

Bush, Putin wrap up Texas summit without agreement on ABM

By T.V. PARASURAM

WASHINGTON: Backing efforts to speed up creation of a post-Taliban dispensation in Afghanistan, U.S. President George W. Bush and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin wrapped up their three-day summit in Texas with deepening of U.S.-Russian relations but without any agreement on the crucial anti-ballistic missile (ABM) pact.

The two leaders "talked about the importance of getting the political arrangements (in Afghanistan) accelerated now, given the accelerating situation on the ground," U.S. national security advisor Condoleezza Rice told reporters after the conclusion of the summit on Saturday.

"Both instructed their foreign ministers to press that point very, very hard with the U.N., as well as with their colleagues in other places," she said, adding the Afghan issue turned out to be the "dominant issue" at the talks at Mr Bush's 1,600 acre ranch.

They also discussed the problems of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their joint concerns about Osama bin Laden's desire to acquire such weapons. And they pledged again

very close cooperation in intelligence gathering, in information sharing to "try and thwart" terrorist plans, Ms Rice said.

One major result of the summit was a drastic reduction in strategic arms which each would carry out apparently independently. "We're both pledging to reduce the amount of nuclear weapons, offensive weapons, we

have in order to make the world more secure. We're talking about ways to cooperate in anti-terrorism and anti-proliferation," Mr Bush said earlier.

The two leaders, however, said they still have different views on the ABM treaty.

Mr Bush said he believes the ABM treaty should be scrapped because it is no longer relevant to the changed relationship between the U.S. and Russia.

"We have a difference of opinion. But the great thing about our relationship is our relationship is strong enough to endure this," he said, adding he plans to visit Russia soon, although the date has not been yet set.

Mr Putin said there is "common ground" for further dialogue. The objective of both U.S. and Russia "is to achieve security for our states, for our nations, and for entire world."

"We differ in the ways and means we perceive that are suitable for reaching the same objective," Mr Putin said.

"And given the nature of the relationship between the U.S. and Russia, one can rest assured that whatever

found, it will not threaten or put to threat the interests of both our countries and of the world. And we shall continue our discussions," he said.

The U.S. and Russia are continuing at both the presidential level and at the expert level to share more and more information about how us missile defence plans are developing, Ms Rice said.

"Whatever may happen," she said, "whatever we do to address our concerns about missile defence, this is in the context now of a substantially changed relationship from where we were several

months ago."

"And that's just an extremely important point to keep in mind. This is a smaller element of the U.S.-Russia relationship than it was several months ago, and certainly than it was before Sept. 11," she said.

The two leaders wrapped up their visit together by talking to students, including Russian exchange students, at the Crawford, Texas, High School.

Mr Putin told the students it gave him "great pleasure to deal and to work with President Bush, who is a person, a man, who does what he says."

"On Saturday, we tasted steak and listened to music, and all of this with a single purpose and objective, to increase the level of confidence between the leaders and the people," said Mr Putin.

"What we're seeing," Ms rice said, "is that Russia and the U.S. have a lot of interests in common. Quite apart from the fact that these two men do like each other—they have a similar sense of humour, they get along extremely well in a common direction. And that's really the very most important thing about this." (PTI)



George W. Bush



Vladimir Putin

US & Russia clinch deal on Iraq humanitarian aid

United Nations, November 28

THE UNITED STATES and Russia have reached a compromise to renew the UN humanitarian programme in Iraq for another six months, a deal that could lead to an overhaul of sanctions against the oil-rich nation next year.

The compromise hinged on Russia's agreement to approve a new list of goods that would need UN review before shipment to Iraq, a key feature of an earlier US-British proposal to overhaul sanctions. The US in turn agreed to Russia's long-standing demand for "a comprehensive settlement" of the sanctions issue — including steps that would lead to lifting the 11-year-old military embargo.

A draft resolution incorporating the agreement was circulated to all 15 Security Council members on Tuesday night. The coun-

cil was to hold closed-door consultations on Wednesday, and was expected to approve a resolution before the programme expires on Friday midnight.

The draft calls for a six-month extension of the programme, which allows Iraq to sell unlimited quantities of oil on condition that the proceeds are spent primarily on food, medicine and other humanitarian goods.

It also says the council will adopt a list of dual-use and military-related goods that would need approval from the UN committee monitoring sanctions against Iraq. The council must act within the next six months so the list can be put to use from June 1.

The list was part of a US-British sanction overhaul plan that would tighten the military embargo on Saddam Hussein's regime and clamp down on oil

smuggling, while allowing more civilian goods into Iraq. The plan was shelved in early July, when Russia threatened a veto.

Russia, Iraq's closest ally on the Security Council and a major beneficiary of contracts to purchase Iraqi oil and to sell humanitarian supplies to Iraq, saw the list as a threat to its commercial interests.

In the compromise — reached after high-level contacts between Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and US Secretary of State Colin Powell — Moscow agreed to adopt a list. The other 14 council members have already agreed on a common list.

The US agreed to support Russia's call to clarify a contentious 1999 Security Council resolution that would ease sanctions in return for Baghdad's cooperation with weapons inspectors.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 NOV 2001

119-12

THE U.S.-RUSSIA CONSENSUS

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, Mr. George W. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, seem eager to downplay divisive issues that can only cloud their joint commitment to combat international terrorism. This explains their apparent move to place on the backburner a highly sensitive question regarding the future of the old Soviet-American Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. At the same time, their shared desire to rise above their differences over the ABM Treaty, a "Cold War relic" in the eyes of the Bush administration, need not be dismissed as mere expediency. The truth is that both Mr. Bush's White House and the post-Soviet Kremlin under Mr. Putin are aware that a revision of the treaty or indeed its abrogation will require a closer scrutiny. The new buzz over the fight against globalised terror is so important that the ABM Treaty, for long a confidence-building measure (CBM), cannot be hastily dismantled to the detriment of the newly evolving Russo-American friendship. The differences are now seen as a "smaller element" of these ties. It is a different matter, though, that the two leaders have not so far worked out how to face the terror issues such as those in Chechnya of direct concern to Moscow. Overall, Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin recognise the need to address nuclear terrorism, an issue that is still seen by many as an esoteric hypothesis. Arguably, missile defences, which are not permissible under the original fine print of the ABM Treaty, will be required to deal with nuclear terrorism. So, any updated alternative to the treaty must be well conceived, given its value as a CBM whose time in history may not have fully passed.

The latest extended summit between Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin was their fourth in the last few months, and their public postures reflect a

unique comfort level. On this occasion, they have carried interpersonal diplomacy to a new level by spending time together at Mr. Bush's ranch in Texas after the formal sessions got over in Washington. At the end, the new dynamics were also highlighted by the question-answer session that the two leaders held with American high school students in a relaxed ambience. The intended message is now loud and clear: the normality in the U.S.-Russian ties is real and the two leaders are keen on fostering it with care so that it can last beyond the presidencies of the two men. What does this mean in actual practice?

19/11
Mr. Bush is confident that his differences with Russia on the future of the ABM Treaty are manageable. Mr. Putin, too, sees the existence of sufficient common ground to resolve the dispute in due course without much ado. With the ABM irritant off the radar screen for the present, the two countries have identified new priorities — the ongoing anti-terror campaign and the oft-repeated pledge to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles across the world. These two issues impinge directly on the methods required to sustain global stability over a long period until a new international order can be put in place. At a different level, these priorities will also provide Russia with a chance to enter the inner circle of the leaders who initiated the current international campaign against terror. Of particular interest to the U.S. is the Russian intelligence on the terror networks connected with Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda. Although international scepticism is strong in relation to the capabilities of non-state players like Al-Qaeda to acquire and deliver viable nuclear weapons as instruments of terror, Russia now appears to share America's anxiety.

THE HINDU

15 NOV 2001

Bush, Putin fail to strike deal

CRAWFORD (TEXAS), NOV. 16. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, failed to strike a deal on Thursday on the issue that has divided them the most, U.S. plans for a National Missile Defence, even as they hailed a new era of warm U.S.-Russian cooperation.

"We have a difference of opinion," Mr. Bush said at the end of three days of casual summitry in Washington and on Mr. Bush's central Texas ranch. But they agreed on a range of other issues. Mr. Bush said that he and Mr. Putin had pledged to reduce nuclear weapons, discussed cooperation in the war on terrorism and in stopping the spread of weapons, and considered "ways our economies can grow together."

Speaking to students at Crawford High School, Mr. Bush cited "a new relationship ... that will make our lives better." Mr. Putin, speaking through a translator, called Mr. Bush, "A person who does what he says." Mr. Bush had hoped to win an agreement from Mr. Putin to abandon or modify the 1972 Anti-

US-Russia 110-15 17/11
Ballistic Missile Treaty, which prohibits national missile defences. Still, there had been little expectation that the meetings in Washington and on Mr. Bush's ranch would produce such a breakthrough. "We shall continue our discussions," Mr. Putin said.

Russia had opposed any effort to dismantle the 1972 treaty, which it views as a centerpiece for world strategic stability. Mr. Bush has characterised the pact as a relic of the Cold War and has said the United States will walk away from it, if necessary. The Pentagon hopes to begin construction on a command and testing centre for the system next spring in Alaska. Despite Mr. Putin's reservations, Mr. Bush "continues to believe he has got to move forward with the testing programme in a robust way," Ms Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Bush's National Security Adviser, said later. She said Mr. Putin continued to believe that the ABM treaty should be left in place. "We're soon going to run up against certain constraints of the treaty," she said.— AP

THE HINDU

17 NOV 2001

BUSH-PUTIN TALKS / RUSSIA TO CUT NUCLEAR WARHEADS

Differences persist over ABM Treaty

By Sridhar Krishnaswami *11/15/01*

WASHINGTON, NOV. 15. The President, Mr. George W. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, are wrapping up their three-day summit here and in Crawford, Texas, with persisting differences over the Missile Defence Plan of the Republican administration.

The leaders had their first session at the White House on Tuesday and later Mr. Putin flew down to Texas and spent time with the Bush family in their ranch at Crawford. "Usually, you only invite a good friend to your home and that is clearly the case here", Mr. Bush said in a toast.

"It is hugely symbolic to me and my country that it's the home of the President of the United States", said Mr. Putin. The picnic dinner of the leaders in Texas was limited to only 29 people, including the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

Senior administration officials are saying that good atmospherics will go a long way in both leaders coming to terms with critical strategic understandings one of which is the Missile Defence Plan. The Pentagon is pushing for the continuation of tests which the Russians believe will be in violation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

It is clear that Mr. Bush will go ahead with the Missile Defence Plan. The only difference is that he wants to do so with some sort of an understanding with the Russians.

Washington has made it known that it is for scrapping the 1972 arrangement early next year if no agreement is reached by that time. Speculation is that Mr. Bush, who hopes to visit Russia in the early months of 2002, may be inclined to wait until that time. The Republican administration is inclined to stay with the ABM Treaty for some more time to ensure Moscow has no objections to testing.

Apparently, one suggestion that did not get very far this time around was Mr. Putin's view that the U.S. seek approval from Moscow each time it planned tests.

Mr. Bush is said to have politely but firmly

rejected the idea. The President is willing to go no further than to "inform" the Russians of the tests.

One of the high points of Mr. Putin's visit and of the summit was the pledge by the two sides on Tuesday to cut nuclear arsenals to fewer than 2,200 warheads on each side over the next decade. Mr. Bush told Mr. Putin that the U.S. would unilaterally reduce nuclear arsenals to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads over the next 10 years.

Mr. Putin did not immediately respond with

numbers but later declared that Russia too would be making deep cuts. The Russian arsenal is believed to have around 6,000 warheads and Mr. Putin is interested in trimming this down to about 1,500.

At the same time, Moscow is keen that this is pegged down to a formal accord that will bind the U.S. and Mr. Bush's successor. Mr. Putin's emphasis on "treaty form" is something that Mr. Bush has an aversion to and he has long talked negatively about the endless hours spent by negotiators sitting around a table.



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and Mrs. Laura Bush greet the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and Mrs. Lyudmila Putin, they arrive at the Bush ranch in Crawford, Texas, on Wednesday. — AP

THE HINDU

16 NOV 2001

Putin outdoes Bush in defending U.S. actions in Afghanistan

By Dana Milbank

WASHINGTON: As Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived at the White House on Tuesday, he and President Bush were on the cusp of resolving a monumental question: whether Russia would allow the United States to proceed with a missile defence system without abrogating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

But when the two leaders faced the cameras during a joint news conference in the East Room, lofty ideas about the post-Cold War world order, which dominated Russian-American relations for much of the year, were suddenly less pressing than the day's developments in Kabul.

Unable to agree so far on a change in the ABM treaty that would allow U.S. missile defence tests, and distracted by the war, the presidents focused on other matters. Mr Bush spoke of his ranch in Texas. Mr Putin spoke of the white nights in St. Petersburg. The two men commented on the Northern Alliance, West Asia, NATO, drug trafficking and the Jackson-Vanik law that links human rights and trade.

They brushed quickly past the ABM accord. Reporters from both countries were willing accomplices: Four of the six questions were about Afghanistan.

The highlight of the press meeting was when a Russian questioner asked Mr Bush whether he had gone too far in asking media outlets not to run Osama bin Laden's full statements. It was, undoubtedly, the first occasion when a Russian journalist expressed concern to an American President about media freedoms in the U.S.

"I've been trying to tame our press corps ever since I got into politics, and I've failed miserably," Mr Bush said, laughing. "They get to express their opinions — sometimes in the form of news — any way they want to." The American side laughed heartily. The Russians didn't even grin.

Mr Putin, an old KGB hand, had no trouble with such restrictions.

"Today, giving a rostrum to international terrorists would be equal to giving newspapers of the Second World War times an opportunity to print Doctor Goebbels' articles."

The pattern repeated itself throughout the session: the Russian President outdoing the American President in defending U.S. actions in the war. Asked about allegations of excesses by the Northern Alliance as it took Kabul, Mr Bush replied mildly about "the need for us to work with our Northern Alliance friends to treat people with respect."

Mr Putin, responding to the same question, fiercely demanded proof of wrongdoing by the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance and chided the press corps to "pay attention" to the Taliban instead. "We tend to forget now the destruction of the cultural heritage of humankind," he said. "We tend to forget now the atrocities by Taliban."

It became apparent early on Tuesday morning that missiles and the ABM Treaty were not the most pressing matters of the day. A military honour guard lined the White House driveway as Mr Putin's limousine — transported from Russia — entered the grounds. But at the White House, during the Tuesday morning briefing, there was barely a mention of Russia or its leader. The topics were petroleum reserves, aviation security and Afghanistan.

Mr Putin, who wants to maintain the ABM Treaty that Bush wants to replace, seemed more than pleased to discuss terrorism. Prodded by a Russian reporter about the dangers of American influence in Central Asia, Mr Putin retorted: "I am more concerned with the presence of the terrorist training camps in northern Afghanistan."

Though unable to reach an agreement on missile defence for now, both leaders professed themselves unbothered. "We're transforming our relationship," Mr Bush said, "from one of hostility and suspicion to one based on cooperation and trust." (LATWP Svc)



George Bush

Mr Putin fiercely demanded proof of wrongdoing by the U.S.-backed Northern Alliance and chided the press corps to "pay attention" to the Taliban instead. "We tend to forget now the destruction of the cultural heritage of humankind," he said. "We tend to forget now the atrocities by Taliban."



Vladimir Putin

US, Russia agree to slash nuclear arsenal

Steve Holland
Washington, November 14

IN A radical departure from Cold War-era arms policies, President George W Bush has said the United States would slash its nuclear warheads by two-thirds in the next decade and Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised to try to follow suit. Russia has demanded a formal treaty on this.

But the two presidents were yet to reach an agreement that would allow the US to pursue a missile defence system while salvaging the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which expressly forbids missile defences.

"We have different points of view about the ABM treaty," Bush told a joint news conference at White House. Putin said Russia's position that the ABM treaty must be maintained "remains unchanged". Both sides pledged to continue dialogue on the ABM issue. A senior US official said the leaders would discuss the issue on Wednesday and Thursday at Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, however, said that no deal should be expected soon. "You got the public statement that you're going to have to live with for a while," he said.

Saying the current levels of US nuclear forces "do not reflect today's strategic realities", Bush announced the US would unilaterally reduce its nuclear weapons stockpile to between 1,700 and 2,200 over the next 10 years. Warheads would be removed from the missiles but would not be fully dismantled. A US official said Washington was open to allowing Russia to verify the reductions.

Putin welcomed Bush's gesture and said Russia would respond in kind. He has proposed taking Russia's arsenal down to about 1,500 but didn't give any exact figures.

The US currently has about 7,000 deployed warheads to Russia's 6,000. "President Putin was hearing the (US) number for the first time," said Powell. The US believes Putin will soon come out with an exact figure. A senior US official said Bush was determined to reduce the US nuclear stockpile regardless of the Russian response.

Russia has, however, said it wanted a "specific treaty" on the mutual cut in nuclear arms. Russia's Foreign Affairs Minister Igor Ivanov said, "We have always said it was necessary to give a juridical base to any such decision."

"It's not about confidence, but

(a treaty) sets the groundwork to go further," Ivanov said last night. Bush had said the "unilateral decision" did not require a treaty.

Bush said that the US and Russia were transforming their relationship "from one of hostility and suspicion to cooperation and trust".

The mutual intention to cut nuclear forces without going through long formal arms control negotiations represented a sharp departure from the Cold War when, as Bush described it, negotiators would "sit at tables for hours and hours and hours".

Bush and Putin emerged with a common position on the war in Afghanistan. Both were cautiously optimistic about the Northern Alliance's ouster of the Taliban from the Afghan capital Kabul amid fears the rebels might launch reprisals against opponents in that city.

Bush, pointing his finger and thumping his hand on the table for emphasis, said: "Until the al-Qaida is brought to justice we're not leaving. As great nations, we're the most vulnerable targets."

Then he told Putin, "You're the kind of guy I'd like to have in a foxhole with."



REUTERS PHOTO

Russian President Vladimir Putin and US President George W Bush at a Press meet in the Oval Office.

AFP & Reuters

Rumsfeld, Ivanov discuss international terrorism

US Rumsfeld
57-12

11 ✓

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

MOSCOW, Nov. 3.- Russian defence minister Mr Sergei Ivanov and the US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, today met here to discuss international security in the wake of the US operations in Afghanistan.

The agenda of the talks reportedly included issues concerning international security in the context of the current anti-terrorist campaign in Afghanistan, according to Ria Novosti.

The ministers will also consider issues of strategic stability relating to the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile and START Treaties, it added.

Relations between Russia and America, including those in the sphere of security, and bilateral contacts on various levels "have considerably expanded", Mr Ivanov

said. "Russo-American co-operation in the sphere of combating terrorism and non-proliferation of mass-destruction weapons has recently been intensified," the Russian minister said. This could be "a solid basis" for the forthcoming negotiations between the Russian and American presidents, he added.

The talks are held as part of preparations for the first official visit of Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin to the USA from 12 to 15 November. Mr Rumsfeld is also expected to meet Mr Putin.

A brief visit to Moscow, due to last several hours, is the first leg of Mr Rumsfeld's tour of five countries, also including three of Afghanistan's neighbours - Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Pakistan - and India.

Russia has strongly sided with

the USA in efforts to form an international anti-terrorist coalition, launched after 11 September attacks in Washington and New York. Moscow has also backed US military campaign in Afghanistan aimed at wiping out the ruling Taliban regime, which harbours Saudi-born guerrilla leader Osama bin Laden, held responsible by Washington for the September attacks.

Moscow has also encouraged its Central Asian allies to support the US military efforts. Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and another Afghan neighbour Turkmenistan have promised airspace and bases for US search-and-rescue and humanitarian operations.

The news agency has reported that Rumsfeld could visit Khanabad air base in Uzbekistan.

THE STATESMAN

4 NOV 2001

Russia softens stand on ABM treaty

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, NOV. 3. Russia has appreciably softened its opposition to the U.S. proposal to dump the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, reflecting a new warmth in bilateral relations in the wake of the September 11 attacks on America.

"The ABM is an important but not the only component of strategic stability," Russia's Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, said after talks with his American counterpart, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld in Moscow on Saturday. Earlier Moscow had insisted the ABM Treaty was a "cornerstone" of strategic stability.

The Russian defence chief also agreed for the first time, even if with reservations, that the ABM pact was a "relic of the Cold War." "I would agree, to an extent, that the ABM treaty is a relic of the Cold War," Mr. Ivanov said. "But then all Russian-U.S. agreements are, to a certain extent, relics of the Cold War... In fact, NATO itself is a relic of the Cold War."

"Russia and the United States understand that we should look into the future together," Russia's Defence Minister said. "But before dropping any agreement we believe it is better to have something new in place."

Mr. Ivanov also hinted at a possibility of enlarging Russia's involvement in the U.S.-led war in Afghanistan by using its special services in the ground operation.



The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin (right), with the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, in Moscow on Saturday. — Reuters

"Today we discussed some specific levels of our co-operation," Mr. Ivanov told reporters after Mr. Rumsfeld's meeting with the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, "To a large part it concerns Russia's use of special services and here I cannot comment any further."

For his part, Mr. Putin praised co-operation between the Russian and American military and

special services. "After the meeting with the U.S. President in Shanghai (last month) we witnessed a further rapprochement between the power structures, including special services" of the two countries, the Russian President said.

AP reports:

Mr. Rumsfeld declined to give details of any progress made on Saturday during his talks with Mr.

Putin and Mr. Ivanov on the U.S. plans to deploy a national missile shield, saying he would leave it to the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and Mr. Putin, to announce any results at their November 13-15 summit in Washington and at Mr. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas.

"I suppose that at the moment that Presidents like to announce things, they announce things," Mr. Rumsfeld said. He reiterated Mr. Bush's desire to "move beyond" the 1972 ABM Treaty, and create "a new framework for the 21st century." "We had good discussions as to how we go about doing that," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

Nuclear arms cuts and the two countries' dispute over the future of the ABM Treaty will top this month's summit agenda. In talks so far, officials have made more progress on the weapons cut-backs Moscow desires than on the sensitive missile defense issue, U.S. officials have said.

A senior White House official told The Associated Press that an agreement providing arms cuts of about two-thirds of the arsenal was on the negotiating table, with each country limiting itself to no more than 1,750 to 2,250 strategic warheads. U.S. officials have indicated that any understanding reached at the summit would probably not take the form of a formal treaty, with strictly scheduled arms reductions.

U.S. asked to look beyond Osama

AD-11
By P.S. Suryanarayana 6/11

MOSCOW, NOV. 5. Discernible beyond the latest Indo-Russian efforts to piece together a document of principles against international terrorism is the determined resolve of both Russia and India to let America know of their shared views on the geostrategic spread of terrorism.

It is obvious from the comments of the Russian Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Ilya Klebanov, and the Indian officials that the two sides want the American world-view on terror to become more expansive without being confined to the nucleus of a suspected Osama-Taliban axis. The obvious aim of Russia and India is to see how far America will be willing

to co-opt them as friends during its current boost-phase of intended or stated operations against international terror. The Russian side has taken particular note of the current diplomatic sequencing involving summit-level talks among India, Russia and the U.S.

It has been noted as a salient reality that the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, will enter into a serious dialogue with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, shortly after the American leader's planned talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, in Washington. The name of this Russo-Indian game of enormous seriousness is to see how far they can influence the U.S. in its stated anti-terror agenda.

On what is seen as the sustainable warmth

in Russo-Indian relationship, the Indian side is quite pleased that the post-Soviet Kremlin leadership under Mr. Putin is able and willing to share New Delhi's immediate concerns regarding Kashmir. According to India's Ambassador to Russia, Mr. K. Raghunath, there is absolutely no dissonance between the two sides over Kashmir at this critical juncture. According to other informed officials, Moscow is not really pressing India to honour what has come to be regarded as a loaded wish-list of Pakistan about the "aspirations of the people of Kashmir".

New Delhi is convinced that Russia tends to see the violence in Kashmir as essentially that engineered by the terrorists. This is seen to contrast well with the views of Pakistan and some Kashmiri groups.

Putin, Bush talk- over phone

US Russia
5r 11 239 9
REUTERS

MOSCOW, Sept. 22. — Mr Vladimir Putin today spoke with Mr George W Bush over telephone as the USA geared up for retaliation.

The Kremlin said the two leaders had discussed the global situation in the light of the terrorist attacks.

The Russian defence minister, Mr Sergei Ivanov, told Russian television that the two leaders had spoken for about an hour, but did not go into details.

Mr Bush and Mr Putin have spoken several times since the suicide hijackers slammed planes into their targets, leaving 6,800 people dead or missing.

Mr Putin, who is in the Black Sea holiday resort of Sochi, spent much of the day discussing the situation with his top security ministers. The Russian leader has backed Washington's right to retaliate for the attacks but said any action must abide by international law.

Moscow has given no indication of what support it may offer the USA, but the chief of the military general staff, Mr Anatoly Kvashnin, ruled out participation in any strikes.

Mr Ivanov said Mr Kvashnin had met officials from the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance, whose new military leader General Muhammad Fahim and foreign minister Dr Abdullah Abdullah in Dushanbe, capital of Tajikistan.

Castro against war: Mr Fidel Castro today condemned the attack on New York and Washington as "a huge injustice and great crime," but said that while Cuba opposed terrorism, it rejected a possible USA-led war on the perpetrators.

Mr Castro, speaking to a nationally broadcast rally of 50,000 people just outside Havana, appeared to stake out a middle ground between cooperating with the USA and supporting its war plans.

He said the US operation, initially dubbed Infinite Justice, could lead to an "infinite massacre of innocent people."

THE STATESMAN

Russia rules out joint operation with U.S.

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, SEPT. 14. Russia has ruled out taking part in likely U.S. retaliatory strikes for the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington and has called for a joint international response to the threat of terrorism.

Russia's top military officials on Friday discounted any joint military operation with the U.S. against terrorist bases in Afghanistan or the use of bases in ex-Soviet Central Asian States for such attacks. The Armed Forces' Chief of Staff, Gen. Anatoly Kvashnin, said the Russian defence establishment were not discussing any joint reprisal action against suspected terrorists. "The United States has armed forces powerful enough to handle the task by themselves," the Interfax news agency quoted Gen. Kvashnin as saying.

The Russian Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, for his part discounted the use of bases in the ex-Soviet Central Asian States by NATO for military strikes against Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. "I don't see any basis for even hypothetical speculation on the possibility of launching any NATO military operations in the territory of Central Asian countries which are members of the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States)," Mr. Ivanov said in televised remarks in response to a report in the U.S. media that Russia had offered its bases in Tajikistan for strikes against Osama Bin Laden.

At the same time, Moscow has

offered Washington help in tracking down the suspected terrorists. The head of the Foreign Intelligence Service, Gen. Sergei Lebedev, said in an interview his service was working closely with agencies in the United States, Europe and West Asia to prevent new terror attacks. The FSB Federal Security Service, the ex-KGB counter-espionage agency, said it had launched its own investigation and promised to pass on any information "immediately" to its U.S. counterpart, the Itar-Tass news agency reported. FSB officials told the news agency they suspected the Islamist terrorist group, Jamaat al-Islami, was behind both the attacks on New York and Washington, and a series of 1999 bombings in Moscow and Volgograd.

The Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, made it clear Russia could approve of possible U.S. retaliatory attacks if they were co-ordinated with Moscow. "Russia's reaction (to likely U.S. strikes) will be supportive in as far as our close and effective interaction is concerned," Mr. Ivanov said in an interview on Friday. He urged Washington to undertake an international response to the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, saying unilateral action would not solve the long-term threat of international terrorism.

"International terrorism has challenged not just the Americans, but all civilised mankind. Therefore, we believe there must be a united response to this challenge," the Russian Foreign Minister said.

THE HINDU

1999

15 SEP 2001

Powell breaks nuke ice with Russia

Moscow, December 10

SECRETARY OF State Colin Powell swapped Soviet suspicion and nuclear angst for arms cuts and a shoulder-to-shoulder war against terrorism on Sunday on his first trip to Russia since taking charge of foreign policy.

The two countries hope to tie up a new strategic arms agreement in time for a visit to Moscow by President George W. Bush in the middle of next year, Colin Powell said on Monday.

Speaking at a joint news conference in the Kremlin with Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, Powell said the two sides were coming closer to "getting the strategic offensive numbers in line with one another".

Powell was speaking after talks in the Kremlin with Russian President Vladimir Putin which he said had included a good discussion of the strategic relationship between the two former superpowers.

In 1973, Powell got his first taste of Russia as a White House fellow, tailed by communist spies and dragged away if he



COLIN POWELL

tried to break free. Soviet ground was "hard with suspicion and mistrust," he wrote in his autobiography.

In 2001, police closed roads so he could speed into a snow-clad central Moscow, whisking him off to the Kremlin for a tour and

leisurely dinner with Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, or Igor, as Powell calls him affectionately after 15 meetings.

Powell had just laid flowers at a memorial to 13 people killed and 47 hurt by a bomb that ripped through a pedestrian passageway in the heart of downtown Moscow last year.

If US-Russian relations were in second gear before September 11 terror strikes, they have since blasted into overdrive.

The attacks brought home to Washington the threat Putin has blamed on Chechen militants, who he says have links with Osama bin Laden.

September 11 prompted Putin, whose KGB past made Washington suspicious, to race to call President Bush, an initiative that spelled the start of a more understanding brand of rhetoric out of Washington about Moscow's Chechen campaign.

"He was the first world leader to call Bush and that meant a lot to the American people," Powell told a television channel.

"Russia has suffered from terrorist acts and understands that

this is a campaign that the whole of Russia should be aligned to," he added of the US war in Afghanistan that Russia has supported vigorously.

"There are terrorists in Chechnya and we understand that, but they have to use restraint, to try to find a political solution and be very, very considerate of human rights."

September 11 also appears to have given an impetus to talks aimed at resolving differences over US plans to build a missile defence system that was banned in the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty signed the year before Powell's first visit.

Powell may hear a final figure from Putin when he meets him today on how much he is prepared to cut his nuclear arsenal as part of ongoing arms reductions that are running in tandem with efforts to agree a graceful exit from the ABM.

The two countries announced on Wednesday that they had slashed their stockpile to levels set by the START-1 treaty to 5,518, well below the ceiling of 6,000.

Reuters

Moscow ready to examine arms reduction issue

DADAN UPADHYAY
MOSCOW, AUG 13

1918
98 6
W. Putin
RUSSIAN President Vladimir Putin reiterated Moscow's readiness to examine the offensive arms reduction issue here on Monday.

"US President Bush and I have agreed that we would examine the offensive arms reduction issue. And I herewith confirm that agreement," Putin said at the start of the talks with visiting US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld in the Kremlin.

"Moscow believes that a high-level dialogue between Russia and the United States would lead to agreements concerning the offensive arms and the defensive systems," he noted, while referring to the implementation of recent agreements between the two presidents at their summit in Ljubljana and Genoa.

Earlier, after one-to-one talks with his US counterpart, Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said that Moscow insisted on the preservation of the 1972 ABM Treaty. "We still regard the ABM Treaty as one of the major elements of the international agreements that make up the foundation of strategic stability," Ivanov said. "It's impossible to talk about the ABM Treaty separately from other agreements, including the ones on strategic offensive arms."

INDIAN EXPRESS

14 AUG 2001

Rumsfeld in Moscow for talks

REUTERS

MOSCOW, Aug. 12. — US Defence secretary Mr Donald Rumsfeld arrived in Moscow today for talks with Russian officials on missile defence and expanded security cooperation.

He told reporters on board his aircraft that Russia and the USA should cut their vast nuclear arsenals, but warned that new security ties would not come easily for the former cold war foes.

Nuclear reductions, along with expanded economic and political cooperation, could become pillars of a new strategic relationship, he said. "But, it is not something that just happens. It takes some time," he added.

Monday's meetings are part of an intense dialogue on orders from Presidents Mr George W

Bush and Mr Vladimir Putin, to link talks on Moscow's opposition to planned US missile defences, with cuts in offensive nuclear arsenals. Currently, each has more than 6,000 strategic nuclear weapons.

Under the START-2 strategic arms reduction treaty, these arsenals are to go down to about 3,500 on each side. Moscow, strapped of resources to maintain such weapons, wants to reach the 1,500 level. The US Defence department was currently assessing America's nuclear posture and has made no decision yet on what level to recommend to Mr Bush, Mr Rumsfeld explained.

He is to visit a Second World War Russian monument today and hold talks with the Defence minister Mr Sergei Ivanov tomorrow, before returning to the USA.

THE STATESMAN

Russia could get US technology, says ¹¹⁸Rice

ASSOCIATED PRESS *Sf 5*

WASHINGTON, Aug 3. - Russia might share defence plans with the United States and buy American missile technology if a new strategic framework is worked out in talks that open in Washington next week, said Ms Condoleezza Rice, the US President's national security adviser.

Even membership in NATO is not ruled out, Ms Rice said in an Associated Press interview as she outlined the Bush administration's concept for converting a relationship rooted in Cold War hostility to one based on friendly cooperation.



Condoleezza Rice

"We are talking about a bigger issue than what we do about missile defences and strategic weapons," she said

The US-Russia talks are scheduled to be on next Tuesday and Wednesday with subsequent rounds in Moscow and New York.

"They will see we have laid out for Russia and most of the world a path of cooperation," Ms Rice said yesterday.

She however stressed that Russia has not accepted the cooperative concept, and it must adopt stringent curbs on transfer of technology to Iran and North Korea before the United States would permit Kremlin to buy American equipment.

THE STATESMAN

4 AUG 2000

How Putin learnt to love missile defence

George W. Bush has a new and unlikely cheerleader: Vladimir Putin. SONIA TRIKHA looks at what transpired in Genoa to give Putin a 'fresh' perspective on missile defence

FOR those who think George W. Bush and Vladimir Putin are an odd couple engaging in a march towards a common destiny that has been called worse things than merely odd — Missile Defence — it would be helpful to recount that oddness, like most else, is relative. For instance, why is missile defence research strange but a stem cell study not? After all, they are both fantastic. Except perhaps the current US administration seems definitely positive on one and indefinitely negative on the other. More importantly, stem cell will never be contentious enough to bring the two Cold War superpowers on the same side of a security paradigm, speaking in the same language.

India too can look happy because that being so, New Delhi can give up its painful role at the centre of the tug of war between Washington and Moscow.

That's what missile defence looks set to achieve. Fighting over a bone known as the ABM treaty, Bush and Putin have met twice in two months. And they will meet two more times before the year is out. In Slovenia with the 16th century Brdo castle for backdrop, for the first time, Bush and Putin spoke the same language: English. Putin knows German (through his training as a KGB staffer) and is now learning the language of his former foes. And for those who think they have nothing in common, Putin let the world know that he has two daughters like Bush, both named

after their two grandmothers.

Bush, in turn, was what can only be termed effusive: "I was able to get a sense of his (Putin's) soul... He's an honest, straightforward man who loves his country. He loves his family. I wouldn't have invited him to my ranch if I didn't trust him." Bush trusts Putin and we, in India, have no reason to believe that US Presidents trust those who do not follow their line of thinking.

and go ahead with missile defence by unilaterally abrogating the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty of 1972, if need be. Bush did this in the 'deep' knowledge that the Russians can't 'afford' to keep more than 1,500 nuclear stockpiles and would eventually fall in line with reductions. The US has more than 7,000 strategic warheads, while Russia maintains about 6,000. Bush's concession

George Bush, who till early last year related defensive systems and offensive weapon reductions, dissociated the two and brought them together again to make Putin look like a winner in Genoa. The Democrats, who had been screaming for the ABM as if it were the Greenpeace saving a dying whale, came out of Genoa looking more loyal than the king

Putin confirmed his assessment more recently when he said Bush's "mental reasoning is very deep, very profound". He may well be right — only someone with very deep and profound reasoning would take a position for the purpose of giving it up as a concession. The position taken was that he would unilaterally reduce the American nuclear arms stocks

would be to link the reduction of offensive nuclear missiles to his refusal to negotiate on the ABM Treaty. Raising a defence shield even while lowering strategic offensive weapons isn't a new idea, but Bush made it seem like one in Genoa. Bush, who till early last year related defensive systems and offensive weapon reductions, dissociated the two and brought



STRANGE LOVE: Genoa did the trick for Putin, and WTO. Reuters

them together again to make Putin look like a winner in Genoa. The Democrats, who had been screaming for the ABM as if it were the Greenpeace saving a dying whale, came out of Genoa looking more loyal than the king.

Had Russia balked at mutual withdrawal, the Bush administration would have been forced to announce it is unilaterally pulling out of the treaty. Such a move is allowed, on six months' notice. And six months is all the time Bush has. At the end of that period, several aspects of the missile defence testing programme would breach the accord.

According to reports, these in-

clude the construction of a site in Alaska for testing a ground-based anti-missile system; the testing of ship-based radars to track long-range missiles; and the combined testing of multiple radar systems to track missiles.

Thus, the agreement came just in time. At their meeting in Genoa, Bush and Putin agreed to work toward what was termed a new strategic framework, that would address both the planned US missile shield and cuts in the nuclear arsenals of both countries. "We have every possibility of having a joint approach to the threats of the new era," US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice told reporters after

her visit to Moscow later. "We have every possibility to have a cooperative way forward." For America that may mean missile defence but for Russia it means economic aid. Rice, during her trip, was accompanied by US Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill and Commerce Secretary Don Evans on the trip. The other carrot is American backing for Russia to join the World Trade Organisation. In the past, Bush has effusively promised Putin to do everything for providing support for aid to the beleaguered Russian economy.

But the problems of cooperation on missile defence are far from over, say analysts. A ongoing Pentagon review against deep cuts in the US nuclear arsenal will continue for several months. This means the Bush administration will have to move slowly on talks with Russia about reducing nuclear weapons but at the same time, Washington cannot slow down its discussions on missile defence if it is to keep the current promised pace. The latter will call for lifting treaty restrictions in time for fresh tests of the missile shield in the next year.

But from India's point of view, the danger may be past. Since MD discussions began with a visit from Richard Armitage in May, India has consistently said the ABM treaty cannot be disposed of without the consent of both parties. It's not here yet but that looks easily possible. As Rice put it, Russia has moved on to asking 'how' missile defence will work rather than 'why' it should be in place at all. Thus, in her words, the treaty could soon attain its rightful position of "an artifact".

Russia denies secret test of missile



Mr Vladimir Putin

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, July 31. — Russian military officials today denied reports of a recent secret test of a long-range missile that prompted American concerns that Russia is working on a programme to foil a proposed US anti-missile shield.

"We had no experimental missile launches two weeks ago. To conduct them secretly is impossible. The United States continuously controls such launches through space-based and other means," Mr Alexander Bovk, spokesman for Russia's Strategic Missile Forces, was quoted by the *Komsomolskaya Pravda*

daily as saying. A Russian defence ministry spokesman requesting anonymity said he had no information about any launches two weeks ago, but wouldn't say when Russia last test-launched a missile.

The *Washington Times* newspaper reported yesterday that a road-mobile SS-25 with a new jet-powered last stage was launched from central Russia two weeks ago and reached its target on the Russian Far East peninsula of Kamchatka.

US officials said a test had taken place about two weeks ago but gave no details. Officials in President Mr George W Bush's administration were

studying it to determine whether the missile's flight took an unusual path and whether it carried new technology designed to overcome US missile defence plans.

Earlier *The Times*, *London* had said the successful test two weeks ago of a modified SS25 missile with a jet-powered last stage suggests that Russia has made progress with Scramjet engines that could guide warheads through the shield that the Bush administration wants to build, the sources told the *Washington Times*.

Traditional ICBMs (inter-continental ballistic missiles), the backbone of both countries' nu-

clear arsenals, re-enter the earth's atmosphere under their own momentum after accelerating to 17,000 mph, much like a space rocket.

The modified Russian missile appears to have used a Scramjet, igniting after re-entry and burning air rather than rocket fuel, to propel a dummy warhead towards a test range on the Kamchatka peninsula in eastern Russia inside the atmosphere at an altitude of about 100,000 ft.

Scramjet stands for supersonic combustion ramjet. Such devices are said to be capable of speeds of up to Mach 5 and, if used in conjunction with cruise-missile-

style guidance technology, could make it very hard to track and destroy incoming warheads.

President Mr Vladimir Putin said after meeting President Mr George W Bush in June that Russia might counter a US missile defence system by mounting multiple warheads on its latest inter-continental missiles even though that would violate the Start II arms control agreement.

Russia's newest ICBM is the SS27 or Topol M, and experts agree that with or without multiple warheads it could probably pierce any defences that America is able to build over the next 25 years.



Mr George W Bush

1 AUG 2001

HD-19
2/5

Russia denies softening stance on ABM

MOSCOW, JULY 27. A day after Kremlin talks with U.S. National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday rejected reports that Russian officials had agreed to move toward withdrawal from the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Ms. Rice told reporters after meeting with Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and other top officials on Thursday that the two sides were now discussing "how you move forward, not if you move forward," toward construction of the U.S. missile defense shield.

But Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, said Moscow had no intention of budging from its vehement opposition to such a shield, which would violate the ABM treaty that Russia holds sacred as the foundation of strategic stability.

During talks with Ms. Rice, "we did not hear any new arguments or new elements that would make us depart from the 1972 ABM treaty," Mr. Yakovenko said in an interview with RTR state television.

Later on Friday, a top Security Council official said that North Korea and Iran — two countries Washington has identified as potential nuclear powers that necessitate the U.S. development of the missile shield — could be brought into ABM discussions between Washington and Moscow, the *Interfax* news agency reported. "We are for bringing the maximum number of countries possessing nuclear arms or technologies into the process of discussion of strategic stability

issues in the framework of the ABM treaty," the deputy security council secretary, Mr. Oleg Chernov, was quoted as saying.

He said that the ABM treaty did not concern just the U.S. and Russia, but also the five main nuclear powers in the world "and the world community as a whole," *Interfax* reported.

Russian officials say abandoning the ABM treaty would lead to a new arms race. But the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's administration contends the treaty has outlived its usefulness, preventing the U.S. from developing defences against potential nuclear threats.

At their meeting in Genoa, Italy, earlier this week, Mr. Putin and Mr. Bush unexpectedly announced that talks on missile defense would be linked with talks on cutting strategic nuclear weapons. Ms. Rice and Russian National Security Council chief, Mr. Vladimir Rushailo said that expert-level talks would begin in early August, and Ms. Rice said that the talks would proceed so quickly that Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin would have the first proposals before them when they meet in October.

However, Mr. Rushailo said on Thursday he expected a protracted negotiating process.

The Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Georgy Mamedov, said that in talks with Ms. Rice on Thursday, Mr. Putin had repeated his proposal to cut nuclear warheads on both sides to 1,500. However, Ms. Rice said no specific numbers had been discussed. — AP

THE HINDU

20 JUL 2001

Bush, Putin seal arms give-and-take deal

Genoa, July 22 (Reuters): US-Russia arms talks took an unexpected bound forward today, when Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush agreed to link missile defence systems to cuts in nuclear arsenals in a bid to strike a new strategic pact.

The pledge, made after a Group of Eight big power summit here in Italy, signals a shift in the US policy on negotiating mutual arms cuts. And it suggests Russia has not yet shut the door on Bush's dream of deploying an anti-missile shield.

"What was unexpected for me, and President Bush as well, was the understanding that was reached today between us that offensive arms and the issue of defensive arms will be discussed as a set," Putin told a packed press conference. "The two go hand-in-hand in order to set up a new strategic framework for peace," Bush said.

The two leaders, speaking after their second meeting in little over a month, said it was too early to say how deep the cuts in international ballistic missiles would go.

Bush said he and Putin wanted to "change the mindset of the world" and create a strategic security framework for the 21st century freed from the shackles of the Cold War. "Both of us want to seize the moment and lead," he said. "We're basically saying the Cold War is forever over, and the vestiges of the Cold War that locked us both into a hostile situation are over," said Bush.

The US undersecretary of state, Richard Armitage, said his top national security adviser Condoleezza Rice would shortly visit Moscow to thrash out with top Russian officials a timetable for talks between defence and foreign ministers on the issue. Russian officials last week accused Washington of foot-dragging over the issue.

Rice herself told reporters later that the two sides would pursue an "aggressive schedule" in the talks.

Since Bush assumed the US presidency in January, missile defence has been a constant thorn in

ties with Russia, and US officials had dismissed talk of the two leaders reaching any "grand bargain" on arms issues during today's meeting. Bush wants to deploy a \$60 billion system to shoot down missiles from so-called rogue states like North Korea, Iran or Iraq. Russia says missile defence would upset the strategic balance and trigger a new arms race that could stick in China.

National rocket shields would mean abandoning the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, which bans missile defence on the principle that each side would refrain from a nuclear attack if it could be destroyed in a counter-strike. Moscow sees the ABM treaty as the cornerstone of its strategic relations with Washington. It is the basis for more than 30 arms-control agreements.

But Bush said he and Putin had used the G8 summit to build on the personal rapport established at their first encounter in Slovenia in June. He said he was optimistic they could strike a broad deal on a new strategic arms relationship.

Putin previously proposed legally-binding, mutual cuts in offensive weapons stockpiles of around 1,500 missiles each. Bush had proposed unilateral cuts, but the US had said detailed arms talks were time-consuming and formal accords lacked the flexibility to meet emerging threats.

The US has about 7,000 deployed strategic nuclear warheads, while Russia has roughly 6,000. Both sides have thousands of additional stored and tactical warheads.

Under the 1993 Start II treaty, which has not yet been fully ratified by the US Congress, the US and Russia promised to slash strategic arsenals to 3,500 warheads each.

Putin said if the two sides managed to strike a deal that avoided a unilateral US abrogation of the ABM, Russia would never have to come good on threats to put multiple warheads on its ballistic missiles.



Bush and Putin at the meeting between Russian and American delegations in Genoa, Italy. (Reuters)

Climate pact in rough weather

Bonn, July 22 (Reuters): Last-ditch efforts were under way today to salvage the Kyoto UN climate accord at talks in Germany after leaders of the Group of Eight ended with disagreement on how to curb global warming.

In Genoa, the G8 agreed greenhouse gases from industry ought to be reduced. But US President George W. Bush again insisted the world's biggest polluter will not sign the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which sets mandatory targets for emissions cuts.

"While there is currently disagreement on the Kyoto Protocol and its ratification, we are committed to working intensively together to meet our common objective," was the toughest wording the leaders could agree on in the battle against climate change.

They agreed to a meeting on it in Russia, but only in 2003. European ministers in Bonn were making desperate efforts to rally Japan, Russia, Canada and others behind a compromise deal to finalise technical details of the Kyoto pact that would let them bring it into force outside the US by next year.

"It remains difficult. I don't know if we will succeed," he talks chairman, Dutch minister of Foreign Affairs, Pronk, said after many hours.

From Genoa, Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien put a damper on hopes of a deal in the former West German capital. "Bonn will not probably have our agreement," Chretien told a news conference.

"We need some more clarifications and credits."

With time running out fast, visions loomed of the acrimonious eleventh-hour collapse of their previous meeting at The Hague in November.

Rattled Rich offer poor olive branch

pecially in Africa, was to maintain a dynamic and growing global economy.

The three-day summit left the ancient port of Genoa littered with burnt-out cars, smashed windows and vandalised property.

Meeting in a Renaissance palace, the leaders were sealed off from the activists in a top-security "Red Zone", protected by 20-foot riot police and troops.

At least 300 people were injured and more than 100 arrested in the violence, condemned by Pope John Paul as the wrong path to justice.

In their communique, the G8 leaders thanked the citizens of Genoa but said they deplored "the violence, loss of life and mindless vandalism that they had to endure".

"We are determined to make globalisation work for all our citizens and especially the world's poor," they said in a final statement from their summit in the Italian port of Genoa.

"Drawing the poorest countries into the global economy is the surest way to address their fundamental aspirations."

While agreeing that the world economy looked well placed to recover from a sharp slowdown, they failed to secure an accord over one key issue — the environment — that could have helped to secure a landmark international deal on global warming.

Wrapping up a summit that was scarred by days of street battles, the leaders — from Britain, France, Italy, Germany, Japan, Russia, Canada and the US — said the best way to attack poverty, es-

pecially in Africa, was to maintain a dynamic and growing global economy. The three-day summit left the ancient port of Genoa littered with burnt-out cars, smashed windows and vandalised property. Meeting in a Renaissance palace, the leaders were sealed off from the activists in a top-security "Red Zone", protected by 20-foot riot police and troops. At least 300 people were injured and more than 100 arrested in the violence, condemned by Pope John Paul as the wrong path to justice. In their communique, the G8 leaders thanked the citizens of Genoa but said they deplored "the violence, loss of life and mindless vandalism that they had to endure".

FROM STEVE PAGANI AND TIM HEPHER

Genoa, July 22 (Reuters): World leaders, shocked by the scale of anti-capitalist violence at a Group of Eight summit, pledged today to draw poor nations into the world economy and make globalisation work.

"The situation in many developing countries — especially in Africa — calls for decisive global action. The most effective poverty reduction strategy is to maintain a strong, dynamic, open and growing global economy," G8 leaders said.

After three days of vicious street clashes between demonstrators and police in which one activist was shot dead, the G8 promised "free and open debate" with their citizens.

Last groups of protesters piled on to trains and buses to leave the Mediterranean port today afternoon as Genovese families began venturing out to survey the damage to the city, estimated at up to 15 billion lire (\$7.0 million).

But it was the fatal shooting of 23-year-old Italian protester Carlo Giuliani on Friday — believed to be the first victim in two years of anti-globalisation riots at various summits — that cast grief and gloom over the gathering.

Italian prosecutors opened an investigation into the 21-year-old paramilitary policeman involved in the shooting of Giuliani, who attacked a Carabinieri jeep in the unrest.

"We were of course traumatised by the events that occurred around us," French President Jacques Chirac said.

USA wants missile pact with Russia

15/7 REUTERS (1)
WASHINGTON, July 14. - The United States will pursue an agreement with Russia that will allow it to proceed with a missile defence plan without departing from the ABM treaty, secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell said in *Washington Post* today.

"We need an understanding, an agreement, a treaty, something with the Russians that allows us to move forward with our missile defence programs," Mr Powell told the newspaper. "Sometime in the not-too-distant future we're going to need relief," he added, referring to the administration's desire to test and build missile defences without violating the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

"I would like to see, and I think the President would like to see, an arrangement with the Russians, with President Putin, that deals with strategic offensive systems, strategic defensive systems, limited defensive systems, non-proliferation activities, and frankly, transparency activities and sharing activities," Mr Powell told the *Post*.

Testing and building a missile defence system would violate the ABM treaty, which Moscow views as the cornerstone of strategic arms control. But Russian leaders have said recently they would consider amending the pact.

"Wouldn't it be better if we did it together and documented it some way that is not

W. R. ... 5-12
necessarily a treaty?" Mr Powell told the *Post*, adding "My view is, let's not foreclose any means of getting to this end."

The Bush administration this week outlined plans to begin building a new missile defence test site in Alaska next month.

Mr Powell was due to meet Russian foreign minister Mr Igor Ivanov in Rome next week for talks due to focus on missile defence.

President Mr George W Bush and Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin were scheduled to meet at the G-8 summit in Genoa between 20-22 July.

European diplomats said they were not told of the Alaskan test site plans and it seemed this could complicate USA's consultations with the allies at both meetings in Italy.

Some European allies have expressed concern that the Bush administration's missile defence plans could fuel a new arms race.

On another subject in the *Post* interview, Mr Powell said awarding the 2008 Olympics to Beijing "provides an opportunity for China ... to move in the direction that will create a positive environment where people will go and see more openness in China, more willingness to tolerate dissent." Commenting on the continuing violence in the Middle East, the *Post* said Mr Powell repeated the USA call for a period of calm to be followed by a return to peace negotiations. He also took Israel to task for demolishing Palestinian homes.

NMD / KISSINGER HOLDS TALKS WITH PUTIN

Russia sends out mixed signals

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, JULY 13. Moscow has sent a new signal to Washington about its willingness to strike a deal on anti-missile defences, while at the same time angrily reacting to the U.S. plan to speed up the deployment of a National Missile Defence system (NMD).

The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin,

received Dr. Henry Kissinger in the Kremlin on Friday in a new attempt to keep the U.S. from walking out of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Emerging from the hour-long meeting, Dr. Kissinger, who had been directly involved in signing the ABM Treaty as the then Secretary of State, said he was upbeat on chances of a Russian-American accord on missile defence.



The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin (right), looks at the former U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Henry Kissinger, during their meeting at the Kremlin, Moscow, on Friday. — AP

14/7 HD-14 us-hanna
"We discussed the issue (of missile defences) and I'm optimistic an agreement can be reached," Dr. Kissinger said. He told reporters he was impressed by an atmosphere of cooperation in the Kremlin, which contrasted sharply with the spirit of confrontation that he had observed on his previous visit to Moscow.

"On key issues, our views broadly coincide with President Putin," the RIA Novosti quoted Dr. Kissinger as saying.

Meanwhile, senior Kremlin officials flayed the U.S. for its decision to go ahead with the construction of missile-interceptor sites in Alaska.

Marshal Igor Sergeev, former Defence Minister and Mr. Putin's aide on strategic stability, said Washington was heading towards nuclear "hegemony".

"Unfortunately, all our predictions are coming true," Marshal Sergeev was quoted as saying by Interfax news agency. "The U.S. is using consultations with allies and with Moscow as a 'smokescreen' to cover a decision that had already been taken. In effect, globalisation is turning into Americanisation".

The Security Council Secretary, Mr. Vladimir Rushailo, warned that America's withdrawal from the ABM Treaty would spark a new arms race.

"Russia, as well as many other countries, believes that a unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the ABM Treaty would lead to the destruction of strategic stability, a new powerful spiral of the arms race, particularly in space, and the development of means for overcoming the national missile defence system," Mr. Rushailo told reporters on a trip to Belarus, according to Interfax.

Mr. Putin recently warned the U.S. that Russia was prepared to retaliate by deploying multiple warheads on its latest generation of intercontinental ballistic missiles if Washington dumped the ABM Treaty.

THE HINDU

THE HINDU

Missile defence: Russia warns U.S.

MOSCOW, JULY 12. A senior Russian official today warned the United States that its unilateral withdrawal from the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty would spark a new arms race. *XD-16*

The statement by Mr. Vladimir Rushailo, head of the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin's Security Council, came after the U.S. State Department notified American diplomats that U.S. tests for the planned missile defence system would soon come into conflict with the 1972 treaty with Moscow.

"Russia, as well as many other countries, believes that a unilateral withdrawal of the United States from the ABM treaty would lead to the destruction of strategic stability, a new powerful spiral of the arms race, particularly in space, and the development of means for overcoming the national missile defence system," Mr. Rushailo told reporters on a trip to Belarus, according to the Interfax news agency. *13/7*

The Russian Foreign Ministry refrained from immediate comment, saying it reacts only to "official statements and concrete actions, but not leaks," but added that it would "closely watch the U.S. actions in that sphere," Interfax said. — AP

THE END

Moscow makes its point

49-16
MOSCOW HAS every reason to feel satisfied with the first meeting of the Russian and the American Presidents, Mr. Vladimir Putin and Mr. George W. Bush, in Ljubljana, Slovenia, last weekend. The meeting has reopened the Russian-American dialogue interrupted after the U.S. presidential elections last year and has proved right the Kremlin's line towards the Bush Administration.

Moscow had all along

proposed to Mr. Putin in Slovenia last week that they start with a clean slate, and spoke of Russia as a partner and a possible future ally. It is an about-turn for someone who has all but written off Russia as a world player. As far as Russia is concerned, recognition of its importance is the most significant outcome of the Putin-Bush meeting.

There were no other breakthroughs in Slovenia. The two leaders stuck to their guns on the ABM Treaty, missile

As far as Russia is concerned, recognition of its importance is the most significant outcome of the Putin-Bush meeting. There were no other breakthroughs, writes Vladimir Radyuhin.

carrot to the stick. In a new sign of flexibility he hinted that Russia could consider changes in the ABM Treaty. "The 1972 ABM Treaty enshrines a mechanism for its modification," he said in his Monday interview to the Western media. "And it has already been modified but we need to realise what specifically we are talking about today."

Washington in turn also indicated readiness for compromise. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, told a Senate committee hearing on Wednesday that America would build a "limited" missile shield that would defend his country against "a limited number of missiles". This leaves scope for retaining the ABM Treaty.

Under the 1972 treaty, Russia and the U.S. are each allowed to have one area missile defence. Experts said Russia could agree to let the U.S. build two limited theatre defence systems in exchange for a new pact to slash nuclear arms to the level of 1,500 warheads for each side. Last month, Mr. Bush announced plans to cut the American nuclear arsenal unilaterally, but Moscow is not happy with the proposal. Russia sees it as an indication of Washington's plans to walk out of international arms accords. Some American politicians are calling for quitting not only the ABM Treaty but also the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which the U.S. Congress has never ratified.

To reassert the multilateral mechanism of disarmament, Moscow wants to expand the format of Russian-American talks on a new security architecture to include other key players, such as Europe, China and India. In line with this policy, Mr. Putin called the Chinese leader, Mr. Jiang Zemin, to inform him of his talks with the U.S. President. Russia also briefed in detail India on the Ljubljana summit during bilateral consultations on strategic stability in Moscow last week.

The outline of a possible missile defence deal is yet to crystallise, but Moscow has already warned that it should not be struck behind the back of other nuclear countries.

"Our actions must not generate fears that someone will be left out, that someone will be deceived, must not create a situation that will prompt an arms race," Mr. Putin said, calling for "transparency" in the Russian-American dialogue.



Mr. George Bush and Mr. Vladimir Putin at Ljubljana... agreeing to disagree?

predicted that Russian-American relations would eventually get back on track despite the forget-Russia rhetoric in Washington. The Kremlin bided its time and held ground on the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and missile defences. It also proceeded to stake out new claims around the world getting ready for a moment when the U.S. would come back to the negotiating table. Russia forged new and strengthened old alliances and relationships, including with countries frowned upon by Americans, such as Iran, Cuba, Libya, but above all with China.

The strategy has borne fruit. In the face of mounting pressure from European allies to seek compromise with Moscow over the ABM Treaty and the ominous prospect of a Russia-China military axis, Washington changed tack. Mr. Bush

defences and NATO expansion, which will top their bilateral agenda for years to come. Even the agreement to open dialogue was very general: Washington is yet to give a reply to Moscow's proposal to set up two working groups that would discuss new security threats and ways to neutralise them.

Russia is bracing for hard bargaining with the U.S. Moscow wants to launch expert-level talks, where it hopes to prove that American fears of future missile attacks by "rogue states" are baseless and hopes of building a secure missile shield are illusory. Washington, in turn, will try to overcome Russian opposition to having the ABM Treaty amended so as to allow the U.S. to build a national missile defence. Americans have indicated they could offer Moscow some incentive: such as support for

WTO membership and debt writeoff. However, Russia wants to pin Washington to a pledge not to walk out of the ABM Treaty unilaterally.

Two days after the Ljubljana summit, Mr. Putin told Western reporters at the Kremlin that if the U.S. abandoned unilaterally the ABM Treaty, Russia would respond by mounting multiple warheads on its nuclear missiles. Russian officials have all along argued that the ABM Treaty is the kingpin to a host of other arms accords and its collapse would undo the entire arms control system, but it is the first time that the Russian President aired the threat of dramatically boosting the Russian strategic arsenal. Russia currently deploys single-warhead Topol-M missiles that can easily be tipped with three warheads each.

Mr. Putin was quick to add a

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 20, 2001

A FEEL-GOOD SUMMIT OF TOUGH TALK

A MUTUAL RAPPORT, which the leaders of the United States and Russia have established by their own reckoning at a summit in Slovenia, does not conceal their differences over Washington's futurist plans for a missile defence system. Nonetheless, the international community can heave a sigh of relief, at least for the present, that the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, have agreed to enter into a serious dialogue over their divergent perceptions of the new threats to the global strategic order in the 21st century. Mr. Bush says that the two sides will soon begin talks on a "new security framework" as envisioned by him, while Mr. Putin is keen on pushing for a bilateral engagement to identify an "overall platform" for joint endeavour. Shorn of the inevitably arcane phraseology of strategic issues, the most significant outcome of the meeting, which took place at a picturesque castle in Ljubljana last week, is that the U.S. and post-Soviet Russia will try to fathom whether they can indeed work together. The idea is to ensure their own security and that of their respective friends and allies. In post-summit utterances, the two leaders have vied to describe a bond of mutual trust that they struck in their first encounter. Mr. Putin has not only reaffirmed this mystique of mutual confidence in updated comments this week but also underlined his basic scepticism over the American notion of a missile defence regime. New observations by the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and others, too, indicate that Washington is beginning to convince itself of missile defence as the next wonder in mankind's technological destiny.

Comparisons of the latest Bush-Putin parleys with some of the earlier meetings between the leaders of America and the former Soviet Union are simply not in order. Yet, the spirit of the Ljubljana summit need not necessarily wither away. It is obviously a matter of some impressionistic diplomacy that Mr. Bush has

been able to look Mr. Putin in the eye and get "a sense of his soul". Yet, Mr. Putin also seems to have been responsive to his interlocutor's charm offensive. If their willingness to meet two or three times in the near future holds firm against the uncertainties of an evolving global political situation, the U.S. and Russia can surely address their concerns in a manner consistent with the globalised threats of the unfolding post-Cold War era. The easily identifiable challenges pertain to weapons of mass destruction as also political and religious terrorism besides contagious economic maladies with an interstate dimension.

10-12 W/b
Shortly before the Slovenia summit, Mr. Putin met the Chinese leader, Mr. Jiang Zemin, in Shanghai and fuelled speculation about the possibility of a new Sino-Russian strategic axis that could confound Washington on the missile issue in particular. But the undeniable effusiveness of Mr. Putin's subsequent gestures towards Mr. Bush is indicative of Russia's self-confidence on two counts. Washington is relatively isolated among the major powers, including those in Europe, on the missile defence question. Mr. Putin tends to see this reality as an advantage in the context of Russia's own "special responsibility", in conjunction with the U.S., to sustain the world's strategic balance. The relevant reasoning is rooted in the fact that the U.S. and Russia are the separate custodians of gigantic nuclear arsenals. And Mr. Putin seems to count on the logic of their collective responsibility under strategic arms limitation treaties and the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Mr. Bush, in contrast, wants to wean Mr. Putin away from China by arguing that Moscow can still become America's "strong partner and friend". Mr. Bush's gameplan can apply to Russia in a way that his predecessor, Mr. Bill Clinton, actually intended to deal with China. More such subtleties may increasingly mark the global strategic debate.

THE HINDU

20 JUNE 2001

Russia opposes unilateral alteration of ABM treaty

Putin, Bush differ on security threats

51-7
20/6

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MOSCOW, June 19. - Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin has said he and US President Mr George W Bush had not agreed on the kinds of security threats their countries faced and warned against any unilateral move to alter the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

The New York Times reported today that Mr Putin had said Moscow would upgrade its strategic nuclear arsenal with multiple warheads if the USA went ahead with its planned nuclear missile shield, sparking a nuclear arms race.

In his first major remarks yesterday since returning to Russia after his summit with Mr Bush in Slovenia, Mr Putin said he and Mr Bush had agreed to work together to identify security threats and also said, he was pleased by the positive outcome of the meeting on Saturday.

"Here we so far do not have a common position," Mr Putin said, referring to security threats. He repeated his early stand that the US should not abandon the ABM treaty, saying it would have serious consequences for other treaties governing nuclear weapons, including START-I and START-II.

Speaking to a group of US reporters in the Presidential library in Kremlin, Mr Putin said, Mr Bush was a "very attentive listener" who was inter-

ested in discussing the big picture of global problems.

Mr Putin also said, Mr Bush was "a nice person to talk to" and the two leaders had reached "a very high level" of trust.

"We are satisfied with the kind of partner we have in President Bush," Mr Putin told the reporters.

The New York Times reported Mr Putin telling the reporters, "We will reinforce our capability by mounting multiple warheads on our missiles and that will cost us a meagre sum."

A unilateral American deployment of missile defences could "result in a hectic, uncontrolled arms race on the borders of our country and neighbouring countries," Mr Putin was quoted as saying, by the daily.

Responding to the comments made by US national security advisor Ms Condoleezza Rice that US would proceed with missile defence with or without Russia, Mr Putin said, "We offer our cooperation. We offer to work jointly. If there is no need that such joint work is needed, well, suit yourself."

Dismissing any threat perception generated by the NMD, he said, "I am confident that at least for the coming 25 years American missile defences will not cause any substantial damage to the national security of Russia."

"We stand ready to respond to any unilateral American action,

even though Russia does not see an immediate threat from a missile shield, Russian President Mr Putin added.

He said, for the first time Russians had taken an interest in ensuring that China's concerns are addressed in the debate.

Asked if he had made a commitment to China, he said China was an important element and the US should bear in mind its strong economic potential and its growing ability to respond to national security threats.

Meanwhile, Chinese President Mr Jiang Zemin thanked Mr Putin for opposing US moves for a missile defence shield during his recent meeting with President Mr George W Bush, state media said today.

Mr Jiang was briefed on the phone by Mr Putin about his weekend summit with the US leader in Slovenia, according to the Xinhua news agency.

"Jiang said that he had taken notice that, in his meeting with Bush, Putin reiterated the principled position that the Treaty on the Limitation of Anti-ballistic Missile Systems is a foundation stone for international security. The Chinese side appreciates it, Jiang said," said Xinhua.

"Jiang said he believes the dialogue and cooperation between Russia and the United States can help maintain world peace, security, and stability," the agency added.

THE STATE DEPARTMENT

16 JUN 2001

NMD / RUSSIAN VIEW REJECTED

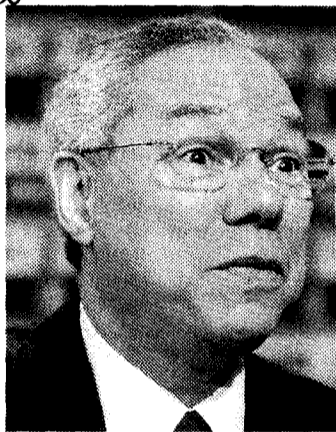
U.S. to go ahead with project

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 18. The United States will walk away from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty if it is determined that curbs on missile defence are blocking American technology, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has said. But he was quick to point out that the point had not been reached.

At the summit meeting in Slovenia, the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, made it clear that he opposed the abandoning of the 1972 arrangement by the United States, but Bush administration officials maintained that the treaty was reached in a different era. "We cannot allow its constraints" to bind U.S. technology, Gen. Powell remarked. The Secretary of State has also argued that abandoning the ABM Treaty did not mean that a country was going to start making nuclear weapons. "If there is no ABM Treaty tomorrow, there is no nation that is going to run out and start making nuclear weapons," Gen. Powell said, adding that the U.S. was going forward with the missile defence system.

Gen. Powell also said the U.S. would continue to track Russian companies and scientists who were helping Iran develop weapons system. "Russia should see it is more in their interest than ours" in coming to terms with weapons proliferation, he remarked. While last week, the President, Mr. George W Bush, tried to sell the idea of his missile defence to a sceptical Europe, this week his administration has to do the same with another major ally in Asia — Japan. The problem for



Colin Powell

this Republican administration is that much as it may want Japan to go back to its "lynchpin" status in the Far East, Tokyo is quite reluctant to assume a high-profile role for regional reasons.

Today, the Japanese Foreign Minister, Ms. Makiko Tanaka, is expected to hold high-level meetings here with Gen. Powell and the National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleeza Rice. Japan has not exactly rushed to embrace the Missile Defence plan and has in fact, expressed reservations on the issue.

The Japanese Defence Minister has been quoted as saying that Tokyo has made no plans to participate in the Missile Defence initiative as it will be in conflict with the country's Constitution. Japan has said that it will stick to the present joint study with the U.S. on the Theatre Missile Defence which is aimed at protecting American troops in north-east Asia and allies like Japan.

Bush, Putin break ice, no meltdown

ASSOCIATED PRESS

KRANJU (Slovenia), June 17. — US President Mr George W Bush and Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin parted with a cautious embrace after a straightforward inaugural meeting that broke the ice but underlined disputes that have tarnished recent relations.

Mr Putin, controlled and pragmatic, remained unwavering in his opposition to US missile defence plans and Nato expansion toward Russia's borders. Mr Bush, affable and upbeat, praised Mr Putin as "a man Americans can trust." Though Mr Putin delighted in an invitation to

Mr Bush's ranch in Texas this autumn and the men shared compliments, no documents were signed and there was little sign of breakthroughs.

For both sides the brief chance to meet face-to-face was a turning point, amid tensions over arms control, spy scandals and Rus-

59-5 1875
sia's cooperation with Iran. Now they can get down to crafting specific deals and policies, aides say.

"I was able to get a sense of his soul," Mr Bush said. "We talked straightforward. Nothing was rejected out of hand ... and there was a receptivity that I was most pleased to see." The presidents looked relieved as they left a joint news conference for a glass of champagne

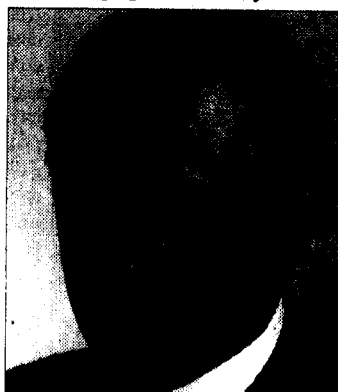
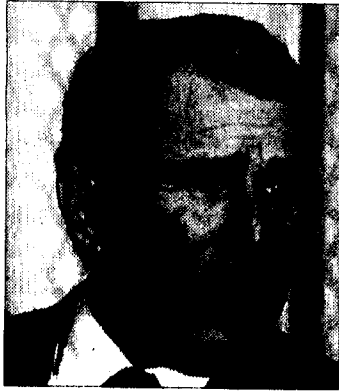
In reiterating the US argument in favour of missile defence, Mr Bush said it would be aimed at "rogue states" that also threaten Russia.

He insisted that relations would not hinge on missile defence, and stressed that he and Mr Putin also talked about other things, such as conflicts in the Balkans, West Asia, Afghanistan and breakaway Chechnya, where Russia

has come under international criticism for alleged abuses by its troops.

Mr Bush chafed at a question about what incentives he might have offered Mr Putin to gain Russian acquiescence. White House aides had said in advance that Mr Bush was

prepared to offer Mr Putin inducements such as arms purchases, military aid and joint anti-missile exercises with Russia. "We didn't have a bargaining session. We had a session between two men who came to office for the right purpose," Mr Bush said.



Mr George W Bush and Mr Vladimir Putin

on the terrace of the Brdo castle before departure.

The meeting closed Mr Bush's five-day, five-nation maiden tour of Europe, where he encountered scepticism from allies over his missile defence policy, global warming, trade and capital punishment.

THE STATESMAN

MISSILE DEFENCE / BUSH SPEECH SETS THE TONE FOR SUMMIT

U.S., Russia hope to narrow gap

HD-12

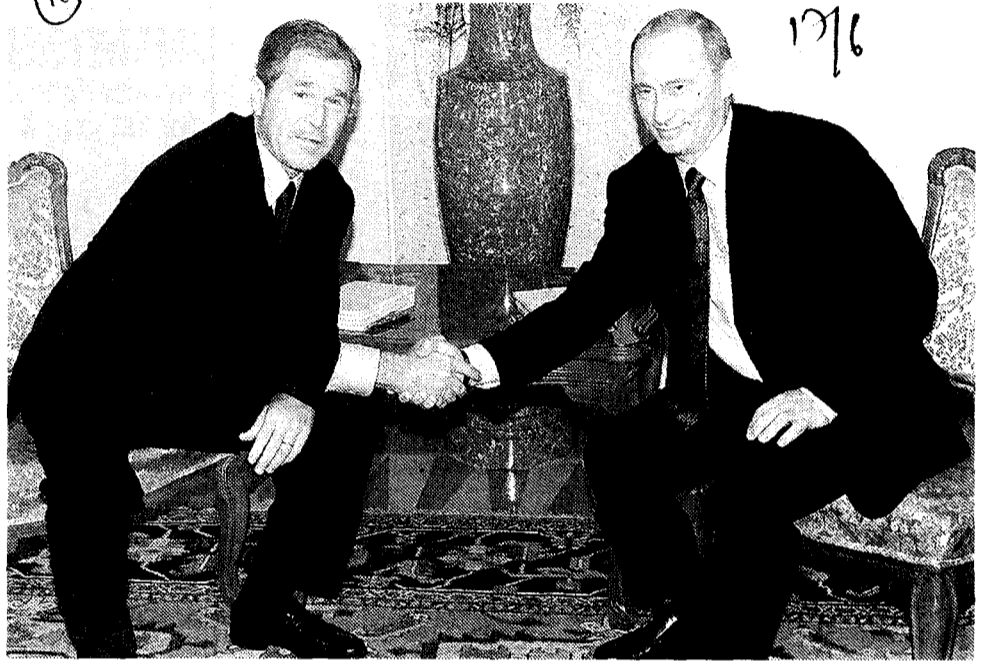
1976

BRDO PRI KRANJU (SLOVENIA), JUNE 16. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, shared a warm first greeting on Saturday, then sat down to discuss face to face the U.S. missile defence proposal that has created a chill between their countries.

The two leaders walked together onto a square slate terrace at Brdo Castle, a 16th century manor on an estate dotted with lakes and tended lawns in Brdo Pri Kranju, located about 30 km outside the Slovenian capital, Ljubljana. They shook hands, and Mr. Putin clasped Mr. Bush's hand with both of his. Mr. Putin said Mr. Bush made a "good first impression" a day earlier with a speech in Warsaw, Poland, in which Mr. Bush said Russia was not an enemy. "That's a very good foundation on which to proceed," Mr. Putin said. That speech, he added, "prompts optimism." "I've been looking forward to this for a long period of time," Mr. Bush said. "I think we'll find we have a lot in common." During a photo session, the two men talked intently, leaning in toward each other from their straight-backed wooden chairs, their foreheads nearly touching. Aides to Mr. Bush said they expected no breakthrough agreement during the summit, which was scheduled to last a little more than two hours. High on the agenda was the issue that most sharply divides Washington and Moscow — the President's plan to "set aside" the 29-year-old ban on national missile defences and erect a shield against missile attacks.

Mr. Bush arrived in this Alpine republic ahead of Mr. Putin. He and first Lady Laura Bush were greeted at the airport by the Slovenian President, Mr. Milan Kucan, the Prime Minister, Mr. Janez Drnovsek, and a military honour guard. Mr. Kucan greeted Mr. Putin similarly when he arrived half an hour later.

Shortly before Mr. Bush's arrival, 22 environmental activists were arrested. Some of the protesters jumped a fence surrounding the U.S. embassy compound in Ljubljana. Others chained themselves together outside the compound, holding a banner that read "Stop Star Wars." Those detained were from Austria, Slovakia, Britain, the Czech Republic and Spain, according to a police spokesman.



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush (left), and his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, shake hands before the start of their meeting in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Saturday. — AFP

Russia asserts that Mr. Bush's approach to defence would ignite a new arms race, although it has expressed a willingness to explore the question of what, if any, changes should be made to current arms-control regimes.

In an effort to normalise the relationship, Mr. Bush hopes to begin consultations among American Cabinet Secretaries and Russian Ministers on security and economic issues, U.S. officials said.

At the same time, he wants to disband a high-level panel, run by then-U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Al Gore and the then-Russian Prime Minister, Mr. Viktor Chernomyrdin, that oversaw major U.S.-Russian issues.

In Moscow on Friday, Mr. Putin spoke optimistically of the talks. The summit could "start the process of working out single approaches to the definition of a future architec-

ture of international security," he said. Capping a week of talks with European allies on a wide range of topics, from the environment to missile defence, Mr. Bush was presenting Mr. Putin his argument for a new approach to global security, one that would discard the long-accepted notion of ensuring peace by threatening the use of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Bush and aides emphasised throughout the week that he is determined to convince allies and Russia that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty is a relic of the Cold War. "It's the wrong foundation for a new relationship with Russia," Ms Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Bush's National Security Adviser, said. She said Mr. Bush would stress this in his talks with Mr. Putin, a former KGB official, and ask for Russian ideas on a "strategic framework" to replace the ABM treaty. — AP

THE HINDU

Bush wants Russia to be 'partner & ally'

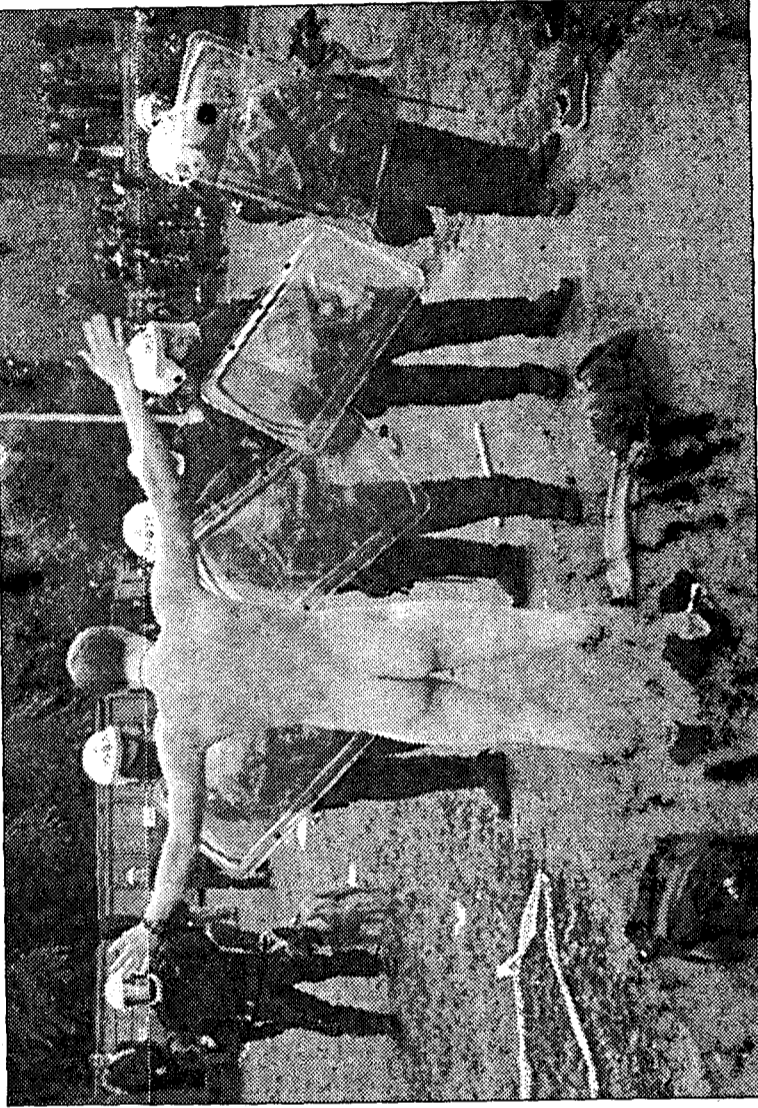
BY RON FOURNIER

Warsaw (Poland), June 15: On the eve of his first meeting with Mr Vladimir Putin, US President George W. Bush said on Friday he wants to make Russia a "partner and an ally" but also to press his Russian counterpart on weapons proliferation.

Mr Bush will also propose to Mr Putin, when the pair meets in Slovenia on Saturday, that they scale down the level of contacts between their two countries in order to lower the profile of arms-control negotiations.

"We want Russia to be a partner and an ally, a partner in peace, a partner in democracy, a country that embraces freedom, a country that enhances the security of Europe," Mr Bush said during a state visit to Poland.

Mr Bush said his first priority in the high-stakes inaugural meeting with Mr Putin is "to develop a trust between us." "He doesn't know me, and I don't know him very well.... First and foremost, it's got to start with the simple word 'friend,'" Mr Bush said at a joint news conference with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski.



WILD STYLE: A demonstrator stands naked in front of the police during clashes sparked by protests against the visit of US President George W. Bush to Gothenburg, Sweden, on Thursday. (AP)

US may offer aid to Russia for missile deal

REUTERS

WASHINGTON MAY 28

9h-10A

THE US is preparing to offer Moscow military aid, joint anti-missile exercises and arms purchases to earn Russia's cooperation in scrapping the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which is reported as "senior administration strategists."

The Bush administration officials said the proposals are likely to include an offer to buy Russian made S-300 surface to air missiles

that could be integrated into a defensive shield over Russia and Europe. The plan is to be presented at a meeting of President Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin at a meeting in Slovenia.

Other proposals includes offers to hold joint exercises in future years to identify and shoot down attacking warheads, to provide money for Russia's decaying radar system and to share early-warning data. "We want to convince the Russians that it is in their best interest to move beyond the ABM

treaty and to develop a new relationship with us," Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security adviser, said.

Most details of the administration's proposals have not been presented to Moscow though hints were floated in meetings earlier this month.

"We hope to have cooperative proposals on missile defense on nuclear reductions and on a broader relationship by the middle of the summer," one administration official said.

Russia denies any US offer on S-300 missile

MOSCOW: RUSSIA has not received an offer from the US to buy Moscow's S-300 anti-aircraft missiles for a missile defence shield, but would study such an offer if it came, Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov said on Monday. Ivanov was responding to the report in *The New York Times* that said US officials had planned to offer to buy S-300s as part of a package of incentives to win Moscow's agreement to modify the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty so as to allow Washington to build a missile shield. "So far we have received no official offer about the possibility of buying the S-300," Ivanov told a news conference. "If they approach us, we will consider it in the Commission on military-technical cooperation chaired by the President."

— Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS

27 MAY 2001

George W. Bush wants to limit aid to Russia

NEW YORK: Indicating a tough approach, U.S. president-elect George W. Bush has suggested limiting aid for Russia's conversion to a market economy and said he was prepared for objections from Moscow and Beijing to his plan to build a national missile defence.

Mr Bush also signalled that he is inclined to stop the flow of American money to international organisations that provide abortion services in the foreign countries. "Organisations that promote abortions are organisations that I don't want to support with American taxpayers' dollars," he said.

In an interview with *The New York Times* on Sunday, he was dismissive of the Clinton administration's eight-year-old use of direct financial aid to Russia, part of a broad western effort to coax the country towards a market economy.

Mr Bush suggested that he would try to stop the money to Moscow except for that used to dismantle nuclear weapons until Russian President Vladimir Putin cleaned up corruption and enacted far-reaching economic and legal reforms.

"It is hard for America to fashion Russia. It just seems that we don't want to be lending money and/or encourage the lending of money

into a system in which the intention of the capital is never fulfilled." *by - linn*

Stating that he plans to review some of the most ambitious initiatives that Mr Bill Clinton had taken in recent days, Mr Bush said that he would not allow American military forces to engage in what he called nation building converting countries to stable democracies because it is a distraction from the main mission. The European allies know about his position, Mr Bush said but did not give any deadline for withdrawing troops from Kosovo where they constitute less than 20 per cent of the peacekeeping force. (PTI)

Bush-Putin summit

WS-Putin
SF-12 on 16 June 90-15

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, May 19. - The Russian foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, with an agreement for a summit next month already clinched, rounds out a high-intensity visit to Washington today, meeting Republican leaders.

Mr Ivanov completed talks yesterday, crowned by an announcement that Mr George W Bush and Mr Vladimir Putin, would hold an initial summit on 16 June in Slovenia - at the close of Mr Bush's first European tour.

The final hours of his stay, aimed at putting relations with Russia back on track after an uncertain start under



Mr Putin

Mr Bush, feature a new encounter with journalists, this time at the Russian embassy. He then has lunch with the former secretary of state, Mr Henry Kissinger, before flying home.

Both sides had juggled complicated timetables to press for a quick meeting ahead of talks already planned on the sidelines of the G8 summit of industrialised countries in Genoa in July.

Mr Ivanov spent much of Friday seated opposite the secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, at three separate meetings.

Those talks, and parallel meetings by their deputies, were dominated by US plans for an anti-missile shield, viewed with suspicion in Moscow and scepticism in other European capitals.

Both sides pledged further consultations and Mr Ivanov pronounced himself "satisfied with the tone and content of talks held in an open and constructive atmosphere". But there were indications not all had gone smoothly.

Mr Powell said consultations

were "no substitute for action" and warned there might come a time when Washington would act on its own with or without the agreement of negotiating partners.

"At the time when we think there has been enough consultation and we've reached agreements with others, then we'll act on those agreements or act on what we believe are our best interests at that time," he told a news conference.

Neither side offered any comment on parallel talks which went on into last evening, led by the under secretary of state, Mr John Bolton, and the deputy foreign minister, Mr Georgy Mamedov.

Russia contests the premise that the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty must be altered or abrogated to proceed with the system, intended to counter possible missile strikes by "rogue states" like North Korea or Iraq. Mr Ivanov acknowledged that "today's world is not the same as it was 30 years ago". He said Russia was proposing creation of two groups - one to examine current and potential threats to stability and the second to look at existing arms accords.

"To support something or not, it's necessary to know what is at issue," he said. "It's precisely with this aim in mind that we're holding active consultations to assess the capabilities or what kind of ABM system we're talking about."

Mr Ivanov had earlier told reporters that "there can be no breakthrough on missile defences". Other disagreements lurked beneath the surface. Mr Ivanov made it plain that Moscow and Washington differed over a US-British plan to toughen sanctions against Iraq.

THE STATESMAN

20 MAY 2000

U.S.-Russia deal on missile defences?

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, MAY 17. Can America and Russia cut a deal on missile defences? The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, will try and sell one to his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, when the two leaders meet in Europe next month. And undoubtedly Mr. Putin will drive a hard bargain.

What would it take to get Russia on board the U.S. plans to build limited missile defences? The current impassioned international debate on Mr. Bush's proposals for a new strategic framework will remain largely academic, until we have an answer to this million dollar question.

The international community will closely monitor the preparations for the crucial summit meeting between the U.S. and Russian leaders. The Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, is on his way to Washington to set the terms for a new bilateral engagement which could shape international relations for the foreseeable future.

If the U.S. and Russia agree to modify the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, which limits missile defences, and unveil a common effort to deal with new security threats, many of the current arguments against NMD will become irrelevant. If Washington, however, fails to persuade Moscow and decides to go ahead unilaterally with its plans for a missile defence

system, the ensuring confrontation would make it much harder for the Bush administration to justify the programme either at home or abroad to its friends and allies.

Besides substantive talks with Gen. Colin Powell, U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Ivanov is also expected to call on Mr. Bush and meet Congressional leaders. On the eve of his departure to Washington, he avoided any critical remarks against the U.S. plans for missile defences. Reaffirming the desire for a constructive dialogue with the U.S. on missile defences, he said: "We have carefully studied statements by Mr. Bush and Gen. Powell, and it follows from these statements that the U.S. administration intends to work with Russia to build a foundation for future international stability and security in the 21st century."

The Bush administration has indeed come a long way in its approach to Russia. Mr. Bush had accused his predecessor, Mr. Bill Clinton, of molly-coddling Russia. His advisers steeped in Cold War mentality went out of the way to kick dust into the Russian eyes. But barely 100 days into his presidency, Mr. Bush chose to make a dramatic u-turn.

Recognising the political importance of Russian cooperation in building missile defences, Mr. Bush called Mr. Putin on the eve of his speech unveiling the new strategic framework. Heaping words of praise on Russia, Mr.

Bush emphasised the importance of the two nations working together on missile defences.

And the envoys that Mr. Bush sent around the world insisted Russia was no longer an enemy. They also suggested that nuclear arms control should no longer be the centre-piece of relations between the two countries.

The Russian response was not to drop the recent campaign against the U.S. plans for missile defences and express readiness for a substantive dialogue, but insist on the preservation of the bilateral ABM treaty.

As Mr. Ivanov put it, Russia was ready to assess with the U.S. the threats to international security in the new millennium; but he said, "we must be very careful in reviewing disarmament agreements that we worked out together over the past decades."

Plane crashes in Iran

TEHERAN, MAY 17. A plane carrying Iran's Transport Minister, Mr. Rahman Dadman, a Deputy Minister and six members of parliament crashed in northern Iran, killing all aboard, authorities said. The Yak-40 of the Faraz Qeshm company, which left Teheran with 19 passengers and 10 crew members, disappeared some 10 minutes before landing, after the pilot reported very bad weather, Irna said.

— AP

THE HINDU

18 MAY 2001

40-12 ✓

U.S. fails to convince Russia

MS

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, MAY 11. A senior U.S. envoy has failed to convince Moscow of the need to scrap the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and build a missile shield. Russian-American consultations on the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's plan to deploy a National Missile Defence left more questions than answers, a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. He was speaking after the 18-member U.S. delegation headed by the Deputy Secretary of Defence, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, met an inter-agency group of Russian arms control experts led by Mr. Yuri Kapralov, director of the Foreign Ministry's department of security affairs and disarmament. During his one-day visit, Mr. Wolfowitz also met the First Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Vyacheslav Trubnikov, and the General Staff Chief, General Anatoly Kvashnin.

"The United States has been unable so far to give us arguments to convince us that Washington has a clear idea how to solve the problems of international security without relying on the ramified disarmament structure which has taken shape over the past 30 years," Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, chief Foreign Ministry spokesman said in televised remarks.

At the same time, he stressed that the talks had been substantive and would continue when the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, pays his first visit to Washington next week. Moscow reacted positively to Mr. Bush's offer of talks on the problems of strategic stability earlier this month, but made it clear it was still opposed to burying the ABM treaty. In a letter to Parliament a few days ago, Mr. Ivanov said Russia would stick to the position formulated by the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin. Mr. Putin had called for drastic cuts in nuclear arms while keeping the ABM treaty intact.

THE HINDU

12 MAY 2001

Russia threatens to revise deal with U.S. on space station

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, MAY 4. Enraged by American demands of damage compensation for the flight of a space tourist to the International Space Station (ISS), Russia threatened to revise its agreement with the United States on the ISS.

"Russia is not the kind of country to be bossed about, specifically in space research," Mr. Yuri Semyonov, head of the Energiya Corporation which helped build the ISS, said in an interview to the Russian television.

He said the Russian side could rewrite its agreement with the U.S. on the exploitation of the multinational space station.

The NASA chief, Mr. Daniel Goldin, was quoted by the Itar-Tass news agency as telling a Congressional committee in Washington this week that the arrival of the U.S. businessman, Mr. Dennis Tito, to the ISS together with a Russian visiting crew on Monday had forced the three-person resident crew to stop their work to become "babysitters" for the space tourist.

"The current situation has put an incredible stress on the men and women of NASA," Mr. Goldin told Congressmen.

He said Russia would be asked to foot the bill for the lost research time, extra safety measures and other expenses forced on NASA.

However, Mr. Semyonov of Energiya Corporation dismissed

NASA's claims as "absolutely incompetent, to put it mildly".

He said Mr. Tito was staying in the Russian segment of the space station and would only have to pass through the U.S. section once on his way to the capsule which would take him back to earth on Sunday.

NASA had all along objected to the flight of Mr. Tito, who paid about \$20 million for a week-long stay aboard the ISS, but Russians said it was none of NASA's business who they fly in a Russian rocket to the Russian segment of the station.

Russian space officials said they would continue to fly rich tourists to the ISS to make up for budget underfunding of the project.

In a video press conference on Friday, his Russian crewmates denied the American was a nuisance.

The space tourist said the pace of work on the ISS had slowed down because of computer problems in the U.S. segment.

"The American sector is at least 100 metres from the place where we are now and where I spend most of my time, and there is absolutely no way that my presence can interfere with their work," Mr. Tito said.

A Russia media report described the row over the space tourist as "the worst crisis in the eight-year history of the Russian-American cooperation in building the ISS".

THE HINDU

5 MAY 2001

Russia hails U.S. offer of talks

By Vladimir Radyuhin

415
HD-16
MOSCOW, MAY 3. Russia welcomed the U.S. offer of talks on strategic stability and plans for unilateral cuts in American nuclear arsenals.

Like India, Russia in its reaction to the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's speech on May 1, chose to emphasise the positive aspects of the new U.S. vision of national security strategy.

In a surprisingly mild statement, the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, played down Mr. Bush's announcement that he was committed to building a National Missile Defence system, stressing Washington's intention "to very closely consult with and take into account the interests of other countries, including Russia".

"The U.S. President stressed in his speech that the United States and Russia should together work for laying the foundations of future international security in the 21st Century," the Russian Foreign Minister said.

"We welcome this statement and believe that it sets the stage for constructive dialogue on issues of strategic stability in the interests of our two countries and the international community at large."

Mr. Ivanov also pointed out that Mr. Bush's plan to reduce the U.S. nuclear arms was

"consonant" with Moscow's proposal for slashing the Russian and American arsenals to 1,500 nuclear warheads for each side.

Mr. Ivanov reiterated Russia's commitment to "preserving and strengthening the 1972 ABM Treaty in the interests of international security".

However, in a slightly perceptible shift of emphasis, he said it was the "overall architecture of disarmament", of which the ABM treaty was part, that constituted "the basis of international security". Earlier, Russia had insisted that the ABM treaty as such was the bedrock of strategic security.

In a sign of Washington's warming up to Russia, Mr. Bush telephoned the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, on Tuesday just hours before delivering his speech in Washington.

Following their conversation, Mr. Ivanov announced that the two leaders could meet ahead of the G-7 summit in July. Until now, Washington was sceptical about an early Russian-American summit.

The rather similar reactions in Delhi and Moscow to the Bush strategic doctrine are bound to facilitate the Russian Foreign Minister's talks in India on the tricky issue of the ABM treaty and the U.S. plans to build a National Missile Defence.

THE HINDU

- 4 MAY 2001

Russia ready to discuss US plan

Alice Lagnado & Michael Evans
The Times, London

MOSCOW, May 3. - Russia yesterday said it was prepared to talk to the US President, Mr George W Bush, about his plans for a missile defence system.

The positive response from the foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, was in strong contrast to other reactions in Moscow, that included a warning from a senior political figure that Mr Bush's plan could force Russia to scrap the Start II nuclear weapons reduction treaty and abort negotiations on more extensive missile cuts under Start III.

The head of the Russian parliament's international affairs committee, Mr Dmitri Rogozin, said American withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, which bans the deployment of any system protecting the whole of America or Russia from missile attack, would "destroy the entire structure of the current security system".

Mr Ivanov went out of his way to emphasise what he viewed as the positive aspects of Mr Bush's speech on Tuesday. "It is extremely important that the US administration doesn't intend to take unilateral steps but intends to consult its allies and friends, including Russia," he said. "Russia is ready for such consultations and we have something to say."

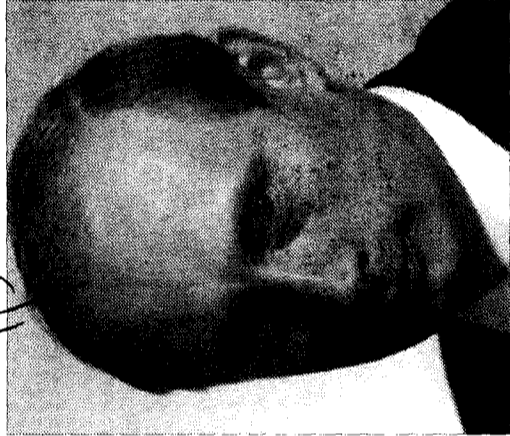
When the so-called "son of Star Wars"



Mr George W Bush

programme was being developed during the Clinton administration, Moscow remained adamantly opposed both to the concept and to the threatened scrapping of the ABM Treaty. Mr Clinton's announcement last year that he was postponing a decision on deploying the missile defence system was received with relief in Moscow.

Mr Bush said in his speech that the planned missile shield was not a threat to Moscow. One US defence source said Mr Bush was "turning 50 years of geo-



Mr Vladimir Putin

political strategy on its head, switching from a policy of mutual assured destruction to missile defence", and the Russians would benefit because of the proposal to make huge cuts in America's nuclear arsenal.

Mr Tony Blair continued to adopt a cautious approach, telling MPs that it was "important and right that we wait for a firm proposal before giving a firm decision". The Prime Minister's official spokesman gave a more positive response. He said the government broadly

considered Mr Bush's plans for a missile defence as a good idea.

The Americans will want to seek approval from Britain to update computer systems at the early warning station at RAF Fylingdales in North Yorkshire as part of the planned defence screen, though no official request has yet been made.

US diplomats said a team of senior Washington officials was expected to arrive in London next Tuesday to brief the Government on Mr Bush's plan. The President described their mission as "real consultations". He said: "We aren't presenting our allies with unilateral decisions already made."

The Australian government, which also expects a request from the US to use an early warning facility at Pine Gap in central Australia, was more forthcoming. A spokeswoman for the foreign minister, Mr Alexander Downer, said: "We couldn't conceive of a situation where Australia, as a strong ally of the USA, wouldn't agree to joint facilities being used to warn the US of a missile attack."

The next talks on Start agreements are tentatively planned for the end of next week when an American delegation arrives in Moscow. China gave no formal reaction to Mr Bush's speech, but its state-run news agency said the proposed missile shield could spark a new arms race.

THE STATESMAN

4 MAY 2001

USA FALLING OUT OF LOVE WITH RUSSIA

5/16 By NIKOLA PETRAKOV 18/9

SINCE the first steps of perestroika or, to be more exact, since the meeting between President George Bush Sr. and Mikhail Gorbachev on Malta in 1989 the Soviet Union (later — Russia) and the USA have been dancing a political love dance. That dance inspired many people with hope. But judging by the first months of the third millennium, this peculiar romance is about to end with a scandalous separation.

The 'spouses' keep irritating each other. The Russian President tours former Communist allies — Vietnam, North Korea and Cuba, and the US inflates an ordinary spy scandal out of proportion. Moscow intensifies economic contacts with Iran and Washington imposes a transit visa regime on Russians, among other things. The demonstrative delay by President George Bush of his meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin has become the culmination of it all. This is a serious signal. It is a signal that the US chooses the path of long-term confrontation. Judging by many things, Washington is going to change its policy towards Russia.

Against this adverse background, political scientists and analysts continue to euphorically think that the unfriendly steps of the new Washington administration are just the elements of the old stick-and-carrot policy, which was previously pursued with the help of IMF loans. Qualitative changes have occurred in the US attitude to Russia.

In order to remind Russia that it is weak, it is not at all necessary to withdraw from the thirty-year-old agreements, which stipulate a moratorium on the deployment of space-based anti-missile defence systems. And this is the highlight of the foreign policy programme of the new Republican administration. And its price is no less than \$ 60 billion. So, let us think on two questions: Why is the US ready for such an expense after its victory in the bloodless "third world war" and how is the Bush administration going to explain to Americans and the rest of the world such an extravagant scope of investment in the defences of its country in the absence of any threats from anyone?

STRATEGY

There is a very simple answer to the first question, though Americans and their allies try to hush it up. Russian leaders do the same for some reason — probably because this answer is only too obvious. A huge military-industrial complex remains after any war, including a war without bloodshed. What is to be done about it?

The Yeltsin team decided this problem with cynicism: the military order was reduced to a microscopic scale, the developers and builders of armaments and officers were doomed to poverty and soldiers to starvation. The Establishment turned a blind eye to the

stealing away and sell-out of army property, including weapons and ammunition.

Americans cannot and do not wish to solve the same problems this way. They have tried to solve them with truly market flexibility.

First, they practically ousted Russia from the arms markets and, second, enlarged Nato eastward, which means unification of all kinds of armaments of the new member countries on the basis of American standards. Small demonstration wars were also staged in Iraq and Kosovo. However, these steps could not solve the problems of America's unwieldy and hi-tech military-industrial complex. But the deployment of space-based anti-missile defence systems can ensure the preservation of jobs and wages for the huge army of scientists, designers, engineers and highly skilled workers. The US cannot survive — that is, to maintain the stability of the dollar and ensure high interest rates on treasury bills — without the military-industrial complex. Six per cent of the population feed the whole country. It is necessary to find occupations for the rest. Development of newest kinds of armaments is just a gift to the leaders of the country with the largest production in the world. It is possible to keep on upgrading armaments on end without fighting any war. This keeps people permanently employed, the shares of hi-tech businesses in good price and inflation at a nearly zero level.

'SCARECROW'

When American strategists saw the advantages of a militarised economy, they understood that they were too much in a hurry with the concept of an unipolar world. Hence vigorous searches for the explanation of the need in incredibly high defence expenditures in a situation of a new world order with the US as its leader. Saddam Hussein, Taliban and North Korea are too small for the role of the "scarecrow" which would be worth spending tens of billions of dollars out of the pockets of American taxpayers. This called for a country like Russia or China that could be ascribed the fundamental image of the enemy. Such games are possible but not desirable with China because, first, too much foreign investment has already been made in its economy and, second, because the Chinese diaspora in the US west is rather influential and well organised. Russia is a different story. The image of the enemy with regard to this country has been inculcated for decades, and in the period of reforms under American blueprints Russians have been made a strong injection of the complex of national inferiority. Such a horrible combination could work well after a couple of cases of humiliation in the foreign policy sphere. This would ensure a return to the Cold War. What is more, the initiative could be ascribed to Moscow.

The author is a member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

THE STRATEGIST

'USA reviews aid to contain Russian arsenal'

REUTERS

NEW YORK, March 29. - The White House is starting a comprehensive review of all US aid programmes to Russia designed to stop the spread of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons, the *New York Times* reported in its online edition today.

The report cited a senior official speaking yesterday.

The broad review - initiated by National Security Council officials - is likely to change how Washington spends more than \$ 760 million a year trying to dismantle former Soviet nuclear, biological and chemical complexes and prevent unconventional weapons and hazardous materials from being either sold to rogue states and terrorist groups or stolen by them, the paper said.

"This is not a challenge to Russia or an effort to dismantle non-proliferation programmes," the official was quoted as saying. "This is about enabling the progress we've made to continue and making non-proliferation programmes more effective."

He also reportedly said that several programmes, such as the department of energy's \$173 million programme to strengthen security and account for fissile material at nuclear weapons storage sites, appeared to be "effective."

Others, officials were reported as saying, may not be money well-spent, like the more than \$ 6 billion long-term effort to help Russia and USA dispose of 34 metric tonnes of weapons-grade plutonium each.

Programmes deemed ineffective could be reduced or scut-

tled, officials reportedly said.

The administration's adoption of what it calls a "realistic" or "unsentimental" approach to Russia has prompted Russian officials to accuse Washington of being out of step with the times, intent on reviving Cold War policies, and abandoning the previous administration's effort to treat Russia as a partner, the paper noted.

The review is examining dozens of programmes run mainly by the state department, Pentagon and department of energy that have poured millions of dollars into Russia and the former Soviet republics since the Cold War, the paper said.

The non-proliferation review will be conducted by senior officials at the National Security Council and is expected to last six to eight weeks, officials were reported as saying.

THE STATESMAN

30 MAR 2001

US tunnel under Soviet embassy exposed

Washington, March 4 (Reuters): The US built a secret tunnel under the Soviet Embassy in Washington, but investigators believe the operation was betrayed by the FBI agent arrested last month on charges of spying for Moscow, the *New York Times* reported yesterday, citing current and former intelligence and law enforcement officials.

The secret tunnel operation, which officials indicated was run jointly by the FBI and the National Security Agency, was part of a broad US effort to eavesdrop on Soviet — later Russian — facilities and personnel operating in

the US, the paper wrote in its internet edition yesterday.

Spokesmen at the FBI and the White House declined to comment to the *Times* on the tunnel operation.

Current and former US officials estimated that the tunnel construction and related intelligence-gathering activities cost several hundred million dollars, apparently making it the most expensive clandestine intelligence operation that the agent, Robert Hanssen, is accused of betraying, the *Times* said.

The tunnel was reportedly designed as part of a sophisticated

operation to eavesdrop on communications and conversations in the Soviet Embassy complex, which was built in the 1970s and 1980s.

In the 1980s, at about the time the tunnel operation was underway, the US and the Soviet Union argued bitterly over their respective embassies in Moscow and Washington, with the US accusing Moscow of spying at both locations, the paper said.

The US government has never publicly disclosed the existence of the tunnel, but in an FBI affidavit in the Hanssen case, the government said that Hanssen "compro-

mised an entire technical programme of enormous value, expense and importance to the US government," the *Times* report said. The *Times* said officials told them that that referred to the tunnel operation and related intelligence activities.

US News & World Report magazine reported in its March 12 issue, out on newsstands on Monday, that officials blamed Hanssen for compromising at least two highly sensitive FBI counterintelligence programmes.

Hanssen, arrested on February 18, has been accused of spying for Moscow since 1985. He has

been accused of giving Moscow secrets that included names of double agents, as well as US electronic surveillance methods.

The *Times* said it could not be determined when the government believed Hanssen betrayed the tunnel operation.

The tunnel operation against the Soviet complex, is just one of the many similar clandestine technical operations run by the US intelligence community, both during and since the Cold war. And, like the embassy operation, many of those other operations were eventually compromised by spies.

THE TELEGRAPH

5 MAR 2000

Russians paid \$ 1.4 m for spying, says FBI chief

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, February 21

IN WHAT could be one of the worst espionage cases to rock the US, Russians are alleged to have paid FBI agent Robert Philip Hanssen \$ 1.4 million in cash and diamonds for services rendered over the past 15 years.

The veteran agent, arrested on Sunday and arraigned on Tuesday, is said to have passed on some of the "most sensitive and highly classified information" to the Russians. Hanssen, according to prosecutors, could face a possible death sentence.

The belated arrest of the "counterspy" has clearly embarrassed the fancied intelligence outfit. FBI's "saddened and outraged" chief Louis Freeh said that Hanssen's conduct represented "the most traitorous actions imaginable".

President Bush, reacting to the espionage, said he was deeply disturbed by the "extremely serious" allegations. He said he had the "utmost confidence" in Freeh.

At a Press conference, Freeh displayed photographs of various drop-off locations used by Hanssen. One photograph reportedly showed a package containing \$50,000 in cash and waiting to be picked up at a park in Arlington.

The cash was intended to be a reward for the classified documents that Hanssen was reportedly attempting to deliver in a garbage bag at another park in the Fairfax County on Sunday. The episode, however,

led to his arrest.

A father of six children, Hanssen has pleaded not guilty to the charges framed in an Arlington court. The immediate charges related to the 1980s: making available classified documents to the KGB in March 1989 and betraying, in October 1985, three Russian KGB agents who were also working for US.

Detailing the modus operandi, the FBI chief said that Hanssen, using the code name 'Ramon', went about providing "highly classified information to the KGB and its successor agency, the SVR".

He used "encrypted communications, dead drops, and other clandestine techniques". In a single 1988 drop, Hanssen is said to have turned over 'top secret' CIA documents about nuclear programs.

Hanssen is said to have become a KGB agent in 1985 when he had been assigned to the FBI's field office in New York as supervisor of a foreign counter-intelligence squad.

In his first communication to the KGB that year, he volunteered information that compromised several sensitive techniques. He also independently disclosed the identity of two KGB officials who, first compromised by Aldrich Ames, had been recruited by the US Government to serve as "agents in place" at the Soviet Embassy in Washington.

When these two KGB officials returned to Moscow, they were tried and convicted on espionage charges and executed later.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 FEB 2001

129-12

CALLING A 'SPY' A SPY

27/3

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, Mr. George W. Bush, is confident that Russia will "understand" his firmness in ordering a mass expulsion of its alleged pseudo-diplomats for espionage. Mr. Bush's father had served as the Director of America's Central Intelligence Agency before becoming President. So, it is a plausible irony that the present Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, himself a former officer of the erstwhile Soviet intelligence network (KGB), is the recipient of Mr. Bush's message in the wake of the new 'spy' scandal. Mr. Bush has affirmed his political will to take "firm positions" on what he considers to be "right". Mr. Putin, on his part, has sternly retaliated by authorising similar marching orders in respect of an equal number of American diplomats resident in Russia. The expulsions, 50 on both sides, are being carried out in a phased manner except for the initial batch of four from either country. Now, the latest flare-up is no doubt a grim reminder of the faded montage of some chilling Cold War-era events that rocked the U.S.-Soviet relationship. Tit-for-tat diplomatic gamesmanship and matching political brinkmanship often marked the bygone Cold War confrontation between the two countries. However, there is more now to the evolving equation between the U.S. and post-Soviet Russia than just an apparent desire of the present Kremlin authorities to appear to be equal to the U.S. leadership.

It is no surprise in this emerging saga of undefinable competition between the U.S. and Russia that their leaders have cautioned each other against seeing the latest fracas over 'spies' as a retreat into the realm of Cold War-style psychosis. Mr. Bush does not expect the dramatic new 'spy'-war to preclude the possibility of a meeting between him and Mr. Putin "at some point in time". Lest the ambiguity about the tim-

ing of such a summit be read as a signal of hostility, Mr. Bush has indeed spoken about the purpose. He will not fight shy of a "good, honest, discussion" with Mr. Putin over "common interests". Nearly echoing a similar view, the Russian leader says he does not foresee adverse consequences for future parleys with the U.S. While the two cannot pretend that the U.S.-Russia ties are in a state of good repair despite the latest row, they are no less aware of the need to look positively beyond the present real-life drama of calling a perceived 'spy' a spy-incarnate.

The prospects of a first pragmatic dialogue between the U.S. and Russia depend on their abilities to carve out the "common interests". The recent and somewhat sustained U.S.-Russia engagement, which occurred during the Clinton presidency, was not conclusive in establishing a post-Cold War entente between the two sides. The reasons thereof pertain mostly to the uncertainties of the Yeltsin years in Russia as also the strategic inertia of the U.S. itself even as it tried to re-focus on a qualitatively new Moscow. For Mr. Bush, with no idealist view of the present Kremlin, the challenges are formidable. Russia is not amused at Mr. Bush's benign view of a possible U.S. missile defence system. Not the least of Moscow's concerns relate to the tentative American definitions of anti-U.S. activities by states and non-state players. However, Russia seems to think that the U.S. cannot avoid a dialogue on a range of issues, some with a direct bearing on missile defence. A short check-list consists of ideas about a long-term global political order, ways to reform the United Nations, steps to reorganise the world trading system and thoughts on how to transform outer space into a possible new frontier of friendship instead of a theatre of unpredictable rivalry.

THE HINDU

27 MAR 2001

U.S.-RUSSIA SPAT / FEARS OF RETURN OF COLD WAR

E.U. approves of Bush action

STOCKHOLM (SWEDEN), MARCH 24. Rid of the Iron Curtain for barely a decade, European pundits fearful of a new Cold War, reacted with alarm to the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's expulsion of dozens of Russian diplomats. But Washington's tougher line toward Moscow — not to mention toward China and North Korea — caused little nervousness on Friday among leaders at a European Union summit.

Some even said it might make dealing with the Kremlin easier. "I don't think that what's happened the past few days means we've returned to the pre-Berlin Wall days," the E.U. External Relations Commissioner, Mr. Chris Patten, said, brushing off any Cold War worries. In those days, with the spectre of Europe being turned into a nuclear battlefield, a ratcheting up of tension between the two superpowers would have caused hand-wringing in capitals across the continent.

On Friday, the Russian Presi-

dent, Mr. Vladimir Putin, was the special guest at lunch with the 15 E.U. leaders. The spy scandal, and U.S.-Russia relations in general, never came up, participants said afterward. Instead, the "fruitful and constructive talks" focused on economic areas like securing access for Europe to Russia's vast energy supplies, E.U. enlargement to take in Moscow's former Warsaw Pact allies — even a decision to celebrate jointly St. Petersburg's 300th anniversary.

"The E.U. wants to engage Russia, not to exclude it from the European integration process," the Swedish Prime Minister, Mr. Goran Persson, said at a friendly news conference with the Russian leader. The Bush administration, by contrast, seems to be adopting a "more stringent attitude" toward Russia, one E.U. Government official said on condition of anonymity. "They're not going to give Russia a special status, but treat it just as one of the big nations it deals with." Editorial writ-

ers of all stripes were gloomy about what that meant. "U.S.-Russian relations were already getting bad but may not deteriorate faster," Britain's *Financial Times* wrote. Paris' left-leaning *Liberation* saw a "great chill" in U.S.-Russian relations, saying Mr. Bush seems less likely than his predecessor "to shrink from Russian ire and European critics." "These bad relations worry the Europeans, for whom Russia is a strategic partner, be it in trade, energy, environmental matters or in the make-up of a new Europe," Spain's *El Pais* added.

The Bush Administration also faces heightened tensions with China over U.S. arms sales to Taiwan, and has suspended direct dealings with communist North Korea, prompting the North Koreans to threaten to pull out of missile and nuclear restraint agreements. But European officials note the Bush Administration is still settling into office. — AP

THE MINDO

1997

It's Moscow's 50 for Washington's 50

Washington, March 23

IN THE first apparent retaliation for the US expulsion of 50 Russian diplomats, the Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday announced that four US Embassy officials would be thrown out. Later in the morning, the US State Department announced Russia would be expelling 46 more diplomats by July 1.

The US deputy chief of mission, John Ordway, was called to the ministry and read an official protest of the US expulsions. He was warned that the deportation of four officials was just the first in a series of measures.

Ordway was read a "decisive protest in connection with the unlawful activities of a number

of official American representatives in Russia", the ministry said in a statement. He was also apprised about "other measures for stopping unlawful activities of official American representatives in Russia".

The ministry statement did not elaborate, but in Washington, the State Department said 46 more US diplomats would have to leave the country by summer. Russian officials at the highest levels had been working out what they called an appropriately "painful" response to the imminent expulsion of four Russian diplomats, and the demand that 46 others leave the US by July.

Russian officials called the US move politically driven and a throwback to the Cold War and

warned it could seriously injure wobbly relations between the former rivals.

"We will easily find" US diplomats to be expelled "in a more painful form to the United States than it was in our case," Sergei Ivanov, chief of Russia's influential Security Council, said on Polish state television during a visit to Warsaw late Thursday. "We have time to think, to carefully pick from among more than 1,000 US diplomats in Russia, to choose those who are most precious to the Americans," he said.

The roiling spy scandal was the latest sign of rising tensions between the two countries, which have clashed over Washington's plans to deploy a limited missile defense system,

Nato's eastward expansion and US allegations of Russian corruption. Russian-US relations have been rocked by a number of spy scandals.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said Thursday there were no grounds for the imminent expulsion of the Russian diplomats. "Russia will firmly and steadfastly defend its national interests and will adequately respond to this unfriendly step by the US," he said. ITAR-Tass early Friday quoted unnamed counterintelligence officers as saying the list of people to be expelled from Russia was already prepared.

Bush insisted Thursday the former rivals could still have "a good relationship."

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 MAR 2001

24 MAR 2001

Russia expels four U.S. diplomats

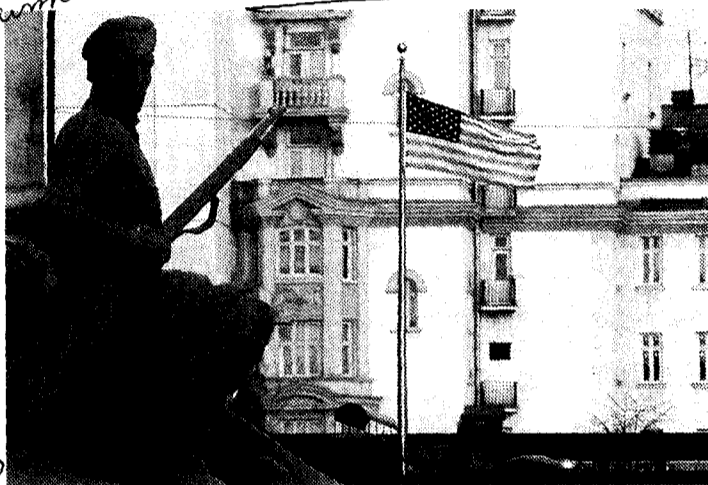
By Vladimir Radyuhin *W. K. ...*

MOSCOW, MARCH 23. Russia has expelled four American diplomats and vowed to take further steps in a tit-for-tat for the expulsion of 50 Russian diplomats from the United States.

10-16
The Russian Foreign Ministry said on Friday the U.S. diplomats were being ordered to leave the country for "activities incompatible with their status". The Ministry added that further steps would be taken "to stop the illegal activities of U.S. representatives in Russia." It gave no further details and did not disclose the names of expelled diplomats.

24/3
Washington said its decision to declare the 50 Russians *persona non grata* was linked to the recent arrest of an FBI agent, Mr. Robert Hanssen, who is accused of spying for Moscow.

Before Moscow announced retaliatory steps, the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said he regarded the matter closed. However, Russia's National Security Council head, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, said he found it "hard to believe" Washington's assurances that the incident would not affect Russian-U.S. relations. He made it clear



The U.S. flag flies alongside the U.S. Embassy in Moscow, with the 1905 revolutionary monument in the foreground. — AP

that relations between the two countries could go for a deep freeze following the expulsions. "We can well forget about fruitful cooperation between Russian and American secret services in the months to come," Mr. Ivanov said, adding the American move was a politically driven throwback to the Cold War.

He promised that the Russian response would be more painful

for Washington than the U.S. move was for Russia.

"We will take our time to carefully pick from among more than 1,000 U.S. diplomats in Russia those who are most precious to the Americans," Mr. Ivanov said.

Moscow has also promised to reveal new facts of U.S. spying in Russia, which an intelligence service official described as "the most aggressive".

THE HINDU

24 MAR 2001

US expels over 50 Russian diplomats

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, March 22

IN THE biggest crackdown of its kind since 1986, the US has expelled more than 50 Russian diplomats, presumably as a followup action on FBI agent Robert Hanssen's arrest last month for spying.

Six of the diplomats were declared persona non grata on Wednesday for alleged spying activities and asked to leave the US immediately. The rest may get some months to leave, according to CBS. There has been no official word yet.

The biggest expulsion since the Reagan regime's Operation Famish ordered 80 Soviet diplomats out of the country in 1986 is widely expected here to prompt a swift retaliation from Moscow. In the 1986 instance, 24 American diplomats were turned out.

The US' latest action could add a new dimension to relations that have been worsening with the Bush Administration brushing aside Moscow's objections and going ahead with its National Missile Defence System project.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

101

Russia to hit back on US plan

REUTERS

567 2873
MOSCOW, March 22. - Moscow views US plans to expel 50 Russian diplomats as an "extremely unfriendly step", and would hit back if Washington went ahead, Russian official sources said today.

A US official yesterday said the United States was expelling diplomats suspected of being Intelligence officers, partly in retaliation for the case of Federal Bureau of Investigation agent, Robert

Hanssen, accused of spying for Moscow over 15 years.

Washington, which believes Russia has too many spies in the USA, declared six Russians persona non grata on Wednesday.

There has been no formal announcement on the others.

Russian official sources said the incident, the biggest expulsion of suspected spies since Operation Famish in 1986 when President Ronald Reagan ordered 80 Soviet diplo-

mats out, would badly hit bilateral relations.

"Sources said the Russian side will take 'appropriate steps'," Interfax said, implying US diplomats would be expelled.

There has been no formal reaction from Russian officials to the expulsions, adding to growing tensions between Moscow and Washington.

"We do not have any information yet," a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said.

THE STATESMAN

23 MAR 2001

USA wants Russian envoy spies out

GILES WHITTELL
THE TIMES, LONDON

MOSCOW, March 21. - Washington is considering a mass expulsion of Russian diplomats as the number suspected of spying under diplomatic cover rises to Cold War levels, according to an American report on Tuesday. This has drawn an angry response from Moscow.

In an exchange that soured further the relations between Russia and the Bush administration, unnamed US sources told news channel CNN that the White House may be about to send home dozens of diplomats for "activities incompati-

ble with their status".

Mr Dmitry Rogozin, chairman of the Duma's international affairs committee, said the report was false and the result of a contest in the White House as aides to top officials try to outdo each other with tough rhetoric about Russia.

The Kremlin and foreign ministry refused to comment on the report, but Mr Rogozin said that should Washington order the expulsions, a large tit-for-tat response would be required from Moscow. The last time mass expulsions were ordered by both sides was when President Reagan sent 100 Soviet diplomats home in a clean-up

effort called Operation Famish.

The possibility of a return to serial spy scandals looms large after the arrest of Mr Robert Hanssen, the FBI agent who is accused of passing sensitive information to Russia for 15 years, and the abrupt departure from Washington last week of Mr Vladimir Frolov, the Russian embassy's press attache, who is suspected of having been Mr Hanssen's handler.

On Tuesday Mr Louis Freeh, the FBI director, praised Bulgarian officials for ordering three Russian diplomats back to Moscow, saying that the tiny country once considered Russia's most reliable Balkan ally

had become "a key strategic partner of the United States" as well as an "oasis of stability".

Moscow has responded by expelling three Bulgarian diplomats and accusing the Bulgaria of anti-Russian bias.

The Russian foreign ministry hit back on Tuesday at Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the American defence secretary, who repeated accusations in a weekend interview that Russia is the world's biggest distributor of weapons of mass destruction. "After being absent from the US administration for eight years, the US top brass do not seem to realise how the world has changed," a foreign ministry press release said.

THE STATESMAN

22 MAR 2001

POSITIVE SIGNS IN RUSSO-US TALKS

By **DMITRY GORNOSTAYEV** 2/13

As predicted, the Cairo meeting of the heads of the foreign policy departments of Russia and the USA, Igor Ivanov and Colin Powell, did not bring any sensations or a breakthrough in Russo-American relations. But it showed rather clearly that neither side wants confrontation despite serious contradictions on several major issues, the most important of them being the problem of ABM defence.

The only unquestionable positive result of the Ivanov-Powell meeting is that US administration will not unilaterally withdraw from the 1972 ABM Treaty and create an NMD system, despite its harsh statements. This is a truly new element in the Russo-American dialogue on strategic stability. All previous events and statements on ABM made by Washington prompted the belief that the US resolve to create an NMD system was unshakeable. Now we see at least the signs of a desire to discuss the problem.

At the same time, the Ivanov and Powell meeting confirmed the fear that arose after the big press conference of George Bush, who interpreted the recent Moscow initiatives on the creation of a non-strategic missile defence for Europe as the recognition of US arguments on the existence of nuclear-missile threats. Powell spoke in the same vein at his meeting with Ivanov. He believes — and he expressed this opinion before the meeting — that the Russian plan of a European ABM system, handed over to Nato Secretary-General George Robertson, is highly interesting in that the Russians have moved on and admitted that such a threat exists.

In other words, the Americans are trying to assure themselves, their allies and even Russia that Russia has well-nigh accepted the US fears concerning the potential nuclear threat coming to the USA from, say, North Korea, Iran or Iraq, as true. They are exploiting our initiatives, designed to neutralise their plans, to suit their own interests.

Naturally enough, this does not suit Moscow. But as a high-ranking member of the Russian delegation said, it is quite normal in politics when one side searches for maximally suitable elements in the proposals of the other side.

In principle, it appears that the Russian Foreign Ministry has a clear view of the danger of the US interpretation of the Russian initiatives on a European ABM system, an interpretation that distorts their essence. But how can one resist this threat without disrupting the dialogue?

FIRST CONTACT

There is an even greater danger in the inability to wage a dialogue, for this would considerably limit Moscow's opportunities to influence Washington's decisions. This is why Igor Ivanov avoided confrontation on ABM with Powell during their first meeting. It seems that Powell chose a restrained tone and showed common sense, too.

In general, the heads of the two foreign policy departments exchanged opinions on the problem without engaging in serious debates. According to one source in the Russian delegation, Moscow and Washington will continue to discuss both the American and the Russian plans in the sphere of strategic stability.

As for the harshness of positions, both sides are noted for

it. The USA stated its resolve to create an NMD system at all costs. Russia warns — although not very frequently but quite clearly — that in this case it would create or revive such weapons that would engender a feeling that has nothing to do with security in the USA. Negative scenarios are apparent in this case. And hence Moscow and Washington should search for positive ways out of this situation.

Both sides pointed to the importance of the first contact between Russia and the new US Administration. Ivanov and Powell say they have established contact. They agreed to hold an expert meeting on strategic stability soon and Powell assured Ivanov that he would fly to Moscow any day, if necessary.

TALKING POINTS

Indeed, the Kremlin and the White House have points of contact, and disarmament is one of them. Both countries think nuclear weapons should be further reduced. As Igor Ivanov put it, "the US Secretary of State said this promptly." The two diplomats had a one-on-one meeting that lasted for over 90 minutes. They agreed to call each other by their first names. According to Ivanov, he likes very much the businesslike attitude of his counterpart. Being a military man, Powell is very outspoken, does not care too much for protocol and does not hide his thoughts behind intricate phrases. "This is greatly facilitating the dialogue", Ivanov said.

Frankness was the keynote of the meeting, as the two diplomats did not avoid uncomfortable questions. In addition to acute differences over ABM, they also spoke about the "unsuitable" subjects, such as the spy scandal in the USA created by the arrest of FBI man Robert Philip Hanssen, the case of Pavel Borodin and freedom of speech in Russia.

Ivanov and Powell also discussed the latest developments in the Middle East and the situation in Iraq. The latter was one of the difficult items, as Russia rather harshly denounced the latest US-British bombing of Baghdad and other regions of Iraq. Ivanov put forth the Russian stance once more and called for facilitating the implementation of the UN Security Council resolutions on Iraq. He said, in particular, that the mechanism of control over Iraq should be used in a tight link with the discussion of the lifting of sanctions.

When Colin Powell toured the Middle East, the public in all Arab countries met him with demonstrations of protest against the recent bombing strikes. The US policy is becoming less and less popular in the region (with the exception of Israel).

The two top diplomats also discussed other subjects, such as export control and the US concern over Iran. To sum up, the sides did not make practical decisions on these questions, but then neither planned to make them. Even the possibility of a Putin-Bush meeting was discussed only hypothetically. Ivanov and Powell did not decide if the meeting would be held before the G8 June summit in Genoa. Neither possibility can be excluded, said Ivanov. Anyway, nobody needs a meeting for the sake of meeting. Such a meeting should be prepared very carefully. But judging by some subtle signs, Vladimir Putin and George Bush would like to meet before the G8 summit.

The author is a commentator on defence affairs.

Russia no longer a threat: Powell

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 15. Russia has offered fresh assurances to the United States over supply of arms to Iran; and Washington has made it known once again that Moscow would have to be careful not to spread dangerous technology around the world.

The views of the Bush administration were made known to the Russian President's envoy, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, on Wednesday when he met the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell. According to a State Department spokesman, Gen. Powell told Mr. Ivanov that the U.S. was concerned

about Russia's proposed sale of conventional and sensitive weapons to Iran.

Gen. Powell was more pointed in his criticism of Moscow when appearing before the Senate Budget Committee, arguing that it was in Russia's interests to have a better relationship with both the U.S. and the West.

"If Russia wants to have a better relationship with the United States and the West, and we think it is in their interests to want such a relationship, we have to be concerned when we see suggestions that they may be investing in weapons sales... with regimes such as Iran", Gen. Powell remarked.

However, he was conciliatory as well, saying that the Bush administration would pursue a "realistic" policy towards Russia with a view to having a better relationship. Russia, Gen. Powell argued, "... no longer presents a



threatening face to us"; and that the objective of the U.S. was to see if it could make Moscow its best friend.

Mr. Ivanov, for his part, has made the point that only defensive weapons would be sold to Iran. These would include personnel carriers, tanks and anti-aircraft missiles, which in his view, were "very legitimate". Mr. Ivanov also said that the first likely meeting between the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and Mr. George W. Bush would be at the summit of the industrial-

ised nations in Italy this July.

At a time when the Bush administration is expressing its concern about the arms sales to Iran, there is a lot of attention in this country and in the Asia-Pacific on what it will do vis-a-vis Taiwan.

By next month, the administration will have to make a decision on the sale of sophisticated weapons to Taiwan and already pressure is mounting from Capitol Hill and other sources to go ahead with the sale.

While conservatives in the administration and Congress may give the impression that they would not worry about Beijing's response to the sale of weapons to Taiwan, the issue is not as simple as that. Asian allies of the U.S. are bound to be worried about escalating tensions between Washington and Beijing which would undoubtedly have regional implications.

U.S. rejects Russian proposal for summit

HD-16

By Vladimir Radyuhin

163

MOSCOW, MARCH 15. Angered by Moscow's decision to resume arms supplies to Iran, Washington has rejected the Kremlin's proposal for an early bilateral summit and refused to revive the Russian-American inter-Governmental commission at the level of the U.S. Vice-President and the Russian Prime Minister.

The Russian Security Council secretary, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, told reporters at the end of his talks in Washington on Thursday that the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and his U.S. counterpart, Mr. George W. Bush, were unlikely to meet before the G-8 summit in Geneva, Italy, in July. Moscow had been pressing for a full-fledged bilateral summit before Geneva, where the Russian-American meeting could become perfunctory.

Mr. Ivanov said the Gore-Chernomyrdin inter-Governmental commission would not be revived and Washington was yet to decide on the format and the level of a new bilateral setup.

Mr. Ivanov's one-day talks in Washington with the National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, and a meeting with the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, were the highest-level Russian-American contact after the Bush Administration took over in the White House two months ago.

The cool reception meted out in Washington to the Kremlin's number two man did not come as a surprise. Mr. Ivanov flew to the U.S. a day after Mr. Putin assured the visiting Iranian President, Mr. Mohammad Khatami, that Moscow will sell arms and nuclear reactors to Tehran despite American objections. Mr. Ivanov was quoted as telling Gen. Powell that Russia would sell only defensive weapons to Iran, such as "armoured personnel carriers, tanks and air-defence missiles".

However, the State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said any Russian sale to Iran of advanced conventional weapons, missiles or missile technology would draw a strong U.S. response.

Analysts said relations with Iran would be an acid test to Mr. Putin's firmness in rejecting Washington's attempts to dictate its rules of the game to Moscow.

"Either Russia asserts its right to forge close relations with Iran, similar to those it has built with China and India, or it will have to succumb to a world order dominated by the United States," said Mr. Andranik Migranyan, a political scientist.

So far, Russia has demonstrated defiance of American dictat. On Thursday, Moscow issued a strong rebuff to a CIA report that accused Russia of spreading weapons of mass destruction. A Russian Foreign Ministry statement denounced the charges as a "baseless" attempt to "present Russia as an enemy and cast a shadow over its economic and military-technical cooperation with other countries."

THE HINDU

16 MAR 2001

Russia not enemy but could be threat: Bush

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, March 14. - President George W Bush said his administration planned to make it clear to Mr Vladimir Putin that it did not see Russia as an enemy, although it may be a threat.

Mr Bush explained to reporters his theories about Russia in relation to missile defence. "Missile defence is the ... Beginning of focusing resources on the true threats facing America," he said.

"Russia is not an enemy. It may be a threat, if it decides to be, but it is not the enemy," he said.

Mr Bush and Mr Putin are at odds over the former's plans to build a missile defence shield. Mr Putin is a strong supporter of the Cold War-era Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, which Mr Bush has vowed to scrap if necessary to build the shield.

Mr Bush has said that USA needs to create a national missile defence umbrella to protect its territory from "rogue states" like Iran and North Korea. "Anybody with a nuclear weapon is a threat," he said. "But the true threats to stability and peace are these nations that are not very transparent ... That don't let people in to take a look and see what they're up to."

USA urged Russia this week not to provide Iran with advanced conventional weapons or sensitive military technologies when it resumes its arms sales to Iran. Mr Putin has told USA he will go ahead with selling arms to Iran and to complete construction there of a nuclear power plant.

Arms sale to Iran: Russia plans to sell more than 570 T72-C tanks and over 1,000 armoured vehicles to Iran based on a contract signed before Moscow froze arms sales to Iran in a 1995 pact with Washington, the Russian news agency RIA has said, adds Pool-kyodo from Moscow.

THE STATESMAN

15 MAR 2001

Stop arms supply to Iran: USA to Russia

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, March 13. - The United States has urged Russia not to provide Iran with advanced conventional weapons or sensitive military technology when it resumes its controversial arms sales.

Washington is also expected to extend a long-standing ban on trade with and investment in Iran this week, a US official said on condition of anonymity.

The state department, commenting on Russian President, Mr Vladimir

Putin's offer to sell defensive weapons to Iran, said yesterday that it would be a matter of "great concern" if the two categories of weapons ended up in Iranian hands.

It would also be counter-productive for Russia to sell Iran weapons that could threaten both Russia and the US, state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher told a press briefing.

Mr Putin had served notice to the US on Monday that he planned to go ahead with selling arms to Iran and to complete construction of a nuclear power plant there.

Russia had refrained from such sales under a secret agreement with USA in 1995, but last year it said it would no longer abide by the deal.

Mr Boucher admitted that he could not judge the Russian offer in itself because USA did not know what kind of weapons Russia was thinking of selling to Iran.

He, however, added: "We would be looking particularly closely at anything that was advanced conventional weapons or sensitive technologies. We think it's particularly counterproductive for the Russians to sell things in

their neighbourhood ... That might threaten us all."

"Advanced conventional weapons and sensitive technologies ... Are of great concern to the US, and we would expect to raise them quite energetically and repeatedly if that was the area that they started going into," he said.

The daily Nezavisimaya Gazeta quoted officials from Russia's arms export agency as saying shipments could include spare parts for BMP-1 BTW-80 armoured vehicles and T-62 and T-72 tanks. It said parts could also be supplied for SU-24, SU-25 and Mig-29

aircraft and three types of helicopter. Officials also expected an extension of the six-year US trade and investment ban on Iran, which will lapse if the Bush administration does not renew it by Thursday.

"Nobody has given me any indication that there was any need for change at the moment," a US official said. The Bush administration has shown less enthusiasm for sanctions than the former Clinton team. Moreover, secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell had said that Washington will seek opportunities to improve ties with Iran.

REUTERS

14 MAR 2001

Russian source dismisses tunnel reports 9/3

REUTERS

MOSCOW, March 8. - A Russian counter-Intelligence source today dismissed reports of a US eavesdropping tunnel under the Russian embassy, saying they were Washington's invention and aimed at discrediting spy suspect Robert Hanssen.

The New York Times reported the existence of the tunnel last weekend, quoting unnamed officials as saying they believed the operation had been betrayed to the Russians by FBI agent Hanssen, who is charged with selling secrets to Moscow.

Ria news agency quoted a high-ranking source in Russian counter-Intelligence as saying the Cold War-era tunnel never existed, and the report was intentionally circulated by US secret services to "burden Hanssen with a serious guilt".

It quoted the unnamed source as saying, "Americans had little concrete evidence against Hanssen, especially him being an agent...And dug (the tunnel) under him". The source said rather than digging a special tunnel under the Soviet and then Russian embassy, US secret services used underground telephone cable lines, sewage pipes and the central pillars of the building to spy on the personnel.

THE STATESMAN

5 9 MAR 1991

RETURN OF THE COLD WARRIORS

A LENGTHENING LIST of irritants appears to be straining and souring relations between the United States and Russia. The latest series of incidents involving allegations of espionage smacks of the tit-for-tat that characterised the bitter bilateral relations during the Cold War years. This has the potential to seriously threaten the uneasy balance in global affairs that has existed following the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of the U.S. as the sole superpower. Moscow's decision to seek an explanation from the U.S. about reports that at the height of the Cold War American intelligence agencies had dug a tunnel under the Soviet embassy in Washington to aid surveillance comes within a fortnight of the arrest of a 27-year veteran of the Federal Bureau of Investigation on the charge of spying for Russia. In what was described as the worst spy case in FBI history, Mr. Robert Philip Hanssen was charged with handing over highly classified documents and betraying American intelligence sources and electronic surveillance methods. The charges portray the arrested agent as a cunning practitioner of the very arts of espionage that he was trained to combat under the all-powerful FBI.

If the charges are proved, the FBI agent's activities will demonstrate that the old Cold War games are still being played by both sides, a full decade after the Berlin Wall collapsed and heralded the end of the Soviet empire and the start of an era when the spy as the world knew him would have ceased to be. The FBI agent's arrest is not of course the first in the post-Cold War decade. Seven years ago, after the surprise arrest of a counter-intelligence chief, officials in Washington claimed that they had cleared many of the mysteries of the Cold War era when quite a few spies disappeared without a trace and contacts that seemed impregnable proved damag-

ingly unworthy of trust. The breaches and leaks of security that these exposed led automatically to total revamping of the espionage setups in both camps. At about the time that the tunnel in Washington was said to have been under construction in the mid-1980s, the U.S. and the Soviet Union were arguing bitterly over security and safety in their embassies. Each side was accusing the other of planting listening devices in their diplomatic offices and homes, charges that had sounded absurd to the world outside the ideological encampments.

w. from HD-12
The latest round of disclosures, voluntary and other, shows that the invisible cloak-and-dagger war when spy spied on spy is far from over. As for the latest spat, it is safe to hazard the guess that the reports about the clandestine tunnelling activity in Washington many years ago have suddenly surfaced now as a response to the arrest of the FBI agent which directly implicates Moscow. The strong Russian reaction to the reports is also a pointer to the direction in which relations between the two countries may be heading. With his years in the Russian intelligence agency, the KGB, and his own early ideological moorings, Mr. Vladimir Putin is proving to be the antithesis of his predecessor. Certainly, the bonhomie and back-slapping of the Yeltsin era has quickly evaporated but there must be worry that this is being replaced by suspicion and hostility as both Moscow and Washington settle under strong new leaders. Recent American actions such as the decision to go ahead with the controversial national missile defence system and the resumption of the bombing of Iraq have injected an element of the Cold War logic in the bilateral relationship. Every time a mole tumbles out of the Cold War era, the ties slip deeper into a freeze.

THE HINDU

8 MAR 2001

Russia demands tunnel details

ASSOCIATED PRESS

519 7/3 US Perm
MOSCOW, March 6. - Russia's foreign ministry has expressed anger at a report that the US government built a tunnel under the Soviet embassy in Washington in the 1980s to eavesdrop, and demanded the USA provide details.

But while the ministry vented steam yesterday, Russia's foreign Intelligence service, a successor agency to the KGB, hinted in a statement that they were not so surprised by the latest revelation.

The New York Times reported on Sunday that the FBI

and the National Security Agency constructed the secret tunnel in the 1980s, but that the operation was betrayed by an FBI agent, Mr Robert Hanssen, arrested last month on charges of spying for Moscow.

The tunnel operation, estimated to have cost several hundred million dollars, was part of a sophisticated eavesdropping operation to track Soviet and Russian facilities and personnel in the USA, the newspaper said. US officials wouldn't comment on the report.

The Russian foreign ministry issued a statement yesterday

suggesting Moscow was officially unaware of the tunnel's existence.

If the report is true, the statement said, "this will be a flagrant violation of the recognised norms of international law that throughout the world govern relations with foreign diplomatic missions."

The ministry said the charge d'affaires at the US embassy in Moscow was called in yesterday and given an official request for clarification.

White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer said he was not at liberty to discuss if the newspaper report was true.

THE STATESMAN

- 7 MAR 2001

USA agrees to Clinton-era arms talks with Russia

REUTERS

CAIRO, Feb. 25. - USA has accepted a Russian request that arms control experts resume talks under the framework developed by the Russian President, Mr Vladimir Putin, and Mr Bill Clinton.

A senior US official said yesterday that the Russian foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, told the US secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, at their first meeting in Cairo that Russia preferred the old framework for talks and wanted to know if the Bush administration would continue it.

"Mr Powell said: "Yes, good idea." They agreed that our experts group...Would meet soon." the official added.

The group dealt with the full range of arms talks, including offensive weapons such as

ballistic missiles, the proliferation of nuclear weapons, and defensive systems such as the proposed US missile defence, he said.

It would cover START and talks on the US request that Russia modify the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty to accommodate the missile defence system it wants to build.

Mr Powell and Mr Ivanov didn't set a date for resuming talks and the Bush administration has yet to decide what position it will take.

President Bush has advocated deeper cuts than Mr Clinton in the nuclear arsenals of the two former superpowers but his administration is also determined to build the missile defence system, despite opposition from Russia, China and even some of Washington's European allies.

THE STATESMAN

26 FEB 2001

Russia selling nuclear knowhow, says U.S.

MOSCOW, FEB. 16. Relations between the United States and Russia deteriorated sharply on Thursday after the U.S. Defence Secretary accused Moscow of selling nuclear technology to NATO's enemies.

Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, a Cold War veteran who first led the Pentagon in 1976, dismissed Russian concerns about the "Son of Star Wars" National Missile Defence programme (NMD), one of defence priorities of the President, Mr. George W. Bush. "Russia is an active proliferator," he said. "They are part of the problem. They are selling (weapons to) and assisting countries like Iran and North Korea and India which are threatening... the United States and Western Europe."

Russian officials reacted angrily, saying that Mr. Rumsfeld had no evidence to back up his statement. "These words are on the con-

science of Mr. Rumsfeld," said Gen. Valery Mamilov, Russia's First Deputy Chief of Staff. "Russia has not violated, does not violate and will not violate its obligations, including in the area of non-proliferation."

Mr. Rumsfeld said Russian objections to NMD were "not really serious" and that he was sure Europe would fall into line on the issue. "There is no question in my mind but that we will be able to evolve a system that will be able to deal with ballistic missiles."

His comments followed testimony in Congress from Mr. George Tenet, the CIA Director, about Moscow's sale of weapons and nuclear secrets, Russia, Mr. Tenet said, was trying to revive its status as a world power and "continues to value arms and technology sales as a major source of funds".

The Kremlin has known for months that

Mr. Bush was a keen advocate of NMD, but the tone of the new administration's rhetoric on Russia has been far tougher than it expected. Moscow has rejected American assurances that the system is aimed only at foiling surprise missile strikes by rogue regimes and complained that NMD undermined the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty and the whole concept of strategic disarmament.

Along with France and Germany, Russia is also sceptical of the likelihood of any nuclear attack from Iran, Iraq or North Korea in the foreseeable future. "Even America's allies do not believe in the fairy tales about the threats from other states which Rumsfeld talks about," said Gen. Leonid Ivashov, chief of the Russian Defence Ministry's International Cooperation Department. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2001

Russia denies US charge, fuels arms row

PATRICK LANNIN
MOSCOW, FEB 15

ms Rumsfeld 98-10

RUSSIA'S forthright rejection on Thursday of the US allegations that Moscow was responsible for spreading missile technology has added further heat to a furor over US plans for a "Son of Star Wars" missile defence shield.

The row has been the main strain in ties between the world's top two nuclear powers and looms over the first face-to-face talks between new the US Secretary of State Colin Powell and foreign minister Igor Ivanov, due on February 24. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld fired his latest salvo on Wednesday, saying Russia was "part of the problem" in missile technology proliferation, which has made the United States want to

build a national missile defence (NMD).

Russia's armed forces first deputy chief of staff Valery Manilov was quick to respond.

"These words are on the conscience of Rumsfeld as one can only make such statements when one has the necessary and incontrovertible proof of what the politician is saying.

"Russia has not violated, does not violate and will not violate its obligations, including in the area of non-proliferation," Manilov said.

Washington says NMD would



be a defensive system aimed at missiles from "rogue states" such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea. Russia and China say it would be directed against them.

To build NMD, the United States would also need to modify the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty (ABM), which bans such national defence systems. Russia has said amending the treaty to allow national missile defence would lead to a new arms race and wreck global stability.

Several of Washington's European allies have expressed doubts about the viability of NMD and concerns about its impact on existing arms control agreements.

Rumsfeld's comments were perhaps his strongest yet on Russia. CIA chief George Tenet accused Moscow of the same thing last week and further vexed Russia by listing it as one of the global threats faced by the United States.

Sergei Ivanov, secretary of the influential Kremlin policy making body, the Security Council, sought to smooth the troubled waters and said talks on the issue would be calm.

"All aspects have to be considered, the nature of the threat, military-technical issues and the consequences (of building NMD)," a news agency quoted him as saying.

INDIAN EXPRESS

15 FEB 2001

PUTIN AND BUSH

Missile defence of power projection?

ONE will have to wait and see what kind of missile defence system President George Bush has in mind, but it is already clear that his conception is harder in line than the one envisaged by his predecessor. He doesn't think much of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty signed in 1972 by Richard Nixon and Leonid Brezhnev in Moscow, which allowed for limited deployment of anti-ballistic missile systems in and around the national capital and a few other strategic areas. However, the treaty expressly forbade the deployment of such systems for the defence of the whole national territory or individual regions. The US Senate did pass, in March 1999, a Clinton proposal for a modest ABM system, costing about \$ 6.6 billion and focussed mainly on the northern Pacific, aimed at protecting Japan, South Korea and Taiwan from North Korean and Chinese rogue missile attacks. They had in mind the Dong Feng missile that North Korea lobbed over Japan and the missiles launched into the Taiwan Straits by China in 1996, on the eve of Lee Teng-hui's election as president. The North Korean threat is of uncertain potential, because the country is starving, needs foreign aid and is amenable to diplomatic pressure. There is also the reunification process initiated by South Korean president Kim Dae Jung, dollars and food in hand.

China, however, is a different cup of tea altogether, primarily because it intends to make good on its threats against Taiwan in case of any attempt to declare independence. According to a classified Pentagon document, it has a 100 to 150 missiles aimed at Taiwan, apart from which it tested, in November 1999, a low-altitude anti-missile system capable of shooting down ballistic and cruise missiles. However — and this is important — China does not seek a global confrontation with America. Mr Bush may want to protect America's democratic allies in the Pacific rim. But, even more, he wants a new and more powerful projection of US military power in the world. Mr Putin seems to understand this and is bothered since, like all good Russians, he wants to preserve superpower status. So do the Europeans who consider themselves another strategic pole in a multipolar world. How Mr Bush deals with the UN and Nato will be watched.

THE STATESMAN

3 FEB 2001

Putin, Bush hold first talks, vow to build 'intense ties'

Moscow, January 31

W. Russia

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin took his first phone call today from US counterpart **George W Bush**, vowing to build strong ties with Washington but taking the time to intercede on behalf of jailed ex-aide **Pavel Borodin**.

Putin said he wanted to establish an 'intense dialogue' with the Bush administration, hoping the two sides would find 'rational, mutually acceptable solutions' to their outstanding disputes, the Kremlin press service said.

And while Putin did not specifically call for the release of



George W Bush



Vladmir Putin

Borodin, jailed in New York under Swiss corruption charges, he "expressed hope that (the case) would be solved based both on legal and humanitarian principle."

The Kremlin said Bush responded to Putin's request with 'understanding'.

The talks came one day after US

H 15 21 2

Secretary of State **Colin Powell** and his Russian counterpart **Igor Ivanov** spoke by telephone for the first time, agreeing to set up a meeting as soon as possible.

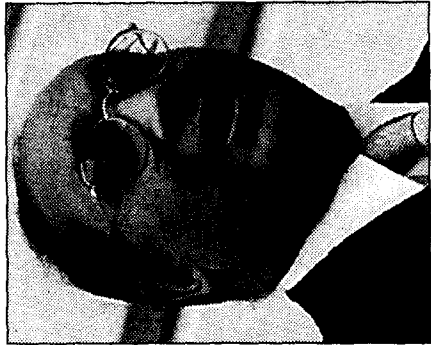
Revealingly, neither Putin nor Prime Minister **Mikhail Kasyanov** attended Bush's January 20 inauguration, where the Russian side was represented by its Ambassador and the head of a pro-government faction in parliament.

Putin was also one of the last world leaders to send Bush his congratulations on his inauguration. He then told the new US leader Moscow was expecting "equal, mutually-beneficial relations" with the US. *(AFP)*

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 FEB 2001

Old job report sucks Vaz deeper into scandal



Keith Vaz. (AFP)

London, Feb. 4 (PTI). British minister for foreign office and Europe Keith Vaz had briefly worked for a company owned by an Iraqi-born British tycoon who is wanted for questioning over a massive European corruption scandal, the *Sunday Observer* reported today.

Vaz "accepted a directorship of the company owned by Nadhmi Auchi, a British multi-millionaire facing inquiries over his role in an oil deal allegedly involving £40 million of kickbacks," the weekly reported.

The report states that "although Vaz appears not to have broken any parliamentary rules, questions will still be raised over

his judgement which is already under intense scrutiny over his friendship with the Hinduja group whose quest for a British passport led to the downfall of Northern Ireland Secretary Peter Mandelson."

Auchi, who had a lucrative trading relationship with Iraq before the Gulf war, is the owner of a Luxembourg-based corporation General Mediterranean Holdings which is worth more than £1.7 billion. Last July, French investigators issued an international arrest warrant for Auchi, as part of their investigations into the alleged payment of millions of pounds in bribes during the purchase by French oil giant Elf Aquitaine of

Spanish refinery company in 1991.

Auchi, who denies any wrongdoing, has refused to be questioned in France as part of the Elf corruption scandal which has rocked the French political establishment. He has, however, agreed to be quizzed in the UK.

According to the report, Vaz met Auchi at Hinduja's London headquarters in December 1996. Both men were present to launch the Hinduja's Millennium Cordia project, which Auchi was considering helping to finance.

A spokesman for Auchi confirmed that he and SP Hinduja, chairman of the Hinduja group, were "friends", the report said.

The report said on Friday the company issued a statement saying Vaz was offered the job in January 1999.

"He officially accepted the directorship in a phone call on April 13. He resigned from the company five weeks later, when he became a junior minister in the Lord Chancellor's department," it said.

Rules of the House of Commons state that an MP should register any new directorship within four weeks of taking up the appointment. A spokesman for Vaz last night published letters showing Vaz had been in contact with the parliamentary watchdog and had asked for his directorship to

be registered in April, the report said. Auchi has retained a close relationship with senior British political figures. Former Tory Chancellor Lord Lamont is a director of one of his companies and Lord Steel, speaker of Scottish parliament and former leader of Liberal Democrats, sits on the board.

Srichand Hinduja, who is in New Delhi for questioning over alleged kickbacks arising from the 1986 Bofors arms scandal, has furiously denied any impropriety.

No one has been helping me, assisting me or asking me for funds," Hinduja told Britain's *Sunday Telegraph* newspaper from his home in Delhi.

"Neither the Government, nor any minister or MP asked me to pay or approached me for any support for the (Millennium Dome's) Faith Zone. On the contrary, I approached them." Hinduja said Britain should be pleased to have him, and his brothers, as citizens and many other countries, including Iran, had offered them passports. "Many countries would feel it is an honour to have a Hinduja as a citizen because we contribute to the country."

Last week a court refused permission for Hinduja and his three brothers to leave India while the Bofors investigation was still going on.

THE TELEGRAPH

5 FEB 2001