

# Japan nod to US military airport on coral reef

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**Reuters**

TOKYO, Dec. 27. — Japan today approved a controversial plan to build an airport for the US military on a coral reef off the southern subtropical island of Okinawa.

The decision could spark a furious backlash by conservationists who say the project threatens the environment while also enraging local residents who want the US military to leave the island.

The new airport off Nago City, where the 2001 Group of Eight summit was held, would contain a Marine helicopter base that Washington agreed in 1996 to move from its Futenma air station in central Okinawa to Nago because of complaints of noise pollution. Nago residents, in a December 1997 referendum, opposed the relocation. Okinawa's prefectural government and Nago City authorities had insisted U.S. military use of the new facility be limited to 15 years — a limit that Okinawans demanded during campaign to end more than five decades of US military presence. Washington has

suggested 15 years is an unacceptably short period.

Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi said today's decision was a "best possible option at the moment".

The central Japanese government subsequently put pressure on the city mayor to allow its construction, including the promise of economic assistance to Okinawa, the poorest region in Japan.

Meanwhile North Korea today warned of countermeasures against Japan for "groundlessly" linking Pyongyang to a suspected spy ship which sank after a firefight with the Japanese coastguard.

A foreign ministry spokesman accused Tokyo of "an unpardonable smear campaign" against Pyongyang and denied any involvement in the weekend incident. He told Pyongyang's official Korean Central News Agency that the "Japanese authorities used force of arms" to sink what remains an "unidentified ship." "The DPRK is compelled to maintain the highest degree of vigilance against a series of plots hatched by the Japanese authorities. The DPRK will take countermeasures depending on the future attitude of Japan toward the incident," the spokesman added.

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28 DEC 2001

PEARL HARBOR ANNIVERSARY / 'SEPT. 11 WILL ALSO LIVE IN INFAMY'

# Victory will come to the U.S., says Bush

**NORFOLK NAVAL STATION (VIRGINIA), DEC. 8.** The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush celebrated victory over Afghanistan's defeated Taliban on Friday, saying "Today they control not much more than a few caves," as he drew a parallel between September 11 and the Pearl Harbor attack exactly 60 years ago.

Visiting the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise on the anniversary of the December 7, 1941, attack at Pearl Harbour, Mr. Bush added September 11, 2001, as a date that will also live in infamy. In a flag-waving speech honouring the U.S. military's performance in the Afghan war, Mr. Bush mocked Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda followers for sending youthful loyalists to carry out suicide attacks like those on September 11. "They celebrate death, making a mission of murder and a sacrament of suicide. Yet, for some reason only young followers are ushered down this deadly path to paradise while terrorist leaders run into caves to save their own hides," Mr. Bush said to hoots of approval from the Enterprise sailors.

The U.S.-led war in Afghanistan, using air power and limited ground forces in support of Afghan troops of the Northern Alliance, has driven the Taliban from power in two months. Mean-



**The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, greets World War II veteran Dom Saffido (front), and Mr. Robert Farrell, a Pearl Harbor survivor, after delivering a speech on board the USS Enterprise aircraft carrier in Norfolk, Virginia, on Friday. — AP**

while, Bin Laden is believed hiding out in a cave.

"Not long ago that regime controlled most of Afghanistan," Mr. Bush said, standing on the Enterprise deck. "Today, they control not much more than a few caves." He said it was not long ago that Al-Qaeda's leaders dismissed America as a paper tiger.

"That was before the tiger roared," he said. "We are a long way from finished in Afghanistan," said Mr. Bush. "Much difficult and dangerous work is yet to come. Many terrorists are still hiding in heavily fortified bunkers in very rugged territory.

"They're said to be prepared for a long stay underground. But

they're in for a sudden change in plans, because one by one we're going to find them and piece by piece we'll tear their terrorist network apart." He vowed the Al-Qaeda would not be appeased.

"They must be defeated. This struggle will not end in a truce or a treaty, it will end in victory for the United States, our friends and the cause of freedom," Mr. Bush said. The USS Enterprise, a nuclear-powered aircraft carrier launched in 1960, recently returned from duty in the war against Afghanistan.

Mr. Bush was joined by 25 Pearl Harbour survivors, 100 other World War II veterans and almost 10,000 servicemen and women and support personnel at Norfolk, the largest naval station in the world. "Now, another date will forever stand alongside December 7 — September 11, 2001," Mr. Bush said in a written proclamation. "On that day, our people and our way of life again were brutally and suddenly attacked, though not by a complex military manoeuvre but by the surreptitious wiles of evil terrorists." He said the Pearl Harbour attack stood as a symbol of American military valour and national resolve and "as a reminder of the presence of evil in the world and the need to remain ever vigilant against it." — Reuters

THE HINDU

- 9 DEC 2001

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# Japan sends warships to Indian Ocean

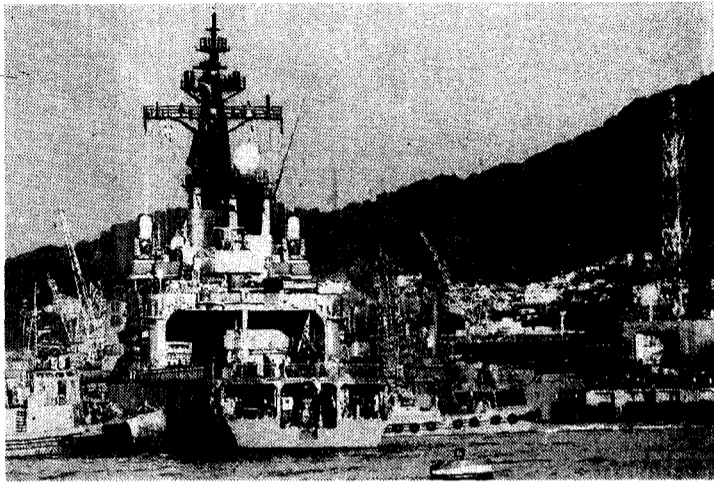
By Amit Baruah

**SINGAPORE, NOV. 9.** In what is being described as the first such instance since World War II, Japan today sent out three warships to the Indian Ocean as part of providing "logistical support" to the American forces operating in Afghanistan.

Two maritime Self-Defence Force (SDF) destroyers — including the 5,200-tonne Kurama, equipped to carry helicopters — and the 8,100-tonne flotilla support ship, Hamana, comprise the vessels sent out by Japan.

The Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, told reporters in Tokyo that the ships would "collect necessary information with the aim of conducting logistic support" under the newly-enacted anti-terrorism law.

Under the new legislation, the Government has the powers to embark on a non-combat military mission but must seek approval of the Diet (Parliament) within 20 days. The Japanese decision to play a proactive role in the American war against terrorism in Afghanistan has, however, raised some concerns in the region, especially on account of its wartime past. It has been made clear that the Japanese intention is not to



**The destroyer Kurama of Japan's Maritime Self-Defence Force leaves the Sasebo naval base, western Japan, on Friday. — AFP**

play any combat role. The Prime Minister, Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, explained his decision to send the SDF out in a supportive role to ASEAN leaders earlier this week.

During the Gulf War of 1990, Japan had attracted considerable criticism for not doing "more" than providing cash for the U.S.-led effort against Iraq.

This time round, Japan has responded to those criticisms by enacting a special law and dispatching three ships to play a lo-

gistical role and also gather information.

In a separate development, *The Yomiuri Shimbun* reported that the controversial Japanese Foreign Minister, Ms. Makiko Tanaka, is likely to visit Islamabad for talks with the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Ms. Tanaka is scheduled to discuss the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan and the issue of Afghan refugees who continue to cross into Pakistan.

THE HINDU

10 NOV 2001

# Apology shadow over golden handshake

San Francisco, September 9

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X(1) 50th anniversary of US-Japan landmark treaty

THE UNITED States and Japan formally renewed their strategic partnership on Saturday, celebrating the 50th anniversary of a landmark treaty which brought peace to the Pacific and set the stage for Japan's rise as Asia's most prosperous economy.

At a ceremony at San Francisco's War Memorial Opera House — where on September 8, 1951, signatories from 49 nations officially put an end to the Second World War — Secretary of State Colin Powell and Japanese Foreign Minister Makiko Tanaka vowed to strengthen what has become one of the most enduring alliances of the post-war world.

"What's been accomplished is clear. What remains to be accomplished is also clear," Powell said. "It is up to us to modernise our alliances and adjust them to new realities."

Those realities include economic problems in both the US and Japan, and an increasingly

complex security equation in Asia, where lingering Cold War tensions continue to strain both the Korean peninsula and China and Taiwan.

Both Japan and the US vowed on Saturday to face these issues together, building on five decades of friendship forged by the San Francisco peace pact and the US-Japan security treaty.

"The San Francisco Peace Treaty restored Japan to full sovereignty, equality and freedom. It enabled my country to rejoin postwar international society," Tanaka said. "(Our) two nations have become indispensable partners. History has proved that these decisions were right."

Dignitaries including former Secretary of State George Schultz and former Japanese Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa watched Powell and Tanaka sign a statement of friendship.

Hundreds of protesters also

gathered outside the Opera House to demand the Japanese government formally apologise and make reparations for atrocities its army inflicted upon Asians and US prisoners during the Second World War.

"We want people to understand the peace treaty was a fraud," said Eugene Wei, one of the protest organisers. "Japan, for all these years, has not apologised for the atrocities."

Tanaka sounded a conciliatory note, reaffirming a 1995 apology by then-Prime Minister Tomichi Murayama and, for the first time, singling out prisoners of war for special mention.

"We have never forgotten that Japan caused tremendous damage and suffering to the people of many countries during the last war," Tanaka said. "The war left an incurable scar on many people, including former prisoners of war."

But Tanaka's "feelings of deep remorse" for wartime atrocities did little to cool the anger of former POWs like Lester Tenney. He has led demands for a more formal apology to the thousands of U.S. soldiers who were forced into slave labor for wartime Japanese corporations such as Mitsubishi Corp and Mitsui & Co Ltd.

"I was not impressed at all ... I was looking for an apology," Tenney said after the ceremony. "That was disgraceful. She would have been better not to say anything."

The US and Japan hold that, as a matter of international law, the San Francisco treaty resolved all postwar settlement issues, and both the US State and Justice Departments have gone to court to block attempts by individuals to sue for reparations.

Powell said that while the US had "utmost compassion" for the

POWs and other victims of wartime Japanese aggression, the treaty effectively closed the book on compensation demands. "That's the position we're in, and that's the position we have to defend," he said.

During a working lunch before the ceremony, Powell and Tanaka held a "frank exchange of views" on a number of issues of mutual concern — chief among them the slowing economies of both Japan and the United States.

Powell said he was confident the government of Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was committed to addressing Japan's systemic economic problems, including nonperforming loans. "They've got a tough job ahead of them," he said.

Powell also applied gentle pressure on Tanaka to take up the battle for a greater Japanese role in the world stage, noting Tokyo was "starting to understand the obligations that they have as a world power."

Reuters

# Japan indicts US soldier on rape charge

Tokyo, July 19

XF-11 wpt

JAPANESE PROSECUTORS on Thursday charged a US airman with raping a woman on southern Okinawa island, an incident that has fuelled local resentment of the huge US military presence.

A prosecutor in the Okinawan capital, Naha, said US Air Force Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland, 24, had been formally charged with raping the Japanese woman. Woodland has said he had consensual sex with the woman but denied rape. The episode frayed US-Japan ties at a time when President Bush hopes to tighten security ties with America's key Asian ally. Relations were already complicated by Washington's call for Tokyo to back its controversial missile defense shield programme.

Japanese perceptions that Washington dragged its feet before handing Woodland over to Japanese authorities last Friday, a week after the alleged rape, revived calls to revise a pact on the status of US military in Japan. Under the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA), Washington need not hand over suspects until they are indicted,

ed, but agreed to consider making exceptions for "heinous" crimes.

Okinawa, 1,000 miles south of Tokyo, is the forward base for U.S. forces in Asia, from which they can closely monitor both North Korea and China. The island is reluctant host to 27,000 U.S. military staff, about half the U.S. military presence in Japan and one-fourth of that in Asia.

Okinawan residents have long resented shouldering what they say is an unfair share of the burden for maintaining the US-Japan security alliance by hosting the bases. Washington and Tokyo say the bases are vital for regional peace and stability. The 1995 rape of a Japanese schoolgirl by three US servicemen on Okinawa fanned that resentment and seriously jolted US-Japan ties. The three were sentenced to up to seven years in jail for the abduction and rape of the 12-year-old.

That incident prompted Washington to agree to give "sympathetic consideration" to handing over US military personnel suspected of "heinous" crimes prior to their indictment. The agreement, however, does not oblige them to do so.

Reuters



Left wing student protesters clash with the police in front of the US Embassy in Tokyo on Thursday morning over US military presence in Japan.

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# Reaffirming faith ✓

**I**T WAS not going to be a contentious summit, but when the leaders of the United States and Japan were scheduled to meet there was this expectation that both Mr. George W. Bush and Mr. Junichiro Koizumi will be looking to lay out the common ground of the bilateral agenda. And the meeting at Camp David did, in fact, end on somewhat expected lines.

plaint of the previous Clinton administration was that it was leaning too hard on Japan to do something "more" on the economic front, blissfully ignoring the domestic and ground realities in the East Asian country.

Mr. Koizumi came to the U.S. at a time when the Bush administration had already made up its mind to shore up bilateral relations and re-emphasise that Ja-

The Camp David meeting had something for both Mr. Koizumi and Mr. Bush, that is over and beyond the personal chemistry that the American President is seeking to establish with foreign leaders. "I did not... believe that I would be able to establish such a strong relationship of trust with the President in my first meeting," was one of the first things that the Japanese Prime Minister had to say.

was not going ahead without the U.S. on the Kyoto Protocols.

But there is a much larger and sophisticated agenda that the Bush administration is pursuing with Japan. The state of the Japanese economy is going to be a major focal point and there is every indication that Washington is going to give all the necessary political support to enable the Japanese leader to get through his tasks. Here again lending "political support" to Mr. Koizumi will not stop with economics.

Rather, the Bush administration is watching carefully as to how Japan's new Prime Minister will be treading the path of revising or reinterpreting the Constitution on the role of the Self Defence Forces, an internal debate that is bound to start a furious backlash both within the country and in the Asia-Pacific.

Japan and the U.S. are heading for equally tough times on the issue of missile defence; and Tokyo, mindful of the regional environment involving China, has not expressed any great enthusiasm for the idea even while putting out the impression that cooperation could be there in the realm of technologies. The Japanese Government is working with the U.S. on the theatre missile defence but has so far shown little interest in getting on board with Mr. Bush's missile defence idea. The Camp David summit appeared to skirt the differences in carefully couched phrases — that Tokyo and Washington will "consult closely"; and that the Japanese Prime Minister expressed an understanding of American "security concerns".

But what has really come to be a troublesome phenomenon in recent years and one that will have spillover effects on the bilateral security relationship is the attitude and behaviour of American service personnel posted in Japan, especially in Okinawa. If in the 1970s and 1980s bilateral relationships were marred by frequent tensions over the trade surpluses of Japan, of late it is the resentment over the treatment meted out to the locals by American soldiers. The latest incident being again in Okinawa.

If attention is already being paid to Mr. Bush's visit to Japan this October at the time of the meeting of the Asia Pacific Leaders in Shanghai, the real focus of the Japan-U.S. relationship in future must be on the larger picture.



**Mr. George Bush and Mr. Junichiro Koizumi at Camp David... camaraderie restored?**

Even before Mr. Koizumi arrived in Washington for his first summit with the American President, there were indications that the Bush administration was not going to soften its stance either with respect to the Kyoto Treaty on Climate Change or on the missile defence system that is being actively pursued by this Republican President.

For the Japanese Prime Minister, the important task on hand was to win backing for the wide-ranging economic reforms he is pursuing back home; and minus hectoring and lecturing from the U.S. In fact, Tokyo's one com-

pan was indeed the "lynchpin" of American foreign policy in East Asia/Pacific. Tokyo had felt slighted by what it saw as the relegation of a traditional relationship by the Clinton administration in its pursuit of a policy of constructive engagement with China.

*Their Camp David meeting had something for both Mr. Koizumi and Mr. Bush, writes Sridhar Krishnaswami.*

And Mr. Bush did not lag too far behind when he commented, "He (Mr. Koizumi) talks about tackling difficult issues that some leaders in the past refused to address".

But if there was disappointment in some quarters on Kyoto, it was for good reason. Only recently, Mr. Koizumi had termed the Bush administration's rejection of the Environment Treaty as "truly deplorable". And in a matter of days, all this changed! "The President is enthusiastic about environmental issues and there is still time to discuss this issue," the Japanese leader remarked. More than this, there was the unmistakable impression that Japan

THE HINDU

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OKINAWA RAPE CASE / TOKYO PROMISES FAIR TRIAL

# U.S. hands over suspect to Japan

7/7  
By Amit Baruah

**SINGAPORE, JULY 6** An American airman, suspected of raping a Japanese woman in Okinawa, was arrested by the Japanese police soon after the U.S. authorities handed him over today.

Earlier, following enormous pressure, the U.S. announced that it would hand over the American airman, U.S. Air Force Senior Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland.

"The United States has decided to hand over the suspect," the Japanese Foreign Minister, Ms. Makiko Tanaka, told reporters after meeting the new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Howard Baker.

"My Government is ready to transfer custody of Staff Sergeant Timothy Woodland prior to the indictment as requested by the Japanese Government...the U.S. Government has considered this case seriously and regrets misconduct by U.S. servicemen," said Mr. Baker after the meeting.

"The decision to transfer custody was taken after careful consideration of the facts and circumstances of the case...we have satisfied ourselves that our U.S. service member will receive



**The Japanese Foreign Minister, Ms. Makiko Tanaka, leads the way for the U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Howard Baker, after their talks at the Foreign Ministry in Tokyo on Friday. — Reuters**

fair and humane treatment throughout his custody."

Reports from Tokyo said the woman, in her twenties, had been raped last Friday. The American airman, however, has denied the allegations.

"It was a very trying experience for me throughout. It is our responsibility to prove to the United States and the world that Japan's police and the administration of justice are fair," the Foreign Minister was quoted as

telling reporters. The delay in handing over the suspect led to rising temperatures in Okinawa, with senior Japanese Ministers themselves saying that the emotions of the people on the island were "running very high".

"It is quite natural to have him handed over," said the Japanese Defence Minister, Gen Nakatani, said earlier. "This could create a difficult situation for the (U.S.) bases here," he said pointing to the potential damage to U.S.-Japan relations.

The Okinawa Governor, Mr. Keiichi Inamine, had gone to the extent of calling for a reduction in U.S. troop levels and a revision of a U.S.-Japan agreement that prevents handing over of American military personnel except for serious crimes.

Soon after the American announcement that the suspect would be handed over, Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, expressed satisfaction at the American decision and said he hoped the investigation into the case would proceed smoothly.

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## AN 'ENDURING' ALLIANCE

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AN EXTRAORDINARY APOLOGY, which has been tendered by a new U.S. Ambassador to Japan on his arrival in Tokyo this week over an alleged excess by an American serviceman based in Okinawa, may outwardly indicate a crisis in the strong security alliance between the two major economic powers. Yet, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, had expressed only last week their concerted resolve to sustain the "enduring alliance" between their two countries. The latest undercurrent of diplomatic tensions in the exchanges between Tokyo and Washington pertains entirely to the desire of the Japanese law enforcement agencies to bring a U.S. Air Force sergeant under their jurisdiction prior to his formal indictment on charges of violating the modesty of a young woman in Okinawa. Japan's outspoken Foreign Minister, Ms. Makiko Tanaka, is reported to be upset over the perceived delay by the U.S. in agreeing to hand over the military man in question for the purposes of a judicial process in Okinawa. The residents of Okinawa have often expressed unhappiness over Tokyo's original decision to make over their native neighbourhood to the Americans for their military use under a half-century-old security agreement between the U.S. and Japan. If, in these circumstances, the U.S. is still weighing its options in regard to a sergeant, the reason rests entirely with Washington's eagerness to save as much face as possible by fine-combing the relevant Status of Forces Agreement. This culture-specific document deals with the procedures for such cases relating to alleged crimes of one kind or other involving American military personnel. Since the end of World War II, the U.S. has entered into bilateral understandings with several states that variously agreed to play host to or otherwise welcome American military units as part of an intricate web of international security alliances.

If there is nothing unique about the latest simmering discontent in the Japan-U.S. interac-

tions, the American "forward presence" in Japan in the Asia-Pacific region remains a critical aspect of the current international 'strategic architecture'. Mr. Bush has not in any manner discounted this 'forward presence' even after recently enunciating his preference for a new global security framework. Indeed, Japan's continuing hospitality to the American military establishment has been reaffirmed by Mr. Koizumi during his meeting with Mr. Bush at Camp David last week. The previous U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, had spoken of a certain willingness to consider reducing the American strategic footprint in Okinawa, in particular, over an unspecified timeline. There is no doubt too about Japan's inclination at this stage to balance America's strategic compulsions with its own security concerns in the Asia-Pacific region. Significantly, therefore, Mr. Koizumi is adopting a transparent policy of acting harmoniously with Mr. Bush in this sensitive sphere.

Mr. Koizumi has, in a sense, endorsed Mr. Bush's broad ideas about a missile defence shield. Now, post-imperial Japan obviously feels comfortable with the idea of a defensive strategy as distinct from a military theology of all-out offence. This should explain the ideological basis of Tokyo's readiness to promote Mr. Bush's missile defence plans by contributing to the relevant knowhow-research. Given Japan's oft-repeated desire to play the pacifist, there is also hardly any scope for disagreements between Tokyo and Washington over global-scale ideas about non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and counter-proliferation. However, the Tokyo-Washington nexus is no less critical for the economic and environmental health of the world as a whole. Mr. Bush has now expressed confidence in Mr. Koizumi's arguably bold efforts to fix the macro-level problems facing the Japanese economy, while Mr. Koizumi says he does not wish to give up engaging the U.S. over environmental issues. So, an alternative to the Kyoto protocol is not being envisioned at this stage.

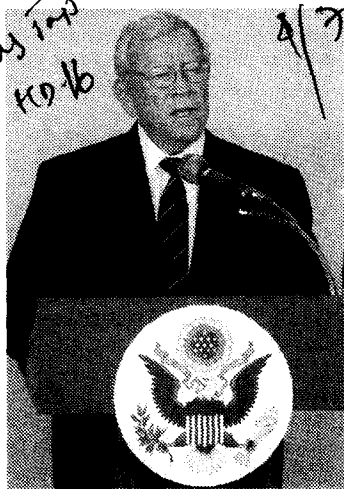


# An apology for Okinawa incident

**TOKYO, JULY 3.** The new U.S. Ambassador to Japan, Mr. Howard Baker stepped off his plane today and into a simmering diplomatic row, swiftly pledging co-operation with police who want to arrest a U.S. airman in the rape of a young Japanese woman.

Just hours earlier, the commander of U.S. forces on Japan's southern Okinawa island voiced his deep regret over the incident after fingerprints found on a car hood led police to demand that the U.S. military hand over U.S. Air Force sergeant Timothy Woodland in the alleged rape of the young woman early last Friday. "As President (George W.) Bush said, and I repeat, we express regret, sincere regret about this incident," Mr. Baker said upon his arrival at Tokyo's Narita airport. "We promise full co-operation in finding the facts and dealing with the situation."

The latest in a string of offences by U.S. Forces on the island could



**Howard Baker**

trigger yet more local demands from residents fed up with the military presence for a reduction in the huge bases that cover 20 per cent of Okinawa land. If U.S. officials comply with Japanese police demands to arrest Wood-

land, it would be only the second time U.S. Forces in Japan have handed over a serviceman to Japanese investigators before formal charges have been filed.

Earlier, Lieutenant General Earl Hailston met senior officials of the Okinawa prefecture and said he regretted the incident, just the latest in a string of crimes and misdemeanours, mostly sexual offences, by U.S. servicemen stationed on the sub-tropical island. "We are disappointed and deeply and sincerely regret the incident as it involves a U.S. service member," Lt. Gen. Hailston said in a televised meeting with Okinawa officials. "We assure you full cooperation on the investigation," he said. However, he did not say whether the U.S. had decided to comply with the request to hand over Woodland, from the 353rd special operations group, based at the huge Kadena air base.

An arrest warrant was issued late yesterday for Woodland after police said they had found his fingerprints on a car at the crime scene along with the prints of the woman.

The woman, in her 20s, told investigators she had been raped by a black foreigner in the early hours of Friday in the parking lot of the American village shopping district in Chatan, some 1,600 km south of Tokyo.

Woodland has denied the rape. Jiji news agency quoted him as telling police he had consensual sex with the woman. — Reuters

**BUSH-KOIZUMI MEET / LEADERS PLEDGE TO COOPERATE ON MISSILE DEFENCE**

# Japan softens stand on Kyoto pact

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 1. In the first meeting of the leaders, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has endorsed Mr. Junichiro Koizumi's tough economic prescriptions and the Japanese Prime Minister, for his part, has softened his position on Washington's rejection of the Kyoto Protocols. Only last week, Mr. Koizumi termed the Bush administration's rejection of the Kyoto Treaty as "truly deplorable".

The setting was different on Saturday at the Camp David Presidential retreat in the Maryland Mountains. Both Mr. Bush and Mr. Koizumi appeared less formal and perhaps even jovial during the interactions with the media. But the lighter atmosphere did not detract from the substantive elements of the bilateral relations — both the strengths and the present challenges.

"There is no question in my mind our relationship will never be stronger than under our leadership", Mr. Bush said. Mr. Koizumi reciprocated by saying, "I did not, at the outset, believe that I would be able to establish such a strong relationship of trust with the President in my first meeting".

For the Japanese leader it was, among other things, quite critical that the Bush administration back his tough economic plans. This Mr. Koizumi accomplished. "I have no reservations about the economic reform agenda that the Prime Minister is advancing. He talks about tackling difficult issues that some leaders in the past refused to address", Mr. Bush remarked.

It was crucial that Mr. Koizumi got an endorsement from the United States on the tough economic prescriptions he is trying to

get though in Japan. In the past, the impression has always been that the Clinton administration was leaning too much on Tokyo to fix its economy to the point of being seen as badgering successive Governments in Japan.

On the subject of the environment and the Kyoto Protocols, Mr. Koizumi appeared to reverse his position vis-a-vis the stance of the Bush administration. "I am not disappointed at the President's position. The President is enthusiastic about environmental issues and there is still time to discuss this issue", he remarked.

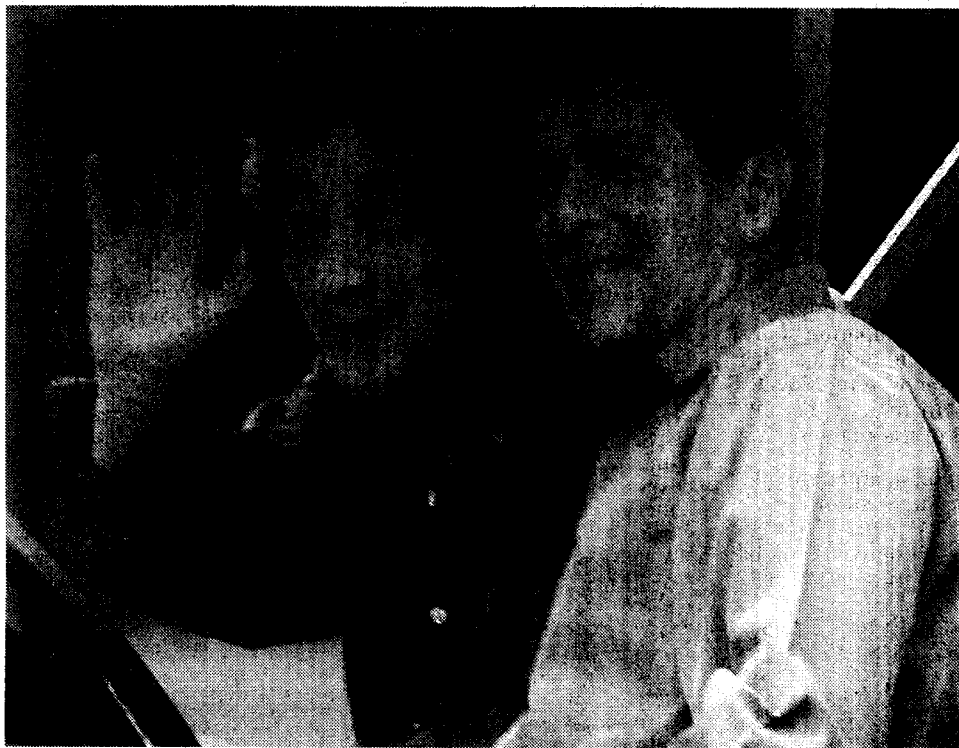
Mr. Koizumi has said that he is willing to work to the "last moment" to come to an understanding with the U.S. on the subject, clearly giving the impression that Japan is reluctant to get on board without Washington. A statement issued on the Bush-Koizumi summit signals continuing differences with Mr. Bush welcoming the Prime Minister's offer to open bilateral talks with a view to coming to a common ground on climate change.

The Japanese economy and the U.S. stance on the Kyoto Protocols were not the only issues on the agenda. Important as well was the subject of missile defence that Tokyo is yet to support. In fact, there are some in Japan who believe that the country will not be on board this missile defence system, instead preferring the Theatre Missile Defence system.

The joint statement of Saturday says that both leaders have vowed to "consult closely" on the subject with Mr. Koizumi expressing his understanding of the American security concerns. "The President and the Prime Minister also reiterated the importance of cooperative research on ballistic missile defence technologies", the statement reads.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Koizumi met at Camp David at a time when a American Air Force sergeant is under investigation in Okinawa over allegations of raping a woman there.

Nearly 50,000 American service personnel live in Okinawa and local residents have long complained about the behaviour of the men. An unnamed official has said that Mr. Bush expressed regret for the incidents but without reference to the latest case in Okinawa.



The Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Junichiro Koizumi, waves as the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, drives a golf cart at Camp David on Saturday. — AP

THE HINDU  
JULY 1 2001

# 'Pearl Harbor' comes under fire

By Anand Parthasarathy

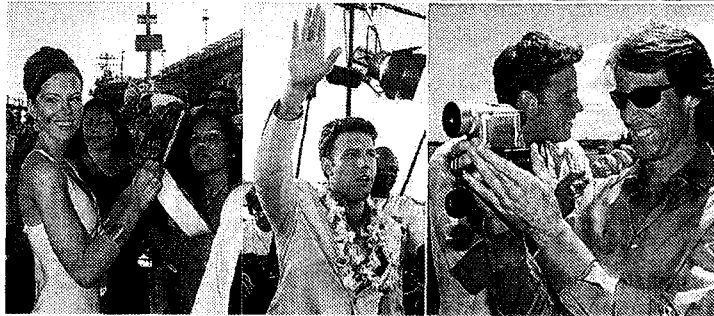
Sixty years after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor during World War Two — an event that propelled the United States into the war — a multi-million dollar Hollywood product has turned the spotlight once more on the Hawaiian harbour, to a mixture of acclaim and apprehension.

The Walt Disney production, which opens its international run on Friday, enjoyed the highest budget ever sanctioned by a Hollywood studio — \$135 millions. At least \$5 millions more was blown in a special premiere on Monday last, on board a U.S. aircraft carrier, moored in Pearl Harbor, to which over 2000 guests including Hawaii's Governor were invited — a number only slightly less than the casualties on that December day in 1941.

Directed by Mr. Michael Bay and produced by Mr. Jerry Bruckheimer — the duo known for loud effects-filled actioners like "Armageddon" and "The Rock" — "Pearl Harbor" provides a love interest, a la "Titanic": two former friends, and fighter pilots, played by Mr. Ben Affleck and Mr. Josh Hartnett who vie for the affections of a U.S. Navy nurse (Ms Kate Beckinsale), when the Japanese attack begins.

Even as the film starts its worldwide commercial run (it opens in India on July 27), it has attracted controversy — fuelled by the apprehensions of U.S. citizens of Asian origin, at the flag waving "them versus us" patriotism that the film seems sure to trigger off. Leaders of the Japanese-American community have already warned that the film may open old wounds — and set off another bout of xenophobia.

They have criticised the depiction in the film of a Japanese-American dentist, shown spying for the Japanese Government. In fact, the real life dentist was cleared by the FBI of any betrayal.



**RECREATING "PEARL HARBOR":** (Top) Mr. Cuba Gooding Jr. in a scene from the film. (Bottom from left) The film's leading stars, Ms Kate Beckinsale, Mr. Ben Affleck and the director, Mr. Michael Bay, at the May 21 premiere on board an American aircraft carrier in Honolulu.

However, the film's makers have not shown much regard for such sensitivities: the lead star, Mr. Ben Affleck, was quoted by Reuters as saying, "This isn't a History Channel expose!".

The film as seen in Asia will be subtly different from the version opening this week in the U.S. Phrases likely to offend Japanese like "a few less dirt Japs", have been edited in some prints so that major Pacific rim markets will not turn away from the film.

In spite of such hedging of bets, a few early reactions to the film

(formal reviews will appear only later this week in the U.S.) have been at best, mixed.

The Associated Press has characterised the film as "Soulless Hollywood bloat at its dumb worst" and a British tabloid has said it is "more cheesy than a cheddar factory".

However, Indian audiences are expected to be less fastidious about the historical nuances and — if past experience is a guide — will probably fill theatres here if they think they are getting enough bang for their buck.

THE HINDU

25 MAY 2001

# Japan accepts U.S. sub decision

*10/16* TOKYO, APRIL 24.—Tokyo will not challenge Washington's decision to hand a lenient punishment to a commander of a U.S. navy submarine that sank a Japanese fishing trawler, a government spokesman said today.

The Chief Cabinet Secretary, Mr. Yasuo Fukuda, said that as far as Japan was concerned, the matter was closed. "The accident was extremely regrettable, such a tragedy should not be repeated," Mr.

Fukuda said of the accident off Hawaii in February that killed nine Japanese.

"But with this decision, we consider that the responsibility of the former commander was clarified."

The administrative reprimand, known as an admiral's mast, effectively ended the career of Mr. Waddle who was considered one of the U.S. navy's rising stars.

The trawler sank within minutes

and nine people aboard four of them teenagers, lost their lives, stoking anti-U.S. sentiment in Japan.

## Angry reaction

*WSJ* Tokyo's position was in marked contrast to the angry reaction of relatives of the dead who criticised the decision not to try Mr. Waddle in a court martial, according to Kyodo news.

The Governor of the region which includes the Ehime Maru's

home port in southwestern Japan also voiced disappointment with the punishment.

Families of the nine Japanese men and boys killed in the incident voiced outrage today at the decision forcing the captain to resign, saying it was too lenient.

"I cannot find words to express my anger," said Mr. Teruo Terata, uncle of 18-year-old Yusuke Terata, a fisheries school who died in the mishap. — AFP, Reuters

HP-17

## U.S. apologises for docking of n-submarine

**TOKYO, APRIL 4.** The United States apologised to Japan after a nuclear submarine entered a southwestern Japanese port without informing authorities, and said garbled communications were to blame, officials said today.

The Acting Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo, Mr. James Foster, yesterday told the Foreign Ministry that the navy had mistakenly informed the Japanese authorities that the submarine would stay outside the bay, and called the blunder inexcusable, said a Ministry official on condition of anonymity.

94  
The USS Chicago's unannounced stop at Sasebo, 982 km southwest of Tokyo, was the first violation of a 1964 bilateral accord that requires the U.S. military to give 24-hour notice before a nuclear-powered sub docks in a Japanese port.

The notice gives time for local authorities to check radioactivity levels in ports before and after U.S. submarine visits.

A U.S. Embassy official, who also demanded anonymity, said the U.S. regrets the miscommunication and would take steps to prevent a recurrence. He would not confirm whether Mr. Foster apologised and refused to elaborate.

A 20-minute stop by the 6,200-ton submarine yesterday sparked a flurry of diplomatic fence-mending.

In a phone call early today, the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, told the Foreign Minister, Mr. Yohei Kono, the incident was unfortunate and promised greater vigilance, the Ministry said in a press release. — AP

**THE HINDU**

5 APR 2001

# US Bill will allow PoWs to sue Japanese companies

HT-11  
29/3

Washington, March 23

US PRISONERS of War (PoW) forced into slave labour in Japan during World War II must have the right to sue those companies, House members said on Thursday as they introduced legislation targeted not at Japan but at the US Government.

"Our own state department is the biggest obstacle to justice, "impeding the PoWs' lawsuits against Japanese companies that forced them to work for years while they were beaten, starved and denied medical care, said Dana Rohrabacher, a Republican, who co-authored the Bill with rep. Mike Honda, a Democrat.

The department has said the 1951 peace treaty between the United States and Japan prohibits the lawsuits against the private companies, many of them now household names in the united states, such as Mitsubishi corp., Mitsui and co., And Nippon steel corp.

"Japan is continuing to settle war claims from nationals of other countries while American former prisoners of war are

being denied a fair hearing," rohrabacher said. "Our legislation is designed to correct this shameful inequity."

US district court judge Vaughn Walker in San Francisco accepted the State department's interpretation of the treaty in September when he dismissed lawsuits brought by three dozen former PoWs. The debt, he added, had been paid by "the immeasurable bounty of life for themselves and their posterity in a free society and in a more peaceful world."

That's just not good enough, said 82-year-old former PoW Lester Tenney, who was forced to work for Mitsui mines after being ordered to surrender in Bataan. "I shoveled coal in Japan for almost three years. I shoveled coal 12 hours a day. I was never paid and I never got proper tools and I never got medical care. I would like them to apologize to me.

There are about 3,000 surviving PoWs like Tenney, and many more who have died whose survivors may also pursue cases, he said.

Honda, a Japanese-American, said "deeply personal" reasons moved him to become involved in this case. His family was sent to an internment camp during World War II, freed only when his father volunteered to serve in military intelligence.

"It was once taboo in my community to discuss the internment," he said, "but the redress movement put a stop to that." The PoWs' lawsuits are another form of redress, Honda said.

"It's about reconciliation and setting the record straight," he said. "This is not about bashing another country, another group of people."

The legislation directs courts not to read the 1951 treaty as constituting a ban on claims by the United States or its citizens. The treaty, it notes, says that if Japan gave other countries more beneficial terms, the countries signing the treaty would also get those better terms. In agreements with other countries, Japan allowed claims to be brought by citizens of those countries.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

24 MAR 2001

AD-18

## Mori evasive on NMD

21/3

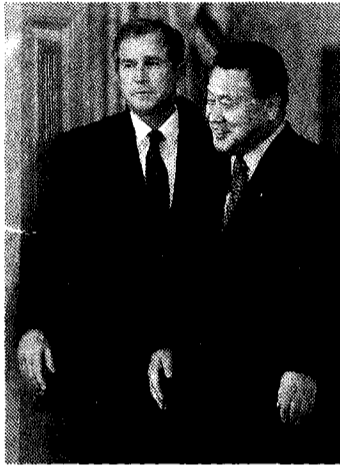
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, MARCH 20.** The United States and Japan went through an expected range of issues as the President, Mr. George W Bush, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, reiterated in a Joint Statement that the bilateral friendship "is rooted in friendship, mutual trust and shared democratic values".

The two leaders also said that the solid relationship enabled the two countries to deal with problems such as the "regrettable Ehime Maru accident". The sinking of this fishing vessel set off a rocky patch in the bilateral relations with the criticism and feeling in some quarters that the U.S. has done enough by way of apologising for the accident which killed nine Japanese nationals.

While security and economic issues were the main focus at the White House on Monday, the dominant topic undoubtedly was the state of the Japanese economy. Administration officials have said that the visiting Japanese Premier was told by Mr. Bush to tackle the corporate debt and bad loans that were weighing down Japanese banks.

Mr. Bush is further reported to have told Mr. Mori that there was the perception in the U.S. that Tokyo was not doing enough on the matter. An unnamed senior official has said that Mr. Bush was "heartened" by the unusually explicit acknowledgement of the non-performing loans issue by the Japanese Prime Minister. Mr. Bush has also told Mr. Mori that the strategy of relying on exports as the way out of economic troubles was not the answer to the problem.



**The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, at the White House in Washington on Monday. — AP**

Originally, this was to have been a different kind of a meeting with Mr. Mori coming to Washington as a strong leader; and one who would be discussing several subjects with Mr. Bush including the sinking of the Ehime Maru off the coast of Hawaii. In the last four weeks, Mr. Mori's position has not only weakened but the markets also have been taking such a severe beating that the focus was shifting to economics. In fact, there were questions whether Mr. Mori should be making the trip as a "lame duck" leader.

For an administration that has started focusing on Japan as the "linchpin" of American foreign policy in the Far East, Mr. Mori was not as forthcoming as some would have expected on strategic issues and subjects that are dear to the administration here. The Japanese leader did not commit

himself on the National Missile Defence system and merely reiterated the earlier Tokyo positions of one of "understanding" where the Bush administration is coming from.

Washington, under a Republican administration, may be eager for a Japan-centred East Asian/Pacific policy, but there are enough indications that Tokyo may be quite wary of the regional implications of any expanded role for itself. In fact, Mr. Bush had apparently told Mr. Mori that cooperation with a firm ally like Japan would enable the country to maintain peace. But this reference — in the Bush administration's language — to an enhanced security role for Tokyo did not bring forth a response from the Japanese leader, it is said.

Further according to Japanese officials, Mr. Mori is said to have told the President that the present administration must back South Korea's "sunshine policy" towards North Korea; as this policy intended to promote dialogue with Pyongyang on such issues as its global weapons threat. Mr. Bush is said to have reiterated his call for the U.S., Japan and South Korea to cooperate closely over North Korea.

Mr. Mori's reference to Mr. Kim Dae-jung's sunshine policy vis-a-vis Pyongyang is a clear indication of a concern that the Bush administration is moving away from the earlier approach. Mr. Bush took a hardline against Pyongyang during his recent summit with Mr. Kim; and has told Mr. Mori that Washington is not inclined to resume missile talks with Pyongyang anytime soon.

THE HINDU

21 MAR 2001

# Bush-Mori meet on, says U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami 119-16

WASHINGTON, MARCH 11. The White House says the President, Mr. George W Bush, intends to keep his March 19 meeting with the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, in spite of the latter's announcement of his intent to resign and the possibility that he will not be in office after early April.

"...it is an important meeting and the President looks forward to it," said a spokesman from the President's ranch in Texas. Only last Friday the Bush administration announced that Mr. Bush would be receiving Mr. Mori for a working visit on March 19.

Despite frictions in bilateral relations — the latest one being the ramming of the Japanese fishing vessel by an American submarine resulting in the death of nine Japanese nationals off the coast off Hawaii — the Bush administration had made it known that it is for bringing back the "linchpin" status for Japan in the realm of American foreign policy for the East Asia Pacific.

Even in the case of the submarine accident, there had been criticism on different fronts. On the one hand was the casual attitude in which the crew of the USS Greenville was going about manoeuvres and in the presence of civilians in key commanding positions inside the submarine.

Yet on the other hand, sections of the media criticised that the Japanese government was just about going overboard in their reaction. In any event the Bush administration made sure that sufficient apologies, including one from the President, were delivered directly to the Japanese government and people by a Navy Admiral.

Washington clearly did not want the incident turn into a major distraction for bilateral relations, the nature and scope of which are beginning to be rewritten keeping in mind the larger regional and domestic realities. For one of the long standing complaints of Republicans had been that the Clinton administration — in an attempt to "please" China — had pushed Japan-United States relations to the backburner.

At the very outset, the President started assembling his foreign and economic policy team — in the State Department, the National Security Council,

the Pentagon and in the Office of the Trade Representative — that had strong credentials on East Asia and the Pacific. The clear indication, especially to allies and adversaries in that part of the world, was that the Bush administration was going to pay attention to a region that in its view has had a distorted perspective over the last eight years.

From the perspective of the Bush administration — a position that has been repeatedly mentioned by Mr. Bush and his advisors — the hallmark of the foreign policy in the Asia Pacific is emphasis on traditional alliances and reliance on friends. Whether the Japanese are keen on this new found interest that has ramifications for its own East and South East Asia policy is an issue which it has to give a lot of attention to.

For the U.S., Japan will be a critical component. The Bush-Mori meeting would have a multi-pronged emphasis, economic and political. And from a regional perspective, Washington in the two months of a Republican administration has been making a lot of noise on China and North Korea, both of which would involve exchanging notes on the part of the U.S. with Japan and vice versa.

## Doubts arise over Sharon-Arafat meet

JERUSALEM, MARCH 11. The Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, have no immediate plans to meet and revive peace negotiations after close to six months of fighting, aides to the two leaders said Sunday.

Behind-the-scenes contacts were going on between the sides, though they do not deal directly with renewing negotiations, said the director of Mr. Sharon's office. Mr. Sharon, who assumed power last week, has held firm that talks will not take place as long as the violence continues.

The Israelis and Palestinians both blame each other for the violence that has claimed more than 400 lives since last September. — AP

THE HINDU

7 2 MAR 2001



# Bush envoy to tender apology to Japanese

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 25. The Bush administration is sending a top official of the Navy to Tokyo with a letter from the President, Mr. George W. Bush, to the Japanese Prime Minister. Admiral William Fallon will tender an apology and explain the ongoing investigations into the sinking of the Japanese research vessel Ehime Maru, resulting in the loss of nine lives, including four students.

The naming of Admiral Fallon as the "special envoy" is seen as yet another attempt on

the part of the Bush administration to assuage the hurt feelings of the Japanese who have expressed shock that civilians were present at least at two control stations in the submarine USS Greeneville when it rammed the Ehime Maru off the coast of Honolulu.

In addition to explaining the status of the investigations, Admiral Fallon is also expected to discuss the salvaging of the Japanese vessel.

Meanwhile, media reports have it that the U.S. Navy may be expanding the scope of the inquiry by adding more to the list of three officers who had been named subjects of the

probe. The latest information is that a fire control technician had failed to report to the Captain that sonar readings indicated that another vessel was within 2000 yards.

The technician has apparently told investigators of the National Transportation Safety Board that he stopped plotting sonar contacts before the accident because he was distracted by civilians in the control room. There were 16 civilians on board when the USS Greeneville rammed the Ehime Maru; and one question that is being looked into is whether the presence of the civilians led to the collision.

# US to send naval envoy to Japan

REUTERS & PTI

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24 - The vice chief of US naval operations will meet with Japanese officials as a special envoy at Tokyo on the accidental sinking of *Ehime Maru*, a Japanese teaching boat, by a US submarine, the navy announced.

Japan had earlier requested USA to send a special envoy to explain the accident.

Admiral William J Fallon will arrive in Tokyo with a letter from President Mr George W Bush addressed to Japanese Prime Minister Mr Yoshiro Mori.

Admiral Fallon will offer apologies on part of the US government, the navy and the American people for the accident.

Mr Fallon, scheduled to visit

Japan next week, will brief the Japanese premier on the investigation, including an official navy court of inquiry set to begin 5 March, the search for nine missing Japanese and the possibility of raising the trawler *Ehime Maru* from the ocean floor.

The navy and the US National Transportation Safety Board were conducting separate investigations of the 9 February crash in which the nuclear attack submarine abruptly surfaced and sank the *Ehime Maru*. The *Greeneville* was practicing a fast-surfacing manoeuvre 14 km off Diamond Head on Oahu when it hit the trawler.

*Ehime Maru* was carrying Japanese students on a fisheries training project.

Various US news reports yesterday said the navy's preliminary investigation into the accident concluded the crowd of civilians hindered normal safety precautions on the *Greeneville*.

Relatives of those lost in the tragedy and Japanese people are keenly watching the outcome of the navy court of inquiry that will decide whether to discipline the *Greeneville*'s captain and two other officers.

Japan was also awaiting a response from the US government to its request to raise the sunken *Ehime Maru*. However, experts say it would be technically difficult and could take months.

THE STATESMAN

25 FEB 2001

# Japan, U.S. seek to repair relationship

By F. J. Khergamvala

**TOKYO, FEB. 24.** Japan has exploited the submarine incident, and those preceding it, to maintain the pressure on the U.S., which in turn has reacted with humility, while postponing discussions of substance.

To cap all other steps to mollify Japanese public opinion, later this week, the U.S. is sending Adm. William J. Fallon, the Vice-Chief of Naval Operations, with a formal letter of apology from Mr. George W. Bush over the death of nine people following the sinking of a fishing boat by an American submarine. The healing of wounds was best done by the Bush Administration, and almost every Japanese media organ has recognised that. In a nation sick of cover-ups by public officials, this is in sharp contrast to the great ire against the initial cloak of secrecy presented by the U.S. Navy.

There is allround acknowledgement that there is a serious situation, if not a crisis, but the enormous depth, mutual interest, regional circumstances and business interests far outweigh other considerations. The silver lining is that both the Bush Administration and the post-Mori Government that takes over in Japan will go the extra mile to repair the relationship. There are the habitual critics of the U.S. Marines' presence in Okinawa who have seized upon a series of acts of personal misdemeanour to reiterate their demand that the forces pull back to Hawaii and Guam. Dr. Chalmers Johnson, the better known among the advocates of such a redeployment, wrote in the *Los Angeles Times* that Mr. Bill Clinton just did not have the credibility to influence the Pentagon to take such drastic steps. "The U.S.S. Greenville (the



Adm. William J. Fallon

submarine involved in the February 10 accident) will be an important test case," of whether his team of former Defence Secretaries and retired Generals can get the "services back into line."

It is highly doubtful if the Japanese themselves have placed on their agenda such a drastic measure. Most indications are that the Japanese Defence Agency and the Foreign Ministry will reach an accommodation to apply the maximum psychological pressure to keep the U.S. publicly on the defensive to a point where incremental gains can accrue.

The Foreign Minister, Mr Yohei Kono is in Okinawa on a trip intended to speak to two audiences, as part of a bilateral damage limita-

tion exercise. He will meet citizens' groups on the Status of Forces Agreement. And, he will meet top U.S. Marine Corps officials. Broadly, Japan seeks greater power for its own police to arrest and prosecute offending U.S. soldiers. The U.S. resists such demands, not just in Japan but in all sovereign bases. But, each incident in Okinawa has forced the U.S. into concessions.

The U.S. Navy Court of Inquiry ordered is only the fifth in history. The Defence Secretary has suspended the practice of civilians being at controls over certain operational vehicles at land, sea and in air.

It is premature to surmise that the incident will be used by Japan to adopt a more independent defence posture. What is likely is that the U.S. will have to be equally forceful, but less public in achieving its intention of getting Japan to contribute more troops and equipment for a wider regional role.

With a Japanese Prime Minister almost in a political paralysis, the task of explaining to the Japanese certain cultural differences and legal rights of Americans, as well as seeking quick redress from Washington DC, was left to the U.S. Ambassador in Tokyo, Mr. Thomas Foley, a Clinton appointee.

In a deft public performance over the past few days, Mr. Foley humbly explained certain cultural differences about retrieval of bodies and implications why Japanese demands for a personal media appearance by the submarine's skipper, Cmdr. Scott Waddle must be subordinated to his legal rights. Eventually, he promised the fullest transparency, made in the U.S., not Japan.

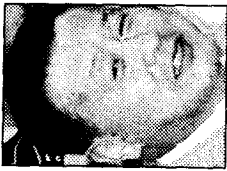
THE HINDU

25 FEB 2001

# Boat mishap puts strain on U.S.-Japan ties

By Harvey Stockwin  
The Times of India News Service

HONG KONG: The United States Navy's nuclear submarine, USS *Greeneville*, did not merely cause a tragic incident when it inadvertently sank the Japanese fishing vessel, *Ehime Maru*, in Hawaiian waters causing the deaths of five fishermen and four students.



Yoshiro Mori

The *Greeneville* also torpedoed the hopes of the Bush administration for a smooth start to its relationships with Asia. Worse than that, the accident greatly accentuated an ongoing tension in the U.S.-Japan defence relationship which both Tokyo and Washington continue to stress is vital to their interests.

Also, the incident may bring an early end to the prime ministership of Yoshiro Mori. It was believed that Mr Mori would be allowed to stay on as Prime Minister until the summer election for the Upper House of Councillors, when he could conveniently take responsibility for a likely defeat of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party by resigning his office.

Now even that possibility looks unlikely. Mr Mori forgot that, in the age of instant televised news, image is all. Informed of the *Ehime Maru*

tragedy, Mr Mori continued his round of golf at a course in Yokohama in the not unreasonable belief that there was nothing he could immediately do. Mr Mori's gaffes often indicate a preference for the 1930s. But this time he forgot completely that he was Prime Minister in 2001 and that Japan's voracious media were putting together instant crisis coverage while putting the national leader happily playing holes 15 to 18 at a plush country club.

So, now Mr Mori is all set to become the 10th casualty of the *Ehime Maru* disaster. LDP factions are manoeuvring in the now certain knowledge that defeat will be the greater if Mr Mori stays at the helm until the upper house election. Not to be outdone, the opposition is pushing for a no-confidence vote. If Mr Mori survives to the LDP annual convention in mid-March, it will be a surprise. However, the greatly increased tension in U.S.-Japan relations as a result of the *Ehime Maru* tragedy is not a surprise. By itself, the sinking of the vessel and the consequent loss of life would have been bad enough, the more so given the unfortunate presence of civilians in the *Greeneville* at the time of the accident.

But the tragedy comes as a climax to a recent series of incidents, all of which have weakened the willingness of Japanese public opinion to go on hosting nearly 50,000 U.S. servicemen in numerous military bases.

Crimes and outrages against Japanese citizens may not be as frequent as they are made to seem, but when they happen they inevitably get far more publicity than similar crimes committed by Japanese against each other.

Even when the Americans seek to improve matters, something goes badly wrong. Thus, the commander of U.S. forces in Okinawa, Lt. Gen. Earl Hailston, recently sent an e-mail to his commanders, urging stricter discipline. Unfortunately, he referred to local politicians in derogatory terms: "I think they are all nuts and a bunch of wimps." Even more unfortunately, the confidential e-mail leaked out.

The Japanese media had another field day and Lt. Gen. Hailston has had to do a lot of apologising in the last few weeks. In the wake of the action of the *Greeneville*, the whole of the U.S. administration from President Bush downwards has been profuse in its apologies but that cannot of course ease the pain and anger which many Japanese undoubtedly feel.

More and more Japanese are against hosting U.S. forces in Japan, and it could damage an alliance which the Japanese government still considers crucial to the national interest. In the longer term, current tensions can be resolved only if there is a Japanese political leadership capable of persuading the voters that the alliance with the U.S. is still vital.

## Japan wants U.S. to explain

HD-16  
1972

**UWAJIMA (JAPAN), FEB. 16.** Amid rising anger and distrust here on Friday, Japanese officials sought an explanation on why civilians were at the controls of a U.S. Navy submarine when it smashed into a Japanese fishing vessel off Hawaii.

Mr. Isataka Horita, principal of the high school that owned the boat, said on Friday he was torn between returning and staying in Hawaii until the missing are found.

"It was very painful for me to come back from Hawaii, leaving nine people still missing and their families," he said, wiping away tears with a handkerchief. "The top priority for me is to see that they are rescued, and I need to know who is responsible."

Mr. Horita, who returned to Uwajima on Thursday night, said he was "enraged" to hear that civilians were allowed at the controls of the submarine, echoing anger that news of the civilians' activities came from U.S. media reports rather than from government investigators.

Japanese are urging the Americans to continue searching for those missing since the Feb. 9 accident: four 17-year-old students, two teachers and three crew members.

"Even though it might eventu-

ally become clear that there's little hope, families want to actually see their dead and hug them, to help them come to terms with it," Mr. Horita said.

The USS Greenville, practicing a quick surfacing manoeuvre, rocketed into the Ehime Maru, which was carrying Japanese high school students on a fisheries training mission, and sent it to the bottom of the sea. Of the 35 people aboard, 26 were rescued.

The U.S. regional Consul-General, Mr. Robert Ludan, visited Ehime Prefecture Gov., Mr. Moriyuki Kato, on Friday to apologise. He was the first U.S. official to visit the prefecture and issue a public apology. They met privately afterward.

"We are determined to find out what actually happened," Mr. Ludan said in Uwajima.

Mr. John Hall, a civilian, told NBC TV on Thursday that he pulled control levers just before the emergency surfacing drill began, with a crew member right next to him.

Another civilian, Mr. Todd Thoman, told NBC that a periscope was "most definitely" used to check the ocean surface before the drill. The captain checked through the periscope and saw no vessel, Mr. Thoman said. — AP

THE HINDU

17 FEB 2001

# Rescue efforts continue, US apologises to Japan

Honolulu, Hawaii, February 11

US COAST Guard and navy rescue boats and helicopters continued to search for survivors from a sunken Japanese fishing boat early Sunday, as US media reported that the commander of the submarine that struck the ship had been reassigned. Navy commander Scott Waddle will serve with a different staff until an investigation is completed into what caused the nuclear-powered sub, the USS Greeneville, to collide with the trawler. CNN reported. Meanwhile, rescuers continued to comb a wide area of ocean off the Hawaiian island of Oahu in the hopes of finding alive any of the nine people missing from the Japanese boat which sank on being struck by the Greeneville.

Chief Petty Officer Gary

Openshaw, a coast guard spokesman in Hawaii, said rescuers remained optimistic that other survivors might still be alive in the bath water-warm ocean and relatively calm, three-foot (one-meter) high waves.

Families of the missing were expected to arrive in Honolulu Sunday to be near the recovery effort. The submarine had been practising an emergency surfacing manoeuvre when the collision occurred.

Twenty-six of the 35 people on board the Japanese fishing vessel were rescued on Friday. Twelve were taken to hospital with the most serious injury being a possible broken collarbone, Coast Guard spokesman Lieutenant Greg Foxdran said. The other 14 were taken by Japanese diplomats to a hotel.

At the time of the accident, the students were

observing tuna stocks and learning to become commercial fishermen. One of the three missing crewmen, the ship's chief radio officer, was said to be on his last voyage before retirement.

In relatively mild temperatures, there was still hope that more survivors might be found, and the Coast Guard said it would continue to survey an area of some 780 square kilometers (300 square miles).

"The water is 77 degrees (25 degrees Celsius) - there are good chances they would still be alive. We are still hopeful," a Coast Guard spokesman said.

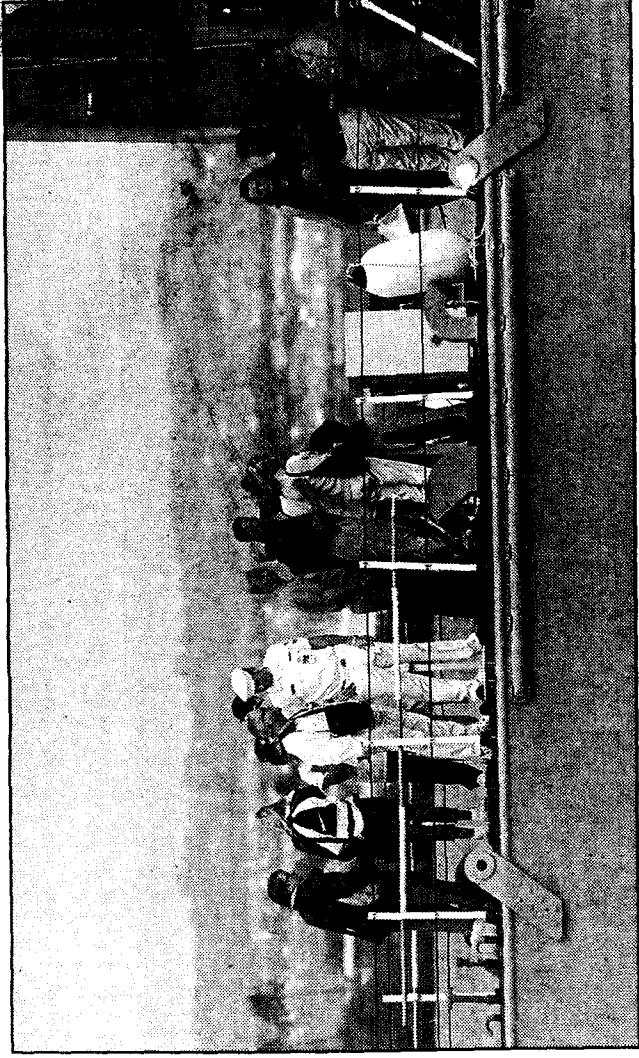
Meanwhile, Admiral Tom Fargo, of the US Pacific Fleet, told reporters that when it struck the boat, the submarine had been practising an emergency surfacing manoeuvre as it headed for port after a day at sea.

There was no emergency, but this is an operation that we do on a regular basis, and all of the operations were very normal and not hazardous," Fargo said.

Naval experts cited by CNN indicated that under training conditions, such an emergency surfacing is normally preceded by electronic soundings and visual inspection of the surface with a periscope. The submarine would then return deep below the surface before practising the emergency manoeuvre.

The Greeneville, which suffered minor scratches, returned to port in Pearl Harbour Saturday afternoon, Navy spokesman Captain Kevin Winsing said.

The 360-foot-long (110 meter) Greeneville carries a crew of 126 sailors and 16 officers. "Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families... we very much regret and apologise for this tragic accident," Fargo



Civilians who were aboard the US Navy submarine during the collision with the Japanese fishing vessel, being transported back to Pearl Harbour, Hawaii, on Saturday. Photo: AFP

in a statement. US Secretary of State Colin Powell on Saturday phoned his Japanese counterpart, Yohei Kono, to apologise, State Department spokesman David Denny said, adding that the secretary of state also relayed President George W. Bush's condolences. Powell's apology comes on the heels of another incident that could strain Japanese-US relations.

12 FEB 2001

# U.S.-Japan ties under test

By F. J. Khergamvala

**TOKYO, FEB. 11.** A series of recent mishaps are both a test and a reminder of the close U.S.-Japan relationship and of assurances from both sides that during the Bush Administration things will get better. On Saturday (Friday in Hawaii), a U.S. Navy submarine surfaced and in an apparently inexplicable error, sank a Japanese fisheries training vessel about 20 km off the coast of Oahu island in Hawaii. Nine people of the Japanese boat of 35 are unaccounted for. This incident comes immediately after an Okinawa paper leaked an e-mail sent by the highest U.S. Marine General to his staff, where he described top Okinawan officials and legislators as "nuts and wimps". He was forced to apologise.

These and other local news such as the discovery of severed body parts of a young British night club artiste in a high profile murder case had provided the Government of Mr. Yoshiro Mori some respite from the adverse publicity surrounding two ongoing financial scandals. But, true to style, Mr. Mori demonstrated the gift of snatching defeat from the jaws of victory. From all these mishaps, the story that might eventually emerge is of another big Prime Ministerial gaffe.

The ruling Liberal Democratic Party's coalition ally, the New Komeito, homed in on Mr. Mori's reaction to the submarine incident. Mr. Takenori Kanzaki, the head of the party, told *Fuji TV* on Sunday that Mr. Mori was wrong in continuing to play golf for two and a half hours after being told about the accident. Mr. Mori's reaction to mediapersons was, "It would not get any of us anywhere if I rushed to the PM's residence and got all flustered." He insisted that continuing to play was the right thing to do.

In the last few days, U.S. and Japanese officials have moved quickly to give the appearance of correct conduct, or conduct being corrective. Gen. Colin Powell, the U.S. Secretary of State, and the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, were swift in making calls to their counterparts in Tokyo to apologise and condole relatives of the victims of the submarine accident. Earliest reports showed that it was the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, who initiated the chain of statements of regret.

Indeed, in a lesson that ought to be absorbed by the scape goat seeking Japanese, the U.S. Navy

has within a day of the incident, relieved the submarine commander of his duties, effectively ending a career.

In a relationship that is often tested by such incidents and the misjudgement of politicians, the other one is even more bizarre and a characteristic example of Okinawan politicians' mischief, compounded by a misjudgement by Lt. Gen. Earl Hailston, the top U.S. General in Okinawa. A month ago, a 21-year old U.S. soldier committed a humiliating act of voyeuristic indiscretion on a 16 year-old Japanese girl student. Amazingly, this was reason enough for the Okinawan Assembly to summon an extraordinary session to adopt a resolution calling for a reduction in U.S. Marines.

This provoked outrage from Lt. Gen. Hailston. In an e-mail to his senior staff officers, he expressed surprise that in private messages the Governor down to the Mayor had applauded the General's efforts to address the act of indiscipline, but the "nuts and a bunch of wimps" (Governor and the rest) were faulted for "standing idly by," while the Assembly passed the resolution. The *Ryukyū Shimpō* published the leaked e-mail, and the General was forced to go to the Governor and apologise.

In these cases, the U.S. has been at the receiving end and has behaved as befitting a great power, unlike a local Assembly in quest of one-upmanship. The U.S. embassy in Tokyo quickly promised to bear the cost of travel and accommodation for all relatives of the 35 people aboard the Ehime Maru.

Three crew members, four students and two teachers of the Uwajima Fisheries High School in south-western Japan were not located after 24 hours of search following the accident. The Ehime Maru sank quickly after the 6,080 tonne nuclear powered attack submarine, U.S.S. Greenville, executed what was described as an "emergency main-ballast blow," the surfacing of a submersible at very high speed.

The U.S. has ordered a full scale inquiry and absolved the Japanese vessel of any responsibility because the incident took place in an area used by civilian and military vessels. The Governor of Ehime province has demanded that the U.S. raise the sunken vessel to find the bodies which may be trapped in the compartments of the training craft.

THE HINDU

12 FEB 2001

# US N-sub rams Japanese boat, 10 missing

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10.

Ten people are missing after a US nuclear-powered naval submarine collided with a Japanese boat south-east of Honolulu this morning, sinking the boat, US officials said.

Twenty-five of the 35 people on board the vessel were rescued, a US Coast Guard spokesman, Lt Greg Fondran, said. The Coast Guard sent a helicopter to the scene "within minutes".

Japanese Coast Guard officials said the boat was a 499-tonne training ship, Ehime Maru, from Uwajima Fisheries High School on the Shikoku island.

The submarine, USS Greenville, based in Pearl Harbour north of Honolulu, seemed to have suffered no damage, director of naval media operations at the Pentagon, Commander Greg Smith, said. But there will be an investigation into the incident.

The submarine was on routine operations and "was surfacing when its stern appar-

ently collided with a motor vessel," he said.

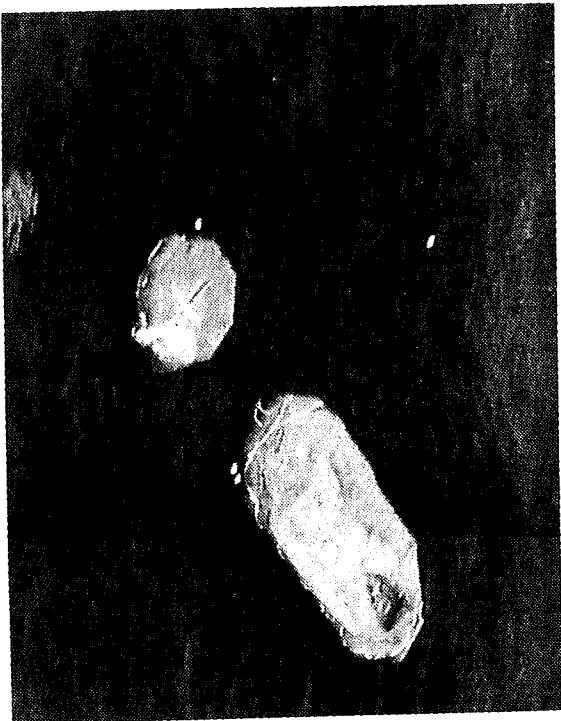
The cause of the collision is not yet known, but weather reports say winds at the time of the incident were blowing at 40 to 50 kntph.

There were initial reports of survivors from the boat floating on life rafts, but the extent of injuries was unknown. Of the missing, four were students of the fisheries school, two were teachers and three were professional crew members, the Japanese foreign ministry said.

Anxious parents and students were gathered at the fisheries school in Ehime Prefecture to await developments. "I am hoping and praying that they will be found safe and sound," the vice-principal said.

The submarine has remained on the surface and is helping rescue operations, officials said. Four US naval and coast guard vessels and two US aircraft are searching the area for the missing.

"Once we got there, we couldn't see anybody in the



Empty life rafts float on the Pacific Ocean after the submarine USS Greenville collided with a Japanese fishing boat on Saturday. — AP/PTI

water... Everybody that we could see was in life rafts," a US coast guard said. "There were a few people that had some injuries... One guy was complaining of a shoulder injury."

Most people in the life rafts

seemed to have suffered from inhaling fuel fumes. "One guy showed signs of hyperthermia. Everybody else was shaken up and pretty tired."

"We remain hopeful, but as the hours pass any chance of finding survivors diminishes,"



A TV screen shows the USS Greenville submarine as journalists work at a press centre set up at Uwajima Fisheries High School in Uwajima, 675 km southwest of Tokyo on Saturday. — AP/PTI

said a coast guard. Meanwhile, the USA has apologised for the accident, Japanese Prime Minister said today. "The US side has apologised and explained that it was doing its utmost in the search," Mr Mr Yoshio Mori

said. "Right now, we have to do everything possible to find missing people," he said. His chief cabinet secretary, Mr Yasuo Fukuda, said the apology could mean that the US side has acknowledged

that the submarine was responsible for the accident. "We must first do our best in rescuing the missing people. We then have to talk with the U.S. government to determine the cause of the incident," Mr Fukuda said.



# US nuke sub hits Japan trawler

Tokyo, Feb. 10 (Reuters): Rescuers scoured the seas off Hawaii today for nine Japanese, including four 17-year-old high school fisheries students, lost at sea after a US nuclear submarine struck and sank their fishing trawler in minutes.

"We remain hopeful, but as the hours pass any chance of finding survivors diminishes," said Coast Guard chief petty officer Gary Openshaw in Honolulu. The nine Japanese still unaccounted for were among 35 people on board. They are the four students on their first long voyage, two teachers and three crew, Japan's foreign ministry said. "The United States has apologised for the nine people lost," Prime Minister Yoshiko Mori said. "The most important thing now is the search for the missing people. I pray that

## 4 school students among 9 missing, 26 rescued near Hawaii

there is some way that we will be able to find them soon."

Coast Guard vessels were searching a 776 square km area throughout the night for the missing people. "As long as there's a chance that survivors are out there, we will continue to search," said Coast Guard commander Dee Norton. Anxious parents and students gathered at the Uwajima Marine and Fisheries High School in Ehime Prefecture on Japan's main southern island of Shikoku to await developments. "I am hoping and praying that they will be found safe and sound," vice-principal Kazumitsu Joko said.

Most of the people aboard were

in the trawler's mess hall, the Coast Guard said. None of the survivors were wearing life jackets. The rescue operation involved two navy Seahawk helicopters and a Coast Guard rescue airplane as well as several ships in the area where the 499-tonne *Ehime Maru* sank, about nine miles south of Diamond Head off Hawaii, US navy officials said.

At least 26 people, including nine students, had been rescued from the trawler, which was being used to train the second-year fisheries students and was observing tuna stocks, Japanese Coast Guard officials said. Eight of the rescued were injured and had

been taken to hospital, the foreign ministry said.

The U.S. navy said the collision involving the 7,000-tonne *USS Greeneville*, a nuclear attack submarine based in Pearl Harbor, occurred at 11.45 pm GMT yesterday. "A US submarine on routine operations was surfacing when its stern apparently collided with a motor vessel," said Lt. Jenson Sommer, a Navy spokeswoman at the Pentagon. "The motor vessel subsequently sank," she said.

Japanese broadcaster NHK quoted the *Ehime Maru*'s captain as saying: "The submarine surfaced suddenly and collided with us." Television showed several gashes between 10 and 20 metres long in the hull of the submarine as well as a deep dent in the middle of the vessel.

# Japan gets welcome signal from Bush

By F. J. Khergamwala

**TOKYO, JAN. 25.** There is an old saying, "beware of answered prayers."

Japan received a welcome answer to its not-so-silently expressed hopes that with the incoming Bush Administration, the U.S.'s closest ally would be treated like a close ally. This may have been a pointed expression of concern about how the Clinton Administration mistreated Japan and developed the "China card", but Japan is likely to face great demands from the U.S. too and they may entail paying a higher price to China.

On Wednesday, the Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori, got a welcome call from the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, who told the Japanese leader, "You are one of the leaders I call first. This is a symbol of the close relationship between the U.S. and Japan," according to Japanese officials briefing the media privately. This was an important symbolism no doubt, taken in tandem with a familiar conversation between Mr. Bush and Mr. Kim Dae Jung of South Korea.

The *Yomiuri Shinbun* reported

# U.S. for improving ties with Japan, says Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, JAN. 25.** The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush has told the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshiro Mori that he would like to further develop the bilateral relations and has also called for an early summit of the two leaders. Mr. Bush spoke to Mr. Mori on Wednesday morning. "You are one of the leaders I call first. This is a symbol of the close relationship between the United States and Japan," Mr. Bush is quoted as having told the Japanese Premier.

Indications are that Mr. Mori will be travelling to the U.S. to meet the new American President in February or March. A more definite schedule is likely to emerge later this week when the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, meets his Japanese counterpart, Mr. Yohei Kono. The meeting is due to take place this Friday. Gen. Powell, in his confirmation hearings before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, called for closer relations with allies and friends in the Asia Pacific, especially Japan.

The Bush administration, even before formally assuming office, had made it quite clear that it was for furthering relations with Japan, which in its view had been given the short shrift during the Clinton administration. The perception of the new Republican administration is that to humour the leadership in Beijing, the Clinton administration had downgraded the special meaning and significance

on Thursday that Mr. Mori will fly to Washington for a meeting with Mr. Bush on Feb. 10 and return by the night of Feb. 12, just in time to greet the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the following day. The Foreign Minister, Mr. Yohei Kono, is off to the U.S. capital where he breaks bread with the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, on Friday and does the nuts and bolts of the working level summit a fortnight later. The Japanese daily said that the last time a Japanese Prime Minister went to the U.S. for immediate post-inauguration talks was when Mr. George Bush became President in 1989.

These exchanges, within four days of the new administration taking over in the U.S. and the telephone call have made the Japanese feel once again that the nice words said about U.S.-Japan friendship by Mr. Bush and by Gen. Powell in his Senate Committee confirmatory hearings were not empty gestures. Moreover, certain officials appointed by Mr. Bush are very familiar with Japan and have even kept in regular contact with top officials in Tokyo throughout the long U.S. presidential campaign.

The most refreshing assurances to the relationship come from the new White House Economic Adviser, Mr. Lawrence Lindsey, who called the Clinton policy towards Japan as one of "neglect, verging on abuse." He joined the new U.S. Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick, in seeking a policy that does not elevate every trade dispute to a political level.

Lest Japan place too much store by a telephone call, it must note that the first foreign envoy to be received by Gen. Powell was that from China. Even though it might have been sheer necessity of timing that influenced this other symbolism (the Chinese envoy was making a farewell call), Japanese academics have also noted that China's next ambassador in Washington is a close family friend of the elder and younger Bushes, a relationship cultivated over 24 years.

Through Mr. Kono's visit, Japan wants to put security back on the U.S.-Japan agenda as a priority subject. *Kyodo News* said Mr. Kono will suggest a bilateral panel on security to Gen. Powell. There is much to be analysed on this front, but in general, one can say that when the two sides get down

to the nitty-gritty, Japan will be faced with greater demands on its military, not just monetary, contribution to a U.S.-Japan security treaty that is now wider in scope. If anything, to heal wounds caused by its apparent uncabated tilt towards China, the Clinton Administration did not lean too much on Japan on defence issues. Japan could pay a big price in relations with China for involvement in the U.S. missile defence scheme.

Emphasis on security may not mean playing down the economic and trade aspects. On the contrary, the former U.S. Commerce Secretary, Mr. Norman Mineta, of Japanese extraction, who is now the new Transportation Secretary in the Bush team, has fired two salvos. Mr. Mineta said the trade deficit in favour of Japan is back on the agenda. Japan's trade surplus with the U.S. rose by 8.9 per cent in 2000, according to official figures. He has now called for Haneda airport, close to Tokyo, be reopened for U.S. carriers. This is going to cause another headache for Japan. Japan will soon be reminded that in the post-Cold War era, maintenance of alliances come at some cost.

# U.S. for improving ties with Japan, says Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

of the U.S.-Japan relations. When the Japanese Foreign Minister visits Washington, the U.S. and Japan may agree to set up a panel to discuss security issues and policy in the context of the guidelines that have been agreed upon but those which have been viewed with apprehension by China. The Bush administration, even while talking about enhanced cooperation with Japan, will be leaning on Tokyo to play a bigger role in defence issues regionally.

But the question is how much of a role will Tokyo want to play in the Bush administration's emphasis on Japan in the Asia-Pacific. While emphasising that Washington did not wish to upset the present scheme of things with China, the incoming Bush administration has also made it clear that it did not consider China as a strategic partner, rather it was a strategic competitor. The question is if Japan is ready for the regional implications of a deeper strategic role with the U.S.

The bilateral aspects of relations aside, if the Japan part of the Asia-Pacific relationship is fine-tuned, then there will be a definite response from China. China has long maintained that Washington and Tokyo are exaggerating the threat perceptions in East Asia by way of North Korea — to enhance military cooperation for two purposes: contain China and protect Taiwan. But conservative Republicans are unlikely to lose any sleep on what China might say.