a five-point UN plan unveiled at an emergency session of the UN Security Council on Tuesday after the Opposition Northern Alliance captured Kabul from the hardline Islamist Taliban militia.

—AFP

legitimacy than one imposed by Washington alone. But with Kabul, Mazar-i-Sharif and other northern cities having fallen to the Northern Alliance, the military campaign appears to have outpaced political manoeuvres, despite worldwide calls for UN presence.

Brahimi, who was given the task of organising a government, must

cope with competing goals of the Pashtuns and the Northern Alliance. But he made clear that the UN would not "parachute in" officials to set up a protectorate as in East Timor or Kosovo but invite Afghans, whether at home, in exile, or in refugee camps in Pakistan and Iran, to take the lead.

He said the first meeting of all factions should discuss steps to convene a provisional council, reflecting various Afghan groups. It should be chaired by "an individual recognised as a symbol of national unity," an apparent reference to exiled king Mohammad Zahir Shah. The council would plan a transitional administration that would run the country for up to two years.

At the same time, an emergency Loya Jirga, or grand Assembly of tribal elders, would convene to approve security arrangements and help write a Constitution. A second Loya Jirga would approve the Constitution to create a government for Afghanistan, Brahimi said.

"The processes being proposed are not perfect," Brahimi said. The proposed institution "will not include everyone who should be there and it may include some whose credentials many in Afghanistan may have doubt about," he said.

INDIAN EXPRESS

16 NOV 2001

# U.N. envoy calls on Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 30. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today told the United Nations Secretary-General's special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, that a 'political process' for the installation of a broadbased government in Kabul should be initiated simultaneously with the military campaign.

Gen. Musharraf shared his assessment of the situation when Mr. Brahimi called on him as part of the process of consultations with the representatives of the Pakistan Government and the Afghan groups here on the future of Afghanistan.

Reiterating Pakistan's stand on the need to involve the 'moderate elements within the Taliban' in any future set-up in Kabul, Gen. Musharraf said the unity and integrity of Afghanistan should be preserved.

"Care should be taken to ensure that the future set-up in Afghanistan is (the result of) a homegrown process and not imposed from outside. And it should be followed by a major rehabilitation and reconstruction process," Gen. Musharraf told Mr. Brahimi.

On Monday, Mr. Brahimi called on the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, and held a preliminary round of discussions. He sought Pakistan's assessment of the latest developments in Afghanistan and wanted to know what efforts Islamabad was taking for the formation of a broadbased government in the post-Taliban scenario.

The envoy is expected to spend four days in Pakistan before proceeding to Tehran. He and his fellow negotiator, Mr. Frances Vendrell, plan to visit all the neighbours of Afghanistan, particularly Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.

Mr. Brahimi's visit comes at a time when the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan is leading nowhere, and the first concrete initiative by the Afghan tribal leaders at Peshawar to mobilise support in favour of the former Afghan King, Zahir Shah, failed to take off. Known for his independent views, Mr. Brahimi has openly criticised any attempt to impose a government in Afghanistan from outside.

Reports from New York suggest that Mr. Brahimi has conveyed his views to senior U.N. officials, who intend to issue a paper shortly "to make sure everybody is talking about the same thing."

THE HINDU

3 OCT 2001

# Quick chat with Pak at UN not India's cup of tea

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 29 OCTOBER

INDIA OFFICIALLY put the responsibility on Pakistan for creating a "conducive" atmosphere for talks. Making a summit-dialogue on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York next month being almost an impossibility, the Indian government said there was "no time" for such a meeting to take place.

Since there's little doubt that this is a foreign policy decision rather than mere logistics, the statement is an indication of India's unwillingness to talk to Pakistan at this point.

Mr Vajpayee will be in the US from November 8. His meeting with President Bush is scheduled for November 9 and his speech at the UNGA is on November 10. Musharraf's speech is on November 11.

According to high-level sources, Pakistan has sent strong feelers to India to return to the negotiating table. India remains hesitant because while New Delhi doesn't want to sound obstructionist, it will insist on terrorism dominating any such international agenda rather than Kashmir.

For Musharraf, the dialogue offer serves several purposes. With the world focused on Afghanistan and the war continuing possibly through Ramzan and winter, the strains on Pakistan's polity are bound to increase.

A sure-fire way of diverting attention is for Musharraf to raise the Kashmir issue with characteristic aggression at a summit meeting in New York and win another political victory at home.

A taste of this was available during the visits of both US secretary of state Colin Powell and the German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

With the international community being sensitive to Pakistan's concerns at this time, there's a feeling in Islamabad that India can be pressurised to come to the table.

## Bush invite to Atal worries Musharraf

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 29 OCTOBER

PAKISTAN IS shaken by US President George W. Bush's invitation to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to participate in a one-to-one meeting during the latter's visit to the US. Wary of losing out to New Delhi in the diplomatic and pro-agenda war between the two countries,

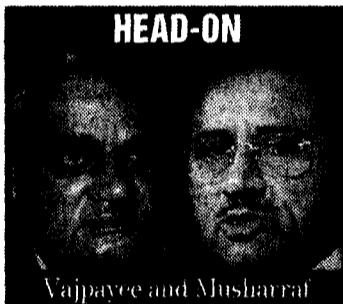
Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has been desperately trying to get himself invited by President Bush.

So far, General Musharraf's efforts have met

with little success. His US itinerary still remains the same, and a scheduled meeting with the US President on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly is still awaiting confirmation. However, his spin-doctors have been trying to convey the impression that President Bush, in "an unprecedented gesture," was likely to host an exclusive dinner for the visiting Pakistani dignitary on November 10 in New York. The Pakistani President is scheduled to address the General Assembly a day later.

In contrast, the Indian Prime Minister has a summit meeting with the US President lined up in Washington on November 9. A day later, he travels to New York to address the UN General Assembly. The invitation to Mr Vajpayee was extended by the US secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, on behalf of President Bush, during his visit to New Delhi earlier this month.

For all his efforts to cosy up to the Bush administration with the aim of joining the global war against terrorism, General Musharraf has so far failed to secure the invitation from Mr Bush.



Vajpayee and Musharraf

The Economic Times

30 OCT 2001

# U.S. wants effective UN presence in Afghanistan

**By Jal Taraporevala**  
MUMBAI: U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell has again spoken of the possibility of significantly involving the United Nations in Afghanistan in the post-military operations period in that country. At that stage, Afghanistan will require some kind of external involvement to oversee the implementation of any power-sharing arrangement, monitor the peace and facilitate the task of economic resuscitation.

Mr Powell has a three-fold objective in seeking to involve the UN in some of these tasks. First, a neutral enforcement machinery will be more acceptable to Afghans than one under U.S. aegis. Second, the aim of the U.S. will be to place as little strain as possible on the broad international anti-terrorism coalition which it is trying to maintain.

Third, the international role of overseeing the implementation of a political and economic arrangement in Afghanistan will require a fairly long-term commitment and is

bound to encounter several obstacles along the way. Mr Powell therefore seems to calculate that it will be easier for the Bush administration to retain domestic support for its policy in the post-Taliban period if such an approach is seen to be pursued under the UN umbrella.

However, putting an effective enforcement mechanism in place, let alone ensuring the objective of smooth implementation, can scarcely be taken for granted. Among the

contentious issues that will have to be resolved are delineating the precise role to be played by the UN, laying down the operational parameters

## NEWS ANALYSIS

and chain of command and determining the personnel contribution to be made by different nations.

More important, given the probability of a guerrilla struggle being waged from the mountains in the post-Taliban period, international

relief convoys could become vulnerable to rebel attacks aimed at undermining the authority of any new government. If the UN is, therefore, to have an important presence on the ground in Afghanistan after the completion of the current phase of American military operations, the contingent will have to be strengthened with peace-enforcement powers and will have partly to rely for its success on the effectiveness of contin-

ued U.S. special forces operations. In the ultimate analysis, there are a number of factors which could easily undermine any substantial future UN role in Afghanistan. These include the likelihood that a new political dispensation in Kabul will not be able to provide long-term stability, the bitter ethnic divide in Afghanistan, the wide availability of light weapons and the conflicting strategic objectives of the country's neighbours.

## ***U.N. calls on Israel to withdraw immediately from Palestinian areas***

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations Security Council found rare unanimity on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, calling on Israel in a non-binding statement to withdraw immediately from autonomous Palestinian territories.

The statement was read to reporters on Thursday by Council President Richard Ryan, Ireland's ambassador to the United Nations, after a session lasting about an hour and a half. U.S. ambassador John Negroponte — who threatened earlier this week to veto a legally binding resolution on Israel — said the statement "represents an endorsement of the diplomatic efforts that have been taken on the ground."

Mr Ryan said, "Council members were deeply concerned by the escalation in violence and deplored the loss both sides." They "supported statements in capitals calling for immediate withdrawal of all Israeli forces from the areas," he added, referring to parts of the West Bank under Palestinian control. Just before the Council meeting began, an Israeli official in Jerusalem said the cabinet had decided on a phased withdrawal of its troops from six West Bank towns. The forces entered the area to hunt down gunmen suspected of killing the Israeli Minister of Tourism, Rehavam Zeevi, on October 17. (Agencies)

# UN starts moves for Taliban alternative

S Rajagopalan/Aditya Sinha  
Washington/Peshawar, October 21

EFFORTS TO cobble together a post-Taliban government will get under way in earnest tomorrow when UN special envoy Lakhdar Brahimi visits Rome for talks with exiled King Zahir Shah and other Afghan groups.

Brahimi, the UN point person for Afghanistan, held consultations with Vice-President Dick Cheney and senior officials of the State Department here on Friday as the US Special Forces mounted a ground offensive in select locations.

The US broadly favours the formation of a new government around the deposed King, comprising representatives from all ethnic and tribal groups. It has been suggested that the King can convene the traditional 'Loya Jirga' assembly for choosing leaders who will form part of the new set-up.

But there were indications that the former monarch's camp is confused about its role. Moderate leader and former president Sibghatullah Mojaddedi was in Rome recently. His son, Siddiqullah, said Mojaddedi found Zahir Shah's advisers disorganised.

"Sardar Wali, Zahir Shah's cousin and son-in-law, and Mustafa Khan, the grandson, were saying different things. There seems to be differences of opinion," Mojaddedi's son said in Peshawar.

As unprepared as the king's men is spiritual leader Pir Syed Ahmed Gilani, who had called a convention in Peshawar. The former king's representatives, the Northern Alliance and representatives of the Taliban were invited to the conference.

The convention, which was to have taken place on Sunday, has been postponed because the nec-



Afghan refugees travel by taxi to Islamabad on Sunday.

REUTERS PHOTO

essary groundwork had not been done. Gilani airdashed to Rome earlier in the week.

Gilani is now suspect in the eyes of many Afghans for advocating the inclusion of members of the Taliban in a new government. "Attempts to include any Taliban in the interim government are stupid," says Aziz, an aid worker. "There is no such thing as a moderate Taliban."

There has been speculation too that Gilani has gone to Rome

with a Pakistani brief.

India, which has been supportive of the Northern Alliance, agrees with the US position that the next government should be a broad-based one, according to a representation to all Afghan groups.

Secretary of State Colin Powell exchanged views on the subject during his recent visit to New Delhi and Islamabad.

Brahimi, who had resigned in frustration from the key post two

years ago, has declined comment on the options he would be working on. As he sees the situation, it is too early to say "what kind of formula would be more suitable" for Afghanistan's stability.

During the consultations with Brahimi, the US State Department is also understood to have proposed the stationing of a multinational force to facilitate the formation of the next government in Kabul. Quoting UN officials, the Washington Post

## HAQQANI DENIAL

TOP TALIBAN military commander Maulana Jalaluddin Haqqani has denied that he ever discussed forming a caretaker government in Afghanistan with Pakistani officials and anti-Taliban leaders. Haqqani denied reports which claimed rift within the rank and file of the Taliban, said Afghanistan Defence Council release in Islamabad on Sunday.

HTC, Khwaja Bahauddin

said the focus of talks on post-Taliban Afghanistan has shifted from deploying a UN peacekeeping force to the stationing of a multinational force that can oversee the formation of an interim government.

The UN's thinking on a multinational force is still to crystallise. Brahimi has not been enthusiastic about the UN running the administration in Afghanistan or even rushing with a peacekeeping force, in the light of unpleasant experiences in Europe and Africa.

In Brahimi's view, peacekeepers from other countries could be up against added problems. At the UN headquarters a few days ago, Brahimi described the Afghans as "proud people" and commented: "They don't like to see foreigners there, especially in military uniforms," he said.

The Bush administration has come up with the suggestion that a force, composed essentially of troops from Islamic countries, could be a viable alternative.

Turkey has offered to lead a predominantly Muslim force. Brahimi is expected to elicit the views of the King and the Afghan groups during his talks in Rome.

# UN urges Pak to open borders to refugees

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, Oct. 20. — The UN High Commission for Refugees has urged Pakistan to open its borders for the "very difficult cases" among Afghan refugees as over 3,500 of them arrived at the country's Chaman border crossing in what may have been the largest single-day exodus since the start of the bombing campaign in Afghanistan, yesterday.

The UNHCR said the people fleeing in panic reached the Chaman border crossing without food or belongings. Some 10,000 people have arrived in Baluchistan over the past six days.

The UN agency is holding talks with the Pakistan and Iran seeking flexibility at the formal crossing points and opening of the borders for the "very difficult cases," United Nations High Commissioner of Refugees, Mr Rudd Lubbers said.

The UN agency is asking Pakistani authori-

ties for permission to provide water and food to the new arrivals at Chaman. "It is somewhat worrisome to see this number of people coming across," he said.

Mr Lubbers warned that the number of refugees could go up "exponentially." The UNHCR could take care of 5,000 people a day. "We are prepared for that. But the critical point is not our preparedness, it is the cooperation of the Pakistan government," he added. "Pakistan must understand that the misery of the people is such that they have to be more forthcoming," he said.

Despite closure of borders, some 60,000 people have entered Pakistan since the raids began crossing over mountains or bribing their way in, Mr Lubbers said. People are also fleeing to the mountains as the borders are closed, he said, adding that Kandahar, the headquarters of the Taliban and Jalalabad are almost empty.

With winter closing in, it could provide a chal-

lenge to the relief agencies to provide them with food, medicines and other humanitarian supplies, he said.

Mr Lubbers said in the aftermath of the 11 September terrorist attacks, the refugee agency had sent emergency teams to assess the situation and they calculated that in the worst case scenario, some 1.5 million Afghan could flee to Pakistan.

On the financial side, the UNHCR is seeking contribution from both individuals and governments and noted that its Goodwill Ambassador Angelina Jolie had personally contributed one million dollars. The agency also called on donors to contribute to the relief effort. UNHCR has not received any additional cash contributions since 8 October, with only half of the pledged 24 million dollars arriving till now.

The agency estimates that it needs 50 million dollars in the first phase to take care of up to 400,000 new arrivals in Pakistan and Iran.

THE STATESMAN

21 OCT 2001

# U.S., U.N. hold talks on post-Taliban phase

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 20. The Bush administration and the United Nations are holding hectic discussions on the nature of a post-Taliban government in Afghanistan.

On Friday, the U.N. Special Envoy, Mr. Lakhdar Brahimi, spent much of the day meeting top officials of the Bush administration, including the Vice-President, Mr. Dick Cheney, and the Deputy National Security Advisor, Mr. Stephen Hadley.

"They went over what the President has outlined as out goals for Afghanistan," the State Department's deputy spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, said without getting into the details.

Mr. Brahimi spent five hours at the State Department with the

Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, the Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr. Marc Grossman, the Afghanistan policy coordinator, Mr. Richard Haass, and other senior administration officials.

Officials say the talks centred on the restoration of a popular government in Afghanistan, the main political actors and the larger aspects of economic reconstruction of that war-torn land. Mr. Cheney and other officials are said to have expressed "strong support" for Mr. Brahimi's mission.

The Special Envoy of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, came to Washington on a specific political mission after meeting leaders of European governments and

members of the Security Council. The Bush administration is keen on the U.N. playing a leading role, but there are differences on how this should come about.

Washington is toying with the idea of a limited U.N. peacekeeping role. But the world body is rather sceptical about this as it will not go well with the people of Afghanistan. The bottom line seems to be a realisation that there has to be a quick solution to avoiding a dangerous political vacuum.

Mr. Brahimi will be travelling to the region in the next week or two to see what could be accomplished on the ground. At this stage it is not clear which countries the U.N. Special Envoy will be visiting. Afghanistan's neighbours have differing views on

what a post-Taliban arrangement in Kabul should be.

## Pak. visit: Powell undeterred by threat

SHANGHAI, OCT. 20. Washington had played down fears for the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell's safety on his trip to Pakistan, where there were anti-U.S. protests against attacks on Afghanistan.

But the people who flew him in and out of Islamabad this week were taking no chances — just in case an anti-American militant outwitted massive security. "If you are talking about physical danger to Gen. Powell, he was 35 years a soldier. I don't think that's going to deter him," the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, told presspersons. — Reuters

2010



MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2001

## U.N. AND A SYMBOLIC PEACE PRIZE

THE UNITED NATIONS is the only global forum for waging 'peace', albeit in imperfect ways that the changing moods and methods of its powerful states will allow. So, as the joint recipients of this year's Nobel Peace Prize, the U.N. and its high profile Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, can hardly pause to celebrate. America's ongoing aerial and missile attacks on Afghanistan, whatever be the extent of international consensus in support of the stated anti-terror aims of the U.S., bring the abundant symbolism of the award for the U.N. into some poignant focus. More often than not since its formation in the dismal context of World War II, the U.N. has found itself marginalised on a wide variety of international security issues. Therefore, the effusive sentiments about peace, so eloquently expressed in the award citation, will raise questions about how far the U.N. can really manage to avoid being eclipsed again as the world's multilateral architect of peace and geopolitical stability. In a related sense, the Norwegian Nobel Committee's choice of the U.N. itself for the latest award may well set the stage for a vigorous new debate on the substantive question of a fair reform of the truly global organisation and more particularly its Security Council.

In brief celebratory remarks, Mr. Annan has noted with satisfaction how the Security Council recently passed a binding resolution in regard to some definitive steps that each of the U.N.'s 189 members should take in order to rid the world of the politics of terrorism. At one level, the resolution, which also reaffirmed the U.N. Charter's principle of individual and collective self-defence, has been utilised by the U.S. as a diplomatic springboard for its current military operations in Afghanistan. On a different but relevant plane, significant sections of the international community are already concerned about the long-term implications of the current U.S.' offensive in Af-

ghanistan and about Washington's stated plans to consider military action against other states that might be promoting terrorism outside their own borders. Not surprisingly Mr. Annan has, while answering questions, made a pointed reference to these concerns in his comments on the new qualitative challenges that the U.N. system would be expected to address in the glow of the Nobel Peace Prize. Now, the existing international paradigm of power will undeniably determine the U.N.'s immediate course of action in respect of such concerns. Yet, a quick and equitable reform of the Security Council can credibly enhance the U.N.'s capabilities in pursuit of its peace agenda. A fair evaluation of the veto rights of the permanent members of the Security Council will also be required to heighten the confidence of the U.N. members in their only 'representative' caucus on questions of peace and stability.

140-12 15.0

The latest award should set the U.N. on a major trail of introspection across the whole gamut of its operations including those concerning humanitarian and economic matters. Surely, several agencies of the U.N. system had already won the Nobel Peace Prize and a former Secretary-General was similarly honoured even if only posthumously. For the U.N., the present moment of celebration is, however, tinged with the inevitable trauma of a poor member-country controlled by a defiant, inhuman group being pounded by two powerful states. Yet, the evolving international coalition against terrorism is the most significant multilateral task force to take shape since the Gulf War-related alliance in the early 1990s within the ambit but not under the explicit auspices of the U.N. Mr. Annan, who has often championed the rights of the poor and weak states, seems eager to promote a relatively non-controversial coalition such as the emerging anti-terror alliance.

THE HINDU

15 OCT 2002

---

# United Nations, Annan share Peace Nobel

11.11  
13/10

Oslo, October 12

THE UNITED Nations and its Secretary-General Kofi Annan won the Nobel Peace Prize on Friday for "their work for a better-organised and more peaceful world".

The UN and Annan would share the \$943,000 award in equal parts.

UN agencies and people connected to it have won the prize many times, but it had never gone to the world body itself. The UN war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia in The Hague, Netherlands, also was considered a contender.

The Nobel committee cited the UN for being at the forefront of efforts to achieve peace and security in the world. Annan, who has devoted almost his entire working life to the world body, was lauded for "bringing new life to the organisation".

Annan, born in 1938 in Ghana, became UN secretary-general in

1997. He has been praised for his character, moral leadership, his efforts to stop civil wars in Africa and elsewhere and his efforts to combat AIDS.

He was the first leader to be elected from the ranks of UN staff. He was the head of UN peacekeeping operations when he was tapped for the top job after the US lobbied to prevent his predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, from taking a second term.

In an unprecedented vote of confidence, Annan was unanimously re-elected to a second five-year term by the 189 UN member states in June, six months before his first term expires on December 31.

The announcement comes a month after the September 11 terror attacks in the US.

Last year, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung won the peace prize for his reconciliation efforts with North Korea. No such peace efforts stood out in

media speculation this year.

Geir Lundestad, the committee's secretary, said the winner was picked on September 28 — 17 days after the terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. "Of course, the committee was very aware of that event," he said.

This year's Nobels started on Monday with the naming of medicine prize winners, American Leland H Hartwell and Britons Tim Hunt and Paul Nurse, for work on cell development that could lead to new cancer treatments. The physics award went Tuesday to German scientist Wolfgang Ketterle and Americans Eric A Cornell and Carl E Wieman for creating a new state of matter, an ultra-cold gas known as Bose-Einstein condensate. V S Naipaul won the literature prize on Thursday for his "incorruptible scrutiny" of postcolonial society and his critical assessments of Muslim fundamentalism.

AP

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2001

149-10  
11/10  
U.N.<sup>o</sup>  
**TREADING MORE CAUTIOUSLY**

THE UNITED NATIONS Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has aptly assessed the worldwide mood of dismay over the killings of four U.N.-contracted civilian workers during the ongoing American aerial and missile attacks on Afghanistan. Describing the deaths as a "hard blow" for the U.N., Mr. Annan is hoping that "precaution will minimise (further) civilian involvement" of such a tragic dimension. The U.S. too has regretted the deaths, but it has raised doubts whether these killings were directly caused by its own bombardment of some installations of the Afghan-Taliban regime. An alternative suggestion by Washington is that the "ordnance" from the Taliban's anti-aircraft batteries could have just as probably killed the workers who belonged to an agency that was engaged in clearing land mines — the grim legacy of Afghanistan's earlier internecine battles and externally-instigated wars. At best, the American statement will qualify as a cosmetic argumentation, if not also a callous one at that, about the reality of human casualties. The truth simply is that the U.S. has not been able to stick to its virtual advertisement that the ongoing raids over Afghanistan reflect a technologically precise exercise which should not affect the non-combatants. On the wider international stage, a more disturbing reality is the chain-reaction of political anxieties that Washington's Afghan operations have triggered in a remarkably short period since they began last Sunday.

Significantly, Mr. Annan himself has, while responding to media questions, spoken about "some anxiety amongst the membership" of the United Nations. These international worries relate to the letter that the U.S. communicated to the Security Council shortly after embarking on the present raids over Afghanistan. Now, the global community has by and large acquiesced in America's contention that its initial targets are the terrorist camps of Osama bin Laden and the military infrastructure of his collaborator, the Taliban regime. Except for some sizable pockets of

fundamentalism, most Islamic states too have tacitly or openly acknowledged America's rights under the relevant international law to act in self-defence. Now, the U.S., in its letter, drew the Security Council's attention to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter that permits individual or collective self-defence by the member-states that feel threatened by external forces. Yet, what seems to have caused concern within the U.N. forum is Washington's parallel assertion that it might in course of time target unspecified organisations and states other than the Afghan-Taliban regime and Osama's Al-Qaeda. In a delicate interpretation at this moment, Mr. Annan tends to think that the U.S. has neither predicted the inevitability of such a follow-up action nor expressed a pointed intention to go after other states and groups. However, the legitimate concerns of the international community on this score must be fully addressed by the U.S. as it seeks to sustain a 'campaign' against terrorism with a global canvas.

Some Islamic nations, in particular, appear eager to evaluate the possible outlines of an incremental U.S.' agenda. The legal and moral support which the U.S. now enjoys is derived from two relevant resolutions that the Security Council adopted in recent weeks. While the first condemned last month's terrorist attacks on America and upheld the principle of self-defence, the second directed all states to combat terrorism in various specific ways. Yet, some other U.N. agencies, which are traditionally mandated to address humanitarian issues, have begun to point out how the current American air offensive is hampering relief supplies to the drought-stricken Afghan people. Because of the overall atmosphere of fear caused by America's aerial raids, its own follow-up air-drop of food and medicines seems to have had little or no beneficial impact inside Afghanistan. Overall, the U.S. should therefore recognise the need to tread or fly cautiously in the face of an increasingly volatile international situation.

11/10

# UN Council backs American air raids

United Nations, October 9 ~~XG~~ 10

THE UNITED Nation Security Council has offered unanimous support to the US and British military strikes against Afghanistan.

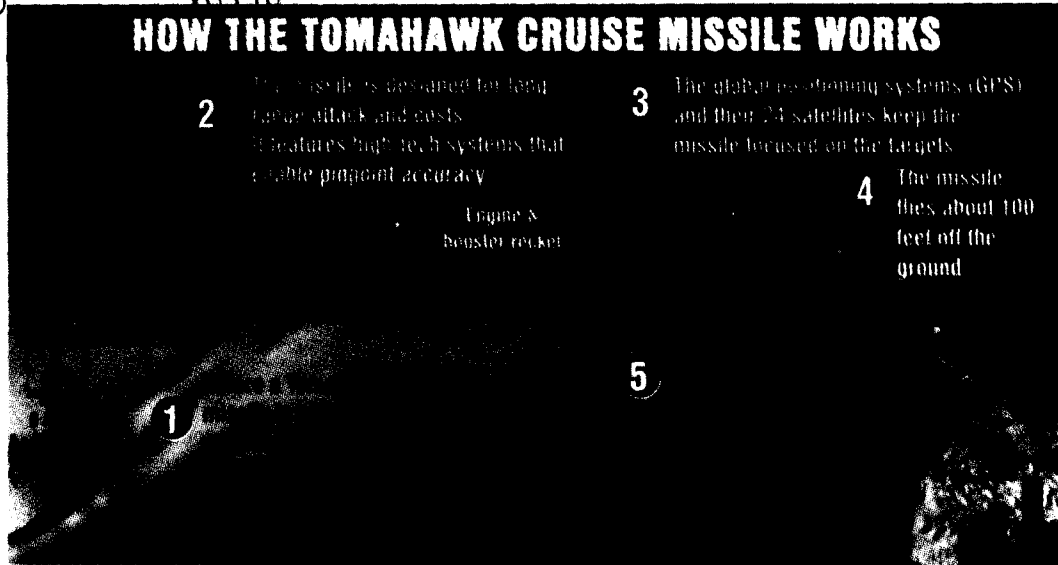
Irish ambassador, Richard Ryan, who leads the Council this month, said that unanimity was "absolutely maintained" with regard to the American retaliation to the September 11 terror attacks that left thousands dead and missing.

France's ambassador Jean-David Levitte said the "extraordinary unity" continued.

Ryan's remarks came after US and British ambassadors John Negroponte and Jeremy Greenstock went into closed-door sessions to inform the 13 other Security Council members of the nature of the military operation against Kabul and Kandahar that began late Sunday and appeared to continue today.

## Israel slams Syria entry

ISRAEL AND American Jewish groups denounced Syria's election to the Security Council,



GRAPHIC: JAYANTO MAITRO

saying it was absurd to have a nation accused of sponsoring terrorism on the powerful decision-making body — especially after the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Syria won a two-year term on the Council on Monday with the

support of 160 of the 177 countries casting ballots. There was no opposition from the US, despite Syria's prominent position on the US list of nations sponsoring terrorism.

Israel was the only UN member to oppose Syria's bid to join,

though the US State department said after the vote that it would continue to express its concerns about terrorism with the Syrian Government. Syria will replace Bangladesh on the Asian seat from January 1.

AFP/AP

# Nato warships for US offensive

Brussels, October 9

NATO WILL send six warships to eastern Mediterranean to assist US in the war against terrorism.

On Monday, Nato pledged to send five AWACS surveillance jets to the US to patrol the skies.

Meanwhile, Russia today ruled out its military participation in the US-led ground operations in Afghanistan. "The participation of Russian army in any operations inside Afghanistan is impossible," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said.

## China backs US strikes

Chinese President Jiang Zemin has supported the US-led fight against terrorism, but said strikes against Afghanistan should be carefully targeted against proven terrorists.

## War wrong: N Korea

North Korea denounced the air strikes on Afghanistan saying the use of armed forces to kill "innocent people" cannot be justified.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

10 OCT 2001

## Annan wants meet on terrorism finalised

UNITED NATIONS, OCT. 6. Differences among members over definition of terrorism prevented the U.N. General Assembly from adopting a resolution at the end of a five-day debate on it, even as the Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan emphasised the need for finalising an Indian-sponsored comprehensive convention to combat the menace globally. *ND*

Though the participants condemned the September 11 terror attacks in the U.S., there were significant differences on the definition of terrorism and distinction between the scourge and the freedom struggle. *ND*

While India and most other members were of the view that terrorism was defined by the act and not by the classification of the perpetrators, several delegates, mostly from Arab and Muslim countries, felt that it was important to come up with a clear defini-

tion of terrorism. A few countries wanted an exemption for those waging what they considered a 'freedom struggle'.

Despite the failure of the Assembly to reach a consensus, Mr. Annan, putting a brave face, described the debate as "only a beginning" and stressed that the members had a critical, and not merely symbolic role to play in fighting terrorism.

"What is important is that the whole international community has come together to fight the scourge of terrorism," he told reporters.

The Assembly's annual debate of Foreign Ministers slated to begin on September 24, was rescheduled for November 10-16, after being postponed due to terrorist strikes on the U.S. The Assembly has adopted about a dozen conventions on terrorism, many of which are yet to be ratified. — PTI

THE HINDU

# Islamabad fires K-gun at UN meet

United Nations, October 3

PAKISTAN RAISED the Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly while delegates failed to come up with an acceptable definition of terrorism.

Pakistan's Ambassador to UN Shamsad Ahmad referred to the Kashmir issue while participating in a debate on steps to combat terrorism here yesterday.

Ahmed was the first delegate to raise a bilateral issue at a time when the world community was in the midst of stitching a global coalition against terrorism.

While indulging in self-praise for all Pakistan has done to "help" the international coalition against terrorism, Ahmad suddenly brought up the Kashmir issue. "There are people who even today remain deprived of their fundamental right of self-determination. The Security Council resolution pertaining to

their destiny and future remains unimplemented in the archives of this organisation," he said.

"Our universal obligation to fight terrorism in all its forms must not deflect us from the need for just, lasting and honourable settlement of the Palestine and Kashmir disputes, which will bring durable peace and stability to the world at large," he added.

At the second day of the General Assembly, faultlines were visible on combating terrorism as several Arab states linked its elimination to resolution of the Palestinian problem with some blaming the US policies for the scourge raising its head.

Suggestions were made for convening an international conference to arrive at an acceptable definition of terrorism.

During the debate, Libya and Iran accused Israel of indulging in "State-sponsored" terrorism in Palestine. But the address by

Palestinian representative Nasser al-Kidwa was marked by restraint and conciliatory tone.

Iranian deputy foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif blamed the US mentality of "might making right" for the growth of terrorism and said it needs to be changed if terrorism is to be eliminated.

**China for UN anti-terror role**  
CHINA HAS called for a lead role for the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism and said it is ready to work with the world community in combating this scourge.

"The UN should be given full play in the anti-terror campaign and said all military operations should conform to the UN charter," Chinese foreign minister Tang Jiaxuan told the Arab league Secretary-General Amr Mahmoud Moussa over the telephone yesterday.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 OCT 2001

H.D-10  
4/10

# The U.N. and Afghanistan

By K. Santhanam

*The U.N. should improve the welfare of the Afghan people and advance the common goals of 'responsible nationhood' using the experience and expertise of the Trusteeship Council.*

SERIOUS CONSIDERATION is needed to involve the U.N. more deeply in Afghanistan. In particular, there is a need for immediate placement of Afghanistan under the Trusteeship Council for shaping its future, nursing it back to health and restoring it to its people after stabilisation. The spill-over effects from developments in Afghanistan are orders of magnitude higher than those witnessed, say, during civil disorder and violence in Cambodia or East Timor when the world acted through a U.N. Transitional Administration or Authority. The present situation needs a more structured response — with the structure invested also with the authority to deal with global effects of "failed or failing states" as well.

The recent statement by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, that "we are not in the business of nation-building" appears to reveal some avoidable insensitivity to regional and international concerns over the need for collective efforts in re-construction of Afghanistan after the visit of "retribution". The Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan's statement on October 1 in New York indicates a willingness, if not readiness, for pursuit of a more active U.N. role; it is to be heartily welcomed to ensure a proper future for the Afghan people in the years ahead.

Granted the frailties of the U.N. and the longish period for re-construction, the fact remains that true international legitimacy vests with the U.N. The question is whether we can afford not to use it. Regional groupings or initiatives by individual states — however well-intentioned they may be — would lack this type of legitimacy and the administrative experience demanded for the task.

The idea of using the Trusteeship Council to handle situations arising from "failed or failing states" has been around for some time in the general context of U.N. reforms. For instance, Brian Urquhart and Erskine Childers (Uppsala, Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation, 1990) have talked of "transforming the Trusteeship Council into the U.N. Council on Diversity, Representation and Governance — a body responsible for addressing the unresolved legacies of former empires, the aspirations of cultural and ethnic groups within existing states and the growing

phenomenon of democratisation". Peter Lyon (Institute of Commonwealth Studies, London) in his article entitled "The Rise and Fall and Possible Revival of International Trusteeship" (Journal of Commonwealth and Comparative Politics, March 1993) has argued that "obituaries on the demise of the Trusteeship Council may be premature"; and, has commended its future relevance. More recently, the idea was also discussed at the "Conference on Failed States and Global Governance" (Florence, April 10-14, 2001) where some felt that trusteeship could be a sustainable practice if states and their people regard themselves as part of an international system with shared and common goals.

Leaving Afghanistan to the mercy of power masters or their brokers, while forgetting its recent history, would be unwise. The space vacated by these operators should be occupied by the U.N. to improve the welfare of the Afghan people and advance the common goals of "responsible nationhood" using the experience and expertise of the Trusteeship Council.

Is there some "abridgement" of national sovereignty of the Westphalian category in placing Afghanistan under the Trusteeship Council? Partially, yes. But the terms of reference would specify how long the Council could administer the territory, along with a road-map for return to civil order and reasonable governance. And, the Council's work would, of course, be supervised both by the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The financial implications of undertaking the process may not be daunting; an additionality could be contributed by the international community as well as international financial institutions to kick-start the process for the first two years. And, thereafter, with reasonable governance under the U.N. and a nominal levy on goods entering or leaving, Afghanistan may well see the economy get on its feet. It would be quite essential to get all, if not

most, Islamic countries on board, not just for acceptability but for economic reasons as well.

It is possible that the U.N. presence under International Trusteeship provisions could facilitate construction and maintenance of a gas pipeline from the Central Asian Republics running through its territory. Revenue flows from this pipeline could also contribute to Afghanistan's social and economic development. The Trusteeship Council could give the type of investment protection and supply security needed in international commerce which no Government in the foreseeable future could reasonably provide.

What could be the desirable type of a future Government in Afghanistan and what should be its policies? It is reasonable to assume that the unanimous answer, both within Afghanistan and outside, would be a secure Afghanistan, at peace with itself and its neighbours, with a slew of policies and practices including: a) a 'reasonably representative' Government based on its historical experiences while blending into the 21st century; b) a well-planned and implemented programme for the country's social and economic development with support from the U.N. and the international community; and, c) willing adherence to norms of international conduct.

This is just an indicative, not exhaustive, unprioritised list. The final shape of this Government and its policies would essentially be chosen by the people of Afghanistan. And, the role of the Council would be to assist the people in establishing this type of governance.

The people of Afghanistan would, in all likelihood, prefer a multi-group, participative, democratic variant of a pluralistic regime which would respect tribal affiliations in a loose, federal structure promoting responsible, non-medieval nationhood. The past hostility between tribes need not be assumed as a permanent feature if the Trusteeship Council, is empowered to enable troubled transition

in the nascent stages of "nation building" and its march towards responsible/responsive self-governance.

The Trusteeship Council has done precisely this type of work since 1945. And, now, with the last territory of Palau in the Pacific Ocean returned to its people (1994), it has been "successful" in completing its charter of duties and responsibilities. The Council is without a job today.

Cobbling together of an international consensus for the "war against global terrorism" (regardless of variations in definition and interpretation of terrorism itself) is one matter; it is desirable, it is good. It is a necessary, but not sufficient, condition. The realisation of an international consensus on re-building Afghanistan as a reasonably modern state has not yet been openly addressed by this "politico-military coalition".

This needs to be addressed, in parallel, with the military effort. In this context, the basic concepts of International Trusteeship which have been around since 1945 are worthy of re-consideration and implementation, *mutatis mutandi*, for the re-building of Afghanistan, the welfare of its people and for protection of the legitimate interests of its neighbours and the world at large.

So, what is the proposal? It is: immediately secure support of all members of the U.N., in particular the current 15 in the Security Council, for placing Afghanistan temporarily the Trusteeship Council; pass a Security Council Resolution. The Special Administrator for Afghanistan designated by the U.N. Secretary-General under the Trusteeship Council should immediately hold an international round table meeting with all Afghan parties concerned and states bordering Afghanistan, on shaping its social, economic and political agenda as part of the process of "re-building". In parallel, the Secretariat associated with the above officer should work with international financial institutions and other potential sources of funding for the process; and realise the initial budget for the first two years of the process.

(The writer is Director, Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi.)

THE HINDU

4 OCT 2001

# United Nations calls for unity in battle against terrorism

UNITED NATIONS: The United Nations on Tuesday called for a concerted action to fight terrorism even as differences cropped up between member states on its definition while India's call for a global convention on the subject drew a favourable response from European states.

As the world body met to seek unanimity for a "concerted action" against terrorism, general assembly president Han Seung-soo of South Korea said, it "transcended cultural and religious differences." India's proposal asking for a global convention on terrorism drew support from French ambassador Jean-David Levitte and his British counterpart Jeremy Greenstock who urged members states to accelerate work on it. In his opening address, Annan told the delegates that the governments had a "clear agenda before them", and as a first step, they should sign and ratify the legal instruments.

He made a special reference to the convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, and the 1999 convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, which needs another 18 ratifications

before it comes into force.

New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, specially invited to address the week-long meeting, said the UN should hold any country accountable if it supports or condones terrorism and ostracise it.

"Otherwise you will fail in your primary mission of peacekeeper," Mr Giuliani said. "This, is not time for further study or vague directives," he told a packed general assembly.



KOFI ANNAN

Despite the facade of unity presented in the 189-member assembly, the negotiators on the comprehensive convention against terrorism were, however, facing a difficult time especially on the definition of 'terrorism' and how to differentiate it from liberation movements.

Meanwhile, the legal committee of the UN is trying to reconcile differences among member-states especially regarding the definition of 'terrorism' and how to differentiate it from liberation movements.

In his maiden address to the assembly, U.S. ambassador John Negroponte repeated Bush administration's position and held Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida responsible for the September 11 attacks. (PTI)



## Consensus eludes U.N. on definition of terrorism

110-17  
8/10  
**UNITED NATIONS, OCT. 2.** The United Nations today called for a concerted action to fight terrorism even as differences cropped up between member-states on its definition while India's call for a global convention on the subject drew a favourable response from European states.

As the world body met to seek unanimity for a "concerted action" against terrorism, the general assembly president, Mr. Han Seung-Soo of South Korea, said, it "transcended cultural and religious differences".

India's proposal asking for a global convention on terrorism drew support from the French ambassador, Mr. Jean-David Levitte, and his British counterpart, Mr. Jeremy Greenstock, who urged members-states to accelerate work on it. In his opening address, Mr. Annan told the delegates that the governments had a "clear agenda

before them", and as a first step, they should sign and ratify the legal instruments.

He made a special reference to the convention for the suppression of terrorist bombings, and the 1999 convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism, which needed another 18 ratifications before it came into force.

The New York Mayor, Mr. Rudolph Giuliani, specially invited to address the week-long meeting, said the U.N. should hold any country accountable if it supported or condoned terrorism, and ostracise it. "Otherwise, you will fail in your primary mission of peacekeeper," Mr. Giuliani said. "This is not time for further study or vague directives," he told a packed general assembly.

Despite the facade of unity presented in the 189-member assembly, the negotiators on the comprehensive convention against

terrorism were, however, facing a difficult time especially on the definition of "terrorism" and how to differentiate it from liberation movements.

Meanwhile, the legal committee of the U.N. is trying to reconcile differences among member-states especially regarding the definition of "terrorism" and how to differentiate it from liberation movements. In his maiden address to the assembly, the U.S. ambassador, Mr. John Negroponte, repeated the Bush administration's position and held Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda responsible for the September 11 attacks.

### Israel warned

The Egyptian ambassador, Mr. Amed Aboulgheit, raised the West Asian issue and warned Israel against using terrorist attacks on the U.S. as a cover to crush Palestinians. — PTI

3 OCT 2001

MONDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2001

## U.N. AND THE ANTI-TERROR FOCUS

THE UNITED NATIONS Security Council has enthusiastically spelt out a comprehensive framework of do's and don'ts to promote a global-scale campaign to combat terrorism. The Council's latest unanimous resolution is a virtual directive to all the U.N. members on how they should tame the terrorists by starving them of funds and assets and by denying safe havens to the actual and potential perpetrators of terrorist crimes as also the sponsors of such activities. Adopted under Chapter 7 of the U.N. Charter, the resolution is enforceable in respect of all its recommendations. Significant, therefore, is the constitution of a monitoring committee. The Council's call for enhanced international cooperation is suitably aimed at preventing the spread of terrorism across state boundaries. Two other salient features of the arguably historic resolution are no less indicative of a new mood of multilateral determination to arrest the politics of terror in the context of the recent terrorist offensive against America. First, the U.N. members have been asked to treat terrorist acts as criminal offences under their respective national laws. Second, all countries are enjoined upon to refrain from providing any form of support, active or passive, to the financiers as also the actual and potential perpetrators of the terrorist crimes. However, the moral force of the resolution might make a materially positive difference to the current international clamour for action against terrorism only if a truly global consensus could be generated about the very definitions of various forms of trans-border terrorism.

As the victim of the world's worst episode of terrorist strikes, the United States took the initiative for the latest U.N. Security Council resolution. The U.S. must therefore act, as far as possible, in conformity with the parameters and principles enunciated under all the relevant U.N. resolutions now and later. The U.N. has, over time, considered various facets of international

terrorism, while the latest resolution marks a definitive leap forward by the global organisation in addressing the intricate web of connections between the terrorists and their sponsors as also state-protectors. However, the many distortions of the existing international political order may still act as a constraint on the U.N.'s proactive impulses. Overall it is true that the U.N. has not been particularly effective in promoting multilateral coalitions to deal with issues of critical importance to the world at large and not just the U.S. and the other major powers. Yet, Washington can usefully interact with the U.N. as a collective forum before preparing to track down Osama bin Laden, the chief suspect behind the latest terrorist outrage against the U.S., and before planning any other anti-terror operations.

Even as Pakistan agreed to cooperate with the U.S. in its ongoing efforts to get hold of Osama bin Laden and his suspected terrorist network inside Afghanistan, Islamabad pointedly kept the U.N. in focus as the moral authority for possible multilateral operations in this regard. More specifically, Pakistan drew attention to the resolution that the U.N. Security Council had passed in the immediate context of the terrorist attack on America on September 11. An avid non-official interpretation in the West at the time was that Pakistan seemed to suggest that the U.S. was already armed with the U.N.'s authority to wage a war against the terrorists with a global reach. Nonetheless, the relevant question now is how far the U.S. will actually take the U.N. into confidence on intricate aspects of Washington's strategic offensive against terrorism. While the U.N. Security Council has had no difficulty in endorsing the U.S. initiative at this stage, Washington too will do well to explore the possibilities of forming a broad-based international coalition against the politics of terrorism, conforming as much as possible to the framework of a U.N.-led consensus.

THE HINDU

- 1 OCT 2001

# U.N. moves to freeze assets of 'terrorists'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 28. The United Nations Security Council is expected to pass a resolution that will freeze the financial assets of terrorists and also expand the world body's role in fighting terrorism. The resolution initiated by the United States is expected to be finalised by Monday when the General Assembly will start a three-day debate on terrorism.

It has surprised some that the Bush administration has gone to the Security Council with the resolution given the apprehension in official circles that the world body may be lukewarm to the proposal. Further, it was feared that the U.N. would seek to dilute any U.S. plan against terrorists and Afghanistan in general. The draft resolution, which was introduced by the U.S. Ambassador to the U.N., Mr. John Negroponte, wants a wide-ranging ban — political, military and financial — on people and "entities" involved in terrorism. The U.N. is bringing the resolution under Chapter 7 of the Charter which will make it mandatory on all member-nations.

The Bush administration had two reasons to involve the U.N. First, a number of countries have stressed the need to involve the U.N. in the fight against terrorism. Also, Washington has been getting some unprecedented support from the Permanent Five, especially from Russia and China. Different aspects of the four-page resolution are being debated on with the focus on the clandestine network of the terrorists and their finances. The U.S. wants to not only cut off the funds supply to terrorists but criminalise fundraising. The resolution will also condemn providing safe havens to terrorists.

The Security Council resolution will not have in its text the Exec-

utive Order issued by the White House this week listing 27 organisations, individuals and entities involved in terrorism. The idea is to have an all-encompassing resolution with the threat of sanctions. But right now, diplomats are focussed on reaching an agreement on the draft.

The Bush administration has said that military strikes against Afghanistan are not "imminent". However, there are reports that elite American and British commandos are already in Afghanistan trying to hunt down Osama bin Laden and his chief associates. The *USA Today* said three to five-member teams of U.S. commandos were in Afghanistan for the last two weeks with instructions to kill or capture Bin Laden or restrict him to an area until air strikes are launched. But the teams have reportedly found it difficult to locate Bin Laden and have asked Central Asian nations for intelligence support. The Pentagon has refused to comment on the report.

## Osama planning more strikes: Hain

LONDON, SEPT. 28. The British Government has evidence to show that Osama bin Laden, suspected mastermind behind the terrorist attacks in the U.S., is planning further strikes and the targets included London.

"The Government has evidence that Osama bin Laden is planning further strikes," Mr. Peter Hain, Minister for Europe has said.

Speaking on BBC's question time last night, he said "we are in a very dangerous situation. I understand that he is preparing already for high impact terrorist attacks in the coming weeks, if he is able to." — PTI

# Americans urged to help identify terrorists

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 28. The U.S. Attorney General, Mr. John Ashcroft, today released photographs of the 19 suspected hijackers, saying that it is part of "a national neighbourhood watch" in which they hoped Americans might recognise some of the hijackers.

Mr. Ashcroft and the FBI Director, Mr. Robert Mueller, asked any Americans who might recognise the photos to contact authorities.

They said there were still questions about the true identities of some of the men, and they hoped the public's help might assist in solving those questions.

Mr. Mueller said there was evidence that one or more of the hijackers had contacts with Al-Qaida, the network associated with accused terrorist Osama bin Laden. He declined to be more specific.






Mr. Ashcroft said the total

## Justice Department identifies the hijackers






The FBI released the photos of 19 men accused of commandeering the passenger planes that crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon, and rural Pennsylvania on Sept. 11. Investigators hope that by releasing the photos, some Americans may recognize the suspects and contact authorities. Listed is the date of birth used for identification, possible nationality and last known address or addresses. Many of the hijackers had multiple aliases.

\*believed to be a pilot






### American Airlines Flight 11: Boston to Los Angeles Crashed into north tower of the World Trade Center

				
Waleed M. Alshehri*	Wafiq M. Alshehri*	Mohamed Atta*	Abdulhadi Mowatt*	Satam B.M. Al Ghamdi
Several	9/1/68	9/1/68	Two dates	6/28/76
Saudi national	NA	Egyptian national	Saudi national	Saudi national
Daytona Beach, Orlando and Hollywood, Fla.	Hollywood, Fla. and Newton, Mass.	Coral Springs and Hollywood, Fla.; Hamburg, Germany	Hollywood, Fla.	United Arab Emir.





### United Airlines Flight 175: Boston to Los Angeles Crashed into south tower of the World Trade Center

				
Marwan Al-Shehhi*	Fayed Rashid Ahmed Hassan Al Qadi Barhammed	Mohamed Alshehri	Hossam Alghamdi	Ahmed Alghamdi
5/9/78	NA	NA	NA	NA
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Hollywood, Fla.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Delray Beach, Fla.	Delray Beach, Fla.	NA

### American Airlines Flight 77: Washington Dulles Airport to Los Angeles Crashed into the Pentagon

				
Khalid Almihdhar	Majed Moqed	Nawaf Alhazmi	Salem Alhazmi	Hani Hanjour
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Saudi national	Saudi national	Saudi national	Saudi national	NA
San Diego and New York	NA	Fort Lee and Wayne, N.J.; San Diego	Fort Lee and Wayne, N.J.	Phoenix and San Diego

### United Airlines Flight 93: Newark, N.J., to San Francisco Crashed in rural southwest Pennsylvania

			
Ahmed Ibrahim A. Al Hazrawi	Ahmed Alnami	Ziad Jarrar*	Saeed Alghamdi
10/11/80	NA	NA	NA
Saudi national	NA	NA	NA
Delray Beach, Fla.	Delray Beach, Fla.	NA	Delray Beach, Fla.

SOURCE: Justice Department

# Use the U.N. in fight against terrorism: Annan

ND-12  
UNited Nations, SEPT. 24. Calling the September 11 attacks against the United States deliberate, heartless and malicious, the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan told 189 countries today to use the U.N. for a "long-term struggle against terrorism."

In the short-term, he said in a major address to the U.N. General Assembly, no effort should be spared to bring the perpetrators of the attacks on New York and the Pentagon to justice. But he pleaded for the rule of law, national and international, "that all can un-

derstand and accept." "Let us uphold our own principles and standards, so that we can make the difference unmistakable, for all the world to see, between those who resort to terrorism and those who fight against it."

He had planned to talk of new priorities for the world body in his speech to the General Assembly, which only two weeks ago was to be filled with world leaders for its annual debate. Instead, the session was called off because of the attacks and Mr. Annan spoke to a low-level meeting of Ambassadors except for the visiting

Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov.

"Thirteen days ago — on a day none of us is likely ever to forget — our host country, and our beloved host city, were struck by a blow so deliberate, yet so heartless, malicious and destructive, that we are still struggling to grasp its enormity," Mr. Annan said. "In truth, this was a blow not against one city or one country, but against every one of us," he said, noting that the victims at the World Trade Center in New York came from more than 60 countries, including his own, Ghana. — Reuters

THE WIND  
25 SEP 2001

## U.N. debate postponed

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 19. The United Nations has postponed the two week debate in the General Assembly, which is scheduled to begin on September 24, 1951.

A formal endorsement by the General Assembly will be coming soon. More than 50 world leaders were expected to participate in the debate.

The new dates are expected to be announced soon.

The postponement is because the city and federal authorities were not in a position to provide security and proper environment for the gathering.

The U.S. did not officially approach the U.N. about postponing the debate, but had made known the difficulties.

SEE ... DU

28 SEP 20 1951

1951

# U.N. defers session

1419 By Sridhar Krishnaswami HD-17

**UNITED NATIONS, SEPT. 13.** The General Assembly has formally decided to postpone the Special Session on Children which was scheduled to be held between September 19 and September 21. More than 75 Heads of State and government were scheduled to attend this meeting.

The summit was postponed after Tuesday's terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. U.N. officials decided that given the pressure authorities were facing right now, providing special protection to the visiting dignitaries was simply out of the question. "I think at this critical stage we cannot afford to fail the children or wrangle indefinitely over the text and documents. And I would urge delegates that despite the postponement we keep up that work and take up the issue as soon as next week. That is my plea," the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan told the General Assembly.

The conference to have been organised by the UNICEF was a follow-up to the historic 1990 summit that set broad guidelines to governments, U.N. agencies and interest groups. But in the last decade, the issue of children has come into special focus given the range of problems -- HIV/AIDS, child prostitution, child labour and slavery and children in conflict. The postponement of the meeting raises questions about the schedule of the 56th session of the General Assembly, in particular the general debate which starts on September 24 and runs through till October 5 which will see several Heads of State and government make a brief presentation.

The U.S. President, Mr. George W Bush is the second speaker after Brazil on September 24; the President of Pakistan has been scheduled to speak the same morning and on September 25, the Prime Minister of India, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee will have his turn. Given the terrorist attacks, there is considerable uncertainty on how the general debate will be held and also the planned bilaterals on the sidelines of the meeting.

U.N. officials have not elaborated how they will handle the large contingent of dignitaries, merely saying it was the task of the United States Government. One view is that the American President may not attend the General Assembly session. But this is seen as unlikely in many quarters. Mr. Bush may attend the session but restrict other meetings to the bare minimum. Much will depend on the evaluation of the security situation by the secret service.

14  
14 SEP 2001

# Each to his own kind of modernity.

*UN  
Gr 11 11/9*

**T**he UNESCO has always emphasized the linkages between culture and the broader aims of human endeavour. This has been part of its core constitutional mandate of "advancing, through the educational, scientific and cultural relations of the peoples of the world, the objectives of peace and the common welfare of mankind".

The organization's early work emphasized intercultural dialogue as a key strategy for peace-building, for example, the "Unity and diversity of cultures" survey of the world's different cultures... carried out in the Fifties and the celebrated "Major project on mutual appreciation of Eastern and Western cultural values" launched in 1957.

This vision of the importance of culture took on a new dimension in the Sixties, the decade of decolonization... The political emancipation of peoples led to a keen awareness of their own ways of life and they began to challenge the idea that modernization had to mean Westernization. Rather, they claimed the right to contribute to "modernity" in the terms of their own traditions. The claim was endorsed in 1966 when UNESCO's general conference adopted the Declaration of the Principles of International Cultural Co-operation... It thus became UNESCO's responsibility... to stimulate a process of worldwide reflection on how cultural policies could be integrated into development strategies.

The intergovernmental conference in Venice in 1970 marked the first of a series of international conferences which began the still evolving process of bringing culture to the heart of the policy-making agenda... The Venice conference affirmed clearly that "the diversity of national cultures, their uniqueness and originality are an essential basis for human progress and the development of world culture" and recommended a variety of measures both to governments and to UNESCO.

European governments were the first to follow up on the Venice gathering and an intergovernmental conference... was organized in Helsinki in June 1972. The Helsinki conference stressed cultural co-operation and exchange at the re-

## A short history of the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organi- zation's culture and development agenda

gional level. It also observed that economic growth "leads to imbalances, shown mainly in man's becoming increasingly out of tune with his environment and in quantitative progress being set as the primary target, whereas society's development should tend towards the qualitative improvement of life."

Just 16 months later, the Yogyakarta conference in In-



UNESCO in Senegal

onesia took the principles adopted in Venice and Helsinki a step further by inviting states "to determine their economic and social objectives within a wider cultural context and to reassert those values which contribute towards realizing a human society."

Two years later, at the Accra intergovernmental conference on cultural policies in Africa, the declaration adopted stressed that "cultural authenticity and technical progress, in the reciprocity and complementarity of their efforts, are the surest guarantee of cultural development."

The final such regional gathering was the intergovernmental conference... held in Bogotá, Colombia in January 1978. The Bogotá Declaration, adopted by the participants stressed that cultural development had to take into account "an overall betterment of the life of individuals and peoples" as well as "cultural iden-

tity, from which it derives and whose furtherance and affirmation it promotes..."

This rapidly evolving culture and development agenda came to a head four years later, in Mexico City, where the world conference on cultural policies, MONDIACULT, adopted the celebrated broad definition of culture that linked culture so irrevocably to development: "Culture...is...the whole complex of distinctive spiritual, material, intellectual and emotional features that characterize a society or social group. It includes not only arts and letters, but also modes of life, the fundamental rights of the human being, value systems, traditions and beliefs."

MONDIACULT also affirmed that "balanced development can only be ensured by making cultural factors an integral part of the strategies designed to achieve it." It was to attain this objective that UNESCO conceived the idea of the world decade for cultural development (1988-1997). During the period... UNESCO mobilized the international community to pursue four key objectives — acknowledging the cultural dimension of development; affirming and enriching cultural identities; broadening participation in cultural life; and promoting international cultural co-operation. During the decade, more than 1,200 projects were launched in practically every country of the world by governmental as well as local communities and private bodies...

In practical terms, the decade fostered new networks in this field. It also reinforced inter-agency partnerships which provided policy advisory services to governments and strengthened endogenous capacities, especially in the domain of cultural management. It led to the launching of special projects such as the African Itinerant College on Culture and Development, It set in motion a research programme on the methodological problems of integrating cultural considerations in development planning processes... The crowning achievement of the decade, however, was the creation and work of the independent world commission on culture and development, which completed its work at the end of 1995.

# USA, Israel pull out of UN racism meet

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

DURBAN, Sept. 3. - The USA and Israel pulled out of the World Conference Against Racism today, denouncing the 'anti-Israel' language proposed for the UN meeting's final declaration, the US secretary of state Mr Colin Powell said.

Israel announced its pull out because of anti-Israel and anti-Semitic comments, Israeli foreign minister, Mr Shimon Peres said.

In a statement Mr Powell denounced the Draft Declaration's "hateful language."

"Today I've instructed our representatives to return home. I took this decision with regret because of the importance of the international fight against racism and the contribution that this conference could have made to it," Mr Powell's statement said.

"But following discussions today by our team in Durban

and others who are working for a successful conference, I'm convinced that it will not be possible," the statement added.

Mr Peres said Israel had been unfairly labelled as a colonialist nation by members of the conference. He charged that the Arab League had led a concerted effort to single out Israel and blame it for the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

Norway and Canada had attempted to mediate a compromise between the Arab states and Israel on the conference's Draft Declaration. The USA was part of those talks.

"All attempts to reach a compromise have failed," said Rep. Tom Lantos, a member of the US delegation.

Palestinian ambassador, Salman el Herfi, said the Arab delegations had been very reasonable, but the US delegation had refused to compromise.

Herfi accused USA of pulling

out because of its own refusal to face up to responsibility for slavery and the injustices done to the native Americans.

"Their withdrawal will not affect the success of the conference," he said.

Human rights organisations at the conference also condemned the US withdrawal.

"This is going to be a big disappointment for victims of racism everywhere in the world," said Mr Reed Brody, who led the conference delegation for Human Rights Watch.

**Jewish body's charge:** The World Union for Progressive Judaism, an international Jewish organisation, said today the anti-racism conference was being used to prepare a *jihad* (holy war) against Israel and could wreck the world body, adds Reuters from Geneva.

■ Church opposes endless reservation, page 5

THE STATESMAN



# UN Race conference threatens Press freedom

JIM OTTAWAY JR. & RONALD KOVEN.

TODAY marks the start of the United Nations' World Conference on Racism in Durban, South Africa. While controversy is swirling over Zionism, slavery reparation and colonialism, the international community is overlooking one of the event's most disturbing proposals: curbing press freedom.

Indeed, among proposals drafted in Geneva for conference consideration is one for governments to create national bodies to monitor the press, mediate with it, and write codes of conduct for the news media. This amounts to a call for governmental press councils that would surely limit public debate and press freedom. It's hard to imagine that, once established, such councils would confine themselves to dealing with "hate speech" and racism.

Another major proposal is for the UN Human Rights Commission to write an international code

of ethics on "hate speech" for the media. An international ethics code is a dangerous idea that has been consistently opposed by press freedom groups over the years, and it is certainly not the business of a UN agency to write, adopt or try to enforce it.

The categories of "information" to outlaw in such a code are so broad that they would certainly be used to repress forms of expression in some countries that would be considered legitimate in others. Moreover, such a code would go against some of the UN's own stated commitments: The Durban proposals suggest state dictation of news media behavior, a clear contradiction of Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights — which guarantees the free flow of information and says that public debate is essential to open, democratic nations.

The draft texts assume that racial and ethnic conflict and hate can be wished away by banning its expression in the public press. Yet it is obvious that the

only way of preventing such hate and conflicts from festering and spilling over into violence is to be able to identify and combat them in the open — through the press.

As the respected South African journalist Raymond Louw wrote in his Southern Africa Report of August 17: "South Africa has already discovered that those zealously imbued with the desire to rid the world of racism eagerly reach out for the ban-

**Governments should not dictate to a free press its duties to fight racism or anything else. The main role of the press is to report information, opinions and public debate. If free media also want to work actively against racial and ethnic hatred, that must be their free choice. This happens to be a choice that quality media have historically made, to great effect. But if it were a legal requirement, it would be seen as official propaganda, rendering it ineffective.**

We also know from history that proposals such as these, especially as broadly phrased as those at Durban, can be used to throttle press freedom generally. As Eleanor Roosevelt noted in 1950 at the UN Hu-

man Rights Commission, similar Soviet proposals against incitement to hatred were "extremely dangerous" because "any criticism of public or religious authorities might all too easily be described as incitement to hatred and consequently prohibited".

With so many other contentious issues on the agenda, one of the main problems at the Durban conference will be getting national delegations normally sympathetic to the concerns of the press to focus on this particular issue. US diplomats, for example, have said that their first worries are the attempts to stigmatise Israel as racist, the calls for slavery reparations, and the attempts to categorise caste systems as illegal racism. Such issues have been described by Washington officials as "deal breakers".

They are serious issues. But they should not be allowed to obscure the long-lasting damage that the proposed restrictions of the press would do to free and open debate of these issues after the Durban conference.

(Ottaway, a senior vice president of Dow Jones, is chairman of the World Press Freedom Committee. Koven is European representative of the World Press Freedom Committee. From The Wall Street Journal)

INDIAN EXPRESS

1 SEP 2001

# Negotiations on to save UN meet on racism

HT-10  
578

Geneva

INTERNATIONAL NEGOTIATORS meeting in Geneva have a week to save the UN conference on racism from collapse. The conference was intended for heads of Government but some countries intend to send lesser representatives.

Although many leaders of the developing world are planning to attend, Tony Blair is among the western leaders who will be absent. The decision whether to send the foreign secretary, Jack Straw, or a junior minister, is being delayed until a judgment can be made on the likely outcome of the meeting.

Diplomats from states planning to attend the conference, due to start in Durban, South Africa, on August 31, have to agree on the wording of a final draft of a declaration on racism for the conference to adopt, and a plan of action.

The deadline is Friday. If they fail, some countries are likely to further lower their level of representation, and at worst the US will withdraw. Backed by the EU, Washington says it will not endorse a declaration equating Zionism with racism, or containing references to compensation or reparations for slavery and colonialism.

Discrimination, subjugation, and foreign occupation are, in the phrase used by the western

camp, "not region specific". India, for example, has fought off an attempt to have its caste system classed as oppressive.

As it becomes more urgent to settle a draft document in which almost every paragraph causes some kind of disagreement, despite two years of negotiations, controversial issues have been pushed off the public stage in Geneva and into smaller private working groups.

The EU and the US are at loggerheads with African, Caribbean and Latin American countries that want to include references to slavery and colonialism. The western side, and in the EU, Britain in particular, refuses to accept that slavery and colonialism constituted a "crime against humanity" and have rejected a proposed reference to "compensatory measures". It pointed out in earlier discussions that the West was far from alone in practising slavery and other oppressive forms of labour. For centuries there was a slavery trade between India, Africa and the Arab world, for example.

Numerous African peoples enslaved one another, and there were repeated tides of ethnic conquest in what is now China.

Are these regions, too, to be called on under the document for reparations now, the West asked.

The Guardian

# UN approves of monitors in Afghanistan

## ASSOCIATED PRESS

UNHQ, July 31. - The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution authorising deployment of the UN monitors to help enforce sanctions against Afghanistan's Taliban rulers.

The resolution called for 15 experts to be sent to countries neighbouring Afghanistan - China, Iran, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan - to assist local authorities in preventing arms and drugs smuggling fuelling its brutal civil war.

A five-member monitoring group will be established in New York to oversee enforcement of sanctions. The group will be composed of experts on arms embargoes and counter-terrorism "in view of the link to the purchase of arms and financing of terrorism, money laundering, financial transactions and drug trafficking" as reported by the five-member UN panel in May.

Under the resolution, the UN experts will assess and verify information and make recommendations on sanctions viola-

tions to the SC committee monitoring the sanctions.

The SC has asked Secretary-General Kofi Annan to establish the two groups within 30 days, in consultation with the sanctions committee, headed by Colombia.

The SC froze Taliban assets and imposed an international flight ban on Afghanistan's Ariana airlines in November 1999 to pressurise the hard-line Islamic militia to turn over suspected terrorist Osama bin Laden for trial in the twin US embassy bombings in Africa in August 1998. The council added an arms embargo against the Taliban in January.

USA and Russia have been in the forefront of UN efforts to impose and enforce these sanctions.

The resolution has urged all countries to take immediate steps to prevent sanctions violations and punish any individuals or organisations that break the embargoes.

The religious militia, which controls 95 percent of the country, refuses to hand over bin Laden, saying USA has failed to prove he was behind the dual attack.

THE STATESMAN

## Small arms: debate on revised action plan

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 17. Mr. W. James Arputharaj from war-torn Sri Lanka had one question for delegates to the U.N. conference to curb illegal small arms trafficking: Would their programme of action save lives around the world?

Mr. Ron Anger of the South Africa Gun Owners' Association had another: Why doesn't the conference concentrate on the illicit trade in military weapons and respect gun collectors, hunters, and sports shooters?

In a microcosm of the debate among governments, representatives from over 40 organisations spanning the globe had their chance to address delegates to the conference on a host of issues related to the illicit trade in small arms. Anti-gun activists and

shooting enthusiasts took the spotlight as delegates began intense negotiations on a revised action plan that still contains all the issues the United States opposes — from a ban on governments supplying arms to rebel groups to an endorsement of "legal restrictions on unrestricted trade in and ownership of small arms and light weapons."

As the conference entered its second and final week, the lack of consensus on many of the key elements meant to curb the lucrative and deadly trade was reflected in the statements from non-governmental organisations.

Mr. Arputharaj, executive director of the South Asia Partnership International in Sri Lanka, speaking on behalf of the South

Asia Small Arms Network, appealed to delegates to do more to protect civilians from violent armed conflicts and ensure that they don't have to spend their lives living in fear.

Mr. Rubem Cesar Fernandes of the Brazilian human rights group, Viva Rio, called on the conference to set a goal of cutting the number of people killed by small arms by 35 percent by 2006 — which he said would save about 1 million lives.

The South African, Mr. Anger, and many of the dozen other gun rights' activists from the United States, Britain, Australia and elsewhere said they would strongly support measures to reduce the negative effects of small arms — if they were defined as military weapons of war.

"Wars are not fought with sporting arms, but with military weapons," he emphasised.

Mr. Thomas Mason of the U.S. National Rifle Association, speaking on behalf of its more than 4.5 million members, reiterated the organisation's support for curtailing the illicit small arms trade in military weapons.

But he expressed "extreme concern" about possible conference action to curtail the legitimate rights of American citizens to own and use firearms.

But Mr. Neil Arya of Physicians for Global Survival in Canada said physicians were not concerned with whether a shooting was a suicide, accident or homicide, whether the perpetrator was a gang member, a soldier or a law-abiding gun owner. — AP

# UN to probe charges of Hizbollah-Indian peacekeepers' nexus

AGENCIES

UNITED NATIONS, JULY 14

15/7

THE United Nations said on Friday it would investigate allegations that UN peacekeepers in Lebanon helped Hizbollah guerrillas kidnap three Israeli soldiers in October.

UN spokesman Fred Eckhard said a planned internal probe of the handling of a UN videotape linked to the abduction would also look into any allegations of collaboration with Hizbollah on the part of peacekeepers in the UN Mission in Lebanon, known as UNIFIL.

The Israeli newspaper *Maariv* quoted an unidentified soldier from UNIFIL's Indian contingent on Friday as saying that a number of his fellow peacekeepers had collaborated with Hizbollah in the October 7 kidnapping.

"The internal investigation that is getting under way is comprehensive and would look into any such allegations of misconduct," Eckhard told Reuters.

"We told them they were making a mistake. I am very sorry about what happened because the Hizbollah who kidnapped the

soldiers stood opposite us and we saw them, they wore our clothes (UN uniforms) and it's a pity we didn't prevent the kidnapping," *Maariv* quoted the soldier as saying.

In Beirut on Friday, a Hizbollah official source denied the *Maariv* report. "The Zionist enemy is living in a state of political and media disarray," the source said.

## Investigation will also look into any links between UNIFIL and Hizbollah

Meanwhile, External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said the reports "have neither been substantiated or con-

firmed."

"Indian soldiers are known the world over for their high professionalism and sterling qualities of dedication and integrity," Rao said.

In Jerusalem, Israeli Defence Minister Bin Yamin Ben Eliezer today moved to calm any possible rift with India over allegations Indian United Nations troops had been bribed to allow the kidnap of three Israeli troops by Hizbollah guerrillas.

"No one is accusing India," he was quoted saying by public radio in an English-language interview.

INDIAN EXPLORE

51-10 IT's Not All 19/7

## IT's Not All

Technology is often derided as a rich person's plaything, so it's heartening to note that the United Nations Development Programme's latest Human Development Report (HDR) focuses on how it can be used to benefit the disadvantaged. As the report points out, technology can be a tool, not just a reward, for development. For example, farmers in Kerala use the Internet to access information about grain prices, while fishermen download satellite images that pinpoint fish shoals. And while dotcom valuations may have been a bubble, the opportunities the New Economy offers India are very real. The information and communications technology industry generated Rs 33,000 crore in 1999 (\$7.7 billion). Exports amounted to \$4 billion, and are projected to rise to \$50 billion by 2008. By that time, employment in the software industry is expected to rise to 2.2 million, or 8 per cent of India's formal employment. The HDR rightly pats India on the back for understanding the importance of the New Economy. It also cites Bangalore as one of the world's leading technology hubs, on par with New York, Seattle, Cambridge and Dublin, and ahead of Los Angeles, Tokyo, Paris and Singapore. Yet, India only manages 63rd place in the technology achievement index, which is topped by Finland, the US and Sweden. That's because the New Economy still needs old-world infrastructure like electricity, phone connections and, above all, skilled human resources. And while India may have the world's seventh-largest number of scientists and engineers, it also has 44 per cent adult illiteracy and an average of 5.1 years of education.

Of course, it's not exactly news that India has created enviable institutes of technical learning, while making a hash of primary education. But calls to stop subsidising Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) students may gain renewed force following the HDR's projection that India loses \$2 billion every year by providing cheap university education to professionals who migrate. Many arguments can be raised against this contention. It does not factor in remittances, donations to alma maters, and venture funding to start-ups back home. Nor does it take into account intangibles like the brand value accorded to Indian infotech products and professionals, or the influential lobbies — particularly in the US — derived from the Indian diaspora. Finally, as a point of principle, a country that cannot provide its citizens a world-class quality of life has no right to stop them from seeking it elsewhere. However, there is an equally strong case that India needs all the resources it can get for ensuring universal education. Poor and middle-class students should not be deprived of technical education for want of funds, but why shouldn't they repay the public money spent on them once they have made good? The HDR suggests that an 'exit tax', amounting to two months' salary, be charged whenever a visa is granted. Given the global slowdown, increasing cost consciousness among corporates and rising competition from other emerging infotech powers, this could price Indian professionals out of the market. So it's unlikely to find favour with anybody. But perhaps it's time to start thinking of simultaneously hiking technical education fees and making soft student loans readily available. That, perhaps, is the only fair way of fuelling India's infotech revolution while freeing up resources for primary and secondary education.

10-12

## TECHNOLOGICAL FIXES

1377

IN MORE THAN a decade of publication, the annual Human Development Report of the United Nations Development Programme has usually steered clear of controversy while making out a case for expanding the understanding and measurement of development beyond the traditional approaches of increasing the gross domestic product of an economy. In the 2001 HDR, however, the UNDP has managed to anger its "traditional" support base of citizens' groups and organisations critical of the dominant development paradigm by suggesting, first, that modern technology can offer solutions to many of the problems of the developing countries and, second, that the benefits of biotechnology and transgenic crops probably outweigh the risks, especially when it comes to meeting the challenges of increasing food production.

To be fair to the HDR, it is explicit in its argument that technology is not a silver bullet for removal of poverty. Yet, if there is one running strand in the 2001 report it is that the advances in modern technology combined with the forces of globalisation — constituting the "networked society" — offer the developing countries an opportunity to leap-frog out of poverty. Unfortunately, the understanding of technology is a very restrictive one, with the discussion confined to information and communication technologies, biotechnology and in a very limited fashion to advances in medicine. Besides, there is little that the HDR offers beyond a few historical examples to suggest that these new technologies by themselves will do much more for development than innumerable other technological advances of the past. As the report itself notes, many of the benefits of older technologies are yet to be distributed as illustrated, for example, in the fact that a third of the world's population is still without electricity and two billion people do not have access to low-cost essential medicines. The UNDP study

does argue that in biotechnology, as in other technologies, there is a need to weigh the benefits against the risks. But all the careful language does not hide the case that is made, in particular, for a more open welcome to transgenic crops in the developing countries. Yet, as the report itself notes, many of the world's national scientific academies have asked for a "thorough risk assessment" of the consequences of development of transgenic crop varieties. A more explicit and potentially more dangerous argument contained in the HDR is that the standards of risk and safety are different in rich and poor countries. That is, while consumers in the advanced countries can afford to worry about the safety of transgenic crops, the citizens of the developing countries cannot afford to do so because their first priority is food. Safety concerns in a variety of areas in the developed societies on occasion are indeed taken to unreasonable and unrealistic levels. But more generally the relevant question is, are basic standards of safety breached by certain technologies? It cannot be that there must be lax standards for poor societies and another set of stricter standards for the rich societies.

The HDR 2001 contains, as usual, the latest measures of the human development index for most countries in the world. The picture over the longer term, since 1975, shows substantial progress in some, retrogression in a fairly large number and an unsatisfactory pace of growth in most countries in the developing world. The HDR's appraisal reveals a mixed record so far on the very modest United Nations goals for development for the year 2015 in income, health and education. In some areas (hunger and education), more countries are on track than falling behind in meeting the targets for 2015. In others, (infant, child and maternal mortality and access to safe water), the reverse is true because of an extremely slow pace of improvement.

# U.N. orders probe into 'mishandling' of videotape

HD-14  
13/7

**UNITED NATIONS, JULY 12.** The U.N. has ordered an inquiry into the "mishandling" of a videotape, reportedly filmed by Indian peacekeepers in south Lebanon, which Israel has asked for saying it may shed light on the abduction of three of its soldiers last year.

The Chief United Nations spokesman, Mr. Fred Eckhard, said the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has ordered the inquiry as "frankly the organisation was embarrassed and our credibility was hurt by what appears to be mishandling of this event."

The probe, to be conducted by the UN Under Secretary-General, Mr. Joseph Connor, would apparently try to establish details regarding the videotape, its handling and exchanges with the Israeli government, he said.

"The Secretary-General wants to have a review of the circumstances under which filming is done in peacekeeping missions, and the way in which information is moved up the chain of command. Those are two of the things that he would expect this investigation to go into," Mr. Eckhard said.

Mr. Connor would report back to Mr. Annan "as soon as possible," he said.

Despite ordering the probe, Mr. Annan was adamant in rejecting the Israeli demand for the unedited version of the tape. "Our invitation to view an edited version of the tape is the Secretary General's final offer," Mr. Eckhard said.

After denying for months the existence of the videotape, the U.N. admitted last Friday that peacekeepers had in fact made a tape some 18 hours after the kidnapping.

The tape reportedly shows Hizbollah men preventing the peacekeepers from recovering two abandoned cross-country vehicles bearing fake U.N. number plates, which were apparently used in the kidnapping. It also shows blood stains and pictures of the militants wearing U.N. uniforms.

The kidnapping took place at a spot about 400 metres from the post manned by the Indian peacekeepers.

U.N. officials feel that showing the unedited version could jeopardise the security of 5000 peacekeepers in the region as the Hizbollah might target them.

Lebanon has opposed showing the tape to Israel, and Hizbollah has issued veiled threats.

## 'Indian soldiers bribed'

Meanwhile, a leading daily in Jerusalem today alleged that the Hizbollah bribed the Indian troops to carry out the abduction.

The charge, however, has been denied by a U.N. official. "This is nonsense and very cheap and I reject it completely," the UNIFIL spokesman, Mr. Timur Goksel, has said.

"The Indians are a fully professional unit. ... Their discipline has no match in the Middle East. Such a theory is nothing but a pathetic lie and I regret very much that it has been aired."

The Hebrew-language daily *Maariv*, quoting an unnamed "very senior political-security source," claimed a very generous monetary bribe from the abductors in exchange for cooperation on October 7 in the disputed Shebaa farms area.

The new details were disclosed after Israeli investigators interrogated Indian soldiers at length, including those who had contacts with the Hizbollah, the daily claimed, quoting the sources.

An Israeli defence ministry spokesman refused to deny or confirm the report. The foreign ministry also refused to comment on the newspaper report.

The Indian embassy in Tel Aviv termed the report as "unsubstantiated" and said Indian soldiers were known for their professionalism in their peace missions. — PTI



# Russia no to arms trade curbs

REUTERS 5-5 177

UNHQ, July 11. — With Europeans criticising the USA at a UN arms conference for rebuffing strong curbs on weapons trafficking, fellow arms producer Russia, too, has warned against restrictions on legitimate weapons trade.

Washington had thrown down the gauntlet on the opening day of a two-week UN conference seeking ways to control illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, which the UN says are fueling civil wars around the globe.

Some 189 nations are trying to devise a voluntary agree-

ment to curb the trade in international weapons.

In a frank speech at the start of the conference on Monday, the Bush administration said it would oppose provisions in a UN draft that impinged on rights of citizens to bear arms or put restrictions on legal trade and arms producers.

"The USA won't join consensus on a final document that contains measures contrary to our constitutional right to keep and bear arms," said Mr John Bolton, undersecretary of state for arms control and international security affairs, yesterday.

"We don't support measures that would constrain legal trade

and legal manufacturing of small arms and light weapons. The vast majority of arms transfers in the world are routine and not problematic," he said.

**US budget:** The US Senate has approved \$ 6.5 bn more this year for defence and other programmes. The spending measure is for the remaining three months of this fiscal. Its dominated by \$ 5.9 billion for the defence department and the energy department's nuclear weapons work. Another \$ 600 million is for cooling and heating aid for the poor, bolstering security at Salt Lake City Olympics and other domestic activities.

1077

X10-14

# Call to control sale of weapons

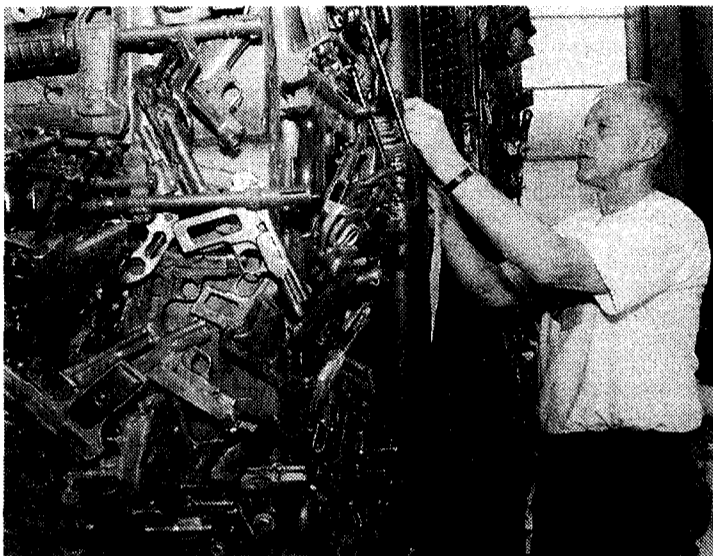
**UNITED NATIONS, JULY 9.** Thousands of representatives with diverse agendas descended on the United Nations for a two-week meet aimed at banning trade in illegal small arms and light weapons which kill half a million people every year, even as negotiators tried to solve difference of opinion on vital parts of the final document.

Gun activists, anti-gun lobbyists, representatives of gun manufacturers from across the world and human rights groups are present to force their views at the conference.

Intense debate is expected on marking of weapons by manufacturers to identify them by country and manufacturer to make tracing easy, control on brokering activities, export, and civilian possession of arms and steps to stop transfer of small arms to non-state actors that leads to deadly conflicts.

The final document is expected to call for local, regional and international initiatives to stop arms falling into the hands of terrorists, separatists, rebels, mafia and other groups but allow individual states to decide what action needs to be taken.

A major point of contention is on whether the action should be taken at the level of manufacturers or at the point where legal arms become illegal. In the former case, the manufacturers and arms producing countries would



**Artist Wallis Eendal puts the finishing touches on his gun sculpture entitled "The Art of Peace-making" at United Nations headquarters in New York on Sunday. — AP**

be required to take vigorous initiatives.

Arms producing countries insist that the discussions and action should begin at the point where the arms become illegal. But anti-gun activists and several member states argue that unless a tab is kept right from the start, it would be impossible to stop them from becoming illegal or establishing the route through which they became illegal. The U.S., Russia and China, who are major arms producers, are among those insisting the focus should be to

ensure the arms do not become illegal that is sold to undesirable groups.

Their opposition is understandable as they sell billions of dollars worth of arms every year, say analysts.

The anti-gun lobbyists want the conference to lead to national commitments to carrying forward the action plan but all indications are that the document would be nothing more than politically binding which, in effect, means the member states only generally agree to the goals set but may or

may not take action. Small arms and light weapons comprise weapons which can be carried or transported easily and include from revolvers to launchers of deadly anti-aircraft missiles.

They also play a major role in making child soldiers as they are light weight, do not require much training and, in most cases, need little maintenance and support. That makes it easy for even children of five or six years of age to become combatants as these arms are easy to carry but lethal in action.

The final document is expected to call for strengthening and developing norms at global, regional and national levels that would reinforce efforts to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The member states will agree to develop international measures to prevent arms trafficking and reduce excessive and destabilising accumulations and transfer of such weapons and to place special emphasis on areas of conflict.

It will also call for establishment of national coordinating agencies and infrastructure policy guidance, research and monitoring of efforts to prevent illicit transfer of weapons.

The document would ask for destruction of confiscated weapons expeditiously and establishment of regional and subregional groups to oversee the effort to control such weapons. — PTI

# UN extends 'oil-for-food' programme

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ASYLUM IN USA

UNHQ, July 4. - In a major triumph for Iraq, the UN Security Council extended the 'oil for food' programme for five months for the country after Russia threatened to veto a British-backed resolution to revamp decade old sanctions on Baghdad.

The unanimous vote last evening came hours before the four and a half year programme was due to expire at midnight.

The vote which maintains status quo is a sort of setback for the Bush administration which had set its heart on revamping the sanctions and worked vigorously for it.

Immediately after the vote, both British and American Ambassadors said they would continue to negotiate on the draft but the Russian ambassador told reporters that its own draft too is on the table.

But for Iraq, the victory in the Council was soured somewhat as news of **defection** of two its top diplomats began hogging headlines. The diplomats, who had completed their UN assignments, asked for asylum in the US for themselves and their families, officials said.

Russia agreed, though reluctantly, to allow mention of 1-June resolution of the Council on the basis of which Britain had drafted its proposal. The suggestion was made by Tunisia to break the impasse.

A month ago, the Council had agreed to extend the 'oil for food' programme under which Iraq can sell oil to buy food, medicines and other essential commodities for one month as the negotiations on the British draft continued to find a consensus.

Iraq rejected the British draft and suspended oil exports demanding that the programme be extended for full six months. Ever since the programme was es-

NEW YORK, July 4. - In a setback to Iraq, two of its top diplomats at the United Nations, including Deputy Ambassador Mohammed al-Humaimidi, have sought asylum in the USA for themselves and their families, just before they were to return to Iraq on transfer.

The other diplomat, who has sought asylum, has been identified as Senior Counsellor Fela Hesan al-Rubaie and was said to be the number four official in the mission.

The two diplomats were in a position that would have given them access to the sensitive information which the US could use to its advantage if they spill the beans, especially at a time when the Security Council consider restructuring the decade-old sanctions on Baghdad, diplomatic sources said.

Though US officials, as also police, were tight-lipped, the sources said al-Humaimidi walked into a New York police station on Friday, identified himself and requested political asylum.

- PTI

established, it had been extended for six-month period at a time.

Some members had considered shorter extension to allow the negotiations on the draft to continue but Iraq's threat and Russian insistence led to the five-month extension which together with the one month's extension already granted makes a total of six months.

As the British draft was being negotiated, Russia introduced its own resolution which would have suspended the sanctions once Iraq allowed arms inspectors to go in but could be re-imposed if it did not cooperate with them.

# U.N. drops vote on plan to revamp Iraq sanctions

110-17  
UNITED NATIONS, JULY 3. Confronted by a veto threat from Russia, the U.N. Security Council members agreed to drop for now a U.S.-British plan to revamp sanctions against Iraq and instead extend the U.N. humanitarian programme without changes.

Britain, which drafted the resolution on the plan, yesterday told Council members that in light of Russia's objections, the U.N. oil-for-food programme should be extended for five months. It is circulating a draft to this effect for a vote today, when the current phase of the programme expires, the envoys said.

The oil-for-food plan allows Baghdad to sell oil to buy a wide range of civilian supplies under U.N. control to ease the impact of the sanctions, imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

The delay — or perhaps indefinite postponement — of the U.S.-British plan to overhaul the sanctions is a blow for the United States, which has attempted to plug holes in the embargo and at the same time ease the import of civilian goods to Iraq, which now go through cumbersome procedures.

Russia, an ally of Iraq, has opposed the so-called "smart sanctions" from the start, saying they do not move the Council closer to suspending the sanctions. Moscow's Foreign Minister in a letter to the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, last week threatened to veto the plan if it were put to a vote.

When the Council failed to reach agreement on a draft resolution for a sanctions overhaul in June, the programme was extended until July 3. In effect, Tuesday's planned resolution gives Iraq a six-month extension, in line with past practice.



**Palestinian children living in Iraq stage a demonstration against Israel and the U.S. in front of the U.N. Headquarters in Baghdad on Tuesday. — Reuters**

Iraq on June 4 cut off oil sales supplies to the U.N. programme to protest consideration of the U.S.-British proposals and threatened to do the same to Jordan and Turkey if they cooperated with the U.S. and Britain. It is not clear what Baghdad will do now. — Reuters

# BUSINESS/SCIENCE

• PERCEIVING APPROACHING OBJECTS  
• INTERNET TELEPHONY

• ULTRASOUND DESTROYS POLLUTANTS  
• SHRINKING ATOM'S NUCLEUS

## Agenda to overhaul world financial system

*At a time when the world appears to be on the brink of more financial turbulence, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) has released an in-depth report advocating a five-point plan to reform the global financial system. The proposals include measures to prevent future crises from erupting, or to deal with crises more effectively once they break out. But will the UN's call be heeded in time to prevent another crisis?*

**J**UST WHEN Asian countries are trying to focus on economic recovery following the financial crisis of 1997-98, the possibility of another bout of global instability has increased. It looks as if Argentina, one of Latin America's largest economies, is on the brink of a major crisis as it struggles to keep up-to-date with its external debts totalling over \$400 billion.

The swings between currency rates (especially between the three major currencies, of the U.S., Europe and Japan) have not stopped, and these have contributed to significant fluctuations in the currencies of developing countries. Thus, the need for reform to the global financial system is more acute than ever before.

Unfortunately, as the Trade and Development Report 2001 (TDR) released last week points out, there has been little or no progress on such reform. Instead, the discussions on "a new international financial architecture" (that had been launched during the Asian crisis) have focused on getting the developing countries to strengthen their banking and corporate systems. This in itself is an important task that can prepare these countries against risks of future crisis. However, national-level measures are insufficient, as the root causes of financial turbulence lie in the international system.

### Five major areas

The TDR published yearly by the UNCTAD, focuses on five major areas of global reform that the "new financial ar-

chitecture" should be working on, but have so far relatively ignored. The first two involve measures to prevent future crises: regulation of global capital flows and stabilisation of currencies. The third relate to better measures to manage a crisis once it has broken out. The last two deal with the need for institutional changes: reform of the International Monetary Fund and governance of the world financial system.

The UNCTAD report is probably the most in-depth and comprehensive report on the current debate on the global financial system, pointing out its weaknesses, criticising the so far extremely disappointing reform process, and providing detailed proposals for genuine reforms to the system.

The recent frequent bouts of financial crisis have shown that the problem is located in the system of global finance which since the early 1970s has been characterised by flexible exchange rates and large-scale private capital flows.

### Crises blamed on debtors

According to the TDR, instead of establishing global-level institutions and mechanisms to reduce the risks of crises and manage them better, "there has been one-sided emphasis on reforming domestic institutions and policies in developing countries."

In the past few years, efforts were made to discipline debtors and provide costly self-defence mechanisms. Developing countries have been urged to adopt strict financial standards, improve

transparency, adopt appropriate exchange rate regimes and carry large amounts of reserves.

These reforms have merit, but they presume that the cause of crises rests primarily with debtor countries and place the onus for reform on them. By contrast, little attention is given to the role of institutions and policies in the creditor countries in triggering crises.

The efforts to set up various financial codes and standards, while beneficial, offer little to protect developing countries from supply-driven fluctuations in international capital flows (caused mainly by policies and conditions in industrial countries), nor from currency exchange fluctuations.

### Regulatory mechanisms

The UNCTAD report proposes the following reforms. First, there should be institutions or mechanisms to regulate and stabilise international capital flows. It mentions proposals made by prominent economists or market players for such institutions, such as a World Financial Authority that would set up, regulate and oversee financial enterprises.

The role of such international regulatory institutions or mechanisms is to prevent excessive risk taking in cross-border lending and investment, reduce systemic failures and eliminate weaknesses in regulatory regimes in both creditor and debtor countries.

Second, there is need to establish a global system of exchange rates. Since the breakdown of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate system (in 1973),

tioned by the UNCTAD is the introduction of target zones among the three major currencies with a commitment by the countries to defend such zones through coordinated intervention and macroeconomic policy action.

Meanwhile, if such stabilisation at global level does not take place, developing countries will still face currency instability, whichever system is chosen by an individual country, since there is instability among the three major reserve currencies.

"Whichever option is chosen, it will not be able to ensure appropriate alignment and stability of exchange rates in developing countries as long as the major reserve currencies themselves are so unstable and misaligned, and international capital flows are volatile and beyond the control of recipient countries," says the TDR.

Third, the UNCTAD proposes that there should be orderly workout mechanisms for international debt. In the absence of global reform, more crises are bound to occur. When they do, there needs to be a set of measures for the crisis-struck country to take to prevent the crisis from becoming unmanageable. Otherwise, foreign creditors and investors will "rush for the exit," each one trying to collect as much from the country as they can, leading to massive capital outflows, more devaluation of the currency and severe financial and economic crisis.

The TDR proposes that the principles of a bankruptcy court should apply within an internationally sanctioned orderly debt workout framework. First, the country can declare a temporary debt standstill, to prevent a "grab race" for assets among the creditors. Second, the debtor country continues to get access to working capital (that is, "lending into arrears") so that it can finance a recovery programme. Third, an arrangement is worked out to reorganise the debtor's assets and liabilities, including debt rollover, extension of existing loans and debt write-off or conversion to equity.

Since developing countries may face grave disapproval if they were to embark properly aligned exchange rates men-

on such a move unilaterally, the UNCTAD suggests that there should be an internationally agreed system to sanction the debt standstill and debt workout system. Within that, a country can declare a mandatory standstill and then rely on an international independent panel to conduct the work out arrangements. Fourth, the TDR proposes a reform of the IMF. Its surveillance on countries and disciplines imposed on them have applied mainly to developing countries which are debtors. The IMF should also apply surveillance on the major industrial countries as their financial policies and instability of their currencies act as a catalyst for crises elsewhere in the world economy.

Thus, a priority of the reform process must be to strengthen the surveillance mechanism to achieve a minimum degree of coherence among the macroeconomic policies of the major countries. The UNCTAD also suggests a dispute settlement mechanism (similar to the one that exists for trade), where disagreements over the impact of macroeconomic and financial policies can be taken up and resolved.

The TDR also proposes a review of the IMF's policy conditions attached to its loans. It is critical of the expansion of such conditions, noting concerns of their undermining sovereignty, as well as how the excessive conditions intensified the Asian crisis.

Fifth, the TDR proposes reforms to the system of governance of international finance. It notes that the reform process has so far been driven by the interests of the major creditor countries, which hold most of the power in multilateral financial institutions. As a result, many issues of crucial importance to developing countries have been excluded from the reform agenda.

Because of the one-dollar-one-vote system, developed countries have 61 per cent of the voting rights in the IMF and the World Bank, compared to 17 per cent in the United Nations and 24 per cent in the WTO.

Reforms to existing financial structures must provide for much greater collec-

ive influence from developing countries. This will involve reviewing the representation system and decision-making practices in the institutions and a major reformulation of the reform agenda.

### Common goals for developing nations

But the UNCTAD is also aware that developing countries themselves are not well organised to push for such reforms. It lists several areas on which they could agree in a common agenda: balanced treatment of creditors and debtors regarding standards, codes, transparency and regulation; more stable exchange rates; more balanced surveillance; less intrusive loan conditions; above all, more democratic and participatory multilateral institutions and processes.

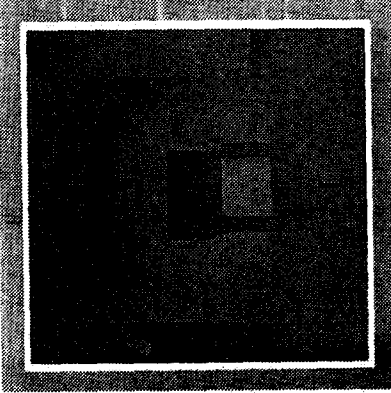
Effective reform of the global financial system will ultimately depend on whether developing countries organise around such common goals, and whether the developed countries accept that these goals are essential to build a better system of global economic governance, concludes the UNCTAD. Reading the report, one is left wondering at the state of the world's economic system.

The proposals are eminently logical. Looking at the situation objectively, few can quarrel with the need for basic reforms along the lines of the UNCTAD analysis. However, vested interests that make huge profits from currency instability and from the free flow of funds are jealously guarding their "right" to benefit from an unstable and unfair system. And unfortunately they are currently in favour with the ruling political establishment in the developed countries.

The way forward is for developing countries to insist on their own rights to a fair and stable global financial system, and find ways to collectively put their agenda on the table. Unfortunately it may require more crises ahead, including those that also affect the developed countries themselves, before the message of the TDR is heard and acted on by the powers that be in the global system

Martin Khor

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT  
REPORT 2001



there have in effect been no global arrangements. Countries have to make their own choice between a floating system, a fixed system, or something in between (adjustable or soft pegs).

Each of these systems has its own problems. The floating system, favoured by the major industrial countries, has failed to deliver, and is characterised by short-term currency volatility, and persistent currency misalignments and gyrations. The damage inflicted by disorderly exchange rate behaviour is limited for the reserve currency countries (the U.S., Japan and Europe) themselves, but the disorder is a major source of disturbance for developing countries as they have smaller economies and are more dependent on trade.

### Currency stability

The UNCTAD proposes changes in the industrial countries: that they coordinate their macroeconomic policies and thus reduce instability, and that they stabilise their currencies against one another, especially the so-called G3 currencies (dollar, yen and euro).

One proposal to attain stable and properly aligned exchange rates men-

THE FINALS

# Kofi Annan gets second term

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA  
UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 28

THE 15-member UN Security Council has unanimously approved by acclamation Secretary General Kofi Annan for the second five-year term beginning January one next.

"I am deeply honoured by the vote that has just taken place in the Security Council and I'm grateful for the trust and the support they have given me," Annan, 63, said shortly after the vote was announced on Wednesday.

The 189-member General Assembly will



meet tomorrow to formally elect soft-spoken Annan, a native of Ghana, which will put an African on the top UN job for 15 continuous years.

The nomination comes almost six months before his term is due to expire. The nomination was free of the acrimony witnessed during 1996 when the US blocked another term for Boutros

Boutros Ghali, an Egyptian, and the world body witnessed extensive backstage manoeuvring.

After his election in 1997, Annan initiated reforms in the UN, eliminated unnecessary jobs and introduced a system of consultation with his top officials. Originally Annan had said he

would not seek another term and this was the turn of an Asian to get the top job. But strong support from the African group and the US led to Asians dropping their demand and endorsing Annan instead.

Annan had announced his candidacy in March and almost immediately won support of the five permanent members of the Security Council—the US, the UK, Russia, France and China—who have the power to veto.

The African group had endorsed him earlier and Latin American group followed. The Asian group did not formally endorse him as some members had reservations especially because they considered it to be Asia's turn.

# UN AIDS conference ends with tough declaration

BY EVELYN LEOPOLD

**United Nations, June 28:** A major UN AIDS conference on Wednesday approved a battle plan committing nations to fight the killer disease but deleted explicit references to homosexuals, prostitutes and drug users as particularly vulnerable groups.

After wrangling for weeks over whether to highlight the groups, the 189-member UN General Assembly accepted without a vote a 20-page final declaration at the end of its three-day high-level session on AIDS. "We worked hard but in fact the real work only starts

now," said UN General Assembly President Harri Holkeri after he banged the gavel to applause from the assembly.

"It is not a perfect text. But it is a good text — action oriented and practical," said Australia's UN ambassador Penny Wensley, who led the negotiations along with Senegalese ambassador Ibra Ka.

The declaration sets tough timetables for countries to develop and implement national strategies to combat the spread of HIV, set up prevention, programmes and provide access to treatment for all those affected. It states years by which those goals are to be imple-

mented, including the global war chest to set up health programmes in poor nations. Some 3,000 government officials, activists, drug company executives and AIDS victims themselves converged on the United Nations this week to

billions a year to respond to the pandemic, compared with about \$2 billion currently spent in developing nations, half of it in Brazil alone.

African Presidents and Prime Ministers were heavily represent-

weeks against naming "men who have sex with men," intravenous drug users, prostitutes and prisoners among the groups particularly vulnerable to AIDS and in need of special attention. They argued the provision offended religious and cultural sensitivities, and they succeeded in deleting the references. Countries are now told to protect the health "of those identifiable groups which currently have a high or increased rates of HIV infection."

The Islamic group also deleted a reference to 5-year-old guidelines drawn up UNAIDS, which organised the conference, because they

suggested nations review laws that criminalise homosexuality and provide condoms to prison inmates.

Women and girls, raped and without protection from their sex partners or philandering husbands, are singled out for special attention.

Mr Annan acknowledged the fight would not be won in a day but said "the debate has begun and it's not going to go away. We have set standards against which people can measure their own performance, that the average citizen can use to challenge their government," he said. (Reuters)

## NEW YORK SUMMIT

ed and promised to lead anti-AIDS campaigns on the continent where 25 million are afflicted with the virus.

Egypt, Pakistan, Libya, Sudan, Iran and other Islamic nations, backed by the Vatican, fought for

# U.S. drops complaint against Brazil

**UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 26.** The United States has unexpectedly dropped a patent complaint against Brazil in the World Trade Organization and agreed to settle out of court a dispute widely seen as symbolic of the debate over who may manufacture and sell drugs to treat AIDS in poor countries.

Coming on the first day of an unusual U.N. General Assembly debate on the AIDS crisis, the American decision was widely welcomed by campaigners for cheaper medications for developing nations, where AIDS is taking a devastating toll. Brazil, which had been moving to the forefront of an international challenge to large Western pharmaceutical companies and their high-priced anti-retroviral medicines, cut its mortality rate from AIDS in half with an aggressive campaign to make drugs available cheaply and effectively, experts say.

"Brazil has the most successful AIDS treatment programme in the developing world, and this decision shows that the U.S. is no longer threatening its existence," said Mr. Seth Amgott, spokesman for Oxfam, the international relief agency.

Mr. Paul Davis, of Act Up Philadelphia, a protest group concerned with AIDS issues, called the American move "a tremendous victory for the Brazilians". He added that it would serve as an important precedent for other nations desperate for ways to make treatment more affordable against the strong patent protections and pricing policies of companies in rich nations.

"It will also remove barriers to access in many poor countries by illustrating that a country can withstand this kind of pressure," he said.

Specialists from around the world gathered here for the three-day summit-level meeting on



**The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan (centre), the president of the 55th session of the U.N. General Assembly, Mr. Harry Holkeri (right), and the Executive Director of UNAIDS, Mr. Peter Piot, hold a portion of the AIDS quilt to kick off the U.N. special session on AIDS in New York on Monday. — AFP**

AIDS — an event that has thrown government officials, nongovernmental activists and medical experts into intense debate on priorities for fighting the epidemic — say that Monday's decision by the U.S. Trade Representative, Mr. Robert B. Zoellick, adds to the sense that pharmaceutical companies can no longer expect governments to protect them against a rising tide of concern about the denial of drugs to poor victims of AIDS.

In recent months, several companies have lowered prices on medications that slow the course of the virus that causes AIDS and at least one has decided to give

away a medication needed to treat opportunistic fungal infections that often accompany the disease.

"The United States has been supportive of Brazil's bold and effective programme to combat the HIV/AIDS crisis," Mr. Zoellick said in a statement in Washington. "With this positive step, we will be able to harness our common energy toward our shared goal of combating the spread of this dangerous virus." Brazil's trade negotiator, Mr. Jose Alfredo Graca Lima, called the pact "a victory for both sides, a victory for common sense". Under Monday's agreement, Brazil and the

U.S. will set up a joint body to deal with the drug issue and other patent cases. Under the 1996 Brazilian patent law, foreign companies must make a drug in Brazil within three years of securing a patent or licence a local company to make it. If they fail to do this they lose patent protection.

Brazil already permitted government-run laboratories to copy any foreign drugs that pre-date the 1996 law.

American officials, who had threatened Brazil with trade sanctions, were saying two months ago that this case was important to uphold the general principle of protecting intellectual property rights, and that Brazil was in fact using a narrow provision in its law to pressure patent owners to make products there. Brazil's AIDS chief, Mr. Paulo Roberto Teixeira, responded on May 2 in a news conference here, saying that his country was being punished for challenging American companies in ways that other nations did not.

On Monday, Brazil agreed to give the United States 10 days' notice of any plan to apply the provision demanding local manufacture and allowing forfeiture of patent rights. In return, the U.S. dropped its insistence on a formal review of Brazil's policy at the WTO, but reserved the right to revive its complaint if the consultative process fails.

Some AIDS specialists expect that there will still be challenges and confrontations, as new drugs are developed that are unambiguously covered by Brazil's 1996 law. Moreover, American officials say that Brazil — like South Africa — has another patent provision it can use, but has not yet chosen to employ. Under the Brazilian law, compulsory licensing of a drug is permitted in the event of a public health crisis. — *New York Times*



# Annan seeks \$10b <sup>or</sup> annual fund to fight AIDS at <sup>NY</sup> global meet

UNITED NATIONS: United



Kofi Annan

Nations secretary general Kofi Annan on Monday opened the first-ever international meeting on HIV/AIDS calling for an unprecedented response to the crisis created by the deadly disease which has killed 22 million people, saying it "cannot be dealt with by making moral judgment".

In an apparent rebuke to conservative Islamic nations and the Vatican which are objecting to gays and intravenous drug users being included in "vulnerable groups" in the final document, Mr Annan said "AIDS cannot be dealt with by making moral judgement or refusing to face the unpleasant facts."

"The world is still less likely to deal with it by stigmatising those who are infected and making it out to be their fault," he told delegates from more than 180 nations.

"We can do (deal with) it by speaking clearly and openly, both about the ways that people become infected and about what they can do to avoid infection," Mr Annan said.

Addressing the moralists, he said, "When we urge others to change their behaviour so as to protect themselves against infection, we must be ready to change our own behaviour in the public arena."

The meet is expected to set goals for reducing the infection in a document to be adopted on Wednesday.

Lamenting that the international response so far has not measured up to the challenge, Mr Annan said, "Spending against AIDS in the developing world need to rise roughly five times" and called on rich donors to finance the global AIDS and health fund.

The fund would help to finance the comprehensive, coherent and coordinated strategy the world needs, Mr Annan said.

The fund was proposed by Mr Annan who said seven to 10 billion dollars was needed annually to fight the disease. It would be administered by an independent board, the composition of which is yet to be decided.

Stating the goal is to make the fund operational by the this year end, Mr Annan promised to continue to work with all stake holders to ensure that the goal is met.

So far, less than \$550 million have been pledged.

To fight the menace, which is spreading with frightening speed in eastern Europe, Asia and in the Caribbean, Mr Annan said, "Leadership is needed at all levels — community, national and international— and called for solidarity between rich and poor nations.

"The developing countries are ready to provide their share but they cannot do it alone," he said urging leaders of the developed world to help in the effort. (PTI)

HD-16

AIDS / WORLD LEADERS TO DISCUSS STRATEGY

25/6

# U.N. declares war on pandemic

**UNITED NATIONS, JUNE 24.** Twenty years after the detection of AIDS, the United Nations General Assembly is holding its first special session on the pandemic that has claimed over 22 million lives and left 36 million others facing a death sentence.

"Everyone has come to this late," said Mr. Stephen Lewis, the U.N. special envoy on HIV/AIDS in Africa. "The world has been seized and galvanised only over the last 18 months or so." With the disease ravaging Africa and spreading quickly through Asia, Latin America and Eastern Europe, high-level representatives from 180 countries will meet at U.N. headquarters starting on Monday to adopt new targets for a global campaign to halt and start reversing the AIDS epidemic. But Governments, health experts and activists remain divided on what should get the lion's share of funds and attention — treatment or prevention. And Muslim and Western nations are still at loggerheads over naming groups most vulnerable to AIDS — such as homosexuals and prostitutes — because of religious and cultural sensitivities.

Nonetheless, Mr. Lewis and other U.N. officials believe that a constellation of recent events offers the first real chance to turn a doomsday scenario around, albeit slowly and painfully.

The Security Council declared last year that AIDS poses a threat to peace and security.

The Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan,

made the fight against AIDS his personal priority and helped put a global spotlight on the issue. Prices for drugs have plummeted, opening new options for treatment. And in Africa, which has been hardest-hit by the disease, leaders have shown a determination in the past year to confront the epidemic.

Although the U.N. General Assembly special session on HIV/AIDS is not a summit, two dozen Presidents and Prime Ministers are coming, the vast majority from Africa, including some of the worst-hit countries — Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Botswana, Lesotho and Swaziland. However, the South African President, Mr. Thabo Mbeki — whose country has the largest number of people living with HIV or AIDS, 4.1 million — will not attend, a presidential spokesman said, saying senior officials will be sent instead. Mr. Mbeki caused an international uproar more than a year ago when he courted the view of some scientists who question the link between HIV and AIDS and believe HIV testing should be stopped.

The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, heads the large U.S. delegation. "It's leadership that will ultimately be the driving force that will reverse and eventually halt the devastation of this epidemic," said Mr. Peter Piot, executive director of the Joint U.N. Program on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), which operates in over 100 countries.

There is a new momentum among political leaders and public health officials to tackle the

AIDS crisis, he said, "but what is truly astounding is the leadership we are seeing at the community level, and in grassroots organisations."

In addition to leadership, the resource needed most to defeat AIDS is money. At last September's U.N. Millennium Summit, over 150 world leaders made a commitment to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS by 2015.

The declaration to be adopted at the close of the special session on Wednesday calls for interim targets, including a 25 percent reduction in HIV infections among 15-to 24-year-olds in the most affected countries by 2005 and globally by 2010. It also calls for at least 90 percent of 15-to 24-year-olds to have access to information and services to reduce their vulnerability by 2005, and a 20 percent reduction in the proportion of infants infected with HIV by that date. To do this, Mr. Annan said an annual war chest of \$ 7 billions to \$ 10 billions is needed.

Even before it has been formally established, the fund has received pledges of \$ 528 million — and more are expected during the special session. Already, there are differences over how the money should be spent — prevention or treatment.

Prevention is cheaper because it mainly involves changes in behaviour to promote abstinence, one sex partner, delaying the age of sexual relations, or safe sex with condoms. — AP

THE HINDU

## Russia wants public UN debate on Iraq sanctions

**United Nations, June 20:** Russia is still keeping everyone guessing on whether it will support a US-British plan to revamp Iraqi sanctions or use its position on the UN Security Council to kill or delay it, as Baghdad wants.

The council on Wednesday is expected to approve a request by Moscow, Iraq's closest ally in the 15-member body, to hold a public meeting in 10 days or so shortly before the group's July 3 deadline to make a decision on the new plan. Some Western diplomats saw the move as a way to delay the near daily private negotiations on the plan and to let Iraqi envoys and other opponents in West Asia state their view.

But Russian ambassador Sergei Lavrov, in a letter, said the council should "consider ways of improving the humanitarian situation in Iraq" and "the negative effect of the population of that country."

Russia, along with France, Britain, China and the United States are permanent council members with veto power.

At issue is a British-drafted resolution that would ease sanctions on civilian imports to Iraq, continue to ban military materiel and draw up a lengthy list of goods that can be used for military and civilian purposes. Britain intends to present a revised draft resolution shortly but the issue of "dual use" goods on the list is still in dispute. The resolution also seeks to stop smuggling, worth about \$1 billion a year, and have the money paid to a separate account rather than to Baghdad directly. (Reuters)

# UN resumes bread supply in Kabul

Kabul, June 18

HT-11  
19/6

THE UNITED Nations resumed distribution of subsidised bread in Kabul on Monday, putting an end to a dispute with the country's Taliban leaders that temporarily closed 130 bakeries catering to the poor.

Impoverished Afghans lined up on Monday to receive their daily bread. The bakeries constitute the United Nations' largest food distribution programme in Afghanistan. Bread was not provided for the first time in five years after they were closed on Saturday.

"We are very happy," said Mohammed Sarwa, a 30-year-old father of five who was waiting in line for bread. "I've been here since early in the morning and the baker told me there will be bread."

On Sunday, the Taliban and the UN World Food Program resolved their dispute by agreeing on a formula for hiring women for a key poverty survey.

The agreement came after the UNWFP the Taliban's main demand: that women already working in the Taliban health ministry conduct the survey, which is needed for a new list of eligible bread recipients.

The bakeries provide subsidised bread to 282,000 impoverished people in Kabul. They closed on Saturday after the Taliban missed a June 15 deadline for allowing the Food Program to hire its own women.

The World Food Program said the old bread recipient list, prepared five years ago, no longer represents Kabul's most vulnera-

ble people. The new survey involves entering people's homes to see how poor they are, a job only women can do because of strict Taliban rules prohibiting men from viewing women to whom they are not related.

The bakeries' closure was met with great anguish among people who stood outside waiting for bread.

The World Food Program said it accepted the Taliban's terms for hiring women only after the militia offered additional guarantees that the survey would be impartial. Earlier, the program had said hiring only Taliban women would compromise the survey's independence.

The closure of the bakeries, which give five pieces of Afghan bread to 46,000 cardholding families at 10 per cent of the market price, was seen as a major blow to humanitarian operations in Afghanistan. It also underscored rapidly worsening relations between the Taliban and international aid organisations, which have accused the militia of harassing aid workers and hampering relief operations.

The Taliban rejected a World Food Program proposal to have Taliban women and WFP-hired women conduct the survey together.

Most women are barred from the workplace under the Taliban's extraordinarily strict version of Islam.

The militia passed a law last year prohibiting aid organisations or the united nations from hiring local women.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN

# UN agency to resume Kabul food aid

REUTERS

5-5 1996  
KABUL, June 17. - The UN World Food Programme today said it had reached a deal with Afghanistan's Taliban rulers that would enable it to resume the supply of bread to nearly 300,000 poor residents of Kabul.

"We are going to deliver wheat to the bakeries today and probably will start making the bread either tomorrow or the day after tomorrow," the WFP chief for Afghanistan, Mr Gerard van Dijk, said after several hours of talks with Taliban officials.

WFP had halted the supply of subsidised bread because it couldn't agree with Taliban on carrying out a survey to ensure the food aid was not diverted as a result of rampant corruption in the city.

Under the deal agreement today, women nominated by Taliban will carry out the planned survey of recipients of the bread, baked by 120 bakeries in the war-shattered city supplied with wheat by the WFP.

Till now, the two sides had been unable to agree who

## TALIBAN

ISLAMABAD, June 17. - Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia captured the Kalafgan road junction in the northern Takhar province today in a campaign to subdue its opponents in the area, the private Afghan Islamic Press reported. A Taliban spokesman told AIP that the objective of the campaign was to capture Farkhar area where the leader of the Opposition Northern Alliance, Mr Ahmad Shah Massoud, has a big military base. AIP said the Kalafgan junction also leads to Badakhshan, the only province under the total control of the Opposition. The Taliban hold sway over 95 per cent of Afghan territory. - DPA

should carry out the survey because Taliban officials, who follow an extreme form of Islam, said they wouldn't allow women to work for the UN

The bakeries made their last bread distribution on Friday, and a break in supplies would have affected some 20 per cent of the city's population.

# UN shuts down Afghan bakeries

Kabul, June 16

THE UN closed down most of its subsidised food distribution operations in the Afghan capital on Saturday over disputes with the Taliban on hiring women.

Hungry children, women clad in faded burqas and men in baggy Afghan trousers and knee-length shirts assembled as usual in front of 120 bakeries sponsored by the World Food Program, but were told there was no bread.

"What will I tell my children who wait for *nan* (Afghan bread) at home?" asked a tearful 35-year-old widow and mother of seven who identified herself as Laila.

"We are the most unfortunate people... For us a lucky day is when we get bread and the unlucky one when we don't get it. Today is the unlucky day," she said. Saturday was the first time in five years that the World Food Program has not distributed subsidised bread to Kabul's needy residents. At least 282,000 people eli-



Afghan women crowd a bakery set up by Islamic charity Al-Rasheed Trust in Kabul on Saturday, after closure of bakeries run by the World Food Programme.

gible to receive subsidised bread were affected. Many people in the war-ravaged city depend on international aid organisations for survival.

The closure of the bakeries, which give five pieces of Afghan

bread to each of the 46,000 card-holding families at 10 per cent of the market price, is a major blow to humanitarian operations in Afghanistan.

"It is a sad day," Gerard van Dijk, the World Food Program's

representative for Afghanistan, said. "I still hope that we find a way to resolve the dispute and continue helping the people."

The dispute centers on the subsidy recipient list, which the World Food Program says does not represent the most vulnerable people. It has been seeking a new survey of Kabul's poor. All agree the current list has been corrupted by a black market in both bread and the cards used to show who is eligible. But women must conduct the survey because only they can enter people's homes to assess poverty; men can't do it because of Taliban rules forbidding them from viewing unrelated women.

The Taliban do not object to the survey but vehemently oppose the recruitment of women, saying it goes against Islam.

"It is our desire that the issue be resolved, but we won't sacrifice our principles to get humanitarian aid," said Usman Shaharyar, an official of the Taliban foreign ministry.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

HD-12

# U.S. plays spoilsport at U.N. meet

By Kalpana Sharma

**NEW YORK, JUNE 8.** At every international conference, one country is the bad boy. At the special session of the United Nations General Assembly Istanbul Plus Five focussing on the Urban Millennium, that role is being played out to the hilt by the United States.

The U.S., under its new dispensation, has developed an allergy to the term rights. As a result, even though five years ago at Istanbul, all countries, including Washington had committed themselves to a full and progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing as provided in international instruments, it now considers the emphasis on the right an irritant.

## U.S. objection

As a result, the draft of the declaration on cities and other human settlements, scheduled to be adopted by the General Assembly, had a weak reference to it. The non-governmental organisations (NGOs) closely monitoring the whole process, pointed an accusing finger at the U.S. delegation. And the latter openly acknowledged its part. "We don't like the term rights," an American official said. "It tends to mean entitlement but that doesn't create housing. We need a good economy, good urban governance and other factors to increase housing." The U.S. Secretary for Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Mel

Martinez, said the solution to the housing problem in his country was a home-ownership programme which his Government called the American Dream — the freedom to pursue success and prosperity. However, the individual defines it for him or herself. Nowhere in his statement did Mr.

Martinez acknowledge the extent of homelessness in the U.S. or how people without regular incomes could enter a loan-based home-ownership programme. Mr. Miloon Kothari, special rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living appointed

by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights (UNCHR), said the U.S. was evading the real issue.

He had presented his report to the commission earlier this year.

## Increasing urban poverty

Mr. Kothari said the situation of

the urban poor around the world had become much worse since the Habitat Conference in Istanbul in 1996. There was more poverty and inequality. States must acknowledge this reality and reaffirm their commitments to human rights obligations.

But, the developments at the U.N. during the session were completely out of touch with reality. The U.S.-based NGOs working on housing rights also stressed the grave situation with housing amongst the urban poor.

The provision of affordable, rental housing was the only solution, they said. Yet, the emphasis in the U.S. had shifted from low-cost public housing to home ownership which led many poor families into debt traps.

## Gender dimension

The rights framework, emphasised by Mr. Kothari and others and rejected by the Americans, also had a gender dimension. In Istanbul, the rights of women to own property and to inheritance were a contentious issue.

Yet, earlier this year, the U.N. Human Rights Commission adopted two resolutions that had a bearing on right to housing. One of these was on the right of women to equal ownership of, access to, and control over land and equal right to own property.

## 'Urban discipline need of the hour'

By Kalpana Sharma

**NEW YORK, JUNE 8.** The Minister for Urban Development, Mr. Jagmohan, stopped short of admitting that the three-day U.N. special session on urban problems was a waste of time. "I can't say it is pointless," he told Indian journalists, "but something solid must be done."

In his speech to the General Assembly, he said the imbalances of the present times, coupled with a system which continued to deepen these imbalances, had made it difficult for developing countries to solve their problems inspite of bringing the necessary will and vision to the task.

On asked what the Government was doing to fulfil the commitments it had made at Istanbul, Mr. Jagmohan said the task was not easy. Urban discipline was needed and cities had been taken over by the land and builders' mafia, he added.

The Minister said more than one lakh people had been resettled in the last few years. Citing New Delhi as an example, he said the new settlement in Narela, where slumdwellers from the heart of the capital had been shifted, was a model for what could be done. There was a thinking and ideology behind Narela. In a few years there would be shortage of labour in Narela as the relocated population

would find jobs and more jobs would be created. The idea of resettling them was to make them skill-oriented, he said. On the strictures passed by the National Human Rights Commission and the Delhi High Court in response to a public interest litigation petition on the conditions in Narela, Mr. Jagmohan said no one had worried about the rights of these people when they lived alongside a drain for over 30 years. But, when something was done, trouble-makers seeking publicity come into the picture, he said. Mr. Jagmohan also spoke of the programme of rejuvenation of culturally-significant towns which his Ministry had launched. The first town selected for this was Varanasi.

While China registered its presence at every session, India's was hardly felt at the meet. And while many countries had included some of their most outstanding NGOs in their official delegation, the Indian team did not have them.

In fact, India's presence was felt only because of the remarkable intervention by groups such as the National Slumdwellers Federation, represented by the Magsaysay Award winner, Mr. A. Jockin, Society for Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and Mahila Milan. Their model house and toilet block, and their interventions in the parallel sessions during this meeting were noteworthy.

THE HINDU

# Focus on shelter at U.N. session

By Kalpana Sharma

110-14  
**NEW YORK, JUNE 6.** A special session of the United Nations General Assembly opened today with the Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, emphasising the importance of addressing the issue of shelter, a neglected aspect of economic development.

The three-day session will assess progress made since the City Summit in Istanbul in 1996 and will adopt a declaration on cities and other human settlements in the new millennium.

Much like other Plus Five meetings, that is gatherings marking five years after the series of conferences organised by the U.N. in the 1990s, a great deal of time is sometimes wasted on the language of such documents. The non-governmental organisations, who are now an active and prominent presence at all these conferences, usually end up exasperated at the nature of the proceedings. However, it is these civil society groups that present a reality check to a meeting that would otherwise be no more than a talk shop.

Thus, even Istanbul Plus Five, as this special session of the General Assembly is called, has begun with a difference.

On the eve of the opening session, Mr. Annan and the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS), Ms. Anna Tibajuka, walked through a model toilet and a slum house constructed in the imposing lobby of the U.N. building. The house model sits just below the Sputnik suspended from the ceiling of the lobby.

The model house has been assembled by

slum-dwellers representing federations in India, Nepal, Cambodia, Thailand, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, the Philippines and Kenya, who have come together under the banner of the Slum-dwellers International (SDI). It represents their efforts to negotiate with their Governments for land and secure tenure and also the right to design their own settlements.

The toilet model drew even more interest because it demonstrates the efforts of Mahila Milan, women's collectives in India, to intervene on the issue of sanitation in Indian cities. The women have talked with communities in different cities, including Mumbai, and have come up with an innovative design of a toilet that accommodates the separate needs of children, women and men and at the same time ensures that the people who use it also maintain it.

Reality checks have already come in other forms. Yesterday, groups representing housing associations from across the United States met with the representatives of the SDI. They spoke vividly of the housing crisis in a wealthy nation like the United States where a million people are homeless and where the poor have to wait for years to be allotted houses in public housing blocks. Much of the public housing constructed during the 1960s is being demolished and the people thus dishoused have been given no alternative.

And even usually dry and technical sessions on subjects like urban infrastructure and transport have produced surprisingly different interventions. The former mayor of Bogota, capital of Colombia, for instance made an im-

passioned argument for cities without cars.

Mr. Enrique Penalosa, argued that in developing countries, car owners are usually those with some kind of power. As a result, they are able to dominate transport policies with major investments going into roads and flyovers rather than public transport. More roads do not solve the traffic problem, he said; they generate more traffic.

As Mayor of Bogota, Mr. Penelosa held a poll and asked people if they were prepared to have a 'car free day' once a year. The overwhelming majority voted in the affirmative. He also asked people if they were prepared to work towards a 'car free city' by 2015. Once again, the response was positive.

As a result of this intervention, Bogota now has a good public transport system, commuting times have been halved by resorting to restricting cars during the rush hours in the morning and evening, and pollution levels have come way down. Mr. Penelosa suggests that this is a model cities in developing countries could consider.

**Sri Chinmoy lifts legends of strength:** International peace leader, Sri Chinmoy, honoured immortal legends of strength on Saturday by lifting them overhead with an arm from a seated position including the four-time Olympic discus gold medalist, Al Oerter, and the three-time gold medalist, Frank Zane. Sri Chinmoy said: "I am trying to congratulate people in various walks of life with my inner ones with them. I lift them to show my deepest appreciation for their achievements."



## Pak lashes out at U.N. on Afghan sanctions



**Osama Bin Laden**

UNITED NATIONS: Irked by the findings of a U.N. committee that it is ignoring sanctions slapped on the Taliban in Afghanistan, Pakistan has questioned the integrity of the panel and attacked the embargo imposed by the Security Council as an "unjust instrument" which is doomed to fail.

Describing the panel's findings as "baseless allegations" Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, Shamsheh Ahmed, rejected its suggestion that a monitoring mechanism should be set up to ensure that sanctions were properly implemented. Such a mechanism would be used to unjustly implicate Pakistan, he said but did not elaborate.

Addressing the council during an open debate on the panel report, he said Islamabad was opposed to the

sanctions but as a "responsible and law abiding" member of the United Nations, it would fully implement them.

Pakistan is one of the three countries which recognise the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Mr Ahmed, a former foreign secretary, said sanctions were to blame for the exodus of Afghans to Pakistan and other problems confronting the war-ravaged nation.

"The Afghan problem is not about the Taliban. Nor is it about terrorism and drugs alone. But it is about 25 million Afghans who continue to suffer," he said.

The U.N. should engage the Taliban rather than isolate them and work with the regime keeping in view its religious and cultural sensitivities, he said. The sanctions were imposed to force the Taliban to hand over Saudi terrorist mastermind Osama Bin Laden to the U.S. for trial on terrorism charges and to close training camps for militants in its territory. (PTI)

# U.N. meet on urban poverty from today

By Kalpana Sharma

10-14

**NEW YORK, JUNE 5.** Every other person in the world today lives in a city. Of these, one-third live in slums or sub-standard housing and are poor. How nations deal with this rapid pace of urban growth and the crisis of urban poverty is the subject of a meeting at the United Nations this week.

A special session of the General Assembly from June 6 to 8 will bring together representatives from 171 countries who met five years ago in Istanbul, at what came to be known as the City Summit, to consider these issues.

Recognising that urbanisation was inevitable, the Habitat Agenda adopted at that meeting, encouraged an inclusive and participatory approach in dealing with problems of cities. This week, the representatives will assess how many of the commitments made at Istanbul have actually been fulfilled and what more needs to be done.

## Lack of urban policy

According to the executive director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (UNCHS) Ms. Anna Tibaijuka, 1.2 billion people in the world did not have adequate shelter.

"Shelter is a basic need," she said. Although 75 per cent of the countries had laws promoting the right to housing, only one per cent of

them had laws protecting people against forced evictions. Furthermore, most governments did not have a national urban policy that recognised the growing urban crisis. Ms. Tibaijuka said following the release of two reports prepared by the UNCHS, "The State of the World's Cities" and "Cities in a Globalising World."

Highlighting the extent to which cities had become divided with the advent of globalisation, the second report said, "Homeless people are living in cardboard houses on sidewalks of gleaming corporate skyscrapers, whose budgets exceed those of many countries" adding that traditional approaches of urban planning were inadequate in the face of growing urban poverty.

## Swelling Asian cities

The rapid rate of urbanisation in Africa and Asia was another important issue. The two continents faced "an explosive demographic shift, as their urban populations surge from about 35 per cent to over 50 per cent in the next 30 years. Every day there are an additional 1,80,000 people in cities and towns all over the world." Ms. Tibaijuka said adding that her central concern was urban poverty and growing social exclusion.

The UNCHS data revealed that while in 1950 there was only one city, New York, with more than 10 million people, by 1975 there were

five. No Indian city had touched that demographic size. By 2000, there were 19 megacities including Mumbai, New Delhi and Kolkata, with Mumbai at the third position. By 2015, there would be 23 megacities and Mumbai would have climbed to the number two position. One more Indian city, Hyderabad, would have joined the mega-city club by then.

## Is there an answer?

While the data on urban crisis explained the extent of the problem, the central question, according to Mr. William Cobbett, senior urban upgrading adviser, Cities Alliance, was whether nations had the capacity and the policies in place to deal with it.

The Cities Alliance, is a global coalition of local authorities, bilateral and multilateral agencies and the UNCHS, which is looking at poverty reduction with "Cities without slums", as its campaign slogan for nationwide slum upgrading. "More people live in sub-standard housing and poverty today than in 1996", he said adding "the world is facing an urban crisis. There is no good just talking about it." But, talking is primarily what will happen over the next few days at the United Nations which sits, ironically, in one of the world's largest cities, New York, which vividly illustrates both the promises and the problems of urbanisation.

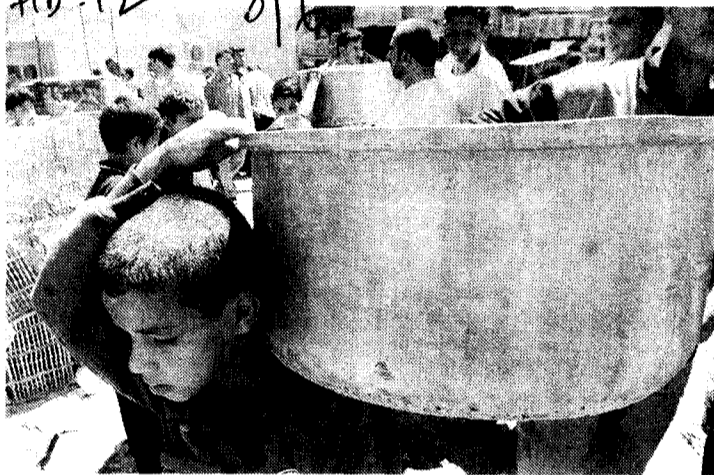
# U.N. endorses smart sanctions against Iraq

LONDON, JUNE 2. Britain won crucial agreement at the U.N. on Friday for the broad outline of its plan for "smart sanctions" against Iraq, but faces a grinding negotiation over the details.

Overcoming years of division on Iraq, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution supporting the principles of a new system to "improve significantly" civilian trade with Iraq and "improve the controls" on smuggling.

The Security Council extended by a month the current oil-for-food programme, a cumbersome system which allows Iraq to buy a limited amount of supplies, to give diplomats time to work out details of the new policy.

Iraq immediately rejected the vote. It has threatened to cut off oil supplies to neighbours who co-operate with smart sanctions. But British officials are delighted. "We are very, very pleased," said one British diplomat at the U.N.



**An Iraqi child carries water to sell at a rare-pet market in Baghdad to support his family as the U.N. Security Council adopted a resolution signalling willingness to overhaul decade-old sanctions against Iraq. — Reuters**

"The Russians were being very obstructive until two days ago. We were surprised when they suddenly changed their minds."

But there are likely to be sharp

differences over "dual-use" goods, items such as computers with both civilian and military uses. The objections of Moscow and Beijing meant the smart sanctions

plan could not be adopted in time for the expiry next week of the present phase of the oil-for-food programme.

But diplomats say a new understanding was achieved during a meeting in Budapest this week between Gen. Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State, and Mr. Igor Ivanov, his Russian counterpart.

British officials say the new resolution explicitly endorses Resolution 1284, passed in 1999, which offers Iraq a lifting of sanctions if it re-admits and co-operates with international weapons inspectors.

Britain hopes the new display of unity will help convince Iraq's neighbours, who benefit handsomely from cut price oil sold by Iraq, to co-operate with smart sanctions.

The smart sanctions plan aims to deflect criticism that the decade-old embargo harms only Iraqi civilians. — *Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2001*

---

## UN speeds up electrical supplies to Iraq

UNHQ, May 31

THE UN Security Council committee monitoring the sanctions against Baghdad has established the first list of electricity-related supplies that qualify for "fast-track" approval—an accelerated process for getting humanitarian goods to Iraq.

Announcing this, the UN said the committee has approved a list of 100 items in the electricity sector for quick processing.

Under the 'fast-track' system, the designated items can be approved directly by the office of the Iraq programme without first going through the Security Council committee.

A total of eight sectors are now covered by 'fast-track' procedures: electricity, food, health, education, agriculture, water and sanitation, housing and oil industry parts and equipment.

Since the adoption of the first list of designated items in March 2000, the office has processed 2,314 contracts worth over \$4.76 billion under the 'fast-track' system.

Meanwhile, over the past week, Iraq exported 15.6 million barrels of oil, earning over \$360 million, the world body said.

Under the "oil-for-food" programme, Baghdad is authorised to spend approximately 72 per cent of its oil revenues on the humanitarian programme, while 25 per cent is allocated to the compensation fund which pays out damages arising from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The remainder is used to cover administrative costs.

PTI

INDUSTRIAL

# Taliban forcing end to food for poor: UN

REUTERS  
ISLAMABAD, MAY 26

THE United Nations said on Saturday it will have to end bread supplies for nearly 300,000 people in the Afghan capital by June 15 unless the ruling Taliban allows a survey to find the neediest people.

The Taliban refusal to allow the survey—prompted by their objection to hiring women—is the latest in a growing number of confrontations over the movement's determination to impose its hardline interpretation of Islam.

The Taliban triggered worldwide outrage this week with a decree that Hindus in the overwhelmingly Muslim country would have to wear yellow badges, a plan that evoked memories of the Nazi order that

Jews wear yellow Stars of David.

The UN World Food Programme has been warning the Taliban for more than a year that a survey was vital to know that the bread, distributed to 282,000 people from bakeries at 12 percent of the retail price, was reaching those most in need.

However, the Taliban have consistently objected to the hiring of women, which is necessary because men cannot enter homes to interview women under Taliban rules. Women are barred from almost all work outside the home.

“WFP informed the Taliban authorities today that the general bakeries will be closed down on 15 June if WFP surveyors remain unable to conduct their work,” the WFP said in a statement.

A WFP official told Reuters in March

the Taliban had been warned the programme could not continue past the middle of this year without a survey. But, in the brinkmanship that has been a feature of the controversy, WFP sources this month said the Taliban had relented.

The WFP said that optimism had now proved unfounded.

“The Taliban had permitted WFP in April this year to survey widows who had previously received food assistance from the International Committee of the Red Cross in Kabul. WFP’s plan was to include the 6,000 poorest widows and their orphaned children as bakery beneficiaries,” it said.

“However, last Monday the Taliban withdrew its permission,” WFP said. “That means that about 6,000 widows and their children, who have no recourse to provide

for themselves other than begging, will now be deprived of the urgently required food.”

The WFP said existing distribution lists no longer identified those in most need, especially with poverty deepening after 21 years of war and the worst drought in three decades.

“The population of the capital city has swollen over the past five years as Afghans fled conflict and severe economic hardships in other parts of the country,” said WFP head for Afghanistan, Gerard van Dijk. “Moreover, beneficiary cards are being rented, sold and often forcibly appropriated and redistributed.”

The distribution of subsidised bread through 157 bakeries has been under way since 1995, the year before the Taliban swept into Kabul. They now claim control over 90 percent of the country.

INDIAN EXPRESS

21 MAY 2001

# U.N. meet agrees on shared responsibility

By Batuk Gathani

BRUSSELS, MAY 23. Though the outcome of the week-long third United Nations conference on the world's 49 "Least Developed Countries" (LDCs) may not yet mark "a real turning point in the every day life of poor people in the poorest countries" — as the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan put it — the participants in the final declaration agreed that they had "shared responsibility" to eradicate poverty and deprivation of approximately 630 million people who live on less than a dollar a day.

The conference concluded on Sunday but many observers find it hard to see Mr. Annan's "turning point". The silver-lining is that the conference has prompted a host of initiatives to promote more trade, development aid and a resolve to provide transparent and efficient governance.

The U.S. and the E.U. also pressed the poorer countries to start a new round of free-trade talks under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) but the poor countries pleaded for more time.

The conference proceedings were highlighted by more utopian rhetoric about the pros and cons of development aid and ways and means to better implementation of aid rather than on actuals. Among the developed countries, fewer than half a dozen are giving 0.7 per cent of their gross domestic product in aid as agreed. But over the past decade the reality is that the quantum of aid going to the LDCs has been reduced by \$3,500 millions.

The aid pledge has however been fully honoured by smaller Scandinavian countries — Denmark, Sweden and Norway. According to the U.N. data, the aid to the mostly sub-Saharan Africa, Asian and Pacific island nations has dropped by 45 per cent since 1990.

There is talk of offering "special status" to the LDCs in the WTO but how this will help remains to be seen. In 15 E.U. countries, for example, already most of the LDC goods enter the E.U. on duty free and quota free basis. But the U.S., Japan and Canada are reluctant to follow the example on the premise that duty free import of textiles would hurt their domestic garment industries. Japan is worried about duty free import of rice from poorer countries. It is obvious that the developed countries aim at consolidating their self-interest.



The Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, Mr. Rubens Ricupero, with the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina, during the inaugural ceremony of the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries at the European Parliament in Brussels on Monday. — AP

The developed countries have agreed that future aid to the LDCs would come with the condition that the latter embark on a bold programme of economic and political reforms to ensure more transparent and efficient governance. All concerned agree that corruption and stark bureaucratic inefficiency in poorer countries have very much hindered their economic progress. They have a per capita income of less than \$900 a year and scarce investment in health, nutrition and education.

Though the conference has ended without headline grabbing pledges of aid or debt cancellation, there is growing awareness about poverty, inefficiency and corruption in the Third World.

The number of the LDCs has almost doubled from 25 to 49, since the category was first created by the U.N. in 1971. At the end of the present conference, hosted here by the E.U. at

the European Parliament, many delegates and observers wondered if it had passed the litmus test of "whether globalisation can be managed to close the increasingly obscene wealth gap separating rich and poor countries".

Corruption and bad governance are identified as the key inhibiting factors for sustained and healthy economic development of poor countries. The Asian countries rated as 'poorest' are Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Cambodia.

In a new 10-year accord which targets global poverty, trade and aid are identified as tools of partnership based on efficient and transparent governance.

The latest U.N. plan is set out in 60 pages and identifies commitments for both wealthy and poor countries to provide more development aid, debt relief and give higher priorities to investment and trade.

THE END

MAY 24 1997

# Security Council in Iraq curbs row

United Nations, May 22

UN  
THE FIRST cracks between permanent members of the UN Security Council have become apparent as they began discussing a US-British draft resolution aimed at easing sanctions against Iraq, according to diplomats.

The draft was discussed during a closed-door meeting of representatives — the US, China, France, Britain and Russia.

The proposal calls for maintaining strict controls on sales of products to Iraq that could have military use while easing restrictions on consumer goods.

HF-11  
The draft will be presented today to all 15 members of the Security Council, the diplomats said.

US and British diplomats made it clear that they would prefer to move ahead quickly with their proposal in order to approve it by June 3, when the oil-for-food programme comes up for renewal.

The programme allows Iraq to sell limited amounts of oil on the market and to spend the proceeds to purchase food and medicine.

However, China, Russia and France said they did not want to impose a deadline on deliberations, particularly concerning

2305  
lists of products allowed for export to Iraq, which are subject to approval by the UN Sanctions Committee.

"We have been discussing with our partners for some time about how to go forward on Iraq," said US charge d'affaires James Cunningham. "We're going to continue our discussions and I think we will be in a position to move this week, I hope."

Iraqi President Saddam Hussein yesterday said his Government would "reject the so-called smart sanctions, which are even more stupid than their predecessors".

AFP

# Yet another meet to make 'correct noises'?

By Batuk Gathani

**BRUSSELS, MAY 14.** Under the auspices of the United Nations, representatives of 49 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) have gathered in Brussels this week at the European Parliament to discuss ways and means to improve their trading and economic profile with the world's more prosperous regions. The five-day conference is hosted by the European Union which has recently agreed to phase out duty and quota free entry of all products, 'except weapons' from the LDCs, but it remains a utopia. The U.N. International Trade Centre has also invited several entrepreneurs from poor countries to talk about their experiences of accessing the developed markets.

The 49 countries have a population of 630 millions or a tenth of global population — and half of them live on an income of less than a dollar a day. In the last quarter century, the list of such countries has grown from 25 to 49 and 34 of them are in sub-Saharan Africa region. The LDCs count for less than half per cent of the global trade and investment.

The cynical perception is that the Brussels conference like the two previous such conferences can at best be a mere 'talking shop' but the more pragmatic view is that the debate could pave way for a meaningful trade and economic dialogue between the developed and the developing world.

This is the third U.N. conference on the LDCs. If results of the previous two such conferences are any criteria, lack of both will and ability to make any significant impact on the proceedings can be a major handicap. The LDCs have sent high-profile delegations while the developed world has sent junior functionaries.

The representative of the British 'Oxfam' — international charity organisation — was today quoted saying: "The danger is that this conference will become another high-cost, low-output U.N. talking shop." Mr. Ricupero, representative of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), says the grand but unworkable declarations of the previous two conferences would be avoided this week in favour of 'deliverables' — comprising specific projects to improve the economic profile of the poorest countries.

Amid bitter opposition from American textile and apparel industry, the U.S. authorities last year relaxed restrictions on imports from sub-Saharan African countries. It is argued that this strategy is not likely to make any significant impact. Because of corrupt administrations and bad governance, the LDCs have consistently failed to improve their economic infrastructure to pave way for investment in capital projects.

At the same time, rich countries have failed to live up to their earlier commitment to provide 0.2 per cent of their national income in aid to the LDCs and 0.7 per cent for all development assistance.

A majority of the LDCs are struggling with unsustainable external debt burdens. To compound the crises, the fast spreading disease of AIDS in recent years has reduced by 10 years the average life expectancy in some of the LDCs.

The more prosperous regions of the world have in the last two decades dramatically improved their economic profile and level of prosperity with unprecedented growth in trade and economic development. The E.U.'s much heralded initiative to liberalise trade

with the LDCs under the banner of "all items but arms" has been drastically watered down, because of pressure from agricultural lobby groups. The E.U. policies are essentially based on self-interest rather than any trace of idealism.

The reality is that the developed countries are mainly motivated to help the poorer countries to develop greener pastures for their goods and services there.

If the current mood at the WTO headquarters in Geneva is any criterion, the U.S., Japan and the E.U. will not "budge an inch" from the "substantial positions" they took at Seattle. The E.U. politicians are more worried about the impact such liberal trade policies may have on their farmers who are often hardcore of their traditional votebanks.

Hence, the tendency is to make "correct noises" on trade liberalisation front and also to ensure that the real impact is minimal. The E.U. officials have argued that all developed countries provide special concessions to exports from the LDCs but nothing substantive has so far materialised.

The LDCs have not received the benefits of globalisation which have made a significant impact in other parts of the world. The truth is that their share of the global trade declined from 0.48 per cent to 0.4 per cent in 1999. Mr. Mike Moore, Director-General of the WTO writes: "The problems facing Least Developed Countries are deep-rooted and trade alone will not lift them from poverty. Sound macro-economic policies, solid infrastructure, debt relief and good governance are essential" and states that at the Brussels conference, new initiatives may be identified.



## USA freezes UN dues

1975  
**UNITED NEWS OF INDIA**

WASHINGTON, May 11. - The US House of Representatives has voted to freeze the final instalment of the back dues, amounting to \$ 224 million, to the United Nations next year for ousting the country from the UN Human Rights Commission.

By a vote of 252-165, the House had approved an amendment to withhold the third and final payment of the UN back dues.

However, the House had approved \$ 582 million of back dues after President Mr George W Bush appealed to the Congress not to hold back the UN payment. The blocking is timed for the next election of the commission, scheduled next year.

**THE STATESMAN**

17 MAY 2001

# USA voted off UN drug panel

## AGENCIES

UNHQ, May 8. - In yet another defeat in an election to a United Nations-affiliated panel, the United States has lost its seat in the International Narcotics Control Board to which India and five other countries were elected.

US candidate Herbert Okun, standing for a third consecutive five-year term, lost in the first round of voting in the UN Economic and Social Council, UN announced yesterday.

The voting took place the same day the US was ousted from the UN Human Rights Commission

last week, though the results were not announced at that time.

It was removed from the United Nations Human Rights Commission on April 3 after receiving the least number of votes among four contestants.

The Vienna-based Narcotics Board, which monitors compliance with the UN treaties on drug trafficking, has 13 members, seven of whom were up for renewal. Five of the seven seats were filled by government nominees and the other two from a list of candidates drawn up by the World Health Organisation.

The US State Department described the development as "re-

grettable," but declined to speculate the reasons for the double debacle.

India, Brazil, France, Peru, the Netherlands and Austria were elected to the board. For India, Madan Mohan Bhatnagar contested successfully to the board, where elections are fought by individuals selected by the governments and not the member-states.

Analysts believe that failure of the United States to pay its dues in time, its stand on Kyoto Protocol and its decision to go ahead with missile-based defence system might have worked against its candidature.

THE STATESMAN

9 MAY 1980

# Foes gloat over US defeat at UN rights body

Geneva, May 4

FROM HAVANA to Tehran, Washington's ideological foes reacted with glee on Friday after the US suffered the humiliation of losing its seat at the top UN human rights body.

But UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Mary Robinson, a former president of Ireland who has not always seen eye-to-eye with the US on rights issues, including the death penalty, said that she hoped Washington's absence would be short-lived.

The US was ousted from the 53-state UN Human Rights Commission in a secret ballot at its parent UN Economic and Social Council body on Thursday night. France, Austria and Sweden took the three seats up for grabs among Western states.

The upset vote — it was the first time that the US had failed to win election to the body it helped found in 1948 — was

## US PANEL FOR TALKS ON RELIGIOUS FREEDOM IN INDIA

A US commission has asked Washington to speak to New Delhi about allegations that religious freedom was under threat in India but said it does not recommend sanctions or interference with bilateral ties.

Elliott Abrams, chairman of the US commission on international religious freedoms which recently came up with a report critical of the status of minorities in India, said: "I don't think we necessarily accept the view that non-Hindus in India are attempting to convert all Hindus. We do not recommend sanctions or interference with bilateral relations in any way. He said the commission could only make recommendations to the State Department and it was for the US Government to act."

clearly a severe political embarrassment.

Diplomats from neutral or friendly countries said that while no single factor could explain the debacle, there was no doubt that the perceived aloofness of the administration of President George Bush played a part, with Washington apparently seeing no need to lobby for votes.

Former German Interior Minister Gerhart Baum, who led his country's delegation to the Com-

cism of its West Asia ally Israel for what many see as the use of excessive force in occupied Palestinian territories.

China, which continues as a member of the Commission, struck a similar note by accusing the US of attempting to use rights issues as a political weapon.

The official Xinhua news agency said that the vote in ECOSOC was "a strong rejection of the U.S. attempt to use so-called human rights issues as a tool to pursue its power politics and hegemonism in the world."

At every annual Commission meeting for the past decade, China has thwarted U.S. resolutions accusing Beijing of political and religious repression.

Official Iran radio called the decision a "blow to the country's international prestige," adding that it was an indication "of the United States warning influence in international affairs."

But diplomats noted that the

fact the US was no longer able to vote at the Commission's annual sessions in Geneva did not mean that it could play no role.

"You can play as an effective a role as an observer as member. You can still take the floor (to speak)," said one Geneva-based diplomat, noting an observer may present texts.

At Thursday's voting, France got 52 votes, Austria 41 votes, Sweden 32 votes and the United States 29 votes. The 14 new members chosen for the commission on Thursday, in addition to the three Europeans and Sudan were: Bahrain, South Korea, Pakistan, Croatia, Armenia, Chile, Mexico, Sierra Leone, Togo and Uganda.

The secret balloting took place in the UN Economic and Social Council in New York. The US as well as Russia and India had served on the commission since its inception. Eleanor Roosevelt "Understandably, we are very disappointed," James Cun-

ningham, the chief US representative, said declining to speculate on the reason for the defeat. "We very much wanted to serve on the committee."

In Washington, a State Department official, who would not be named, said "there is no question that financial questions formed an important background to this vote". She was referring to the long dispute between Washington and the UN over US arrears and the level of the US contribution. The dispute has been settled in principle but Congress still has not paid its \$1.7 billion debt.

Congresswoman Nita Lowey, a New York Democrat, said the absence of a US ambassador to replace Richard Holbrooke, former Bill Clinton's appointee, accounted for the "embarrassment for our country". Bush chose John Negroponte, a retired career diplomat, as ambassador in March.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN  
MAY 200

*UN moves to  
preserve  
sacred sites  
after Bamiyan*

Tokyo, April 19

IN THE WAKE of the Taliban's destruction of two ancient Buddha statues, the secretary general of the UN world peace summit and a Taiwanese spiritual leader announced today a new body to protect sacred sites.

United Nation's millennium world peace summit secretary-general Bawa Jain and Hsin Tao, founder of the museum of world religions, announced in a statement issued in Tokyo plans to organise a commission for the preservation of the world's sacred sites.

The commission is aimed at "forging the first partnership between religious, cultural institutions and international organisations to confront the worldwide tragedy of the loss of religious sites during the past year," it said.

"The commission would bring together more than one hundred religious, cultural and political leaders from around the world to come up to look at the political, cultural, national and religious complexities of preserving sacred sites."

Unesco and the world monument fund are expected to be among the major institutions taking part.

"During the last few years, several sacred treasures of antiquity have been desecrated including the two monumental Buddha statues in Bamiyan, Afghanistan, Rachel's tomb in Bethlehem, Israel, as well as mosques and other places of worship in the Balkans including the Xhamia e Qarshise in Peja" the statement said.

The Taliban militia last month dynamited two historic Buddha statues in central Bamiyan province despite international protests.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 APR 2001

# The U.N.'s future political role

110-12  
19/4  
By P. S. Suryanarayana

**T**HE RISE and decline of the United Nations as the world's premier institution, especially so in the early 1990s, have already defined a truly dramatic cameo during the ongoing phase of post-Cold War uncertainties in global politics. It is no less significant that the fluctuating fortunes of the U.N. can indeed be traced to the changing attitudes of its principal member and prime architect, the United States. A poser now is whether the required reformation of the U.N. will be catalysed in a proactive manner or merely tolerated by the U.S. under the younger Mr. George Bush's administration. Relevant to a difficult answer to this puzzle is the manner in which the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has sought to uphold the mystique of the organisation. During a recent tour of South Asia, Mr. Annan would not call for specific reforms even while carrying out a reality check attuned to the emerging ethos of the 21st century.

The U.N. had in fact acquitted itself well at one critical stage in the early 1990s during the ongoing period of globalising politics. The organisation, in particular the Security Council, voiced the call of the collective international conscience in a highly complicated political ambience. The context of the call was determined by the many different events that shaped the origin as also the outcome of the 1991 Gulf War. A later-day perception, entirely non-American in scope, about the same context remains equally telling today. It is now widely recognised that the U.S. was just being clever as it orchestrated the broad security concerns of the international community during the early 1990s. Not surprisingly, a realistic evaluation today will reveal a contrasting picture of the U.N. The forum can be seen to be bereft once again of either genuine traces or even artificial signs of transnational unity.

The U.N.'s present outlook does not presage any serious likelihood of its disintegration like a collapsing star of idealism. Nor do the major powers really want the U.N. to turn into a terrestrial parody of the cosmic 'black hole': an infinitely less awesome 'virtual reality' of a dense 'dead-

weight' dotting the international political arena. If the U.N. today evokes negative images of outer space, the reason has much to do with the organisation's chequered evolution since its formation as a votary of peace over a half-century ago. In the violence-soaked milieu of World War II, peace was an almost ethereal aspiration.

The U.N.'s 'peace-and-security agenda' has always been dictated by its five permanent members (P-5 or Big Five). Obviously, the shape of this agenda at any

right of veto now enjoyed by the P-5 over international security issues, the ultimate weapon and symbol of power politics. Separately, Japan and Germany, for reasons of their phenomenal economic success that can spell a revival of their political power, aspire for a similar status. Not really relevant is the status of a current economic slowdown, if any, in the countries concerned.

Mr. Annan's latest thoughts on this subject barely conceal the reluctance of the P-5 to be either politically chivalrous

## *A poser now is whether the required reform of the United Nations will be catalysed in a proactive manner or merely tolerated by the U.S.*

given time is determined by the political equations among the P-5 members. For nearly the first quarter-century of the U.N.'s existence, a grotesque anomaly marred the P-5's credentials. China's seat was occupied during this period by the nationalists, although they were overthrown by the communist patrons of the People's Republic in 1949. The U.S. did not accept an ideological People's Republic of China as a P-5 member until their differing strategic compulsions in the early 1970s required mutual accommodativeness. No such problems troubled the U.S. when the Soviet Union, for long a bastion of anti-U.S. sentiments, disintegrated in the early 1990s. The fall of the Soviet Union, facilitated by a leader who was reaching out to the U.S. in the face of its knee-jerk suspicions, suited Washington's long-term interests. Post-Soviet Russia, therefore, faced no problem in inheriting a P-5 seat. For Washington, this diplomatic denouement contrasted sharply with the defeat of the U.S.-friendly Chinese nationalists at the hands of communists in 1949.

The simple oddities of the P-5 membership will serve as an important reckoner for any U.N. reforms. It is common knowledge today that India, the largest democracy and a strategic player-aspirant on the global scene, wants to be a permanent member with 'teeth' — the

or simply forward-looking. He said in New Delhi on March 16 that he would "agree" with "many nations" that the Security Council "must be reformed and brought in line with today's realities". Its current "structure is a bit anachronistic", he emphasised, and his statement can be seen to be a bit courteous to the slow thought process of the P-5 on this issue. Without any reference to Mr. Annan's comment, the P-5's collective inertia, which is germane to a dispensation based on the concentration of powers, can be blamed. Moreover, the oligarchical tendencies of the collective forum, itself an elitist internal club of the U.N. system, are often reinforced by the rivalries within the P-5. So, it requires no incisive thinking to advocate a P-5 reform that should match the proliferation of important state-players in different parts of the world.

The interplay of two contradictory realities will finally determine the new contours of the P-5 and therefore the political future of the U.N. itself. First, the P-5's original mooring — the winner-vanquished matrix of the World War II context — has not made any sense at all since the end of the subsequent Cold War. Despite the togetherness of the P-5 members, the Big Five has not emerged as either a "pluralist security community" or a "security regime". These two con-

cepts have been generally applied by strategic analysts such as Barry Buzan in respect of "patterned interactions" among states in specific empirical settings other than the U.N. By definition, a "security regime" consists of states which seek to moderate the threats they might pose to each other. A "security community" is an arrangement of states which do not expect or prepare themselves to use force in their interactions with each other. The second critical reality for the P-5's future is that the largely U.S.-centric order of today's global politics makes a mockery of the original principle of power-sharing by the Big Five at the U.N.

Closely linked to the power of the P-5 is the extent to which the Security Council resolutions can be enforced. About the controversial resolutions on Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Annan said during his recent visit to South Asia that "there are Security Council resolutions which are important but they are not self-enforcing". In his view, India and Pakistan must "negotiate". The two, he said, should "come together through dialogue to implement whatever agreements are taken, which the Security Council resolutions could bear up". This formulation leaves the Kashmir-related Security Council resolutions as reference material even if they be not enforceable. For India, which does not like to be disrespectful of the U.N., the poser is whether non-enforceable resolutions cannot be removed from the organisation's 'peace-and-security agenda'. An erased resolution regarding aggression against Korea may be assessed as a precedent. The U.N.'s role with reference to non-security matters is also circumscribed by the collective will of key member-states. This can be discerned in regard to a number of human rights issues and the recent failure of the U.N. to prevent the Taliban from obliterating Afghanistan's pre-Islam heritage. On a different plane, the traditional peace-keeping and peace-enforcement tasks will require the U.N. to tone up its mechanisms and coordinate with the various regional organisations and evaluate their security initiatives such as those being envisioned, for example, in Europe now.

19 APR 2001

## Russia, China hit out at U.S. plan on defence shield

UNITED NATIONS: The Bush administration's intention to build a missile defence shield against possible attacks was sharply criticised Tuesday by Russia, China and North Korea.

The three countries said in separate speeches to the UN Disarmament Commission that a U.S. missile defence system would threaten international security, trigger a new arms race, and undermine the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty, which bans such systems.

U.S. officials did not speak at Tuesday's meet-

ing. In the harshest criticism, North Korea's UN Ambassador Li Hyong Chol accused the U.S. of "unjustifiably" branding the country "a rogue state" and making claims about "the nonexistent 'missile threat' from us" in order to justify building the missile system.

At a meeting last month with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung in Washington, President George W. Bush said he was skeptical about North Korea and would not immediately resume talks with the communist coun-

try to curb its missile program. Li said the Bush administration's decision to establish a missile defense system makes "crystal clear" why it is evading the resolution of the missile issue with Pyongyang. He warned that as long as the U.S. "continues picking on us" North Korea would have no choice but to take "counter measures."

"Even if this entails an arms race between North Korea and the U.S. and all other agreements are scrapped, we will have little to lose," he warned. (AP)

15-8 2/9

## America's man in UN

KOFI ANNAN'S re-election as the UN Secretary-General was a foregone conclusion given the whole-hearted endorsement of his candidature by the United States. Such is America's geo-political influence now that no other name was even proposed. Mr Annan's predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, widely viewed as a representative of the third world, enjoyed no such luck. Washington did not look upon his first-term performance with favour and energetically opposed his re-election, thereby paving the way for Mr Annan, a long-serving UN bureaucrat, to take over.

Usually international public figures of esteem enjoying the backing of major regional groupings are considered for the top UN job. During the Cold War, it was not difficult for statesmen of the third world to get in, so long as they enjoyed the support of at least one of the two principal blocs. Much to the annoyance of the American side, this usually meant the help of the Soviets since the political and economic vision of the post-colonial societies was then in the process of being shaped. This is not to say that the Soviet Union was always supportive of the UN structure. During the term of the eminent Swede, Dag Hammarskjold, Moscow considered some of his actions as pro-colonialist

and wanted him to be replaced by a triumvirate comprising a member each from the two contending blocs and one from the neutral countries.

Nevertheless, an abiding feature of those days was an obstructionist Western approach to the UN led by the US, which virtually withdrew its financial support to the UN. It has only just re-commenced some of its mandatory funding. 'Tyranny of the majority' — a complaint of Daniel Patrick Moynihan, the US representative in the UN — summed up the American point of view. No wonder, Washington did its best those days to prevent the emergence or continuance of UN leaders it did not like. If Mr Boutros-Ghali was crudely opposed, many believed that the US had something to do with the air crash which took Hammarskjold's life. Although the Soviet Union was suspicious of him, the Western alliance, too, saw Hammarskjold as too much of a peacenik who desired the 'presence' of the world body in all crisis spots. In the changed circumstances after the Cold War, the US all but seems to run the UN system, virtually commanding its 'presence' in hot spots — Iraq and the Balkans are but two examples — in furtherance of its foreign policy.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 APR 2001

## **Pak asks UN team to stop registration of Afghans**

**United Nations, April 5:** The Pakistan government has asked the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to stop registering Afghan refugees pouring into its territory and cited lack of resources as reason for its inability to support the additional influx.

"While Pakistan has no intention to push back those who have already entered the country, it is not in a position to accommodate an additional influx because of lack of resources," Pakistan's ambassador to the UN Mr Shamshad Ahmad said on Thursday.

"It is the responsibility of those who have imposed sanctions on Taliban to provide resources to Pakistan to look after the refugees," he said blaming the recent influx on the embargo rather than drought and bloody war in Afghanistan.

He also accused the UN of failing to fulfill the agreement reached between Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf and Secretary-General Kofi Annan during his visit to Islamabad. "It is our view that without provision of relief inside Afghanistan, such registration will only induce Afghans to move into Pakistan," he said, adding "this is unacceptable."

He also lashed out at UNHCR officials for criticising Pakistan for not providing adequate relief and care to refugees at the Jalozai camp. (PTI)

**THE ASIAN AGE**

10 APR 2002



# US vetoes UN resolution on force for West Bank, Gaza

REUTERS

UNITED NATIONS, MARCH 28

98-99/3

**T**HE United States used its veto power to kill a UN Security Council resolution that would have backed the creation of an international observer force to help protect civilians in the West Bank and Gaza. "The United States opposed this resolution because it is unbalanced and unworkable and hence unwise," Chief American representative James Cunningham said. "It is more responsive to political theatre than political reality."

The vote, shortly before midnight on Tuesday in the 15-nation body, was 9 to 1 with 4 abstentions. Ukraine did not vote.

In favour were Bangladesh, Colombia, Jamaica, Mali, Mauritius, Singapore, Tunisia, Russia and China. Abstaining were Europeans Britain, France, Ireland and Norway. At issue is a repeat appeal by Palestinians for the Security Council to state its willingness to send unarmed UN observers to the West Bank and Gaza, even if Israel refuses to allow them into the territories. The United States, Israel's ally, has been in marathon negotiations for five days on a Eu-

ropean compromise text that would not commit the council to any specific action without the agreement of Israel and the Palestinians.

More than 400 people, almost all of them Palestinians, have been killed in six months of violence between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers.

Palestinians and their supporters said they called for a vote before an Arab summit ended in Amman, Jordan, on Wednesday after the United States had wanted another delay. Bangladesh's ambassador, Anwarul Chowdhury, said the seven sponsors of the resolution had to press for a vote because timing was "absolutely essential."

Cunningham cast the first veto for the United States since March 1997, when Washington twice vetoed a resolution demanding Israel halt work on Jewish housing projects on grounds the issue should not be brought to the United Nations.

But in this case, the Bush Administration had negotiated intensively in trying to reach agreement with the Palestinians. US Delegates had agreed to criticise Israel on several points, including settlements, the closure of its crossings and the withholding of taxes from the Palestinian Authority.

INDIAN EXPRESS

29 MAR 2001

# UN West Asia talks end in failure

## Little chance of agreement by deadline

United Nations, March 26: The Security Council completed a weekend of negotiations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict with what one member said was a less than 50-50 chance of reaching agreement by its deadline of late on Monday. "There are very strong views that do not coincide on the most important aspects of the text," Britain's ambassador to the United Nations Jeremy Greenstock told reporters as the council adjourned on Sunday evening.

One of the four western European co-sponsors of a draft resolution, Mr Greenstock said: "There is a chance of a text that all 15 members of the council can subscribe to, but it is a minority chance." The council was to reconvene late on Monday "to decide one way or another during the day," he said.

If a joint council position were possible, members wanted to be able to state it to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan before the start of the Arab summit in Jordan on Tuesday, Mr Greenstock said.

Mr Annan left New York for the Jordanian capital, Amman on Saturday to attend the summit.

The role Mr Annan might play in bringing the Israelis and the Palestinians back to the negotiating table after six months of clashes.

Diplomats said the US representatives on the council conceded that the US government under President George W. Bush was not as engaged in the Israeli-Palestinian issue as the Clinton administration had been. (AFP)



FUNERAL CLASHES: An Israeli soldier brandishes his weapon, equipped to fire teargas canisters, in the face of a Palestinian man during clashes that erupted following the funeral of a 21-year-old boy near Hebron on Saturday. (Reuters)

## Googoosh sings again in Dubai

By ALEXANDRA PIRONTI

Dubai March 26: The Islamic Revolution was not able to destroy the popularity of Googoosh, the queen of Iranian song, who has given her first public performance in the West Asia in more than two decades.

"I hope one day I will be able to sing for all of you in Iran," Googoosh said in Dubai, just a few miles from her homeland, amid rapturous applause from an audience of more than 20,000. Last year Iran gave Googoosh permission to leave the country and many of her fans were in Dubai on Saturday night to hear her singing in her first concert in West Asia since the 1970s. After a brief imprisonment in 1979 and the confiscation of her passport for two decades to stop her from travelling abroad, the ayatollahs of Iran have

refused to forgive her for performing in public.

The 1979 Islamic revolution banned women from performing in front of a male public. Appearing on the stage without wearing the traditional robe that covers Moslem women from head to toe, as Googoosh does during her concerts, further enrages the religious establishment of the country.

"Googoosh Dooset Darim!(Googoosh we love you)," the crowd shouted again and again during the concert. "I have a million sisters and daughters and a million brothers and sons. I love you all," the 50-year-old diva, dressed in an elegant light grey dress told the crowd. Her thin figure and her face still have their beauty and the singer still possesses the magic that she had in the 60s and 70s when she was regarded as the epitome of beauty and style. (DPA)

THE ASIAN AGE

27 MAR 2001

# ANN Annan to seek a second term

40-17  
29/3

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

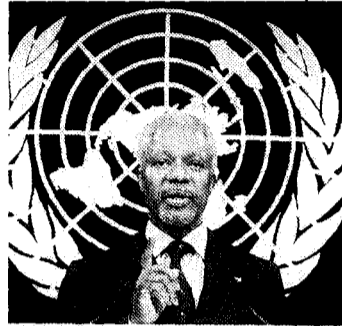
**WASHINGTON, MARCH 23.** Mr. Kofi Annan has announced formally that he would be seeking a second five-year term as the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

"There is a great deal still to be done to make the United Nations — this indispensable organisation — into an effective instrument humanity needs in this new century to fulfill the hopes for peace, development and human rights," Mr. Annan remarked. "If asked, I am ready to serve."

A citizen of Ghana, Mr. Annan's first term ends on December 31. He must first get the backing of the 15-member Security Council before the nomination goes to the 189-member General Assembly. A final decision is expected in September or shortly thereafter. The U.S. which opposed a second term for Mr. Annan's predecessor, Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali, appeared to back Mr. Annan for the second term.

"We think he has done an excellent job. He has been a very, very effective Secretary-General. And in due course we will announce our specific position with respect to supporting him or voting for him," the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, remarked. Mr. Annan is due in Washington today and will be having his first meeting with the President, Mr. George Bush.

Mr. Annan is seen positively in the U.S., especially in Congress where many have disdain, if not downright contempt, for the world body and the way it was going about managing itself. Mr. An-



nan is credited with having made solid gains in turning around an organisation that was accused of being unwieldy and wasteful.

"Within the United States, U.N. Secretary-General Annan is widely held in high regard both personally and for his strong advocacy of reform in the U.N. system," the State Department spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, said.

A career diplomat of the U.N. system, Mr. Annan has the solid backing of at least 53 African nations; and although most of the Permanent Members in the Security Council have not said so openly, the backing is there. The U.S. apart, Russia, France and Britain appear to back to Mr. Annan.

And it is widely believed that China is "waiting" to see if any Asian nation enters the fray, before it formally throws its weight behind Mr. Annan. There are some who believe that it is Asia's turn, although no country has come forward. The European Union has warmly welcomed Mr. Annan's announcement.

THE HINDU

24 MAR 2001

# Kofi Annan attacks North hypocrisy

By Our Special Correspondent

ND-14  
17/3

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 16.** The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has sharply attacked the 'hypocrisy' of developed countries which deny market access to the Third World in the guise of globalisation and trade liberalisation. Simultaneously he hoped that developing countries would get into negotiations for the next trade round "well prepared to protect their own interests" so that it was truly a developmental round. Addressing a meeting of leading corporates organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry last night, he said "preaching the virtues of open markets to developing countries is mere hypocrisy if they do not open their own markets to those countries' products." The industrialised world, he said had an indispensable role to play in providing technology, debt relief and official development assistance as well as help in fighting disease and rebuilding after destructive conflicts. In this context, he also looked forward to an early launch of the new trade round of negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Mr. Annan who was speaking on "Globalisation and Development," pointed out that the earlier trade round had not yielded the kind of benefits earlier envisaged. The aim of globalisation had not led to markets becoming genuinely free. Most people aspired to a different kind of globalisation with a greater emphasis on equity and pro-poor growth, he noted referring to the protests at the last WTO

conference at Seattle. The UN Secretary-General observed that the benefits of globalisation were obvious like faster growth, higher living standards, more employment and new opportunities. Yet a backlash had begun because these benefits were very unequally distributed and because the global system of rules seemed to be tougher in protecting intellectual property rights than in protecting human rights.

He argued it was also because market forces by themselves were not sufficient to address a range of social objectives. "For far too many people in the world today, greater openness looms as a threat," he said.

In the case of developing countries, he felt this included improving governance, public administration, transparency and accountability and creating the legal and institutional environment that will attract domestic and foreign investment.

Such efforts would help them get integrated into the global economy.

He advised the captains of industry at the meeting that the concept and practice of corporate social responsibility would also have to go global like markets. "Doing the right thing, at the end of the day, is actually good for business," he said. Indeed, he maintained the fragility of globalisation posed a direct challenge to the self-interest of the corporate sector. A central part of the solution was the need for companies to accept the obligations along with the opportunities of global citizenship, he commented.

THE HINDU

17 MAR 2001

# Resume talks, Kofi Annan tells India, Pakistan

UN HD-13 173  
By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, MARCH 16.** The United Nations Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, today urged India and Pakistan to renew their stalled dialogue immediately and, once again, shut out a U.N. option to resolve the Kashmir dispute.

Addressing the media after talks with the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, Mr. Annan said the U.N. resolutions on Kashmir were not "self-enforcing." The only way forward, he said, was a direct dialogue between India and Pakistan. Mr. Annan later in the evening called on the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Responding to Mr. Annan's remarks about immediate resumption of talks, Mr. Singh, who was also present, said "we appreciate the very wise counsel of the U.N. Secretary General." As initiators of the dialogue, India remains committed to talks, he said, but added that the "the timing and venue, etc. have to be decided by the dialoguers themselves." Mr. Singh reiterated that the resumption of dialogue was possible only after a conducive atmosphere had been created.

## Hurriyat rebuffed

Significantly, Mr. Annan today declined to meet the Hurriyat Conference representative, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone. Confirming that this

request had been turned down, a Hurriyat representative said "the U.N. office had said the Secretary-General was having a tight schedule and could not accommodate their request."

By declining to meet the Hurriyat conference, Mr. Annan is trying to convey two messages, analysts here said. First, a U.N. option to resolve the Kashmir issue does not exist. It was now up to the parties themselves to find a solution. Second, Mr. Annan was keen on avoiding the controversy on whether or not, the Hurriyat Conference represented Kashmiris. In fact, today's decision only reinforced Mr. Annan's point which he made in Islamabad that the Lahore Declaration was the basis for forward movement on the Indo-Pak. track. Unhappy with Mr. Annan's observations, apparently in favour of bilateralism, the Hurriyat Conference, in a meeting earlier this week in Srinagar, had decided to send Mr. Lone for a possible meeting with the Secretary General.

India has decided to earmark a standby brigade of around 3,000 troops for U.N. peace-keeping tasks. This was stated by Mr. Jaswant Singh during his parleys with Mr. Annan.

Both leaders also discussed the developments in Afghanistan. Mr. Singh reinforced the need for a strict enforcement of the U.N. sanctions regime in that country. They also

deplored the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddha statues. Condemning terrorism, Mr. Singh expressed concern over the proliferation of small arms which had escalated violence by non-State actors. A conference on small arms proliferation was expected to take place in New York in July.

Referring to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), Mr. Singh said India would not stand in the way of enforcing this regime. "Our commitment to a voluntary moratorium on any further nuclear explosive underground testing remains," he said.

## Security Council

During the talks, Mr. Annan described India as a "potential permanent member of an enlarged Security Council." Reiterating India's stand in favour of its inclusion in an expanded Council, Mr. Singh said the U.N. reforms should be implemented soon. According to Mr. Singh, over 150 countries had advocated the expansion of the Security Council and among these, a large number of countries had supported India's candidature.

Mr. Annan, during the day, met a parliamentary delegation led by the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. G.M.C. Balayogi. He also held a meeting with the Leader of the Opposition, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi and called on the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan.

THE HINDU

17 MAR 2001

# Annan puts talks before UN resolutions

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, March 16: Kofi Annan today made it clear that the UN resolutions on Kashmir were "important but not self-enforcing" and the only way to resolve the dispute was through a dialogue between India and Pakistan.

A few days ago the UN secretary-general had hinted that the resolutions — which among other things talk about holding a plebiscite in the strife-torn state — could not be implemented without both Delhi and Islamabad's consent.

"The only way out is through dialogue," Annan said after meeting foreign minister Jaswant Singh, first in a one-to-one session followed by delegation-level talks. As he had stressed in Islamabad, he again underlined the need for settling differences through negotiation in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration.

Annan, who also called on President K.R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, said he felt "encouraged" by the discussion he had with the Indian and Pakistani leadership. He will leave for Hyderabad tomorrow before concluding his India visit on Sunday.

If Annan was trying to play the role of an honest broker, he was partially successful. Jaswant told him that though Delhi was committed to the resumption of dialogue, the onus was on Pakistan to create the right atmosphere.

"We appreciate the very wise counsel of the UN secretary-general, but the timing and venue, etc., have to be decided by the dialoguers themselves," Jaswant said. "India continues to hold that for the dialogue to be successful, a conducive atmosphere must be prepared first."

Annan said that Pervez Musharraf had assured him that Islamabad was going ahead with its democratisation programme and that the administration would be handed over to a civilian government by October 2002. He said the election process in Pakistan had already begun and the UN would be writing to Islamabad on how it could assist the junta.

The UN secretary-general's discussions with Jaswant covered a range of issues, including the proposed restructuring of the Security Council where India wants to be a permanent member, terrorism, non-proliferation, disarmament and the Taliban destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas.

Singh announced India's decision to provide a brigade — 2,500 to 3,000 soldiers — as stand-by for UN peacekeeping efforts. Delhi has so far contributed 50,000 troops in 35 missions in different parts of the world.

THE TELEGRAPH

17 MAR 2001

# Annan walks out of talks with Taliban minister

BY H.S. RAO

Islamabad, March 12: In an unprecedented gesture reflecting international outcry over the destruction of the Buddha statues, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Sunday walked out from his meeting with Taliban foreign minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil.

Mr Annan, who met the press along with Pakistani Military ruler Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said he walked out of the meeting after being told by Mr Muttawakil that all the movable heritage statues in Afghanistan had been destroyed.

"I walked away from the meeting not very encouraged, basically concerned

that all movable statues have been destroyed and the destruction of the two Bamian Buddha statues has begun but he could not tell me the status of demolition," Mr Annan said.

Describing the decision of Taliban to destroy the statues as "lamentable," Mr Annan said "they will be doing a great deal of disservice to themselves and to Islam in whose name they claim to do it." He said Taliban's decision was hardly backed by any Islamic scholar.

Mr Annan said he also had a lengthy discussion on Afghanistan with Mr Musharraf. "We spent considerable amount of time discussing humanitarian situation on Afghanistan and we are making desperate efforts to raise more

funds to provide succour to the refugees inside and outside Afghanistan."

Noting that the UN had already launched an appeal in this connection, he said the world organisation would be with the Pakistan government to help

## DESTRUCTION OF BUDDHAS

the refugees. Mr Annan replied in negative when asked whether any country had informed UN that it would not give aid to Afghanistan's refugees in view of Taliban's action to demolish the historic relics.

Meanwhile, a Reuters report from

Kabul said a Taliban leader on Monday ruled out any compromise with scholars from the world's largest Islamic organisation and said workers were obliterating the last traces of Afghanistan's ancient statues of the Buddha.

A delegation from the 55-nation Organisation of Islamic Conference was in the southern Afghan town of Kandahar, headquarters of the austere Islamic group, to try to halt the Taliban's campaign to destroy all statues on the grounds they are un-Islamic.

"The (OIC) Al Azhar delegation is in Kandahar and they have no religious justification to show that our work is non-Islamic," Taliban information minister Qudratullah Jamal said.

"We would repeat to them as we are saying to other groups that we are not going to back away from the edict and that no statues in Afghanistan will be spared," Mr Jamal said.

Mr Annan said on Sunday after meeting Taliban foreign minister Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil that it was probably too late to save the statues, which mostly date from the centuries before the arrival of Islam, when Afghanistan was a centre of Buddhist culture.

Speaking of Afghanistan's best-known Buddhist statues, two towering images carved into a cliff in central Bamian province, Mr Qudratullah Jamal said the demolition there was nearly finished. (PTI, Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

13 MAR 2001

HR-8  
18/3

## Kofi's officialese

FOR KOFI Annan, a bureaucratic explanation might have sufficed to underline why the UN could not intervene in Kashmir. According to him, only those resolutions adopted under chapter 7 were "self-enforcing" ones, as on East Timore and Iraq. But there is more to such documents than what he said. So far as Kashmir is concerned, the fact is that the conditions specified in the 1948 resolution are no longer prevalent. According to it, Pakistan was to withdraw its troops before a plebiscite was held. But since Pakistan did not follow this directive in what has come to be known as Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) on the grounds that its forces weren't there at all (just as it pretends that its *jihadis* are not in Kashmir), the resolution became meaningless.

But that is not the only reason why it is no longer of any use. The other, perhaps even more important, reason is that the identity of the original complainant — Pakistan — underwent a change in 1972 when it broke into two. As a result, the basis of the theory on which the subcontinent was partitioned became irrelevant. Even if, for argument's sake, it is stated that the will of the people of

Kashmir still needs to be ascertained, then the answer is that this has already been done through elections in the state along with the rest of India — an opportunity frequently denied to Pakistanis, as at present. If there was a desire among Kashmiris to break away, they could have done so either by boycotting the elections or voting with their feet. It isn't only that these courses were not followed, Kashmir remained a haven of peace (and a favourite location for Bollywood romances) till the late Eighties when Pakistan launched its proxy war.

It is clear that the entire context in which the issue first cropped up has undergone a dramatic change. Unfortunately, this transformation relates to the UN also. When the matter was first taken to the world body, it had a moral authority which has suffered a grave erosion over the years. Today, it is seen as a handmaiden of the US, which can continue its bombing raids on Iraq even without the sanction of a 'self-enforcing' resolution. Instead of indulging in officialese, therefore, it is better to acknowledge the ground realities. Indeed, this is what Mr Annan has done.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 MAR 2001



# Annan promises aid for Afghan refugees in Pak

Shamshatoo, March 12

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL Kofi Annan has promised aid to the 200,000 Afghan refugees in Northwest Pakistan on Monday. He flew over a squalid field jammed with 80,000 other refugees without landing because of security fears.

Annan visited the refugee camps today to see the plight of tens of thousands of Afghans, many of whom live in squalor, with plastic bags as their only shelter from the harsh winter weather. The wretched conditions of the Afghani refugees in Pakistan will be his priority, Annan said.

The UN Secretary-General discussed with Pakistani authorities their ban on admitting more refugees fleeing war and famine in Afghanistan or allowing a new refugee camp inside Pakistan, but neither side reported any progress on the dispute.

Annan arrived in a convoy of three military helicopters but after he began moving through the dusty camp in a motorcade, stones were thrown at vehicles behind him.

Pakistani police intervened to halt the protest by several hundred Afghans.

He stopped first at the

Shamshatoo camp, where about 70,000 refugees have been settled by the United Nations since early January.

As Annan and his aides arrived at the camp, thousands of refugees on the hillsides watched his entourage pass by. "What I want to tell you is that we are going to do our best — and we are doing our best — to get as much assistance to you as possible, both here in Pakistan and in Afghanistan, for those who are in need and are displaced," Annan told a gathering of refugees in Shamshatu camp.

"I heard the message your elders gave us and I want to let you know that you are not without friends," he said. "I know it is not easy to find yourselves uprooted, your lives disturbed, and into a foreign country without knowing what happens tomorrow."

He visited a religious school at the camp where about 20 young girls study the Koran.

Children and elderly people die every day of disease in Jalozaï camp, the worst of the refugee outposts, where an estimated 80,000 people are packed into a dust-choked patch of land with open sewers and no drinking water.

AP & Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 MAR 2001

# Abide by Lahore accord, Annan tells India, Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 11. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has counselled India and Pakistan to resume dialogue in the light of the 'Lahore Declaration' for a resolution of all their differences, as the U.N. resolutions on the Kashmir dispute cannot be enforced in the absence of cooperation from them.

Speaking on arrival at the Chak-

lala military airbase near here last night, Mr. Annan said a "return" to the spirit of the Lahore Declaration would require "restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides".

His reference to the spirit of the Lahore Declaration would not have gone down well with his hosts, as the military government feels the document was signed by the Nawaz Sharif Government without "adequate preparation".

Mr. Annan would have preferred to avoid any reference on his own to the U.N. resolution on the Kashmir conflict. This was further evident, when in response to a question, he said there could be no comparison between the U.N. resolutions on East Timor and Iraq and those on Kashmir.

"When it comes to implementation of resolutions, I think we have to be clear here. The U.N. has two types of resolutions — enforcement resolutions under Chapter VII and other resolutions which require cooperation of both parties to get implemented. East Timor is a Chapter VII resolution. One often refers to Iraq. Iraq is a Chapter VII resolution. The resolution you are referring to here does not come under Chapter VII in the same sense. These resolutions are not self-enforcing," he said to a query whether the U.N. would be interested in enforcing its resolutions on Kashmir as it did in East Timor.

The Secretary-General said the resolutions on Kashmir were on record and the U.N. had observers in the region. He specifically referred to the U.N. Military Observers Group on India and Pakistan, and said the Chief Military Observer was in the region.

Mr. Annan said he expected Pakistan to raise the issue of Kashmir and he would like to encourage progress in the relations between Pakistan and India.

On the human rights violations

## Taliban adamant

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 11. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan's meeting with the Afghanistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Wakil Ahmed Mutawakkil, here proved a disaster making him walk away feeling discouraged on being informed that the Taliban had already destroyed all movable statues and caused immense damage to the two giant Buddha statues. Mr. Mutawakkil had categorically rejected Mr. Annan's appeal to reverse the edict on destruction of the pre-Islamic artefacts.

Earlier report on page 13

in Kashmir and the role of the U.N., Mr. Annan said the Human Rights Commission had been very active in the area. It had rapporteurs who monitored situations around the world and reported to the Commission in Geneva.

The U.N. had some "concrete ideas" on humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan. On Osama bin Laden, Saudi dissident billionaire, he made it clear that he had not come with any "magic formulas."



The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan (left), is led by Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, for formal talks in Islamabad on Sunday. — AP

THE HINDU

12 MAR 2001

# Hurriyat cautious on Annan's comments

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, March 11. - The All Party Hurriyat Conference reacted in a guarded manner today on the UN Secretary General, Mr Kofi Annan's reported remarks on the Kashmir issue made in Islamabad.

Mr Annan has reportedly ruled out the implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir or a separate UN human rights commission for Kashmir saying that a lasting solution to the problem lay in implementation of the Lahore declaration and that it would always seek a amicable or negotiated settlement to the issue.

APHC chairman, Prof Abdul Ghani Bhatt, said that he would reserve his comments on Mr Annan's remarks till tomorrow when the executive committee would formally meet to discuss the matter.

Prof Bhatt said: "I cannot say anything at the moment. We are awaiting the text of his comments. Only after going through it that we will be able to reach at the bottom of the intentions."

Replying to the issue that other APHC leaders have reacted sharply on Mr Annan's remarks, Prof Bhatt said: "I have to demonstrate a deeper sense of responsibility and exercise restraint in commenting without having a look at the text."

Tomorrow's meeting would be to take stock of the situation, Mr Annan's comments and political developments. the home minister, Mr LK Advani's remarks on not allowing the APHC to be a negotiator in the peace process "may also" come up.

Reacting to the comments of Mr Annan, pro-Pakistan separatist



Mr Kofi Annan addresses a press conference in Islamabad on Sunday after meeting Gen Musharraf and the Pakistani foreign minister. - AP/PTI

leader, Mr Syed Ali Shah Geelani, said that it was the "moral and legal obligation" of the UN to implement the resolution.

Mr Geelani who is former chairman of the APHC and executive committee member, said that the UN cannot escape its responsibility in resolving the long-standing problem.

"Mr Annan perhaps made such a comment because the Kashmir issue does not fall in the seventh chapter of the UN resolution unless the parties agree on it. But, it should be made clear who is not agreeing on it. It is basically India which is an obstacle on the way," Mr Geelani said.

Other leaders said that hurriyat was never averse to bilateral dialogue between India and Pakistan, but they said when the issue of final settlement takes place, Kashmiris should be a part of it.

Meanwhile, JKLF leader, Mr Yasin Malik, who is also a member of APHC left for the US today for medical treatment.

THE STATESMAN

1 MAR 2001

# Stop demolition, UN tells Taliban

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, March 10. - The UN General Assembly has urged the Taliban to take immediate action to prevent destruction of historic monuments in Afghanistan while New Delhi expressed willingness to arrange for the transfer of artifacts to India.

In a non-binding resolution, sponsored by over 100 nations and approved by consensus yesterday, the General Assembly appealed to the Taliban to prevent further destruction of relics.

Participating in the discussion on the resolution introduced by Germany, Indian ambassador to the UN Mr Kamallesh Sharma said the relics could be shifted to India in the full knowledge and clear understanding that they are in the first place and above all, treasures of Afghan people themselves.

Mr Sharma said the Taliban's decision "demonstrates, yet again, that destruction is its only creed.

It has destroyed ethnic harmony in Afghanistan; it has strangled the desire of Afghan women for education; and it has ruthlessly trampled upon the human rights of Afghans".

Defying international condemnation, the Taliban is bent upon committing "a grievous misdeed, indeed, a sacrilege to humanity, to the civilizational and cultural inheritance of all mankind, by starting to destroy invaluable statues of Buddha at Bamiyan," Mr Sharma said. He further said: "(the fact) that it is

being perversely undertaken in the name of a noble religion makes it even more reprehensible".

This kind of vandalism should be seen not as an impulsive act but in keeping with a policy of cultural nihilism which seeks to erase Afghanistan's cultural past, he added. This regression into medieval barbarism in Afghanistan under the Taliban, said Mr Sharma, is precisely what India, amongst many other countries, has been cautioning the world against for so long.

Even now, "we would like to appeal that the destruction of the incomparable manifestations of the shared cultural heritage of mankind must stop". The UN resolution called on all members "to help, through appropriate technical measures, to safeguard the sculptures, including, if necessary, their temporary relocation or removal from public view".

Japan's ambassador to the UN, Mr Yukio Satoh requested that the resolution be conveyed to the Taliban. Unga spokesperson Ms Sue Markham said it should be forwarded immediately.

Germany's UN ambassador Mr Dieter Kastrup told the Assembly that the 26 February edict, ordering destruction of Afghan relics, was an unacceptable act of religious intolerance.

Pakistani envoy Mr Masmasood Khalid, said it was also necessary to look at the restoration of peace and reconstruction of the country.

## Afghan minister to meet Annan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

KABUL, March 10. - The Taliban foreign minister today said he would meet Mr Kofi Annan in Pakistan to defend the Afghan regime's destruction of ancient statues.

"I will tell him that what we are doing is an internal religious issue. It is not aimed at challenging the world," Mr Wakil Ahmad Mutawakel said.

Mr Annan is expected to arrive in Islamabad later today as part of his tour of South Asia. The Taliban's edict, issued last week, ordering the annihilation of all statues in Afghanistan, is close to the top of Mr Annan's agenda in Pakistan.

Mr Mutawakel shrugged off international appeals for the preservation of the relics. "We would like to repeat that the decree is irreversible. It is a religious and internal issue," he said, adding that "work" was continuing on the country's pre-Islamic heritage. Taliban officials yesterday said almost a quarter of the two colossal statues had been destroyed in accordance with the edict.

"Work is underway but I don't know how much of them has been destroyed," he said. The move to erase Afghanistan's pre-Islamic history shouldn't be seen as an action against Buddhists, he said

THE STATESMAN

11 MAR 2001

## TALIBAN ORDER INCOMPREHENSIBLE, SAYS SECURITY COUNCIL



ANCIENT HERITAGE NO MORE: This combination of photographs shows (from left) a statue from a Buddhist monastery, circa 700 AD; an undated stone carving of the Dipankara Buddha; a stucco bust of Buddha from the 1st to 2nd century AD; and the world's largest Buddha, located in Bamiyan, northern Afghanistan. The Taliban have ruled out any compromise to save two giant statues of Buddha and remain determined to smash all statues in areas under their control, according to a Pakistan-based Afghan news agency. (Reuters)

## UN condemns statue smashing

**United Nations March 7:** The UN Security Council condemned the order by Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to destroy pre-Islamic relics as an "incomprehensible and wanton" act of violence against the country's cultural heritage.

Council members on Tuesday joined other UN bodies, governments, religious and cultural organisations in urging the Taliban to halt the destruction of an important part "of the world's cultural treasure."

Ukraine's acting UN ambassador

Valeri Kuchynski, who read the Council statement, said the latest information the Council had was that "the Taliban authorities started the preparation for the destruction but we have not received the actual confirmation that the destruction took place."

Efforts are being made to prevent the destruction of the non-Islamic shrines and artefacts, he said. Mr Philippe De Montebello, director of the metropolitan museum of art in New York, has been in contact with the Taliban through an inter-

mediary in Afghanistan trying to negotiate the possibility of moving the biggest and most important Buddha statues to other places at the museum's expense. Mr Kuchynski said.

But the Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, reiterated on Tuesday that the February 26 order by the leader of the Islamic religious militia, Mullah Mohammed Omar, to destroy all statues in the country as idolatrous will be carried out despite the international outcry. (AP)

## Defiance by Taliban to hurt Afghans

BY NADEEM YAQUB

**Peshawar (Pakistan), March 7:** Afghanistan's Puritanical Islamic Militia has shown again that it cares little for world opinion, but it is the people of the drought and war-ravaged nation who will pay the price for the latest act of defiance. The little international goodwill that the Taliban had earned by banning poppy cultivation, has now been forfeited by their decision to demolish the giant ancient Buddha statues in Bamiyan, 130 km west of Kabul.

The miseries of common Afghans are expected to worsen as the international community penalises the Taliban. According to an Afghan news agency report, Japan has already warned that aid to the country could be affected because of the Taliban's refusal to listen to the world's pleas not to destroy the Bamiyan statues.

Political observers here say that this time the Taliban may even have alienated their steadfast supporters in Pakistan. Maulana Samiul Haq, had advised the Taliban to seek the opinion of top Islamic scholars. (IPS)

## China makes mute response to Taliban's act of vandalism

BY ANIL K. JOSEPH

**Beijing, March 7:** Ending a week-long silence, China on Wednesday half-heartedly joined the growing international condemnation of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban's wanton destruction of priceless Buddhist statues in the name of Islam.

"We have taken note of the relevant reports," Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said while taking refuge under an earlier statement made by the state-run Buddhist Association of China.

"The Buddhist culture is an important part of world culture. The Buddha statues in Afghanistan are world renowned, especially the Buddhas in Bamiyan have been listed as a world cultural heritage site to be protected and they are common asset of the people all over the world," Mr Zhu said. "China's Buddhist association has made a statement concerning it and expressed its grave concern over such conduct that hurts the feelings of those people who believe in Buddhism." A foreign ministry statement said without condemning the acts of vandalism by the ruling Taliban. Taliban's supreme leader, Mullah Omar dismissed criticism of his destruction call. (PII)



SPEAKS OUT: Afghanistan's ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, speaks during an interview at his residence in Islamabad on Tuesday. (Reuters)

## Id provides respite from misery of life

BY KATHY GANNON

**Kabul, March 7:** Perched on her father's rickety bicycle, two-year-old Aziza peeked from beneath a lacy white veil, her dress falling in layers around her.

Nearby on the dust-clogged road, flanked by war-ravaged buildings, children dressed in bright red and green clothes pushed and shoved each other, ignoring the scolding of their mothers, their voices muffled beneath billowing burqas.

For many Afghans, the Muslim holiday of Id-ul-Zuha, or festival of sacrifices, was a time to forget the misery of their lives. For the children of Kabul, it was a day to dress in their finest, the almond-shaped eyes of young girls outlined in traditional black kohl, their hands decorated with bright red henna. Some dresses were new,

but most were old, mended and reworked at home by mothers seldom allowed out of the house because of the strict laws of the Taliban rulers. "We are happy today. Other days it's not very good. Sometimes it is very bad for me. I don't go to school. I don't cry, but I don't laugh always," said 7-year-old Benazir, tugging on a white lace scarf. The colourful barrettes holding her shiny brown hair in place were new, she said, showing them off with pride.

Even at 7, Benazir fears the Taliban soldiers, hiding behind an elder sister when bearded men in turbans — a trademark of the Taliban — drove past in a pickup truck.

The Taliban's strict policies toward women, as well as their alleged attacks on ethnic minorities, their harbouring of suspected terrorists and, most recently, the destruction of ancient

statues of Buddha, have brought condemnation from much of the world.

But, for the three days of the Id-ul-Zuha festival that began on Tuesday, the hardships of life in Kabul are forgotten. "Today we are happy and we don't want to think about tomorrow because every day brings us more misery," said Abdul Kadr, Aziza's father, who sells used clothing by the roadside.

Devastated by more than two decades of war, the capital lies in ruins, the victim of bitter feuding between Islamic factions who overthrew Afghanistan's communist rulers with a promise of lasting peace, but brought more war instead.

Today most of Afghanistan is ruled by the Taliban, who took power nearly five years ago to stop the factional fighting under ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani. (AP)

# Annan likely to talk tough with Pakistan

United Nations, March 1

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL Kofi Annan will begin his first-ever visit to the Indian sub-continent on March 10. He will hold wide-ranging talks with Indian leaders while pressing Pakistani military rulers to restore democracy in the country and stop abetting terrorism and militancy.

Restoration of democracy in Pakistan tops his agenda for the three-day visit to the country, an official said on condition of anonymity.

Annan is also expected to bring up the topic of terrorist training camps being run by Pakistan in

Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. He is likely to urge Islamabad to use its influence to close them. He is expected to convey to Islamabad the concern of the international community, including US and Russia, over Taliban allowing its territory to be used as training ground for terrorists.

The recent toughening of embargo against Taliban by the Security Council to force the regime to shut down terrorist training camps and expel Osama bin Laden, will also come up for discussions, diplomats say.

Annan will reach Islamabad on the first leg of his tour on March 10 and will have talks with

President Rafiq Tarar, Chief Executive Pervez Musharraf and Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar. He will also visit an Afghan refugee camp in Peshawar. The United Nations has established large-scale humanitarian operations in the area to help the refugees in view of the collapsing Pakistani economy.

During his three-day trip to India, after visits to Pakistan and Bangladesh, Annan will meet business leaders in Bangalore, India's silicon valley. He will later hold discussions with President KR Narayanan, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and External Affairs Minister Jaswant

Singh. He will also meet the leaders of opposition parties in New Delhi. His talks with Indian leaders are expected to cover issues ranging from peacekeeping operations and matters of international peace and security to finance for development and other economic issues.

Islamabad is likely to raise the issue of Kashmir and ask for Annan's intervention. Diplomats however say, he will reiterate his stand that he will intervene only if both India and Pakistan agree to it. He may urge the two countries to build on the unilateral ceasefire declared by India in Jammu and Kashmir.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 MAR 2001

## to modify sanctions <sup>113</sup>

UNITED NATIONS: Iraq has rejected American proposal for modifying the sanctions imposed on Baghdad to reduce the suffering of the people while maintaining pressure on Baghdad.

Stating that the proposal was meant to justify continuing the embargo, Iraqi foreign minister Mohammed Saeed Al-Sahaf said "we have met the requirements (of the security council resolution imposing the embargo) and sanctions are still there. We are hearing stupid statements... About clever sanctions as if all that had been going on since 1990 is stupid."

The suggestion for "smart sanctions" which would ease the suffering of the people but would tighten arms embargo was made by American secretary of state Colin Powell during his just-concluded West Asia visit.

But, Al-Sahaf, who ended the two-day talks with U.N. secretary-general Kofi Annan on Tuesday on breaking the impasse over a

decade-old sanctions, said that the second round of talks would be held within a few weeks.

Though the minister declined to give details, diplomats expect the next round to be held after the Arab summit in Jordan on March 27.

For Annan, the major difficulty is that members of the security council, especially the permanent five with veto, are divided with the US and Britain insisting on maintaining sanctions while Russia, China and France favour lifting, or at least easing, them.

Al-Sahaf said Iraq would not allow any inspectors back into the country. "If they want to come back, they have to visit all countries in the region, including Israel, implying that they should ensure no state in the area has weapons of mass destruction."

The UN officials admit that finding a way out of impasse is a long drawn process and the latest talks were only the beginning. (P)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 MAR 2003

29 MAR 2003

## **Annan, Iraq begin talks on lifting of UN sanctions**

United Nations, Feb. 27: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan said on Monday he did not expect miracles from his crucial talks with an Iraqi delegation on sanctions, but was encouraged by government's re-evaluating their policies.

AA-5 KJ  
Although expectations were low for the two-day sessions, Mr Annan said there was an "important and healthy shift" as a result of discussions in capitals of Security Council members on what to do next to end the deadlock, including a review by the US administration of its Iraq policy.

"For a long time the attitude has been 'This is our policy, this is the way we do things,'" Mr Annan said.

"But I think recently we have put on the table that critical question — 'What should we be doing?'" he said.

Disarmament issues were on the agenda for Monday morning and humanitarian concerns in the afternoon. Any unfinished business will be taken up on Tuesday during the first attempt in years to move beyond the status quo.

However, Iraq's foreign minister, Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, said Baghdad had fulfilled all Security Council's requirements and "that means an immediate lift of sanctions," imposed in August 1990. (Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

28 FEB 2001



# Move to lift curbs on Libya

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

10/20  
15/2/01

**UNITED NATIONS, FEB. 14.** In a development that signals some movement for lifting the sanctions against Libya, envoys of Britain and the United States met Tripoli's Ambassador to the United Nations here today, just before the Security Council was to start consultations on Libya at the request of Non-Aligned Nations.

Nothing formal came off the meeting of the three envoys and the Security Council is not expected to come up with a decision on the issue anytime soon. "The purpose of these meetings is to begin discussions on how we work through these issues", the U.S. Ambassador, Mr. James Cunningham, remarked.

It is no secret that developing nations are pushing for ending the sanctions against Libya now that the Lockerbie trial is over. And there is clear sentiment in the Security Council as well that the punitive measures would have to be done away with.

It is said that at least 10 out of the 15 Council members are in favour of ending the sanctions but powerful nations such as Britain and the U.S. are against the idea and they have veto powers to block any resolution. That being the case, no one in the Council wishes to force a vote on the issue. Both China and Russia have said that they are in favour of lifting the sanctions.

The Libyan diplomat here expressed the optimism that a way could be found, but offered

no details. Mr. Abuzed Omar Dorda, however, continues to insist that there is no link between one of those convicted in the Lockerbie trial and the Libyan Government. The U.N. sanctions against Libya were suspended when Tripoli handed over two men for trial in April 1999.

Even if the world body removes the punitive measures, the U.S. has a different set of unilateral sanctions imposed individually against Libya. Besides keeping a tight squeeze on commercial and financial transactions between Libya and the U.S., Washington could also put sanctions on any foreign company or state that invests more than \$ 40 millions a year in Libya's energy sector.

Both London and Washington are insisting that Libya must fulfill at least two major conditions before the sanctions could be lifted: accept responsibility for the action of its officials and pay appropriate compensation. What is being argued in some quarters is that neither of the demands is stipulated by the relevant U.N. resolutions.

Analysts have been saying that the Libyan leader, Col. Muammer Gadhafi, has been seeking guarantees from the U.S. that he will not be indicted in the Lockerbie bombing that killed 270 people in mid-air in 1988. The U.N. Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan, had apparently assured the Libyan leader in 1998 that if he handed over the two suspects, no one else would be sought.

THE HINDU

15 FEB 2001