

Act against ultras: USA, France to Pak

Statesman News Service & Agencies

NEW DELHI, Dec. 30. — The international community, led by the USA and France, wants Pakistan to take action against terrorists operating from its soil and PoK.

Other countries that have called for action in this regard include Iran and Libya. Among those who have called Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee are President George W Bush, President Jacques Chirac, Mr Tony Blair, President Mohammad Khatami, Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and Bhutan's King Jigme Singhe Wangchuk. They described the strike on Parliament as "an attack on India's democracy".

Mr Tony Blair today urged India and Pakistan to exercise restraint.

A spokesman for Mr Blair said the British Prime Minister yesterday called President Bush to discuss the situation in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. "In terms of India and

Pakistan, it's obviously in nobody's interest for tension to mount as they are," the spokesman said. "They (the leaders) all agreed that firm action should be taken by Pakistan against

Pak arrests Lashkar chief

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 30. — Pakistan today arrested Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, head of Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, a top security official said. "He has been arrested for making inflammatory speeches to incite people to violate law and order," the official said. Maulana Masood Azhar, head of Jaish-e-Mohammed, was today remanded in 90-day custody and shifted from his native Bahawalpur town in Punjab to Mianwali prison in Sargodha range, NNI reported.

—AFP/PTI

terrorist groups operating from its soil and promoting cross-border terrorism in India," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said

when asked about the Prime Minister's conversation with the leaders.

Mr Vajpayee told them that India was proceeding with "calibrated diplomatic measures" against Pakistan and New Delhi is determined to deal "firmly and resolutely" with terrorism.

"We've suffered long enough to curb the activities of terrorist organisations. Pakistan's friends should apply more pressure on Pakistan and on its President, Gen Pervez Musharraf, to publicly take a firm and unequivocal stand against cross-border terrorism," Mr Vajpayee said. "Pakistan should thereafter match its words with action," he added.

President Bush and President Chirac spoke to Mr Vajpayee last night and discussed the current status of Indo-Pak ties.

These countries were concerned about tension in the sub-continent but "all of them recognise the basic correctness of India's position," the MEA spokesperson said.

MARITIME INITIATIVES

Dangers Of Terrorism From The Sea

By MUKUND B KUNTE

31/12
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"War on terror" seems to be a global slogan today. Following the horrendous suicidal attack of 11 September in the US, the events in our own backyard on 13 December constituted the worst in the continuous acts of terrorism that the country has witnessed in the past two decades.

Successive coalition governments in New Delhi have led Islamabad to believe that terrorism can be initiated and fuelled across our borders with impunity, a misconception that needs to be dispelled immediately, not in fits and starts but with patience and maturity. All our experience, diplomatic finesse, economic strength, military capability, information channels and, above all, a national will must be mobilised so that the design of each and every terrorist will be slowly, but surely, defeated. To ensure success the entire population will have to be vigilant, disciplined and motivated.

New awareness

Terrorism is taking innumerable forms and new initiatives. Very recently in the English Channel 30 miles from the coast, the Royal Navy intercepted a merchant cargo ship on suspicion that, apart from its innocuous cargo of sugar from Mauritius, she may also be carrying other dangerous material which could be diverted for destructive roles. The British government acted with extreme alacrity, with Prime Minister Tony Blair immediately going on the air, because en route to the UK, the ship had touched Djibouti raising suspicions in the intelligence community due to

The author has been head of the Military Wing and an Adll Secretary in the Cabinet Secretariat.

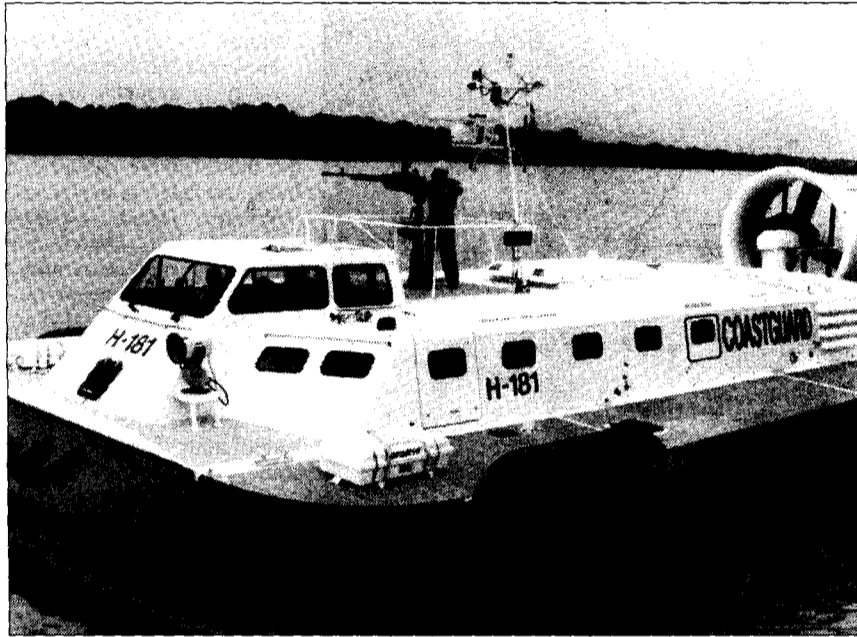
its proximity to Yemen and Somalia. Both states are friendly with Bin Laden and his Al Qaida organisation.

Terrorism and piracy at sea are to be the subject of a rare seminar to be conducted by the Indian Maritime Foundation. Its President, Captain Vir, was recently in the capital to dwell on the scourge of terrorism

handle, oil tankers, chemical and gas carriers, even passenger ships are all potential targets which could come under notice of terrorist attacks.

Devastating fallout

Terrorism at sea may not be a novel phenomenon but its fallout is devastating.



which may be presently limited to a land battle. But there is now an increasing awareness of the vulnerability of nations to terrorism from the sea. Coastal structures, off-shore installations (particularly, nuclear facilities), ports and the cargo they

When the Achilla Lauro was hijacked in 1985 by a Palestinian group and ended after two days, with only one life lost, the effect on the cruise line industry was traumatic with millions of dollars being lost due to cancelled bookings as was the

case after the WTC was struck. Unknown terrorists attacked "The City Of Poros" in 1989 and after indiscriminate firing escaped from the ship leaving nine persons dead and 46 wounded.

These are two examples involving merchant ships but the most audacious incident has undoubtedly been the attack by two men in a skiff, motoring up to an American destroyer, the USS Cole, while she was refuelling at the Yemeni port of Aden on 12 October 2000. After waving to the crew the suicide bombers blew a hole into the ship's side resulting in the death of 17 sailors and injuries to 39 — but the impact on the US Navy and the United States went far deeper.

Coordinated efforts

There is every reason, therefore, to step up alertness and security on the maritime scene and the time is now opportune to bring together all those agencies which are involved in the world of oceans and the seas. Experiences need to be shared, problem areas identified, defence measures outlined and discussed and solutions found. A great deal needs to be done to prevent disasters and the initiative of the Indian Maritime Foundation is indeed laudable. It is hoped that our elected representatives who are members of the all-party Parliamentary Forum for Maritime Studies under the chairmanship of Rajya Sabha MP, Mr Eduardo Faleiro (a vice chairman of the Independent World Commission on the Oceans under the former Portugese President Mario Suarez) will also articulate in both Houses all issues affecting our national interests in the sea and on matters of public concern in the maritime environment.

THE STATESMAN

31 DEC 2001

India hands list, Pak puts handcuffs

FROM PRANAY SHARMA
AND KAY BENEDICT

New Delhi, Dec. 30: A day after President George W. Bush called Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pervez Musharraf, India gave Pakistan a list of terrorists and demanded that they be handed over for trial.

"A list of terrorists involved in crimes in India has been given to Pakistan. If these terrorists are handed over, then certainly I think a situation more conducive to both the countries (for talks) can arise," Union law minister Arun Jaitley told CNN.

Asked if Vajpayee will meet Musharraf at the Kathmandu Saarc summit next week, Jaitley said "does not appear" Pakistan is creating a situation conducive to dialogue.

On Pakistan's demand for evidence, Jaitley said: "Maulana Masood Azhar heads an organisation which is responsible for the attack on Parliament and was released from Indian prison through the coercive process of hijacking a plane. Does the Pakistan foreign minister still need evidence?"

Jaitley said while Pakistan agreed to hand over Osama bin Laden if he was caught there, it cannot have a different standard when it came to terrorists on its eastern border.

On what India expected Bush to do, Jaitley said the global community should have the same yardstick which was adopted for the Taliban and bin Laden.

Vajpayee, too, had the same message for Bush when the President called last night in one of the busiest phases of global telephone diplomacy.

Vajpayee told Bush that frequent attacks by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists have made the

people of India "very angry" and, as the leader of the world's largest democracy, he was determined to act "firmly and resolutely" against the menace.

The Opposition today echoed that grim message, lending full-throated support to the Prime Minister.

Vajpayee told a steady stream of callers, ranging from Bush to Libya's Muammar Gaddafi, that the world leaders and "friends of Pakistan" should pressure Musharraf to publicly take a firm and unequivocal stand against the terrorists based in Pakistan and "match his words with action".

Vajpayee assured the leaders India would show "maximum possible restraint", but added: "The country is determined to act firmly and resolutely against the terrorists. We have long been facing the menace and the people of the country are very angry."

Showcasing the consensus on display today at a meeting between Vajpayee and political parties, Delhi has decided to launch a global diplomatic offensive to expose Pakistan's "half-baked" measures against terrorism.

Delhi has decided to send to other countries high-level delegations that will include representatives of the Opposition. Opposition leaders will head some of the delegations, scheduled to leave for key capitals by the second-half of January.

A suggestion was made to let leader of Opposition Sonia Gandhi attend next week's Saarc meet in Kathmandu.

The government said it had no objection but pointed out that the Saarc convention did not allow it. It was also decided to raise the issue of cross-border terrorism at the Saarc meeting.



We have long been facing this menace and the people of the country are very angry

Vajpayee to Bush



A soldier hugs his son at Ludhiana railway station before leaving for the front line. (PTI)

Pak bombers on border prowl

FROM GAJINDER SINGH

Jammu, Dec. 30: The Pakistan air force has marshalled a considerable number of its bombers along the Line of Control and the international border in Jammu and Kashmir.

"F-16, F-7 and Mirage 3 aircraft have been amassed in the belt adjoining the state. Of the 469 bombers Pakistan has, 35 per cent has been deployed in the region," a top defence source said.

The heavy concentration of fighter planes has come at a time when some observers were ex-

pecting de-escalation after Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's statement yesterday that he would strive to avoid a war.

It also coincided with reports that the F-16 fleet was ordered to take up position as part of a defence blueprint approved by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf yesterday.

After a meeting between Musharraf and his commanders at the Rawalpindi military headquarters, the army also deployed anti-aircraft guns around more installations and cancelled the leave of doc-

tors and para-medics.

The Indian army said it was "ready for any eventuality" but poor visibility was troubling the border forces.

"We feel that it could be used by our adversaries to sneak in terrorists. We are, however, taking no chances. The Line of Control and the international border have been effectively sealed," a senior officer said.

The army has already laid mines 500 metres within the Indian territory.

"The idea is to thwart Pakistan's design to push in terrorists. Border villages have

been evacuated and camps have been set up to shelter people from Pakistani shelling," the officer said.

Indian and Pakistani troops exchanged heavy to moderate fire near Akhnoor and Pargwal. About 6,000 people have fled Pargwal, which falls within the range of Pakistani gunners.

Pargwal was peaceful till now as the exchange of fire had been concentrated on the Samba and Harinagar sectors.

Pakistani troops also fired tracer bullets and mortars along the border, Reuters quoted a senior defence official as saying.

Lashkar head behind bars

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR
AND AGENCIES

Islamabad, Dec. 30: The leader of the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, has been arrested for making "inflammatory" speeches in Pakistan, an official claimed tonight.

"He has been arrested for making inflammatory speeches to incite people to violate law and order," the official, who refused to be named, said.

Earlier in the day, Masood Azhar, Jaish-e-Mohammad chief, was put in custody for 90 days. Pakistan asked India for "actionable evidence" to be able to launch prosecution against those arrested.

Foreign minister Abdus Sattar said his government had taken "substantive and expeditious" measures against extremist groups.

"The Pakistan government in some cases awaits evidence, specially from India, before it initiates the process of prosecution," he said.

President Pervez Musharraf appealed to the people of India, telling them that Pakistan wants peace. He told reporters after an all-party meeting: "I stand here addressing the people of India now through you that Pakistan stands for peace." He may fly to Nepal for the Saarc summit via China following India's overflight ban on Pakistan.

In his most unequivocal comments yet on cracking down on extremists, Musharraf said: "I

would like to eradicate all terrorism from the soil of Pakistan."

But he added that the "tension created by India on our borders, in fact, is creating obstacles and hurdles and it is slowing down the process..."

Azhar has been shifted from his hometown Bahawalpur to Mianwali prison in Sargodah.

There was no word about Azhar's associates. Sattar had said yesterday 50 Jaish activists were held while media reports put the number at over 90.

"We want actionable evidence so that we can begin the judicial process. We are ready to move but you cannot proceed without any evidence," Sattar said.

Analysts see a subtle change in Islamabad's official stand on the arrested militants since it has so far maintained that they had been rounded up

for indulging in activities against Pakistan.

Sattar's statement indirectly acknowledges for the first time that Pakistan may be moving against militant groups also in response to Indian calls.

Like Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Musharraf was also conducting an exercise to rally political forces together behind himself in this time of crisis.

He sent a message to former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, in exile in Dubai, for the first time to discuss the current situation.



Now we have to take our own last step. With this kind of movement, the situation can ignite at any time

Musharraf to Bush

EU freezes assets of Irish, Basque, Palestinian groups

ASSOCIATED PRESS
BRUSSELS, DECEMBER 29

THE European Union introduced a package of anti-terrorism measures on Friday that freezes assets of Palestinian radicals and brands home-grown groups in Northern Ireland and Spain's Basque country as terrorists. The EU froze the assets of Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Hamas Izzedine al-Qassam, which the EU called the "terrorist wing of Hamas."

Individuals targeted by the asset freeze included Imad Mughniyeh

who the EU named as a "senior intelligence officer" of Lebanon's Hezbollah group, along with two other Lebanese citizens, four Saudi nationals and a Kuwaiti.

The package also included a common definition of terrorist crimes accepted by all 15 EU nations; agreement to deny safe haven to terrorists, their supporters or financial backers; enhanced cooperation and information exchange among law-enforcement agencies within the EU and other nations; tighter monitoring of asylum seekers to ensure terrorists aren't given

refugee status.

For the first time EU governments, also drew up a list of domestic organisations accused by all 15 of terrorist activity. They included the Basque separatist organisation ETA, Irish Republican Army dissidents and Loyalist groups from Northern Ireland, and the Greek far-left group November 17. Twenty-one Spanish citizens accused of ETA links were included.

The EU didn't freeze assets of citizens or groups inside the EU because there is no EU-wide jurisprudence yet for this.

INDIAN EXPRESS

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BJP says no to war, but wants Pak to stop terrorism

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Emphasising that he "did not want war", Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee told the BJP national executive meeting on Saturday that the world community should "put pressure on Pakistan to take effective steps to stop its policy of cross-border terrorism".

Although Mr Vajpayee and others who spoke at the meeting also invoked certain staple formulations like "the nation should be ready for any eventuality", it was significant that the party meeting did not see any increase in rhetorical levels or any concrete demands for military action. If anything, it saw just the opposite. "The Bharatiya Janata Party does not want a war with Pakistan," the meeting's resolution said.

Ordinarily, BJP meetings provide the government a forum to indulge in aggressive but

'unofficial' talk, addressing domestic constituents even while not unduly alarming the outside world. But the pressure of the international community on the Vajpayee government to scale down tensions between India and Pakistan appears to have had a direct impact on Saturday's political statements.

"This development (December 13 attack) has made our decisive fight against terrorism the most important issue on the nation's agenda. Everything else is now secondary," Mr Vajpayee said. Yet, neither Mr Vajpayee's speech nor the political resolution spelt out whether the party in government wanted a military solution. Coming soon after the announcement of the assembly poll dates for U.P., the national executive's focus on terrorism strongly suggests that 'national security' and the threat of terrorism will form the BJP's main electoral plank.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Jaish chief's brothers held

Bahawalpur (Pakistan)
December 29

THE PAKISTAN police arrested four brothers of Masood Azhar, head of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, in a crackdown on the group after it was declared a foreign terrorist organisation by the US. In the raid on Azhar's house, four of his brothers — Suleman, Rauf, Wahid Bakhsh and Tahir — were arrested. Four of his security personnel were also nabbed and commandos deployed at his house.

According to the Online news agency, law enforcement agencies conducted raids on offices of Jaish and Lashkar and several other places, nabbed at least 90 members and whisked them away to undisclosed locations for interrogation.

The men were arrested for possessing Kalashnikovs, pis-

tols and rifles, Maj-Gen Rashid Qureshi, the Inter-Services Public Relations spokesman, told journalists on Friday.

Western diplomats in Pakistan said that Musharraf has also ordered the arrest of 50 leading members of two Islamic militant groups to try and defuse the threat of war.

General Musharraf's move followed days of mounting tension between the two countries. India had dismissed Musharraf's earlier steps against the two groups as "entirely cosmetic" and inadequate to stop the drift towards war. India has, however, been silent on the Pakistani arrests.

With Pakistan unwilling to be seen as bowing to Indian pressure, it made no announcement of its crackdown on Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad. Pakistani officials refused

to say which leaders had been arrested, or even officially confirm the arrests.

Musharraf, speaking to reporters, was elusive. Asked what further actions Pakistan planned against militants, he replied: "We understand our responsibility. We know what we have to do."

Diplomats in Islamabad said intensive telephone diplomacy by US Secretary of State Colin Powell, including calls to Musharraf and Vajpayee on Friday, had helped persuade the General to order arrests and show India that Pakistan was going at least part of the way to meeting India's demands.

A key issue for India could be whether those arrested by Pakistan include Hafez Saeed, who founded and led the Lashkar until he resigned this week.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

30 DEC 2001

U.S. not to halt anti-terror war

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 29. At a time when some in Afghanistan's Government believe that it is was high time for the United States to end the military campaign, the United States believes that this need not necessarily be the case. "I imagine us being there for quite a long period of time", the President, Mr. George W Bush, said at a press briefing in Crawford, Texas.

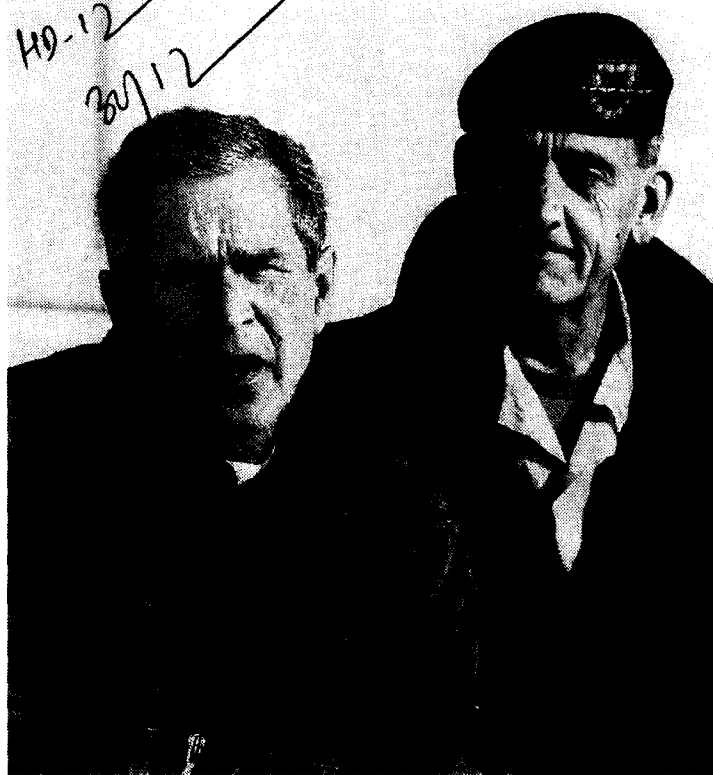
Although the President's remarks cannot be construed to mean that the United States will not just be militarily engaged in that part of the world but involved in a more comprehensive fashion, it does throw some light on the different thinking going on in Kabul and Washington.

The U.S. President has said that the time frame will not be set by him, rather by Gen Tommy Franks, Commander of American Forces of the Central Command, presently running the show in Afghanistan. "It will take as long as it takes...we will not be hurried", remarked Gen Franks who was at the Texas ranch of the President on Friday.

Mr. Bush argued that his administration will neither blink nor tire until such time the terror mastermind of September 11, Osama bin Laden is brought to justice dead or alive. "The world must know that this administration will not blink in the face of danger and will not tire", the President remarked.

The President seemed to brush aside the contention that perhaps Osama has escaped the dragnet. For that matter Mr. Bush did not appear to be unduly perturbed that Osama may have crossed to Pakistan. "You don't need to worry about whether or not we're going to get him, because we are. And it's just a matter of time. Dead or alive is fine with me", Mr. Bush said.

Talking of Osama, Mr. Bush said, "He is not escaping us...this is a guy who, three months ago was in control of a country. Now



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush (left), and his military commander in Afghanistan, General Tommy Franks, brief members of the press about the progress of the operations in Afghanistan at the Bush family ranch in Crawford, Texas, on Friday. — Reuters

he's maybe in control of a cave...We're going to get him running and keep him running, and bring him to justice", the President remarked.

The President and his administration are once again calling for patience on the part of the American people pointing to, among other things, the magnitude of the task on hand in Afghanistan. Both Mr. Bush and Gen Franks highlighted the challenge on Friday pointing to the objectives of political stability and security, fully dismantling the al-Qaeda network, interrogation and finger printing of prisoners — numbering some 6000 in all — and moving some of them for trial.

Meanwhile in Boston, Massa-

chusetts the 28 year old British citizen of English and Jamaican descent has been held without bail. Richard Reid has only been charged with intimidation and assault of an American Airlines flight crew last Saturday over the Atlantic on a flight from Paris to Miami. Reid behaved in a violent fashion as flight attendants and passengers thwarted an attempt by him to ignite explosives hidden in his shoes.

A worldwide investigation is currently on to determine if Reid acted alone or had accomplices. American intelligence officials are trying to determine if Reid was trained in terrorist camps in Afghanistan as claimed by some al-Qaeda prisoners.

THE HINDU

30 DEC 2001

Lashkar seeks funds at Lahore address

Srinivasa Prasad
Bangalore, December 28

AFTER BEING idle for many days, the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba's official website, *markazdawa.org*, resumed its hate-India campaign on Friday morning, condemning the US decision to categorise it as a terrorist organisation.

Contrary to earlier media reports that the website had changed its Pakistan address, it continues to seek donations at 5 Chamberlane Road, Lahore.

The website, which according to Pakistan-based media reports is LeT's official website, was updated on Friday morning with a statement datelined Muzafarabad, December 27. The statement issued by LeT's "new spokesman" Abdulla Yaaf demands that the US first declare India a terrorist State as its "one million force had been committing the worst kind of terrorism for last many years on innocent civilians of occupied Kashmir."

Yaaf vowed that jihad against the "enemy of Islam would continue till the destruction of these forces." When the website was last updated on Tuesday it carried a warning from the newly christened Jamat-ud-Dawa's chief Hafeez Mohammed Saeed that "decisive attacks will be undertaken for Kashmir freedom and jihad cannot be abandoned on the orders of Bush and Vajpayee."

On its homepage, the website

ISLAMABAD DETAINED BROTHER, NOT JAISH CHIEF

PAKISTAN IS playing out a fine charade over Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Maulana Masood Azhar. On December 24, Major General Rashid Qureshi, the spokesperson of General Musharraf, announced Masood had been "detained", but actually the Bawalpur police had only got his brother, Mohammad.

Subsequently, the brother was released after the "mistaken identity" was established. Then Azhar was detained in his house in the southern Punjab city with only one policeman posted at the gate. He continued to interact with visitors, who included ISI officials. The latest gem from Qureshi is that he has been removed to an "undisclosed location."

The target of the Islamabad regime's deception is not so much India than itself. Though there is an Indian demarche for his arrest along with the leader of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and other principal actors of the December 13 attack on Parliament, there are sections within the Pakistani establishment which are baying for his blood.

Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider wants him behind bars for the murder of his own brother in Karachi last week. So Musharraf, in his anxiety to avoid the wrath of the jihadis, is actually ending up protecting Azhar from his own government. Musharraf's covert protection to the top leadership of the Al-Qaida and the Taliban, meanwhile, continues. The General lent his own name to the theory that Osama bin Laden was "dead and buried".

HTC, New Delhi

claims that LeT's offices were shifted to Kashmir. But a link on the website called 'Organisation' leads one to 'Contribution' in which it seeks "Zakat, Offering, Charity etc" for LeT which it says is engaged in Jihad against oppressive Hindu army in the snow-covered valleys, mountains and jungles of Kashmir" and leaves the Lahore address and a phone number.

The website goes on and off the screen depending on political and security exigencies. During Pakistan President Musharraf's India visit, opposed by LeT,

the website disappeared. It reappeared later, claiming the Agra summit was a "success" for Pakistan.

Meanwhile, *azzam.com*, a worldwide multilingual website for "jihad everywhere" continues to warn Muslims that the site could be closed once again. In a "farewell" message, it advises viewers to copy and translate it into other languages and "distribute this message all over the Internet." The message started appearing some time after the September 11 terror strikes in the US.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 DEC 2001

Lashkar ad gives the lie to Bush's claim

Sanjay Singh in New Delhi

Dec. 27. — Till a few days ago, the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba was frantically trying to raise funds. It was surely not caught off guard when the Pakistani government announced seizure of its assets and declared it a terrorist outfit engaged in illegal activities. Intelligence agencies have come to know that the Lashkar's accounts have been emptied: The money has been siphoned off to various destinations through hawala.

A recent advertisement issued by the Lashkar said it was based in Pakistan, not in Kashmir as the US President had said in his televised speech a few days ago. The outfit had also made it clear that the money would be used to create disturbances in Jammu and Kashmir.

It was a loud and clear message to sympathisers across the globe that they were required to donate money to encourage terrorism that targets security forces and civilians alike in Kashmir.

"It costs millions to make one tank, but only a few rupees to defend against it."

The Lashkar also knew that time was running out: The outfit's sponsors were under intense pressure to ban it. So it had urged donors to make it fast — "How fast can you

write a cheque?"

The contributions were to be sent to Bank A/C No. 119-

201-6141-001 Faisal Bank, Gulshan-e-Iqbal branch, Karachi, Pakistan. The address and phone numbers of the outfit were given as Lashkar-e-Taiyaba/Manzar-AJ_Dawah Wal

THE STATESMAN

Irshad; Karachi (021) 4525217, mobile 03204322116; Lahore (041) 7231106, mobile 0300-444992; Islamabad (051) 821226.

"Time is critical, every second is paramount. Just as much as the fact that every penny counts. Mujahideen of Chechnya and Kashmir are looking towards their brethren for support. Your donations will help the Mujahideen fiercely engaged with the infidels rise for glory of Allah," the advertisement said.

It had also warned its sympathisers that those who did not donate for the "glory of Allah" needed to beware. "Remember! If you are not part of the solution — You are part of the problem."

The Lashkar has replaced its leader, Hafiz Mohamed Syed, a Pakistani national, with Abdul Wahid, a lesser known Kashmiri militant based in Muzaffarabad (PoK).

Another terrorist outfit, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, too has replaced its Pakistani leader, Maulana Fazlur Rahman Khalil, with Maulvi Farooq. It has also shifted base, at least for official purposes, to Muzaffarabad.

Intelligence sources believe that the Jaish-e-Mohammed (led by Maulana Azhar Masood), that masterminded the 13 December attack on Parliament and the 1 October attack on J&K Assembly, would soon follow suit.

Mutually assisting a greater war

19-13

The state party in whose territory the alleged offender is found shall, if it does not extradite the person, be obliged, without exception whosoever and whether or not the offence was committed in its territory, to submit the case to its competent authorities for the purpose of prosecution...in accordance with the law of the state. Those authorities shall take their decision in the same manner as in the case of any ordinary offence of a grave nature under the law of that state.

Any person who is taken into custody or regarding whom any other measure is taken or proceedings are carried out pursuant to this convention shall be guaranteed fair treatment, including enjoyment of all rights and guarantees in conformity with law of the state in the territory of which that person is present and applicable provisions of international law, including international human rights law.

State parties shall afford one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with investigations or criminal or extradition proceedings...including assistance in obtaining evidence at their disposal necessary for the proceedings.

State parties shall carry out their obligations...in conformity with any treaties or other arrangements on mutual legal assistance that may exist between them. In the absence of such treaties or arrangements, states parties shall afford one another assistance in accordance with their domestic law.

State parties...not bound by a bilateral treaty or arrangement of mutual legal assistance may... apply the procedure set out in Annex II.

None of the offences referred to in article 2 and the acts which constitute an of-

Extracts from the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, 2001, submitted by India to the US

fence...shall be regarded, for the purposes of extradition or mutual legal assistance, as a political offence or as an offence connected with a political offence or as an offence in-



Face of terror

spired by political motives.

Accordingly, a request for extradition or for mutual legal assistance based on such an offence may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns a political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives.

Nothing in this convention shall be interpreted as imposing an obligation to extradite or to afford mutual legal assistance, if the requested state party has substantial grounds for believing that the request for extradition...or for mutual legal assistance... has been made for the purpose of prosecuting or punishing a person on account of that person's race, religion,

nationality, ethnic origin or political opinion or that compliance with the request would cause prejudice to that person's position for any of these reasons.

A person who is being detained or is serving a sentence in the territory of one state party whose presence in another state party is requested for purposes of identification, testimony or otherwise providing assistance in obtaining evidence for the investigation or prosecution of offences under the convention may be transferred if the following conditions are met,

The person freely gives his or her informed consent, and

The competent authorities of both states parties agree, subject to such conditions as those states parties may deem appropriate.

For the purposes of this article

The state to which the person is transferred shall have the authority and obligation to keep the person transferred in custody, unless otherwise requested...by the state from which the person was transferred.

The state to which the person is transferred shall without delay implement its obligations to return the person to the custody of the state from which the person was transferred as agreed beforehand, or...otherwise agreed...

The state to which the person is transferred shall not require the state from which the person was transferred to initiate extradition proceedings for the return of the person;

The person transferred shall receive credit for service of the sentence being served in the state from which he was transferred for the time spent in the custody of the state to which he was transferred.

TO BE CONCLUDED

Existence of Jaish and Lashkar unacceptable, says Islamabad • US pressure pays dividends

Musharraf climbs down

Perronin
HPI
27/12

HTC and Agencies
Washington/ Islamabad, Dec. 26

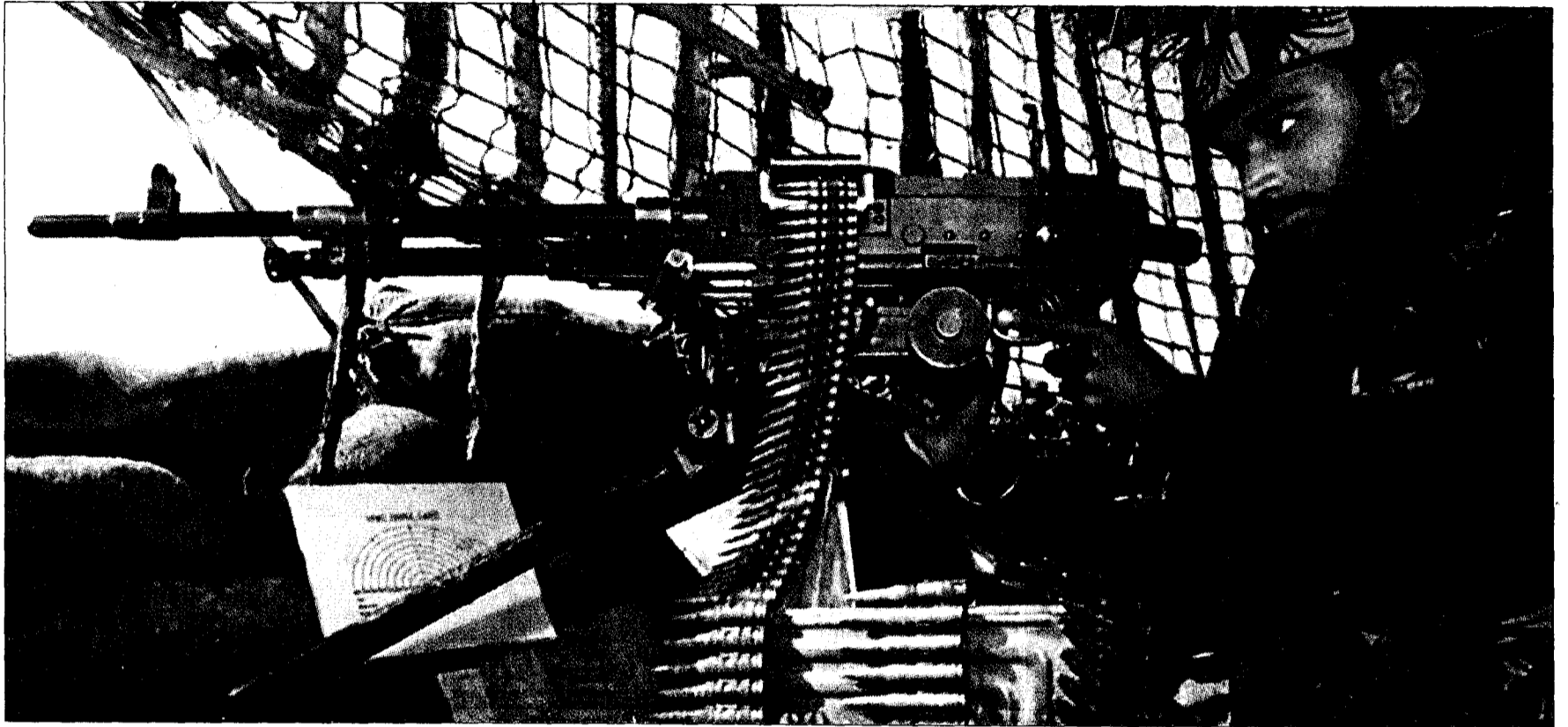
PAKISTAN TODAY termed the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba as "illegal and unconstitutional armies" whose existence was unacceptable to the nation's Government, just hours after the US put both outfits on its terrorist list.

In an interview to the State-owned PTV, Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar said one reality that has emerged in recent months is the need to focus on the mushroom growth of private armies in the name of Lashkar, Jaish and Sipha which were illegal.

"This is not permitted under the Constitution of Pakistan. We should all as citizens be aware of the provision of the Article 256 of the Constitution that declares any private organisations claiming to be organisations of militant forces as illegal. So our own situation needs to be attended.

"Another reality that has emerged in recent months, that is reality of focus on organisations and entities that assert claims that are unacceptable. I think we have to examine the situation in Pakistan itself more closely. We have to examine the fact that there are organisations in Pakistan that have mushroomed over the recent years that openly and blatantly claiming to Siphas, Lashkars and Jaish."

Earlier, US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced that Lashkar and Jaish were foreign terrorist organisations under US law. "The vicious attacks that took place on September 11 made it clear that the US must use every tool at its disposal to



A soldier mans a machine gun in the Ramgarh sector in Jammu. The area has witnessed shooting between Indian and Pakistani soldiers in the last one week. AFP PHOTO

combat terrorism. Today I am taking another important step in our campaign to eliminate the scourge of terrorism."

The US move against the two groups, already blacklisted under separate anti-terrorism moves by the Bush Administration, freezes any assets they have in the US and makes it illegal to support them financially.

It also allows US to deny visas to their members. However, sticking to Washington's balancing act, Powell said the groups had conducted numerous terrorist attacks in India and in Pakistan and tried to "destroy" relations between the two countries.

Indicating US acceptance of India's evidence that the LeT and the Jaish were involved in

the December 13 attack, Powell said "as the recent horrific attacks against the Indian Parliament and the Srinagar State Legislative Assembly so clearly show, the LeT, Jaish and their ilk seek to assault democracy, undermine peace and stability in South Asia and destroy relations between India and Pakistan." The two groups, "which claim to

be supporting the people of Kashmir, have conducted numerous terrorist attacks in India and Pakistan".

Responding to a question, Sattar admitted that India had used the present international environment against terrorism. "Yes, India has exploited the present environment to misproject (the) freedom struggle in Kash-

mir as terrorism."

India, however, is bent on seeing Pakistan take concrete action against the terrorist outfits (such as arrest their leaders). The Foreign Ministry isn't convinced by reports that JeM chief Azhar Masood has been arrested.

Related reports on Page 9

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 DEC 2001

US, UK issued demarche to Pakistan

Terminus
AT-9
25/12

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri
New Delhi, December 24

THE US and the UK had issued a formal diplomatic representation to Pakistan that it must ban Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

The demarche, a response to the December 13 attack on the Indian Parliament, was jointly issued by the two Governments on Saturday. It represents a major diplomatic success for India as Pakistan has so far refused to respond to a demarche sent by New Delhi last week on the same theme.

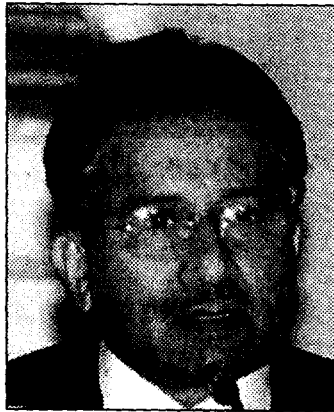
New Delhi has sent strong signals to Washington that unless the US presses Islamabad to take action against the two terrorist outfits, India was prepared to take military action against Pakistan. Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee has kept "other options" to diplomacy "open."

Through last week, Washington repeatedly said that Pakistan had promised a crackdown on Lashkar and Jaish. But the US had qualified this with a call for evidence. The State Department said: "Pakistani officials have made clear...that they will move against extremist groups, including those that India claims is responsible for last week's attacks... if they get evidence of the culpability."

India responded by showing the evidence it had collected to ambassadors of some key countries. The envoys concluded India had shown Lashkar's and Jaish's complicity in the December 13 attack, but not proven the involvement of General Pervez Musharraf's regime.

Nonetheless, this was enough to demand that Pakistan ban the two organisations from operating on its soil.

The US-UK demarche comes



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

after New Delhi's briefing of their ambassadors. The text of the demarche was sent to the Indian Government over the weekend.

Washington had earlier hinted that Musharraf had been told to rein in the two organisations. The White House said on Friday that Musharraf had promised Bush "he would move against those involved in the attacks."

US officials said this sentiment had been communicated to Islamabad, but declined to say whether a demarche had been issued.

The US is ratcheting up pressure on Pakistan to try and preempt an Indian military response.

Some analysts see a softening of Musharraf's position in the past few days. Initially calling India's demands "arrogant", Islamabad today announced the freezing of Lashkar's assets.

India will continue to wait and watch. New Delhi is sceptical whether Musharraf will comply with the US-UK demarche. In the past, Pakistani terrorist groups have worked around US bans by changing names and moving offices.

This is where the terrorists work

*Terronin
T-13
25/12*

Infrastucture facility" means any publicly or privately owned facility providing or distributing services for the benefit of the public, such as water, sewerage, energy, fuel or communications, and banking services, telecommunications and information networks. "Place of public use" means those parts of any building, land, street, waterway or other location that are accessible or open to members of the public, whether continuously, periodically or occasionally, and encompasses any commercial, business, cultural, historical, educational, religious, governmental, entertainment, recreational or similar place that is so accessible or open to the public. "Public transportation systems" means all facilities, conveyances and instrumentalities, whether publicly or privately owned, that are used in or for publicly available services for transportation of persons or cargo.

Any person commits an offence within the meaning of this convention if that person, by any means, unlawfully and intentionally, does an act intended to cause;

Death or serious bodily injury to any person; or serious damage to a state or government facility, a public transportation system, communication system or infrastructure facility with the intent to cause extensive destruction of such a place, facility or system, or where such destruction results, or is likely to result, in major economic loss;

When the purpose of such act, by its nature or contacts, is to intimidate a population, or to compel a government or an international organization to do or abstain from doing any act.

Any person also commits an offence if that person attempts to commit an offence or participate as an accomplice in an offence as set forth in paragraph 1. Any person also commits an offence if that person; organizes, directs or instigates others to commit an offence as set forth in paragraphs 1 or 2; or aids, abets, facilitates or counsels the commission of such an offence; or

In any other way contributes to the commission of one or more offences referred in paragraphs 1, 2 or 3 (a) by a group of persons acting with

Extracts from the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, 2001, submitted by India to the US

a common purpose; such contribution shall be intentional and either be met with the aim of furthering the general criminal activity or purpose of the group or be met in the knowledge of the intention of the group to commit the offence or offences concerned.

This convention shall not apply where the offence is committed within a single state, the alleged offender is a



Waiting to be struck

national of that state and is present in the territory of that state and no other state has a basis... to exercise jurisdiction except that the provision of articles 10 to 22 shall, as appropriate, apply in those cases.

Each state party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary; to establish as criminal offences under its domestic law. The offences set forth in article 2;

To make those offences punishable by appropriate penalties which take into account the grave nature of those offences.

Each state party shall adopt such measures as may be necessary, including, where appropriate, domestic legislation, to ensure that criminal acts within the

scope of this convention are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature.

Each state party shall take such measure as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences referred to in article 2 in the following cases:

When the offence is committed in the territory in that state or on board a ship or aircraft registered in that state;

When the alleged offender is a national of that state or is a person who has his or her habitual residence in its territory;

When the offence is committed wholly or partially outside its territory, if the effect of the conduct or intended effects constitute or result, within its territory in the commission of an offence referred to in article 2.

A state may also establish its jurisdiction over any such offence when it is committed;

By a stateless person who is habitual in that state; or with respect to a national of that state; or

Against a state or government facility of that state abroad, including an embassy or other diplomatic or consular premises of that state or

In an attempt to compel that state to do or abstain from doing any act; or on board a ship or aircraft which is operated by the government of that state.

Each state party shall take such measures as may be necessary to establish its jurisdiction over the offences referred to in article 2 in cases where the alleged offender is present in its territory and where it does not extradite such person to any of these states parties that have established their jurisdiction in accordance with paragraphs 1 or 2

When more than one state party claims jurisdiction over the offences set forth in article 2, the relevant state parties shall strive to coordinate their actions appropriately, in particular concerning the conditions for prosecution and the modalities for mutual legal assistance.

This convention does not exclude any criminal jurisdiction exercised in accordance with national law.

TO BE CONCLUDED

THE TELEGRAPH

25 DEC 2001

'Britain, U.S. tracking Al-Qaeda terror fleet'

LONDON, DEC. 23. The British and U.S. intelligence services are hunting ships thought to make up a terrorist fleet linked to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda Group, *The Observer* newspaper reported today, as a police search of a cargo vessel in the English Channel entered its third day. HD-12 29/12

Some 20 ships had been identified at least three months ago as a result of a joint intelligence operation thought to be led by the Norwegian Security Service, and the CIA, the newspaper said.

Police, supported by the Navy, are continuing their search of the mv Nisha, an Indian-owned vessel carrying sugar from Mauritius to a London refinery.

It was pursued by a British frigate and boarded on Friday morning. Police said they had received a tip-off it was carrying terrorist material".

The ship was reported to have stopped in Djibouti, bordering Somalia, where the Al-Qaeda network was said to have an active cell, before starting its voyage from Mauritius. — DPA

THE HINDU

24 DEC 2001

'Suicide bomber' tamed in mid-air

Boston, December 23

A PASSENGER on a Paris-Miami jetliner appeared to be trying to ignite an "improvised explosive" in his sneakers and was overpowered by flight attendants and fellow passengers today. Escorted by military jets, the plane landed safely in Boston.

American Airlines Flight 63, a Boeing 767 with 185 passengers and 12 crew members, was diverted to Boston's Logan International Airport under the escort of two US Air Force F-15 fighter jets after the mid-air drama over the Atlantic. The two planes that were crashed into the twin towers were also of American Airlines.

The suspect was taken into custody by the FBI. Police in France identified the suspect as Tariq Raja and said he was a Sri Lankan national who boarded the plane using a British passport under the name Richard Colvin Reid. Earlier, there were rumours that the man was of West Asian descent.

After he tried to light a fuse protruding from his shoe, a flight attendant intervened and the 6'4" suspect resisted and bit her, authorities said. Passengers overpowered the man, some taking off their belts to secure him to his seat. Two doctors then injected him with sedative and the shoe was removed.

"When the passengers tried to subdue him, he threatened that he was wired," said Thomas Kinton, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Port Authority.

"I jumped on to his shoulder. Two other guys came and took his legs," said Debry. Reid was held down for 10 minutes while others collected about 20 leather belts to restrain him. "I was there in five seconds and there were already two or three guys on him. It was like everybody knew what they needed to do," said passenger Thierry Dugeon (36) of Paris. "It's pure instinct because it's happening so fast. You're not going to think twice."

"They X-rayed the shoe and found there were holes drilled in the heel and there also seemed to be a detonator wire. The substance was consistent with the C-4 explosive," said Massport



THE ACCUSED, SAID TO BE A SRI LANKAN

spokeswoman Laura White. AP reported that the substance found in the sneakers had tested positive for explosives.

C-4 is a military plastic explosive, with RDX as the main ingredient. The whitish substance can be easily moulded by hand. Even a small amount of C-4 could have been enough to destroy the plane, said bomb technician Jack O'Keefe. An ounce of it could have blown out a window or wall of an airliner and then "the air pressure would rip the plane apart".

But he doubted that the C-4 could have been set off without a blasting cap, walking around with which would have been very dangerous for the passenger. The explosive was used in the October 2000 bombing of the USS Cole in Yemen, killing 17 US sailors and wounding 39.

White House officials monitored the situation throughout the afternoon and President Bush was twice briefed, spokesman Scott McClellan said.

"The flight attendants and passengers who helped subdue the suspect showed great bravery and poise in what was obviously a very dangerous situation," said acting Governor Jane Swift. "Their heroic acts may have potentially saved the lives of the nearly 200 people on board."

The incident is bound to increase the anxiety among airline passengers, already scared to death at the idea of flying since September 11.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 DEC 2001

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D3/12

Feeling the heat

Post-9/11, international isolation and the label of terrorists have dealt a painful blow to Chechen separatists, says Vladimir Radyuhin.

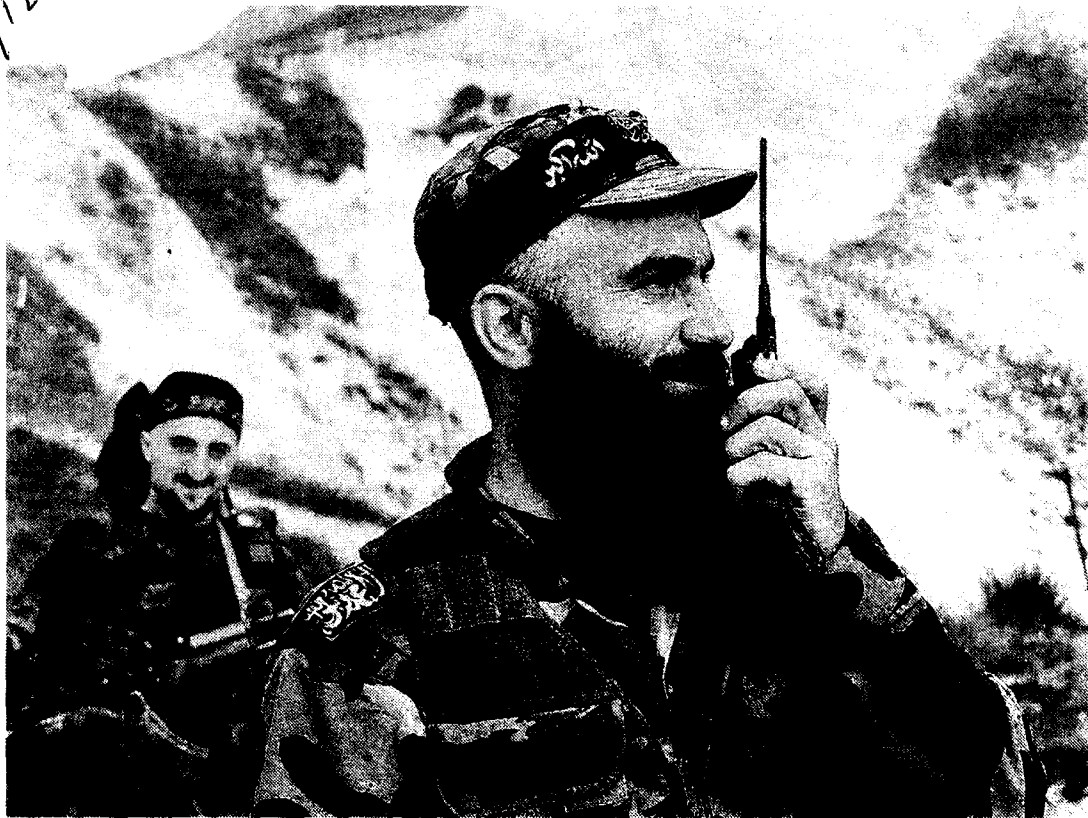
RUSSIA HAS emerged as the biggest winner in the global war on terrorism. It helped Moscow eliminate the Taliban threat to Central Asia, increase its influence in Afghanistan, and forge a new partnership with the West. But most important, it set the stage for breaking the stalemate in Russia's war in Chechnya.

Moscow's second attempt to crush the separatists in Chechnya has claimed the lives of over 3,500 of its troops and 11,000 rebels during the 25-month-long campaign, according to official figures. Over 40,000 troops deployed in the breakaway region have so far been unable to crush the rebel resistance sustained by a steady flow of cash and mercenaries from Muslim countries. "Russia is much more interested in the complete defeat of the gangs in Chechnya than in the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden," Russia's Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, confessed recently.

The September 11 terrorist attacks on America cast the Chechen conflict in a new light. Positioning Russia as a key American ally in the coalition's war in Afghanistan, the President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, linked the extent of its involvement with the coalition to the level of "mutual understanding" on terrorism.

The West was forced to reassess its view of Russia's military operation in Chechnya as a ruthless suppression of a national liberation movement. One by one, Western leaders admitted that Moscow was facing "a real terrorist threat" from Chechen militants who had been trained by Arab terrorists, had links with Osama bin Laden and were financed by a web of Islamic charities.

The West not only agreed that the war in Chechnya had a terrorist element, but moved to cut off the funds that helped fuel the conflict and pressed Russia's neighbours in the region, above



Chechen warlord Shamil Basayev in happier times.

all Georgia and Turkey, to stop sheltering and supporting the rebels. The destruction of the Al-Qaeda network in Afghanistan has further reduced outside financing for the rebels, denied them access to training camps in Afghanistan and all but stopped the influx of foreign fighters to Chechnya.

International isolation and the label of terrorists have dealt a painful blow to Chechen leaders and deepened tensions that have always existed between the moderate separatist President, Mr. Aslan Maskhadov, and his two most radical and powerful warlords — Shamil Basayev and the Arab, Khattab, who have received the bulk of foreign funds. Moscow opened a "dialogue" with Mr. Maskhadov last month. Russian officials said the talks were confined to the terms of the rebels' surrender and their "integration into peaceful life". For his part, Mr. Maskhadov welcomed the talks but said they should be about peace, not surrender.

Apart from the obvious goal of widening the rift among the rebels and reassuring the West of its commitment to a political settlement in Chechnya, Moscow is trying to probe the extent of Mr. Maskhadov's control over the rebels and the scope of a possible deal with him over a post-war political arrangement. Moscow

has set conditions for peace: "terrorists" must be brought to justice and Chechnya must remain in Russia.

Simultaneously, Russia has stepped up the hunt for the rebel leaders, taking advantage of the winter season, when most guerillas are forced to take shelter in villages in the plains. Mr. Ivanov has vowed to smash the rebel resistance finally before next spring. However, the Kremlin is aware that it cannot achieve a military victory without winning the battle for the minds of Chechnya's civilian population, whose support has enabled the rebels to carry on the guerilla war despite the overwhelming Russian military presence in the region.

Moscow has recently become more concerned with this problem. Prosecutors have opened hundreds of cases against Russian troops accused of looting and manhandling the local people. The Federal Government has poured funds into Chechnya to create jobs and rebuild the war-ravaged economy. Chechnya's Moscow-appointed Prime Minister, Mr. Stanislav Ilyasov, reported earlier this month that most of the 400 km of railroads in Chechnya had been restored. Of a total of 467 towns and villages, almost 200 now have electricity and 120 have gas for heating and cooking.

Almost 200,000 Chechen children go to schools and farmers harvested 220,000 tonnes of grain this year and sowed some 155,000 hectares with winter wheat — more than the republic has planted since the unrest began a decade ago.

In an even more promising development, Chechen businessmen, who have been operating elsewhere in Russia, have begun returning to Chechnya, even if with some prodding from the Russian authorities.

Mr. Usman Masayev, who runs a Moscow-based investment firm, was recently elected chair of the newly-established Union of Chechen Industrialists and Entrepreneurs. He has set up a pool of 15 Chechen businessmen from various Russian regions, who invested \$10 million to restore several factories in Chechnya, including a sugar factory and a bread factory in Argun. There are plans to repair some dairy and meat-processing plants. "We can't sit and wait. We have to restore our economy," Mr. Masayev said recently.

Russian leaders admit it will take years to pacify Chechnya, which has a long history of resisting Russian domination in the 19th and 20th centuries. But at least they seem to have learnt the lesson that in the Caucasus the stick only works if used together with the carrot.

THE HINDU

23 DEC 2001

9/20/01 57-b 22/12

Bush orders freeze on Lashkar assets

Desikan Thirunarayanaipuram in Washington

Dec. 21 — US President Mr George W Bush on Thursday ordered the freezing of the assets of Pakistani-based terrorist group Lashkar-e-Taiyaba blamed for the attack on the Indian Parliament.

At a ceremony at the White House, Mr Bush named Lashkar-e-Taiyaba as the group responsible for the attack and said his action is intended to help both India and Pakistan target the terrorist group.

Lashkar-e-Taiyaba has been linked to Al-Qaida, Osama bin Laden's organisation, by US officials but has never appeared on the state department's list of terrorist organisations. It has been supported by elements of the Pakistani army, including the ISI branch.

The move is also likely to complicate the war in Afghanistan, where Pakistan is a key ally of Washington.

A senior Bush aide told the *New York Times* that Washington saw no alternative to the action. "We would be hypocritical if we didn't do it," he said, adding that the hope was that diplomatic intervention would ease tensions between India and Pakistan.

US secretary of state Gen Colin Powell called Pakistan President Gen Musharraf on Wednesday, alerting him to Mr Bush's imminent action, a senior official told the paper. "The indications are that Pakistan is going to be very supportive," Treasury secretary Mr Paul H O'Neill said. Gen Powell also had long conversations with foreign minister Mr Jaswant Singh, urging restraint in the current stand-off with Pakistan.

Mr Bush described Lashkar-e-Taiyaba as "a stateless sponsor of terrorism" that "hopes to destroy relations between Pakistan and India and to undermine Pakistani President Gen Musharraf."

THE STATESMAN

22 DEC 2001

Fresh translation of tape shows Bin Laden naming terrorists

WASHINGTON: Osama Bin Laden names some of the Sept. 11 hijackers and commends them to god, according to a more thorough translation by one of the experts hired by the government to review a videotape of the suspected terrorist.

A more leisurely review of the tape released by the government last week came up with "a whole bunch of names", translator George Michael said on Thursday. He would identify only three: Nawaq al-Hamzi, Salem al-Hamzi and Wail Alshehri.

Alshehri was on American Airlines Flight 11, one of the

planes that hit the twin towers at the World Trade Centre in New York. The al-Hamzis were on AA Flight 77, which hit the Pentagon.

"You'll have to talk to the Pentagon about the rest," Mr Michael said.

Michael, one of two translators hired by the government, said he handed the more detailed transcript to the Pentagon on Wednesday.

Pentagon spokeswoman Torie Clarke said on Thursday night that she was unaware of a new translation, but added it was not surprising to find more information with a more in-depth study of the conversation, considering the poor quality of the sound on the tape.

Meanwhile, ABC news has reported that the translation of the videotape contains several omis-

sions regarding connections to Saudi Arabia.

The network reported on Thursday that the Pentagon had omitted certain sections that "could be embarrassing to the government of Saudi Arabia."

ABC unveiled its own translation of the tape, containing sections not heard on the recording released by the Pentagon.

At the start of the tape, a Saudi identified as Khalid al-Harbi who is speaking with Bin Laden "seems to claim he was smuggled into Afghanistan by a member of Saudi Arabia's religious police," according to ABC's translation.

The Saudi man also said that certain religious leaders in Saudi Arabia, some of them close to the government, had hailed the attacks in their sermons. (AFP)



Osama bin Laden

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 01 2001

8 ultras gunned down in Poonch

Jammu, December 20

EIGHT MILITANTS were gunned down when an infiltration bid was foiled today along the Line of Control (LoC) in Poonch sector. The area has been witnessing heavy shelling between Indian and Pak troops during the last few days, army sources said.

The Poonch and Rajouri areas have been witnessing heavy shelling for the past two days and there were reports that Pakistan was trying to infiltrate militants under heavy firing. Security was increased following the reports and army was put on high alert which led to the killing of eight militants who were trying to cross over, the sources said.

Eight persons, including five militants and two army personnel were killed and five securitymen injured as militants targeted a police station, an army convoy and a security picket in the Kashmir Valley since last night, official and defence sources said today.

Three Hizbul militants and an army jawan were killed and four securitymen injured in a fierce encounter near Watlab in Baramulla district of north Kashmir yesterday and identified two of them as Bashir Ahmad Ganai and

Ghulam mohiuddin Ganai.

Two AK assault rifles, a pistol and ammunition were recovered from the slain militants, sources said. An unidentified militant and an army jawan were killed in an encounter at Natnoosa near Kandi in frontier district of Kupwara late last night, sources said adding one AK rifle and some ammunition were recovered from the deceased ultra.

In another encounter, army killed a Harkat-ul-Mujahideen militant Javid Ahmad Parra at Guklom in Baramulla last night. An AK rifle, three magazines with 70 rounds and a wireless set were recovered from him. Meanwhile, unidentified gunmen shot dead a released militant of Hizbul Mujahideen, Karim Mir at Grand-Kawinar in Badgam district of central Kashmir last night.

The motive behind his killing was not known, the sources said. The sources said a Border Security Force (BSF) head constable was injured when militants threw a grenade towards a security picket at the main gate of Eidgah in downtown Srinagar this afternoon. Pro-Pakistan Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the grenade attack.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 DEC 2001

'This is just the beginning of jihad'

Neeta Sharma

New Delhi, December 20

THE DELHI Police on Thursday allowed four people held in connection with the attack on Parliament to go public with their version of how it was planned and how terrorists operate.

The chief co-ordinator of the Jaish-e-Mohammad in India, Mohammad Afzal, was unrepentant about his role, saying that had he not been caught, he would have worked to inflict another strike against India.

His accomplices — Shaukat Hussain and his wife Afsan, and Syed Abdul Rehman Gilani — were not taking the cue from

him. They claimed that Afzal had drawn them into the dragnet of terrorism.

If the US and Pakistan want more evidence of the involvement of Pakistan-based groups in terrorism in India, Afzal's disclosures should give them some leads.

Among the many disclosures made by the Jaish militant was the claim that the ISI has been funding terrorists from across the border and has set up many bases in PoK to train militants. He said that the ISI was attempting to tie down the Indian Army in Kashmir with subversive strikes in the Valley. "Pakistan is fighting a defensive war and is

using fanatical militants to spread terrorism in the country. These covert operations will continue until India takes a decision to wipe out PoK," Afzal told *Hindustan Times*.

He also spoke of the many ISI sponsored training camps in PoK. "Jaish-e-Mohammad has about 5 camps in the PoK, where many people are being prepared to play the role of human bombs. Only one has died and there are many more to take his place," he said.

"Nothing can stop us, militancy will not end. This is just the beginning and we have managed to penetrate and reach Delhi. We struck where it hurt the most, and we will strike again," Afzal

added.

Afzal also disclosed that militants do not trust Indian Muslims because they do not wage war against the Indian State. But that doesn't stop them from trying to foment disaffection. Attempts to disturb communal harmony and promote fanaticism among Indian Muslims to motivate them to 'sacrifice their lives for Allah' are part of the foreign terrorists' game plan, he said. "Jehadi recruits are fed on tales of atrocities against Muslims in Kashmir and are encouraged to gain martyrdom," Afzal says.

Expert legal opinion is divided on the wisdom of allowing the accused to make public state-

ments. "There is nothing wrong with an accused person making a voluntary statement, but how is one to know whether statements made in front of the press are voluntary or not?" asks senior counsel Kapil Sibal.

"Under POTO, the confession of an accused person can be recorded by a police officer not below the rank of Superintendent. If this has been followed, the confessions are admissible under law. Whether (they) have been recorded in the presence of the media or not makes no difference legally," says RK Naseem, another senior counsel.

Related reports on Page 9



"Jaish-e-Mohammad has 5 camps in PoK where human bombs are being prepared. One of them died on December 13. Many more are waiting to take his place"

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 DEC 2001

BUSH URGES ASSISTANCE TO INDIA

Pak. has obligation to check terrorism: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

410-1
20/12

In a subtle endorsement of India's insistence that the world take note of its concerns over terrorism, the Bush administration has made it clear that Islamabad has an obligation to work against extremist groups operating out of its soil.

"The President has made it clear that the United States opposes terrorism everywhere. And, as the global campaign continues, the President urges all those who support that effort to assist India as India deals with that problem," the White House Press Secretary, Mr. Ari Fleischer, said in a pointed way.

Mr. Fleischer said that the President, Mr. George W. Bush, had made it clear "that it is important for Pakistan to curb the extremists. And what's important, from the President's point of view, for both India and Pakistan is to fight terrorism and to fight the terrorists who are trying to destabilise the region."

The message to Pakistan and Gen. Pervez Musharraf came not just from the White House. The State Department had virtually the same thing to say on the subject.

Its spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, had spoken with India's Minister for External Affairs, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and that the U.S. Ambassadors in New Delhi and Islamabad were in close touch with the Governments.

Arguing that the basic view had not changed, Mr. Boucher said India needed to conduct its investigation, to consider what appropriate action might be taken to help protect its people against terrorism and to help protect its democracy against terrorism.

"But we think it is incumbent upon all to make

sure that we pursue the overall effort against terrorism and we have made quite clear in our discussions with the Pakistan Government that as we pursue terrorism next door, that all countries have an obligation to work against terrorism within their own borders and that we look to the Pakistan Government to work against extremist groups that operate out of Pakistan," Mr. Boucher remarked.

In the course of a regular briefing, the spokesman was asked about the "added burden" for Washington to try and keep India and Pakistan apart in the context of the American involvement in Afghanistan and Pakistan's support for that.

"... We recognise that the fight against terrorism has many aspects and many facets... The President has made clear that we intend to go after terrorism wherever it exists. We intend to go after groups that are associated with the Al-Qaeda. And we look to all the countries involved, all the countries who have made this basic commitment against terrorism to fight terrorism, to carry out steps to make sure that terrorism doesn't flourish within their borders," Mr. Boucher said.

The State Department spokesman said the U.S. looked to Pakistan to take action not only against terrorism generally "but also against extremist groups that may be operating in their country." Importantly, Washington has also reminded Islamabad in a general way the existing and relevant United Nations Security Council Resolution on the subject.

"There is a whole host of obligations which are incumbent upon every country because of the U.N. resolutions. We think that all Governments should take those actions," Mr. Boucher remarked.

Powell calls up Jaswant again: Page 11

THE HINDU

20 DEC 2001

'Response to match act'

Vajpayee, Advani vow tough action against militants

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 18

AS THE Treasury and Opposition members of Parliament united in a brief but rare gesture to condemn the December 13 attack and support tough action against terrorism, Prime Minister AB Vajpayee pledged that the perpetrators would be handed "punishment" in proportion to their outrageous act.

Vajpayee said the Government would definitely go after them (as declared by the Union Cabinet's resolution) "whoever and wherever they are" after consulting all concerned, including NDA allies and the Opposition.

Without elaborating on the nature of action, he told BJP MPs, "God spared our lives to enable us to complete an unfinished, big task before the nation (of rooting out the terrorist menace from the country)."

Vajpayee's tough talk before the BJP Parliamentary Party came shortly before Home Minister LK Advani's statement in the two Houses.

The PM also said India alone would decide on the type of punishment for the perpetrators after full-scale investigation into "the dastardly crime committed on Indian soil." He asked the party to leave the matter to the Government to decide on the nature and timing of retribution after Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan told him that several BJP MPs were of the view that the mood of the country was for "hot pursuit" and smashing of terrorist training camps across the LoC.

The PM's statement in the party fora did seem to be in contrast to Advani's remark, as pointed out by the Opposition in the immediate debates that followed Home Minister's state-

ment in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha. Advani did not give any indication of the Government's plans in response to what he described as "terrorist assault on the very bastion of our democracy" aimed at "wiping out the country's top political leadership".

The Opposition, on its part, told the Government in the course of the debates not to undertake any "hasty" action to avenge for the December 13 attack.

Vajpayee was quoted by BJP Parliamentary Party spokesperson VK Malhotra as saying that there was no question of a joint probe with Pakistan as the terrorists involved in the attack had links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI). New Delhi had sent documents in support of its demarche to Islamabad, seeking action against Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, he added.

Hunt for Al Qaida men takes CIA teams to Africa, Arabia

By NICK FIELDING

LONDON: Dozens of CIA agents have been flown into the Horn of Africa and southern Arabia to pinpoint Al Qaida camps and mop up anti-American fighters fleeing Afghanistan.

Their work is part of a huge international operation to neutralise Osama bin Laden's support networks outside Afghanistan. Already a number of arrests have been made and if significant Al Qaida encampments are found, military operations involving special forces could follow.

In Yemen, which has signed a security co-operation agreement with America, an unknown number of Somali and Djibouti refugees have been arrested in the past week. It is thought that some were detained on the basis of information gleaned from Al Qaida fighters captured and interrogated in Afghanistan.

CIA teams are thought to be active in north Yemen, which borders Saudi Arabia. This remote, mountainous area is home to many Arab fighters who have returned from Afghan training camps.

In Nairobi, the Kenyan capital, a CIA team began work last week investigating the large Somali community to gather information on the relationship between Somali Islamic groups and Al Qaida. British troops have also begun a build-up in Kenya, including special forces who regularly train in its remote border regions with Somalia. At the same time, the United States is considering moving its communications monitoring headquarters from Kenya to



U.S. secretary of defence Donald H. Rumsfeld (left) is greeted by Mohammed Fahim (right), new defence minister in the interim Afghan government, after arriving at Bagram airfield on Sunday.

Djibouti. From there, radio traffic from southern Arabia and the African coast can be more easily tracked and intercepted.

Other moves that indicate how the net is closing in on Islamic terror networks include a growing naval presence in the area, with American and French warships patrolling Somalia's coastal waters and four German warships controlling a zone in the Red Sea. Interceptions of freighters are becoming common, with U.S. marines boarding vessels to search for fighters fleeing

IT COULD TAKE YEARS

- ▶ British troop build-up in Kenya
- ▶ Aim to stop Al Qaida men from escaping and rebuilding base
- ▶ U.S. inspecting ships at Karachi bound for Yemen, Kenya

from Afghanistan.

"It's a classic military mistake to leave a partially defeated enemy on the battlefield in one form or another," said Paul Wolfowitz, the American deputy defence secretary last week. "It's going to be a very long and difficult job to root

them out".

The Germans have investigated, basing troops in Djibouti, under a treaty that allows them to use one of the country's military bases. It is thought to be the first time German troops have been allowed to set up a foreign base since the end of the Second World War. A unit of German marines landed in northeastern Somalia last month to carry out reconnaissance. These moves signal the start of the promised wider war against terrorism. Whether or not Bin Laden is captured, the military defeat of the

Taliban and Al Qaida in Afghanistan represents only the end of the first phase of the conflict.

A primary aim of the new campaign will be to prevent Al Qaida operatives from escaping to rebuild the organisation elsewhere. The anti-terror coalition will be seeking to diminish Al Qaida to the point where it fragments.

American military personnel are inspecting ships loaded at Karachi in Pakistan destined for Aden, Yemen or Kenya. On the ground, troops are guarding high passes into Pakistan, Tajikistan and Iran, which has moved troops up to its border with Afghanistan.

But there are fears that some Al Qaida fighters have made it through to Kashmir, where Pakistan's military is engaged in a proxy war with India.

The number of Afghan Arabs who have escaped from Afghanistan is hard to estimate, but in the past few days the Pakistan authorities say they have detained 340 people, including 40 suspected Al Qaida fighters.

American officials believe that up to 500 Taliban and Al Qaida troops captured at Mazar-i-Sharif and Konduz by the Northern Alliance have since bought safe passage into Iran. Other sources suggest that more than 20 senior Taliban leaders are in Pakistan.

The Northern Alliance has begun releasing prisoners captured three weeks ago in the north of the country. Last Thursday, 200 Pakistani fighters were freed and more were due to be set free to coincide with the end of Ramadan this weekend. The going price is said to be \$1,600 a head. (THE SUNDAY TIMES)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 DEC 2001

Osama & Omar are in Pakistan, says report

HT
18/12

HT Correspondent/Agencies
Washington, December 17

OSAMA BIN Laden and Mullah Omar have escaped into Pakistan and are in hiding, media reports have said. With the Tora Bora fighting nearing its end but still no trace of bin Laden, *The Washington Post* today quoted unnamed Pakistani officials to say that the Saudi-born fugitive bin Laden is hiding in Pakistan until a safer place is found for him and asylum is granted to Mullah Omar.

Pakistan, as creator of the Taliban, had a gigantic stake in its continued well being even in defeat, analysts pointed out. Its ambitions in Kashmir and dreams of a greater Pakistan were served by the Taliban remaining a viable entity, the newspaper said.

"Unbelievably, not one top Cabinet minister of Mullah Omar has been killed, arrested or defected to opposition forces during the two-month long, non-stop bombing," a top Pakistani security official said. Osama and Omar's escape had been made possible thanks the "Afghan way" of fighting wars, the newspaper said.

According to Afghan custom, the outcome of wars was considered settled once it became clear who had the superior forces. Former enemies either melted away or reconciled, and if reconciliation was not possible, at least coexisted without troubling each other, the report explained.

Pakistan was yet to express its desire to nab the duo, it said, adding that it was unclear yet how much pressure the US would exert on Islamabad to get the two.

Of a dirty-dozen list of top Taliban officials drawn up by Alliance officials before Kabul's fall a month ago, at least five were believed to have fled to Pakistan, the report said.

"Ultimately, the Taliban is expected to gain time to mount a challenge to the interim Government of Hamid Karzai. Some Taliban officials have already resumed their political activities unhindered. Six of the militia's senior officials have started a party in southeastern Afghanistan. It is led by Ahmed Amin Mujadidi, a prominent cleric from Kabul," the report added.

The US had already pumped a lot of money into Pakistan through international institutions as well as its European and Japanese allies to seek Islamabad's support for its Afghan campaign, the daily said.

While hundreds of al-Qaida fighters were escaping into the snowy mountains towards Pakistan as the battle to seize their mountainous base appeared to be nearing a close today, Afghan commanders said there was still no sign bin Laden. "They have escaped into the mountains."

More than 500 al-Qaida fighters fled towards Pakistan as the US-led forces announced the capture of Osama bin Laden's Tora Bora hideout yesterday. It is, however, unclear if the fighters will survive the arduous trek, with nothing to eat.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

HUNT THE HUNTER

^(17/10/1992)
The terrorist attack on Parliament on December 13 has presented the country with major security challenges. Unless the government responds with determination, New Delhi will continue to be viewed as an easy target by all those seeking to destabilize the country's polity. It is time that New Delhi adopted policies that are proactive, anticipatory and integrated to make sure that no one is left in any doubt about the nation's firm resolve to fight terrorism and states that back terrorists. Perhaps the most critical security challenge is to improve the preparedness of the security forces to deal with terrorists who are willing to kill themselves. Even countries with the most sophisticated security apparatus find it extremely difficult to deal with the threats posed by suicide bombers. The ongoing experience of Israel suggests that even with the greatest investment in security, a country can fall victim to such acts of lunacy. Before the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad made their appearance, in south Asia only the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam were known for carrying out suicide missions.

The region may witness an increased tendency to resort to such acts if countermeasures are not immediately taken. Two steps are particularly necessary. First, it is vital to have a more efficient unified intelligence network throughout the country and especially in the region that can use human and electronic means to tap and intercept communication between terrorists. Only through systematic intelligence gathering can suicide missions be anticipated and aborted before the event. The Intelligence Bureau ordinarily is responsible for gathering intelligence about threats from within the country, while the Research and Analysis Wing gathers information largely from abroad. Military intelligence confines itself to external military threats from belligerent countries, particularly on the border. On paper, intelligence wings of the local police are supposed to coordinate with the IB, but in reality this never happens. Moreover, the IB and RAW often compete with each other, and rarely do they actually share hard information with what used to be known as the joint intelligence committee, but has now become the secretariat of the national security council. The result is that there is very little possibility of a unified high-level assessment of every day threats and, therefore, the absence of a coherent policy response.

The committee that went into the intelligence fiasco in Kargil in 1999 recommended major changes. In spite of the government apparently accepting the need for most of these, there is still little evidence that a real restructuring has taken place. It is equally vital that the response to a terrorist attack, particularly of the kind that occurred on December 13, must have a deterrent effect on the more rational members of the terrorist organization and its backers, particularly if it is a government. In other words, even while the government may carefully time its action, there must be no doubt that if New Delhi has to take measures to prevent such terrorist acts in the future, it must make the Lashkar-e-Toiba, the Jaish-e-Mohammad and their sponsors bear substantial costs for the Parliament attack.

TELEGRAPH

THE TELEGRAPH

Al-Qaeda fighters fleeing Tora Bora

TORA BORA (AFGHANISTAN), DEC. 17. Tribal fighters and U.S. special forces chased Al-Qaeda guerillas through the mountains of eastern Afghanistan on Monday after conquering their complex of caves and tunnels. Some tearful Al-Qaeda fighters surrendered, pleading with their captors not to turn them over to the Americans.

More than 200 foreigners from the Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden's terrorist network, were killed in battles culminating nine weeks of attacks by American warplanes in the air and eastern alliance forces on the ground. Hundreds more were believed to be on the run, and there was no news on the whereabouts of Osama.

"Until we catch him — which we will — we won't know precisely where he's been," the U.S. De-

fence Secretary, Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld, told reporters while flying to Brussels. "It's going to take time and energy and effort, and people will be killed in the process of trying to find them," he said. Asked if senior leaders of the network have escaped, he added: "We're still trying to sort out who we have, and who we don't have, and who has been killed. It is not an easy process."

There was fresh information on another fugitive on the American wanted list: the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar. Mr. Haji Gulalai, the intelligence chief for Kandahar's governor, said reports indicated the one-eyed cleric was holed up with hundreds of fighters in the town of Baghran, northwest of Kandahar.

Around Tora Bora, airstrikes

were less intense on Monday than in the previous weeks, but bombs still exploded deep in the forests on the snowcapped mountain range where Al-Qaeda fighters were believed to be fleeing. The Eastern Alliance said misdirected U.S. bombs killed three of its fighters overnight. In Kabul, the American flag flew over the U.S. Embassy for the first time since 1989. A report from Abu Dhabi, quoting Al-Jazeera TV, said anti-Taliban Pushtun units claimed they discovered the whereabouts of Osama bin Laden and were getting ready to storm his hideout.

The field commander in-charge of three Pushtun units which ran military operations in Tora Bora, Mr. Zahir, said at a news-conference today that Osama was hiding in a mountainous district in north-

ern Kandahar, which is supposed to have a difficult access.

A session of the leading council of the joint anti-Taliban front has decided that the international peacekeeping forces can enter Afghanistan even before December 22 — the day of the official transfer of power to the interim government headed by Mr. Hamid Karzai, a report from Kabul said.

The so-called Masood team — comprising the Defence Minister, Gen. Mohammad Qassem Fahim, the Interior Minister, Mr. Mohammad Younous Qanooni, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdullah Abdullah — insisted at the meeting on approving the plan drawn up by the U.N. and the Bonn conference to bring the international peacekeeping forces into Afghanistan. — AP, UNI

Jaish-e-Mohammad's target is Kashmir; Lashkar-e-Toiba aims at India total

By Manoj Joshi
Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Toiba, two Pakistan-based terrorist groups, are being seen as prime suspects for the December 13 attack on Parliament House. The Jaish was founded some time in February 2000 by Masood Azhar, one of the terrorist leaders India released in the wake of the hijack of an Indian Airlines aircraft to Kandahar.

The Jaish is the older group and its paternity can be traced to the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (renamed Harkat-ul-Ansar in 1993) which fought in the 'jihad' against the Soviet forces in Afghanistan in the 1980s. At the time of his arrest in India in 1994, Masood Azhar was the secretary-general of Harkat-ul-Ansar. But when he returned to Pakistan, he decided to break away from the Harkat and took the bulk of the cadres to his new outfit. The Lashkar is a newer outfit founded by three university professors in 1987 — Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, Zafar Iqbal and Abdullah Azam. It is considered the military wing of the Markaz-dawa-ul-Irshad (the centre for correct teaching and propagation) and is headquartered at Muridke, a small town some 45 km north of Lahore.

Although both outfits fight in Kashmir, there are important doctrinal differences between them. The Jaish belongs to the Deobandi branch of Islam and is

headquartered in the Binori suburb of Karachi, drawing its sustenance from the Jamiat-ul-Uloom-ul-Islamia, the principal Deobandi seminary of Pakistan.

The Harkat's battle against India is principally in Kashmir and its terrorist activities do not normally extend to other parts of the country. This is in keeping with Deobandi Islam's basic premise that there is no basis for a religious conflict in India. Over the years, the Harkat and its successor, the Jaish, have recruited many Kashmiri militants despite worries that this enables Indian authorities to penetrate their underground cells.

The Lashkar, on the other hand, comprises those who see Kashmir as a gateway to a 'larger jihad' to cleanse India of Hindus and sub-continental Islam of its alleged Hindu influences. Indeed, they plan to carry on the battle to Islamicise the rest of the world as well. Doctrinally, they are closer to the Saudi Wahabi branch of Islam and those who are recruited into the Lashkar take a new Arabic name usually with the prefix 'Abu'. The Lashkar does not accept suicide as a tactic although its cadres undertake near-suicidal missions. The Jaish, on the other hand, does not hesitate to conduct human-bomb attacks. Both the Jaish and the Lashkar have been used by the ISI to fight its proxy war against India and had training camps in the Kunar province of Afghanistan, and will now be hard-put to train its cadres in Pakistan.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

17 DEC 2001

Terror twins triggered terrible Thursday

Terrorism

11-1

17/12

Harish Tyagi

The PLOT

- 1 Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, two extremist outfits, masterminded the attack on Parliament on the instructions of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI)
- 2 The plan was first discussed in February 2001 by Ghazi Baba, the supreme commander of Jaish-e-Mohammad who is based in the Adu Hills, Pahalgam. He arranged for the men who could come to Delhi.
- 3 The plan took final shape in October this year, when Ghazi Baba identified who would lead the attack. The logistical support began to be provided in early December.

The PEOPLE

- 1 Five terrorists. Police say there was no sixth man. All were Pakistanis. They have been identified as Raja, Rana, Mohammad, Haider, Hamza.
- 2 Syed Abdul Rahman Gilani. He is a lecturer in Arabic at Zakir Hussain College in Delhi University. Gilani, a resident of Mukherjee Nagar, was a key person in the plan. He met with others, stayed in touch with the mastermind. He has been arrested.
- 3 Shaukat Hussain, a DU graduate, who became a commission agent in Azadpur vegetable market. He has been arrested with his wife.
- 4 Hussain's cousin Mohammed Afzal, a JKLF-trained militant, who came to Delhi and began living with Hussain. He has been arrested.

The EVENTS

- 1 Ghazi Baba sends Mohammed Afzal to Delhi, who in turn, is able to convince his cousin, Shaukat Hussain to be a part of the plan. Hussain ropes in his close friend Gilani.
- 2 In October, Ghazi Baba identifies the suicide squad leader —

Delhi lecturer held for links with suicide squad

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The December 13 attack on Parliament was jointly carried out by the Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and the Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT) terrorist groups while a Delhi University lecturer, Syed A.R. Gilani, was the facilitator in Delhi, police commissioner Ajai Raj Sharma said on Sunday.

Announcing that the police had solved the case, Mr Sharma said the suicide squad which attacked Parliament was headed by a terrorist identified as Mohammad. His accomplices were Raja, Haider, Rana and Hamza. All of them were killed in the attack.

The terrorists had come to Delhi in November and December after being advised to do so by JeM commander Ghazi Baba, who is based in Bhawalpur, Pakistan.

The militants had originally planned to raid the international airport but later zeroed in on Parliament for their suicide attack. The conspiracy to attack Parliament was hatched in the first week of December, Mr Sharma said. The conspiracy behind the attack was revealed with the arrest of four persons—including the university lecturer and a woman.

"The first breakthrough came when the police established links between the lecturer and the killed terrorists," Mr Sharma said.

The lecturer, who teaches Arabic in the Zakir Hussain College, was arrested on Saturday. During interrogation, he revealed that two more persons, Mohammad Afzal and Shaukat Hussain, were also involved in planning the attack. "The terrorists planned the attack during several meetings at Shaukat's Mukherjee Nagar residence," Mr Sharma said.

Afzal, who is believed to be the

main coordinator of the JeM in Delhi, was also responsible for bringing the suicide squad members to the city from Srinagar and providing them with hideouts in Mukherjee Nagar.

Shaukat and Afzal had left for Srinagar in a truck on the day of the attack and were later arrested by the Srinagar police. A laptop and Rs 10 lakhs were found in their possession. The two drivers and the helper of the truck were also arrested.

In Delhi, Shaukat's Mukherjee Nagar residence was raided and his wife, Afsan Guru alias Navjot Sandhu, arrested. She told the police that she was aware of the conspiracy to attack Parliament as several meetings of the group had taken place in her house. Sandhu, who is pregnant, has been admitted to hospital after questioning.

The militants had entered the Parliament complex in a white Ambassador through gate number 2 and not gate number 1, Mr Sharma said. "Besides the car, they had also purchased a motorcycle to survey the area. They even arranged parking label-stickers for entering the high security complex."

The police said the militants had made elaborate arrangements before the strike. They had purchased 30 kg of ammonium nitrate, four kg sulphur and four kg aluminium powder from Khari Baoli to prepare improvised explosive devices. "The explosives and maps of Delhi and the Chanakya Puri area were recovered from their hideouts," Mr Sharma said.

The weapons used—four AK series rifles, three pistols, 12 magazines, 15 grenades, 15 shells, a grenade launcher and detonators—apart from wireless sets had been brought from Jammu and Kashmir by the suicide squad.



Arrested militants Mohammad Afzal (right), Syed Abdul Rehman Gilani (centre), and Shaukat Hussain stand together outside the special cell of the crime branch in New Delhi on Sunday.

LOOSE ENDS

A LAPTOP

- Jaish-e-Mohammad supreme commander Ghazi Baba gave the terrorists laptop. This was returned by the suicide bombers just before they left for their mission on December 13.
- The police have the laptop but there is no clue as to why it was given and what data it contains.

AIRPORT PLAN

- Delhi police chief Ajai Raj Sharma said the terrorists had initially planned an attack at the Delhi airport.
- Why they gave it up, remains a mystery.

CELLPHONE CALLS

- Dozens of calls have been made from the terrorists' five cellphones. These calls have yet to be unravelled.

Pakistan seeks role in attack probe

ISLAMABAD: After promising to take action if India provides evidence about the involvement of the Lashkar-e-Toiba in the attack on Parliament, Islamabad now wants to be a part of the investigations into the attack.

"Pakistan is prepared for a joint impartial inquiry into the attack on the Indian Parliament. If any evidence is found in the inquiry about the involvement of any individual or group from Pakistan's soil, Pakistan will initiate action," defence spokesman Maj Gen Rashid Qureshi told a British news channel on Saturday.

However, President Pervez Musharraf had not made any mention of the offer in his brief interview on state television on Saturday,

wherein he promised action if India provided evidence. "We would surely expect proof and evidence of involvement of any group in Pakistan in the terrorist act. We will take action against anybody involved in Pakistan in these acts, if at all proved," Gen Musharraf said adding, "We will cooperate as long as there is evidence against any individual or group."

Maj Gen Qureshi, meanwhile, took strong exception to the demand for the arrest of LeT leaders by home minister L.K. Advani.

"We want to make it clear to India that irresponsible statements or ultimatums by the Indian leadership hinting at any action on the Pakistani borders or the LoC will not be acceptable to us. India must understand that it

will suffer huge losses if it resorts to any such action," he said. Reacting to reports that Pakistan has put its troops along the Indian border on high alert, he said the Indian government and media had "started a rhetoric" since the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S.

He claimed that after the attacks, India had sent three troop divisions to the borders. Since then, Pakistan has put its armed forces on high alert to match Indian reinforcements.

Asserting that all differences between India and Pakistan should be resolved through talks, he said Islamabad did not allow any *jehadi* group to take part in terrorist activities and only provided moral and political support to the "freedom movement" in Kashmir. (PTI)

Assets of Muslim foundation seized in crackdown

WASHINGTON, DEC. 16. FBI agents have raided the offices of two of the nation's largest Muslim charities in what Bush administration officials described as a broadening of its campaign to shut a financial pipeline to terrorist groups overseas.

The Government announced few details about the raids on the charities, the Global Relief Foundation and the Benevolence International Foundation, both of Illinois, and refused to say what terrorist groups might be linked to them. The FBI would not say what information it seized.

Last week, federal law enforcement agents froze the assets and searched the office of another large Muslim charity, the Holy Land Foundation for Relief and Development, in Richardson, Texas. In that case, the Government detailed its allegations, accusing the foundation of supporting Hamas, the Palestinian militant group that has taken responsibility for a series of recent suicide bombings in Israel.

Global Relief and Benevolence International have repeatedly denied links to terrorism. They have insisted that the millions of dollars in contributions that they receive each year

are used for vital development and emergency-aid projects around the world, focused on nations with large Muslim populations.

The Treasury Department said after the raids that it had frozen the assets of Global Relief, in Bridgeview, a suburb of Chicago. A spokesman for the department, Mr. Tony Fratto, said in Washington, "There was coordinated action to block the assets, because this group is suspected of funding terrorist activities." Asked what terrorist groups might have received money from Global Relief, Mr. Fratto would not answer directly, saying: "This extraordinary action was taken because it's relevant to the health and safety of the American public." He would not say whether similar action would be taken against Benevolence International, in Palos Hills, also outside Chicago.

A lawyer for Global Relief, Mr. Roger Simmons, said that FBI agents and the Treasury Department had searched the charity's offices on Friday afternoon, as well as the home of its executive director, but that the agents refused to describe the reasons for the search.

He said freezing the assets would affect

\$500,000 in donations in the United States and \$100,000 held in Pakistan. Global Relief had total donations last year of \$5.2 millions.

"We have nothing to hide," Mr. Simmons said, describing Global Relief as a "truly humanitarian" organisation that has helped save lives in several Muslim nations, including Pakistan and Afghanistan. He noted that Global Relief officials had condemned the September 11 terrorist attacks in public statements.

"I can only give theories," he said. "But it appears that these people are being investigated because they are a) Islamic, b) Islamic charities and c) delivering relief in areas where there are a lot of troubles going on." He also accused the Government of raiding the group's offices and freezing its assets as a favor to the *New York Times* and other large news organisations that have recently been sued by Global Relief for defamation. "It appears to be helping out the *New York Times*," he said.

Mr. Fratto of the Treasury Department said the action "had nothing to do with the independent work of the American media." — *New York Times*

THE HINDU

17 DEC 2001

Pak asks ultras to pipe down

Islamabad/ New York, Dec 16

AFTER PROMISING to take action against the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba if India provided evidence of the outfit's involvement in the attack on Parliament, Pakistan today wanted a role in the investigations.

The Pakistan Government also advised militant groups operating from its soil to keep a low profile, but did not ask them to shut down their activities despite US pressure.

The leader of a Pakistan-based militant group said the Government has asked the outfit to move its headquarters to PoK.

"But nothing was mentioned

about stopping attacks on Indian outposts," he told *The New York Times*. "All they told us to do was move our visible means of operation out of the spotlight."

The groups are taking steps to ensure that they have funds available if Islamabad is forced to freeze their accounts.

The latest issue of *Jaish-e-Mohammad's* magazine asks loyalists to contribute to two individual bank accounts.

"I think this brings the Indian Government literally to the brink of having to do something," Marshall M Bouton, president of the Chicago Council on Foreign Relations said. "By that, of course I mean a retaliatory

attack across the Line of Control, probably on a supply dump or something. That said, there will be tremendous counter-pressure from US not to complicate the picture."

Pakistan's defence spokesman, Maj-Gen Rashid Qureshi, said: "Pakistan is ready for a joint impartial inquiry into the attack on Indian Parliament. If any evidence is found in the inquiry about the involvement of any individual or group from Pakistan's soil, Pakistan will initiate action in its light."

But President Pervez Musharraf did not refer to the demand in his brief interview to the State television yesterday. "We would



GEN PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

surely expect proof and evidence of involvement of any group in Pakistan in the terrorist act. We will take action against anybody involved in Pakistan in these acts, if at all proved," Musharraf said.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 DEC 2001

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Stop aiding terrorism, U.K. tells Pak.

NEW DELHI, DEC. 16. Britain today urged Pakistan to stop aiding terrorism in India and said militancy should be stamped out in every part of the world be it in Afghanistan or in Kashmir. Condemning the Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in India, the British High Commissioner to India, Sir Rob Young, stressed the need for a dialogue between the two countries. Sir Young said that Kashmir was a bilateral issue and if both parties desired, Britain could facilitate a dialogue.

He hoped that all Kashmiri groups would join the political mainstream and participate in the coming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. The U.N. Security Council's recent resolution made it mandatory for States not to overtly or covertly support terrorism and "we would see to it that no one goes against the resolution," he said.

The international coalition had achieved a major success against militancy in Afghanistan and Pakistan had to completely alter its Afghan policy, he added. After the completion of the first phase of the war against terrorism in Afghanistan, it would be extended to other parts of the world.

"We cannot discriminate between terrorism in different parts of the world. It would have to be erad-

icated everywhere," he said. Sir Young said the relations between India and Britain were stronger than ever. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, would visit India early next year and discuss with the Indian leaders steps to increase international cooperation against terrorism, U.N. reforms and bettering bilateral relations.

"India and Britain have been cooperating against terrorism for many years. A joint working group on terrorism will meet this month to strengthen the relations," he said.

Sir Young said the India-sponsored convention against terrorism in the U.N. was highly relevant today. There was tremendous scope for enhancing defence cooperation between India and Britain. The defence advisory group of the two countries would meet in February in India.

He said the deal for advanced jet trainers would be finalised soon and by 2003 the trainers would be assembled in India. Both countries were seeking to cooperate on mine-locating equipment, radar and avionics. "In the last two years, 40 defence-related agreements have been signed between two countries," he said. — UNI

'Osama voice' picked up on radio

WASHINGTON, DEC. 15. U.S. troops hunting accused terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden have detected his distinctive voice giving orders via hand-held radio to his Al-Qaeda fighters in eastern Afghanistan, the *Washington Times* reported today.

Officials told the daily that the voice has been positively matched to known recordings of Osama, providing evidence that he remains somewhere in the Tora Bora. "They have picked him up on very short-range radio," a senior official said, adding that Al-Qaeda men had been detected responding to their leader.

The sources told the *Washington Times* that the electronic monitoring is being carried out by special operations troops on the ground, and by spy planes and satellites as part of an intelligence dragnet to help U.S. forces kill or capture Osama.

Many captured

Several Al-Qaeda fighters were captured or killed today after they put up a stiff resistance to U.S. and Afghan forces making the first major advance against the Al-Qaeda's last known stronghold in the Tora Bora caves. A total of 33 bodies were found while four fighters were captured. At least 50 surrendered.

The Alliance forces and a small number of elite American troops advanced about 2 km on the ground near Tora Bora as hundreds of U.S. bombs fell on the caves.

The U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, said the alliance forces were doing most of the fighting while the American commandos were engaged mostly in directing U.S. air strikes to their targets.

Osama is believed to be among his diehard followers cornered in the Tora Bora area. The Pentagon estimated that there were between 300 and 1,000 of those fighters. "A very energetic battle is still under way," Mr. Rumsfeld said amid reports that groups of Al-Qaeda fighters were reported to be fleeing towards Pakistan.

Pakistani border guards today arrested 31 Arab militants crossing into the Kurram tribal area from the Tora Bora area. A senior Pakistani official said in Peshawar that none of them, hailing from Yemen, was carrying arms and none had been wounded in the U.S. air strikes. Four other Arab militants were arrested yesterday when they crossed into Pakistan through the Khyber Pass. A French national, Abdur Rehman, had been taken to a hospital in Peshawar for treatment of injuries sustained in U.S. strikes on the eastern Khost border area of Afghanistan. A local journalist who met him quoted him as saying that 80 to 100 French militants were trapped in Afghanistan.

There was no sign of a promised surrender by 300 Al-Qaeda fighters in the Tora Bora area as they failed to give themselves up even four hours after the set time. A local militia commander, Mr. Mohammad Palawan, had earlier said that the 300 had promised to give themselves up. — PTI, AFP, Reuters

Afroz reveals Kandahar hijacker links

Termin
11-9
11/12

Chandan Nandy
New Delhi, December 15

AS THE Mumbai Police and intelligence agencies examine the statements made during interrogation by Mohammad Afroz Abdul Razzak, the alleged Simi activist linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, a clear connection appears to be emerging between him and at least two of the five hijackers of the IC-814.

Parts of Afroz's interrogation report, accessed by *Hindustan Times*, say he often used to meet Shahid Akhtar and Zahoor Ahmed Mistry at the al-Taqwa mosque attached to the Werribee Islamic Centre in Victoria, Australia.

Akhtar and Mistry were named in the hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight IC-814 from Kathmandu to Kandahar.

Afroz, the 25-year-old son of a "poor tailor" from Cheetah Camp in Mumbai's Trombay area, was arrested with his elder brother Farooq on the night of October 2.

Afroz disclosed during interrogation that he came in contact with Akhtar and Mistry in 1997 when he first visited Australia. He knew them as 'Sandy' and 'Zia'.

The three, with 28 other youths that the al-Qaida had picked to undergo pilot training courses at the Royal Victoria Aero Club, would often meet at the al-Taqwa mosque. They took orders from Maulana Mansoor Illyas who ran the Werribee Islamic Centre. The aviation club is located at Victoria's Moorabbin airport.

What has made the Mumbai Police's Crime Branch and Indian security agencies sit up and take note of Afroz's claims is that he also underwent commercial pilot's training with Akhtar and Mistry at the Tyler International School of Aviation in Texas in



MOHAMMAD AFROZ

1999. This was in the run up to the IC-814 hijack on December 24.

In May last year, Afroz and three others met Maulana Illyas in Hong Kong where, intelligence sources say, the plan to attack the British House of Commons was "probably" finalised. But it is unlikely that Illyas or other al-Qaida terrorists revealed details of impending terrorist attacks and targets chosen by Bin Laden.

It was in July this year that Afroz was sent for another aviation training course at the Cabair College of Air Training at Cranfield airport near Bedfordshire. This was to be the last course he had to attend. On September 10, his group (of five) had valid tickets on the Manchester-London early morning flight which, according to the al-Qaida plan, was to hit the British Parliament.

Afroz has disclosed that the conspirators had planned to form suicide squads of trained pilots who were divided into four groups. Each group was assigned the task of hijacking passenger aircraft in the US, Britain, Australia and India and then ram them into chosen targets. One of the four groups, each comprising five terrorists, was tasked to target the Indian Parliament.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

100 000 201

MERCHANTS OF TERROR

16/11
 (10/11/11)

Hizbul Mujahideen: A pro-Pakistan outfit, headed by Mohammad Yousuf Shah alias Syed Salahuddin, operating in the Valley since 1989. Most of its militants are Kashmiris, both from PoK and the Valley. Its cadres are trained in IED attacks.

Strength: 1,200-1,500 members

Al Badr Mujahideen: Functioned as a unit of the Hizb. It split in Sept 1998 and began operating independently. Pakistani Bakht Zameen is its current chief. Active in Kupwara in the Valley, and in Rajouri and Poonch in Jammu.

Strength: 250-300 members

Tehrik-e-Jehad: Founded in March 1997 after the merger of Ansarul Islam and a faction of Al-Barq (a People's Conference-affiliated organisation). Based in Muzaffarabad (PoK). Farooq Qureshi heads it. Mostly Kashmiris in its ranks, besides some Pakistanis and Afghans and ex-servicemen of the Pakistan Army. It was active during the Kargil conflict. It stands for the right of self-determination for Kashmiris.

Strength: 200 members

Harkat-ul-Mujahideen: Operated earlier under the name of Harkatul Ansar and was formed in 1993 when two Deobandi militant groups, Harkat-e-Jihad-e-Islami and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, merged. One of the most active militant groups. Headed by Pak national Molvi Farooq Kashmiri. After the US declared Harkatul Ansar a terrorist organisation in 1995 after the kidnapping of five Westerners in Pahalgam, the group changed its name to Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. It is linked to the



Syed Salahuddin



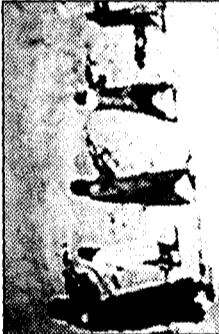
Young fighters in Pakistan enlist themselves for jihad in Kashmir



Hamza, deputy chief of Al Badr



Al Badr militants looking at a map of Kashmir in their Lahore office



Militants being trained in PoK



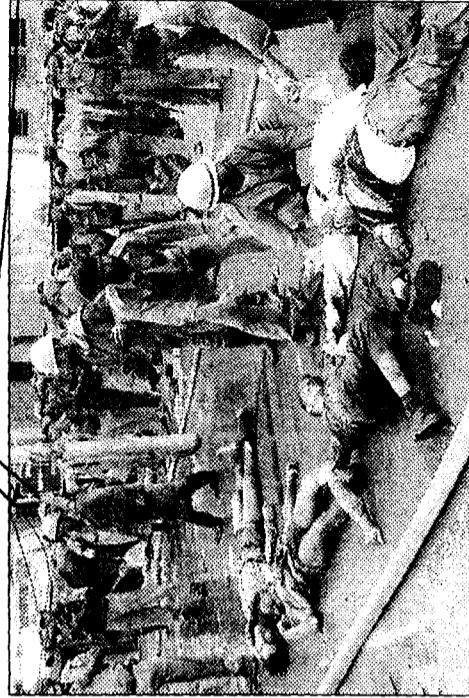
A Tehrik-e-Jehad militant raising funds in Pakistan



Maulana Masood Azhar



Al Badr militants killed by security personnel in Kashmir



File photo of the scene outside the J&K assembly after a fidayeen attack

SUICIDE ATTACKS IN J&K: FACTFILE

Total number of fidayeen (suicide) attacks till November, 2001:	41
Security forces killed:	144
Security forces injured:	139
Militants killed:	688
Civilians killed:	53

Major fidayeen attacks

- July 13, 1999: BSF sector headquarters at Bandipora, north Kashmir
- A DIG, a deputy commandant and a sepoy and his wife killed. One militant also killed.
- August 5, 1999: RR camp at Natnoosa. Five army men and five militants killed.
- November 3, 1999: Corps headquarters in Badamibagh, Srinagar.
- A Major killed along with his staff. One Lashkar militant too killed.
- December 12, 2000: Police Control Room Srinagar. 10 policemen killed.
- October 22, 2001: Air Force Base at Awantipora in Pulwama
- Attempt foiled. All four militants killed.
- November 13, 2001: Army convoy at Ramban. Thirteen army men killed and 37 wounded.

religious group of Jamiat-ul-Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) of Samiul Haq and Fazlur Rehman in Pakistan.

Strength: 500-700 members

Harkat-e-Jihad-e-Islami: After Russians left Afghanistan in 1990, its focus shifted to Kashmir. In 1993, the group merged with Harkat-ul-Mujahideen to form Harkatul Ansar. The group revived following a split in Harkatul Ansar in late 1996. Ali Akbar is its chief of Kashmir chapter and Dari Saif Ullah, till recently based in Afghanistan, is its chief. Mainly Pakistanis in its ranks. Of late, some Kashmiris too have joined the group.

Strength: Around 300 members

Jaish-e-Mohammad: Formed by Maulana Masood Azhar soon after his release from a Jammu jail during Kandhar hijacking crisis. He was arrested in south Kashmir's Bebehara belt in Feb 1994. Masood figured among top ideologues of Harkatul Ansar. Jaish is among the fastest growing outfits in Kashmir. Most of its members are Pakistanis. The group has formidable influence in areas like Tangmarg, Marg, Tral and Baramulla.

Strength: Around 600 members

Lashkar-e-Tayyeba: Run by Markaz Dawa wal Irshad of Pakistan. Prof Hafiz Saeed is its chief. One of the most active groups involved in militancy in Kashmir. After Kargil war, it began masterminding fidayeen (suicide) attacks on security formations.

Strength: 600-700 members and has over 100 fidayeen militants

Al Qaida resistance crumbles, 20 killed

FROM SEBASTIAN ALISON

Tora Bora, Dec. 15 (Reuters): Afghan fighters whittled away at Osama bin Laden's remaining guerrilla forces today, capturing 50 and killing 20, but the question remained whether the Saudi-born militant was trapped with his men.

As US warplanes dropped more bombs on the cave and tunnel hideouts of the al Qaida guerrillas in eastern Afghanistan, US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said Afghan and US troops had made a major advance against the besieged fighters.

"The forces on the ground near Tora Bora have advanced about 2 km (just over a mile)...in the last eight hours...a heck of a lot in that kind of terrain," Rumsfeld told reporters before a refuelling stop in Ireland en

route for central Asia.

Both Rumsfeld and Afghan commanders said about 50 al Qaida fighters had surrendered in the thrust by Afghan forces and small numbers of US special forces, who were now helping to clear the ground.

Said Mohammad Pahlawan, a commander returning from the front line in the rugged White Mountains, also told Reuters 20 al Qaida fighters had been killed, all Chechens.

"All those who surrendered had guns, but the Chechens don't want to surrender," he said.

There were still no clear signs on the whereabouts of bin Laden, accused by Washington of masterminding the September 11 attacks on US cities that killed nearly 3,300 people.

US officials say they believe he is still in the Tora Bora area, but the Pakistan-based Afghan

Islamic Press quoted informed sources yesterday as saying he had left.

In Washington, President Bush vowed yesterday: "I don't know whether we're going to get him tomorrow, or a month from now, or a year from now. I really don't know. But we're going to get him. He may hide for a while, but we'll get him."

In Tampa, Florida, Gen. Tommy Franks, who is directing the US "war against terrorism", said the al Qaida combatants were running short of ammunition, food and water. "We can wait longer than they can and will maintain pressure until they are over," Franks told a briefing in his headquarters at the US Central Command.

Gen Franks also said Captured American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh has been transferred from the US

Marines' Camp Rhino in Afghanistan to the *USS Peleliu*.

US warplanes launched some of their most intensive bombing raids yet on al Qaida's mountain lairs early today.

"A special push has been made overnight," said Haji Atiqullah, a spokesman for commander Haji Zahir. "There was very heavy bombing through the

night," said tank commander Babreg.

Rumours abounded that bin Laden's forces in Tora Bora — or black dust — in the White Mountains some 40 km south of the eastern city of Jalalabad might be ready to give up. "I have heard talk of this, but I have no news," Babreg said.

In southern Afghanistan, US Marines presided over a resumption of flights at the airport on the outskirts of Kandahar, the city that was the birthplace and the powerbase of Afghanistan's now-ousted fundamentalist Taliban. The Marines, flying from desert staging areas, swept into the airport yesterday to make it safe for military and civilian use, but flights were delayed in the afternoon when intelligence officers spotted men armed with an anti-aircraft missile nearby.

"Flights have resumed,"

Major Chris Hughes, a Marine spokesman, told reporters after the missile was found to be in the hands of allied Afghan forces.

But another threat lingered in the city itself. Armed Arab fighters, said to be Saudis, were in a hospital, threatening to blow themselves up if anyone tried to capture them.

Doctors in the Mirwais hospital said they were afraid the fighters — admitted to the hospital about two weeks ago while the city was still in Taliban hands — could cause huge damage. "The injured Arab fighters possess hand grenades and other small weapons," surgeon Daud Farhad told Reuters.

Seeking to cement Washington's international coalition, Rumsfeld arrived in Azerbaijan today with the offer of military and economic assistance to states close to Afghanistan.

Cake airdrop

Kabul, Dec 15 (Reuters): US forces will bomb Afghanistan tomorrow — with 46,000 pounds of cake, a military spokesman said.

The cakes, from California, would be dropped near Mazar-e-Sharif and Kunduz in the north and Kandahar in the south.

India welcomes talks on ABM treaty

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Dec. 15: India has welcomed the dialogue between the United States and Russia to withdraw the 1972 bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

A formal notice for withdrawal of the treaty was given by Washington to Moscow yesterday. The two sides now have six months to set up a new arrangement in place of the treaty, or lodge their protest against it.

"India has been in regular dialogue with both Russia and the United States on ballistic missile defence and the new strategic framework," foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said this afternoon.

"We have consistently advocated a cooperative approach and not taking recourse to unilateralism," she said.

Rao said the governments of Russian President Vladimir Putin and his American counterpart George W. Bush have held

intensive and wide-ranging consultations. "They have reiterated their commitment to working closely together," she added.

"We particularly welcome the reaffirmation by Russia and the United States to substantially reduce their strategic offensive nuclear weapons... These cuts will contribute very significantly towards nuclear disarmament," Rao said.

India had caused quite a heartburn, both within the country and outside, particularly in Russia, by becoming the first country to welcome President Bush's proposal early this year on the Nuclear Missile Defence system replacing the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty.

Though New Delhi modified its stand by stressing that Washington should not take any step unilaterally on the treaty agreed between US and Russia in 1972, its support for Bush's missile defence system remained unchanged.

That negotiations over the past few months between Washington and Moscow on the issue have been non-confrontationist has worked in India's favour. The semblance of a mutual agreement, rather than a unilateral decision, has helped New Delhi maintain its diplomatic and strategic balance between Russia and America. Putin, who called Vajpayee on Thursday to condemn the terrorist attack on Parliament, also apprised him of the latest developments on the treaty.

With the Bush administration making an effort to engage with Russia and involve it more in the working of Nato and other important Western fora, Moscow's opposition to the treaty has thawed. Signals emanating from Moscow indicate that the Russian leadership would like to develop a relationship with America based on cooperation rather than antagonism.



Cate Blanchett and husband Andrew Upton pose with their new born son Dashiell John in London. This is their first child. (Reuters)

THE TELEGRAPH

16 DEC 2001

Attacks on Parliaments

Gerrosian 51-5 19/12



The Armenian parliament was in the thick of an intense question and answer session on 27 October 1999 when five gunmen blasted their way into the parliament chamber. They fired automatic weapons to script the first and the worst episode on a functioning democracy.

Inside, they shot dead nine people, including Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, Speaker Karen Demirchian, Deputy Speaker Yuri Bakshian, Energy Minister Leonard Petrosian and senior economic official Mikhail Kotanian.

The terrorist squad led by Nairi Hunanian killed five other legislators and this single incident plunged the fledgling democracy, since the 1991 Soviet collapse, into unimaginable political and economic crisis.

On Thursday in New Delhi, it was the terrorists' rash driving that alerted the security staff when the culprits made their car scrape past Vice-President Krishan Kant's convoy vehicle. It was primarily the alertness of the watch and ward staff that saved the country. Had luck been on the terrorists' side, India would have watched its

own Armenian episode - far worse in comparison, given their proximity to the entrance of Parliament. Parliaments, legislatures and similar law-making bodies at the grass-root levels have often been attacked and stormed into when the government's policies drew antagonistic public opinion that peaked in volatility.

In a way, this is a part of democracy where the people feel that the law-makers are not living up to their expectations and therefore reckon that the law-making body requires their direct involvement. Take, for instance, an incident in Switzerland. On the morning of 26 September, when a joint session of parliament and state government was in progress, a man armed with an automatic rifle walked into the hall and indiscriminately opened fire.

Fourteen people were killed, sixteen others, including the head of Zug's government, Hanspeter User, and seven legislators were seriously injured. In Yugoslavia, hundreds of thousands of demonstrators virtually waded into the parliament building in Belgrade last October to protest against Slobodan Milosevic's continuance as President.

Fires erupted inside the building and a bulldozer broke into it, enabling demonstrators to pour in. Policemen, unable to control the

The purpose of storming a Parliament to kill legislators and ministers is all about striking terror in the heart and soul of a country.

These are indications that this may not be the last of such terrorist efforts. The premise is that the terrorist works for an audience and cannot hope for a better one than when he targets a functioning democracy. In the process, he achieves another high - by making the nation feel vulnerable, writes STANLEY THEODORE

situation, joined the protesters, according to an AP report of 5 October 2000. The incident was unprecedented in scale and intensity in the country's 55 years of Communist history.

The purpose of storming parliament to kill members, senior Cabinet ministers and constitutional heads is all about striking terror in the heart and soul of a country. On 11 September, the fourth plane that crashed without target, after passengers took on the hijackers, was intended to hit Capitol Hill or the White House.

In 1987, a grenade attack on Sri Lanka's parliament opened the world's eyes to the simmering ethnic problem there. In August, Ajitha Kumara lobbed a grenade into the parliament complex killing two people, including a legislator. The incident was a precursor to a chain reaction of encounters between the Sri Lankan government and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

In May last year, a huge LTTE suicide squad attempted to ambush parliamentarians and ministers emerging from the House. This came a day after the government and the main Opposition party successfully concluded their first round of talks for a political solution to the ethnic conflict. Sri Lanka has lost key leaders to suicide attacks apart from Rajiv Gandhi. A bigger disaster was averted when a civilian stumbled upon the LTTE squad's plans, failing which many Sri Lankan politicians would have been killed.

Fiji was a land of just 840,000 people that held world attention and concern for two months, last year. On 19 May, George Speight and seven others in an unimaginable attack stormed the Fiji parliament in Suva and took 40 people hostage, including the then Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhary and key Cabinet ministers.

Speight let off some Cabinet ministers after extracting an assurance from them that they would resign in protest against the minority, ethnic Indian domination but held the rest at gunpoint for 56 days.

On the same day, half-way across the world, the Paraguay parliament suffered a crisis but this event was overshadowed by the audacious manner in which elected representatives were held hostage inside the Fiji House. Three army regiments revolted to stage a coup against President Luis Gonzalez Macchi. Rebel tanks entered the capital, Asuncion, and fired at random on Congress buildings causing extensive damage. Mr Macchi pressed

his Air Force into service and the bombers chased the rebels back to the confines of a local army base.

The coup was unsuccessful and the effort lasted just a few hours. The man who scripted the coup was the fugitive Army commander, General Lino Oviedo, on the run ever since he assassinated Paraguay's Vice-President Luis Maria Argana in early 1999.

A deliberate attack on parliament as part of a domestic power struggle between politicians was first seen in Russia in 1993, making the world recoil in horror. President Boris Yeltsin lost the confidence of the parliamentarians and the Vice-President announced that he was taking over. On 4 October, just before dawn, many elite divisions of the Russian military forces decided to support Mr Yeltsin. Firing began at 7 am on the White House.

"The assault continued throughout the day and was accompanied by almost constant sniper fire from the upper storeys of several buildings in downtown Moscow. Defenders of the parliament were equipped with anti-tank guns and they managed to burn several machines.

Many teenagers and other Moscovites, attracted by the exciting events, walked and gaped



parliament and Vice-President Rutskoj were arrested. Well-equipped snipers to protect parliament kept shooting hours after that, injuring several civilians on Moscow's streets.

During the evening and night of 4-5 October, special army and police divisions were hunting for snipers in downtown Moscow. Official reports placed the toll at 146 with roughly 1,000 injured. Newspapers later reported that the government in 1994 spent more than \$300 million to restore the parliament building, much more than it spent on fundamental academic research and development programmes in the country.

Back home, there were two attacks on legislatures in less than 10 weeks - the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly in Srinagar on 1 October and the Indian Parliament on 13 December. These are indications that this may not be the last of such terrorist efforts.

The premise is that the terrorist works for an audience and cannot hope for a better audience than when he targets the very heart of a nation's democracy. In the process, he achieves another high - by making the nation feel vulnerable.

December will certainly speak a similar language with Kashmir at the centre of that jargon. Having fortuitously and fortunately escaped Armenia's fate, the adviser to former President Levon Ter-Petrosian, Gerard Libaridian's presentation at Harvard University on that attack's possible impact on Armenia begs attention.

"A crazed attack by a lone gunman is one thing; but an attack by five gunmen, who were calm and methodical in the execution of their operation, seemed to hint at a larger conspiracy. They held the Deputies hostage overnight, and seemed to be waiting for some action outside the parliament building.

"Was their assault the first part of a coup attempt, whose second stage failed to materialise? How did the gunmen so easily enter the parliament building," he asked.

Though Thursday's attack was not a coup, every word he asked then is pertinent to our event. This is especially so after Home Minister LK Advani said terrorists were planning to attack Parliament.

He had also identified one of the "pilots", Mohammed Afroz, arrested in Mumbai recently, who received flight training in Melbourne four years ago.

The winter session of the Parliament in New Delhi was supposed to discuss the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, a law intended to curb terrorism. Veteran journalist and Rajya Sabha MP Kuldip Nayar who was in Parliament during the attack, wrote in a column: "One member asked me if I still had reservations over Poto. I kept quiet. I thought he should have known that the incident had taken place despite Poto, which was by now more than a month old."

The other irony is that the attack came after the Opposition stepped up their protests in Parliament over coffins being bought at higher prices for our martyrs killed in Kargil by Pakistan-backed insurgents.

At Harvard, Mr Libaridian said: "There has not been a retreat from democracy in Armenia. The constitution has been tested one more time, and it worked."

India being a larger, older and more vibrant democracy can easily afford to echo this point till it reaches cliché level.

But before that, India has to most certainly answer in its context the questions Mr Libaridian raised at Harvard.

(The author is The Statesman's Hyderabad-based Special Representative.)



Clockwise from bottom left: Smoke billowing from the upper storeys of the White House in Moscow in 1993. This was the first deliberate attack on Parliament as part of a domestic power struggle between politicians. Security personnel guarding the body of the suicide-bomber who blew himself up inside the Parliament complex in New Delhi on Thursday. Civilians and paramilitary personnel killed in a blast after a militant drove his car to the Assembly building in Srinagar in October. George Speight and his men who stormed Fiji's parliament in Suva and took 40 people hostage, including the Prime Minister, in May last year. — AP/PTI

around the parliament building; some of them were injured or killed by casual bullets," a report said.

At 5 pm, special troops entered the White House; leaders of

Nairi Hunanian, Armenia's first post-Communist journalist, said he wanted to force "the anti-national government" to resign at gunpoint. Those responsible for 13

HQ-11

Parliament resolves to fight terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, DEC. 14. While condemning Thursday's terrorist attack on the Parliament House, both the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha today resolved to fight terrorism and protect the sovereignty and integrity of the country at all costs.

Both the Houses adopted a resolution condemning the "cult of violence and hatred promoted by senseless elements having no faith in democratic institutions."

Describing the attack as one on the "very freedom of the country", the Lok Sabha Speaker, Mr. G.M.C. Balayogi, said the entire nation had stood as one against such attacks in the past and this time too.

The Speaker paid tributes to the six security personnel who laid down their lives while thwarting the attempt of the terrorists to enter the Parliament House. "In their death the valiant security person-

nel have set the highest standards of selfless courage and bravery. Our hearts reach out to the families of these martyrs in this hour of their supreme personal loss."

As the country's top political leadership, including the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, and the Leader of Opposition, Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, and other members sat in a sombre mood, amid the thumping of desks the Speaker lauded the act of the per-

sonnel of the Delhi Police, CRPF, ITBP and the Parliament Watch and Ward Security of foiling the attempt of the terrorists to enter the building.

In the Rajya Sabha, the Chairman, Mr. Krishan Kant, said the attack had shocked not only the entire nation but also the conscience of the freedom loving humankind all over the world. "No words are strong enough to condemn this heinous act", he said.

Praising the watch and ward

staff, he said that though unarmed they showed great presence of mind. At least 30 persons, including some security personnel, were injured and some of them are in a critical condition.

"Our sympathies go to the victims of the attack and their bereaved families. Our security personnel and Watch and Ward staff deserve praise for their alertness and devotion to their duty", a resolution moved by him said.

THE H
15 DEC 2001

AT LAST, LADEN TAPES RELEASED

By arrangement with Dawn

Washington, Dec. 14: After days of agonizing whether it should be made public or not, the US government on Thursday finally released the tape that shows Osama bin Laden talking about the September 11 attacks that have led to the military campaign in Afghanistan and the end of the Taliban regime.

The Arabic tape, whose existence was first revealed in a *Washington Post* report on Sunday, stretches over nearly 90 minutes, and the camera catches Osama at dinner with some companions, telling them, according to the English-language subtitles, that the attacks were carried out by the "Egyptian family," presumably the Egypt-

ian branch of Al Qaeda.

The amateur tape was reportedly filmed early last month and essentially consists of a dinner discussion of the September events, with Osama even reciting a poem that promises to continue the fight "until you free our lands," an allusion to the presence of US troops in Saudi Arabia and the Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

Osama bin Laden says that the details of the September 11 operation in New York and Washington, were not known to anyone, and one group did not know what the other had to do. There was not even one letter, and all that those involved knew was that a "martyrdom operation" was imminent. Some apparently were not even aware that they were about to undertake a suicide mission.

The tape is being described here as conclusive proof of Osama's involvement, but United States officials will anxiously watch for reaction from Muslim countries to see whether this is also how Muslim countries interpret it and whether they fully accept its authenticity.

Is Osama bin Laden merely giving an impression that he was responsible for the operation or was he really the mastermind behind it is the question that is most likely to be asked now.

At one point, Osama expresses surprise that the first of the trade center towers hit totally collapsed rather than only the top being sliced away by the hijacked plane that was driven into it.

Osama also says that when the first news came he asked the others to wait for more.

He points out that there was a difference of 20 minutes between the hits on the twin towers and an hour between the first attack and the hit on the Pentagon.

In comments here, he is described as "gloating over" the attacks.

A great deal of the tape is devoted to showing the wreckage of a US helicopter that came down in southern Afghanistan (whose crew was extracted by another American helicopter), and one person is seen taking out and displaying gas masks, maps and a radio transmitter recovered from the crashed aircraft.

Senator Al Qaeda leader Ayman Zawahiri, who has since been reported injured in one of the US-led bombing runs, sits alongside Osama throughout the filming of the tape, which was shown on all the major net-

works as soon as it was released.

It is said that four non-government Arabic-speaking interpreters worked on translating and transcribing the tape as part of efforts to ensure that no questions were raised about the translation that could compromise the tape's authenticity.

The United States government has been severely criticized for not producing any evidence in public to establish Al Qaeda's culpability in the September 11 attacks before undertaking its bombing of Afghanistan.

Bush administration now hopes that this Osama bin Laden tape, in which he virtually confesses to his role in September 11 attacks, will, post facto, provide the justification it needs for its "campaign against terrorism."

THE ASIAN AGE

15 DEC 2001

49-11
15/12

Govt. under pressure to 'act'

Journalism

By Harish Khare

NEW DELHI, DEC. 14. The Vajpayee Government today came under marked pressure from within its own political backyard as well as the security agencies to respond effectively to the terrorists' failed attempt at Parliament House, even as the responsibility for Thursday's attack was being pinned on the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba.

The official nervousness and political tenseness, so visible on Thursday, ebbed conspicuously today. There was an all-round feeling of self-assurance that the terrorists' game was not allowed to succeed.

The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, visited the CRPF camp within the Parliament House complex to thank the paramilitary personnel for their bravery. And the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, attended the funeral of the Delhi police personnel killed in the gunbattle. The President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, cancelled his 'Iftar' as a mark of respect to the security personnel who died in the attack.

The two Houses of Parliament met for a short while to send out a message that Indian democracy would not be cowed down by ter-

rorists. Army units were being sent back to their barracks and parliamentary partisanship slowly re-appeared.

For the record, the ruling BJP let it be known that a number of its MPs had met the Prime Minister this morning and demanded effective action. As the party spokesman, Mr. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, put it, the BJP MPs told Mr. Vajpayee: "We should take a decision as early as possible on a pro-active policy against terrorists. There is also need for hot pursuit of terrorists and destroying terrorist training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir."

However, the BJP took care to cite this view as only that of a few MPs. The party's view would probably be articulated when the BJP parliamentary party meets on Tuesday. The mood among the party MPs, nonetheless, is that it was about time the Vajpayee Government matched its actions with its rhetoric.

This was also the burden of a statement from the RSS. Mr. Madan Das, RSS 'sah sara-yawah', used the Union Cabinet's phraseology yesterday to call upon "the Government to resort to most stringent measures to crush terrorism. While doing so, we earnestly hope that the Government would take all necessary actions to go to the roots of the menace, where

they are and whoever they are."

So unrelenting was the mood for revenge that even an otherwise circumspect Mr. Jaswant Singh, Minister for External Affairs, found himself constrained to observe: "These are extraordinary days and because these are extraordinary days, the response has to be extraordinary."

Apart from the pressure to "act", the decision-making system has come under palpable expectation from the security agencies that the political leadership would come up with an effective response. According to a very senior hands-on security official, the attack was "the most serious affront" to the nation and that "our response had to be different". However, there seems to be considerable disagreement over what could be identifiable and achievable operational objectives for such "action".

Among security officials there seems to be no doubt whatsoever that the attack was carried out by the Lashkar-e-Taiba and that this violent adventure had ISI fingerprints all over. Mr. Advani also allowed himself to say that there would be some "action" against PoK-based terrorist groups.

THE HINDU

15 DEC 2001

U.S. acknowledges terror threat to India

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: U.S. and Western officials, policy makers, and analysts are finally beginning to recognise and understand India's lonely battle against terrorism following Thursday's attack on the seat of Indian democracy.

They are also acknowledging the connections between Afghanistan and Pakistan-based extremists operating in the West and in India, and the parallels between the strikes in the U.S. and in India.

In a distinct change, partly as a result of the close timing of the attacks in the U.S. and in India, there is now recognition that the events of September 11 and December 13 come from the same terrorist swamp with the same murderous intent to disrupt civilised political process. Analysts are also pointing to similarities in the *modus operandi* in incidents like the hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar and the U.S. multiple hijackings.

Such understanding was absent during past incidents, most notably in relation to the first World Trade Center attack in February 1993 and the serial blasts in Bombay in March 1993, both aimed at disrupting the financial nerve centre of the two countries. U.S. officials never connected the two (nor did they with the hijackings), although there were striking parallels in the *modus operandi*.

U.S. lawmakers have been among the first to see significance of the attack on the Indian parliament. Recalling that one of the hijacked September 11 planes may have been intended to hit Capitol Hill, seat of the U.S. legislature, Congressman Tom Lantos said, "The attack against India, as with the attacks against the U.S., were

not aimed at bringing down buildings — (they were) cowardly attempts by criminal terrorist organisations to attack free and democratic societies, to intimidate their people and their government."

"India has waged a long and often-lonely battle against terrorism. Today, I want to assure the people and government of India that you are not alone," Mr Lantos told the U.S. Congress on Thursday.

Similar expressions of sympathy and support came from the administration, including an unprecedented offer by President George Bush in a phone call to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of U.S. law-enforcement services to investigate the terrorist attack.

Separately, Secretary of State Colin Powell also called external affairs minister Jaswant Singh to offer condolences and express "our determination to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism," state department officials said. Although officials and lawmakers refrained from naming Pakistan, some of them have begun to acknowledge in private that Islamabad's policies are the source of much of India's terrorism problem.

The state department, which has for long treated Pakistan with kid gloves, issued a strong condemnation of the attack on Parliament, describing it as "a brutal assault on

the heart of Indian democracy," tantamount to "an attack on all democracies."

"While we do not yet have information on the identity of the attackers, it is an attempt to undermine the efforts of those seeking regional peace and stability," spokesman Richard Boucher said in a statement. Those responsible for the attack should be identified and quickly brought to justice, he added. The administration also muted its call for restraint that



accompanied the October 1 attacks on the Srinagar legislature. Following that incident, New Delhi had assured Washington that it would show restraint in striking at terrorist

camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, but also made clear that such a promise would be reconsidered in the event of another attack. Indian officials said the U.S. administration had not conveyed any such message this time, and following an investigation into the origin of the attack, New Delhi would choose to fight its own battle.

However, some analysts suggested that India needed to do some more homework to inform Washington of its compulsions. "There is a critical need to bring into the U.S. policy discourse India's experience with terrorism. Pakistan's lack of effective control over terrorists also needs to be conveyed," Dr Anupam Srivastava, executive director of

the India Initiative at the University of Georgia, said.

But the western media already appears to be cottoning on to the theme. *The New York Times* reported that despite Gen. Musharraf's quick condemnation of the incident, there were "questions about whether the Pakistani leader was in full control of parts of his own military establishment that may be supporting the militants."

Although no group took responsibility, and Indian government officials refused to speculate publicly on who might have done it, "suspicion fell on Al Qaida, the terrorist network headed by Osama bin Laden, and Islamic militant groups based in Pakistan," the paper said.

Britain's *Guardian* was more forthright. "It is the Pakistan connection that inflames Indian nationalists. They believe fervently—and indeed correctly—that Islamabad or its army has systematically fuelled the flames in Kashmir. Now they have the precedent of the West's so-called war on terror to stoke their indignation," it said in an editorial.

U.S.-based Kashmiri nationalists were vehement in their condemnation and call for action. "Pakistan continues to be an immediate and permanent threat to democracy and secularism in South Asia, and through its more than 700,000 trained jihadis, a long-term threat to the entire world," the Kashmiri News Network said in a statement.

Urging the Indian government to follow the examples of the U.S. and Israel, the Network said "any restraint now will confirm to Pakistan that India's secular democracy is too fragile to defeat religious terrorism, and will result in more December 13s and September 11s".

SEPT. 11 ATTACKS / ACCUSED REJECTS FRENCH OFFER

'20th hijacker' faces death penalty

LONDON, DEC. 12. The so-called "20th hijacker" was accused on Tuesday of plotting the Sept. 11 suicide attacks on New York and Washington. If convicted, he will face the death penalty. Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, is the first person to be charged with planning the attacks.

A grand jury in Virginia returned a 30-page indictment against Moussaoui. All 19 hijackers who died were named as co-conspirators.

He was accused of conspiring with Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaeda "to murder thousands of innocent people in New York, Virginia and Pennsylvania on Sept. 11".

Moussaoui was arrested in Minnesota a month before almost 4,000 people died in the attacks. He lived in London for most of the eight years before 1999 and took a masters degree in business at London's South Bank University. Mr. John Ashcroft, the U.S. Attorney General, promised: "Al-Qaeda will now meet the justice it abhors and the judgment it fears." The decision to seek the death penalty, which was made

by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, could prompt some European countries to resist extraditing other suspects to America.

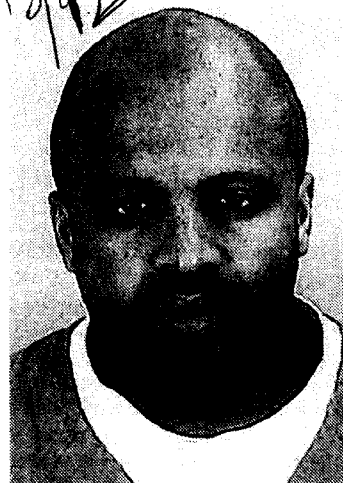
Moussaoui, who has remained silent in custody, faces six charges, four of which carry the death penalty, and is almost certain to be executed if convicted.

Investigators believe Moussaoui may have been the fifth member of the team that took over Flight 93, which crashed in Pennsylvania after passengers tried to overcome them. The other three planes each had five hijackers whereas Flight 93 had only four.

Mr. Ashcroft added: "Today, 7,000 miles from the field of battle in Afghanistan, another victory is taking shape in the war on terrorism." — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2001

AP reports:

The French Justice Minister, Ms. Marylise Lebranchu, said on Wednesday that France would provide consular protection for Moussaoui, and that no French citizen could face the death penalty. "There has to be a discussion with the United States," Ms. Lebranchu said. "We completely re-



Zacarias Moussaoui

spect the investigation," Ms. Lebranchu said, adding that substantial evidence supported the indictment against Moussaoui. "This person will, nonetheless, receive French consular protection, in particular for the right to defence, since ... We do not accept the death penalty. Obviously, no person receiving French consular protection can be executed," she added.

However, Moussaoui has re-

jected the offer of French consular help, the French Foreign Ministry said today.

"To our knowledge, Mr. Moussaoui, informed at the time of his arrest by the U.S. authorities of his right to normal consular protection, does not wish to take benefit," the French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Francois Rivasseau, said.

Australian held

An Australian man who trained with Al-Qaeda fighters in Afghanistan has been captured by the Northern Alliance, the Australian Attorney General, Mr. Daryl Williams, said today.

Mr. Williams refused to give any details of the Australian's capture, his personal details or current whereabouts for security reasons and to avoid unnecessary pressure on his Australian family, saying only that the man was in good health.

The 26-year-old Caucasian, who has also trained with Islamic militants in Kosovo and Pakistan, was caught on or around Dec. 9 as Afghan fighters cornered Osama's troops. He was the second Westerner captured in Afghanistan this month.

THE IRIDU

Pak scientists admit N-talks with Osama

S Rajagopalan
Washington, December 12

IN A complete turnabout, two Pakistani nuclear scientists have reportedly admitted to "briefing" Osama bin Laden on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

But they insist the discussions were "academic" and no material or plans were presented to the al-Qaida chief.

Citing Pakistani Intelligence officials, *The Washington Post* has reported that two retired scientists, Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmud and Abdul Majid, came up with the admission when confronted with "compelling evidence" on their meetings with Osama in Kabul in August.

The duo was subjected to renewed interrogation under US pressure. The issue figured prominently during CIA director George Tenet's recent visit to Islamabad amid growing concern that Osama's forces may be close to assembling a "dirty bomb" from radioactive material.

The reported confession coincides with the chilling disclosure by 'American Taliban' John Walker Lind that al-Qaida is planning a bio-terror attack on the US. It could come soon after Ramzan, which concludes on Sunday. The CIA has refused to comment on the subject.

Osama, it has been revealed, held meetings with the Pakistani

scientists and sought information on putting radioactive material for weapons use. He reportedly indicated that he had obtained, or had access to, some material of the type.

The scientists reportedly told the al-Qaida chief that it would not be possible to manufacture a weapon with the material that he might have.

"They spoke extensively (with Osama) about weapons of mass destruction," a Pakistani official said. He described the scientists as "very motivated" and "extremist" in their ideas.

But "they were discussing things that did not materialise, but fall under the breaking secrets act", the official said.

During their interrogation, the scientists maintained that their discussion was strictly "academic" in nature.

In the earlier rounds of questioning, the two scientists had insisted that they had met Osama purely to discuss their "charitable activities" in Afghanistan. An organisation founded by them, they said, was engaged in relief and reconstruction activity.

Pakistani Intelligence officials told the paper they believe that the two retired nuclear scientists, who have been under questioning for more than two months, used the relief organisation partially as a cover-up to conduct secret talks with Osama.

No criminal proceedings have been instituted so far against the two men, being held at an undisclosed location.

But, according to *The Post*, the Pakistani Government is considering charging them with violation of the National Official Secrets Act, a crime that carries a seven-year jail term.

In addition to Mahmud and Majid, the CIA has asked the Pakistani authorities to probe four more scientists for their suspected links with Osama and the al-Qaida.

The list includes Suleiman Asad and Muhammad Ali Mukhtar, who have ostensibly been sent off by the Pakistani Government to Myanmar.

Pakistan has detained or questioned, at the CIA's instance, seven associates, including generals, of the two scientists.

Pakistani authorities "have detained or questioned at least seven members of Mahmood's relief agency in connection with the investigation, including two air force general officers (generals), an army one-star general, a third nuclear scientist, a well-known Pakistani industrialist and at least one financial officer of the organisation, according to Pakistani officials", a newspaper reported.

"The two air force officers, the third nuclear scientist and the industrialist have been released. The others remain in detention," *The Post* said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 DEC 2001

In review
HD-12

Lashkar denies shifting of headquarters *11/12*

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 10. The militant outfit Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) has denied reports in a section of the Pakistani press that it has decided to shift its headquarters from Lahore to Muzaffarabad in Pak. Occupied Kashmir (PoK) and asserted that it had always operated from the PoK.

The Lashkar spokesman, Muhammad Yahya Mujahid, told *The Hindu* that "our base camp has always been at Muzaffarabad. So where is the question of we shifting to Muzaffarabad. It is a fact that we have a big educational complex near Lahore. From there the Lashkar has been carrying on relief and rehabilitation programmes for several years."

The Urdu daily, *Jang* in a report said the Lashkar had decided to shift because of growing pressure. Quoting sources, the paper said that a majority of the staff had already left but they denied that they had done so under pressure.

The Lashkar clarification is significant as in the past it never bothered to contradict reports referring

to its headquarters at Muridke near Lahore where it holds its annual congregation.

Reports in the Pakistani press for the last few days have been suggesting that the Lashkar move follows the U.S. administration's decision to place it on the 'terrorist exclusion list along with 38 others.

The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, too has been hinting at measures to crackdown on extremist and militant outfits in the country.

Even before September 11, he had made an indirect reference to the activities and utterances of the Lashkar leaders and had talked about the need for restraint on the part of religious leaders.

In a related development, Allama Zuber Zahir, a central leader of Ahl-e-Hadith, has termed the 'jehadis' fighting in Afghanistan and Kashmir as hypocrites.

Addressing a seminar in Lahore, he said that Pakistan was founded in the name of Islam and first they should wage 'jihad' for implementing Islamic laws in the country.

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Indo-US joint move against J&K terror

Vishal Thapar
New Delhi, December 9

INDIA AND the US are set to take their first joint military step against terrorism with the visit of an American military team to New Delhi later this month. The US team will work with its Indian counterpart in a table-top military exercise in countering weapons of mass destruction (WMD) terrorism. A subsequent phase could be joint military training and exercises to deal with terrorism in the context of Kashmir, highly placed sources disclosed.

This is a follow-up of the third Defence Policy Group (DPG) meeting in New Delhi on December 3 and 4, which was co-chaired by US Under-Secretary of Defence for Policy Douglas Feith and Defence Secretary Yogendra Narain. The DPG is laying down the framework of a structured military-to-military relationship between the two countries.

"The US has discussed with India its missile defence programme as an element of their joint fight against terrorism," a senior officer in the Ministry of Defence confirmed. The two sides have agreed to add "new emphasis" in military co-operation against terrorism.

"We talked about the contribution that co-operation in missile defence could make towards increasing strategic stability, especially in south Asian, and countering the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction," he said.

HR 1
10/12
"Counter-proliferation efforts will be an important step in our anti-terrorism co-operation," the officer said.

The US used the DPG meeting to invite India to its missile defence exercise and demonstration. Douglas Feith also reportedly discussed sharing of missile defence plans with India and updating New Delhi on the developments in the programme. So far, the US has shared such information only with Russia, Japan and South Korea, besides its NATO partners. Feith declared at a gathering that "India's security concerns harmonise with those of the US on missile defence".

terrorism
India and the US also discussed the problem of terrorism in Kashmir and the possibility of joint military exercises on counter-terrorism. "India's security and strategic concerns, especially with regard to Kashmir, found prominence in the discussion on military co-operation to counter terrorism," the sources disclosed.

In his visit preceding Feith's, the US Pacific Command Chief, Admiral Dennis Blair, had indicated that military exercises in the offing were to be preparations for "future common missions".

"India and the US have reached substantial points of agreement," a Ministry of Defence officer said. "The modelling, table-top military exercise to counter WMD terrorism is an important first step," he indicated.

5/12 Israel responds to terrorism as India holds back

By CHIDANAND RAJGHATTA
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The U.S. war on terrorism in Afghanistan has been temporarily eclipsed by the turbulent events in West Asia where Israeli forces struck back violently against the Palestinian establishment on Monday following a series of terrorist attacks on Israeli territory over the weekend.

Israeli helicopter gunships fired several missiles near Palestinian Authority President Yasser Arafat's headquarters, destroying his helicopter and sending a powerful message that it will not tolerate terrorism against its people. Mr Arafat, who Israel accuses of not doing enough to stop the terrorism, was not at his Gaza headquarters when the attack occurred.

It could not have escaped Indian policy makers that the suicide bombings in Israel that killed some 35 people occurred the same weekend that a similar number of people were killed by terrorists in Kashmir, in incidents that included the ethnic targeting of minorities. But the deaths in India hardly created a ripple here, while both the U.S. establishment and the media were in overdrive on the incidents in Israel.

The Bush administration, which till recently was critical of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's hardline methods, fully backed Israel's views that Mr Arafat had not done enough to contain the ter-

rorists and issued strongly worded statements calling for action. While Washington had counselled restraint on India's part in responding to the provocations in Kashmir in view of its priority and pre-occupation with the war in Afghanistan, no such moderation was called for in Israel's case.

In any case, it is unlikely that a strong-willed Israel would have listened to Washington. Prime Minister Sharon was in the U.S and scheduled to meet President Bush on Monday, but that meeting was advanced to Sunday and he left for home soon after.

Israeli officials and leaders also launched a full scale media blitz arguing that the Palestinian Authority and its affiliates needed to be punished for the provocation.

On its part, India has not only failed to forcefully present its case on Kashmir, but according to critics, it has been lax in informing the world of the terrorist atrocities, including the ethnic cleansing that has de-populated the Kashmir Valley of minorities.

As a result, the Bush administration has temporised and dissembled over terrorism in Kashmir, even going to the extent of rewarding Pakistan without seeking adequate guarantees that it will stop backing the violence there.

Pakistan has taken this U.S. double dealing as a signal that it can continue its sponsorship of terrorism, says Lalit Kaul of the

Kashmiri New Network, a newly established front representing the interest of Kashmiri Pandits who have been totally marginalised in the debate.

U.S. officials say the Israel and India cases are different, and the presence of nuclear weapons in the sub-continent complicates matters.

But Indian analysts say such an argument has dangerous implications. It suggests that countries can use the nuclear cover to indulge in terrorism and it could also embolden other countries to seek nuclear weapons to further a terrorist agenda.

They also argue that Washington is missing the woods for the trees in targeting other countries like Sudan and Somalia for terrorism while ignoring the fact that Pakistan is the critical swamp and promotes terrorism as a state policy.

As the U.S. chases red herrings in Iraq and elsewhere, Pakistan continues with its sham participation in the anti-terror war at the same time it is continuing to shelter and sponsor international terrorists, says Mr Kaul.

Top Indian officials, including Lalit Mansingh, the Indian ambassador in Washington, have said Pakistan cannot be a policeman by day and a thief at night, but the argument has had little impact in Washington, where there is considerable residual institutional sympathy for its Cold War ally.

The Economic Times

US issues fresh terror warning

Washington, Dec. 4: The US officials warned that America could be targeted for more attacks following the September 11 assaults on New York and Washington.

On Monday, the US government issued a new warning of possible threats against American targets during the holiday season over the next few weeks.

US homeland security director Tom Ridge said the new warning — the third since the September 11 attacks — was “very generic” and did not mean the government had any concrete information on specific threats.

With world attention diverted by a fresh crisis in West Asia, US secretary of state Colin Powell left on a 10-nation tour of Europe and Central Asia to build support for the US-led anti-terror coalition and discuss future reconstruction work in Afghanistan.

Mr Ridge, speaking in Washington, said US intelligence and law enforcement agencies picked

up an increased number of threats in recent days, leading to a new warning to 18,000 law enforcement agencies around the nation.

“The information we have does not point to any specific target either in America or abroad and it does not outline any specific type of attacks,” he said.

“We do know that the next several weeks, which bring the final weeks of Ramzan and other important religious observations in other faiths, have been times when terrorists have planned attacks in the past.”

A US official said the threat was “Al Qaeda related,” referring to Bin Laden’s network of Islamic militants.

U.S. military officials rejected reports by Taliban authorities and Pakistani media that US bombing had killed numerous civilians and that US-led forces had sustained numerous casualties of their own.

“Each and every one of these stories is untrue,” a US spokesman said. (Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

- 5 DEC 2001

US sets separate standards for India and Israel

S Rajagopalan
Washington, December 4

THE US finds itself exposed yet again to the charge of double standards on the issue of battling terrorism: one standard for itself and its allies, another for others.

Washington yesterday endorsed staunch ally Israel's retaliatory strikes in Palestine by recognising its "right to defend itself". But it would not approve of any Indian "hot pursuit" against terrorism sponsored by its new-found ally, Pakistan, in Kashmir.

When Prime Minister Vajpayee was here last month, President Bush sought to ward off an Indian journalist's queries on the double standards issue saying: "I think there is one universal law and that is terrorism is evil. All of us must work to reject the evil."

Almost every utterance by senior US functionaries on Kashmir is now incomplete without a word on the need for continued restraint. Unscrambled, this would mean that India should not think of crossing the LoC to target terrorists in Pakistani territory. Indian sources, not wanting to spoil the otherwise good relationship with the US, take care to voice only in private their distress over what they regard as a double-faced US policy.

As analysts see it, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer's observations vis-a-vis the Israel-Palestine face-off are as much relevant and applicable in the Kashmir context. Be it the US endorsement



GEORGE W BUSH

of Israel's right to defend itself or the demand that Arafat should take action against terrorists, the Kashmir parallel is irresistible.

The spokesman echoed the Israeli view that Arafat wasn't doing enough to rein in terrorists. Bush, as Fleischer put it, thinks "it's very important that the Palestinian jails not have bars on front, but longer have revolving doors at the back. A point that has not escaped the attention of commentator is that this time round, the White House didn't issue its usual appeal for restraint.

This didn't imply that the US has given Israelis the "green light" to do what they think fit, he said. At the same time, he confessed that "nobody asked (the US) for a green light".

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

5 DEC 2001

All-party meet on terror decree

FROM OUR SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 3: Refreshing his offer to consider changes to the anti-terror law, Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee has called an all-party meeting tomorrow to thrash out a consensus.

The Opposition has, however, turned down the conciliation offer, claiming the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance is too flawed to be righted through amendment.

"We want the government to start afresh," Congress spokesman Jaipal Reddy said. He was backed up by the Left parties and the Samajwadi Party, which have a combined majority in the Rajya Sabha.

Government sources put up a brave face, saying the Ordinance would be promulgated in Jam-

mu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh to start with. They said the Opposition might have to pay a heavy price for opposing it.

But they ruled out convening a joint session to push the Bill through. As of now, the government has no plan to move an alternative anti-terror law.

Vajpayee conceded that the government had tripped by not consulting the Opposition on the Ordinance. Replying to an impromptu debate in the Lok Sabha, he urged leaders to review their stand and come up with suggestions for amendment. "The government is willing to consider certain amendments," he said, renewing the offer he had made in Hyderabad yesterday.

Vajpayee played both "politician" and "statesman" during his speech. At times, he asked for the Opposition's co-operation in

the name of "national interest". At others, he reprimanded it for questioning the Centre's right to promulgate the Ordinance. "It is wrong to question the government's right to come forward with an Ordinance," he said.

Vajpayee hoped a consensus would emerge at the meeting fixed for 6.30 pm tomorrow.

George notice

The controversy over George Fernandes' reinduction into the Cabinet remains unresolved as the Congress refused to dilute the wording of its notice served under rule 184 for a discussion in the Lok Sabha.

The government was equally adamant that it would not allow the House to deliberate on a subject it considered as impinging on the Prime Minister's prerogative to appoint his ministers.

THE TELEGRAPH

- 4 DEC 2001

US fears jihadi takeover of Pak N-arsenal

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 30 OCTOBER

THE US has shared with India its concerns about a possible jihadi takeover of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal.

The matter is learnt to have been discussed between the officials of the two sides against the backdrop of strong fears about the stability of Musharraf regime in the wake of the growing jihadi opposition to his collaboration with the US. The fears, derived from the continuing defiance of Musharraf's strategic U-turn, were aggravated last week after the arrests of two senior nuclear scientists.

The arrests of the nuclear scientists, one of them widely known as among the leaders of Pakistan's clandestine nuclear programme, spotlighted once again the possibility of jihadi infiltration in Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission and, more ominously, of acquisition of nuclear weapons by fundamentalist terrorists like Osama bin Laden.

The Indo-US deliberations over the matter, however, focused more on the question of custody

of Pakistan's N-installation in the event of a coup rather than on the jihadis' gaining access to an actual nuclear weapon or weapon-grade material. Sources said the US concern about the fate of

Musharraf regime came across clearly during the exchanges between the two sides.

The Indian side agreed with the US viewpoint. As a matter of fact, the assessment here is that

the general may find himself on even stickier a wicket as the US offensive in Afghanistan drags on. The turmoil on the streets of Pakistan has now reached Punjab outside the known catchment areas of Taliban support and can spin out of control if the indications that the US may have to step up the offensive turn out to be correct. The resultant chaos and anarchy can be tempting for the ambitious subordinates and colleagues who resent General Musharraf's leadership, in particular, his dumping of the Taliban.

General's predicament has been deepened by the growing response to the call for joining the jihad against the US. More jihadis were coming forward to swell the numbers of those already massed along the border. Pakistan has tried to find a way out of the bind by preventing the jihadis from crossing into Afghanistan. This is expected to spare Islamabad the plight of supporting an offensive that will result in killing its own citizens.

The sealing of border option, however, may not work if the US decides to unleash even one-10th of its full military potential.

Will Vajpayee meet Musharraf on Nov 11?

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 30 OCTOBER

DESPITE THE Prime Minister's firm statement on Monday ruling out a meeting between him and President Musharraf in New York, an interesting aspect of Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's schedule is cause for speculation.

While Mr Vajpayee will be addressing the UN General Assembly on November 10, his itinerary at present has no engagements planned for the 11. This has led to speculation that the door remains ajar for a last minute dialogue between him and Musharraf on the sidelines of the UNGA.

Gen Musharraf is expected to address the UNGA on November 11 after having dinner with the US President George Bush the night before.

Both Mr Vajpayee and Gen Musharraf will be in the US for roughly the same amount of time. Mr Vajpayee is expected to touch down in Washington DC on November 9 and have a luncheon meeting with President Bush and will only travel to New York on November 10. Other bilateral meetings planned for Mr Vajpayee should also be over by the afternoon of November 10.

The Economic Times.

31 OCT 2001

WAR ON TERRORISM / PUBLIC OPINION TURNS AGAINST CAMPAIGN

Blair to shore up Arab support

FD-16
29/10

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, OCT. 28. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, is to visit West Asia again this week to quell the growing anxiety in the region over the continued bombing in Afghanistan and the rising civilian casualties.

This would be his second visit to the Arab world since the war began three weeks ago and is likely to include Saudi Arabia which declined to receive him last time for fear of inflaming the anti-West opinion in the country.

Details of his visit, however, are not being officially disclosed for security reasons. The visit comes amid growing calls for a pause in bombing during the month of Ramadan, beginning mid-November, and Mr. Blair would have his work cut out in trying to convince his hosts why the strikes should go on. Prince Charles, who is known to have a good rapport with leading Arab figures, is also reported to be engaged in efforts to shore up the Muslim world's flagging support for the U.S.-led action in Afghanistan, widely perceived as a misadventure. "Prince Charles... hopes to use his good contacts with Saudi Arabia in order to repair cracks in the Arab coalition," *The Sunday Telegraph* said.

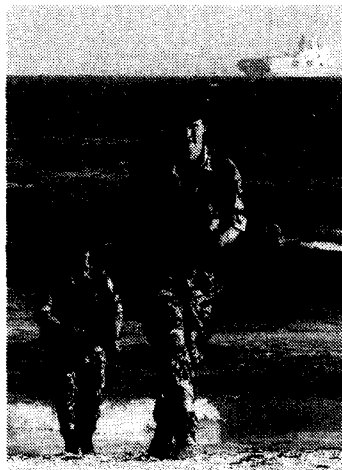
It said he was also meeting senior British Muslims to convince

them that the military action in Afghanistan was not an attack on Islam.

Meanwhile, with public support for the war at home starting to falter at the prospects of a long haul, Mr. Blair appealed to the "moral" sense of the British people not to despair. In what was seen as a sign of jitters over the growing anti-war sentiment, Mr. Blair issued a statement from his weekend retreat at Chequers declaring that Britain was a "very moral nation with a strong sense of right and wrong" and, in the end, this would defeat the "fanaticism" of terrorists and their supporters.

One newspaper commented that the Prime Minister's bid to raise public morale was a clear evidence of "alarm" at Downing Street as British troops headed for the war zone amid grim warnings that the conflict could last for months, even years as the country's Chief of Defence Staff, Sir Michael Boyce, indicated two days ago. *The Observer* described it as the "clearest sign yet of the growing nervousness over the battle to win 'hearts and minds' for the action against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden. ..."

For the first time since the military action began, public opinion has begun to swing against the war. A Channel Four poll on Saturday evening showed that 51 per



British Royal Marines move off the beach after being dropped by Royal Navy Seaking helicopters during an amphibious display in Oman on Sunday. — AP

cent of its studio audience was opposed to it. The arguments put forward by the pro-war experts and policy makers, including a British Foreign Office Minister, Mr. Ben Bradshaw, and the former U.S. policy official, Mr. James Rubin, were rejected by an audience which, according to Channel Four, was selected by a national poll agency and represented a cross-section of British opinion.

The poll climaxed a week which saw increased dissent within the

Labour Party over the issue, conflicting statements from London and Washington over the war strategy, a rise in civilian casualties and a heightened sense among analysts that things are not going right with the Taliban proving to be more formidable opponents than the allies had bargained for.

Pakistan, a key ally in the war, added to the pressure by calling for a quick end to the war and insisting on having a more decisive say in a post-Taliban arrangement than the U.S. is inclined to give it. British newspapers today highlighted the "first strains" in the U.S.-led coalition by pointing to the conflicting views not only on the conduct of the war, but on the political strategy to stabilise the region.

Chopper crashes

Reuters reports from Muscat: Two British soldiers were injured yesterday when their helicopter plunged into the sea off eastern Oman, a British military spokesman said today.

"I can confirm that a Lynx helicopter from Britain's Royal Navy ditched into the sea yesterday afternoon. The two British soldiers on board escaped with minor injuries," he told Reuters.

He said the helicopter fell from the sky off Masirah island, the site of one of Oman's biggest airbases.

THE HINDU

30 OCT 2001

Mosque stormed to flush out ultra

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE & PTI

SRINAGAR, Oct. 28. — Security forces today stormed a mosque in central Kashmir's Badgam district to flush out a militant holed up in the shrine, official sources said.

Intense gunfire broke out as Special Operations Group (SOG) personnel, Jammu and Kashmir Police, entered the mosque at Panzan village near Chadoora, some 18 km from here, they said.

The militant entered the mosque yesterday after security forces laid siege to the village on getting information that some ultras were hiding there.

SOG personnel had taken control of the the ground and first floors of the mosque, the sources said, adding the lone militant was holed up in the shrine's minar.

A special police officer was wounded in the exchange of fire,

the sources said. 29/10
The sources said security forces took the action after their repeated appeals to the barricaded ultra to surrender didn't yield any result.

The Border Security Force Intelligence chief in Kashmir, deputy inspector-general Mr RS Bhullar, had earlier told **The Statesman** on telephone from Srinagar that as they had failed in their efforts to bring the ultra out, they were planning to storm the mosque late in the evening.

He informed that they had sent the maulvi (priest) of the mosque, village headman and numberdar to talk to this militant twice in the day asking him to surrender, but he refused to do so and told the villagers that they were ready to fight,

Mr Bhullar informed that there was only one militant holed up inside the mosque and not a group of 12 militants as reported by some agencies and newspa-

pers. *terrorism*
"I don't know who told them that it was a group of people," he said.

Giving details about the incident, he said the 171 battalions of the BSF had got some inputs about the movement of few militants in the area. When they cordoned off the village and started a house-to-house search, the militant took shelter in the mosque. Later, the troops of 37 RR joined them in the operation.

Since early morning, there was a lull in the firing from both sides and not a single shot was fired, he added.

They didn't move in during the night to flush out the militant holed up in the mosque but maintained a close vigil from a distance, away from firing range.

Though the outfit to whom he owned allegiance to was not certain, yet the forces believed that he was a Pakistani mercenary

belonging to the Hizbul Mujahideen.

A group of Hizbul militants took shelter in a mosque and a nearby house yesterday after security forces zeroed in on their hideout.

Earlier, a gunfight erupted between the ultras and security personnel in which a militant was killed.

Militants fired at security forces early this morning and again in the afternoon as jawans tightened the cordon around the mosque. The firing in the afternoon lasted 15 minutes, the sources said.

The Hizbul supreme commander had changed the outfit's chief in the Kashmir Valley recently in order to increase its activities there.

This is the fifth incident of its kind in the Kashmir Valley in the last five months.

■ More reports on page 8

THE STATESMAN

29 OCT 2001

Indian hand in hit on Harkat safe house

10/25/01

26/10

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Oct. 25: For the second time since the September 11 hijackings in New York and Washington, intelligence inputs provided by India have helped Americans to deal decisively with Pakistan's terror machine.

India and the Northern Alliance working together gave the Americans crucial details of Harkat-ul Mujahideen networks within Afghanistan. That information helped the US Air Force to target a Harkat safe house in Kabul on Tuesday, according to informed sources.

Harkat is now claiming that 35 of its fighters — not 22 as reported earlier — were killed in that targeted attack on the safe house, according to Muzamal Shah, a leader of the group.

"We have the names of 20 people who died in the attack," he said in Karachi. Most belonged to Karachi or Pakistan's provinces bordering Afghanistan, he said.

Harkat is listed by the US state department as a terrorist outfit based in Pakistan and operating in Kashmir. Its assets were frozen under a White House order last month.

Tuesday's attack yielded the single biggest harvest of terrorists so far since the US military operation against Afghanistan started on October 7.

Earlier, Indian intelligence information linking former Pakistani spy chief General Mehmood Ahmed and September 11 hijacker Mohamed Atta enabled Americans to prod Islamabad into removing Ahmed.

Indian intelligence details passed on to Washington showed that the \$100,000 wired to Atta by Pakistani terrorist Umer Shaikh had originally come from Ahmed, when he was head of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the espionage outfit run by Pakistan's army.

The deaths of Pakistanis in Tuesday's bombing raids have embarrassed General Pervez Musharraf.

Yesterday, Pakistani guards at

the Torkham border-crossing in Khyber Pass refused to allow the bodies of the men killed in the attack to be brought in for burial.

Noor Mohammed Hanifi, the Taliban's security chief, was quoted by the militia's news agency as saying that the guards told Harkat supporters: "You wanted to fight with the Taliban, then you can bury your dead in Afghanistan."

The bodies were then smuggled into Pakistan at unguarded points along the border. The ease with which the bodies were smuggled in is, however, worrying the Americans because a porous border can destabilise US efforts to decimate the Taliban.

In Karachi, mourners shouted slogans against the US and Musharraf at the funeral of the leader of the Harkat group which went in to Afghanistan, adds AFP.

About 2,000 people attended the burial of commander Farooq, whose body was one of eight that were smuggled in. The mourners vowed revenge for the deaths of Farooq and the other militants.

India today said the burial in Karachi confirmed the nexus between Pakistani terrorist organisations and their mentors in Afghanistan. (See Page 8)

QUOTE

The Taliban forces have proven to be tough warriors

A PENTAGON OFFICIAL

THE TELEGRAPH

THE TELEGRAPH

Govt gets new licence to ban

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 25

THE FUTURE of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (Poto) may be in question, but there is little doubt regarding its efficacy. Its promulgation has given the Centre an instrument to ban the Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and other Kashmiri terrorist groups.

As many as 23 terrorist organisations active in J&K and the North-East stand banned. The list includes the JeM and LeT, which re-christened themselves Tehrik-ul-Furqan and Pasban-e-Ahle-Hadis earlier this month in the wake of pressure mounted by the United States. Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (recently banned by the US and Britain), Hizbul Mujahideen, Al-Umar Mujahideen and the Jammu and Kashmir Islamic Front are also included.

Union Home Secretary Kamal Pande said more organisations would be included in the list 'as and when required'. This is the first time that the Centre has taken a legal step to ban terrorist outfits operating in J&K. The ordinance will be valid for five years and will cover the entire country.

Other blacklisted organisations are Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, Students Islamic Movement of India, Deendar Anjuman, Babbar Khalsa International, Khalistan Commando Force, Khalistan Zindabad Force, International Sikh Youth Federation, United Liberation Front of Asom, National Democratic Front of Bodoland, People's Liberation Army, United National Liberation Front, People's Revolutionary Party of Kangleipak, Kangleipak Communist Party, Kanglei Yaol Kanba Lup, Manipur People's Liberation



AFP PHOTO

Arrested militants of the Tehrik-ul-Mujahideen in Srinagar on Wednesday.

Front, All Tripura Tiger Force and National Liberation Front of Tripura.

Pande said Poto was promulgated because the existing criminal justice system "was not designed to deal with terrorism". The Home Secretary refused to comment when asked about the Poto's future. A Bill based on the Ordinance would be required to be introduced in Parliament before passage. The Vajpayee Government has a majority in Lok Sabha where the Bill is

expected to sail through. However, it may come up against opposition in the Rajya Sabha where the Government is in minority.

The Congress has already voiced its reservations about Poto, saying it was "more draconian" than the lapsed Tada. Today it declared that it would oppose the Bill in Parliament.

Party spokesman S Jaipal Reddy told reporters that the NDA Government brought out the ordinance to "cater to its own constituency". The Opposition is

Special provisions

1. Persons chargesheeted automatically lose passport and arms licence for period determined by Special Courts to be set up by Centre and States.
2. No suit, prosecution or legal proceedings shall lie against the Centre and State or any of their officers enjoying powers under the Ordinance.
3. Imprisonment up to one year or fine or both for a person who hides information that could prevent a terrorist act.
4. Trial by Special Courts to have precedence over trial of any other case in any other Court.

Safeguards

1. Police officials misusing powers liable for imprisonment up to two years, damages or both.
2. Compensation to persons maliciously proceeded against by the police.
3. Witness identity kept secret.
4. Confessions to be recorded by officers of at least SP rank without threat or inducement.
5. Persons whose confessions are recorded to be produced in Court within 48 hours.
6. No Court to take up case without Central or State sanction.
7. Committees to be instituted under retired High Court Judges for review of cases under the Ordinance.

not naive to go along with the Government claims," he said.

He pointed out that the country had an "unpleasant experience" with Tada and said what the country needed was not strong laws but "strong governance", PTI adds.

Dreaded a-mail arrives in White House, Bush safe

25/10
Tomson
G11

Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The dreaded anthrax bacteria surfaced in the White House mail service on Tuesday, marking a definitive moment in terrorism involving biological weapons. Americans were witness to the unusual spectacle of their President reassuring them that he had not been infected with anthrax, after spores of the killer bacteria were found in a Secret Service-controlled mail sorting room.

Although the facility is several miles from the main White House complex, and there was only a trace of spores found on a mail-slitting machine, the news alarmed a country already on the edge following the death of three people, including two postal workers in the Washington area, from anthrax inhalation.

Initial disclosures suggested the spores were not directly aimed at the President. Only a trace amount of 20 to 500 spores were found on the machine, whereas a person needs to inhale between 8,000-10,000

spores to be fatally infected. Judging by the sequence, it appears that the spores could have spilled onto some of the White House mail at the main postal facility in Brentwood, which processed the anthrax-laden mail that was sent to Senator Tom Daschle. The White House itself has remained incommunicado to snail mail since October 11, when fears of a biological attack first surfaced.

The two postal workers who have died so far and at least two others severely affected worked at Brentwood. Soon after spokesman Ari Fleischer disclosed the discovery of anthrax bacteria in White House mail, Mr Bush was bluntly asked by reporters at a photo-session with law-makers whether he had been tested for anthrax. "First of all, I don't have anthrax," Mr Bush said, without answering the question directly. "Let me put it this way, I'm confident when I come to work tomorrow that I'll be safe," he added.

25 OCT 2001

Harkat blood stamp on Pakistan terror trail

OUR BUREAU AND REUTERS

Oct. 24: India's allegation of a terror route running through Afghanistan and Pakistan to Kashmir found strength today in the report that 20 members of the Harkat-ul Mujahideen were killed in a US strike on Kabul.

Harkat is one of the most active militant outfits in Kashmir and was accused of hijacking an Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar in 1999. "We have unconfirmed reports that 35 fighters have been martyred," a Harkat spokesman said in Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

Bodies of eight militants killed in the US raid were smuggled home today after border guards barred their return.

A source close to Harkat said the bodies were brought in through Mohmand Agency, a tribal area on the border. Two bodies were brought to Rawalpindi where prayers were held. However, they were not buried in Rawalpindi but were to be taken to their hometowns, sources said.

Mourners, who prevented cameramen from taking photographs, shouted slogans like "The war will continue

until America's destruction".

"We have the names of 20 people who died in the attack," the Harkat spokesman said. It was the highest death toll in a single attack in the group's history.

Among the commanders killed was Ustad Farooq from Lahore, a fact which, if proven right, would be embarrassing for Islamabad and offer fresh fuel for Delhi's charge of Pakistan's ties to terrorist outfits.

After the recent Kashmir Assembly suicide bombing, Jaish-e-Mohammed - that claimed responsibility - had said the bomber was a Pakistani.

The list of dead included six commanders of Harkat that has long been on a US list of terrorist organisations.

Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan told a news conference that the government had no information to confirm or deny the Kabul incident or whether any Pakistanis had been killed there.

QUOTE

I don't have anthrax

GEORGE W. BUSH

"For quite some time the Pakistan government had impressed upon the Afghanistan government that they should not allow any Pakistani to be part of any of their forces... to go inside Afghanistan for any so-called training purposes.

"We had been very firm on this matter. We had also been requesting the Afghanistan government to apprehend and hand over a large number of people who have been indicted by courts here," Khan said.

Harkat has long been believed to send its guerrillas into Afghanistan for training at the many camps there. India says these militants are then pushed into Kashmir by Pakistan to carry out terrorist attacks.

Powell damper on Pak

US secretary of state Colin Powell has ruled out a dominant role for Pakistan or any other nation in Afghanistan's post-war government, reports AP. "The next government of Afghanistan cannot be dictated into being by Pakistan," he said. With the UN taking the lead, all of Afghanistan's neighbours, and also such countries as China and Russia, must be consulted, Powell said.

Anthrax mail manners: wash hands

Smaller offices & card-table option

FROM JOANNE KENEN

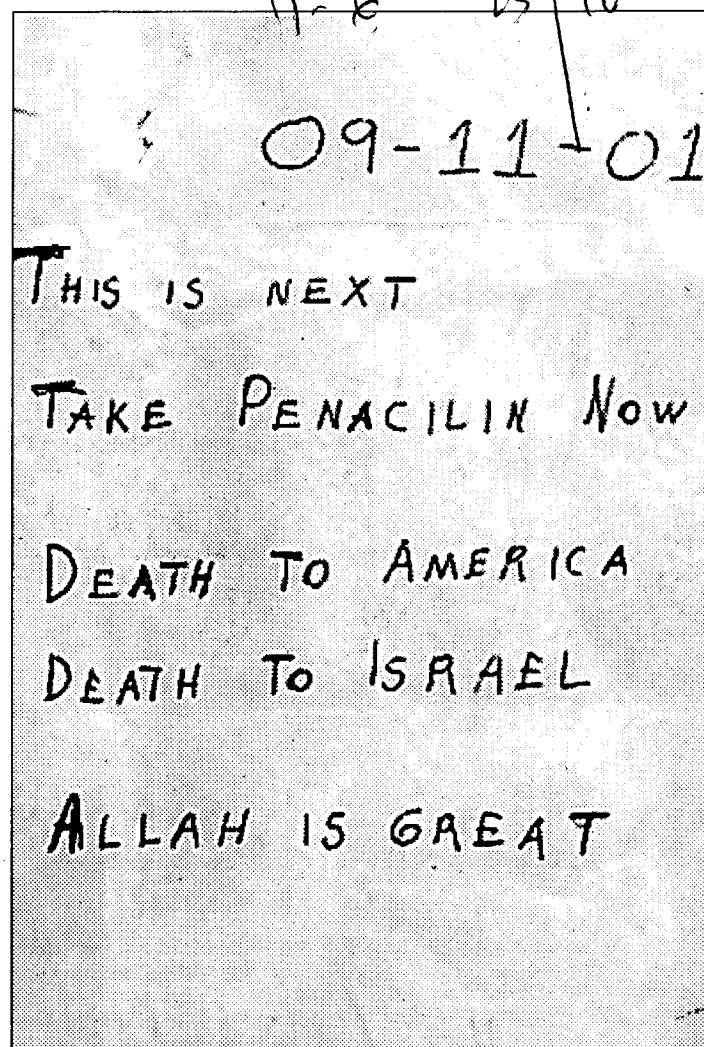
Washington, Oct. 24 (Reuters): Members of the House of Representatives on their first semi-normal work day since last week were shown yesterday to 10-by-15-foot temporary offices, asked what word processing programme they preferred, and told how to set up voicemail.

Each member was offered a set of supplies including one ream of copy paper, one steno pad, one package of paper clips, one tape dispenser with tape, two legal lined pads, one box of floppy disks, one box of blue pens, one stapler with staples, one letter lined pad, one pack of 8 cm by 8 cm Post-it notes, and a box of pencils.

However at least one lawmaker, New York Democrat Rep. Gary Ackerman, chose his own alternate venue, setting up shop at a card table in a parking area. He had a cell phone, a sign, a few supplies and a small floral arrangement with an American flag sticking out of it.

Supposedly, it was business as usual as the House and Senate both convened for the first time since last Wednesday, when fears about the possible spread of anthrax through the Capitol complex shuttered all the House and Senate office buildings and partly closed off the Capitol building itself. But nothing has been normal since a letter containing anthrax arrived in the Senate Hart Office Building suite of majority leader Tom Daschle on October 15.

The office buildings remain closed, everyone is dislocated, and many people are at least a little bit on edge, nervously noticing a tickle in their throats or an ache in



The US justice department released these images of anthrax-laced letters which were sent to NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw (left) and Senate majority leader Tom Daschle on October 23 in Washington. (Reuters)

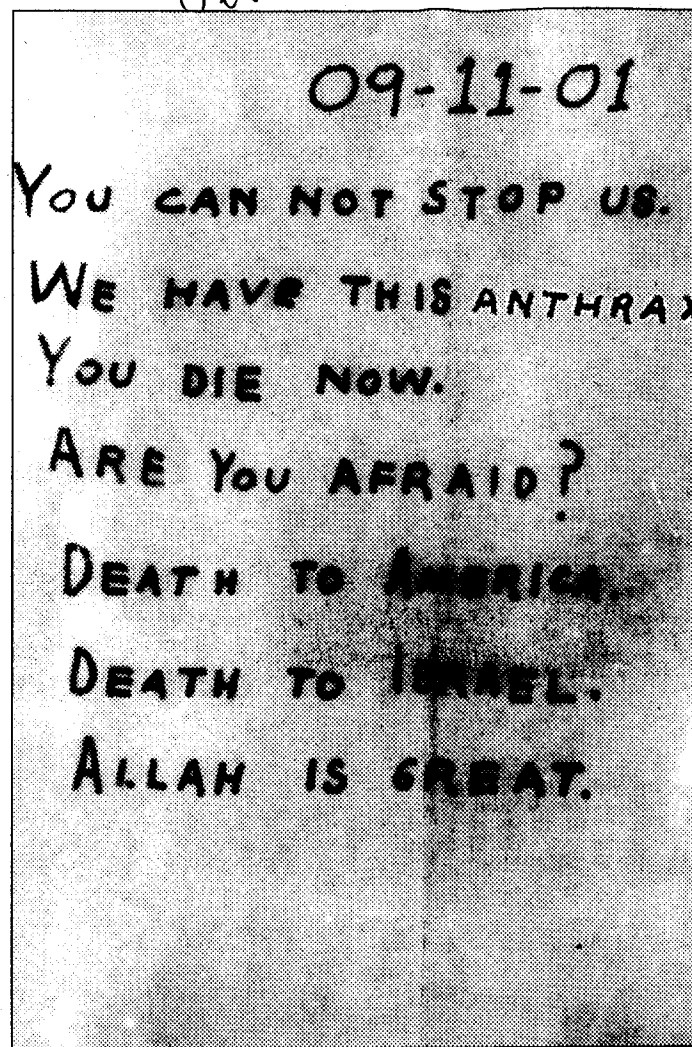
their tummy. But according to Senate minority leader Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican, the mantra is "Don't complain, don't whine." Compared to the postal workers who have lost their lives, or the young men and women fighting Afghanistan, he said, a little dislocation is nothing to gripe about.

Hearings, normally held in the adjacent buildings, were either cancelled or squeezed into alternative quarters.

"We're in the tombs of the Capitol," said Pennsylvania Republican Arlen Specter at a hear-

ing in the basement in which he quizzed the director of the Centers for Disease Control about the response to anthrax in the postal system. One of the closed circuit television channels that usually broadcasts a high-profile Senate hearing instead played country music and scrolled the latest anthrax updates on the screen.

The hallways, usually jammed with tourists and lobbyists, were nearly empty. House members got telephones, computers and two rooms to share with up to three essential staffers at the seven-storey, square-block General Ac-



counting Office building a few blocks from Capitol Hill. About half the 2,400 GAO workforce had to clear out to make room for Congress.

Senior Senators have coveted offices known as hideaways in the Capitol building itself in addition to their larger suites at the office buildings.

But most senators were given temporary quarters at the nearby Postal Square office building, which also houses a temporary medical post.

At least 28 people were exposed to anthrax through the Daschle

letter. They and hundreds of others who were in the immediate area of that office were given preventive treatment, although thousands of cultures have shown no evidence that anyone was exposed anywhere else in the Capitol complex. But health authorities over the weekend detected some anthrax in a House building, where mail is processed.

Mounds of mail have piled up since delivery to the Capitol was suspended last week. Daschle said health authorities ultimately may decide the only safe thing to do is burn it.

No guarantee post is safe

FROM JIM WOLF

Washington, Oct. 24 (Reuters): The top US postal official told Americans today there was no guarantee that their mail was safe from anthrax and they should wash their hands after handling it.

"We're telling people that there is a threat — that right now the threat is in the mail," Postmaster General John Potter said during a round of morning television appearances. "There are no guarantees that mail is safe." Three people have died of anthrax and at least nine others have been infected from letters sent through the mail since the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

In a separate interview, Surgeon General David Satcher, the top US health official, called on the public to be on high alert against possible germ warfare. "We've never been through a bioterrorist attack before," he said on the NBC *Today* programme. "We certainly have never experienced people being infected (by) anthrax in a closed envelop."

He added: "I don't think yet we're beyond our capability (to cope), but I think we have to continue to strengthen that capability." Congress can fund more laboratory workers, for instance, he said.

Satcher and Potter were dealing with the possibility that even unopened mail could pick up anthrax spores if the equipment on which they were sorted had been contaminated, though Potter said the chances were remote. The Postal Service was giving employees masks to protect against any airborne spores and was introducing gloves in the workplace. Large parts of the US Capitol were closed temporarily after a letter to Senate majority leader Tom Daschle's office spilled anthrax spores and many cases have been found at the main Washington sorting office that earlier handled the Daschle letter. Other cases have been found in New York, New Jersey and Florida.

Workers at the Brentwood mail facility, which delivers mail to the Capitol, have been hardest hit by the crisis. Two have died from anthrax inhalation and two remain hospitalised in serious condition. Six others are suspected of having the disease, health officials said today.

Some spores were discovered yesterday on mail-opening equipment that handles packages for the White House, at a site several miles from the executive mansion. Officials said they were confident there was no medical threat. "We think that the chances (of contracting anthrax through the mail) are very very slim," Potter said. But "people should do things that are safe and when they handle mail, they should wash their hands." Satcher said he thought the United States was obviously under attack. "And we don't understand what the attacker is going to do next or what strategies are going to be used," he said in the NBC interview.

The US Postal Service has delivered more than 20 billion pieces of mail since September 11 and only a few pieces are now known to have carried the deadly bacteria. In an interview on CNN, Potter said he saw no reason to shut down the US Postal Service, as the House of Representatives shut at the end of last week briefly for precautionary checks.

"Life is filled with risks," he said. "You could die crossing the street, you could die driving a car. That's not to minimise what's going on here because we did lose two of our own but it's to suggest that you just don't shut the Postal Service down."

Potter said the Postal Service was advising its workers to root out suspicious letters.

"We're looking to intervene by targeted screening today," he said.

SEEKING ELUSIVE 'SOUTHERN ALLIANCE', EXILES INVITE TALIBAN TURNCOATS TO BACK RETURN OF ZAHIR SHAH

Afghan mishaps mar US military might

Anthrax aimed at White House

29/10 Terrorism T-1

Kabul, Oct. 23 (Agencies): The most secure house on earth has come under anthrax threat. Anthrax culture was found at a remote military facility where all mail for the White House is screened.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said the remote site, which he did not identify, had been closed and all employees there were being tested for exposure to the potentially-deadly bacteria.

The spokesman said US officials had "high confidence anthrax had not made it through to the White House". He added that tests at the complex surrounding the executive mansion had come up negative. The Secret Service later said no employee at the mail site has reported symptoms associated with exposure to anthrax.

The mail sent to the remote site comes through the Brentwood facility in Washington DC where two postal workers died from anthrax.

"This afternoon a positive anthrax culture was found at the remote mail site that serves the White House," Fleischer said at a briefing called in haste. "The facility has been closed for further testing and decontamination. Tests will be performed on all mail received at this site to determine its source."

The startling revelation came as a lengthening list of accidental civilian targets in Afghanistan cast a cloud on the world's most

sophisticated military machine. On the war front, Taliban forces were sandwiched between a relentless American aerial blitz and an opposition ground offensive.

A Pentagon official conceded that warplanes might have accidentally bombed a home for the elderly near the western Afghan city of Herat on Monday. The admission coincided with a report on al Jazeera television that 93 civilians were killed near Kandahar on Tuesday. The incident is

Rumsfeld had denied the charge. The US has said the Taliban were inflating the numbers of civilian deaths but witnesses said they had seen several dozen dead in Kabul.

Two US helicopters came under fire in Pakistan as their crew tried to retrieve the wreckage of a Black Hawk chopper that crashed during the weekend. This is the most hostile act reported so far against the US in Pakistan, but the source of the firing remained shrouded in mystery.

A day after the US publicly declared that the air strikes were targeting Taliban troops protecting Mazar-e-Sharif, fierce battles raged in the strategic northern city.

Positioned to the south of Mazar-e-Sharif, ethnic Uzbek warlord Abdul Rashid Dostum said his forces were locked in battles with Taliban fighters. The Taliban said the opposition had tried to push forward but had been repulsed. The claims could not be independently verified. Britain said the air strikes had destroyed nine al Qaida training camps and damaged nine airfields.

Harkat toll

One of the strikes has killed at least 19 members of the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen in Kabul. AFP put the Harkat toll at 35. The Harkat members had gone to Kabul to help the Taliban. The dead included a senior leader, Ustad Farooq.

■ See Pages 4-6



Shopkeepers display Osama bin Laden and George W. Bush masks at a Hong Kong toy fair. (AFP)

the latest of several involving bombs that have gone astray and killed people.

The UN also disclosed that a military hospital had been destroyed in Herat, but said it had no information about the casualties. The Taliban had said yesterday more than 100 people were killed when a hospital was "intentionally" bombed by US forces.

US defence secretary Donald

THE TELEGRAPH

24 OCT 2001

18 Abu men killed: army

REUTERS

MANILA, Oct. 22. - At least 18 Abu Sayyaf men have been killed by Philippine troops on the island of Jolo yesterday and mopping up operations are continuing today, Lt General Roy Cimatu, chief of the military's southern command, said. One soldier was killed and 11 were hurt in the fighting, he said.

In the hinterlands of Lantawan town, 900 km south of Manila, where the rebels are holding 10 hostages for almost five months, intense fighting was taking place.

Lt Gen Cimatu said there was no news yet of any dead or wounded in Basilan but added: "It looks like the enemy suffered many casualties as they used their heavy weapons against us. They use all their weapons if they suffer many casualties."

THE STATESMAN

23 OCT 2001

Powder mail to Indian mission

Colombo/Washington, October 22

AFTER KEEPING newspapers and TV networks on tenterhooks for days, the anthrax scare today turned its attention on diplomatic missions across the world.

The Indian High Commission and the French Embassy in Colombo received mailed packets containing a white powder suspected to be anthrax.

The Indian High Commission received three packets, the French Embassy received one.

The Indians promptly informed the Sri Lankan authorities and sent the packets for testing. The French sealed off the room in which the packet was discovered and gave antibiotics shots to the staffer who had handled the packets.

The US Embassy in Kuwait said it too had received a suspicious letter which had "caused concern," in the first reported anthrax scare in the country, while in Kuala Lumpur, firefighters rushed to the US and Australian diplomatic offices after both buildings received letters with powdery substances.

A letter containing a suspicious white powder landed yesterday at American Express headquarters in Manama, employees of the US firm said. But the Government played down the report.

Late last week, the Australian High Commission in Lanka received one and the US Embassy received two packets containing a mysterious powder.

The Americans sent the packets home to the FBI, while the Australians handed their packet to the Sri Lankan authorities.

The results of the analyses are not yet known.

In the US today, health officials kept following up to five more cases of possible anthrax infection after a man fell gravely ill in Washington, media reports said.

One suspected case in Washington was a worker "connected to" a mail sorting facility at which a postal worker, who was confirmed earlier yesterday to be seriously ill with inhaled anthrax works, the CNN quoted Health Department officials to report.

The network said that 13 of 23 tests at another mail processing centre in Hamilton, New Jersey, where two workers have already



AP PHOTO

Biohazard investigators prepare to enter the Dirksen Senate office building on Sunday.

contracted skin anthrax, had tested positive.

Tests at the New Jersey depot, through which anthrax-laced letters sent to Senate majority leader Tom Daschle in Washington and to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw in New York passed, were still underway.

Nine people have been con-

firmed suffering from anthrax in the US, three of them from the more deadly inhaled anthrax.

Dozens more have been exposed in the mail-based bioterrorist attacks in Florida, Washington, New York and New Jersey and are taking precautionary antibiotic treatment.

Agencies

CIA told to eliminate Osama, destroy al Qaeda

T.V. Parasuram

WASHINGTON 21 OCTOBER

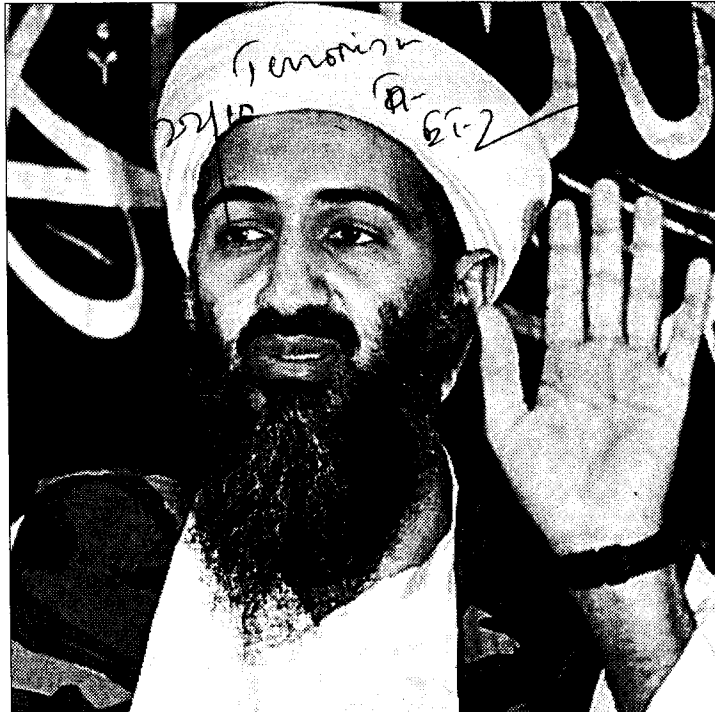
US PRESIDENT George W. Bush has directed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) to eliminate terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and destroy his al Qaeda network, senior government officials said.

Mr Bush signed an intelligence order last month directing CIA to undertake the "most sweeping and lethal covert action," calling for the destruction of bin Laden and his al Qaeda network, the officials were quoted as saying by the Washington Post.

The officials also said Mr Bush has allotted over 1 billion dollars to the CIA's war on terrorism, most of it for the new covert action, the report said.

US intelligence has identified new and important specific weaknesses in bin Laden's organisation that are not publicly known, and these vulnerabilities will be the focus of the lethal covert action, the officials said.

The CIA and the US armed



Osama: Back to the wall

forces are collaborating at "an unprecedented" level to carry out the order, it said in a banner-headlined dispatch.

Mr Bush's order, called an intelligence "finding," instructs the CIA to tap bin Laden's communications, security apparatus and infrastructure, the officials said.

"The gloves are off," one senior official told the daily. "The President has given the agency the green light to do whatever is necessary. Lethal operations that were unthinkable pre-September 11 are now underway."

In issuing the orders targeting bin Laden, Mr Bush said he wants the CIA to undertake high-risk operations, according to the report.

He has told his advisers that he is willing to risk failure in the pursuit of ultimate victory, even if the results prove to be embarrassing public setbacks in individual operations, the officials were quoted as saying.

The overall military and

covert plan is intended to be massive and decisive, the officials said. The report said US intelligence agencies had, in the last spring, obtained high quality video of bin Laden with his distinctive beard and white robes surrounded by a large entourage at one of his known locations in Afghanistan.

But neither the CIA nor the military had the means to shoot a missile or fire weapons at him while he was being photographed.

Since then, the CIA-operated "predator" unmanned reconnaissance aircraft with high-resolution cameras has been equipped with hellfire anti-tank missile that can be fired at targets of opportunity.

The technology was not operational at the time bin Laden was caught on video, the report said. The report said CIA's covert action is a key part of the President's offensive against terrorists, but the agency is also playing a critical role in the defence against future terrorist attacks.

— PTI

The Economic Times

22 OCT 2001

UN sounds global smallpox alert

Anthony Browne
London, October 21

THE WORLD Health Organisation (WHO) has set off alarm bells against a smallpox outbreak. Governments across the world have been asked to produce enough vaccine to protect people against the disease.

The British Government last week issued an emergency guidance to health professionals on how to deal with an outbreak. "Smallpox is a serious threat because it is contagious, has a fatality rate of 90 per cent, can prove fatal within 48 hours and few people have been vaccinated. In case of a deliberate release, it is unlikely that single, mild cases will occur — it is more likely that clusters of moderate to severe disease will be seen," the communiqué said.

The WHO masterminded eradication of smallpox in 1977 and since the early Eighties has advised Governments not to vaccinate. Thus, most people, who are below 40 in the UK, have not been immunised.

Following the US anthrax attacks, which has till now infected 38 people, possibility of a smallpox outbreak is so high that WHO has ordered 300 million doses of the vaccine from Cambridge-based biotech company Acambis. Medical studies suggest that an outbreak in the US could kill around a million people in three months.

Last week, WHO director-general Gro Harlem Bruntland told the Smallpox Advisory Group to consider whether to ask all Governments to go ahead with mass vaccination.

It is a setback for WHO, which considered eradication of smallpox its greatest achievement. Moreover, the vaccination can cause severe side effects, includ-

ON TO JAIL HOAXERS

ANTHRAX HOAXERS in Britain will be put behind bars under new stringent laws Downing Street has announced. They will be sentenced up to seven years. Hoaxes involving biological, chemical, radioactive or nuclear weapons will be dealt under the new legislation. Under the current British law, only hoaxes related to explosive devices are an offence. Prime Minister Tony Blair and Home Secretary David Blunkett agreed to the laws at a meeting of the War Cabinet last Thursday, following a large number of hoaxes involving threat of anthrax spread around the country over the past week.

AFP, London

ing permanent brain damage or even death.

After its eradication, the smallpox virus was kept in only two laboratories in the world — in Atlanta and Koltsovo in Siberia. The last two samples were due to be destroyed next year. However, a Soviet defector revealed that the dying Communist regime used smallpox in a missile programme. There have been allegations that supplies were sold to Iraq and North Korea.

Initial smallpox symptoms include fever, severe headache, back and chest pains and intense anxiety. Victims develop blotchy rashes, often with purple lesions, followed by a face rash similar to sunburn and severe scarring. Death can take occur within 48 hours to two weeks. There is no treatment.

The Guardian

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Third postal worker tests anthrax positive

Washington, October 21

A POSTAL worker tonight became the latest person to be confirmed by US health officials as suffering from anthrax. The employee is the third postal worker from New Jersey to be diagnosed with the infection. Bioterrorism squads meanwhile resumed combing US Congressional buildings today, as a letter mailed to a New York newspaper tested positive for the deadly bacteria.

The letter, believed to be responsible for infecting New York Post editorial assistant Johanna Huden, contained the same strain of anthrax — and a similar handwriting — found on

the letters mailed earlier to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw and Senator Tom Daschle. It was also found postmarked in Trenton, New Jersey, like the other two, narrowing the focus of investigation.

But Huden admitted she noticed the first signs of infection on her finger more than a month ago in an indication that anthrax mailings may have started at about the time of the September 11 attacks.

"Nearly five weeks ago, I noticed an itchy, red bug-bite-like bump on the last joint of my right middle finger," Huden wrote in the Post. She said the bump quickly got red and swollen, broke open and released

some fluid. She tried to treat it with band-aid and anti-inflammatory ointments. It did not work.

"Later, when I removed the band-aid after a long day at work, an ulcer had formed that was jet black and dry in the middle," Huden said. She became the fourth person associated with a New York media organisation to contact anthrax and the eighth nationwide.

The infected mail employee is the third from New Jersey to be diagnosed as suffering from anthrax, and is the ninth person in the US to contract it. The diagnosis came after traces of anthrax were discovered at the House of Representatives in

Washington. Investigators have found evidence of the bacteria in offices that process mail for politicians as hazardous materials teams methodically work their way across Capitol Hill in the search for the spores. Two other postal workers in Hamilton Township, New Jersey, have already been confirmed as suffering from anthrax and tonight the worker was being treated in hospital with powerful antibiotics.

The Ford Office Building, a few blocks from the Capitol, is the third facility believed to be tainted by anthrax and marks the first time evidence has been found on the House side of the complex.

Officials had earlier reported

finding anthrax in the office of Tom Daschle, leader of the majority Democrats in the Senate, where a letter containing the bacteria was opened last Monday and in a mail centre in a building across the street. The spores in Washington, New York and Florida have been found "indistinguishable", pointing to a single source for the anthrax.

Four people in New York have been confirmed as suffering the infection. They are Claire Fletch-er, 27, assistant to CBS news anchor Dan Rather; Erin O'Connor, 38, assistant to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw; Johanna Huden, 30, and a seven-month-old baby, son of an ABC producer.

Agencies

More suspicious letters in Delhi, anthrax scare grips MP

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI/BHOPAL, Oct. 20. — Delhi Police continued receiving calls of "suspicious letters" — reportedly laced with anthrax — from different parts of the capital for the third consecutive day.

All the letters have been sent to the National Institute of Communicable Diseases for tests.

Some letters delivered in the name of a Singapore-based firm, "The Economist Newspaper Limited", were received by a firm of solicitors — Khaitan and Company — in Defence Colony, a private firm in Okhla, Deshbandhu College in Kalkaji and a private firm in GK-II. The fifth letter was spotted by a resident of Prashant Vihar in Rohini.

Bhopal and Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh have also been hit by the anthrax scare. However, all suspected cases have so far turned out to be hoaxes.

Memorandum 5-10 21/10
A parcel from Maharashtra, carrying a magazine and some kind of powder, was received by Mr Madan Soni, deputy director of Bhopal's Bharat Bhavan, a multi-art complex, yesterday. The police, on being informed, reached the complex, seized the parcel and sent it to a local laboratory for tests.

The SP, Bhopal, Mr Arun Pratap Singh said today that the envelope had tested anthrax negative. "There was no anthrax bacteria in the envelope addressed to the Bharat Bhavan", Mr Singh said. He added that the powdery substance might have come out of starch used the thin cloth pasted inside the envelope.

Mr Singh appealed to people not to panic. He urged them to immediately inform the police control room or the nearest police station if they received any "suspicious" letters. The police has also sought information from the postal department and courier firms about "suspicious" envelopes and parcels.

Mr Singh said police will take action against pranksters.

Gwalior also hit the panic button after three envelopes containing "white powdery substance" were received by three eminent residents of the city over the last few days. The letters were addressed to the Jiwaji University Vice-Chancellor, Mr VP Saxena, the Gajra Raja Medical College dean, Dr SR Agrawal, and child specialist Dr KM. Belapurkar.

Gwalior police seized the letters and sent them for tests to the Defence Research Development Organisation local office. All three envelopes were tested negative. All the letters reportedly bore the same handwriting and were posted from within the city.

Meerut: The anthrax scare has reached Meerut. A retired professor yesterday received a letter from Singapore. The letter has been sent to the NICD for anthrax tests.

THE STATESMAN

21 OCT 2001

USA wants Asia to pitch in

ASSOCIATED PRESS

SHANGHAI, Oct. 20. — US President Mr George W Bush today implored Asian leaders to join his anti-terrorism campaign as he mourned two US soldiers who died while supporting the first commando raid into Afghanistan.

"This conflict is a fight to save the civilised world," Mr Bush said. There is no isolation from evil." As the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit opened, Mr Bush met face-to-face with several Asian counterparts and, separately, addressed an international gathering of business and government leaders.

"In our world, there is no isolation from evil. Our enemies are murderers with global reach.

They seek weapons to kill on a global scale," Mr Bush said in the centerpiece address of his brief Asia trip.

"Every nation now must oppose this enemy, or be, in turn, its target," he said.

Mr Bush spoke shortly after US defence officials said special operations forces had completed the first ground raid into southern Afghanistan, and two US soldiers were killed in a helicopter crash in Pakistan.

"The soldiers died in a cause that is just and right and we will prevail," Mr Bush said after meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi.

He praised Mr Koizumi for supporting the

US-led effort in Afghanistan, and the latter in turn said: "I sense excellent chemistry between the President and me." In his speech, Mr Bush called the fight against terrorism "the urgent task of our time" and warned that terrorists want to undermine Asia's hard-fought economic gains.

"The terrorists tried to shatter confidence in the world economic system, but they failed. The terrorists hoped markets would collapse, but markets have proven their resiliency and fundamental strength. We know a future of greater trade and growth and human dignity is possible and we will build it."

Earlier, Bush met Malaysian Prime Minister

BUSH WANTS LEADERS TO JOIN CAMPAIGN AGAINST TERRORISM

Mr Mahathir Mohamad, who has urged the USA to halt its bombing campaign.

Mr Bush said Mahathir "is concerned about the deaths of innocent people in Afghanistan, and I assured him I am, too."

China, Russia for political solution: Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Mr Jiang Zemin today called for US-led military operations in Afghanistan to give way rapidly to a political solution, officials said, adds AFP.

"It is necessary to pass from the military phase to the use of political means in the settlement in Afghanistan, and to create a new coalition government in which all ethnic groups in Afghanistan would participate," Russian foreign minister Mr Igor Ivanov said.

From
SF-12

Same anthrax strain in first three attacks

2/10

MARTIN FLETCHER
THE TIMES, LONDON

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20. — The hunt for America's bioterrorists achieved its first breakthrough yesterday when scientists concluded that the same strain of anthrax was used in the first three attacks.

Mr Tom Ridge, the Homeland Security chief, said, the anthrax deposits used in the attacks on American Media's Florida headquarters, NBC's New York studios, and Senator Tom Daschle's office were "indistinguishable". He said, anthrax had not been "weaponised" to make it more dangerous.

The revelation means, FBI would now hunt for just one source, though Mr Ridge cautioned, the source might have distributed batches of the anthrax to co-conspirators.

NEW CASE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 20. — An aide to the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives today said that anthrax bacteria was found in a mailroom located in a House office building, three blocks from the Capitol. — Reuters

Investigators are now focusing on a small area around Trenton, New Jersey, where two of the letters were posted and where three postal workers are being treated for possible infection. Yesterday, a woman at the *New York Post* became the seventh American to be infected by the disease.

Anthrax spores were also discovered at two more post offices in Florida. But Nevada author-

ities announced, the apparent attack on a Microsoft office last week was a false alarm.

The Taliban regime in Afghanistan, for the first time, denied its involvement or that of Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network in the spate of anthrax attacks. "We don't even know what anthrax is," Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Ambassador to Pakistan, said.

Mr George Bush, was sceptical. "I don't have any knowledge of a direct link to the enemy," he said, "but I wouldn't put it past them," he said.

"Anthrax anxiety" spread around the globe with scares at the American embassies in Sri Lanka and Fiji, the British Embassy in Pakistan, the Dutch Prime Minister's office, Peru's biggest telecom company, and a United Nation's office in Kenya.

THE STATESMAN

Anthrax: The way to dusty death

India offers US \$1 million drug package

Washington, October 20

ANTHRAX TARGETS immune system cells, grappling them, sneaking inside and then multiplying until the cell bursts. The newborn swarms of anthrax bacteria spill out and look for other cells to infest.

"We don't entirely understand how anthrax kills," Darrell Galloway, a molecular biologist at Ohio State University who is trying to make a new anthrax vaccine, said in a telephone interview.

The *Bacillus anthracis* bacteria starts out as a spore, which is a microbe's way of shutting down and surviving hard times. It has been shown to persist for as long as 100 years, and can survive being freeze-dried, buried, and shot through a nozzle as an aerosol.

The spores wait until they find a congenial environment, which for this bacterium is a warm, wet place — like deep inside a lung. There, they seek out a place to replicate. For as yet unknown reasons, they look for immune system cells known as phagocytes, a type of cells that include macrophages. These are the cells that sweep the body for invaders, usually engulfing and destroying the enemy.

But when they encounter anthrax bacteria, the anthrax uses a molecular doorway to get into the cells and do what bacteria do best — multiply.

So many of the rod-shaped bacteria are produced that eventually, the phagocyte stretches to its limits and bursts. Scores of rod-shaped anthrax bacilli spill out into the blood or lymph, and seek other cells to infect.

As they grow, the bacteria produce a waste byproduct of poisons. One of these is known



Firemen in protective gear enter the San Martin Library in La Plata, Argentina, after it was evacuated amid fears of an anthrax contamination on Friday.

as lethal factor. "Like a killer who cuts the telephone line before entering the house, the poisons will move throughout the body and slice up a protein called MAPKK," bioterrorism and public health expert Michael Osterholm of the University of Minnesota writes in his book 'Living Terrors'.

This particular protein is vital to cell function.

"These macrophages that get targeted by toxin will, in a fairly short period of time, die," Galloway said.

But as they die, they send out a distress call — a release of signaling chemicals called cytokines. These over-stimulate the immune system, causing the victim — whether a sheep or a human — to go into shock.

"From what we understand, the individual basically dies from shock-like symptoms," Galloway said.

"This is in part why the effect of anthrax seems so sudden, why an individual may seem to be recovering and then

suddenly die — because of the peculiar role of the macrophages."

In contagious diseases, it does not benefit the microbe to kill its host, at least not right away. That is why, particularly deadly strains of flu, like the one that caused a worldwide pandemic in 1918, die out.

But anthrax benefits from killing its host, which is usually a grazing animal. The animal dies and rots into the soil. There, the bacteria revert to their spore state, waiting,

sometimes for years, until another animal comes by and ingests the spore as it grazes or perhaps gets some infected dirt into a cut.

Luckily, naturally occurring *Bacillus anthracis* is easy to kill, succumbing to a wide range of antibiotics from penicillin to ciprofloxacin. Although health experts fear that someone, somewhere may have genetically engineered anthrax that can resist antibiotics, none has been found.

Reuters

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 20

INDIA ON Friday offered medicine worth \$1 million to the United States for anthrax-related cases. The anthrax antidote, ciprofloxacin, will be sent to the US as it has been cleared for administration by the Federal Agency.

The decision was taken on Friday night at a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) chaired by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at his Race Course Road residence.

Soon after the CCS meeting, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh had a 20-minute long telephonic conversation with his British counterpart Jack Straw. They are understood to have exchanged notes on the evolving Afghanistan situation. On his part Singh told mediapersons that New Delhi continued to support a broad-based post-Taliban Government in Afghanistan that was represented by all sections of the populace in the country.

Singh said the nitty gritty of the offer will be worked out with the US embassy here. He revealed that the humanitarian aid to the Afghan population in terms of one million tonnes of wheat apart from tents, quilts, medicines and other essential items would be routed through the United Nations relief agency in the capital.

The Minister said that the decision to hand over the relief material to the UN was taken following logistic problems in sending the

aid through Pakistan.

"We had opted to pay Pakistan Railways to transport the relief material to Peshawar for its subsequent distribution among the Afghan populace but shortage of storage facilities has led to re-routing it through the UN agency in the capital," he said.

The CCS meeting also cleared a huge aid package to the "post-conflict resolution - broad-based Government in Afghanistan. Singh said the aid package would be restored to 1979-level wherein New Delhi had committed investments especially in the area of information technology.

He stated that the Indira Gandhi hospital in Kabul would be rebuilt in the post-Taliban Government structure.

Replying to query over the proposed assistance to the "post-conflict resolution Afghan Government" well before the war was over, the Minister said the aid was part of the international effort to firm up humanitarian assistance to the Afghan people alongside the war against terrorism. Singh also termed reports of enhanced exchange of fire with Pakistan along the line of control (LoC) as incorrect.

"The activity along the LoC is in no way different from what has been happening in the past," he maintained saying that the firing continued to be limited.

The Minister said he had given a detailed account of his discussions with several world leaders including the US Secretary of State and Russian vice president apart from several dignitaries to the CCS.

Anthrax Defence

After the anthrax scare in the United States, it may be India's turn, though, mercifully, no positive cases have yet been reported in this country. Indeed, the many suspicious-looking envelopes that have turned up in one or another place would seem to be more the handiwork of mischief-makers. Yet, given the larger context of the terrorist threat to India, it would be wise to remain alert to the danger of a future bio-terrorism attack, and more so given the virtually free movement of cattle in our parts. As is well known, anthrax is a natural disease among cattle, which greatly increases the susceptibility of humans who live in close proximity to the animals. The first obvious step is for the government to spread awareness about anthrax and communicate instructions on dealing with it. Any suspicious packet has got to go to a forensic laboratory, but the common man is hardly likely to know how to reach it there. A more practical way to deal with the problem is to arrange for the forwarding of such packets to the nearest police station (which will maintain a record) and from there to the lab for testing. It goes without saying that these procedures cannot be dealt with in the usual bureaucratic reactive manner, but with proactive responsibility vested in the police and public health authorities. The prime minister has constituted a board to deal with the issue. While countrywide measures for precautionary steps will have to be formulated by that board, the immediate practical steps will have to be publicised with the due consideration of reassuring the public.

As for global action, it may be worth recalling that there exists an international treaty which expressly prohibits biological agents being used as instruments of war. But the 1972 treaty proved to be flawed for the reason that it did not allow verification provisions. Later advances in biological sciences also made it necessary to redefine some of the biological agents which should be brought within its purview. Some of these concerns were discussed in the Conference on Disarmament and indeed there were expectations that the treaty would be reinforced with a verification organisation and inspection procedures on the lines of the chemical weapons treaty. Ironically, the Bush administration withdrew from the negotiations on the ground that the proposed arrangements would be too intrusive in respect of the biomedical industry. In retrospect, even bolstering that treaty might not have been adequate considering bio-terrorism has since passed into the hands of non-state actors. This entirely new angle has imposed a responsibility on individual citizens to be particularly alert. And yet, that can only happen when the international community outlaws the weapons and makes their use a crime against humanity. The start has to be made by the US, which needs to rethink its approach to the biological weapons convention. The US, incidentally, is one of only two countries — the other is Russia — that have still not destroyed their stockpiles of the small pox virus, even though small pox has long been declared eradicated by WHO. Should the small pox virus turn into a biological weapon, it would be obvious where the leak has come from. Another Frankenstein's monster in the making? The international community needs to ponder this.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

20 OCT 2001

PRO-ACTIVE POLICY WILL CONTINUE: ADVANI

'Terrorist camps across the border not targeted now'

By Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI, OCT. 19. While ruling out the possibility of aiming at terrorist training camps across the border "at this point of time", the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today asserted that the "pro-active" policy against terrorists would continue.



"No, we are not aiming at terrorists training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir at this point of time. We are looking forward to this global battle against terrorism and we want to make it a success," Mr. Advani said at a press conference.

"If one attacks you, it is perfectly legitimate under international law to exercise our right of hot pursuit. At this moment we are not considering it," he said in reply to a question at the Foreign Correspondents' Club here.

Asserting that India would firmly deal with the menace of terrorism, Mr. Advani said that continuation of the "pro-active" policy would mean not looking for terrorists to strike but going all out to see wherever they were and take action against them.

In his view, terrorists had been unnerved due to the "remarkable

success" of security forces in Jammu and Kashmir in identifying and eliminating militants. He said that keenness from across the border to infiltrate more armed and trained terrorists had increased and some exchanges of fire had taken place on border in Jammu and Kashmir.

Without mincing words, Mr. Advani said that there had been no problem in Jammu and Kashmir for the past so many years till Pakistan faced defeat in three wars with India. "It was then that it resolved to undertake a proxy-war. It has terrorism as its principal plank and wanted to give an impression that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir in the initial stages was a rebellion. But all that dried out in two years, then it started sending mercenaries as infiltrators," he said.

Accusing Pakistan of launching a disinformation campaign focussed on Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Advani said that Pakistan-occupied Kashmir had not witnessed any elections and people enjoyed no civil liberties there.

"In any way, terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir was not the doing of the people of the State. They want to live in peace. Tourism which was the mainstay of their earnings has been destroyed. If Pakistan thought that terrorism can serve to drive a wedge, it was a mistaken notion," he said. He said the international climate created against terrorism would help India in its long-drawn campaign against the scourge.

Asked if India got any assurance from the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, that Pakistan which was a part of the U.S.-led coalition against terrorism did not provide a safe sanctuary to terrorists and hijackers, he

said: "We have taken note of whatever Gen. Powell has been saying. We understand that U.S. was keen to have Pakistan on its side. Geography and strategy dictate it."

He reiterated that it would be India's task to fight and defeat any brand of terrorism directed at

it with a "firm hand." He said there was ample intelligence and evidence to show that the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was the creation of the ISI of Pakistan and the ISI had also been the "planner, instigator and supporter of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and other parts of India."

Blair counsels restraint

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, OCT. 19. The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, has urged India and Pakistan to exercise "restraint" and said the only way to resolve their differences is through negotiations, "not through violence." "We are in close contact with India, as also Pakistan," he told reporters at a Downing Street Briefing. Indian diplomatic sources confirmed that India and Britain were engaged in "high-level" contacts.

Mr. Blair said Britain recognised "feelings in India" over cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and appreciated the fact that New Delhi accepted the need for restraint. In response to a question, he acknowledged that there was "tension" in the region

but repeatedly counselled caution. His remarks, three days after India's punitive action against the Pakistani army, were seen as reflecting concern here that an escalation in tension could create difficulties for the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, at a time when he is "braving" domestic opposition to help the U.S.-led alliance in Afghanistan.

Earlier, a senior aide of Mr. Blair emphasised that during his New Delhi visit, Mr. Blair had a "very good meeting" with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. He disagreed with the view in the Indian media that Mr. Blair did not fully address India's worry over Pakistan-sponsored terrorism, and said the British side did not get that impression in its discussions with Indian leaders.

Indian diplomat here stressed that Britain recognised that India was a "responsible" country and would not do anything to "complicate" the international coalition's task in fighting terrorism. They said the British Government was aware that the Indian action earlier this week was intended to "repulse" the infiltrators from across the border.

A spokesman of the Indian High Commission said, "we appreciate that Britain has full understanding of India's position. They recognise that while India has legitimate concerns about cross-border terrorism, we have not done anything to escalate the situation."



THE HINDU

9 8 OCT 2001

Scarce smallpox vaccine raises fears

WALL STREET JOURNAL

SMALLPOX — whose worldwide eradication in 1980 is hailed as public health's greatest triumph — has turned from success story to bio-weapons spectre in the wake of the Sept 11 terror attacks.

Now public-health officials are scrambling to gird against a scenario involving intentional release of smallpox virus on a vulnerable population with waning immunity against the disease. The Health and Human Services Department officials have been meeting to develop a plan for vaccinating the US population in the event of a smallpox discovery and have also developed a smallpox emergency response plan. "The next big issue we're looking at is being prepared for smallpox," the official said.

A bio-weapons programme in the erstwhile Soviet Union stockpiled smallpox virus for weapons throughout the 1970s and 1980s and also experimented on a hybrid doomsday bug that would fuse smallpox virus with the Ebola virus.

While the Soviet's civilian bio-weapons programme, known as Biopreparat, was dismantled in 1992, experts fear its military retains the expertise. Experts debate whether rogue nations or terrorist groups possess it. Smallpox, unlike anthrax, is highly contagious. One attack could mushroom into an epidemic with geometric growth.

Public-health doctors agree that the US population remains vulnerable to a smallpox outbreak. Roughly the youngest one-third of Americans — those 29 years old and younger — were never vaccinated. Two-thirds of Americans were vaccinated in childhood or upon entering the military, but have waning immunity. Stores of conventional vaccine have dwindled to 15 million doses.

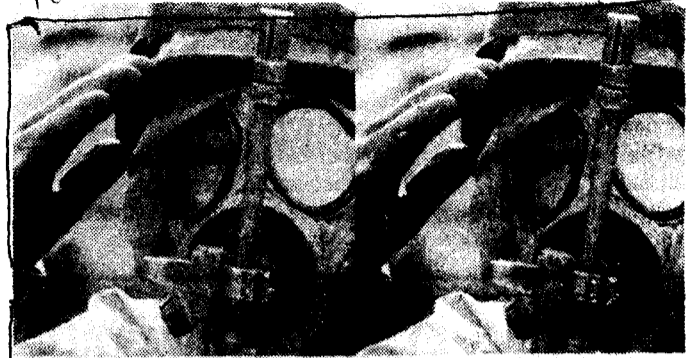
Vaccination with the old-style

vaccine made from cowpox (vaccinia) virus was pioneered by Edward Jenner in 1798 after it was observed milkmaids' clear complexion stemmed from their natural immunity acquired from this occupational disease. The shot — usually a squirt of juice and a hail of eight to 15 pinpricks — was a childhood rite of passage for baby boomers and older Americans who still bear a round, mottled scar on the arm. But the risk of side effects amid the waning threat of natural smallpox, forced the discontinuation of routine vaccination in a phaseout beginning with children in 1972, and military recruits from 1980 to 1990.

About 114 million Americans born after 1972 fall into the most vulnerable category of the "vaccine naive". On top of that, most Americans with a single vaccination saw their immunity wane after 10 years to levels of dubious protection. Only a small group of people tested in a triple vaccine combo at birth, eight years and 18 years are thought to have durable immunity.

"It must be assumed that the population is highly susceptible to infection," concluded smallpox pioneer Donald A. Henderson and his colleagues in the Working Group on Civilian Bio-defense at Johns Hopkins University in their study of smallpox as a biological weapon in the Journal of the American Medical Association.

Despite the vulnerability, some residual vaccine power of "immunological memory" may remain in those who got childhood shots. "They fade, but they don't switch off like the sell-by date on food in the refrigerator," said GiGi Kwik, an immunologist. Therefore, people who have been vaccinated are thought to be at less risk of death from the disease. To remedy the vaccine shortage, and the acute apprehension it has spawned, American public-health officials have moved on several fronts in recent days.



POWDER PARANOIA

■ We don't even know what anthrax is.

— Taliban Pak envoy denying their hand in the scare

■ **ISLAMABAD:** Scare reaches Pakistan. A Pak employee at the British High Commission in Islamabad tests negative for anthrax after coming into contact with a white powder ■ **LONG BEACH:** An employee of historic ship *Queen Mary* is charged with threatening to use a weapon of mass destruction after he writes *DANGER. DO NOT OPEN. ANTRAX* on a bucket of rotten beans and chill ■ **COLOMBO:** Anthrax scare hits the US and Australian embassies in Sri Lanka, with both receiving suspicious mail on Friday ■ **RABAT:** The US Embassy in Morocco receives a letter containing a white powder, but it turns out to be a false alarm ■ **FIJI:** A suspicious letter delivered to the US Embassy in Fiji, employees who handled it administered antibiotics ■ **LONDON:** British Parliament delays its opening by an hour on Friday after a package containing white powder is found in the House of Commons ■ **BUENOS AIRES:** Argentine health authorities say tests on a letter from the US show that the presence of anthrax spores was "highly probable" ■ **TOKYO:** A Japanese TV network comes under fire after one of its commentators says "Jews were targeted for anthrax attacks because they control the US media". A probe is on ■ **WASHINGTON:** Iraqi Opposition in exile here gets into action, asks the US to finance urgent missions into Saddam country to gather information on anthrax ■ **CANBERRA:** The wife of Australian Deputy Prime Minister John Anderson gets a letter containing white powder ■ **THE HAGUE:** The office of Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok in The Hague is evacuated after an envelope with a suspect substance is received ■ **WASHINGTON:** NBC anchor Tom Brokaw says the anthrax-contaminated letters sent to him and Senator Tom Daschle both referred to September 11 attacks on America and both evoked Allah ■ **TRENTON:** A New Jersey postal worker employed where the two letters were postmarked tests positive for skin anthrax. The discovery is significant as it narrows down the search from where the letters may have been posted ■ **NEW YORK:** Vital Living Products Inc plans to ship home anthrax tests to retailers before Thanksgiving

— Reuters

meanwhile

INDIAN EXPRESS

20 OCT 2001

Anthrax scare spreads wide

General
19/10

FROM STEVE PAGANI

London, Oct. 18 (Reuters): Anthrax scares spread today with the positive testing of a woman working with US TV news anchor Dan Rather and the first confirmed case of attempted contamination outside the United States.

A CBS staffer working with veteran newsmen Rather in New York tested positive for skin anthrax, CBS News president Andre Hayward said. She was expected to make a full recovery.

Fear that the rising number of incidents could be part of a biological attack on the United States was unsettling governments and rattling the nervousness already pervading financial markets.

Concern worldwide rose dramatically yesterday after news that 31 US congressional staffers had so far tested positive for exposure to the potential germ warfare bacteria. Around 50 people have been exposed to anthrax or been infected with it across the United States. One has died.

CBS became the third major US TV network to be hit by the potential germ warfare bacteria. NBC said last week that an assistant to NBC-TV News anchor Tom Brokaw tested positive, and ABC News said on Monday anthrax was detected in the seven-month-old baby son of a producer who had brought the child to her workplace.

Washington suspects but has no firm evidence the spread is tied to Osama bin Laden, its chief suspect for the September 11 suicide attacks on the United States, which killed 5,400 people.

The US government offered a \$1 million reward today for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for sending anthrax, the FBI said.

But anxiety that cases could infect other parts of the globe deep-

ened when Kenya became the first country outside the United States to confirm a positive anthrax case.

Health minister Sam Ogeri said a letter posted to a Nairobi businessman from Atlanta via Miami tested positive for anthrax. Four members of his family came into contact with the letter. He said the family would be tested once the strain of anthrax was identified.

"Yesterday...three suspected cases (of anthrax) were reported to the ministry," Ogeri told a news conference. "One of these samples tested positively by stain and smear."

Since the spread, governments worldwide have beefed up security, including China, where US President George W. Bush arrived today for a meeting with 21 Asian Pacific leaders. The Kremlin said it had stepped up security in response to the rash of anthrax scares. "Given the latest events and the threat of bacterial terrorism, we have reinforced detailed visual control on incoming mail in the department," Interfax news agency quoted a Kremlin official as saying.

Financial markets, already strained by economic uncertainty after September's suicide air attacks on the United States, fell again as investors pulled out of stocks on Wall Street and across Asia.

"The concern for the moment is the escalation of anthrax attacks and higher anxiety levels," said Alan Ackerman, chief market strategist at Fahnestock & Co in New York. Britain, aware it too could become a target because of its lead support for US-led air strikes on Afghanistan, faced more disruption when a suspicious letter addressed to Prime Minister Tony Blair was detected at one of the country's busiest post offices.

THE TELEGRAPH

Enduring interests in the war against terrorism

The self-reliance mantra

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee recently admitted that there is some disappointment in India that the US is not as sensitive to Indian concerns on terrorism as we had expected. I was told by senior members of the US establishment over the last three weeks that the US is also disappointed about India not appreciating the extent to which the US campaign against terrorism is safeguarding Indian security concerns. It is in this context of mutual disappointments that US Secretary of State Colin Powell held discussions in New Delhi on October 16 and 17.

It rankles public opinion in India that the US chose Pakistan over India as an active partner in its campaign against international terrorism, despite India offering unconditional support to the US. Indeed, the US has supported Pakistan on the issue of Kashmir against Indian interests. It seems the US is not interested in acting against terrorism sponsored by Pakistan. It is only concerned with terrorism directed against itself and its allies in Western Europe and Japan. Also, that the restoration of economic and military assistance in return for its support will strengthen Pakistan's position. This is bound to adversely affect Indian security interests resulting in an arms race in the subcontinent.

Powell's statement that Kashmir is "a central issue" in Indo-Pak relations has been objected to by India. India asserted that it is cross-border terrorism and not Kashmir which is the central issue. These disappointments were conveyed to Powell during his discussions with our political leaders. Powell's responses were based on the following assumptions:

First, there is a genuine appreciation of the sympathy and support extended by India to the US. Second, Pakistan has been made a partner in the coalition due to substantive geo-strategic and operational reasons. Third, the cooperation between Pakistan and the US is not going to erode Indo-US relations in any manner.

Fourth, although unstated, the US co-opted Pakistan into its anti-terrorist coalition (specially in operational terms) under some pre-conditions. These have resulted in Musharraf dissociating his government from the extremist Taliban factions in Afghanistan and from Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda movement.

Musharraf has also been persuaded to arrest fundamentalist leaders like Fazlur Rehman and take restrictive action against extremist parties and political groups in Pakistan. Musharraf has transferred or re-

located in Pakistan.

The US has repeatedly emphasised that the campaign against terrorism will be long drawn out and will target all categories of international terrorism.

The US military campaign in Afghanistan leading to the elimination of terrorist training camps and arms stockpiles there may significantly reduce the capacities of terrorists originating in Afghanistan and Pakistan to operate against India.

The US and India have signed an agreement during Powell's visit to counter inter-



J.N. DIXIT

To expect the US to designate Pakistan as a terrorism-sponsoring state when it is a participant in their campaign against terrorism is impractical

moved seven out of 11 senior army commanders, who opposed his support to the US. Of them, General Aziz and the ISI chief, General Mehmood Ahmad, were active in fomenting terrorism in Kashmir.

Powell, while stating that Kashmir is central to normalising Indo-Pakistan relations in Islamabad, had also mentioned that the terrorist bombing of the J&K Assembly was wrong and unacceptable. He also emphasised that a solution to the Kashmir issue has to be achieved by bilateral negotiations between India and Pakistan.

In earlier official statements, the US government had stressed that while these negotiations take place, the existing Line of Control and boundaries should be respected by all concerned.

The US has frozen the assets of not just the Al-Qaeda movement and other foreign organisations linked with it in Europe and elsewhere, but also those of the extremist Islamic groups

national terrorist activities, with legal and juridical provisions which consolidates the existing institutional consultative arrangements to counter terrorism.

The US government is not intending to tilt towards Pakistan to the detriment of Indo-US relations.

Musharraf's government could be persuaded to adopt a more rational and practical approach towards India in the momentum of Pakistani policies supporting the US against terrorism, even if this phenomenon emerges under pressure and with reservations. This may be conducive to the beginning of a gradual exercise of resuming substantive Indo-Pakistan dialogue.

The US government feels that the Indian media and public opinion are not taking sufficient cognisance of these positive trends which is the best that the US can do for India at this stage within the framework of its own national interests. To expect the US to

designate Pakistan as a terrorism-sponsoring state when Pakistan is an active participant in their campaign against terrorism is impractical.

A government under the leadership of the Northern Alliance cannot be stable in Afghanistan because it consists mainly of Uzbeks, Tajiks and some Hazaras. All the three are minority communities in Afghanistan, compared to the combined demographic size of the Pathans or the Pushtoons. Any new government in Afghanistan would have to have large-scale representation of various segments of the Pushtoon tribes.

Given the recent confrontation between the Pushtoons and non-Pushtoons in Afghanistan, creating a coalition of representatives of all the constituent ethnic groups would be a delicate exercise. The Musharraf government may also resort to diverting extremist Islamic resentment towards India from their present focus against the Pakistan government, a situation pregnant with negative security implications for India.

During Powell's visit to Islamabad, Pakistan demanded the full restoration of multi-faceted relations between the US and Pakistan and withdrawal of sanctions against Pakistan's nuclear weapons and missile capacities. Also, that the US should not include the violence occurring in Kashmir within the ambit of its anti-terrorist campaign and should put pressure on India to compromise on the Kashmir issue with Pakistan. Powell's reported response was positive on the first, second and fourth demands with some riders which respect Indian concerns and sensitivities.

The central message for India in these developments is two-fold: First, that we should not predicate our policies taking the US or Pakistani policies for granted. These would be focussed on their respective national interests. Second, that India would have to be primarily self-reliant in resolving its problems related to terrorism and in managing its security environment.

INDIAN EXPRESS

19 OCT 2001

Ordinance on terrorism approved

By Our Special Correspondent

17/10
NEW DELHI, OCT. 16. The Union Cabinet tonight approved the promulgation of the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001, clearing the decks for a new anti-terrorism law that will ultimately replace the lapsed Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA).

Briefing reporters after the Cabinet meeting, the Parliamentary Affairs and Communications Minister, Mr. Pramod Mahajan, said the draft ordinance has a number of safeguards to protect the interests of the accused.

The safeguards include confirmation of the First Information Report (FIR) by the Director-General of Police and the Review Committee within 10 days and a month respectively and immediate intimation of the arrest of accused to a family member.

Other safeguards are: investigation of an offence under the ordinance to be done by an officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, permission to a legal practitioner to remain present during interrogation of the accused, recording of confession by a police officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police, and reduction in the maximum period of police remand from 60 days under TADA to 30 days.

The proposed ordinance also casts a duty on the

persons knowingly in possession of information relating to offences and also dubs as offence the failure to furnish information deliberately required by an investigating officer.

The terrorist act has been defined as an act performed by using weapons and explosive substances or other methods in a manner as to cause or likely to cause death or injuries to any person or persons or loss or damage to property or disruption of essential supplies and services with intent to threaten the unity and integrity of India or to strike terror in any section of the people.

The Cabinet also approved the withdrawal of the Criminal Law (Amendment) Ordinance 1995 which is at present pending in the Rajya Sabha. It was further examined by an inter-ministerial group. It was found to be too weak to provide a legal framework for combating terrorism.

The new anti-terrorism measure has been fashioned more or less on the lines of the Prevention of Terrorism Bill, 2000, which was drafted by the Law Commission about a year ago. It could be made the basis of an Act during the coming winter session of Parliament. After the Cabinet's approval, it has moved a step closer towards promulgation of the ordinance by the President which will arm the law enforcing agencies with similar powers as available in a duly enacted law to combat terrorism.

THE HINDU

17 OCT 2001

Close watch on overseas mail

NEW DELHI, OCT. 18. A close watch is being maintained on all international mail in the wake of the anthrax scare. "We are keeping our fingers crossed and maintaining a close watch on international mail," the Member-Secretary (Operations) of the Postal Department, Mr. Gautam Gupta, said here.

He said mail sorters had been asked to follow all norms, including those prescribed by the Universal Postal Union of the United Nations. They should wear gloves and masks while opening suspicious-looking mail.

The National Institute of Communicable Diseases is examining two envelopes received from a private hospital and a police station here for the presence of any anthrax spores. These had some powdery substances and, though preliminary investigation did not show the presence of anthrax, the institute is carrying out detailed investigations, according to its Director, Dr.K.K. Dutta.

Though the Postal Department had not stopped receiving or sending any mail, the letters for the U.S. were being closely monitored. "We can subject a letter suspected of carrying anthrax to undergo some tests before being

sent to the addressee," Mr. Gupta said.

Meanwhile, a report from Kochi said there were reports of anthrax scare from parts of Kerala, with the latest case coming from Tripunithura where a person received a letter from Malaysia smeared with a "white powder"

10-1 19/10
yesterday. Police said that on seeing the "white powder" the addressee, Mr. Govindaswamy, informed policemen who have referred it to the district medical authorities. Anthrax scares have been reported from the districts of Pathanamthitta, Alappuzha and Kottayam.

The Union Health Ministry is also making concerted efforts to educate people on the diseases that terrorists might try to spread through biological weapons.

Reward for catching culprits

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 18. The United States today posted a \$ 1 million reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of "terrorist" culprits who sparked a germ warfare alert by mailing anthrax.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director, Mr. Robert Mueller, said his agency and the U.S. Postal Service were combining to offer the reward, part of a huge probe into the scare, in which news anchors, politicians and journalists had been mailed anthrax.

Mr. Mueller announced "a reward of up to \$ 1 million for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for terrorist acts of mailing anthrax". — AFP

Mystery parcels at IAF station

By Our Special Correspondent

CHENNAI, OCT. 18. The receipt of two "mysterious parcels" at two key installations near here sent officials into a tizzy.

The Director-General of Police, Mr. B.P. Nailwal, said the parcels containing "some powder" were received at the Indian Air Force Station, Tambaram, and at the nuclear power plant at Kalpakam. Officers at the installations handed them over to police who sent them for lab analysis. Senior Government officials said the results were awaited.

10-1 19/10

19 OCT 2001

Anthrax scare grips the world

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SEVEN-MONTH-OLD CHILD FALLS VICTIM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 16. — Fears of bio-terrorism gripped the world today as anthrax cases in the USA rose and a spate of hoaxes, false alarms and unconfirmed attacks were reported elsewhere.

The anthrax scare came to Capitol Hill yesterday when a letter with the bacterium was found at the office of Senate Majority Leader, Mr Tom Daschle. The Congress today shut parts of a Senate office building as a precautionary measure. Mail to the Congress was stopped indefinitely. The Capitol Hill has been cordoned off and visits by public cancelled.

A seven-month old boy, son of a ABC Television employee in New York, became the latest anthrax victim. He had visited the television network's office on

28 September for a birthday party and is believed to have contracted the disease from there. The number of people infected by the disease has risen to four.

At a Microsoft office in Reno, Nevada, a letter returned from Malaysia was found to carry anthrax. Six employees are being kept under close watch.

The anthrax scare has eclipsed the ongoing war in Afghanistan. Immediately after the anthrax letter was found in Mr Daschle's office, staff of 12 Congress members reported receiving suspicious-looking letters with threats.

A post office in New Jersey has become the focal point of investigations since the letters received at NBC and at Mr. Daschle's office were mailed from there.

Hundreds of medical experts and researchers are examining the powdery substance in the letters at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, the US Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases at Fort Detrick, Maryland, and other facilities.

Police and investigators are examining the offices of CNN and other television networks. The *New York Times*, where a suspicious letter tested negative for anthrax last week, carried a rare front-page announcement today, in response to readers' concerns, that the newspaper is not printed at its Manhattan facility and hence its safe to handle the paper.

The samples of anthrax collected from the letters are being examined to see if

they are from the same source and of same kind. It has been determined that they are all lab-produced as against naturally occurring ones, that are usually contracted from contacts with animals.

These findings will help determine if these were acts of terrorism linked to Osama bin Laden. For now, there are fears that some locals could be exploiting the nation's state of mind to spread panic.

London Stock Exchange scare: Twelve persons were taken to a hospital today after a suspicious package was delivered at the London Stock Exchange, adds AP. British police has received several anthrax-related hoaxes and has warned Britons to be on guard and watch their mails carefully.

■ Anthrax spores spawned in former Soviet Union, page 9

THE STATESMAN

1971 10

Terrorism HD. 16

Anthrax scare spreads across Europe

By Vaiju Naravane

PARIS, OCT. 16. Like a raging forest fire, the anthrax scare is spreading across Europe after several suspicious envelopes were sent to major Government agencies and businesses.

On Monday, police evacuated three public buildings and sent 55 people to hospital for tests. So far, the tests in France have proved negative and French Health Minister, Mr. Bernard Kouchner, said: "There is nothing in these powders. This was confirmed overnight. Further tests are underway, but initial examination has revealed no trace of anthrax."

In Paris, the police evacuated the offices of the European Space Agency and College de France, an academic body, after envelopes containing a white powder were sent there. Mr. Jacques Kerdoncuff, Paris fire chief told reporters that the contents of the envelopes were discovered at College de France, a national credit facility and one of the offices of the Ministry of Finance. "There is always the possibility of hoaxes and pranksters although such jokes are in extremely poor taste. We are taking these threats very seriously and each one will be verified," he said.

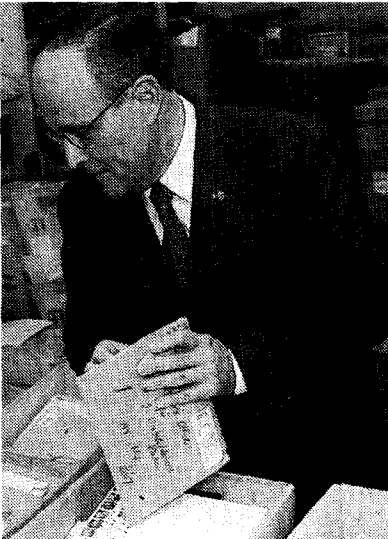
The people who found the powders said the substance had no noticeable odour and did not cause itching or burning.

Reports from Berlin say police sealed off the mail room at the city office of the German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, after employees noticed white powder trickling out of a package. A Government spokesman said Mr. Schroeder was not in the building when the package was discovered. Two such packages were reported from other German cities. (Agency reports said tests carried out on the package delivered at Mr. Schroeder's office did not find any trace of anthrax).

German postal authorities said they had temporarily closed down two sorting offices. Mr. Reinhard Kurth, Director of the Robert Koch Institute, Germany's national centre for research on epidemics, warned the people in a television interview to leave all suspicious packages alone and immediately alert the police. "Don't breathe, don't touch, don't taste," he said.

Similar scares have been reported from the Netherlands, Switzerland, Spain and Gibraltar, a major British military base.

AFP reports from Moscow: Thirty-six people in Russia's eastern Tuva republic have undergone tests in hospital after coming into contact with animals



A WORLD 'ENVELOPED' BY FEAR: (From left) The U.S. Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Tom Daschle, who received a letter in his office which tested positive for anthrax. The New York Mayor, Mr. Rudolph Giuliani, opens an envelope himself to reassure citizens and allay their fears. South Korean masked postal employees screen mail at a post office in Seoul while a fireman wearing protective clothing is scrubbed down by a colleague after carrying a suspect letter from a building in St. Kilda road Melbourne, Australia, on Tuesday. — AP/AFP

suffering from anthrax, *Izvestia* reported on Tuesday.

Isolated cases of anthrax have been registered in Russia over the years but the paper said no such cases had been seen in humans in Tuva since 1987.

Unlike in the U.S. and several other countries, no letters containing suspicious powder have been found in Russia.

U.S. tightens security

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 16. There is further heightened security in the United States after the Senate Majority Leader, Mr. Tom Daschle, received a letter in his office which tested positive for anthrax.

And investigative authorities are taking to media rooms all over the country after a seven-month-old son of a media producer has been diagnosed with anthrax. The child had apparently spent some time in the news room last month.

In a chilling experience, the anthrax scare has come to Washington and on Capitol Hill itself. All tours have been suspended indefinitely and security has been tightened. The Bush administration is seriously exploring the link between anthrax and Osama bin Laden.

There is no word yet on whether anyone in Mr. Daschle's office has tested positive. But precautions are being taken with aides possibly involved with the Senator's mail being tested and treated with antibiotics. "They are

innocent people caught up in a matter for which they have nothing to do. I am very, very disappointed and angered", Mr. Daschle said.

At the White House, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, maintained that "there may be some possible link" between the anthrax incidents and Osama. "I wouldn't put it past him, but we don't have any hard evidence", he said.

What is becoming a worrisome phenomenon here among the general public and the administration is that from a few scattered cases in Florida, the scare is taking on a national dimension. One of the areas of investigation is on any pattern to the mailings. For instance, at least two letters including the one to Mr. Daschle have been mailed from a particular post office in New Jersey.

Extra precautions are being taken in the White House with respect to mail and other deliveries. The National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, in saying that she was not aware of any tainted letters being delivered, said extra care was being taken. "Like everybody else, we are being cautious about what we open", Dr. Rice said.

Our Science Correspondent writes:

With the anthrax attacks in the United States being described as "acts of terrorism", worrying questions arise about the sort of biological warfare capabilities which terrorist groups may have developed.

The letters sent to a senior U.S. Senator, the NBC television in

New York and to the Microsoft office in Nevada were found to contain anthrax spores.

The question is where did those who perpetrated these acts of terrorism get the anthrax spores? Above all, the issue is whether the attacks demonstrate that some terrorist group has developed biological warfare capabilities.

The anthrax bacterium is quite easy to grow and was, therefore, one of the first to be cultivated in the laboratory, according to Lt. Gen. D. Raghunath, a medical microbiologist who retired as the Director-General of the Armed Forces Medical Services and currently heads the Sir Dorabji Tata Centre for Tropical Diseases situated in the campus of the Indian Institute of Science.

To survive adverse conditions, such as when its food supply is running out, the anthrax bacterium forms spores which can remain infective for years. Although anthrax is primarily a disease of hoofed animals, humans can also get infected by the spores.

This spore-formation can also be induced in the laboratory. One way would be to let the culture medium containing the anthrax evaporate and dry up. Alternatively, equipment such as a lyophilizer could be used to dry the anthrax culture. The dried mass would then have to be powdered.

The cultivation of anthrax and making fine particles containing the spores would, however, require special clean rooms and safe handling facilities, observes Lt. Gen. Raghunath.

Anyone with a reasonable knowledge of bacteriology would be able to cultivate anthrax in the

laboratory and make the spore-containing powder, according to Dr. Kalyan Banerjee, former director of the National Institute of Virology at Pune and a person who has served on Indian delegations for the Biological Weapons Convention. But using it as a biological weapon would require turning a laboratory technique into a manufacturing process. Even this step, he believes, should not be too difficult.

But before any of this can be done, a particularly virulent strain has to be found. Dr. Amy Smithson of the Henry L. Stimson Centre in Washington D.C. points out in a paper that though cattle could be found globally, isolating the right strain of anthrax was time-consuming. But she also says that there are other ways to get seed cultures of virulent strains. For instance, 55 culture collections in 28 countries possess the anthrax bacterium.

If it turns out that the powder containing anthrax spores used in the U.S. attacks were indeed made by some terrorist group, it would show that no more biological warfare capabilities are the preserve of national governments. Such technological capabilities could, therefore, grow in sophistication and spread to other terrorist organisations.

If a terrorist group intends to cause mass casualties, they would also need to create a cloud of fine particles carrying the infective agent. This could be done by using explosives or specially-designed sprayers. A group with technical skills may not find it excessively difficult to develop such a capability, says Dr. Banerjee.

Outright mischief

Al-Qaeda's reference to Kashmir is a self-serving exercise

THE latest propaganda videotape from Al-Qaeda is fresh proof of increasing desperation within the terrorist camp. In bringing up Kashmir, the Al-Qaeda spokesman, Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, continues the mischief of Osama bin Laden in an earlier videotape when he raised the Palestinian and Iraq issues. These are transparent attempts to win over people in those territories and turn them against the US. It is also very clearly intended to sow confusion in Muslim countries like Pakistan which are supporting the military attacks on Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. However, except for fringe elements, most people ought to be able to see through the game and recognise it for the cynical self-serving exercise it is. After all, the first time bin Laden was heard to express sympathy for the Palestinians and Iraqis was when the bombing of Al-Qaeda facilities by the US became a certainty; before that he was either critical or indifferent. Today bin Laden focuses on Kashmir; tomorrow it may well be Chechnya or Xinjiang or Nigeria. Anything will do as long as it provokes reaction in the streets.

Vis a vis Kashmir, of course, matters are somewhat more complex. There is no evidence that Kashmir has ever been a bin Laden priority but the Al-Qaeda connection is both direct and long-standing through the terrorist groups who have trained there and draw sustenance from it. Was there a message for them in the latest tape? It is hard to say. Jaish-e-Mohammed is under severe pressure and close scrutiny and may have no choice but to lie low just now. Lashkar-e-Toiba and others are not to be under similar restraints.

In any case, it would be wise to read the latest Al-Qaeda videotape as a bid to stir up trouble within India. As the US closes in on Al-Qaeda and the Taliban regime begins to implode, as desperation grows, India's security forces will have to stay on high alert. Above all, the propaganda on Kashmir is meant to fuel suspicion among Pakistanis about the Musharraf government which had agreed to make Pakistan the key frontline state in the US military operations. Those in India who imagine there can be any movement forward with Islamabad on the Kashmir issue in this situation, do not have their feet on the ground. While guarding against fresh terrorist atrocities in Kashmir and elsewhere in the country, New Delhi's best policy would be to keep relations with Pakistan on an even keel and wait out the immediate war on Al-Qaeda. After that there should be less insistence on Washington doing the Vajpayee government's work for it and more effort on resuming the bilateral dialogue.

Bin Laden's purpose is to turn the international campaign against terrorism into a battle of Islam against the rest. That would serve his fundamental objectives very well. Those aims are to exploit every existing quarrel involving members of the Islamic faith and even imaginary ones in order to fashion, as it were, a coalition against the forces of modernisation and globalisation. Washington frequently reminds the world, it will be a long campaign against terrorism. There should be no illusion either about the determination of those who would drag their societies and countries backwards into the past.

INDIAN EXPRESS

16 OCT 2002

US should 'take out' Omar: Musharraf

Jack Kelley
Rawalpindi, October 15

THE US forces should first "take out" Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, rather than Osama bin Laden, if they want to eliminate terrorism in Afghanistan, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf has said.

"Get Mullah Omar, and Osama won't be able to operate. He'll be on the run," Musharraf said in an interview with *USA Today* and CBS Radio. He said he would give US Secretary of State Colin Powell exactly this advice today.

"You must take out the center of gravity," Musharraf said of

GENERAL DENIES REMARK

A PAKISTANI spokesman on Monday denied that Musharraf had granted an interview to *USA Today* and CBS Radio. "No such interview was requested by the concerned news establishments nor was one granted," the spokesman said. After September 11, Musharraf has been interviewed only by two major international TV networks, CNN and BBC, and has held a press conference. *HTC, Islamabad*

Omar. "That's what I would do if I were running this campaign. "In Iraq, the center of gravity was

Saddam (Hussein). You didn't take him out and look what happened."

He clarified comments he made two weeks ago that the US-led assault on Afghanistan could be over in "a day or two". His remarks contradicted those of President Bush and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who have tried to prepare Americans for the possibility of months of military action against bin Laden and the Taliban.

"It could be over in one day if you take out Mullah Mohammed Omar and his leadership," Musharraf said. "Once you've done that, the campaign is over.

That is what I meant to say."

Despite Musharraf's comments about Omar, Pakistan continues to recognise the Taliban as Afghanistan's ruling government. Taliban diplomats still work in Pakistan.

The General said Pakistan doesn't know bin Laden's exact location in Afghanistan, but its intelligence services are trying to find him, working closely with local Pashtun tribal chiefs and moderate factions of the Taliban.

Pakistani officials have said some members of the Taliban want to hand over Osama bin Laden and improve relations with the West.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

10 OCT 2002

Taliban not terrorist: Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 15. Pakistan today maintained that it did not regard the Taliban militia as "terrorists" and would continue to deal with the Afghanistan Government.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, told presspersons that Islamabad had never regarded the Taliban as terrorists and that is why it continued to maintain diplomatic ties with the militia. He was responding to a specific question on a recent newspaper article by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, wherein he had reportedly described the Taliban and Osama bin Laden as two sides of the same coin.

The Pakistani assertion is significant in the context of the growing unrest within the country over the Musharraf regime's decision to extend unstinted cooperation to the U.S. in its war against the Taliban and Osama.

The Musharraf Government has been particularly uncomfortable over reports of increasing civilian casualties in the course of the eight-day, U.S.-led bombardment of Afghanistan. In the face of growing criticism by the press here over the perceived silence

of the Government on the casualties, the Foreign Office has been trying to draw a distinction between unintended civilian deaths and targeted civilian casualties. "No, Taliban are not terrorists. We never regarded them as terrorists. After all they control a large part of Afghanistan", Mr. Khan said.

He was at pains to emphasise that the U.S. was forced to declare a war on the Taliban after its leadership failed to hand over Osama as required by the United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Mr. Khan said Pakistan was of the view that the war against Osama and his Taliban protectors would be short. "Prolongation of military operations will be a source of concern to us...because with prolongation you can expect mishaps, in which innocent civilian lives can be lost." The matter would be on the agenda of discussions between the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, when they met the visiting U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, he added.

Pakistan had been grieved and pained by civilian casualties and had noted American regrets over the deaths. "We will again emphasise that the targets should be clearly focused to avoid civilian casualties," Mr. Khan said.

THE HINDU

16 OCT 2002

Terrorism

GERMS OF WAR

110-10 16/10

THE LATEST THREATS of possible, but not yet definitively established, connections between germs and terror tactics should not be allowed to cloud logical reasoning and the preparedness of public health authorities across the world. Clearly, an intensified military atmosphere is also the breeding ground for alarm. Reports from the U.S. of human exposure to the dreaded anthrax only escalate long-felt fears of the possible deployment of biological weapons in warfare. Broadly put, such weapons are ones that infect the targets through disease-causing viruses and bacteria. To effectively counter the micro-agents of terror, urgent action in a coordinated manner through exchange of information and sharing of resources is called for. Such an exercise is necessary as it would mark the commencement of an arduous engagement of a hitherto untested dimension of warfare. In contrast to the manner in which wars have been fought, the possibility of the use of micro-organisms implies a wider spectrum of threat, none of which can be ignored and, ironically, none of which should be exaggerated. Charting out preventive measures and heightening the level of readiness should form the beginning of a process that also aims at increasing levels of public confidence in the working of state systems.

As public fear and panic, the immediate results of terror tactics, tend to stun systems into inaction, the need of the hour is substantiated information on the source of the latest anthrax attacks on individuals. American health authorities have done well in issuing public notices on the precautions to be taken as well as in providing updated public health information on the reported cases. It will also be in order to point out that the earlier occasions of a somewhat similar tactic — the use of the nerve gas, sarin, by the Japanese terror group, Aum Shinrikyo, in 1994 and 1995 — resulted in less than intended fatalities, raising serious questions on the effectiveness of delivery

mechanisms. Reports of the possible involvement of states that have flouted international conventions on weapon systems are indeed serious charges that require coordinated international efforts in order to vaporise the possible space available to sinister-minded terror groups. Such efforts gain a sense of urgency in that given the close network that non-state players tend to put in place, an 'advance' made available to one grouping is soon at the command of several others. Curbing the possibilities of terrorist groups either developing or gaining control over chemical and biological weapons is also important as such a development will transform the striking powers of terrorist organisations from that of limited damage to mass destruction. Given the complexities involved in this operation, the role of intelligence agencies in collecting and presenting unimpeachable evidence is vital, followed by strong international action.

In the event of natural or mass disasters, public health systems get stretched to their limits. Against the backdrop of an already challenged public health infrastructure in the country, the Union Government's recent alert to all State Governments must be followed up with a serious appraisal of both the possible threats as well as the current status of the nation's health system — both public and private — to counter the possible infectious agents listed: anthrax, typhoid and cholera. There is also the need to evolve contingency plans that should form part of a larger and more comprehensive public health policy. While it should be recognised that ad hoc approaches will not work in effectively checking mass casualties, it is equally important that the feeble line between alert and panic is not transcended. Maintaining vigil and infusing public confidence are important starting points in countering man's vulnerability to methodically-planned carnage by man.

Terrorism
49-1

Don't back India on Kashmir, Al-Qaeda tells U.S., allies

15/10

LONDON, OCT. 14. For the first time Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network has brought the Kashmir issue into its current conflict with the U.S. and its allies by demanding that they should stop supporting India on the issue.

In a videotaped statement telecast by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television, the spokesperson, Mr. Sulaiman Abu Ghaith, threatened the U.S. and U.K. with more suicide attacks and cautioned Muslims against travelling by air and staying in high-rise buildings.

"These storms (of planes) will not calm until you retreat in defeat in Afghanistan, stop your assistance to the Jews in

Palestine...leave the Arabian peninsula and stop your support to the Hindus against the Muslims in Kashmir," he said.

The U.K. and the U.S. termed the latest statement of the Al-Qaeda as "mere propaganda". The spokesperson of the U.K. Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, said the threats were irrefutable confirmation that Osama and his network had masterminded the September 11 attacks. "We totally condemn this latest statement," he said.

Mr. Ghaith specifically threatened the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, his father, Mr. George Bush Sr., the former Presi-

dent, Mr. Bill Clinton, and the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon. "They are not going to escape punishment."

Mr. Ghaith criticised the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, for doubting a claim he made last Tuesday that thousands of young Muslims were looking forward to death in a "storm of planes that will destroy the U.S."

"Terrorists' designs exposed"

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 14. India today described the statement by the Al-Qaeda as yet another illustration

of Kashmir being a target of its international terror network.

Asked to comment on Al-Qaeda's assertion that it would continue to target the West till it stopped support for "Hindus and Muslims in Kashmir," a spokesperson of the Ministry of the External Affairs rejected the notion that the Jammu and Kashmir was a communal issue. "Jammu and Kashmir is not a Hindu-Muslim issue. The issue is at the core of India's nationhood." A vast majority of our "Muslim brethren in J&K are firmly opposed to terrorism", she added.

Such statements further strengthened India's resolve and determination to resist terrorism.

THE HINDU

11 55 OCT 2002

Global efforts needed to wipe out terrorism: PM

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

AGRA, Oct. 14. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today stressed the need for global pressure to dissuade countries from supporting terrorism.

Delivering the valedictory speech at the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha convention, Mr Vajpayee said security forces at the borders are vigilant and the country is ready to face any challenge. He added that the NDA government was stable and set to take on any impediment.

Mr Vajpayee said there would be no compromise in tackling terrorism and that the country was determined to completely root out this malaise. The world, which refused to recognise problems of terrorism faced by India for the last 15 years in Jammu and Kashmir, has woken up to reality, he said.

The latest incident of a terrorist attack on the Srinagar Assembly had opened the eyes of the world. Even Pakistan condemned it calling it an act of terrorism. However, the Prime Minister said that the definition of terrorism should not change according to the convenience of Pakistan.

He asked the party's youth wing to be vigilant against divisive forces which were trying to create disturbances in the country after the US attack on Afghanistan. These forces, however, will not get very far, he said, as people are aware that religion is not linked to terrorism.

With the possibility of the induction of Mr George Fernandes as the defence minister, though he has not been cleared by the Venkataswami Commission, on the cards, Mr Vajpayee

SONIA ALERTS VAJPAYEE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 14. — Mrs Sonia Gandhi has alerted the Prime Minister on "some disturbing reports" she has received about the organised protests against the US action against Pakistan in India which may take an ugly turn on communal lines.

In a letter to Mr AB Vajpayee, the Congress president has cautioned him to take precautionary steps to curb the growing unrest among the Muslims in the country about the US campaign against terrorism. — SNS

said the government or the country should not be labelled corrupt merely on basis of allegations. "If there are allegations we are ready to face inquiry. If proved adequate steps will be taken," he said without referring to the Tehelka issue.

Painting the entire country as corrupt on the basis of individual allegations was not fair to the nation and its culture, Mr Vajpayee said, adding that the corrupt will be punished and the government will make stringent laws to deal with corruption besides creating new institutions. He was referring to the promise of setting up a Lokpal.

The Prime Minister admitted more than once during his speech the government machinery's inability to deliver efficiently despite the government's best intentions. He said the NDA was trying to change things for the better but it would take time. "Don't depend on the government to do everything," he said.

THE STATESMAN

15 OCT 2002

Multi-pronged on terrorism



1910 p 57.7

There's no single way, no silver bullet, as US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has warned repeatedly, to root out terrorism, simply because its political geography is not limited to Afghanistan. Although in the long run the war against terrorism has to be fought in the theatre of the mind, it has justly begun with military action, diplomacy, multinational intelligence sharing, homeland security and most importantly, economic recovery.

Fighting on the economic front is the most important task for the USA because its \$10 trillion economy is the single most dynamic force that keeps the global economy running. A healthy American economy means so much to India, Japan, China and other countries in the region. The USA had been drifting into a recession much before the 11 September attacks but the looming presence of al Qaeda-bin Laden shadowy forces has put the Bush Administration on notice that there is no choice but to halt the economic slide and lift the country out of slough.

Last week when President Bush presented his \$60-\$75 billion economic stimulus package, Wall Street cheered heartily. Earlier analysts were telling us, you ain't seen the bottom yet. Wall Street is shaky but is holding steady even after the military action began against the Taliban government.

The American people have not stopped grieving over the dead and missing, the widowed and orphaned, but the grief is making them think deeply about all aspects of life and what America stands for. If free market capitalism is good, it should be put to work in the times of the worst crisis the nation has ever faced since the Civil War.

The growth stimulus package, if approved by Congress, would be over and above the \$40 billion already committed to the rebuilding of the areas damaged by the terrorist attacks and another \$15 billion for the rehabilitation of the airline industry. As an aside, one might say that capitalism cannot thrive without help from the government; that big government, much derided by Republicans including President Bush, is necessary, especially in the times crisis. Only big government can be compassionate.

On his second visit to New York City after the deadly assaults, President Bush said, "One person laid off is one person too many. We've got to do what it takes to make sure that that person who got laid off is able to find work." That indeed is compassionate conservatism, the platform on which President Bush has always stood, but his economic recovery plan includes boosting consumer spending and business investment through tax relief as well as extended aid to people who have lost their jobs. The final shape of the stimulus package is yet to be worked out by contending parties in Congress and it wouldn't make everyone happy. But the important point is that in order to fight terrorism, the USA and other countries, including India, must fight recession and stimulate growth.

Ensuring homeland security with minimal adverse effect upon civil liberties is another crucial front the Bush Administration is deeply engaged in currently. Congress has moved cautiously in giving enhanced powers to the police to combat terrorism. The proposed bill before Congress will allow the police to hold an immigrant suspected of terrorism without filing charges for a longer period of time than at present. The Justice Department wanted the authority to suspend an immigrant's habeas corpus rights indefinitely, which aroused in some people's minds the fear of WWII style Japanese-American internment. The new law will give law enforcement authorities nationwide "roving" jurisdiction for electronic surveillance of suspected terrorists. Instead of wiretap authority being limited to a particular telephone number, it will now extend to the person suspected of terrorism, whether he uses a cell phone, e-mail, the Internet or any other electronic communication device, of course, only after the court's approval. Checks and balances are very important to preserve civil liberties and prevent the abuse of power by law enforcement authorities.

To fight terrorism, the land of the free should not slide gradually into a police state, even though many Americans have grudgingly accepted that some liberties might be temporarily curtailed. A new balance to optimize both national security and civil liberties has become imperative. For example, air travel is not going to be that fun it used to be before 11 September. There will be surveillance cameras, and plain-clothes air marshals in all flights, domestic and international. The cockpit will be secured with special doors.

After the 1999 hijacking of the Indian airplane from Kathmandu to New Delhi, I suggested in this column that a commercial airplane should have embedded electronic sensors and it should be like a huge computerized-and-networked flying fortress. But that's not enough because terrorists will come up with some other ingenious idea. It is important, therefore, to drain the filthy swamp where they breed and that is going to take diplomacy, human as well as electronic intelligence, and most of all, a new kind of warrior, a sly warrior, one who uses the same weapons as bin Laden terrorists use. The war against terrorism has to be fought on several fronts simultaneously, and Insha Allah, as the good Muslim says, it will be won, regardless of how brilliant and audacious the enemy, however long it takes to annihilate the forces of darkness.

THE STATESMAN

15 OCT 2002

Hindustan Times

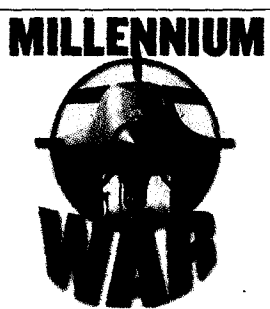
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- TALIBAN SHOWCASES BOMBED VILLAGE
- BUSH SCOFFS AT FRESH AL-QAIDA THREAT
- OSAMA CAN NEVER BE CAUGHT, SAYS SON
- SAUDI ROYALS MAY HAVE FUNDED LADEN

Inside
 Naipaul calls Taliban 'vermin', backs American strikes Page 11
 A blip from the brain may give a terrorist away Page 11

CLIPPINGS

Osama on Kashmir

OSAMA BIN LADEN's al-Qaida on Saturday threatened US and Britain with more strikes if they continued to "support Hindus against Muslims in Kashmir". India on Sunday denied that Kashmir is a Hindu-Muslim issue. An MEA spokesman said such statements merely steeled Delhi's resolve to stamp out terrorism.

PTI, London/New Delhi

Sky marshals

THREE SKY marshals were deployed on the Mumbai-Delhi Alliance Air flight (CD 7444) after the airline's Delhi office received two calls threatening the hijack of the flight. Normally, sky marshals are not posted on this flight.

PTI, Mumbai

George set to return

SAMATA LEADER George Fernandes and BJP's Gujarat MP Harin Pathak are set to return to the Vajpayee Government. The Cabinet Secretary has invited both of them to Monday's Cabinet expansion, sources close to the two leaders said.

Detailed report on Page 6

UP polls in Feb

UTTAR PRADESH Assembly elections will be held in February next and the construction of Ram temple at Ayodhya is not on the BJP agenda for the polls, state party chief Kalraj Mishra said on Sunday.

HTC, Lucknow

HERE & NOW | Sudhir Tailang



Relax, Sir, this powder-like thing is not Anthrax! It seems your table hasn't been dusted!

NET POLL

Question: Should Fernandes be re-elected in the Cabinet without being cleared by the Intelligence Commission?
 Yes 22.43%

No 76.31%

Can't say 1.28%

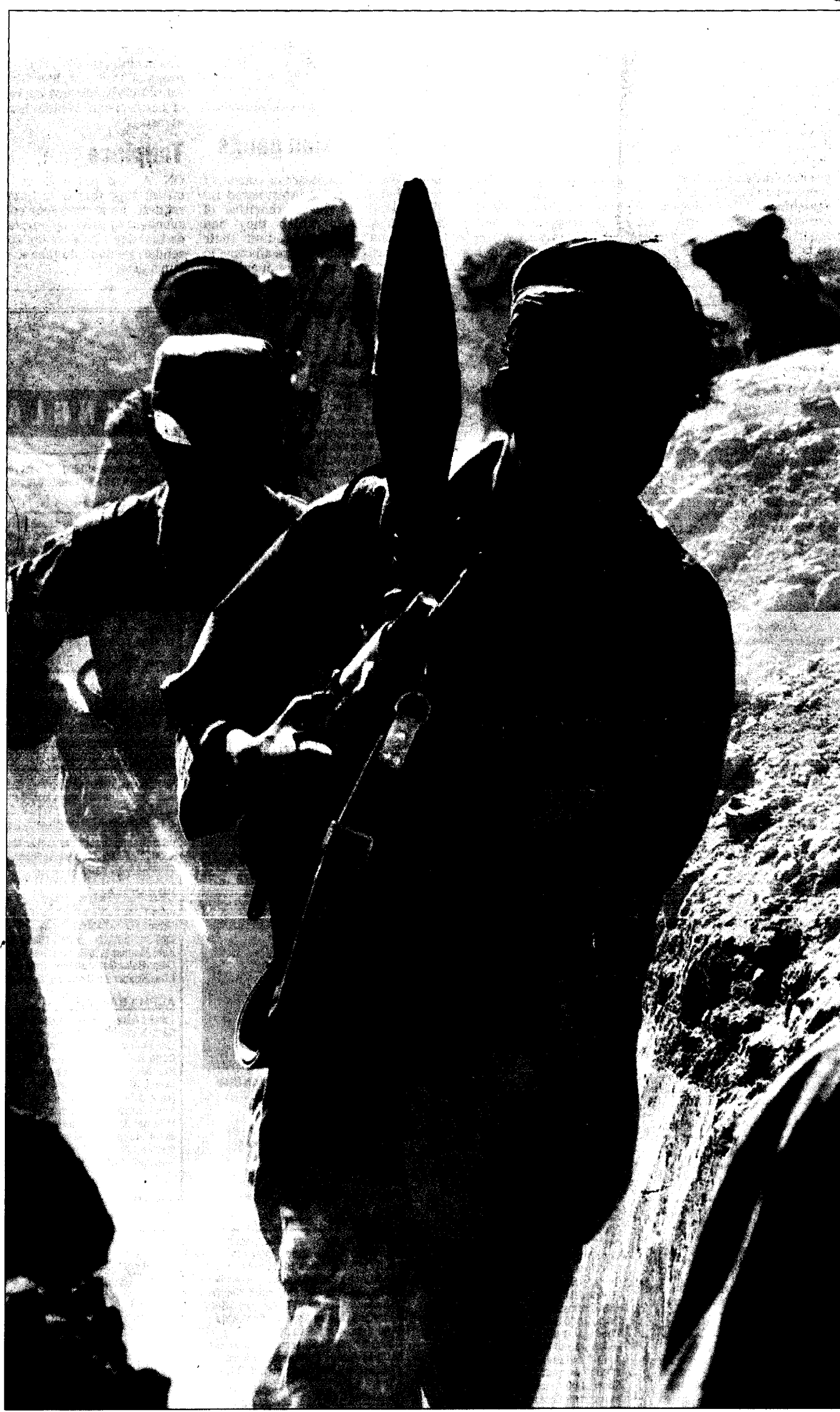
Question: Do V S Naipaul's prejudices against India deter you from admiring his literary works?
 Post your vote daily at: www.hindustantimes.com
 Poll reflects opinion of internet users only

WEATHER

Light to moderate rain accompanied by thunder in some parts. Fall in maximum temperature. Not much change in minimum temperature.

Temperature	Max.	Min.
Sunday	31.4	25.9
Saturday	33.5	28.1
Relative humidity	96%	79%
Rainfall	7.9mm	
Sunrise	5.33 am	
Sunset	5.11 pm	
Moonrise	3.44 am	
Moonset	4.26 pm	

This issue consists of 18 pages. HT City is being distributed in select towns of West Bengal and North Kolkata Live in that area. Vol. I No. 233



Northern Alliance fighters in a trench near Quruf of Takhar province in northern Afghanistan on Sunday.

Iraq in eye of germ war storm

New York, October 14

EIGHT MORE anthrax cases were reported in the US today as investigators probing outbreaks of the disease in Florida and New York named Iraq as the prime suspect in what they believe is a bio-terrorist attack.

The US Intelligence believes Iraq has the technology and supplies of anthrax suitable for terrorist use. "They aren't making this stuff in caves in Afghanistan," a CIA source said. "There is prima facie evidence of the involvement of a state intelligence agency. Maybe Iran has the capability. But it doesn't look likely politically. That leaves Iraq."

In Florida, five more newspaper employees tested positive for exposure to anthrax, but none showed symptoms of infection.

Three more cases were uncovered in New York. Mayor Giuliani said a police officer and two lab technicians who had handled a letter sent to the NBC had tested positive.

The threat letter mailed to NBC news anchor Tom Brokaw from New Jersey a week after the September 11 terrorist attacks contained the anthrax germ that infected his assistant, authorities have confirmed. A second NBC employee also has possible symptoms of anthrax.

In Nevada, a letter sent to a Microsoft office tested positive after preliminary tests had ruled out the bacteria.

These have triggered panic in the US as thousands are flocking to hospitals for tests. The collective hysteria was evident in the incident at the San Jose Airport yesterday. Eighty passengers were held aboard a jet for three hours after it landed just because a passenger claimed a man had sprayed a powdery substance into the ventilation system.

The "substance" turned out to be confetti from a greeting card, which the man had accidentally spilled. But not before FBI and emergency crews had set up a decontamination tent for the passengers, the airport was put on alert and the man was stripped, washed, dressed in a "hazardous materials suit", tested and interrogated.

According to sources in the Bush administration, investiga-

US BOUGHT BIO AGENTS FROM GERMANY

GERMANY SUPPLIED the US military in 1999 with chemical and biological agents for use in weapons, the German Economy Ministry said on Sunday, confirming a report in the *Weltam Sonntag* newspaper. The shipments were "completely in agreement" with national export laws, a ministry spokesperson said without giving further details.

Weltam Sonntag quoted a Government report saying the exports had included "biological agents and radioactive materials for use in war — to disable people and animals, to impair the function of equipment or to destroy harvests and the environment — and chemical weapons".

The chemical weapons included nerve, skin and psychological agents as well as defoliation chemicals, all of which had been prepared in German laboratories, it said. The shipments were worth \$35.8 million, or 12 per cent of the German military exports to the United States, according to the report.

AFP, Berlin

tors are talking to Egyptian authorities who say members of the al-Qaida network interrogated in Cairo had obtained phials of anthrax in the Czech Republic.

Last autumn, Mohammed Atta reportedly met an Iraqi agent called Ahmed Samir al-Ahawi in Prague. The Czechs are examining the possibility that Atta met a former director of Saddam's secret services, Farouk Hijazi, who is known to have met Osama.

The revelations are adding to what US hawks say is a growing mass of evidence that Saddam Hussein was involved, possibly

indirectly, with the 11 September strikes. If investigators' fears are confirmed, sceptics fear American hawks could use it to press their case for strikes against Iraq. The Bush administration has been resisting this so far.

The hawks winning the ear of President Bush are assembled around Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, and a think-tank — the Defence Policy Advisory Board — dubbed the 'Wolfowitz cabal'.

Plans have been discussed among Pentagon strategists for US air strike support for armed insurrections against Saddam by rebel Kurds in the north and Shias in the south with a promise of American ground troops to protect the oilfields of Basra. Contact has already been made with an Iraqi opposition group based in London to install its members as a future Government in Baghdad.

It was confirmed yesterday that Jim Woolsey, CIA Director from 1993 to 1996, recently visited London on behalf of the hawkish Defence Department to firm up other evidence of Iraqi involvement in Terror Tuesday.

The US hawks' strategy to target Iraq was hammered out at a two-day seminar in September, of which the dovish Secretary of State Colin Powell had no knowledge. The result was a letter to Bush urging the removal of Saddam as a condition to the war. "Failure to undertake such an effort," it said, "will constitute a decisive surrender in the war against terrorism."

The Guardian



SADDAH HUSSEIN

Related reports on Page 10

Pak threatens to back out US rejects handover terms

London, October 14

PAKISTAN HAS hinted at cutting off intelligence and withdrawing airspace clearance to block the Northern Alliance from seizing Kabul.

On a day waves of warplanes struck targets around Kabul and three other key Afghan cities, the Pakistani media reported that President Pervez Musharraf had objected to any decisive US military support for the Northern Alliance. The setback emerged as Pentagon officials admitted that a "smart bomb" aimed at Kabul airport went astray and exploded in a poor residential area, killing four people.

Instead of launching a ground

'US MISSED CHANCE ON TALIBAN HEAD'S LIFE'

THIS IS one miss that may cost the United States dearly. On the very first night of US attacks in Afghanistan, the American forces reportedly had Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in gun-sights, but failed to kill him as the rules of engagement did not permit it. According to a report in *New Yorker*, filed by well-known investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, an unmanned reconnaissance craft located a convoy carrying Omar as he fled Kabul.

offensive after a week of American air strikes, the Northern Alliance remains stuck on its front lines as Taliban positions guarding the approaches to Kabul have not been targeted by the Pentagon, understandably under pressure from Islamabad. Slamming Pakistan for "mediating" in Afghanistan's internal

affairs, the Northern Alliance said Islamabad has "no right" to decide on the future dispensation in the country. "Afghans do not need suggestions from anybody, particularly Pakistan," said the Rabanni Government's acting ambassador to India.

Pakistan, meanwhile, appeared to be sliding towards a civil strife

with the powerful Jamiat Ulema-Islam party declaring that its followers would destroy US military aircraft reported to be in the Jacobabad air base. Police fought pitched battles with Jamiat followers to prevent them from entering Jacobabad while troops from a nearby major military base were deployed at the base.

Agencies

Jalalabad, October 14

THE THIRD most powerful figure in the Taliban today said the militia would be ready to discuss handing over Osama bin Laden if the US halts the air strikes, but the White House immediately rejected the offer.

The Taliban's Deputy Prime Minister Haji Abdul Kabir said: "If the Taliban are given evidence that Osama bin Laden is involved and the bombing campaign stopped, we would be ready to hand him over to a third country, one that would never come under pressure from the United States."

"If US steps back from the current policy, we could nego-

ciate," he said. "Then we could discuss which third country." Before the air campaign began, the Taliban had demanded evidence of bin Laden's involvement in the attack and had offered to try him before an Islamic court inside Afghanistan — proposals that the US rejected. Though Kabir's statement does not mark a breakthrough, the fact that the Taliban are showing some flexibility is significant in the wake of a week of the air strikes.

The Taliban are pulling out their troops from the CIS frontier along Afghanistan's border with Uzbekistan and Tajikistan and hastily withdrawing them into the heavily fortified north-

ern key town of Mazar-e-Sharif. Russian military sources said today. They were quoted by Itar-Tass news agency as saying that Taliban troops were being withdrawn to reinforce their forces defending Mazar-e-Sharif to face an imminent assault from the troops of Uzbek warlord Abdul Rasheed Dostum.

However, the Taliban have set up highly mobile groups to retain their control over areas bordering Uzbekistan and Tajikistan. Another news agency reported that Taliban garrisons deployed in towns of Samangan and Balkh provinces were also withdrawing into Mazar-e-Sharif.

AP & PTI

■ Taliban radar networks destroyed ■ Omar 'loses' second son ■ 300 civilians killed

Bombs back with vengeance

AGENCIES

KABUL, Oct. 13. — After a 24-hour respite, US planes today resumed bombing Afghanistan. Kabul and Kandahar were the first to be hit, in a pre-dawn raid. Later, around 10.30 a.m. (local time), 20 planes took off from USS *Carl Vinson* to join the raids. Another cluster of fighters took off around noon.

US missiles today destroyed Taliban radar networks in Baghlan and Herat, where anti-Taliban forces are poised to attack the militia. Herat airport today faced seven waves of attacks.

In night raids, three bombs struck Kabul, two of them landed on the airport, and several hit Jalalabad. The planes targeted Taliban's 1 Corps in eastern part of the city. Kandahar too came under attack.

Jalalabad was attacked when some foreign journalists were on their way to a neighbouring village where 160 people reportedly died this week.

The Taliban said at least seven houses in Kabul were hit. Four civilians were killed and eight injured when bombs struck a village, 2 km from the the airport. Members of a farming community living near the airport said one woman died and three civilians were injured in the bombing which also destroyed five houses.

Anti-aircraft gunners in Kabul had reportedly fired at the US planes.

A precision-guided 2,000-pound bomb, aimed at a copter at the Kabul



An F-18 is pushed into position as an S-3B Viking lands on USS Enterprise in the Arabian Sea on Saturday. (Inset) An aerial view of a terrorist training camp in Jalalabad after being bombarded on Friday. — AP/PTI

airport, missed the target by about a mile and fell on a residential area. The Taliban claimed more than 300

civilians have been killed since the US campaign began on 7 October. Taliban officials and residents repor-

ted two pre-dawn raids on Kandahar's outskirts. The second one seemed to have destroyed a military camp. "I

counted seven to eight cruise missile explosions," the Taliban cultural ministry official, Mohammed Hamid, said. "No area in the city has been bombed. Most bombs fell around the airport."

A US official said planes, including F/A-18 Hornets and F-14 Tomcats, were carrying a different mix of bombs today. Most of them were anti-tank and anti-personnel, including some

cluster bombs that release dozens of high-explosive bomblets.

Omar's loss: The Taliban chief, Mullah Omar, has lost another son in the US bombings, a report from Islamabad said quoting the *News*. Omar's daughter, one of his four wives and several

relatives have been injured. *Pakistan Observer*, however, said Omar, his son and other relatives were safe.

Bush claim: Mr George W Bush said the campaign's first phase had disrupted the Osama's networks. "American forces dominate the Afghan skies and we'll... make sure terrorists can no longer use Afghanistan as a base."

■ More reports on pages 11 and 12

THE STATESMAN

1 2 OCT 2001

'Pak. sponsorship of terrorism in focus'

By J. P. Shukla

AGRA, OCT. 13. The Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today expressed the determination of the National Democratic Alliance Government to tackle the menace of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir on its own. The Government had the capability to do it, he said, asserting that it would guarantee security not only in J&K but in every part of the country.

Speaking at the inaugural of the golden jubilee convention of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Nagar here, Mr. Advani said the country, facing the terrorism problem for over a decade, had drawn world attention to Pakistan's sponsorship of it as State policy. Indian concerns had thus far been ignored but the chain of events after the terrorist attacks in America had changed all that.

Mr. Advani said the September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S. had turned world opinion against terrorism and soon any country found guilty of sponsoring it as a strategy could be declared a terrorist State.

There was a direct link between the terrorist organisations responsible for strikes in the U.S. and those waging a proxy war from across the border in Jammu and Kashmir. The U.S. had found evidence of the involvement of Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda movement in the September

11 strikes. Many terrorists arrested or killed by the security forces in Jammu and Kashmir were found to be in possession of the photographs of Osama.

No agreement could be signed at the Agra summit as the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, had refused to make any reference to terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Now the General had come forward to condemn the October 1 bomb attack on the Assembly in Srinagar.

The Jaish-e-Mohammed had owned responsibility for the attack and the outfit had been declared illegal. Its bank accounts had also been frozen. All these were welcome developments, he said.

Referring to criticism by opposition leaders that India had achieved nothing by supporting America's war against terrorism, he said now there was definite appreciation of Indian concerns.

Any individual or organisation trying to create problems in the country would not be spared, Mr. Advani warned, citing the ban on the Students Islamic Movement of India.

Senior BJP leaders and Union Ministers present at the inaugural function included Ms. Sushma Swaraj, Mr. Satya Narain Jatiya, Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, the Gujarat Chief Minister, Mr. Narendra Modi, the U.P. Chief Minister, Mr. Rajnath Singh, and the U.P. BJP president, Mr. Kalraj Mishra.

THE HINDU

14 OCT 2002

Terrorism: Two neighbours and their blinkered view

IT IS now clear that India made a major miscalculation in its response to the terrorist attacks on the WTC on September 11. By being first off the bat in offering logistic and other support to the US in its strikes against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban, the assumption was that the newly constituted 'international coalition' against terrorism led by the USA would now take cognisance of the terrorist problem in Kashmir.

In his latest press conference (8 October) broadcast on CNN, Gen Musharraf seems to have been equally gullible. On being asked if there had been some 'deal' on the Kashmir issue, he indicated that he had told the US that Osama was only the 'branch' of the terrorism tree. The real root of the problem lay in trouble spots of which Kashmir was one (presumably another is Palestine). Ergo, since Pakistan had sacrificed so much for the US war, solving the Kashmir issue would be the natural response of a grateful US. I will argue in this article that both countries have seriously miscalculated the determinations of US foreign policy and, in consequence dangerously compromised the contours of their own foreign policy in coming years. What is more important, both seem to be painting themselves into a corner vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue.

Consider Pakistan. In return for a few billion dollars in aid, Pakistan happily agreed to be the centre of the storm. But the US interest in Pakistan stems from some short term considerations. For one, with its close links to the Taliban, Pakistan offered a vehicle for immediate negotiations with the Taliban. Second, with the experience of CIA dealings with the ISI in 1998, Pakistan was the natural and well understood source of intelligence. Third, and most important, if

the new Afghan war was not to constitute a 'clash of civilisations' it was important to separate the Taliban and its closest Islamic ally, Pakistan. This has been neatly achieved.

After literally pushing Pakistan to promising all kinds of logistic and other support amid growing domestic unrest, the actual offensive on Afghanistan is being conducted entirely from the northern states of Uzbekistan and Tajikistan, the sworn enemies of the Taliban. In appearing to be still in control, Musharraf has said that he now has no objections

OCCASIONAL PAPER MANOJ PANT

to a new dispensation in Afghanistan led by King Zahir Shah and including the Northern Alliance — something he had strongly resisted a week or so ago! It is not surprising that Tony Blair is President Bush's best 'foreign secretary'. The British after all perfected the art of divide and rule! This was precisely what, in fact, Bush promised to do (to the terrorists) a few days after September 11. Despite the lessons of history, Musharraf still hopes that the US will not 'desert Pakistan' as it did about 11 years ago. Hope indeed springs eternal in the human breast!

The Indian take on the whole issue has been only slightly less pathetic. The bankruptcy of foreign policy was clearly indicated in the letter written by Mr. Vajpayee to President Bush following the suicide attack on the Legislative Assembly in Srinagar by members of the Jaish-e-Mohammed. However, President Bush has clearly indicated that at the moment the primary issue is Osama and thus Pakistan the ally who cannot be faulted. This,

despite the fact that the hijacking of the IA plane to Khandahar was closely linked to members of the Al Quaida organisation.

Look where that leaves us. From the Indian point of view existing policy on Kashmir stands discarded. For one, the issue has now been internationalised formally. For, when the current crisis ends, the US (and UK) may well come back and proffer help (as requested) on the Kashmir problem. Will we then disown the letter sent? Second, both Pakistan and India now admit that the issue cannot be solved bilaterally. This is a fatal admission. Third, India now admits that it has no solutions of its own for Kashmir.

Finally, take the USA. It is commonly understood that the average American is unconcerned about US foreign policy unless it impinges on their economic concerns or physical well being. Thus, anti-Vietnam protests began with the return of 'body bags' from Vietnam. Similarly, human rights lobbyists were unable to get very far in the case of China despite Tiananmen due to the economic importance of China to domestic consumers and producers. In the same vein, US policy in Afghanistan will be important domestically till the perceived threat from terrorists is removed. Then it's back to business as usual. Kashmir is on no one's horizon in the US.

The bottom line is that foreign policy cannot be based on the perceptions of an individual. President Musharraf can be forgiven for not knowing this in that he is a military man impatient with procedures (he himself admitted that in Agra). But our PM has loads of experience and should know better. Or is he no longer taking decisions? I sincerely hope not.

(The author is professor of Economics, School of International Studies, JNU)

Germany to tighten laws against terrorism

By Batuk Gathani

BRUSSELS, OCT. 12. Police in Germany and Italy on Wednesday arrested suspected militants who are believed to have planned armed attacks on targets in Africa and the U.S. They are also believed to have been involved in recruiting trainees for terrorist camps in Afghanistan.

Fresh evidence has emerged suggesting that Germany has been a base for terrorists for many years now. Terrorist networks linked to the Al-Qaeda operated from Hamburg, Munich and Milan in Italy. The arrested men are to be charged with trafficking in arms and explosives. So far, over a dozen men have been arrested. The German police is cracking down on suspected terrorist cells which are thought to have overtly and covertly participated in the September 11 attacks. The German police and security agencies have experience tackling terrorist activities on their soil — the Bader Mainhoff and Red Brigade terrorist groups were active in the late Seventies.

The European Union countries are in the process of streamlining procedural methods for better co-ordination among pan-European security agencies and police. A pan-European arrest warrant is expected to become effective by the end of the year. German authorities are working on a system to profile individuals and groups according to their race, creed or ethnicity. Although such profiling is banned in some E.U. countries it is allowed in Germany. A law was passed making it legal after a

spate of bombings and assassinations by the Bader Mainhoff and the Red Brigade gangs in the 1970s. The profiling method has been rarely used since then but after the recent events, the authorities feel the need to start profiling suspects on the basis of race, creed or ethnicity.

The German Government is also planning to change the law that gives special protection to clubs and groups with a religious character. This will enable German authorities to close down fundamentalist groups that it deems dangerous. The German authorities have been particularly embarrassed by the revelation that Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers on board the plane that crashed into the World Trade Centre, was a student in Hamburg. Atta had secretly travelled to an Al-Qaeda training camp in Afghanistan. The German authorities will soon tighten laws to crack down on suspected terrorist organisations that are not active in Germany but are using the country as a base of operations.

In a show of solidarity with the efforts to tackle global terrorism, the Turkish Parliament voted in principle to allow troops to be sent abroad to assist the U.S. coalition against terrorism. The Parliament also approved the Government's request to allow foreign troops to be stationed in Turkey. Turkey is a founder-member of the NATO alliance and aspires to become a member of the European Union. The Turkish Parliament approved the proposals by 319 to 101 votes.

THE HINDU

TRAINING IN AFGHANISTAN, KILLINGS IN KASHMIR

U.S., U.K. freeze Jaish assets

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 12. The Bush administration has frozen the assets of the Jaish-e-Mohammed (Army of Mohammad) as part of widening the net on the financial assault on terrorism.

In London, Britain announced a similar freeze.

The U.S. Treasury Department today named 39 more entities and individuals suspected of conducting or financing terrorist activities. At least three of the 15 individuals listed are said to be Pakistani nationals or those staying in that country.

The Treasury Department said it was a "militant, pro-Taliban Pakistan force that receives support within Pakistan". It gave the background of the expansion in size and capability of the JeM since Maulana Masood Azhar — who was released during the Indian Airlines plane hijacking to Kandahar — announced its formation in February 2001. The U.S. said the JeM was responsible for several attacks and bombings, killing many people in India.

"The JeM is based in Peshawar and Muzaffarbad but members conduct terrorist activity primarily in Kashmir. The JeM maintains training camps in Afghanistan," the Treasury Department says.

The individuals category — from Pakistan or those believed to be from that country — includes a large-scale hawala dealer running the operation in Quetta and one person linked to the Al-Rashid Trust which has also been named in today's list.

The new list follows a September 24 order by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, that

cracked down on 27 persons and entities. "The list will continue to grow as we share information among nations and develop an increasingly-clear understanding of the complex network of terrorist financing," the Treasury Secretary, Mr. Paul O'Neill, said.

A step forward, says India

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, OCT. 12. The British Government today instructed financial institutions to freeze the assets of the Jaish-e-Mohammed and 37 other organisations and individuals "believed" to be engaged in terrorism directly or indirectly. These include the Karachi-based Rabita Trust and three Pakistan-based individuals — Haji Abdul Manan Agha, Mufti Rashid Ahmed Ludhianvi and Zia Muhammed — all of whom have one more aliases.

"It is a positive development

which goes in the direction of meeting our concerns," said Mr. Navdeep Suri, press counsellor at the Indian High Commission. He said India had been sharing with the British Government its worries about the activities of the JeM, including its involvement in the October 1 outrage in Srinagar.

The Chancellor, Mr. Gordon Brown, said today's list was a result of "intelligence sharing and coordination between the U.K. and the U.S.". "We will continue to work with our allies and take a leading role internationally to cut off the ready supply of finance which is the lifeblood of modern terrorism," he said, adding: "Just as there can be no safe haven for terrorism, we are taking decisive action to ensure there is no safe hiding place for their assets." The move was officially described as part of the strategy to "expose, isolate and incapacitate funds being used for terrorist activities".

Powell to 'ease' Indo-Pak. tensions

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 12. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, is travelling to Pakistan and India not merely to "thank" the two countries for their "cooperation" with the U.S. in this war against terrorism, but to ease tensions between India and Pakistan who are still "shooting, shouting and glaring at each other" over Kashmir, if the remarks of his Deputy, Mr. Richard Armitage, are anything to go by.

Mr. Armitage was talking to a group of newsmen some of whom likely to travel with Gen. Powell on his visit to South and South-East Asia. He is expected in India early next week.

"One of the reasons he (Gen. Powell) is going to South-East Asia, in addition to the discussions with the Pakistanis, is to probe the minds of the Pakistanis and Indians and see if there is not a way to lower the temperature," Mr. Armitage was quoted as saying. Mr. Armitage is said to have recalled a remark of the former Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, Mr. William Webster, who called Kashmir one of the most dangerous places in the world. "He was right eleven years ago, and I think he's still right now and that's one of the reasons the Secretary's going."

Role for India: Page 11

THE HINDU

13 OCT 2001

Third anthrax case prompts criminal probe

Dana Canedy & Jim Yardley
Oca Raton, Florida, October 11

FEDERAL OFFICIALS have announced that a third person in South Florida has tested positive for exposure to anthrax and emphasised that this was now a criminal investigation.

The latest case, exposed on Wednesday night, is a 35-year-old woman who works in the same building where two other people were exposed, one of whom died last week.

The officials said they found traces of anthrax in the woman's nasal passage and that she was taking antibiotics. The woman's identity has been withheld on request.

"There is another individual who has tested positive for the

presence of this virus," said Guy Lewis, the United States attorney for the Southern District of Florida. "It is now a criminal investigation."

The authorities said there was "no indication" that the exposures were related to the September 11 terrorist attacks, but would not rule out that possibility.

Dr John Agwunobi, Secretary for the Florida Department of Health, sought to reassure the public that anthrax was not contagious and that the contamination appears to be limited to the headquarters of the American Media Inc building here, where the three people worked.

He said that health officials had so far tested nasal passages of 700 people and found only

one that tested positive for anthrax. The announcement tonight significantly alters a weeklong investigation that the authorities had initially characterised as primarily a health probe into isolated incidents.

Robert Stevens (63), a layout editor for the *Suz* tabloid, one of American Media's publications, died on Friday last week after being diagnosed with anthrax.

Days later, spores were detected in the nasal cavity of Ernesto Blanco, a 73-year-old mail supervisor at the Sun. Authorities closed the American Media building on Monday after the discovery of Blanco's exposure and of a spore of the bacteria on Stevens' computer keyboard.

Officials have not yet said how the people became exposed to the anthrax nor do they know the source for sure. The Miami Herald reported on Wednesday that investigators had linked the anthrax to a strain that was harvested from Iowa in the 1950s, and NBC News reported Wednesday evening that the FBI was beginning to conclude that the anthrax was stolen from a US lab in Ames, Iowa.

The reports led to speculation that the Florida germ might be a highly virulent type of anthrax known as the Ames strain, which was discovered in Iowa and studied as a possible germ weapon by the American military before President Nixon renounced germ weapons in 1969.

Kevin Teale, a spokesman for the Iowa Department of Public Health, said today that the Ames strain was discovered in the 1950s in at Iowa State University, in livestock that had died of anthrax. It has since been sent to laboratories across the world for research purposes.

But scientists familiar with the investigation said the DNA of the Florida germ was not an exact match to any of the strains, or subspecies, of anthrax samples kept in the most complete anthrax collections, including the Ames strain.

Dr Scott Lillibridge, the chief adviser on bioterrorism to the Secretary of Health and Human Services, testified in the House of Representatives on Wednesday

that the Florida strain is sensitive to penicillin and a variety of other drugs. "That is not the hallmark of an engineered bioweapon," he said.

American researchers have accumulated 1,200 samples of anthrax from around the world. But only 400 or so of those samples have undergone DNA analysis that reveals their genetic signatures. So the DNA library that allows quick identification of unknown anthrax strains is fairly small compared to what has been so far collected. They said it might take another year for the remaining 800 strains to undergo DNA analysis, which might ultimately link the Florida germ to a sample in the collection.

The New York Times

UN STAFF ON WATCH FOR 'SUSPICIOUS' OBJECTS

THE UNITED Nations headquarters has advised its staff to look out for signs of anthrax and chemical attacks including suspicious parcels and letters.

UN security chief Michael Meucham, said on Wednesday the advisory was issued in the light of the "current crisis". Representatives of non-Governmental organisations, who were barred after the WTC attacks, are now being permitted in limited areas of the building.

PTI, United Nations

Heaviest strike yet, Taliban claim massive civilian toll

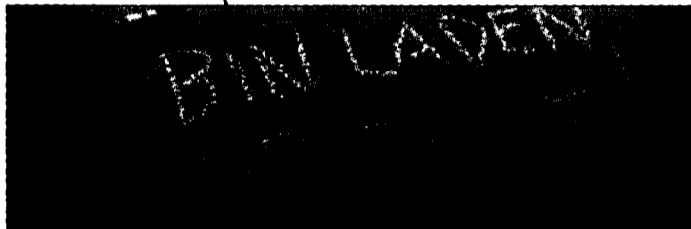
Islamabad, October 11

US WARPLANES pounded barracks, garrisons and troop encampments across Afghanistan today in the heaviest airstrikes yet against ground forces of the Taliban regime. Kabul came under the worst bombardment it has seen so far, as did the eastern city of Jalalabad.

The airstrikes continued this evening after an American warplane was sighted over Kabul today, launching its first daylight raid on the capital. The bombing resumed at 5.30 pm near the airport. Civilians in the area grabbed any means of transport they found to flee.

B-52 and B-1 bombers targeted Taliban troops with deadly cluster bombs. The Taliban accused the Pentagon of deliberately targeting civilians in its bombing campaign and claimed that more than 115 people — including 70 civilians — had been killed in the raid. One report put the death toll as high as 140.

Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan Mullah Zaeef said: "In the



A STERN MESSAGE ON A US MISSILE

AFP PHOTO

past days of American air raids, more than 70 civilians have been martyred in different parts of our country. The Pentagon is lying to the world when it says it is not hitting civilians."

The Taliban has barred foreign journalists from territory they control, so it is impossible to verify the regime's claims. Asked about reports that the Taliban had lifted restrictions on Osama bin Laden so that he could wage jihad on Americans, Zaeef said: "There was no restriction on him, on his speech and everything ... But there is still a restriction on him to use the soil of Afghanistan against any country." He also denied

claims by the Northern Alliance that there had been mass defections from Taliban ranks.

He said both Taliban chief Mullah Mohammed Omar and bin Laden survived today's raids. A US Intelligence official confirmed that the two were still alive, but said several Taliban leaders and two of Mullah Omar's relatives were killed on the first day of the US-British air campaign. "We won't say how high ranking these relatives were, but we know that they died during the US and British cruise missile strikes on Sunday."

The worst casualties of today's air raids were in the village of Kadam, about 40 km from the

eastern city of Jalalabad, where "more than 100 died, mostly women, children and the elderly because many of the men were away," a Taliban official said.

A bomb dropped on Kabul airport hit a nearby village destroying several houses and killing a 12-year-old, witnesses told AFP. The village hit by the stray US bomb, Qala-e-Chaman, is 2 km west of the airport.

Afghans have been living with conflict for the past two decades, but Qand Agha said the daily bombing raids were breaking the morale of the civilian population. "Nobody in my family has been able to sleep for the past four nights," he said as he slumped next to his wheelbarrow of apples and pomegranates in the local market.

"Apart from this wheelbarrow and the court of Almighty Allah, I have nothing else," he said. The trauma of the last night meant the market was almost empty, and Agha had sold nothing but one kg of apple all day.

Related reports on Pages 7, 9, 10, 1

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

12 OCT 2001

PM hints at military operations in Kashmir to crush terrorism

By Binay Kumar Singh
Times News Network

VARANASI: Giving an indication of adopting tough measures to crush terrorism in Kashmir, the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said that the option of military operation, as suggested by the



A.B. Vajpayee chief minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Farooq Abdullah, was being discussed seriously. In a brief chat with media persons just before leaving for Ballia on Thursday, Mr Vajpayee said, *Farooq Abdullah ki rai se hum awgat hain aur jo bhi karyawahi karni hogi soch samajh kar ki jayegi* (I am well aware of the feelings of Farooq Abdullah, and whatever action is required will be taken after evaluating the situation).

He said that the matter had been taken seriously and the process to reach any decision was on. Mr Vajpayee said that it was wrong to say that India was backtracking in facing the challenges of terrorism.

He said that Pakistan, which had been harbouring terrorism, itself had spoken against it when it felt

its threat. Efforts were being made to establish link between terrorism and Islam, he said adding that some Muslim countries in the name of Islam were not opposing terrorism. He said that the terrorism could not be defined on the basis of nationality and religion. Terrorism was a tendency that might emerge anywhere anytime, he said and added that it was absolutely against humanity.

Mr Vajpayee warned those people and countries who tried to combine the terrorism with Islam and said that those nations, who viewed it (terrorism) as Islamic Jihad would have to face its consequences sooner or later. Earlier the Prime Minister was accorded a red carpet welcome in the city amidst extraordinary security arrangements on Wednesday evening.

He was received by the chief minister, Rajnath Singh and governor, Vishnu Kant Shastri and other BJP leaders at Babatpur airport. He took a night stay at Hotel Taj Ganges. The entire locality was sealed from the security point of view.

The normal traffic in between Varunapul to Nadesar crossing was restricted from 8.00 p.m. to 10.30 a.m. Mr Vajpayee left for Ballia by helicopter on at 10.20 a.m. Before leaving the hotel, he had a photo session with hotel staff.

Al-Qaeda calls the faithful to a long battle against US

Dubai

10 OCTOBER



Osama

OSAMA BIN Laden's al-Qaeda militant group said on Tuesday that the hijacked plane attacks on the US would continue, in a "battle" that would not end till the US withdrew from Muslim land.

Al-Qaeda spokesman Sulaiman Bu Ghaith said in a message carried on Qatar's al-Jazeera satellite television that the group believed in "terrorism against oppressors."

A Jazeera official said the station had received the video recording of Bu Ghaith's statement in the Afghan capital Kabul on Tuesday.

Bu Ghaith, who had appeared with bin Laden on a recorded statement issued via Jazeera last Sunday, is a wanted man in his homeland, Kuwait, where he was a prayer leader.

"Americans should know...The storm of the (hijacked) planes will not stop," he said, referring to the suicide attacks in New York and Washington last month that killed thousands and triggered a US "war on terrorism." Referring to those who carried out the attacks, Bu Ghaith said "they did good by taking the battle into the heart of America" and that the US should know that such attacks would not end.

His statement fell short of admitting any al-Qaeda involvement in the attacks but reiterated bin Laden's praise for the perpetrators in his videotaped remarks released on Sunday.

President Bush has named bin Laden as the prime suspect in the September 11 attacks in the US, and has launched attacks on Afghanistan and its Taliban regime to try to hunt him and his network down.

"The crusade that Bush had promised has started," Bu Ghaith said. He said the raids on Afghanistan had opened a new chapter in the war between the US and al Qaeda.

"Let them know that by invading the land of Afghanistan, they have opened a new page of enmity and conflict between us and the infidel forces...The



SHADOW WARRIORS

nation will not be silent after today, after what is happening on its land. Jihad for God's purposes is an obligation today for every Muslim on this earth."

He suggested that Muslims target US interests across the world: "US interests are spread everywhere in the world. Every Muslim should carry out his full role." Bu Ghaith reminded Arabs of what many perceive is Washington's blind support for Israel against the Palestinians, of the 11 years of United Nations sanctions against Iraq and of the stationing of US troops in Saudi Arabia, the heartland of the Muslim faith.

"Let America know that this battle will not leave its land until it exits our land, and until they stop supporting the Jews and lift the unjust sanctions on Iraq," he said. "In the nation, there are thousands of youths who are as keen on death as Americans are keen on life."

Bu Ghaith urged Muslims to "shoulder their responsibility" by supporting al Qaeda and said it would be a "disgrace" if they abandoned it. — Reuters

The Economic Times

Queues for tests, phone lines flooded, people hosed down US in grip of anthrax

AGENCIES

BOCA RATON (FLORIDA), OCTOBER 10

IT'S the stuff of supermarket tabloids. However, it is playing out across America. An employee of a tabloid dies from a rare bacterial infection, and a co-worker is found to have been exposed to the same disease. The building where the two worked is quickly sealed off by the FBI, and technicians in white protective moonsuits and masks swoop in to cart away potential evidence.

Fear grips workers as they line up for tests to determine whether they have been exposed. A woman who once came answering a job application to the building joins the queue (incidentally, she never got the job). A reader calls up to find out if he could have caught the infection from the tabloid. Others flood phone lines reporting "suspicious packages". In Hollywood, three people are hosed down in their business clothes by firefighters after they notice an unexplained dirt-like powder on boxes.

Repeated assertions of health officials that the disease isn't contagious fall on deaf ears. Anthrax spores can be carried or transported on objects, such as animal skins or soil, and then be inhaled, but aren't spread by an infected person's coughs or sneezes. Even President Bush's appeal for calm goes unheard.

At the centre of the drama are the nation's top tabloids themselves, housed in America Media Inc building in Boca Raton, Florida — *The National Enquirer*, *Globe* and *Star* among them. The AMI tabloids have published many items belittling the men behind the September 11 attacks and Osama bin Laden. The *Globe* said bin Laden had underdeveloped sex organs while *The Enquirer* promoted toilet paper printed with photos of his face.

Last week, Bob Stevens, a 63-year-old photo editor at the *Sun*, died just days after he had been diagnosed with anthrax, a disease found in cattle and only rarely in human beings. The most common form of anthrax is contracted through the skin, but Stevens had an inhaled form — apparently from his computer keyboard — the first such case recorded in the US since 1976. His colleague, Ernesto Blanco, was found to have the bacteria in his nose but his condition is stable.

A rash of anthrax scares followed, with the country already jittery over last month's anti-US attacks. Several hundred people in Boca Raton were tested for contamination, while authorities isolated and treated numerous others in Washington, Virginia and Kentucky. Besides workers, those who had just visited the building and their relatives were tested over Monday and Tuesday (altogether, 750 people are awaiting the results of these tests). Employees and another 450 people who had visited the building since August 1 and spent more than an hour in are being given



The 23-year-old Prince George's County, Maryland, man who pushed his way onto a Metro Green Line train on Tuesday with a gun and a knife and sprayed a clear liquid inside a train car, after he was arrested. Metro shut down the station until it was determined six hours later that the liquid was a cleaning agent and contained no biological or chemical threat. AP/PTI

antibiotics.

"Just knowing that those guys lived in this area, who knows what they left behind?" says Boca Raton resident Trisha Martin, referring to the men who are believed to have carried out the September 11 attack.

Many of the 300 AMI employees in Boca Raton find it hard to distinguish between fact and fiction. Attention briefly focused on a reporting intern from Florida Atlantic University who spent the summer at *The National Enquirer* and who employees recalled had sent an e-mail saying he had left a surprise for co-workers when he left at the end of August. The student, Jordan Arizmendi, showed up to be tested on Tuesday and was cleared by investigators.

Even some readers are concerned. "What

are the odds that these kind of (anthrax) spores could now be being printed along with our issue of *The National Enquirer*?" asked a worried caller to CNN's *Larry King Live* on Monday night. Impossible, says the company. American Media's tabloids are printed at plants outside Florida.

There was a new scare at the Palm Beach Health Department while people awaited tests. Police took away dust found in an envelope in a garbage bin. It was believed to be construction dust, but would be checked by hazardous material experts. In Naples, police closed two buildings after the staff reported finding a white powdery substance in mail bins. Nervousness even spread to Canada, where a building of *Globe International Inc*, a company with close ties to America Media Inc, was briefly evacuated.

INDIAN EXPRESS

1 1 001 201

Limit war to Afghanistan, says OIC

Guerrilla
11-1 11/60
Ministers term Sept. 11 terror strikes 'savage'

DOHA: Islamic nations on Wednesday opposed the spread of the U.S.-led onslaught on the Taliban regime in Afghanistan to any other Arab or Islamic country even as Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden appealed to all Muslims to join in a jihad and strike against U.S. interests across the world.

Foreign ministers of the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in a joint statement "rejected that any Islamic or Arab country is attacked under the pretext of the fight against terrorism".

This followed Washington's warning to the United Nations on Monday that its war against terrorism might extend beyond the borders of Afghanistan.

The OIC did not condemn the U.S.-led strikes on Afghanistan, but instead expressed "concern that they could cause victims among innocent civilians" even as U.S.-led fighter jets pounded the southern Afghan city of Kandahar for the second consecutive day of daylight strikes on Wednesday.

The OIC also demanded that the "territorial integrity and Islamic identity of Afghanistan be guaranteed". The ministers added that any participation of their countries in the fight against terrorism should come under the aegis of the United Nations, and urged that a UN-sponsored conference on terrorism be held.

"The OIC confirms the readiness of its member states to take an active part in the fight against terrorism within the framework of collective UN-supervised international efforts unequivocally to define terrorism, attack its origins and pull up its roots," they said.

The September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington were "savage" and "contrary to religious precepts", the ministers said, calling for the "tracking down of the perpetrators and bringing them to justice".

They also rejected "any attempt

to link Islam and terrorism", as well as any confusion between terrorism and the right of peoples, including the Palestinians and the Lebanese, to self-defence and resistance against Israeli occupation.

The ministers sharply criticised Israel's "state terrorism" against the Palestinian people, calling for the UN Security Council to ensure "international protection for the Palestinians and to put an end to the occupation of Arab territories seized in 1967".

Meanwhile, terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden appealed to all Muslims to join in a jihad and strike at U.S. interests across the globe.



Responding to the appeal, the White House said that a statement from the Al Qaida network did nothing but bolster its view that the group must be eradicated. "If anybody needed further proof that this group of terrorists has launched attacks on freedom and civilisation, all they had to do was watch that statement," said a White House official who declined to be named.

An Al Qaida spokesman Suleiman Abu Ghaith had warned in a pre-recorded message broadcast by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera satellite television station that "the Americans must know that the storm of airplanes will not stop". "There are thousands of young people who look forward to death like the Americans look forward to living," he said.

"American interests are everywhere, all over the world. And every Muslim has to play his real and true role to uphold his religion (and) his nation."

He said the U.S.-led military strikes against Afghanistan had "opened a door that will never be closed".

"America must know that by coming to the land of Afghanistan they've opened up a new page of animosity between the U.S. and the forces of the unbelievers." (Agencies)

KNIGHTS OF THE LONG KNIFE



A mob of pro-Taliban Afghan refugees runs towards members of the international press at the village of Yarro, 43 km from Quetta in Pakistan, on Wednesday. Hundreds of demonstrators shouting anti-American slogans blocked the road, forcing back the convoy. No one from the convoy was injured.

HCB

A plague on bioweapons

nyw

THE ANTHRAX scare in Florida seems to have spilled over into a tense world that is already on edge wondering when, and where, terror will strike next. Health authorities here in the subcontinent are scrambling to marshal their resources to tackle possible attacks involving biological weapons. This is just as well since bio-terrorism was never a serious issue for the country's defence planners who, like most Indians, always thought that it could never happen here. But the single-minded ferocity of the September 11 terrorist strikes in the US have apparently jolted the government out of its complacency. It is a chilling thought that scientists in biotech facilities around the world are even now routinely souping up the next generation of terror weapons: bacteria, viruses and pathogens that could be brewed and served in aerosols to kill or disable at will.

The good news, though, is that the lethality of bioweapons is usually overestimated. People mistakenly believe that they work by

triggering off epidemics, when most actually kill by direct exposure, as the case of the Florida victims shows. Also, bioweaponry has been confined to agents like anthrax spores that enter the lungs and hatch bacteria (that then multiply in the body to finally kill), *without* infecting anyone else. But the bad news is that such luck may not hold indefinitely as any genetic engineer could devise contagious weapons at some point.

Of course, it's very difficult to develop, say, an anthrax strain since the spores must be just the right size: if too small, they would be exhaled, and if too large, they would fall to the ground. Nevertheless, it is a disturbing thought that it is quite possible to design a virus that would afflict only a particular ethnic group, thereby giving a wide safety margin for the attackers who may be of a different ethnic persuasion. And genetic engineering could just as easily fashion a vaccine to match such a killer virus so that the aggressor could be immunised.

THINK IT OVER...

I hate victims who respect their executioners

JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2001

JeM under 'close' watch

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 10. The Bush administration has said that it was putting the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) under "close" watch for possible listing as a foreign terrorist organisation. ^{11/10}

"We have agreed to take a very close look at them in relation to the criteria for listing groups on the foreign terrorist list," the State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, said at a regular briefing.

The JeM is in the second category of the State Department list under "other terrorist groups" but has to be moved up the scale and formally designated if sanctions are to follow. ^{11/10}

But the State Department would not comment on the implication of designating the JeM — putting Pakistan in the category of nations sponsoring terrorism.

"You are asking me a hypothetical question based on facts that I can't confirm. I would note that the Pakistan Government issued a very, very immediate and very, very strong condemnation of the attack that took place in Srinagar," he said, referring to the JeM's role in the recent car bomb attack.

See also Page 11

THE HINDU

11 OCT 2001

New anthrax case fuels bioterror fears

S Rajagopalan
Washington, October 9

A 'LOVE letter' to Jennifer Lopez accompanied by a powdery substance and a Star of David charm landed in a Florida publishing house a week before the September 11 terrorist attacks. An elderly gentleman who handled the stuff at The Sun tabloid died last Friday of anthrax. Now his co-worker has tested anthrax positive amid a suggestion from US Attorney General John Ashcroft that the cases could be linked to bio-terrorism.

Are the two indeed victims of a biological war? An America on the edge seems convinced they are. A dreaded infection, Anthrax can be both natural and manmade. Either way, it is often fatal.

A third suspected case of anthrax is being monitored at the Prince William Hospital in Manassas, north Virginia, reported USA Today. Doctors did

not rule out a connection between the cases in Florida and the new case in Virginia. The Prince William patient had either been an employee of or a contractor for The Sun. A germ culture from him has been sent to a state laboratory in Richmond for an analysis. The result is expected in 24 hours.

When 68-year-old Bob Stevens of The Sun died last Friday, it happened to be the first anthrax death in the US in 25 years. The authorities tended to dismiss it as an "isolated case". But when Stevens's colleague — mail room worker Ernesto Blanco — was diagnosed with Anthrax, they hurriedly called in the FBI.

"We are taking this very seriously," Ashcroft said today. All 300 employees at the newspaper's offices in Boca Raton, Florida, are to be tested and everyone who was in the building for at least an hour in recent weeks is being contacted. The building has been sealed off after evidence of the

anthrax germ on the victim's keyboard.

"Very frankly, we are unable to make a conclusive statement about the nature of this as either an attack or an occurrence, till more definitive laboratory and other investigative results arrive," Ashcroft said. Pressed on whether a criminal investigation would be opened, he said: "We regard this as an investigation which could become a clear criminal investigation and we are pursuing it with all the dispatch and care that is appropriate."

Speculation about the possible use of anthrax by terrorists was fuelled as Stevens lived about a mile from an airstrip where hijacker Mohamed Atta rented planes.

Newsweek, which disclosed the focus on the "weird love letter" to Jennifer Lopez, has also reported that the FBI is on the lookout for an intern from a West Asian country who did a summer stint

in the same company. The intern had sent a "peculiar" e-mail to company employees at the end of his internship last summer, but nobody paid much attention to it at the time. Now everyone is going through the cryptic message again and again. At one point, the intern reportedly wrote: "I left you a surprise for you to remember me by. Ha ha, just kidding."

Florida's health secretary has declined to speculate on the source of the anthrax germ, but his department's director for disease control has gone on record saying: "We have to assume that a human element is involved."

The anthrax infection begins its manifestation with flu-like symptoms, while in the second stage, it could damage the lungs and brain. Spread by spores and generally confined to sheep, cattle, horses, goats and pigs, it can result in death within days. Anthrax, however, is not contagious.



AP PHOTO

FBI agents, wearing bio hazard suits, work outside the closed American Media Inc. building in Boca Raton on Tuesday.

Jaish under US scanner

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 9. — The USA will take a "a very close look" at Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed for declaring it a terrorist organisation, the state department said today, two days after President George W Bush called Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee over the phone to inform him of the attacks on Afghanistan.

The state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, told reporters that the USA had "strongly condemned" the Jaish attack on J&K Assembly that killed 38 people on 1 October. He said: "We have been concerned about the violent activities of this group and looking at any information the government of India gives. We will take a very close look at this group for a variety of reasons."

Will Pakistan be declared a state sponsor of terrorism? Mr Boucher said: "You are asking me a hypothetical question. The Pakistan government issued an immediate and very, very strong condemnation of the attack that

took place in Srinagar." ⁸¹⁻¹ (10) 16

Powell job in India

General Colin Powell has serious work to do with India and Pakistan for the international coalition against terrorism, for the two countries are making important contribution towards this.

Why is the secretary of state going to India and Pakistan to thank them when dozens of other countries too are providing all kinds of help? Mr Boucher said: "I didn't say this is just a trip to say thank you... There is serious work to do with both of these governments in the coalition against terrorism. Each one is making an important contribution, each in its own way."

"We'll discuss with them how we can go forward in the long-term against terrorism. Both these countries are close to the problem," Mr Boucher said.

Will the USA mediate between India and Pakistan? Mr Boucher said: "I'm not going to say what the trip is about. We've always said we look for progress and we would continue doing so."

THE STATESMAN

10 OCT 2001

Anthrax, a case of bio-terrorism?

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 9. Without pushing the panic button, law enforcement authorities in the U.S. are seriously looking at bio-terrorism after two cases of anthrax — one fatal — surfaced in Florida.

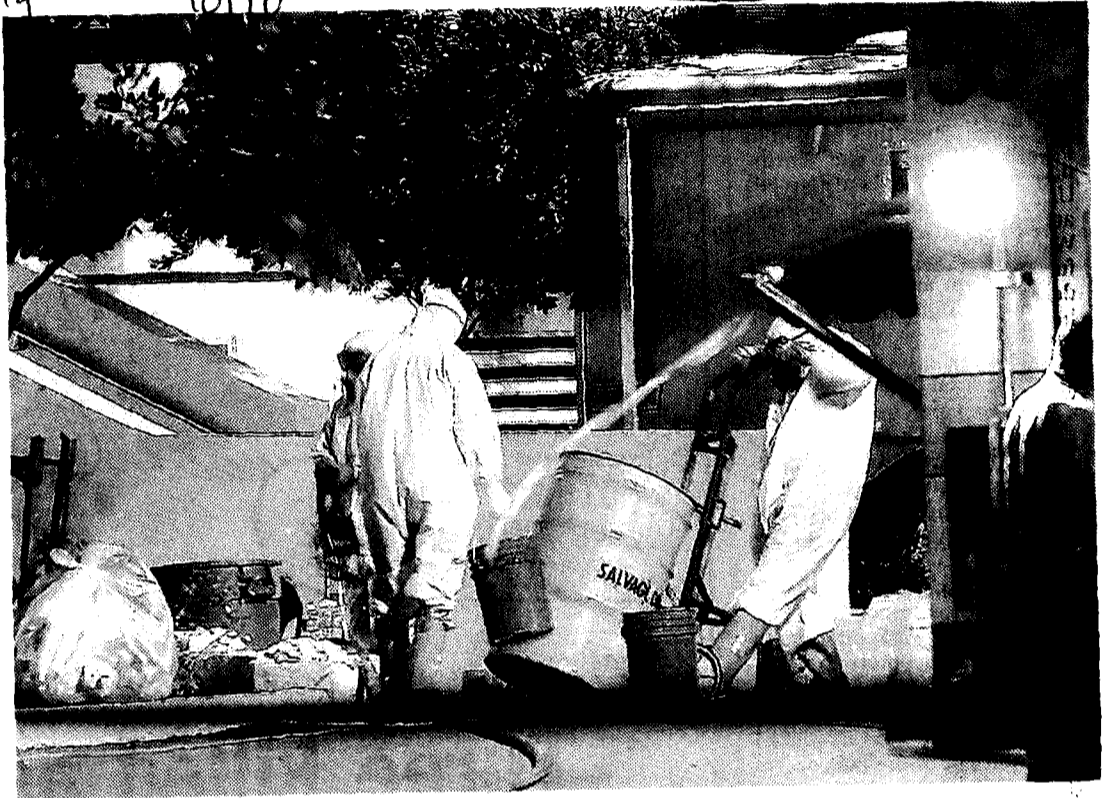
On Tuesday morning, a third case may have surfaced close to Washington in Virginia, although health authorities are saying that the person is being investigated for a number of things for spores, including anthrax.

Federal and local authorities have sealed a building in Florida and are trying to determine how the two men there were exposed to the anthrax bacteria. The building has been sealed for two months. The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is saying that the case could turn into a criminal case if it warranted.

"We take this very seriously. We don't have enough information to know whether this could be related to terrorism or not," the Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, said at a press conference.

Of particular interest to authorities in Florida is the sealed building, headquarters of American Media Inc., which houses publications, including *The Sun* and *The National Enquirer*. The building is an area which had been frequented by many of the terrorists who have now been implicated for the attacks on New York and Washington.

Investigators are pointing to the fact that hijackers had been asking questions about crop dusting and were interested in small planes used for the purpose. This area is not too far from the American Media building. Further, one of the persons who has died of anthrax lived about one mile from where Mohammad Atta, the likely local mastermind of the terror at-



FBI agents and the special investigating unit probing the anthrax cases go about their work at the American Media Inc. in Boca Raton, Florida, on Tuesday. — AP

tacks, rented planes.

What is of concern to the authorities is that anthrax could be delivered in crop dusting planes; and it has been used in germ warfare. In the past, people who have contracted the disease were for the most part agricultural workers who come into contact with infected animals. Medical experts are saying that in such cases the reaction takes the form of skin eruptions which can be cured if detected on time.

AP reports:

Mr. Bob Stevens, photo editor at *The Sun*, died after apparently inhaling anthrax, and an employ-

ee in the same building, Mr. Ernesto Blanco, had the bacteria in his nostrils. The bacteria was found on a computer keyboard in their office. A State health official had his own doubts. "The chances are one in a billion" that two such cases would occur, said Dr. Landis Crockett, Director of Disease Control for the Florida Department of Health.

In Virginia, lab tests performed on a patient had thus far been negative, Dr. Thomas Ryan of Price William Hospital said. "I just want to allay everybody's anxiety about this case because it

just doesn't seem to fit the criteria," he said.

On Monday, the hospital had contacted the health department with a possible anthrax diagnosis, "one of several possible diagnoses" for the victim. Mr. Bennet Bolton, senior reporter for *The National Enquirer*, described a "cryptic" e-mail sent to the staff in late August or early September by a person who had worked in the newsroom during the summer. "It intrigued us that he left such a cryptic farewell," Mr. Bolton said. Federal investigators have been informed about the e-mail.

THE HINDU

1 0 001 2001

Islamic States to discuss terrorism

By C. Raja Mohan 8/10

NEW DELHI, OCT. 7. As the leaders from the Arab and Islamic world gather this week at Doha, Qatar, the United States will be looking for a collective support, even with qualifications, to its current confrontation with the Taliban regime.

Foreign Ministers from the Arab League of the Arab nations and the Organisation of Islamic Conference are meeting in Doha on Monday and Tuesday respectively to debate possible backing to the U.S. military action against Afghanistan.

In all likelihood, both these groups will hold their nose and endorse the American approach. But the two meetings will be watched for the kind of caveats, particularly on the right of Palestinians to use violence against Israel, that they may want to throw in.

India, too, would monitor Pakistani moves to sneak in the Kashmir question into this delicate debate at the OIC. Islamabad may want to exempt the acts of violence by Kashmiri groups from the definition of international terrorism and equate Kashmir with Palestine.

Incessant propaganda from Pakistan has insisted that violence in Kashmir is part of the struggle for 'self-determination' and is similar to the Palestinian movement. This formulation was reiterated yesterday by the Foreign Office in Pakistan.

The broad trend among the Islamic states is said to be against any move that dilutes the current focus of their concerns in the Middle East.

There was little Arab and Muslim support at the World Conference against Racism in Durban a few weeks ago, when Pakistan attempted to smuggle in the Kashmir question into the debate.

The U.S. has reportedly been urged by many of its friends in the Islamic world not to launch attacks against Afghanistan until there is a collective endorsement by the Arab League and the OIC.

A joint imprimatur from the Arab League and the OIC will lend political legitimacy to the American military actions as well as let the moderate Arab regimes cope with popular rage against the U.S. and Israel.

In the last four weeks, the Bush Administration has rallied reluctant supporters from

AMERICA AT WAR

the Arab and Islamic world to join the coalition against international terrorism. The conservative Arab states of the Gulf Cooperation Council had extended cautious support to the U.S. in fighting international terrorism and its perpetrators at the end of September.

At the same time, the GCC cautioned against equating Islam with terrorism and demanded pressure on Israel to stop its violence against the Palestinians. They also hinted at the importance of the approval of the United Nations for any American action.

Unlike the Gulf monarchies which are largely pro-Western, the Arab League and the OIC

will bring together a much larger group of Islamic countries, including many anti-American radical states of both the secular and the religious variety.

To be sure, few Arab or Muslim countries have any sympathy for the Taliban. Even though the Taliban captured Kabul in September 1996, the OIC did not grant it the Afghan seat. Arabs and Muslims did not back the Taliban's entry to the United Nations either.

More fundamentally, terrorism and extremism threaten the security of many Arab regimes. And Osama bin Laden has made no secret of his desire to overthrow many regimes in the Arab and Islamic world.

But at the debate in Doha, many other issues, including political ambiguity towards the U.S., opposition to Israel and the rights of Palestinians, will inevitably come to the fore. The definition of international terrorism has already become an important question for key Arab and Islamic states.

Many of them, with Israel on mind, will insist that violence against occupation or colonisation cannot be branded as terrorism. This is precisely where Pakistan might want to muscle in to equate the situation in Palestine with that in Kashmir.

Radical opinion in the Arab and Islamic world may not allow an unambiguous endorsement of the U.S. position on Afghanistan and international terrorism at Doha. But Washington hopes that its friends and allies will help temper the debate and prevent the caveats from becoming objectionable.

THE HINDU
18 OCT 2001

U.S. links Kandahar hijack with WTC crash

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: U.S. investigators probing the September 11 carnage have established a link between the Pakistan-based terrorists who had hijacked an Indian Airlines flight in 1999 and the perpetrators of the multiple air-crashes that killed some 5,000 people, according to CNN.

Unnamed government officials told the network that Mustafa Mohammed Ahmed, who wired \$100,000 from Pakistan to suspected hijacking ringleader Mohammed Atta, was an alias for Shiek Syed, one of three prisoners whose release had been demanded by the hijackers of the Indian Airline plane which was flown to Kandahar.

The Indian government was forced to release Syed, along with fundamentalist preacher Maulana Masood Azhar and a terrorist named Mushtaq Ahmed Zargar, after a week of protracted negotiations with the hijackers who held 155 passengers hostage with the obvious complicity of the Taliban

regime. *Terrorism*
Following the exchange, the three prisoners and the five hijackers drove across the border into Pakistan, where, Indian officials say, they were received and dispersed by operatives of the Pakistan intelligence service, the ISI.

Sheik Syed and Zargar have not been seen in public since, but Masood Azhar subsequently formed a breakway terrorist unit called Jaish-e-Mohammed and has been openly inciting terrorism against India and the United States. The Indian government, which believes the ISI has a handle on him, has recently called on Islamabad to extradite him.

Syed was widely recognised as the leader of an Al-Qaida-affiliated Islamic militant group known as Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, of which Jaish is an offspring. He was educated at the London School of Economics and Indian intelligence officials have told their U.S. counterparts that he was last seen about six months ago at a bookshop in Islamabad.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

- 8 OCT 2001

Talks up, it's action time now, says U.S.

NEW YORK: Informing that the Bush administration had rejected the Taliban's offer to release eight foreign aid workers if the U.S. withdrew its military threat, American officials on Sunday said the war against Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden and the Taliban "may begin any time now".

The first batch of 1,000 American elite troops has reached Uzbekistan. A defence department official was quoted as saying that a few dozen members of the special operations forces had already been deployed within striking distance of Afghanistan. Besides, he said about 500 additional members of special operations units would join the U.S. troops now in Egypt for a month-long military exercise beginning next week. "They could easily swing over towards Afghanistan," he remarked.

Officials informed that the U.S. was also arming soldiers of the Northern Alliance while continuing its efforts to cause defections in the Taliban ranks.

At Washington, President George Bush on Sunday made it clear that the U.S. would not bargain for the release of the aid workers arrested by the Taliban for preaching Christianity. With its last-ditch effort to avert a strike by Western forces failing, time seems to be running out for the Afghan militia, which has steadfastly refused to hand over Bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the recent attacks on the U.S.

An angry Taliban, which only last week promised that the aid workers would receive a fair trial, on Sunday declared that their fate would be linked to the attacks against Afghanistan. Among the aid workers are two Americans, two Australians and four Germans. Backing the Americans, Berlin on Sunday urged the Taliban to release them without any conditions.

While the haggling over the release of the

aid workers continued, British journalist Yvonne Ridley was freed on Sunday, nine days after she was held for illegally entering Afghanistan. "She has been released. She is free," information minister Qatradullah Jamal said in Kabul.

Meanwhile, responding to the American build-up in Uzbekistan, the Taliban began deploying thousands of its troops along the Uzbek border. "We have deployed our forces in all the important areas because this is a question of our honour and prestige. We will never bow down to American forces

and will fight till the last breath," a Taliban defence ministry spokesman was quoted as saying. He said around 8,000 soldiers had been positioned along the Afghan-Uzbek border.

Confirming the arrival of American personnel, a Uzbek defence ministry spokesman said, "They must prepare the

airfield and the runway for the landing of U.S. airplanes, besides placing the necessary equipment in place." He informed that more U.S. technical personnel were expected to arrive in the next 24 hours. The special troops are expected to be given the task of servicing military planes and protecting humanitarian convoys and main roads.

In what may be considered good news for the U.S., the Northern Alliance on Sunday claimed to have captured two villages near Samangan, thus closing in on the strategic northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. An opposition spokesman said the villages had been seized after the Taliban's thrust had failed. He also claimed that eight Taliban commanders and 100 fighters had surrendered to the opposition forces fearing a U.S. attack. If the Northern Alliance manages to capture Mazar-i-Sharif, it will give the U.S. forces in Uzbekistan a perfect base to launch their attacks on the Taliban. (Agencies)

WINDS OF WAR

- ▶ British journalist freed
- ▶ U.S. refuses to bargain for aid workers' freedom
- ▶ Taliban, U.S. line up troops along Uzbek border
- ▶ Pak freezes bank accounts of militia leaders
- ▶ Islamabad puts religious leader under house arrest

'U.S. ignored Russian report on Bin Laden'

By Rashmoe Z. Ahmed
Times News Network

LONDON: The U.S. administration had very specific information about Osama bin Laden, his whereabouts, details of his Al-Qaida network and the degree of Pakistani military and security involvement in Afghanistan as far back as March, courtesy the Russians, but still elected to take no action.

The latest issue of *Jane's Intelligence Review*, published from London, says that Moscow's permanent mission at the United Nations "submitted an unprecedentedly detailed report" to the UN Security Council six months before the terror strikes in the U.S. According to Alex Standish, the editor of the *Review*, the attacks of

September 11 were less of an American intelligence failure and more the result of U.S. inaction based on "a political decision not to act against Bin Laden".

The intelligence, said *Jane's*, included details of Pakistan's crucial aid to the Taliban, which enjoys a reportedly symbiotic relationship with Al-Qaida.

Jane's, which sources its report to a leak "from the highest levels of the UN", said the information also detailed the extent to which the Taliban was involved in drug trafficking.

Mr Standish said that the Russians had not only provided "a listing of all Bin Laden's bases, his government contacts and foreign advisors", but also enough to indicate his whereabouts.

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MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2001

FINE-TUNING THE ANTI-TERROR CHORUS

THE GLOBAL 'CAMPAIGN' against terrorism seems to be gradually acquiring some clarity as a possible broad mission, but the signs are still far from being definitive. Indeed, it remains undeniable that the United States and its impressive array of 'allies and friends' in this 'endeavour' have kept their microscopic attention focussed entirely on Osama bin Laden — a suspected wizard of terror, who is believed to be hiding somewhere in the Taliban-controlled areas of Afghanistan. Yet, the gathering international 'campaign' appears to be gaining a somewhat broader sweep than meets the eye. This has been articulated by the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, during his brief visit to New Delhi on Saturday. Having emerged as a vigorous associate of the U.S. in forming the international coalition, Mr. Blair showed a sensitive awareness of India's view that any worldwide 'campaign' against terror should be sustained beyond the current battle of wits or even a war with Osama and his Taliban allies. Official India made no secret of its strong feelings of dismay over Pakistan being accepted by the West as a key player in the emerging anti-terror coalition despite Islamabad's record of encouraging "cross-border terrorism" in Jammu and Kashmir. In a responsive fashion, Mr. Blair unambiguously affirmed that the evolving multilateral alliance was opposed to terrorism in all its forms. Now, unexceptionable is the suggestion by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, that the international community should prevent any country from exploiting the current global 'campaign' as a "cover" or smokescreen for those "sinister" agendas of terror that might not affect the vital interests of the U.S. or the West at this moment. However, while India's concerns about the ravages of externally-inspired terror are entirely understandable, New Delhi should avoid an unseemly competition with Pakistan to serve as a logistical 'frontline state' in the battle against Osama as now conceived by the U.S. and the United Kingdom.

In a subtle sense, the apparent gap between

India's 'moral' campaign and America's compulsions of the moment is not altogether inexplicable. As the conspicuously main target of a mass terror offensive on September 11, the U.S. has its own priorities. Its first objective is to execute a relevant agenda of identifying and silencing the perpetrators of that particular crime against humanity. India, on the other hand, is more cognisant of the 'moral' imperative of seizing the present defining moment to persuade the international community to formulate a larger vision, as distinct from a mere agenda, to fight the politics of terrorism everywhere. However, the distinction between a political agenda and a 'moral' vision is not an impediment to suitable cooperation between India and the U.S. as also the U.K. and others. The actual parameters of this cooperation will be determined by the interplay of each party's perceived national interests.

This may also explain why America's latest list of foreign terrorist organisations does not include some notorious outfits that seek to undermine India's authority in Jammu and Kashmir. The genesis of some of these anti-India factions can be traced to Osama or his perverse ideology. Yet, the U.S., already wary of Pakistan's sensitivities in this regard, seems to have gone by the legal determination that the anti-India groups do not appear to threaten America's security interests in a direct manner at this specific moment. Despite the ringing declaration that it is a campaign in defence of freedom, what is manifest is the strand of realpolitik in America's current diplomacy concerning Pakistan as a possible collaborator in the anti-Osama project. There can be no other credible explanation of the latest vote by the U.S. Senate to waive certain Pakistan-specific sanctions that were imposed to pull it back towards some form of democracy. It was not without reason, therefore, that the anti-Osama project was the dominant theme of Mr. Blair's dialogue with Pakistan's leaders at this time.

THE HINDU

8 OCT 2001

G-7 ponders plan to block terrorist funding

WASHINGTON, OCT. 6. Finance Ministers from the world's seven richest industrialised nations are seeking ways to counter weakening business and consumer confidence stemming from last month's terrorist attacks in the United States.

At their meeting on Saturday, the Group of Seven officials also planned to review plans to identify and freeze terrorist funding networks in addition to devising a strategy to promote global growth. The U.S. Treasury Secretary, Mr. Paul O'Neill, acting as host with the Federal Reserve Chairman, Mr. Alan Greenspan, said the United States was prepared to pay any cost to win the battle against terrorism. "No matter what it costs, our economy is so strong and our potential so great that whatever the cost is, we'll suck it up and be able to absorb it without doing damage to a 3 per cent or 3.5 per cent real growth rate," Mr. O'Neill told reporters in a preview of the sessions. The G-7 countries are the United States, Japan, Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada.

Mr. O'Neill said these nations and others were providing excellent cooperation in the initial efforts to clamp down on terrorist financing. He said he has asked the Russian Finance Minister, Mr. Aleksei Kudrin, to participate more fully in the G-7 meetings than he normally would to underline the need for a broad-based alliance against terrorism.

Mr. Kudrin said he had pledged in a meeting with Mr. O'Neill on Friday that Russia would cooperate fully in the effort to freeze terrorist assets. In advance of the G-7 discussions, Mr. Horst Koehler, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, said policy-makers needed to closely cooperate to prevent the global slowdown from worsening. Mr.

480-12
Koehler said in a statement that decisions by major central banks to cut interest rates to boost growth provide hope that coordinated efforts will work. Those rate cuts have been led by the Federal Reserve, which has pushed interest rates to their lowest level in nearly 40 years.

7/10
Mr. O'Neill said he planned to tell the other Finance Ministers that the U.S. economy has probably shrunk in the July-September quarter because of the Sept. 11 attacks but should then stage a quick rebound. He said this economic recovery will be aided by the interest rate cuts and earlier tax cuts passed by Congress and an additional stimulus package that the administration is working with lawmakers to put into place.

The President, Mr. George W. Bush, said on Friday that about \$ 60 billions in increased spending for reconstruction and increased unemployment benefits should be accompanied by \$ 60 billions in new tax cuts for individuals and businesses. Mr. O'Neill said the other major topic at Saturday's discussions was review of each country's plans to freeze terrorists' financial assets. The Bush administration is working on a list that could double the number of individuals and groups being targeted in the campaign to cut off money to terrorists, said Government officials, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The officials said the new list, which is expected to be released early next week, could contain between 24 and 27 new entities. Mr. Bush on Sept. 24 ordered a freeze on the assets of 27 people and organisations suspected of conducting or financing terrorist activities, including those of Saudi exile Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the Sept. 11 attacks. — AP

-7 OCT 2002

New Delhi reminds United Kingdom of proofs showing Pakistan's role in Kashmir terrorism

Blair belies India's hopes

Garrison 5/1 2/10

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6. — Hopes that India may have nurtured after the 11 September attacks that the world would take notice of and act against the terror New Delhi has faced for almost two decades, have been quietly set aside. But along with the diplomatic disappointment came an acknowledgement that India will have to fight its war against terrorism alone.

Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today almost said as much to the visiting British Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair. Disapproving of attempts to tackle the Afghan issue in isolation, Mr Vajpayee said: "The global war has to be tackled on a global basis."

"For over two decades now, India has waged a virtually lone struggle against terrorism," the Prime Minister told Mr Blair. "We believe that in this globalised world, distance and time don't provide insulation from the reach of terrorism."

Trying to impress upon his guest the need to identify the problem and deal with it, Mr Vajpayee said: "The hijack of an aircraft from Kathmandu to Kandahar may have links with the four planes creating havoc in USA. This is precisely why terrorism has to be dealt with globally."

Mr Blair's "thanks" for India's "strong



Mr Tony Blair and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee in New Delhi on Saturday. — AP/PTI

stand" against terrorism "in all its forms" rang hollow in the light of any concrete action against perpetrators of terror in J&K being made to play second fiddle to the acts of 11 September.

Mr Blair agreed with Mr Vajpayee that Afghanistan needs a broad-based government and the crisis the Afghans are facing should be addressed properly.

Mr Blair's brief stopover here was

apparently aimed at conveying UK's appreciation of India's stoic fortitude in the face of intimidation.

The foreign minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, later told journalists that the

They differed & it showed

NEW DELHI, Oct. 6. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee didn't look at his British guest while making his opening remarks to the media, and his body language didn't exude the warmth that characterised his interface with Mr Bill Clinton.

Mr Vajpayee was correct, courteous and attentive, but the absence of unanimity on how to fight terror was apparent when he said: "No, I'm not in favour of tackling the Afghan issue in isolation." Mr Tony Blair looked a little uncertain while walking towards the mikes. — SNS

Kashmir terrorism had figured during the hour-long breakfast meeting. "We exchanged views on combating terrorism in all its manifestations and in all parts of the world, including J&K."

India had handed over to Britain all proofs of Pakistan's involvement in Jammu and Kashmir militancy earlier this year. During the talks with Mr Blair, New Delhi reminded him of the evidence. Much of the material included details of the terrorist camps in Pakistan, PoK and Afghanistan.

■ More reports on pages 11, 12

America continues to shield Pak over terrorism charges

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Despite continuing revelations about Islamabad's complicity in terrorist activity, the U.S. continues to shield Pakistan from terrorism charges in the hope it will turn a new leaf, with the western media readily toeing the official line.

The latest disclosures came at a Congressional hearing on Wednesday at which U.S. intelligence analysts not only spoke about Pakistan's official role in fomenting and bankrolling terrorism but also addressed the connections between the Taliban and terrorism in Kashmir.

"Pakistan has also used its position and support to the Taliban to establish within Afghanistan a series of training camps for Kashmiri terrorists. ISI personnel are present, in mufti, to conduct the training," Vince Cannistraro, a former CIA chief of counter-terrorism operations, said in a testimony before the House International Relations Committee.

"This arrangement allowed Pakistan 'plausible denial' that it is promoting insurgency in Kashmir," he added.

Charles Santos, a fellow intelligence analyst, told the committee that Pakistan's support to the Taliban enabled it "to relocate its training camps for Kashmiri separatists to Afghanistan, benefiting from extremist networks in Afghanistan and providing Pakistan with plausible deniability".

"Pakistani extremist groups have functioned as umbrella organizations for other international terror groups that sought shelter in Afghanistan," he added.

However, the disclosures, as also the latest massacre in Kashmir, was just a blip in the U.S. media's sat-

NEWS ANALYSIS

uration coverage of its government's war on terrorism.

Despite revelations that expose Pakistan's lie that it is not engaged in terrorism, the Bush administration has been coy about acting against Islamabad, preferring to buy out its ally with promises of financial reward, without publicly seeking any commitment of ending its role.

Not even the latest expose that Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf aborted a CIA plan of training Pakistani commandos to nab Bin Laden has moved the administration from its professed line. The let's-coddle-Pakistan-out-of-terrorism school now been joined by some lawmakers, includ-

ing the influential Senator Joseph Biden, who is now proposing a 'Marshall Plan' kind of endeavour to combat the terrorism menace in several countries in the region, including Pakistan.

The term refers to a post-World War II strategy under which the U.S. infused large amounts of capital to rebuild war-torn Europe.

Indian officials and analysts are aghast that such a plan could be considered without first getting Pakistan to forsake its militaristic thinking and forcing it to abjure terrorism. "The last time they pumped in money during the Zia years, they saw the results," one official, who did not want to be named, said.

In its international campaign against terrorism, the administration has not even warned Pakistan once from desisting from terrorism despite its own records showing unabated activity.

The state department's Patterns of Terrorism report for the Year 2000 noted that "Pakistan's military government, headed by Gen Pervez Musharraf, continued previous Pakistani government support of the Kashmir insurgency, and Kashmiri militant groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre".

"Several of these groups were responsible for attacks against civilians in Kashmir," it added.

Jaish upstages Lashkar, Harkat in terror

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

SRINAGAR, Oct. 5. - The Jaish-e-Mohammed, that claimed responsibility for Monday's Srinagar attack, has emerged as a powerful militant outfit within 19 months of its formation.

Headed by Maulana Masood Azhar, Jaish has become the second largest ultra outfit in the Kashmir valley with 800 trained members, mostly foreign mercenaries.

The Hizbul Mujahideen is still the top militant group with 1,600 activists.

Intelligence officials told **The Statesman** that the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba now has 600 to 700 foreign militants.

The BSF deputy inspector-general, said that during the past few months almost all Harkat cadres joined Jaish. Thus Harkat's presence in Kashmir now is negligible. The Al-Badr too has lost its members to Jaish. "Harkat had even said it would use their funds in the name of Jaish," Mr RS Bhullar said.

Al-Umar had become active after its leader, Mushtaq Latram, and Maulana Masood Azhar were released in exchange for the hostages on Indian Airlines' IC-814 passengers in December 1999. Jaish and Al-Umar have carried out many joint attacks in the Kashmir valley.

"Almost the entire Al-Umar group in Anantnag's Tral area

NO MORE ENEMY PROPERTY CLAIMS IN J&K

OUR LEGAL CORRESPONDENT
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 5. - A Supreme Court Division Bench (coram, Sethi, Shah, JJ) today directed the Jammu and Kashmir government not to entertain any more claims for properties left behind by those who migrated to Pakistan during riots after partition in 1947.

Expressing surprise over the manner in which the 12-year limitation period, prescribed under Evacuees (Administration Property) Act 1949 was being ignored and frivolous and belated applications were entertained, the court directed the authorities "not to entertain any application under Section 8 of the Act hereafter as it can't be conceived that a person whose property was allegedly wrongly declared or vested in the custodian would keep silent for a period spread over five decades".

"We have noticed with distress that vested interests and unscrupulous litigants are usurping the evacuee properties in the State by filing frivolous and belated applications preferring state claims under Section 8 of the Evacuees (Administration of Property) Act, 1949," said the court. The judgment came on a petition filed by a claimant to the evacuee property who had challenged J&K High Court ruling that the allottees of the evacuee property had a legal right to contest the orders of the custodian relating to the said property.

has merged with Jaish," sources said.

The Jaish has a strong presence in six northern Tral valley villages. The outfit is very active in Khangar and Qamarwari areas of Srinagar and some parts of Kupwara too.

The group caught the counter-insurgency grid unawares last year, executing the first *fidayeen* car blast outside the heavily guarded Badami Bagh Cantonment (headquarters of the

Army's 15 Corps). On 1 October, it carried out its second suicide attack outside the J&K Assembly, killing 38 people, most of them innocent civilians.

What makes Jaish more powerful than other groups active in the valley is that the ISI gives it more money than the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, sources said, though recently the Lashkar chief was given Rs 10 crore for the group's activities in Kashmir.

THE STATESMAN

6 OCT 2002

Northern Alliance to follow American forces in attack; US troops move towards Uzbekistan

USA, Russia begin Laden hunt

terrorism 511 610

AGENCIES

NEW DELHI/TASHKENT, Oct. 5. — American and Russian forces have launched joint operations to track down Osama bin Laden and his followers and have crossed into the Afghan territory to reach Pamir mountain ranges, a Pakistani paper said today.

British forces were also planning to launch anti-Taliban operations from southern Afghanistan, the *News International* said quoting sources.

A 1,000-strong US elite force is moving towards Uzbekistan in the first major deployment of US ground forces before a possible strike against Afghanistan, an official accompanying the defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, from Cairo to Tashkent said today.

The crack light infantry division is flying to Uzbekistan from Fort Drum, New York. Its mission includes protecting US troops in Uzbekistan.

The *News* claimed the "assault to get Osama in Pamir has begun", but there was no confirmation from Washington, Moscow or London.

"To reach Osama's suspected hide-outs, advance parties of US commandos had already begun crawling from a launching site in Tajikistan since last Thursday. Russians had pointed at the suspected hide-outs and provided route maps to some sites which were used for storing the nuclear-tipped missiles by the former USSR..."

Quoting sources, the daily said the



One of the most recent images of Osama bin Laden, released by Qatar's Al-Jazeera television. On his right is his top lieutenant, the Egyptian doctor, Ayman al-Zawahri. The occasion was a celebration of the merger of Laden's al-Qaida and Zawahri's Egyptian Jihadi outfits. — AP/PTI

USA had "hastily delivered" latest models of anti-terrorist equipment to Russia after the 23 September talks between Mr George W Bush and Mr Vladimir Putin.

Most of the Russian soldiers inching

towards Pamir "are fluent in Pushto, while many have working knowledge of Dari, the spoken Persian in Afghanistan."

The *News* quoted defence analysts as having said that after locating Osa-

ma's possible hideouts, "Washington may not ask any concrete military help from Islamabad."

"Yet the British would still need to use the air space of Pakistan for taking on the Taliban in south Afghanistan."

The daily said the anti-terror alliance has split its task in two parts. "The Americans and Russians will go for Bin Laden and his Al-Qaida force in Pamir, while the US and Western Allies will take on the Taliban in south Afghanistan."

Northern Alliance: The Northern Alliance has announced it would attack the Taliban as soon as the US operation begins, a report from Baidingak said.

The alliance's deputy defence minister, Attiqullah Beriylay, said: "All armed formations will be unified into a single structure and operate according to single instructions."

The alliance has played down suggestions that the former king, Zahir Shah, should take up reins as head of state. Since the 11 September attacks, Zahir has been at the centre of efforts to replace the Taliban.

On Monday, he had agreed with anti-Taliban groups to form a supreme council that would elect a head of state and transitional government if the Taliban fell. An alliance spokesman said the council may meet in 10 days, but played down suggestions that it would elect Zahir as head of the state.

Cleric's appeal: A Saudi cleric today urged the USA not to go to war over the 11 September attacks.

Mecca's Sheikh Saleh bin Abdullah bin Hameed warned against policies that pit civilisations, religions and races against each other.

■ More reports on pages 6 & 11

THE STATESMAN

10 OCT 2001

terrorism
10-10
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Suicide terrorism

By Suba Chandran

WITH THE recent attacks on the United States, one aspect of terrorism — suicide terrorism — has assumed importance. Suicide terrorism should not be seen just as the work of a maniac or a bunch of maniacs. The concept of suicide terrorism, with all its manifestations and implications, is essentially modern and a post-1980 phenomenon. Ever since the first suicide terrorist attack in October 1983 in Beirut killing more than 250 American and French peacekeepers, there have been nearly 300 suicide terrorist attacks all over the globe. An analysis of these attacks reveals the following aspects.

First, as mentioned above, suicide terrorism is a post-1980 phenomenon. It had very close connections with Iran and came into being after the revolution in Iran in 1979. The first suicide attack was carried out by a Shia terrorist group Hezbollah (Army of Allah), which had very close links with Iran. Most of the suicidal attacks carried out during the early 1980s were by the Hezbollah and the Amal, another Shia terrorist organisation. Second, of the groups that were involved, except LTTE, the rest — Hezbollah, Amal, Hamas, Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Gama'a al-Islamiya and Al-Qaeda — adhere to the Islamic faith, both Shia and Sunni.

Third, though the majority of the organisations involved in suicide terrorism adhere to a particular faith, the objective of the attacks, primarily, have been political and not religious. The first ever attack perpetrated by the Hezbollah was to threaten the U.N. peacekeepers, mainly the Americans and the French, and prevent any future deployment of U.N. troops in Lebanon. Additionally, chasing the Israeli troops away from Lebanon was also an objective of these attacks, one in which the Hezbollah did succeed; the U.N. peacekeeping forces were withdrawn and Israel, finding it difficult to cope with a series of such attacks, retreated. The attacks by the two Egyptian groups, Egyptian Islamic Jihad and Gama'a al-Islamiya, were primarily acts of revenge or of disapproval. For example, the suicidal attack on the Egyptian Embassy in Pakistan in November 1995 was

aimed against any possible cooperation between Pakistan and Egypt in extraditing the terrorist leaders to Egypt. The attacks of Hamas and the PIJ were purely political and were mainly aimed at disrupting the peace process between Israel and the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation). The Al-Qaeda, a recent addition, which is funded by Osama bin Laden and blamed for the terrorist attacks against the U.S., is in fact anti-West and, in particular, anti-U.S., though it proclaims of waging a jihad against the infidels. All these groups use Islam merely to gain religious legitimacy for their acts.

Fourth, the participation of women in such suicide attacks. More than one-third

U.S. had to withdraw its troops from Lebanon after the 1983 attack, and even Israel retreated from the territory it had occupied. The Sri Lankan Government finds it totally impossible to deal with the suicide bombers. Though Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga survived a suicide attack, the other leaders of Sri Lanka did not have a chance to escape. Such fatal attacks on well-protected leaders not only create terror inside the state but also undermine its legitimacy. Suicide bombers have also created such terror that political leaders surround themselves with elaborate security arrangements often alienating themselves from the public.

Second, the psychological impact on

Suicide terrorism should not be seen as just the work of a bunch of maniacs... It is the difficulty in tackling such an extreme form of terrorism that makes it so significant.

of the suicide attacks carried out by the LTTE were by its women cadres and in the PKK, its women cadres had undertaken more suicidal attacks than their male counterparts. Women, in general, are not subjected to serious security checks which make their task easier. Besides, the participation of women increases the morale of its women cadres, thereby inviting more to join the group. Groups such as the LTTE which find it difficult to get male cadres due to the prolonged war and the continuous out-migration of Sri Lankan Tamils finds their women cadres as lethal as their male cadres.

Why do terrorist groups organise suicidal attacks? What are their objectives and motivations? What does the terrorist group gain, particularly when there is widespread condemnation of such acts, from not only Governments, but also the local population and the international community? The following reasons can be attributed as to why terrorist groups resort to such suicidal attacks. First, the psychological impact on the state and its armed forces against which the act is perpetrated. Any state, however powerful, finds it extremely difficult to prevent such a determined act from an individual. The

population. The common man is thoroughly bewildered and feels totally helpless, which is the very objective of the terrorist groups — to alienate the population from the Government and make them feel that their Government is impotent. Third, the morale of the terrorist group that perpetrates the suicide attack. Many a time, suicidal attacks by an organisation has been to boost the morale of its cadres and overcome the remorse caused by any military loss. The LTTE has always resorted to suicidal attacks whenever it met with any major debacle at the hands of the Sri Lankan armed forces; the PKK too was involved in suicidal attacks to boost its image among its own cadres and among the population whose cause it supposedly served. The LTTE is one among the few organisations that has an institutionalised suicide wing — Karumpuligal (Black Tigers). July 5 is celebrated as the day of the Black Tigers. Such glorification boosts the morale of the cadres. In Jammu and Kashmir, the terrorist groups prefer to call themselves "fidayeen" (suicide squads), though their attacks are primarily based on a hit-and-run strategy.

Fourth, suicidal attacks provide a lot of

publicity and media attention to the group that is involved. The Hezbollah became very popular in the early 1980s mainly because of its suicidal attacks. The publicity factor is significant as it not only makes it popular, but also helps the group get more recruits. Especially in regions such as West Asia and South Asia, where a number of groups claim to represent the same population, suicidal attacks make them serious, powerful and invincible among those who are willing to take the extremist path. It is no coincidence that the Hamas, Hezbollah and the LTTE, which are able to get cadres continuously, are those groups that have "institutionalised" suicide squads and have a separate suicide wing. Another aspect of the publicity is the funding. When there are a number of groups espousing the same cause, suicidal attacks enable the groups to mobilise more funds — both from internal and external sources. Again, it is more than mere coincidence that the groups that have suicide wings are the most funded.

Fifth, suicide attacks, though requiring a lot of preparation, are cost effective despite the loss of a single life or two. In Beirut, more than 250 soldiers were killed with just one suicide killer in a Mercedes in 1983; 40 soldiers were killed in Sri Lanka in 1987 with a single driver riding his truck into a makeshift camp; more than 200 were killed in Nairobi and Dar es Salaam in 1998; and thousands have died in the recent air attacks on the U.S. The number of lives that the terrorist groups lost in these operations and the cost incurred in carrying out these attacks is negligible when compared to the human and material cost on the other side. Other than the recent attack on the U.S. in which hijacked planes were used as delivery vehicles, in most other attacks, the delivery vehicles were either bicycles (the LTTE's favourite) or stolen cars and trucks.

How to tackle suicide terrorism? Security measures in the past, however elaborate they may have been, have proved inadequate. It is the difficulty in tackling such an extreme form of terrorism that makes it so significant.

(The writer is Research Officer, Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, New Delhi.)

INDU
6 00 00

Egyptian outfit backbone of Al-Qaeda

110-17
9/10

CAIRO, (EGYPT). OCT. 4. It was the marksman's equivalent of threading a needle on the run. Sgt. Hussein Abbas, believed to have sunk the first, fatal bullet into Anwar el-Sadat, told interrogators that he was able to shoot through the neck because the Egyptian President had stretched his head backward to view some fighter jets flying overhead.

With that assassination, 20 years ago this week, Egyptian Islamic Jihad announced its existence to the world, pushed since then largely into exile, its leadership now forms the backbone for Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan, terrorism experts have said. It is believed to provide him with his two top lieutenants, another 200 loyal followers and its focus on training and specialised skills, notable elements in the September 11 attacks. Both Ayman al-Zawahiri, a surgeon, and Muhammad Atif, a military strategist, are leaders of Egyptian Islamic Jihad and said to be Osama's likeliest successors. Experts believe that the Islamic Jihad recruited only some 300 hard-core members in Egypt, carefully selecting alienated people with skills like forgery, military planning or marksmanship who would be useful in armed operations.

While Egyptian officials say they have no evidence linking Islamic Jihad to Mohamed Atta, the apparent mastermind of the terrorist assault on the New York and Washington, he fits the group's description with his training in urban planning and aviation and his Muslim militancy.

Experts say that while the September attacks are the work of Al-Qaeda, they very much reflect the style that the Islamic Jihad — one of the three terrorist groups singled out by the U. S. President, Mr. George Bush, in his address to Congress two weeks ago — brought to Osama's group. The targets were bold, the disregard for human life callous and the assault carried out by calculating men who presented a benign face to the world. "They kill indiscriminately," said Mr. Hisham Kassem, publisher of *The Cairo Times*, who became familiar with the Islamic movements through his work as a human rights activist. "It doesn't matter if there are Muslims inside the World Trade



ONE OF THE EARLIEST VICTIMS: Anwar Sadat

Center, because they're in heaven before the towers hit the floor. The rest? No problem. They were infidels, anyway."

Now that they operate almost exclusively outside Egypt, Islamic Jihad's members have been forced to shift its focus from a coup d'etat in Cairo to targets abroad. And they have gradually trained their sights on the U.S. They are suspected of orchestrating the bombing of the U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998 as part of Al-Qaeda.

That prompted a worldwide crackdown that apprehended a cell planning a similar attack in Albania. Egypt put 107 members on trial, including 62 in absentia and 13 members extradited from the Balkans. Experts also say a note of desperation has entered their activities in recent years because the activists have failed to create an Islamic State, despite movements across the Arab world. "It is partly directed at the movements themselves," said Mr. Yahya Sadowski, a political sci-

ence professor at The American University of Beirut, speaking of the September attacks. "It is a way of telling them 'We are still moving, still breathing, we still matter.'" Islamic Jihad's ideology vilifies Washington for bolstering the 20-year Government of Egypt's President, Hosni Mubarak, which they view as corrupt, for supporting Israel against the Palestinians and for hounding the Islamic mujahedeen fighters from one country to the next.

While the group's official goal remains the creation of an Islamic State, Islamic Jihad members view their work as an almost apocalyptic struggle of Islam against the West. "They decided that the liberation of Jerusalem starts from Washington," said Mr. Mohammed Salah, a journalist who has covered the group for a decade for the Arab daily *Al Hayat*. Initially decimated in the wake of the Sadat assassination, Islamic Jihad was fortified in the early 1990s by veterans of the war in Afghanistan. — *New York Times*

110-17

5 OCT 2002

Advani asks Pakistan to hand over Jaish chief

Times News Network
SRINAGAR: Union home minister L.K. Advani on Thursday asked Pakistan to hand over Masood Azhar, chief of the Jaish-e-Mohammed outfit.

The Jaish-e-Mohammed, a Pakistan-based militant outfit, had claimed responsibility for the attack on the state assembly on Monday. The attack left at least 34 persons dead and scores injured.

Mr Advani told reporters after a meeting of the unified command that Pakistan had directed its anger towards the Kashmiris because they had rejected the two-nation theory in 1947. He said that Monday's attack was an attack on democracy and secularism.

Speaking of the proxy war launched by Pakistan on India, Mr Advani said Pakistan had dissociated itself from Jaish-e-Mohammed, but its rulers could not deny that Masood Azhar was in Pakistan. Let

them hand him over to India for dispensing justice, the home minister said.

He added, "We would expect the U.S. to include Jaish-e-Mohammed in its list of banned terrorist organisations. We believe that international terrorism is a menace. It is a new kind of war..and needs a global response."



Home minister L.K. Advani is accompanied by J&K governor G.C. Saxena (left) outside the legislative council building in Srinagar on Wednesday.

About the terrorist attacks in the U.S., Mr Advani said that the U.S. had blamed the Taliban and the Al Qaida of Osama bin Laden for them. In sharp contrast, the Jaish-e-Mohammad, a terrorist organisation based in Pakistan, had publicly owned responsibility for the attack on the assembly complex here on Monday, the home minister added.

He said external affairs minister Jaswant Singh, who was in the U.S., had drawn the Bush administration's attention to these facts. Besides, the PM had written a letter to Mr Bush on what had happened in Srinagar.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

4 OCT 2001

US puts Kashmir terror in gunsight

9/10

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Oct. 3: For the first time since terrorists struck at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the US has held out the explicit possibility that America's current campaign against terror could extend to Pakistan-sponsored violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

Speaking to reporters jointly with foreign minister Jaswant Singh after their 30-minute meeting here yesterday, US secretary of state Colin Powell said: "We are going after terrorism in a comprehensive way, not just in the present instance of al Qaida and Osama bin Laden, but terrorism as it affects nations around the world, to include the kind of terrorism that affects India."

Hitherto, India has been insisting, on the basis of private assurances from the Bush administration, that America would go after Kashmiri terrorists based in Pakistan once Washington's primary goal of eliminating bin Laden and al Qaida is achieved.

India has been arguing that unless that is done, terrorism will rear its head again in different

forms at different places. Since Pakistan is a frontline ally of the US in its pursuit of bin Laden, Americans have been coy about acknowledging the pursuit of Pakistan-sponsored Kashmiri terrorists as part of its agenda.

Monday's suicide-bomb attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly building, which is seen here as a symbol of democracy in the state, changed all that and persuaded the Americans that they had to go public. Singh's presence here helped.

Referring to the incident, Powell said: "This clearly was an act of terror. We are going after the al Qaida network, in its various manifestations, and Osama bin Laden and his lieutenants who are in Afghanistan, in the

first instance... we are going to be conducting a campaign that goes after terrorism, and we'll use many tools — financial tools, intelligence, law enforcement, diplomatic and political tools — to accomplish the mission that the (US) President has set before us."

Singh extended an olive branch to Pakistan. "If the leadership of Pakistan and if Pakistan were to abandon the path of violence and of terrorism and join the rest of the international community in its fight against this evil, it would be a development that India would welcome."

At his meeting with Singh, Powell expressed the "condolences of the American people and my personal condolence over the events that took place in Kashmir yesterday, that terrible terrorist act, that heinous act that killed innocent civilians and also struck at a government facility. It is this kind of terrorism that we are united against."

Later in the day, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld echoed Powell's views as he met Singh in his capacity as defence minister.

QUOTE

This clearly was an act of terror. We are going after terrorism in a comprehensive way

COLIN POWELL
on the J&K Assembly attack

THE TELEGRAPH

4 OCT 2001

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2001

UNMITIGATED TERROR

HO-12
3/10

THE SUICIDE BOMBER attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature complex in Srinagar on Monday, by far the most dastardly act in the nearly three weeks since the U.S. declared a global 'war' on terrorism, proclaims loud and clear that the challenge from the foreign-backed terrorist groups is still very real, even if the assault may appear to be a sign of desperation. While the target chosen — the symbol of democratic authority — is in itself a mark of the terrorist outfit's audacity, the fact that the fidayeen group could penetrate such a highly fortified building complex and inflict a huge damage in terms of human lives lost (over 30 persons, many of them civilians, were killed in the outrageous episode) shows there is something seriously wrong with the security system in its varied aspects — planning, intelligence, manpower deployment, state of alert and training in handling different contingencies, et al. Over the past few weeks, there was a perceptible reduction in the level of terrorist violence in the Valley and this, together with the media reports quoting radio intercepts that the militants were closing shop in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, was predictably seen as a positive development, attributable to American pressure on Pakistan. If this has lulled the civil administration and the security establishment into a sense of complacency, the latest attack should have shaken them out of it rudely and at a heavy cost.

Given that the Jaish-e-Mohammad — a jihadi outfit formed out of Harkat factions by Masood Azhar who was set free following the Kandahar hijack episode — has claimed 'credit' for the attack and, what more, identified the suicide bomber as a person from Pakistan, it is not surprising that India should have reacted sharply, demanding that Islamabad rein in the likes of the JeM. More importantly, New Delhi has pointed to the outrage as yet another 'substantive' ground for Washington to move decisively against "all" militant groups operating in Kashmir, not selectively. In fact, quite sensitive to India's concerns in the Kashmir context, the Bush administration has been repeatedly telling New Delhi that action

against the jihadi groups in general was very much a part of its anti-terrorism campaign, and it is just that the focus in its first (current) phase is on Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the September 11 carnage, and his Al-Qaeda network. In a sense, the JeM's Monday attack could be seen as the jihadi terrorist elements' response to this American stance, conveying that there could be no sell-out of the Kashmir cause under pressure from Washington.

Of considerable significance, therefore, is the reassurance given by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, to the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, during their interaction, that the fight against terrorism was "worldwide" and "not unidimensional, but covered all its manifestations including those against India". As the power which had taken upon itself the daunting responsibility of spearheading the global 'war' against terrorism — of course with the backing of the United Nations and the active support of individual countries and regional formations — Washington can be expected not to stint on strategic moves, much less leave the task half finished. As of now, the current Osama-specific anti-terrorism campaign is at a very delicate stage and, given the General Pervez Musharraf regime's own predicament, the jihadi elements operating in Jammu and Kashmir are bound to try and exploit the prevailing strategic uncertainties at the international level and go all out to make their presence felt by desperate strikes. At one level, the fact that the whole world has woken up to the threat of terrorism since the September 11 attacks in America should in itself be of great help in fighting it on the Kashmir front. Whatever initiatives Washington might take by way of weakening the terrorist infrastructure of Osama bin Laden whose hand extends to Kashmir would also go a long way in this endeavour. But ultimately the anti-militancy campaign has to be fought and won by India, and it is time that the necessary political and administrative strategies, both long-term and short-term, were worked out by the Government.

THE HINDU

- 3 OCT 2001

Expect big news, Osama told mother

London, October 2

EXACTLY TWO days before the devastating terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden told his adopted mother to expect "big news".

"In two days you're going to hear big news and you're not going to hear from me for a while," *The Daily Telegraph* today quoted Osama as saying.

The news said an unnamed foreign intelligence service had intercepted the call between bin Laden and his adopted mother al-Khalifa two days before the World Trade Centre and Pentagon were attacked.

American sources would not tell the television station which country had intercepted the call. But al-Khalifa, one of the four wives of Osama's father, was reported to have been in a Paris hospital for a check-up on September 12. The news came the day after British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he had been shown "incontrovertible" evidence that bin Laden was involved in the attacks.

Al-Khalifa is not actually the terrorist's mother, but brought him up in their extended family of 52 brothers and sisters.

NBC claimed that while the rest of the family had ostracised Osama, his adopted mother had remained in touch with him and was thought to have attended the wedding of Osama's son in Afghanistan earlier this year.

The intercepted call is an important breakthrough for investigators, but they are hoping that transaction of funds will provide the firm physical evidence to link bin Laden to the September 11 attacks.

According to the report, FBI now believes that the 19 suicide attackers had little in the way of support networks inside America and that the conspiracy was put together largely in Germany and financed through banks in Dubai, though they do not believe that the money originated there.

FBI believes it has put together an overview of the plot, with a small group of relatively sophisticated men, including alleged suicide pilots Mohammed Atta,

NATO ALLIES SHOWN BIN LADEN LINK PROOF

Brussels, October 2

THE US gave its Nato allies "clear and compelling evidence" on Tuesday that points to involvement of Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network in last month's attacks in New York and Washington, Secretary-General Lord Robertson said.

"It is clear that all roads lead to al-Qaida and pinpoint bin Laden as having been involved in it," Robertson said after a classified briefing given to the organisation's ruling council by US ambassador at large Francis X Taylor.

Meanwhile, Vladimir Putin will become the first Kremlin leader ever to visit NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday. Experts say the stop may signal Russia's readiness to join the security alliance of the US.

Agencies

Hani Hanjour, Ziad Samir Jarrah and Marwan al-Shehhi, arriving upto 18 months ago.

They began training as pilots and were joined only a short-while before the attacks by a larger group of men described as "muscle". "They were the guys who were there to hold off the passengers," the report quoting source within the probe said.

The close-knit nature of the group, who lived mostly in Florida and California and split into three groups of five and one of four to hijack the jets, has led FBI to believe that they had little help inside the US.

Instead, probe have been concentrating on Europe and in particular Germany, where Atta, al-Shehhi and Jarrah studied.

Quoting intelligence reports, it said investigators are reported to have linked Mohammed Atta, pilot of the first jet to crash into World Trade Centre and believed to be the leader of the hijackers in America, with funds of up to £72,000 wired for him in two Florida banks. PTI

U.S. credentials to fight terrorism questioned

By M. S. Prabhakara

CAPE TOWN, OCT. 2. The latest issue of *ANC Today*, the weekly online journal of the African National Congress, has two interesting comments reflecting the subtle nuances in the reaction of the organisation to the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

In his article, "Fighting Terrorism: The uses and abuses of anti-communism", Dr. Pallo Jordan, senior ANC leader and member of its National Executive Committee, questions the credentials of the U.S. to lead a global fight against terrorism, pointing out the crucial fact widely ignored in the South African media that the Taliban is a creation of the U.S. and its ally in another kind of holy war driven by virulent anti-communism and the destruction of the Soviet Union.

"Anti-communism, they are discovering today, is a double edged sword. While its keen blade helped sweep away what President Reagan once called 'the evil empire', on its backswing it returned as a guillotine to wreak terrible havoc in the very citadel of U.S. power. There is a lesson there, somewhere!", Dr. Jordan writes.

The analysis is interesting in that Dr Jordan, though on the left, is not a member of the South African Communist Party and has openly opposed some of the party's theoretical formulations. However, he has also consistently opposed ideologically driven anti-communism.

Even more interestingly, reflecting the absence of a clear-cut position in the ANC on the terrorist attacks and, perhaps more to the moment, on 'anti-communism' is what one might describe as the 'qualified disclaimer' in the form of an editorial note at the end of the article: "Z. Pallo Jordan is a member of the ANC National Executive Committee. This article is written in his personal capacity".

The disclaimer is significant in the context of the revival of calls within sections of the ANC for an end to the tripartite alliance, meaning that the party should make a break with the South African Communist Party.

In another interesting comment in his weekly "Letter from the President" in the latest issue of *ANC Today*, Mr Thabo Mbeki has called upon South Afri-

cans to draw lessons from the way the American people have 'shed their differences' and have shown a 'shared patriotism' following the terrorist attacks.

"The predominant sentiment that has informed the thinking and the actions of the majority of the population and the country's institutions is the need for the people to put aside their differences and to respond together to a catastrophe of immense significance to their country. ...Another major lesson we should draw... is the importance of a shared patriotism, such that the people recognise that there are some issues that constitute what should be considered as being of national interest and importance."

Mr. Mbeki also speaks of the "strong sense of a common patriotism among the American people that enables the overwhelming majority of these people at all times to express and demonstrate love for their country, its cultures, its constitution, its democratic practices, its institutions and the possibilities it provides for personal fulfilment."

The exhortation addressed in the main to the party faithful coincided with the meeting of the ANC's National Executive over the weekend, the first since the two-day general strike (Aug. 29-90) over the issue of privatisation of state-owned assets called by COSATU and supported by the South African Communist Party, both partners in the tripartite alliance led by the ANC. The issues have been endlessly debated by the alliance, the polemics sometimes harsh and bitter, though the Government shows no signs of relenting in its commitment to privatisation.

As always, such polemical exchanges have resurrected the expectation, indeed generously offered advice, in the media, that the ANC should and would bring the tripartite alliance to an end, meaning that it should make a break with the SACP. Thus, once again the calls for an end to the so-called dual membership allowing SACP members to be also ANC members. The ANC, however, has not obliged and has reaffirmed the leading role of the tripartite alliance in the process of transformation.

- 3 OCT 2001

THE HINDU

Ban Jaish & Lashkar, India tells Bush

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 2

INDIA TODAY asserted that Osama bin Laden had strong links with Jaish-e-Mohammad responsible for the suicide bomb attack in Srinagar and said the US should ban and freeze funds of Pakistan-backed terrorist outfits including the Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Hizbul Mujahideen in the first phase of its global fight against terrorism.

The US should also ensure effective implementation of UN Security Council resolution calling upon all States to end support including funding, supply of weapons and providing safe haven to terrorists, Minister of State for External Affairs Omar Abdullah said at a press conference.

The minister gave stern warning to Pakistan against continuing to aid and abet terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

Islamabad must forthwith cease any "active or passive" support to militant operating in the State, he said.

"Enough is enough...There's a limit to testing India's patience. It will be better if this limit

is not tested".

Abdullah said New Delhi had provided "credible" evidence to Washington on Jem's close linkages with bin Laden's al-Qaida group.

The Saudi terrorist mastermind had reached an agreement with Harkat-ul-Mujahideen leader Fazlur Rehman to launch a jihad against America and its allies, he added.

On Government action in the aftermath of yesterday's bombing on the Assembly, Abdullah said, "The Government is not planning any hot pursuit...But this is not an indefinite situation".

"A section of the Indian population already feels that the limit has been reached".

India was not looking at the US to resolve all its problems on terrorism, but it could not be ignored that the US was at the forefront of the war against terrorism, the Minister said adding that New Delhi was holding consultations with several other countries.

On Indo-Pak dialogue, the Minister said, "We will talk at the right time and at the right place. But this is not the right time".



Police sift through the ruins of the damaged legislature complex in Srinagar on Tuesday.

AP PHOTO

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 OCT 2001

UN Assembly divided over terror definition

United Nations, October 2

THE UNITED Nations today called for a concerted action to fight terrorism even as differences cropped up between member States on its definition while India's call for a global convention on the subject drew a favourable response from European States.

As the world body met to seek unanimity for a "concerted action" against terrorism, General Assembly president Han Seung-Soo of South Korea said, it "transcended cultural and religious differences". India's proposal asking for a global convention on terrorism drew support from French Ambassador Jean-David Levitte and his British counterpart Jeremy Greenstock.

In his opening address, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said the Governments had a "clear agenda before them", and they should sign and ratify the legal instruments.

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

New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani, specially invited to address the week-long meeting, said the UN should hold any country accountable if it supports terrorism and ostracise it. "Otherwise, you will fail in your primary mission of peacekeeping," Giuliani said.

Meanwhile, the legal commit-

tee of the UN is trying to reconcile differences among member States on the definition of 'terrorism' and how to differentiate it from liberation movements.

In his maiden address to the Assembly, US Ambassador John Negroponte repeated the Bush administration's position and held Osama bin Laden's al Qaida attacks. Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Aboulgheit raised the Middle East issue and warned Israel against using terrorist attacks on the US as a cover to crush Palestinians.

Many speakers advocated adherence to the existing UN anti-terrorism treaties as well as the elaboration of new legal instruments to fight the menace.

There was also broad support

among the more than 20 speakers for the recently adopted Security Council resolution that lays out wide-ranging strategies to combat international terrorism.

New chairman for US chiefs of staff

AIR FORCE Gen Richard Myers was sworn in as chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, replacing retiring army Gen Henry Shelton who said he was leaving behind a military ready for the US campaign against terrorism.

Meanwhile, Britain plans to shake up its military in the wake of the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington so that it is better equipped to deal with terrorist threats, Defence Secretary Geoff Hoon said on Tuesday.



RUDOLPH GIULIANI
Maiden UN speech

U.S. Congressional team accuses Pak of fomenting terrorism

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: While the Bush administration is busy co-opting Islamabad's military regime for its war against terrorism, a U.S. Congressional delegation has accused Pakistan of fomenting terrorism across the world and held it responsible for attacks against Americans.

Separately, it is now emerging that some of the money trail associated with the terrorist carnage in America leads to Pakistan.

In a distinct sign that the administration's coddling of Pakistan does not have an across-the-board backing, a prominent lawmaker blamed Islamabad for attacks against Americans and said it should be kept out of any U.S. action in the region.

"Pakistan created the Taliban and kept it in power. Pakistan is responsible for the lion's share of the slaughter of American citizens," Congressman Dana Rohrabacher, a California Republican was quoted as saying in Rome following a meeting of a 10-member US Congressional delegation with the exiled Afghan monarch Zahir Shah.

It wasn't immediately clear if the Congressman was blaming Pakistan for the September 11 carnage, but already there are misgivings outside the administration about Pakistan's role.

Cable News Network (CNN), quoting law enforcing authorities, revealed on Monday that as much as \$100,000 was wired in the past year from Pakistan to Mohamed Atta, the suspected leader of the terrorist hijackings. The wire transfers from Pakistan were sent to Atta through two banks in Florida, the cable network said.

Then, Atta allegedly would obtain money orders — a few thousand dollars at a time — to distribute to others involved in the plot in the months before the hijackings.

The network also reported a return money trail to Pakistan. Atta and two other men wired more than \$15,000 back to the UAE just before the attacks — what may have been leftover cash from the terrorism funds. The money went to a man who flew out of Dubai for Karachi, Pakistan, on September 11 — the day of the attack.

Meanwhile, after some dithering, the US has decided that the Taliban regime in Afghanistan has to go. Pakistan, Taliban's mentor, has quickly decided to ditch its protege and throw in its lot with

Washington.

Statements by several top administration officials over the past 24 hours indicate Washington has finally made a call against the Taliban while rejecting Islamabad's entreaties to spare its proxy if it handed over Osama bin Laden, a line that was initially endorsed by Secretary of State Colin Powell.

In part, the decision has been forced on the U.S. by the Taliban's defiance of diktats from both Washington and Islamabad, and the announcement that it knows where bin Laden is and would protect him. The Taliban has taunted Americans by saying they have no courage to launch an attack on Afghanistan, but there is no sign yet that U.S. will unleash its full force on the already devastated country.

Instead, Washington is deploying a whole range of political, military, and diplomatic devices to subvert the regime in Kabul.

The steps include backing the rebel Northern Alliance, encouraging defections from the Taliban, urging the Afghan people to overthrow the repressive regime through blandishments in the form of humanitarian aid, and launching commando style attacks against specific targets.

President Bush over the weekend approved a covert operation aimed at ending the Taliban rule. Besides aiding the Northern Alliance, moves are also afoot to stir up resistance to the Taliban among the Pashtun tribes in the south which are not allied with the rulers in Kabul. Although the Taliban is mostly Pashtun in composition, it is said to be formed almost exclusively of just two Pashtun tribes from the north.

Meanwhile, ten U.S. Congressmen travelled to Rome over the weekend to meet the exiled Afghan King Zahir Shah, amid speculation that all those opposed to the Taliban may be rallying around the 88-year old monarch. The delegation is said to have offered financial support to rebuild Afghanistan if the rebels overthrew the Taliban.

But U.S. efforts to enrol the former king faces a major problem. The monarch is as also the majority of the rebel commanders is dead-set against Pakistan, which he accuses of creating the Taliban. The Congressional delegation addressed these fears and, for the first time, blamed Pakistan for fomenting terrorism across the world, including the attacks in America.

Extradited man faces probe in France

PARIS: Jamel Beghal, an Islamic militant suspected of trying to organise terrorist attacks against the U.S. interests in France, was placed under judicial investigation here on Monday, a day after he was extradited from the United Arab Emirates, judicial officials said.

Ms Beghal, a 35 year-old Frenchman of Algerian origin, was arrested in Dubai in July. Intelligence officials believe him to be close to Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the September 11 attacks in New York and Washington. Judicial officials said he was suspected of conspiring to carry out terrorist attacks. (AFP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

001 2001

Annun plea on biochem terror

REUTERS

UNHQ, Oct. 1. — Mr Kofi Annan today appealed for tighter international measures against nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The UN Secretary General said the terrorist attacks in the USA would have been far more devastating if weapons of mass destruction were used.

Mr Annan made the appeal in a speech drafted to mark the opening of a five-day debate of the 189-nation General Assembly on a long term global strategy against terrorism.

"It's hard to imagine how the tragedy could have been worse. Yet the truth is that a single attack involving a nuclear or biological weapon could have killed millions," Mr Annan said. "While the world was unable to prevent the attacks, there is much we can do to help prevent future terrorist acts carried out with weapons of mass destruction," he said.

THE STATESMAN

- 2 OCT 2001

LAUGHING THEIR WAY!

Clutching at straws to avoid what is necessary

AS the United States ponders its response to the unprecedented terrorist attacks in New York and Washington and Muslim nations try to up the ante by calling for a *jihad* if the Taliban is attacked and Saudi Arabia is intimidated from murmurs of reservations to a ringing declaration that *not one soldier will be allowed to operate from Saudi soil against Muslims or Islam*, two other reactions are of particular interest. While the American administration is shaken by the admitted downing of an unmanned spy plane over Afghanistan, presumably with missiles supplied by Washington to get Russia out of the country, Mullah Omar the Taliban chief tries to put on an air of reasonableness by saying he is willing to talk to the US *to resolve the crisis* but on two impossible conditions — the US must give up its stubbornness, must give up its anti-Islamic policies, while he says absolutely nothing about giving up bin Laden, not because he thinks he is innocent but because he declares that *he is his guest*. Taliban admit that Osama is *under their control* having said earlier that they do not know where he was. Pakistan heightens the impression that it is all a matter of religion, not necessarily terrorism, by wanting to send yet another delegation to Kandahar of religious leaders led by the Jamat-e-Islami chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, soon. That this will buy time for the Taliban while international willingness, including American willingness to go the whole distance in first identifying and then rooting out this scourge of terrorism from the world steadily weakens, raises doubts about how much inconvenience they are themselves prepared to face. The other new objective gaining importance — to turn Osama bin Laden into a poor man who does not know where his next meal is coming from, merely because money laundering operations through the international banking arrangements are supposedly being tightened, must raise a laugh. The world has known for some time of the lucrative narcotics trade in which the Taliban and Pakistani military officers have been involved and nobody has been able to do anything about it. Television screens show Northern Alliance forces making a bonfire of huge quantities of narcotics that they have captured from the Taliban — this has never been a secret. And what pray have the Americans tried to do about it, although they know very well that the main market for the contraband is the United States just as well as they know that drugs and intoxicants are prohibited by Islam. Hence the assumption *ex hypothesi*, that bin Laden's capacity to launch terrorist attacks will dry up by sitting back and freezing a certain number of bank accounts and the world made safe for the United States by the act of several central banks, is a new low in wishful thinking. And this kind of wishful thinking must be the most improbable wish of all. Dangerous too.

The United Nations and the Security Council deserve credit for the resolution they passed on the lines suggested by Europe, which includes countries which shelter, finance, or train terrorists. Pakistan will be hard put to persist in their involvement with the Taliban and the training of terrorists in camps in their country and which India has documented for the benefit of the United States. What is now in serious question is what purpose will be served in bombing the Taliban from safe distances and destroying what has already been destroyed without any help from the Americans. The need of the hour is a world-wide campaign against terrorism, destruction of their camps, their shelters, their leadership, indeed to cripple their capacity to strike anywhere anytime. If the Americans do not steel themselves for such a no holds barred struggle, Osama bin Laden and the much larger fraternity of those who are willing to die for their cause will be laughing their way to the next terrorist attack.

THE STATESMAN

- 2 OCT 2001

Terror strikes at home

Ultras storm J&K Assembly in car loaded with explosives • 29 killed • Holed-up militants gunned down

Rashid Ahmad
Srinagar, October 1

THREE MILITANTS in police uniform tricked their way through the tight security cordon around the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly today. One of them, a suicide bomber, smashed his explosive-packed car into the main gate. Two others slipped inside the complex and fought a six-hour gun battle with paramilitary jawans before getting shot.

As many as 29 people died and more than 70 were injured in the explosion they triggered when one of them rammed the fortified Assembly building with a Tata Sumo packed with explosives. His two colleagues slipped into the complex, shot four Assembly employees and a policeman. The militant outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammed, issued a press release later claiming credit for the strike. It named the suicide bomber as Wajahat Hussain of Lakimarwat of North West Frontier Province, Pakistan.

An SP, a deputy commandant of the BSF and 14 policemen were wounded in the operation to flush out the holed up ultras that ended around 7 pm. The council building was destroyed in a fire that started when a mortar shell hit it.

Around 1.58 pm a Tata Sumo raced up the road from Jehangir Chowk and stopped some distance from the security fences in front of the Assembly complex. Two men in police uniform got off in full view of the securitymen. A third, also in khaki, then started the car, drove through the barricades and smashed into the main gate. There was a deafening boom and a ball of fire.



Rescue workers and Army men remove the bodies of those killed in the terrorist attack on the Kashmir Assembly in Srinagar on Monday.

The explosion was heard two kilometres away.

Through the haze could be seen pedestrians and securitymen dying and dead. Closer to the target of attack, the road was full of mangled steel, shards of glass, clotted blood and ripped-

off limbs. As many as 13 people died on the spot.

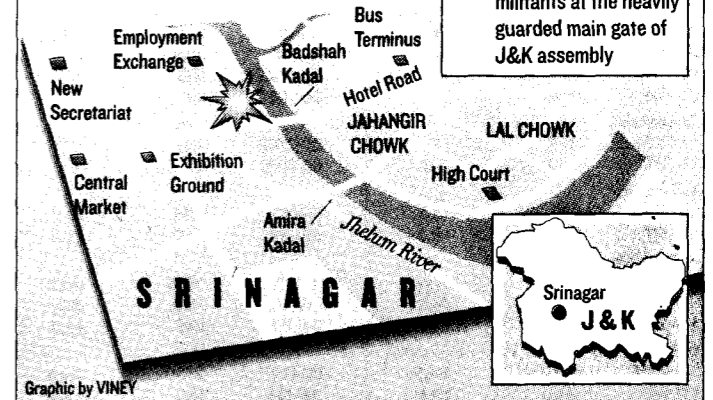
As chaos reigned, the two other militants quietly slipped inside the complex and began spraying bullets from their automatic weapons. "No one noticed them, for they were in police uni-

forms," said a policeman on duty close by.

The Assembly session had given over for the day and most members had left. But Speaker Abdul Ahad Vakil, Deputy Speaker Malik Ghulam Hyder, MLA Sadiq Ali, MLC Dipendra Kour

and MLC Major General (rtd) G S Jamwal were still inside. With them were a number of Assembly employees. "The militants first turned their guns on us. But, they changed their mind and unleashed a volley of bullets on four staffers," Gen Jamwal said.

The scene of action



Soon, the security machinery got rolling. Hundreds of State police, CRPF and BSF men were called in and all roads leading to the Assembly were sealed.

The Speaker and the other legislators were evacuated and then the security forces moved in. They lobbed grenades and fired mortar shells at the militants who fired back from their automatic weapons. As firing intensified, the Assembly building caught fire and around 7 pm, both the fidayeen were killed.

Jaswant to raise terrorism issue: Cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir will figure prominently in discussions between Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and Bush Administration officials when he holds talks with them in Washington on Tuesday. News of the terrorist strike in J&K broke hours before his tour of the US began. The strike gave Singh a crucial talking point with the Bush Administration officials.

A desperate attempt by cornered ultras: PM

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee has described the terrorist attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly as a "last-ditch attempt by militants cornered by the global tide against them".

"The killing of a large number of people indicates that it was a pre-planned conspiracy. This is a symbol of their frustration as they know that terrorism does not have a future in India," Vajpayee told reporters. He said world opinion had turned against terrorism and "before its end, perhaps they are making a last-ditch attempt to make a dent".

The Prime Minister said some organisations had already been proscribed "but some others are still active as they get outside support".

PTI, New Delhi

India, Russia discuss terrorism

MOSCOW, Oct. 1. India and Russia today discussed fight against terrorism in all its forms through joint efforts of the international community.

The Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Mr. Georg Mamedov, and the Indian Ambassador to Russia, Mr. K. Raghunath, stressed the need to form a broad international coalition to combat terrorism at a global scale, the Russian Foreign Office sources said.— PTI

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