

US PM

# Bush for decisive Pak. action against extremists

HD-11  
28/12

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, DEC. 30.** In his first personal call to the leaders of India and Pakistan to defuse the crisis in South Asia, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has called on the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to "eliminate extremists who seek to harm India", even while appreciating what has been done by him thus far.

"The President urged Gen. Musharraf to take additional, strong and decisive measures to eliminate extremists who seek to harm India, undermine Pakistan, provoke a war between India and Pakistan and destabilise the international coalition against terrorism," the White House spokesman, Mr. Scott McClellan said in Crawford, Texas.

In his call to Gen. Musharraf from his ranch in Texas, Mr. Bush is said to have appreciated Pakistan's support for the campaign against terrorism and also applauded Islamabad's efforts to rein in the "extremists operating in and from Pakistan" who harmed India. Mr. Bush also called for "more dramatic steps" against the terror groups.

In the course of his conversation with the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, Mr. Bush informed him that the U.S. was "determined to cooperate with India in its fight against terrorism". According to the White House, Mr. Bush reiterated his outrage over the attack on the Indian Parlia-

ment of December 13, "noting that it was a strike against democracy".

The Bush administration has once again called for restraint by the two countries. The timing and message of the President's call are seen in the context of a broader international effort to have India and Pakistan defuse tensions along the border.

In the last several days, apart from a number of international leaders telephoning leaders of India and Pakistan, senior officials of the Bush administration, especially the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, have been working the lines.

Mr. Bush also placed a call to the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, who is due to visit India shortly. According to the White House Mr. Bush and Mr. Blair discussed ways in which the U.S. and Britain could cooperate to ease tensions in South Asia.

Apart from a genuine concern that the tension and rhetoric might get out of hand leading to catastrophic results, Washington is worried that the situation might escalate and have an impact on its ongoing operations in Afghanistan. The U.S. is also worried that several or all of the Pakistani battalions now patrolling the border with Afghanistan would be withdrawn and deployed on the Indian side if hostilities break out.

The concern of re-deployment of Pakistani troops and loss of airspace has been pointedly voiced by the Defence Secretary, Mr. Do-

nald Rumsfeld. In fact, Pakistan has been making a point of reminding Washington of this prospect in part to have the Republican administration put more pressure on India to back off.

Media reports here have it that Pakistani troops have indeed started moving away from checkpoints along the Afghan border, but Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, has maintained that his Government has not yet pulled troops from the Afghanistan border, but added that it might have to do so.

## Mansingh praises Bush

**WASHINGTON, DEC. 30.** The Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Mr. Lalit Mansingh, said today that the U.S. President, George W. Bush, is playing a very constructive role in asking the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to take strong and decisive steps to "eliminate" Pakistani terrorist groups.

"That is what we are asking for," Mr. Mansingh told Fox News television. Indian troops have been sent to the border, not to attack Pakistan. They are there to attack terrorism. Therefore, "we (the U.S. and India) are on the same side," he said. "The message Mr. Bush has sent Gen. Musharraf is timely and we hope that Pakistan will get the message," he said. — PTI

THE HINDU

31 DEC 2001

## Bush 'pat' for the General

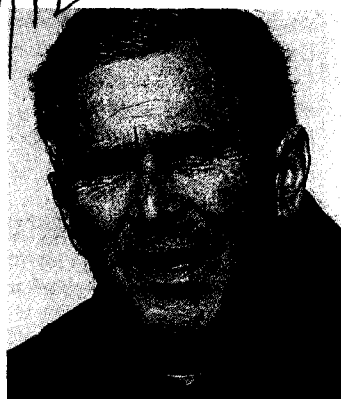
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 28. The United States President, Mr. George W. Bush, has asked India to note that the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has announced the arrest of 50 terrorists and extremists.

Praising Gen. Musharraf for responding "forcefully and actively" to the Indian request to crack down on terrorists, Mr. Bush said his administration was working actively to bring some calm to the region.

"I am pleased to note that President Musharraf has announced the arrest of fifty extreme terrorists, extremists or terrorists. I hope India takes note of that, that the President is responding forcefully and actively to bring those who would harm others to justice," Mr. Bush said in response to a question at his ranch in Crawford, Texas.

Asked if he believed that India and Pakistan were moving to-



wards a war, Mr. Bush said "one of the things we discussed today in the national security conference, and I discussed yesterday with members of my national security team, was the India-Pakistan issue. (The U.S. Secretary of State) Gen. Colin Powell has spoken to both sides today, urging restraint, urging calm."

"My Government and my administration are working actively

to bring some calm in the region, hopefully to convince both sides to stop the escalation of force. And I am pleased that President Musharraf is responding to the Indian request to round up those who do harm to others and incarcerate them, which he did," Mr. Bush said, adding that he had not spoken to the leaders of India and Pakistan yet. "I will if need be."

# Bush pat perks up Pak

HT Correspondents  
New Delhi/Washington/  
Islamabad, December 28

PRESIDENT BUSH today complemented General Pervez Musharraf's crackdown on terrorists, prompting an emboldened Pakistan to declare that it would not follow the US example of banning Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed and would do so only if there is enough "evidence" against the two.

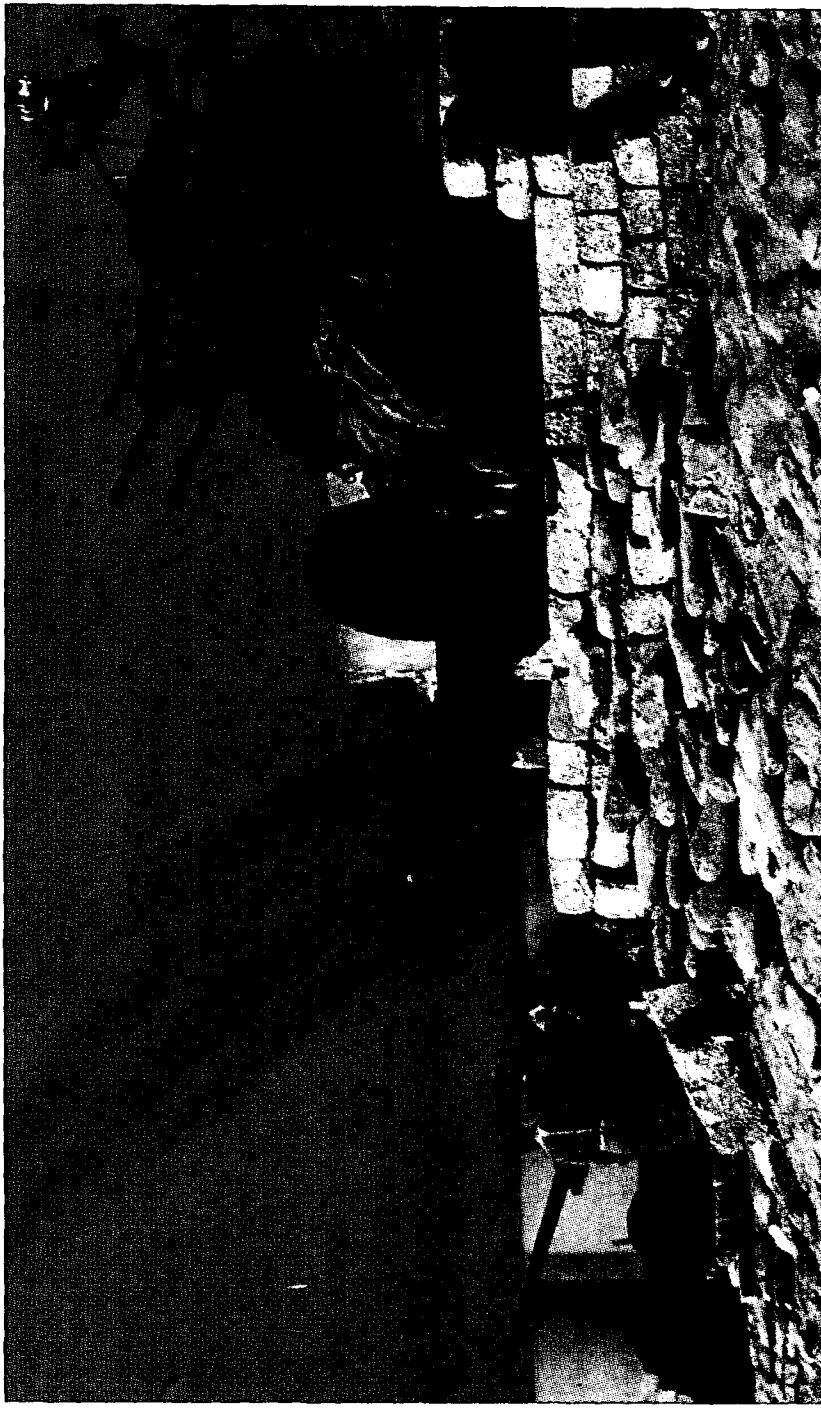
"I'm pleased to note that President Musharraf has announced the arrest of 50 terrorists. I hope India takes note that the President is responding forcefully and actively to bring those who harm others to justice," Bush said, urging the two sides to cool down.

Bush said Secretary of State Colin Powell had spoken to the two sides during the day, urging them to restore calm. His administration would work actively in this direction, he added.

Last week, Bush had asked Musharraf to go after Lashkar and Jaish. The US then shared the evidence provided by India on their involvement in the Parliament attack.

Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said: "The US action is applicable within the territory of US. As far as Pakistan is concerned, every group and organisation is under watch. If we find any evidence against any individual or group indulging in any undesirable activity, action will be taken."

Defence spokesman Maj-Gen Rashid Qureshi denied that the US had forwarded evidence of the two groups' link to December 13. "No evidence at all has been provided from anyone. I do not think there is any relationship of these two groups with the action taken by the US and what happened at the Indian Parliament."



Pakistani troops fix anti-aircraft guns near an oil depot in Karachi on Friday.

In a bid to tighten the screw on Islamabad, India today accused Pakistan of being the "epicentre" of terrorism and drew up a list of nearly 30 terrorists and criminals, including Jaish chief Masood Azhar and Dawood Ibrahim. The wanted list also features the five hijackers of IC-814, underworld operators accused in the 1993 Mumbai blasts — Tiger Memon and Chhota Shakeel — and several top terrorists.

For the first time today, Pakistani officials expressed fears that India might really launch a war offensive. Qureshi told a

news briefing: "It is at least India's desire to attain offensive capability. It has moved surface-to-surface missiles on its borders and it seems that India is putting itself in a corner where it will be difficult for it to back off."

Pakistan is, in fact, considering a war surcharge and ban on heavy non-defence imports. Officials said the surcharge would be a minimum of 5 per cent. A list of items to be banned for import will be chalked out jointly by the Defence and Commerce Ministries. A meeting of business leaders is slated tomorrow

to discuss proposals to mobilise additional resources.

Former Pakistan Army chief Gen Mirza Aslam Beg has advised Gen Musharraf to remove Pakistan's paramilitary forces from the western border and deploy them in Kashmir. "The Air Force should be asked to provide cover to troops in Kashmir. India is determined to start a limited war in Kashmir and all possible measures should be taken to thwart its designs," he said. But he added that there was little possibility of war as "countries like the US,

Russia, China and Iran would not like to see a war between the two nuclear rivals, but their thinking on a limited war in Kashmir could be different".

Heavy artillery and anti-aircraft batteries have been deployed around Srinagar airport. Pakistani troops resorted to moderate shelling and heavy firing along the LoC in the Jammu-Poonch sector today, killing a boy and injuring four. There were heavy shelling in Slachen and Kargil also.

More reports on Page 9

AFP PHOTO

# U.S. ban on LeT, JeM puts Pak. in a fix

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 27. Pakistan is on the horns of a dilemma following the U.S. decision to formally designate the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad as Foreign Terrorist Organisations.

This was evident from the discomfort of the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson, Mr. Aziz Ahmed Khan, at the regular press briefing. His initial reaction was that he was not aware of any such move by the United States. To a query on whether he had not read news reports or watched television, he said: "we would get back to you on the subject later".

A senior official in the Musharraf Government said Pakistan, at the moment, had no intention of following the U.S. example. "What the Bush administration has done applies only for the United States. It is not obligatory on our part to ban these outfits. We are taking action against them for violation of laws and rules governing Pakistan".

However, the plain truth is that

the Musharraf regime does not want to be seen moving against them for a number of reasons. To begin with, ever since India demanded action against the two outfits for their alleged involvement in the December 13 attack on Parliament, Islamabad had insisted that New Delhi provide concrete evidence to substantiate its charges.

In other words, Pakistan was not prepared to accept the charges. If Islamabad were to accept the complicity of the two outfits in the attack, then logic would demand that it agree to New Delhi's demand for the arrest of the leaders of the outfits and hand them over to India for trial.

It appears that the Musharraf Government does not want to take any drastic step against the outfits at this juncture and pave way for instability within the country. "It would have to be a gradual process. The Musharraf Government cannot afford to be seen as acting under pressure from India", a senior western diplomat said.

THE HINDU

29 DEC 2001

29 DEC 2001



# U.S. believes Musharraf is sincere about cracking down on terrorists

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The United States has formally designated Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed as foreign terrorist organisations in an effort to allay New Delhi's concerns that it does not care about terrorism directed against India and cool tempers in the region.

The designation was on the cards for some time, but the state department formally made the call only on Wednesday amidst growing concern here that India was being pushed into a confrontation in the face of Islamabad's inaction over terrorism originating from Pakistan. While making the FTO designation, Washington also asked Pakistan to take action on its home front.

"Today I am taking another important step in our campaign to eliminate the scourge of terrorism. I am designating two groups, Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, as foreign terrorist organisations under U.S. law," secretary of state Colin Powell said in a statement.

While increasing the pressure on Pakistan, U.S. officials believe military ruler Pervez Musharraf is genuine in his intention to crack down on terrorist groups in his country and India should help him take action. Mr Powell said again, as have other senior officials, that the terrorist organisations were destroying relations between India and Pakistan, thereby implying that Islamabad was not officially supporting these groups now.

There has been no instance of either of the groups conducting terrorist strikes within Pakistan, but under Mr Powell, the state department appears inclined to provide Mr Musharraf a way out to act against the groups.

Designating these groups as foreign terrorist organisations and publishing that decision in the Federal Register, kicks in provisions of the U.S. Anti-terrorism and

Effective Death Penalty Act. The act makes it illegal for persons in the U.S. or subject to U.S. jurisdiction to provide material support to these terrorist groups; it requires U.S. financial institutions to block assets held by them; and it enables the U.S. to deny visas to representatives of these groups.

Mr Powell said that he made the decision in consultation with the attorney general and the secretary of the treasury after an exhaustive review of these groups violent activities.

Officials returning from a long Christmas weekend went into a huddle on Wednesday to attend to the rising India-Pakistan tensions, which kept situation rooms in the state department and White House alert through the holidays. The ini-



George W. Bush



Gen. Musharraf

tial word from the administration is that Mr Musharraf seems to be moving towards addressing India's concern and New Delhi should not push him into a corner with inflexible demands.

While India describes the steps taken by the Musharraf regime, including the detention and release of the Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Maulana Masood Azhar, as cosmetic, U.S. mandarins are more understanding of his domestic compulsions. They believe forcing Mr Musharraf into an excessively penitent position publicly will be counterproductive.

"We think he is coming around to taking action against extremists. He is moving," a state department official said. The official also added that Washington was not certain of the status of Masood Azhar, who he believed had been arrested for a

second time.

While the state department has been taking a soft and understanding line on Musharraf, other sections of the administration are pressing Pakistan for a sustained crackdown not just to address India's concerns, but as a part of the broader war against terrorism.

Islamabad is also being told that such a crackdown is in its own interest. But some analysts believe India too has to make some concessions to help Mr Musharraf address the problem. "He's going to need some public comment from India regarding Kashmir, even if it is only a semantic concession, to move forward," Stephen Cohen, a South Asia scholar at the Brookings Institution and a former state department official, said.

Asked if that was not tantamount to asking India to talk Kashmir at the point of a gun, Mr Cohen, whose views are often considered by the administration, said that India does not acknowledge a problem in Kashmir unless it is under pressure. "We have been going round this bush for 20-30 years. It is also time for India to change its position," Mr Cohen said.

The administration has not laid down any such line and is so far inclined to accept India's position that the terrorism problem it faces has now gone far beyond the Kashmir issue. In fact, senior administration officials, in several remarks on the situation, have pointedly not linked Kashmir to the terrorism issue.

Although the U.S. has been quick to send senior officials to the region to defuse previous flare-ups, no such visit was on the cards as of Wednesday, suggesting, Washington believes the situation is still under control. But senior principals in the Bush cabinet, including Mr Powell and national security adviser Condoleezza Rice, have been on the phone with Mr Musharraf and the Indian strategic leadership.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 DEC 2001

PAKISTAN SAYS BOTH GROUPS ILLEGAL, UNCONSTITUTIONAL -

58-1  
27/12

# USA declares JeM, LeT terror outfits

WS-PAK

## Agencies

WASHINGTON/ISLAMABAD, Dec. 26. — The USA today termed the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammed “foreign terrorist organisations” indicating their involvement in the attacks on Parliament and the J&K Assembly and hours later Pakistan followed with a statement of its own. The Pakistani foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, told PTV tonight that both outfits were “illegal and unconstitutional” armies.

The US Secretary of State, Mr Colin Powell, made the declaration, holding up India's position, at least tacitly, that the two Pakistan-based groups were responsible for the attack on Parliament. The Bush administration, however, maintains that it does not have definitive proof that the two groups carried out the bloody assault on 13 December. A US official speaking on condition of anonymity said the administration also has no reason to dispute India's contention. The USA also called for restraint on both sides saying that

the groups were involved in acts of terror in both countries to try and sabotage relations.

Mr Sattar said the reality that has emerged in recent months was the need to focus on the

### ‘Azhar held for airing anti-Musharraf views’

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 26. — The Jaish-e-Mohammed chief, Maulana Masood Azhar, was arrested mainly for domestic reasons and also because of American pressure, Hamid Mir, editor of Urdu daily *Ausaf*, said here today. He has been kept under house arrest since yesterday in Punjab.

Mir said Azhar's detention has more to do with his speeches and writings against the Musharraf government than the pressure from New Delhi. — PTI

mushroom growth of private armies in name of Lashkar, Jaish and Sipa which were illegal.

“This isn't 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.”

Mr Sattar said: “I think we have to examine the situation in Pakistan itself more closely. We've to examine the fact that there are organisations in Pakistan that have mushroomed, openly and blatantly claiming to be Siphas, Lashkars and Jaish.”

Pakistan today also urged India to pull back its troops to peacetime locations and said it would only move the “bare minimum” of its own forces to the border as tensions mounted between the two countries. A foreign ministry spokesman said Islamabad did not want to aggravate the situation and would like to resolve differences through dialogue.

Mr Powell had earlier said that the recent “attacks against Parliament and the Srinagar Assembly clearly show, the Lashkar, Jaish, and their ilk seek to assault democracy.

Editorial: Turning on the heat, page 4

THE STATESMAN

27 DEC 2001

LET SHIFTS MILITARY WING FROM LAHORE TO POK

# Pak freezes Lashkar assets

## Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 24. — In line with the US action, Islamabad today froze the assets and bank accounts of Pakistan-based terrorist outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyaba (LeT). Quitting his post, the LeT chief, Hafiz Muhammed Sayeed, announced the winding up of the organisation's activities in Pakistan. LeT will now be headed by Abdul Wahid, who is said to hail from Anantnag in Kashmir, and is now in Mecca.

The Pakistan Central Bank issued instructions to all the banks to implement the decision against LeT and Ummah Tameer-e-Nau (UTN) linked to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida.

Shortly after the government action, LeT leader Sayeed called a news conference in Lahore and said he decided to step down to "save Pakistan from the malicious Indian propaganda" and confine his activities to the preaching of religion. Sayeed said the organisation would now be guided by a 14-member General Council, which comprises mainly members from Kashmir.

He also announced the change of name of LeT's parent outfit from Markaz ad-

Dawa Wal Irshad to Jamaat ul Dawa.

The Lashkar-e-Tayyaba today also decided to move its militant wing to POK from Pakistan. "Lashkar-e-Tayyaba will continue its militant activities against the Indian Army in occupied Kashmir," Sayeed

to take action against Lashkar, a pan-Islamic outfit which waged holy war in Kashmir and Chechnya along with another Pak-based militant outfit, Jaish-e-Muhammad.

Saeed, however, denied that there was

## Pak redeploys N-capable missiles

### Agencies

sea, sources said here today.

Quoting officials, Pakistani daily *The News* said the navy has also commissioned its surveillance aircraft, such as the P-3 Orion, to collect maritime intelligence.

Pakistan has cancelled leave of troops 48 hours and moved its troops and airforce closer to the Sindh-Rajasthan and Punjab borders, besides deploying the naval flotilla of frigates and submarines engaged in aggressive patrolling of the

review the security situation.

said. He said the group had appointed a new commander to its militant wing, Maulana Abdul Wahid Kashmiri, a resident of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sayeed's announcement followed pressure from USA and India on Pakistan

today. Sayeed's announcement followed by Pakistani government's orders to freeze the accounts of Lashkar may provide a platform for USA and the international community to take diplomatic initiatives to ease tension between both the countries over the terrorist attack on the Parliament.

India blamed both Lashkar and Jaish-e-Muhammad for the attack and demanded arrest of the leaders of both the organisations.

While Pakistan insisted for a joint inquiry and evidence from India to act against the organisations, diplomatically, it became difficult for Pakistan to defend Lashkar and Jaish.

Pakistan is reported to have passed a similar order to freeze the accounts of Jaish when it was previously listed as a terrorist group by the USA a few weeks ago.

Meanwhile, opening a new front for the first time in 30 years, Pakistani troops tonight shelled border outposts and civilian areas along the International Border at Galard in Jammu, wounding three jawans.

The last time the place came under Pakistani mortars and heavy weaponry shelling was during the 1971 War.

THE STATESMAN

25 DEC 2001

# Get cracking on Lashkar, US <sup>RFI</sup> tells Pakistan

Washington, December 22 <sup>28/12</sup>

THE US has categorically asked Pakistan to take action against Jaish-e-Mohammad, Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and other terrorist organisations operating from the country.

There were unconfirmed reports that Pakistan has frozen Lashkar accounts.

"President Bush will support President Musharraf in his efforts against terrorism," said White House spokesman Ari Fleischer. "The President calls on him to take action against Lashkar, Jaish and other terrorist organisations, their leaders and their finances."

President Bush, said Fleischer, "has every confidence in President Musharraf's capacity" to act against the terrorists.

Though satisfied with the evidence given by India over the Parliament attack, US refuses to accept claims that the Pakistan Government was itself involved. "Now that there is the evidence, the US is confident Musharraf will act against them," said US State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

On the issue of India's action following the December 13 attack, he said: "India has to investigate and decide what to do in terms of appropriate action, and we will leave those decisions to India."

Boucher said India's decision to recall its High Commissioner from Pakistan and cut off rail and bus links are India's "internal matters... They are responsible for deciding what is in the best interest of the Indian people. We have urged India and Pakistan to avoid any escalation of tension and remain focused on fighting terrorism". Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

23 DEC 2001

# US sends crackdown message to Pak

FROM K.P. NAVAR

Washington, Dec. 15: The Bush administration has asked Pakistan to arrest leaders of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed to assuage Indian anger on the attack on Parliament.

Sources privy to the administration's response to the terrorist outrage said General Pervez Musharraf is being prodded by Washington through diplomatic channels.

The administration's objective is to act in America's interest of lowering tension in South Asia at a time when the fight to capture or kill Osama bin Laden is credited by the Pentagon to be in its most crucial phase.

American officials in New Delhi are understood to have communicated to South and North Blocks the Bush administration's decision to urge Musharraf to act against the two terrorist outfits.

The Prime Minister's Office (PMO) has opted for patience and will see whether Washington's counsel will prevail in Islamabad. Delhi's next step will depend on whether Pakistan actually restrains militants operating across the border.

Even as the administration is prodding Islamabad to act, General Francis Taylor, the state department's coordinator for counter-terrorism, is preparing to go to India.

The visit by Taylor, who earlier headed the Air Force Office of Special Investigations dealing with counter-intelligence and major criminal matters, will be within the framework of the Indo-US joint working group on counter-terrorism.

The entity that he heads is one of the two agencies whose help was promised to India by President George W. Bush in his phone conversation with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee after the attack on Parliament.

State department spokesman

Richard Boucher acknowledged that India had not taken up the offer of FBI assistance "at this point".

In a public reaction that pleased Delhi, Boucher continued to stick to the state department's initial line that those who attacked Parliament should be brought to justice.

"The Indian government, as we understand, is still investigating the situation. So first and foremost, we think that they will try to figure out to find out who was responsible for these horrible acts, and take appropriate action on that. That is what we look to them to do. I think it would be premature for us to start reacting in any other way until they have done that," he said.

Such a public response still falls far short of the virtual endorsement by the Bush administration of Israeli actions against Palestinians.

The US today went so far as to veto an innocuous UN Security Council resolution affirming the "essential role" of the Palestinian Authority. (See Page 4)

Underlying such double standard on the part of America is a deep division within the Bush administration on how to go about dealing with the situation in South Asia after Thursday's violence.

There are many powerful voices in the White House, the state department and other agencies favouring expediency and US national interest above morality or principles.

These voices will continue to be raised during debates with the administration in favour of asking India for restraint in Kashmir and across the Line of Control (LoC).

Musharraf has this week provided a shot in the arm to those in Washington who favour expediency by virtually handing over Jacobabad air base in Sindh province to the US and withdrawing all but a handful of Pakistani liaison officers from the base. (See Page 6)



AB Vajpayee with Amjad Ali Khan after conferring the Deshikottama on him. Picture by Pradip Sanyal

FROM SUNANDO SARKAR

Santiniketan, Dec. 15: The shadow of terrorism fell on Santiniketan, Tagore's "abode of peace", as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee used his convocation address to accuse terror-exporting countries of converting religious schools into "factories of terror".

Later in Calcutta, Vajpayee said India has reached the limits of its tolerance.

Indian troops could have crossed the border during the Kargil war but "we exercised restraint and only snatched back our land. We have reached the limits of our tolerance. We will face terrorism with all our might," the Prime Minister said. He said India has launched a diplomatic mission to garner support for the campaign against terror.

Vajpayee's visit to Santiniketan bore the scars of Thursday's attack on Parliament. The text of his speech was hastily amended and printed at the Raj Bhavan press in Calcutta and the ceremonial handing over of *saptaparnis* to students passing out of Tagore's university was skipped, generating ill will (See Page 9).

Without naming Pakistan, the Prime Minister, the chancellor of Visva-Bharati University, spoke of September 11 and December 13 in the same vein. "We saw it (the effects of terrorism using religion as a mask) on September 11 and we have seen it again on December 13," he said.

But the prime

## PM's patience at break-point

target of his tirade against terrorism — Visva-Bharati old-timers could not recall any chancellor's speech being loaded with so much political rhetoric — remained Pakistan.

"Before the terrorists' hands are trained to kill, their minds are trained to hate," Vajpayee said. "Its promoters in our neighbourhood have even turned schools meant for religious education into factories of terror," he added.

The Prime Minister said he knew of "other appropriate ways" to tackle terrorism. Admitting that he was constrained to think of "other ways" on the campus of Tagore's university, Vajpayee reasoned: "They (terrorists and their sponsors) are beyond the pale of humanity."

But the speech was not the only way terror stalked the chancellor to the university; the procedure involved in getting the speech booklets to Santiniketan revealed how peace was the last thing on Vajpayee's mind even in the "abode of peace".

The booklets, in a deviation from the practice of being printed at Santiniketan, were produced at the Raj Bhavan press, officials said. "The Prime Minister himself got into the act of incorporating major changes in the speech," a varsity official said.

Officials said the booklets were in "real danger" of arriving late. They finally reached Santiniketan in time in a helicopter with Vajpayee and were distributed a few minutes into the programme.

### QUOTE

We have reached the limits of our tolerance

AB VAJPAYEE

## Pervez shakes iron fist

Islamabad, Dec. 15 (Agencies): Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has warned India against any "adventurism" and cast doubts on Delhi's evidence against the Lashkar-e-Toiba.

"I would like to warn that any adventurism against Pakistan on this issue will be met with force. I'd like to warn against any precipitous action by the Indian government against Pakistan."

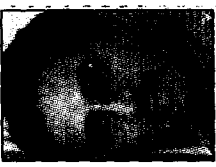
He said the Indian government would lead to very serious repercussions. It must not be done," Musharraf told the state-run Pakistan Television.

The President said he has already condemned the attack in the "strongest terms". Musharraf added that he would cooperate in trying to find out who was responsible for the attack as long as there was evidence against any individual or group in Pakistan.

"We will take action against anybody from Pakistan involved in these acts, if at all proved," Musharraf said.

"Having said this," he added, "whatever our analysis is that the proof is inadequate at the moment. In fact, there are indications which may implicate a design behind this operation. We need concrete evidence that it is a terrorist act."

Musharraf said the degree of rhetoric from India is rising through its media.



Musharraf

President KR Narayanan presents the Best Actress Award to Raveena Tandon at National Film Award function in Delhi on Wednesday. — AP/PTI (Report on page 2)

# 'Pak detains Osama's N-bomb advisers'

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. — Pakistan has detained or questioned, at the CIA's instance, seven associates, including generals, of the two Pakistani nuclear scientists — Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood and Abdul Majid — who briefed Osama bin Laden on nuclear weapons and nuclear material that could be shaped into a bomb, the *Washington Post* said.

The two scientists used a "relief agency" of Mahmood, Tameer-e-Nau (Islamic Reconstruction), as the front to visit Kabul, where the two met Mullah Omar who introduced them to Osama.

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, an army one-star general, a third nuclear scientist, a well-known Pakistani industrialist and at least one financial officer of the organisation. The two air-force officers, the third nuclear scientist and the industrialist have been released. Others remain in detention," the paper said today..

The scientists, the *Post* said from Islamabad, have told investigators they had had long talks on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons with Osama in Kabul in August. Osama had indicated to Mahmood and Majid that he had obtained or had access to some radiological material that he said had been acquired for him by the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan.

The scientists reportedly said Osama had asked them how the material could be made into a weapon or something usable.

They claimed they told him it

wouldn't be possible to manufacture a weapon with the material he might have. The scientists insisted that they had provided no material or specific plans to Osama, but held wide-ranging "academic discussions," Pakistani officials said.

"They spoke extensively (with Osama) about weapons of mass destruction," an official said. He described the scientists as "very motivated" and "extremist" in their ideas, but said: "They were discussing things that didn't materialise, but fall under the breaking secrets Act."

Pakistani officials told the *Post* that they believed the two scientists, being questioned for over two months now, used the relief organisation as a cover to conduct talks with Bin Laden.

**Deadline passes without Al-Qaida surrender, page 6**

## 'Bin Laden's escaped to Pak'

BOSTON, Dec 12 — Osama bin Laden fled the Tora Bora hideout in Pakistan 10 days ago with the help of Ghazi Mirza, an Al-Qaida operative and Saudi financier, told the *Christian Science Monitor* today.

Osama bin Laden travelled out of Tora Bora in a small plane, the *Monitor* said. The plane was seen in the Tora Bora area, the *Monitor* said.

Mullah Omar, the leader of the Taliban, told bin Laden to flee Tora Bora and to go to Pakistan, the *Monitor* said. Bin Laden was seen in Pakistan, the *Monitor* said, and was seen in a plane where he was being taken to the border by Pakistani officials. — Reuters

THE STATESMAN

13 DEC 2001

# U.S. to have long-term ties with Pakistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 2. The U.S. National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, has said that the U.S. is working on "big plans" to build a long-term relationship with Pakistan. In a joint interview to Pakistan Radio and Television, Ms. Rice has sought to assure that Washington will not turn away once the "present crisis" is over. Two days ago, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, in an interview to Pakistan Radio and TV had said the U.S. desired to strengthen defence ties with Islamabad.

Ever since Pakistan agreed to extend unstinted cooperation to the U.S. in its fight against terrorism, Washington has been going out of its way to impress upon the Musharraf government that it would not desert Pakistan once the war in Afghanistan is over. Ms. Rice said the U.S. believed that Pakistan was important not only for American security interests but also for peace and security in South Asia and the world.

The U.S. would not turn away from Pakistan after the current crisis. "Washington expects it to be a long term relationship to build a prosperous Pakistan."

She hoped that the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf's commitment to hold elections in October next would bring more stability to Pakistan. Pakistan can be a very good partner for the U.S. not just in the current crisis but in future as well.

The U.S. has begun working with the Pakistan Government to find the ways and means to develop

Pakistan into a strong economy and a prosperous country. She referred to the 600 million-dollar grant recently provided by the U.S. and said it was part of the effort to help Pakistan improve its economic conditions. The U.S. could do more in improving trade with Pakistan besides helping its economy to integrate into the international economy. Ms. Condoleezza Rice said the U.S. would also assist Pakistan in creating the right conditions for attracting foreign investment.

She agreed that as a neighbour, it was extremely important that Pakistan should participate fully in the reconstruction of Afghanistan. The international community had also expressed its commitment to help Pakistan overcome the problem of refugees.

She emphasised the need for resolution of the Kashmir dispute and said its settlement would give a spur to greater stability and peace in the region. The U.S. is prepared to help in anyway to resolve the problem, she said.

She hoped that Gen. Musharraf and the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee would meet in Nepal. Better relationship between Pakistan and India was also good for the world peace and security.

About peacekeeping in Afghanistan, she said the U.S. was very careful not to impose solutions on Afghanistan. "Future of Afghanistan must be determined by Afghans themselves."

To another question whether the shield of the proposed National Missile Defence could be provided to Pakistan, Ms. Rice, said it would be available to every peace-loving country.

THE HINDU

3 DEC 2001

## Pak. objects to Blackwill's comments

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 22. Pakistan today took exception to the reported comments of the U.S. Ambassador in New Delhi, Mr. Blackwill, that after the war in Afghanistan, the coalition would turn its attention to terrorism in Kashmir.

In response to a specific question at the regular foreign office briefing, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Aziz Khan, asserted that the people of Kashmir were engaged in a "genuine

struggle" for their right to self-determination and there was no way it could be construed as terrorism.

He alleged that the people of Kashmir were the victim of terrorist acts by the Indian state.

"We are convinced that what is going on in Kashmir is freedom struggle. Freedom-fighters are freedom-fighters. There has to be a clear distinction between freedom struggle and terrorism," he said.

In another development, the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen has dissociated itself from the statement of its former "divisional commander," Mr. Asad Yezdani, in Srinagar in which he had said that the Hizb might consider the option of a ceasefire if New Delhi was ready to make sincere efforts to resolve the Kashmir issue.

The Hizb spokesman, Mr. Salim Hashmi, said here today that Mr. Yazdani was an ordinary worker of the organisation and

had no locus standi to make any policy statement.

There was no change in the stand of the Hizb on resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Hashmi said that Mr. Naeemul Islam was the new deputy commander of the outfit in Srinagar in place of Mr. Yezdani.

Mr. Saiful Islam was appointed "chief commander" in place of Mr. Abdul Majid Dar, who had announced a ceasefire in July last year.

THE HINDU

13 NOV 23



# US no to release of F-16s to Pakistan

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, Nov. 13. — The USA has rejected Pakistan's request to release a fleet of F-16 aircraft bought in the 1980s, an American newspaper reported today.

"They (Pakistan) would like to have the planes," but the USA wants to avoid destabilising relations in South Asia, the secretary of state, General Colin Powell, was quoted by *The New York Times* as saying in an interview. "At the moment we are restarting our military-to-military relationship in a more serious way, and the planes are not an issue that we expect to be discussing in the very near future," he said.

US officials said the Clinton administration had settled the longstanding dispute over the 28 F-16s by sending Pakistan cash and commodities worth more than \$ 500 million, the report said.

The settlement notwithstanding, President Pervez Musharraf wanted release of the F-16s — which are capable of

## PAK TESTS OPERATION UNDER NBCW

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 13. — Pakistan army today conducted its first ever major exercises to test its ability to operate under nuclear, biological and chemical weapon environment.

The exercises, called the Winter Collective Training Programme, held for the first time at a large scale was meant to test the ability to survive and fight in the environment of NBCW, a defence release here said. They were held at Kharian.

— PTI

dropping nuclear weapons — as part price for allying Pakistan with the war on terror.

On Saturday, Gen. Musharraf had said he wanted the combat aircraft as a visible sign that the USA was restoring Pakistan to the status of a "genuine" ally in gratitude for Islamabad's strong support in the war in Afghanistan.

The same day, Mr George Bush announced an aid package worth more than \$ one billion to Pakistan, but the F-16s were conspicuously absent from the deal.

Mr Bush and Gen. Powell discussed the matter with Gen Musharraf in New York, but decided against making the

fighters a part of renewed ties, the paper said.

And a day later, Gen Musharraf said: "I did take up this issue not because that much of it was significant from point of view of defence... It has its significance, certainly, but not as much as I should have highlighted it. It's more for public perceptions in Pakistan."

But the paper said US officials didn't altogether rule out releasing the fighters in the future, holding back an important carrot in Washington's evolving relationship with the Gen. Musharraf.

"We're at the very beginnings of resuming military-to-military contacts with Pakistan,"

an US official was quoted as saying, "and right now we are looking at more modest requests, like providing spare parts and assisting their border security with helicopters."

Gen Musharraf said the denial was embarrassing and it would be "received negatively" in Pakistan.

The paper said much of the calculus appeared to hinge on the USA balancing its diplomatic and military relations with Pakistan and India, both nuclear powers.

Transferring the F-16's now could upset that delicate balance, especially because the fighters are combat aircraft capable of dropping nuclear weapons, a US state department official was quoted as saying.

The paper also quoted a former state department official in the Clinton administration who worked on South Asia policy, as saying: "The USA has a new role in South Asia, and that is as a kind of guarantor of stability for Pakistan. At the same time, it wants to deepen relationship with India."

THE STATESMAN

14 NOV 2001

# No F-16s for you, Powell tells Pervez

S Rajagopalan  
Washington, November 12

US-Pak  
18/11

THE UNITED States has turned down Pakistan's demand for F-16 fighter planes.

Secretary of State Colin Powell has made it clear that Islamabad has been compensated for the aborted F-16 deal and there are no new plans to sell the planes.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf had raised the issue during his meeting with President George W Bush in New York on Saturday. "They had a candid discussion about it, and we've got it under advisement, but there are no plans for those planes to be transferred," Powell told a

television channel. A new military-to-military dialogue is underway with Pakistan, but it does not include the transfer of F-16s. The US stand comes in the wake of sustained Indian pressure against any major military sale to Pakistan following the recent lifting of sanctions.

Musharraf confirmed that he took up the matter with Bush, telling him that any US decision not to supply the planes "will be received negatively" in Pakistan. Back home many view the F-16s delivery as a test of US sincerity in restoring ties with Pakistan.

On the Kashmir front, too, Powell has let it be known that the US does not want to upset the applecart. "To the extent that the

## US RULES OUT MEDIATION ON KASHMIR

A DAY after the US President offered to bring India and Pakistan "good and meaningful talks" on the Kashmir issue, Secretary of State Colin Powell ruled out any mediation. This could be a setback for Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. Powell, in a programme on NBC TV yesterday, said the US cannot become a "mediator or arbitrator" but can help fostering a dialogue between India and Pakistan. His forthright comments blunted Musharraf's statement in another NBC TV programme. Musharraf had said Bush has "promised to facilitate the process of talks between New Delhi and Islamabad". Powell said there were "limits" to such facilitation.

PTI, New York

US could be helpful in fostering that dialogue, fine. But we cannot become the mediator or the arbitrator or the intermediary between them."

Notwithstanding his failure to

make much of an impact regarding Kashmir, Musharraf said Bush had "promised" to facilitate the dialogue process. "maybe (he will) persuade the Indian leadership".

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 NOV 2001

# U.S., Pak. agree to expand defence consultations

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, NOV. 11. The joint statement, released here at the end of the working dinner session between the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on Saturday, said the two leaders discussed a broad range of regional security issues and underscored the importance of Pakistan's successful transition to democracy in 2002. "Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf agreed to continue and expand defence consultations," the statement said.

Expressing concern over the threat to global stability posed by the proliferation of ballistic missiles and weapons of mass destruction, the two leaders agreed on the "need for a comprehensive approach to counter these threats, including enhanced non-proliferation measures at the global and regional level."

For the most part, the statement talked of the threat of terrorism, the current phase of operations in Afghanistan, the post-Taliban phase and challenges, the future state of bilateral relations and the commitment to Pakistan's economic stabilisation and revival programme.

Reaffirming their strong bilateral ties, the two heads of State said global coalition against terrorism

was essential for the elimination of the Taliban regime and the Al-Qaeda network.

"President Musharraf welcomed the clear commitments expressed by President Bush to continue active United States engagement in Pakistan and the entire South Asian subcontinent," the statement said.

Mr. Bush recognised Pakistan's role as the "frontline" state in the global campaign against terrorism. "Both leaders agreed to continue their ongoing excellent cooperation and to pursue a coherent and coordinated diplomatic, political, military, economic, financial and humanitarian strategy to eliminate terrorism."

On Afghanistan, the leaders

agreed that peace and stability could be achieved through the institution of a "broadbased, multi-ethnic representative government established through consensus among Afghans and evolved under the auspices of the United Nations." International community would have to provide sizeable and sustained resources for the reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf also acknowledged that Afghanistan should enjoy friendly relations with all its neighbours, act as a link between Central and South Asia and be free from the scourge of terrorism and drugs.

The statement did not specify the exact nature of the evolving American economic assistance to Pakistan except affirming the

leaders' commitment to Pakistan's economic stabilisation and revival programme. "President Bush confirmed that he will extend support to enable Pakistan to respond to the economic challenges it confronts."

The U.S. was "committed to working with the international financial institutions to provide additional support for Pakistan. Financial assistance, debt relief, greater trade and investment opportunities and sound Pakistani economic policies should assist Pakistan in its efforts to spur sustainable economic growth."

## U.S. not to transfer F-16s

Reuters reports from Washington:

The Bush administration said today that it will not transfer to Pakistan American F-16 fighter jets bought by Islamabad years ago.

"There are no plans now to transfer those airplanes to Pakistan," said the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

Pakistan bought two dozen of the fighter jets in the 1980s, but the purchase was blocked by the U.S. Congress because of Pakistan's programme to develop nuclear weapons. Speaking on NBC's "Meet the Press," he said the U.S. has a new military dialogue with Pakistan.

## Musharraf redeployed n-weapons: report

WASHINGTON, NOV. 11. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, ordered an emergency redeployment of the country's nuclear arsenal, following the start of the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan, the *Washington Post* reported today.

The Government moved nuclear weapons to at least six secret new locations and reorganised military oversight of the nuclear forces in the weeks since Pakistan joined the U.S. campaign, senior officials in Islamabad reportedly told the daily.

The Government is fearful of possible strikes against the country's nuclear facilities, and worries that its nuclear devices and fissile material could be vulnerable to attack or theft. — AFP

SEARCHED

# US bid to isolate India at WTO fails

# Islamabad to seek price for Afghan war

AGENCIES

DOHA, Nov. 11. — Pakistan has indicated that it'll extract a heavy price for allowing the USA to use its territory to fight the Taliban as trade ambassadors from 143 countries entered the most critical phase of the WTO's ministerial conference here.

Meanwhile, the WTO has rejected the USA's threat of isolating India on the issue of a new trade negotiation round, saying Malaysia, Tanzania and Pakistan are rallying around New Delhi.

Pakistan's WTO ambassador, Mr Munir Akram, said this evening: "If we need the USA, they need us more today." His comments came soon after the media briefing of the 13-nation Like-Minded Group of countries that includes India, Pakistan, Malaysia, Uganda, Cuba and Zimbabwe.

Though Mr Akram didn't say whether Washington was pressuring Islamabad to join the new round, diplomats said enough muscle-flexing was being done by the former on Pakistan. But, realising USA's dire need for Pakistan's help in the Afghan operations, Islamabad too is putting counter-pressure on the Bush administration.

Mr Akram iterated that the new round of talks should address concerns of the developing nations. He indicated that India and Pakistan could differ on "certain nuances" of the issues, but said the Doha round could head for a stalemate if no concession was given on textiles, crucial to both the countries.

A WTO spokesman said Malaysia, Tanzania and Pakistan were backing India's stand to not accept more market access

## TAIWAN'S ENTRY

DOHA, Nov. 11. — The WTO approved Taiwan's entry today, a day after welcoming China into the trade body. The move is likely to increase economic integration of the political rivals.

Taiwan is the world's 14th largest trading economy and had negotiated for 12 years to enter the trade body. China considers Taiwan a renegade province and has threatened to invade the island if it declares independence. It had sought in vain an assurance from the WTO that it would not hold ministerial meetings in Taiwan. — Reuters

obligations being pushed by the USA and the European Union. "India is opposed to inclusion of investment in the WTO and they're not alone in opposing it," Mr Keith Rockwell told Indian journalists last evening.

He ruled out the possibility of a vote if no consensus emerged on the launch of a new round, thus rejecting the much-hyped theory of India's isolation. If the investment issue is included on the WTO agenda, it'll mean the developing countries will have to treat multinational companies at par with domestic industry.

India is being backed by Malaysia, Tanzania and Pakistan on investment and competition policy, known as "Singapore issues", Mr Rockwell said.

The Pakistani commerce and industries minister, Mr Abdul Razak Dawood, has taken a strong position in his address to the plenary. "We shouldn't negotiate additional agreements which can exacerbate the im-

balance in the multilateral trading system. The WTO isn't the place, certainly not yet, to negotiate international agreements on investment and competition policy," Mr Dawood said, much to the delight of the Indian delegation, headed by the commerce and industries minister, Mr Murasoli Maran.

Yesterday, Mr Maran was quizzed by western journalists about his tough stand on the issue. He said: "In one of the largest democracies of the world, I'm answerable to the people of my country, and my Parliament."

Mr Dawood, on the other hand, said: "The promised benefits from the Uruguay Round — specially from textile and agriculture liberalisation — have failed to transpire for most developing countries..."

On agriculture, India is satisfied with the draft ministerial text circulated by the WTO General Council chairman, Mr Stuart Harbinson.

On Trips, Brazil and all African nations are opposed to the American proposal that would give governments the power to break monopoly rights of the pharmaceutical MNCs only in case of epidemics such as AIDS.

India and other countries are demanding that governments retain the right to break the monopoly for reaching health service to the poor.

Meanwhile, Chinese support for the new round doesn't surprise observers because Beijing has got its entry into the trade body after a long wait. "At this stage, they would not like to rock any boat," a western delegate said.

■ Photograph, another report on page 5

THE STATESMAN

12 NOV 2007

# Musharraf seeks US 'gestures' to pacify nation

Serge Schmemmann & Patrick E Tyler  
New York, November 16

PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF said yesterday that he has come to the US in search of major gestures from the Bush administration, including the release of American F-16 fighters sold to Pakistan when it was an ally against the Soviet Union and then withheld because of the country's development of nuclear weapons.

In an interview with *The New York Times*, Musharraf said he would be asking Bush at their meeting today for concrete "gestures" in response to Pakistan's strong support in the campaign against terrorism.

The general said he could not predict how long the military strikes could continue before the opposition within Pakistan became a threat to his Government. But he said "visible gestures" of gratitude from the US would help blunt public criticism of his decision to ally his country strongly with Washington.

He laid emphasis on the F-16s, because their arrival would be the most visible sign that the US was restoring Pakistan to the stature of a genuine ally.

Pakistan purchased 28 F-16s in the 1980s, but their delivery was blocked when Congress cut off all aid and military sales in 1990, citing Pakistan's secret nuclear weapons development. Musharraf noted that the planes were

## Omar's ex-teacher under house arrest in Pak

ISLAMIC LEADER and former teacher of Mullah Mohammad Omar, Samiul Haq, was put under house arrest on Saturday to prevent him rousing unrest against the Government in Pakistan.

Haq said: "They have surrounded my house and no one is allowed to go out. This is sheer injustice." His son, Hamid ul Haq Haqqani, had also been arrested.

Police said they were following orders to prevent the religious leader from entering Punjab province to plan protests.

AFP, Islamabad

has to be built".

Asked whose fault it was, he said, "as a Pakistani, I have to say the fault lies with the US".

Musharraf said there was a widespread sense that US abandoned Pakistan as soon as the Soviet Union pulled out of Afghanistan in 1989. "We were part of a

paid for, and Pakistan was even sent a bill for their storages in Arizona.

The general was not reticent in voicing his grievance with this treatment. "Pakistan certainly desires a longstanding and sustainable relationship with the US," he said, adding that "trust

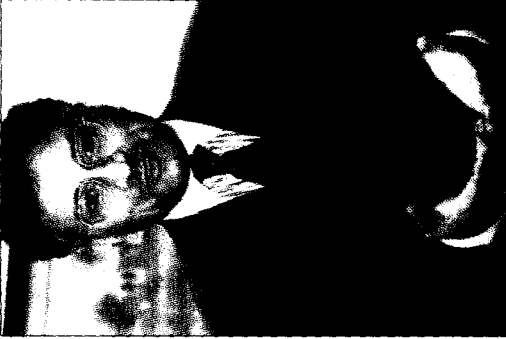
coalition," he said. "We fought a war together and evicted the Soviet Union from Afghanistan."

The country's previous experience with the US as an ally in the Cold War, he said, had left the public "not very happy" and needing to "wash off their previous attitudes".

Asked whether he felt slighted by Washington and by Indian Prime Minister A B Vajpayee, he hesitated and then said: "Well, sometimes, yes."

He said this was understandable because he was a military man who had seized power.

The gestures that would reverse these wrongs should include major debt relief, military assistance, and more understanding for the sensitivity of



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

the Pakistani public on the issue of its nuclear weapons.

"The opinion of the people of Pakistan has to be moulded, and it can be done through gestures."

In an unusual and forthright appeal, Musharraf said Pakistan is more than willing to accept assistance from the US to render Pakistan's nuclear arsenal more secure. But he added that reports emanating from the US that the Pentagon has plans to "pinch" or "neutralise" Pakistan's nuclear weapons to prevent them from falling into the hands of Islamic extremists "has a very negative impact on the public mind."

He reaffirmed that Pakistan's nuclear weapons are under "very strong custodial control".

The New York Times

# US aid for Pak security

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 7. - Concerned over the illicit supply of arms and ammunition to the Taliban from Pakistan, the USA has announced \$73 million in emergency aid to Islamabad to strengthen security at the country's porous borders with Afghanistan.

As part of the assistance, Pakistan will be given helicopters, fixed wing aircraft, night vision goggles, communication equipment and other items as well as training, the state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said.

The announcement followed the remarks of the US ambassador to Pakistan, Ms Wendy Chamberlin, in a TV interview that the Taliban continues to get armed men and war materials from Pakistan. But she ruled out any involvement of the military regime, suggesting that the border is impossible to control and President Pervez Musharraf needs time to curb rogue elements in the ISI.

An assessment team will visit Pakistan next week to work out the details, Mr Boucher said.

## Pak move on zealots

In a strange dealing with their religious zealots, the Pakistani authorities have decided to let them cross into Afghanistan to die, a report from London says. "They were blocking our roads and threatening us at every turn, so our attitude is let them go and die in Afghanistan, beneath the wings of the B52s, if that is what they really want,"



Afghans waiting to enter Pakistan at the Chaman border post. — AP/PTI

the chief prosecutor in the Malakand tribal district, Mohammed Zaman, was quoted as saying by the Daily Telegraph.

The new laissez-faire attitude towards aspiring "martyrs" is in contrast to the official stand with senior officials insisting that they are doing all they can to block heavily-armed Pathan tribals from crossing into Afghanistan.

An assistant sub-inspector with the Frontier Constabulary said he had orders not to interfere with the jihadi groups anxious to fight.

Shouting "Death to America", at least 1,500 Pakistani tribals

crowded into vans and the backs of pick-up trucks, brandishing Kalashnikov rifles, rocket launchers and other weapons crossed into Afghanistan on Sunday and hundreds more left on Monday, the report said.

## Islamic leader detained

Pakistani authorities have detained the leader of the most influential Islamic party who had already been placed under house arrest before a general strike called for this week, party officials said today.

"Qazi Hussain Ahmed was taken from his house in Pe-

shawar last night to a rest house about an hour away from the city," said an official of the Jamaat-i-Islami party.

The party is at the forefront of an anti-government campaign by hardline Islamic religious parties against Islamabad's decision to support Washington's military strikes on the Taliban for sheltering Osama bin Laden.

"The home office has issued Ahmed orders to stay in the guest house for one month. There are no charges against him on those orders," said the official.

## Police station attacked

Gunmen attacked a Quetta police station, riddling it with bullets, before fleeing, police said today, AFP reports from Quetta.

No one was hurt in the incident last night on the outskirts of Quetta. Police fired in retaliation.

"An unknown number of people opened fire indiscriminately. They fled after police returned fire", a police officer said. "This was a very serious incident. No one has attacked a police station like this is the past." He said the motive was unclear but refused to rule out a link with the killing of a security guard at Quetta airport on Monday evening. "It could be linked but it would be premature to say." No one has been arrested for the airport shooting and police have refused to speculate on a motive.

THE STATESMAN

8 NOV 2001

'U.S. EXPECTS MORE TERRORIST ATTACKS' *we park*

# Military campaign won't stop during Ramadan: Rumsfeld

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

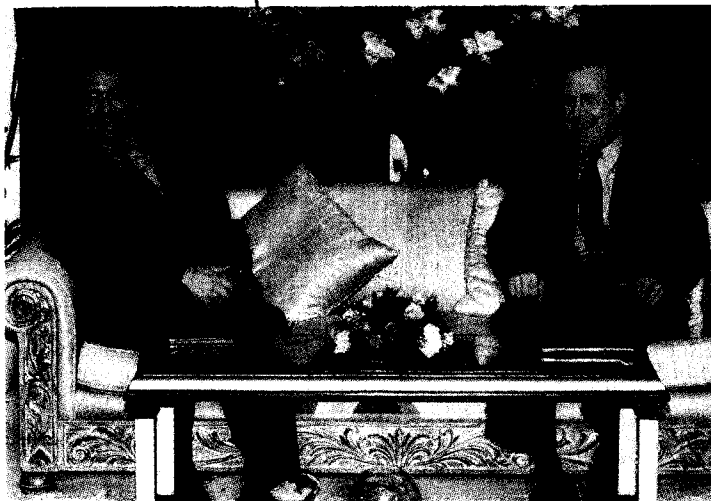
ISLAMABAD, NOV. 4. The visiting U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, said here tonight that the military campaign in Afghanistan would continue if necessary during the Ramadan period because of "terrorist threat".

Addressing a select group of correspondents after meeting the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, he claimed that as a result of the military campaign, the Taliban had stopped functioning as a full government. "The Taliban is not really functioning as a government as such. As a military force, they have concentrations of power that exist. They have military capabilities that exist. They are using their power in enclaves... to impose their will," he said along with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar.

On Pakistan's desire for suspension of military campaign during Ramadan, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "we know the feelings. I have heard views of President Musharraf and a number of other countries. The question is very important and sensitive, but the reality is that additional terrorist acts are being expected and they could be terrible and could harm lot more people".

Mr. Rumsfeld's comments on the continuation of the military campaign during Ramadan assumes significance in the wake of the desire expressed by Gen. Musharraf to see an early end to it.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister said that Gen. Musharraf briefed Mr. Rumsfeld about the situation in Kashmir and appraised him of the "stringent measures" taken



The U.S. Secretary of Defence, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, with the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in Islamabad on Sunday. — AP

by Pakistan to safeguard its nuclear assets.

Mr. Sattar said Pakistan and the U.S. agreed on the formation of a broad-based multi-ethnic government in Afghanistan after the Taliban under the aegis of the United Nations.

Referring to the U.S. efforts to minimise civilian casualties, Mr. Sattar said Mr. Rumsfeld informed Islamabad that it was the first time in history that the U.S. was taking maximum care to avoid casualties.

## Support to Northern Alliance to be discussed

By Sandeep Dikshit and Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, NOV. 4. The U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, arrived here to discuss with India the option of beefing

up the Northern Alliance in the campaign against terrorism in Afghanistan and expanding bilateral military ties.

Prior to his arrival, the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, with whom Mr. Rumsfeld will hold talks on Monday, told Door-darshan that though the Afghan situation would be discussed, it was important that the two countries further developed their security and strategic relationship discussions.

Emphasising on the developments in Afghanistan, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said on Saturday night, after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security, that Mr. Rumsfeld is expected to share his assessment about the situation in the war-torn nation with his Indian interlocutors.

Government sources here said the U.S. is now beginning to expand its focus on Afghanistan's

northern front. For this, the support for the Northern Alliance, which is backed by Russia, Tajikistan, Iran and India, is necessary.

On the bilateral front, India and the U.S. are set to revive the Indo-U.S. Defence Policy Group (DPG) and the executive steering groups that will determine the nitty gritty of future military cooperation between the three services.

## Taliban positions bombed

KABUL, NOV. 4. American warplanes resumed bombing runs early on Sunday on several Taliban positions in an effort to clear the way for advances by forces opposed to Afghanistan's ruling movement. The U.S. forces targeted Taliban lines around the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif in the hope of making it easier for the opposition Northern Alliance to move on the city. The U.S. jets dropped bombs on the city overnight, but there were no casualties, according to the Taliban-controlled Bakhtar News Agency. In Kabul, U.S. bombs also exploded near the Intercontinental Hotel, set on a hill in the southwest part of the city. Nine people were injured, the agency said.

## Pak. tribesmen cross over

At least 1,500 armed Pakistani tribesmen crossed into Afghanistan on Sunday to join the Taliban in what they called a holy war against the U.S.

## American dies

AFP reports from Islamabad: The Taliban said today that an American citizen, arrested in Afghanistan 10 days ago, had died in hospital in Kandahar, the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

# 'Pak still supplying arms to Taliban'

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 1. - Pakistan is supplying the Taliban with military and other supplies despite Islamabad's backing for American military operations, *The Washington Times* has reported quoting US officials.

(The US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, today said the Taliban may be getting military supplies from Pakistan and did not rule out the Al-Qaida having got some nuclear material from persons arrested in Pakistan, adds PTI from Washington).

The supplies, including ammunition and fuel, are being sent with the help of sources in the Pakistani government, the newspaper said quoting officials familiar with Intelligence reports.

The trade is approved by officials of the Pakistani military and ISI, and takes place at night by trucks. The goods travel from Quetta to the border town of Chaman and then to Kandahar.

"There are two border control regimes: One before sunset and one after sunset," an official said. The trade violates a UN resolution imposed in December that bars arms transfers to Afghanistan or the Taliban.

A Pakistani embassy spokesman in Washington denied the government was involved in any arms shipments or supplies to the Taliban.

He, however, said the border with Afghanistan is porous, especially in the south, and that local tribes are known to conduct cross-border trade.

Asked about foreign military supplies to the Taliban, a defence official said recently: "We know of no significant aid or organised aid from a foreign state."

Last week, a Taliban commander told a Pakistani newspaper that China has been helping the Kabul regime during the US air strikes. A Chinese official

was reported to have denied the claim. *The Washington Times* reported soon after Black Tuesday that China had signed a cooperation deal with the Taliban on the day of the attacks, and has been helping Kabul rebuild its communication facilities.

US officials have said the Chinese connection to the Taliban is primarily trade-related and there has been no signs of military cooperation. It is, however, suspected that the Taliban handed China pieces of US cruise missiles that were dropped on the country after the terrorist bombing of two US embassies in Africa in 1998.

THE STATESMAN

2 NOV 2001



# Musharraf worried as US rules out Ramadan reprieve

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 30 OCTOBER

**T**URNING A blind eye to Pervez Musharraf, the US has reiterated that its planes will continue to bomb Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan. Pakistan's president had reckoned an end to bombings during Ramadan, at his request, will appease the fundamentalists in his country.

With thousands of Pakistanis threatening to cross over for participating in the jihad, the risk for the Pakistani General will rise several fold.

That the Americans will not allow their anxiety to demon-

strate respect for Muslim sentiments was made plain by Mr Rumsfeld. "There have been any number of conflicts between Muslim countries, and between Muslim countries and non-Muslim countries, throughout Ramadan," the defence secretary told reporters.

Defence experts in the US have also been warning the Administration against accepting the demand of Pakistan and other Islamic nations. Anthony H Cordesman, a former Pentagon official and military analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies told the Washington Post that a bombing

bombings comes amid indications suggesting that the policy rift in the US administration over the Afghan strategy may be settled in favour of the Pentagon, which is advocating a pragmatic and muscular strategy.

With the public opinion in the US demanding tangible results, Mr Colin Powell's "slow and persuasive" approach may have to be jettisoned.

In Pakistan, things are getting complicated for Gen Musharraf in the home turf. The General, who has sought the help of the Islamic clergy for sorting out the troubles in the NWFP, is sure to come under more pressure from

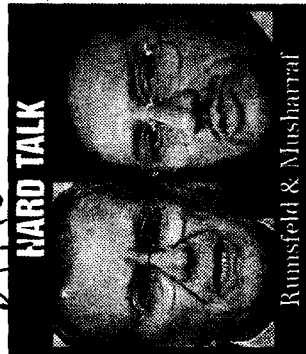
Pakistan's Talibanised civil society. Agency reports from Islamabad said that religious leaders of the tribals were holding a meeting in Bisham in NWFP to discuss their future strategy. If the Ulama decide not to open the road, the security forces might have to launch a big operation to open the highway — a risky affair for the General.

Reports from the area said the tribesmen themselves have geared up for a showdown as many armed men have taken up key position on the mountain slopes and land mined others areas to prevent the security forces from coming in.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 protesters continued to occupy the airstrip at Chillas. Officials claimed that the airstrip has no importance as it was not used for the past 25 years.

However it was used for emergency landing for civil and military aircraft. The protesters have put barricades to prevent any planes from landing.

Hundreds of armed Jehadi tribesmen belonging to an organisation called Tanzem Nifaz-e-Shariat-i-Muhammadi are waiting at the border for a signal from their chief to cross over into Afghanistan, agency reports said.



HARD TALK

Rumsfeld & Musharraf

pause would help the Taliban disperse its assets at a time when the radical Islamic militia could be most vulnerable, with winter approaching.

The US' aversion to a pause in

The Economic Times

31 OCT 2001

# Pak tribals rise to jihad cry

Islamabad, October 27

THOUSANDS OF armed Pakistani tribesmen today set out in a 100-truck convoy to cross the border into Afghanistan to join the Taliban in their war against the United States, officials said.

"Led by Sufi Mohammad, head of Tehrik Nifaz-Esharia Mohammadi (Movement for Enforcement of Islamic Sharia Law), the tribesmen are close to the Afghan border in Bajaur tribal area," an Interior Ministry official said. A party spokesman reached at the border area by telephone said the tribesmen numbered around 10,000 and were armed with automatic weapons, swords and axes.

"We will resist if the authorities try to stop us. The jihad will start here," said spokesman Qazi Ihsanullah at Bajaur in North-West Frontier Province.

Senior Interior Ministry officials, who refused to comment further, said last week that more paramilitary troops had been sent to tribal districts bordering Afghanistan.

On Thursday, sources close to the Tehrik told AFP that the Taliban leadership had asked the tribesmen to wait for a signal from the militia's supreme leader, Mollah Mohammad Omar, before making a move.

Mollah Omar has appealed to tribes in Pakistani border provinces to provide thousands of men to fight the US-led coalition. His appeal was delivered through Abdul Bari Maroofi, a chief of the Rodi Alizee tribe, and relayed throughout the fiercely-independent claps in Baluchistan province.

Tehrik leader Sufi Mohammad, who has made a similar appeal, had said yesterday: "This is a strange occasion of world history. For the first time all the anti-Islamic forces are united against Islam."

The tribesmen's move appeared to be of much concern for Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf, who has been trying hard to stop growing opposition to the US raids from spiralling



Armed with rocket launchers and automatic guns, Pakistani tribesmen head for the Afghanistan border vowing to fight the US alongside the Taliban.

## TALIBAN HANG FIVE OPPOSITION COMMANDERS

THE TALIBAN on Saturday claimed to have hanged 20 Northern Alliance fighters, including five commanders, after capturing them in northern Afghanistan. The men were caught after Taliban forces repulsed a major opposition offensive in the Dar-e-Souf region of Samangan province. The executions came a day after the Taliban killed Afghan resistance hero Abdul Haq.

Meanwhile, US warplanes carried out their most intense bombardment in the three weeks of onslaught on terrorist bases and Taliban targets, pounding Kabul with over two dozen bombs. Russia on Saturday indicated it will supply Northern Alliance forces with 40 battle tanks and more than 100 armoured vehicles.

into a wider unrest in the country. Senior officials today headed north to reclaim control of the road. The Pakistani part of the mountainous road, called the Karakoram Highway, was also blocked

with hundreds of tribesmen and militants, authorities said.

"Tribesmen have closed it to express solidarity with the Taliban and to participate in the agitation launched against the Government's support for America," said Riaz Durrani, a spokesman for Jamia Ulema-e-Islam, an influential Pakistani religious party. Shahid Nashed, a police officer in the town of Gilgit, which sits along the Karakoram Highway called the situation "tense." But, he said, "we are trying to overcome it."

The 1,200-km Karakoram Highway built along the ancient silk route that linked Asia with the west, connects Pakistan with Kashgar in China's northwestern Xinjiang region. The road is

a major trade link between Pakistan and China, though the Chinese all but sealed it after the September 11 terrorist attacks on the USA.

"We are trying our best to restore the normal flow of traffic on the silk road without clashing with the tribesmen," a senior Interior Ministry official said.

The Pakistani authorities have also sought the help of the country's major Islamic groups in resolving the issue. Jamiat Ulema-e-Islami leader Maulana Fazle ur-Rehman has been approached, Durrani confirmed today.

AFP & AP  
Related reports and photographs on Pages 10 & 12

## Islamabad expels our reporter

Aditya Sinha was covering the Afghan war for the *Hindustan Times*. He was expelled from Pakistan on Thursday. Here is a first-hand account of his experience in Pakistan.

THIRTY-TWO days after I started reporting from Peshawar, the Government of Pakistan directed me to leave. "Immediately," said the Interior Ministry's order, a copy of which was handed to me by the city's Special Branch.

It happened suddenly and unexpectedly just a week earlier; the Interior Ministry had extended my visa by another 15 days. I hadn't tried anything idiosyncratic like the cross-dressing border-crossing so much in vogue with western journalists.

It was on Thursday morning, and I was at Nishat Hall, waiting for the final day of a momentous Afghan tribal assembly. I had gone inside to get change for my Rs 500 note to pay the auto driver, and as I stepped out of the door, a man asked me if I spoke Urdu. "We're from the Special Branch and we would like to ask you a few questions."

I was taken in a police pickup to the office of the SSP (security) where I spent anxious moments in waiting before the long-bearded Khalid Masood stroled in. After a look at my passport, and questions about whom I was writing for and where I was staying, he said: "You are in trouble. You have to leave the country."

He wouldn't say why, brushing me off with something about orders from Islamabad. I told him I would leave, and that fortunately there was a flight to Delhi the next morning. "You have to leave today," he said.

I said I wanted to go to Delhi because my wife was there. "No," he said. "You can't go to India. You will have to go to the country to which you belong: to the US. You book an air ticket via Dubai. My men will take you to the ticketing office."

Apparently, the only international air destination from Peshawar is the UAE, and the only flight in operation after Sept. 11 was PIA's. I offered to go to Karachi and catch another flight to a third country. "No, you can't go anywhere in Pakistan now." Four men accompanied me to the guest house where I packed and paid the extremely nervous desk clerk.

My flight was at 10 p.m. Nine hours were left. I spent the first in Masood's office, being lectured about the four phases of jihad and the various Hindus he had met during his trip to the US in 1996. He gave me a piercing look: "We are not arresting you, you will be in our protective custody." And so began the most anxious eight hours of my life.

I was in touch with the office, and they got in touch with the US embassy, so I knew nothing unpleasant would happen. Finally, I was taken to the airport, where the PIA refused to put me on the flight because I did not have a UAE visa! My escorts had a private chat with the ranking PIA official, and all objections melted away.

The plain-clothesmen bade me goodbye and after an anxious wait, I was on my way to Dubai. The UAE gave me one month visa, I checked into a hotel where an Indian busboy offered me a woman (I refused), and the next day I took a flight to Mumbai. On Friday, I finally reached Delhi, and I kissed the ground in joy.

# Thousands in Pak 'million man' US protest

REUTERS  
KARACHI, OCTOBER 26

**A**BOUT 40,000 activists from hardline Pakistani Islamic groups took to the streets of Karachi on Friday to demand an end to US raids on Afghanistan and the overthrow of Pakistan's military government.

Security was tight as overloaded pickups, trucks and buses ferried flag-waving members of right-wing and radical groups to a traffic junction in Karachi's District East after the main Muslim Friday prayers. Although calls for a "million man march" against Islamabad's decision to support the US war on terrorism failed to materialise, the noisy but peaceful crowd swelled throughout the afternoon.

Protesters heard speakers berate the government of General Pervez Musharraf, saying he was a traitor to Muslim nations. "Pervez Musharraf should step down and be sent into exile and the Pakistan Army and the people of Pakistan should take over the government," said Maulana Sami-ul-Haq, chairman of the Pakistan-Afghanistan Defence Council, a coalition of 35 Islamic groups that called the protest.

Banners read "We are not afraid to die" and "We are ready for



A disabled supporter of the Taliban holds a picture of Osama Bin Laden after he climbed up a light pole during a rally in Karachi on Friday. Reuters photo

martyrdom", while a sign was erected renaming the location as "Osama bin Laden Chowk", or square, as riot police and paramilitary rangers armed with staves or ri-

flush out Osama bin Laden.

"The Pakistan Army should overthrow the Musharraf government. Twenty days of extensive bombing in Afghanistan has not

dampened the spirit of the Afghan people and Pakistan people are also ready for jihad," said Munawwar Hasan, secretary general of the right-wing Jamaat-E-Islami.

Fearing a repeat of recent violence, Tariq Jamil, deputy inspector general of police, said thousands of officers had been put on alert. "We have stationed 4,000 policemen for the march and we have taken adequate security measures so that no untoward incident happens," he said. Holding banners reading "War will continue until America is destroyed", demonstrators also heard speakers say it was a myth the majority of Pakistanis supported Musharraf.

"Pakistan's leaders are liars and today's gathering is testament to the fact that people are against the US," one speaker told the rally.

"Pakistan's leaders are telling lies to the people when they say Pakistanis support the policy, every student in Pakistan is ready to die," the speaker added.

The Defence Council has organised regular protests in Karachi, a teeming and volatile Port city of Karachi, but the turnout has been low with just 5,000 people on the streets last Friday and about 25,000 for the biggest before Friday held two weeks ago. A city official said protest organisers had given assurances the march would be peaceful.

## Key highway blocked to protest support

**■ ISLAMABAD:** Armed tribesmen blocked the mountainous Karakoram highway linking Pakistan and China on Friday to protest against Islamabad's support for the United States offensive against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban. "They have blocked the highway to express their point of view," a senior Pakistani government official told Reuters. Residents said members of a hardline Islamic group had set up road blocks and staged sit-ins at several places along the highway, whose spectacular scenery attracts thousands of tourists. The Taliban have many sympathisers among hardline Muslims in Pakistan who have held almost daily protests against the US campaign to force Kabul to hand over Osama bin Laden.

A resident of the small town of Besham, half way between Islamabad and the northern town of Gilgit, told Reuters a group of armed men had blocked the road. "There are some police but what can they do? They cannot fight the local residents," he said. — Reuters

# Pak N-system comes under U.S. scanner

Washington draws up contingency plan <sup>22/10</sup> Pak duo may have armed Laden with N-capability

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush is consulting senior leaders on plans to neutralise Pakistan's nuclear capabilities if the Pervez Musharraf regime collapses, even as Pakistan rubbished reports that Osama bin Laden had illegally obtained N-material from it.

Joe Biden, chairman of the powerful Senate foreign relations committee, strongly hinted at this at a meeting of the Council on Foreign Relations in New York.

Mr Biden was asked about an article in *The New York Times* on the need to render Pakistani N-weapons ineffective if the Musharraf regime falls. The Democrat Senator replied, "Those discussions are underway with the Democratic and Republican members of Congress and the president on setting those priorities."

There have been strong protests from fundamentalist groups in Pakistan against President Musharraf's decision to back the U.S. war against Afghanistan. This has given rise to questions about a threat to the military regime and the possibility of Pakistan's N-facilities falling into the hands of religious groups.

Mr Biden said, "The question is, President Bush has an internal dilemma he has to overcome first. He is focusing on first things first, but then he has to deal with...and I'm going to get in trouble for saying this...but he has to deal with what has not gone away. There is, for lack of a better phrase, still a Rumsfeld- Powell split on how they look at the world, and how they look at these very issues that you've stated here."

Mr Biden indicated a split between Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Secretary of State Colin Powell with the suggestion that Mr Rumsfeld, a known hawk, supported such a plan in Pakistan while Mr Powell opposed it. Mr Biden, who said he had been in close consultations with Mr Bush, also set out his views on U.S. relations with India and Pakistan. (IANS)

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Alarm bells are clanging in the U.S. and other Western establishments about reports that Osama bin Laden may have acquired or developed crude atom bombs with help from renegade Pakistani nuclear scientists.

Accounts of Bin Laden's pursuit of nuclear weapons have been in the air for some time, but they acquired an added urgency this week following the arrest in Islamabad of two retired Pakistani nuclear scientists whose activities in Afghanistan were being scrutinised by Western intelligence agencies. The scientists were reportedly taken into custody for questioning by the Pakistani authorities at Washington's behest, reports from Islamabad said.

According to proliferation experts in Washington, the two scientists—Sultan Bashiruddin Mahmood and Chaudhury Abdul Majid—are experts in plutonium technology. Mr Mahmood is known for his contribution in setting up Pakistan's first unguarded plutonium reactor in Khushab in central Pakistan. Mr Majid is one of the few Pakistani scientists who had been trained at a plutonium

facility in Belgium in the 1960s.

Mr Majid worked with Mr Mahmood for years, and they were both senior scientists in the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission. Mr Mahmood, who was project director of Pakistan's nuclear programme before its 1998 tests, reportedly resigned in protest against Pakistan considering signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Mr Majid, who went on to become director of the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission, retired last year. Following their exit from the Pakistani nuclear establishment, the duo set up a non-governmental organisation for relief work and investment in Afghanistan.

**ANTI-NUKE STRATEGY**



- Discussions on Pak N-arms are under way in U.S. Congress
- Protests in Pak may be threat to military regime, N-facilities could fall into wrong hands
- Senator Biden indicates split between Donald Rumsfeld and Colin Powell
- Kashmir central to resolving tensions between India and Pakistan

# Powell prunes Pak role in Kabul

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Pakistan suffered a major diplomatic and strategic setback on Wednesday when the U.S. declared that its frontline ally would have to take a backseat in determining the future dispensation in Afghanistan.

Testifying at a Congressional hearing, held on makeshift surroundings because of the anthrax scare, Secretary of state Colin Powell firmly rejected a major Pakistani role in the formation of the next government and asserted it will have to be an international effort.

"It won't work if any one country dictates what the future of the government will look like...The next government of Afghanistan cannot be dictated into being by Pakistan," Mr Powell said.

He also diminished Pakistan's self-proclaimed role as the king-maker in

Kabul by suggesting Washington was not enthused about the largely-Pashtun meeting convened by Islamabad in Peshawar.

Mr Powell chose to inform the panel of a parallel meeting of other Afghan ethnic groups going on in Turkey.

And in a final blow to Pakistan's political and diplomatic strategy in the region, Mr Powell declined to endorse the Pakistani military leaders' contention that the terrorists in Afghanistan were different from the so-



Colin Powell Pervez Musharraf

## IN THE LINE OF FIRE

- ▶ U.S. fails to buy Musharraf's freedom-fighter line
- ▶ Change in Pak's Kashmir policy inevitable, say experts
- ▶ America looks to bust Pak's terror network in Afghanistan
- ▶ India's contention of cross-border terrorism has embarrassed Islamabad

called freedom-fighters in Jammu and Kashmir, pointedly saying "that is a distinction he makes, not me."

Mr Powell's comment came against the backdrop of the U.S. strike outside Kabul that killed some two dozen terrorists belonging to the Harkat-ul-Mujaheddin, an outfit originally sponsored by the Pakistani intelligence agency (ISI).

Reports of the terrorists' presence in Afghanistan, while vindicating India's contention of cross-border

terrorism stretching from Kabul and Kandahar to Kashmir, has hugely embarrassed Islamabad. Adding to Islamabad's discomfort is the attack on the U.S. Army helicopters inside Pakistani territory as they sought to retrieve a crashed Black Hawk. Forced to retreat in the face of firing by *jehadi* elements, the U.S. has now instructed Pakistan to sanitise the area so its forces can return for the retrieval operation.

Pak tried to disown its hand in the terror network by declining to accept the bodies of the so-called Mujaheddin, much in the same way it turned its back on its own soldiers and irregulars who were killed during the Kargil war.

But loud declamations of responsibility from *jehadi* groups in Pakistan, some of which have threatened retaliatory attacks on the U.S., has put the Musharraf regime in a fix.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

26 OCT 2001

# 2,000 U.S. troops land in Pak as America rules Afghan skies

ISLAMABAD: More than 2,000 U.S. troops landed at three Pakistani airbases as American forces used low-flying aircraft and choppers for the first time to target terrorist bases in Afghanistan on Sunday amidst reports that President George W. Bush has authorised the CIA to use "lethal force" to eliminate Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaida network.

While low-flying U.S. jets dropped at least four bombs on Kabul, the militia claimed that its men had killed 20 to 25 American commandos on their first lightning strike on Afghan soil on Saturday.

During Sunday's pre- and post-dawn raids, the low-flying warplanes and helicopters virtually ruled the Afghan skies as the Taliban's anti-aircraft guns remained silent, apparently suggesting that the militia's ability to respond has been depleted as claimed by the U.S.

U.S. forces mounted helicopter raids on Kabul and Kandahar on Saturday night but were prevented from landing, a Taliban official claimed on Sunday. The Taliban

also claimed to have regained control of the central Afghan province of Ghor from the opposition Northern Alliance. However, the opposition immediately denied it.

The Taliban said Sunday morn-

ing were hotly disputed by the U.S.

The three Pakistani airbases where U.S. troops have landed are Jacobabad, Pasni and Dalbandin. While the first two airports will act as logistical bases, the Dalbandin airbase on the Afghan border has been selected as a forward operational base, according to *The News*.

Meanwhile, *The Washington Post* reported on Sunday that President Bush last month gave the CIA its broadest authority yet to conduct lethal covert action against Bin Laden and his Al Qaida network.

"The gloves are off. 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," the newspaper quoted a senior official as saying. The report said the CIA had been allotted an extra \$1 billion for the covert operation, which would include "unprecedented" coordination between the intelligence agency, commandos and other military units.

Meanwhile, there was no let-up in the anthrax scare. (Agencies)



**An injured Afghan child lies in a hospital in Kabul on Sunday.**

ing's raids killed 18 civilians, including women and children, and wounded 23. It also claimed that 900 civilians had been killed since the raids began on October 7, a fig-

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 2 2001 2001

## **\$50-million US aid to Pak**

WASHINGTON, Oct. 18. —  
The US President has ordered  
a \$50-million grant for Paki-  
stan, citing it as vital to Wash-  
ington's security interests.

This, along with a package an-  
nounced last month, raises the  
bilateral aid to Pakistan to  
\$100 million. The aid started  
flowing after Islamabad prom-  
ised to support the US-led  
campaign against terrorism.

Mr George W Bush said yester-  
day in a memorandum to the  
secretary of state: "It's impor-  
tant to the USA's security inter-  
ests to furnish up to \$50 million  
for Pakistan."

**UK offer:** Britain too has  
offered a \$22-million package  
to Pakistan to help it cope with  
the Afghan refugee crisis and  
internal reforms.

— PTI/AFP

**THE STATESMAN**

19 OCT 2001

19 OCT 2001



# WISHFUL THINKING!

5/8/6 Post War scenario is unclear 18/10

GENERAL Pervez Musharraf looked tense as he stood alongside the American Secretary of State, Colin Powell, valiantly trying to draw a laxman rekha to separate Kashmir from any shade of terrorism; apparently it was only a struggle for self-determination of Kashmiris. So far he has kept the lid firmly on protests at home over the American intervention and defended the limits of assistance provided to the US, including use of airport facilities. This use was repeatedly stressed as limited to three aspects. It is useless to repeat these as enforcement is impossible. Musharraf cannot complain because he has been paid for it — over \$500 million in three tranches and another figure of over \$300 million.

His handling of the domestic situation so far has been commendable and he has at the same time provided what the Americans want. There is however some dissatisfaction over intelligence inputs. This is not Musharraf's fault, he is doing his best given the fact that his country and the Taliban have been close collaborators for a very long time, much of it at the instance of the Americans themselves. In his desperation Musharraf divides the Taliban into good guys and bad guys. Americans will readily accept that those who defect are good guys, the rest are bad ones; it would be wise to institute some form of screening and not accept all declarations at face value.

Colin Powell was careful to confine his response to generalities. All sections of the Afghan people should be represented in the post Taliban government, all demographic groups, all tribes, all sections of the people, including women, all opinions and so on. It should be as broad-based a government as possible. The prescription offered by the President of Pakistan is unrealistic in a war situation though unexceptionable in theory. However, somebody should ask Pervez Musharraf to apply a little of the same medicine to his own country. He has done away with all political parties and opinions and imposed martial law, however dressed up. Surely what is sauce for the Afghan goose is sauce for the Pakistani gander.

Colin Powell is also a distinguished general. He will know that there is no way to stop the Northern Alliance from advancing; this will lessen the strain on American forces on the ground, assuming they venture forth at all. The shape of the post-Taliban government in Afghanistan is at present up for grabs. There are the Russians, the Tajiks, the Uzbeks and the rest apart from the Pashtu speaking people. The new government will evolve out of the war situation at the end. It will not be settled in Washington and Islamabad. Powell knows this all too well and so does Musharraf.

The best the latter can hope for is a neutral administration under UN auspices for a long time. In other words, for the Taliban and their Pakistani comrades and close business associates, the party is over. Musharraf should be preparing his people for what will be a disappointment given the hopes raised; his advantage *pro tem*, is that opinion is largely his to mould; power being concentrated in his hands, he can be autocratic. But he is running out of time. Powell's assessment is that the Taliban may collapse any time; he is wise not to put a limit on it but he would also be wise not to bank on it. They may fight on till the end, in which case there will have to be an alternative government, which leaves the Taliban and much of the Pashtu speaking tribes out at least for the short haul.

Colin Powell is very clear that he does not yet see an end to the fighting; he is wise to be cautious. The alternative structure must evolve and the jury has to be out on the question of what the final shape will be. Musharraf should not indulge in wishful thinking.

THE STATESMAN

18 OCT 2001



# USA, Pak see future role for Taliban

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 16. — The Pakistani President and the US secretary of state today revived a stagnant relationship with an agreement that any future Afghan government should be broadbased, including moderate Taliban members.

"The former king, Zahir Shah, political leaders, moderate Taliban leaders, elements from the Northern Alliance, tribal elders, Afghans living outside their country ... all can play a role in this government," General Pervez Musharraf told a joint news conference.

Mr Colin Powell agreed. "The term Taliban defines the current regime. But it also defines a group of individuals. If you got rid of the regime, there'll still be those who might find

their teachings and feeling and believes of that movement are still very important and to the extent that they're willing to participate in the development of a new Afghanistan."

Mr Powell said the military action against Afghanistan wouldn't stop till all the objectives were met, but he hoped the campaign would be short — something Gen Musharraf too wants. "We're focusing today on the terrorist threats emanating from Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida organisation. Obviously we want it to be short ... precise."

Gen Musharraf said: "One would like to say that certainly a majority of the people are against the operation in Afghanistan. They would like to see this operation to be terminated as fast as possible."

He said most Pakistanis supported his decision to back the global alliance against terrorism. Street protests against the move have been muted.

Nevertheless, Mr Powell arrived here amid intense security as radical Islamic groups backing the Taliban had called a general strike yesterday to protest against the US strikes on Afghanistan and the US secretary of state's visit.

Gen Musharraf said the Taliban had brought the plight on itself. "We regret the Afghanistan government had jeopardised interests of millions of its own people. There's enormous pressure, but I can't tell you when this pressure will cause the collapse."

Mr Powell, however, said it was only a matter of time before the Taliban collapsed.



Northern Alliance troops gear up for assault on Mazar-e-Sharif at a training camp at Khwaja-Bahaudin in northern Afghanistan on Tuesday. — AP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

17 OCT 2001

'U.S., PAK. TIES WILL GROW AND THRIVE IN THE YEARS AHEAD'

# Kashmir central to Indo-Pak. relations, says Powell

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 16 Sharing the podium with the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, here today the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, declared that Kashmir was 'central' to Indo-Pakistani relations and said it could be resolved if all parties engaged with a willingness to address concerns in a mutually acceptable way.

At a joint press conference after the first round of discussions with Gen. Musharraf and his colleagues, Gen. Powell said Washington was of the view that the beginning of a dialogue between India and Pakistan was the "most important thing that is needed now" and he would carry the same message to New Delhi.

Gen. Musharraf said he had briefed Gen. Powell on Pakistan's desire to develop tension-free relations. "I emphasised that normalisation of relations would require that the Kashmir dispute is resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people. Kashmir remains at the heart of Pakistan-India tension."

In response, Gen. Powell said, "I praise President Musharraf's recent phone call to Prime Minister Vajpayee and we, too, believe that the Kashmir issue is essential to the relationship and can be resolved if all parties engage with a willingness to address their concerns in a mutually acceptable way. Issues must be resolved through peaceful political and diplomatic means, not through violence or reliance on force, but with a determined respect for human rights."



The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell (left), and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, at a joint press conference in Islamabad on Tuesday. — Reuters

The Secretary of State, who arrived here on Monday evening to discuss Pakistan's concerns on the situation in Afghanistan, went out of his way to pat Gen. Musharraf for his "bold and courageous" decision to join hands with the international community in the fight against terrorism.

At the end of his talks here, it was clear that the two sides had ironed out differences on some of the contentious issues. These included the nature of a post-Taliban political set-up in Afghanistan, protection of Pakistan's interests vis-a-vis the Kashmir question, and the need for the international community to ex-

tend a helping hand to Pakistan in coping with the crisis in the wake of the September 11 developments.

In the past few days Islamabad has been repeatedly asking the U.S. and its allies not to create a situation which the Northern Alliance could take advantage of and capture Kabul. It has been emphasising the need for a Pashtun-dominated government favourably disposed towards Pakistan.

More important, Gen. Musharraf appears to have succeeded in selling the idea of accommodating the 'moderate' elements within the Taliban in a future government. "You can't export

them. You can't send them to another country and you can't ethnically cleanse Afghanistan after this is over," Gen. Powell said in response to a specific question on the need to take the 'moderate' Taliban on board.

Gen. Musharraf said the situation in Afghanistan presented a challenge as well as an opportunity. The focus should be not only on combating terrorism but also on helping the country establish a durable political system, besides rehabilitation and reconstruction of the country.

The only sticking point related to the duration of the military campaign. While Gen. Powell maintained that the campaign against Osama and the Taliban would last as long as necessary, Gen. Musharraf once again emphasised the need for a short and targeted campaign. Gen. Musharraf said he had had very useful discussions with Gen. Powell and his presence was evidence of the new rejuvenated relationship between Pakistan and the U.S.

Gen. Powell said that at the moment the focus was on the terrorist threat emanating from Afghanistan — the Al-Qaeda and Osama bin Laden. But the U.S. would not stop there. "We are also looking forward to strengthening our cooperation on a full range of bilateral and regional issues. I made the point to the President that... as a result of the actions taken by Pakistan over the last five weeks, we are truly at the beginning of a strengthened relationship — a relationship that will grow and thrive in the years ahead."

Decks cleared for aird: Page 13

17 OCT 2001

# Powell to address Pak. concerns

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

WS Pak  
HO-1 16/10

**ISLAMABAD, OCT. 15.** Amid unprecedented security measures, the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, arrived here tonight in a bid to shore up the Musharraf Government confronted with stiff resistance from the pro-Taliban religious parties and groups.

The visit, first by a senior Bush Administration functionary since the September 11 terror strikes on the U.S., is considered significant as Islamabad would like to utilise the opportunity to discuss some of its serious concerns arising out of the U.S. military campaign against Osama and the Taliban militia.

The biggest concern of Pakistan is the duration of the military campaign and the future political set-up in Kabul. Statements emanating from Washington about acts of terrorism in Kashmir are of equal worry to Islamabad. The view here is that the "struggle in Kashmir is indigenous and cannot be bracketed with terrorism."

Gen. Powell's visit coincided with a bandh called by the religious parties and groups. However, the bandh passed off without any major incident and the Musharraf Government managed to demonstrate its control over the situation.

Hours before Gen. Powell landed at the Chaklala military airbase, the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, presided over a meeting of the military top brass to take stock of the emerging situation after eight days of the US-led military campaign in Af-

ghanistan and the efforts to cobble up an acceptable alternative political set-up in Kabul.

A three-member delegation on behalf of the former King of Afghanistan, Mohammad Zahir Shah, which arrived earlier in the day, had a detailed discussion with senior officials in the Foreign Office. The Musharraf regime is more or less reconciled to the prospect of the Taliban regime's fall in the wake of the military offensive and is trying to ensure that a hostile government does not replace it.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, told a news conference earlier in the day that all aspects of the Afghan situation, including the duration of the military operation in Afghanistan, and relations with India in the context of the Kashmir issue would be taken up with Gen. Powell.

Mr. Khan said Gen. Powell would have very detailed meetings with Gen. Musharraf and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar. As part of its agreement with Washington, Pakistan has given the U.S. access to its air space and intelligence and offered logistical support.

The religious parties and groups are up in arms against the alleged free run given to the U.S. troops in the use of airports at Jacobabad and Pasni. The Pakistan Foreign Office has been at pains to emphasise in the last few days that there were no combat troops in Pakistan and no military operations were undertaken from its soil.

THE HINDU

16 OCT 2002

# Protest erupts in Pak, 1 killed

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 14. — One person was killed and over 2,000 arrested as pro-Taliban demonstrators today attempted to "gherac" Jacobabad airport in Pakistan's Sindh province which has been handed over to US military forces.

Reports from Jacobabad said hundreds of demonstrators mobilised by Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and Jamiat-e-Islami religious parties attempted to reach the airport which was cordoned off by security personnel.

The protesters were shouting: "Down with Bush dog," "American graveyard — Afghanistan," "Hero of Islam — Osama bin Laden." They fired at the police who retaliated. The security personnel earlier fired in the air and lobbed teargas shells to disperse the demonstrators.

## THAI TURN

BANGKOK, Oct. 14. — An Islamic body in Thailand has asked Muslims in the country to boycott products made in the USA and its allies in protest against the US-led strikes in Afghanistan.

The Central Islamic Committee of Thailand called on Muslims in Thailand not to frequent fast-food restaurants run by American companies or discount stores owned by some of the USA's European allies, the committee spokesman said. — PTI

15/10

One person was killed and over 10 others, including a police official, were injured. More than 2,000 activists have been arrested, officials said.

But Mr Riaz Durrani, a JUI spokesman, said two marchers were shot dead by paramilitary forces in Jacobabad and one by army in nearby Shikarpur.

The protesters had taken away body of one of the dead from the hospital by force and according to one report it is being kept at a point in the city centre, creating more tension in the town, which is already under fire.

Local residents reached on the phone confirmed a complete strike, violence, firing and use of teargas shells in Jacobabad. "The city is closed and violence is continuing in the city. We have heard sound of teargas shells and firing," a witness said.

"All roads approaching the airbase are being sealed by the police and paramilitary rangers. Pakistan army troops are in control of the Jacobabad base and have taken position to stop any advance by the radical Muslims attempting to reach the base.



Children brandish toy rifles and suggestive headgear at an anti-US rally in Peshawar on Sunday. The boy on the right poses as Osama bin Laden. — AP/PTI

We have sent more contingents of police and paramilitary rangers to Begari, a spot where protesters to protest against US secretary of state Mr Colin Powell's visit to Islamabad. Fifteen police officials were injured in Karachi last night when protesters threw hand grenades at police patrols.

Meanwhile, Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam and Jamiat-e-Islami have called for a nationwide strike tomorrow to protest against US secretary of state Mr Colin Powell's visit to Islamabad.

A police official told the local media that the grenade attack "is the job of the people who seem to be fully trained in such operations."



A senior citizen protests in Karachi on Sunday. — AP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

# Pakistan cracks down on anti-U.S. protesters

## One killed, 14 hurt as demonstrators clash with security forces in Jacobabad

JACOBABAD: At least one person was killed on Sunday when the police shot into the air as they tried to disperse several thousand anti-American demonstrators in southern Jacobabad, witnesses said.

The protesters, who had evaded a huge security cordon thrown around the city, hurled stones, prompting paramilitary rangers and the police to fire in the air and use teargas to break up the crowds in the town in southern Sindh province.

The demonstrations were called by radical Islamic parties to protest against the use of the local airport by American forces.

The police and witnesses said 14 people were injured, including one policeman and two who were seriously hurt. One was in a coma, hospital officials said. "We have strict orders from the government to deal sternly with the protesters," a top police official said.

Pakistan, as part of its pledge to offer the U.S. non-combat logistical support for raids on Afghanistan, has allowed U.S. forces to use two airports — Jacobabad and remote Panni on the Arabian Sea coast.

Some 3,000 paramilitary rangers as well as soldiers have been deployed around the town after several radical Muslim leaders called for a siege of the Shabaz airport in Jacobabad to protest against the U.S. military presence.

The crowds shouted "Down with Bush dog," "American graveyard — Afghanistan," voicing anger against the U.S. strikes on neighbouring Afghanistan. About 4,000 to 5,000 people had gathered in groups in the town and hurled stones at the police as they tried to reach the Shabaz airport.

"We will break the restrictions imposed by the government," a leader of the pro-Taliban radical group Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam that called for the protests, said. "We will not leave any American on Pakistani soil or in

Afghanistan," he added. Pakistan's interior minister Moinuddin Haider said on Thursday that the two airports had been offered to U.S. forces and would be used only for rescue and recovery missions.

An airport source in Jacobabad said none of the Americans at the base appeared to be combat soldiers. He said he had seen U.S. C-130 transport planes, helicopters and other aircraft, and that the deployment began more than a week ago.

The military have mounted machine guns on the homes of people living around the airport and residents have been offered alternative accommodation if they want.

A police official said that more than 300 people had been detained trying to reach the protests and other activists had been stopped outside the town as they tried to answer the call to surround the airport.

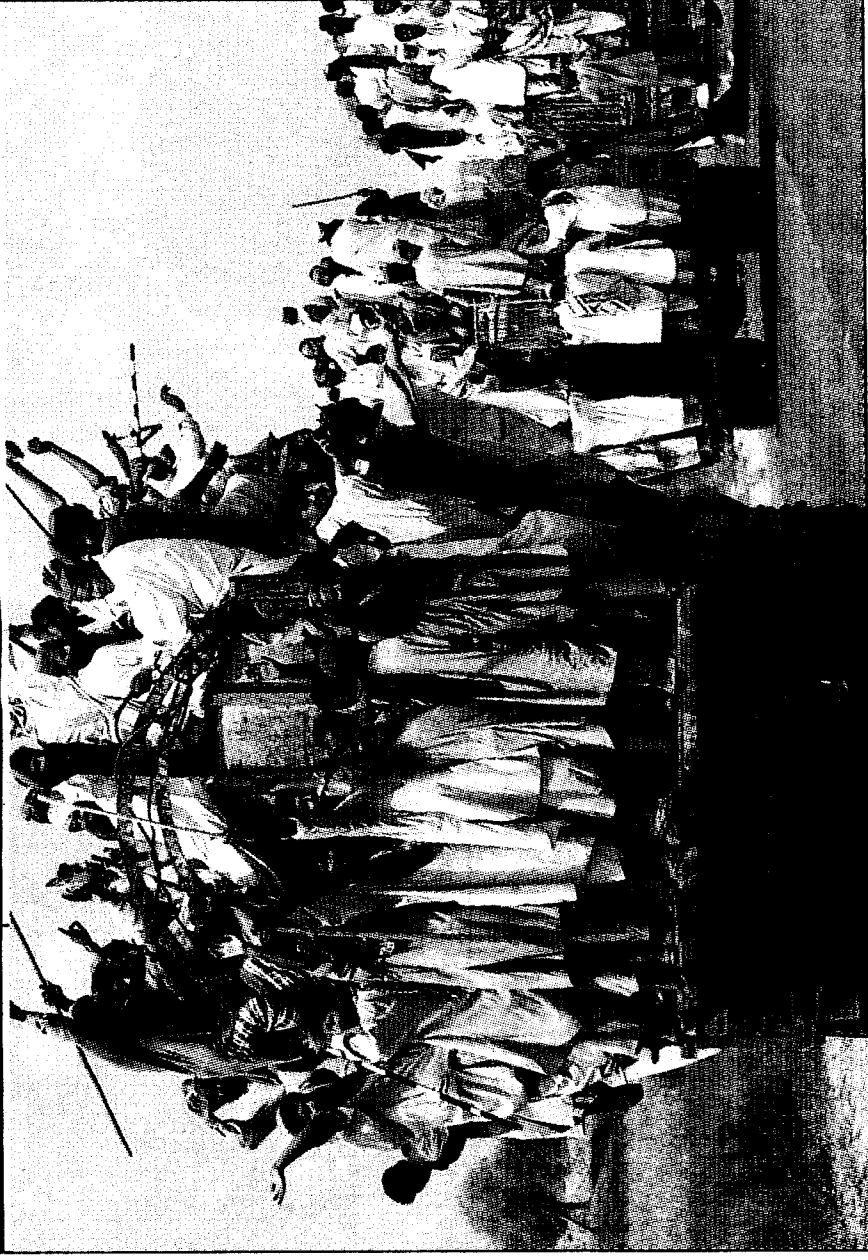
Local officials said several leaders of radical Muslim parties in the town had been detained after the Pakistan and Afghanistan Defence Council, comprising a coalition of pro-Taliban Islamic religious parties, called for a siege of the airport on Sunday.

Many of those detained were activists belonging to the Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam as well as others from hardline Islamic groups. The army, paramilitary rangers and the police were manning barriers and checkpoints on all routes leading to the town and the airport, witnesses said.

Officials said that to prevent a large-scale demonstration, authorities were preventing some people from entering the town.

Road blocks had been erected as far as 20 km from Jacobabad and the police were stopping and questioning people as to why they needed to enter the town, residents said. (Agencies)

## THE DRIVE AGAINST THE DRIVE AGAINST TERROR



A convoy of pro-Taliban demonstrators from the Pakistan Islamic fundamentalist group Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam moves towards Jacobabad after breaking through a police barricade in Shikarpur on Sunday. One person was killed and at least 14 others were injured, mostly from gunshot wounds, during the clash between the police and demonstrators protesting the presence of U.S. troops in the nearby Shabaz airbase in Jacobabad.

## American blitz continues as anti-war cries grow

KABUL/WASHINGTON: U.S. warplanes continued to pound Afghanistan on Sunday in a relentless campaign to root out Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaeda network.

Jets bombed military targets and the airport in southern Kandahar on Sunday causing a fire, a Pakistan-based Afghan news service reported. The Afghan Islamic Press said jets had also carried out five raids on Herat airport in western Afghanistan. U.S. warplanes swooped over curfew-bound Jalalabad in the east during

the Pentagon on Saturday admitted that a 900 kg bomb had hit a house in Kabul after missing its target at the airport. At least one person died and four

were wounded. "We regret the loss of any civilian life," the U.S. defence department said in a statement.

The strikes have triggered protests around the world and at least 200 people were killed in two days of religious clashes in the Nigerian city of Kano, where an orgy of killings was reported overnight by gangs of militants triggered by anti-U.S. protests. In Indonesia, police arrested 65 anti-American demonstrators in Jakarta, sparking angry scenes outside the police headquarters. (Agencies)

# US saved Pervez face on Laden fund

Wg Pak HFI 19/10

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, October 13

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf resigned from the board of the Rabita Welfare Trust just before the Bush Administration yesterday included the Pakistan-based outfit in its fresh list of terrorists. He was tipped off about the imminent ban by Washington, according to a report in *The New York Times* today.

India had given clinching evidence of Musharraf's role as patron and honorary president of the trust, which is part of the Rabita al-Alam al-Islam (Muslim World League). It is the apex

body for funding groups ostensibly involved in charity projects for poor Muslims around the world. But that is just a cover to fund terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and Chechnya.

Washington, after checking out the veracity of the Indian inputs (the US and India have a joint working group on anti-terrorism), included Rabita in the list of terrorist organisations. Bush Administration officials confirmed to *The New York Times* that Musharraf had been warned of the impending order and "encouraged him to disassociate himself".

Along with Rabita, the US Gov-

ernment ordered the banning of the terrorist outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad. Britain has done likewise. Washington's new list is significant in that all the individuals and entities named are based in countries whose cooperation is actively being sought by the US in Operation Enduring Freedom.

Though Musharraf managed to extricate himself from fresh controversy, Indian sources said links between him and terrorism is now no longer a secret. Washington apparently moved swiftly to act on India's inputs just to create a favourable climate ahead of Secretary of State Colin Powell's visit on Tuesday.



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 OCT 2002

# Islamabad admits presence of American troops and aircraft

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies  
Islamabad/Washington, Oct 11

PAKISTAN'S MILITARY spokesman Gen Rashid Qureshi today admitted the presence of US troops on its soil, but insisted that there were no combat troops. US military personnel, helicopters and fighter aircraft were earlier reported to have been sighted in Sindh.

Qureshi said: "US military troops have not used Pakistani soil for strikes against Afghanistan. We stand committed to providing logistic support and sharing intelligence information with the US, but we will not disclose elements of the tactical advance and the substance of the logistical support."

But all this didn't seem to cut much ice with President George W Bush, who delivered yet another snub to Pakistan by not mentioning it while listing the countries backing the US in its war efforts. In a speech for Nato chief George Robertson at the White House yesterday, Bush listed Russia, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, China, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. He praised all of Latin America and even mentioned the support provided by the Organisation of African Unity.

Just the day before, Bush criticised General Pervez Musharraf for telling the media that the campaign against Afghanistan would be short and swift.

Sources said Washington has told New Delhi that any major ground operation would probably take place from Uzbekistan. Pakistan would at best serve as a standby staging area. The US is reportedly less than pleased with the quality of Pakistani intelligence on the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's network. PMO

sources said Pakistan's primary utility to Washington was more its intelligence information than as a base for attacks against Afghanistan.

The pattern of US warplane deployment in Pakistan is a pointer to this. Witnesses said they had seen at least 10 F-18s and three Blackhawk helicopters parked at Jacobabad airport in Sindh. Dozens of US military personnel were also seen there. These craft are used by US special forces, not regulars.

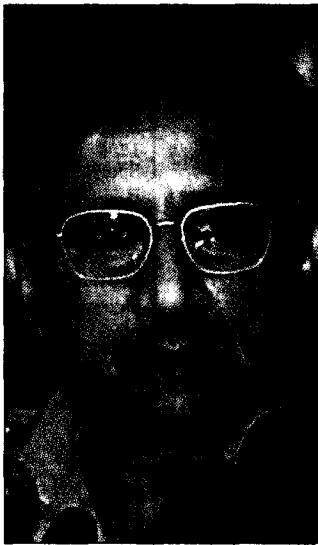
Jacobabad airport security has been reinforced with two battalions of Pakistani soldiers. Army personnel have taken position on rooftops in the airport's vicinity, causing concern among residents of the area and adding to the simmering anger of the Pakistanis. All domestic flights from this airfield has also been cancelled.

To preempt the anger from translating into more strife, Musharraf today ordered a massive crackdown on religious extremists who, he said, were harming the nation's reputation and creating an adverse climate for trade in the country.

Presiding over a high-level meeting attended by all corps com-

manders, Governors and police chiefs of major cities to review law and order, he ordered immediate arrest of anybody demonstrating against the Government's decision to back the US strikes.

The orders came hours within the Afghan Defence Council — an alliance of religious parties — announced demonstrations across the country after Friday prayers tomorrow. Thousands arrived in Quetta today ahead of such a rally. Musharraf also ordered arrest and deportation of all Afghan nationals found protesting against the US and his Government.



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

THE HINDU

12 OCT 2001



# U.S. gets landing rights in Pakistan

13 - Pak

Times News Network & Agencies

WASHINGTON ISLAMABAD: The United States has railroaded Pakistan into readying the staging area for ground operations in Afghanistan as it began pulverising Taliban defences in the heaviest bombing reported until now.

Despite qualified denials and clarifications from Islamabad, eyewitness accounts and some official acknowledgements spoke of hundreds of U.S. special forces landing at airports in Sindh's Jacobabad and Baluchistan's Pasni. Pakistani troops formed the perimeter around the airports to protect the U.S. forces from attacks by the restive local population.

The landing of U.S. ground troops in Pakistan, the first time such forces have formally set foot in the sub-continent, almost certainly presages a land attack on Afghanistan. The move could also have far-reaching consequences for the region, including for Pakistan itself. Historically, troops that land in such a manner rarely leave quickly or cleanly, whether it is in Kosovo or Jaffna.

Reports from Pakistan say at least 15 U.S. military aircraft, including C-130 transport planes, have landed at Pakistan's Jacobabad air base in the past two days. The area is the hotbed of ethnic unrest even without the current provocation. Islamic radicals have threatened to attack any foreign troops in the area, but Pakistani forces are said to have thrown a complete cordon around the area.

Pakistani officials, fearful of a domestic backlash, have said the U.S. troops arriving there will not be used to attack Afghanistan and would more likely form a support base. But there are no American guarantees to this effect. Meanwhile, the Taliban's only envoy to the outside world has said the real war would begin once the U.S. ground forces came into Afghanistan and that time was not far off.

Meanwhile, the U.S. on Thursday launched its biggest-ever attack on Kabul and Kandahar, causing heavy casualties. The Taliban claimed that more than 140 people

had been killed in the assault on Kabul, Jalalabad and Kandahar since Wednesday night.

In a related development, the Afghan opposition claimed it had taken a key central province after heavy fighting with Taliban forces on Wednesday night.

A spokesman for the Northern Alliance said that Afghanistan's Gur province, including the capital, Chaghcharan, fell to opposition fighters shortly after Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, thousands of Islamic militants started descending on Quetta on Thursday in preparation for a massive anti-U.S. rally by Pakistan's hardline religious parties.

The Pakistan government has instructed immigration officials to apprehend six people who figure in the 'watch list' of suspects wanted by U.S. officials in connection with the September 11 terror attacks.

"The U.S. authorities have asked Pakistan to trace these people and extradite them to America as they are suspected to have been involved in the terrorist attacks," the Pakistan Daily Dawn said, quoting officials.

The Pakistani authorities on Thursday seized more than 2,500 grenades from a man suspected of plotting terrorist attacks in response to U.S.-led attacks on neighbouring Afghanistan.

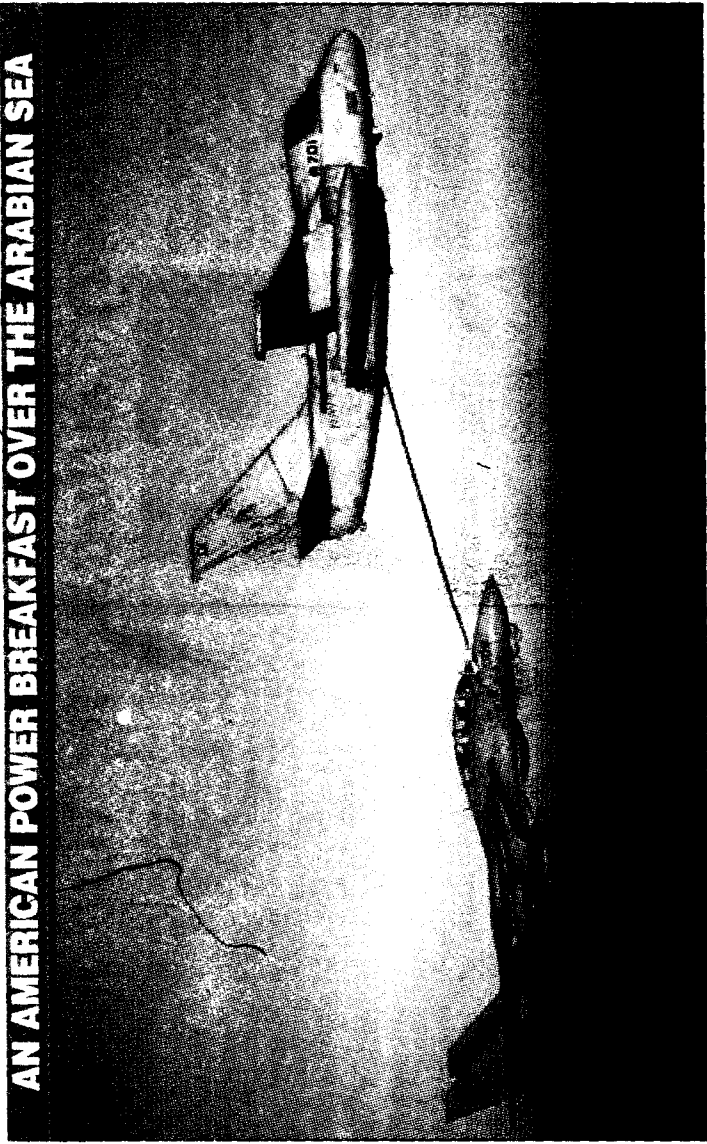
The seizure came as the country braced itself for further violence following the U.S. action after a week of protests, which has already left ten people dead and scores injured. Sources said they found the grenades in Landikotal, a remote town in Pakistan's North West Frontier Province.

Mullah Omar, supreme leader of Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement protecting Bin Laden, has asked the world's Muslims to help his impoverished country resist the U.S.-led raids.

"Muslims should dissociate from it. Every Muslim, having strong faith, should resolutely act against the egoistic power (America)," he told the BBC, monitored in Pakistan.

## IN ATTACK MODE

- ▶ 140 killed in assaults on Kabul, Kandahar
- ▶ Northern Alliance makes major gains
- ▶ Thousands descend on Quetta for anti-U.S. rally
- ▶ Pak officials told to apprehend 6 people on U.S. watchlist



AN AMERICAN POWER BREAKFAST OVER THE ARABIAN SEA

An F-14A Tomcat fighter aircraft refuels from an S-3B Viking during flight operations from aboard the aircraft carrier USS Enterprise, currently deployed in the Arabian Sea, as U.S.-led forces continued to pound Kabul and Kandahar on Thursday.

# Osama Bin Laden 'owns' Taliban

By Bob Woodward

WASHINGTON: Osama bin Laden has provided an estimated \$100 million in cash and military assistance to the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan in the last five years, according to intelligence information presented recently to U.S. President George W. Bush.

As a result, the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has concluded that Bin Laden "owns and operates" the Taliban, say government sources. Bin Laden's assistance to the Taliban had reportedly come from his entities—front companies he operates, tribute payments from Gulf states or individuals, and entities masked as charities. But the financial squeeze put on by the U.S. since the September 11 attacks is already starting to hurt one of

Bin Laden's lieutenants, said the sources.

Hence, given Bin Laden's pattern in both Sudan and Afghanistan—of giving financial assistance and then integrating his Al Qaeda network with the local government—senior administration officials said a central U.S. strategy could be reduced to four words: 'Dry up the money'.

Meanwhile, armed with a virtual blank check from the Bush administration, the CIA is pouring operatives and money into and around Afghanistan, and has decided to pay a bounty to anyone who helps capture or kill Bin Laden. Many intelligence officials and analysts (some recalled from retirement) are being despatched to Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and elsewhere. (LAT-WP Svc)



# Cracks surface in U.S.-Pak ties

9/11  
By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: U.S. President George W. Bush on Tuesday peremptorily snubbed Pakistan's Gen Pervez Musharraf amidst clear indications of a strain in their event-based relationship in which Islamabad is expected to do Washington's bidding in its campaign against terrorism with no questions asked.

Hours after Gen Musharraf told the world that he had received definite assurances from the U.S. and the UK that the military operations in Afghanistan would be short, Mr Bush publicly contradicted him, snapping, "I don't know who told the Pakistani President that. Generally, we don't talk about military plans."

Mr Bush, who has been annoyed by the leakage of intelligence by law-makers in Washington, continued, "There's one way to shorten the campaign in Afghanistan, and that's for Osama bin Laden and his leadership to be turned over so they can be brought to justice."

The public expression of discord with a crucial ally, and the sharp tone employed by the U.S. President

11/10  
about another world leader, are rare. It was made in the White House rose garden in front of German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

But Islamabad has evidently annoyed the administration with its own agenda and conditions while purporting to support Washington's campaign against terrorism. Despite making sympathetic noises about Pakistan's plight, which U.S. officials privately say the country has brought on itself, the administration has begun to take a hard look at Islamabad's role in the whole messy affair. Washington's position has hardened after reports about the deep links between the Pakistani establishment and the Taliban and its jihadi proteges, a realisation that led to the weekend crackdown and sacking of the hardliners by Gen Musharraf under U.S. pressure.

One indication of the shift in attitude is evident in the manner in which Washington has changed its stand on the Northern Alliance after initially appearing to consider Pakistan's plea that its Taliban proteges should continue to have a role in a future Kabul dispensation.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 OCT 2001

# Pakistan trapped in vicious cir

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 10. — Pakistan, which has been forced to cooperate in the war against its ally Taliban, has been boxed in the developing events in the conflict.

Concerned about domestic repercussions from the war and strengthening of the anti-Taliban alliance in Afghanistan, Islamabad has desperately urged the USA to make the attacks short and give Pakistan a role in deciding a post-Taliban government. Washington has dismissed both requests.

India, angered by last week's attack on the J&K Assembly in Srinagar, has threatened its own attacks on Pakistan.

Threatened by Washington that it would also be made a target in the war on terror, Islamabad reluctantly agreed to allow its land, bases and airspace to be used in the campaign. The wave of protests all over the

country have grown more aggressive and violent since the US air raids began on Sunday.

Two days ago, Islamabad placed the leader of the pro-Taliban Jamiat-i-Islam under house arrest. Yesterday, Pakistani forces fired at a huge group of protesters, killing four, including a 13-year-old boy.

Since the US bombings began, Pakistani border forces had to wage gunbattles twice with Taliban forces that tried to enter Pakistan. On the first day of attacks, Taliban brought some of their attack helicopters to hide inside Pakistan, but they were seized.

Pakistan has been the sponsor and main backer of the Taliban which has a huge following in the country. Islamic militant youth have for years moved easily across the border between the two countries, going to schools in Peshawar and then training in camps in Afghanistan, run by Osama's Al-Qaida network.

Televised pictures of Pakistani

87.5 11/10  
police firing on its own people, and fighting a battle with the Taliban friends is bound to increase tension in the country. The ISI continues to support the Taliban, with reports that days before the US bombings began, ISI officials went to Afghanistan to advise the Taliban on their response.

General Pervez Musharraf, soon after he received advance warning about the US retaliation, reinforced his position by moving thorny generals out of the way and promoting his pro-Western loyalists. A prolonged attack on Afghanistan will erode his powers and strengthen the militants at home.

Yesterday, the White House contradicted his claim of US "assurances" that the campaign would be short. Asked about Gen. Musharraf's remark, a visibly irritated President Bush said, "I don't know who told the Pakistani President that." He added that there was "one way to shorten the campaign in

Afghanistan - the Taliban and his friends turned over so that they can be brought to justice." White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer said the campaign against Osama bin Laden will be "a long one," and that Gen. Musharraf's role will have an early end to the

In desperation, Musharraf turned to the exiled King Zahir Shah. But the US has no covert support for the King's Alliance that's been formed.

Meanwhile, India is nervous. The Indian government is concerned that the Taliban's attack on train in Peshawar that killed 25 people and injured 100 others is a warning of what could be expected to visit India next week to cool down the situation. India is also concerned that the Taliban's current war in Afghanistan could also force Pakistan to threaten nuclear

THE STATESMAN

# Pakistan army chokes anti-America protests

Three Islamist  
 leaders vs govt  
 detained

HT Correspondent &  
 Agencies  
 Peshawar, October 9

THREE PERSONS, including a 13-year-old boy, were shot dead in Pakistan today in fresh rounds of anti-American protests which did not gather yesterday's momentum because of the heavy army deployment.

The relative calm in the border areas on Tuesday was broken by the fatalities in the small town of Kuchlak, north-west of Quetta, after a mob attacked a police station and tried to set it on fire.

General Pervez Musharraf's determination to keep demonstrations within limits paid off as he was helped by the fact that ordinary Pakistanis, though unhappy with the US military action, did not join the religious right-wing on the streets. The arrest of several prominent religious leaders also worked in his favour.

Senior Jamiat Ulema-e-Islam (JUI) leader Fazlur Rehman was detained in his northwestern hometown of Dera Ismail Khan for the second time since Saturday.

Another JUI leader, Samiul Haq, was placed under house arrest in northwestern Akora Khattak, where he runs a prominent seminary and taught Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar in the early 1990s. Haq also heads the Council

today's rally in the grain market area of old Peshawar from turning violent.

Only about 150 of its supporters gathered in the narrow street near the local mosque under the vigil of an armoured personnel carrier and a substantial police contingent. After a few fiery speeches, chants of "crush-crush US" and the obligatory burning of George Bush's effigy, the workers quietly dispersed without troubling the might of the state. Several armoured personnel carriers were strategically deployed around Khyber Bazaar, an indication that the Government would brook no nonsense. It proved effective as the sporadic rallies around the city remained peaceful.

For those who were hoping to build up a momentum of rallies till Friday — when afternoon prayers are extensive and used for massive and impromptu mobilisation by religious leaders — it was a big disappointment.

Many here believe that today's calm will continue as the Government has kept the most polemical among the clergy under arrest.

Further, despite the news of yesterday's rallies and today's daytime strikes, the ordinary citizen did not feel moved enough to disrupt his normal routine and join the protesters. This despite the fact that the NWFP is a socially conservative belt where religious fundamentalism holds sway.

There were reports that about 200 extremists have slipped into Afghanistan from the bordering tribal agency of North Waziristan. However, the jihadis do not seem to have had much success with recruiting Afghan refugees in the camps in Peshawar.



AFP PHOTO

Pakistanis shout anti-US slogans amid calls for jihad during a pro-Taliban demonstration in Karachi on Tuesday.

for Defence of Afghanistan, an alliance of religious parties set up recently to oppose UN sanc-

tions against the Taliban. Police also detained Azam Tariq, head of Sunni extremist

group Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) from Lahore airport and restricted him to his home in

Jhang, central Punjab. SSP militants accused of bloody sectarian killings and violence against the

minority Shias are believed to be hiding in Afghanistan.

Tariq's arrest prevented

# U.S. Senate vote to waive all sanctions against Pak.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami H10-1

WASHINGTON, OCT. 5. Keeping in line with the existing political realities and in the context of America's war against terrorism, the U.S. Senate has voted to waive temporarily all the remaining sanctions against Pakistan for two years. The lawmakers have said that the Foreign Relations Committee has to be notified each time waivers are being exercised. The Bill now goes to the House of Representatives. H10

The Senate's action means that the pro-democracy sanctions imposed in the aftermath of the 1999 military coup are being waived for fiscal 2001 as also for the next fiscal year. The Senators have said that the President, Mr. George W. Bush, must make the determination that his waiver will not only facilitate the transition to democratic rule but also be considered important in the fight against terrorism.

Sanctions imposed on Pakistan for violations of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) have also been lifted. "Pakistan has chosen to stand with the U.S. We need to assist this important frontline state," the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Mr. Joseph Biden, said.

The Senate's action on sanctions with respect to

Pakistan was made in close consultation with the State Department. And the Senators have made it known that instead of broad and sweeping waivers, legislation ought to be in the context of the current developments and compulsions.

In the present context, the Senate's action is significant even if the lawmakers are insisting that this is a "temporary" measure and that the chamber will always be concerned about progress on the democracy front. More than the military significance of the Bill, the White House has been given wide latitude on the economic and financial fronts as well.

Meanwhile, in the House of Representatives three lawmakers have introduced the "U.S.-India Security Cooperation Act of 2001" seeking to do away with all the remaining sanctions against New Delhi. The Bill has been referred to the House International Relations Committee.

Arguing that India could be a vital strategic partner of the U.S. on a range of political and security issues, the lawmakers urged the Bush administration to "immediately expand cooperation at all levels" including non-proliferation and counter-terrorism.

THE HINDU

- 6 OCT 2002

# Only terrorists must be targeted: Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 5. For the first time since it pledged unstinted cooperation to Washington in fight against terrorism, Islamabad today indirectly cautioned the U.S. and its allies against any discriminate action in response to the September 11 incidents. At a press conference here, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, referred to "sentiments" and stressed that things "have to be managed carefully".

"The U.S. has not yet shared any operational plans with us. But all I can say is that keeping in mind the sentiments, things have to be managed carefully. It should be ensured that only terrorists are targeted and innocent people do not suffer. This is not a war against the people of any country", Mr. Khan said. He was replying to a question on media reports on the U.S. decision to opt for minimum use of facilities offered by Pakistan for any planned strikes in Afghanistan.

The dominant sentiment in Pa-

kistan is against giving a "free run" to the U.S. to launch strikes against Afghanistan. The rallies and demonstrations organised by some religious parties and hardliners reflect this sentiment. Diplomats and political observers here maintain that one of the reasons for the delayed and measured response of Washington to the September 11 incidents is the overall mood within Pakistan.

"There is a danger of sharp polarisation within the Pakistani society in the event of any indiscriminate action from its soil by the U.S. against Afghanistan. I believe Washington has realised it. This is reflected in the statements of various functionaries of the Bush administration and the U.S. media reports in the last few days," said a western diplomat.

Meanwhile, there is a sense of relief among the managers of the military government that the fourth Friday after the strikes in the U.S. has passed off without any untoward incidents. There were reports of impressive demonstrations organised by pro-Ta-

liban elements in some parts of Pakistan after the Friday prayers. Local media reports said that thousands of Afghans on Thursday participated in anti-U.S. rallies from Jalalabad to Torkham.

In a related development, the chairman of the Council for Defence of Pakistan and Afghanistan, Maulana Samiul Haq, has warned the Pakistan Government against playing the role of a "hired killer" in the prevailing crisis. He condemned Pakistan for recognising the American evidence against Osama and termed it as a shameful act. The act had broken the hearts of more than a billion Muslims. Pakistan was behaving like the "Attorney-General" of the U.S. and the Foreign Office had become more loyal than the King. The U.S. was presenting concocted evidence to justify its possible attack on Afghanistan. Only a court could take a decision regarding the authenticity of the evidence and the Foreign Office had no right to take a decision whether the evidence was credible or not, he said.

THE HINDU

# Putin reiterates support to U.S. coalition

By Batuk Gathani

**BRUSSELS, Oct. 3.** The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, visited the NATO headquarters here today for talks with senior officials of the Western military alliance.

NATO had formally invoked its mutual defence clause under Article V on Tuesday, after the United States produced convincing evidence that Osama bin Laden's organisation was behind the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11 in New York and the Pentagon.

NATO said on Tuesday it was convinced "by clear and compelling evidence" that the attacks were launched "from abroad" by Osama's Al-Qaeda movement.

Article V states that an armed attack on one or more of the allies in Europe or North America "shall be considered an attack against them all" and hence all 19 members of NATO will "individually or collectively" assist the parties attacked.

Moreover, this article could come into play only "if" the U.S. could prove the terrorist attack was directed from abroad.

Russia has given its backing for military action in Afghanistan and speaking last night at

the start of his talks with NATO and the European Union, Mr. Putin said his country's participation in the proposed global coalition to fight terrorism could change Moscow's relations with the West "profoundly".

Mr. Putin said, "Russia's special services do not need any additional proof to participate in the struggle against terrorist acts."

"For us", Mr. Putin said, "It is already clear" and referring to Osama, he said: "The only thing we do not know is the exact role he played." The NATO Secretary General, Lord Robertson, then pinpointed Osama as "having been involved," adding, "It is clear that all roads lead to Al-Qaeda and bin Laden."

Mr. Putin's mission was also to win Western support for Russia's campaign against Muslim secessionist rebels in Chechnya. So far, the Russian leader has gone to great lengths to assist the Bush administration after the events of Sept. 11, and Mr. Putin has allowed the U.S. military to use Russian air space to reach friendly Central Asian countries which border Afghanistan.

Last night, Mr. Putin compared terrorism with "bacteria — which adapts to the orga-

nism bearing it". He accused terrorists of exploiting the concepts of democracy and freedom of speech to achieve their ends.

There is much speculation about the proposed mode of U.S. military operations and the diplomatic offensive that the Bush administration has launched in the Arab and Muslim world to create a global alliance to fight terrorism. Russia is seen as a part of this alliance.

European analysts are impressed with Mr. Putin's "adroit" diplomacy to add new dimensions to the proposed framework of cooperation between Moscow and Western powers in both military and political matters to contain challenges of global terrorism.

This is underlined in Mr Putin's current visit to the E.U. and NATO as he seeks to underpin a new relationship with the West which he himself described last night as the most "crucial".

Western officials also note that Mr Putin's Russia is gradually "at ease" with the concept of the proposed expansion of the European Union and NATO, which may border Russia perhaps by the end of this decade.

THE HINDU

4 OCT 2001

# Pakistan-U.S. strategic idiom

By P. S. Suryanarayana

AMERICA'S "WAR" on international terrorism is now being plotted in a nebulous strategic environment. In a sense, the global strategic milieu remains clouded by the fallout of the September 11 attacks on America. Yet, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has outlined an arguably 'post-modern' doctrine of "war" against the "global network of terror". However, the old war-principle of U.S.-friendly "frontline states" still seems to apply. Not a surprise, therefore, is Pakistan's sensitive decision to make common cause with the U.S.

A question now is whether the evolving U.S.-Pakistan strategic idiom will serve as a stabilising factor in South Asia and the world. There can be no instant answer. Nor is it plain at this stage that the latest U.S.-Pakistan entente will turn out to be an essentially flawed alliance. The notion of a possibly flawed new relationship is rooted in recent bilateral history. In the past, Islamabad has felt "betrayed" by the U.S. in respect of three episodes of their strategic togetherness, although Washington alone cannot be blamed.

Pakistan's present understanding with America is unique. Mr. Bush believes that Pakistan's President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is a suitable tactical ally in Washington's efforts to begin a campaign against globalised terrorist networks. Why? As a military ruler, Gen. Musharraf is reckoned to command Pakistan's shadowy secret service (ISI) which controls neighbouring Afghanistan in a bid to enhance Islamabad's "strategic depth" in relation to India. Of interest to Mr. Bush is the ISI's patently sway over Afghanistan's Taliban regime that "hosts and harbours" Osama bin Laden.

For Gen. Musharraf, though, the choice has not been easy. Osama and the Taliban are sources of inspiration for a significantly proactive Muslim minority within Pakistan. So, Gen. Musharraf has defined his alleged Faustian deal with the U.S. in strategic terms that transcend the country's identification with its religious credentials. According to him, the pro-U.S. stance in the war against global terror will not only help safeguard Pakistan's "strategic nuclear and missile assets" but also enable it to sustain the Kashmir "cause". However,

prominent opinion-makers in Pakistan tend to believe that Gen. Musharraf has merely responded in a pragmatic manner to Mr. Bush's insistence that Islamabad choose the U.S. or be deemed to support terrorism. In this complex process, Pakistan's only "stable" institution, the military establishment, has backed Gen. Musharraf despite the presence of a salient religious lobby within it. This new reality, if not reversed, will do Pakistan a lot of good.

As David Halberstam has pointed out in a different but pertinent context, the U.S. at present tends to be increasingly cognisant of the "what-if factor" while planning strategic operations. The Vietnam syndrome is said to account for this. The U.S. recognises that its military and political

these occasions. Moreover, it is alleged, the American funds and the U.S.-sponsored multilateral aid which did flow to Pakistan were siphoned off by its own "corrupt" rulers. However, there is a huge qualitative difference between the earlier U.S.-Pakistan links and the latest one. America had never before been threatened as directly as at present. Should Pakistan now stay the course as desired by the U.S., Islamabad may even discover that the saga of "betrayals" by America is a matter of the past.

How did Pakistan first win America's attention? Through most part of the 1950s, India counted upon the newly communist China as a potential friend. It was then that Ayub Khan, Pakistan's military chief and

ton and London empathised with New Delhi following China's incursion into India in 1962. So, in a display of realpolitik thereafter, Ayub Khan entered into the 1963 Boundary Agreement with China for a strategic link-up. A pro-Pakistan scholar, Alastair Lamb, has argued that the accord was no proof of any Pakistan-China axis. Much later, Pakistan itself viewed the 1962 episode as "India's China war" by echoing Neville Maxwell. But, during the 1962 crisis itself, Ayub Khan was angry with the U.S. over its perceived eagerness to befriend Nehru's democratic India.

From Ayub Khan's perspective, the subsequent Pakistan-India war of 1965 brought further evidence of Washington's latent tendency to hold the scales even in South Asia. Much later, a Pakistani White Paper debunked Ayub Khan's belief in the mid-1960s that America could influence India over Kashmir. Lyndon Johnson was said to have told Ayub Khan to get this idea out of his head and Kashmir out of his system. By the mid-1960s, the Anglo-American efforts at facilitating talks between India and Pakistan also ended, because Washington became embroiled in Vietnam. That set the stage for a Soviet mediatory role and the India-Pakistan talks at Tashkent in January 1966. However, the changing dynamics of global politics in the period immediately prior to the 1971 war over the liberation of Bangladesh rendered external mediation concerning Kashmir quite impracticable.

In a related but separate development, Pakistan capitalised on its friendship with China of the 1960s, a dynamic that remains vibrant to this day, to bring about a strategic rapprochement between Washington and Beijing in the early 1970s. Also, the Soviet Union's Afghan intervention towards the end of that decade enabled Pakistan to gravitate towards a 'grateful' U.S.

Yet, the collapse of the Soviet Union by the early 1990s and India's rising prominence through the 1990s pushed Pakistan to the sidelines of the U.S.' strategic calculus. It is this aspect that Pakistan is now seeking to rectify in the context of the latest American compulsions.

***America has never before been threatened as directly as at present. Should Pakistan now stay the course, it may discover that the saga of 'betrayals' is a matter of the past.***

supremacy might not suffice to promote American global interests if an unforeseen event begins to affect any meticulously planned campaign to promote them. True to this, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, has now spoken of plans for "floating coalitions", consisting of different countries for various purposes, so that America could wage the "war" on globalised terror with some comfort.

As a result, Pakistan may even find itself out of the U.S.-centric loop as the international "war" on terror enters qualitatively different phases. Yet, the U.S. will owe the Pakistanis a pay-off (not in a negative sense) for their cooperation unless they botch it up altogether. Economic benefits are now in the pipeline like in the previous instances of U.S.-Pakistan alliances — the anti-communist pact in 1954, the secret Pakistani project of bringing about a Sino-American rapprochement in the early 1970s and Washington's anti-Soviet coalition with Islamabad and motley Muslim guerrillas in Afghanistan in the 1980s. The Pakistanis argue that they got precious little as genuine strategic rewards on all

later its ruler, placed his country firmly in an orbit around the U.S. in the light of arguments which suited the McCarthyist America of the time. Western diplomats such as Sir Morrice James noted in their chronicles of that period how Ayub Khan, still a military chief, took the U.S. for a ride. By professing anti-communist policies in regard to China and the old Soviet Union, Ayub Khan was said to have cleverly concealed his own agenda of acquiring military prowess as a gift from the U.S. in relation to India. So, he managed to take Pakistan into the U.S.-inspired multilateral alliances of the "Free World" (a hype popularised by John Foster Dulles).

However, the view from Ayub Khan's circle was that the publicity which preceded the 1954 U.S.-Pakistan Mutual (Military) Assistance Pact offered India a pretext to renege on holding a plebiscite in Jammu and Kashmir. Moreover, it was not long before cracks appeared in the U.S.-Pakistan nexus. Beijing, increasingly wary of a stabilising India in the late 1950s, began smiling at Ayub Khan. And these cracks became deep fissures as Washing-

THE HINDU

- 2 OCT 2001

# U.S. sops begin to flow as Pakistan falls in line

*Bush okays \$ 50 m for starters*

Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The United States has offered the first pound of flesh to Pakistan for the help it expects from Islamabad in its worldwide campaign against terrorism. The price? Fifty million dollars.

"It is important to the security interests of the U.S. to furnish up to \$50 million for Pakistan," President George W. Bush wrote in a memo to Secretary of State Colin Powell while recommending the aid. Sources say the amount is just for starters.

Pakistan can expect much more in the long run depending on its level of cooperation.

Pakistan is also getting rescheduling of loans worth close to \$1 billion from several countries so that it does not default on interest payments. Japan, Australia and Denmark are also resuming bilateral aid.

But Islamabad wants more. A cartoon in a Pakistani newspaper earlier this week showed an outstretched hand with two peanuts. It was a throwback to an earlier era when former military dictator Zia ul-Haq had famously dismissed an initial U.S. aid offer of a few million dollars as "peanuts". The offer was made by then U.S. President Jimmy Carter, who was a peanut

farmer from Georgia. Pakistan ultimately landed billions of dollars as a bonanza for supporting the U.S. effort to drive the Soviet Union out of Afghanistan.

Unfortunately for the ordinary Pakistani, most of the money went into buttressing the inventory of the armed forces and lining the pockets of corrupt officials.

The situation is now totally different, officials say. Washington has wised up to the scenario. Most aid coming from the U.S. will go towards supporting Pakistan's budgetary balancing, which will be strictly scrutinised by the International Monetary Fund. "This time it will be schools, not guns," one Congressional source said.

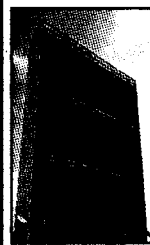
However, other reports indicate the U.S. will also offer arms, especially high-tech surveillance equipment, to Pakistan to help it police its porous western borders with Afghanistan. How it will prevent such equipment from being used on Pakistan's eastern border is a matter of conjecture.

In the 1950s and '60s, the U.S. supplied arms to Pakistan on the condition that it should not be used in any conflict against India, but Islamabad violated the agreement, forcing Washington to pull the plug when war broke out.



## UN resolves to starve terrorists of funds

UNITED NATIONS: The UN



Security Council has unanimously approved a U.S.-sponsored resolution demanding that all states immediately crack down on all sources of financial and logistical support for terrorism.

The resolution, which comes more than two weeks after the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, demands that financing of terrorism operations be criminalised and all states stop providing safe haven to anyone who supports terrorists or their organisations. The resolution, which invokes Article 7 of the UN charter that makes its provision enforceable, was approved by 15 council members after a day-long discussion.

But it stopped short of providing for mandatory sanctions against those who violated it. However, it does express the council's determination to take all necessary steps to ensure its full implementation. (Agencies)

## U.S. plane was ferrying officials to embassy

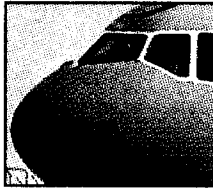
Times News Network

NEW DELHI: It's official now. The U.S. Hercules C-130 military aircraft which used Palam airport's technical area as a stopover on Friday afternoon was apparently ferrying six military officials for duty at the American embassy in the capital. Officials said it had nothing to do with the U.S. operations in Afghanistan.

Defence sources said the aircraft carried six U.S. military personnel, as also some security equipment for the embassy here. "The U.S. embassy is stepping up security measures here. The passengers included some marines and intelligence personnel," said a source.

Asked about this, the external affairs ministry spokesperson said, "The U.S. military aircraft came

here after seeking the government's permission in accordance with the prescribed procedure. The aircraft transported six U.S. personnel for duty at the American embassy. As is the usual practice with aircraft turnarounds, the aircraft was refuelled here for its return journey to Singapore."



A U.S. embassy official, in turn, was quoted as saying that the aircraft was flying from an American base to Singapore and dropped off "six military personnel to work in the U.S. defence attache's office" here.

The official government line has been endorsed by Congress leader K. Natwar Singh who gave the government a clean chit on the U.S. aircraft's landing and halt at Palam airport.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

30 SEP 2001



# Pak mission fails, Laden again denies role

US-Pak  
SFI  
29/9

## AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON, Sept. 28. — The Taliban has told a team of Pakistani clerics that it wouldn't hand over Osama bin Laden even as Mr George W Bush iterated that the US demand to turn over the Saudi fugitive was non-negotiable.

"The Taliban has clearly said there was no question of handing over Osama on moral or religious grounds," said Karachi-based cleric, Mufti Mohammad Jamil, a member of the 10-man delegation that met the Taliban chief, Mullah Mohammad Omar, in Kandahar today.

The clerics represent Deobandi school of Islam from which the Taliban draws its interpretation of the Koran. The team was accompanied by the ISI chief, General Mahmood Ahmed, who was in Washington during the 11 September attacks and got a taste of the USA's resolve to get at the perpetrators.

In Washington, the US President said it was time for the militia to act, not to engage in any dialogue.

"It's not just Mr Bin Laden... Everybody associated with his organisation and not only those directly associated with Mr Bin Laden, but any terrorist that's housed and fed in Afghanistan needs to be handed over," Mr Bush said after meeting Jordan's king, Abdullah. He is the first Arab leader to visit the USA after the terror attacks.

Islamic preachers in Kabul have joined a chorus of calls for Osama to leave their country, but urged Afghans to join a



An Afghan girl sells rotis at a market in Kabul on Friday. — AP/PTI

holy war if the USA attacked their country.

Preachers in most Kabul mosques supported the Ulema's decision that the Taliban should persuade Osama to leave Afghanistan. "This is a sound way," a preacher said.

He, however, echoed other preachers' defiance, saying Afghans wouldn't shy away from fighting if the USA ignored the ulema's decision and attacked Afghanistan.

**Osama denial:** Osama has said neither he nor his organisation was involved in the terror at-

■ Editorial: Coincidence of reasons, page 6  
■ More reports, photographs on pages 4, 5, 8 and 9

tacks. The Karachi-based Urdu daily, *Ummat*, carried an interview of Osama in which he said: "The attackers could be anybody, people who are part of the American system yet rebel against it, or some group that wants to make this century a century of confrontation between Islam and Christianity..."

## US planes refuel in Delhi

YOGESH KUMAR  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 28. — Two US air force aircraft landed at Delhi's Palam airport for refuelling this morning. They took off in the evening.

The first Hercules transport plane landed in the Indian Air Force-controlled area around 12.30 p.m., a senior Airports Authority of India official said. The other followed half-an-hour later. This is the first time a US air force plane landed in India after the 11 September attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon.

Though other airport officials were tight-lipped about the planes, IAF officers confirmed the landings. One of the planes had flown from the Muscat route and the other, Karachi route.

The defence ministry had cleared both the aircraft but details such as passenger manifest and cargo load were not given to the airport authorities. Normally, passenger manifests of non-scheduled flights reach an airport before the aircraft. "When a military aircraft lands in the technical area, immigration and Customs clearance are done with the help of IAF officers," the AAI official said.

# Pak. 'ulema' fail to convince Mullah Omar

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 28. A Pakistan delegation of religious scholars (ulema) accompanied by the chief of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) had a meeting today with the Taliban supremo, Mullah Omar, at Kandahar in what is seen as a last-ditch attempt to convince him to relent to the U.S. demand of handing over the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, and his associates.

There are indications that the team has not been able to persuade Mullah Omar to change his mind and it was on its way back.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, emphasised that the ISI chief's decision to go to Kandahar did not mean that the Government had anything to do with the initiative.

"Though the Pakistan Government has nothing to do with the mission, all I can say is that the very fact that the ISI chief is accompanying the 'ulema' is important. As someone who had led the first delegation last week he is fully conversant with the Pakistani position."

Mr. Khan said the ISI chief was not carrying any message on behalf of the Musharraf Government.

"The ISI chief during his last week had handed over a letter from Gen. Musharraf to the Taliban leader urging him to understand the gravity of the situation and respond to the call of the international community," he said.

It was entirely up to the 'ulema' to decide on the subjects they wished to take up with the Taliban leadership. He, however, did con-

## 'All militants will be crushed'

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 28. The United States tonight said militant outfits in Pakistan or anywhere else in the world will not be allowed to continue their terrorist operations against innocent people. "There are no good or bad terrorists. Terrorists are terrorists," the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, told a TV channel.

"The days are gone when a movement can justify killing of innocent people in the name of a freedom struggle." The international community has firmly resolved to fight international terrorism, he added. — UNI

cede that the Government had facilitated the travel of the 'ulema'. Clearly the mission had the tacit approval of the military Government though it was not sponsored by it.

It appears that the Musharraf Government tried to rope in the four leading religious personalities who have been in the forefront of the opposition to the Government's decision to side with the U.S. in its fight against Osama and the Taliban.

They are Maulana Samiul Haq, Maulana Shah Ahmad Noorani, and Qazi Hussain Ahmad and Maulana Fazlur Rehman. These leaders are expected to visit Kandahar in the next few days.

After the leaders of the Council for the Defence of Afghanistan refused to be part of the delegation, the Government appears to have succeeded in enlisting the services of other religious leaders to visit Kandahar.

Diplomatic and political observers in Islamabad were of the view that the failure of the 'ulema' to convince Mullah Omar could provide an opportunity to Pakistan to snap its ties with the Taliban.

To a question on the Pakistan position on the U.S. demand, Mr.

Khan said Islamabad had been urging the Taliban to hand over Osama as per the resolutions of the U.N. Security Council.

"The U.N. Security Council had adopted a resolution twice seeking the handing over of Osama to appropriate authorities where cases have been registered against him. It is not dependent on production of evidence. Like the rest of the world the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has articulated the view that the U.S. should share the evidence about involvement of Osama and his associates in the terror attacks on U.S. cities", Mr. Khan said.

## 'Search on for Osama'

In another development, according to a CNN report, special forces of the U.S. and the U.K. are already inside Afghanistan searching for Osama.

Mr. Khan, however, said he had no knowledge about any active engagement of U.S., U.K. forces inside Afghanistan.

The Pakistan Minister in-charge of Refugees, Mr. Abbas Sarfaraz Khan, said he had an unprecedented meeting with Ambassadors of 50 countries in a bid to mobilise support to take care of the refugee problem.

THE HINDU

29/9/2001

# US has more gifts to offer Pakistan

<b>SHADES OF GREY</b> (What's left of the sanctions on India and Pakistan)	<b>INDIA</b> <b>ENTITIES LIST:</b> The list of Indian organisations involved in nuclear weapons/delivery system to whom US firms can't export equipment, is expected to be removed soon. But there are existing US export curbs on this prior to the 1998 sanctions, and these will not go. US firms will now be able to apply for licenses to export 'dual-use' equipment to select Indian entities	<b>PAKISTAN</b> <b>ENTITIES LIST:</b> Same as India <b>MILITARY COUP:</b> Section 508 of the 1998 Foreign Operations Appropriations Act was imposed after President Musharraf's October 1998 coup. This restricts both economic and military assistance. US government trying to remove this, as this is the barrier to any major economic assistance package to Pakistan
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IE Graphics/B.K. SHARMA

**SUNIL JAIN**  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 25

A DAY after Pakistan said it wanted more significant cuts in sanctions, the US indicated that there may be some action on this front soon. The US may consider lifting the sanctions imposed by it after General Pervez Musharraf overthrew the Nawaz Sharif government in 1999 — once done, this will pave the way for a large economic-cum-military assistance package for Pakistan.

Interestingly, *The Washington Post* reported today that President George Bush had sought a Congressional consent to waive all restrictions on American military assistance

and weapon exports to certain states of concern, including Pakistan and China, which might be of assistance to Washington in its fight against terrorism.

Also today, the US and Pakistan signed an agreement to reschedule \$379 mn of the \$3 bn of debt owed to it by Pakistan, which gives it a grace period of between three and 10 years on the repayment schedule.

'We are looking very seriously at the section 508 sanctions (these are the coup-related ones), but it would be handled in a different administrative and legislative mechanism,' US ambassador to

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INDIAN EXPRESS

26 SEP 2001

## Support for lifting 'democracy' sanctions against Pak.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 25. The Bush administration has said that there is clear bipartisan support in Congress for the lifting of the so-called democracy sanctions against Pakistan as well. "... a number of Congress members, both in the House and in the Senate, urge that we look at that question as well, and we are certainly doing so," Mr. Marc Grossman, Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, said.

Mr. Grossman was at the Washington Foreign Press Centre to talk about coalition-building against terrorism and fielded a number of questions on several topics, including waiving of "nuclear" sanctions against India and Pakistan.

The senior official indicated that the administration is taking a careful look at the "democracy" sanctions against Pakistan under Section 508 of the Foreign Assistance Act.

Under the law, these measures will be lifted only after certification from the President about restoration of democracy

in Pakistan. How the White House goes about this will be interesting to see.

Moreover, the point is that substantial relaxations have already been made and Congress has appropriated funds to Pakistan for education and social programmes.

Mr. Grossman said that under present conditions, the Bush administration is focussed on terrorism as it related to Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda and their associates only.

Asked to respond to the perception of India that Pakistan is behind promoting terrorism and giving funds and arms to the militants in Jammu and

Kashmir, he said that "...our policy on Kashmir hasn't changed. What has changed here is that we are very focussed on what has happened on that map...as Secretary Powell, as the President and as the National Security Adviser, Dr. Rice, have said over the week-end, we are looking to develop this international coalition, and the focus is Al-Qaeda, Osama and the networks and the training camps. That's our focus, and that's what we intend to do."

When a Pakistani journalist wanted to know if the objective of the U.S. this time was for a longer-term policy with that country or sticking by the

pattern of the last 50 years of 'dumping after use', Mr. Grossman said that he would not only object to the question but also "slightly resent" its premise.

"I would say that when Gen. Musharraf took the decision, he made in the interests of Pakistan, not in the interests of the U.S.; he made it because he had a choice to make between what was happening in Afghanistan, the fact that Osama is the prime suspect for what happened on September 11 and the fact that around the world...momentum had developed against terrorism," Mr. Grossman added.

THE HINDU

26 SEP 2001

from the front page

## US has more gifts to offer Pak

Islamabad Wendy Chamberlin said today, after signing the debt-rescheduling papers. Under the US law, the Section 508 sanctions can be waived only by the legislature, and the Bush government is working to get this removed.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Michael Clark, Executive Director of the US India Business Council in Washington, said he expected the 'entities list' would also be removed 'shortly' — this is the list of Indian (and Pakistani) organisations with whom US firms cannot deal with in any way, and includes various units of firms like BHEL, Bharat Electronics, various DRDO laboratories, Hindustan Aeronautics, and so on.

Clark, however, clarified that abolishing the 'entities list' which came up after the nuclear-sanctions this did not automatically mean that all 'dual-use' technologies would be supplied to India — 'dual use' refers to technologies that have civilian uses but are also used in nuclear weapons programmes. "There are other export controls that were in place well before this, and these have not been removed."

In other words, US firms dealing with Indian firms on what is called 'dual use' items (such as high-end computing equipment or advanced composite materials technology) would now have to apply for US export clearances — this, of course, is better than the earlier situation where US firms could not deal with 'suspect' Indian firms involved in the nuclear weapon/delivery system programme.

While defence ministry officials have been generally upbeat on what the removal of the sanctions would do for projects like the Indian Light Combat Aircraft — which was hit by the US

'entities list' — top scientists have preferred to withhold comment for, it appears, good reason. ISRO chief K. Kasturirangan said he would prefer to wait for full details of the dual-use aspect.

S.S. Jha, director of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research said most sanctions had been lifted over the last couple of years, and 'unless the waiving includes removing the denial of dual-purpose technology which was there even before Pokhran-II, there would not be much of a change.' Lifting of sanctions, however, means easing of visa restrictions for Indian scientists.

The US Presidential waiver applies only to post-1998 sanctions and not to those that had been imposed on the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) and Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) at different times before the May 1998 tests.

Sanctions were imposed on ISRO in 1993 after it started working on cryogenic engine for the geostationary satellite launch vehicle and on DRDO following the test flight of the Agni missile in 1989. Some of the sanctions slapped on DAE after the first test in 1974 were never lifted.

Speaking to *The Indian Express*, Dr Anil Kakodkar, secretary DAE and Chairman AEC, said, "An assessment on the impact of lifting of sanctions on DAE institutions can be made only after the full details are in." To a pointed question on whether India will now be able to import an item which the US considers it to fall under "dual-use technology", Kakodkar said, "I don't think so." Dr Kakodkar, however, clarified, that either way "it doesn't bother us too much."

INDIAN EXPRESS

# Pakistan to crack down on protests

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 23. — Pakistan has warned Islamic radicals that it would not tolerate further violent protests against the government's support for possible US military action against Afghanistan.

Details of the tougher stance emerged today, a day after General Pervez Musharraf met provincial governors and top officials of the country's internal security apparatus.

"It was agreed to take action against those who try to instigate violence, or disrupt law and order," said a security official who attended the meeting.

Newspaper reports quoted Gen. Musharraf as saying the time had come to "identify and take to task elements who might take advantage of the present circumstances to further their own agenda." There have been daily demonstrations by radical Islamic parties after

## MUSHARRAF WILL WEATHER STORM: POWELL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23. — The US secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, today praised Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf's decision to support the US offensive against bin Laden, calling it "courageous" and predicted his government would remain stable despite fundamentalist pressure.

Mr Powell said the USA felt no concern about risks to Pakistan's nuclear programme. "Everything I've seen over the past two weeks convinces me President Musharraf made a courageous decision and he did it with awareness of the potential domestic consequences," Mr Powell said in NBC's *Meet the Press* programme. "He is supported by all his commanders and others in the government ... so I'm confident Pakistan will stay stable, and I have no concerns about their nuclear programme," he said. — Reuters

Gen. Musharraf announced his support for US military action against the Taliban.

The protests saw tens of thousands of demonstrators take to the streets of Karachi, Quetta, Peshawar, Islamabad, Lahore and Rawalpindi on Friday.

However, the total turnout of less than 100,000 was mediocre by Pakistani standards and observers here said Gen.

Musharraf now felt secure enough to take the fight to his opponents. "Our stand is absolutely clear and anyone who tries to disrupt law and order will not be spared," a senior government said.

"We have already arrested people who have been involved in violence. Our stance is tough on this," the official said. He stressed that the authorities

had no intention of banning public gatherings for Friday prayers. "The law says people can meet within the limits of their respected areas. But if they come out in public and disturb law and order then the law is very tough."

The serious anti-Musharraf disturbances have been limited to Karachi, where at least four people died Friday as demonstrators clashed with police and tried to force businesses to shut down.

A government spokesman said the violence had been instigated by a "small section" of demonstrators intent on fomenting unrest. "The government is determined not to allow a minority to disturb public peace, and those responsible for violence will be strongly taken to task," he said. There were fresh protests in Karachi today as 2,500 people took part in a demonstration called by Sunni Muslim extremist groups.

THE STATESMAN

24 SEP 2001

us-pak

# No euphoria in Pak.

HO-13  
21/9

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 23.** Ever since the nuclear tests in May 1998, Pakistan has been urging the U.S. to lift economic sanctions and when Washington announced today that the sanctions are gone, there is no sense of euphoria here.

The military establishment is conscious of the fact that the decision of the Bush Administration to lift the sanctions is more a reward for its action in siding with the U.S. in its fight against Osama bin Laden and Taliban rather than a considered one.

Goodies began to trickle from the Western block to Pakistan ever since it made known its 'unstinted cooperation' to fight terrorism. Australia was the first to announce resumption of military ties. It was followed by a commitment of \$40 million by Japan to help Pakistan cope with the Afghan refugee crisis.

A brief statement by the Pakistan Foreign Office on the U.S. decision here said, "it is a positive step and we appreciate it". The Foreign Office made it a point to mention that 508 sanctions (imposed in the wake of military coup of October 1999) remain.

The Finance Minister, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, said that the lifting of the sanctions would enable the U.S. to vote in favour of Pakistan at the crucial forthcoming Board of Governors meetings of the IMF and World Bank. Pakistan is negotiating with the IMF a \$3.5 billion debt relief facility under poverty reduction programme of the IMF. Islamabad is expected to seal a deal with the IMF here tomorrow on re-scheduling of \$600 million loan.

Reeling under heavy debt burden, external debt

estimated at \$37 billion, Pakistan has been trying hard prior to the September 11 incidents to impress upon the IMF and other international donors to be considerate to its requests to enable it to carry on with the ambiguous economic reforms programme and create a conducive climate for investment.

Before the September 11 terrorist attacks, Pakistan's worry was that U.S. might decide to lift the nuclear sanctions against India, but not against it. Pakistan is faced with three layers of sanctions. The first date back to 1990 through the Pressler Amendment that requires the U.S. President to certify that the country concerned did not possess a nuclear explosive device. Second set came after the May 1998 tests and the last after the October 1999 coup.

Though the U.S. today lifted the nuclear-related sanctions against Pakistan along with India for the 1998 tit-for-tat nuclear tests, the Bush administration has not removed the sanctions imposed in 1999. It was officially explained here that the U.S. Government was legally bound to continue the sanctions against the military coup till democracy was restored.

The foreign office statement said "we always considered these sanctions to be unjustified. We had, therefore, noted with satisfaction the consideration being given by the present U.S. administration for sometime to waive these sanctions. Pakistan appreciates the decision and is confident that it will help strengthen the mutually cooperative relationship between the two countries. However, it may be pointed out that the 508 sanctions continue to remain in force."

**THE HINDU**

24 SEP 2001

## ON THE DEFENSIVE

Mr Pervez Musharraf, the president of Pakistan, will invite nobody's envy by his current plight. Even his media savvy skills have deserted him. His address to the people of his country, televised live, on Wednesday, was, however, dismal in both style and substance. While the speech was clearly designed to win domestic support for his government's policies in the wake of the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington DC, Mr Musharraf appeared ill at ease, almost desperate as he articulated a confused message. Whether or not the bulk of the Pakistani people are convinced that their nation is safe in Mr Musharraf's hands, remains to be seen, but his speech will do little to improve his standing in the region. It may also further dampen the hopes of many who believed that despite the failure of Agra, India-Pakistan relations were likely to improve under Mr Musharraf.

Mr Musharraf's speech was a convoluted attempt at providing a justification for Islamabad's decision to offer the United States support during any military action that it may carry out against the *taliban* regime, which has been harbouring Mr Osama bin Laden — the prime suspect in the terrorist attacks of September 11. On the one hand, Pakistan's president claimed that because of the terrorist attacks, Pakistan was facing the worst crisis in its history since the 1971 war against India. And given the intensity of international public opinion against the acts of terrorism, Pakistan had no option but to cooperate with the US and distance itself from the *taliban* regime. However, most curiously, he seemed to suggest that the decision to cooperate was only tactical, and he compared Pakistan's policy to Prophet Mohammad's temporary alliance with his enemies in order to ensure a final victory. In other words, Mr Musharraf seemed to be signalling that there was no principled opposition to the forces of terror, but collaboration with the US was only a short-term tactic to protect Pakistan's vital interests. On the other hand, Mr Musharraf used the opportunity to target India. He accused India of trying to exploit the situation caused by the acts of terrorism to attempt to isolate Pakistan and have it declared a terrorist state. In a most un-president-like fashion, he warned India to "lay off". It is clear that Mr Musharraf was attempting to take advantage of the anti-India sentiment prevalent within sections of Pakistani public opinion.

It is unlikely that Mr Musharraf's speech will do much to subside the growing protests that have been seen on the streets of Pakistan's major cities or improve Pakistan's long-term relations with the outside world. Forces of extremism are unlikely to be convinced that the military regime was right in abandoning its closest ally, the *taliban*, for its short-term interests. While the US has welcomed Mr Musharraf's "bold" speech, and would like to make most of Islamabad's willingness to cooperate, there are few in Washington DC who see Pakistan as a dependable ally. In India, the reaction has been predictably negative, and it is now unlikely that there will be a breakthrough in bilateral relations under Mr Musharraf. For the nonce, Mr Musharraf has more to fear from the domestic repercussion of what will be perceived in Pakistan as a capitulation to the US.

THE TELEGRAPH



# US prize for performer Pervez

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Sept. 20: History is repeating itself for Pakistan. At a closed-door meeting with leading members of Congress today, the Bush administration will propose that sanctions on Pakistan imposed in 1998 for its nuclear tests should be withdrawn immediately.

Twenty-three years ago, the Americans had acted to stop Pakistan's nuclear programme only to similarly roll back that policy after the Soviets invaded Afghanistan.

Sanctions against India will be withdrawn too, but the motivation for the waiver, even as the US is in the midst of war efforts, has been the sudden warming of ties between Washington and Islamabad.

The proposal on Capitol Hill for more than a year has been to waive the nuclear-related sanctions on India. Pakistan has always been an after-thought and American lawmakers were divided on applying the waiver to Islamabad.

But yesterday, Congressmen and Senators were outdoing one another in seeking an end to sanctions on Pakistan so that America could show its gratitude to General Pervez Musharraf for his total support to the US.

President George W. Bush also joined in the show of gratitude. At a meeting with leaders from the Senate and the House of Representatives shortly after Musharraf's address to the nation, Bush said: "There is no question that President Musharraf has taken a bold position, which is to say he will work to the extent he can with America and our allies as we deal with the prime suspect in the case. And we appreciate so very much his statement of support."

Bush was patronising when he said about the Pakistani dictator: "I said we will give the President a chance to perform, and I believe he has done — done so."

## OPERATION INFINITE JUSTICE

### THE MEDITERRANEAN

- USS Theodore Roosevelt has set sail from Virginia with 75 warplanes, a 14-ship battle group and 15,000 sailors and Marines. The carrier is called 'The Big Stick' after Roosevelt's famous admonition to 'walk softly and carry a big stick' and has a massive flight deck of 4.5 acres
- The 26<sup>th</sup> Marine Expeditionary is scheduled to reach the region. It has a 2,200-strong unit, including special operation capabilities
- 100 US warplanes are heading towards the region. They include F-15E attack jets, F-16 fighters, swing-wing B1 bombers and support planes
- The number of US warplanes in the region could eventually total 500

### THE GULF

USS Carl Vinson has dropped anchor

### INDIAN OCEAN

USS Enterprise is already here  
The strike and support planes of Roosevelt, Vinson and Enterprise number 210



For India, what Bush then said was pregnant with room for concern. Pakistan has been asking for American intervention on Kashmir to the point where it has said a nuclear war may result unless the dispute between India and Pakistan is solved.

"Let me say that, in terms of foreign policy and in terms of the world, this horrible strategy has provided us with an interesting opportunity," Bush said.

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THE TELEGRAPH

21 SEP 2001

the right thing by the economy.

## 19/09 The Pakistan Card 11-10

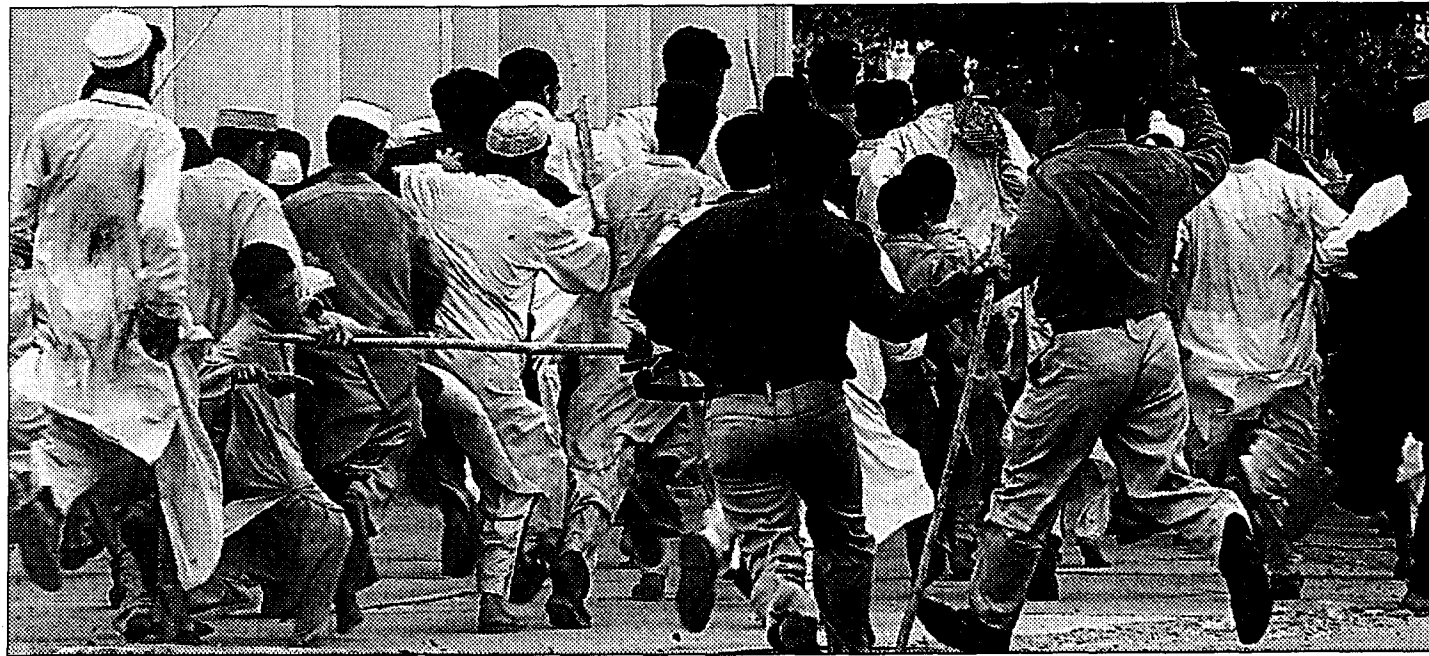
The US clarification that it would not accept Pakistan's demand for intervention in Kashmir in lieu of the latter's support in fighting terrorism is timely and should allay any anxieties New Delhi may have felt on this score. It could be argued that Pakistan's role in any serious and long-term anti-terrorism campaign can at best be dubious, particularly as the Islamabad regime continues to play host to diverse terrorist organisations. Some military strategists believe that the US does not actually need to elicit Pakistan's help in either "hunting down" Osama bin Laden or attaining its ultimate objective of "smoking out" global terrorist networks. A coalition of nations by sharing intelligence data and launching pre-emptive strikes, could potentially force nations harbouring terrorists to either hand them over or deny them sanctuary. They argue that an attack on Afghanistan involving the Russians and some central Asian countries which could provide vital intelligence on the Taliban and a 15,000-strong Afghan Northern Alliance ground force could result in the toppling of the Taliban regime and the capture of bin Laden. That the Taliban views the alliance as a real threat is borne out by the ban it has sought on all military support to the alliance in the demands it has tabled.

Why then is the US keen to engage Pakistan? The main reason is that the US doesn't want to repeat the mistakes it has made in the past. It had till now preferred to deal with terrorists by taking one-time retaliatory measures. In fact, in the wake of the World Trade Center blasts in 1993, the Oklahoma bombing in 1995 and the attacks on US missions in Nairobi and Khartoum in 1998, the Clinton administration had chosen to fight terrorism using FBI intelligence findings. These characteristically assigned responsibilities to individuals, not governments. However, US policy-makers are now convinced that this approach has not prevented terrorism from emerging as the single largest threat to their country. President Bush has sought to correct this 'one-time retaliatory' approach. He has drawn up a plan that goes well beyond the pursuit of individual terrorists and uses a wide array of diplomatic, military, human intelligence and law enforcement measures to target organisations and countries that have become breeding grounds for terrorists. Pakistan — which not only possesses nuclear weapons but has the highest density of terrorist networks and training camps — automatically falls within the ambit of such a broad-based plan. By engaging Pakistan's political and military leadership, and increasing economic investment, the US could in the long term infiltrate Islamabad's power structure and strengthen moderate elements within it, forcing a crackdown on jihadi groups. The role of the US engagement in Pakistan could be akin to the demilitarisation programme that it undertook in Japan after World War II. A moderate, secular and economically secure Pakistan can only be in India's interest. Instead of viewing the US engagement of Pakistan through the usual prism of Indo-Pak relations, our policy-makers would do well, for this reason alone, to assist US efforts in this direction.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 SEP 2001

# Blood spills as Pakistan erupts in anti-America fury



Pakistani policemen chase protesters of Islamic parties who tried to block roads in Karachi. (AFP)

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR  
AND REUTERS

Karachi, Sept. 21: At least four people were killed and over a dozen policemen injured as thousands of protesters took to the streets of Karachi against their President's decision to help the US track down Osama bin Laden and punish his Taliban protectors, on a day when most of the country remained paralysed by a strike.

Police said gunshots erupted at a rally after Friday prayers in the Sohrab Goth area in the city. Protesters shouted "God is Great" and "Down with America" at rallies across the country in response to calls by Islamic groups for a show of support for bin Laden and the Taliban.

At the main rally in Lahore, about 20,000 people streamed through the city centre brandishing flags from the 35 Islamic groups that called the protests and one-day strike. "If America atta-

cks, we will turn Afghanistan into their graveyard," announced one speaker, amidst cheering crowds.

In Peshawar, home to over a million refugees from nearby Afghanistan, about 5,000 turned out to denounce Washington for demanding that Kabul hand over its "guest" Osama bin Laden, the world's most wanted man. "We will fight until the destruction of the US," they chanted.

Demonstrators, mostly Pushtoon speaking settlers, burnt an effigy of US President George W. Bush, who had yesterday issued an ultimatum to the Taliban to hand over bin Laden.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has pledged to support Washington — a decision that has split the country. "We have to show and tell the people how unjust America's actions are to try to attack the Taliban without any concrete evidence," said Abdul Khaliq, spokesman of the hard-line religious party Jamiat Ulema

Islam. "The government should know what the people are thinking," Khaliq added.

A decision by Afghanistan's senior Islamic clerics for Kabul to persuade Saudi-born bin Laden to leave, did not appear to have eased the angry mood.

"If Musharraf supports the Taliban that is good, if not he is our enemy," said one protester in Peshawar who described himself as a mujahideen, or holy warrior.

Shops in Peshawar and most other cities were closed — some in support of the strike but many fearing the rampaging protesters, if they were seen to be ignoring the call.

In the commercial capital, Karachi, armoured personnel carriers, police vans and paramilitary rangers protected the US consulate and patrolled the city. Very few dared to venture to offices.

The business centre was virtu-

ally deserted. "The city looked lifeless," said one resident. Karachi, home to 11 million people is frequently a hotbed of religious clashes. A transport strike kept many people from their jobs, forcing nearly all businesses and schools to remain closed.

"We have issued a call for a peaceful strike and assured the authorities that there will be no violence," one of the organisers said. "We are taking all possible precautions despite assurances from the clerics," said police chief Syed Kamal Shah.

Large contingents of police in riot gear and toting semi-automatic weapons were deployed around the city. Army trucks patrolled the streets, packed with soldiers in combat gear and with machine guns mounted in front.

Government officials in Peshawar warned foreign media to avoid the narrow streets of the city's bazaars.

## Silent majority rallies behind Musharraf

FROM PAMELA CONSTABLE

Islamabad, Sept. 20: Religious minority groups in Pakistan are loudly protesting the country's support for a possible US attack on Afghanistan, but a quieter majority of Pakistanis have accepted the government's decision as the lesser of two evils, according to a variety of observers.

Siding against the US could have made Pakistan an international pariah, a number of influential Pakistanis say, and possibly endangered its nuclear weapons facilities. Helping the Americans, they argue, provides a welcome excuse to jettison Afghanistan's Taliban regime, which has only brought trouble to its Pakistani ally. It means swallowing national pride but could bring desperately needed economic aid.

The question in the minds of those who support the course decided by President Pervez Musharraf is whether it will unleash uncontrollable religious violence in Pakistan by the Taliban's friends here and bring a new wave of Afghan refugees into Pakistan.

Over the past several days, Musharraf, an army general, has met with a cross section of prominent Pakistanis, including retired generals and civilian politicians, to explain his decision and solicit advice. On Wednesday he went on national television to ask his people for support, saying that in order to protect Pakistan's security and future, he had no choice but to side with the US.

The Taliban, a rigid Islamic militia that until now counted Pakistan as one of its few friends in the world, harbours Osama bin Laden, the Saudi fugitive US officials have called the top suspect in planning the September 11 suicide attacks on New York and Washington.

The Bush administration and the UN Security Council have demanded bin Laden's extradition, the US is now threatening military action against targets in Afghanistan.

One public opinion poll by a religious institute said up to 60 percent of Pakistanis disapproved of the President's decision to support the Americans, but other in-

dependent analysts contend the figure is closer to 25 percent, still a large number.

"Musharraf's new policy is not acceptable to much of public opinion, but it is in the nation's best interest, so we must try to help," said Hamid Mir, editor of *Ausaf*, a daily newspaper that often criticises the Pakistani President.

Some opinion makers said the President's quick decision had prevented India, Pakistan's traditional rival, from taking advantage of the crisis. In this view, it preserved Pakistan's nuclear facilities from potential US attack and salvaged its ability to continue supporting the Muslim guerrilla conflict in Indian Kashmir, a popular mainstay of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Other political and academic figures said they hoped the new US-Pakistan alliance could result in a new economic lease on life for the beleaguered country. An impoverished country of 140 million, Pakistan is mired in foreign debt and desperately seeking new Western loans and investment.

"We had an overwhelming consensus that before trying to save Afghanistan, Musharraf had to save Pakistan," said Aitzaz Ahsan, a lawyer and former senate majority leader who took part in one of the meetings with the President.

"Musharraf has chosen the lesser evil, and it will lead to some domestic unrest, but he has avoided the greater damage that would come from continuing to support the Taliban."

Some observers said Musharraf did the right thing but went about it the wrong way. They criticised him for pledging support for US military action before he consulted public opinion, and said they were not convinced he had exacted enough payment from Washington.

Pakistan is currently under US economic sanctions because of its nuclear tests in 1998 and military coup in 1999.

But several sources said Musharraf had deliberated for 18 straight hours with his top military advisers before agreeing to support Washington.

LOS ANGELES TIMES-  
WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

22 SEP 2001

# Four killed in anti-US stir in Pakistan ✓



Thousands of protesters of Jamait-e-Ulema-e-Islam and other Islamic groups burn an effigy of President Bush in Peshawar on Friday. — AP/PTI

## PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 21. — At least four persons were killed and 11 injured today during nationwide demonstrations by hardline religious parties of Pakistan to protest against General Pervez Musharraf's support to the USA in its efforts to force Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden.

Three persons were killed and 11 others, including three policemen, were injured in clashes between police and protesters at different places in Karachi, The News reported on its website.

State television said another person was killed and several others injured in clashes which broke out after thousands of pro-Taliban demonstrators took to the streets soon after the Friday prayers across Pakistan.

Police swung into action in several cities, baton-charging thousands of demonstrators and firing tear gas shells to break up rallies during the nationwide strike and foiled an anti-American demonstration in Karachi.

In Peshawar, a large group of people gathered near the main mosque to hear religious leaders make speeches in support of Taliban militia, following which radical Islamists took to the streets warning of jihad in anticipation of attack on Afghanistan.

An effigy of the US President George Bush was torched. US flags were torched too.

At several places, processionists pelted stones at buses, cars and private vehicles and burned tyres.

Ever since Pakistan made the announcement last week that it would support the US retaliation against the Taliban-ruled Afghanistan, where the prime suspect in the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon — Osama bin Laden — is hiding, there have been protests every day.

THE STATESMAN

23 SEP 2001

23 SEP 2001

# Religious parties in Pak. call for strike

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 20. Tomorrow would be a testing day for the military Government in Pakistan as religious parties and groups have called for a nation-wide general strike in protest against a possible retaliatory strikes by the U.S. against the Taliban regime using Pakistan's airbases.

The Musharraf Government can draw solace from the fact that the leaders of the religious parties have promised to ensure a peaceful protest and not to allow the situation to go out of control. And, as of now, the military is in command notwithstanding the rhetoric from a variety of hard-liners and those who are bitterly opposed to the idea of allowing the U.S. forces to operate from the Pakistani soil.

The Jamaat-e-Islami chief, Quazi Hussain Ahmed, who addressed a news conference here today, gave a distinct impression that he was not at all impressed with the logic put forth by the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in defence of the decision to ditch the Taliban and side with the U.S. in its fight against terrorism. At the same time, he was at pains to assure the Government that the protests would be peaceful.

Gen. Musharraf's 45-minute address to the nation on Wednesday appears to have been targeted at those who are miffed over the decision of the military Government to implement the U.S. agenda on Osama bin Laden and the Taliban.

Despite the best efforts of the Pakistan President to take every one on board at this critical juncture, the rhetoric from the hard-liners continues to be high. This is evident from a number of statements from the religious leaders particularly those close to the Taliban. The Chairman of the Council for Defence of Pakistan and Afghanistan,

Maulana Samiul Haq, has said if Gen. Musharraf takes any decision in the interest of the U.S. rather than national interest, it would be dangerous for the country.

Mr. Haq has complained that for the last 53 years the country had been under slavery in the name of larger national interests. Paid servants of the U.S., who are working as advisers of the Government

## Cleric urges followers to storm airports

KARACHI, SEPT. 20. Islamic radicals should seize control of Pakistan's airports if the Government allowed U.S. forces to use bases here to launch an attack on Afghanistan, a radical Muslim cleric told thousands of protesters today.

"If any U.S. planes land in Pakistan we should seize the airports and take revenge on Americans," the cleric, Mufti Nizamuddin Shamazai, told a rally in Pakistan's biggest city. The crowd responded by raising their hands and shouting: "Revenge on America, revenge on America."

Mufti Shamazai heads the biggest Sunni Muslim seminary in Pakistan. The seminary, Jamiatul-Uloom-ul-Islami in the town of Binrohi, has close links to the ruling Taliban movement in Afghanistan. — AFP

could not give him better suggestions. Problems of the people could not be resolved by keeping the begging bowl full of dollars, Mr. Haq added. At a meet-the-press programme at Rawalpindi, Mr. Haq said that "presently the Govt. of Pakistan and the President are under immense pressure and we are doing everything to encourage them".

Pak President plays India card, tells Delhi to 'lay off'

# Musharraf says US move not anti-Islam

KEITH FLORY  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 19. — The deck would appear to have been stacked against him, but tonight General Pervez Musharraf played his ace of trumps — the India card. The only trick up his sleeve to try and deflect the attack on his offering to go along with the USA against Osama bin Laden. If Pakistan did not join the international outcry against terrorism India would be the winner, that was the line he sold to his people via the small screen.

As had been evident at Agra, behind the "simple soldier talk" was a strategy that bordered on the cunning. If there was anything he had learnt during the summit that failed to attain any heights it was the skill of media-exploitation. He pressed that home to some advantage tonight. In theory, Gen. Musharraf was

## US WARPLANES TO MOVE TO WEST ASIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 19. — The US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, today ordered more than 100 US bombers, fighters and other warplanes to move towards West Asia, defence officials said. They said the planes were expected to begin moving toward bases in or near the Gulf region as early as tomorrow.

Earlier in the day, the US government unveiled a blueprint to battle money laundering, a problem that has taken on new importance after last week's terror attacks. The plan calls for aggressive enforcement efforts, including wider use of asset forfeiture laws and more prevention efforts. "An aggressive anti-money laundering attack requires that law enforcement utilise all available statutory authorities to dismantle large-scale criminal enterprises," the plan said. — Reuters

■ Editorials: Target — Bin Laden; Terror trade, page 6  
On page 5

- Taliban puts off decision on Osama
- Allies caution Bush against strikes

up the creek without a paddle. From Washington came the diplomatic, political and economic pressure that only a su-

per-power can mount. At home there was not just a commitment to the Taliban to uphold, but the fury of the religious

clerics to contend with. Yet he managed to find a current that might carry him to a bit more than survival. Like a good soldier he laid the groundwork for his attack by claiming that the US-led campaign against Bin Laden was neither anti-Islamic nor anti-Taliban. He proceeded to explain how he had been in consultation with all sections of Pakistani society, claimed that 85% understood what he was doing.

Then, like almost every Pakistani leader before him he diverted attention away from the threat from within to the external one: India was exploiting the situation to its advantage, mounting a propaganda campaign against Islam, interfering in Afghan affairs which ought to be beyond its pale, with the ultimate goal of misleading the world that Paki

■ See MUSHARRAF: page 8

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## MUSHARRAF:

(Continued from page 1)

stan sponsored terrorism.

598 N/A  
"Lay off", he told New Delhi. Pakistan's armed forces were both equipped and committed to protecting their nation's strategic assets and interests, he asserted. The strategic assets, of course, being the nuclear weapon.

Faced with two evils, he said, he was opting for the lesser. And to keep the fundamentalists happy he went back into Islamic history to establish precedent for exercising such an option. He was not merely trying to minimise the risk to Afghanistan, he was simultaneously promoting Pakistan's interests. His people must trust him on that score — after all he had personally fought two wars to keep his country's flag flying high.

Then he turned to pragmatism. If Pakistan disassociated itself from the anti-terrorist coalition that was being created it would have no voice in the tune to be played out in the weeks ahead. Active involvement would enable his country to exercise some influence on impending developments. And that would keep India at bay.

Gen. Musharraf would have caused many ears to burn in India, but his 35-minute address would approximate to music at home. It was a domestic audience that he was primarily addressing, with some signals to the world at large too. A more than competent presentation in that particular context. Particularly since to a sizeable section of the Pakistani masses, the world does not extend beyond India.

# Support to U.S. in Pak. interest: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 19 At an interactive meeting with former Foreign Ministers, retired Army chiefs and think-tanks on Tuesday, the Pakistan President, Gen. Musharraf, said the decision to extend "unstinted support" to U.S. efforts in its reprisal moves against the perpetrators of last week's terrorist attacks was taken after the Bush administration bluntly wanted to know whether Pakistan was a friend or foe of the U.S., a report in Pakistan's daily, *Dawn* said today.

The former Pakistan Army chief, Gen. (ret.) Mirza Aslam Baig, who attended the meeting quoted Gen. Musharraf as saying that the U.S. had asked the Pakistan Government in "definite terms" whether Pakistan was a "friend or a foe".

"Gen. Musharraf informed the gathering that the U.S. authorities had conveyed in categorical terms that Islamabad's decision would determine its future relationship with Washington," it said.

The report also stated that Gen. Musharraf had said that the U.S. had fixed a tight deadline for meeting its demands, including the use of Pakistan's airspace, logistics and intelligence information.

He had said that a refusal could have serious consequences for

Pakistan as there were fears about direct military action by a coalition, led by the U.S., the newspaper reported. He said that Washington had informed that if Islamabad failed to co-operate it would treat Pakistan as harbouring terrorists. In that case, he is reported to have said that the country's strategic installations would be endangered. "I could

not have taken that risk," one of the participants had quoted Gen. Musharraf as saying, the newspaper said.

Gen. Musharraf is reported to have said that he would rather risk his life than the future and security of the country.

He also informed the participants that he had talked to the leaders of the friendly countries,

including Saudi Arabia and U.A.E. and was also in touch with Iran and others.

"Having received these explanations, many mainstream political parties, including the Pakistan Peoples' Party, (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (pro-Government faction) backed his decision and decided to rally behind him, the report said.

189-11  
2009

## U.S. lauds Pak. stand

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 19. The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Wendy Chamberlin, has said that the support offered by the Musharraf Government to cooperate with the U.S. in tracking down the culprits behind the terrorist attacks was 'unconditional'.

In a brief chat with correspondents at the U.S. embassy after a memorial service for those who died in the terror attacks on American cities, she said the nature of cooperation was yet to be worked out.

"President Musharraf and his Government stood by us in our requests for assistance during the period when the U.S. had asked for it... He has been enormously supportive of the U.S. in a period when we have extended certain

requests because of the grave events that occurred on our soil".

She said that "both President, Mr. George Bush, and the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, have expressed profound appreciation of his (Gen. Musharraf's) quick and unconditional pledge of support for us when we needed it".

"We will continue discussions with the Pakistan Government in future so that details are addressed to. We are in a close conversation with this Government. I have assured him at all levels that our investigations are continuing. The FBI now has thousands of pieces of information in this investigation. It is moving fast. When it is appropriate and certain my Government will make available ample proof of the investigations", she said.

In her brief speech at the memorial service, Ms. Chamberlin said she was overwhelmed by the number of messages of sympathy and solidarity from all over Pakistan. She said the terror attacks were directed not only against the U.S. but the entire world. It was evident from the fact that over 100 Pakistanis had been killed in the attacks.

Top Pakistan Ministers, including the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, the Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. (ret.) Moinuddin Haider, the Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam-ul-Haq and over 40 heads of foreign missions, including the Indian High Commissioner to Islamabad, Mr. Vijay Nambiar, attended the memorial service. Prayers were rendered both by Islamic and Christian priests.

THE HINDU



# **Pak clerics warn Musharraf against siding with US**

Karachi, September 18

MORE THAN 3,000 people demonstrated here against the United States and Pakistan on Tuesday in the biggest protest yet against Islamabad's offer to help Washington fight terrorism.

Religious leaders are orchestrating the campaign against Pakistani cooperation with the US. They have called for a nationwide "wheel jam" on Friday, and more than 50 of the nation's hardline clerics have met to draw up a campaign of strikes and demonstrations to oppose an American attack on their Islamic allies in Afghanistan. They announced that over the next two weeks strikes and protests will be organised first in Islamabad and Lahore and then across the rest of the country.

About 500 heavily-armed police and paramilitary soldiers watched the loud but peaceful protest near the Binori mosque in downtown Karachi, which runs a religious school from where many of the Taliban leaders in Afghanistan graduated years ago. The security forces did not intervene.

Waving banners and shouting slogans criticising the US and Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, the protesters warned him not to assist American forces in an expected attack against Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the Black Tuesday attacks in New York and Washington, and the Taliban in Afghanistan. They also warned against opening Pakistan's air space or military bases to American forces. "America, don't hunt what you can't kill," the demonstrators shouted in English. "Pakistan will be the graveyard of the US army," they said.

The protestors, from Islamic extremist groups allied with Afghanistan and militants fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, carried posters of bin Laden that portrayed him as a hero. They warned of more terrorist attacks in the United States by Islamic fundamentalists willing to become martyrs if US forces attack the Taliban or arrest bin Laden. Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Pak talks with Taliban make no headway

REUTERS & AFP

ISLAMABAD, Sept. 17. — Pakistan today failed to persuade the Taliban supremo, Mullah Mohammad Omar, to hand over Osama bin Laden to the USA to avert possible American attack on Afghanistan in retaliation to last Tuesday's massacre in Washington and New York.

Mullah Omar told Pakistani officials that Islamic clerics would meet tomorrow to "decide" on the Osama crisis. "Tomorrow, a gathering of ulema from each province will be held in Kabul and they will make a decision about the recent events," the state-run Radio Shariat said.

The Pakistan army denied a report that it had deployed thousands of extra troops along the Afghanistan border. "There has been no army deployment at all," military spokesman, Major-General Rashid Qureshi, said.

The report also said the Taliban had massed up to 25,000 fighters, armed with Scud missiles, across the Khyber Pass.

Pakistan has sealed its borders at Torkham near Peshawar today after the entry of about 20,000 Afghans into the country during the past 24 hours.

The Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press quoted Taliban spokesman Abdul Hai Mutamaen as saying that over three hours of talks hadn't resolved the key issue of turning over the multi-millionaire Saudi dissident, the prime suspect behind the terror attacks.

"The meeting looked in detail at the aspects of the problem. The talks were positive but I can't



A candle-light vigil in memory of those killed in last week's terrorist attacks. In Los Angeles on Monday. — AP/PTI

give the details," Mr Mutamaen said. "We're 60 per cent hopeful that conditions will be normal." On turning over Osama, he said: "There was no clear discussion on this particular topic."

The Pakistan team arrived early in the morning in the southern city of Kandahar and went immediately into talks with the Taliban foreign minister, Mullah Maulwi Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil.

The officials, including the intelligence chief General Mah-

## LADEN WANTED DEAD OR ALIVE: BUSH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 17. — Mr George W Bush today said the USA wants Osama bin Laden brought to justice "dead or alive." "I want justice. There's an old poster out west that says, as I recall, 'Wanted dead or alive,'" the President told journalists during a visit to the Pentagon that was a target of last Tuesday's terrorists' attacks. — AFP

■ Editorial: Fighting terror: page 6

■ More reports on pages 2, 3 & 8

mood Ahmed, won UN permission to break a ban on flights to Afghanistan to try to convince

militia leaders of the gravity of the situation.

"The delegation is motivating

and advising Mullah Omar and the Taliban leadership that they should consider the pros and cons of not cooperating with America and others on matters of terrorism..." the Pakistani interior minister, Mr Moinuddin Haider, said in Kuwait. "Because, if Afghanistan doesn't do the logical, balanced attitude in this regard it'll be a problem for Afghanistan and its people."

■ See OSAMA: page 8

THE STATESMAN

19 SEP 2001

# OSAMA

(Continued from page 1)

The Taliban had earlier refused all demands to hand over Osama, saying proof of his involvement in the attacks is a prerequisite.

The USA has vowed to punish the perpetrators and all those who protect them.

Yesterday, Osama had again denied any involvement in the terror strikes. "I've taken an oath of allegiance (to Mullah Omar) which doesn't allow me to do such things from Afghanistan."

General Pervez Musharraf has promised to cooperate fully with the USA in its fight against global terror. "We're alive to the gravity of the situation and know that in the lives of nations such situations do arise as require the taking of important decisions," the official APP news agency quoted him as saying yesterday.

The diplomatic mission is a last-ditch appeal to the Taliban to try to avert what Washington has vowed will be retaliation by a "mighty giant" awakened by the world's worst terror attack.

The diplomacy coincides with a call by Mullah Omar for a war council of Islamic clerics in Kabul to discuss Afghanistan's defence if the USA attacks.

Mullah Omar has said the Taliban would declare a jihad against the USA if it attacked Afghanistan and also against any country that would help Washington.

In a sign of mounting nervousness, the Taliban appealed last weekend to the Organisation for Islamic Conference and Muslim states for help in case of an attack, a Taliban official said in Kandahar.

The decision was taken by the Taliban Supreme Council that met late on Saturday in Kandahar. The OIC doesn't recognise the Taliban.

"We should unite against our enemies who want to crush us because we're Muslim," the official quoted Mullah Omar as saying at the meeting.

Taliban officials have started fleeing Kabul amid growing fears of US attack. They were seen heading for the countryside, but it wasn't clear if this was under Mullah Omar's instructions.

In off-the-record briefings yesterday, the Pakistani President said the USA could base its troops either in Pakistan or Afghanistan, a source said. It was also possible that US ships would want to use Pakistan's coast to reach landlocked Afghanistan, a request Islamabad would be able to meet, the source said.

**Afghan airspace:** The Taliban shut down its airspace today, two weeks after threatening to close it if the UN didn't lift sanctions against its beleaguered airline, AP reports quoting a diplomat.

About 110 flights cross the Afghan airspace. However, no flights are now landing in Afghanistan.

THE STATESMAN

18 SEP 2001

## AA-12 Trouble ahead 18/9

Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf has tried to extricate himself from a tight corner by assuring full cooperation to the United States while asking for money, Kashmir and a promise that Israel and India will not be involved in any action against the Taliban in Afghanistan. Faced with growing public opinion against the use of Pakistan for military bases by the Americans, Gen. Musharraf knows that his days are over unless he can somehow squeeze out monetary and political concessions out of an obviously bad situation. Gen. Musharraf was really left with no choice in the matter. If he went along with the Taliban and Osama bin Laden he would in effect have compromised not just his own future but that of Pakistan altogether. As it is the worldwide image of Pakistan centres around terrorism, and the decision to help the Americans at this point could give Islamabad the face lift it so desperately requires. But this can happen only if Gen. Musharraf, at the end of it all, is not left clutching straws blowing in a stormy wind but actual concessions that he can sell to his people as marginal victory. India has to sit up and take notice of the new demands made by the Pakistani President in his conversation with US President George W. Bush, for these could suggest the beginning of a new relationship between Islamabad and Washington which could leave Delhi out in the cold. Indian minister of external affairs Jaswant Singh has hastened to offer all help and cooperation to the US, including air space for military action and territory to set up military bases. He has not ruled this out, and in fact confirmed it to a leading English news daily. This suggests a certain over eagerness by the Vajpayee government to get the Americans over to this side of the Line of Control lest they decide to renew the old links for a stronger relationship with Pakistan. The offer of cooperation, repeated ad nauseum over the last few days, has come without a single request from the Bush administration which is totally preoccupied with Pakistan and Afghanistan at this stage. Moreover, as Pakistan has valuable intelligence information on the Taliban, it controls the supply line to the Taliban, and has a degree of influence in the region that makes it important in any strategy that the Bush administration might be working out to deal with the situation. It is because of this that Washington has barely acknowledged India's excited offers of help, preferring to keep its option open with Islamabad. The Vajpayee government must also remember that Pakistan has not been looked upon by President Bush and his team of advisors with hostility. In fact the US state department, under President Bush, has taken pains to emphasise its desire to engage with "old friend" Pakistan despite India's demands to the contrary. And now that Gen. Musharraf has shown himself to be willing to fulfil the wish list submitted by the Bush administration, there should be no looking back. Of course the situation is still very fluid, and the pressure within Pakistan to keep the Americans out is only just building up. Gen. Musharraf has very difficult days ahead and will require all his nerve, bargaining skills and wits to keep afloat. India must start reading the signals emanating out of Washington and prepare accordingly. The US, no doubt, has finally been hurt by terrorism but the Bush administration appears to be taking painstaking care not to equate itself in any manner with India on this issue. There is no Colin Powell rushing into Jaswant Singh's wide open arms. This alone should make the policy makers here pause to reassess the situation.

THE ASIAN AGE

18 SEP 2001

## DEMANDING ALLY

It is outrageous for Pakistan to attempt to extract a price for its cooperation with United States-led efforts to bring to justice all those responsible for last week's acts of terrorism. Terrorism and states that finance, train or harbour terrorists must not be rewarded, and there is overwhelming evidence that not only were the taliban a creation of Islamabad, but Pakistan also continues to be a breeding ground for extremists who are spreading havoc globally. If Pakistan is today seeking to rehabilitate itself within the community of nations, it must do so unconditionally. It must provide its support without linking it to a wish list of demands, and the international community must, with one voice, make this clear to the military regime in power in Islamabad

Consider first Islamabad's ploy to manipulate the situation in New York and Washington to suit its interests. On the one hand, Pakistan has been pussyfooting on the issue of supporting possible military action against the taliban regime, which is sheltering the prime suspect in the terrorist actions, Mr Osama bin Laden. Although Islamabad has now sent a delegation to Afghanistan ostensibly to persuade the taliban to hand over Mr bin Laden, it has still not made it clear whether it will agree to its territory being used for military action in case all other avenues fail. On the other hand, it has been signalling that the price that the US and its allies would have to pay for greater support from Islamabad would be to keep India and Israel out of any multinational military effort. No less deviously, Pakistani officials have been suggesting that the US must also promise to actively intervene in the dispute over Kashmir and help to write off \$ 30 billion in external debts.

There are a few home truths that must be brought to Islamabad's notice. First, Islamabad is as much responsible for creating the network of terror that led to the tragedies of last Tuesday as the taliban regime in Afghanistan. Indeed, the US state department's report, "Patterns of Global Terrorism — 2000" explicitly stated that Pakistan was providing the taliban with materiel, fuel, funding, technical assistance, and military advisers. And it pointed out that Islamabad had failed to take effective steps to curb the activities of certain *madrassahs* that serve as recruiting grounds for terrorism. Second, the terrorists operating in Afghanistan cannot be separated from the extremists who are responsible for the heightened violence in Kashmir. The same forces responsible for bringing death and devastation in New York and Washington continue to operate in Kashmir. Finally, Islamabad cannot continue to hoodwink international public opinion by promising support on the one hand and doing little in reality, on the ground. There will be a backlash from the extremists, if Islamabad takes — as it must — stern action, but the Pakistani state should have realized, at least a couple of decades ago, that it is not easy to tackle a Frankenstein once it has been created. There are apprehensions in India that the US may, in its urgency to secure Mr bin Laden, agree to these preposterous demands, and the old Pentagon-Pakistani army nexus may be revived. There is little evidence to suggest that this is indeed happening. The US foreign policy establishment, short-sighted as it may have been in the past, can surely recognize that a deeply unstable military dictatorship that trains terrorists cannot become a reliable ally unless it radically transforms itself.

THE TELEGRAPH

18 SEP 2001

## No deal with Pak.: U.S.

US-Pak  
HD-11

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

1879

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 17. The Bush administration is rejecting reports that some kind of a "deal" has been struck with Pakistan in the campaign against terrorism, Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden.

"Pakistan has agreed unconditionally to be part of the global coalition against terrorism," a State Department official told *The Hindu* making the point that Washington was continuing consultation "as we are with all others" on coming to grips with the scourge of terrorism.

On Sunday the U.S. Vice-President, Mr. Dick Cheney, was asked on a television talk show to comment on the Pakistan Government telling its people: "We will get more aid from the U.S. The U.S. will lift economic sanctions against us. And we have been given assurances that the Indian Government and the Israeli Government will not be part of any military operation based in Pakistan."

Mr. Cheney did not get into the specifics but noted, "I have seen some communication back and forth at this point. Let me simply say we have had discussions with Pakistan. The President, Mr. Bush, called Gen. Musharraf just yesterday afternoon from Camp David. They've had a good conversation. We have made certain requests of the Pakistanis. They have agreed to work with us in this endeavour and some of that's covered in the statement they've made there."

Separately, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said that he knew nothing of a "ban" on a participation by Israel or India in a multinational force that would get into Afghanistan. "I know nothing about such a ban or who made such a statement," Gen. Powell said.

Meanwhile India's National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, is due to arrive here tomorrow. According to one official, the schedule of appointments are being worked out. Mr. Mishra is expected to meet his counterpart here Ms. Condoleezza Rice and other senior members of the Republican administration.

THE HINDU

13 SEP 2001

# US in strike mode



## Taliban threaten jihad against Islamabad; Pakistan ducks a clear stand

by 16/9

HT Correspondents and Agencies  
Washington/Islamabad, September 15

THE COUNTDOWN for a US military action began tonight with President George W Bush naming Osama bin Laden for the first time as the prime suspect and ordering his troops to be ready to retaliate.

"We are at war. There has been an act of war declared upon America by terrorists and we will respond accordingly," he told reporters at Camp David, adding, "Every body who wears the uniform get ready — the United States will do what it takes to win this war. I will not settle for a token act. Our response must be sweeping, sustained and effective... We have much to do and much to ask of the American people."

Ahead of a meeting with his National Security Advisers at the presidential retreat, he thundered, "If he (bin Laden) thinks he can hide from us and our allies, he is mistaken. Our troops will hunt down terrorists and smoke them out of their holes."

The US has moved its defence to a level not seen since the raid on Pearl Harbour. Bush has signed an order authorising Pentagon officials to call up thousands of reserves, most of whom will be used to keep military jets on alert at bases across the country, check ships in ports, assist in intelligence-gathering and perform "other missions" that defence officials said could not be disclosed.

Coast guards are patrolling ports and waterways at unprecedented levels from New York Harbour on the east coast to San Diego in the west while F-15 Eagles and F-16 Fighting Falcons continue to fly combat patrols over Washington, New York and other major cities, supported by Awaacs airborne surveillance and tanker aircraft.

Bush's war cry has prompted speculation that the US military strike against Afghanistan could begin any time, but the most vital ingredient of such an offensive still remains ambiguous — Pakistan's logistical support.

Despite day/long reports of Pakistan agreeing to the wish list of US demands for a possible attack on Afghanistan, including ground and air support, a late-night Press conference by Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar changed that perception.

While reiterating that Pakistan would fully



MUSHARRAF, GENERAL PERMANENT

cooperate with US and the international community to bring the perpetrators of Tuesday's terrorist strikes to book, Sattar made it clear that it wouldn't allow any military attack from its soil on Afghanistan, nor would its troops participate in any such action. Yet, he maintained that Pakistan would support "any US action" against Afghanistan's ruling Taliban. The situation was very complex, he added.

The statement assumes significance, coming as it does after a four-hour meeting of Pakistan's top decision-making body, the National Security Council, and the Cabinet

over the increasing US pressure to be a party to the US offensive.

Though Sattar didn't disclose the recommendations made by the military commanders at yesterday's meeting, he confirmed that the US Government had indeed sent a list of demands to Pakistan. He further stated that General Pervez Musharraf would take the nation into confidence about the grave international situation and would meet political, religious and opinion leaders.

The Foreign Minister denied the arrival of FBI men in Islamabad and said it was a special envoy of Saudi Arabia who had arrived to hold talks with the Pakistani Government. He refused to disclose the envoy's name.

A section of the Pakistan media even reported that US Marines had landed in Islamabad for surveillance. The Nation said a special plane with over two dozen foreigners landed at the Chakala airbase in the wee hours of yesterday. The News carried a similar report.

Pakistan's predicament on lending US logistical support has compounded after the Taliban regime threatened it with a "massive attack" if it helped Washington launch military strikes on Afghanistan. "The possibility of a massive attack by our Mujahideen cannot be ruled out if any neighbouring country offers its ground or air bases to US forces," the Taliban Foreign Ministry said in a statement in Kabul.

Asked about the threat, Sattar said Pakistan was in contact with the Taliban authorities to discuss the issue. On whether Pakistan was considering withdrawing support to the ruling Taliban, he dodged, saying Pakistan's relations with Afghanistan were based on "cultural and historical ties". Pakistan would not sit on judgment unless evidence is produced to establish Osama's involvement in the terrorist strikes, he added.

The Taliban's threat of a 'jihad' against Islamabad if it facilitates an American offensive against Kabul is seen as a clear challenge to Musharraf, particularly from fundamentalist groups within Pakistan.

A senior Bush administration official said: "We know it's a difficult situation in Pakistan. But we have also been in a long conversation with Islamabad about what they might be able to do to help in this effort against terrorism."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 SEP 2001



# Pak names price: keep India out

## PRESSURE FROM AMERICA AND PROTESTS AT HOME



Pro-Taliban religious leaders in Islamabad shout slogans condemning probable US strikes against Afghanistan. (Reuters)

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR IN ISLAMABAD & K.P. NAVAR IN WASHINGTON

Sept. 16: Pakistan is sending a delegation to Afghanistan tomorrow to "persuade the Taliban government to hand over Osama bin Laden to the United States or to some other third country", sources said.

The sources added that the team — to be led by Lt. Gen. Mehmud, head of the Inter-Services Intelligence — will carry a blunt message, couched in a friendly language: give up bin Laden or get bombed.

It is also expected to carry evidence of bin Laden's involvement in the attacks that the Taliban have been demanding.

Under pressure from the US to offer its facilities for launching attacks on Afghanistan at the risk of incurring the wrath of the Taliban — and, more important, that of fundamentalist outfits within — it appears to be a last-minute attempt by Pakistan to settle the crisis out of the battlefield. The team is expected to set a three-day deadline to the Taliban to comply.

As the price for cooperation with the US, Pakistan is seeking tacit US support for Islamabad on Kashmir and pressure on India to resolve the dispute.

For starters, Pakistan wants the Bush administration to bracket India along with Israel and keep it completely out of any operation against bin Laden.

Secretary of state Colin Powell, thanking Pakistan for support, acknowledged that Islam-

abad had made this a condition. "We understand their sensitivities that would be involved in anything that might involve India and Israel. We will take those sensitivities into account," he said.

President Pervez Musharraf can also use India's absence as a post-dated cheque while settling the bills later with the Americans for his cooperation in Washington's hour of need.

Musharraf further wants the US to loosen its purse strings in assistance to Islamabad the way Ronald Reagan showered dollars on General Zia ul Haq in return for allowing Pakistan to be used as a base against the Soviets in Afghanistan all through the 1980s. There is talk of demands for waiving \$30 billion in foreign debts.

The Pakistan President, however, said today "this is not the time to ask the United States for a *quid pro quo*, for bargaining".

At meetings with editors and politicians, he said Pakistan could give the US logistical support, including basing ground troops, and allow US ships to dock in any attack on Afghanistan. Pakistan could not afford to not get involved in an action that could produce a new power structure in Afghanistan, he said.

Pakistan today froze the bank accounts of 300 Afghan leaders.

### QUOTE

I categorically state that I have not done this

OSAMA BIN LADEN

Bin Laden, whom President George W. Bush yesterday named as a prime suspect in Tuesday's strikes on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, denied the charge. In a statement released through the Afghan Islamic Press, he said: "The US is pointing the finger at me but I categorically state that I have not done this."

This is the first time the former Saudi citizen has issued a personal denial of involvement in the attacks. Bin Laden said he did not have the means to organise terrorist attacks because of restrictions placed by Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar.

"I'm living in Afghanistan. I'm a follower of Amir Ul-Momineen (Omar) who does not allow me to participate in such activities," he said.

Mullah Omar has called an urgent meeting of senior clerics to discuss the defence of Afghanistan. "Veteran honourable *ulemas* (clerics) should come to Kabul for a Shariat decision," he said.

Pressure is mounting on Musharraf from religious political parties. An influential Islamic leader warned the President and the US of "grave consequences" if Afghanistan was attacked. Jamaat-i-Islami leader Qazi Husain Ahmed told a gathering of some 30 religious and secular parties in Lahore that an attack on Afghanistan would be disastrous. "We advise Pakistani rulers and the United States to keep away from a path that had in the past led to the defeat and destruction of the Soviet Union," he said. (See Page 9)



# Islamabad pledges full support

By B. Muralidhar Reddy <sup>W-PAK</sup>

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 15. Giving in to the demands of the United States, the military establishment here today agreed to extend full support to the international community in bringing to book the "perpetrators, organisers and sponsors" of the terrorist strikes on the American cities.

Islamabad took a decision to this effect after a combined meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) and the Federal Cabinet, presided over by the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

The Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, who addressed a crowded press conference after the meeting, was at his diplomatic best and refused to go into the specifics of the U.S. "wish-list". He argued that he was not in a position to spell out the details and could only talk in general terms. Among the demands made by the Bush administration include consent for use of Pakistan's soil/airspace if the U.S. were to decide to launch strikes against Afghanistan, closure of border and fuel supplies to Afghanistan and sharing of all information about the operations of Osama bin Laden.

Mr. Sattar declined to answer a question on the threat held out by Taliban to declare war against any neighbour supporting the U.S. He insisted that Afghanistan was a good friend and Pakistan would act in conformity with its policy of support to the well-being of its people.

He said Pakistan was looking forward to holding talks with the Taliban regime on the "emergency situation". He maintained that Pa-



**THE EXODUS: Beleaguered Afghans, fleeing their country fearing a U.S. military strike against the Taliban rulers, cross the border into Pakistan at Torkham on Saturday. — AFP**

kistan did not expect to participate in any military action outside its borders. "That question does not arise. We have not been asked by anyone to take part in an international campaign."

The military Government appears to be gearing up to prepare the nation for the likely strikes against Afghanistan. It has embarked on a course to take all influential players in the country, including the 'ulema' (religious leadership), into confidence before making public the facilities it has decided to grant to the U.S. Gen. Musharraf is expected to meet representatives of political parties and also opinion-makers to appraise them of the "grave inter-

<sup>HQ-1</sup>  
<sup>1679</sup>  
national situation and its implications for Pakistan's security". Mr. Sattar's press conference took place before the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, named Osama as the prime suspect. So his stock reply to questions was that to the best of his knowledge the U.S. had not yet come to any conclusion on the group involved.

The Foreign Minister was at pains to emphasise that in the course of the four-hour long deliberations the NSC and the Cabinet decided to extend full support to the international community in combating terrorism. "Consistent with Pakistan's policy of support for the decisions of the Security Council, the Government will discharge its responsibilities under international law," he said. The refrain of Mr. Sattar was that as a responsible member of the United Nations, Pakistan would honour the resolutions adopted by the U.N. General Assembly and the Security Council on the terrorist attacks. The resolutions called for international cooperation to bring to justice the perpetrators, organisers and sponsors of the terrorist acts.

The Minister said Gen. Musharraf briefed the meeting on the actions taken by the Government in the "emergency situation" and on its contacts with the U.S. Government. Pakistan has also been in touch with the People's Republic of China, Saudi Arabia and other friendly countries.

To a question on the decision of the Government to close the Islamabad international airport on Friday for a few hours, he said the landing of a foreign aircraft without permission necessitated it.

SEP 15 2001

16 SEP 2001

# Pakistan buys time on US demands

(1)  
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AGENCIES

15/9

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WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. — The USA has placed before Islamabad a list of demands, including permission to use its airspace to launch an attack on the secret bases of Osama bin Laden. The USA wants Pakistan to close its borders with Afghanistan, cut fuel supply lines and stop funding the Taliban regime.

Pakistan has reportedly sought time to consider the demands, officials said. Pakistan is willing to allow its air space to the USA to launch strikes on the hideouts of Osama but is hesitant to permit the ground troops fearing violent protests by the country's militant Islamic groups, *The Washington Post* reported.

Gen Pervez Musharraf today held a strategy meeting with top military aides in Islamabad to examine the US request for cooperation.

The secretary of state, General Colin Powell, spoke to General Musharraf seeking a "specific list of things that we think would be useful for them to work on with us," officials said.

Gen. Powell hinted that USA may consider lifting sanctions against Pakistan as the leverage in getting it to cooperate in efforts to nab Osama bin Laden.

Gen. Powell said America was preparing for a long and tough campaign using its political, economic, legal and military tools against terrorist organisations like Osama bin Laden's.

On the possible steps to be taken, he said "diplomatically isolate them and the countries that give them support; in terms of legal actions, go after their sources of money, go after their ability to move back and forth around the world".

**Names of 19 suspected hijackers released:** The US. department of justice today released the 19 names of suspected hijackers accused of commandeering four planes involved in the attacks that destroyed the World Trade Center and severely damaged the Pentagon. Yesterday the department had said there were 18 hijackers.

**Pak media urges caution:** Pakistani newspapers today cautioned Islamabad about its offer to cooperate with the USA to hunt down those behind the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

High-level contacts between Pakistani and US officials raise questions about the cooperation and assistance that Pakistan would be willing to extend, *The News* said.

*The Friday Times* weekly wrote in its editorial that if Islamabad agrees to assist US action against Kabul, it could be the beginning of the end of Pakistan's policy on Afghanistan and Kashmir. Washington should take stock of public reaction in the Muslim world, which is far more ambivalent than the government's straight forward condemnation of the attacks, *The Nation* said, in its editorial.

**Writ plea:** A Pakistani law expert, Mr Tauqir Lodhi, has filed a writ in Peshawar High Court seeking the court's intervention to stop the Pakistan government from allowing the Americans to launch an attack on Kabul from its soil, a report from Islamabad adds.

**Omar hardens stand:** The Taliban supremo, Mullah Mohammad Omar, today vowed to take revenge against any military attack, a sharp contrast to yesterday's appeal by the militia leaders to the USA to desist from such action.

"We are ready to pay any price to defend ourselves and to take revenge," Omar's spokesman said. The Taliban chief said Osama could not have been involved in the terrorist strikes as he had no skills to carry out such attacks.

■ See PAKISTAN: page 8

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED

HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

WS-Povv **PAKISTAN:** 57-8  
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(Continued from page 1)

The Taliban ambassador to Pakistan, Mr Abdul Salam Zaef, denied rumours that Osama had been placed under house arrest. But restrictions have been placed on his movements and usage of mobile phone, fax and Internet.

**Aid workers stranded in Kabul:** Eight foreign aid workers locked in a Taliban jail and facing trial on charges of spreading Christianity have been left behind in a rush to leave Afghanistan before a possible US. attack, a report from Kabul said. "We will try to protect them if America attacks," Mr Abdul Hai Mutmaen, chief Taliban spokesman, said. Diplomats from Germany, the USA and Australia with relatives of the two American prisoners - all boarded a UN. flight out of Kabul on Thursday

**Black boxes found:** Black boxes from two of the four hijacked planes used in the strikes have been located, adds AP.

Investigators found a black box flight recorder from the hijacked plane that went down in Pennsylvania, and picked up a signal from the recorder in the jet that slammed into the Pentagon. The recorders could contain crucial information about the last minutes of the hijacked commercial jetliners.

Planning started in 1996'

Investigators have evidence that planning for the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington started at least five years ago, the Boston Globe reported today. None of the men who commandeered two jets from Boston and crashed them into the WTC appeared to have any enduring links to Boston, but they began operating in the area in preparation for the attack, the paper said.

**USA in jitters:** The nation remained jittery after agents in combat gear stormed a plane at New York's Kennedy airport on Thursday and detained a number of people. All were later released and officials said it was a false alarm. With most financial markets still closed until Monday and airlines operating a sharply reduced schedule, the nation was still reeling from the attacks.

Television networks continued round-the-clock coverage and sporting events were cancelled. Americans raced to buy US. flags and flocked to prayer services, avidly following the heartbreaking stories of people still awaiting word about their missing loved ones.

The New York mayor, Mr Rudolph Giuliani, said the list of those missing from the attack that crumpled the 110-story twin towers totals 4,763 people. The defence department said 126 people were missing at the Pentagon.

# America eyes select Pak air bases

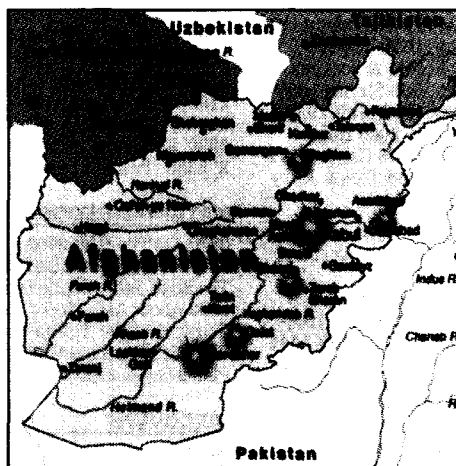
Udayan Namboodiri  
New Delhi, September 15

US Pak  
H/T-1

PAKISTAN AIR Force's existing airports at Peshawar and Quetta are likely to be selected as bases by a United States-led multinational force intending to carry out strikes inside Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. If Pervez Musharraf gives the go-ahead, these two bases offer many advantages in terms of logistics, and, therefore, may see the first US planes take off towards Afghanistan.

Firstly, these two air bases have landing strips long enough to accommodate the giant C-130 Hercules and C-5A Galaxy transport planes that will ferry men and machine. From a strategic point of view, too, these places offer manifold advantages in terms of short flying time for bomber and helicopter sorties and the movement of troops. Peshawar is close to Kabul and Jalalabad, while Quetta fronts Kandahar, all Taliban strongholds.

However, there are hurdles. US Green Berets, or crack marines that are likely to be used in the operation to smoke out Osama Bin Laden and his men, would have to cross



LIKELY TARGETS

the Khyber Pass from Peshawar, and Khoja Pass from Quetta. Given the background of the Afghans as a fighting force, such operations may be fraught with dangers.

Military experts believe that the US-led

1679  
multinational force may not like to operate only out of places close to the border as their so-called "war against terrorism" may force them to look at the facilities offered by other existing Pakistani bases. The ones at Sargoda, Karachi and Badin are home to Pakistan's F-16 fleet, the type of bombers that the US is likely to use against bin Laden.

Pakistan doesn't have "strategic depth". For launching air strikes inside Taliban country any PAF base in the country would be within short flying time from the border. Skardu in Baltistan and Bahawalpur in southern Punjab are well-developed bases. If Washington and Nato decide to set up tent villages for the forces, many other considerations would come in.

After all, with a firm base in Pakistan, the US could look forward to a long haul. Forces could fly into bases of terrorist outfits inside Iran, Iraq and the Central Asian countries. For this, a better understanding with Moscow would be necessary. The visit to the Russian capital next week by Richard Armitage, Deputy Secretary of State, is highly significant in this context.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 SEP 2001

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## A BIG IF

### Reality check may be coming Pakistan's way

**W**HERE does all this leave Pervez Musharraf? In a very tight spot, basically. In the short run, everything will depend on whether the Americans come to the conclusion that Osama bin Laden is the man they want, in which case there will be enormous pressure on Musharraf to use his country's leverage with the Taliban to get them to hand bin Laden over to American justice. If this does not work, as it certainly won't, given the kind of patronage that bin Laden enjoys with the Taliban, both leadership and rank and file — then the Americans will contemplate other kinds of actions, more drastic in temper, which need a degree of Pakistani cooperation, maybe an unprecedented degree. The last time the US carried out an action against bin Laden, it was refused permission to use Pakistani soil and had to launch cruise missiles from an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea. The action provoked violent demonstrations inside Pakistan. This time, since the Americans have been hit in their own territory and on a scale they consider war-like, they may be prepared to go beyond polite requests. The rhetoric, irritatingly, has undergone little change. Secretary of State Colin Powell says Pakistan is a friend and has nice things to say about Musharraf. Whether this means they are utterly blind to the fact that Pakistan provides training and indoctrination to hundreds of mujahedin who fight not only in Kashmir, but wherever radical Islam has a presence, remains to be seen. Given their intelligence resources, this is unlikely.

Nevertheless, Pakistan's ambassador Maleeha Lodhi was called by deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage and presented with a list of "concrete steps" which, in Powell's words, the US thinks "would be useful". A list, not just get bin Laden for us. President George Bush, perhaps new to diplomacy was much more direct: "We will give Pakistan a chance to prove themselves". That falls just this side of an ultimatum. Worse, from Pakistan's point of view, Powell says once the culprits are caught and brought to justice, the US will sit down with the world community to tackle global terror. It will be very surprising if Pakistan does not come into focus. The scenario is different. The US has few commercial interests in Pakistan, the latter is no longer a frontline state — the notion disappeared with the Cold War — is under sanction and heavily dependent on the IMF. What can Musharraf do, in such a situation? He can seize the opportunity and present the military establishment with a reality check: either we do as the Americans tell us — this may involve cracking down on *jihadi* elements — or face international isolation and run the risk of joining Afghanistan in both symbol and mentality as well as play into India's hands. The US won't allow that to happen because Pakistan has the bomb and the one threat that has loomed sharply on the horizon after Tuesday's attack is the prospect of nuclear terror. Though sections of Pakistan's military establishment certainly sympathise with the idea of *jihad* — and the Army wants to use *jihadis* in Kashmir for whatever they may be worth, Islam in the Pakistani Army is not as extreme as in radical Islamic terror. However it will require a change of outlook on Kashmir — a very big if. In the medium run, Musharraf will have a battle on his hands and nobody, least of all Musharraf himself, can be sure he will win.

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Pak-U

## Pak. outfits warn U.S against 'hasty' action

1579  
WS Pak

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 14. As the U.S. pressure mounts on the military establishment here to co-operate in the possible retaliatory action against the Taliban regime, the Pakistan-based "jehadi" outfits and political parties have cautioned the U.S. against any hasty action.

The cricketer-turned-politician, Mr. Imran Khan, who heads the Tehreek-e-Insaf, has said the U.S. attacks would have a bad impact. "It is not appropriate to ruin a country for one person. The people have nothing to eat and the attack would further desparate them. If the U.S. proves that Osama is involved in terrorist attacks, people will have no objection in extraditing him to that country. But if you destroy Afghanistan just to appease the American people, it would evoke strong reaction".

He said any attacks on the Taliban without adequate proof would increase anti-American feelings in Pakistan.

The chairman of the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy, Nawabzada Nasrullah, said the U.S. should not take any action against Afghanistan without completion of investigations. He urged the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf to take the political parties into confidence before permitting the U.S. to use Pakistani soil.

Expressing his opposition to the U.S. using Pakistan to launch attacks on Afghanistan, the chief of Jamaat-e-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, said the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon were the handiwork of Americans themselves. "In our view, this is handiwork of the Americans as it is impossible for hijackers to take control of the planes and take it to the target. It is impossible for the hijackers to simultaneously hijack four planes and hit the target. We think that the viewpoint of the Western media is based on enmity with Muslims".

A spokesman of the Lashkar-e-

Taiba took exception to the statement of Gen. Musharraf to extend full support to the U.S. and said it amounted to interference in the internal affairs of a foreign power. The spokesman claimed Pakistan had long been a target of terrorism and it badly needed support of the international community for the "liberation" of Kashmir. About the possible U.S. attack on Afghanistan, the LeT spokesman said in such a situation, all the Mujahideen outfits would support Afghan brethren.

The spokesman of the Hizb-ul Mujahideen condemned the terrorist attack in the U.S. but said they could never support the U.S. at all. He said America had been fully involved in all terrorist activity against the Muslims all over the world and now had become victim of terrorism.

The spokesman of the Harkatul Mujahideen asserted that any support to the U.S. against terrorists would amount to supporting the 'Satanic forces'.

15 SEP 2001

# Osama or US: Pakistan has to spell out stance

HUSAIN HAQQANI

FROM the US point of view, Pakistan's credentials as a nation committed to elimination of terrorism will be put to test if Osama bin Laden is found to have been involved in Tuesday's attacks in New York and Washington D.C. The civilised world shares the outrage of the American people over these attacks. Even Iran and Libya, considered rogue states by the US, have joined other countries in condemning these barbarous acts of destruction. The task of finding and punishing its perpetrators is now foremost in American minds.

Pakistan, a close US ally during the cold war, is one of the countries that can make a difference in the global battle against terrorism. The Bush administration feels it must convince or coerce Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, to withdraw support to the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. The Taliban have created an isolated state that protects and harbours extremists from all over the Islamic world, bin Laden, considered the number one suspect in the latest attacks within the United States, is one of the Taliban's guests.

Bin Laden's distorted theological interpretations of the Islamic doctrine of jihad (Holy War) have inspired terrorism among Muslims disturbed by the western world's silence over

the plight of Palestinians and Kashmiris. Even if he is not found to be directly responsible for the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, he must bear responsibility for the extremist mindset he has spawned over the last decade. The celebrations by some people in Muslim countries on seeing images of a human tragedy, totally incompatible with the values taught by Prophet Muhammad, is the result of that mindset.

Militancy and extremism in the Muslim world is attributed by some to what they believe is rage over injustices in US foreign policy.

But the way to influence US policy is to reach

## Exclusive to The Express

out to American leaders, not to kill innocent Americans civilians. Afghanistan's Taliban regime has used the "injustices of foreign policy" argument to provide shelter to a number of extremists from all over the world. Pakistan, which along with Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates is one of only three countries that recognises the Taliban regime, is in a unique position to dissuade them from pursuing that course. Until now, Pakistan has not supported US action against bin Laden for fear of domestic public reaction. But the Americans point to General Musharraf's recent statement that less than one percent of the Pakistani people supports the extremist



Pakistanis catch up on the latest news in Islamabad. Reuters

## The American message is now being delivered in clear and unambiguous terms. Pakistan can engage the US in support of its vital interests, including Kashmir. Or it can take the risk of incurring Washington's wrath, and create an Indian-American axis in South Asia

ists. That begs the question as to why the 99 percent cannot be mobilised against extremists.

According to one view, General Musharraf's regime does not want to go beyond statements of solidarity with the US. They want to keep the pretense that they believe the Taliban's denial of Osama's involvement until credible evidence to the contrary is produced. As in previous cases, such as the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing, what constitutes "convincing evidence" can be-

come a point of debate. The Musharraf regime is reluctant to play an active role in any US action against bin Laden or Afghanistan.

Pakistan has its own Islamic militant problem, which has been ignored on grounds of support for militants fighting Indian occupation of Jammu and Kashmir. These jihadis, some of whom have been suspected of involvement in local sectarian killings, are seen and described as "terrorist fighters." The US should encourage dialogue between India and Pakistan over

recently, the US had not refused to deal with civilian governments (interim as well as elected) formed because of backroom manoeuvres. From the US point of view, it would be disastrous to isolate a strategically located country of over 130 million people that also possesses nuclear weapons.

The real US concerns in dealing with Pakistan relate to nuclear proliferation, India-Pakistan relations, fundamentalist militancy, and attacks in New York and Washington will push elimination of terrorism and isolation of the Taliban to the front of the US agenda in its relations with Pakistan. For its part, the Pakistani leadership should evaluate the country's national interest and engage in honest dialogue with the US. The US is making it clear to the Pakistani leadership that they want Pakistan's active cooperation in clearing the region of organisations inspiring terrorism.

The American message is now being delivered in clear and unambiguous terms. Pakistan can engage the US in support of its vital interests, including Kashmir. Or it can take the risk of incurring Washington's wrath, and create an Indian-American axis in South Asia to Islamabad's detriment. Pakistan has suffered in the past from its leaders' misreading of American signals. There should be no repetition of the same error.

(Haqqani was a minister in the Nawaz Sharif government)

groups in general. Until now, these groups have been treated as allies in the struggle against India in Kashmir. This will have to change if US concerns are to be accommodated. Relations with the US have always been central to Pakistan's foreign policy.

At the height of the Cold War, Pakistani leaders sought security against India through treaties with the US. The treaty relationship served Pakistan well, in terms of securing better weapons systems and substantial economic aid. But Pakistanis adopted a rather romantic notion of what the treaty relationship meant. During two wars with India (1965 and 1971), the US did not help Pakistan the way Pakistan expected. The Americans had advised Islamabad against going to war on both occasions and did not consider it in their interest to get embroiled in India-Pakistan conflicts. Washington may have been pragmatic in calculating US security interests but the Pakistanis were not. Pakistan's leaders have felt betrayed by the US ever since.

Pakistan's role in the anti-Soviet war in Afghanistan has also exacerbated the public perception in this country of the US as an "untrustworthy" friend or ally. Since 1958, the US has supported several Pakistani regimes with varying degrees of popular support. This included the military dictatorships of Field Marshal Ayub Khan, General Yahya Khan, and General Ziaul Haq. More

## Disadvantage Pakistan

<sup>USA</sup>  
<sup>US PM - AF 27</sup>  
**T**he US is now exerting tremendous pressure on Pakistan to deliver on the Taliban and wanted terrorist Osama bin Laden. Giving no room to Pakistan to wriggle out of a delicate situation, the US secretary of state Colin Powell has made it clear to President General Pervez Musharraf that the choice is between us and them. Either you are for the terrorist or you are against it. No explanations or justifications have been asked for, just help, cooperation and support. The bottom line has been spelt out by the US which has finally recognised the influence wielded by Pakistan over the Taliban and through it over Osama bin Laden. General Musharraf, visibly nervous and unhappy at the sudden turn of events, has had no choice but to comply and to come on national television to inform his people that his government was committed to fighting terrorism and would extend all support to the US in its hour of need. The Americans do not appear totally convinced with President George W. Bush admitting that Pakistan had promised all help, but it remains to be seen what it would do. It is a difficult situation for Pakistan, as it will come under attack not just from the Taliban but also the jihadi groups which have become an industry in themselves. General Musharraf has been making noises to deal with these groups, but has not really achieved much on the ground. The terrorists still continue to kill innocent people in Jammu and Kashmir, and from all accounts are flourishing within Pakistan. It is not clear whether the US will help General Musharraf get rid of these groups as well, or whether it is focused on just Bin Laden and the Taliban. Besides can General Musharraf survive an attack on the Taliban with his cooperation? His own future is at stake here, and clearly visions of the past must have come to hound this Army general as well. The US is said to be contemplating a major attack on the Taliban but obviously, it is hoping that Pakistan can prevail upon the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden to pre-empt any action. The Taliban have not shown any desire to give up the terrorist who enjoys an excellent relationship with the Afghan and Pakistani Mujahideen. Military action in Afghanistan is rather difficult because of the terrain and the scattered population. Most key figures must have left Kabul by now with Bin Laden himself going into hiding. In that sense the surprise element which is the key to success in any attack is completely missing with the Taliban and others having made the moves necessary to blunt the effectiveness of any air strike. It might be recalled that the US was not particularly successful in hitting the bases of the terrorist camps last time with its Cruise missiles unable to hit even one ammunition dump. This despite the fact that the terrorist groups have been using the same ammunition dumps as the CIA which had set these up for the Taliban during their common offensive against the Soviet troops and the Najibullah government. A failed strike would prove very costly for President Bush who has to now be very sure that all his pawns are in place before he moves the King.

### **OTHER VOICES**

THE ASIAN AGE

15 SEP 2001



# Pressure on Pak as collateral damage piles up

## 2 more NYC buildings are likely to collapse



New York governor George Pataki (left), New York City mayor Rudolph Giuliani and U.S. senator Hillary Clinton tour the site of the World Trade Center disaster on Wednesday.

### Twist Taliban's arm, U.S. tells Islamabad

NEW YORK: Even as the U.S. mounted pressure on Pakistan on Thursday to compel its ally, the Taliban in Afghanistan, to hand over Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden, widely suspected to be behind Tuesday's attacks that left thousands dead, reports emanating from West Asia said the Taliban had already put Bin Laden under house arrest.

The Taliban also pleaded with the U.S. on Wednesday night not to attack Afghanistan and its leaders. The appeal came after some Pakistani diplomats met senior Taliban officials in Kabul.

Stepping up the pressure on Pakistan, U.S. ambassador Wendy Chamberlin met Gen Pervez Musharraf within hours of U.S. secretary of state Colin Powell declaring that the U.S. was "looking for and expecting their (Islamabad's) fullest cooperation and their help" in tracking down the perpetrators of Tuesday's tragedy.

U.S. officials refused to disclose what transpired at the meeting but said she discussed the broad outline of issues laid out by Mr Powell on Wednesday night. Mr Powell, while evading a direct reply on a question as to whether all sides led to Bin Laden as the man behind the attack, said, "We have not made a determination as to who is responsible for the attack."

"But we thought as we gather information, and as we look at possible sources of the attack, it would be useful to point out to (the) Pakistani leadership at every level that we are looking for and expecting their fullest cooperation and their help and support as we conduct this investigation." (Agencies)

Log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com) for Taliban deny Laden is under house arrest

NEW YORK: The worst is still not over. Two more buildings are deemed in danger of collapse in the devastated surroundings of what once was the World Trade Center. What remains of 5 World Trade Center, one of the shorter structures in the complex, has been declared in "partial collapse" while One Liberty Plaza on Liberty Street is said to be "buckling".

The collateral damage is piling up even as rescue operations continue. The Marriott World Trade Center hotel, in the shadow of the WTC, is gone. The World Financial Center, across the street, is heavily damaged. The Hilton's Millennium Hotel is still standing, but without 75 windows. Also severely damaged is the 1907 structure at 90 West Street, an office building designed by famed downtown architect Cass Gilbert. Storefronts and street-level offices along Broadway and West Street flaut shattered windowpanes.

NY Democrat Senator Charles Schumer told reporters that he had been assured that the city would "have a blank check" from the federal government to deal with the crisis.

Meanwhile, the remaining seven floors of the World Trade Center collapsed late Wednesday night, more than 30 hours after a double-suicide attack by hijacked passenger jets toppled the twin towers.

A police spokesman quoted by CBS television said the fire department was expecting the building to fall and pulled all rescue workers and firefighters back.

"Officially, no one has been injured in this secondary collapse," the spokesman said. The outer walls of the south tower caved in and fell, adding to difficulties facing firefighters and rescue workers. (Agencies)

Log on to [www.timesofindia.com](http://www.timesofindia.com) for Empire State building evacuated

# Bush urged to lift sanctions against Pak.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 7. Arguing that the sanctions imposed on Pakistan have not advanced the economic interests of the U.S. and have disrupted bilateral economic activity, the American Business Council of Pakistan has urged the President, Mr. George W. Bush, to lift or waive all nuclear-related sanctions against that country.

"Pakistan remains a crucially-important moderate friend of the U.S. in the Islamic world. Continued positive U.S. engagement would be to our mutual benefit and would further regional and global stability," the Council has said in a letter to Mr. Bush.

The Council, which has more than 60 U.S. multinationals as members, said the lifting of sanctions was also crucial to support Pakistan in the domestic reform drive. The Musharraf Government had been working for the last 21 months to reverse the downside, taking steps to stem the rise of extremism and trying to reduce tensions with India.

"Lifting of sanctions will encourage and strengthen the forces of reform and moderation in Pakistan and enable it to mobilise resources internationally for the long-term goals of socio-economic development of its 140 million people," the letter said.

There has been a flurry of reports in the last few weeks on the issue of sanctions in South Asia, with much of the focus being on the lifting of the sanctions against India. This could come about anytime it is said, perhaps before the U.S. President meets the Indian Prime Minister on the sidelines of the United Nations this month.

The focus is also on Pakistan, which is subject to different sets of punitive measures for the 1998 nuclear tests and also for the military coup of General Pervez Musharraf about two years ago. Even if the President is willing to lift sanctions against Pakistan, he cannot go the full distance given that some of the measures are linked to certification of democracy.

But Pakistan, its officials and lobbyists have been highlighting the need to lift the sanctions and the general impression is that Islamabad is not going to be left out in the process. Pakistani officials have been pushing against a differentiated approach, and senior officials of the Bush administration have pointed to the dangers of further alienating Islamabad.

The Karachi-based Council is the latest in a series of actions taken by the pro-Pakistan groups. And perhaps the biggest push this week came from a bipartisan group of at least 24 lawmakers from the Senate and the House of Representatives, who sent off two separate

# White House urging the President to lift the sanctions against Pakistan.

The lawmakers who have put their names down in the letter to the President include some prominent and powerful members of Congress. From the House of Representatives and on the side of the Democrats, the letter to had been initiated by Mr. David Bonior of Michigan. And in the Senate, the letter has been initiated by the Democrat, Mr. Tim Johnson of South Dakota, who is a keen backer of Pakistan. The others who signed include Senators Robert Torricelli, Tom Harkin, Harry Reid, John Warner and Gordon Smith.

## Pallone opposition

UNI reports:

The senior Democratic Congressman, Mr. Frank Pallone, has opposed the lifting of sanctions against Pakistan saying the move would be construed as a support for the military regime and terrorist activities.

In a letter to Mr. Bush, Mr. Pallone, a member of the House of Representatives from New Jersey, accused Pakistan's military regime of failing to sever its links with international terrorist groups. He called for early restoration of democracy in Pakistan and said the snapping of its ties with terrorist groups must be a precondition for lifting sanctions.

THE HINDU

SEPTEMBER 8, 2001

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

# Pakistan launches campaign to pressure U.S. to get sanctions lifted

WASHINGTON: Pakistan has launched a desperate and high-pitched campaign to pressure the U.S. into easing sanctions against Pakistanis, sympathetic and semi-mental cold warriors, and American businesses with interests in Pakistan, Islamabad is also invoking the bogey of discrimination against the Islamic world and the threat of increased fundamentalism and reliance on nuclear weapons.

The Pakistani strategy, almost hysterical in its intensity, comes amid a heated debate within the Bush administration over whether sanctions on Islamabad ought to be eased at the same time as those on New Delhi.

The prevailing sentiment in the White House National Security Council and sections of the State Department is against this, but old timers at State and a host of Pakistani sympathisers in military

and defence circles, including a former CIA chief, are pressing for the old even-handed treatment.

After getting some two dozen sympathetic lawmakers to write to President Bush earlier this week pleading for parity with India on the sanctions issue, the Pakistani brain-trust on Thursday deployed its 'business card'.

The Karachi-based American Business Council of Pakistan (ABC), which is said to represent

in Pakistan and enable it to mobilise resources internationally for the long-term goals of socio-economic development," the Council argued.

Among the members of the ABC are well-known American multinationals such as AT&T, Citibank, Coca-Cola, Gillette, IBM, Intel etc, although none of the companies appear to have individually subscribed to the contents of the letter.

The more serious claim that sanctions against Pakistan will be read as discrimination against the Islamic world was made in a commentary in the *International Herald Tribune* by three writers, including the former CIA director James Woolsey and Pakistani investment banker Mansur Jaz.

They argued that sanctions haven't deterred Pakistan from pursuing its nuclear program and instead has nearly destroyed the

country's feeble economy and ushered in an era of sectarian strife and Islamic militancy.

"Further crippling a weak Pakistan, perhaps to the point of state failure, would invite its myriad problems to spill over into other countries, Islamic militancy, arms and drug trafficking and religiously motivated sectarian violence could have devastating consequences for India's economic prospects and cause trouble in

important Islamic oil-producing countries. Risks to U.S. forces and interests in West Asia would be a virtual certainty," the writers warned.

The fearful scenario that underpins the 'Save Pakistan' campaign is having some effect on the administration, although it is getting no traction on the Hill. One former congressional staffer who worked on the region dismissed it as scare-mongering and pointed out that Pakistan's fundamentalism happened most during the Zia era, when the country was rolling in American dollars and U.S. aid.

However, some influential lawmakers are signing up for the Islamic card, for purely domestic purpose if nothing else. One such Congressman is Michigan Democrat David Bonior, who has a record of backing such causes, presumably because of a large number of Muslim constituents in his district near Detroit.

Another lawmaker is South Dakota Senator Tim Johnson, who defeated Larry Pressler (of the Pressler Amendment) in a Senate race that was partly a proxy fight between Indian and Pakistani non-residents.

Both lawmakers signed up for a letter to Mr Bush earlier this week that stated, "It is vitally important that both nuclear powers in South Asia be treated equally and fairly in order to further our country's non-proliferation objectives."

Clearly that's not how the administration sees it at this time, especially after last week's sanctions against a Chinese and Pakistani entities for missile proliferation. Statements by several administration officials also seem to indicate that while they see India's nuclear programme as largely benign and self-contained, they worry about the malignancy of the Pakistani programme, and its proliferation aspects.

So while it is certain that sanctions against India will be eased in the next fortnight, the administration is toying with various formulations to satisfy Pakistan and its sympathisers. That could involve some easing of sanctions while keeping a tighter watch on its nuclear programme and progress towards democracy.

What language and legislative tool will be applied to bring this about is unclear as yet. In fact, congressional sources say the administration hasn't even begun consulting with them yet.

THE TIMES OF INDIA  
- 8 SEP 2001

us-Pak ✓  
HD-1 3/9

# New U.S. sanctions unwarranted, says Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 2.** Pakistan has reacted sharply to the United States decision to impose new sanctions on China and Pakistan for the alleged supply of Chinese components to Islamabad's missile programme.

The country's Ambassador to the U.S., Ms. Maleeha Lodhi, has termed the sanctions imposed on the Government's National Defence Complex (NDC) and a Chinese state-owned company for violating the Missile Technology Control Regime, "unwarranted and unjustified".

Talking to Washington-based mediapersons, Ms. Lodhi criticised the U.S. for proposing fresh sanctions though both China and Pakistan had denied the allegations. Pakistani media today quoted her as saying "our cooperation with China does not violate MTCR guidelines to which neither country is a party. But Pakistan abides by these guidelines and there is nothing between China and Pakistan that violates the guidelines".

She said Pakistan already faced seven layers of sanctions and the new measures against one particular company would have no effect on the indigenous missile programme.

Pakistani papers said the sanctions did not augur well for relations with the U.S. particularly when the President Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was scheduled to meet Mr. George W. Bush at month-end. In a report

from Washington, the English daily, *The News*, said "Pakistan fears that the move has been timed by lobbies within the administration and the U.S. Congress who want to influence the decision on removal of sanctions against Pakistan".

A report in the *Dawn* said "the fresh measures could strengthen the hands of those U.S. legislators who advocate lifting of sanctions against India but not on Pakistan". It said this was the fourth time in a decade that sanctions were imposed against Pakistan under the MTCR. The new sanctions were expected to last two years. Significantly, these would be the first sanctions by the Bush administration.

For Pakistan, the significance is believed to be more symbolic than concrete. The NDC was already part of the long list of Pakistani entities blacklisted by Washington.

## 'Indigenous programme'

AP reports:

Meanwhile, the NDC denied Washington's allegations saying the country's missile programme was indigenous. "It is very unfortunate that the U.S. has imposed sanctions without knowing the facts," the NDC chairman, Mr. Samar Mubarak Mand, said.

However, he said his company would not be affected by the sanctions. "We are not involved in missile technology transfer to any country, group or individual, nor do we import it from any other country."

# Pakistan faces fresh US sanctions

Washington, July 13

PAKISTAN, REELING under a severe economic crisis, may face US sanctions for "failing to do enough to curb trafficking in women and children", a US State Department report said.

The sanctions, in addition to those imposed in the wake of the 1998 nuclear explosions, would hit Pakistan which is trying hard to improve its ailing economy seeking stringent loans from the World Bank and the IMF.

The report, presented by US Secretary of State Colin Powell to the Congress, pulls no punches and blames itself for failing to stamp out the "modern form of slavery". It said at least 700,000 people, especially women and children, are forced into sweatshops, construction sites, brothels and fields, subject to threats against their person and family, and deprived of their human rights. The report divides coun-

## SCANT PRAISE FOR INDIA

THE US STATE Department report placed India among 'tier two' countries which have made considerable efforts in checking human trafficking. It said though India tries to fight the problem, lack of funds prevents it from doing a good job.

The report said the Indian Government "recognises the trafficking problem but it is severely underfunded...typically unable to implement plans and initiatives with which it agrees". Backlogged courts and local corruption render most prosecutorial efforts ineffective. There has also been limited progress towards training, sensitising and gaining the cooperation of the State police.

The report praised NGOs for taking the lead on prevention, protection and prosecution programmes and work well with some entities in the Centre. But they have a mixed record in securing the cooperation of police and local Governments.

PTI, Washington

tries where these horrific practices, fuelled by "greed, moral turpitude, economics, political instability and transition and social factors" into three tiers.

Tier one has about a dozen countries, including the UK, Canada, Switzerland, Italy and Hong Kong. These countries comply with the minimum standards. In tier two are 47 coun-

tries, including India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, China, Thailand.

Placed in tier 3 are those countries, which do not fully comply with the minimum standards and are also not making significant efforts to bring themselves into compliance. Pakistan, Burma, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, South Korea, Sudan, Turkey and

UAE are among the 23 nations in this category.

According to the Act, "beginning with the 2003 report, countries on the tier 3 list will be subject to certain sanctions, principally termination of non-humanitarian, non-trade-related assistance".

Such countries would also face US opposition to assistance, except for humanitarian, trade-related and certain development-related aid from international financial institutions, specifically the IMF and multilateral development banks.

"Pakistan is a source, transit and destination country for an increasing number of trafficked persons. Women and children are trafficked for purposes of sexual abuse, bonded labour and domestic servitude to West Asia. Women and children are trafficked from East Asian countries and Bangladesh through Pakistan to West Asia. There also is

evidence of trafficking within Pakistan," the report said.

It said Nepal is a source country for internationally trafficked women and children. Poor and uneducated young women from Nepal's rural regions are trafficked to India and forced into prostitution or bonded labour. Nepalese people are also trafficked to Hong Kong, Thailand and West Asian countries.

On Sri Lanka, the report said women travel to West Asian countries to work as domestic help and some are reportedly forced into domestic servitude and sexual exploitation.

Women from Thailand, China and Russia have been trafficked to Sri Lanka for sexual exploitation.

The LTTE, the report said, abduct and hold children against their will for the purpose of forced labour and forced military conscription.

PTI

# Pressure on Pak. to get Kabul throw out Osama

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 3. The Bush administration is pressuring Pakistan into leaning on Afghanistan to throw out Osama bin Laden and shut down his operations, says *The Washington Times*, quoting administration officials.

During his recent visit here, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, was apparently told by officials that Washington had a 'growing body of evidence' that Islamabad was violating the United Nations sanctions against the Taliban by giving military assistance to the extremist outfit.

What is being pointed out is that while the United States has raised this issue with Pakistan before, it was not at such high levels; and for the first time the Bush administration is saying it has 'proof' of sanctions-busting by Pakistan.

"We know the Pakistanis are giving moral and political support to the Taliban. It's likely they are also giving them some advice on how to conduct military operations. Before the sanctions they were giving the Taliban assistance with fuel and perhaps some ammunition," an official has said.

One set of officials here are saying that the administration has proof that Pakistan is providing arms, training and other military support to the Taliban. For instance, it is said that Pakistani military officers can be heard

walking on radios in Afghanistan.

But a State Department official has said that he was not aware of any 'proof' in the possession of the United States that Islamabad was violating the UN embargo. "We don't have the smoking gun," the State Department official has said. The same official has also cautioned that the United States has very little leverage with the military rulers of Pakistan.

"He (Mr. Sattar) received a very straightforward message... It is in their interest to change their orientation," an official has told *The Washington Times*. "He kind of looked a little dumbfounded," a senior administration official has been quoted as saying. The Embassy of Pakistan has denied that there were any "accusations" during last week's meetings of Mr. Sattar here.

The Embassy has once again made the point that American sources are biased.

The United States has been after Osama bin Laden who is seen as the key person behind the Africa embassy bombings in 1998 that killed more than 220 persons including several Americans. Washington has been leaning very heavily on the Taliban which has thus far refused to expel Osama bin Laden or shut down his terrorist training camps in that country. The pressure on Pakistan is a result of Islamabad's links with the Taliban.

THE HINDU

# Restore democracy, USA tells Pak again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

51-11 2796

WASHINGTON, June 22. - Continuing its tirade against General Pervez Musharraf for taking over as President of Pakistan, the USA has bluntly told Islamabad that restoration of democracy was "absolutely essential" to revive and rebuild relations with Washington.

"It is very important that we develop a relationship with Pakistan based on our (cooperative) relationships. But, clearly, democracy is an aspect of that," state department's deputy spokesman, Mr Phil Reeker, told reporters here.

During the briefing, Mr Reeker avoided using the word "President" to describe Musharraf and called him "General." "The actions he (Musharraf) took to dissolve the elected assemblies and to appoint himself President severely undermines Pakistan's constitutional order. They make it look as if Pakistan is a country ruled by decree rather than by a democratic process," he added.

"Obviously the actions makes us very concerned that in fact they are turning away from, rather than towards democracy, and we will need to see some steps in the right direction as we try to re-evaluate and rebuild cooperative relations with Pakistan," the spokesman said.

"We view those as undemocratic. They undermine Pakistan's constitutional order and clearly are disappointing. What I want to say now is that if Pakistan is committed to restoring democracy, they need to focus on holding free and fair elections. That is going to be absolutely essential," Mr Reeker said.

## SATTAR WAS CAUGHT BY SURPRISE?

# Musharraf move distressing, sanctions cannot be lifted: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 21. The Bush administration has said it is "distressed" at the decision of Gen. Pervez Musharraf to declare himself as the President of Pakistan; and has made it known that this development will complicate matters.

According to *The Washington Post*, the visiting Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, told administration officials that he was caught by surprise by Gen. Musharraf's move. The Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, told Mr. Sattar the administration was "distressed".

"There was no heads-up in the meetings until today. And I'm sure it caught him by surprise, the

timing at least," an administration official told the paper and added that the decision "doesn't help with regard to one of the key issues on the agenda".

A senior State Department official was quoted by the paper as saying, "he told us they would have elections next year. We said that it was very important that you do that for sanctions and other reasons. We were surprised to see this today." After their meeting on Tuesday, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said he was "very encouraged" by Mr. Sattar's report with respect to the preparations for the elections next year.

The State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, wast-

ed no time condemning the latest turn of events. "... we are very concerned and very disappointed that Pakistan has taken another turn away from democracy rather than, as we had hoped, a step towards democracy," he said.

"Gen. Musharraf's actions to

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dissolve the elected Assemblies and to appoint himself President severely undermine Pakistan's constitutional order. They cast Pakistan as a country ruled by decree rather than by democratic process," Mr. Boucher said.

The Bush administration told Islamabad that the sanctions could not be lifted until the President had made a determination that a democratically elected government had been put in place. "So we urge the Government of Pakistan to move quickly towards genuine restoration of democracy through free and fair national elections and we will watch closely on what steps the government might take," the spokesman said.

It was also stressed that Washington had no clue to the things that happened in Islamabad. In fact, Mr. Sattar himself took cover under the argument that he did not know about the developments until the evening of June 20 or several hours after Gen. Musharraf assumed the mantle of civilian presidency.

An unnamed administration official was quoted by Reuters as saying that Gen. Musharraf's decision "was not a welcome piece of news here. Powell was blindsided." The official had gone on to make the point that the development was bound to complicate an already complicated task — of lifting the sanctions.

### Undesirable fallout

Over the last three days, Mr. Sattar has been all over the town here talking about the "unfairness" of the sanctions against Pakistan and warning that continuation of the punitive measures is leading to undesirable fallouts such as the rise of extremism. The Bush administration is reviewing the entire gamut of sanctions and has indicated that the measures against India will be lifted in the next few months.

Mr. Sattar had already met senior administration players such as the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser. His argument that eventually there is appreciation that Gen. Musharraf's actions have to do with better governance is unlikely to cut much ice here.

## Did PM know it beforehand?

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 21. Did the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, jump the gun on the change of guard in the Presidential palace in Pakistan?

Yes, if reports in a section of the Pakistani press are to be believed. At least two leading dailies here have produced purported extracts of the conversation between Mr. Vajpayee and the Pakistani military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, at 10.45 a.m. during which the Indian premier addressed the latter as President.

At the time the conversation took place, Muhammad Rafiq Tarar was still the President. The decision to remove Mr. Tarar was taken after the telephone conversation, and Gen. Musharraf sworn in as President only at 4.30 p.m.

According to the reports, Mr. Vajpayee is reported to have begun his conversation with the greeting "Good morning, Mr. President".

"Mr. Prime Minister, I'm not the President," Gen. Musharraf protested politely. But Mr. Vajpayee persisted and congratulated him.

According to the Urdu daily, *Jang*, the conversation went on like this:

Gen. Musharraf: "Mr. Prime Minister, you are congratulating me for what?"

Mr. Vajpayee: "Mr. President, I'm congratulating you beforehand on assuming the office of President after a few hours."

Gen. Musharraf: "Mr. Prime Minister, I too thank you beforehand for the congratulations."

Mr. Vajpayee then informed

Gen. Musharraf that he was anxiously looking forward to his visit to India, beginning on July 14, and that he would be received with full honours.

"Thank you, Prime Minister Sahib. Our meeting would be fruitless without meaningful talks on resolving the Kashmir issue," Gen. Musharraf replied.

Mr. Vajpayee: "Certainly Kashmir will be discussed, along with other issues."

Gen. Musharraf: "Surely I will discuss other issues too, apart from the main Kashmir dispute."

Both leaders then agreed that statements which could cloud their summit meeting should not be issued. While one paper claimed the call lasted 16 minutes, the other said it went on for 20 minutes.



HPD-13  
2/16

# A moment of hope: Sattar

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 20. The United States and Pakistan discussed a range of issues on Tuesday as the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, had his meeting with the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, which was followed by a working lunch. "... we had a very, very good and fruitful discussion of all the issues on our mutual agendas," Gen. Powell said at the end of the meeting at Foggy Bottom.

It was quite obvious that the coming meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan was one of the major topics of the discussions. At the State Department stakeout, the Secretary of State was pointedly asked if India should trust the Pakistani Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, after Kargil.

"I think anytime the leaders of two great countries such as India and Pakistan get together to discuss issues that are of enormous complication, it's got to be a good thing; and so I hope these conversations will produce results that will benefit both nations and the people of the region," Gen. Powell said.

Mr. Sattar, in response to the question of "trust", said this was a moment of hope in the relations between the two countries and that Gen. Musharraf "has exercised utmost restraint to ensure that the atmosphere is not in any way adversely affected by statements with regard to our positions on the Kashmir question... I am sure our leader... will try to identify a direction that will lead to a solution acceptable to the Kashmiri people".

Mr. Sattar said that when the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, and Gen. Musharraf meet they would address the Kashmir issue in a constructive fashion and identify "salutatory directions" that would lead to a settlement which would be acceptable to the people of Jammu and Kashmir. To which Gen. Powell responded, "I parallel what the Minister just said. We did discuss it in the vein that he just described".

Gen. Powell and Mr. Sattar touched on other issues that have a vital bearing for South Asia and bilateral relations that included China, Afghanistan and the Taliban. "There was no issue that we did not discuss in a spirit of openness and candour, reflecting the great respect we have for Pakistan and the friendship that has always existed for many, many years between the people of Pakistan and the people of the

United States," Gen. Powell said.

Sanctions against Pakistan were also discussed. While the Secretary of State was more general in his observations saying the discussions were over and now one should think of how to go about the "process of eventually lifting sanctions", the State Department spokesman, Mr. Richard Boucher, later said that as U.S. sanctions against India and Pakistan were based on merits, they may be lifted at different times.

## Sanctions to go in stages

WASHINGTON, JUNE 20. U.S. sanctions on India and Pakistan, imposed after both countries went nuclear in 1998, will not be lifted in one go and a decision on this issue will be taken on the basis of the U.S.'s relationship with the country.

The State department spokesperson, Mr. Richard Boucher, briefing newsmen here on the deliberations of the luncheon meeting between the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said, "we take each of these on its merits. We look at the progress and where things are going in individual relationship and decide what we can do in those terms." Earlier in the day, Gen. Powell, addressing a joint news conference along with Mr. Sattar, said they discussed how one gets through the process of eventually lifting the sanctions in south Asia. "We will be dealing with all of those issues

as we move forward in a spirit of dialogue and cooperation," he added.

Mr. Boucher was replying to whether the sanctions against India would be lifted sooner than Pakistan and the terms and conditions for ending it. Pakistan has as many as five layers of sanctions, including one for toppling democracy and installing a military dictatorship.

Meanwhile, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Ms. Christina Rocca, has said she is "very optimistic" that post-Pokhran II sanctions against India will be lifted before the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, visits America in September. This is the first time a possible date for the lifting of sanctions has been mentioned.

The Indian ambassador, Mr. Lalit Mansingh, said that India is pressing the U.S. to lift not only these sanctions but also those imposed earlier. — UNI, PTI

The consensus on sanctions against India is that they would have to be lifted within the next few months. But administration officials are not sure on how to go about it as far as Pakistan is concerned, both in terms of time-frame and scope.

Islamabad is in a different situation, for the administration here would have to come to grips with multiple layers of punitive measures.

Further, some in the official community here are not sure that Pakistan should be "rewarded" by any lifting of sanctions. It is argued that the country is still under military rule; continues to deal with the Taliban in Afghanistan; it is one of suspects in the proliferation game; and has a dubious track record on terrorism.

"Some of the sanctions are the same (meaning for India and Pakistan). Some are different. So we take each of these on its merits. We look at the progress and how things are in the individual relationship and decide what we can do in those terms," Mr. Boucher said.

# Sanctions have slowed economic revival: Sattar

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 19. The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, today said the continuation of sanctions against his country by the United States would risk the erosion of conventional capability leading to an increase in reliance on strategic deterrence.

Mr. Sattar, here for talks with members of the Bush administration, was speaking at a nonproliferation conference organised by the Carnegie Endowment. He also spoke on Islamabad's nuclear programme, rationale and thinking as well as the issue of sanctions and the coming summit meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan.

"For nearly two years India kept Pakistan at arms length; didn't even want to talk to us. And now a meeting is due to take place sometime next month and we hope this meeting will... chart new directions for relations between the two countries and address in the first instance, the root cause of the tensions that have prevailed between Pakistan and India for the last 54 years," he said.

He was not fully optimistic that New Delhi and Islamabad would be able to hammer out restraints and confidence-building measures with respect to strategic weapons systems by next month and that the emphasis during the meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, and Gen Pervez Musharraf "is going to be between the root cause of the tensions".

Mr. Sattar hoped the two leaders would address the core issue of Kashmir "and embark upon some salutary mechanism for dealing with this issue".

He was quite blunt in evaluating the punitive measures imposed by the U.S., not just the post-1998 Glenn Amendment sanctions. "The U.S. has no legal obligation to continue to provide economic assistance or sell military equipment to Pakistan. But friends have a right to at least to expect non-discrimination."

"The sanctions deny Pakistan not merely economic assistance and military sales but even spare parts of equipment we purchased, ignoring the implicit warranty in past sales. It is not necessary in this forum to men-

tion the risks inherent in erosion of conventional capability and consequent increase in reliance on strategic deterrence," he said.

Sanctions are "paradoxical" in another significant way, Mr. Sattar continued. "Denial of economic cooperation retards our efforts to relieve poverty which breeds hopelessness and desperation and fosters extremism that needs to be opposed. Also the sanctions have only slowed down the pace of our economic revival and prolonged poverty and hardship which give rise to a host of undesirable trends including extremism."

Mr. Sattar may have stayed away from the "I" in his keynote address but there were ample references. Pointing out that Pakistan's pursuit of nuclear capability was driven by security compulsions, he said, "our sole purpose then as now is the defence of our state and prevention of aggression and war. Pakistan harbours no animus or illwill against any country. We do not nourish any design of domination nor hanker after great power status."

Mr. Sattar also shot down India's "no-first use" concept saying it was a recipe for war as the emphasis was on the option for the first use of conventional weapons. "Unfortunately, conventional imbalance has been exploited in South Asia on more than one occasion in the past.

The whole purpose of Pakistan's decision to acquire nuclear capability has been to deter aggression by a more powerful state. To declare that capability will never be used is to invite exploitation of conventional disparity. A state that declares it will not make first use of nuclear weapons implies it reserves the option to make first use of conventional weapons. That is a recipe for war."

## U.S. backs summit

On Monday, Mr. Sattar had an hour-long discussion with the National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, at the National Security Council.

"They discussed bilateral matters, in particular the removal of sanctions. The Foreign Minister apprised her about the policies and priorities of the Government, in particular, economic revival, institutional reforms and good

governance," a press note of the Pakistan Embassy said.

Mr. Sattar and Dr. Rice also discussed regional issues including the coming summit meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan.

Mr. Torkel Patterson, Senior Director for Asia, and Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad, Senior Director for the Gulf and Southwest Asia of the National Security Council, were present at the meeting which discussed, among other things, U.S. concerns on terrorism, Afghanistan and the ruling Taliban there.

The hope that the President, Mr. George W. Bush, would "drop by" during the meeting proved false. The expectation was in the context of Mr. Bush "dropping by" during the meeting between Dr. Rice and the Minister for External Affairs and Defence, Mr. Jaswant Singh, last month.

Before Mr. Sattar's talks with Dr. Rice, the White House spokesman, Mr. Ari Fleischer, said restoring fully normal relations with Pakistan required that democratic element. "The administration is committed to building a mutually beneficial bilateral relationship with Pakistan. The administration is looking forward to a return to democracy that will permit fully normalised relations," he said adding the U.S. "fully supports" the coming meeting between India and Pakistan.

Later today, Mr. Sattar and his delegation are scheduled to meet the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and other senior officials at the State Department. A working lunch will follow. As at the National Security Council, far-ranging issues, including those of the subcontinent, nuclear and missile programmes and the coming summit between India and Pakistan, are likely to be discussed.

## LS monsoon session from July 23

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JUNE 19. The monsoon session of the Lok Sabha will commence on July 23 and likely to conclude on August 31, subject to exigencies of Government business, a Lok Sabha secretariat release said today.

# Pak links N-restraint to curbs

Washington, June 19

IN A thinly disguised warning to the US, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, has hinted that his country may be forced to increase its reliance on nuclear weapons unless Washington lifts economic and military sanctions on Islamabad.

He has suggested also that growth of extremism in Pakistan may be one consequence of the sanctions.

"The United States has no legal obligation to provide economic assistance or sell military equipment to Pakistan. But friends have the right at least to expect non-discrimination. The

sanctions deny Pakistan not merely economic assistance and military sales but even spare parts for the equipment we purchased," Sattar said yesterday in an address at the Carnegie International non-proliferation conference here.

"It is not necessary in this forum to explain the risks inherent in erosion of conventional capability and consequent increase in reliance on strategic deterrence," he added. The subtext was, if Pakistan is not able to develop conventional weapons, it has no choice but to fall back on the nuclear option.

Sanctions are paradoxical in another significant way, Sattar

said: "Denial of economic cooperation retards our efforts to relieve poverty which breeds hopelessness and desperation, and fosters extremism that needs to be opposed. The sanctions have only slowed down the pace of our economic revival and prolonged poverty and hardship which give rise to a host of undesirable trends, including extremism."

He told the conference that he was in Washington to explain Pakistan's case against sanctions, which were counter-productive. He said Islamabad's pursuit of nuclear capability was driven by security compulsions. "Pakistan harbours no

animus or ill will against any country. We do not nourish any design of domination nor hanker after great power status."

"Given our limited-focused aim that is confined solely to Pakistan's peace and security, and does not include any aspiration to regional or global power status," Sattar said, "it is not surprising that we have adopted minimum credible deterrence as the guide to our programme. We have ruled out any arms race. Pakistan does not need to enter into an arms race with India." India, of course, necessarily formed a part of what Sattar had to say.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Sattar in U.S. for talks

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 17. In what will be the first high-level contact with the United States since the Bush administration assumed office, the Pakistani Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, has arrived here for talks with senior officials on a range of issues which will undoubtedly include nuclear and missile proliferation and the security situation in the Indian sub-continent.

At the State Department, Mr. Sattar is scheduled to meet the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, and the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Ms. Christina Rocca. Officials belonging to other divisions will also participate.

At the White House, he will meet the National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice. It is hoped that the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, will "drop by" during the meeting to have a few words with the visiting Foreign Minister, who is carrying a letter from Pakistan's Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

In some ways, Mr. Sattar's agenda here has been overtaken

by the events in the subcontinent, especially the coming summit between Gen. Musharraf and the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee. Seen in that context, the administration here will be keen on seeing what Mr. Sattar will convey. He is expected to talk about Kashmir in his official meetings and maintain the Islamabad line in private interactions.

The Bush administration is keen on discussing with Islamabad a range of other issues — political, economic, governance and terrorism, especially as it relates to Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden. Mr. Sattar is scheduled to meet senior lawmakers on Capitol Hill who are expected to forcefully lay out their positions on the Taliban and Islamabad's relationship with the fundamentalist and extremist outfit.

The Osama bin Laden factor is a troublesome one in the U.S.; and there is a perception in Congressional quarters that Islamabad is in a position to rein in the Taliban, not just with respect to putting the squeeze on Osama bin Laden but also in coming to grips with the extremist and non-humanitarian drift in Afghanis-

tan. Only last week the House of Representatives in a 420-0 non-binding resolution had urged Pakistan to use its influence with the Taliban in a positive fashion.

In all the criticism that the U.S. may have faced over Pakistan since the final years of the Clinton administration; and in the Bush administration's efforts to draw the clear and unambiguous distinctions of India as a "global" and Pakistan as a "regional" power, the fact is that senior officials starting with Gen. Powell have said building a relationship with India would not be at Pakistan's expense. Recently, in her confirmation hearings, Ms. Rocca referred to India and Pakistan as the "two anchors" of South Asia where there was tremendous potential. "Too often that potential has gone unrealised," she said adding the U.S. had a lot to learn from cooperation with New Delhi and Islamabad and that it would be a mistake "on all our parts to allow ourselves to be trapped in the mistakes of the past".

Mr. Sattar is also scheduled to address a non-proliferation conference at the Carnegie Endowment and meet mediapersons at the National Press Club.

## PPP asks U.S. to put pressure on Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 17. The former Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party (PPP) continues to be a source of embarrassment for the military Government and its pinpricks against the regime continue. A day before the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, is scheduled to have an important meeting with the United States Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, the party today asked the U.S. to urge Islamabad to announce a date for fair, free and impartial elections.

In a letter addressed to Gen. Powell, the PPP Secretary-General, Mr. Jehangir Bader, complained about the track-record of the Musharraf Government vis-a-vis "human rights violations against political opponents, women and minorities".

He said Mr. Sattar may speak of Islamabad's "so-called attempt at genuine democracy" and may claim that the military regime was better than its civilian fore-runners. "That is not correct. Zia, Marcos, Pinochet and Suharto also claimed to be good performers but left their countries in ruin."

It alleged that the regime was "militarising the state" and weakening the civil structure by imposing huge military expenditure on a weak economy and inducting a large number of military officers to the Foreign Service and in the federal and provincial Governments. "For example, there are nine corps in the Pakistani army but there are 29 corps commanders who have been appointed and each military officer on civilian duty is taking two pay packages and expecting two pensions."

The PPP said the regime banned political meetings and rallies by pro-democracy forces while 'facilitating' conferences by religious extremist groups and 'jehadis'. No date for elections had been announced and the regime had failed to revive the economy, restore democracy, build peace in the region or conduct a fair anti-corruption drive, it said.

The PPP drew the State Department's attention to the Amnesty International report, which noted that the military regime's anti-corruption drive "did not always uphold the rights of the accused".

The letter complained that top leaders of the PPP and other parties were either exiled or incarcerated on "trumped up charges". Ms. Bhutto's husband is in his fifth year as an undertrial prisoner in solitary confinement.

The PPP said the regime failed to moderate the Taliban in Afghanistan. It lacked a vision of a relationship with India based on 21st century realities and no confidence-building measures had been initiated to contain nuclear proliferation.

"The world watches with amazement — fanatics with glee, and friends with dismay — how Islamabad's military rulers are undermining Pakistan's image through despotism."

The letter said that Mr. Sattar was the representative of an "unpopular" military regime which "protected the corrupt and powerful and presided over disorder". "Any association with such an unrepresentative and corrupt regime can only play into the hands of the fanatics," the letter said and warned that "such politics are dangerous for the entire South Asian region and the world community".

THE HINDU

17 JUN 2001

# Musharraf writes to Bush, wants to boost ties

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13/9/06  
**ASSOCIATED PRESS**

ISLAMABAD, June 12. - Pakistan's chief executive General Pervez Musharraf has written a letter to the US President, Mr George W Bush, expressing his desire to boost relations between the two countries, a foreign ministry official said today. Pakistan's foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, who will visit the USA on an official tour next week, will deliver the letter, the foreign ministry spokesman, Mr Riaz Khan, said this at a news conference.

"The letter will underline our desire to have a very close, friendly and cooperative relationship with the USA, which we have always maintained," Mr Khan said.

Pakistan had been a close ally of Washington during the Cold War. But its relations with the USA were subsequently strained over its nuclear policies and its support to the Taliban.

Pakistan wants to consolidate its relations

with the USA, "which can play a highly positive and constructive role for peace and stability of our region," Mr Khan said.

Mr Sattar began a three-nation tour of England, Canada and the USA yesterday.

In the USA, Mr Sattar will hold wide-ranging talks with US officials, including the secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell, Mr Khan said.

## 'No summit till Vajpayee recovers'

Pakistan today said General Pervez Musharraf will visit India for summit-level talks "focussing Kashmir" only after the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, recovered fully from his knee surgery, adds UNI from New Delhi.

Mr Riaz Khan said in Islamabad that no date had yet been fixed for the Vajpayee-Musharraf summit. The Kashmir issue will be the focus of discussions between the two leaders, he added.

# U.S. denies calling Pak a rogue country

By Chidanand Rajghatta

The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: The United States has told Pakistan that it has not been called a rogue country. But Washington has repeated its concern over Islamabad's nuclear proliferation activities independent of the Bush Administration's views about India's nuclearisation.

The U.S. position was conveyed to the Pakistani Ambassador Maleeha Lodhi, who marched up to the State Department on Monday to register her country's protest over reports that American special envoy Richard Armitage had called Pakistan a rogue state during his recent visit to New Delhi.

Lodhi made a *demarche* — a formal diplomatic protest — to the acting Assistant Secretary of State Al Eastham, who told her that Armitage had not called Pakistan a rogue state, but had definitely expressed concern at the direction it was headed.

"We told her deputy secretary Armitage had named four rogue states — Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Libya. But he had not characterised Pakistan as a rogue state," officials said. The Indian media had reported widely that Armitage came close to calling or just stopped short of calling Pakistan a rogue state.

Officials said Lodhi also made a to-do about the U.S. expressing concern about the proliferation of nuclear weapons by Pakistan without expressing similar concern about India's nuclearisation. Despite reports in the Pakistan media that Armitage had conveyed similar reports to his Indian counterparts during his meetings, U.S. officials said there was no such message. Washington's concern about Pakistani nuclear activities was independent of U.S. exchanges with India.

Pakistan has been arguing that it was forced to go nuclear only after India conducted its tests and therefore should not be blamed. Some Indian officials say New Delhi was

forced to go overtly nuclear in May 1998 after Pakistan tested its long range Ghauri missile in April 1998 and Pakistani ministers showed indecent glee about their ability to launch nuclear missiles against several Indian cities.

There is panic in Pakistani circles over the Bush administration's overtures to India over defence-related issues and the looming possibility of military cooperation between the two countries. The State Department had to separately assure an agitated Pakistan that it had intended no snub to it by sending an envoy to explain its plans for missile defence to India but not to Islamabad.

"We didn't send this team out to Pakistan, but we are discussing missile defence with them through our embassy," spokesman Richard Boucher said. "If we should have a visit by a senior Pakistani official, obviously we would use that occasion to discuss this, among other subjects."

That official would be Pakistan foreign minister Abdul Sattar, who is expected here next month. He would be the first senior Pakistani official to visit Washington after a long period, during which time US ties with India has improved almost proportional to the decline of its relationship with Pakistan, despite protestations from all sides that they are not linked.

Evidently in preparation of Sattar's visit, the Musharraf regime has begun to bear down on the *jihadi* groups. Reports from Pakistan say the groups have now assured their interlocutors in the Pakistani intelligence establishment that they would conduct their activities more discreetly.

A senior administration official said Washington had been leaning on Islamabad to rein in the militant groups so that a conducive atmosphere was created for talks on Kashmir, and this perhaps was an outcome of that continuing pressure. But Washington would wait and see.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

# US brackets Pak with 'rogues'

FROM OUR SPECIAL  
CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, May 11: Sticking to the pro-India tilt in Bill Clinton's South Asia policy, US President George Bush today said he would urge Islamabad to create conditions for "productive dialogue" with Delhi even as his special emissary stopped just short of calling Pakistan a "rogue" state.

US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage, who is visiting India, today handed over a letter from Bush to Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee. Bush praised Vajpayee's initiative to begin talks with Kashmiri leaders and accepted his invitation to visit India, saying it would broaden relations.

Emerging from a half-hour meeting with Vajpayee, Armitage

said: "We have questions about Pakistan. It is well known and even better known to you. These we refer to as hard cases."

Asked to specify the countries he dubbed "rogue" states, he said: "Iraq, Iran and Libya... they are well known as states involved in proliferation. You have some in this neighbourhood." Without naming them, Armitage pointed at Pakistan and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

"These states would have another option. Defence rather than offence," Armitage added after wide-ranging talks with Vajpayee, foreign minister Jaswant Singh and national security adviser Brajesh Mishra. Armitage said the nuclear missile defence programme — envisaged as moving farther away from the develop-

ment of offensive missile technologies — had four aspects: non-proliferation, counter-proliferation, limited missile defence and the US' willingness to reduce its strategic nuclear arsenal "unilaterally, if necessary, beyond the levels envisaged in Start II".

Spelling out India's status in the defence paradigm, Armitage said the plan "will make unnecessary some states producing their own missiles as a response to a threat from a neighbour".

In his first comments on Bush's offer last week, Vajpayee welcomed the US initiative for a steep reduction in nuclear arsenals, but made it clear that India sought a credible minimum deterrent. The Prime Minister was speaking at an awards function for defence scientists on the third

anniversary of Pokhran II.

There are several reasons why Delhi has become important to the US. The Bush administration is aware that Beijing is totally opposed to the nuclear-shield plan. Given the nature of the Sino-Indian relationship, the US knows it can seize the diplomatic initiative on the missile defence system from Delhi. This is why Jaswant jumped the gun to approve the US plan.

Vajpayee used the opportunity to plead India's case. Aware that Delhi had not been granted the status of a nuclear power by the big five nations, he sent out the message that his country had a right to maintain a minimum nuclear deterrent. Backing from Washington will buttress Delhi's demand for nuclear status.

THE TELEGRAPH

1 2 MAY 2001

# US panel raps Pak for persecution

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

SRG 375

NEW DELHI, May 2. - The US Commission on International Religious Freedom has castigated Pakistan for its religious persecution and discrimination of Ahmedias and Shias. The commission pointed out that Islamabad was not doing enough to adequately protect the religious freedom of all its citizens.

Ahmedias are politically marginalised by Pakistan's election laws while in the violence between Shia and Sunni Muslims, Shia minority is targetted by organised groups of religious extremists, the commission said in its second annual report yesterday.

The report which comes close on the heels of the state department's report on terrorism indicting Pakistan for not taking effective measures to check terrorist acts flowing from its land, says that members of the Ahmedia religious community are prevented by law from engaging in full practice of their faith.

It says that religious minority groups, including Christians, Ahmadias and Hindus, complain that they are politically marginalised by a system of separate electorates and that this system exacerbates other religious-freedom problems. "The criminal laws against blasphemy are abused resulting in detention of and sometimes violence against religious minorities as well as the targeting of numerous Muslims on account of their religious beliefs. Finally there is a substantial amount of sectarian violence largely targeting Shiite Muslims, committed by organised groups of Muslim extremists."

The report also came down heavily on the military establishment of Gen Pervez Musharraf saying it had failed to live up to many of the expectations it had raised thereby emboldening political and other societal forces that are antagonistic to the protection of religious freedom.

THE STATESMAN



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# A gentle rebuke for Pakistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, MAY 1.** The United States concerns vis-a-vis Pakistan on terrorism remain despite the military government's promise to curb the militant outfits and put into effect a de-weaponisation programme. This is evident from the report on "patterns of global terrorism-2000" released by the office of the Coordinator for counter-terrorism in Washington on Monday.

However, the Musharraf Government can draw solace from the fact that the report is not much different from an assessment made last year. The view among the diplomatic community here is that though Washington continues to be concerned about issues of terrorism vis-a-vis Pakistan, the report has not used harsh language against the military government.

Contrary to expectations, it has not placed the Lashkar-e-Taiba on the list of banned organisations. It is merely mentioned as an outfit which claimed responsibility for a car bomb attack against in Srinagar in April.

The perception in the diplomatic community is that the report is relatively soft on the military government. "Pakistan's role in Kashmir is not as clearly identified as is its role in Afghanistan. It is understandable as the U.S. immediate concern is Osama bin Laden in South Asia," said a senior diplomat.

The report says "the Government of Pakistan increased its support to the Taliban and continued to support groups such as the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, active in Jammu and Kashmir, which engaged in terrorism".

On Kashmir, the Musharraf Government continued the previous government's support to the Kashmiri insurgency and Kashmiri militant groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadres. "Several of these groups were responsible for attacks against civilians in Kashmir, and the largest of the groups, the Lashkar-e-Taiba,

claimed responsibility for a suicide car bomb attack against an Indian garrison in Srinagar in April."

"In addition, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, a designated terrorist organisation, continues to be active in Pakistan without discouragement by the Government. Members of the group were associated with the hijacking in December 1999 of an Indian Airlines flight that resulted in the release from an Indian jail of the former HUM leader, Maulana Masood Azhar. Maulana Azhar has since founded his own group, Jaish-e-Mohammad, and publicly threatened the United States", the report said.

## Nothing unusual about Indian exercises: Pak.

By Our Special Correspondent

**ISLAMABAD, MAY 1.** Pakistan today denied reports in a section of the Pakistani media that it has accused India of creating a war like situation by announcing the "biggest war exercises" near the border.

The chief spokesman of the military, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi, maintained that the reports attributed to him were "baseless". According to the information received by Pakistan, the exercises planned by India were routine in nature and were nowhere near the border, he said.

The Urdu daily, *Jang*, quoting Maj. Gen. Qureshi had said that India is going ahead with the exercises without any prior intimation. "In order to take defence measures Pakistan would have to keep its contingents prepared", he was quoted as saying.

"There is nothing unusual about the exercises. Such exercises are carried out usually in the month of May. Our information is two divisions of the Army would be involved and the exercises would be nowhere near the Pakistan border", he said.

2 MAY 2001

# US mulls one-time arms ban waiver for Pak

Aziz Haniffa

Washington, April 27

SOME ASTUTE diplomacy by Pakistan may result in the Bush administration proposing a one-time waiver on the current ban on military technology transfers to Islamabad.

This may involve Pakistan using an offer to contribute to the United Nations peacekeeping force to Sierra Leone while simultaneously requesting military spare parts from the US to support such a mission.

A senior administration official said, "We are looking at their request, but that's where it is at right now. No decision has been

made." <sup>28/4</sup>  
The official made clear that the US is in no way trying to induce Pakistan into sending peacekeeping troops to Sierra Leone and that this offer by Islamabad had been made to the United Nations. "I don't know if they are conditioning their offer to the UN on whether they get the spare parts or not."

If the administration does approve the Pakistani request, the official said it would be on the grounds of a one-time national security waiver that is provided for under the Brownback Amendment and would not constitute a change in policy whereby the ban on military

technology to Pakistan would be lifted.

The official emphasised that the administration has no intention whatsoever of compromising its commitment to non-proliferation, which was the reason why Pakistan was denied military aid in the first place and then subsequently hit with sanctions that banned the transfer of military technology.

The official said there would not be any legislation necessary for this one-time waiver, but simply a notification of intent by the Pentagon to Congress that it is going to provide the requested military spares to Pakistan.

"The review, however, would

be made through an inter-agency process so that everyone gets a chance to put their word in, but the final decision is made by the White House," the official explained.

A UN spokesman strongly defended the requested waiver by Pakistan, saying it was important that Pakistani peacekeeping units arrive in Sierra Leone as fully equipped and as self-sufficient as possible.

UN spokesman David Wimhurst was quoted by the weekly Defence News as saying, "The reason we need more troops in Sierra Leone is that we can gradually move out into the hinterland and start to take control

of areas that at present are under the control of the rebels."

Wimhurst said, "Part of the UN mandate is to ensure that the government of Sierra Leone regains control of its own territory, which it does not have right now. That is why we need more troops, and Pakistan has offered to send them."

A Pakistani Embassy spokesman, Asad Hayatuddin told *Defence News*: "This request is in keeping with our commitment to the UN and to international peacekeeping efforts. A one-time waiver is being sought for operational requirements of this brigade-group deployment in Sierra Leone."

India Abroad News Service

28 APR 2001

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 APR 2001

## Ties with India not at cost of Pak., says Eastham

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

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ISLAMABAD, APRIL 17. The United States has no intention to 'abandon' Pakistan in forging a closer relationship with India. This is the crux of the message delivered by the US Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Alan Eastham, in his discussions with the the military establishment in the course of his two-day stay in Islamabad.

Mr. Eastham called on the Pakistan Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. (retd.) Moiniddin Haider, on Monday and briefed the Minister on the 'policies' of the new US Administration towards Pakistan and spoke about Islamabad's importance in the region.

"In the context of the sub-continent we would like the situation to change from India hyphen Pakistan to India comma Pakistan", he is believed to have remarked in the course of his interaction with officials of the Musharraf Government.

"The impression one gathers after interaction with Mr. Eastham is that the U.S. is not engaged in a zero-sum game in the sub-continent. There is a realisation that there could be no peace in the region without resolution of the Kashmir conflict. The U.S. Government understands that without the involvement of Pakistan, the Kashmir dispute cannot be resolved", a senior Pakistani official claimed.

This is the first official visit of a senior functionary of the US State Department to Islamabad after the Bush Administration took charge in the third week of January.

THE HINDU

18 APR 1971

## ***U.S. official to visit Pak today***

ISLAMABAD: U.S. acting assistant secretary of state for South Asia Alan Eastham would arrive here on a two-day visit on Monday to establish first ever high level contact between the Bush administration and Pakistan military ruler, Gen Parvez Musharraf and senior Pakistani officials.

Mr Eastham, who was the first high level official to visit Pakistan after President George W. Bush took over White House, would focus his talks on a host of issues, including Kashmir, Afghanistan and Pakistan's stand on signing CTBT, media reports quoting Pakistan embassy in Washington said.

He is scheduled to visit New Delhi after his tour to Islamabad. Pakistan's media quoting western diplomatic sources from Washington wrote that Mr Eastham's visit to Islamabad was a probing mission aimed at assessing the situation in the region. The U.S. official is likely to meet the Taliban representatives. A high level U.S. delegation had a meeting with the Taliban foreign minister, Mullah Ahmed Muttawakil in Doha early this week.

Significantly, Mr Eastham's visit also coincided with the arrival of five member UN experts team to monitor the implementation of the UN sanctions against Afghanistan's Taliban militia for its refusal to hand over the international terrorist mastermind, Osama Bin Laden, who was wanted in connection with various bombings of U.S. missions abroad.

The UN experts mission followed reports that Russia and France made a joint move in the UN security council to impose similar curbs against for its failure to implement the sanctions against its ally, the Taliban. While France denied that it planned any such move, the Russian deputy ambassador to the UN, Gennady Gatilov has been quoted in the Pakistan newspaper *Dawn* on Sunday that Russia has handed over specific information to relating to the Taliban activities in Pakistan.

The information included "activities" in Pakistan but "do not want to specify what kind", the *Dawn* quoted him as saying in its report. "The purpose it to ensure that the sanctions can work and the solution will be implemented," he said. Russia co-sponsored the resolution along with the U.S. calling for sanctions against the Taliban, which were under implementation since January 19, this year. (PTI)

# Bush warms up to Musharraf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 21. - Mr George Bush has told General Pervez Musharraf that resumption of the Indo-Pak dialogue is vital to resolve the differences between the two countries.

In his first official letter to Gen Musharraf after taking over as the US President, Mr Bush "underlined the shared interests of the United States and Pakistan to promote peace and stability in South Asia," an official press release from Pakistan Foreign office said here today.

Mr Bush "applauded" Pakistan's gesture of sending relief materials to Gujarat earthquake victims and the first ever telephone contact between Gen Musharraf and Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, the release said. The letter was in response to a letter sent by Gen Musharraf soon after the former took over as President. Mr Bush's letter was delivered to Gen Musharraf today by the US ambassador to Pakistan, Mr William Milam.

Mr Bush "also appreciated the long history of co-operation and good will between America and Pakistan and hoped for better relations with Pakistan," the release said, adding the US President also stated he looked forward to the opportunities ahead.

The Pakistani foreign office, however, did not release the full text of the letter.

Official sources here attach considerable significance to Mr Bush's letter as the Musharraf regime hopes it would get a better deal from the Republican administration compared to what it received under Mr Bill Clinton.

**'Lift curbs':** The co-chairman of the US Congress Caucus on India, Mr Ed Royce, has supported lifting of sanctions on India, including the restrictions on sale of defence and dual purpose technology, SNS adds from Delhi. The Republican from California reached Delhi last night. The caucus will take up the issue of lifting the sanctions with the Bush administration.

THE STATESMAN

22 FEB 2001

# US team to visit Pakistan

H BULA DEVI  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Feb. 17. - A two-member US Congress team will visit Islamabad on 21 February after discussions in New Delhi on various issues, including Kashmir.

The visit to Pakistan is viewed as a preparatory move to persuade the two nations to resume bilateral talks that have got scuttled in the last several months.

Of the four-member US Congress team which has already arrived in India, those who will visit Islamabad include Mr Jim McDermott, a Democrat from Washington, and Mr David Bonior, another Democrat from Michigan.

The other two members of the team not going to Paki-

stan are Mr Ed Royace, a Republican from California and co-chairman of the over 115-member India caucus, and Mr Joseph R Pitts, another Republican from Pennsylvania.

All four are members of the influential India caucus in the House of Representatives. The caucus is the largest single country grouping in the Congress and is indicative of the importance the House attaches to developing ties with India.

Though there has been pressure from some Indo-US organisations to cancel the visit of Mr McDermott and Mr Bonior to Pakistan, sources said that the visit is a "planned" one and the diplomats will not succumb to any pressure as that would send wrong signals.

The two-member US Congress team's visit to Pakistan

comes after the President, Mr George Bush's communique to the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, recently which is understood to have conveyed his administration's willingness to urge Pakistan to respond to India's peace initiative by creating an atmosphere in which a dialogue could be held.

It is believed that Mr Bush has also urged India to follow up on its initiative because such a demonstration would be necessary to sustain the momentum created by New Delhi.

The visit by the US team makes it clear that direct talks between the two nations is the only way to end the protracted acrimony in south Asia.

The team has already reached Mumbai to witness the International Fleet Re-

view. Later, they will fly to Bhuj and Ahmedabad to witness the aftermath of the earthquake in Gujarat.

They will be in the capital on 20-21 February and during talks with the Indian side, Kashmir will be discussed.

Though Srinagar had figured prominently in the itinerary of the four-member Congress team's visit to the sub-continent, Indian-American circles in Washington prevailed upon the team to drop a visit to the Valley as that could send a wrong signal to pro-Pak elements out to internationalise the Kashmir issue.

The US secretary of state, Gen Colin Powell, has also conveyed his desire to meet the external affairs minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, at a mutually convenient date.

THE STATESMAN

18 FEB 2001

# McDermott urged to drop plan to visit Pakistan

S. Rajagopalan

Washington, February 16

SOME INDIAN-American organisations have urged India Caucus co-chairman Jim McDermott to cancel his plan to visit Pakistan as part of a US Congress delegation. The four-member team, that will visit India and Pakistan, is slated to arrive in Mumbai today.

The Indian-American bodies insist that Mr McDermott's decision to make the journey to Pakistan "would send a wrong signal and lend legitimacy to the Pakistani propaganda on Kashmir".

They are irked all the more by the fact that the itinerary includes a visit to Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Mr McDermott, however, did not feel that there was anything amiss about the visit. Before leaving for Mumbai, he told Indian journalists: "We (the Congress delegation) just want to build confidence." Listening to the Pakistani side is not the same thing as agreeing with it on whatever it may have to say on Kashmir, he said.

The Indian American activists, who otherwise hold Mr McDermott in high esteem, disagree with his reasoning. As Mr Swadesh Chatterjee of the Indian American Forum

for Political Education puts it: "If Mr McDermott had been an ordinary Congressman, it would have been a different thing. But he is co-chairman of the India Caucus. As such, his visit will send a very wrong message."

Mr Nadadur Varthan, chairman of the Indo-American Vision Foundation, also advanced similar arguments to appeal to Mr McDermott to drop the Pakistani leg of the visit.

The four-member Congress team, after attending the International Fleet Review in Mumbai, will tour Gujarat's quake-hit areas before reaching New Delhi for meetings

with the Prime Minister and the Ministers of External Affairs and Defence. Later, they will proceed to Islamabad.

Interestingly, Republican Ed Royce, the other co-chairman of India Caucus, is not undertaking the Pakistan visit. Mr Royce, who heads the delegation, will return to Washington after the engagements in New Delhi, which is what the Indian-American bodies expect of Mr McDermott as well.

Mr Royce himself ascribed the "curtailment" of his visit to preoccupations in his district. But the Indian-American bodies claim Mr Royce has "backed out owing to our gentle pressure".

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 FEB 2001

# Rein in militants, USA tells Pak ✓

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 25. — The USA today asked Islamabad to use its "influence" to rein in Pakistan-based outfits operating in J&K. Virtually supporting India's demand, it said New Delhi's peace initiatives would be "greatly enhanced" if these groups responded positively.

Praising India for extending the ceasefire, the state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said: "We think it's a good thing. We welcome the announcement... We believe the peace process would be greatly enhanced if the Kashmiri militant groups responded positively to India's announcement by taking steps to halt the violence..." Pakistan should "use its influence with the militant groups to urge them to halt the violence".

**Troops not to be pulled out:** The defence minister today ruled out any move to withdraw the Army from J&K in a phased manner during the next five years. "No such decision was taken at any meeting of Cabinet Committee on Security," Mr George Fernandes said in New Delhi.

**NC man killed:** A National Conference block secretary was shot dead last night by militants at Sopore in Baramulla district, where security forces killed three Lashkar-e-Taiyaba ultras in an encounter, an official spokesman said today.

■ Photograph on page 6

THE STATESMAN

26 JAN 2001



# Taliban shadow looms over US-Pak ties

Udayan Namboodiri

**P**RESIDENT BILL Clinton was firm in his dealings with Pakistan but sympathetic. His advisers painted future Pakistan as a mirror image of the civil-war torn Afghanistan in case Washington decided to punish it any further for converting South Asia into the hub of international terrorism and the heroin trade.

But the next White House incumbent, George W. Bush, may not be so magnanimous. Even before the inauguration of the new regime, two ominous signals have been sent to Islamabad. The despatching of US Central Command commander, General Tommy Franks, has led to speculation that military strikes at the Taliban, using Pakistani air space may be imminent. Secondly, Secretary of State-designate, General Colin Powell, has stated that post-Pokharan II sanctions on India may go. But he did not breathe a word about Pakistan, which has been rapped for the same "mistake".

The UN deadline set for the Taliban to hand over Osama bin Laden passed yesterday without the Kabul regime budging an inch. This sets in motion new sanctions on the regime and therefore unprecedented pressure on Pakistan to rein in its partner in fundamentalism export.

Pakistan has sent mixed signals in response to the sanctions. On one hand, its deputy perma-

## Behind the News

nent representative to the UN, Alamgir Babar, said, "Despite deep reservations, Pakistan would abide by the resolution". However, during a three-day meet in Islamabad, General Pervez Musharraf asked his envoys to launch a diplomatic offensive to defend the Taliban.

A New York Times report, earlier this week, on Pak Army men fighting for the Taliban has steeled Washington's resolve to get tough with Islamabad. General Franks' visit is to be seen in

that context, sources said.

There can be no denying that Bush is soft on India, a third-country diplomat said. He has lost no time in exercising his right under the Brownback Agreement to waive military-economic sanctions imposed under the Glenn Amendments. But not quite for Pakistan, which already faces sanctions under Pressler Amendment. The sanctions were reinforced in November last by Clinton for benefiting from ballistic missile cooperation from the Chinese.

Apart from the Taliban-Jihad link, signals are that the new president may not be tolerant of military usurpers of elected governments. Bush also appears quite gung-ho about hitting out at a country with a fragile economy, whereas Clinton had been careful not to push it to a corner where it would be forced to hawk its nuclear fissile material to buy bread. For now, India may celebrate the end of the ignominy of being put on the same plane as Pakistan but the long-term import of this will be interesting to watch.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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