

No US action in J&K: Musharraf

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, November 27

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf has termed as misconception the perception that the US will turn to Kashmir after accomplishing its task in Afghanistan.

"In the joint statement issued during my visit to US, President Bush stated that the Kashmir issue should be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people," Musharraf pointed out speaking in a late night current affairs program on PTV yesterday.

He said the US President appreciated that a freedom struggle was on in Kashmir. "However if any organisation proclaims openly that it is perpetrating terrorist acts involving civilian casualties and trying to display the brand of terrorism being exercised by some organisations in Afghanistan, it will come under the same definition. A bomb blast in which 25 to 30 people, including 15 to 20 civilians get killed, is a terrorist act whether it is in Kashmir or anywhere else," he said.

Musharraf said, "We must be very clear on the issue that the US is not terming the freedom struggle by the Kashmiri people as terrorism." About the international community's stand on Kashmir, the President said the comity of nations was for resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India. "All the world leaders visiting Pakistan recently have expressed this desire that they are ready to facilitate, encourage and contribute in this process," he said.

Pakistan's decision to join the international coalition against terrorism, besides other developments, had effectively internationalised the Kashmir issue, he said. He termed the recent Indian rhetoric as unfortunate and



Members of an armed village defence committee patrol the Jammu-Srinagar highway at Banihal on Tuesday. The State Government is encouraging civilians to keep watch against militants.

AP PHOTO

said, "We don't get bogged down by these offensives."

Pakistan's security was very well-guarded. "India should not remain in any fallacy. We will teach India a lesson if it dares to take any action against Pakistan," Musharraf warned.

He described the Indian perception that Kashmir is at the core of Indian nationhood as illogical and wrong. "They will have to modify their stand because this (Kashmir) has been recognised as a dispute by the United Nations. Any individual giving such statement is express-

ing an extremist view. The Kashmir issue has to be resolved in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people," Musharraf insisted.

He claimed it was because of these extremist elements that the agreed draft of the Agra Declaration could not be signed at the last moment.

"I think those who support resolution of the Kashmir issue through dialogue should be given ascendancy over these extremists," he said. There was a division in Indian leadership over how to pursue the Kashmir

issue, he added.

About the impact of the September 11 incident on his Kashmir policy, he said, "Policy objectives remain the same absolutely. It is the core issue between India and Pakistan and will remain a core issue. Pakistan wants to initiate the process of dialogue with India to solve the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the wishes of Kashmiri people," he said.

On the possibility of resumed dialogue between the two countries, the Pakistan President said it would be achievable if both sides are willing.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 NOV 2001

28 NOV 2001

B-52 diplomacy

Rumsfeld's visit was about them, not us

THE twins who shape US policy on its war against terrorism have both made their whistle-stop tours of South Asia and said their piece in Islamabad and New Delhi while treading the tightrope linking the two capitals. If the visit of US Secretary of State Colin Powell two weeks ago was in the nature of a thanksgiving one to the two South Asian neighbours who expressed unqualified support for the US-led coalition's war against terrorism, US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld's more recent exertions were all about ensuring the continuation of that support at a time when US B-52s are unleashing their awesome fire power on Afghanistan with increasing casualties on the ground. Both officials have had to pick their way through the minefield of India-Pakistan relations and both have taken recourse to the strategy of promising immediate rewards to Pakistan while assuring India goodies in times hereafter.

Two developments have occurred during the period separating the two visits. One, the coalition against terror that had once seemed fairly solid has now been buffeted by several contrary forces, not least of them the rising tide of popular anger in Islamic nations like Indonesia and Pakistan against what is perceived as a ruthless bombardment of a helpless and hapless people. Even in countries that have been traditionally close to the US, like the UK, awkward questions are being asked about the utility of such an approach. The other development is the sharp escalation of tension between India and Pakistan, accompanied by an acrid verbal exchange be-

tween the heads of the two states and troop build-up and exchange of fire along the border. Washington seems too busy trying to manage the first to pay more than cursory attention to the second — that at least was the message Rumsfeld conveyed. As he put it, "What we are doing in Afghanistan is that we are engaged in an exercise of self-defence. This is the only way to deal with the problem and that is to take the battle to them." In other words, this is all about their war, not our concerns — so let us not fool ourselves about this.

Chafe as India may against USA's inability to be responsive to multi-layered realities in its foreign policy formulations, the mood in Washington clearly is to concentrate on Afghanistan and ensure some military breakthrough before the height of winter is upon it. This is what is making Rumsfeld supremely resistant to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's plea that America suspend its bombing operations through the month of Ramzan in deference to Islamic sentiments. But what the US defence secretary does not seem to recognise is that the Pakistan government, under pressure from public opinion over its continued support of the US bombing, is upping the ante on Kashmir in what is clearly a diversionary ploy. Therefore, this policy of turning a blind eye to the Kashmir cauldron, as the US prefers to do at the moment, may not be an entirely wise approach to adopt. All the more so since the US engagement in Afghanistan, from all evidence, promises to be a long and complicated one, no matter what spin Rumsfeld chooses to impart to it.

INDIAN EXPRESS

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 NOV 2001

Rumsfeld rejects Pervez plea

Islamabad/Kabul, Nov 4

REBUFFING PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf's appeal to halt the bombing campaign in Afghanistan during the coming Ramzan month, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld today declared Washington could not halt the military strikes as it would enable Osama bin Laden to carry out more terrorist acts.

Addressing a Press conference with Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar after his talks with Musharraf, Rumsfeld said: "I have heard views of President Musharraf and a number of other countries... The reality is that additional terrorist acts are being expected and they could harm a lot more people. Our task certainly is to consider the views of others. But the real objective is to root out terrorism."

Musharraf had yesterday told reporters: "I will discuss the issue with the US Defence Secretary. If this strike continues in the month of Ramzan, it will have a negative fallout."

Rumsfeld, however, had a word of praise for Pakistan's cooperation in the fight against terrorism. "The US very much values the relationship with Pakistan, the way they have approached the battle against terrorism and assistance they have provided."

The Taliban took back the eastern part of aq-Kupruk district, 70 km south of Mazar-e-Sharif, after almost 12 hours of fierce fighting with the Northern Alliance, said opposition spokesman Qari Qudratullah.

US B-52 bombers launched heavy raids against Taliban positions in northeastern Afghan-



AFP PHOTO

US Navy pilot Julie Antonacci checks her chopper aboard USS Peleliu.

istan. Reports said the attacks were so heavy that it was difficult to count the number of explosions. The Taliban said they had shot down a US helicopter, killing up to 50 soldiers, and downed a US plane.

About 1,200 more Pakistani tribesmen crossed the border into Afghanistan today, taking

the total number to 4,400 volunteers in four days, a religious party leader said.

A new airstrip built by anti-Taliban forces with the help of US advisers in Sherkat, north of Kabul, opened for business today. It is the only usable airstrip controlled by the Northern Alliance south of the Hindukush.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Bush dials twins with peace plan

W@. South Asia F1 30/12

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Dec. 29: With the danger of an Indo-Pakistan conflict posing a direct threat to US war aims in Afghanistan, the Bush administration has drawn up a tentative timetable to defuse tension between South Asia's nuclear rivals.

President George W. Bush today spoke to both Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf.

Bush asked Pakistan to "eliminate the extremists who seek to harm India" and urged the leaders of both countries to calm tensions. Bush applauded Musharraf's efforts to rein in "extremists" and urged him to take "additional strong, decisive measures", a White House spokesman said.

The President told Vajpayee "that the US is determined to cooperate with India in the fight against terrorism".

Bush's 20-minute call to Musharraf coincided with reports that Pakistan has started shifting troops from the Afghanistan boundary to the border with India (See Page 6).

The re-deployment is being considered a tactic to pile pressure on the US.

As part of the American road map, secretary of state Colin Powell favours a meeting between Indian and Pakistani leaders during the Saarc summit in Kathmandu next week, sources here said. Powell did not get a commitment from India to a suggestion made to this effect in his phone conversation with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh yesterday.

But a similar proposal outlined in Powell's telephone talk with his Pakistani counterpart Abdus Sattar prompted Musharraf to speak out last night in favour of an Indo-Pakistan summit in Kathmandu.

Sticking to its public posture, India ruled out such a meeting but hinted at the possibility of a dialogue between the foreign ministers in Nepal.

If the US effort to bring Vajpayee and Musharraf face to face in Kathmandu fails, the next step will be to get British Prime Minister Tony Blair, America's closest ally, to intercede.

Blair is due in Delhi within days of the South Asian summit

and is credited with an excellent rapport with the Indian leadership. Blair also enjoys high credibility with Musharraf.

The US has already asked Russian President Vladimir Putin to exercise his influence in Delhi to show restraint. Putin is understood to have told the US that he would do his best to prevent a war but added a rider: America should ensure that terrorist acts against India are not planned from Pakistan.

The Bush administration feels that the import of Musharraf's action yesterday in arresting "50 terrorists" has been lost sight of in Indian leadership circles. The Americans insist that these arrests are in addition to those made earlier.

The US wants India to appreciate Musharraf's political compulsions which are so strong that he cannot even publicly highlight these arrests.

But if Blair fails to break the ice, Washington may send a peacemaker to the subcontinent. In doing so, the US will be following the pattern of its involvement during the Kargil war in 1999, which led to a White House-brokered agreement.

THE TELEGRAPH

'Greater U.S. role needed to defuse Indo-Pak. tensions'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 26. The United States should intensify its efforts to defuse the crisis in South Asia between India and Pakistan; and that in the coming days the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, or some other envoy "may need to intervene more actively", says an Editorial in *The New York Times*.

At the same time, the Editorial has specifically made the point that instead of welcoming what the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has done in the last few days — crackdown on specific militant groups — New Delhi has been upping the ante by building up forces along the border.

Arguing that the inauguration of Mr. Hamid Karzai as interim leader of Afghanistan demonstrated that "progress is possible when warring factions seize a rare opportunity to make progress and tap aid from outside," the daily says that it would be "nice to see the leaders of Pakistan and India act with the same good judgment".

Discussing the problem that has plagued India and Pakistan over the last several decades, the Editorial says that while the Indian security forces cracked down on an uprising in "the disputed region of Kashmir", Pakistan, for its

part, "has too freely permitted groups operating on its soil to send forces into Kashmir to support the rebellion".

At the same time what has been pointed out is that in the aftermath of the attack on the Indian Parliament, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, froze the assets of the group which is said to have carried out the assault on Parliament, and over the weekend Gen. Musharraf has cracked down on militant groups, including the Lakshar-e-Taiba.

Critical of India's response, the daily notes: "Instead of welcoming Gen. Musharraf's action, India has persisted in building up its forces, from Kashmir in the North to Rajasthan in the South. Pakistan has responded in kind and sporadic gunfire has erupted in the last few days". This being the case, Washington should "intensify" its efforts.

"...the United States can help both countries improve their inadequate communications lines. It is long past time when they should have begun sharing information on military deployments, weapons tests and their nuclear safeguards," *The New York Times* maintains, going on to make the point that the Bush administration upon assuming office "unwisely" shelved the intensive effort by the

predecessor Democratic administration to broker a deal between India and Pakistan to curb nuclear activities.

"Now, propelled in part by the war against terrorism, Washington has no choice but to build on its new friendship with both India and Pakistan to get these two countries talking to each other. Kashmir remains one of the most dangerous flashpoints in the world. A war between India and Pakistan would be ruinous to both nations and devastating to American efforts to sustain an international coalition against terrorism," it says.

In the past few days prominent dailies have been taking note of the developments in the subcontinent, not only the enhanced troop movement and positioning of air units along the border but also the sharpened rhetoric coming out of the leaderships in New Delhi and Islamabad. While some of the focus has been on the steps initiated by the administration to force Islamabad to rein in the militant groups operating from its soil, sufficient attention has also been paid to what Gen. Musharraf has been doing in the very recent past. The subtle message to India is that it should give Gen. Musharraf "some more time".

THE HINDU

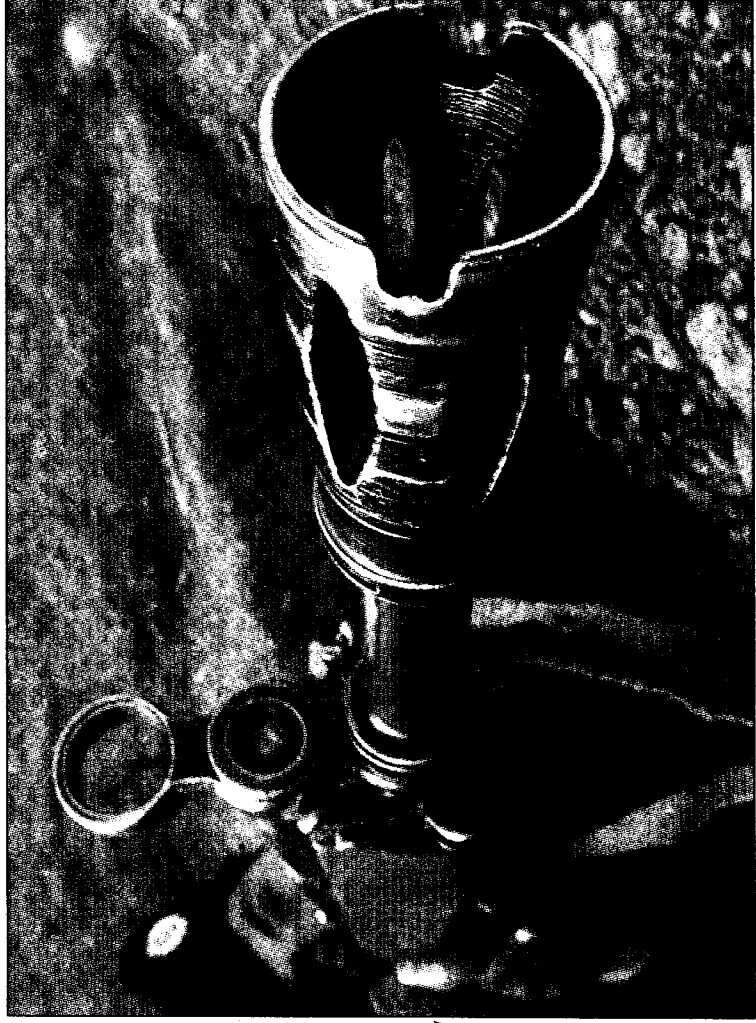
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US echoes India, Pak echoes US

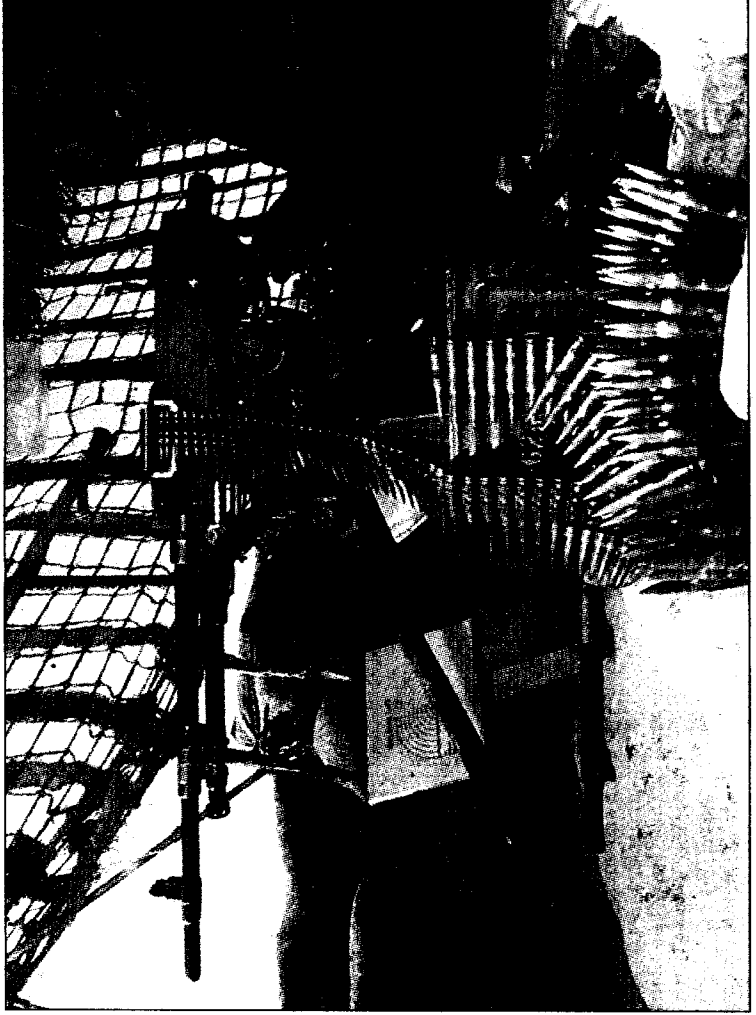
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PUSHED BY BORDER BUILD-UP, POWELL RIPS VEIL OFF LASHKAR AND JAISH



CAUGHT IN A CONFLICT ON BOTH FRONTS: A Pakistani soldier on the Afghan border (left) and an Indian on alert in the Jammu sector. (APF)



**Twins
illegal:
Sattar**

Islamabad, Dec. 26 (PTT): Within hours of the US declaring the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist organizations, Pakistan foreign minister Abdu Sattar tonight termed them "illegal and unconstitutional armies" whose existence was unacceptable to his government.

In an interview to the state-owned Pakistan Television, Sattar said one reality that has emerged in recent months was the need to focus on the mushrooming of private armies in the name of Lashkar, Jaish and Sipha which were illegal.

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

Sattar said in the last few days he had three rounds of talks over the phone with US secretary of state Colin Powell.

He said Powell expressed concern and stressed on the need for de-escalation.

Sattar said while he suspected "sinister designs" behind the "massive" Indian military build-up on the border, the massing of troops by both sides could accidentally trigger a conflict which neither side wanted.

QUOTE

We do not want war

PAKISTAN

FROM K.P. NAVAR

Washington, Dec. 26: The US has accepted India's contention that terrorist organizations based in Pakistan were responsible for the attack on Parliament on December 13.

Designating the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad as foreign terrorist organizations (FTOs) under US law, secretary of state Colin Powell said: "As the recent horrific attacks against the Indian Parliament and the Srinagar state legislative Assembly so clearly show, the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and their ilk seek to assault democracy, undermine peace and stability in South Asia and destroy relations between India and Pakistan."

Hitherto, official references here to the two outfits in the context of the December 13 attack were qualified with "ifs" and "buts", notwithstanding American acknowledgment that Lashkar and Jaish were engaged in terrorist activity.

The announcement was made after India expressed dissatisfaction with the steps taken by Pakistan such as freezing the accounts of Lashkar, which then promptly declared it had no money in banks and was shifting its base and activities to Kashmir.

Foreign minister Jaswant Singh said: "It is a kind of trickery. Simply changing names (both Lashkar and Jaish have done it), shifting headquarters from one part of Pakistan to another or to indulge in cosmetic seizure of assets makes a mockery of the gravity and enormity

of issues."

The Cabinet Committee on Security met today but did not take any decision except to gather again tomorrow.

More significant than the designation by Washington of the two outfits as terrorist organizations is the suggestion in Powell's statement that Pakistan's current strategy of moving Lashkar to Kashmir is not acceptable. "The US looks forward to working with the governments of both India and Pakistan to shut these groups down," Powell said in his statement.

The announcement came on Boxing Day, when most of official Washington is still on Christmas recess, with President George W. Bush away at his ranch in Texas. This shows the urgency the US is attaching to the military build-up along the

Indo-Pakistan border.

Powell's statement also made it clear that Pakistan's description of Lashkar and Jaish as organizations fighting for liberty in Kashmir was wearing thin with the Bush administration.

"These groups, which claim to be supporting the people of Kashmir, have conducted numerous terrorist attacks in India and Pakistan," Powell said.

In continuing to act against anti-Indian terrorist outfits based in Pakistan, Washington is using arguments which neither Pakistan nor its apologists in the US can fault.

First, Powell said "the vicious attacks that took place on September 11 (in America) made it clear that the US must use every tool at its disposal to combat terrorism".

Second, he said Lashkar and

Jaish were trying to destroy relations between India and Pakistan, both allies of the US in the global war on terror.

Third, he said the two organizations were working against Pakistan as much as they were going against the objectives of the worldwide campaign against terrorism.

Significantly, the decision to designate Lashkar and Jaish as FTOs was published in the Federal Register today, the very day the decision was taken.

Usually, there is a gap between the decision and the publication: the absence of such a gap today suggests that more steps against outfits such as Lashkar and Jaish may be in the offing.

With the two Pakistani outfits on the Federal Register as FTOs, it is illegal for persons in the US or subject to US jurisdiction

to provide material support to these terrorist groups.

It requires US financial institutions to block assets held by them and enables America to deny visas to representatives of these groups, decisions which have already been implemented under various emergency post-September 11 provisions of US law.

Powell said: "I made this decision in consultation with the attorney-general and the secretary of the treasury after an exhaustive review of these groups' violent activities."

This is being interpreted here to mean that the full weight of the US administration is behind actions against Pakistan-based terrorist groups and that today's decisions are not state department-inspired cosmetic steps to please New Delhi.

■ See Page 6

US freeze for Lashkar, whitewash for Pak

HT Correspondents
Washington/New Delhi, Dec 21

In a deft tightrope walk to soften the blow on Islamabad, President Bush has projected Lashkar-e-Tayyeba as a "stateless sponsor of terrorism" while announcing the freeze on the outfit's assets.

The US action, which falls short of New Delhi's demand to "ban" the Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammad, is calculated to accommodate both India and Pakistan.

While Bush's characterisation of Lashkar appears to knock the bottom out of the Indian case that the terror outfit is raised by Pakistan, he has given short shrift to General Musharraf's contention that Lashkar and Jaish are freedom fighters. Musharraf will now be forced to take some follow-up action.

Bush's tributes to Indian democracy in his Rose Garden speech yesterday cannot be music to the ears of Pakistan's military ruler. Referring to the Parliament attack, he said: "A nation founded on the principles of freedom of speech and freedom of worship was ruthlessly attacked."

The message to Musharraf is clear: crack the whip on groups like Lashkar and Jaish.

A White House fact sheet puts

Lashkar as one of the three largest Kashmiri separatist groups fighting India since 1993. It acknowledges that the group has conducted attacks against Indian troops and civilians. In August alone, it killed about 100 Indians, mostly Hindus.

Given this admission by the White House, Indian circles here feel that a formal designation of Lashkar and Jaish as 'Foreign Terrorist Organisations' ought not to be far away.

For Musharraf, an added challenge will be to crack down on Pakistani 'charity' organisations Umma Tameer-e-Nau, whose assets have also been frozen by Bush. It was floated by retired Pakistani nuclear scientists.

While India welcomed the US decision to freeze Lashkar's assets, the outfit said it would continue to fight for the "liberation" of Kashmir and denied that it was a terrorist group.

The BJP is not too pleased with President Bush's address to mark 100 days of the war against terrorism, though it shares the Government's happiness that Lashkar-e-Tayyeba has come under Washington's scanner.

A day after its senior leaders talked to US Ambassador Robert Blackwill, the party said it did not agree with Bush's description of Lashkar as a "stateless



Passengers from India get off the bus in Lahore on Friday. The bus service will be suspended from January 1.

sponsor of terrorism".

BJP Parliamentary Party Chief Whip V K Malhotra, who was among the 12-member party delegation which met Blackwill, said: "We are disappointed that Washington thinks Lashkar is

stateless when all evidence point that they operated from the Pakistani soil. Besides, it is committing terrorist acts only in India and not in Pakistan as the Americans believe."

Malhotra said: "Everybody

PAKISTAN TO DECLARE STAND TODAY

PAKISTAN WOULD announce its plan of action regarding the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba on Saturday, a Government spokesman said on Friday. The Government would freeze the assets and accounts of Umma Tameer-e-Nau, a Pakistani-based group accused by the US of helping Osama. An advisory was being issued to the central bank to freeze the group's assets, he said.

AFP, Islamabad

Shastri refuted news reports that the US envoy had asked BJP MPs not to whip up a war hysteria.

He said the reports quoting the envoy as defending Washington's policy towards Pakistan on the ground that India too had asked Israel to exercise restraint are a "distorted version" which deserve condemnation.

Calling the meeting with the American envoy as "a private social gathering and exchange of views was not meant for public consumption", Shastri said.

"The Ambassador invited a few BJP MPs and some party office-bearers to exchange views on the outcome of the Vajpayee-Bush summit," he said.

Several BJP leaders said the

Government's decision to recall its High Commissioner in Pakistan and snap bus and rail links from New Year as the first step by India to show that Pakistan was behind the December 13 attack on Parliament.

"We welcome this move and hope other countries would realise that terrorist activities in India are being encouraged by Pakistan," Malhotra said.

The BJP spokesman regretted that Sonia Gandhi had resorted to attacking the Government after the show of unity in Parliament during the debate on terrorism. "This kind of remarks by the Leader of the Opposition is directly contrary to what she had stated in the Lok Sabha. It does not show the Congress is serious about fighting terrorism."

Defending Poto, Malhotra criticised the Opposition's decision to boycott the meeting of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee of the Defence Ministry to protest against the re-induction of George Fernandes.

With the UP elections due in two months, Vajpayee convened a high-level meeting last night.

Attended by L K Advani, MM Joshi, Rajnath Singh, Jana Krishnamurthi, Pyarelal Khadwalal and Sunil Shastri, the meeting reviewed the political situation in the State.

Unite against terror, US tells India & Pak

S Rajagopalan
Washington, December 19

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Kashmiri militant groups are not terrorists but *mujahideen* or freedom fighters. Washington, however, is not making public if it has asked Islamabad to close down the terrorist bases and arrest their leaders.

The State Department said it would expect Islamabad "to work against extremist groups that operate outside Pakistan". It sought to convey the impression that it would not suffice for Pakistan to help in the fight against terrorists next door (Afghanistan), while doing nothing about terrorists within its own border.

"We have made it quite clear in our discussions with the Pakistani Government that as we pursue terrorism next door, all countries have an obligation to work against terrorism within their own borders," spokesman Richard Boucher said.

The White House made the same point in a slightly different way. "The President has made it clear that the US opposes terrorism everywhere. And as the global campaign continues, the President urges all, who support that effort, to assist India, as India deals with that problem."

As though to assuage ruffled Indian feelings, the State Depart-

AT A time when feelings are running high in India against Pakistani sponsorship of Kashmir terror groups, President George W Bush has come up with the proposition that the two countries should fight terrorism together, instead of fighting each other.

In Bush's view, India and Pakistan should have a "common cause" against terrorists, who are out to destabilise the region. "This is not a time for India and Pakistan to take action against each other. This is a time to take action against the terrorists together," spokesman Ari Fleischer said.

Fleischer said the US is pressuring Pakistan to proceed against terror outfits operating from its territory. In the strongest statement so far on the subject, Fleischer said: "The President has made it clear and Secretary Powell has spoken with President Musharraf on how important it is for Pakistan to curb extremists."

The US missive signifies an emphatic rejection of Pakistan's long-held contention that the



AFP PHOTO

Soldiers stand guard in a trench at Kanchrial in the Pallanwalla sector on Wednesday after reports of Pakistani troops movement.

ment spokesman said: "Our basic view (on the terrorist attack on Parliament) has not changed. The basic view is that the Indians need to conduct their investigation, need to consider what the appropriate action might be to

help protect their people against terrorism, to help protect their democracy against terrorism."

The spokesman gave short shrift to Pakistan's renewed pleas for US mediation to resolve the Kashmir problem and bring

peace in the region. "Our willingness to help if they want us to is well known. At this point, clearly, we don't want to see other actions, which can make more difficult the pursuit against terrorism," Fleischer said.

US climbdown on Lashkar roots

S Rajagopalan
Washington, December 22

PRESIDENT GEORGE Bush's controversial description of Lashkar-e-Tayyeba as a "stateless sponsor of terrorism" and one "based in Kashmir" has failed to pass muster even within his administration.

The State Department has now publicly acknowledged that both Lashkar and Jaish-e-Mohammed have bases in Pakistan.

"We know both these groups have bases in Pakistan. We know how they operate," department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Friday. He did not have much of a choice since the activities of Lashkar and Jaish are well-chronicled in the department's own report, 'Patterns of Global Terrorism'.

The White House itself has been trying to live down the embarrassment of the dichotomy between Bush's remarks on Thursday and its own fact sheet, which describes Lashkar as the "armed wing of the Pakistan-based religious organisation, Markaz-ud-Dawa-wal-Irshad".

The State Department, however, is one with the White House on the new Bush spin that terror outfits like Lashkar and Jaish are out to "sabotage efforts at Indo-Pakistani reconciliation" and "undermine Musharraf".

underlying American



A grieving Sikh woman at her daughter's funeral on Saturday in Anantnag. Five girls, three Sikh and two Hindu, were gunned down late Friday by militants.

AFP PHOTO

message is that the Musharraf regime is innocent of the activities of the terror groups who, in India's view, are sponsored by Pakistan.

As Boucher put it in reply to a pointed question, "We have not seen anything that would indicate Pakistan was somehow behind these attacks."

But prompted by New Delhi's diplomatic offensive of recalling its envoy to Islamabad, both the White House and the State Department attempted a damage control. Within hours of the Indian decision, both came up with the advisory to Musharraf to act against the two terror groups and their leaders.

Just 24 hours earlier, the State Department was insistent that India should first complete its investigations and come up with due evidence.

The spokesman attributed the change in stance to India releasing "certain evidence" linking the two outfits to the attack on Parliament and expressed confidence that Musharraf would act now.

Washington settled for a guarded reaction to India's decision to recall the High Commissioner and suspend the train and bus service from January 1. Describing it as an India's "internal matter", Boucher said it was for the Indian Government to decide "what is in the best interest of the Indian people".

The US will, however, remain "heavily engaged" with both countries to make sure that they "avoid any further escalation of tension and remain focused on fighting against terrorism".

While the spokesman declined to field questions on the deteriorating Indo-Pak relations, a senior State Department official has reportedly expressed relief that the battle was confined to the diplomatic turf.

A wire service quoted the official as saying: "You're seeing playing out diplomatically what could have been a military fight. At this point, they continue to act responsibly."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

7 10 1999

US anti-terror front in Philippines

28/12
PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. — The USA is opening a new front in its global war against terrorism — this time in the Philippines — now that only mopping up operations are left to conclude in the Afghan war.

The USA is sending 100 Special Forces soldiers to train Filipino troops who are waging a war against Islamic separatists determined to partition the predominantly Christian secular state and establish an austere Islamic state in the south.

W(10) S of Asia news
The guerrillas are also engage in kidnapping for ransom.

The Filipino military is ill-equipped. It is strapped for cash and its air force has just two working cargo aircraft. The anti-guerrilla marines have only M-16 assault rifles and some grenade launchers, the Post said. Col Orlando De Leon, the commander in the area, said that his troops would be more successful if it had modern equipment such as night vision goggles.

Late last month, the Pentagon gave the Philippines a C-130 cargo

57-12
plane and 16,000 pounds of military hardware, including rifles, grenade launchers and mortars.

During a recent visit to Washington by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, an early supporter of the US anti-terror campaign, President Mr George W Bush promised an additional 92.3 million dollars in military assistance.

Mr Bush also offered US ground forces to help fight the Abu Sayyaf but Ms Arroyo turned down the offer on grounds that it would violate the Philippine Constitution.

THE STATESMAN

THE STATESMAN
THE STATESMAN
THE STATESMAN

23 DEC 2001

...it's the only one: USA

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Nitika Roy Chaudhuri in New Delhi

alliance." But he declined to comment on the strain in Indo-Pak relationship after 13 December.

Dec. 19. — Equating India with Pakistan yet again, President Bush has "urged both sides to share information, work with each other, and take no action that would in any way hinder the war against terrorism to which both India and Pakistan have committed themselves," said the White House spokesman, Mr Ari Fleischer.

While admitting that India "has a legitimate right to self-defence", Mr Fleischer said: "The US President counsels that this is a very difficult situation in the region and one that could spiral out of control."

The US reaction to the attack on Parliament is inexplicable to many Indians.

The US special envoy to Afghanistan, Mr James Dobbins, was today visibly uncomfortable dealing with questions regarding the "hypocrisy" in India-Pakistan relations.

"Pakistan," he said, "did make a fundamental change in its position on terrorism when it joined forces with the USA in the global anti-terror

Dinner diplomacy

NEW DELHI, Dec. 19. — The US ambassador to India, Mr Robert Blackwill, is trying to persuade the BJP, keen to step up its rhetoric on crossing the LoC to teach Pakistan a lesson, not to pressure the Centre too much. It should wait for decisive US action against terrorism after a resolution of the Afghan crisis, he feels. And he's invited BJP leaders to dinner tomorrow to tell them so. — SNS

Indian foreign office officials were amused at the obvious US discomfiture when fingers were pointed at Pakistan after the attack on Parliament. President George W Bush had called up the Prime Minister to condemn the "outrageous" attack.

Officially, the foreign ministry hastens to say India's concerns have been conveyed to the world and the USA and "other friends" are aware of the depth of Indian sentiment on the matter.

Whatever the response, an official spokesperson said, "it would be carefully calibrated,"

"India and America are natural allies against terrorism," the spokesperson said and added that the USA has offered its assistance.

Privately, Indian officials say the USA's slip is showing and it is clearly coloured by a Cold War mindset. They are unable to see Pakistan through critical eyes.

"Enough evidence has been shared with Pakistan," an official said. "It's time for them to act on it."

THE STATESMAN

20 DEC 2001

Share information on terrorists with Pakistan, U.S. tells India ¹¹⁻¹³ _{18/12}

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The U.S. is advising New Delhi to proceed with caution — as against the earlier counsel of restraint — in punishing Pakistan for its relentless patronage of terrorism against India.

The subtle but significant change in the lexicon — from restraint to caution — stems from fears that an Indian strike could spiral into a nuclear exchange.

Washington's main concern, unstated but implied, is that any Indian action could provoke Pakistan into using nuclear weapons. Although every wargaming scenario by U.S. experts sees Pakistan being decimated in an Indian retaliation, the administration does not want either side to even consider the unthinkable.

There are also suggestions that, since the U.S. itself is keen to "circumscribe" the Pakistani nuclear programme, given its latent threat to American interests, it would be a poor call on India's part to provoke its use.

Washington's preferred route to resolve the tense stand-off is for India to share the evidence it has of the Pakistani role with the Musharraf regime, forcing it to act, and consider any retaliatory strikes only if it does not comply.

Secretary of State Colin Powell spelt out the administration line in an NBC interview in which he acknowledged "the Indian government clearly has the legitimate right of self-defense," but added, "Washington was encouraging both sides to share information with each other and to come together in this campaign against terrorism."

Mr Powell, himself a former army general who is now patron-in-chief of Gen. Musharraf within the Bush establishment, believes the military ruler is capable of doing U.S. and India's bidding i.e. defanging the terrorist network that both believe are equally dangerous for Pakistan itself.

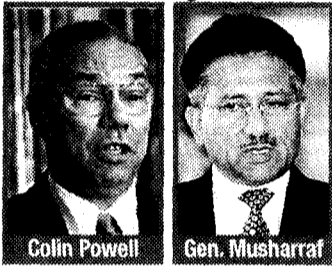
Washington also believes that the Pakistani intelligence agency ISI is infested with rogue elements who might be defying the Musharraf regime to keep up the pressure on India.

Mr Powell pointed out in the interview that Gen. Musharraf had immediately condemned the

attacks. He also revealed that Gen. Musharraf had said "he is taking action against the two organisations that have been tentatively identified as terrorist organisations and might have been responsible for this," — something that must be news to New Delhi.

Virtually pleading Gen. Musharraf's case, Mr Powell said Prime Minister Vajpayee had "made it clear that he was allowing some time to pass in order to get a reaction from the Pakistani government," and "the Pakistani government is taking some steps now."

But as far as India is concerned, the initial response from the Musharraf regime has not been propitious. Gen. Musharraf has declined to act against the two



groups without adequate proof and belligerently threatened a forceful response to an Indian strike against terrorist camps.

Pakistan's official spokesman has also naively asserted that Pakistan has never been a base for terrorist activity, a claim that is liable to be met with disbelieving smirks in every corridor of power from Washington to even Beijing.

Such disclaimers carry little credibility in the U.S., fed on a rich diet of unconvincing denials and fanciful conspiracy theories in the Islamic world — from the refusal to believe an Egypt Air pilot crashed his own airliner, to pointing to Jews for the World Trade Center catastrophe, to routinely alleging that Indian forces perpetrate atrocities on their own people to blame the terrorists.

The question before officials here is what is the threshold of proof required to force Gen. Musharraf to act decisively against terrorism. Indian diplomats say that, besides the rapidly unfolding results of the ongoing investigation into the Parliament attack, there is voluminous evidence to show that leaders of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and

Jaish-e-Mohammed have publicly advocated and initiated terrorism against India, not just in Jammu and Kashmir but even in the Indian heartland.

Unfortunately for the Pakistani establishment, which failed to act against these fundamentalist leaders, their public rantings of death and destruction were also aimed at the U.S., besides, of course, Israel.

"I don't see how he cannot act against the outfits. There is too much on public record," one official said. Mr Powell's remarks also indicated that despite brazening it out with India to present a tough domestic phase, Gen. Musharraf is being made to do the U.S. bidding.

At the same time, the official said the U.S. will also publicly increase pressure on Islamabad to act against terrorists and their mentors, including outlawing Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed. The ban could come within the next few days, and although it will be largely symbolic in nature, it will send a tough message from Washington and force the Pakistan government to act against the outfits.

India has repeatedly cautioned the Bush administration that Pakistan is an unreliable partner and liable to act as a "policeman by day and thief by night." Although the Indian warning has been borne out by incidents like the now-established Pakistani support to the Taliban well after September 11, the U.S., publicly at least, has preferred to recognise Pakistan's cooperation.

But there is an increasing awareness here that almost every major terrorist attack on India has turned out to be dress rehearsals for similar attacks on the U.S. For all its perceived indifference and apathy to India's trouble with terrorism, Washington is acting against Pakistan out of its self-interest.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

18 DEC 2001

US won't spoil relations with Pak over Kashmir

US coordinator for Afghanistan Richard Haass is clearly reluctant to speak on the matter

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 4: Kashmir is not an issue for which the Americans are going to jeopardise their "good relations" with Pakistan at this stage. US coordinator for Afghanistan Richard Haass, openly reluctant to speak on this contentious subject, said that India had "wisely" exercised restraint and allowed the focus to remain on Afghanistan.

Mr Haass, at a briefing with reporters, was clearly unwilling to be drawn out on terrorism in Kashmir. He said that he would give only a stock answer to each and every question on Kashmir maintaining, "After all, it is my press conference."

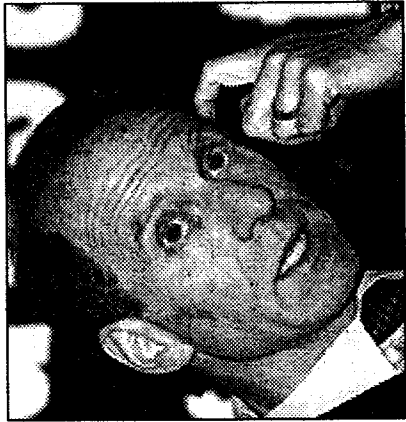
The result was that he was asked not more than one question on Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir to which he said that it was important to "martial all energies" in wiping out the Al Qaeda and defeating the Taliban.

Mr Haass, who is a well-known face in New Delhi having made several visits in the past, added, "When it comes to Kashmir itself it is not good for the people of

Kashmir who often pay the direct price, it is not good for the diplomacy of Kashmir and it is not good for Pakistan as it raises the risk of confrontation between India and Pakistan."

The senior US state department official was also evasive on reports of Pakistani planes flying into Kunduz to reportedly lift out Pakistan officials hitherto working with the Taliban. This despite the fact that the incident received wide coverage in the international media with speculation about the US support for the Pakistani air movement, particularly as the entire air space over Afghanistan is controlled by the American Air Force. Mr Haass said he had "not seen any confirmation on these reports," which are "just reports to me."

Mr Haass was also asked for his response if the US was not able to get Osama bin Laden, and the interim government in Kabul did not cooperate. He was also asked whether the US would bomb an area without permission from the government if the need to do so arose. Admitting that it was a difficult question to answer, Mr Haass hoped that there would



IN DEEP THOUGHT: Richard Haass, the US coordinator for Afghanistan, at a press conference in New Delhi on Tuesday. (AP)

not be a situation where there will be a difference of opinion, and that "we are looking at a period of co-existence."

The US coordinator has met foreign minister Jaswant Singh, defence minister

George Fernandes and principal secretary to the Prime Minister Brajesh Mishra. He spoke at length of the growing US-India relations identifying eight areas of specific cooperation worked out by US President George Bush and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in Washington.

These include cooperation on setting up a broad-based government in Afghanistan, countering terrorism and in the fields of economics, defence, military, intelligence sharing, civil nuclear systems. India-US relations, he said, are the best they have ever been.

Mr Haass, in response to a question about differences between President Burhanuddin Rabbani and the delegation representing the Northern Alliance in Bonn, said that it had been made clear that an interim authority is more important than a so called Rabbani government in Afghanistan. "We hope he will participate, endorse the result (of the Bonn deliberations) and continue to participate," he added.

On the low representation of Pashtuns in Bonn, Mr Haass said that those participat-

ing in the conference were not necessarily going to be the members in the new government. He pointed out that the interim government was to be followed by a Loya Jirga and then a transitional administration. He also spoke of the need for adequate representation of Afghan women.

Mr Haass admitted that US information on the damage to the Al Qaeda network was "imperfect." He said that it is like being "partially blind" as only fragments of information on this was available. He made it clear, however, that the US was looking at Al Qaeda cells in 40 to 50 countries to "help the host governments deal with this problem."

He said that the composition, strength and other details of the multi-nation force to be posted in Afghanistan was still to be decided upon. He said the first priority was to install an interim government as it was necessary to have a partner to work with. But that details about the proposed force was the subject of "intense debate" in Washington.

Mr Haass will be visiting Islamabad on his next trip to the region.

American's heart beats for Taliban

Kabul, December 3

A 20-YEAR-OLD American who fought for the Taliban and survived a bloody prison uprising near Mazar-e-Sharif last week said his heart had drawn him to the hardline Islamic movement.

"I was a studying Islam in Pakistan and came in contact with many people connected with the Taliban," John Walker told CNN today.

"I lived in the region, the North West Frontier Province (of Pakistan). The people have a great love for the Taliban so I started to read some of the literature of the scholars, the history of Kabul ... my heart became attached to that," said Walker, who is now held by the US forces in northern Afghanistan.

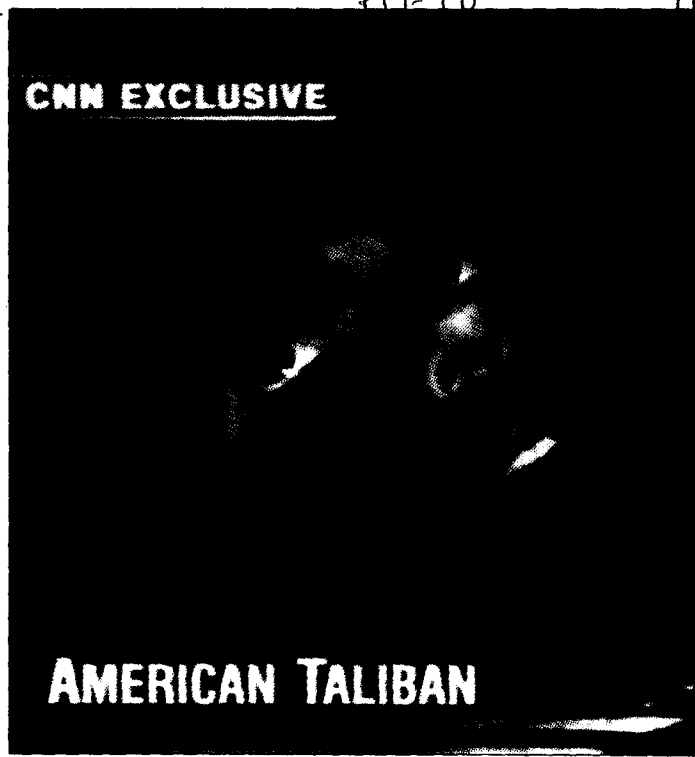
The CNN visual showed a dirty-looking man, with a long beard. He grimaced as if in pain as he answered questions from a stretcher.

The *Newsweek* website described him as "a white, educated-sounding, apparently middle-class American" who identified himself as Abdul Hamid.

It said he was taken into custody on Saturday at a hospital where he had been taken for treatment of minor gunshot and shrapnel wounds.

A spokesman for the US Central Command, which is running the military campaign in Afghanistan, said: "US military forces in Afghanistan do have in their control a man who calls himself a US citizen."

"He was among the al-Qaida and Taliban prisoners; he was held by the Northern Alliance in Mazar-e-Sharif. He is injured and is being given medical assistance by US forces," Marine Major



A TV grab of the American Taliban fighter.

AFP PHOTO

Brad Lowell said.

A couple from northern California identified the American Taliban as their son, John Phillip Walker Lindh. They had contacted officials at the State Department and the US Embassy in Pakistan but received no information till Hamid's mother, Marilyn Walker, saw Hamid's photo on the *Newsweek* website.

Shocked by her son's statements in support of the Taliban, Osama and the September 11 terror attacks, Marilyn said: "If he got involved with the Taliban, he must have been brainwashed. He

was isolated. He didn't know a soul in Pakistan. When you're young and impressionable, it's easy to be led by charismatic people."

But Hamid's father, Frank Lindh, said his son took to Islam naturally. "I support him and his studies. He's learned Arabic and is memorising the Quran I am proud of him. He is a really good boy. A really sweet boy."

Walker said he was a Washington native but indicated that he grew up elsewhere in the US. He converted to Islam when he was 16 and later went to Pakistan to

study the Quran, *Newsweek* said.

Walker told *Newsweek* he travelled across the border to Afghanistan to help the Taliban build a "pure Islamic State". On reaching Kabul, Walker volunteered to serve the Taliban, but because he did not know the local languages, he was asked to contact forces supporting Osama.

Hamid said he received combat training at a camp in northern Afghanistan, fought with Pakistani allies of the Taliban in the disputed region of Kashmir and then returned to fight recently with the Taliban at Kunduz.

After the Taliban surrendered to the Northern Alliance, Hamid and about 500 others were packed in container trucks and driven to the fortress. "As soon as we got there, two of the Taliban threw grenades they had hidden in their clothes, and killed a couple of people," Walker said.

"After that they put us in the basement and left us overnight, in freezing water. Early in the morning, they began taking us out, slowly, one by one, into the compound. Our hands were tied, and they were beating and kicking some of us. The mujahideen Taliban were scared, crying. They thought we were going to be killed," he said.

Soon shots rang out and the Americans were bombing. "It was horrible. The rockets were exploding in the hallway of the basement and we were all hiding in the cells. The stairway was just a pile of rubble and there were bodies all over," he said.

The US forces took Hamid and hundreds of other prisoners captive after the prison uprising was put down by US warplanes and Alliance ground forces.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 DEC 2001

Powell juggles words to pacify India

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, October 17

a "friend of both countries, would hope to be of help some way or the other", Powell said.

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell today assured New Delhi that Kashmir was an "important" but not "a central" issue in Indo-Pak relations. Clarifying his remark made in Islamabad yesterday (which caused as much glee there as hurt here), he called for Indo-US collaboration in the fight against terrorism.

At a packed press conference today, Powell stated that terrorism directed against India would also come in for bashing in the war. The need for continued dialogue between India and Pakistan was stressed. The US, being

the Secretary of State did not advocate the creation of a separate Islamic state of Kashmir when he talked about taking into account the "aspirations" of Kashmiris at his afternoon press conference in the Pakistani capital. It was also stressed that there would be no change in Washington's policy on Kashmir.

The 20-hour visit here by Washington's diplomatic head was focused on cooling the Indo-Pak temperature out of a concern in western capitals that a sideshow should not develop in the formative stages of the war against terrorism.

After his talks with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee,

Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra, Powell left with the impression that the situation was not slipping.

Powell picked the brains of important Indian leaders in his bid to understand New Delhi's perceptions about Afghanistan, particularly in the post-Taliban scenario. He was told that India does not grudge Pakistan a role in the formation of a future government in Kabul, but would not like the Islamabad regime to have "veto" powers.

As a "well-wisher" of Afghanistan and because of its long relationship with the country, India would like to have a place on any multilateral panel

which may be set up to find means towards a peaceful resolution of the problem. Though fixed upon giving the exiled monarch, Zahir Shah, a place, Delhi is keen on him being evaluated as a possible cementing factor between the warring ethnic groups.

About the possibility of renewed military ties between the US and Pakistan as indicated by Condoleezza Rice, the US National Security Adviser, this week, the Indian leaders asked the visiting Secretary of State to take care that it does not spark off another arms race.

Jaswant took a dig at Pakistan repeatedly referring it as "our western neighbour" during the

press conference. He said: "It is good for them. It is my hope that they will utilise the economic aid for the right purpose."

Jaswant added: "We have a certain experience about the military aid to Pakistan in the past. Now that we see some evidence of Pakistan moving away from fixed positions of the past and joining the rest of the international community, we can only hope that the same approach will govern the utilisation of any aid or assistance that they may receive from the US."

In the presence of the two delegations, Powell and Advani signed a treaty on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters.

VAJPAYEE TO VISIT WASHINGTON ON NOV 9

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee, and US President George W Bush will have their first summit-level meeting in Washington on November 9. US Secretary of State Colin Powell announced this at a press conference in Delhi on Wednesday. The lifting of the US sanctions on India last month has opened the possibility of several joint ventures which may be firming up during Vajpayee's visit.

Home Minister L K Advani, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh and National

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

18 OCT 2001

Pakistan crying wolf, says govt

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Oct. 17: Pakistan was raising the bogey of an Indian troops build-up to reassure itself of the US support after Colin Powell's visit, a defence ministry official said this evening, reacting to Islamabad's allegation that India was building up forces near its border.

At its regular briefing this afternoon, Pakistan's spokesman Rashid Quereshi claimed Islamabad had definite knowledge that India was moving troops and also air force assets.

"There is no question of building up forces. Whatever movement has taken place in Kashmir has been the routine turnover of units. The nature of deployment in Kashmir is dynamic. In preparation for the winter, there have been some movements of units. But no additional troops have been pressed in from outside the command sector," the army spokesman Colonel Shrutikant said.

An official speaking for the Indian Air Force said there had not even been any routine movement of assets. The defence ministry official said Islamabad's security establishment always feels more comfortable if the US pushes for a dialogue with New Delhi. The view was largely echoed by the defence experts.

"Crying wolf is a tactic that has been used for long," said former Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul. "Pakistan is now doing it in the hope that the US will once again ask India to calm down. Pakistan wants to be doubly sure that India will not create problems for it on its eastern frontier. With the American military operations on in Afghanistan, it does not want to be caught in a situation of conflict on two fronts."

Atal scores a point with Bush invite

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Oct. 17: President George W. Bush has invited Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee for a "working visit" to Washington on November 9. There is no indication that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has received a similar invitation.

The invitation, extended by US secretary of state Colin Powell on behalf of Bush during his meeting with Vajpayee this morning, was gleefully accepted by the Prime Minister. The visit will give the Bush administration the opportunity to tell India that it is an important country with which Washington wants to be in touch on important issues, particularly in its current fight against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network. For Vajpayee, it is an ideal opportunity to show his detractors that he is not grovelling before the US, rather it is the American President who is seeking him out.

Vajpayee is also scheduled to visit New York on November 7 and 8 to address the UN General Assembly, which was postponed after the September 11 attacks in the US.

But first, Vajpayee is Moscow-bound to participate in the Indo-Russian annual summit with President Vladimir Putin from November 4 to 7. Indications are that the Prime Minister will head for the US from Moscow.

Vajpayee and Bush have spoken on the phone twice since Terror Tuesday. The Prime Minister's proposed visit to Washington will give the two leaders further opportunity to strike up a rapport, no

matter how brief their interaction, and discuss some of their major concerns relating to global terrorism.

Vajpayee was invited for a state visit to the US last year by then US President Bill Clinton. But, by terming it a "working visit", Bush has made it clear that he wants to meet Vajpayee to discuss one or two important issues without the frills of a ceremonial welcome and a state banquet. His visit is likely to be more in the style of the Western allies of the Americans who come to Washington at short notice to exchange views on important international developments.

Importantly, Vajpayee's visit is likely to take place soon after his talks with the Russian leadership in Moscow. In their summit, Vajpayee and Putin, who has offered whole-hearted cooperation to the Americans in their war against terror, will be able to exchange views on the fast-paced developments in Afghanistan and its impact in the region. Moreover, since his proposed visit is at least three weeks away, it might so happen that by then the US operations in Afghanistan are over and efforts are in full swing to put in place a new regime to replace the Taliban. After consultations with Delhi's "time-tested ally", Vajpayee would be in a better position to articulate India's views and concerns on the issue.

The successive visits to Russia and the US will boost Vajpayee's position domestically, portraying the importance the two powers are giving to India in the new scenario to continue the fight against global terrorism.

WITH JASWANT



WITH ATAL



WITH SONIA



The many moods of Colin Powell in New Delhi. (AFP, PTI)

Powell pleases PM & Pak

FROM SEEMA GUHA

New Delhi, Oct. 17: US secretary of state Colin Powell achieved a rare feat during his visit to the sub-continent — he pleased both India and Pakistan.

Pervez Musharraf was humoured on Kashmir and the Indian leadership was reassured that New Delhi is a valued member of the global coalition against terror.

To emphasise that Washington understands the terrorist threat faced by India, Powell handed a sop in the form of a bilateral treaty on legal assistance in criminal matters. The treaty, signed by Powell and home minister L.K. Advani, is another step to enhance cooperation on counter-terrorism.

India and the US are sharing intelligence on terrorist groups operating in the region. This information exchange is expected to increase in the coming months. The two countries also have in place a joint working group on counter-terrorism and an extradition treaty.

Advani took the opportunity of Powell's half-an-hour call at his North Block office this morning to give a detailed account of India's fight against terrorism. He mentioned the October 1 attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly that killed

nearly 40 people. The home minister had visited Srinagar after the attack. Advani argued that if Pakistan did not back terrorist groups in Kashmir, there would be no militancy in the state.

The object of the exercise was to convey to Powell that India could not trust Pervez Musharraf's words. The home minister, like foreign minister Jaswant Singh, tried to get across the message that though Pakistan is now in the forefront of the fight against terror, it had not stopped helping militants in Kashmir.

Jaswant nor Advani minced words while talking about Pakistan's double standards.

"We gently tried to make the point that Pakistan is a master in the game of subterfuge and deception," a senior official said.

India believes that Powell left New Delhi with a wider perspective of the situation in the region and perhaps a better idea of Pakistan's role in Kashmir. "We hope to have turned Powell away from America's sudden discovery of Musharraf's virtues," an official said.

Though New Delhi realises that Pakistan, as a frontline state, is important to Washington, it has tried to provide the US leadership with a more realistic view.

Delhi firm on keeping Taliban out

FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Oct. 17: India has made it clear to the United States that it will not support plans to include certain elements of the Taliban in the new regime in Kabul after the possible defeat and overthrow of the student militia. Instead, it has proposed that the American leadership take the opinion of all the countries in the neighbourhood before deciding on the new power structure in Afghanistan.

New Delhi has suggested that the political process to find a new dispensation to fill a possible vacuum in Kabul should be initiated, and the United Nations should be involved in the process.

While the majority Pashtun tribe, comprising 42 per cent of Afghanistan's population, has to be part of any new political set-up, India argues that the other ethnic groups, like as the Tajiks, the Uzbeks and the Hazaras, and the Shias should be involved in the selection of a new leadership.

India has also made clear that while former king Zahir Shah can play an important role in restoring peace in Afghanistan, his role can only be temporary till a new regime that accommodates the aspirations of all Afghan people is installed.

Although Pakistan publicly desires a similar "broadbased, multi-ethnic" model for the

changeover in Afghanistan, Islamabad has been backing the inclusion of "moderates" in the Taliban in any new regime in Kabul.

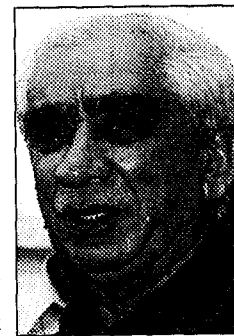
South Block sees this as Islamabad's attempt to maintain its hegemony in Afghanistan. The Pakistani establishment views Afghanistan as a country that provides it with the much needed strategic depth.

It has also been the main breeding ground for terrorists and mercenaries that are pushed in to fight the Indian security forces in Jammu and Kashmir.

"A moderate Taliban is an oxymoron," foreign minister Jaswant Singh told US secretary of state Colin Powell during their 50-minute conversation on Tuesday while making it clear that New Delhi was opposed to the Taliban's presence in any form in a future regime in Afghanistan.

"We should look towards our neighbours and that does not necessarily mean the next-door neighbour alone," Singh reportedly told Powell, clarifying that Pakistan was not the only player whose views on the issue were important.

Iran, Russia and the Central Asian republics were all important countries in the region, Singh argued, adding that these countries should have a say in the new regime because they, like India, have had to face the brunt of the fundamentalist Taliban's policies.



Jaswant Singh

Powell to urge India, Pak. to avoid flare-up

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 16. On the day the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, urged India and Pakistan to "stand down" during the U.S. strikes on Afghanistan, his senior officials went about repeating that message here with the conviction that the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, will have conveyed the same message personally to Islamabad and New Delhi.

The National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, when asked about reports of the Indian army firing across the line of control, said the express purpose of Gen. Powell's visit was to talk and to counsel the leaders of India and Pakistan "on the importance of stability in the zone of control; importance of not having a flare up in Kashmir."

Dr. Rice recalled the flurry of phone calls that had been going out in the last two weeks that included calls from Mr. Bush to the leaders of India and Pakistan; Gen. Powell had also talked to the two leaders; and Dr. Rice, for her part, had been in touch with her counterparts.

At the State Department, the deputy spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, argued that Washing-

ton has "called for restraint on both sides, for dialogue, for pursuing a peaceful resolution through a bilateral dialogue that takes into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people."

Decks cleared for economic, military aid to Pak.

WASHINGTON, OCT. 16. The House of Representatives today rushed through a Bill already passed by the Senate clearing the way for military and economic aid to Pakistan even as a Democratic Congressman warned the military component may be used against India.

Mr. Frank Pallone, former co-chairman of the India Caucus, opposed the Bill saying the military aid may be used against India and there is no indication of any intention on the part of the Pakistan President, Gen. Musharraf to usher in democracy. Ms. Nita Lowey, a Democratic Congresswoman, pointed out that President George W. Bush had already sanctioned \$100 million of economic aid to Pakistan and she understood he would be giving Pakistan another \$500 million out of funds already voted by the Congress for the war against international terrorism. — PTI

THE HINDU

Powell arrives in Pakistan with arms sale offer

HT Correspondent & AFP
Islamabad, October 15

16/10
THE US is ready for military cooperation with Pakistan in its mission to shore up support for the lengthening military operation against al-Qaida and the Taliban.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell arrived in Islamabad today willing to discuss with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf any aspect of military cooperation—from arms sales to personnel exchanges—although many weapons transfers are still barred by sanctions.

An announcement is on the cards about a new joint training programme was imminent.

"I am more than happy to discuss anything that the President

16/10
would wish to discuss but (arms sales) is not an area I think we would have any results in," Powell told reporters travelling with him.

HF-1
"But, there are many forms of military-to-military cooperation," he said, noting seminars, reciprocal visits and international military educational training programme which brings foreign officers to the US for studies. "This is a sound investment in the future and we should not let ups and downs in relationships destroy this long-term investment."

"I think we'll have some news in the next 24 hours." Officials said it might take longer than one day for pending legislative action in Congress to allow for such a programme.

Powell is also to address Pakistani demands relating to Kash-

us @
Sunder Area
mir with plans on a push for resumption in the dialogue between Islamabad and New Delhi to relieve tensions over Kashmir.

He will press the two countries to cool their rhetoric over Kashmir, respect a border demarcation line and avoid any military action there.

Before his arrival, General Pervez Musharraf held a conference of the army top brass, attended by the corps commanders, the PSOs and the ISI chief—several of whom were appointed just last week.

Another significant meeting took place on the sidelines between Pakistani officials and a three-member delegation representing former Afghan King Zahir Shah.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

10-1 12/10

OVER 100 KILLED IN AIR RAIDS; PENTAGON TARGETING CIVILIANS, SAYS TALIBAN

Commandos await orders to hunt down Osama

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 11. The U.S. has unleashed very heavy attacks on the Taliban militia with land and sea-based planes and jets pounding targets in and around Kabul round the clock for the fifth day in a row.

Crack commandos of the U.S. and Britain are on the ground inside Afghanistan and in neighbouring countries. Some 1000 troops of the U.S. Mountain Division have already been moved to Uzbekistan and are awaiting orders. The impression is that these forces will be joined by other specialised units in hunting down Osama, the Al-Qaeda members and senior leadership of the Taliban.

An assortment of attack helicopters is being assembled to launch a ferocious attack, night and day. The special forces will be moved by UH-60 Blackhawk Helicopters and the AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

The U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, did not agree to the suggestion that today's attacks on Afghanistan were more intensive than the past four days. "There is still an air defence threat".

Reports here speak of direct hits on a number of military installations, including a Taliban military academy and an unspecified number of terrorist training camps. The U.S. firepower has also been directed towards Kandahar.

Mr. Rumsfeld also brushed aside the Taliban contention that civilians were being targeted. "The U.S. does not target civilians," he said.

Meanwhile, at a memorial service at the Pentagon, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, lashed out at the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda.

"Today we are a nation awakened to the evil of terrorism and determined to destroy it. That work began the moment we were



Aviation ordnance men, as seen through the green filter of a camera's night vision lens, carry out final checks on a precision-guided bomb loaded onto an F/A-18 'Hornet' aboard the USS Enterprise on Monday. — AP

attacked and it will continue until justice is delivered," he said.

"The Taliban allied itself with murderers and gave them shelter. But today, for the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban, there is no shelter,"

Mr. Bush said, adding the Taliban was given a choice of turning over terrorists or facing ruin. "They chose unwisely".

Separately, the Bush administration has not commented substan-

tively on reports that Osama bin Laden may have been arrested. Mr. Rumsfeld said he still believed that Osama is in Afghanistan.

For the first time since the start of the air operations, the U.S. said its personnel had arrived in Pakistan and would be using the air bases in the country, including Jacobabad. Officially, it is maintained that the Pakistani air bases are being used for "recovery" purposes.

Mr. Rumsfeld said the "full range of weaponry" is being used by the U.S. jets including the "big ones" and the penetrators.

"Bunker Busters" — penetrative bombs — are being used to ferret out terrorists and soldiers hiding underground. One of the specific targets will be underground command and control centres in Kandahar. The U.S. forces will also be using cluster munitions to target Taliban commanders, troop convoys and terrorists on the move. These are anti-personnel bombs that further disperse themselves into bomblets.

'Osama safe'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 11. The Taliban alleged that more than 100 civilians had been killed in a village in today's air raids by the U.S.

The Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, told presspersons here that 15 others had died when a mosque was bombed near the eastern city of Jalalabad. (An AP report said he accused the Pentagon of targeting civilians, saying, "The Pentagon is lying to the world when it says it is not hitting civilians.")

Mullah Zaeef claimed that the Taliban chief, Mullah Mohammad Omar, and the prime suspect in the September 11 attacks, Osama bin Laden, had survived the heavy bombardment.

The predicament of the Musharraf Government on the continuing

military campaign was evident at the news conference of the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman. He faced a barrage of questions as to why Pakistan was reluctant to condemn the killing of innocent citizens.

In a related development, another official confirmed that U.S. military personnel had arrived in the country but maintained that their role was limited to logistical support. "There are no combat forces on Pakistani soil," was the reply of the Foreign Office to questions about the decision of the Government to allow the use of two airports to the U.S. "As stated earlier, I am not going to comment on any military matters. However, I can confirm that at the moment there are no reports of any combat troops in Pakistan," he said.

The spokesman denied that there were any differences between Pakistan and the U.S., particularly on the question of a future government in Afghanistan. "There is no tension between Pa-

kistan and the U.S. This is indicated by the fact that the U.S. Secretary of State is visiting Pakistan. As far as the question of a government in Afghanistan is concerned, Pakistan has always maintained that it should be broadbased, multi-ethnic and representative of all components of the Afghan population, and the Afghans themselves should choose it without outside interference."

Mullah Omar's son killed?

QUETTA, OCT. 11. Two relatives of Mullah Mohammad Omar, killed in a U.S. raid on his house were his 10-year-old son and his stepfather, residents fleeing Kandahar said. The Taliban leader had just left his home when a bomb struck one of his houses in the Sangisar district.

The Taliban's Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, refused to confirm or deny the deaths. — Reuters



A missile carries 'Eat this Osama' message on an F/A-18 C 'Hornet' fighter aboard the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea on Thursday. — Reuters

India won't ignite conflict: Powell

WASHINGTON, OCT. 11. The United States does not believe that India might try to take advantage of the prevailing situation in the region and ignite a conflict with Pakistan, the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has said.

"I don't think that will be the case," Gen. Powell told CBS-TV when asked whether the U.S. was concerned that India might try to take advantage of the situation and ignite a conflict while the world is distracted.

"In fact, we have been in touch with both governments and they both realise the volatile nature of this situation and I think both of them understand this is not the time for provocative action, which would cause the situation in the region to become unstable."

He said he was "pleased" that the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, spoke to each other within the past few days, "and we are in touch with the Foreign Ministry officials in both countries as well".

Both countries had been very forthcoming in terms of the support in the U.S.-led campaign against terrorism.

"Pakistan is on the front lines of it, really, because of their proximity to Afghanistan, and President Musharraf has done quite a number of very, very important things. The Indians have also been very forthcoming with the support that they have given." — PTI

Don't club us with Pak, irate India tells America

'We don't need sops for U.S. mounts multi-pronged backing war against terror' offensive against Taliban

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Angry and upset over the seismic shift in American policy in South Asia following the September 11 terrorist attacks, India has asked to be delinked from Pakistan in various legislation being considered by the Congress.

Capitol Hill sources said the unusual and explicit request, clearly arising from a sense of pique over the turn of events, was made earlier this week to at least two law-makers, Senator Joseph Biden and Senator Sam Brownback. They have been at the forefront of the administration's move to ease sanctions against Pakistan and India with the obvious intent of buying cooperation from Pakistan in its proposed war against terrorism.

Indian sources confirmed such a request had been made and said there was no need to club India and Pakistan in the same legislation because India gained very little from it. Specifically, they pointed to legislation relating to waiver of the so-called democracy sanctions, and said it was gratuitous to mention India in the context since it has been and continues to be a democracy.

"Besides, we are supporting the war on terrorism not out of any sense of expectation or reward," one Indian source said in a needling reference to Pakistan's reasons, which is thought to be made under duress and for a financial bail-out. "We don't need sops. We are in it for the long haul and because we have been hurting from nearly two decades of terrorism," the source added.

In fact, things have become so testy between India and its friends on the Hill that external affairs minister Jaswant Singh cancelled a meeting with Senator Biden at just 20 minutes' notice, leading to a great deal of heartburn in the law-maker's office.

Mr Biden, who heads the Senate foreign relations committee, was a trenchant critic of Pakistan's nuclear proliferation and was opposed to sanctions against Pakistan being eased while supporting a waiver for India. But he changed his views following the September 11 attacks and is now proposing a long-term alliance with Pakistan, including massive doses of capital from a \$ 1-billion dollar recovery package he is pushing for Central Asia.

Mr Singh apparently cried off from the meeting citing illness. But he was on CNN an hour later looking hale and hearty. A Congressional source fumed, "You don't do this to a Senator at such short notice when you have sought the meeting." Indian sources denied snubbing Mr Biden and said the meeting had to be cancelled because of scheduling problems.

► See Edit: Dousing the Bushfire, Page 10

ISLAMABAD/WASHINGTON: The United States sent troops to Uzbekistan, Afghanistan's northern neighbour, on Friday while key ally Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Britain, arrived in Pakistan to the south, as Washington readied its response to last month's attacks on New York and Washington.

A U.S. defence official said 1,000 troops from the U.S. 10th Mountain Division were on their way to Uzbekistan, closing in on Afghanistan's Taliban rulers who are sheltering Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, Washington's prime suspect in the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Uzbek President Islam Karimov said while he would not allow U.S. special operations forces to be deployed from his country, he would allow the use of one airfield as part of its campaign for humanitarian or search and rescue operations.

Asked during a joint news conference with visiting U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld why he would not allow special forces to work out of his country, he said, "We are not quite ready for this."

Piling the diplomatic pressure on the Taliban and Bin Laden, Mr Rumsfeld and Mr Blair shuttled from nation to nation to build support for U.S. President George W. Bush's war on terrorism.

At the same time, Mr Bush ordered \$320 million in urgent humanitarian aid for Afghan civilians — part of an apparent campaign to convince Muslims around the world that the war on terrorism was not directed at them.

Mr Blair's visit was aimed not only as a show of support for Pakistan's backing for that war and to ensure that position does not waver, but also offered an opportunity for the military government to boost its legitimacy in the eyes of the world.

Pakistan foreign office spokesperson Riaz Mohammad Khan told presspersons the issue of Kashmir would be discussed during the talks between Mr Blair

and Gen Musharraf. Mr Blair is scheduled to be in Pakistan for just four hours before heading to the Indian capital New Delhi for talks with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

U.S. intelligence officials, quoted by the *Washington Post*, told members of Congress it was highly probable that militants linked to Bin Laden would attempt another major attack on American targets at home or abroad in the near future.

One official, quoted by the *Post*, said there was a "100 percent chance" of an attack should the United States strike at Afghanistan for refusing to hand over their prime suspect. (Agencies)

► Blair, PM to discuss global scenario today, Page 7

BROWN MAN'S BURDEN



► 1,000 U.S. troops move towards Uzbekistan

► Uzbek President refuses to allow deployment of forces from his country..

►...but is willing to provide one airfield

► Intelligence agencies warn U.S. Congress of more attacks

► Jaswant Singh cancels meeting with Senator Biden

Jaswant puts J&K terror on US agenda

US W. Smith Asia HT-1 4/10

S. Rajagopalan
Washington, October 3

SHEDDING ITS coyness, the US today made it clear that its war on terrorism would address the kind India has been battling for years in Jammu & Kashmir.

Secretary of State Colin Powell made the Bush Administration's stand on the matter clear after External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh mounted considerable moral pressure on the US establishment in view of Monday's terrorist outrage at the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Ever since President Bush declared war on terrorism, the US has been chary of spelling out its position vis-a-vis terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir for fear of offending Pakistan, its new ally in the offensive against Osama bin Laden.

However, with Singh by his side, Powell said on Tuesday: "We are going after terrorism in a comprehensive way, not just in the present instance of al-Qaida and bin Laden, but terrorism as it affects nations around the world to include the kind of terrorism that affects India."

He used strong words to denounce the Jaish-e-Mohammad's attack outside the J&K Assembly. Terming it a "terrible terrorist act" that killed innocent civilians, Powell said: "It's this kind of terrorism that we (Indians and Americans) are united against."

Singh, at his meetings here, emphasised that it's the same network - bin Laden's al-Qaida - that has been operating under different names in different parts of the world, including India. New Delhi has already

UK SUPPORT FOR INDIA

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee and UK Premier Tony Blair agreed that terrorism could not be dealt with in compartments and should be tackled globally.

Following the terrorist attack in Srinagar, Blair had spoken to Vajpayee on telephone to offer his condolences. "This is the kind of terrorism the governments should cooperate in rooting out," Blair told Vajpayee, according to a press release issued by the Ministry of External Affairs.

HTC, New Delhi

shared intelligence with Washington on this.

Powell, asked about Singh's submission, said Washington's concentration, "in the first instance", was on bin Laden and his lieutenants in Afghanistan. It would go after the al-Qaida network, in all its manifestations, and conduct a global campaign against terrorism, using financial tools, intelligence and law enforcement.

He parried questions on whether the US would get tough with Islamabad in respect of "freedom fighters" on its side of the Line of Control, many of whom have been trained in bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan.

The US dilemma on keeping both India and Pakistan on its side in its anti-terror campaign was evident from Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld's responses as well. After a meeting with Singh, he avoided a pointed query on Indian complaints

about the refuge Pakistan was providing to Kashmir terrorists.

Rumsfeld confined himself to generalities, saying terrorists were operating in countries "because countries were tolerating that". At one point, however, he commented: "If we are to assure the way of life of free systems such as in our country and in India, the only choice we have is to take the battle to them (the terrorists)."

Singh, though satisfied that there is a "much clearer understanding of India's worries about terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir now", was at times caustic. "They (the US) want to turn the problem (Pakistan) into a solution. I wish them luck," he said.

Afghanistan and Pakistan, he said in a series of TV interviews, continue to be the epicentre of terrorism in the region. At a Press conference on the conclusion of his engagements, he commented: "I don't think the US is unaware of this. Over the last 10-20 years, Pakistan and Afghanistan have been the key exporters of terrorists around the world."

In London, British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw had a 90-minute meeting with Singh. Straw too expressed his outrage and horror at the October 1 terrorist strike in Srinagar.

Later, Straw told reporters the October 1 strike was aimed at the heart of democracy. He was appreciative of the fact that as many as 250 people were killed in the September 11 strike on the World Trade Center. "India has suffered so grievously at home. Its offer of cooperation illustrates the fight against terrorism is one for the world."

Atal Writes To Bush About J&K Massacre, Says Patience Running Out

India warns Pak of action

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 2 OCTOBER

THERE HAS been a sudden spurt in tension between India and Pakistan. New Delhi on Tuesday upped the ante by warning Islamabad that its patience was running out after Monday's attack on the Jammu & Kashmir Assembly by a Pakistan-based terrorist outfit.

It said this has raised questions about the country's security and these have to be addressed in the "supreme national interest".

The sentiment was conveyed by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in a letter to President George Bush, making it clear that India would be forced to take extraordinary measures to tackle Pakistan-sponsored terrorism. The unusually strong letter is obviously pregnant with meaning as it is possible to read into it a threat of action.

In his five-para, terse note, Mr Vajpayee told the American President: "We don't want to overload your agenda. However, incidents of this kind raise questions for our security which, as a democratically-elected leader of India, I have to address in our supreme national interest. Pakistan must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the people of India."

The strongly-worded letter draws the US President's attention to the fact that the attack was carried out by Jaish-e-Mohammad, a Pakistan-based terrorist organisation, which has not only publicly claimed responsibility but has also named a Pakistani national, Wajahat Husain, as one of the suicide bombers. The attack has

already claimed 37 lives, mostly civilians, and the toll might rise further.

At one level, Mr Vajpayee's rhetoric might be seen as an attempt by him to match Mr Bush sound-byte by sound-byte, but at another level it questions Washington's unifocal approach to terrorism — bin Laden first and then the rest would follow. Mr Vajpayee has emphasised the network of terror was inter-linked and it was not possible to tackle one end without tackling the whole.

The letter also recalls how India shared the American anguish over the September 11 attack. Mr

Vajpayee has said: "India joined whole-heartedly with the US in its goal for the destruction and defeat of the global terror network which you eloquently announced in your address to the Congress. With you, we condemned any nation that continues to harbour or support terrorism."

Implicit in these words is an urging for Washington to now reciprocate New Delhi's concerns.

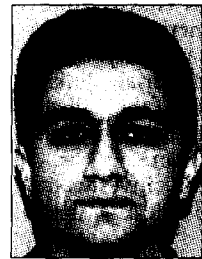
The communication to the US President is seen also as demonstrative of India's anticipation of a severe step-up in terrorist violence and its readiness to take unconventional steps if required.

The letter shows New Delhi's sensitivity towards the US concern to prevent an escalation of tension between India and Pakistan at a time when US was hoping to get Islamabad's cooperation, but signals that New Delhi's own security concerns can't be sacrificed.

Stripped of diplomatese, the Prime Minister's letter is a clear message that India cannot be expected to wait infinitely for the US' much-promised second phase to unfold.

Atta trail leads to Pak

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 2 OCTOBER



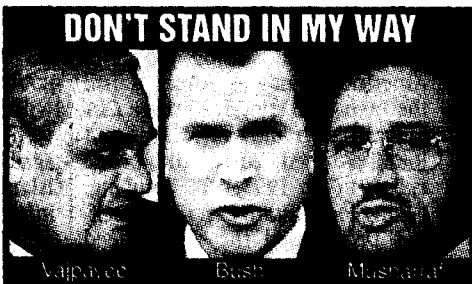
THE GENERAL must be kidding. Even as President Pervez Musharraf said in an interview with BBC on Tuesday that

Pakistan had no links with either terrorists or terrorism, American investigators unravelled a murky trail of money and material linking Mohammad Atta, the alleged linchpin in the September 11 attacks, with Pakistan.

The US investigating agencies detected that Atta, whom they call the "axle" of the September 11 attacks, was sourcing funds from Pakistan. Allegedly, as much as \$1,00,000 was wired in the last year from Pakistan to Atta, laying bare that Laden's Al Qaida was operating from the Pakistan soil.

According to reports reaching here, the wire transfers from Pakistan were sent to Atta through two banks in Florida. Atta allegedly collected the money from these banks to distribute it to the other "operatives" involved in the thickening plot leading to Terror Tuesday's hijackings.

■ Detailed report on Page 2



India sees Pak, Afghanistan as terrorism hub

By Indrani Bagchi
WASHINGTON 2 OCTOBER

JASWANT SINGH used an impromptu "drop-in" by George Bush on Monday to make a strong argument with the US leadership that the Al Qaida, ISI and the Taliban were all seamlessly welded into an international network of terrorism with its epicentre in Pakistan-Afghanistan.

■ Detailed report on Page 2

The Economic Times

100 2001

US Bill for defence deals with India, Pak

Washington, September 29

US SENATOR Sam Brownback has introduced a Bill seeking to authorise the sale of military goods and services as well as dual-use items to India and Pakistan by waiving the existing legislation till September 30, 2003.

USA's nuclear cooperation with India and Pakistan, however, continued to be barred as per the provisions of the Bill.

The Bill, co-sponsored by Senator Mitch McConnell, is significant in that it even waives the legislation barring certain types of aid to coup regimes such as the one in Pakistan.

That would imply perfect equality between New Delhi and Islamabad, thus fulfilling a long-cherished dream of Pakistan.

The Bill authorises President George W Bush to provide for India and Pakistan "assistance, enter into contracts, take actions in international financial institutions, sell, lease or authorise the export of defence articles or defence services, authorise the export of dual-use items or extend other financial assistance".

The only condition being it should be "in the national interest of the United States and important to its efforts to

Chandrika, Atal hold talks

SRI LANKAN President Chandrika Kumaratunga spoke to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee on Saturday afternoon.

The two leaders discussed regional and international situation in the aftermath of September 11 terrorist attacks, the MEA said.

Both leaders also shared their views on the security and strategic implications for the subcontinent in the wake of the evolving situation.

They agreed it was necessary for the leaders of the region to stay in touch on these matters.

HTC, New Delhi

respond to, deter or prevent acts of international terrorism".

\$75-m aid for Pak security

The US may also offer a \$75 million package, which includes helicopter gunships and Intelligence equipment, to Islamabad to help it patrol the long rugged terrain along the porous Pak-Afghan border.

US Ambassador to Islamabad

Wendy Chamberlin has shown willingness to put together a \$75 million package for Islamabad to help it watch the porous border, daily News said quoting Pakistani officials.

The officials said the Government had not fully made up its mind about what type of equipment it would need on emergency basis, but it includes helicopters and hi-tech Intelligence equipment to prevent possible infiltration from across the border, it said.

The porous border has over 200 points, which have mule and dirt tracks and foot tracks for people to cross besides the established routes at borders towns like Torkham and Chaman, which are closed now.

Besides the border concerns, the Government is also considering some quick arms deal that could be presented as an example of the new friendship with the US, it said adding senior officials were considering the possibility of buying jet fighters, which are free for sale now on hard cash basis, after removal of some of the sanctions.

"We have discussed the possibility of buying 'toys' from the US," an official said hinting at the military hardware and fighter aircraft.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

33 SEP 2001

U.S. allays India's fears, says war will not end with Bin Laden

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Sami bin

Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has assured India that it shares New Delhi's concern about terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and that its war against the

scourge will continue beyond the immediate task of nailing the perpetrators of the carnage in America.

Assurances to this effect were conveyed by top Bush administration officials in separate meetings they had with national security adviser Brajesh Mishra on Monday and Tuesday, allaying some of the concern in India that this was a U.S.-specific mission with no regard to New Delhi's trauma with terrorism.

"They have told us this will not be the end of the story..they will go after other terrorist groups once they are through with this immediate mission," sources privy to the meetings said.

The Bush administration is also making it clear that there will be no change in the Indo-U.S. relationship in the wake of the U.S. seeking Pakistan's support for possible military operations against

Pak freezes Harkat accounts

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's central bank has ordered banks to freeze accounts held by the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, a militant group operating in Kashmir that was included in a U.S. terrorism blacklist. A spokesman said on Wednesday that the central bank had also ordered a freeze on accounts of the Al-Rashid Trust, the other Pakistani organisation included in the list. (AFP)

Osama bin Laden and his network in Afghanistan. "In all the meetings, it was conveyed to us that there is no change in Washington's India policy," Indian sources said.

State Department spokesman Richard Boucher endorsed both the joint concern about terrorism in the region as well as the long-term nature of the relationship. "The relationship with India is one of the most important ones that we have," he said. "They themselves have experienced terrible acts of terrorism..so there is a great deal to talk to India because of the role they play."

The pronouncement is significant because New Delhi has been miffed with Washington in recent days for not publicly expressing concern or support for India's battle against terrorism.

Mr Mishra met his U.S. counterpart Condoleeza Rice, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, his deputy Paul Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage and a host of lawmakers in a two-day swing through Washington that is in the heat of battle preparations.

He reiterated India's unconditional offer of assistance to the global coalition against terrorism.

27 SEP 2001

27 SEP 2001

INDIA LOSES ADVANTAGE

The US needs Pakistan more than India

THE scope of economic and military sanctions being lifted against India and Pakistan is not clear, except that the roughly 506 curbs imposed after Pervez Musharraf's coup in October 1999 will remain. President Bush refers to the Arms Export Control Act and not to the US Nuclear Non-Proliferation Act of 1994, under which the post-Pokhran and Chagai sanctions were imposed. In any case, the economic sanctions were lifted soon after their imposition and we were never much into buying US military hardware anyway. One may have to wait for an official notification nullifying the entities blacklisted in November 1998 to know if Indian defence research and other private sector establishments, mentioned in that list can now import paper clips and gyroscopes from the US if they so wish. An estimate of how much we depend on the US in our nuclear, missile, space and other high technology projects, is not available, but the conjecture is that the dependence must be significant since the US is the leader in these fields. In Pakistan, the lifting of economic sanctions is a good thing first of all for Musharraf since, under the circumstances, the extension of IMF assistance cannot be made conditional upon a return to democracy in the short term. Pakistan's massive foreign debt can be rescheduled and more soft multilateral aid can be organised. Pakistan needs the money badly, not least in order to contain a growing radical Islamic surge that seeks to occupy the space left vacant by mainstream political forces. Again, the quantum of aid may be proportionate to the services required of Pakistan, a function of its importance in what may eventually turn out to be a war against radical Islamic terror worldwide. Its importance may also be measured in terms of its own vulnerability vis-a-vis the radical Islamic threat.

Uppermost in Indian minds is the extent to which the lifting of military sanctions restores Pakistan-US relations to the pre-1990 level, that is, before the fall of the Berlin Wall and the application of the Pressler Amendment. It is clear that when Bush talks about a "sustained, sweeping" campaign against terrorism, he is thinking about international radical Islam hitting targets in the US because Palestinian self-determination, in their version, implies the destruction of the Zionist state and attacking its principal sponsor, besides the all-important task of "liberating" Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa mosque. Groups operating in Kashmir are affiliated to this terrorist circuit, but none can claim to be an operational or strategic hub for international radical Islam. India may say Pakistan nurtures terrorists, but what is important for the Americans is that it has direct experience of international Islamic terror and was the mentor of a state that gave refuge to some of its masterminds. However, a crucial difference is that this war does not require arming Pakistan, only using its expertise in certain matters. India may have wanted the sanctions to remain in place until the camps in Pakistan are liquidated, but this game is not being played on India's terms. What the simultaneous lifting of sanctions means, ironically, is that the slight advantage that India had gained over Pakistan over the last three years — because of Pakistan's delinquent missile programme, its military coup and its sponsorship of terror in Kashmir — has been nullified at a moment when India thought the advantage would solidify into a more durable foreign policy element.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2001

BEYOND A SAGA OF U.S. SANCTIONS

INDIA AND PAKISTAN have rightly welcomed the latest U.S. decision to lift the similar sanctions it imposed on both of them in the context of their competitive nuclear weapons testing in 1998. This category of sanctions, under the Glenn Amendment of the U.S. Arms Export Control Act, had certainly hurt Pakistan much more than India. The differential economic strengths of India and Pakistan as also their asymmetrical ties with the United States largely accounted for that reality. Yet, it is the timing of the latest American move that appears to have induced official India to be less enthusiastic than Pakistan. Now, Islamabad too is keen that many of its other concerns be addressed by the U.S. But Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, seems eager to sustain the strategic understanding which he struck with the U.S. only a few days ago to join its avowed new fight against globalised terrorism. Such a significant updating of an old and chequered U.S.-Pakistan alliance has already dealt a seismic blow to Islamabad's original links with the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan. Yet, a relevant pointer is that Washington is cognisant of Islamabad's perceived ability to help solve the basic riddle of the Taliban, which is still reckoned to harbour Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect behind the terrorist carnage that rocked America on September 11. Nonetheless, these geopolitical dynamics appear to have come as a rude shock to official India. However, New Delhi can trim its sails to the new strategic winds blowing across the world and not just in South Asia.

There is more to the timing of the latest U.S. move on sanctions than just its renewed bonhomie with Islamabad. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, is reported to have asked the Congress to empower him to waive in his discretion all the existing sanctions on America's military assistance and weapons exports in respect of any country for a period of five years

from now. Mr. Bush wants to globalise the reach of his stated anti-terror campaign through this measure of probable interest to some of Washington's critics on the international stage at this juncture. Given also Mr. Bush's mood of this nature, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and his advisers will do well to move on by making the most of the latest development. At one stage prior to the terrorist outrage of September 11, it surely looked as if the U.S. might lift the India-oriented sanctions before pleasing Pakistan likewise. The reasoning had to do with Washington's known compulsions to remove some unseemly vestiges of an otherwise diminishing estrangement with democratic India. A truism, valid then and more so in today's surcharged international environment, is that a stable Pakistan is in India's intrinsic interest. The latest removal of most U.S. sanctions can contribute to Pakistan's stability. A heartening episode prior to the new turn in the sanctions saga was that the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, assured his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Abdul Sattar, that India would not seek to complicate Islamabad's present troubles.

For India, a sanctions-free economic relationship with the U.S. can be quite rewarding mutually and in the multilateral domain. India can expect a beneficial spin-off effect, inclusive of access to the American dual-use knowhow, in the military and scientific sectors too. Yet, given some unclear signals from Washington about its pre-1998 embargo, the fine print of Mr. Bush's orders will need to be combed carefully. In the case of Pakistan, Mr. Bush has consciously kept in place the sanctions that were clamped in 1999 under the Foreign Operations Appropriations Act on account of that country's deviation from a democratic dispensation. Yet, the prospects for Pakistan cannot be exaggerated, more so if a range of sanctions traceable from the Symington Amendment of 1978 is indeed removed.

THE HINDU

25 SEP 2001

Bush bounty for Pak, a token for India

*Kabul claims
Osama is
missing, US
unimpressed*

*Kabul/Washington,
September 23*

OPPOSITION FORCES in northern Afghanistan today claimed to have captured a strategic district from the Taliban as the threat of US military strikes loomed larger with Washington dismissing the militia's statement that Osama bin Laden had gone missing.

"Osama is missing. We are searching for him," said a Taliban spokesman, to which US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said, "We are not going to be deterred by such comments."

But in a climbdown of sorts, Secretary of State Colin Powell said the US would make public the evidence linking Osama to Terror Tuesday. The US has simultaneously announced a \$25 million reward for Osama.

Abdul Rashid Dostam, the Uzbek warlord of anti-Taliban forces, said his men had ousted the militia from Zaare, 100 km west of Mazar-i-Sharif. "Zaare is important as it's on the main highway linking Balkh, Jozjan and Samangan," said Dostam, adding that over 60 Taliban men had been killed in the offensive.

Dostam claimed that the Northern Alliance had captured Safid Pass near Dara-e-Sokht in Samangan. A senior Taliban official confirmed the opposition's advance, but said the centre of



George and Laura Bush with military aide Lt-Col Charles Williams at a flag-raising ceremony in Camp David on Sunday. The American flag had been at half-mast since Terror Tuesday.

Zaare was still divided between the warring sides. "We are preparing a counter-attack to liberate the district."

With reports that Osama has gone into hiding, thousands of his Al-Qaeda followers undergoing training in Afghanistan have fanned out deeper into the Taliban-controlled areas. They have abandoned training camps and dispersed in Afghanistan, re-

ported Pakistan's *The Dawn*.

US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld today confirmed that contact had been lost with an unmanned spy plane in Afghanistan. But he said the Government had no reason to believe that it had been shot down, as the Taliban claimed yesterday.

In a breather for Saddam Hussein, Arab League chief Amr Mussa has again warned that US

strikes against any Arab state in retaliation for the terrorist strikes would be "unacceptable".

Britain has asked the last king of Afghanistan, Mohammed Zahir Shah, living in exile at London, to return to his homeland to lead a Western-backed interim administration if the Taliban regime is ousted.

Related reports on pages 7, 9, 10, 11

S Rajagopalan & Udayan Nambodiri
*Washington/New Delhi,
September 23*

THE UNITED STATES has lifted economic and military sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan in 1998.

New Delhi said the move was welcome, but "expected". Pakistan's ambassador to the US Maleeha Lodhi was all praises calling it "a very important development".

President George W Bush proclaimed the waiver on Saturday night in the midst of American preparations for a military offensive against Afghanistan.

"I hereby determine and certify to the Congress that the application to India and Pakistan of the sanctions and prohibitions contained in...the Arms Export Control Act would not be in the national security interests of the United States," Bush said in a memorandum released by the White House.

Details on the scope of the order are awaited, but analysts believe that it clears the decks for revival of full-scale economic and military cooperation. Pakistan, however, is still to shake off the additional restrictions enforced after Gen Musharraf's coup.

The swift move, after months of vacillation, is largely being viewed as a bid to reward Pakistan for its logistical support to the operation against Osama bin Laden. India has been included to avoid resentment and accusations of bias. Removal of the sanctions against India had been on the cards for long, prompting External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh to say that the move was "welcome news but expected" and that New Delhi

was awaiting the formal announcement.

Singh later spoke to US assistant secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz on the phone.

The Clinton Administration had waived a number of restrictions on India, but the ones related to military sales, transfer of dual-use technology and economic assistance through international financial institutions were kept firmly in place.

"We take it that these have now been removed as a result of the presidential waiver," Indian Ambassador Lalit Mansingh told the *Hindustan Times*.

The restrictions on the export of dual-use technology predate the sanctions imposed against the two countries in 1998 after their tit-for-tat nuclear tests. It was not immediately clear if these had been lifted as well.

A spokesperson of the MEA said that New Delhi had always maintained that punitive measures clamped in the wake of the

Pokhran tests were counter-productive. The decision to lift them would lead to a "mutually beneficial relationship".

Food exports were removed from the sanctions umbrella on July 9, 1998, by a Senate vote. But later that year, a fresh two-year ban was imposed on all US licenced exports to the Indian Space Research Organisation as its deal with the Russian space agency, Glavkosmos, was found inconsistent with clauses in the Missile Technology Control Regime.

Amit Mitra, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said that the biggest beneficiaries of the lifting of sanctions would be the 39 large cutting-edge technology companies and research laboratories.

The Bush Administration has in recent months repeatedly held that the sanctions have outlived their usefulness. Yet, Pakistan did not figure in the scheme of things till the developments in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US.

Unlike India, Pakistan stands to gain a great deal once the sanctions are lifted. Besides reviving the US's economic and military cooperation, Islamabad is counting on Washington's support for a massive IMF assistance. It also looks forward to the rescheduling of \$ 600 million in debt through the Paris club of creditors.

India, too, should be able to overcome the roadblocks in multilateral financial forums and is expected to get a wide range of development assistance. After the 1998 sanctions by the US, Japan and Canada, it has had to rest content with assistance of a humanitarian nature.

HOW PAKISTAN BENEFITS

- World Bank-IMF development loans
- Exits the list of terror states
- Doors open to full-fledged military ties
- World Bank-IMF development loans
- Resumes and loans for US investment
- Eligible for military spare parts and officer exchanges
- Many sanctions on India were waived earlier by Bill Clinton
- Waivers are temporary, but the sanctions remain
- Pakistan still under Section 508 sanctions imposed after coup
- Pro-Pakistan member and tech sanctions remain on both countries

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7/21/8

We are just monitoring Indo-Pak. situation: U.S.

WSTW
Srinivas
Kumar

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 21. The Bush administration has once again said it encourages and welcomes meetings and a dialogue between India and Pakistan on Kashmir; and has argued that the United States' role is no more than monitoring that situation and encouraging both sides to continue talks.

The State Department deputy spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, asked whether Washington would play a "role" in the next meeting to be held in Pakistan, said, "... we've said so many times, we encourage and welcome meetings and dialogue between India and Pakistan on the subject of Kashmir.

It's important for them to pursue a dialogue so that there can be a peaceful resolution of those issues. And so we of course continue to monitor that situation

and encourage both sides to continue talking and finding ways out of that... there's not a military solution to that problem."

On the issue of sanctions, he said India and Pakistan were two separate situations, and in the latter's case there were punitive measures related to the military coup of 1999 "... and the legal requirements in terms of their return to democracy before those sanctions can be raised".

The State Department says it is quite unaware of any scheduled meetings the President, Mr. George W. Bush, may have at the United Nations in the third week of September. Mr. Bush is scheduled to address the world body on September 24 and is expected to meet a small group of world leaders on an individual basis.

A meeting between Mr. Bush and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, is being sched-

uled; but the same cannot be said between the U.S. President and his Pakistani counterpart, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Islamabad, according to reports here, has requested a meeting between Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf either in New York or in Washington. Officially, the administration has not said much on this.

There is a feeling in some circles that the State Department and the National Security Council will recommend to the President that he meet Gen. Musharraf in New York; but whether this actually materialises is to be seen. In spite of the forward movement in U.S.-India ties, the Republican administration has said it is not in the interests of the U.S. or of South Asia to ignore Pakistan. However, is unlikely that Gen. Musharraf will be officially invited to Washington D.C. during that period.

THE HINDU

South Asia sanctions policy under review, says U.S.

WJ@
Sridhar Krishna

By: Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14. The U.S. State Department has reiterated that the Bush administration "is currently reviewing policy on South Asia sanctions" and examining the broader use of sanctions as a diplomatic tool. "... that review continues to be ongoing. It is a complex area," the deputy spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, said on Monday. And on the issue of sanctions, he said, "no decisions have been taken on the changes that would involve consultations with the Congress. That is a very important aspect of all this."

In the course of the general discussion of the punitive measures against India and Pakistan, the Administration points out that what are in place are the post-1998 Glenn Amendment sanctions and the earlier nuclear-related sanctions under the Pressler and the Symington Amendments. What is also being said in terms

of the "South Asia sanctions" is that a separate review policy is currently under way for both India and Pakistan.

Over the weekend, *The Washington Post* ran a front page story which said that the Bush Administration is seeking an early lifting of sanctions against India and is working with the Congress for the same.

The Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, had made the point that progress in easing the sanctions against India would be made "at a speed visible to the naked eye" when lawmakers return from their recess in the first week of September.

The State Department has said that this meant "movement". "Lifting of nuclear-related sanctions would have less impact on Pakistan as it is also subject to sanctions under the Foreign Assistance Act because of the October 1999 coup," Mr. Reeker said, adding that these sanctions can only be lifted on a Presidential certification that a democratical-

ly-elected Government has taken office in Pakistan.

The Republican Administration has made it known that it is for pursuing the framework of relations put in place by the Clinton Administration.

Washington knows that the sanctions are an irritant in bilateral relations; and at the same time has made it known that it is not for side-stepping Capitol Hill in the process.

While key Republicans like the Senator, Mr. Sam Brownback, have been urging for the lifting of sanctions fully, Democratic Senators like Mr. Joseph Biden are asking different questions. It is not that the lawmakers like Mr. Biden are against expanding the canvas of relationship with India; rather they want to know if the overall objectives of American non-proliferation agenda have been met fully.

It remains to be seen if the Republican Administration would go beyond the Glenn Amend-

ment sanctions which would then give a larger meaning to future bilateral relations.

A compelling argument has been made that for the U.S.' relations with India to change in breadth and width, Washington will also have to pay very close and immediate attention to the existing pre-1998 measures.

Pak. caution

PTI reports from Islamabad:

Pakistan has cautioned the U.S. that any favour towards India alone in lifting of sanctions, would affect the efforts to improve relations between Islamabad and Washington.

Addressing the Pakistan-American Congress last week in Washington, the Pakistan Ambassador to the U.S., Ms. Maleeha Lodhi, said while New Delhi faced only one layer of sanctions, Islamabad has been subjected to five layers of sanctions, the Pakistan official APP news agency reported.

THE HINDU

15 AUG 2001

US to allow duty-free imports from India

HF 12
9/8

New Delhi, August 8

THE UNITED States on Wednesday said it would allow \$540 million worth of duty-free imports from India as part of a move to improve bilateral ties.

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick made the announcement on the first day of a three-day visit to the capital. He said Washington would grant \$540 million of 'preferential trade access' for several Indian products, which he did not name.

Washington has made the offer under its Generalized System of Preferences, a program that grants duty-free treatment to specific products imported from more than 140 developing countries.

"We hope the reduction in tariffs under those provisions will be able to go into effect by the end of the month," Zoellick said after a meeting with India's Commerce and Industry Minister Murasoli Maran.

Zoellick said the United States was India's largest trade partner and that the offer was a tangible step to improve relations.

Zoellick is the first Cabinet-level member of the Bush administration to visit India. His visit is part of a series of top aides who will arrive in New Delhi over the next months before a possible visit by Bush early next year. Zoellick was to meet on Thursday with India's finance and foreign ministers.

He said he hoped to encourage New Delhi to agree to a new round of trade talks within the 142-member World Trade Organisation. "My purpose was to listen and learn, and be able to understand India's concerns so that we can bring India and the other 141 nations on board," he said. "That's what I hope to do and this is just a step in that process."

When asked whether he was optimistic that India would give its commitment, he replied,

"India will make its own decision."

India's government and business community have been hesitant about a new round of talks.

Maran, the first official Zoellick met on Wednesday, said last week that India won't commit to a new round of trade talks until the WTO corrects imbalances in the way existing agreements work.

Most developing countries, including India, have serious differences with the United States and the European Union over patents, farm subsidies and trade related investment rules.

The developing countries want the WTO to sort out these differences before bringing new issues to the negotiating table.

"Maran emphasized the importance of the implementation agenda. We talked about that as well as prospects of Doha meeting," Zoellick said.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 AUG 2001

3 AUG 2001

MONDAY, AUGUST 6, 2001

THE U.S. STAKE IN SOUTH ASIA

MS. CHRISTINA ROCCA, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, has scrupulously followed the normative rules of a "familiarisation tour" during her visit to this region. No dramatic agreements have been announced in New Delhi or Islamabad. However, it is quite obvious that her intensive talks in these two South Asian capitals were designed to enable the Bush administration to chart out a road map for its ties with this sensitive zone of diverse countries with a shared history. It is no less significant that the U.S. wants to reorganise its relationship with each of the South Asian states as a "stand-alone" dynamic with such vibrance as might be possible. An approach of this kind is eminently reasonable, with the irrelevance of the old Cold-War logic of zero-sum games being just one of the contributory factors. The huge political difference between democratic India and Gen. Pervez Musharraf's Pakistan is another element which Ms. Rocca appears to have suitably reckoned with during her measured swing through this region. While in New Delhi, she sought to push forward the frontiers of an economic engagement, too, with India. In Islamabad, in contrast, a prime concern of her deliberations was about a fundamentally ideological characteristic of Pakistan's internal politics — a time frame for the restoration of democracy as a state attribute. Quite apart from the evident qualitative variations of this magnitude, the U.S. can only engage India and Pakistan, albeit separately, from the same standpoint on a range of issues. Washington's definitive interests as a global superpower define its perspectives over such matters as nuclear non-proliferation, international terrorism as also peace and stability in South Asia.

The ranking U.S. official has done well to underline the Bush administration's stated preference for a non-intrusive approach in regard to the latest efforts by India and Pakistan towards crafting a dialogue process. Supporting the idea of a sustained re-engagement between India and

Pakistan, Ms. Rocca said the U.S. would want the two countries themselves to determine how best to resolve the Kashmir issue by suitably taking into account the wishes of the Kashmiri people. By articulating this rational position at length, she may have succeeded in putting New Delhi at ease over the nuances of Washington's intentions in the context of a recent offer by the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, to "lend" America's "good offices". It is also a measure of the growing maturity in India's interactions with the U.S. that New Delhi, too, did not make an issue of Gen. Powell's non-specific offer, which coincided with Ms. Rocca's arrival in South Asia nearly two weeks ago.

Recognising the imperative of freeing the U.S.-India equation from the psychological moorings of the sanctions that Washington imposed in the context of New Delhi's nuclear weaponisation tests of 1998, Ms. Rocca held out the promise of a brighter outlook even while indicating that the separate category of a pre-1998 embargo might still be viewed independently. Ms. Rocca's agenda in Pakistan included the parallel issue of deeply-layered sanctions, with the Musharraf administration pleading for parity with India for the removal of the economic and military injunctions that could be traced directly to Islamabad's nuclear detonations of 1998. However, Ms. Rocca dropped no hint about how the U.S. will apply the new thumb-rule of strict bilateralism in this connection. Given also Pakistan's American baggage of other sanctions — the Pressler embargo as also the punitive deal over Gen. Musharraf's suppression of internal democracy — the U.S. is trying to put Islamabad to a new criticality test of good faith. Islamabad's actions in respect of Afghanistan and international counter-terrorism seem to figure prominently in a long check list. The U.S. has not also lowered vigil over Pakistan in regard to proliferation issues.

THE HINDU

US concern at Pak support to militants

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Aug 1. - The visiting US assistant secretary of state, Ms Christina Rocca, has told the Pakistani leadership that lifting of sanctions against it is linked to restoration of democracy and voiced Washington's concern over Islamabad's support to militant groups in Kashmir and Afghanistan.

Ms Rocca, who met President Pervez Musharraf yesterday, told him that the Bush administration wanted to follow an independent policy towards India and Pakistan, but made it clear that this was not aimed at isolating Islamabad.

According to diplomatic sources, she said India figured high in the US priority list in the post cold war scenario and it does not want to see any country in the subcontinent through



Christina Rocca at an Afghan refugee camp in Peshawar on Wednesday. - AP/PTI

the prism of another country. Ms Rocca also informed the foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, and other senior officials about the US decision to link lifting of sanctions to restoration of democracy.

She also asked Pakistan to use its influence on the Taliban militia in Afghanistan to hand over Mr Osama bin Laden to stand trial in USA.

THE STATESMAN

- 2 AUG 2001

Hanoi welcomes Powell, a foe three decades ago

HANOI, JULY 25. Vietnam — Almost 40 years after he first slogged through the jungles of South Vietnam as an American adviser, Gen. Colin L. Powell arrived as the U.S. Secretary of State on Tuesday in the capital of his former enemy, bringing with him memories of American friends who perished in a war he has caustically called "a conspiracy of illusion" and the Vietnamese colleagues who suffered mightily after he left.

Unlike many who served in Vietnam and then went on to highly visible public careers, the Secretary of State has never before revisited the land that framed the cautious military thinking that he exercised as the top U.S. commander at the end of the cold war.

It was a lesson that Gen. Powell learned from the elders of the people swirling around the streets on mopeds, cycles and beaten-up vans below his hotel room on Tuesday night that ensured the U.S. committed plenty of troops in the Persian Gulf war and that Washington refrained from military action in Bosnia during his watch as chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

But leaving strategy behind, Gen. Powell was greeted at the airport by a Vietnamese Government official dressed in a long scarlet ao dai and guided to a limousine that took him to the city past once-familiar sights of water buffalo and conical-hatted peasants tending verdant green rice fields. Instead of riding in an army convoy on a rutted track as Americans had done during the war, the Secretary of State travelled in a motorcade led by a blue-and-white sedan labelled "Canh Sat Giao Thong," meaning traffic police.

Gen. Powell's official business here is to attend the Association of South East Asian Nations meeting of Foreign Ministers and to introduce himself for the first time as the new face of the Bush administration who will be tending to Asian affairs. But the visit is obviously laden with more than that.



The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell (right), meets a young Vietnamese man on a street in Hanoi on Wednesday, during an impromptu walkabout. — AFP

"There are no ghosts within me that need exorcism," Gen. Powell said before leaving for the trip. "But at the same time I'm sure the years will peel back three and four decades and the emotions will be powerful and strong." In his autobiography, written with the freedom of being out of office, Gen. Powell was scathing about the conduct of the war and in particular about the "so-called whiz kids" around the then Secretary of Defence, Mr. Robert McNamara. If the commanders had taken the time to read the books written by the French who experienced earlier defeats in Vietnam, they would not have committed so many young troops to such a losing proposition, he reasoned.

He was particularly outraged that the "poorer, less educated, less privileged" were

sent to the war as "economic cannon fodder" while rich kids escaped their duty. The policies, he seethed, represented "an anti-democratic disgrace." Now that he is in office, he speaks more politely. "When I went over and arrived in Saigon on Christmas Day of 1962, I was convinced that we were doing the right thing," Gen. Powell said from the podium of the State Department briefing room where copious justifications of the war were read decades ago.

"But it became clear that we were not going to prevail and maybe different political and military judgments should have been made at that point." The Secretary of State said he lost some of his best friends from college, fraternity members and "a lot of people I was close to" in the fields of Vietnam. — *New York Times*

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U.S. for strategic ties with India

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 21. The Bush administration has made it known that the United States desires a strategic relationship with India in both economic and security terms.

"The relationship obviously is one that the President thinks is very important for the U.S. It reflects a number of shifts; the shifts in Europe and Asia at the end of the Cold War as well as some of the changes that have been taking place in India over the course of the decade," the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), Mr. Robert Zoellick, said.

Mr. Zoellick, who has a Cabinet rank in the Bush administration, was speaking to journalists at the end of a luncheon meeting with the Commerce Minister, Mr. Murasoli Maran.

He will be the first Cabinet official of the Bush administration to visit India in the first week of August for talks with Government leaders and the private sector.

The USTR, who said his visit to India was more to "listen and observe", discussed with Mr. Maran on Friday a number of subjects that included not only India's thinking on the new round of trade talks but also issues of bilat-

eral importance as it pertained to trade and investments.

Stressing that his session with Mr. Maran was a luncheon meeting and had nothing to do with negotiations, Mr. Zoellick said the talks were wide-ranging, especially on India's political economy. Mr. Maran is said to have explained to Mr. Zoellick where India stood on the issue of multilateral trade talks.

"I stressed my interest in learning more about developments in India so I could better appreciate the Indian perspective and interests. I stated my belief that India's economic reforms and growth would make it an increasingly important economy in the global system", the USTR later said in a release.

Asked if he would take up the Enron issue in India, Mr. Zoellick said that as he was on that corporation's advisory council, he would not participate in any discussion.

He said there were striking aspects to the economic reforms and liberalisation process that began in India a decade ago: the process was put in motion by the Congress but the reforms had continued. And during this period it has also been clear that India would chart its own course.

THE HINDU

U.S. wants strategic ties with India, says Rocca

By Chidanand Rajghatta
The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration's key person who will oversee its South Asia policy is leaving for the region this weekend amid an all-round recognition of India's primacy and the need to complete the emerging strategic relationship between Washington and New Delhi.

Christina Rocca, a former CIA official who took over as the assistant secretary for South Asian affairs seven weeks ago, signalled the broad contours of the Bush policy by repeatedly stressing the "strategic ties" the U.S. wants to have with India as a continuation of the "natural ties" between the two large democracies.

"We see India emerging as a major world player and we want to continue the transformation in our relationship (that began under the previous administration)," Ms Rocca told South Asian journalists in the first formal briefing ahead of her trip to the region starting on Saturday. Ms Rocca will first go to India, and then to Nepal and Pakistan during her 18-day trip.

Ms Rocca said she would be bringing back inputs from her trip for a policy review on the region that is currently underway in the administration. But judging by her remarks and those of others senior officials in the administration over the past several weeks, it is clear that the U.S. has decided to de-hyphenate what was for a long time a linked relationship that put India and Pakistan in the same equation.

"We want to have bilateral relationships that are truly bilateral. We do not intend to view relations with one country through the prism of a third country," she said.

The new assistant secretary, visibly chary

about saying anything different or controversial ahead of her visit, refused to get into any judgment about the recent Indo-Pak summit outside reiterating that the U.S. did not consider it a failure. "It should be seen as a first step in a difficult and lengthy process... you cannot solve differences of 50 years over three days," she said.

She also listed several positive outcomes in terms of future meetings and engagements between the two countries that suggested a "sense of momentum" and "cause for optimism." Ms Rocca was so taciturn that when asked specifically if the U.S. endorsed the Pakistani line of "talks only about Kashmir" (considering many countries in the world engaged over a range of issues despite territorial claims), she said, "We are not taking a position on the agenda."

Her circumspection extended to being even-handed about the issue of cross-border terrorism, about which she said the U.S. was talking to all countries of the region. However, the nature of the dialogue she said the U.S. was having with India (through a joint working group on counter-terrorism mechanism) would suggest a vastly different kind of engagement.

Ms Rocca also refuted the suggestion that the Bush administration had suddenly gone soft on the demand for the return of democracy in Pakistan. She would be taking up the issue of return to democracy during her visit. There are certain sanctions against Pakistan that will not be lifted unless the U.S. president can certify the return to democracy.

Removal of sanctions against India was also on track, although it was moving rather slowly because all officials of the new administration were not in place to speed up the inter-agency process.

'U.S.-India military ties on upward trend'

By Nirupama Subramanian

COLOMBO, JULY 10. The United States will improve its military relations with India, but will not let that affect its ties with Pakistan, a senior U.S. Navy official said today.

Admiral Dennis C Blair, commander in chief of the U.S. Forces in the Pacific and the Indian Ocean, who is on a two-day visit to Sri Lanka, told journalists that military ties between the U.S. and India were on an "upward trend".

"But our military relations with India will not take place at the expense of Pakistan. We intend to maintain relations with both India and Pakistan," Admiral Blair said.

Observing that both countries had nuclear weapons and a history of hostilities over Kashmir, he said it was in the interests of the U.S. to engage with both the countries.

Admiral Blair said he believed both India and the U.S. had common goals with regard to nuclear weapons, and that developing a

high nuclear threshold, low proliferation and a responsible attitude towards such weapons would be served better by co-operation rather than criticism of India's nuclear policies. There were a number of other areas where Indian and U.S. military interests ran parallel, from peacekeeping to combating international terrorism and narcotics, and countering piracy in the high seas of the region.

Admiral Blair met the President, Ms. Chandrika Kumaratunga, who is the commander of the armed forces and also the Defence Minister. He also held meetings with the military top brass, the Foreign Minister and the Deputy Minister of Defence, and visited naval and air force installations in the capital.

The U.S. sends trainers to Sri Lanka every year for its elite Special Forces. Sri Lankan military officers attend undergraduate, staff and command courses in the U.S. Sri Lanka also buys some military hardware from the U.S.

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27

U.S. reviewing ties with China, Japan

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA JULY 6. With an eye on the long-term interests in East Asia, the United States is taking steps to come to grips with differences and tensions with two key nations — Japan and China.

The airman, Sgt. Timothy Woodland, suspected of raping a Japanese woman in Okinawa, was handed over to the Japanese authorities after days of heated debate and concerns in Tokyo that bilateral relations would be harmed if Washington did not move in this direction. "We understand the very serious nature of this incident...and we are in the most serious negotiations with the Japanese government about this," said the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

The Japanese Defence Minister, Gen. Nakatani, minced no words when he apparently warned the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Defence, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, of the potential damage to the strategic alliance if the airman was not handed over promptly. Tension has been running high in Okinawa for the last several days and only added more fuel to the movement that calls for shutting down the facilities of the U.S.

This is not the first time the American service personnel in Japan have been accused of misbehaviour. But rape or accusations in that direction are taken seriously by local authorities. And officials and politicians on both sides have been quite careful of the sensitivities and domestic compulsions. To the Bush administration, it was not merely a question of seeing the Japanese demands on Sgt. Woodland in a legal context or in the framework of the agreement of 1995.

There was a political and strategic dimension as well and against the backdrop of vigorously pursuing the traditional relationship with China which the Republicans have said was abandoned during the eight years of the Clinton administration. The allegations of rape against Sgt.

Woodland did come up for discussion at the recent Camp David summit between the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush and the Japanese Prime Minister, Mr. Junichiro Koizumi.

If the administration is keen to see that the Okinawa incident did not slip out of control, there are definite indications that Washington is also trying to ensure that relations with China are back in a manageable framework. In a telephone call to his counterpart in Beijing, Mr. Jiang Zemin, Mr. Bush is said to have emphasised that bilateral relations "are vital and that there should be a good dialogue between the two countries".

Mr. Bush called Mr. Jiang to talk about several things, one of which being the trial of two American scholars of Chinese origin and cases pending against another two. Mr. Bush is visiting China in the Fall in connection with the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum and the meeting of the leaders. He will be in Shanghai and later make an official visit to Beijing.

One argument has been that China has timed the trials of the scholars in such a fashion that it will be over by the time Mr. Bush makes his Asian trip. The impression is that the Chinese will expel the accused after the trial is over.

As a way of putting relations back on track after the April 1 incident in the South China Sea involving an American navy surveillance plane, Gen. Powell will be visiting China this month for talks with Chinese officials and leaders. Meanwhile, the Head of the Policy Planning at the State Department, Mr. Richard Haass, has just returned from China after a quiet and unannounced visit.

In the last two weeks, positive signs in U.S.-China relations have emerged. These included the return of the EP-3E, though in crates, and China voting along with the U.S. at the United Nations on sanctions against Iraq.

U.S. task force acknowledges India's regional role

By Amit Baruah

110.12
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SINGAPORE, JULY 6. An independent task force sponsored by the influential U.S.-based Council on Foreign Relations has recommended to the Bush Administration that it recognise India's increasing regional role in South-East Asia. The report entitled "The United States and South-East Asia: A Policy Agenda for the New Administration", said Washington and New Delhi should coordinate their approaches towards this region.

"India's political, military, and economic influence in South-East Asia is likely to grow in the coming decades. As Washington develops its own new relationship with New Delhi, it should include coordinated approaches vis-a-vis South-East Asia as part of its agenda," the report, which calls for greater American engagement with the region, said. "Indeed, as the world's largest democracy and a state that has been transforming itself from a command to a free enterprise economy, India can work closely with the United States to bolster common interests, objectives and policies in the region," it said.

In another section, the report noted that India's affinities with South-East Asia were primarily cultural, via scattered Hindu communities throughout the region, most notably on Bali. "During the 1990s, as the Indian economy began to take off, more money from South-East Asia found its way to the sub-continent... in the past few years India has raised its political, economic and military profile in the region, in terms of interaction with ASEAN and its operations in the eastern Indian Ocean.

"India's interaction is still relatively modest, though it conducted exercises with Vietnam during the summer of 2000. Several key ASEAN nations, notably Singapore and Indonesia, favour greater Indian involvement in South-East Asian cooperative security efforts, such as the ARF (ASEAN Regional Forum), in order to balance Chinese political influence. India's economic interaction with ASEAN States is also increasing," the report said.

While noting that it was not part of the ASEAN+3 (China, South Korea and Japan) group, the task force said India was assuming an increasingly important profile in South-East Asia, as it pursues a 'Look East' policy. "The January 2000 (actually 2001) visit of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to Vietnam and Indonesia, the first by an Indian leader since 1994, was aimed at strengthening India's position vis-a-vis ASEAN, in which it is a full dialogue partner. "ASEAN States appear to welcome Indian interest, which has developed alongside warming Indo-U.S. relations. Yet ASEAN States seek to avoid entanglement in any Sino-Indian rivalry, which is especially sharp in Burma... similar diplomatic acuity will be required from Washington, as well," the task force said.

On China, the task force recommended that the U.S. pay close attention to the behaviour of the Chinese in South-East Asia, while avoiding unnecessary confrontation and seize opportunities for cooperation with Beijing. "Washington should be careful not to contribute to any Chinese paranoia about containment by a hostile U.S.-led alliance. Being a competitor does not preclude active cooperation. In fact, while naturally remaining cautious about China's motives, its actions and intentions in Vietnam and Thailand being notable examples, the States of South-East Asia do view China as being interested principally in domestic development. China is also aware of and attentive to its impact within the region on which it borders.

Cohen sees mediatory role for U.S. on Kashmir

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WASHINGTON, MAY 29. The United States should remain an impartial observer during the ensuing dialogue between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir issue, and assume the role of a mediator at an appropriate time, Mr. Stephen Cohen, a leading expert on South Asian affairs has said.

In a policy paper titled 'Moving forward in South Asia,' drafted before the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, extended an invitation to the Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, for talks, he said the U.S. should encourage both sides to discuss alternative solutions to the problem.

The U.S. should work with its allies and friends to prepare for a time when both the countries were amenable to outside help. "At that point, and with Indian and Pakistani concurrence, discussions over an agreement that could include monitoring and verification mechanisms could commence (with outside mediation) with the goal that all parties would adhere to a final agreement."

Describing the resistance to American involvement in the Kashmir issue as 'short sighted,' Mr. Cohen, a senior fellow in foreign policy studies at the Brookings Institution, said the dispute was neither ready for a resolution nor for a major American mediation.

But, if the current situation persisted, it could lead to another Indo-Pakistan war. In such an eventuality, Washington must be prepared to intervene since the issue carried the danger of a nuclear confrontation.

The U.S. should urge India to start a meaningful dialogue with Kashmiri leaders of all political persuasions and offer assistance to New Delhi to combat counter-terrorism. It should also warn Islamabad that continued support to non-Kashmiri and terrorist groups would qualify it for inclusion in the list of States that supported terrorism.

Emphasising that the crisis in Kashmir was unlikely to be resolved quickly, Mr. Cohen said the U.S. should notch up its level of engagement in the disputes, expand its support for informal diplomacy and explore the pros and cons of specific proposals with the concerned parties.

Given the complex relationship between the U.S. and India and Pakistan, the Bush administration's go-slow policy towards the two countries was understandable.

Though, a comprehensive policy review was currently underway in the State Department on South Asia, immediate attention needs to be given to strengthening and restoring relations with them.

Washington and New Delhi had

divergent but not necessarily dissimilar views on questions of global arms control, development of national and theatre missile defenses, humanitarian intervention, India's quest for a permanent U.N Security Council seat and trade policies.

They were issues that cannot be resolved easily, but the administration should take advantage of the newly-created framework for dialogue with New Delhi.

On rebuilding ties with Pakistan, he said while America should pursue an 'India first policy' in South Asia but that should not become 'an India only' policy. In other words, India should not be given a veto over American relations with Islamabad. — UNI

4 convicted for U.S. embassy bombings

NEW YORK, MAY 29. A jury today convicted four followers of Osama Bin Laden, in a plot to murder U.S. citizens around the world, including the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa.

A jury of seven women and five men found Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-Owhali(24), Khalfan Khamis Mohamed(27), Wadih el-Hage(40), and Mohamed Sadeek Odeh(36), guilty of conspiring to murder U.S. citizens and Embassies and military facilities. — Reuters

US pressured India for summit: Pervez

BY IHTASHAM UL HAQUE
Dawn

28/6
8A-1
Islamabad, June 27: Pakistan President and Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday said he would take "an initiative" to resolve the Kashmir issue during his forthcoming meeting with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Gen. Musharraf told senior editors that he would not be "reactive" and that he would take the initiative to discuss all major issues with India, including the core issue of Kashmir, according to informed sources.

The Pakistan President agreed with an editor that Indians were facing US pressure to negotiate and resolve issues with Pakistan. He also agreed that Mr Vajpayee could not have invited him for talks had there been no pressure from the international community.

The CEO said he sensed a realisation in the Indian leadership to resolve the Kashmir issue. Asked what made him opti-

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US pressured India: Pervez

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-mistic, even if cautiously so, Gen. Musharraf said he sensed a realisation on the other side also for a resolution of the Kashmir issue, which was not the case on previous occasions when the two countries had met and discussed bilateral relations. "I would forcefully take up the issue of Kashmir with Prime Minister Vajpayee," he was quoted as having stated. Because of the growing realisation in the India leadership, Gen. Musharraf added, he was optimistic about a certain breakthrough.

The CEO, sources said, pointed out that the struggle by the jihadi groups had also contributed to the Indian realisation that New Delhi should settle issues with Islamabad. He reiterated that he would leave for the summit next month with "an open mind and an open agenda" focusing on Kashmir but willing to discuss all other issues.

He said he was aware of serious impediments, but was optimistic that the Indian leadership would help set in motion a process that would facilitate a resolution of the Kashmir issue. The Pakistan President said he was willing to discuss the relationship in its entirety, and expected a positive response from India. He, however, cautioned against placing too much hope on the visit as the complexities of the problem and the mistrust of half a century could not be removed overnight.

Gen. Musharraf assured the Pakistani editors that he was mindful of their views on the Pakistan-India relationship as well as on the Kashmir issue. Also, he said, he was aware of the sentiments of the nation and even more importantly of the Kashmiris struggling for freedom. He said there should be no doubt that on the Kashmir issue the Pakistani nation stood united. The president of the All-Pakistan Newspapers Society, Mr Hameed Haroon, and president of the Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors, Mujibur Rehman Shamji, thanked the Pakistan President for his invitation to editors to exchange views before his visit to India. Like all other institutions, they said, the press had steadfastly projected the aspirations of the people on the Kashmir issue, and they would continue to do so in the future.

THE HINDI PAGE

THE ABLAN PAGE

U.S. slams Musharraf's power-grabbing move

WASHINGTON: General Pervez Musharraf's move to anoint himself President of Pakistan has evoked a mixed response from nations across the globe. While an infuriated U.S. and Australia on Wednesday condemned his move, long-time Pakistan ally China dismissed it as an internal affair. A shocked Washington stated that only hours before the general took over as President, Pakistan's foreign minister Abdul Sattar had told secretary of state Colin Powell in Washington that democracy would soon be restored in Pakistan. During his meeting with Gen Powell, Mr Sattar had said the military government was planning on holding elections next year.

U.S. officials were angered by the fact that Mr Sattar had not tipped them off about the changes that were imminent in Pakistan. "We will have to see how to reconcile to today's events after all the pledges we got yesterday on democracy and elections next year," a state department official said.

When confronted about these developments at a press conference here, an embarrassed Mr Sattar dismissed suggestions that he had deceived U.S. officials and claimed that he had not been aware of Gen Musharraf's plans. Although Pakistani officials have said the move would not set back election hopes, Gen Musharraf's opponents have criticised his decision as a bid to solidify his power base.

State department spokesman Richard Boucher said Washington was "very concerned and very

disappointed that Pakistan had taken another turn from democracy". He added that Gen Musharraf's action severely undermined Pakistan's democratic order.

Meanwhile, trying to seek political advantage vis-a-vis India on Tuesday, Mr Sattar assured the U.S. that Islamabad would not carry out any nuclear tests unless New Delhi did so first. However, the U.S. made it clear to Mr Sattar that sanctions against Pakistan

would be eased only after democracy was fully restored.

In Islamabad, political parties and the media on Thursday condemned Gen Musharraf, saying his action was a naked demonstration of military might and the last nail in the coffin of democracy.

Some parties have threatened to review their decision to take part in the all-party meeting called by Gen Musharraf on June 30 to discuss his summit meeting with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. "All political parties should think again about whether Gen Musharraf deserves to be given a mandate to talk to the Indian Prime Minister," vice-president of the Pakistan Muslim League (Nawaz) Syed Zafar Ali Shah said, adding, "It is the last nail in the coffin of democracy, and may pave the way for a prolonged military dictatorship."

The Tehrik-e-Insaf party of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan said the timing of Gen Musharraf's decision to take over as President was influenced by his decision to go to New Delhi. (Agencies)



MUM'S THE WORD
Supporters of General Pervez Musharraf offer each other sweets after his appointment as President of Pakistan on Wednesday.

'I'm not yet the President, Mr Vajpayee'

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: The external affairs ministry has confirmed India was indeed aware of Gen Pervez Musharraf's move to take charge as President. When Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee spoke to Gen Musharraf on Wednesday morning, he greeted the Pakistan chief executive with "Good Morning, Mr President". This was hours before Gen Musharraf was formally sworn in.

The general's response was, "I am not yet the President."

USA rules out conspiracy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, June 5. — The USA today said it had no reason to believe that the Nepal massacre was politically motivated, but hoped the Nepalese judicial and constitutional processes would find the truth and take action against the guilty. "Once the shock and the mourning have run their course, Nepalese judicial and constitutional processes should determine the responsibility and take appropriate action," the state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said in Washington.

India's condolence: The President and the Prime Minister, in separate messages, expressed India's solidarity with Nepal in this hour of grief, SNS adds from Delhi.

"As you assume the leadership the Kingdom of Nepal in these sad circumstances, I would like to express the solidarity of India, as a close friend of Nepal, in your efforts to put behind you this national tragedy and



A pedestrian walks past burning tyres lit by protesters just before curfew was clamped on Kathmandu on Tuesday. Protesters are demanding to know the names of the real killers of the royal family members on Friday. — AP/PTI

lead the people of Nepal in their continuing endeavours for stable socio-economic development," Mr KR Narayanan said in a message to King Gyanendra.

Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee message to Nepali Prime Minister

reads: "We would like you to know that in this hour of national sorrow India and its people are with the Kingdom of Nepal and its citizens..."

In another message to Queen Mother Ratna Rajya Laxmi Devi Shah, Mr Vajpayee ex-

pressed sorrow over the death of King King Birendra and his family.

Mr LK Advani today said India was constantly watching the situation in Nepal and was willing to offer any kind of support to the kingdom.

THE HINDU

30 JUN 2001

THE TIMES OF INDIA

U.S. upset over Pak-North Korea N-missile nexus

1/6 Chidanand Rajghatta
The Times of India News Service

WASHINGTON: The United States has publicly expressed apprehensions about the long-suspected nexus between Pakistan's nuclear establishment and North Korea's ballistic missiles programme.

Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage, who is expected to drive U.S. policy on South Asia, expressed the American disquiet over Pakistan's proliferation activities in a rather cryptic interview with the London *Financial Times* on Friday.

Mr Armitage said the U.S. had "concerns of proliferation with Pakistan" and they centred around "people who were employed by the nuclear agency and have retired."

Although Mr Armitage did not mention names or elaborate on the evidence the US has for the assertion, the finger of suspicion points to the so-called father of Pakistan's nuclear bomb and the country's Dr Strangelove, Abdul Qadeer Khan, who retired recently.

The Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) chairman Ashfaq Ahmad Khan also retired recently. Some proliferation experts here feel both the Khans were compulsorily retired by the military government under pressure from the U.S. administration. But judging by Mr Armitage's remarks, Washington's concerns have not been fully addressed.

U.S. officials say there have been direct contacts between North Korean officials and "senior figures in the Pakistani nuclear establishment." There is also evidence that North Korean officials had recently visited a nuclear weapons site in Pakistan, *FT* reported.

The implication is that Pakistan may be funnelling nuclear weapons technology to North Korea in return for North Korea's ballistic missile technology. This would give Pakistani missiles a longer range to strike into India, while North Korea, which is described by the U.S. as a rogue country, would get the technology to make the bomb.

Coming on the heels of Armitage's remarks in New Delhi last month in which he came close to calling Pakistan a rogue country, the latest revelations indicate that Washington's top concerns

vis-a-vis Islamabad are proliferation and terrorism.

In a recent meeting with members of the U.S. Congress, Mr Armitage suggested that the U.S. needed to take a closer look at Pakistan-inspired cross border terrorism in Kashmir, beyond its activities relating to Afghanistan.

Mr Armitage's comments came even as the South Asia bureau got its new pointperson with the formal swearing in on Thursday of Christina Rocca as the new Assistant Secretary of State for the region.

While Ms Rocca will head the South Asia bureau, Mr Armitage, who succeeded Strobe Talbott in the Deputy Secretary's post, is widely expected to drive U.S. policy in the region.

Such a development might have caused trepidation in Indian circles some years back given that Mr Armitage was closely involved in U.S. covert operations in Afghanistan with Pakistan's co-operation throughout the 1980s. But that connection also gives him an insight into Pakistan's programmes involving its nuclear establishment and intelligence agencies.

Evidently, the developments are not to U.S. liking at all. More recently, there has also been considerable disquiet in Washington over the reported move by Pakistan to have China develop a major deep-sea commercial port of Gwadar in western Pakistan. The deal was signed during the visit of the Chinese leader Zhu Rongji to Pakistan last week. The new port, located close to the Gulf of Oman, could give China a foothold in one of the world's busiest shipping lanes in the Persian Gulf. This and other issues on the Pakistan front come amid a crucial policy review of the region by the new administration.

The review, which is currently under way, is widely expected to endorse a strategic shift according due weight to India commensurate with its institutional strength, economic resources and potential, and civil society among other things.

At the same time, U.S. officials are also saying they will not abandon Pakistan and will do everything to stop it from sliding into an anarchy-ridden rogue state. All this is expected to figure during a day-long visit to Washington on June 19 by Pakistan's foreign minister Abdul Sattar.

Delhi can't think non-proliferation doesn't bother US

By ASHISH KUMAR SEN

San Francisco, May 18: The confirmation of Christina B. Rocca as the next assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs will set the stage for President George W. Bush to unveil his South Asia policy, which is currently under review.

Besides being a crucial appointment, Ms Rocca's confirmation, for which hearings were held at the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on Thursday, will serve as an indicator of the seriousness with which the new administration views South Asia. The nomination is expected to be confirmed within the next couple of weeks.

Mr Bush has already nominated Mr Robert Blackwill, Ms Wendy Chamberlain and Ms Mary Ann Peters to serve as Washington's ambassadors in New Delhi, Islamabad and Dhaka. Though these nominations have yet to be cleared by the Senate committee, the alacrity with which they were announced was in sharp contrast to the Clinton administration, which took almost a year to name its ambassador to New Delhi and the point person in charge of South Asian affairs at the state department.

Mr Bush's interest in South Asia has prompted some optimism in the ranks of analysts who feel the Clinton administration had only taken a belated interest in the subcontinent.

Mr William C. Triplett II, a chief Republican counsel to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a Washington analyst who has spent the past 30 years focused on China, and has, of late, been paying a keen interest in India, reflected some of this optimism.

"The issue is: will the US pay the right kind of attention to India? I think the answer is yes. This administration is serious about South Asia. We must take advan-

tage of this," Mr Triplett said.

On the other hand, some analysts say Washington's policies may not be too different from those pursued in the past.

Saying he didn't expect much difference in President Bush's handling of South Asia, the chairman of the Central Asia Caucus Institute at the Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies of the Johns Hopkins University, Dr S. Frederick Starr, however added that he thought Washington under Mr Bush would be more even-handed. "To be a friend of the US you won't have to be an enemy of someone else," Dr Starr explained.

Describing relations between India and the US as "a coiled spring full of latent energy," Prof. James Clad, a research professor of Southeast Asian Studies at Georgetown University, said last year's bilateral visits by President Bill Clinton and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee were one of the last post-Cold War clearing-house visits. The rekindling of ties between Washington and New Delhi was "not a big shift but a recovery of lost ground," Prof. Clad said.

While the Bush administration has turned down the heat New Delhi was subjected to by the Clinton administration on the issue of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, non-proliferation will continue to be a key concern for Washington.

Attempts to lift post-Pokhran sanctions on India have already met with stiff opposition from the non-proliferation lobby in Washington for which a removal of sanctions would be construed as the defeat of an ideology it has painstakingly pursued, rather than an acknowledgement of India's nuclear status.

Mr Phillips Talbot, president emeritus of the Asia Society, admitted that the nuclear issue would continue to be an irritation

because of what he called "a matter of difference between Indian nationalist pride and US congressional skepticism."

Non-proliferation will also be one of the keys to a better relation between India and the US.

At Ms Rocca's confirmation hearing on Thursday, Senators Paul Wellstone and Joseph Biden (both Democrats) spoke about the nuclear issue although Senator Sam Brownback, a Republican, cautioned against pursuing non-proliferation as a single-most important item on the US-India agenda.

A Capitol Hill analyst, who closely follows issues related to the Indian subcontinent, warned: "New Delhi shouldn't make the miscalculation that the Bush administration isn't worried about the non-proliferation issue. It is an important issue between our two

nations and there are folks out here who have made a career out of being non-proliferation Ayatollahs. And they aren't folding their tents and retreating. The challenge for both our political establishments is find ways to reconcile the conflicting perspectives on the issue."

Admitting that the first and most important thing that needed to be done to strengthen ties was to find ways of "isolating our disagreement on non-proliferation" Mr Ashley Tellis, a senior policy analyst at the Virginia-based RAND Corporation, added, "The high-level dialogue must be continued at a sustained pace, and mil-to-mil cooperation must be increased."

While an increased understanding of India's security problems is more than likely in Washington over the next few months, Mr William Triplett said many of

ROAD TO WASHINGTON-3

Rocca: Removal of sanctions first step to revitalise relations

By OUR AMERICAS CORRESPONDENT

San Francisco, May 18: US assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs-designate Christina B. Rocca on Thursday strongly advocated the removal of the remaining sanctions against India and said this must be the first step in any move to revitalise ties with India.

Answering a question at her confirmation hearing in the Senate Foreign Relations Committee in Washington, D.C. on Thursday, Ms Rocca said she would "speak loudly" for the removal of post-Pokhran sanctions against India, as they no longer served their purpose. Widely acknowledged as the driving force behind Kansas Republican Senator Sam Brownback's attempts to lift sanctions against both India and Pakistan, Ms Rocca has served as a legislative assistant and foreign policy advisor to the Senator.

While declining to get into specifics, as the Bush administration is in the process of conducting an overall review of Washington's policy in South Asia and its policy on the sanctions regime, Ms Rocca, however, made her personal opinion crystal clear saying she was against any continuance of the sanctions regime, which she indicated had become outdated.

these problems were traceable to Beijing. "As a practical example, Pakistan wouldn't have nuclear capability if it wasn't for the Chinese," he said, adding a cautious footnote: "Besides Pakistan, the Indians must not ignore developments in Burma, East Africa and Bangladesh."

So what role will Pakistan play in the US' relations with India?

Prof. Sumit Ganguly, a professor of Asian studies and government at the University of Texas, Austin, said the only problem in Washington came from the people who insisted on seeing India and Pakistan in the same picture instead of recognising that the trajectories of both countries are very different.

"Some people in Washington need to come to the inexorable conclusion that US policy in India and Pakistan has to be sorted out. They need to decouple India and Pakistan otherwise there is going to be no significant progress with India," Prof. Ganguly said.

However, Mr Phillips Talbot suggested India was partly to blame for Washington's attitude in the subcontinent. "As long as India makes Pakistan a number one issue, it's going to be difficult for the US not to pay attention to Pakistan," Mr Talbot pointed out.

Analysts interviewed hinted that there could be a change in Washington's past attitude of looking at its relationship with India and Pakistan as a hyphenated one.

Mr Joydeep Mukherji, director (India) at the sovereign credit ratings department of Standard and Poor's, said while it was difficult to separate the two countries from outside perception, under the Clinton administration and now under President Bush there was a "more subtle" understanding of South Asia in Washington.

"They understand that there is no way you can completely isolate one while dealing with the other. Besides, it's not in the US' interest

to pick sides," Mr Mukherji said.

But Washington will not be in any hurry to leave Pakistan out in the cold, or brand it a rogue terrorist nation, as some in India had hoped. Prof. James Clad said one of Washington's interests was to see the emergence of a prosperous Pakistan, and this was in India's interests as well. "The US cannot and should not accept Indian approaches inviting American acquiescence in New Delhi's frequently over-bearing agenda towards its sub-continental neighbours," Prof. Clad said, warning India must not assume Washington would jettison Pakistan as an acceptable price for deeper links with New Delhi.

Experts agreed that however hard Washington might try to deal on separate planes with India and Pakistan, it would eventually return to taking the other neighbour into consideration while dealing with either one.

Prof. Ganguly said there were some in Washington who wanted to maintain ties with Islamabad only because they saw Pakistan as a way of preventing India from becoming "too big for its boots" in South Asia. "This is a fundamentally flawed strategy," he said. Besides non-proliferation issues, New Delhi and Washington will need to work on developing common ground in the area of economic cooperation.

"At the end of the day we also have to look towards a relationship that has more than government sector wind in the sails," explained Dr Marshall Bouton, executive vice-president at the Washington-based Asia Society. "We need some private sector balance in the ship." Mr Joydeep Mukherji said the experience of other nations had shown that ties with the US require both economic and as well as political components.

■ **TOMORROW:** The contours of a future relationship

THE ASIAN AGE

19 MAY 2001

Sanctions against India, Pakistan must be lifted: Rocca

S Rajagopalan
Washington, May 18

IN THE strongest signal from Washington to date, President Bush's nominee to run South Asia affairs has publicly stated that the US's post-Pokhran II sanctions against both India and Pakistan must go as they have "outlived their usefulness".

Christina Rocca, handpicked by Bush for the key State Department slot, has warned Indian cockles on another count. She has more or less certified

India as a global power, while categorising Pakistan as a regional power. "We welcome India's new global status," she said.

Awaiting the Senate's nod to succeed Karl Inderfurth as the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Rocca was most emphatic on the sanctions issue during her testimony on Thursday before a sub-panel of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

"My personal perception is that the sanctions have to go. They have outlived their usefulness and we need to

move forward and find a new way of approaching our security concerns," she said without elaborating on the "new framework" she had in mind.

The Bush nominee was decidedly upbeat on the US's relations with India. She referred to the process of transformation in this relationship and said: "Now is the time to complete that transformation." Significantly, she noted that India and the US can be "partners" in economic, political and military areas.

Rocca was avowedly speaking for herself, but sources pointed out that

senior nominees would seldom speak so categorically without getting clearance from the top. As such, whatever Rocca said is reckoned to be the Bush administration's considered view on the subject.

The sanctions issue was a subject of discussion at the Indo-US Foreign Office talks that took place simultaneously during the day. Speaking to newsmen later, Foreign Secretary Chokila Iyer expressed the hope that the US would complete its review soon and lift the sanctions.

Imposed after the May 1998 tests, the sanctions have stuck out like a sore thumb in the otherwise balmy Indo-US relations. Though some of the curbs have been lifted through waivers, the major ones are still in place, thus preventing India from acquiring US's nuclear energy equipment, rocket motor technology, supercomputers and military hardware.

While hailing the US's new equation with India, Rocca was certainly not being dismissive of Pakistan. In fact, she spoke of the US's "long-standing

friendship" with Pakistan and the need to "sustain and enhance it". Yet, some of the undercurrents in the changed regional equation were apparent. She obliquely faulted Islamabad for its lack of cooperation in dealing with Afghanistan.

Chairing the testimony was Rocca's former boss, Senator Sam Brownback, a staunch advocate of lifting the sanctions. Rocca, as foreign policy adviser, has played a considerable part in fashioning the Senator's position on South Asia.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

US sees role for itself on Kashmir

W/W
Sunder
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S Rajagopalan

Washington, May 16

H/T

THE BUSH administration, which has more or less steered clear so far of the Kashmir issue, believes now that the US has a "helpful role" to play on the vexed issue.

Significantly, it has attributed this seemingly altered perception to the "new relationship" it has now with India.

In a testimony before a Senate sub-committee yesterday, Secretary of State Colin Powell said, "I think we do have a helpful role to play because of the new relationship we have with India. But it is a very difficult issue. We plan to build on the relationship."

Responding to a question from Senator Tim Johnson, Powell said the steady progress in Indo-US ties had given Washington "a new opportunity" to encourage India and Pakistan to find "a peaceful and just solution" to the Kashmir problem.

Washington, he said, would impress upon New Delhi and Islamabad the seriousness with which it viewed the subcontinental situation. He mentioned the nuclear tests by both countries and commented: "We really have to make sure that this nuclear genie does not get any further out of the bottle than it already has."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

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