

Osama's shadow, from Kandahar to New York

RITU SARIN examines the common thread running through the hijacking of IC-814 and the WTC carnage

FOR the Indian Government and its agencies, the horror of the WTC bombing has been occasion to relive the trauma of the 1999 Christmas-eve hijack of IC-814 and the manner in which it exposed chinks in its crisis management machinery. It led, eventually, to the humiliating release of three hardcore Kashmiri militants, one of whom, Maulana Masood Azhar, is currently at large in Pakistan, organising 'jihad' for the 'liberation' of Kashmir.

That two more of those released in exchange for the safety of passengers are said to have been actively in touch with Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda after being set free, has only added to India's discomfiture over the deal it struck to end the 173-hour hijack drama.

Post WTC, Indian agencies are beginning to discern similarities between the men and methods employed in the hijacking of IC-814 and the September 11 attacks. The Taliban regime was the common stage for both over which the same shadow loomed: Osama bin Laden.

After being hijacked from Kathmandu and being routed through Amritsar, Islamabad and Dubai, IC-814 was finally parked at Kandahar airport and the Taliban entered the picture. It was soon to become clear that the Taliban were acting not as honest brokers between the Government of India and the hijackers but on behalf of the hijackers. After four days of harrowing negotiations, the Taliban actually tricked New Delhi. They allowed the five hijackers, and of course Maulana

Masood Azhar who had been pulled out of jail and flown to Kandahar in the company of foreign minister Jaswant Singh, safe passage to freedom.

Negotiators recall how till the fag end of their deliberations, they were pleading that the hijackers be detained, but their pleas fell on deaf ears. As it turned out, the hijackers proceeded to Pakistan to resume their subversive activities, most of them aimed at India.

In June 2000, the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) filed chargesheets against the hijackers and their accomplices who had been arrested in Mumbai. Red-corner notices were also issued with the help of Interpol and Pakistan was asked, through diplomatic channels, to extradite them to India. Says R N Savani, CBI's Joint Director, "We have very good documentary and corroborative evidence in the case and it is the CBI's aim to apprehend the hijackers who we believe are in Pakistan. The CBI is making an all-out effort to bring them to justice."

WHILE the scope and extent of damage in the two cases are beyond comparison, investigators point to common strains between the two plots mounted by the terrorists. It is evident the planning and execution in both cases took long months; the hijackers did painstaking and meticulous groundwork, procuring false passports, driving licenses and other documents to perfect their false identities.

For the Indian Government, the paper trail proved invaluable. Even before the hostages had been released in

Kandahar, the Mumbai police's prize catch, Abdul Latif, had confessed to how the five hijackers had gone about arranging false identification papers. Hours after the breakthrough, Jaswant Singh flashed photographs of the hijackers at a news conference in New Delhi.

If the four pilots of the doomed United Airlines and American Airlines flights had undergone extensive training in flying, negotiators and crew members of IC-814 were in agreement that at least the main hijacker, Ibrahim Athar, had a fairly good knowledge of flying procedures. He was familiar with the instrumentation in the cockpit and the basics of flight engineering.

This was a new breed of hijackers the crew and security agencies were encountering. As Veeranna Arvalli, the Commissioner of Security of the Bureau of Civil Aviation Security (BCAS) puts it, "There were similarities in the two incidents which have brought us face to face with skyjackers who are now technically quite sound. We have to ensure better security and plug the loopholes which have come to light."

Following the New York bombings, a crucial phase of intelligence sharing appears to have been initiated with India passing on details of activities of the ISI as well as the location of militant training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan to the FBI. This, officials handling the hijack probe recall, is also reciprocal action since the US had pushed hard through diplomatic channels to end the Kandahar deadlock and according to some reports, even helped in tracking down Abdul Latif in Mumbai.

Mumbai Police, of course, claim that Latif's cell phone was already on the monitoring list and he was constantly calling Abdul Rauf, Masood Azhar's Karachi-based brother. Hours after IC-814 was commandeered by Athar and company and the names of possible hijackers had been picked from the flight manifest, Jaswant Singh is believed to have spoken to Strobe Talbott, the then US Deputy Secretary of State. Talbott is said to have have used his influence with the Government

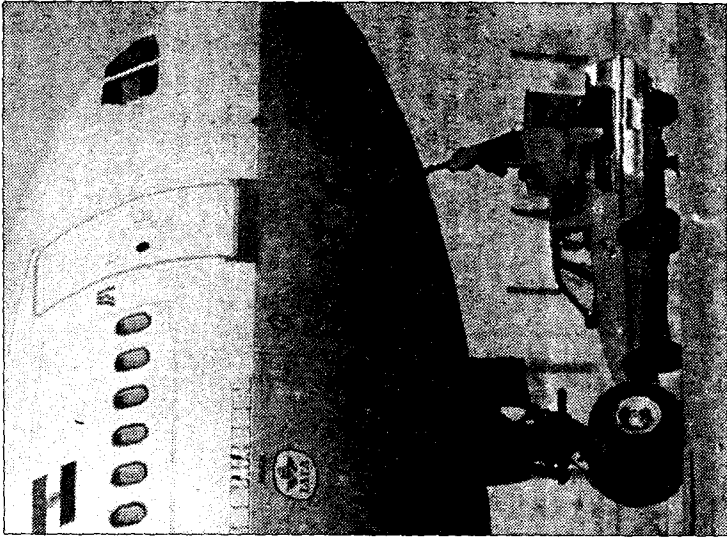
of UAE for allowing the distressed plane to land in their territory. They had, at one point, also discussed the possibility of storming the aircraft while it was in Dubai.

By this time, however, the Taliban had given permission for landing and the hijacked aircraft had flown. According to one account written by IC-814's flight engineer Anil Jaggia, at this stage the US Government handed over details of the topography of Kandahar airport to the Indian team.

IN retrospect, officials maintain, these were indispensable inputs but add that similar cooperation from the Americans was lacking after the hijack drama had ended; there was little help from them in pursuing the terrorists. The subject of Pakistan providing shelter to the hijackers is said to have been raised at more than one meeting of the Indo-US joint missions but it never yielded results. As one official pointed out, "The suspected addresses of the hijackers in Karachi and Bhawalpur are with us and we were hoping that the US, with all its leverage in Pakistan, would help pursue the leads. That hasn't happened so far."

Almost two years after Kandahar, it is the Osama link that evokes the most interest. IC-814's pilot, Captain Devi Sharan and Jaggia have both given accounts of how profusely the hijackers praised the Saudi billionaire during the hijack and how they all appeared to be under his ideological sway.

Osama himself, according to reports, shifted to a secret destination in Afghanistan when the negotiations were in progress. Once the hijackers and freed militants had left Afghan soil, Osama returned. We have a fair idea of what he's been upto since.



UK warns of fresh attacks

FROM DOMINIC EVANS

London, Sept. 28 (Reuters): British government ministers warned that Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the US suicide hijackings, was planning fresh attacks in coming weeks.

Europe minister Peter Hain said on a late-night television programme yesterday that bin Laden was "preparing already for high-impact terrorist attacks in the coming weeks if he's able to".

"There is evidence he is planning high-impact attacks in the world and we have got to make sure he doesn't do it again," Hain told BBC television's Question Time programme.

Hain did not say what the targets might be or what evidence the government had of bin Laden's alleged preparations, but foreign secretary Jack Straw said there was every reason to believe the Saudi-born militant's al Qaida organisation was still functioning around the world and remained a threat. "We would be complacent and irresponsible not to warn of the risks," Straw told BBC radio today. A British newspaper reported that "dozens of terrorists" allied to bin Laden were on the run in Britain alone and could be planning more violence.

The Times quoted intelligence analysts as saying militants could send suicide car or lorry bombs into London's financial centre or against US installations.

The United States and Britain believe al Qaida was responsible for the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon which left up to 7,000 people dead or missing.

Britain has lobbied hard in support of US efforts to build a military and diplomatic coalition against bin Laden and his presumed hosts, Afghanistan's

Taliban rulers.

Straw said there was a pattern of escalation in recent years in the attacks that bin Laden is believed to have sponsored.

"So we have to work on the basis that this organisation is still there. And we have every reason to think it is — around the world — and that there continues to be a risk of them making further attacks," he told BBC radio.

Straw said it was important to stress that the threat persisted because some quarters were now urging talks rather than military action against al Qaida.

"The answer is you can't negotiate with these people. The best historical parallel is those at the top of the Nazi regime. It wasn't possible to negotiate with Hitler," he said. British police believe 11 men suspected of being involved in the hijacking of the planes had passed through Britain before the attacks and may have planned the assault while in Britain.

But a spokesman for Prime Minister Tony Blair said there was "no reason to believe there was a significant British connection to the attacks". He declined to comment on reports that a number of bin Laden allies were still at large in Britain but said there was no evidence of a specific threat on British soil. "We have said consistently there is evidence of an ongoing threat from these organisations worldwide. Equally we have said we have no evidence of a specific threat here," he said.

A 27-year-old man arrested in London in connection with the US attacks was due to appear in court. Police said he was first arrested under British anti-terrorism laws but was now being held under a warrant from the US.

The suspect was one of four people arrested last week, two of whom have been released.

THE TELEGRAPH

29 SEP 2001

Flash of smile at squeeze on Jaish

FROM SEEMA GUHA (S)

New Delhi, Sept. 26: India's mood lifted today with the belated realisation that the Al Rasheed Trust blacklisted by the Bush administration was a front for the Jaish-e-Mohammed, a terrorist outfit active in Kashmir.

Though New Delhi had concealed its disappointment, privately there was a feeling of being let down when the US announced the list of 27 individuals and terrorist groups whose accounts would be frozen. The Harkat-ul Mujahideen was the only Kashmir militant outfit on the list.

Uncomfortable questions were raised in some quarters about the government's rush to support the US when Washington was paying no heed to India's concerns.

Some of these misgivings were

allayed a full 24 hours later when government agencies discovered that the Karachi-based Al Rasheed Trust has close links to the Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The group was floated by Masood Azhar, one of the three militants freed in exchange for the release of passengers on the hijacked Indian Airlines flight on New Year's Day last year.

Indian officials said the Al Rasheed Trust was founded by Hyder M. Habib, owner of the Habib Bank, Pakistan's most successful private bank. The cash-rich trust is headed by Mullah Khail and receives funds from at least 57 Muslim countries.

The trust, which does a lot of charitable work, also uses its funds to support jihadi groups in Kashmir, Afghanistan, Bosnia

and Chechnya, the officials added.

Al Rasheed provides allowances to families of "martyrs" who die fighting infidels. Jihadi prisoners are given legal and financial assistance in India and elsewhere.

The trust finances blood banks and pays for artificial limbs for those crippled while fighting the enemies of Islam.

It funds setting up of madarasas, the launching pads for recruiting militants, and organises religious programmes for the young. Al Rasheed also helps raise volunteers for jihad.

The trust has offices all over the world, four of them in Karachi. The University Road branch, located opposite the PIA Planetarium, controls foreign funds and acts as a liaison between Taliban and Jaish-e-Mohammed

leaders and field commanders.

Another branch of the Al Rasheed Trust in Uzma Centre, opposite Madina Masjid on Tariq Road, is said to be the centre for recruiting Afghan nationals and serves as a meeting point for Jaish-e-Mohammed cadre.

However, officials say the trust also does a lot of good work in Afghanistan — repairing roads, setting up bakeries and supplying food to people in remote mountain villages.

India has asked the US to ban the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, home minister L.K. Advani said today.

"So far we have not received any response from the US on this," Advani said, adding that while Britain had banned the two outfits, Washington was yet to follow suit.

THE TELEGRAPH

27 SEP 2001

US

past burns in Kabul

FROM TAHIR IKRAM AND MICHAEL CONLON

Islamabad and Washington, Sept. 26 (Reuters): Afghanistan's Taliban gave the US a taste of the ferocious hostility it faces if it tries to unseat them when thousands of their supporters stormed and torched the deserted US embassy in Kabul today.

Cocking a snook at another ultimatum to hand over Osama bin Laden, Taliban spiritual leader Mullah Mohammad Omar discounted possibilities of a US attack, ordering fleeing Afghans to return.

On the borders of Afghanistan, the United Nations and others in the aid community focused on the plight of civilians and prepared for an exodus of up to 1.5 million refugees.

Britain, America's staunchest ally, told the Taliban the coalition would treat them as its enemy if they did not hand over bin Laden.

Witnesses in Kabul said tens of thousands of Afghans turned out to denounce any attack over the Taliban's failure to hand over bin Laden. They sacked and set fire to the US embassy, which Washington abandoned in 1989 but whose diplomatic status has been respected by all who have controlled Kabul since.

"Death to Bush," the protesters, mostly government officials and students, shouted. "We will support Islam and bin Laden."

They burnt an effigy of President Bush, ripped apart a US flag and hurled stones at the gates and offices of the embassy before setting it alight. (Picture on Page 4)

Within hours of the assault, Mullah Omar said: "There is less possibility of an American attack" since the US has no evidence of bin Laden's involvement.

The Taliban said they had not lost bin Laden but he had dropped out of sight. "I think he might have received the message requesting him to leave. What happens now we will have to see," Mullah Abdul Zaeef, Taliban am-

THE NEW TERROR

What kind of biological or chemical weapons need we worry about?

Yes. Former terrorists say militants are trained in chemical and biological warfare in Afghan camps.

What are they more likely to use?

Chemical weapons. Biological agents are more difficult to make and handle.

Can terrorists handle these weapons?

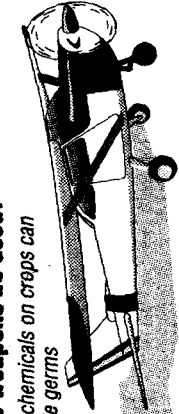
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How can these weapons be used?

Planes that spray chemicals on crops can be used to sprinkle germs.



Chemical weapons can be attached to conventional warheads.

How deadly can such attacks be?

Sarin blocks transmission of nerve impulses. A tiny drop can kill within minutes after contact with skin or inhalation of vapour.

Anthrax leads to respiratory infection and fever. Kills in 90 per cent of the cases.

Cyanide attacks respiratory system, causes heart failure.

Plague causes fever, delirium and respiratory failure.

Botulism leads to respiratory paralysis.

What protection is available? Does it work?

Gas masks are in demand but they are of little use against nerve agents. In US, people are stocking Cipro, a medicine to treat anthrax.



Cases of germ and chemical attacks



1 A member of the Rajwasha cult spread the salmonella bacteria in four Oregon restaurants in September 1984. About 750 fell ill.

2 On March 20, 1985, Japanese terror group Aum Shinrikyo killed 12 and injured over 5,000 in the Tokyo subway using sarin.

Which countries possess biological and chemical weapons?

In 1988, the US Office of Technology Assessment named 17 countries, including Iraq, Iran, Libya, China, Russia and India. But most have since signed disarmament pacts.

Graphic: RAJ

Short of shots

Demand for vaccines against small pox and anthrax — two potential biological weapons — have zoomed in the US, but it may be years before America can inoculate its soldiers or build up a stockpile large enough for the general public.

Capsule rush

Pharmacists in New York have sold greater-than-normal amounts of antibiotics for treating anthrax, a potentially fatal disease. Sales of Bayer's Cipro — a drug the US military took with them as a precaution during the Gulf War — have soared.

Mask mania

In the UK, people are rushing to buy gas masks and protective clothing from army surplus stores. The National Health Service has started buying decontamination units, protective clothing and vaccines as part of its contingency plan. (See Page 4)

Not quite ready

In India, number two on bin Laden's hate list, preparations have yet to begin. A spokesman for AIIMS said the hospital was prepared for war, but not chemical attacks. (See Page 10)

be unless the Taliban change and respond to the ultimatum."

US analysts say the signs — military buildup, coalition formation and weather forecasts — point to strikes on Afghanistan in two weeks. "How long can you sustain a coalition behind our war on terrorism, how long can you sustain American consensus behind this war on terrorism until they see something happen beyond talk?" said Bill Taylor, an international security affairs expert.

But the Pentagon has hinted that a major land attack on Afghanistan may not be in the offing. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld spoke yesterday of an anti-septic war. "There is not going to be a D-Day, as such," he said. "The truth is this is not about revenge. It's not about retaliation. This is about self-defence."

■ See Pages 3-7, 8

Pakistan, the only country recognising the Taliban after Saudi Arabia broke ties yesterday, said it had no plans to open its borders, but did not rule out the idea. "Within Afghanistan, if the situation becomes untenable, or if there is an attack, purely for humanitarian reasons, we will contemplate that," said Abbas Sarfraz, minister for the frontier regions.

Islamabad iterated that no government can be fostered in Afghanistan from outside. "For many years, the UN and the Organisa-

tion of Islamic Conference had been calling for an end to the conflict in Afghanistan... and the formation of a broad-based government. Pakistan has always supported this position," a foreign ministry spokesman said.

Though Pakistan was part of the global coalition against terror, it would never join any hostile action against Afghanistan, he said. British Prime Minister Tony Blair, firing the salvo in what is still a war of words, said yesterday: "Military conflict there will

bassador to Pakistan, said. He ruled out a compromise.

Voices across the Islamic world have urged the US to be cautious, the latest being the UAE. "I call on the US to pause for reflection and give a chance to diplomacy and all legal means," its defence minister said.

"The international community must expect a human catastrophe whose features have already started to emerge in the waves of Afghan refugees flooding into Pakistan."

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'Osama is not the end of the story'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 26. The Bush administration has made it clear that there is absolutely no change in its relations with India; and that the operations against Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda outfit he heads are not the end of the story. After this is over, the U.S. will set its eyes on other terror groups, including those operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

In the aftermath of the attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, as part of the determination to step up the war on terrorism, a number of questions have come up as far as South Asia is concerned. One of them being the implications for Indo-U.S. relations if Pakistan comes closer to the United States. Besides, there is the question of Washington's commitment on fighting other terrorist outfits.

It is understood that many of these issues came up for discussion in the last two days when India's National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, was in town for meetings with senior officials of the Bush administration. Mr. Mishra held talks with his counterpart, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, his deputy, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, and the U.S. Trade Representative, Mr. Robert Zoellick.

There is concern in Indian circles whether winning the war against Osama bin Laden and the Al-Qaeda would be the end of the game. The point being conveyed is that there could be no distinction between the Al-Qaeda and other extremist groups and that any temptation to make a distinction would lead to mistakes and long-term damage.

U.S. officials are aware of such apprehen-

sions; but at the same time they are trying to impress upon New Delhi the compulsions of the administration and Congress which for all practical purposes are not glued to the problems of Jammu and Kashmir at this time. And New Delhi, for its part, appears to be sensitive to the ground realities here.

Mr. Mishra's talks with senior officials and top law-makers in Capitol Hill have generally been described as frank and forthcoming. While not mentioning Pakistan directly, Mr. Mishra is believed to have stressed cross border terrorism and India's wholehearted cooperation in fighting the scourge. "Mishra reiterated India's unconditional offer of assistance to the global coalition against terrorism,"

the State Department's Deputy Spokesman, Mr. Philip Reeker, remarked.

What has to be kept in mind in India is that there are reasons why certain outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir have been omitted in the White House list. It is not because Washington is unaware of the happenings in that part of the world. The executive order of the President targeting 27 entities, organisations and individuals are Osama and Al-Qaeda specific. In this current squeeze on the Al-Qaeda, known terror outfits of West Asia such as Hamas and the Hezbollah have been left out. The immediate focus is on terror outfits with a global reach.

J&K in next phase?

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 26. The British High Commissioner, Mr. Rob Young, hinted today that terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir may be included in the next phase of the global fight against the menace.

"We have to look at a number of phases, the first being to track and bring to justice the perpetrators of the September 11 attacks on the U.S.," he said after meeting the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, here.

Replying to a query on cross-border terrorism afflicting Jammu and Kashmir, the British envoy said: "The next phase will be a much bigger operation and broader exercise to tackle issues of terrorism worldwide." He added the U.S., Britain and other countries were determined that the campaign against terrorism was not allowed to be left by the side.

On his discussions with Mr. Advani, he said a number of aspects came up which were of crucial interest to the two countries. Some related to the current situation, global security scenario and the agreement between the two Prime Ministers, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and Mr. Tony Blair, on close coordination for building an effective international coalition against terrorism.

Mr. Young's meeting with Mr. Advani came two days after a telephonic conversation between Mr. Vajpayee and Mr. Blair.

THE HINDU

27 SEP 2001

27 SEP 2001

Face to face with the world's most wanted man



Millions of words have been written about Osama bin Laden, but almost all of them by people who have never met him. One of the few who has is distinguished Pakistani journalist **Rahimullah Yusufzai**. Here he describes his meetings with the world's most wanted man and tries to explain what makes him tick.

It seemed, was preparing for war. We may never know if the fax came from him. But from my meetings and phone calls in recent years with him, I believe I have glimpsed his state of mind. It is three years ago now that the first call came to my office at The News in Peshawar, summoning me to a camp in southern Afghanistan. The Pakistani border guards would not let us cross, so the Islamic militant group who had organised the meeting smuggled us in. We waited for three days until finally, on May 25, 1998, we met Osama - a soft-spoken man who drank copious amounts of water, because of a kidney problem, as we later discovered.

He had brought me there to announce the launch of his International Islamic Front for Jihad Against the US and Israel -

but the Taliban had not approved the announcement, and were furious. Mullah Omar angrily insisted that there could only be one ruler of Afghanistan - Osama or himself. Osama apologised, and for my next meeting with him, a one-to-one interview on December 23 the same year, he was sure to obtain the approval of his protectors. I had had one communication with him since our first meeting, on the day of US attack in August 1998 in retaliation for the African embassy bombings. The Egyptian Jihad leader Dr Ayman Al-Zawahiri had telephoned me at my office. Osama was sitting next to him, Al-Zawahiri said, and wanted to stress that he was not involved in the bombings, though he was pleased by them. An hour after the US attack, he called back:

they had survived the attack on Osama's camp, Al-Zawahiri said, and were ready for war. The second time I met him, he seemed the complete opposite of the man we have been led to imagine in recent weeks. He was polite, quiet, very civilised, and shy: after I had taken a few photographs, he begged me to stop. I particularly remember the softness of his hands. They spoke of a wealthy background, of never having done much physical work. We talked for four hours, through the night, drinking tea. He carefully denied involvement in the US embassy bombings, but said he felt joy that they had happened, and I took that as an indirect admission. He said it was not his job to organise such attacks: it was his job to create awareness about the injustices done by the US to Muslims, to

provoke and incite Muslims against the US. And he was happy that his message seemed to be getting through. He would certainly say the same now about the attacks of September 11. But though he might want to contact the media, he cannot. That would infuriate the Taliban, and he needs them desperately. At that second meeting, we spoke about what he was fighting for, and what he hated. At first, he told me, he had been opposed to the Americans because of their military presence in Saudi Arabia and because he felt they were too near to Mecca. That was a provocation to the entire Muslim world, he said. But once those early encounters in his homeland had stoked his feelings, he came to concentrate more on America's involvement in the Middle East. He

declared a jihad against the US and Israel jointly, he said, because he believed Israel was killing and punishing Palestinians with American money and American arms. There was, however, one significant element missing from his list of grievances: he did not say anything about the idea of America - its rights, its freedoms, its prosperity. It was in American foreign policy that he saw the greatest threat to Islam. Indeed, he criticised the West for supporting dictators and authoritarian regimes in Islamic countries simply because it suited their interests. Whatever their origins, Osama's views have caught part of the popular Muslim imagination. In the West, one view is heard - the elitist one which dismisses him as an extremist and a

terrorist. But then there is the common view, held by people who do not read the English Press, and they are fascinated by Osama because he has challenged the US. The name Osama has always been rare in northern Pakistan. Now, though, it is growing fast in popularity among parents choosing names for their children. In Pakistani cities, firms are named after him, too: Osama Medical Stores; Osama Property Services. But that support may meet its match in US military strength. The Taliban face losing their country because of their support for one person. And that will place pressure on the central political relationship in Afghanistan: that between Osama and the Taliban's religious leader, Mullah Omar.

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The Guardian

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES
27 SEP 2001

U.S., NATO ALLIES MEET / NO EVIDENCE OF OSAMA LINK OFFERED

'Prepare for long assault'

BRUSSELS, SEPT. 26. The United States told its NATO allies on Wednesday to prepare for a long, co-ordinated assault on terrorism but did not produce evidence linking the Saudi exile Osama bin Laden with the terror attacks on the Pentagon and World Trade Center.

Since the September 11 attacks, Washington has been calling bin Laden a prime suspect. But the Deputy Defence Secretary, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz did not name a specific perpetrator on Wednesday, and much remains unknown about those who orchestrated the attacks, a senior U.S. official said on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Wolfowitz, subbing for the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, told NATO Defence Ministers that military action is only one element in a range of approaches needed to fight terrorism, a NATO official said, briefing reporters. Mr. Wolfowitz emphasised intelligence-gathering, co-operation in logistical support and following financial trails. He said there was an alarming connection between States that harbor international terrorists and the States with active programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction.

Military action might not be imminent, and if the United States does take action, it might be only to gather more information — at least initially, Mr. Wolfowitz said, according to U.S. officials. Breaking the network of support that allows them to operate is key to the fight against terrorist groups, he said. The U.S.

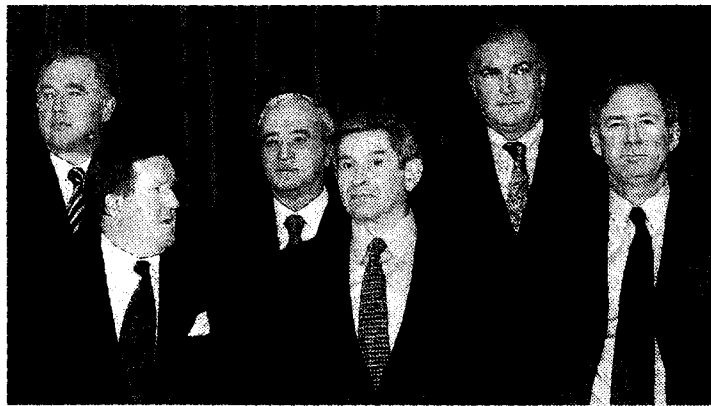
did not present NATO with a timetable of specifics of the campaign.

The NATO Secretary-General, Lord Robertson opened Wednesday's session by recalling "our own horror and the international horror that was felt two weeks ago yesterday in the terrorist attacks that were perpetrated against the United States in which so many American citizens — and indeed, citizens of most of the countries represented around this table — were to die and be injured." He then led the Defence Ministers in a minute of silence.

"The savage acts which we saw in New York and Washington two

weeks ago represent an intolerable assault on not just the American people and those who were injured but humanity and the values we all share."

The 19 NATO partners were to meet in a separate session with the Russian Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov before Mr. Ivanov and Mr. Wolfowitz were to meet. The United States is seeking Russian support for its campaign against terrorism. "I do not rule out a possibility of joint armed actions as the last means to be used in the struggle against this evil," the Russian news agency Itar-Tass quoted Mr. Ivanov as saying in Brussels. — AP



The NATO Secretary-General, Lord Robertson (front left), shares a word with the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz (front centre), during a group photo session after a meeting of NATO Defence Ministers at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Wednesday. Standing (front right) is Britain's Secretary for Defence, Mr. Geoffrey Hoon. Standing rear (from left to right) are Iceland's Permanent Representative to the North Atlantic Council, Mr. Gunnar Palsson, Italy's Defence Minister, Mr. Antonio Martino, and Luxembourg's Defence Minister, Mr. Charles Goerens. — AP

US to target J&K terrorists

HFI 27/9 Gurram

HT Correspondents

Washington/New Delhi, September 26

THE UNITED States war on terrorism will not stop with Osama bin Laden but will also target other terrorists, including Kashmiri militants. Several Bush Administration officials gave this assurance to National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra over the past two days. Mishra, who is in Washington, was told that any nation that harboured terrorists would not be allowed to escape.

State Department spokesman Philip Reeker described Mishra's talks as "positive" and said they had centred on Afghanistan and South Asia.

The US Ambassador to India, Robert Blackwill, also sent reassuring signals to India on Wednesday. Speaking in New Delhi, he said that Indo-US relations "have been transformed in practical terms" by Black Tuesday. He described the recent ter-

rorist blacklist issued by Washington as a "work in progress".

Mishra held meetings with US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and his number two, Paul Wolfowitz. He also met his US counterpart, Condoleezza Rice, and the US Trade Representative, Robert Zoellick. Mishra also spoke to a number of US legislators including Senator Sam Brownback and Congressman Benjamin Gilman.

In their conversations with Mishra, the US officials sought to dispel misgivings in New Delhi about the path Washington's relations with Pakistan was taking following Islamabad's promise to cooperate in the hunt for Osama.

Mishra is believed to have raised India's disappointment over the US's failure to include Kashmir militant groups like the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad in the recently-released US terrorist blacklist. Mishra pointed out the

close links between Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network and the Kashmiri groups, all of whose members were Afghan-trained.

Washington has reportedly acknowledged the links. But the present focus would have to be on Afghanistan. Indian sources say that the US will proceed against the Kashmiri militant groups soon.

These sentiments were echoed by Blackwill in New Delhi. He said the blacklist reflected the US's present focus on Al Qaeda and would "evolve" further. He refuted claims the US was moving away from India towards Pakistan. "The US is determined to treat South Asia in a non-hyphenated way." Bilateral ties, he said, were "no longer connected to events in Pakistan." They were based on a secure foundation of shared "democratic values."

The US ambassador said the "frequency and intensity" with which the US and India were

dealing with each other in diplomacy, military and intelligence issues was now "unrecognisable" from what it had been a fortnight ago. Black Tuesday, he said, had served to bring the countries closer together.

Mishra repeated India's offer of overflight and turnaround facilities at airbases for US warplanes. However, it was unclear whether the US would need such facilities at all. Blackwill said the US had yet to request such facilities, in part because it was still "thinking through" its military strategy.

US officials also told Mishra that the entities list — Indian institutes and companies with links to the country's nuclear and missile programmes — would be drastically pruned now that sanctions had been lifted. This would open the door for US technological cooperation with these entities.

More reports on pages 9, 10 & 11

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 SEP 2001

U.S. will target terrorism globally: Blackwill

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The U.S. says the war against terrorism has just begun, with Osama bin Laden and his Al Qaida network being the primary targets at present. In the long run, the U.S. will work with the international community to "root out terrorism everywhere".

U.S. ambassador Robert on Wednesday spelt out U.S. objectives when mediapersons raised questions about Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir. Though, Mr Blackwill parried specific queries on Kashmir, he was quite categorical that there was an "overwhelming consensus" internationally to fight "the scourge of terrorism" wherever it exists. "At the moment, we are concentrating on those responsible for the September 11 attacks...the key objective is to end the terrorist network in

Afghanistan and stop the export of terrorism from there," said Mr Blackwill. But, he added, this constituted just the first phase. "Dozens and dozens of phases and actions" will follow as the world gets together to fight terrorism. Patterns of collaborative behaviour among nations are emerging to thwart a variety of challenges.

On India's stand that terrorist outfits like the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed should also be included in the U.S. list of outfits whose financial assets are being frozen, Mr Blackwill said only the first lot of outfits have been identified as of now. "There is going to be an evolution of that list without any doubt. Washington will be scrutinising the entities which should be on the list," he said.

Mr Blackwill also tried to allay fears that Pakistan would use the present opportunity to

literally turn the tables on India. "The U.S. is determined to treat South Asia in a non-hyphenated way. We are treating U.S.-India relationship separate from any other relationship," he said.

The "importance of stability in Pakistan is obvious", and Washington feels General Pervez Musharraf "is managing the situation well" in that respect. "We are preoccupied by Gen Musharraf's commitment to deliver what he has promised," said Mr Blackwill. The U.S., of course, would like democracy to return to Pakistan as soon as possible.

The ambassador said the September 11 attacks constituted "a transforming event" in global history. Both India and the U.S. have seized the opportunity to redefine their relations and established "a degree of unprecedented cooperation" to fight terrorism, among other things.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

27 SEP 2001

WHO bio-war alarm

Geneva, Sept. 25 (Reuters): The World Health Organisation (WHO) has urged all countries to strengthen defences against biological weapons after the suicide hijackings that killed thousands of people in the US.

"The key is quick detection of any disease and that needs a good public health system," David Heymann, the WHO's executive director for communicable diseases, said today.

The UN body was preparing a report on responses to the threat posed by biological and chemical weapons for the end of the year but it has rushed out a preliminary version because of public alarm triggered by the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair today sought to play down the warnings.

"There is no evidence of a specific threat to the United Kingdom, as the prime minister has said on several occasions," a spokesman for Blair's Downing Street office said in response to the WHO warning.

The US has grounded all crop-spraying planes out of fear they could be used by guerrilla groups — similar to those which crashed planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — for attacks with chemical or biological weapons.

The WHO, which has posted part of the report on its website, noted that there had so far been few examples of any country re-

sorting to the use of biological weapons, perhaps because of the difficulties involved in handling such arms.

"Even so, the magnitude of possible impacts on civilian populations of their use or threatened use obliges governments both to seek prevention and prepare response plans," it said.

The report spells out possible agents for the transmission of diseases — ranging from anthrax, haemorrhagic viruses and other pathogens to biological toxins and noxious chemicals.

Heymann said that the list had been drawn up on the basis of studies made by biological weapons experts of the most likely agents and diseases to be used.

THE TELEGRAPH

20 SEP 2001

Global campaign against terrorism

By Muchkund Dubey

No attempt should be made to score points over Pakistan as this will convey the wrong impression regarding our intentions in joining the coalition against terrorism.

HD-12
26/9

THE TERRORIST attack of September 11 on the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington and the U.S. response in the form of the launch of a global campaign against terrorism, heralds a new era in international relations. It has created a new divide in the world, on one side are those who are with the U.S. in the campaign and, on the other, those who "are with the terrorists". Every nation has to decide on which side it wants to be. There is an avalanche of nations wanting to be on the U.S. side. The Government of India has taken the right decision in casting its lot on this side of the divide.

The U.S. lost no time in declaring the September 11 attack a war against it. This was followed quickly by the U.S. Congress formally adopting a resolution declaring war and authorising its President to take all necessary steps to win it. This not only reflected the widespread anger and revulsion at the unprecedented breach of U.S. security and the resultant massive loss of life and property and the resolve to prevent its recurrence, but also paved the way for the U.S. to act unilaterally in pursuit of the campaign. In taking the contemplated measures, the U.S. will be well within international law. For, according to Article 51 of the U.N. Charter, it will be exercising its "inherent right of... self defence" in the event of an armed attack against it.

The U.S. has left the world in no doubt that the campaign will be on a global scale and of a long term nature. It is busy mobilising maximum support and forging a global alliance. The U.S. has also defined its objective in the broadest possible terms. To quote the U.S. President: "It will not end until every terrorist group of global reach has been found, stopped and defeated". Further, "our response involves far more than instant retaliation and isolated strikes. Americans should not expect one battle, but a lengthy campaign". Senior American officials have defined the objective as destroying "networks", "removing systems" and "ending states" which support terrorism. This should leave no doubt that the contemplated assault on the Taliban is but the first phase of the

campaign and that terrorist camps in Pakistan from where the proxy war is carried out in Kashmir, and which are indisputably an extension of the global network, cannot escape the sweep of the campaign.

There should also be no doubt regarding the determination of the U.S. Government to act decisively, comprehensively and over the long haul, to stamp out the international networks, systems and movements of terrorism. The U.S. has amply demonstrated its ability of a single-minded pursuit of its cherished value through its 40-year campaign against 'totalitarianism'. Now that it has begun a new campaign, there is no reason to doubt its ability to sustain it. Like any other nation, the U.S. would, of course, deviate and depart from the main path for tactical reasons and in its near-term interests, but the main objective is likely to remain intact.

Given its experiences, the U.S. is unlikely to get bogged down anywhere. Its targets will be specific and achievable in the short run. Each of its operations will be short, swift and effective. The duration of the campaign will be much shorter than that of the Cold War because of the greater clarity of its objective and the likelihood of its eliciting near unanimous support. The U.S. is not going to wait until there is a foolproof definition of terrorism. Is it not enough that you have identified the terrorists?

There is no scope for an overcautious approach towards supporting the campaign launched by the U.S. on the ground that even Russia, China and most European countries have made their support conditional. This is based on a complete misreading of these nations' reactions. After all, there cannot be a more emphatic endorsement of the U.S. declaration of war against terrorism than the invocation of the NATO article which would regard this war as a war against all other member-

states. Russia has agreed to the movement of hundreds of U.S. combat aircraft to the skies and bases in the Central Asian Republics adjoining Afghanistan. So far as China is concerned, there has not been a single instance since the end of the Cold War of the Chinese opposing a U.S. resolution in the Security Council under Chapter VII of the Charter. The fact is that after the end of the Cold War a new alliance of major powers has emerged, drawn from both East and West and including China, which sees its common interest in maintaining the status quo. The emerging coalition against terrorism will, therefore, have the full support of the new alliance.

Some experts and political parties including the Left and the Congress have suggested that India should join the campaign only if it is mounted under the aegis of the United Nations. This is totally unrealistic. The fact is that the campaign is already on and it is led by the U.S. This cannot but be so. The U.N. has long ceased to carry out peace-keeping operations requiring large scale deployment of force or involving the security of a permanent member. It is a different matter that this state of affairs has been brought about by a conscious policy of the major powers to prevent the U.N. from carrying out such operations. The U.S. must be working behind the scenes to have the Security Council adopt an enabling resolution under which the campaign will be carried out. But U.N. is unlikely to insist on authorising each operation under the campaign.

Those who are pleading for initiating international action against terrorism under the framework of the Indian-sponsored International Convention on Terrorism are being even more unrealistic. The Convention will be the lowest common denominator of the positions of 160-odd U.N. members. Even after that, individual countries will enter reservations. Then

some countries, including perhaps the major ones, would take years to ratify it. And when the Convention enters into force, it will be difficult to ensure its implementation. Thus to predicate the launching of a campaign against terrorism on the proposed international Convention on the subject betrays a lack of desire to take any action.

India has no alternative to joining the campaign. As one of the worst sufferers of terrorism and consistent with our adherence to the path of tolerance and non-violence, we cannot afford to be seen on the other side of the divide. Besides, in whatsoever way the campaign unfolds itself it will redound to India's benefit. We do not necessarily have to compete with Pakistan to be a frontline state in order to reap that benefit. To take full advantage of our membership of the emerging global coalition we should support the campaign without "ifs" and "buts". For, credibility and identification with the cause is the crux of the matter. However, we should not be in an indecent hurry to spell out, even before we are asked, all the logistical support we can give.

We should apply extreme caution and restraint in pronouncing ourselves on the subject. Our political leaders should resist the temptation of making pronouncements out of turn. No attempt should be made to score points over Pakistan as this will convey the wrong impression regarding our intention behind joining the coalition. Over the coming weeks and months, the most important role that we can play will be by way of contributing to the definition of the over-all objective of the campaign.

Some of the elements that should be sought to be included in such a definition are: terrorism is a crime against humanity; terrorism is indivisible; there should be a comprehensive and integrated approach to dealing with it; that democratic governments are particularly vulnerable to international terrorism which attacks their very way of life and freedom; terrorism cannot be justified on the ground of jihad or struggle for freedom; no religion sanctions terrorism. Therefore, a campaign against it cannot be a campaign against any religion.

THE HINDU

26 SEP 2001

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2001

DEFINING THE ANTI-TERROR AGENDA

THE U.S. DECISION to freeze the traceable financial assets of 27 designated terrorist leaders or groups has been generally portrayed as the first salvo in a challenging international campaign to roll back and root out the politics of terrorism around the world. However, it is of utmost importance that the anti-terror agenda be adequately and credibly defined for the purposes of a possibly long-term campaign with a globalised reach. Today, a snapshot of the various pockets of terror in the world, inclusive of Jammu and Kashmir, will surely reflect a complex minefield of diversity and not a simple matrix of uniformity. The terrorist networks are often distinguishable, one from the other, by their political goals or operational tactics or indeed both. Yet, it stands to reason that transnational political terrorism of the cognisable kind can be identified in a definitive fashion. From India's standpoint, it is just as well that the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has already zeroed on Jammu and Kashmir while outlining a short list of conspicuous places that might actually attract America's attention during its stated campaign against international terror. Useful in this context will be a nuanced amplification of America's macro-view as spelt out by the National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, that there can be no categorisations of a good terrorist and a bad terrorist. This will be necessary for a truly concerted international drive against terrorism wherever it occurs — Jammu and Kashmir, Northern Ireland, Sri Lanka or West Asia and other places.

The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has made a telling point that the list he unveiled on Monday for a financial squeeze on specific terrorist entities and persons is the equivalent of the scrolls of wanted persons that the law enforcement agencies across the world are so used to preparing. In a sense, Washington's list for freezing funds in the U.S. does not supersede its own current scroll of designated foreign terrorist orga-

nisations. The terrorist outfits so named by the State Department, as distinct from the White House in the present case of an economic squeeze, are periodically reviewed. Of particular interest to India and its neighbourhood is the fact that the Harkatul Mujahideen, a group active in Jammu and Kashmir, figures prominently in the reckoning of both the White House and the State Department. Separately, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam remains on the State Department's list without coming under the scanner for Mr. Bush's new anti-terror economic campaign. Mutations, as distinct from static identities, pose an additional problem in monitoring the terrorist groups. Not surprisingly in the present context, a micro-level concern of the Indian authorities seems to be whether the hard core of the Harkatul Mujahideen has already mutated into some other identity.

On a different but related plane, as the U.S. intensifies its conspicuous efforts to track down Osama bin Laden in or near Afghanistan so as to avenge the recent terrorist offensive against America, India should prudently assess the short-term and long-term possibilities. Pakistan has firmly lined itself behind the U.S., and New Delhi is beginning to indicate some willingness to come to terms with this geopolitical reality. A scenario being sketched out by the U.S. is that its plan to go the whole hog in meeting the threats from Osama bin Laden, the prime suspect in the present case, may also extend to all collateral threats to the entire region itself. While Pakistan's stability is in India's enlightened interest, any such stabilisation of South Asia can be a plus for the international order. Appropriate definitions of international terrorism, covering such specific and larger issues of geography and politics, will doubtless enhance the overall campaign. However, a distinction must be drawn between legitimate activities of political self-expression and their terroristic pursuits.

70-12 26/9

70 SEP 2001

A divided House delays anti-terrorist measures

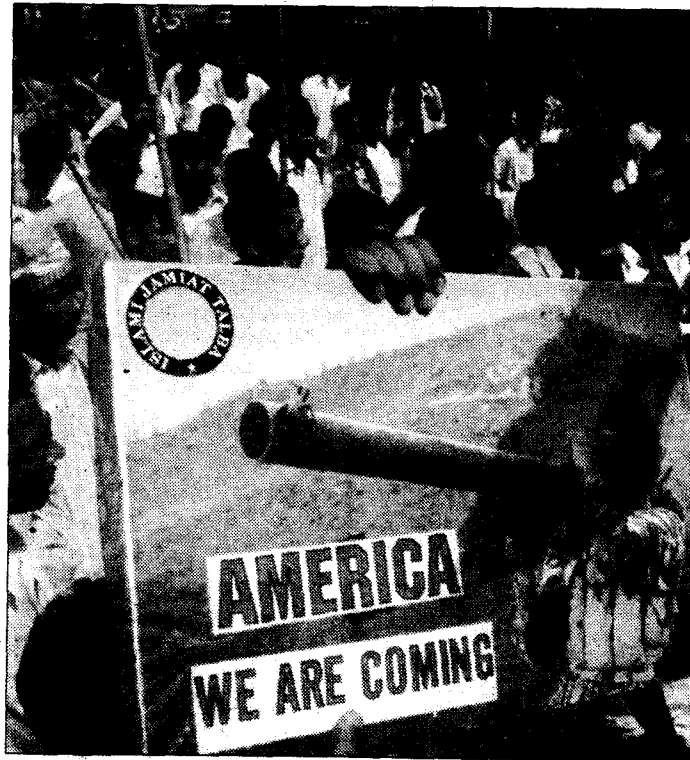
TED BRIDIS, YOCHI J. DREAZEN

WASHINGTON, SEPTEMBER 25

A DIVIDED House Judiciary Committee put the brakes on the Bush administration's efforts to quickly approve anti-terrorism laws, despite warnings from Attorney General John Ashcroft that without them, the nation remains vulnerable to terrorist attacks.

After heated debate, during which some Republicans joined nearly all of the panel's Democrats in sharply criticising the administration's proposal as damaging to civil rights, Chairman James Sensenbrenner (R., Wis.), agreed to delay the vote until at least next week. The vote originally had been scheduled for early Tuesday, but lawmakers from both parties agreed that they needed more time to study the far-reaching plan. The broad package of more than 50 anti-terrorism proposals would give law-enforcement authorities more powers to imprison suspected immigrants and more efficiently eavesdrop on telephone and e-mail communications. After nearly two weeks of cordial relations between Congress and the White House, the tenor of the debate was striking.

Lawmakers from both parties sharply questioned whether some of the proposed changes to US laws — especially changes affecting wiretaps, Government property seizures and the detention of suspected immigrants — infringed upon civil rights. They indicated



A member of Pakistan's Jamaat-e-Islami holds a poster during an anti-American protest in Islamabad on Tuesday. Reuters photo

that they could agree immediately to more than one dozen of the administration's proposals, but cited others as problematic.

After the terrorist attacks, the Bush administration wants quick approval of steps to beef up investigators' ability to ferret out terrorists on US soil and overseas. One of the changes would allow evidence from wiretaps collected by foreign governments in ways that would violate US laws to be used in American

criminal trials. Critics charged that another provision could allow government investigators to search a suspect's home without notifying the target of the search.

"We're deeply troubled," Rep. John Conyers (D., Mich.), told the attorney general. Ashcroft sought to assure skeptical lawmakers that the package had adequate constitutional protections, and denied that the Justice Department was trying to use the attack to push through a wish-list of enhanced powers. The head of the department's criminal division, Michael Chertoff, said none of the proposed changes represents "a revolution in the law."

"We need to unleash every possible tool in the fight against terrorism and to do so promptly, because our awareness indicates that we are vulnerable and that our vulnerability is elevated as long as we don't have the tools we need to have," Ashcroft said. Still, he conceded that there was no way of knowing if the sweeping package of counter-terrorism proposals could have prevented the attacks. — *The Wall Street Journal*

INDIAN EXPRESS

26 SEP 2001

China will choke funds to terrorists

REUTERS & DPA

BUSH FOR NOBEL

BEIJING/MOSCOW, Sept. 25. — China is ready to help the USA choke funds supply to the terrorist group responsible for the 11 September attacks while Russia has ruled out participating in any military strikes against Afghanistan.

"The Chinese government endorses the international community strengthening cooperation in cracking down on terrorist activities, including prevention and curbing of financing terrorist activities," the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman, Mr Zhu Bangzao, said. "We're willing to strengthen cooperation with the USA."

Mr Zhu didn't give any details, but Chinese and US counter-terrorism experts were scheduled to meet in Washington today after Beijing announced to exchange intelligence on terrorists.

Mr Zhu also called for international efforts to lessen the impact of the anti-terrorism campaign on the US and world economies. "The international community should jointly take measures and enhance cooperation to face this challenge."

OSLO, Sept. 25. — Mr George W Bush should be awarded the Nobel Peace Prize if he can respond to the terror attacks without waging a war, 12 Norwegian university professors said today. They have nominated the US President for the award.

"We hope this will serve as a preventive alert, a change of tone from the simplistic talk of revenge and retaliation," said Prof Inge Nilsen, head of studies at Lofoten Islands University. — AFP

The Russian defence minister, Mr Sergei Ivanov, has iterated his country's stand of not participation in military strikes against Afghanistan. "This is out of the question," Itar-Tass quoted him as having said.

President Vladimir Putin, however, said that if necessary, Russia might consider helping "search and rescue operations in Afghanistan." For now, he said, Russia would provide the world community with air corridors for "flights with humanitarian aid to Afghanistan."

THE STRAIGHT

26 SEP 2001

India seeks freeze on assets of more terrorist groups

By Ashwani Talwar
Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The U.S. decision to freeze the assets of the Pakistani terrorist group Harkat-ul-Mujahideen is a welcome sign for India, but Delhi would like to see a few more names of terrorist groups on the list.

By including the Harkat among the organisations whose assets America has frozen, the Bush administration might have allayed some Indian fears about a possible U.S.-Pakistan 'deal'. Delhi could choose to read into it an assurance that the U.S. is not laying off Pakistan-backed groups in return for Islamabad's support for its war against the Taliban.

But the new American executive order does not mention the two groups which are more active than the Harkat in Jammu and Kashmir—the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Hizbul Mujahideen.

About the exclusion of the Lashkar from the list, external

affairs ministry spokeswoman Nirupama Rao said America had made a beginning. "We hope that we will see more of such organisations being targeted," she added.

The Hizbul Mujahideen, the biggest among the militant groups in Kashmir, might be dismissed as not 'global' enough to be taken on in the first phase of America's war against terrorism. The Hizbul is more Kashmiri than the Harkat or the Lashkar. But even this home-grown group is headquartered in the Pakistan-held area of Kashmir.

The Lashkar-e-Toiba is, however, cast in the same pan-Islamic mode as the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. Although more formidable than the Harkat in the Valley, the Lashkar had declared that its interests extended beyond Kashmir. Proving the point, it had struck at the Red Fort in December 2000.

And the Lashkar has Osama bin Laden links. He is supposed to

have provided funds to help build a sprawling complex, 50 km from Lahore, the Markaz Dawa Wal Irshad, a religious organisation of which the Lashkar is the fighting arm. There had been reports of Bin Laden addressing the Markaz annual meetings over the telephone.

But the Lashkar's omission and the Harkat's inclusion in the new U.S. list were almost predictable. While drafting the new list, the administration seems to have been guided by an earlier one—the State Department list of foreign terrorist organisations (FTOs).

That list was last updated in October 1999. Even then, the Lashkar, which Delhi regarded a prime candidate, was ignored.

The main reason for the Harkat's inclusion then—and now—could be that the group directly targeted Americans. It is believed to have been behind the abduction of five Western tourists in Kashmir in 1995, although the

then unknown Al-Faran claimed responsibility. Harkat leader Fazlur Rehman Khalil is also supposed to have links with Bin Laden.

After the U.S. ban on the Harkat, the group then known as Harkat-ul-Ansar renamed itself Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. Gradually, it was overshadowed by the Lashkar-e-Toiba in Kashmir.

Reportedly, Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) began pumping in more support to the Lashkar instead of the Harkat. Many Harkat cadres shifted to the Lashkar. And after his release from prison in exchange for Indian hostages in Kandahar, Harkat ideologue Masood Azhar floated a new organisation, Jaish-e-Mohammed. India would like to see the Jaish also listed.

The U.S. can claim that this is only the first in a series of actions it plans against terrorism. And not all terrorist organisations on which the U.S. keeps tabs in other ways are on this list.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

26 SEP 2001

Saudis pull the plug on Taliban

Don't foist new regime in Kabul, Pakistan warns global community

ISLAMABAD: Afghanistan's ruling Taliban was under siege from the rest of the world and under attack from within as expectations rose on Tuesday that strikes by the United States were imminent.

The puritanical Muslim Taliban was effectively cut off from the rest of the world when Saudi Arabia, the birthplace of Islam, severed diplomatic relations that had been little more than token since 1998.

Announcing the kingdom's decision, a statement carried by the state-run news agency said the Taliban "is continuing to use its land to harbour, arm and encourage those criminals who carry out terrorist attacks that frighten the innocent and spread horror and destruction in the world." These acts "defame Islam and Muslims" in the world, it said.

Pakistan is now the only country to recognise the Taliban, even though Islamabad withdrew its diplomatic staff from Kabul on security grounds on Monday. Earlier, Pakistan foreign ministry spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan said that maintaining diplomatic ties with Kabul was a "geographical compulsion" for Pakistan — the main conduit for international humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan.

He had previously described the Afghan embassy in Islamabad as a vital "window to the world" through which the Taliban's communications with the international community were maintained.

Pakistan also issued a stern warning against attempts to "foist" a new regime in Afghanistan saying it would thrust disaster on the Afghans even as it expressed its continued support to the global community.



Pakistan's foreign minister Abdul Sattar (right) shows the way to EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana (centre) and EU external affairs commissioner Chris Patten prior to talks in Islamabad on Tuesday.

unity in its fight against terrorism. Cautioning the global community against "foisting" a new regime in Afghanistan in their efforts to replace the Taliban regime, Pakistan's foreign minister Abdul Sattar said "the world should understand Afghanistan. The Afghans are fiercely independent people. Never liked anyone to impose a government on them. Those who wanted to plant leaders in the past have paid a heavy price."

The Taliban also had to deal with a small but emboldened opposition that has stepped up attacks from their northern strongholds. They responded with a mass troop mobilisation, seizing U.N. food stocks and appealing to the American people to avert a "vain and bloody war."

Meanwhile, the Al-Qaeda organisation led by Osama bin Laden issued a fiery new statement warning Washington against attacks against him or Afghanistan. "Wherever there are Americans and Jews, they will be targeted," said a statement faxed to news organisations in Pakistan's capital Islamabad in the name of Al-Qaeda's chief military commander, Naseer Ahmed Mujahed. "We can defend ourselves. The holy warriors are fully prepared."

"Wherever there are Muslims, they should prepare for jihad (holy war), and by the grace of god, the victory will be Islam's," the statement added.

Meanwhile, fighting raged across northern Afghanistan on Tuesday as opposition forces, emboldened by the massive buildup of the US might aimed at the ruling Taliban, captured several villages in fierce overnight battles. (Agencies)

UK foreign secy's remark is straw in the wind for Israel

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed Times News Network

LONDON: In an indication of the first significant shift in the Western stance on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Britain has refused to apologise to Israel for remarks made by foreign secretary Jack Straw in an Iranian newspaper article in which he called the Palestinian territories "Palestine", upgraded its chairman Yasser Arafat to "President" and offered a sympathetic assessment of terrorism as bred "by the anger of people in this (West Asia) region over events in Palestine".

Mr Straw's use of the term "Palestine", which implies an element of statehood that Israel does not recognise, has led to a row that is being seen as the first diplomatic skirmish in the American-led, British-



Jack Straw

backed "war on terrorism".

On Tuesday, British officials told this paper, Mr Straw remained firm that he had merely "stated the obvious" about why terrorism was bred. They quoted him to say he was conscious "Israelis had to live with the daily consequences of brutal terrorism but...developing a broader-based international consensus is of huge importance after the attacks in the U.S."

Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said "no offence was meant to Israel" even though, significantly, no apology was offered either.

Analysts say the British government's deliberate and changed vocabulary for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict may signal that Britain may be able to encourage its key ally, the United States, to take a more balanced view of the problem.

THAT NEIGHBOURLY SPIRIT



Militants who said they had received guerrilla training sponsored by Islamic groups in Pakistan are seen in Temargah in Pakistan's north-west province near the border with Afghanistan on Sunday. The small armies of tribesmen have begun to mobilise for a war to defend the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan.

WHO cautions against use of bio-weapons

NEW DELHI: The World Health Organisation has advised countries to prepare themselves for a possible use of biological or chemical agents as weapons even as it upgrades its own procedures for meeting any emergencies.

WHO director-general Gro Harlem Brundtland told a group of health ministers in Washington on Tuesday that countries "must prepare for the possibility that people are deliberately harmed with biological or chemical agents".

Both proper surveillance and a quick coordinated response are vital if any deliberate use of agents such as anthrax or smallpox virus are to be contained before they infect large numbers of people, she said.

indiatimes.com POLL

YESTERDAY'S POLL RESULTS If you were George Bush, what would be top on your priority list?

Striking Afghanistan	37%	Getting evidence against Laden	21%	Tightening security at home	28%	Boosting the economy	14%
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10,295 VOTES IN ALL

The poll reflects the opinions of Net users who chose to participate, and not necessarily of the general public.

TODAY'S QUESTION

How long do you think an attack on Afghanistan would last?

Become a Netizen. Exercise your vote every day in indiatimes Poll.

To post your view, click message board in <http://www.indiatimes.com>

The I in your internet

150 terrorist camps identified in Pak, Pok



A young Afghan girl rides through Phandu village in Pakistan, outside a camp for Afghan refugees about 50 km from the Afghan border on Monday. — AP/PTI

SRINJY CHOWDHURY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. — The Centre has identified about 150 terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. About 5,000 men are trained in these camps.

The camps are run by the Pakistani authorities for terrorists fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, including those of the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba, Jamait-e-Mujahideen, Al Badr, Harkat-ul Mujahideen, the lesser-known Harkat-ul-Jehad Islami, Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Hizbul Mujahideen.

The Centre has details on the location, facilities and number of ultras being trained in each camp. The US government is apparently aware of the camps. Besides the usual training in shooting and explosives, some camps train terrorists to use sophisticated weapons and in high-altitude warfare. Some camps were temporarily vacated after

the World Trade Center bombings.

There are more camps in Pakistan and PoK (many of them just a few km from the Line of Control and the international boundary with India) than in Afghanistan, where officials have identified about 25. About 1,500 militants are trained in the Afghan camps.

■ The biggest training hub is around Muzaffarabad, capital of PoK. There are 23 camps around here, training between 350 and 450 militants. Nine of them are close to Muzaffarabad. North of Muzaffarabad, there are five camps in Jangal Mangal, Mor, Pir Chinasi and Ghori and to the north-west of the PoK capital, another four at Garhi Habibullah, Uttar Shish and Muaskar-e-Aska. There are five camps south of Muzaffarabad in Nashri, Cheneri, Bhoi, Lohar Gali, Domel and Kot Jaimal.

■ There are 16 camps in the area facing Rajouri in J&K. About 300 militants are trained in the camps between five and 25 km west of the

LoC. They are at Kotli, Sensa, Nikial and Khurettia.

■ The area opposite Poonch in J&K is also dotted with small camps. There are about 20 camps, some barely five km from the LoC, including ones at Lanjot, Hazira, Palandri, Rawalkot, Forward Kahuta and Rawalpindi (opposite the Mendhar sector) and Muree. These camps can house between 250 and 300 terrorists.

■ Aliabad is another major terrorist centre. There are nine camps in the area, barely 10 km from the LoC, to train about 100 terrorists. There are four camps at Chakothi and four at Sharian-Reshian opposite the Uri sector for 120 trainees.

■ Opposite the Naushera sector, there are 12 camps in Samani, Bhimbar and Mangla for about 250-300 militants between five and 25 km from the LoC.

■ Close to the LoC opposite Jammu are about seven camps in Chhamb,

Putwal and Sialkot for about 150 terrorists.

■ One of the biggest centres is in Murdike opposite Gurdaspur. It is the headquarters of the LeT and is 30 km west of the Indo-Pak border and close to Lahore. At least 250 LeT and a few Hizbul Mujahideen ultras train here. There are a couple of camps in Sialkot and three at Shakargah in the general area including Zaffarwal. About 100 terrorists are trained in these camps.

■ Opposite Kupwara, near Tangdhar, there are five camps at Manshera for over 100 terrorists and another six close to the LoC in the Naukot-Lipa Valley for another 60-70 of them. At Tithwal, there are six camps for 80 terrorists and in Zura-Athmugam, seven for about 100 men. There are seven more camps at Dudhniyal and two at Kel for 150 terrorists. In the Neelam Valley opposite the Keran sector in Baramulla, there are three camps for about 30-40 terrorists.

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War on terrorism turns into war on Afghanistan

THE JAKARTA POST
ASIA NEWS NETWORK

JAKARTA, Sept. 24. - With the US strike force ready to launch and the American public hungry for revenge, Washington looks set to escalate their war on terrorism into a war on Afghanistan.

Supported by global grief and backed by UN Security Council Resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1368 (2001), Washington may contend to have the moral right to launch such a massive attack.

While it has yet to publicly expose the evidence linking Osama bin Laden to the latest attacks, the connection between the Taliban in Afghanistan and

the alleged terrorist is widely known. The UNSC in 1999 had already condemned the use of Taliban territory "for the sheltering and training of terrorists." It specifically deplored Taliban providing a safe haven for Bin Laden and his associates.

The 1999 Resolution called on states to freeze financial resources owned or bound for the Taliban. A ban on Taliban aircraft was also imposed. While these stringent measures presume Taliban's guilt, no where does it endorse military attacks.

The 1999 Resolution also specifically noted the USA's indictment of Bin Laden in the 1998 bombings of US embassies in

Kenya and Tanzania. It is thus not surprising that some may consider whether an attack would constitute a violation of international law, which only condones military force for self-defence, not retaliation.

The wisdom of a possible wide-scale offensive needs to be questioned.

Terrorist networks such as Bin Laden's do not depend on established state infrastructure. What could the US tangibly strike to cripple the terrorist's capability? There are few, if any, clear fixed targets such as landmark terrorist headquarters.

Albeit seeking refuge in Afghanistan's hills, past Intelligence reports indicate that Bin Laden

is a sovereign operator due to his huge inheritance and not dependent on direct government financial or logistical support found in common state-backed terrorism models.

Thus massive air strikes, so popular since the Gulf War, will only victimise the people of Afghanistan, whose regime seems willing to put innocent lives in peril. The USA has already tried bombing Bin Laden before, with little success.

A land invasion would be catastrophic. History has Napoleon, the British and the Soviet Union in its illustrious list of failures. An invasion would lead to a drawn-out counter-insurgent war.

In this age of instant news and

fickle public opinion the tide of public opinion can easily change when images of hungry children are contrasted to multi-million dollar war machines. Even moderate Muslim nations like Indonesia cannot tolerate futile civilian deaths.

By overreacting Washington will only turn public opinion, particularly those in Muslim states, against them. President George W. Bush charging that "you're either with us or

against us" does not help. The world is not black or white, there are too many grey areas. Washington's reticence of Israel's aggression toward the Palestine population is a case in point.

What then are the options?

Whatever steps are taken must be in accordance with international law and the support of the UN.

The first step of establishing an international front against terrorism is commendable, but such a coalition must be under the aegis of the UN even if the USA is the predominant component. Washington must avoid the impression of acting unilaterally if it wants a true coalition to be more than rhetoric.

UN imposed economic and political sanctions, if necessary isolation, should be considered first. The USA could use its military might to make sure that nothing gets in or out by tightly monitoring Afghanistan's borders.

THE STATE

'Pak has told J&K ultras to fight for Taliban'

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 24

THERE HAS been a sharp decline in terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir following a Pakistan advisory to foreign militants to "join forces in Afghanistan" after the September

11 terrorist attacks in the USA.

"As against 40 terrorist attacks on security forces in Jammu and Kashmir from September 1 to 7, the number has declined to about 10 since September 11," Defence Secretary Yogendra Narain informed reporters today. The information about the "Pakistan advisory" to terrorists is based on military signals intercepts. "These have also revealed instructions to have the militants leaving Indian soil escorted directly to the Afghanistan border by the Pakistani Army," Narain said. Pakistan does not want them to remain in its territory.

Communication intercepts indicate "confusion" among terrorist ranks. "There are indications of movement (of terrorists) from Jammu and Kashmir to Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (PoK), but the full picture is not clear yet. We're keeping a close vigil and see how the situation develops over the next fortnight," the Defence Secretary said.

"Pakistan is in the process of disbanding terrorist training camps in PoK. We feel this is happening because of US pressure, but is anyhow a welcome step. Pakistan is anxious to show that there are no training camps. That's a gain for India, and we

hope this will reduce tension in Jammu & Kashmir," he said.

There were more intercepts on the first four days after the World Trade Center attacks of Pakistani authorities asking militants to pack up and go to Afghanistan, an officer added.

"These reveal Pakistan's anxiety to push out such elements, even from PoK (where they train and prepare to launch operations against India). We're concerned that in case the Pakistan-Afghanistan border is sealed before all these militants are able to get across, they may be pushed into J&K. Hence, we're keeping high vigil on the border," he said.



Afghan protesters throw stones at the abandoned US embassy in Kabul on Monday.

AFP PHOTO

The inside story of bin Lade

FROM MARK FINEMAN
AND STEPHEN BRAUN

New York, Sept. 24: The terror soldiers of al Qaida move seamlessly from nation to nation, continent to continent, changing names, passports, entire identities time and again.

Osama bin Laden's men shed their own devout sacraments to elude detection, shaving beards in secular lands and carrying duty-free cigarettes and cologne to throw profiling border agents off the scent. Some work in dead-end covers as fishermen, grocers, or burger flippers, while others carry suitcases bulging with down payments for Kalashnikov rifles, night scopes, Stinger anti-aircraft missiles, enriched weapons-grade uranium.

Their commitment is unyielding. They film their own suicide videos before they hop into pickup trucks loaded with hundreds of pounds of TNT, turn on audio cassettes chanting praise to those who will die for the cause, and blow themselves to bits to weaken the social foundation of their worst enemy: The United States.

The profile of al Qaida, Arabic for "the Base," unreeled in recorded testimony tucked away in the federal courthouse here in lower Manhattan. Largely unnoticed by the public at the time, a trial that ended last June generated insights into the terrorist organisation that ultimately would be linked to the deadly attacks on the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon.

A jury found four al Qaida members guilty of staging the August 1998 suicide bombings of US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 224 people. Bin Laden himself was charged in the 308-count indictment as the leader of the conspiracy to kill US nationals in Africa, and for exhorting his al Qaida followers to murder. A \$5 million reward was offered for information leading to his arrest.

The al Qaida depicted in the 76-day trial is capable of relentless, selfless efficiency and, at the same time, amateurish dysfunction. The same secret organisation that succeeded in demolishing two embassies in two different lands almost simultaneously also was prone to petty feuds and embezzlement, capable of losing hundreds of thousands of dollars in scams and bad business decisions. But it also is an al Qaida of mind-boggling commitment.

For David Baugh, who defended Mohamed Rashed Daoud al-Owhali — a would-be suicide bomber who survived the Nairobi blast — the testimony is woven with clues to some of America's most-asked questions today.

"The issue is: Why is this happening? Why do they hate us?" Baugh said last week. Some answers came through testimony about al-Owhali, a young Saudi who told an FBI interrogator why he so wished to die for al Qaida at the US embassy in Nairobi. Other answers came from Jamal Ahmed

al-Fadl, a Sudani nearly twice the age of the young Saudi. Al-Fadl had defected from al Qaida with many secrets. His testimony formed an operative flow-chart of al Qaida for US counter-terrorism officials. Al-Fadl knows more about al Qaida than most. He was there when the group was hatched in 1989 by bin Laden and a group of like-minded mujahideen freedom fighters, the CIA-backed Islamic guerrillas who ground down the Soviet army in Afghanistan and drove it into retreat.

At age 38, the Sudan-born al-Fadl ultimately would give US intelligence agents and prosecutors their first — and perhaps best — blueprint of al Qaida: its origins, its structure, its modus operandi and its petty human failings.

Al-Fadl offered little evidence against the defendants in the trial. His testimony was aimed squarely at bin Laden, buttressed by similar accounts by two other al Qaida defectors and by terror mission documents left on computer

discs that were seized by FBI agents in Nairobi after the blasts.

For America, al-Fadl was a gem, a secret federal witness known for five years only as CS-1, "Confidential Source One."

When he was finally unveiled, wearing an Islamic skullcap on the witness stand in the embassy bombing trial last February, Judge Leonard Sand granted prosecutors' requests that courtroom artists not sketch him.

He sketched his own early life as that of a drifter, the sort of unfulfilled, dreamy existence that suddenly found purpose when the Soviet army invaded Afghanistan in 1979. From his small town of Ruffa, in Sudan, he went to Saudi Arabia.

He was expelled in 1981 after he was arrested for smoking marijuana. He headed to Atlanta, North Carolina and Brooklyn, where he worked as a grocer.

But in New York, he found religion at the Farouq Mosque, where Emir Mustafa Shalabi was urging all Muslims — young, strong,

male and able — to head to Afghanistan and fight the Soviet infidels. It was a holy call to arms that would become bin Laden's fertile recruiting ground. "We have to make jihad out of them ... you have to follow the rule of the emir," al-Fadl recalled.

The siren song echoed in mosques across the globe. Fellow Muslims were under attack. Islam was perceived in danger.

So, like thousands of others in the years to come, al-Fadl left in 1988 for Peshawar, the dusty and destitute Pakistani border town that was home to hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees. It was the launch pad for the jihad.

There, at gritty guerrilla-training centres that often doubled as refugee camps, he learned to fire a Russian-made Kalashnikov rifle, to hit helicopters with rocket-propelled grenades and to slip in and out of identities. His friends there knew him only as "the Sudani."

As the days passed, al-Fadl told the jury, as his fervour honed, he came to "follow the rule" of a new



A 1989 file picture of Osama bin Laden (centre) in the Jalalabad area. (AFP)

n's al Qaida



emir. It was Osama bin Laden.

Al Fadh said he met often with the ascetic Saudi exile in Peshawar's cramped guest-house chambers and gardens. Often they spoke in veiled terms about the overarching reach of jihad. It was in 1989, al-Fadh recalled, in an explosives-training camp in the battle-scarred Afghan town of Khost, that he learned of al Qaida's birth.

The group's "general emir," was bin Laden. And when asked if he wanted to be one of the founding members, al-Fadh readily agreed. He was handed a document by an al Qaida commander. "I read it," al-Fadh testified, "and after that I swear in front of him and I sign the papers."

It was an oath of allegiance to bin Laden and his lieutenants called the bayat — a basic and once-secret rite of al Qaida that endures today — something akin to a corporate-loyalty oath, as it turned out.

Bin Laden structured "the Base" as a cost-and-personnel-efficient terrorist conglomerate. At

the top, al-Fadh explained, is a "shura council," veteran clerics and military leaders from Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Yemen and other nations — all freedom fighters who have proved themselves in jihad.

The council sunders into committees, al-Fadh said. A military group is headed by field commanders. There's a fatwa group of mullahs and religious clerics who mesh Islam with bin Laden's jihad battle plan. There's even a media group that handles al Qaida's public-relations. Al-Fadh said he became a key player in the fourth committee: Finance, the trusted aides who would buy farms and other businesses to give cover for Bin Laden's terror operations.

Along with their weapons training, they learned to cluster in small cells, operate on scant bits of command information, hew to the discipline of silence. And, always, al Qaida's moles followed bin Laden's exhortation "to be patient."

Thousands of motivated, rootless young Muslims across the globe flocked to al Qaida's core. And as the bayats stacked up, bin Laden's commanders enforced a strict regimen: All recruits would live furtively, slip in and out of their enemy's lands like ghosts.

"You need to be a normal person," al-Fadh was told by one commander. "If you go with beard and Islamic dress, the intelligence officer (in target countries) ... want to ask a lot of questions."

Leave the *Quran* and prayer books behind. Al Qaida's men were told. On a trip to Egypt, al-Fadh got the standard line from his commander, Abu Talal al Masry: Buy cologne and cigarettes.

Al Qaida also began acquiring ventures, mimicking Western corporations. Al-Fadh bought farms, one for \$250,000 to grow sesame seeds, peanuts and corn in the Sudanese countryside. He sent the crops to Afghanistan in planes that returned with British and American-made night goggles, rifle scopes and other advanced military gear, he said.

Bin Laden told al-Fadh: "Our agenda is bigger than business." The companies were both fronts for the terror cells and cash cows for future operations. Al-Fadh was given several units to run.

Soon, the jihad found its natural enemy — America's huge Gulf War military presence in Saudi Arabia. The fatwa "cannot let the American army stay in the gulf area," al-Fadh said.

Bin Laden and his clerics expanded their American target list in 1992 as the United States sent peacekeeping troops to Somalia. All Americans, even innocent civilians, were now at risk. Jihad warriors no longer "had to worry" about distinctions, one cleric told al-Fadh. Bin Laden was even more blunt a few days later. "The snake is America," he told al-Fadh and other disciples, "and we have to stop them. We have to cut the head of the snake."

LOS ANGELES TIMES-WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

Taliban threaten to kill UN staff

Islamabad, Sept. 24 (AP) — Taliban have threatened to execute any UN workers who use key equipment in their offices in Afghanistan, a move that has nearly shut down the remaining relief work being done in the country, UN officials said today.

The militia began raiding UN offices in cities such as Kabul and Kandahar, where the Taliban leadership is based, over the weekend and sealing their satellite telephones, walkie-talkies, computers and vehicles to bar them from further use, said Stephanie Bunker, chief UN spokeswoman said here.

They also seized 1400 tonnes of UN food aid.

"They warned our staff that if they use these things they will face execution," said Gordon Weiss, spokesman for Unicef in Islamabad.

After the September 11 terrorist attacks in the US, the UN removed its foreign staffers in Afghanistan for their safety but left behind local Afghan employees to continue their crucial relief agency work and mine-clearing operations.

"We are worried about the safety of our remaining workers there and concerned about the fate of our programmes," Weiss said.

"Life will become more miserable for the more than one million people displaced because of drought and civil war."

US forces have begun mobilising in the Gulf for an expected attack on Afghanistan to punish the hard-line Taliban government for refusing to extradite Osama bin Laden, prime suspect in the deadly suicide attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and Pentagon in Washington.

"We condemn this serious violation and call on the Taliban to ensure the safety of our staff and to allow aid workers to continue their humanitarian work," World Food Programme (WFP) spokesman Khaled Mansour said.

"This is a serious development which could disrupt, if not completely stop, our food distribution," said Mansour, adding that the WFP office and warehouse had also been taken over by the Taliban.

Mansour said the WFP had at least three weeks' supplies in Afghanistan, but would not be able to deliver most of it because of curbs on local staff and lack of transport.

"We are calling on the Taliban to allow our national staff to use the communications system so that they can stay in contact with us and carry out the work," Mansour said.

War against terrorism: What will India gain?

KEITH FLORY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 24. — The next couple of weeks will establish whether or not there are any positive spin-offs for India in the US-led global war against terrorism.

While the immediate target would be Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda outfit, the second phase of the action could bring into focus activities of some groups operating in J&K, senior government officials said.

Much significance is being attached here to General Colin Powell's observation that organisations operating in Northern Ireland, J&K and elsewhere would not be excluded from the war against terrorism. That comment, a senior official said, justified India's speedy expression of cooperation with the USA

in the campaign.

Both positive and negative signals are emanating from J&K. According to radio intercepts, militants are being directed to pull out and head for Afghanistan. The Pakistani authorities have reportedly offered to "escort" them through Pak occupied Kashmir to the Afghanistan border.

These messages are being interpreted as reflecting Pakistan's desire that terrorist incidents of terrorism violence.



A member of the Jamaat-Islami shouts anti-US slogans at a rally in Karachi on Monday.

— AP/PTI

terrorist groups do not flaunt their presence on its soil during the coming weeks and that their training camps close down temporarily. Pakistan could not afford their maintaining a high profile even as it commits itself to joining the international campaign. It risks losing too much.

On the ground, that has translated into a noticeable drop in the number of serious incidents of terrorist violence.

Some 40 incidents took place in the first 10 days of this month, after 11 September there have been fewer than 20. "The drop could be the outcome of US pressure on Pakistan, it could not have been seen as an ally of a nation that continued to back terrorists."

Despite the drop in violence levels, there are few signs of substantial movement of militants away from J&K towards Afghanistan. They could be lying low for now - when their actions would not attract much publicity since the media is concentrating on Afghanistan.

Even more serious could be another angle - Pakistan's desire to show a "clean" face to the world. The terrorists it had trained may have slipped across the LoC into Kashmir and are biding their time. "It's a wait and watch situation",

■ See TERRORISM: page 8

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TERRORISM: *Time ripe for India?*

(Continued from page 1)

5-8-25

a top defence official said. In a narrow military perspective the time might be opportune for India to launch a major offensive, "take out" the training camps across the LoC. But diplomatic considerations suggest otherwise.

"The external affairs minister's assurance to his Pakistani counterpart that India will not seek to exploit that country's current difficulties displays a maturity the international community will appreciate", the official said.

By doing nothing that would deflect attention from Bin Laden, India will strengthen its case that the larger issue of terrorism will not be lost once the immediate problem is tackled. There is an understanding of India's case that terrorism cannot be categorised or fragmented with different levels of response, officials said.

Though India is not fully convinced that Pakistan is committed to abandoning its backing of terrorists,

to nit-pick at this stage would fall into the trap Gen Musharraf set during his address, officials said. "If US pressure works, good. If it does not, there will be opportunities to expose the duplicity."

Should Pakistan fully cooperate with the USA to hunt down Bin Laden and his associates, its proximity to Afghanistan would reduce the need for Indian involvement in this particular phase of the campaign. New Delhi is fully aware of that. However, if it becomes a long duration exercise, the picture would change.

Specific requests are yet to come in but India is thinking of allowing the USA the use of its airspace, ports and refuelling facilities. The government insists this is in accordance with standard procedure. As of now, India does not see a threat to the present regime in Pakistan, the anti-American demonstrations are not a major index of trouble. "As long as the ISI and the bulk of the army back the decision to support America, Gen. Musharraf remains safe."

THE STRAITS TIMES

SEP 2001

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Notes towards a definition of terror

Recalling the existing international conventions relating to various aspects of the problem of international terrorism, in particular the Convention on Offences and Certain Acts Committed on Board Aircraft, signed at Tokyo on September 14, 1963; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Seizure of Aircraft, signed at The Hague on December 16, 1970; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on September 23, 1971; the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crimes against Internationally Protected Persons, including Diplomatic Agents, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 14, 1973, the International Convention against the Taking of Hostages, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 17, 1979; the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, signed at Vienna on March 3, 1980; the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts of Violence at Airports Serving International Civil Aviation, supplementary to the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation, signed at Montreal on February 14, 1988; the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation, signed at Rome on March 10, 1988; the Protocol for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Fixed Platforms Located on the Continental Shelf, signed at Rome on March 10, 1988; the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection, signed at Montreal on March 1, 1991; the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombings, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 15, 1997; the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism, adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations on December 9, 1999.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/60 of

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

December 9, 1994 and the Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism annexed thereto;

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 51/20 of December 17, 1996 and the Declaration of supplement the 1994 declaration on meas-



Fear is the key

ures to Eliminate International Terrorism annexed thereto;

Deeply concerned about the worldwide escalation of acts of terrorism in all its forms, which endanger or take innocent lives, jeopardize fundamental freedoms and seriously impair the dignity of human beings;

Reaffirming their unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as criminal and unjustifiable, wherever and by whomever committed, including those which jeopardize friendly relations among states and people and threaten the territorial integrity and security of States;

Recognizing that acts, methods and practices of terrorism constitute a grave violation of the purposes and principles of the United Nations, which may pose a threat to international peace

and security, jeopardize friendly relations among States, hinder international cooperation and aim at the undermining of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the democratic basis of society;

Recognizing also that the financing, planning and inciting of terrorist acts are also contrary to the purposes and principles of the United Nations, and that it is the duty of the States Parties to bring to justice those who have participated in such terrorist acts;

Convinced that the suppression of acts of international terrorism, including those which are committed or supported by States, directly or indirectly, is an essential element in the maintenance of international peace and security and the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States;

Realizing the need for a comprehensive convention on international terrorism;

Have resolved to take effective measure to prevent acts of terrorism and to ensure that perpetrators of terrorist acts do not escape prosecution and punishment, by providing for their extradition or prosecution, and to that end have agreed as follows:

Article 1: For the purpose of this Convention: "State or government facility" includes any permanent or temporary facility or conveyance that is used or occupied by representatives of a State, members of government, the legislature or the judiciary or by officials or employees of a State or any other public authority or entity or by employees or officials of an intergovernmental organization in connection with their official duties.

"Military forces of a State" means the armed forces of a State which are organized, trained and equipped under its internal law for the primary purpose of national defence or security, and persons acting in support of those armed forces who are under their formal command, control and responsibility.

TO BE CONCLUDED

The Taliban tangle

By P. Radhakrishnan

48-12 ✓ 21/9

The terrorist attacks were major atrocities. In scale, they may not reach the level of many others, for example, Clinton's bombing of Sudan with no credible pretext, destroying half its pharmaceutical supplies and killing unknown numbers of people (no one knows, because the U.S. blocked an inquiry at the U.N. and no one cares to pursue it). Not to speak of much worse cases, which easily come to mind. But that this was a horrendous crime is not in doubt. The primary victims, as usual, were working people: janitors, secretaries, firemen, etc. It is likely to prove to be a crushing blow to Palestinians and other poor and oppressed people. It is also likely to lead to harsh security controls, with many possible ramifications for undermining civil liberties and internal freedom.

— Noam Chomsky

THAT THE terrorist attacks on the U.S. should not have happened, and reprisal is awaiting those who are suspected to have aided, abetted, and perpetrated them might be stating the obvious. What may not be so obvious is that the attacks and strategies to avert them in future have not been in perspective.

In terms of their execution, the attacks remain at the level of terrorism and not an "act of war" as made out by the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, inasmuch as no country has declared a war on the U.S., and no country has claimed involvement in the attacks. Obviously, the U.S. President has given a twist to the meaning of war apparently to overcome his mortification that the world's "superpower" which he heads has also been at the receiving end, to appease the angry and anguished Americans, and to justify the much-touted U.S. "retaliatory strikes".

Stretching the U.S. President's claim to our own traumatic experience, would India have termed Rajiv Gandhi's assassination an act of war by the LTTE and attacked at least the LTTE-occupied areas of Sri Lanka? If an LTTE suicide squad

were to smash the Mumbai Stock Exchange building or Parliament House, could India have seen it as an act of war and launched retaliatory strikes? As India is not the U.S., it could not have done these. In any case, if India were to attack Sri Lanka, as the global policeman would the U.S. have remained a silent spectator? It has one kind of moralism for itself in its self-interest and other kinds of moralism for developing countries.

If the fast-approaching retaliatory strikes by the U.S. are not a "clash of civilisations", as the U.S. President has claimed, there is every likelihood that

it, and those who support it should be exterminated.

Two, the overzealous overture of India's ruling class (read BJP politicians) in offering support to the U.S. (call it turning adversity into opportunity, fishing in troubled waters, and what have you), is ominous. For one thing, while the U.S. may devastate Afghanistan through retaliatory strikes, by allowing the U.S. to use India space for its military operations, India will be allowing the U.S. to have a permanent U.S. "Panopticon" in India through which it can have surveillance on all regions in this part of the world.

The strategies for a "global assault on terrorism" are fraught with dangers, paradoxes and contradictions.

these strikes will generate a series of such clashes. For, it is commonsense that virtually all the countries that the U.S. has bombed, devastated, and tried to strangle through economic sanctions and whatnot have been Islamic.

This is a very important fact which the U.S. and other countries on its side ought to remember. In this context, it is important to keep in mind at least three issues.

One, as the Western countries have been acting in tandem with the U.S. on matters concerning the developing countries, especially military action and blockade, whether they are justified or not, and this has been made easier by the breakup of the Soviet Union which again was the working out of the tandem strategies of these countries (what Sartre characterised as the Master World) the divide between them and the developing countries, no matter to which religion and to which civilisation stage they belong, is too wide, which is intensely and intrinsically used by the Master World to its own gains. So, and given the elusive nature of the enemy, it will be naive to assume that the terrorists who attacked the U.S. are Taliban and Taliban alone and that as the Taliban is in Afghanistan,

through violence and weaponry.

Closely related to this is the question of differentiating between terrorism and terrorism. For example, the LTTE is distinctly terrorist, fighting for what many would consider legitimate political demands. Contrast this with the BJP, which is a political outfit of the Sangh Parivar — a heterogeneous ensemble of fundamentalist organisations. Are we not justified in drawing the inference that a mafia is ruling us? How are we to judge whether the demands of the pressure groups are legitimate or not? What alternatives can there be for such groups to transform their demands into reality? Will stripping them of what they consider their only source to take on the state not amount to silencing them through state terrorism. Stated differently, the strategies for a "global assault on terrorism" are fraught with dangers, paradoxes and contradictions, and in the ultimate analysis, the states themselves are the worst terrorists.

To conclude, there is much to be said in favour of Noam Chomsky's following observations on the attack: "The events reveal, dramatically, the foolishness of the project of 'missile defence'. ... But today's events will, very likely, be exploited to increase the pressure to develop these systems and put them into place. 'Defence' is a thin cover for plans for militarisation of space, and with good PR, even the firmest arguments will carry some weight among a frightened public. In short, the crime is a gift to the hard-jingoist right, those who hope to use force to control their domains. That is even putting aside the likely U.S. actions, and what they will trigger — possibly more attacks like this one, or worse. The prospects ahead are even more ominous than they appeared to be before the latest atrocities. As to how to react, we have a choice. We can express justified horror; we can seek to understand what may have led to the crimes, which means making an effort to enter the minds of the likely perpetrators."

(The writer is Professor, Madras Institute of Development Studies, Chennai.)

'Al-Qaida had links with LTTE'

By Rashmee Z Ahmed
Times News Network

LONDON: Western intelligence agencies were investigating the alleged close and growing links between the Liberation Tamil Tigers of Eelam (LTTE) and Osama bin Laden's shadowy Al-Qaida network at the very time the terrorist atrocities in the U.S. took place, TNN has learnt.

According to confidential sources, the LTTE's relationship with Al-Qaida was in focus to understand the latter's mastery of suicide attacks "even though most groups learn by trial and error".

Before the September 11 attacks, Al-Qaida had executed two successful suicide missions—the August 1998 East African embassy bombings and the



October 2000 attack on the *USS Cole* in Yemen.

The sources said the links, which were first indicated in the early '90s, are the first instance of an Islamist group collaborating with an essentially secular outfit.

They said that the growing closeness was further confirmed in May when the LTTE's chief procurement officer, Tharmalingam Shanmugan Kumraran, alias Kumaran Padmanadhan or 'KP', who is based in Thailand, visited Afghanistan via Dubai and Karachi.

It took two months for Western intelligence to appreciate the importance of this, but on July 24, Interpol issued a Red Notice or an international warrant for 'KP'. He has been wanted by the CBI for years in connection with the Rajiv Gandhi assassination.

The LTTE-Al Qaida link is believed to exist in India as well, although the extent and depth of the relationship there is not well-documented, the sources said.

Al-Qaida is known to exist in 50 countries.

Anti-terrorism ordinance likely HD-9

By Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22. The Centre is contemplating promulgation of an ordinance to deal with terrorist crimes, now that a new urgency has asserted itself after the September 11 terrorist strikes in New York and Washington.

A legal vacuum was being felt in combating terrorism after the lapse of the Terrorists and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act (TADA), 1987. With Parliament not in session, an ordinance to combat terrorism could be promulgated by the President and it would have the same force as the law duly enacted by Parliament.

In the absence of TADA, the Law Commission was requested by the Government about two years ago to take a holistic view of the need for a comprehensive anti-terrorism law after looking into similar legislations enacted by other countries. The Commission proposed several amendments in the Criminal Law

Amendment Bill, 1995, but a debate has been simmering to provide more effective safeguards to the accused.

Highly-placed sources indicated that the Government was veering around to the view that an ordinance for the time being would be able to tackle anti-national activities, combat terrorist crimes, particularly in view of the aid and assistance being received by various terrorist groups from across the border. With the BJP-led coalition at the Centre keen to shed the "soft state" image of the country and global efforts currently on to combat the menace of terrorism by tough measures, there may be little opposition to stringent provisions which could find their way into the ordinance.

In the U.S., the list of "federal crimes of terrorism" covers a number of crimes like hostage taking, bombings, biological weapons, violence at international airports,

destruction of communication lines, manslaughter of foreign officials and providing material support to terrorist organisations. After the September 11 terrorist strikes, the Bush administration has hinted at even tougher anti-terrorism laws.

In the recent past, the Chief Ministers had outrightly rejected the Centre's move to categorise some of the crimes as "federal crimes" and set up a federal crime fighting agency. The Tamil Nadu Government was forced to repeal the Prevention of Terrorists Activities (POTA) Act as certain "draconian measures" in it attracted widespread criticism.

The Government had been keen on the States bringing in their own legislation like the Prevention of Organised Crime Act in Maharashtra. Legal circles pointed out that a number of convictions had taken place in Maharashtra under the Act. Those in favour of anti-terror-

ism law have stressed on the need to enact a comprehensive law and make criminal justice system and procedures effective.

Though the Indian Penal Code (IPC) has provisions to take care of sedition, waging war against the government, arson, loot as well as the Arms Act and Explosive Substances Act, nevertheless the need has been felt for a comprehensive anti-terrorism law and special courts to conduct speedy trials.

Provisions of the erstwhile TADA were tilted against the accused as the Indian Evidence Act did not apply and the standard of proof was quite low, putting the accused at a distinct disadvantage. The most scathing criticism of TADA was on account of making confession by an accused admissible before a police officer. In many cases, legal sources pointed out, the provisions of TADA were misused in States like Andhra Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and Maharashtra.

Integrated approach to tackle terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22. As law-enforcing agencies and investigators probe into the terrorist strikes in New York and Washington, there is a growing feeling among security and intelligence agencies here for developing a cooperative ethos and reviving the "human touch" in intelligence-gathering methods.

With the easy availability of the latest gadgets to gather intelligence inputs, the entire scene has undergone a change and every wing of the intelligence apparatus appears keen on showing off its superiority over the other.

Even with sophisticated phone tapping devices and ability to scan the E-mail, the vast intelligence apparatus in the U.S. as well as other agencies in the world failed to pick up signals on the deep-rooted and widespread conspiracy hatched to use civilian aircraft as missiles to hit secure and safe targets such as the Pentagon, intelligence experts said.

In the process, highly-placed Government

sources said, the casualty has been the collection of raw, field-level intelligence through operatives. Collection and dissemination of ground-level intelligence is of crucial importance in launching any operation, a fact often glossed over by intelligence agencies. Some of the glaring examples of ignoring ground-level intelligence had come to light during the Kargil incursions in 1999. After the Group of Ministers (GoM) on national security submitted its recommendations on overhauling and modernising the intelligence set up, the Government has put its implementation on the fast-track. The Intelligence Bureau (IB), as the nodal agency for counter-intelligence and counter terrorism, is pressing ahead with time-bound implementation of the GoM recommendations.

To handle the tasks related to counter-terrorism and counter-intelligence, it is proposed to set up an apex level Multi Agency Centre (MAC) in New Delhi and Subsidiary Multi Agency Centres (SMACs) in State capitals. In the first phase, SMACs would be made operational at Srinagar,

Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and Guwahati.

While the MAC will be represented by all the intelligence wings of Central Para-Military Forces, Service Intelligence Directorates, the Intelligence Agencies of Ministry of Finance and the Delhi police, the SMACs will be represented by the State Special Branches and the intelligence wings of the security forces deployed in that region. The Home Ministry is processing a working proposal on the structure, operating system, technical and manpower requirements in respect of MAC and SMACs.

The subject of adopting an integrated approach to counter terrorism and preservation of national security came up during the closed-door session at the recently-concluded two-day annual conference of the Heads of the State Police and Central Police Organisations, convened by the Intelligence Bureau here.

The GoM had recommended the constitution of a Joint Task Force on Intelligence (JTFI) in which the IB, in association with the Home Ministry, are expected to play the lead role.

23 SEP 2001

23 SEP 2001

Kashmiri protesters hurl rocks at the security forces during a strike on Friday.

J&K rises to militants' strike call

Rashid Ahmad
Srinagar, September 21

THE SEPARATIST All Party Hurriyat Conference suffered a major blow when people in the valley ignored its advice and fell in line with militant groups to observe a strike today to express solidarity with the Taliban.

Al Badre Mujahideen, Harkatul-Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Jamiatul Mujahideen besides women's reformist group Dukhtaran-e-Millat, had described the Taliban and Osama bin Laden as "defenders of Islam" and had called for a general strike in protest against the American threat to them.

The militant groups had also

criticised the Pakistani Government's pledge to support the US Government.

The All Party Hurriyat Conference, however, supported General Pervez Musharraf's policies, saying that bin Laden or Taliban were no issues with them. The Hurriyat had asked people not to observe any strike on Friday and written letters to transporters and traders to continue with their commercial activities.

However, people seemingly rejected the Hurriyat call and went on with the strike. All shops, business establishments, banks and educational institutions remained closed. Transporters also joined the strike. The strike was complete in

almost all the important towns and cities, including capital Srinagar. Shopian, Kupwara, Anantnag and Kulgam towns, which usually remain open during strike days, also witnessed complete shutdown today.

Hundreds of agitated youth took out a protest march at Jamia Masjid chanting slogans against America and in favour of militants and Taliban.

The youth set American flags on fire and termed the superpower as the "biggest terrorist of the world". Police lathicharged the protesters and fired tear gas shells to disperse them. In retaliation, the youth pelted stones. After a half an hour of pitched battle, the situation was brought

under control. Stone-pelting incidents also took place at Maisuma, Gawkadal, Budshah Chowk and Red Cross Road.

Syedah Asiya Andrabi, the chief of Dukhtaran-e-Millat, said the strike proved that the Hurriyat had no public support and the people in general supported militants.

The Hurriyat had used all its means, including the Indian electronic media to oppose the shutdown. "But the people have slapped them right in the face by observing the strike," she said.

A Hurriyat spokesman admitted that the people did not go by their appeal but refused that it meant that the group stood discredited.

22 SEP 2001

EU gets tougher with terror merchants

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, Sept. 20. — European Union justice and interior ministers, stunned into action by the attacks on the USA, approved urgent steps today to combat terrorism, including much closer cooperation with Washington.

The 15 ministers agreed to adopt by December a common definition of terrorism and a Europe-wide arrest warrant for suspects accused of serious crimes. They endorsed the proposals by the European Commission executive that would harmonise police and judicial action, long viewed as the preserve of nation states, and close loopholes that have hampered arrests and extradition across EU borders.

But some ministers showed concern that the campaign against terrorism could erode civil liberties and diplomats questioned whether all member states would be ready to adopt the measures by a self-imposed



An Afghanistan Television image of Islamic clerics' session in Kabul. The meeting was called to decide about US demand to hand over Bin Laden. — AP/PTI

deadline of 6-7 December.

"We're determined to take the necessary steps to ensure that European citizens are provided

with the highest level of security so that future attacks are thwarted," Belgian interior minister, Mr Antoine Duquesne,

said. Belgium, which holds the EU's rotating presidency, will host an emergency EU summit tomorrow.

row evening dedicated to the attacks on the WTC and the Pentagon. Leaders are expected to back their ministers' plans. "The heads of state and government should take up some of the elements agreed and give a decisive boost to efforts to put them into effect quickly," French justice minister, Mr Marlyse Lebranchu, said.

The ministers set 6-7 December as the target date for formally approving the commission proposals on an EU-wide definition of terrorism and an European arrest warrant.

UK leader retracts Pervez threat: A radical British-based Muslim leader backed away today from a death threat to Pakistan's leader for backing the USA over last week's attacks on New York and Washington, reports from London said.

Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed, who leads the Al-Muhajiroun Islamic group, provoked outrage in Britain this week when he issued a fatwa that called for the death of Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

2 1 SEP 2001

✓ 'JEHAD IF AMERICA ATTACKS AFGHANISTAN' ✓

Ask Osama to leave, clerics tell Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD SEPT. 20. The gathering of religious leaders (ulema) in Afghanistan has asked the Taliban regime to "encourage" the most wanted man by the U.S., Osama bin Laden, to leave the country voluntarily, but at the time of his choice and for his preferred destination.

The outcome of the much-awaited conference of the clerics is an inch forward in the context of the threat by the U.S. to wage a war if Osama is not handed over, but it is certainly not enough to ward off the clouds of a conflict, given the vague nature of the fatwa (edict).

Most important, the gathering not only rejected the charges cited against Osama by the U.S. about his alleged involvement in last week's terror attacks on American cities, but delivered a threat to wage a "jihad" against the U.S. if it was bent on retaliatory strikes against the people of Afghanistan.

The U.N. resolutions of the last two years have specifically not only sought the unconditional surrender of Osama but also demanded the closure of alleged terrorist training camps inside Afghanistan. There was not a word of reference to either U.N. resolutions or the terrorist training camps.

As the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, pointed out in his address to his people on Wednesday, the primary target of

the U.S. was not only Osama but also the Taliban for providing him the sanctuary. So the edict of the Ulema does not respond to the outstanding demands of the U.N. or the latest terms of the U.S. arising out of the terror attacks on its cities.

Probe sought

The ulema, while condemning the dastardly attacks on American cities, has appealed to the U.N. and the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to undertake a "deep probe" to bring to book the culprits behind the incidents. At the end of the two-day deliberations, the Taliban Government led by Mullah Omar is believed to have addressed a letter containing the outcome of the conference and an appeal for intervention.

Everyone here is keeping their fingers crossed on the consequences of the decision of the religious leaders who met at the behest of the Taliban supremo, Mullah Omar. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman declined to comment on the edict on the plea that he was in no position to give any reaction without the benefit of the actual text.

Diplomatic and political observers here believe that the edict issued by the Taliban militia clerics is not likely to help defuse the tension and impress the U.S., the U.N. and others who have been demanding the unconditional surrender of Osama to the appropriate authorities for his trail in



Afghan clerics boarding a bus in Kabul on Thursday, in this video grab. At a meeting they issued an edict that Osama bin Laden should be persuaded to leave the country. — Reuters

cases cited against him.

However, the very fact that the ulema made an appeal to the Taliban regime to encourage Osama to leave Afghan territory itself has come as a surprise to experts who have been keeping a close tab on the fast changing situation. It is

seen as a limited success for the Pakistan establishment which sent a high-level delegation led by the ISI chief, Lt. Gen. Mahmood, in a bid to persuade Mullah Omar to heed the advice of the global community.

What difference the limited success would make to the volatile situation is a different story, particularly, considering that the senior Afghan clerics along with the recommendation to the Government also send a fatwa which may be applicable in case the U.S. launches an attack on Afghanistan.

Reports from Kabul said that after hectic deliberations the Council of Ulema proposed to the Government to tell Osama if it is possible for him to leave Afghanistan voluntarily and select a new destination or place for him.

The Council said that in case the U.S. did not demonstrate patience despite the above decisions and resort to an attack against Afghanistan, then the following fatwa would be applicable under the Islamic Shariah. It says that in the event of attacks by the U.S. "jihad is obligatory for the Muslims of a country which land is attacked by infidels".

'Omar will act on edict'

An AFP report from Kabul, quoting the Taliban Education Minister, said Mullah Omar would act on the clerics' edict asking Osama to leave Afghanistan, but that his departure would take "some time."

"The Muslim nation of Afghanistan has always been true to the order of ulema," Mr. Amir Khan Mutaqi said.

"We are sure that Amir-al-Momineen (commander of the faithful, Omar) will act in accordance with the edict of the ulema as he has always intimated that he will do so."

Turn him in: U.S.

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 20. The White House today demanded Afghanistan's ruling Taliban to turn in "to responsible authorities" the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, Washington's prime suspect in last week's terror strikes.

The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, "has demanded that ... Osama bin Laden be turned over to responsible authorities and that the Taliban close terrorist camps in Afghanistan, and the President stands by these demands," the White House spokesman, Mr. Ari Fleischer, said.

"It's time for action not words," he said after Islamic clerics issued an edict calling on the Taliban to ask Osama to leave the country. The edict "doesn't meet America's requirements."

'Army ready for combat'

The Army is ready to conduct "sustained land combat operations" as part of Mr. Bush's promised war against terrorism, the Army's top civilian official said. The Army Secretary, Mr. Thomas E. White, told presspersons at the Pentagon that a deployment order signed by the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald H.

Rumsfeld, on Wednesday, included the Army and the Air Force troops. It was only the first step in a broader military plan that would unfold in the weeks ahead. "A lot more will come," he said.

Mr. White declined to say which Army forces were included in the deployment but made clear that his service was gearing up for a lengthy war that would involve every aspect of the Army's combat power. Special operations forces, such as the Rangers and the Green Berets, almost certainly would play an important role.

"We are ready to deliver it across the whole array of force structure — heavy, light, airborne, special operations. All of the combat capabilities."

On Wednesday, the officials disclosed that the Air Force was taking the first steps to dispatch dozens of warplanes to the Persian Gulf area, setting in motion "Operation Infinite Justice."

Mr. Bush's National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, had said "the U.S. is repositioning some of its forces to support the President's goal." She would not elaborate. — AP, AFP

Taliban recalls fighters from Kashmir: Jaswant

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 20. Kashmir is a definite target of the Taliban's international terror network, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, citing Intelligence reports, told a press conference here today. The Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammed Omar, had exhorted his "fighters" in Kashmir to return to Afghanistan for a confrontation with the U.S. The Intelligence agencies had received several "inputs" regarding the appeal, Mr. Singh said but declined to elaborate. "Our information based on intelligence resources of India is that Mullah Omar has issued an appeal that all terrorists currently (operating) in Jammu and Kashmir should quickly move towards Afghanistan, come to Afghanistan to stand up against what is apprehended."

'Musharraf under pressure'

Describing the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf's observations on India during Wednesday's televised address as "extremely regrettable," Mr. Singh said they could have been triggered by "intense domestic pressure." The current focus was not on Indo-Pakistan relations but on terrorism. Asked to comment on the General's remarks that India should "lay off" Pakistan, Mr. Singh said he did not have to react to "flamboyant statements." Answering questions on the fallout of the growing interaction between the U.S. and Pakistan, the Minister indicated that it need not have a negative impact on India.

He described Pakistan's readiness to join a counter-terrorism campaign as a "good development" — as Islamabad had nurtured the Taliban and sponsored terrorist training camps not only in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, but also in Afghanistan. On the reversal of its disposition towards the Taliban, Mr. Singh said it was as if "a parent confronts his own child who has turned terrorist." After a conversation with Iran's Foreign Minister, Mr. Kamal Kharazmi, over the phone, Mr. Singh was hoping to speak to his counterpart in Saudi Arabia.

PTI reports:

"The Prime Minister has told me that till a clear picture emerges in the region, it would not be advisable for you to go out of the country. That is why I have postponed my visit."

'Will consider request'

The Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, has said that India would "consider" a request from the U.S. to use its Air Force bases for possible air strikes on Afghanistan but felt it might not be required.

"There has been no specific request in that regard and no specific decisions have been taken by the Government. We will respond when the time arises. Our assessment is that they do not need it. If any request is made, it would be considered," he told Mr. Karan Thapar on BBC's 'Hardtalk India.'



Hundreds of anti-U.S. demonstrators gather around a burning effigy of the American President, Mr. George W. Bush, during a protest in Peshawar city on Thursday. — Reuters

BIGOTS WON'T DERAILED US: MUSHARRAF

Pakistan arrests Masood Azhar

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 25. — Kneeling under intense international pressure to act against terrorist groups, the Pakistan government today arrested Maulana Masood Azhar, the chief of Jaish-e-Muhammad, one of the outfits involved in the attack on Parliament.

Azhar was arrested by the Punjab provincial government for "provocative speeches and disturbing law and order".

The arrest came close on the heels of India's recalling its High Commissioner to Pakistan, Mr Vijay K Nambiar, in protest against Islamabad's reluctance to crack down on the Jaish and the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, the other terrorist group involved in the 13 December attack.

The USA and Britain also sent demarches to Pakistan, asking the regime to act against terrorist outfits operating on Pakistani soil.

Azhar's arrest is the second major step Islamabad has taken against terrorist groups.

Pakistan's Central bank yesterday had frozen the assets of the LeT.

Police had earlier briefly detained Azhar on 23 December and released him after a few hours' questioning, said Hamid Mir, editor of the Urdu daily 'Ausaf', who spoke to Azhar. Mir added that Azhar had informed him yesterday of his detention two days ago. He was questioned by the Pakistani police about his activities.

Azhar was freed by New Delhi

in return for the safety of passengers on board the Indian Airlines plane hijacked to Kandahar in December 1999.

The announcement of Azhar's arrest followed General Pervez Musharraf's assertion today that "No bigoted extremists will be allowed to derail us and the vast silent majority should vow not to

LeT wings it to the Web

HYDERABAD, Dec. 25. — The LeT continues fund-raising on the Internet through its fully functional and up-to-date website www.markazdawa.org, which still carries its Lahore address and telephone number — Markaz Ad-Da'wa Wal Irshad, 5-Chamberlane Road, Lahore, Pakistan; telephone: (92-42) 7231106. The page can also be accessed from the LeT's parent organisation, Markaz-ad-Dawa Wal Irshad's Pakistani domain www.markazdawa.org.pk. The site was last updated at 1.18 am 25 Dec 01. It listed names of its council members elected under Maulana Abdul Wahid Kashmiri's leadership. — SNS

be voiceless passive onlookers to our internal destruction. We must act in unison".

He was speaking at a function in Karachi to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Pakistan's founder, Mohammed Ali Jinnah.

Significantly, the official announcement of Azhar's arrest didn't mention the local media

reports of his brief detention and release.

The arrest of Azhar, though made on different grounds, partially meets the Indian demand for a crackdown on the JeM and the LeT.

Mr George W Bush, last week, had asked Gen Musharraf to crack down on the JeM, which, according to him, fomented discord between India and Pakistan.

Gen Musharraf showed signs of giving in to mounting pressure when he said recently that he would take action against both the groups if there was evidence against them.

Gen Musharraf said, "We are confronted with internal and external challenges. But let me assure my countrymen that your armed forces are fully prepared to and capable of defeating all challenges." However, he didn't name India.

The remarks came a day after he returned from a tour of China and the top army brass met to review the security situation.

During his speech, he made a direct reference to India only once, while repeating Jinnah's interview to a foreign journalist in which Pakistan's founder leader had said that the two countries could come to a peaceful settlement of their vital differences and disputes provided India shed its superiority complex and dealt with Pakistan on an equal footing.

He added that there was no need for any despondency as Pakistan was a "responsible state" of 140 million people with nuclear capability.

THE STATESMAN

DEC 26 2001

U.S. issues battle-cry as Taliban sticks to its guns

ISLAMABAD: Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar asserted on Wednesday that alleged terrorist Osama bin Laden would not be extradited without evidence. He decried U.S. allegations against Bin Laden as a pretext to wage war on Islam.

In a statement to a gathering of Islamic scholars, or Ulema, from around the country, Omar said Bin Laden could not have carried out last week's terror attacks in the U.S., the Afghan Islamic Press reported.

"Islam is a true way of life and our enemies and those against our religion believe that we are their enemies. They are trying to finish us on various pretexts. One of these is Osama bin Laden's presence in Afghanistan," he said.

Omar's statement showed no room for compromise with the U.S. as he repeated the Taliban's offer to try Bin Laden in the Afghan supreme court or allow his activities to be monitored by the Organisation of the Islamic Conference, both options already rejected by America.

"We have not tried to create problems with America. We have held negotiations with former American governments and we are ready to hold negotiations even now," he said, and added, "We have conveyed to America that we have snapped all Osama's communications links and he cannot talk to anyone in the outside world. We have also told America that the Islamic government of Afghanistan denies any involvement in the recent incident."

The Ulema meeting will continue for at least another day, a Taliban minister said.

In Washington, the U.S. too hardened its stance, opting not to provide the Taliban with evidence of Bin Laden's involvement.

During a press conference on Wednesday, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said that the U.S. sometimes divulged secret information in court or to persuade allies and friends, but it was "a dilemma".

"You have to balance your national security interests in getting someone to stop a specific act against your national security interest in being able to continue to gather information and knowing what's taking place," he said.

Mr Rumsfeld refused to say whether the U.S. had evidence that any foreign governments supported last

week's attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, which claimed the lives of thousands of people. But he made it clear that a major focus of the U.S. effort would be to zero in on countries that provide direct or indirect support to the terrorist network led by Osama bin Laden. "We'll have to deal with the networks. One of the ways to do that is to drain the swamp they live in, and that means dealing not only with the terrorists, but those who harbour terrorists," he said.

The U.S. threats seemed to receive strong backing from the United Nations. "There is one and only message the Security Council has for the Taliban— implement UN Security Council resolutions, in particular..resolution 1333, immediately and unconditionally." The resolution, passed in December 2000, demands the handing over of Bin Laden and the closure of terrorist training camps on Taliban territory.

Even as the countdown for an American attack progressed, the aircraft carrier USS Theodore Roosevelt was to depart later in the day from Norfolk, Virginia, at the head of an 11-ship battle group on a scheduled six-month deployment that was to take it to the Gulf, navy officials said.

A navy official said that the departure of the Roosevelt was a "normal six-month rotation" to the Mediterranean and the Gulf that had been scheduled long before the attacks at the WTC and the Pentagon. Two other U.S. carrier battle groups, the USS Enterprise and the USS Carl Vinson, are in the area of the Indian Ocean. Deployed with the Roosevelt will be a three-

ship amphibious ready group led by the USS Bataan, an amphibious assault ship, with a contingent of about 2,000 combat ready marines.

Meanwhile, Pakistan has received indications from American military officials that they want to make "limited use" of air force bases in Peshawar and Quetta, which border Afghanistan.

"The facilities may be used by the airborne troops carrier that may take off for various destinations in Afghanistan from U.S. aircraft carriers off the Pakistan coast of Mekran in the Arabian Sea and also Bahrain, a regional base for the airborne division," *The News* said, quoting officials. (Agencies)

► See Edit: Children of War, Page 10



FACE-OFF

- U.S. refuses to say if it has proof of Laden's hand in attacks
- U.S. defence secretary vows 'to drain swamp' of terrorists
- UN issues strongly-worded statement to Taliban
- Pak accedes to U.S. request for limited use of air bases
- Anti-Taliban forces will rally against a U.S. attack
- Pak Ulema Council issues call for 'jihad'

Germens of Afghan radicalism in South-east Asia

5-9
1979

THE coordinated terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center's twin towers and the Pentagon have refocused world attention on radical Muslim terrorism and highlighted the fragility of the situation in South-east Asia.

As the finger of suspicion points at Afghanistan-based Osama bin Laden's Muslim militant network, the concern is that an Afghan Mujahideen network may well have established itself in South-east Asia and is feeding upon the grievances of the huge, impoverished Muslim populations of Indonesia, The Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, and even Cambodia and Myanmar.

According to reports in *New York Times*, Muslim fighters who had trained and fought in Afghanistan have linked up with local insurgents and other radical Muslim groups in Malaysia, Indonesia and the southern parts of The Philippines and Thailand.

For instance, Abu Sayyaf and some groups within the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in

The Philippines are said to have links with the Afghan network and are supported financially by the likes of Bin Laden and some West Asian governments. One would remember the "special" role played by Libyan President Muammar Gaddafi in helping to secure the release of foreign hostages last year from the Abu Sayyaf. The handsome ransom paid has probably been used to buy more arms for the rebels in their fight against the Philippine military, as well as to recruit more local supporters to help fight for an Islamic state in the southern Philippines. Today, The Philippines remains the "soft spot" of active



Debris damaged in a bomb explosion outside a grocery store in Antipolo city, east of Manila, on Monday. Only one of the six bombs found had been detonated while others were safely defused. — AP/PTI

mar — also have indigenous Muslim communities, which may pose a problem as their members are generally less well-off than the population at large, making them possible targets of the Mujahideen's message.

Muslim insurgency is on the rise in South-east Asia, as the principal countries in the region make painful political and democratic transitions under very fragile economic and social conditions.

Intra-regional cooperation is of critical importance to contain its spread as, otherwise, it could undermine regional stability and prosperity.

[The author is council secretary of the Singapore Institute of International Affairs and director-general of the Pacific Basin Economic Council.]

— *The Straits Times/Asia News Network*

Songkhla. This prompted newly elected Thai premier Thaksin Shinawatra to hold talks immediately with his Malaysian counterpart Dr Mahathir Mohammed.

During the meeting, there was reportedly an exchange of views on the possibility of Muslim insurgency and terrorism in southern Thailand, and Mr Thaksin was also reported to have secured closer cooperation from the Malaysian side in jointly tackling this problem.

Two other predominantly Buddhist countries in the region — Cambodia and Myan-

Hijacker's bag contained suicide note, airline uniforms

By Lisa Getter, Richard A. Serrano and Carol J. Williams

WASHINGTON: In a curious note to a carefully planned and executed plot, one of the hijackers left behind a piece of luggage in his Boston hotel room. Inside were airline uniforms, a video of commercial aircraft and a suicide note, records show.

The bag was left by Mohamed Atta, who is emerging as one of the suspected leaders in the terrorist takeover of four commercial jets that crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field last week. The FBI has not revealed the contents of the suicide note.

But an FBI document obtained by the Los Angeles Times reveals details of the luggage contents and provides additional information about when and how some of the 19 hijackers made their ticket reservations for the fatal flights in the weeks before the attacks. Some used their Visa cards. Others paid cash.

Two reserved tickets on the Internet on August 25

for American Airlines Flight 77, the plane that crashed into the Pentagon. Two more booked reservations on August 26 for American Airlines Flight 11, the first plane to hit the World Trade Center. Two more bought tickets on August 27 for United Airlines Flight 175, the second plane to hit the World Trade Center. Five hijackers each purchased a one-way ticket.

On the FBI document detailing the purchases, someone noted '1 Way Ticket!!' five different times. As more details of the 19 hijackers' meticulous planning emerges, the FBI's massive investigation enters its second week with growing pressure for agents to assemble a complete portrait of the hijackers and any associates they had in the U.S.



Mohamed Atta

"We now know who some of the people are," said a high-level FBI official in Washington. "We don't know near enough about them. There are other individuals out there, and you'd think we'd be able to catch them. But you don't know what kind of safe houses they have, if they have them." (LAT-WP Svc)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19/9

PoK militants being told to leave camps

SRINJOY CHOWDHURY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 17. - Militants in camps in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir and Pakistan have got their orders to leave. Indian officials today said intercepts show that the militants are being told to clear out, at least for a while.

"We have the intercepts to show that the militants have been asked to vacate the camps and merge with the people in the neighbouring villages, but we cannot confirm it as the situation in Jammu and Kashmir has not changed," a senior official said.

Despite the intercepts, there is still no certainty that the militants are moving out of the 70-odd camps just west of the Line of Control and the international border. Officials said there could be two reasons for abandoning the camps, perhaps temporarily.

It would suggest to the United States and other countries that the Pakistanis are genuinely keen to stop terrorist activities and also, ensure that they are not "bombed by mistake" during the possible strikes against Afghanistan in future.

Thousands of militants are trained in the camps. Then, they cross the Line of Control and enter India.

This is done through the Rajdhan Pass and the TMG Pass by militants who want to go to Kupwara and Baramulla or Doda respectively.

The Z Galli is another route to enter India, particularly Doda or Anantnag. Those militants

who are trained in Aliabad and North Kahuta enter from Kopra in Pakistan through the Kirni and Betar nullahs in Poonch.

The militants trained in Nekyal or Kotli enter through the Manderbol area. Those trained at the Zafarwal base enter through the Sunderbani area.

Senior officials said that despite these messages to close down the camps, the militants in Kashmir have not slowed down.

"The activity has not come down. Maybe, there will be a slowdown if the camps are abandoned, temporarily or whatever. But right now, there is no decline in action," one official said. Even the radio chatter levels, intercepted by the Indians, has not gone down appreciably.

Meanwhile, there have been unofficial talks between senior military officials in India and their counterparts in the United States of America.

'Postpone trips': The Centre has asked top military officials not to leave India for a while, or at least till the crisis blows over.

The Navy chief and chief of staffs committee chairman, Admiral Sushil Kumar, who was planning to go to Vietnam, will delay his trip. Other chiefs will also cut down on international visits.

The Army chief, General S Padmanabhan, is just back from Japan and there was talk of his visiting South Africa.

The Air chief, Air Chief Marshal AY Tipnis, was expected to leave for the United Arab Emirates and Oman tonight for a week. That trip will also be postponed.

18 SEP 2001

STATESMAN

Try Osama in Islamic nation: Kabul

Mubashir Zaidi and agencies
Islamabad/Kabul, September 17

THE TALIBAN have told an official Pakistani delegation that they are willing to hand over the terrorist Osama bin Laden to Islamabad. But Pakistan is still trying to remove the condition attached to his extradition — trial in an Islamic country.

A Pakistani delegation led by the ISI's director, General Mahmood Ahmed, and including the Foreign Office's Afghan desk director, Aziz Khan, held a three-hour meeting with the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Muhammad Omar, in Kandahar.

Senior Pakistani Government sources say the Taliban had expressed a willingness to hand over Bin Laden. However, they insisted Bin Laden would have to be tried in an Islamic country. Three countries were named: Pakistan, the UAE or Saudi Arabia. These are the only countries

to recognise the Taliban regime. The Pakistanis insist that the Taliban hand over Bin Laden directly to the US. In return, Islamabad will assure the Saudi-born terrorist's trial will be "held in public." In Washington on Monday, President Bush spelt out the US position by saying he wanted bin Laden brought to the US "dead or alive."

The delegation earlier met the Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil.

The talks will now go to a second day. The Pakistani delegation will participate in a meeting of the Taliban's Supreme Council, scheduled to be held in Kabul. The Council will make the final decision on Bin Laden's fate.

The Pakistani team warned the Taliban that if they failed to hand over bin Laden they would face US military strikes. Afterwards, Taliban spokesman Abdul Hai Muttmain said he saw a 60 per cent chance the situation

would return to normal.

Trying bin Laden in an Islamic court was proposed by the Taliban in 1994. It has also been

floated repeatedly by Pervez Musharraf. Today, few nations would like to host bin Laden for fear of US military action.

These developments were one reason Musharraf cancelled a TV address to the nation scheduled for today. His trip to China had been cancelled at Beijing's request.

China announced it was sealing its borders with Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. Pakistan on today closed its Afghan border. The Taliban moved an estimated 20,000 troops near the border with Pakistan and deployed Scud missiles.

Even as Pakistan tried to get the Taliban to hand over bin Laden, Islamic parties held a series of demonstrations in Islamabad and Karachi.

They warned the Musharraf Government against cooperating with Washington. "We won't allow the US to use our country to stage attacks against the Taliban," one of their leaders said.

More reports, photographs on
Pages 7, 9, 10 & 11

THE US BUILD-UP

Islamabad/Washington,
September 17

ON A day when US President George Bush made it clear that his Government wanted Osama bin Laden, dead or alive, his Army went about setting up its pieces. Two warships, us Vincennes and us Curtis Wilbur left their home bases in Japan for operational deployment. The aircraft carrier us Kitty Hawk could leave port this week.

Around 50 US agents, some from the special forces, have moved into Pakistan. Most of them arrived on Thursday when Islamabad airport was closed

mysteriously for five hours. As the US build-up continued, nearly half the population of Kandahar fled Afghanistan, fearing massive retaliation. In a related development, the besieged Taliban Government today closed its airspace and put its forces on alert along the Pakistan border. Pakistan too deployed more heavy artillery along its border with Afghanistan. Even as the world seemed to stand firm behind the US, a key player on the international scene, China issued a statement saying it was no use targeting imaginary enemies. Specific targets needed to be identified.

Agencies

FIGHTING TERROR

Opportunity but no room for complacency

WAR in Afghanistan seems imminent. Pakistan finds itself sandwiched between the US and the Taliban; Musharraf has read the writing on the wall and appears to be ready for a volte-face on the *jehadi* constituency he and his predecessors have assiduously nurtured. But his India-and-Kashmir-obsession is intact and comes through in the concessions he is trying to extract from the Americans: no place for India (and Israel) in the military effort against the Taliban, as well as a commitment of US mediation on Kashmir. However, Colin Powell is doing commendable work in pulling together an international coalition against terrorism, including even countries traditionally antipathetic to American interests such as China and Iran. It would be nonsensical if India and Israel were to be excluded. What Musharraf appears to be proposing is cooperation against one-half of terrorism, sponsored by the Taliban in Afghanistan, provided that the US overlook the other half, terrorism in Kashmir whereby, for example, the Kashmiri Pandit minority has been targeted and driven from the Valley. Fortunately, all the signals emanating from Washington indicate that this time around there is recognition that terrorism is indivisible and they intend to take a comprehensive approach to it, including taking out terrorist camps, finances, drug connections and measures against states which sponsor terrorism. Although Musharraf's manoeuvrings may be to convince domestic opinion that Pakistan is deriving significant advantages from the deal vis-à-vis India, there is no room for complacency and Indian diplomacy ought to go into overdrive to protect Indian interests.

What tilts the scales in India's favour, however, is that given the magnitude of the terror that struck the US, leaving more than 5,000 dead, it is unlikely that it will entertain cooperation with a significant number of riders, particularly when Pakistan's role in nurturing *jehadi* networks and the Taliban is widely known. Significantly, all Powell has promised is that the US will "take into account" Pakistan's sensitivities, while Bush telephoned Vajpayee the same day appreciating India's role in fighting terrorism. Musharraf is, however, manoeuvring boldly, which underscores India's wisdom in opening its military bases to American forces — just beating Pakistan to it, when India has a far greater interest in combating terrorism. There are many in India who will carp that the US hasn't recognised before the role played by terrorism in the Indian subcontinent. But the time for recrimination is not now — if the US is currently offering to help India in its fight against terrorism, India should recognise it and take them at face value. India can be recognised as a major nation only if it stands up clearly in its own interests — and New York's pain is also Mumbai's or Kashmir's pain. Which is why, on Solidarity Day against Terrorism today, we should all observe 2 minutes silence at 10:30 am.

Hand over Osama in three days: Pak

HT Correspondents & Agencies
Islamabad, September 16

CAUGHT IN a squeeze between the US and his Islamic fundamentalist backers, General Pervez Musharraf today put a price to Pakistan's acquiescence to a retaliatory strike.

Afghanistan will face a massive military retaliation unless the Taliban hands over Osama bin Laden in three days, according to an ultimatum to be delivered by a Pakistani delegation to the militia tomorrow. However, this comes for a price.

In return, the General has demanded huge economic aid, lifting of the sanctions, rescheduling of Pakistan's \$30-billion debt and American help to resolve its dispute with India over Kashmir. Pakistan is also believed to have made it clear that it is against the involvement of India and Israel in any unified military strike.

Colin Powell later said any US decision would take into account Pakistan's sensitivities regarding India and Israel.

The Pakistani initiative follows a late-night telephone conversation between President George Bush and Musharraf yesterday. The 15-minute discussion was described as cordial, with Bush expressing gratitude for "Pakistan's support in America's hour of grief".

Musharraf also spoke to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz over the phone. Sources said there was complete "unanimity of views" between them.

Musharraf is likely to visit China in the next few days to dis-

cuss the unfolding crisis, reports the local media. The General held close-door discussions with Chinese Ambassador yesterday soon after the emergency meeting between the Cabinet and the National Security Council.

His proposed visit is reportedly aimed at assuring Chinese leaders that despite the decision to

permit US military action against bin Laden, Pakistan would not compromise on its sovereignty.

In the first step of cooperation with the US, Pakistan has frozen bank accounts of around 300 important Afghan nationals, including Taliban officials.

Pakistan's Foreign Office today summoned the Taliban's

for the General, with Islamic leaders warning of a violent backlash if it helps the US in any aggression on the Taliban.

"Any attack on Afghanistan will have dangerous consequences and we have no choice other than to support our Islamic brethren," said Munawwar Hassan, general secretary of the

Ambassador to Islamabad, Abdul Salam Zaeef, and warned him against making statements against Pakistan. The Taliban envoy had yesterday warned Pakistan that it would retaliate against any of its neighbours if it lends support to the US strike.

The situation at home is increasingly becoming trickier

Jamaat-e-Islami.

Pakistan has bolstered security along its 1,500-mile border with Afghanistan after reportedly agreeing to a US demand to seal the border.

In a move to garner consensus for his promised help to the US retaliation, Musharraf convened a meeting of political and religious leaders, and editors. "The need for national unity was never greater than today. The situation demands a unified response," he said at the meeting. "We have proved to the world that Pakistan is for peace and against international terrorism."

He told the meeting that Pakistan would gain substantially both in terms of reputation and economically if it supports US and the international community.

Evidently, his pleas didn't cut much ice as at least 42 political and religious parties at a Jamaat conference warned the military regime that they would denounce any Government step to allow Pakistan's land, sea or air space to launch the attack.

Benazir Bhutto's PPP did not attend the meeting. The party spokesman told *Hindustan Times* that it had repeatedly called on the regime to distance itself from the Taliban to avoid international isolation, and it would support any such effort.

The other parties resolved that they would not support the Government if it accepted the US 'list of demands'. The United Jihad Council of 15 jihadi groups held a demonstration in Rawalpindi this evening denouncing the Pakistan Government's decision to support US efforts.

Taliban pledge to stand by bin Laden

Islamabad, September 16

THE TALIBAN today held to its position of sheltering Osama bin Laden while the terror mastermind reiterated that he had no hand in the US terror strikes.

"The US is pointing fingers at me, but I categorically state that I have not done this. I am residing in Afghanistan. I have taken an oath of allegiance to Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar which does not allow me to do such things from Afghanistan," Laden was quoted as saying.

On his part, Afghanistan Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakil said: "We are responsible for the security of all those living in our country," and reiterated the Taliban's resolve to retaliate against any country that assists America and allows it to use its air space or land routes.

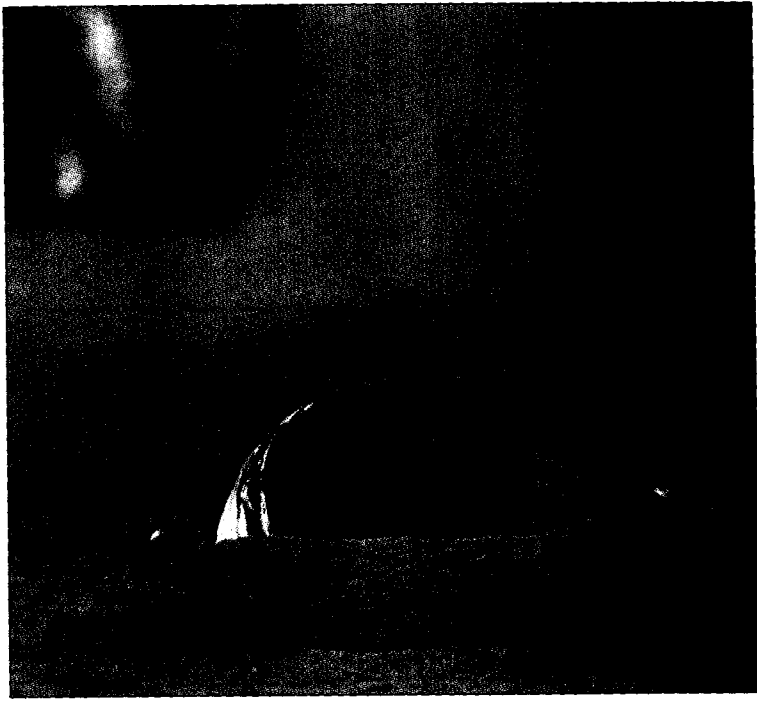
Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar summoned senior religious scholars to Kabul to dis-

cuss jihad against the US. The state newspaper said senior scholars would be called to issue a fatwa, possibly calling for a jihad in the event of a US attack.

Osama is said to have sneaked out of Kandahar along with his wives, children and followers, and moved to a secret location in Afghanistan. Pakistan's *The News* said not a single Arab was now visible in the city. He is guarded by some 13,000 guards, according to Northern Alliance president Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Mass evacuation

ALMOST ALL remaining Westerners in Kabul are leaving ahead of the expected US strikes. Red Cross said it was pulling out its remaining foreign staff after the Taliban said they could not guarantee their safety. Afghans also continue to flee, ignoring the Taliban's calls to stay and wage a jihad against the US and its allies.



AP PHOTO
FUTURE TENSE: An Afghan girl at the Jalozai refugee camp in Pakistan on Sunday. Thousands of Afghans could flee to Pakistan if the US attacks Afghanistan.

11-10

Wages of War 179

In our last editorial, we had cautioned against India jumping headlong into any military offensive planned by the American alliance in retaliation for the terrorist strikes on the US. Regrettably, the prime minister's televised address to the nation hints at precisely that kind of overenthusiasm on the Indian government's part. Not content with demanding that the world join hands militarily to "overwhelm the terrorists and neutralise their poison", Mr Vajpayee exhorted every Indian "to be part of this global war on terrorism". Though the prime minister avoided detailing the exact nature of the 'cooperation' India might extend in this war, reports increasingly suggest that India will allow the US the use of specific facilities, including perhaps its airbases, in the event the latter launches an offensive against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden. Earlier, in an interview to this paper, foreign minister Jaswant Singh made the startling admission that India's offer of unqualified support to the American action was a unilateral one. This gung-ho approach is fraught with danger. Terrorism respects no logic, as India which has had to pay a horrific price for it knows only too well. In this case, the consequences are graver still because it is the subcontinent that is to act as the theatre for the global war that America and its allies have planned against terrorism. Unfortunately, rather than adopting a measured and sober response, official India has chosen to echo the hysteria and war-mongering resounding across major world capitals. There are other reasons too to regard with caution, even reservation, the Indian government's overeager resolve to join this global war.

To begin with, there is the minor matter of semantics. Before the latest terrorist strikes at the heart of American economic and military establishment, the war against terrorism, far from being a global concern, was the burden of individual countries. Now that mainland America has fallen victim to terrorist violence, it has overnight become incumbent on "all civilised countries" to contribute their mite to the American quest for retribution. In his address, the prime minister spoke of the global sweep of this scourge as a justification for the American call for an international war. "What happened in Mumbai one day is bound to happen elsewhere tomorrow", he said. Ironically, however, he failed to draw the full implications of his own observations. The simple truth is that New York matters, not Mumbai. "The New War" will be fought to further American strategic interests and not ours. Quite apart from this, there is a danger that in extending our "exceptionally strong support" — as secretary of state Colin Powell described it — India might unwittingly get sucked into a war which is neither of its own making nor one whose course it will have any control over, not to mention the costs it might have to bear. These reservations are all the more important to emphasise today because the Indian government's overhasty support for the American line has found a strong echo amongst the articulate sections in this country. A recent poll in this paper suggested that as many as 95% readers wanted India to make common cause with America in its war against terrorism. To be carried away by emotion in a war-like situation is easy, but individual Indians would do well to remember that they will have to bear the consequences of this war long after the Americans have fought it and gone.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

17 SEP 2001

UN meet calls on the faithful to fight terrorism

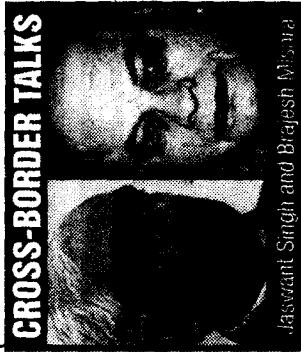
Indrani Bagchi

NEW DELHI 16 SEPTEMBER

THE UN General Assembly this year will become a forum for cementing a global alliance to fight terrorism. Foreign minister Jaswant Singh will be travelling to New York in the coming week to participate in these intensive consultations as the world prepares to take multilateral action.

Mr Singh, who has had continuous consultations with Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov, said: "We must work with each other" to fight this "common challenge."

Mr Ivanov will be in Russia next week. So will French president Jacques Chirac and foreign minister Hubert Vedrine. In fact, national security adviser Brajesh Mishra reached Moscow on Sunday for "high level" consultations with counterpart Vladimir Rushailo. According to senior government sources, the framework of multinational cooperation needs



CROSS-BORDER TALKS

Jaswant Singh and Brajesh Mishra

to be strengthened to launch this campaign, aimed at creating a new "concert" of democracies.

As America's geographical security was shattered last week with the terrorist attacks, so too was its approach to the whole question of international terrorism, which was previously described as bordering on the naive. The maturing of US opinion against terrorism has been the immediate spur to concerted global action.

In this effort, India expects to be consulted at length by both the

US and other key nations. According to high-level sources, the MEA is a beehive of activity.

India has believed for some time that the nature of modern warfare has changed to become more clandestine, using "medieval and malevolent" forces that have their origin in the Afghanistan-Pakistan geographical area.

What the consultations at New York and other world capitals will accomplish is to first define the nature, scope and scale of the retaliation against terrorism, a retaliation that India believes will last for the long haul and will need to encompass several fronts—security, economics and politics. Military action will be the ultimate weapon against terrorist organisations.

To achieve this, India believes the Arab countries should be made part of the coalition because Islam is not the enemy, terrorism is, and it would be against global interests to alienate the Muslim world.

Bush thanks Vajpayee

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 16 SEPTEMBER

US PRESIDENT George Bush called up Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Sunday evening to thank him for the Indian government's offer of "turnaround facilities" for American planes. The two leaders also agreed to hold a dialogue at the level of national security advisors.

The pre-arranged 10-minute conversation was used by the US President to dispel the impression that Washington was close to striking an agreement with Pakistan. He said Tuesday's carnage had helped the US better appreciate the travails of India at the hands of terrorists. He expressed his willingness to intensify cooperation in counter-terrorism activities.

"Let us open a new chapter in cooperation against international terrorism," he is learnt to have told Mr Vajpayee.

Mr Brajesh Mishra is expected to meet his counterpart Condoleezza Rice in the US next week. Mr Jaswant Singh, who is scheduled to leave for the US next week to attend the UN General Assembly session, is also expected to use the opportunity to hold consultations with US secretary of state Colin Powell and defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

In his conversation with the Prime Minister, President Bush thanked Mr Vajpayee for his message of condolence and strong statement of support. The two leaders, it is learnt, briefly discussed the current situation and agreed that dialogue should be carried on at other levels.

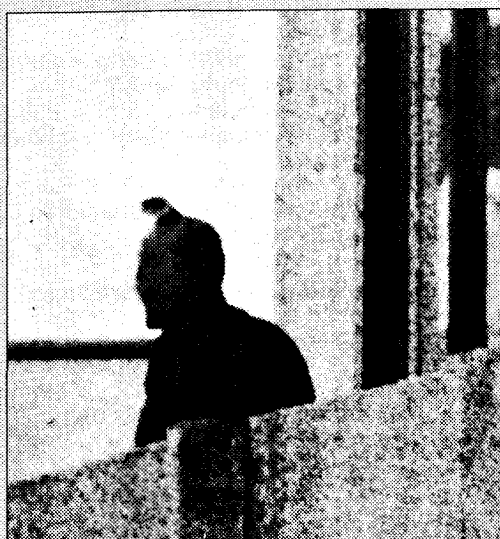
The Economic Times

17 SEP 2001

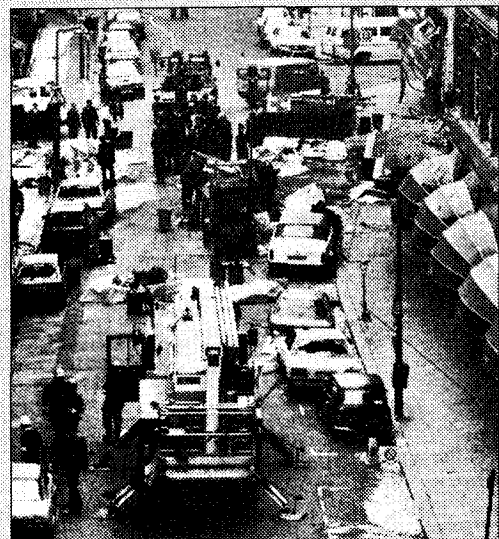
Deathwish: Inside the mind of a terrorist

What kind of mind would willingly turn its body into a grave? What kind of twisted but exalted motivation is at work in a suicide mission where marksmen and target are both annihilated to charred shreds? Some call them Satan's agents, others call them martyrs. But what are the compulsions that fuel them? *The Sunday Times* attempts to look beyond the terrorist's hood into his psyche

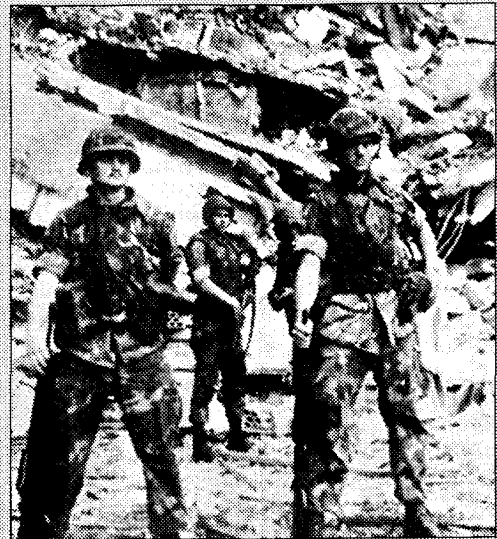
TERRORISM IS NOT A WAR BETWEEN RELIGIONS, SAYS AMOS OZ. IT'S BETWEEN FANATICS AND THE REST OF US. FOR EVERY TWIN TOWER THERE IS...



MUNICH 1972: Eight Arab terrorists shot 11 Israeli athletes during the Olympic Games



LONDON 1983: Car-bomb by IRA killed five pre-Christmas shoppers outside Harrods



BEIRUT 1983: A Hizbullah suicide attack left the US Embassy in ruins



SRIPERUMBUDUR 1991: Shoes and socks were all that were left of Rajiv Gandhi after he was killed by an LTTE suicide bomber



NEW YORK 2001: Flames engulfed the Twin Towers after they were hit

Training tomorrow's holy warriors

In the heart of Al Muhajiroun, a north London organisation, **Rashmee Z Ahmed** finds the answers to the world's question: what drives a terrorist to kill and be killed

LONDON: Those who might pilot the flying bombs of tomorrow walk these streets, take the tube, work out at neighbourhood gyms, go on rough camping holidays and buy books from local bookstores. They are also likely to be receptive to the prescriptions of Al Muhajiroun, a north London organisation spread across 25 British cities and most often associated with recruiting young British Muslims to train for jihad in distant lands. Tomorrow's holy warriors pay particular attention to the last four activities, for these constitute the basic tenets of the simple prescribed training for jihad.

We have it on good authority, notably Anjem Chaudhary, 34, who heads Al Muhajiroun, which translates as The Emigrant. "We are the only organisation in Europe to openly endorse jihad," Chaudhary said.

Kashmir, Chechnya, the Palestinian territories, Al Muhajiroun is openly and outspokenly concerned about them all. Six months ago, a spokesman for Russian president Vladimir Putin, called on Britain to ban Al Muhajiroun under its new terrorism law, alleging, it was the European hub of the waves of fighters converging on

the Caucasus to wage a holy war. India should care as well. An alleged Al Muhajiroun recruit from Birmingham blew himself up in a car in Birmingham on Christmas Day.

Al Muhajiroun is wary. Both its founder, Syrian-born Muslim cleric Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed and Chaudhary, the current head, pronounce in favour of jihad but deny they actually organise training.

In the past, Sheikh Omar openly admitted to being responsible for sending as many as 700 British undergraduates to fight abroad, mostly in Kashmir. Now, is he more circumspect.

"Physical training is part of a Muslim male's religious obligation, but I do not train anyone myself for jihad," Sheikh Omar told the *Sunday Times*. "I am disabled".

Adds Chaudhary: "If you want to describe us to your readers, we are a political and ideological movement based on the principles of the Quran". However, Chaudhary does not deny his own impulse to jihad or indeed that of other members of Al Muhajiroun. "Outside of the organisation, we are individual Muslims, so yes, there may be people inside and outside

of the organisation who are preparing to go," he explains. "It is the duty of young, male Muslims to train for jihad. I myself would hope to participate in a jihad".

So how do they do it? And does any of this happen here in Britain, with its huge Muslim population, a traditional safe haven for political refugees from around the world and rising tally of angry allegations from as far afield as India, Egypt, Yemen and Russia to crack down on potential jihadis sporting a British accent? "There are no training camps here," stresses Chaudhary.

There is a reason for the over-emphasised denial. It keeps Al Muhajiroun within the bounds of British law. And it is apparently true. Chaudhary's unequivocal claim is backed by Jihad al Khazen, London editor of *Al Hayat*, one of the largest-circulating Arabic-language dailies.

More crucially still, it is affirmed by Azaam publications, which maintains a London post box address and offers much useful, practical information on how to become a jihadi: "There are NO live-ammunition firearm training camps within the UK. One can obtain almost any type

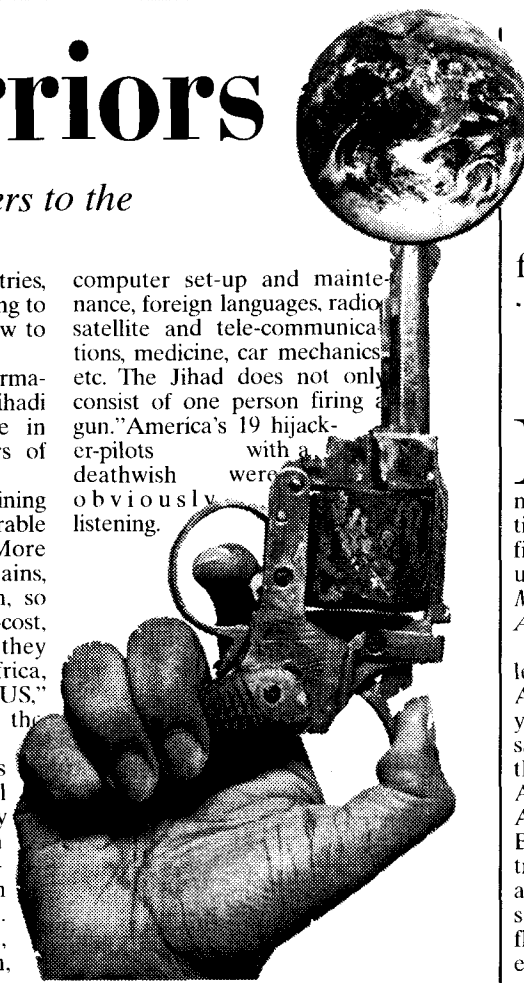
of military training in some countries, legally, so there is no need to risk going to prison for years just for learning how to use a single firearm illegally".

The *piece de resistance* is the information it offers to potential jihadis: "Jihadi military training is provided free in Pakistan from the training centers of Mujahideen Lashkar-e-Taiba".

Sources say the prospect of free training elsewhere, makes the UK an undesirable location for training camps. More pertinently, as Chaudhary explains, Britain does not have conscription, so jihadis are unable to obtain the low-cost, highly-skilled military training they can easily get abroad. "North Africa, Pakistan, Afghanistan, even the US," he says, "these are areas where the jihadi would go".

But while still here, tomorrow's mujahideen undertake other, crucial tasks, guided by Azzam: "Many Muslims who are in the West have an excellent opportunity to gain knowledge in a wide range of areas that can be of benefit to the Mujahideen. Examples of these are: management, organisation, computer operation,

computer set-up and maintenance, foreign languages, radio satellite and tele-communications, medicine, car mechanics etc. The Jihad does not only consist of one person firing a gun." America's 19 hijacker-pilots with a deathwish were obviously listening.



'America was our ultimate enemy'

In 1991, Liyaqat Ali, a young Kashmiri, was trained to be a militant. Today, this freshly-minted prophet of peace and president of the Jammu Kashmir Awami Conference, tells **Shabnam Minwalla** the attack on the US had its genesis in the philosophy instilled in men like him

In a tiny hotel room in Mumbai, Liyaqat Ali stares unblinkingly as the television replays the now familiar sequence of devastation. As the aircraft hurtles to its fiery fate, a sinister soundtrack unspools in his head. "Jag jawana Musalmana... Nabke rakh Amrikanu..."

"I remember a Punjabi song we learnt while training in Afghanistan which urged Muslim youth to grab control of America," says Ali, seduced in his teens by the glamour of the gun. "The Arab-run camps, especially, saw America as the ultimate enemy. But in 1991, we were merely trained to handle Kalashnikovs and conduct ambushes. What we see today is a full-fledged war conducted by an international network."

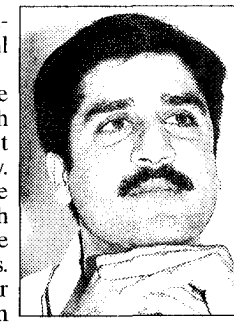
Ali was among the first militants to switch allegiance and assist the Indian army. Today, he explains the conviction which transformed college students into killers. "Militancy in Kashmir gained ground in 1989. While Kashmiris had always had ambiguous feelings about accession to India, the rigged elections of 1987 generated unprecedented rage. "We were never *kattar* Muslims. But as the sense of political frustration grew, outfits like the JKLF sprang up, those who joined were considered heroes."

He enrolled and spent a year carrying coded messages and making arrangements for the big boys with guns. He eventually undertook a terrifying, treacherous three-day-long trek into PoK. "What drove us on?" muses Ali, agreeing that the same emotions probably motivated those in the *kamikaze* operations last week. "Anger against India, and the sense that we were performing our religious duty motivated us. It was

dinned into our heads that martyrdom was a noble goal."

In Pakistan, Ali discovered two types of training camps — those run by the ISI and conducted by retired army men, and the more rough-and-ready joints in Afghanistan. "There were thousands of Kashmiris waiting to enter the ISI camps, so we opted for Afghanistan," says Ali. Besides information about mines and raids, they were given a stiff dose of religious indoctrination. Nevertheless, a few doubts began to assail Ali. A casual *dekho* at college textbooks in PoK, for example, revealed that standards of education were abysmal. For the first time, he began to wonder where militancy would take his homeland. Despite doubts, he worked with the Ikhwan-al-Muslimi till 1994. Around this time, the pro-Pakistan Hizbul-Mujahadeen began to eliminate those groups talking in terms of autonomy for Kashmir, rather than accession to Pakistan. "I was picked up twice and told I should either promise loyalty to Pakistan or get out." He says he still bears the marks of those encounters on his back. "During my months in hiding, I began to yearn for normalcy." So when the army sent feelers, Ali and his comrades-in-arms decided to help. "We played a big role in flushing out militants and creating an atmosphere in which elections, in 1995 and 1996, could be conducted." Even today he carries a price of Rs 20 lakh on his head.

Ali has a message for India — militancy flourishes amidst corruption and political intrigues. Ofcourse religious fanaticism plays a part. "At the moment, it just doesn't pay for a Kashmiri Muslim to be pro-Indian. Till the government is able to send out a more positive message, militancy will flourish in the Valley."



ONE WANTS EELAM, ANOTHER THE DESTRUCTION OF AMERICA

THE GENERAL



V. Prabhakaran

LTTE-leader **Vellupillai Prabhakaran** sees himself as a messiah. From a secret base in north-east Sri Lanka, he heads the LTTE fight for an independent homeland. A school dropout, he is the fourth son of a low-level government servant. He has the reputation of being a ruthless guerrilla leader under whom the Tamil Tigers have matured into a highly-disciplined and motivated force. He began his career as a small-time activist and later formed a militant group called Tamil National Tigers. In the '70s when the Lankan government introduced discriminatory laws against the Tamils, he protested violently. In 1975, he killed the mayor of Jaffna and went underground. He is also insecure and suspicious of people. His movements in the jungles of Jaffna are a well-kept secret. He is known to carry a cyanide capsule.

THE FOOT SOLDIER



Dhanu

Dhanu alias Gayatri, the human bomb who killed Rajiv Gandhi, and on whose life Santosh Sivan based his film *The Terrorist*, is a typical example of a motivated, brain-washed terrorist who trusted her leader completely. She saw in Rajiv Gandhi an oppressor who was responsible for sending the IPKF to Jaffna. Dhanu worked with Akila, the head of the LTTE's women's intelligence wing. Like other suicide bombers, she was unmarried, in her 20s, and had lost her

father. Martyrdom and money motivated her. Dhanu was unemotional about her destiny. Before boarding the bus for Sriperumbudur, Dhanu said she wanted to say her final prayers and was taken to the Pillayar Temple. She and her accomplices then purchased a garland, had ice-cream and boarded the bus. To their deaths.

THE GENERAL



Osama bin Laden

The 44-year-old millionaire lives as a guest of the Taliban in Afghanistan. **Osama bin Laden** is hardly ever seen in public — he sees himself as the saviour of Islam. Given that he comes from a billionaire construction family, bin Laden is in the unique position of being able to finance terrorism. His fight is against the West, especially the US, which he sees as permissive and tolerating values utterly destructive of the social fabric. His soft voice and melancholy smile are said to leave a lasting impression on his followers.

THE FOOT SOLDIER



Ramzi Yousef

Ramzi Yousef, the mastermind behind the original bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993, typifies the new breed of terrorists: they have no 'attainable' goals, like land or the release of prisoners, and are hence more difficult to deal with. Yousef's plan was to build a huge bomb and topple one of the twin towers into the other. But his plan bombed — he ran out of money for explosives.

They love to hate and kill

Suicide terrorism can be traced to two ancient sects — Jewish Sicairis and Islamic Hashishyun. Its modern *avtaar* appeared in the 18th century. Suicide tactics were used in the Malabar coast, Atjeh in northern Sumatra and Mindanao and Sulu in the Philippines. All were Muslim attempts to fight western hegemony. In the last two decades, 15 different terrorist organisations in 12 countries have resorted to suicide tactics; they numbered close to 300. The most well-known suicide squads are:

- **AL-QAIDA:** Islamic terrorist organisation headed by Osama bin Laden.
- **What Do They Want:** Jihad against American troops in Saudi Arabia.
- **Targets so far:** August 1998: Simultaneous attacks against American embassies in Nairobi and in Dar-e-Salaam, resulted in 300 fatalities and 5,000 wounded.
- **HIZBULLAH:** Lebanese Shi'ite terrorist group.

- **What Do They Want:** Creation of an independent Islamic Lebanon and ouster of anything western.
- **Targets so far:** April 1983: American Embassy in Beirut; October 1983: US Marines headquarters and French multinational Force (total toll: 300); March 1992: Israeli embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 29 people, 250 hurt.
- **LITE:** The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.
- **What Do They Want:** Creation of a separate Tamil land in Sri Lanka
- **Targets So Far:** June 1991: Assassination former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi in 1991 by a suicide bomber; 1993: Sri Lanka President Premadasa by a male suicide-bomber who infiltrated the president's inner circle, and even lived at his premises for a year before assassinating; December 1999: assassination attempt on President Chandrika Kumaratunga who survived but lost an eye; between July 1987-February 2000, it carried out 168

- **suicide attacks in Lanka and India, leaving thousands dead or wounded.**
- **HAMAS:** The Harkat el-Mukawma el-Islamiya or the Islamic Resistance Movement inspired by the Hizbullah.
- **What Do They Want:** An Islamic state and helping other groups such as the PIJ in their fight for a homeland.
- **Targets so far:** Israel.
- **PIJ:** The Palestinian Islamic Jihad, operational mainly in Israel.
- **What Do They Want?** Liberation of all Palestine.
- **Targets so far:** Israel. (The two groups have carried out about 30 suicide attacks; toll 120)
- **PKK:** The Kurdistan Workers' Party founded in 1978, operating in Turkey.
- **What do they want:** Their own motherland.
- **Targets so far:** Twenty-one suicide attacks or attempted attacks — 15 attacks actually carried out. Casualties: 19.

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Terrorism: The new bestseller

The attack on America has spawned a whole new clan of bookworms

Elizabeth Kuruvilla
New Delhi

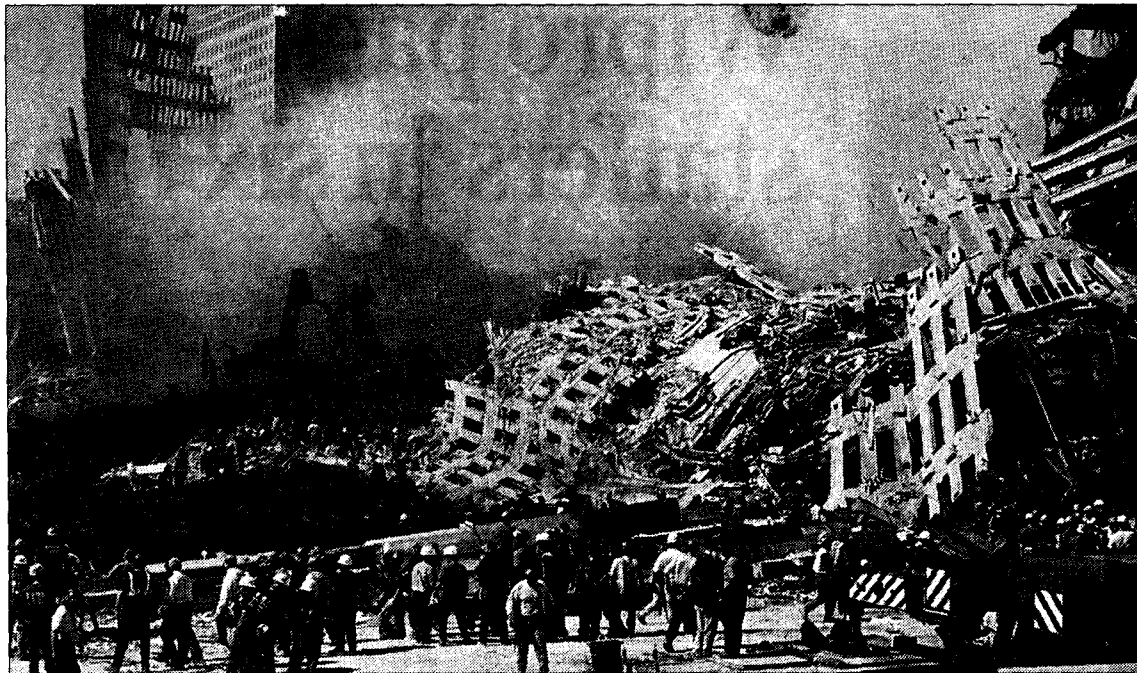
11-15
16/9

Fanatics are believed to have destroyed the symbol of American capitalism last week, on September 11. Now, it seems the rest of us are turning believers; even our scepticism is twinged with a pinch of anxiety. Nostradamus' doomsday predictions are drawing people towards bookstores in droves.

Along with e-mails enquiring about family and friends living in the US, there were a chain of messages spreading Nostradamus' words:

*In the year 1999 and seven months
From the sky will come the great
King of Terror...*

The 16th century French physician and occultist was off the mark by a whole two years, but he did get the month right. Wasn't that reason enough to read up on his prophecies and see how much longer the world had? John Hogue's *Nostradamus: The Complete Prophecies* shot up to the number one mark on the *amazon.com* bestseller list. The Seattle-based Hogue had dedicated a quarter of a century to researching this book and providing viable interpretations to Nostradamus' somewhat cryptic quatrains, in the process studying the controversy that the man is. But his is certainly not the only book that people are willing to rely on. At least four more books on the same subject are being voraciously consumed: Edgar Leoni's *Nostradamus and his Prophecies*, David Ovason's *The Secrets of Nostradamus: A Radical New Interpretation of the Master's Prophecies*, *The Final Prophecies of Nostradamus* edited by Erika Cheetham and *The Complete Prophecies of Nostradamus*. "I never thought literature on Nostradamus would sell out like this," said an employee of Bahri



NOVEL IDEA: As America burned, people sought answers from various books, ranging from Nostradamus to the Taliban

Sons, a New Delhi bookstore.

But evidently any disaster, like the one in New York and Washington, like the one in Gujarat or Orissa or the brutal murder of Indira Gandhi or Phoolan Devi, tickles man's imagination. The grief, sympathy and horror last but a few days, but for that span it occupies his mind like nothing else. Booksellers don't have reason to complain, for this is when they clear their stock of books on related subjects. In India, the main point of interest is the Afghanistan connection. It's closer home than the twin towers which once framed New York's skyline, and roofed 50,000 employees. There are now more than a few hands turning the pages of *The New Jackals: Ramzi Yousef, Osama Bin Laden and the Future of Terrorism*. Osama bin Laden is the main suspect of the latest terrorist act, and was called by Bill Clinton as "the pre-eminent organiser and financier of international terrorism in the world today". Simon Reeve, a former journalist with *The Sunday Times* of London, shows how bin Laden's

story is intricately linked with that of Ramzi Yousef, who'd first masterminded a plan to turn the World Trade Centre to dust, in 1993, and failed. Funded by bin Laden, the British-educated Yousef bombed an Iranian shrine, tried to assassinate Benazir Bhutto and planned the assassination of the Pope and President Clinton. Another of his evil designs was to attack the CIA headquarters with a plane loaded with chemical weapons, a plan that sounds eerily similar to ones which were executed successfully last week. While the book dwelves more on Yousef than on bin Laden, it nevertheless sheds light on the mentality of a new breed of terrorists: one that have no qualms towards mass, innocent killings, and one that have immense resources in their hand.

For a closer look at how terrorist networks operate, Yossef Bodansky's *Bin Laden: The Man Who Declared War on America* is highly recommended. It gives a fascinating account of the subversive activities of bin Laden-sponsored terrorism in

the Middle East, India and in western Europe. The very fact that Osama, who brought the wrath of the US on Afghanistan and Sudan in 1998 by attacking US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, is now a very popular baby name in Arab countries establishes his heroic status with radical Muslim youth, says Bodansky. The author is publishing another title, *Bin Laden*, on the same subject and if you would like to wait a year, Elaine Landau's *Osama bin Laden: A War against the West*, might provide an interesting read.

However, no reading on bin Laden would be complete without getting an account of the "harbourers" of this terrorist, the Taliban. Michael Griffin, an investigative journalist, made three trips to Afghanistan, conducted several intensive interviews and studied the situation in the country. He wrote *Reaping the Whirlwind: The Taliban Movement in Afghanistan*. The book traces the origins of the Taliban movement, its beliefs and the impact of its conservative ethos, especially on women.

Another journalist, Ahmed Rashid, who's spent some 21 years of his life in Afghanistan, has recounted the rise of the movement in his book, *Taliban*. He explores the nature of the movement vis a vis Islam.

But immediately on the field, there is a revival of interest in the history of the buildings that are no more. Angus Kress Gillespie's *Twin Towers: The Life of New York City's World Trade Center* is second only to the seer's prophecies in the *amazon.com* list. The 110-storey skyscraper, housing several major financial firms, was to become the cultural symbol of the US and the obvious target of attacks against the superpower.

After reading up on the entire history behind the suicide attacks and the logic behind political violent activity (an interesting book on this might be Walter Reich's *Origins of Terrorism: Psychologies, Ideologies, Theologies, States of Mind*), perhaps you'll be tempted to write a political intrigue yourself. Well, you can join the ranks of Frederick Forsythe, Tom Clancy and Dominique Lapierre among others. Interestingly John S. Powell takes off from the much-talked about predication to write his thriller, *The Nostradamus Prophecy*, about a Russian mobster waging a personal attack on the US. Powell, dedicated to the occultist's saying, bases his novel on nuclear terrorism in the year 1999. Domsday novels have always fascinated the West, with each new writer digging into his imagination for a fresh way to end the world. Ken Follet, in *The Hammer of Eden*, has a terrorist commune threatening California with a remote-controlled devastating earthquake. Most chilling is perhaps Tom Clancy's *Executive Orders*, where a Japanese terrorist pilots a plane into Capitol Hill, killing the President, most of the Cabinet and the Congress. And the Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins co-authored *The Fifth Horseman* has a plot which could easily have been lifted for the present reality television. Here, Qaddafi succeeds in constructing a three-megaton nuclear device and holds USA ransom against the establishment of an autonomous Palestinian state. Truth, it seems, is no longer stranger than fiction.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 SEP 2001

16 SEP 2001

Terrorism
HD-17

Merchants of terror

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WITH THE U.S. finally being goaded — and goaded by a series of deep wounds at that — to lead a decisive war against global jihad there is finally a chance that the campaign will acquire some coherence. So far, the U.S. has been fighting terrorism in its many manifestations and at different points around the globe but has done so piecemeal.

Other nations confronting this phenomenon have also addressed it in the particular form in which it manifests before each of them. A net result is that while global jihad has been defined on the basis of its tactics its true nature as a menace to civilisation has been obscured.

There has been a hesitancy in the West to apply the term jihad to international terrorism in its current form. This is probably on account of a distaste for provoking the proverbial clash of civilisations. However, it is possible to use the term to describe a relatively new global phenomenon while negating an inference that the use of the term implies hostility to a religion.

In its true sense as one of the five pillars of Islam, the obligation for jihad, or struggle, is little different from similar obligations in other religious systems. Every person is enjoined to struggle, or wage jihad, against his baser instincts and social evils. This is an imprimatur in any religious system.

Used as a political term over the past two decades, the term jihad has acquired a secondary and altogether different meaning. As used by its votaries jihad has become a cover-tag for the activities of a group of people filled with a blind unreasoning hatred for anyone else who does not subscribe to their lifestyles, world views or even dress and behavioural codes.

Those who disembowel children in Algeria, or behead poor shepherds in Jammu or bomb innocents in New York buildings can by no means be described as followers of the tenets of any religion. Yet since they themselves describe their activities as being jihadi in nature there should be no difficulty in using this term, in its secondary sense, in relation to them.

The above exercise in semantics is necessary to mark out the distinction between jihadi terrorism and terrorist activities of an earlier vintage. The Hizbollah in Lebanon has used terrorism — indiscriminate attacks on the unsuspecting with the sole intention



Osama bin Laden... prime suspect.

to desist from doing so the failure to draw a distinction between jihadis and terrorism of the older vintage can lead to difficulties.

For instance, if the U.S. were to move against Hamas or Hizbollah it could jeopardise the prospects for drawing moderate Muslim states into the coalition against jihad. To lump both forms of terrorism together could also lead to confusion about the choice of methods to use against jihad.

Terrorist organisations of an older vintage have a territorial base and identifiable objectives. The jihadis on the other hand are an extremely loose bunch of fanatics that cannot be pinned to either a territory or an objective. At present, it would appear that the only way of identifying them is by their connections to the Al Qaeda network of Osama bin Laden.

But Al Qaeda is itself a loose fraternity of the like-minded and not a structured organisation with locatable offices or branches. Jihad is a phenomenon whereby a bomb-maker from Tunisia, a speed driver from Egypt, a pilot from the UAE or a financier from somewhere else can pool their efforts for a specific operation, disperse after that and then form completely new teams for the next operation down the line.

Besides the facts that it encompasses a large and widely dispersed range of operatives and financiers the only other matter that can be pin-pointed about jihad is that it has a readily available base in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan. There is no other place in the world where the jihadis can go for rest and recuperation between operations, or plan and prepare for the next one, with no worry about being disturbed. That automatically leads to the question of the jihadi establishment in Pakistan — the only country in the world where the jihadis have worked themselves into all levels of the power structure to the extent that the non-jihadis are unable to take action against them despite enjoying co-equal power.

Would jihadis from all over the world for instance be able to access their base in Afghanistan with such ease if Pakistan did not readily provide multiple-entry visas and untrammelled transit. If the current campaign is to stop with merely an attack on Osama and the Taliban the world will have to confront jihad for a long time to come.

Jihadis are an extremely loose bunch of fanatics that cannot be pinned to either a territory or an objective, says Kesava Menon.

of instilling terror — in the past. So did the Islamic Salvation Army in Algeria and so does Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine even now.

But in each of these cases the use of terror tactics was and is linked to specific goals. If the AIS wanted their country to become more Islamic in its political orientation, Hizbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad are fighting for the liberation of their homelands. While the tactics they use, or have used, are deplorable there is at least scope for the thought that they would abandon these practices once their goal was achieved.

On the other hand, the jihadis display no such relieving features. Neither the members of the Armed Islamic Group in Algeria, nor those who attacked Amarnath pilgrims, nor those who attacked the World Trade Center in 1993 or on Terror Tuesday state that their

actions had a connection with any specific objective.

They might vaguely say that they want to promote the cause of Kashmir or Palestine but they also make clear that their millennial movement will not stop once these objectives are achieved. More nebulously they might talk of destroying American imperialism or re-conquering India but even they seem to recognise that such statements are mere slogans. The only true objective they seem to pursue is destruction for its own sake.

The U.S., probably because its world view on terrorism had so far been moulded by Israel and its own experience in the Middle East during the 1980s, had thus far not drawn any distinction between terrorism of an earlier vintage and the new jihadism.

While it may be necessary to use all means to dissuade all those who indulge in terror tactics

J&K witnesses drop in militant activities

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, Sept. 15. - There is a sharp drop in militant activities and militants are expected to lie low for the next couple of months in Jammu and Kashmir with various militant training camps being closed down in PoK for the time being and the USA tightening its noose around Pakistan.

However, the militants are not shying away from expressing their joy over the success achieved by their icon Osama bin Laden in attacking USA and the death of Afghan rebel leader, Ahmad Shah Masood.

Sources said security forces in the Valley have intercepted the militants' constant messages on the wireless saying: "Fidayeen ki hath, duniya ka badshah" (the world's super-power in the hands of the suicide squads).

Security forces in the Valley are on alert. Extra precautions have been taken including increase in vigilance, patrolling and mobility. Mr Venkaiah Naidu was to visit Srinagar on Thursday and Umar Bharati on Friday. Both visits were cancelled.

Highly placed sources said security forces had intercepted messages from across the border asking for-

sign terrorists to return to their respective training camps.

Since Tuesday when terrorists struck in the USA, there has been a considerable decline in militancy-related incidents.

Brigadier General Staff, 16 Corps, PC Das confirmed this. "Militants are running away from the security forces and we are chasing them out," said the BGS adding that if the foreign element is reduced, there would further be a considerable decline in militancy in the state.

However, the BGS said that the next one week would be crucial and there can be a

spurt in militancy in the next few days.

"The militants who would be returning to their bases, would like to use all their stocks of explosives and ammunition before going back and thus they would be on a killing spree", he said.

The security forces, he said, were tying up the obvious ends and without logistics support to militants from across the border, even the local element would find itself in a difficult situation.

Expressing similar views, Dr Surinder Singh, former inspector general, BSF, said though Pakistan would not be a close shop in the state, there

would be a considerable decrease in militancy related activities.

But once they start regrouping themselves after the US retaliations, they would return.

The former director general of Jammu and Kashmir police, Mr MM Khajooria, however, felt that the frustrated ultras who are definitely feeling lost at present would go in for soft targets in near future.

"I have great apprehension that those terrorists who cannot retaliate before a powerful enemy in Afghanistan, would definitely strike in Jammu and Kashmir," he

said.

The All Parties Hurriyat Conference is keeping silent over Pakistan's decision to fully cooperate with the USA in attacking bin Laden through Pakistani airspace and from the Pakistani airbases.

"We are going to discuss the issue in the executive council meeting next week and till then we would not like to comment on it", said an APHC spokesman.

The APHC is in a fix. Pakistan supported APHC's "freedom struggle" morally and otherwise, and now it has agreed to cooperate and attack the Muslim icon.

THE STATESMAN

Don't equate terrorism with Islam, says Govt

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 15

THE GOVERNMENT today emphasised that terrorism should not be equated with Islam as Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee assured an all-party meeting that the Centre would keep "national interest" in mind while dealing with the unfolding scenario following the terrorist strikes in the United States.

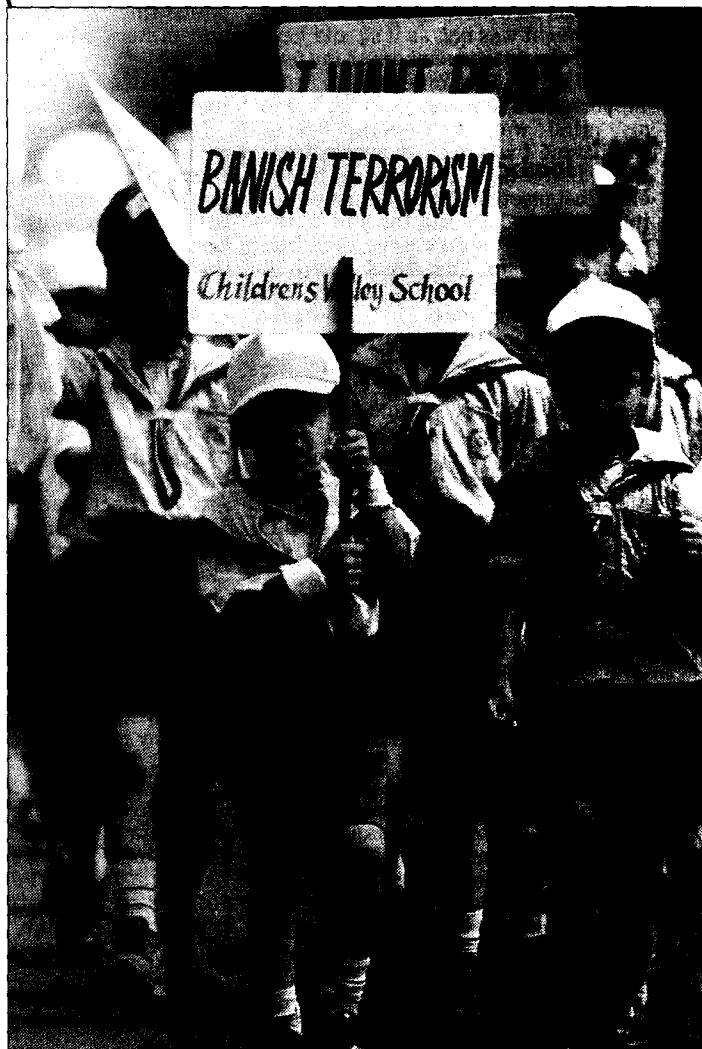
"Our action will be guided by this consideration," he reportedly told a meeting of 30 leaders representing 22 parties, including Congress and the Left, which wanted to know the Government's stand and preparations over two critical issues — a possible US request for logistical support and the implications of a probable war in India's neighbourhood.

Dispelling their apprehensions that his Government had given a blank cheque for an American operation from India to root out terrorism, the Prime Minister urged the leaders not to go by media speculations.

Other than stating that the US has not sought Indian help in waging a war against terrorism, the Government gave little away during the 85-minute meeting. The PM as much as said this when he said it was not possible to speak in detail at a gathering almost the size of a public meeting.

Briefing reporters about the meeting, where the leaders urged the Government to adopt strategies in consonance with national interests and international laws, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pramod Mahajan admitted that "the parties said the situation is very complex and it can get even more complicated in the days to come and urged the Government to be careful in reacting to the scenario as it unfolds".

Asked if the meeting had "authorised" Vajpayee to handle the situation, Mahajan said nothing of the sort was sought by the Government. But he stressed the



Schoolchildren at a peace march in New Delhi on Saturday.

AP PHOTO

parties had supported the Government's initiatives so far — a point immediately discounted by CPI(M) leader H S Surjeet, who said the Left had opposed the Government's move to offer logistical facilities within India and to participate in the proposed US military action.

But in a signal that all were united in battling terrorism, the country would observe September 18 as a national solidarity day

against terrorism with a two-minute silence at 10.30 am — the time the WTC towers collapsed.

Since September 11, Mahajan said, India was in constant touch with US, China, Russia, France and UK. While the Congress, Left, RJD and SP pointed to the far-reaching implications a war could have on the economy, NDA allies like the JD(U) and the INLD were ready to authorise the PM to take any necessary action.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 SEP 2001

Osama not to blame: Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 14. Striking a tough posture against any possible retaliation by the U.S., the Taliban today not only denied the involvement of Osama bin Laden in the attacks in the U.S. on Tuesday but also maintained that it would take revenge in the event of strikes against Afghanistan.

The Taliban Ambassador in Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Saleem Zaef, released a three-paragraph statement issued by the supreme leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar, at a crowded news conference here giving a "clean chit" to Osama.

The burden of the statement, the first by Mullah Omar since the horrific incidents, sought to argue that it was unjust to link Osama with the attacks as he lacked the capacity to do so. "The event itself is indicative of the acquittal of Osama because he has no pilots. Where did he train them? Training of pilots is the work of a running Government and only such Government has the capacity to do so. In Afghanistan, there is no possibility for the training," the statement said.

The defiant mood of the Taliban regime vis-a-vis Osama is bound to put the military Government in Pakistan in a spot. It is a clear indication that the time of reckoning has arrived for Islamabad. As the pressure from the U.S. and the rest of the world mounts, the Musharraf Government may be left with little option but to rethink about its closest ally, Taliban.

Mullah Omar has based his defence of Osama en-

tirely on this argument and alleged that any effort to link the Saudi fugitive without justification to the incidents of Tuesday would be an "international effort". The statement did not deal with any other aspect related to the demands of the international community vis-a-vis Osama or the Taliban. It ended with an appeal that "everyone should be wise enough to think (independently)".

In response to questions by international media personnel who have descended on Islamabad in the last two days, the Ambassador reiterated the well-known position of Taliban on subjects such as the extradition of Osama or his alleged activities of exporting jihad. He ruled out the extradition of Osama unless conclusive evidence was provided on the charges against him.

Mullah Zaef also denied reports that Osama was under house arrest. He, however, said the Taliban had restricted his contact with the outside world, making it difficult for him to run any kind of global network. Osama had no fax, Internet connection or satellite phones.

This has been the stated position of the Taliban for some time now. In the past, whenever the media published purported statements of Osama, this was the argument advanced by the Taliban.

In a related development, a spokesman of Mullah Omar has been quoted as saying in Kabul: "We are ready to pay any price to defend ourselves and to use all means to take revenge." It was in response to a question whether the Taliban was anticipating any attack by the U.S.

THE HINDU

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RISE NOW IN THE ARABIAN SEA.

Tough days ahead, warns Vajpayee

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 14

ATL BIHARI Vajpayee today said Governments supporting terrorism and offering terrorists their territory as bases should be held "wholly accountable". In his address to the nation, he asked Indians to brace for the economic fallout of the coming international response to terrorism that "could take place in our vicinity".

Without naming Pakistan or Afghanistan, the Prime Minister said India's neighbourhood is a terrorism hub where religious war has been proclaimed as an instrument of state policy. He called upon the world community to unitedly face this "scourge".

While preparing the nation for the consequences of the US tragedy in the region, Vajpayee, however, steered clear of commitments of an operational nature in the event of Washington seeking help for its avowed strike on the Taliban. He merely reiterated India's cooperation in the investigations into the unprecedented

OIL SURCHARGE

THE PRIME Minister did not elaborate on the "harsh measures", but Petroleum Ministry sources said one option could be a surcharge on petroleum products to limit the subsidy burden and cut the oil pool account deficit. A similar surcharge was imposed during the Gulf War in 1991.

HTC, New Delhi

terrorist strikes.

The warning signals sounded by the PM in terms of possible economic and security implications for the region indicated a deeper Indian involvement in the event of a multilateral campaign against Afghanistan.

New York trip off: Vajpayee's visit to New York for the UN General Assembly was officially called off on Friday. India has decided not to add to the strain of the US authorities by asking for security for the PM at a time when its resources are deployed in search and rescue operations.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 SEP 2001

India pledges support to fight terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14. The Government today strongly signalled that India was willing to help "in every possible way" the global fight against terrorism even as it pressed its long-held view that terrorist acts against any one country cannot be seen as problems of that country alone.

The increasing overlap of internal security matters with external issues in relation to terrorism was significantly underlined when the new U.S. Ambassador, Mr. Robert Blackwill, met the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, at his North Block office this evening. Earlier, he presented his credentials to the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan.

Hours before Mr. Blackwill met Mr. Advani — where the fallout of the horrendous events of Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the U.S. was discussed — the Home Minister received the Israeli envoy, Mr. David Aphek.

At the 45-minute meeting with Mr. Blackwill, the entire gamut of issues relating to security where the two countries could cooperate closely came up for discussion. Emerging from the meeting, Mr. Blackwill said he "welcomed the closer cooperation" between the two countries to combat global terrorism" and Mr. Advani stated that "there was no question of holding back".

Coincidentally, today was observed as the American National Day of Remembrance for the victims of terrorist attacks on New York. Mr. Blackwill had remarked there that by "working together", India and the U.S. could prevail against terrorism. He has postponed his return to Washington for consultations and indicated that he would remain here "to work with my Indian colleagues to counter the terrorist scourge".



The President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, receiving credentials from the Ambassador-designate of the U.S., Mr. Robert D. Blackwill, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on Friday. — PTI

Both at the level of the Government and at the level of the main ruling party, the BJP, there were strong indications that India would do everything possible not to allow loss of momentum to the new global determination to fight terrorism "together." At the same time, there was a note of 'sadness' that for many years India's voice against the dangers of terrorism, especially when it is practised in the name of religion, was not heard as well as it should have been. It was emphasised again and again by the Government and the party that not only those di-

rectly involved in terrorist acts, but also those (countries) harbouring and aiding terrorists should be punished.

It was indicated that already there was active sharing of intelligence over terrorist activities, terrorist training camps across the border and groups that were operating in Jammu and Kashmir and elsewhere. While the Government was willing to participate in any global action against terrorism, it was made amply clear that this should not be seen as a sign of weakness, for India had been single-handedly fighting the

deadly proxy war in the Valley for over a decade and was capable of carrying on its own battle. Although the serial blasts in Mumbai in March 1993 may not have been as deadly as the strikes in New York, it was a pointer to the chaos that the terrorist groups tried to bring about in the heart of India's commercial capital.

Top sources in the Government today indicated that India was waiting to see what concrete action the U.S. was planning. While India would have no hesitation in cooperating, it would like to see "the situation handled in a manner that would also be beneficial to us". Even before the New York tragedy India had set up joint working groups to combat terrorism with several countries.

By going along with America, India would not be putting all its eggs in one basket, it was hinted. After all, terrorism had now demonstrated that even the superpower was not invincible. The situation had changed dramatically and it was no longer a question of some ugly incidents happening in some part of the Third World which could easily be ignored by the First World.

The BJP leaders were more direct. The party general secretary, Mr. Narendra Modi, said, "American President George Bush should ask Pakistan why it harboured those responsible for the Mumbai blasts of 1993 and why the hijackers of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar also found shelter there." The party wanted the U.S. to "specify how it will punish Pakistan". Another general secretary, Ms. Maya Singh, said the terrorist attacks on the U.S. presented a grim challenge to humanity "which we have to accept". It is for everyone to strengthen international opinion against terrorism and help root it out.

THE HINDU

15 SEP 2001

Dealing with terror

By P. V. Indiresan

Terrorism

HPD-10
15/9

THE TERRORIST attack on the United States will evoke a medley of emotions — anger, sorrow, disgust, hatred, fear and the like. At this juncture, it is best to recall the words of Abraham Lincoln. In a memorable speech he said that a potentate sent his finest scholars in search of the greatest words of wisdom. They went to the East (India?) and came back with the words "This too shall pass away", meaning however great or horrific anything may be, that too will come to an end. This wave of terrorism too (and the rage and hatred behind it) will come to an end. In the ultimate analysis, the terrorists will not succeed.

Evidently, people in Palestine do not agree. They have been jubilant. Similar feelings must be widespread in many parts of the Islamic world. At the same time, even the Taliban has found it expedient to disassociate itself from this attack. That is interesting.

On the one hand, most Islamic fundamentalists, particularly, the hotheads among them, are likely to become more enthused about terrorism. On the other, Islamic rulers, even those who have been patronising terrorism, are likely to hold back. Distressed at the lack of enthusiasm on the parts of their leaders, with faith in the power of terrorism magnified by the success of this attack, extremists may like to take over the reins themselves.

History has shown again and again that those rulers who patronise terrorism themselves fall victims to the same brand of terrorism. So, it is probable that rulers of extremist Islamic countries who have been promoting terrorism are in greater danger of their lives than Western rulers are.

There is much admiration for the skill with which the attacks were carried out. However skilled and coordinated the attacks might have been, it is nevertheless a skill of a very low order — it cannot design, even build a 767 aircraft. These

terrorists, their supporters have not yet realised that destruction requires a far lower order of intelligence than creativity does.

So, they do not deserve the praise that has been heaped on them. Islamic fundamentalists may think they have done well. They need look no farther than Afghanistan to know that destructive skills do not make a nation prosperous.

World terrorism is not divisible. If India is attacked by terrorists, it is the world that is attacked; ultimately everyone in

per cent of the population and hence could claim to have a "right" to 12 per cent of the land. This land would sensibly comprise the already Muslim dominated and, historically Islamicised regions of Northern U.P. (Rohilkhand, North Oudh) and Northern Bihar (Seemanchal) where Hindus already live in fear of Muslims. Muslims all across the rest of India could then migrate to that region, while Hindus would, then comprise the sole ethnic group in the remaining 88 per cent of India... At the ground level, I would like

At this juncture we are liable to forget, but must not forget that the antidote to violence is not more violence but curing the underlying disease.

the world including those in the U.S. will suffer. If the West had been sensitive to what India has been going through for the past several years, it would not be suffering as much as it is doing now.

However, if Islamic fundamentalists have their blind spots, so do have the rulers of the West. They are unlikely to take Pakistan-sponsored terrorism seriously.

Ostensibly, property disputes, in Palestine, Kashmir and elsewhere are the justification for Islamic terrorism. Will peace be established if Palestinians are given the territory they want and Kashmir is handed over to Pakistan? It is more than likely that such concessions will only whet the appetite of Islamic fundamentalists.

For instance, in the *Economic and Political Weekly* (December 2, 2000), Samar Abbas has written: "Indeed, within the Kashmir Study Group proposal for the communal trifurcation of Kashmir lies the seed for a final solution to the Hindu-Moslem problem all across South Asia. Perhaps, the Hindus may wish to set aside 12 per cent of the territory of the Indian Union for Muslims who form 12

to point out that this process is already at work in many parts of India."

Most Muslims in India will dismiss this proposal as nonsense. So did the Indian National Congress when the idea of Pakistan was first mooted by an unknown student in Cambridge. In its first reaction, even the Indian Muslim League rejected the idea of Pakistan as ridiculous. Within seven years the same Muslim League adopted the same idea of Pakistan as its unalterable goal. In another seven years, it actually got its Pakistan, at any rate, most of the territory it hankered after.

So, we will be repeating a grave error if we brush aside the proposal made by Samar Abbas. All populist ideas, however outlandish or repugnant, must be taken seriously. Anything less is folly.

India's Muslims constitute the best bulwark that can protect the country. It is in the self-interest of the Hindus to reinforce them, help them to help the Hindus. That will happen when, and only when, Hindus bury their internal differences and agree to make India a truly secular country.

Much of our Constitution divides our society on communal lines. Just as one cannot be a little pregnant, a Constitution cannot be a little communal, a little casteist or a little sectarian. Until the Constitution discards all provisions that promote communal, even caste-based discrimination, and Hindus give up their fundamentalism, we cannot hope to succeed against Islamic fundamentalism.

Unfortunately, just like the Westerners and Islamic fundamentalists have their blind spots, so do Hindus have their own. They prefer to divide and subdivide themselves, destruct each other even, rather than accept a truly secular state.

Terrorists may be violent criminals. They are also sick. It is at this juncture that we are liable to forget, but must not forget that the antidote to violence is not more violence but curing the underlying disease. That disease is the fanatic idea that Islam is not compatible with the rest of humanity and that Muslims cannot live in a non-Islamic state.

Thanks to oil wealth, Islamic extremists the world over have acquired unimaginable riches. Instead of making them happy and secure, all that wealth has made them the unhappiest, the most insecure tribe on earth. They complain that everyone, Jews, Hindus, Christians, Buddhists, even atheists are against them. They would better enquire why everyone should be against them. If they do, they will realise that their troubles are founded on their inability to tolerate diversity of thought.

Muslims in India have had the widest experience of living under non-Muslim rulers. They can explain best why Allah is so powerful that Islam will flourish even where non-Muslims rule. That offers an opportunity for India's Muslims to provide sane leadership.

Let us not blame Muslims alone. We are all sinners. Forgive us my Lord for we know not what we do! Give us the wisdom to know what we should do now!

DO NOT REMOVE

THE HINDU

15 SEP 2001

TUESDAY TERROR IS THE SAUDI DISSIDENT MILLIONAIRE ALONE IN HIS WAR AGAINST THE WEST?

Bin Laden isn't the only one to blame

Laurie Myroie, who has researched Iraq's — and the West Asia — uneasy relationship with the US, says singling out Bin Laden for terrorism will not help to track down all the culprits

WHETHER Osama bin Laden was involved in Tuesday's terrorist assault remains to be seen. Yet if that proves to be so, it is extremely unlikely that he acted on his own. It is far more likely that he operated in conjunction with a state — the state with which the US remains at war, namely Iraq.

Firstly, bin Laden's Afghan-based al-Qaeda organisation does not really have the organisational capabilities to carry out such well-coordinated attacks. Someone had to understand how to smuggle weapons through US airport security and which airports and airlines to choose. The hijacked planes were flown by terrorists as they crashed into the World Trade Center towers and the Pentagon. Where did these pilots come from?

During the recently completed trial for the 1998 African embassy bombings, a story emerged of bin Laden's attempt to acquire a pilot and airplane. He turned to an Egyptian, Essam Rida, who had previously been involved in the fighting in Afghanistan, but had since settled in the US. Rida purchased a mothballed jet in 1993, refurbished it and flew it to the Sudanese capital of Khartoum, then returned home. Some months later, al-Qaeda called him back to Khartoum to take some passengers to Nairobi. Apparently, no one else could fly the plane.

At year's end, he was called back again. The plane had not been maintained and was in terrible condition.

Rida nonetheless took it out on a test flight. When he landed the plane, the brakes failed, so he drove it into a sand dune on the edge of the landing strip and left it there. Indeed, following the conclusion of that trial, *The New York Times* noted the discrepancy between the image of al-Qaeda as a fearsome terrorist organisation and the reality of a group that was "at times slipshod, torn by inner strife, betrayal, greed".

Moreover, the trial revealed that al-Qaeda was intimately connected to at least one foreign intelligence agency: Sudan's. In 1991, Sudanese intelligence approached bin Laden, then based in Afghanistan, and invited him to move to Khartoum, which he did. The government's star witness — who defected from al-Qaeda in 1996 — also worked for Sudanese intelligence. The information that emerged in the trial about the close ties between bin Laden and the Sudanese government helps explain why the US also struck Khartoum, in addition to bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan, in retaliation for the embassy bombings.

Yet although the trial detailed close ties between Sudanese intelligence and al-Qaeda, they were not portrayed as especially significant. Instead attention focused on the individual wrongdoers, some of them in the dock, others still on the lam. Presumably, that is because a prosecutor cannot indict and convict a

state, or at least not so easily. Thus, the trial distorted the public understanding of bin Laden's terrorism to make it appear to be a "stateless" phenomenon.

States have far more capabilities for terrorist actions than do individuals. They control territory; maintain embassies abroad; regularly transfer material in diplomatic pouches, secure from outside probing; and often have



very large intelligence agencies.

And al-Qaeda's demonstrated ties to Sudanese intelligence raise another question. Iraq has close ties to Sudan. Sudan supported Iraq during the Gulf War and subsequently established Khartoum as a major centre for Iraqi intelligence. Abd al Samad al-Tajish, a highly placed Iraqi intelligence agent, was Iraq's ambassador to Khartoum until the summer of 1998. Al-Tajish arrived in Khartoum in July 1991 with 35 other intelligence officers to establish

It is somewhat surprising that the US can regularly pick up so much information about bin Laden's planning, but miss the signs of Tuesday's attack. Is it possible that deception is involved?

ing in the fall of 1997, Baghdad orchestrated a series of crises that had the effect, a year later, of ending Unscorn's presence there.

Following the "resolution" of the second crisis, in late February 1998, through the mediation of UN Secretary-General Kofi Anan, bin Laden began to issue a series of bloody-minded threats against Americans. Soon Baghdad was issuing its own threats, asserting that its proscribed weapons of mass destruction had been eliminated and demanding that sanctions be lifted.

The threats issued by bin Laden, the threats issued by Iraq, and the preparations for the bombing all moved in virtual lockstep. On August 3, 1998, Unscorn chairman Richard Butler arrived in Baghdad. The Iraqis demanded that he declare Iraq in compliance or leave immediately. Butler departed the next day. The following day, August 5, Baghdad declared "suspension day" — that is, the suspension of weapons inspections. It restated its previous threats, affirming, "To those against whom war is made, permission is given to fight."

Two days later, the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania were bombed simultaneously. Initial media speculation focused on Iraq, but as luck would have it, one of those involved in the bombing, Muhammad Sadek Odeh, was already in the custody of Pakistani authorities. He had flown into Karachi on a false passport that was so ill-suited to his likeness that he was detained at the airport and subject to a harsh interrogation. US authorities soon had critical evidence linking bin Laden to the attacks.

Yet that information did not address the question of whether Iraq might also have been involved, as its harsh threats and the crisis over Un-

scorn had seemed to suggest. Indeed, the possibility of Iraqi involvement was probably a line of inquiry that the Clinton White House was not interested in pursuing — although it could have been legitimately asked whether bin Laden alone really had the capability to carry out simultaneous bombings of two major US targets.

One reason so many in the US bureaucracy believe that bin Laden is the greatest terrorist threat to America — and, therefore, quite possibly behind Tuesday's attacks — is the wealth of signals intelligence they pick up about al-Qaeda's plotting. That intelligence leads to repeated alerts about possible attacks on US targets, including an alert last June, which caused US forces in the Persian Gulf and Jordan to put to sea.

It is somewhat surprising that the US can regularly pick up so much information about bin Laden's planning, but miss the signs of Tuesday's attack. Is it possible that deception — a common practice in war — is involved? Is the US meant to pick up those communications, thereby reinforcing a disposition to believe that the terrorism is being carried out by al-Qaeda and not by an enemy state?

...It does not make a great deal of sense to attribute to one man — Osama bin Laden — all the acts of terrorism which are regularly ascribed to him, including Tuesday's assault. It is time to take a new look at the major terrorists acts of terrorism directed against the US in recent years. Are they, perhaps, more complicated than they seem? Indeed, are they acts of war, with all the complexity that wartime activities regularly involve?

(Myroie is author of *Study of Revenge: Saddam Hussein's Unfinished War Against America* (American Enterprise Institute, 2000))

HD-11
1579

India already fighting terrorism: Advani

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14. Asserting that the country had been making systematic efforts to counter the threat of terrorism, the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today said that India had already set up Joint Working Groups (JWGs) with five countries, including the U.S., to fight the menace.

"Threat of terrorism is not against one particular country. It is a menace against the entire civilised world. Democracies across the globe are threatened by terrorism," the Home Minister told

presspersons after launching a Hindi learning software here.

"We have forged ties with other democracies and made systematic efforts in the past few years to counter the threat of terrorism. We have already set up JWGs against terrorism with the U.S., the U.K., Canada, Germany and Israel."

He said the first war of 21st century possibly began on September 11 for the U.S., but India had been facing terrorism for the past several years. "We saw a trailer in Mumbai in March 1993 when 253 innocent people lost their lives in serial blasts."

15 SEP 2001

'Hell of a targeting problem'

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. - The CIA has been authorised since 1998 to use covert means to disrupt and pre-empt terrorist operations planned by Saudi extremist Osama bin Laden under a directive signed by President Bill Clinton and reaffirmed by President George W. Bush this year, government sources here told *The Washington Post*.

Several times this year, US intelligence has observed the Saudi multimillionaire and terrorist who is thought to be hiding in the mountains of Afghanistan, a source told the Post. But pointing to Bin Laden's

exact location has been difficult. "We have a hell of a targeting problem," the source said, adding that Pentagon analysts are attempting to match current intelligence with military capabilities contained in contingency plans for striking terrorist groups.

Those analysts, the source said, are trying to determine whether to attempt to strike Bin Laden directly, or to target military action against his aides, training camps, or the broader global network known as Al Qaeda, which has connections to other West Asia terrorist groups.

Another source said last night that intelligence gathered since Tuesday's attacks indicates

that Bin Laden's camps in Afghanistan, and his other training centres throughout West Asia, are now virtually empty.

The information on Bin Laden came as the Bush administration on Thursday singled out the Islamic militant as a prime suspect in Tuesday's catastrophic terror attacks and vowed a comprehensive military campaign to demolish terrorist networks and topple regimes that harbour them.

"It's not just simply a matter of capturing people and holding them accountable, but removing the sanctuaries, removing the support systems, ending

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(Continued from page 1)

states who sponsor terrorism," said Mr. Paul D. Wolfowitz, deputy secretary of defence.

President Bush today called out 50,000 members of the reserves - the largest since the 1991 Persian Gulf War against Iraq - to help support the combat air patrols securing the skies over major American cities. Congress has moved to give the Bush administration \$40 billion to wage its anti-terror initiative.

Mr. Wolfowitz said that military forces would receive a "significant" portion of this money now before Congress to pay for "some huge requirements to build up our military

for the next year, maybe longer." Much of the supplemental funds, he said, are necessary "to prepare our armed forces for whatever the President may ask them to do. The costs mount rapidly, and they will mount more rapidly as this campaign develops."

The 1998 Intelligence directives, known formally as presidential findings, were issued after terrorists linked by US officials to Bin Laden bombed US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The directives were designed to give CIA agents maximum capability to stop attacks planned by Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network against additional American targets, which agency offi-

OSAMA:
cers succeeded in doing several times, the Post reported.

The highly classified directives adhered to a legal ban on the assassination of foreign leaders but authorized lethal force for self-defence, which was used by the CIA in several cases when armed terrorists were stopped moments before they initiated attacks, sources said.

Since 1998, CIA counter-terrorist officers, working with "liaison" partners from foreign intelligence organizations, have succeeded in pre-empting Al Qaeda attacks in Jordan, Egypt, Kenya and the Balkans, sources said.

State authorities have enlisted about 10,000 National Guards to assist in civil recovery efforts in Washington and New York. But the Pentagon move represents the first significant federal call-up. Major US military actions almost invariably require reservists to supplement regular troops.

Pentagon planners are focusing on starting any military campaign with sustained bombing raids, first against Bin Laden sites in Afghanistan, a senior US official said yesterday. If that proves ineffective, the plan would call for the bombing of targets associated with Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia, which has harboured Bin Laden for the past five years, the official said.

Several military officers said the Pentagon is also considering special forces operations aimed at suspected terrorist redoubts in Afghanistan, Yemen, Sudan, Pakistan and Algeria. The Pentagon also is considering flying unmanned drones capable of lingering over terrorist camps for extended periods to provide almost continuous surveillance, one officer said. President Bush and his advisers appear ready to consider the use of ground troops, particularly special forces, military officers said. "If you regard what happened as an act of war, as the President has said, your standard of application for what you do about it is different," said a four-star officer.

THE STATESMAN

2001

Germany

H-8

Seize the moment

12/9

AS A victim of terrorism for more than a decade, India has reasons to welcome the recognition of this menace by the international community after the devastation in America. That the acknowledgement of a peril which has long been evident in this country should have come at such a terrible cost is something to be regretted. But India, too, has paid a heavy price in the last 10 years in Kashmir, which has lost its reputation as a tourist paradise because of the insurgency. Other parts of India have also borne the brunt of terrorist attacks. Both the civilians and the security forces have suffered.

None of this, however, had an impact on world opinion presumably because the terrorist outrages in Kashmir were seen as a continuation of the kind of disturbances which India has experienced in the North-east and for a time in Punjab. It is also possible that since India has witnessed many other kinds of violence as well, such as communal riots and casteist feuds, apart from the depredations of the Naxalite gangs, the international community was not bothered too much about what was happening in Kashmir. There was

also a misperception about the events in Kashmir being a struggle for self-determination. It was believed that all would be well if only the Indian security forces withdrew. After what has happened in the US, however, the nature of the subversion in Kashmir should become apparent to the rest of the world.

The *jehadis*, however, have never made any secret of their objective, which has nothing to do with 'freedom' for the Kashmiris. Their aim is the establishment of a Taliban-style rule. The threat posed by them is manifold — to democracy, to multiculturalism and even to the concept of a 'moderate' Islamic state which Pakistan claims to represent. Now, however, India's cry in the wilderness is likely to be taken more seriously. New Delhi should seize the moment and present to the outside world the information it has about the terrorist training camps in Pakistan and Afghanistan and the militants' modes of operation, including the support provided by the ISI. Since the menace has been identified, no effort should be spared to ensure its complete eradication.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 SEP 2001

UK will support U.S. response to terrorism

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed
Times News Network

LONDON: The day after the world stopped work and play to watch America under attack, Britain began leading the international effort to build a consensus in support of any response considered by the U.S.

"The U.S. may have been singled out, but the attack is aimed at all of us," declared a stern British Prime Minister Tony Blair minutes before he spoke to U.S. President George Bush. Mr Blair announced that he had been speaking to the leaders of France, Russia, Germany and Belgium to coordinate a response from the "whole free and democratic world to the new menace of mass terrorism".

Referring to the "close cooperation of British intelligence agencies" with their American counterparts in identifying the "machinery of terrorism, where and how they operate and how they are financed", Mr Blair repeated that Britain would walk shoulder-to-shoulder with the U.S. to "tackle this attack on the whole world".

Wracked by fears that it will be the next target, Britain has virtually gone into war mode, stopping all flights across central London, putting the capital's government and financial buildings on maximum alert, and, more crucially, recalling Parliament from its summer break.

Mr Blair's Downing Street office

was evacuated on Wednesday morning on account of a security alert even as he convened an emergency meeting of senior government ministers along with the heads of British intelligence agencies MI5 and MI6 to discuss practical offers of help and expertise to the U.S.

Toby Dodge of the Royal Institute of International Affairs told this newspaper, "Britain's insistence on collectivisation of a response looks as though it is playing for time. They want to make sure that it is not seen as a civilisational war, which could be disastrous."

Meanwhile, British foreign secretary Jack Straw attended an emergency European Union meeting in Brussels to discuss his call for "much, much further co-ordinated international action." Bound to the Trans-Atlantic tragedy not just by wall-to-wall television coverage but ties of blood, politics, economics, rhetoric and a heightened perception of threat, Europe's financial hub, London, went to work in a sombre mood. A minute's silence was held across financial institutions with no one daring to reckon up the human cost.

The atmosphere was especially grim in the London offices of Morgan Stanley and Citigroup, both of which suffered in the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 OCT 2001

OSAMA OR WAR

Bush tells Musharraf to choose between US and bin Laden ● Diplomats flee Kabul, Islamabad

Terror strikes knock out Afro-Asian Games

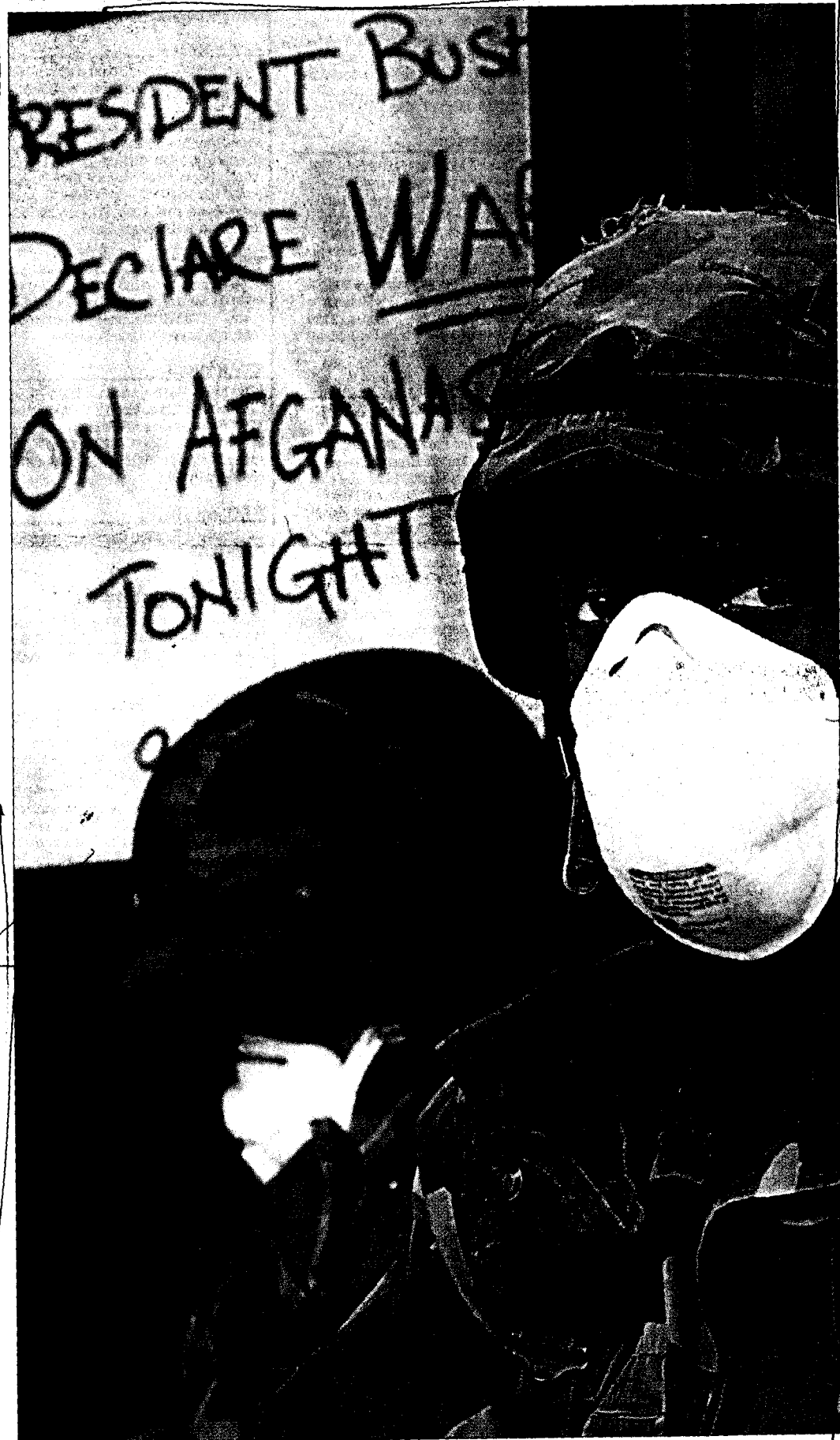
HT Correspondent
New Delhi, September 13

THE AFRO-ASIAN Games that was to be held in New Delhi between November 3 and November 11 has been postponed indefinitely. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) took this decision at a meeting held today to take stock of the situation following terrorist strikes in the US.

As for Indian participation in the SAF Games in Pakistan, the meeting considered the question but held back a formal announcement on the matter until it was clear whether the host country itself was inclined to go ahead with the event.

At the CCS meeting, Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha is understood to have briefed the participants on the impact of the events in the US on the country's economy. Sinha pointed out that the Indian economy was sturdy enough to withstand such a crisis.

The CCS meeting was attended among others by Home Minister LK Advani, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, Planning Commission Deputy Chairman KC Pant and Finance Minister Yashwant Sinha. National Security Advisor Brajesh Mishra, the three service chiefs and heads of intelligence agencies were also present.



Two American soldiers stand guard on Thursday outside a closed New York store that displays a poster capturing the national mood.

'Hijackers were bin Laden men & trained in US'

Washington, September 13

FEDERAL AGENCIES have said the hijackers who engineered the World Trade Center and Pentagon strikes were followers of Osama bin Laden and at least one hijacker on each of the jets was trained in the US.

A record 4,000 FBI agents fanned out across the nation looking for accomplices of the 20-odd hijackers, raiding hotel rooms, seizing records from pilot training schools, searching rental cars and internet servers, and checking scores of credit card records and airline passenger lists.

As of tonight, several people, whom the authorities declined to identify, had been detained on charges of immigration violations and were being questioned. Officials said the hijacking teams were coordinated by one supervising commander who has not been identified yet.

Some 50 accomplices of the hijackers have been identified. Of them, 27 are from West Asia. Officials said they knew who these people were, but declined to provide their names or nationalities.

All hijackers have been identified. Among them are Md Atta (33) and Marwan al Shehhi (23). Both were students at a flight school in Venice, Florida. The two are believed to have lived in Germany for some time. Authorities in Hamburg have raided an apartment linked to the men.

About five men are under investigation in Union City. Officials said they had apparently set up cameras near the Hudson River and panned them on the World Trade Center. They photographed the attacks and were said to have congratulated each other after the strikes.

In Arlington, Texas, hunt is on for Moataz al-Hallak, an Islamic cleric who was Imam of the Islamic Society of Arlington. He has been linked to Osama's front groups for at least a decade.

Sleuths are homing in on leads in Boston. At a hotel in Boston's Copley Square, policemen and explosives experts swarmed the 16th floor just after 1 pm and took at least two men in custody.

The New York Times and USA Today

HT Correspondents
Washington/Islamabad,
September 13

THE US ambassador to Pakistan today met Gen Pervez Musharraf and bluntly told him to pressure the Taliban into handing over Osama bin Laden to her Government.

Ambassador Wendy Chamberlain painted a grim picture of the consequence of not heeding the US request, sources said. In what could be perceived as a panic reaction to the US plainspeak, Musharraf went on TV for a second time and pledged "unstinted cooperation with George Bush. All countries must join hands in the struggle against terrorism."

Later, talking to Pakistan TV journalists, Chamberlain said: "The discussions were direct and to the point. The President pledged his cooperation."

Even as the General, caught between a rock and a hard place by Tuesday's terror strikes in the US, intensified efforts to persuade Kabul to extradite Osama, conflicting reports emanated from Afghanistan saying the terror mastermind had been put under house arrest. BBC too confirmed this. There were also reports of a heavy build up of Pakistani troops on the Afghan border.

A day before Chamberlain met Musharraf, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage summoned Pakistan's Ambassador to Washington, Maleeha Lodhi, and



PAK PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

US HELPLINE

A PARTIAL list of NRIs and persons of Indian origin admitted to hospitals in New York can be accessed at www.indiacny.org, posted by the Indian consulate in New York.

lectured her on US expectations from Islamabad. "We thought it would be appropriate to point out to Pakistani leaders that we expect their fullest cooperation."

Reflecting the tough stance Washington has taken against Islamabad, Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Joe Biden warned: "Pakistan... is going to have to make a very difficult choice, very soon, for we are counting. We are counting and we are looking. Words will not be sufficient. Actions are demanded."

The General, desperate to get out of the bind, has held as many as five strategy meetings with his top Generals. Today, he went into a huddle with his aides again. The last thing Pakistan wants is to come in USA's line of fire. For, it knows that if it tries to play its "no-influence-on-the-Taliban" card again, it would invite trouble.

It is common knowledge that as many as 40 per cent of the Taliban's fighting machine is composed of fighters from Pakistan. India has all along been saying that Afghan militia ranks are packed with retired Pakistani military officers.

Musharraf is acutely aware that close ties with Washington are the cornerstone of his foreign policy. At the same time he can't go against the strong wave of fundamentalist opinion sweeping his country.

A US strike on Afghanistan could lead to a surge of protests. And, things could spin out of control if he opened his bases to the US. Such a situation could mean the end of Musharraf, Pakistan-watcher B Raman said. Recourse to such action could even spark a rebellion among his commanders, who prop him.

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- Sikhs targetted in the US
- Few survivors in debris
- Taliban under pressure
- Will Britain be next target?

THE TELEGRAPH

14 SEP 2001

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2001

STRATEGIC MOVES TO FIGHT TERROR

INDIA'S GENUINE EMPATHY for the United States in its long hours of agony, wrought by the latest terrorist strikes against New York and Washington, can enhance the tone and quality of the intensifying relationship between the two countries. As pluralist societies, India and the U.S. share profound democratic values. The expanding bilateral linkages have not so far acquired the dimension of any definitive strategic bond. Yet these ties are no less strengthened by the substantive and sustainable inputs of many Indo-Americans and non-resident Indians in American society. It is also feared that the victims of Tuesday's carnage in New York may include people with such Indian connections. These aspects underpin New Delhi's expectations that Washington will in its present state of mind recognise India as a kindred soul. Undeniably, New Delhi hopes that a badly shaken Bush administration will count upon India as a proactive ally if an international coalition against terrorism can be formed. The reasoning has to do with India's long exposure to many forms of terroristic violence, including those inspired by or on behalf of Pakistan in its strategic gamesmanship. It is therefore that the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, has assured the U.S. of India's readiness to help advance the ongoing investigation of an obvious anti-American terror campaign. Yet, if the Vajpayee administration still finds itself somewhat on the margins of a new American thrust against international terror, Pakistan seems to be getting its act together after having made some unconvincing moves to woo a grief-stricken America.

terrorism 14/9
The centrality of Pakistan to Washington's plans for a comprehensive war against international terrorism cannot be exaggerated. Even as the U.S. investigators have zeroed in on the Taliban-hosted Osama bin Laden as the chief suspect, the Bush administration has lost no time to engage Pakistan, an old U.S. ally. Washington's aim is to persuade or coerce Islamabad to coop-

erate in the investigation of and in a possible retaliation against the Saudi fugitive who is also the Taliban's "guest" in Afghanistan. In focus at this time is Pakistan's perceived capability to extend intelligence and logistical support to Washington as it seeks to track down Osama bin Laden and obliterate his suspected anti-U.S. terror network. Now, Pakistan's patronage of the Taliban in neighbouring Afghanistan is viewed by the international community as a strategic ground reality. Not surprisingly, therefore, Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is reported to have agreed to assist Washington. Surely, it is unclear how he might be able to do so without triggering a fundamentalist backlash at home. The Vajpayee administration must not make the mistake of reckoning that its credible attempt to join a U.S. crusade against international terrorism may actually justify any move by India to turn cool towards Pakistan at this juncture. Given some signs of New Delhi's hesitation to re-engage Gen. Musharraf now, it needs to be underlined that India simply cannot afford to eschew the well-conceived efforts to build bridges with Islamabad for mutual benefit. *HP.12*

The impact of America's new mood on West Asia has been of a different salience. The U.S. has made no secret of its desire to bring under its anti-terror umbrella some "responsible" Arab-Muslim states. However, the Arab-Muslim spectrum, sensitive to the U.S.-Israel warmth and the U.S.-Iran ties, has not witnessed any strategic jockeyings similar to those that seem to have varyingly characterised the separate moves by New Delhi and Islamabad to woo a traumatised Washington. Any new strategic equations between West Asia and Washington might only be determined by the latter's ongoing assessment of the role of groups like the Hamas and others in the latest terrorist outrage against America. Washington may then comb the region to make new friends and influence the old ones if possible.

THE HINDU

14 SEP 2001

21st century battlefield

"We are seeing the definition of the 21st century battlefield. This is a different kind of conflict and in a major sense new."

— US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

TERRORISM and state security alike got a new dimension and vantage when Hizbollah suicide bombers blew up the US Marine Corps barracks and the French paratroopers' headquarters in Lebanon in October 1983, killing at least 300 people and leaving scores injured. The world woke up to a new reality — evil and apparently invincible.

Importantly, this was distinct from an earlier suicide incident in 1981 where 10 Irish Republic Army starved themselves to death in 50 to 60 days. But Tuesday's attacks on America that have surely claimed tens of thousands of lives have changed the face of terror forever. Never did any analyst or war zone simulation ever imagine that a passenger aircraft would be converted into an absolute precision-guided lethal weapon.

Here it was not one, but four aircraft targeting not only that country's symbols, but also the nerve centre of its very establishment — the White House. Now, while state security faces an unprecedented and unimaginable challenge of suicide terrorism, the success of the attacks comes as a shot in the arm for terrorist and extremist organisations.

According to Boaz Ganor of the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT), terrorism and guerrilla warfare often serve as alternative designations of the same phenomenon. The concepts of terrorism largely draw from the concepts of guerrilla warfare, despite the main difference being that the former makes no distinction between civilian, military or political targets.

For both types of perpetrators, the bible is Chinese military strategist Sun Tzu's 3,000-year-old treatise *The Art of War*. The fundamental aspect in guerrilla warfare is the element of retreat or withdrawal or escape after a strike. None of the three has any negative connotation nor imply a loss of face to these organisations. When organisations abandon this principle element, the nature of this terror game changes dramatically with the suicide mission paradoxically attaining an invincible quality. The perpetrators ensure that death is a precondition for the success of their mission, Mr Ganor explained.

This being underscored to the current awesome extent, militant organisations will draw from this and change their nature of war to make suicide terrorism a critical and undeniable component of their ideology. When introduced in West Asia, with the 1983 attacks and to some extent the 1968 aircraft hijack — first of its kind — it was expected to heavily change the equations between terror groups and rival states. But it did not happen as fast as it was thought. Now it is destined to impact faster than anyone dare imagine, especially, with this kind of past — till July 2001 there have been 300 suicide attacks in 14 countries from 17 terror groups.

Germany 5/19
The nature of the terror game changes dramatically with the suicide mission paradoxically attaining an invincible quality. This being underscored to the current awesome extent, militant organisations will draw from this and change their nature of war to make suicide terrorism a critical and undeniable component of their ideology, writes **STANLEY THEODORE**



President Bush examines the devastation at Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia on Wednesday. With him is Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld. — API/PTI

While this appears to be a contemporary politico-military development, suicide missions are almost a millennium old. In the 11th century, two sects, the Jewish Sicairis and the Islamic Hashishiyun were notorious for suicide attacks. In the 18th century, they were documented on India's south Malabar, northern Sumatra, in Mindanao and the Philippines. In all these places, Muslims carried out suicide attacks in their fight against Western hegemony and colonialism, says ICT expert Yoram Schweitzer.

The present scenario takes on sinister overtones in view of present-day suicide missions. On coming to power, Ayatollah Khomeini altered the Iranian Constitution, the highest priority being, "trying to perpetuate (the Islamic) revolution both at home and abroad". Soon his expectation that likeminded Muslim fundamentalists and, perhaps, even countries would quickly step on to the same plank came a cropper. In 1979, Iran unleashed a new approach by funding and arming subversive groups wherever available and willing in the Muslim world, from Egypt to the Philippines.

Iran's effort had such success that other major sponsors of terrorism in West Asia, Muammar Gaddafi of Libya and Yasser Arafat quickly began to imitate these methods, explained Daniel Pipes, commentator on West Asia.

The Islamic Jihad first observed in the early 1980s, was largely suspected to be

a front of the official Iranian Intelligence. Then the Iranian Opposition released documents that their government had official organisations devoted to promoting suicide terrorism — the first known instance of a state directly involved in this concept.

By then, terrorism in general had acquired lethal proportions with states offering money, arms, training, Intelligence and even personnel to terror groups. Such assistance and incorporation of the suicide element is the mix that has been shattering world confidence to date. For instance, the 1983 US Marine bombing was done with an unbelievable 12,000 tons of TNT packed in a Mercedes.

The American Commission that went into the incident wrote, "This is the largest conventional blast ever seen by the explosive experts community."

Further, to make it absolutely devastating, the TNT was mixed into a complex of gas and other substances. To top it, such highly controlled explosive material as hexogen and PETN were also found. The difficult and delicate gas-enhancement task requires the sort of specialised skills and wealth of experience possessed by a state, not an outlaw organisation, wrote Pipes.

Over the past 20 years, it may not have become a winning card in the hands of terror groups nor has it turned the balance in their favour and away from the target states.

Sometimes it did work to its advantage

— Palestinian groups succeeded in forcing Israel from its territory, something that country was not known to do. In other cases it has forced dialogue — the LTTE and the Sinhalese government and in recent years Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Yet the fact is that suicide terrorism carries a negative connotation adversely affecting public opinion and morale. The danger today, after the World Trade Center and Pentagon is that it is bound to spread, given the high imitation characteristic of militant groups.

Though this may not imply another hijacked aircraft ramming itself into a city, it certainly envisages a scene from the blockbuster *Die Hard*, where the terrorist walks into a restaurant, opens his coat showing bombs strapped to the body, utters highly religious words and presses the button into blood, smoke and debris.

The US worst-case scenario, according to reports, is an explosive packed plane ramming into the World Trade Center. But 11 September had taken any worst-case scenario to unimaginable and critically realistic levels. A combination of conventional terror tactics with spectacular instances of suicide terrorism will have a shocking psychological effect on public confidence as has been experienced by the world that day.

At this level, suicide terrorism would constitute a genuine strategic threat and would probably be confronted as such, Mr Schweitzer said. This is essentially what Mr Rumsfeld meant by the 21st century battlefield. There can be no dispute that suicide terrorism has become a tool of statecraft. While the suspects are yet to be caught, there can be no denying the extensive involvement of some states and their Intelligence support to terrorists who carried out the American attacks. Without that, it would have been impossible for such extensive, co-ordinated and highly precise attacks.

It is pointless, however, to concentrate defence on the suicide bomber after a point because when he is eliminated, he will readily be replaced. Pipes says, it is imperative for such states and groups to be punished.

It may be the USA's responsibility to punish them but India's to extend unconditional support to those actions. The lesson perhaps is here. The incident, in varying degrees of spectacle, will repeat itself and India cannot wish itself away by praying that it be spared. Preparedness on the psychological plane is as important as preparedness in the Intelligence and operational fields.

The government needs to tell the country, emphatically and unambiguously, with the knowledge of Pakistan-sponsored terrorism and domestic extremism from groups such as the People's War Group, that suicide terrorism is no wild nightmare.

This maybe unfortunate but essential — as a priority, India has to be made ready to endure and later respond, with its inherent patriotism, to suicide terrorism of any magnitude. The time has begun.

(The author is Special Representative, The Statesman, Hyderabad.)

SUICIDE TERRORISM

THERE are 10 religious and secular terrorist groups resorting to suicide terrorism in the name of Islamic Revolution or simply for freedom of their homeland. Four other groups, active in the 1980s alongside the Hizbollah are relatively quiet now — the Natzerist Socialist Party of Syria, Syrian Nationalist Party, Lebanese Communist Party and Baath Party of Lebanon.

♦ The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam of Sri Lanka carried out the largest number of suicide attacks in its

quest for statehood. It's the only group to have killed two world leaders — Rajiv Gandhi and Sri Lanka President Ranasinghe Premadasa. Their suicide bombers have claimed the lives of the largest number of leaders in a short time.

♦ Hizbollah of Lebanon is second to the LTTE in suicide operations. Having pioneered suicide terrorism in modern times after its 1983 suicide bombings of Lebanon against French and US military camps. It is fighting to oust the Israelis from Southern Lebanon. Hizbollah is supported by Iran, a steadfast state sponsor.

♦ Osama bin Laden network (*Al Quaida*) of Afghanistan — now prime suspect of Tuesday's attacks. He used at least one Egyptian suicide bomber in the 1998 East African embassy bombings.

The terror group is among the most lethal and is reckoned to be a mix of several associate groups dispersed internationally.



Osama bin Laden: Single-minded focus

Their focus is almost single-minded — the USA ("Great Satan") and Israel ("Little Satan") and their allies. Recently, he has directed his efforts against India over Kashmir and the men helped Pervez Musharraf line up the trenches and tunnels at Kargil for the Pakistan insurgents.

The USA wants to totally eliminate the group and its missile attack on Laden after the 1998 embassy bombings in Kenya and Tanzania failed.

After this attack Laden stopped using a satellite phone, instead sending his couriers to Peshawar from where his diktats are relayed.

♦ Islam Resistance Movement (Hamas) — stands third in suicide attacks. Hamas and PIJ, operating in Gaza and West Bank, have vowed to destroy the "Zionist state of Israel". It is controlled by Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

♦ Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) acts in the same areas and is also controlled by Mr Arafat. With Hamas, it vows to destroy the "Zionist state of Israel". Israeli Intelligence and clandestine operatives have regulated the efficacy of these two groups by eliminating their key operatives and military leaders.

♦ Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) of Turkey, stands fourth in suicide operations. Until PKK leader Abdullah Ocalan's capture, the PKK fought for an independent Kurdistan in south-eastern Turkey.

Today, it is demanding autonomy and equal cultural rights. Women carry out most of their suicide operations.

♦ Barbar Khalsa International (BKI) in India for "Khalistan". It has a small presence in its target country — India — but enjoys a significant presence in the UK and Canada. In January, 2000, when BKI was planning to conduct its second suicide operation, the Indian security forces apprehended the bomber.

♦ Egyptian Islamic Jihad (EIJ)

♦ Gamaya Islamiya (Islamic Group) of Egypt. IG and EIJ are fighting for an Islamic state in Egypt. EIJ leader Dr Ayman Al-Thawaheri lives in Afghanistan and works closely with Bin Laden.

♦ Armed Islamic Group of Algeria. It has staged only one suicide operation as part of its fight to establish an Islamic state in Algeria.

Think it through

TUESDAY'S terrorist attacks in the US have triggered off a clamour for a concerted global effort against terrorism and for a massive crackdown on terrorists and states that abet them. Well-intentioned though these appeals may be, governments across the globe — and in the US in particular — would do well to examine their merits before being carried away in the tide of outrage. Evolving a global consensus on the need to combat terrorism is easier said than done. Such a consensus can at best be limited. For, one nation's "terrorists" are another's "freedom fighters" as the recent Indo-Pak talks highlighted only too clearly. As long as nation states exist, they will retain their distinctive geopolitical interests and hence differences in the way they look at the same group of people and their activities. This is not to suggest that September 11, 2001 will make no difference to the way governments view the menace. Nations that have thus far chosen to take a passive stance are more likely now to take sides. That will mobilise more force and resources against some terrorist groups, but it is nowhere near the same thing as a concerted global effort to wipe out the menace of terrorism, of whatever shade it may be.

The demand for a crackdown is an emotional rather than a rational response. True, the use of force against terrorism is unavoidable. What is questionable is the assumption that force alone will suffice. The truth is that merely cracking down on terrorism without addressing the question of why it thrives is like cutting off branches of a tree while leaving the roots alive. The roots of terrorism are, more often than not, found in the tendency to alienate entire populations as punishment for the crimes of a few among them. Thus all Iraqis are alienated by the sanctions imposed because Saddam Hussein 'needs to be taught a lesson'. All Afghans have to face the wrath of the US because they happen to be ruled by the Taliban, which shelters Osama bin Laden. An alternative, indeed far better solution is to tackle terrorism by winning over the people and isolating the terrorists. Lumping the people with the terrorists is to do the latter a favour. Let us not do these merchants of terror any favours.

The Economic Times

13 SEP 2001

Before the Black Tuesday

12 October 2000: Terrorist bombing kills 17 US sailors on USS Cole as it refueled at Aden, Yemen. Osama bin Laden is prime suspect.

7 August 1998: Car bombs explode outside US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, killing 224 people and wounding thousands. Osama blamed.

25 June 1996: Truck bomb explodes in front of Khobar Towers in Dahrn, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 US servicemen and wounding hundreds. Saudi group, Hizbollah, indicted.

13 November 1995: Car bomb detonates at US military headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing five American servicemen.

19 April 1995: Bomb rips through Alfred P Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and wounding more than 500. Former US soldier Timothy McVeigh is convicted of carrying out the attack. McVeigh executed earlier this year.

26 February 1993: A bomb explodes in a parking garage below the World Trade Center in New York, killing six people and injuring more than 1,000.



A woman consoles her mother at the Oakland international airport in Oakland, California. — AP/PTI

Six Islamic militants convicted in the bombing and sentenced to life imprisonment.

21 December 1988: Pan Am Boeing 747 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland, on a flight from London to New York, killing 270 people, including residents of the town.

5 September 1986: Hijackers seize Pan Am Jumbo jet with 358 people at Karachi airport; 20 killed when security forces storm the plane.

8 October 1985: Crippled American Jew Leon Klinghoffer killed by Palestinian militants who seize Italian cruise liner Achille Lauro.

14 June 1985: Shia gunmen seize a TWA Boeing 727, forcing it to Beirut, Lebanon. They demand release of 700 Arabs held by Israel. A US Navy diver is killed and 39 Americans are held till they are released on 1 July 1985 after a Syrian mediation.

20 September 1984: Car bomb at US embassy annexe in east Beirut kills 16 and injures the ambassador.

12 December 1983: Shia extremists set off car bombs in front of the US and French embassies in Kuwait City, killing five people and wounding 86.

23 October 1983: Shia suicide bombers blow up French military headquarters and a US Marine barracks in Beirut, killing 241 Marines and 58 French paratroopers.

18 April 1983: Suicide car-bomber blows up US embassy in Beirut, killing 17 Americans.

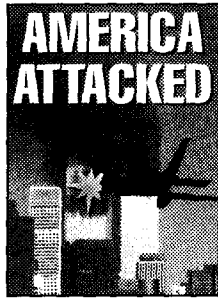
4 November 1979: Islamic students storm US embassy in Teheran; hold 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. — AP

THE STATESMAN

12 SEP 2001

Terrorists used their own pilots: experts

WASHINGTON: The terrorists who crashed planes into the Pentagon and World Trade Center (WTC) were probably able to overcome the



flight crews and then fly the airliners themselves, aviation safety experts said.

"It's just incredible that you have these four apparent breaches of security," Republican John Mica, chairperson of the house aviation subcommittee, said following Tuesday's attacks. "We've seen from today that a determined terrorist isn't going to be stopped by a metal detector and a couple of quick questions about who packed their luggage," he said.

Attorney general John Ashcroft said American Airlines flight 11 that left Boston's Logan airport for Los Angeles "was hijacked by suspects armed with knives."

Television commentator Barbara Olson told her husband by cellular telephone minutes before her flight was forced to crash into the Pentagon that attackers had used knifelike instruments to take over the plane.

Current airport security systems are designed to catch people carrying metal weapons such as guns and knives, said David Stempler of Air Travelers Association. And in recent years, much effort also has

been expended on developing devices to sniff out bombs.

Darryl Jenkins, director of George Washington University's aviation institute, agreed that the easiest way to hijack a plane is to board it without weapons.

"I'm a pilot," he added. "None of us would ever fly a plane into the Trade Center. We would take that bullet first. Terrorists flew the plane instead."

That view was shared by Jim Burnett, a former chairman of national transportation safety board, who said a commercial pilot, "even under duress, would not do that. It would have taken some skill on the part of whoever was able to take over the plane."

Gene Poteat, president of Association of Former Intelligence Officers, added: "They flew the planes themselves. No pilot, even with a gun to his head, is going to fly into the World Towers."

The Boston Herald, quoting a source it did not identify, reported that authorities had seized a car at Logan airport that contained arabic-language flight training manuals. The source said five Arab men had been identified as suspects, including a trained pilot.

The luggage of one of the men who flew to the airport on Tuesday didn't make his scheduled connection. *The Boston Globe* reported the luggage contained a copy of the Koran, an instructional video on flying commercial airliners and a fuel consumption calculator.

FBI refused to comment on the reports. (AP)

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THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

India hopes attacks will unite world against terrorism

HT-9
13/9

HT Correspondent & PTI
New Delhi, September 12

HOME MINISTER L K Advani today hoped that the terrorist attacks in US would help strengthen the resolve of the international community to unitedly face and combat "more effectively" the challenge posed by terrorism.

In the past two years, India had made systematic efforts to mobilise world opinion against cross-border terrorism, the biggest challenge facing the country. "This country has been a victim".

The Home Minister said he did not think a change in approach in fighting terrorism was needed. "What is required is greater vigilance. This matter has been engaging our concern for quite some time now," he added.

Describing terrorism as "a challenge to humanity" and "a threat to civilised society", Advani said it could be a "dangerous mix" if it was combined with religious fundamentalism.

"If a state sponsors terrorism, then it is more dangerous," he added.

"This is not madness. After

great deal of thinking, the terrorists chose the World Trade Centre, the Pentagon and the State department as targets. Terrorism has been used as a political weapon and the attacks were part of a well-planned conspiracy," Advani told reporters here.

While watching the horrendous attacks on television, Advani said he recalled the serial bomb blasts during the 1993 Mumbai riots when the stock exchange had been targeted.

"Nobody will be able to forget the attacks in the US. In Jammu and Kashmir, over 10,000 innocent people have been killed since 1989 but I will not be surprised if the toll in the strikes in New York and Washington in a day is more than that," the minister said.

Left denounce attack: PATHOLOGICAL AND ideological critics of the US, the CPI(M), CPI and the CPI-ML (L) today condemned the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington as "inhuman, barbaric and mind-numbing". But while doing so, they also emphasised that there were lessons to be drawn from the recent events.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 SEP 2001

SAUDI MILLIONAIRE COMMANDS NETWORK AND RESOURCES FOR SUCH ATTACKS

Osama bin Laden is prime suspect

18/9 By Mahendra Ved

Times News Network

"If instigation for (a) jihad against (the) Jews and (the) Americans is a crime then let history be a witness that I am a criminal..our job is to instigate, and by God's grace we did that and some people responded to it.."

—Osama bin Muhammad bin Laden to *Time* magazine when asked about his role in the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania.

NEW DELHI: The U.S. suspects that Bin Laden, a Saudi Arabian millionaire, has done just that. Of the entire phalanx of Islamic extremist outfits, only he is credited with the brains, resources and elaborate network to plan and carry out such attacks in the heart of the U.S.

Scion of one of the wealthiest Saudi Arabian families, he is known to collect funds from sympathisers across the world. With money, his critics allege, he is able to "buy" his stay in Afghanistan.

Being a personal friend of Taliban supremo Mullah Omar, who is reported to have married his daughter to Osama, has helped. Both go fishing together in the ponds near Farmihadda, south of Jelalabad on the Kabul-Peshawar road.

From Morocco to Oman, Osama carries a mesmerising effect on the Arab populace and among millions of Muslims elsewhere in the world. In Palestine, he is described as a "beloved of God". In Pakistan, he is "The Lion" and he is considered a "Soldier of Islam" in Afghanistan.

Bin Laden's interview by Pakistani journalist Rahimullah Yusufzai, telecast



Osama bin Laden

by a Gulf channel in May 1999, had millions glued to their television sets.

The principal Osama outfit is known as Al Qaida. But he is known to seek help from numerous organisations. The *jihad* against the secular Central Asian Republics, moderate regimes in the Arab nations and in Kashmir runs on the funds and motivated mercenaries provided by Bin Laden. Harkat Jihad Islami, a mix of Kashmiri, Pakistani and Afghan cadres of the Pakistan-based Harkat-ul-Ansar, is one such grouping. And although Harkat leaders insist they belong to a separate organisation, they believe "Osama is the hero of Islam".

To motivate his cadres to avenge the killings in their training camps in Afghanistan in 1998 after Bill Clinton had ordered cruise missile strikes there, he had said, "We will avenge every martyr by killing 100 Americans."

Bin Laden is no family man. He has been disowned by his relatives and has been stripped of his citizenship by Saudi Arabia, where he is now wanted. Yet, it is believed that his ability to support the Taliban cause in Afghanistan is linked to a nod from Prince Turki al Faizal, brother of King Fahd and chief of Saudi Arabian intelligence.

Jeddah has scaled down its support to Kabul, and so has the UAE. The two, along with Pakistan, are the only ones who recognise the Taliban. But this international isolation has not prevented the flow of funds to Bin Laden.

A \$5 million prize on his head put out by the FBI after his suspected role in attacking U.S. installations has led to "a torrent of donations" from rich Saudi and Persian Gulf residents.

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for Today our nation saw evil: Bush

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

US wakes up to sound of silence

189
Spencer, G.B.

AGENCIES
NEW YORK/WASHINGTON,
SEPTEMBER 12

THE World's Financial Center resembled a desolate war zone at daybreak on Wednesday, the streets of lower Manhattan coated in gray ash and a thick trail of brown smoke pouring into the sky from where the World Trade Center's twin towers once stood.

US soldiers patrolled the area of heaps of twisted, steaming rubble and overturned cars where two hijacked commercial aircraft deliberately slammed into the twin 110-storey buildings.

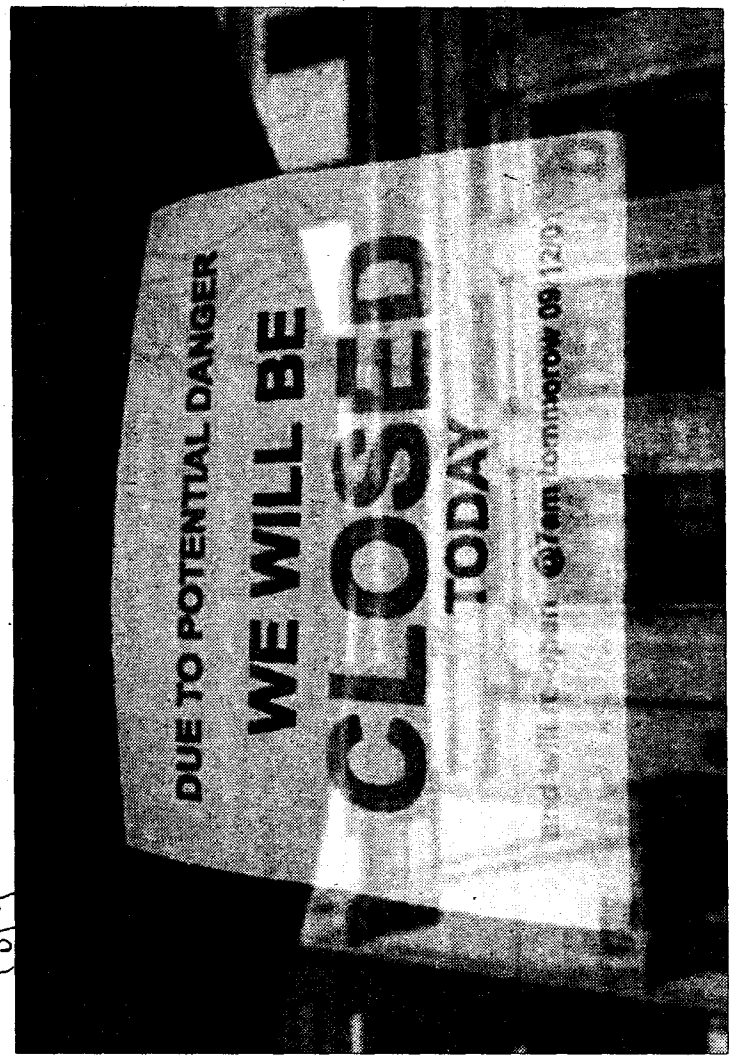
"It's nasty, it's devastating. It's something you never want to see," Corp. Andy Marcus from US Army Battalion 258 of Brooklyn said. Both of the twin towers collapsed in a heap following the attack, burying those left in the building and hundreds of firefighters and police officers who had been sent to help, officials said.

All roads and bridges into New York were closed and the normally bustling streets of Manhattan were eerily quiet at rush hour, apart from the sounds of police cars, fire engines and convoys of flat-bed trailers carrying cranes, diggers and bulldozers into the rescue and recovery area.

"There is block after block of concrete that has been turned to dust, it's an incredible scene," New York Gov George Pataki said.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani urged people in the city and its suburbs to stay out of Manhattan on Wednesday unless their jobs were essential.

Stock exchanges, Wall Street businesses and city schools were closed. The region's three major



More than 20,000 civilians and military men and women work in the Pentagon, the world's largest office building and home to the Defence Department.

Overnight, office lights were on in all sections of the White House as staff frantically worked out a strategy to deal with the unprecedented attacks. "The functions of our government continue without interruption," Bush said in a televised address from the White House on Tuesday night. "Our financial institutions remain strong, and the American economy will be open for business as well."

Military vehicles rumbled in the capital overnight and District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams declared a state of emergency in the city and all the hospitals in the region were put on "maximum alert." While federal Washington was officially open, it was far from business as usual for its nervous residents. Most schools were ordered closed and a liberal leave policy went into force to enable parents to stay home with their children.

The skies over Washington, usually teeming with commercial aircraft, were eerily quiet except for the occasional whir of military helicopters and jets patrolling the area. Commercial flights are set to resume later Wednesday.

The attacks on the Pentagon — the nerve center of the US military located across the Potomac River from Washington — prompted US officials and congressional leaders to rally together. Scores of members of Congress threw aside partisan differences and joined together on Capitol Hill to sing "God Bless America."

that President George W Bush is vowing to avenge.

Civilian and military employees of the Defence Department drifted into their stricken headquarters before dawn. The building is "open and ready for business," Pentagon spokeswoman Susan Hansen said. But it was far from business as usual. White smoke still wafted across the highways and hillsides that overlook the Pentagon, from the side of the five-sided building penetrated by the hijacked airliner, and the effort of firefighters and rescue crews was unrelenting through the night.

Firefighters were still battling to control a blaze at the Pentagon and smoke billowed from a gaping hole on one side of the landmark building.

get back on its feet on Wednesday amid extraordinary security measures. Under a state of emergency, police and military patrolled the city and the secret service boosted security around the White House.

Congress and federal agencies that were shut down on Tuesday after the attacks were set to reopen for business on Wednesday, along with the city's many tourist attractions. Flags throughout the city were flying at half mast.

Fire authorities said up to 800 people were believed to have perished when an American Airlines jetliner crashed into a newly-renovated section of the massive Pentagon.

The Pentagon went back to work even as smoke poured from the gaping hole left by the assault

airports, like the rest of the country's airports, were closed at least 2130 IST by the Federal Aviation Administration.

In lower Manhattan, US soldiers, firefighters and electricity workers trying to restore power to the area worked away in gas masks or had surgical masks covering their faces.

A US soldier said firefighters putting out still smoldering fires almost 24 hours after the attack saw body parts on rooftops of buildings next to the site of the World Trade Center. "Firefighters saw body parts strewn on roofs adjacent to the building," said the soldier, who asked not to be identified. "Once the fires are under control, they will pull out the bodies."

The US capital also struggled to

B.T.-4
18/9

Fight against terrorism has to be indivisible

TILL the fateful September 11, 2001, when the World Trade Center towers were brought down, the Bombay blasts of March 1993 were the worst act of urban terrorism. Bomb blasts occurred in eleven places including the Bombay stock exchange, Air India building, Centaur Hotel and Zaveri Bazar. Some 250 died in the blasts that took place between 1.20 and 4 pm on March 12 and several times that number were injured.

The western world has never acknowledged Bombay's day of horror — the US barely mentioned the event in its Patterns of Global Terrorism report — nor given any credence to India's charge that Pakistan played a major hand in the attack. In his address to the nation, yesterday, President George W Bush has now set clear standards for retribution — not only would the perpetrators be punished, but also countries that harboured them.

Though the Mumbai underworld, led by Dawood Ibrahim and Ibrahim Abdul Razak Memon aka Mustaq aka Tiger Memon were held responsible for this ghastly event, the government of India has clear evidence, through confiscated passport documents and confessions, including that of Yakub Memon, one of 'Tiger's' brothers who was captured and returned to India, that Pakistan was involved in the training of the terrorists as well as in supplying shelter to the fleeing Memon family. The most damning evidence came from the movement of some 20 operatives involved in the blasts who left Mumbai for Dubai in various dates in February 1993. From there they went in three groups on February 9, 13 and 20, 1993 to Islamabad where they were whisked through the airport without going through

immigration formalities. After three weeks of training comprising of physical exercises, use of explosive devices, firing AK-47s and grenades, they returned to Dubai, again without going through Islamabad immigration.

However, their entry and exit were recorded in their passports in Dubai, the visas they got had been pinned to their passports. The terrorist leaders made an effort to destroy these passports, but some of them survived and were recovered by the authorities from some of the sus-

GUEST COLUMN MANOJ JOSHI

pects. Additional evidence came from the escape of the Memon family which is still facing trial for the blasts. Subsequently some of the family returned and are facing trial in Mumbai courts, but the ring-leader, 'Tiger' Memon remains in Pakistan and has affiliated himself with the Kashmiri Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen. Yakub Memon, his brother who was arrested a year later, had on him a Pakistani identity card and a passport which had been used for travelling to Bangkok, Dubai and Karachi.

Ironically, despite the Bombay blasts, the new Clinton Administration that took office in January 1993, made it a point to remove the Damocles sword of being declared a state sponsor of terrorism hanging over Pakistan. Indeed, through 1992, the George Bush administration had been warning Pakistan to clean up its act. But the new administration thought otherwise, it played down India's charges of Pakistani involvement

and US officials told their Indian counterparts that they could not go by Indian evidence alone and that they needed to independently confirm Pakistan's complicity. That year, instead of moving along that direction, the Clinton administration sought to question India's *bona fides* in Kashmir, and worse, play an active role in creating the Taliban.

It is important to recapitulate this recent history if we have to see what India's attitude ought to be to Tuesday's outrage. Undoubtedly it has to be one of condemnation of the terrorists and condolences to those who lost their near and dear ones. Apart from this India ought to urge the new Bush Junior's administration to take off where Bush Senior left off and pinpoint the role of terrorists and their patrons living in Pakistan and Afghanistan. This does not mean that India should avenge the Pakistani complicity in the blasts eight years after the event. But it does mean that it can join the US in forging a coalition of like-minded states to fight an unyielding battle against terrorism.

This coalition need not comprise just the so-called free world and democracies. Autocracies like China and semi-democracies like Russia abhor terrorism as well. But the key element in this battle has to be an acceptance that the fight against terrorism is indivisible and absolute. There cannot be any 'ifs' and 'buts'. In other words, the target has to be any individuals or organisations that seek to make a political point by targeting innocents and non-combatants. There can be no exceptions in this battle because for too long terrorists have sheltered under the cover of being this or that country's 'freedom fighters.'

The Economic Times

13 SEP 2001

Terrorist attacks on U.S. targets

Oct. 12, 2000 — Terrorist bombing kills 17 U.S. sailors aboard the USS Cole as it refuelled in Yemen's port of Aden. U.S. says Saudi exile, Osama bin Laden, is prime suspect.

Aug. 7, 1998 — Car bombs explode outside U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar-es-Salaam, Tanzania, within minutes of each other, killing 224 people and wounding thousands of others. Osama is again blamed.

June 25, 1996 — Truck-bomb explodes outside the Khobar Towers, Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia, killing 19 American servicemen and wounding hundreds of various nationalities. Members of a little-known Saudi militant group, Hezbollah, were indicted for the attack.

Sept. 13, 1995 — Rocket-propelled grenade pierces wall of U.S. embassy in Moscow, but causes no injuries.

Nov. 13, 1995 — Car bomb detonates at U.S. military headquarters in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing five American service personnel.

April 19, 1995 — Bomb rips through the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in downtown Oklahoma city at 9:02 a.m., killing 168 and wounding more than 500. Former U.S. soldier, Timothy McVeigh, is convicted of carrying out the attack; he was executed earlier this year.

Feb. 26, 1993 — A bomb explodes in a parking garage below the World Trade Center in New York, killing six people and wounding more than 1,000. Six Islamic militants were convicted in the bombing and sentenced to life in prison.

Dec. 21, 1988 — Pan Am Boeing 747 explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland, on a flight from London to New York, killing 270 people, including residents of the town.

Sept. 5, 1986 — Hijackers seize Pan Am jumbo jet, carrying 358 people, at Karachi airport. Twenty people killed when security forces storm the plane.

Oct. 8, 1985 — Crippled American Jew, Leon Klinghoffer, killed by Palestinian militants who

seized the Italian cruise liner, Achille Lauro.

June 14, 1985 — Shiite gunmen seize a TWA Boeing 727, forcing it to Beirut, Lebanon. They demand the release of 700 Arabs held by Israel. A U.S. Navy diver is killed and 39 Americans are held until they are released on July 1 after Syrian mediation.

Sept. 20, 1984 — Car bomb at U.S. embassy annex in east Beirut, Lebanon, kills 16 and injures the Ambassador.

Dec. 12, 1983 — Shiite extremists set off car bombs in front of the U.S. and French embassies in Kuwait City, killing five people and wounding 86.

Oct. 23, 1983 — Shiite suicide bomber blows up U.S. marine barracks in Beirut, Lebanon, killing 241 marines.

April 18, 1983 — Suicide car-bomber blows up U.S. embassy in Beirut, killing 17 Americans.

Nov. 4, 1979 — Islamic students storm U.S. embassy in Teheran, Iran, holding 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. — AP

Kupwara firing sparks tension

Hizb blast kills six Army men in Udhampur

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

JAMMU, Sept. 9. — Six Army men were killed when militants blew up a vehicle in a convoy in Udhampur district today, police said.

A defence spokesman, however, put the toll at five, including a junior commissioned officer (JCO). Two simultaneous blasts threw the 2.5-ton vehicle in the rear of the convoy into a deep gorge at Angarala around 10 a.m.

A Hizbul Mujahideen spokesman in Islamabad said its militants had carried out the attack. The attack comes a day after six BSF men were killed in two separate IED explosions in Udhampur.

Two persons were killed and seven injured in two powerful blasts triggered by militants and subsequent police firing in Kupwara district this evening, a report from Srinagar said.

Ultras threw a grenade at a security patrol in Kupwara town around 4.30 p.m. and within five minutes set off a powerful improvised explosive device in a marketplace. A security jawan and some civilians were injured. Several shops were damaged.

Security forces opened fire after the blasts, killing two persons and injuring three. The retaliatory action of the security forces sparked tension in the town. People assembled near the police station and raised anti-security forces slogans.

In another blast, militants detonated a cycle bomb in Gosia colony of Srinagar when a BSF vehicle was passing by. Five BSF men and four

civilians were injured.

Elsewhere in the valley, 12 people, including six militants and two securitymen, have been killed and an Army Major injured in separate incidents since yesterday.

A Lashkar-e-Taiyaba militant was killed when security forces returned fire after ultras attacked an Army post at Warnav, Kupwara district, early today. A jawan was killed and an officer, Major Bhushan Mehta, was injured in the gunfight.

Two ultras and a jawan were killed in another encounter at Kraligund in Kupwara today. Security forces shot dead two militants during search operations at Ishkote in Badgam. A militant was shot dead by security forces at Bondari forest.

Shabir to meet Pant: The J&K Democratic Freedom Party president, Mr Shabir Shah, will meet Mr KC Pant tomorrow at the latter's residence as part of the continuing process of dialogue between the government and Kashmiri groups, officials said, a report from New Delhi adds. The JKDFM chief had given some suggestions to resolve the Kashmir issue to Mr Pant at their earlier meeting. Mr Shah is likely to meet Mrs Sonia Gandhi.

Sena reaction to fatwa: The Shiv Sena today reacted sharply to the Lashkar-e-Jabbar's fatwa asking Hindu women to wear *bindi* and Sikh women to wear saffron-coloured *dupattas* for identification, adds UNI from New Delhi. Such a diktat would be resisted, the party said.

■ Editorial: Soft target, page 6

THE STATESMAN

10 SEP 2001

J&K blasts claim schoolgirl, 6 BSF men

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

SRINAGAR, Sept. 8. - Six Border Security Force men, including a commandant, and an 11-year-old schoolgirl, were killed in separate IED explosions set off by militants in J&K today.

Six persons, two of them Pakistani militants and a National Conference activist, were killed and seven Army men wounded in separate incidents since yesterday evening.

The schoolchildren were on their way to Pahalgam resort for a picnic in four buses. An IED explosion on Srinagar-Pahalgam road around 11 a.m. ripped apart one of the buses, killing the girl.

Twelve of her classmates and a teacher were injured. Dr Farooq Abdullah has condemned the killing of the schoolgirl. Six BSF men were killed and five wounded when ultras detonated an IED at Dhamkund in Udhampur district around 10.30 a.m. today, police said.

Seven Army men were wounded when militants ambushed their convoy at Arampora in north Kashmir this afternoon. An NC activist was shot dead by militants in Ganderbal area on the outskirts of Srinagar.

Geelani plea turned down: Hurriyat leader, Syed Ali Shah Geelani's request to be allowed to attend the third General Islamic Conference in Saudi Arabia,

seems to have been turned down, adds SNS from New Delhi. The conference began today. Mr Geelani had written to Mr Jaswant Singh. Hurriyat officials said there has been no response from the government.

Dress code: The Lashkar-e-Jabbar today asked Hindu women in Kashmir to apply *bindi* and Sikh women to don saffron-coloured *duppata*s for identification.

J&K polls: Dr Abdullah today said leaders like Mr Abdul Gani Lone, Mr Shah and Mohammad Yaseen Malik might participate in the Assembly polls.

■ Photograph, another report on page 11

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Advani for 'legal protection' to policemen fighting terrorism

By Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 5. Stressing the need for upholding human rights in a democratic society, the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today argued in favour of granting legal protection to the policemen, who acted without any mala fide against terrorist elements in the cause of national duty.

"Nobody will accept violation of human rights. We have to see that no policeman who acted in a bonafide manner, without any mala fide, is hounded out for extraneous reasons. Suitable changes in legislation may be necessary for the purpose," Mr. Advani said.

Inaugurating the 36th annual conference of the Directors-General of Police and Inspectors-General of Police here, he said that consultations with the Law Commission were on to examine amendments for giving protection

under the law and the Constitution to the security personnel engaged in anti-terrorist operations.

Mr. Advani's proposal for giving relief to the police personnel who had fought terrorism in Punjab was first made at a public meeting in Jalandhar recently. He rebutted reports that he had favoured amnesty to policemen who had crushed terrorism in Punjab. "I never used the word 'amnesty', but only said that some relief under the law and the Constitution to the policemen who fought terrorism should be given. But it has stirred a debate in the media and evoked protests from some quarters," he said.

Pointing out that there were safeguards for securitymen in the event of an open, declared war in the form of laws like Emergency provisions or the Disturbed Areas Act, he said there

was no such protection during proxy-war and acts of terrorism. "In an abnormal situation of proxy-war, there are no legal provisions to give protection to a policeman who has done something in a bonafide manner without any extraneous consideration".

Referring to the recommendations of the Group of Ministers (GoM) on national security, Mr. Advani announced the setting up of a Multi-Agency Centre for counter-terrorism and a joint task force on intelligence, both under the umbrella of the Intelligence Bureau.

Earlier, in his opening remarks, the Intelligence Bureau Director, Mr. K.P. Singh, said security, police and intelligence officials did not seek a "general amnesty" for violation of human rights, but they needed protection in genuine cases against vexatious litigation and witch-hunting.

THE HINDU

- 6 SEP 2001

Militants behead 2 priests, gun down 5 in Poonch

Times News Network

JAMMU: In a major strike, militants beheaded two priests after kidnapping them from a temple and shot dead five members of a trader's family in Poonch district of Jammu and Kashmir, official sources said.

As tension gripped the area, the authorities imposed an indefinite curfew on Poonch and Surankote towns to guard against the possible outbreak of communal violence.

A group of unidentified militants abducted the two priests from a temple near Dhundhak on the Surankote-Poonch road on Monday night and beheaded them. The bodies of the priests were recovered by the police near the temple.

The militants had planted explosive devices in the temple with a view to causing casualties among devotees the following morning. But these were detected and defused by experts on time, the sources said.

In another attack, militants stormed the house of a shopkeeper in Surankote on Tuesday morning and shot dead five members of his family.

The shopkeeper was not present in the house at the time of attack. Two persons belonging to the Gujjar community were also killed by militants at Pamrote village of Surankote tehsil on Monday night. One of the victims was the 'numberdar' of the village.

As news of the killings of the two priests spread in Poonch, groups of people held protest demonstrations, forced the closure of shops and pelted stones at police vehicles.

A bandh was enforced in Sunderbani, Kalakote and Rajouri to protest the killings of the priests. However, no violence was reported from these towns.

Meanwhile, in a bid to counter the growing attacks by foreign mercenaries in Doda district in Jammu, the army will launch 'surgical operations', with the emphasis on targeting the top brass among these mercenaries.

"We will soon launch 'surgical operations' to eliminate foreign mercenaries, and their commanders in particular, and other militants in general across this mountain-locked

woodland," sector commander Brigadier G.D. Bakshi said during a "situation assessment" media tour.

A plan has been devised to target this section of foreign mercenaries under a special mission besides the normal counter-insurgency operations, Brigadier Bakshi said, adding, "We will strike at their roots now and pin them down." Specialised troops will be assigned the job of information gathering, networking, planning and striking at these outfits, Brigadier Bakshi said, adding, "About 70 per cent of the total militant strength comprises foreign mercenaries."

KILLING FIELDS

- ▶ Major tragedy averted as explosive devices are detected on time
- ▶ Protests mark killing of priests
- ▶ Curfew clamped on Poonch and Surankote towns

THE TELEGRAPH

29 AUG 2001

ISI move to bring ultras under Hizbul

KAVITA SURI
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KISHTWAR, Nov. 25. — The ISI has intensified efforts to bring all militant groups under the umbrella of the largest outfit — Hizbul Mujahideen. This is being done to give an "indigenous" colour to militancy in the Valley.

Local and foreign terrorists in the area have been directed to leave their outfits and join the Hizbul Mujahideen, according to Brigadier GD Bakshi, sector commander of Rashtriya Rifles. He said monetary aid coming from across the Line of Control has either come to a standstill or the amount has been decreased. "This has cast a negative effect on the morale of the terrorists active here," said the brigadier who has been keenly watching

the developments in Afghanistan and its fallout on J&K and has also written a book on it. He added that Jaish-e-Mohammed which was being build up as the main ISI terrorist outfit, has withdrawn its best cadres who have joined the local Hizbul outfit.

Since early October when the USA launched attacks on Afghanistan, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami have "migrated" to the Hizbul Mujahideen. This new trend of "reverse migration" which the security forces operating in J&K are witnessing is, in fact, a part of Pakistan's gameplan to give an indigenous colour to the insurgency in Kashmir. On the other hand it has been making efforts to minimise inter-

national pressure on terrorism in J&K, defences sources said.

The Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami district commander, Mohammed Sarwar who hails from Singpur in Kishtwar tehsil, has joined the Hizbul Mujahideen. Reports suggest that the Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami which was dominated by foreign mercenaries, has completely merged into the Hizbul. One top Jaish terrorist active in Kishtwar has also joined the Hizbul.

Though Pakistani agencies have intensified campaign to give local colour to the insurgency, foreign terrorists have been directed to virtually capture local outfits. "Foreign mercenaries are not only joining Hizbul but they are actually capturing this outfit", said defence sources. This has triggered a fresh controversy among local and foreign merce-

naries. The recent statement of Hizbul spokesman, Asad Yazdani in which he had urged all foreign mercenaries to work under the local leadership saying they had no role to play in J&K, clearly indicates differences among the local and foreign mercenaries.

Brigadier Bakshi said differences even cropped up between local Hizbul leaders. "Those who have been sitting across the border have supported the action by Pakistani agencies to capture Hizbul Mujahideen while those operating in Kashmir have stoutly opposed the idea", he added.

Despite opposition by a strong Hizbul faction, Pakistani agencies have intensified its campaign to capture Hizbul to instal foreign mercenaries in important posts.

LASHKAR BID TO BLOW UP JAWAHAR TUNNEL

JAMMU, Nov. 25. — Pakistan-backed ultras today attempted to blow up the Jawaharlal Nehru tunnel, the only road link between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country, in Banihal area on the Jammu-Srinagar national highway.

Considered to be the longest tunnel in the country the tunnel, having twin tubes which passes through the Pir Panjal mountain ranges, was on the hit list of ultras since all these years of insurgency.

The Lashkar-e-Taiyaba spokesman, Abu Osama, informed **The Statesman** over satellite phone from Pakistan that two fidayeen members of the outfit — Abu Abdur Rehman and Abu Rafiah — launched a suicide attack on the tunnel at 5.30 a.m. today. He claimed that the fidayeen successfully fled from the area after the attack.

Police sources confirmed the fidayeen attack informing that the militants lobbed grenades and fired heavily from their automatic weapons on the security forces, mainly Indo-Tibet Border Police and Indian Reserve Police who were busy preparing "Sehri" as they were fasting for Ramzan. Traffic was suspended for hours for security reasons.

Traffic was suspended for hours for security reasons. Both tubes were safe, a spokesman said. However, two IRP men identified as head constable Mohammad Yusuf, selection grade constable Mohammad Iqbal besides driver Surjit Singh of ITBP and a civilian driver Ram Singh were killed in the attack. Five people were injured including an assistant sub-inspector. All of them were from 3rd Battalion of the IRP deployed at the tunnel.

Fencing work on: The BSF director-general, Mr Gurbachan Jagat, today said fencing of the Indo-Pak border in Jammu was on despite attempts from across the frontier to disrupt it. He also admitted there were apprehensions that the Taliban could be diverted to Jammu and Kashmir.

— SNS

THE STATESMAN

20 11 2001

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'Address cross-border terrorism first'

NEW DELHI, AUG. 13. India has conveyed to Pakistan that it needed to address cross-border terrorism for normalisation of relations between the two countries.

Replying to queries on the recent meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries in Colombo, on the sidelines of the SAARC standing committee meeting, the Foreign Office spokesperson, Ms. Nirupama Rao, said "cross-border terrorism occupies paramount position in bilateral relations".

The matter was raised by the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Inamul Haq.

Pakistan had been made well aware of the need to address cross-border terrorism if progress had to be made towards normalisation of relations.

The spokesperson said both countries were committed to continue the dialogue process.

On the next summit between the leaders of India and Pakistan, the spokesperson said no time-frame had been fixed.

The U.S. has not given a clear indication of any time-frame for lifting of unilateral sanctions imposed after the 1998 Pokhran nuclear tests.

"There is no clear indication of any time-frame on how they are actually going to lift these sanctions," the spokesperson said. — UNI, PTI

THE HINDU

14 AUG 2001

Govt plans crackdown on Kashmir militants

- Four districts to be declared disturbed
- More powers for security forces

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, Aug. 8

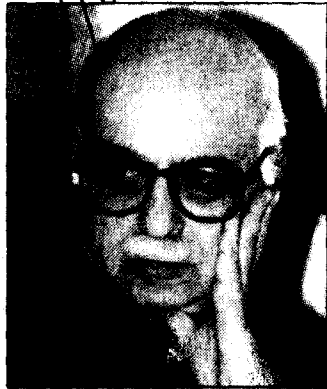
WITH MILITANTS in Jammu and Kashmir taking the battle to the Government's doorsteps, the Centre today decided to arm security forces, the Army in particular, with greater powers.

The decision was taken at a lengthy meeting chaired by Union Home Minister L K Advani. Defence Minister Jaswant Singh and other senior Army, paramilitary, State police and Intelligence officials were present.

Jammu and Kashmir Governor G C Saxena and Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah too attended the conclave, held against the backdrop of the series of killings in Doda and Jammu over the past few days.

It is understood that some parts of Udhampur, Doda, Jammu and Kathua districts have been declared "disturbed" under the Armed Forces (J&K) Special Powers Act (1990). The Home Minister will make a formal announcement in the Lok Sabha tomorrow.

This will allow the Government arm the security forces with greater teeth to combat the renewed threat posed by Pakistan-backed militants operating in the Jammu region. Search and cordon operations, given up after the declaration of a five-month ceasefire in



HOME MINISTER LK ADVANI

November, will now resume in these districts.

Rajouri and Poonch districts were earlier declared disturbed. Anantnag, Baramulla, Kupwara, Pulwama and Srinagar districts had likewise been brought under this Act to give a freehand to the security forces.

Conceding that there was slackening of Jammu's security grid after troops were pulled out for the Amarnath Yatra, sources said that directions will immediately be given to sector commanders to plan counterterrorism operations for "area domination".

A senior official claimed that following the withdrawal of "non-initiation of combat operations" since June, the security forces have put "enhanced pres-

sure" on terrorists and "notched up significant successes". The official described the recent spurt in militant attacks on "soft civilian targets" in Doda and Jammu as an "act of desperation" aimed at blunting the effectiveness of the counterterrorism measures.

During the meeting, a number of steps were discussed to "refine the methods being used by the security forces". Abdullah is understood to have placed some demands before the Centre to "strengthen" the security network, not only in Jammu but also in the Valley.

The Chief Minister indicated that he was in favour of additional troops being dispatched to the troubled State. The State Cabinet, he said, would meet tomorrow and approve the decision to declare the four districts disturbed.

Some battalions of the Rashtriya Rifles would be quickly redeployed in Doda and Jammu districts to beef up security. The Special Operations Group (SOG) of the State police would be given powers to "go after the militants". The State administration has been asked to set up more village defence committees (VDCs) in the inaccessible areas of Jammu where the difficult terrain blunts the effectiveness of the security forces.

Related reports on Page 9

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

9 AUG 2001

3 LeT militants behind Doda massacre killed

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Aug. 7. - Security forces today claimed having killed three Pakistani militants, who were behind the Atholi massacre in two separate gunbattles here today.

An Army spokesman said the militants behind the Atholi massacre of Friday night had broken into small groups and had escaped to the hinterlands as the security forces had started a massive operation against them.

After a chase of three days and three nights, the Army jawans and STF men killed one of them, Abu Ghulam, the district commander of Lashkar-e-Taiyaba in an encounter in Atholi forests. Two other militants of the same group were killed in forests south of Thatri, a few kilometres from Atholi.

GOVT TO ISSUE WHITE PAPER ON ISI

NEW DELHI, Aug. 7. - The government is likely to come out with a white paper on Inter State Intelligence activities in the country. The white paper is expected to be issued by the end of this year.

Highly placed sources in the Union Ministry of Home Affairs said that preparation of a joint action plan is also on the cards to prevent more bloodbaths by militants in Jammu and Kashmir. An MHA official said: "In view of the mounting clout of Pakistan's ISI and their involvement in aiding, abetting and supporting terrorism in various parts of the country, it is necessary to come out with an official document on their activities." Mr LK Advani, is personally examining the documents, sources added. The MHA official who refused to divulge the contents of the documents, however, said: "Majority of the work has been completed. It will contain all aspects of their activities, their involvement with India-based organisations and their funding to underground outfits." - SNS

Mr RV. Raju, the inspector general of police Jammu, told The Statesman that the forces who had launched massive search operations after three massacres in Doda district, came across a militant hideout where Abu Ghulam had taken shelter. When asked to surrender, the militant opened fire and in the retaliatory firing he was killed.

Some documents recovered from Abu Ghulam indicated that he, along with others, was the mastermind behind the killing of 13 Hindus in Luddhar-Sharoti Dhar area of Kishtwar in Doda district on Friday night.

An AK 47 rifle with some ammunition and a wireless set were also recovered from his possession. One AK 47 with 4 magazines and 6 handgrenades were recovered from the possession of the other two militants.

The Army spokesman said there were two more militants of the same group who however managed to escaped due to bad weather and heavy rains.

The IGP also said security had been beefed up in Jammu following the massacres and in view of Independence day. Additional forces are also being deployed keeping in view the security threat from across the border.

Terrorist violence on the rise in J&K

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Aug. 7. - Pakistani troops have intensified firing on the border and stepped up terrorist violence in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to officials sources, during the month of July, Pakistani troops resorted to firing on the border including the Line of Control for at least 690 times while only 854 such incidents took place in the first six months of the current year. So far, 1,539 border firing incidents have been reported since January this year in which 13 persons were killed and 34 injured.

An official spokesman said that the increase in militant violence was quite evident from the fact that 2,506 militant incidents have been reported in J&K since

January this year as against 1,632 incidents during the corresponding period last year. Last month alone witnessed 404 incidents while 237 such incidents took place in the corresponding period last year.

This year, incidents of hand grenade throwing and explosions have also increased.

Against 537 such incidents during the year 2000, as many as 4,876 incidents of IED explosions and hurling of grenades have been reported in the first seven months of the year. The corresponding figure of last year is 276 only. Militants have also killed as many as 527 civilians this year as compared to 398 during the corresponding period last year.

"Unable to fight security forces on one hand and realising the unachievable objec-

tive of their so called jihad on the other, the pro-Pakistan militants, particularly foreign mercenaries, are picking up soft targets and killing more and more innocent people," the spokesman added.

Meanwhile, militants continued to abduct people and harass them. They abducted 235 persons this year of whom 91 were killed. While 76 abductees managed to escape or were set free after mutual settlement, whereabouts of 68 are not yet known.

However, in the post-ceasefire period, the security forces have intensified anti-militancy operations and have succeeded in eliminating 450 militants during the past two months. In the first five months of this year, only 540 militants were killed in different encounters.

H-0-1
8/8

9 killed as militants strike at Jammu rly. station

Ferriman

By Shujaat Bukhari

SRINAGAR, AUG. 7. In a surprise attack on Tuesday evening a group of militants, suspected to be a suicide squad, struck at the highly guarded Jammu railway station and opened indiscriminate fire, killing at least nine persons including a BSF personnel and an Army jawan and injuring 25. One militant was killed in retaliation.

Official sources told *The Hindu* that the militants appeared at the station around 8.30 p.m. and opened fire on the waiting passengers, killing at least four on the spot. A number of passengers were left in a pool of blood. Police, caught unawares, recovered fast and opened fire in retaliation killing the militant, identified as Nissar Ahmed, resident of Achabal in Anantnag district, from an ID card found on him. The injured were

removed to hospital and five of the seriously injured died on way to hospital. The condition of most of the injured is said to be critical.

It was not known from which direction the militants came. One version was that three militants had boarded Malwah Express somewhere at a less guarded stop, while another said the militants

came from an overhead bridge and opened fire.

A red alert has been sounded in the entire Jammu region. The Army has been called in to assist the investigation. Senior police and paramilitary forces have rushed to the spot. Soon after the attack chaos and confusion prevailed at the station which was immediately cordoned off.

Central team for all-out action

NEW DELHI, AUG. 7. The Central team, which visited Doda district in Jammu and Kashmir following the massacre of 13 Hindus by Pakistan-backed terrorists, today recommended all-out operations by security forces to flush out militants operating in the region.

The team led by the Union Minister of State for Home, Mr. I.D. Swami, submitted its report to the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, this morning suggesting the strengthening of Village Defence Committees (VDCs) and the appointment of more Special Police Officers (SPOs) armed with sophisticated weapons. The report was of the view that the three recent massacres had taken place in higher mountainous reaches which were not covered by VDCs or SPOs, official sources said.— PTI

THE HINDU

- 8 AUG 2001

Bombing fatal blow to hope of IRA giving up guns

MICHAEL GOVE
THE TIMES, LONDON

LONDON, Aug 4. - It was a miracle that the Ealing Broadway bomb in West London did not cause more than seven casualties. But the prospect of the Provisional IRA making any real progress on decommissioning has now been killed stone dead.

The Real IRA may have detonated their 40kg bomb in a busy London street, but its real target was closer to home. The device was designed to destabilise the Sinn Fein/Provisional IRA leadership of Martin McGuinness and Gerry Adams.

It was timed to go off on the eve of a meeting of the Sinn Fein executive on Friday, where Mr Adams and his col-

leagues would be discussing how to respond to the British and Irish governments' proposals to rescue the Good Friday agreement. Both governments and all the other Ulster parties have told Sinn Fein/PIRA that progress on decommissioning is a precondition of keeping the "peace process" alive. There are reasons to believe that Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness want to make some move, even if only a token one. They want to maintain their position in Northern Ireland's government and avoid public blame for derailing the peace train.

The Real IRA's success in West London now makes even a token move much less likely. The Provisionals cannot afford to be seen weakening their military strength just

when their rival for the affection of the Republican base has confirmed its continuing ability to "stiff the Brits".

The Ealing bomb is the Real IRA's seventh "hit" in the capital since June 2000. Earlier this week it succeeded in driving a car bomb unchallenged into Belfast International Airport, leading to a nine-hour search before it could be defused. Even with the group's alleged leader, Michael McKevitt, in custody, the power of the Real IRA to operate with impunity has been strongly confirmed.

The Real IRA commands the support of figures who are respected throughout the ranks of militant republicanism.

BLAST IN WEST LONDON

Most left Sinn Fein/PIRA after October 1997 because they were impatient with the political strategy being pursued by the Adams leadership. They already enjoy some day-to-day co-operation with figures nominally loyal to the Provisionals. If Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness were now to move Sinn Fein/PIRA closer to decommissioning then there would be even more straightforward defections to the ranks of the Real IRA, possibly to the point where it enjoyed a decisive superiority over the Provisionals in active bombing expertise.

Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness know that their survival, and not just as politicians, de-

pends on keeping their base together and their militarists satisfied. Republican grassroots have already indicated their unhappiness with the prospect of decommissioning, arguing that it would leave Catholic communities "undefended" in the face of loyalist terrorists who have been orchestrating shootings and pipe-bomb attacks. The prospect of any real movement before Thursday night was always small. Now it appears to have gone altogether.

But while Mr Adams and Mr McGuinness may keep their formidable base together in Ulster's green ghettos, the Real IRA are determined to overtake them, come what may. The military researcher Richard Bennett, of Armed Forces Intelligence, said: "The

leadership wants to move the Real IRA away from its sectarian origins and towards it becoming a genuine international terrorist organisation." "Power is passing to a new generation, most of whom are unknown quantities. And the Real IRA has been successful in forging links with groups in eastern Europe, including organisations in Croatia, Serbia and the Baltic states as well as exploring co-operation with the Basques." The Real IRA may have started as just a splinter group for the disaffected but it now poses a triple threat: to the capacity of Mr Adams ever to deliver peace; to the stability of Ulster's new political arrangements; and to the ability of the British state to guarantee its citizens' safety.

Pakistan to crack down on terrorist groups

5/12
5/8
UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 4. — Pakistan today gave a green signal to the law enforcement agencies for an "all-out offensive" against terrorists and terrorist groups.

This was decided at an inter-provincial conference, which met here today under President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Addressing the conference, Gen Musharraf said there should be no inhibition against use of every available force and resources to combat terrorism.

He directed the provinces to make use of the police force,

the rangers and other paramilitary troops to track down the terrorist groups and bring them to justice.

"We owe it to this nation and we shall give them peace and security at every cost," Gen Musharraf said and asked the law enforcement agencies to be firm and act without fear.

US move welcomed: The finance minister, Mr Shaukat Aziz, today welcomed a US review of its relationship with Pakistan, including the possible lifting of sanctions, saying it would help revive the flagging economy, adds AP.

Mr Aziz made his comments

following a five-day Pakistan trip by US assistant secretary of state for South Asia, Mr Christina B Rocca.

Mr Rocca said the US administration was reviewing sanctions imposed against both India and Pakistan in 1998 after tit-for-tat nuclear explosions by the South Asian neighbours. The sanctions have been particularly difficult for Pakistan to bear because of its dependence on foreign aid.

Pakistan faces a separate round of sanctions imposed after the civilian government was thrown out and the military took power.

Ultras gun down 15 more in Doda

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE & AGENCIES

JAMMU, Aug. 4. — Militants last night kidnapped 22 people from Shruntidhar village near Kishtwar, Doda district, and killed 15 of them. Five villagers have been seriously injured while two managed to escape.

(According to one report, 17 villagers fell to the ultras' bullets.) Curfew has been imposed on Kishtwar and security forces in Doda, Udhampur and Jammu have been put on alert.

A magisterial probe has been ordered into the massacre. The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, said tonight: "The inquiry will look into security lapses, if any, that may have led to the killings."

The IGP (Jammu), Mr Radha Vinod Raju, said the injured have been taken to a hospital at Atholi. The state government has sent a helicopter to Doda to bring them to Jammu's Government Medical College.

After being abducted, the villagers were taken to a nearby jungle where the ultras fired from automatic weapons. Thirteen

J&K 511 518
villagers died on the spot and seven were injured. Two of them died later.

A police party, led by the Atholi SHO, was first to reach the spot and recovered the bodies. Army and police have launched a search operation in the area since early this morning. No militant group has claimed responsibility for the killings, but intelligence sources suspect the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba to be behind it.

The Governor, Mr GC Saxena, and the DGP, Mr AK Suri, visited the massacre site and reviewed the situation. The Doda MP and Union minister of state for civil aviation, Mr Chaman Lal Gupta, too visited the massacre site.

On 22 July, militants gunned down eight villagers at Chirjee village, Doda.

The Union home minister said the government would plan a "proper response" to deal with the spurt in civilian killings in J&K. He will discuss the state's situation with the defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, and chief minister, Dr Abdullah on Wednesday.

Mr LK Advani has asked his minister of state, Mr ID Swami, to visit Doda

along with the special secretary (J&K), Mr A Bhandari, to make an on-the-spot assessment. The team will submit its report on Monday.

Dr Abdullah said the killings have again exposed Pakistan's apathy towards peace. Ultras, at the behest of their mentors across the border, are picking up soft targets to quench their thirst for blood, he said. "They've spilled a lot of blood but the people of the state are determined to foil their nefarious agenda."

Hurriyat demand: The Hurriyat has condemned the killings and demanded a judicial probe to identify the killers.

"We forcefully demand that a highest judicial inquiry should be instituted to identify the killers and their mastermind," Hurriyat leader, Mr Abdul Gani Lone, said over phone from Chennai.

Ultras killed: Two Hizbul ultras were among three persons killed in the valley since last night. Militants shot dead a civilian in Sopore, Baramulla district.

■ **Rakshabandhan saves a brother: page 10**

RESTRICTED

Militants behead four more

MANILA, AUG 4. Muslim extremists have beheaded four more captives, bringing to eight the number killed since they raided a village and abducted 36 persons two days ago, an official said on Saturday.

Four decapitated bodies were recovered on Saturday morning and on Friday night as police, soldiers and militiamen pursued Abu Sayyaf guerillas who raided a remote village of Lamitan town on Basilan island, said the Lamitan Mayor, Mr. Inocente Ramos. Social workers said 47 families, mostly relatives of the victims, had fled their homes in fear of more attacks. Mr. Ramos, interviewed by Radio Mindanao Network, said the four victims were among those abducted on Thursday from Balobo village on the outskirts of Lamitan. He said a fifth body, already decomposing, was recovered on Friday night but the victim was believed to have been seized by the Abu Sayyaf from another village earlier. — AP

THE HINDU

1990 001

'Dawood had left Pakistan during summit'

Terrorism will be crushed, says Advani

AGENCIES

ALIGARH (UP), Aug. 5. - India today said it would not tolerate cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and would crush it with a heavy hand.

Mr LK Advani said killing of innocent people is not a "freedom struggle" as has been termed by the "leader of the neighbouring country." Terrorism in J&K is the biggest problem facing the country, he said.

The Union home minister condemned the killings in Doda late on Friday night. "Which government will tolerate it? If you have to fight a freedom struggle, fight it with security forces. Killing innocent people after kidnapping them amounts to spreading terror," he said. Mr Advani was addressing a gathering after unveiling a statue of freedom fighter Mohan Lal Gautam. Ensuring security of the people in J&K was the government's "supreme duty," he said.

Mr Advani said India had information that Dawood Ibrahim left Pakistan during the Agra summit and returned after it. India had demanded that Dawood be handed over to India. But General Pervez Musharraf had denied that he was in Pakistan.

Cremation amidst protests: Fifteen persons gunned down in Doda on Friday night were cremated today amid protests by people demanding a visit by Mr LK Advani. Security forces intensified search operations for the assailants. Curfew remained in force in Kishtwar and Baderwah towns. A bandh was observed in Doda town and some parts of the district in protest against the killings.

NO HONEYMOON

NEW DELHI, Aug. 5. - The JKLF vice-president, Mr Javed Ahmed Mir, and his wife were prevented by immigration authorities from going to Kathmandu for their honeymoon.

The couple arrived at the Indira Gandhi International Airport this morning to board an Indian Airlines flight to Kathmandu.

But after the initial check-in procedure, Mr Mir was detained inside a room for an hour. The couple was allowed to go out of the airport premises only after the plane left for Kathmandu. - PTI

Demand for Amnesty probe: Kashmiri separatist organisations demanded a probe by Amnesty International into the slaying of 15 civilians at Kishtwar, a report from Srinagar says.

Former Hurriyat chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, condemned the massacre and called it a handiwork of criminals. "There was no scope for such misadventure in Islam," he said.

A JKLF spokesman said, "Had the government accepted our demands for probing the massacres, the situation would have been different today." The Hizbul Mujahideen expressed sympathy with the bereaved families.

The Panun Kashmir said Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee should review the policy on J&K and firmly assert India's protest against the incident in Doda with Pakistan, a report from Delhi says. "This incident is unfortunate, but it was expected. The Lahore diplomacy brought us Kargil incursion

and Agra summit the Doda killings, convener, Dr Agnishekhar said. He urged the Prime Minister to call off his proposed visit to Pakistan.

Sonia condemns massacre: Mrs Sonia Gandhi today condemned the massacre of 15 persons in Kishtwar. She asked the Centre and the state government to combat the "nefarious designs" of forces trying to destroy the secular heritage of Jammu and Kashmir.

CPM reaction: The CPI-M expressed shock at killing of innocent people in Doda and blamed the government for not providing adequate security after the first attack in the same area a fortnight ago.

Bid to storm Army post foiled: The Army today foiled an attempt by two Lashkar-e-Taiyaba militants to storm its post at Keegam in Kupwara district, a report from Srinagar says. The militants were gunned down. Elsewhere in the state, 13 people, six of them ultras, have been killed in separate incidents since last evening.

The Lashkar men tried to storm the Ten Madras Regiment post early today when the troops were returning to the camp after a search operation. A Lashkar spokesman said the two militants were killed after several hours of gunfight inside the Army camp. But a defence official said the militants were killed outside the camp and the troops suffered no casualties.

Three Pakistani militants were killed in an encounter with security forces at Chingus in Rajouri district. Three AK rifles, two pistols, 12 grenades, a wireless set and a large quantity of ammunition were seized.

THE STATESMAN

AUG 1991

WMD TERRORISM-I

The Spectre That Haunts The 21st Century

"WITH advanced technology and a smaller world of porous borders, the ability to unleash mass sickness, death and destruction, today has reached a far greater order of magnitude. A lone madman or a nest of fanatics with a bottle of chemicals, a batch of plague-inducing bacteria, or a crude nuclear bomb can threaten or kill tens of thousands of people in a single act of malevolence. These are not far-off or far fetched scenarios. They are real - here and now" - William S Cohen, US Secretary of Defence.

By AK LAL

attack was an act of desperation by the lone superpower. Such is the effect of terrorism. Their intellectual and spiritual role models have been a gallery of heroes featuring Marx, Lenin, Trotsky, Sorel, Marighella, Mao, Giap, Fanon, Marcuse, Malcolm X, Guevara, Debray, Guillen and now bin Laden. What could this tangled skein of programmes and participants possibly have in common?

In the South Asian region, one

fanaticism which is transcending state boundaries and polarising nations based on religious cultures.

To properly understand the decisional calculus of terrorist groups, we must identify certain core issues and attributes. Is there a particular attribute common to all terrorists groups, or is there significant variation from one group to another? If it can be determined that many or all terrorist groups actually share a basic hierarchy of wants, a general strategy of "Counter-

THE concept and nature of classical terrorism is being re-shaped in the modern era. An analysis of the historical perspective and the emerging trends indicate the fructification of the changing nature of such a threat. The answer therefore lies in a critical appreciation of the threats and thereafter establishing a response mechanism at national and global levels.

In fact, there is an ongoing "Revolution in Terrorist Affairs" due to the impact of modern technology, globalisation and the proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction. However, the classical definition of terrorism and its causal factors continue to be the same as before. As we enter the new millennium, we can see the transformation in the changing nature and shades of terrorism.

SEMANTIC TOOLS

The words "terror" and "terrorism" have become semantic tools of the powerful in the western world. The dictionary definition is "intimidation" by the "systematic use of violence" as a means of both governing and opposing existing governments. The current western usage has restructured the sense, on purely ideological grounds, to the retail violence of those who oppose the established order. Historically speaking one can trace certain aspects of the traits of terrorism to the ancient civilisations of Greece and Rome. Even the *Vedas* and *Mahabharata* have glimpses of terrorist acts. It thrives on fear psychosis. By manipulating fear in a special way, terrorists have always been able to effect human behaviour in a fashion disproportionate to their effort.

All violence, as Hannah Arendt has reminded us, is unpredictable. Unlike power, force or strength, violence is always applied with unforeseeable effects. The turn of the century has distinctly seen a resurgence of religious (Islamic) oriented terrorist groups (like Taliban etc) trying to fulfil a pan-Islamic agenda. Recently Osama bin Laden's threatening overtures have only psychologically unbalanced the Americans without tangible results. The Tomahawk missile

The author is a Fellow at the Institute of Defence Studies and Analysis, New Delhi.



can flag the historical text along three distinct phases. Firstly, during the colonial period in the 20th century, anti-establishment or terrorist movements were related to independence. In the India-Pakistan context, there was comparative amity between Hindus and Muslims during the struggle. Secondly, the post-colonial period upto 1972, which saw the emergence of sub-nationalistic movements; and thirdly the period thereafter (including the Afghanistan embryology) in which, both the varieties of terrorist movements, one based on religion (Islamic *jihad* type) and the other with roots in ethnic sub-nationalism (Sri Lanka, North-East India etc) have surfaced and even sustained, to now grow into serious threats. Contemporary terrorism is replete with examples of the threat and use of chemical and biological (CB) agents. Of late even use of radiation weapons had been reported and so also nuclear hoaxes.

PROLIFERATION

At the global level, the classical definition of terrorism and the causal factors bear the same roots as over the centuries. However what is perceptibly changing is the nature of terrorism and its tools due to multifarious factors. The new millennium is ushering many scientific revolutions. Simultaneously, after the demise of the former Soviet Union there is a new world order, which is emerging and causing reconfigurations in international alignments, coupled with the proliferation of WMD technology. For example there are no more communist sponsors for leftist movements. There is yet another revival of the phenomenon of societal and religious fundamentalism giving rise to the theory of civilisation related clashes. This in turn is causing neo-religious

today's society, necessitating mock response practice.

HORROR GAME

The topic of terrorist acquisition and use of mass destruction weapons appears a remote possibility to those who are not aware of the unfolding realities of the future threat. However among those who study warfare and terrorist behaviour, weapons proliferation, and national and international security matters, there is a concern of great magnitude. In 1989, terrorist scholar Robert H Kupperman gave a foreboding assessment: "Speculation about whether terrorist groups would ever dare to use extreme weaponry such as nuclear explosives or biological, chemical or radiological agents that can inflict mass destruction is often dismissed as sensationalist. It is argued that the lack of availability of nuclear materials and the universal horror surrounding the use of chemical or biological weapons would deter their use. The unfortunate reality is that the materials for such weapons have proliferated widely, that the expertise required is actually within their grasp, and that horror is the name of the terrorism game."

The subject got validated very soon, after Aum Shinrikyo's 1995 poison gas attack in Tokyo, when rapt media coverage ensured that policy makers and the public could hardly avoid it. Much of what was said had doomsday overtones. For example, terrorist expert Walter Laqueur stated that some terrorists "almost certainly will" use WMD, and a Harvard study accentuated the USA's vulnerability to unconventional terrorist attack, concluding that several thousands could perish in a bio-terrorist attack and many could meet a similar fate in case of a chemical attack.

(To be concluded)

THE STATESMAN

0 AUG 2001

Pak. refutes charge of 'cross-border terrorism'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 25. Rejecting the charge of 'cross-border terrorism' as a 'misperception if not a deliberate distortion' the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, has said that at Agra both sides did not engage in frontal debate on the subject.

In an interview to CNN here, Mr. Sattar has said that "India fails to take into account the fact that 75,000 Kashmiris have perished in the freedom struggle over the last 12 years. Now, if anybody calls the freedom struggle a terrorist movement, this is certainly a distortion".

In the course of the interview, he hoped that the mutual accusation by India and Pakistan blaming on what led to the failure to sign a joint declaration at Agra Summit would not vitiate the at-

mosphere and would not prove counter-productive for future talks.

"I personally hope that statements that seem to point fingers of accusation at each other will not vitiate the atmosphere. I think such an exercise will be counter-productive and certainly will not achieve the objective that the two leaders shared at Agra."

Mr. Sattar told the television channel that the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, had achieved a meeting of minds in their summit. "They understand each other better than they might have in the past."

He has said that Gen. Musharraf had invited Mr. Vajpayee to visit Islamabad and the offer had been accepted. He expressed the hope that during the proposed

visit the two leaders would pick up the threads of the inconclusive meeting at Agra and reach an agreement so that the process of addressing outstanding issues and improving relations could begin.

Pak. charge

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 25. Pakistan continues to accuse India of 'unprovoked' firing along the 'working boundary'. The Pakistan Government has alleged that one person was critically wounded in the intermittent firing along Tounder in Zafrwal sector.

One of Pakistan's news agencies, NNI, has reported from Sialkot that intermittent firing by Indian troops continues in various areas of the 'working boundary'. According to the report, one person was injured in the firing, it said.

India was never serious about dialogue: Lashkar chief

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 25 The Lashkar-e-Taiba chief, Prof. Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, has said that it was through 'jihad' (holy war) alone that India could be forced to withdraw from Kashmir.

In a statement issued here, Prof. Saeed has claimed that Indian troops had now been rendered 'totally helpless' in the face of actions by the militants and time was not far off when India would have to 'vacate' Kashmir.

He said that he had predicted that the Agra summit would not yield any result as India has "never been serious about dialogue on Kashmir. Instead it always tried to

sabotage the talks". Prof. Saeed, who had opposed the visit of the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to India has paid rich compliments to Gen. Musharraf for "adopting a firm stand during the summit and truly representing the aspirations of Kashmiris".

In a related development, the chief of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, has said that giving importance to other bilateral issues, without finding a solution to Kashmir problem would be a futile exercise.

Commenting on the decision of the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, to accept the invitation of Gen. Musharraf to visit Islamabad, he told Radio Teheran, that

he had no objection to the invitation if the two leaders discussed Kashmir problem during their talks.

"I want that the two leaders concentrate on the main problem and there is no need for any celebrations or reception with pomp and show. Earlier I had raised objection not to Gen. Musharraf's talks with Mr. Vajpayee when it appeared as if they were going to ignore the Kashmir problem. We saw that the two sides were highlighting other matters instead of Kashmir. We want that the two sides focus on Kashmir as it has disturbed the security situation in the entire region," he told the radio.

H/18

LTTE strikes, with vengeance

25/7

THE TAMIL Tigers' surprise attack on the Bandaranaike International Airport at Katunayake was perhaps the most serious incident of the civil war in recent years. The fact that an LTTE suicide squad could penetrate a high security zone in a predominantly Sinhala area north of Colombo must be highly demoralising for the Sri Lankan forces. That this happened while the government had led the Sri Lankan public to believe that it had humbled the LTTE and was in control of the situation in the north must be even more unsettling for the army and the ordinary people. Perhaps, airport security personnel too were taken in by the official stories of military success and had lowered their guard.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga must now cope with the fallout of this debacle. Air Lanka, the national flag carrier, which lost half a dozen of its planes in the attack, might not be the worst sufferer. The damage to the Sri Lankan tourism industry, the country's principal foreign exchange earner, is likely to be far more extensive. Furthermore, with the national referendum barely a few weeks away,

she would be called upon to explain why her strategy in the north has not worked. The fact that the attack has come at a time when her parliamentary support has been thinning and a no-trust motion against her government is awaiting consideration in Parliament — since prorogued — adds to her difficulties.

It is not easy to figure out how the rebels could strike so close to Colombo when they are receiving a battering in the north. It evidently speaks of the high-level of resilience among the LTTE cadres despite the military setbacks they have suffered in recent months. The Sri Lankan government had appeared so certain of winning on the military front that it had rejected suggestions from several friendly countries, including India, against its recent bombing raids in Jaffna. Hopes about the dwindling effectiveness of the Tamil Tigers may have been prematurely articulated because it is obvious yet again that there can be no military solution to the ethnic tangle. The two sides will eventually have to get back to the negotiating table if they want a durable solution.

15 gunned down in Doda

By Shujaat Bukhari

Journal
28/7
SRINAGAR, JULY 22. Barely 24 hours after the killing of 13 persons near the famous Amarnath shrine in Jammu and Kashmir, a group of unidentified militants gunned down 15 persons, including three children and two women, in a remote village of Doda district last night. In another incident in Kishtwar tehsil of the same district, five members of a village defence committee (VDC) were abducted and feared killed.

Reports revealed that 15 people from the minority community were gunned down by militants in Cheergi village of Kishtwar tehsil. Confirming the incident, the DGP, Mr. A.K. Suri, said, "Further details are awaited". Independent sources in Kishtwar told *The Hindu* over phone that a group of around 15 heavily-armed persons descended on Cheergi hamlet in the Tagot forest area of Madwa-Dachan around 11.45 p.m. on Saturday. After asking the villagers to come out of their houses, the gunmen fired indiscriminately. According to the only survivor, Deepu, 15 persons died on the spot. Deepu, who was injured, later informed the other residents and began a long trek to Kishtwar on foot.

After being admitted to hospital in Kishtwar, Deepu informed the police about the incident. Cheergi has only 12 houses, all belonging to Hindus, and is around 45 km. from Dool. The identity of the deceased is yet to be ascertained, but sources said three children and two women were among the dead.

A police party has left for Cheergi and is expected there by tomorrow morning. Details are expected only after the team reaches the village.

In another incident, five members of a VDC, most

HD-1
ly comprising Hindus, were abducted by some militants in Udharna village of Kishtwar tehsil on Saturday. Locals said the five were taken at gunpoint to an unknown destination; police sources said the militants could have taken the five to the nearby woods and killed them. "But until we recover the bodies it cannot be confirmed," a police source said.

The Governor, Mr. G.C. Saxena, and the Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, expressed shock and said the incidents spoke volumes about the militants' frustration. Some Ministers and organisations also condemned the incident.

Hurriyat sees link

PTI reports:

Meanwhile, the All-Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) has linked Friday night's attack on Amarnath pilgrims in south Kashmir to the "unresolved Kashmir issue".

"The need of the hour is to accept political realities and find an ever-lasting and fair solution to the Kashmir issue as per political aspirations of the Kashmiris," a Hurriyat spokesman said today, reacting to the killing of 13 persons, including six Amarnath pilgrims, at Sheshnag. Every citizen had a right to know why such incidents were occurring, the spokesman said.

The incident was "regrettable and mysterious" and the Hurriyat had always condemned the killing of innocent persons and described it as "cowardly and anti-human" acts, he said. "Till we don't think over it, the innocent people whosoever they are... will continue to be victims."

■ Pak stand on cross-border terrorism led to summit failure: Vajpayee ■ 'No draft discussed'

Ultras strike again, kill 15 in Doda

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE & AGENCIES

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, July 22. — Barely 24 hours after the killing of 13 people in Sheshnag, the Pakistan-backed militants gunned down 15 Hindus and abducted five in two separate incidents in Doda district.

The Prime Minister, in his first public statement after the Agra summit, today said the talks broke down because of Pakistan's adamant attitude against making any reference to cross-border terrorism in the draft document.

Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said Islamabad insisted there could be no normalisation of bilateral relations till Kashmir issue was resolved and that Pakistan described terrorism in J&K as "freedom struggle".

The Doda massacre toll could be higher as unconfirmed reports put it at 30. Militants swooped on some houses in Cheerji village, around 45 km from Kishtwar, this morning and forced the residents to come out. After making them to stand in a row, the militants fired from automatic weapons, killing 15 people, the IGP (Jammu zone), Mr RV Raju, said.

Though there was confusion about the number of deaths, the IGP said their information was based on the statement of a survivor, Dipu.

In the second incident, ultras abducted five members of a village defence committee from Chatroo, 15 km from Dhul. The Army and police have launched an operation to rescue them.

Speaking to reporters at Rashtrapati Bhavan after Mr Ajit Singh's swearing in as a Cabinet minister, Mr Vajpayee blamed Pakistan for the Agra deadlock and accepted responsibility for "any shortcomings". Rejecting Pakistani claim that he and General Pervez Musharraf had come close to inking a draft document, Mr Vajpayee said: "No draft came before us. It was discussed only at the delegation level."

On reports that a section of the BJP had blamed Mr Jaswant Singh for the Agra "fiasco", Mr Vajpayee said: "This is wrong. I want to deny it." "All decisions were taken



Undaunted by Saturday's militant strike at Sheshnag, a busload of pilgrims arrives at Pahalgam on Sunday under the watchful eyes of a soldier. — APPTI

unanimously. Members placed their views freely till a final decision was taken. As external affairs minister, Mr Singh had a special responsibility but everything was done on the basis of collective responsibility," he said. "There were several situations at the Cabinet level during the talks".

He said: "If there was any shortcoming, then as leader of the council of ministers, it was my shortcoming." "The talks broke down because of Pakistan's adamant attitude against making any reference to cross-border terrorism in the draft document which they repeatedly termed as a freedom struggle," Mr Vajpayee said.

Mr Vajpayee said there was agreement between the two sides on "some points" but it was "wrong" to suggest that the two sides had almost agreed on signing the document.

No weakness: Jaswant

Mr Jaswant Singh has told Aaj Tak: "We are committed to the Lahore process. But it will be a big mistake if anyone thinks that we decided to talk to Pakistan from a point of weakness."

On whether Mr Vajpayee went to the Agra summit without an agenda, Mr Singh said four basic documents — the Simla Agreement, Lahore Declaration, the eight-point composite dialogue process and a written agenda sent to Islamabad by New Delhi before the talks — al-

ready existed.

Sushma ticks off Qazi

Angered by the killings in Doda and Amarnath, Mrs Sushma Swaraj tonight ticked off Pakistani High Commissioner, Mr Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, for "openly supporting" terrorist activities in J&K.

The two had heated arguments in the course of discussions on Star TV on the summit. The High Commissioner said whatever was happening in J&K was "freedom struggle" and not terrorism. The I&B minister reacted, saying both President Musharraf and Mr Qazi were "openly supporting" terrorism.

Governor, CM express shock

The J&K Governor, Mr GC Saxena, and chief minister, Mr Farooq Abdullah, today condemned the incidents in Doda, saying Pakistan cannot succeed in its designs over Kashmir through such inhuman acts.

Security reviewed: The security situation in J&K was discussed at a high-level meeting chaired by the Governor in Srinagar. The meeting also reviewed security arrangements for the Amarnath pilgrims.

Yatra resumes: The Amarnath yatra, suspended since yesterday after the Sheshnag killings, resumed today. A two-member Central team, headed by the minister of state for home, Mr ID Swami, visited

Sheshnag. **Hurriyat:** The Hurriyat has linked yesterday's attack on Amarnath pilgrims with the "unresolved Kashmir issue". "The need of the hour is to accept political realities... and find a lasting... solution to the Kashmir issue as per the political aspirations of Kashmiris," a Hurriyat spokesman said.

Salahuddin's denial: The Hizbul Mujahideen chief, Syed Salahuddin, today condemned the massacre of 15 Hindus in Doda and rejected the involvement of his outfit, a report from Muzaaffarabad said. "The Mujahideen have nothing to do with this tragic incident, because we do not believe in killing innocent civilians."

Ministers' house attacked: Militants threw a grenade at the house of J&K works minister, Mr Ali Mohammad Sagar, and two Hizbul militants were among five killed in other incidents in the valley since last night. The grenade fell short of the target and exploded outside the wall of Mr Sagar's house.

Security forces smashed some militant hideouts at Dardpora, Lolab and Choga forests in Kupwara and seized arms.

No Indian POWs

After a week-long search in the prisons of Pakistan's four provinces following orders from General Pervez Musharraf, interior ministry officials today said in Islamabad that they had not found any Indian prisoners of war of 1971.

An official said in Islamabad that records of the prisons do not mention any Indian POWs. The ministry officials expressed surprise over reports that 25 Indian civilian prisoners would be released shortly as a goodwill gesture by Gen Musharraf. "We have not received any such orders till now," they said.

A section of the Indian press first reported that 35 Indian prisoners were being released and later modified the numbers to 25. The only Indian so far released was peace activist and globe-trotting cyclist Vikas Singh.

■ Govt for debate on Indo-Pak ties, page 8

Militants strike along Amarnath route, 13 die

Authorities suspend yatra • Two pilgrims killed are from West Bengal

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, July 21

A BLOODY clash between militants and security forces left 13 persons, including two police officers, six yatis and four civilians, dead and 17 others seriously injured at Sheshnag transit camp on the 48-km Amarnath cave route from the famous health resort, Pahalgam, in the wee hours of Saturday. The authorities have temporarily called off the yatra in the wake of the killings.

Two of the victims, Ashim Ghosh and Surojit Konar, are from West Bengal.

Authorities said that one militant was also killed in the incident. The pro-Pakistan Al-Umar Mujahideen, headed by Mushtaq Zargar, who was released in exchange for the passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines plane at Kandahar, claimed responsibility for the attack.

An official spokesman said that militants hurled a hand grenade near the Sheshnag yatra camp around 1:30 am. Praveen

Kumar, the DSP on duty there, along with other policemen and some yatis rushed to the site of the blast.

Eyewitnesses said that the militants hurled another grenade at this juncture and opened fire, killing two policemen, including the DSP, and injuring six others. An official spokesman said that the militant, who was hiding in the area, opened fire again at 7:00 am, while attempting to escape and caused more casualties.

The spokesman said that the pilgrimage to the holy cave has

been suspended and the entire yatra route was being re-sanitised. No batch of pilgrims was allowed to proceed from Jammu today, the spokesman said.

A caller, identifying himself as the spokesperson of Al-Umar Mujahideen, said that activists of his outfit carried the attack. He said the target were the security forces. Authorities suspect that the militant might have intruded in the guise of a *sadhu*.

State Governor GC Saxena, who is also the chairman of the Amarnath Shrine Board, con-

demned the incident and visited the site to take stock of the situation. Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah, who was in Jammu, has rushed back to Srinagar.

In Delhi, Home Minister LK Advani met senior officials to decide on the course of action. Later, Advani directed ID Swamy, his junior in the ministry, to go to the spot along with a team of officials. The team is likely to meet senior State Government officials to review the entire security apparatus before a decision to open the route again is taken.



US warns Taliban on Bin Laden threat

Islamabad June 30: The United States has warned Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement they will bear responsibility for any attack on US interests by Saudi militant Osama bin Laden, the Taliban ambassador said.

US ambassador William Milam delivered the warning about Bin Laden — who has been given shelter by the Taliban — during an hour-long meeting at the Taliban embassy in Islamabad, Taliban ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef said. Mr Milam was not immediately available for comment.

Bin Laden has been accused by Washington of a long list of attacks

on American targets, including the bombing of two US embassies in east Africa. It has offered a \$5 million reward for his capture. "The American ambassador expressed his concern about Osama attacking American interests," Mr Zaeef said. "He said the US would blame the Taliban government if Osama attacked any US interests."

The United States launched cruise missile attacks against alleged training camps run by Bin Laden in Afghanistan in 1998 soon after US embassies in Tanzania and Kenya were destroyed by massive bombs. Several people were killed by the US attacks but Bin Laden escaped injury.

Mr Zaeef said he assured Mr Milam that although Bin Laden has been given sanctuary, the Taliban would not allow him to mount any attacks against US targets from their territory.

"I told him categorically that we would never allow anyone to use our soil for attacks against America," Mr Zaeef said soon after their meeting.

Washington has been angered at the Taliban's sheltering of Bin Laden and has orchestrated the imposition of UN sanctions against the movement in an effort to force them to hand over the Islamic militant.

But the sanctions, which include

restrictions of Taliban officials abroad and an arms embargo against their forces, have produced no change in the Taliban position that he is a guest.

They maintain Washington has produced no proof that Bin Laden was involved in the alleged attacks.

As well as the embassy bombings, US officials suspect the veteran of the war against Soviet forces in Afghanistan is linked to the attack last year on a US warship in Yemen and assaults early in the 1990s on Americans in Somalia.

Islamabad is one of the few places where US diplomats have

contact with Taliban officials because Pakistan is one of only three countries to recognise them as the government of Afghanistan. Pakistan also maintains an embassy in Kabul but the other two countries to recognise the Taliban — Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — have no representation inside Afghanistan.

The United States does not recognise any government in Afghanistan and has said only a broad-based administration encompassing the Taliban and their opponents holding the north-east corner of the country could bring an end to the 21 years of war.

(Reuters)

Embassy bombing trial in death penalty phase

NEW YORK: Calling guilty verdicts against four men implicated in the bombings of U.S. embassies in Africa "a triumph for world justice," prosecutors must now try to convince a jury why two of the men should be put to death.

The same panel that convicted the four accused followers of Osama Bin Laden will decide the death penalty part of the case, which was to begin on Wednesday in the federal court in Manhattan.

In Kabul, Afghanistan's ruling Taliban said the convictions were "unfair" and vowed never to hand over Bin Laden, accused by the U.S. of masterminding the attacks.

"He is a great holy warrior of Islam and a great benefactor of the Afghan people," Abdul Anan Himat, a senior official at the Taliban information ministry, said of Bin Laden, who remains in hiding in Afghanistan.

"We won't hand him over to America under any circumstances. It is our stated policy," Himat said.

Four men were found guilty on Tuesday of a global conspiracy to murder Americans, including the 1998 bombings of U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania that killed 224 people — 201 Kenyans, 12

Americans and 11 other Africans — and injured thousands of others in a hail of rubble and shattered glass.

The verdicts capped three months of testimony and 12 days of deliberations as jurors meticulously worked on the daunting task of completing the 61-page, 302-count verdict. The four men were convicted of all 302 counts. Two could be sentenced to death, while the others face a maximum of life in prison.

"Taking into account what these men have done, they should have to pay," said Adadi Rajabu, director of criminal investigations for Tanzania, who headed his nation's investigation of the bombing. "They should be hanged."

The four convicted were Wadih El-Hage, 40, a naturalised U.S. citizen born in Lebanon; Mohamed Sadeek Odeh, 36, of Jordan; Mohamed Rashed Daoud Al-'Owhali, 24, of Saudi Arabia; and Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, 27, of Tanzania.

Attorneys for Al-'Owhali and Khamis Mohamed, who face the death penalty, have admitted their clients were involved in the bombings. But they have argued that their roles were minimal compared to other defendants who will not face death. (AP)

India, US, Russia draw closer on anti-terrorism platform

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 27 JUNE

INDIA'S COMPREHENSIVE convention on terrorism, being discussed in the sixth committee of the UN General Assembly, is likely to see a smooth passage with re-confirmed US support. This was affirmed at the third meeting of the counter-terrorism joint working group (JWG) in Washington this week.

India, the US and Russia will also work together "to neutralise" the activities of Taliban, which was instrumental in fostering terrorism and the allied activities of drug-trafficking and "separatist" warfare in several countries. India gave a strong signal that despite its engagement with the Pakistani leadership, there would be no let-up in its fight against terrorism and religious fundamentalism.

In a week when India engaged both the US and Russia in discussing how to combat the terrorism emanating from Taliban-held Afghanistan, there appeared to be a remarkable consonance of approach among all three countries, officials familiar with the discussions said. While foreign secretary Chokila Iyer led the Indian delegation to Moscow for discussions on Afghanistan, Jayant Prasad from MEA

led the delegation to Washington to discuss counter-terrorism and peace-keeping issues with an inter-agency delegation of the US.

The US will also enhance its assistance to anti-terrorism training programmes to help India build counter-terrorism structures throughout the country. For this, the two countries have agreed to conduct a joint survey later this year.

The focus of the three countries has sharpened to an exchange of intelligence and information and building combat strategies to tackle terrorism, which affects India in Kashmir, Russia in Chechnya and the US in the numerous threats by Osama bin Laden. This was the driving impetus behind the three countries coming together to co-sponsor the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1333, reinforcing sanctions against Taliban.

The India-Russia JWG "called on all states which provide extensive assistance to the Taliban, including military assistance, to cease their interference in Afghan affairs" — an overt reference to Pakistan and its Taliban aid programme.

Pakistan has been repeatedly opposing the curbs against the Taliban and questions have been raised about its commitment to enforcing sanctions.

The Economic Times

The Economic Times

India, U.S. to discuss fight against terrorism

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 26. The third round of the India-United States Joint Working Group on counter-terrorism, scheduled to begin later today, is the first such meeting since the Bush administration came to office early this year. A range of issues, including Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden, are likely to figure in the talks.

The Indian delegation, headed by Mr. Jayant Prasad, Joint Secretary of the Americas in the Ministry of External Affairs, includes Home Ministry officials and experts on the subject.

India's proposal to set up a Centre for Counter-Terrorism is likely to be discussed and it remains to be seen what kind of interest the Bush administration is willing to give this. Washington, for instance, would want to know more about the Centre, its nature and scope. The U.S. response to the Indian idea would come about only after a clearer understanding of the parameters of this Centre.

The assessment is that both New Delhi and Washington have travelled considerable distance

on the issues of terrorism and counter-terrorism with the latter increasingly appreciative of the kind of threat India faces in its neighbourhood; and in the realisation of the gains of cooperative mechanisms regionally and globally.

The cooperation between the two countries on terrorism would also involve looking at finetuning and further coordinating intelligence gathering and sharing. Aside from the regional realities, Washington has especially been concerned in recent years of terrorists possessing or trying to possess weapons of mass destruction.

The meeting of the JWG on counter-terrorism is only one of several such interactions taking place here this week. India and the U.S. will continue the dialogue on peace-keeping oper-

ations while the Joint Secretary dealing with United Nations affairs in the Ministry of External Affairs, Mr. Arun Kumar Singh, will hold talks with his U.S. counterparts. The meetings on terrorism and peace keeping operations will be followed by consultations on energy and the environment.

The two countries will complete the full complement of meetings as envisioned in the Dialogue Architecture within six months of the Bush administration coming to office. This shows, among other things, the desire to maintain the momentum put in place during the last two years of the Clinton administration, culminating in the visit of Mr. Bill Clinton to India in March last year and the return visit of the Prime Minister, Mr. A. B. Vajpayee, here in September the same year.

The Congress president and

Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, scheduled to arrive here tomorrow on a two-day visit, is expected to meet the Vice-President, Mr. Richard Cheney, and the National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, among others.

The Congress leader is also expected to meet the Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, and several lawmakers of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans. She will also participate in a luncheon organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry where she will comment on her vision for India and on Indo-U.S. relations.

Dr. Rice's Indian counterpart, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, is also expected to have a full round of discussions with senior officials of the Bush administration.

27 JUN 2001

India on Osama alert

MOHAN SAHAY
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, June 23. — India, like the USA, is reportedly on "high alert" against possible strikes by Osama bin Laden's terrorists. But officials have not made the fact public.

Intelligence agencies have information about the threat of a Bin Laden strike on Indian diplomatic establishments in Iran, officials said. That has prompted the government not only to put Indian diplomatic residences but also the internal security agencies on alert.

On 14 June, there was a blast near the Indian consulate at Zahedan, Iran. Though no casualties or major damage to the consulate building was reported, India had

sought Iran's help to prevent such blasts. Iran had responded positively, officials said.

Today, senior diplomats said: "The government is alert and vigilant about the security of embassies."

During his visit to Iran, the foreign and defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, reportedly discussed with Iranian offi-

■ US forces on alert in West Asia, page 11

cial the possibility of aiding Ahmed Shah Masood, rebel Afghan leader fighting the Taliban in Afghanistan. For, despite the periodic hiccups, Bin Laden still has close ties with the Taliban. Senior officials had told a US defence magazine about such a move.

Though most officials refused to enumerate the cause of the latest Bin Laden threat, others said the Vajpayee-Musharraf summit was a good enough reason.

What added to the intelligence agencies' threat perception was the recent arrest of some people planning a strike on the US embassy in Delhi on Bin Laden's instructions.

Delhi Police declined to comment on whether they had been put on a special alert, though officers said policemen were always on the look-out for terrorists because the city had become a prime target. Also, the arrest of a Sudanese suspected to be plotting the strike has raised fears of a reprisal, a senior police said.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2001

THE SAGA OF A HEINOUS CRIME

AN 'AMERICAN TERRORIST', as the maverick Timothy McVeigh came to be characterised in some circles within the United States, has been subjected to the ultimate death penalty. The capital punishment meted out to him in a mega media event is in line with the sombre provisions of the U.S. criminal jurisprudence. More importantly, the American authorities seem satisfied that the convicted perpetrator of the worst act of internal terrorism (as distinct from international horrors of a similar kind) has been suitably brought to book and executed under a due process. In the event, McVeigh died without expressing any remorseful afterthoughts over a crime he actually confessed to carrying out. Six years ago, he had taken the lives of 168 persons, including 19 children, by triggering a truck-bomb explosion at a federal building in Oklahoma City. With that, McVeigh not only erased his record as a soldier who took part in the U.S.' military operation of Desert Storm during the 1991 Gulf War but also raised the banner of a macabre revolt against the American Government. It took the U.S. federal authorities some time to piece together the saga of McVeigh's act of unparalleled domestic terror on American soil. The story that soon gained currency and credence was that his hate-agenda had been fuelled by his cynical perceptions of a raid by federal agents on the Branch Davidian premises in Waco, Texas. A picture that emerged on the whole, as the U.S. administration prosecuted McVeigh, was of a megalomaniac killer who sought to place himself above the state itself without the philosophical armour of a dissident-intellectual.

With McVeigh's legal execution being the first in U.S. federal history in nearly four decades, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, has of course sought to place it in a contemporary perspective. Aware of the general international outcry (especially in the West) against capital punishment as an anachronistic aspect of juris-

prudence, Mr. Bush maintained that the lethal injection administered to McVeigh was a measure of justice and not vengeance on behalf of his victims and the society. The President's considered view is that the "reckoning" has been made only after the rights of the accused were fully protected until the completion of the due process. Mr. Bush's statement can be seen as an answer to the opponents of death penalty at home and abroad. McVeigh's sentence was effected only after the execution was delayed in order to give his lawyers time to process several relevant documents which the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) had failed to produce in the first instance in what was clearly a lapse in prosecutorial rectitude. It is this aspect of a postponed execution that supports the contention of fair play until the end.

The final stage of the case was dominated by a judicial ruling that the FBI's initial lapse was not proven to be an attempt at committing a fraud on the courts. McVeigh is also said to have voluntarily ended his judicial battle for life, while his attorney is quoted as apologising to the survivors of the Oklahoma City bombing (as also the relatives of those killed in it) for having failed to convince McVeigh of the wisdom of a parting reconciliation with them. It was in this poignant context that a montage of McVeigh's last moments was relayed 'live' on a closed circuit television channel so that those directly traumatised by his deed could witness his execution. Now, questions whether McVeigh had acted alone as the bomber might still linger, while the U.S. authorities seem to calculate that the episode can serve as a testimony to their will to frustrate international terrorists as well. Yet, the U.S. is likely to come under international pressure to consider modernising its system of retributive justice by recognising death penalty as an affront to profound humanism and to civilisational decency.

Ultras target mosques for publicity

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

Handwritten: 5F-8 1876

SRINAGAR, June 12. — 31 May 2001: Two militants take refuge in a mosque at Kharwar village in Shopian tehsil of Pulwama. After a heavy exchange of fire, they are given a free passage by security forces.

8 June 2001: Militants lob a grenade on a Friday congregation at Chrar-e-Sharif. Six civilians are killed and 50 injured.

10 June 2001: Six Lashkar-e-Taiyaba militants take refuge in Jamia Masjid at Wanagam village, Sahngus, Anantnag, after being chased by securitymen. Heavy exchange of fire damages parts of the mosque.

11 June 2001: All the militants in Jamia Masjid are killed.

Pakistan-backed mercenaries taking refuge in mosques and giving a tough fight to security forces is a new trend in the 12-year-old J&K insurgency. And if Intelligence agencies are to be believed, the valley will see many such incidents. The ultras aim to gain international prominence by attacking places of worship.

The security forces claim to be prepared to face any eventuality but their main worry is the collateral damage to mosques which hurts people's religious sentiments.

Conversations between the mercenaries intercepted suggest they have been directed from across the border to target places of worship before the Vajpayee-Musharraf summit. Security has been beefed up in the valley, especially at shrines.

The fact that more and more militants are taking refuge in mosques or targeting civilians at religious places indicates they



Paramilitary men inspect the spot where a suicide squad member of the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba was killed during a gun-fight after he stormed a Special Operations Group camp at Shopian, 60 km south of Srinagar, on Tuesday. Two paramilitary men too were killed. The suicide squad member's shoe was placed on a window pane by police as evidence. — AP/PTI

are losing public support, the IGP (Kashmir zone), Mr Ashok Kumar Bhan, said.

There are two reasons, he said, for the militants taking shelter in mosques. "One, people aren't giving them shelter any more. Two, they want to tell the world before the summit that everything is not well in Kashmir." Almost every Kashmiri is looking forward to the summit and is quite hopeful.

Why were the militants in Shopian mosque given a safe passage? Mr Bhan said it was better to do so than to suffer collater-

al damage and face people's wrath.

A security officer said that with more militants taking refuge in shrines the forces would have a tough time because they've been ordered to exercise restraint to avoid public wrath. "Things become pretty hard for us when separatist groups such as the Hurriyat try to exploit the people's sentiments after such incidents."

In such a situation, he said, it was better not to lay siege on the mosque, but allow the militants to leave quietly.

THE STATESMAN

12 JUN 2001

Master of mayhem dies with defiance

FROM ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

Terre Haute (Indiana), June 11 (Reuters): Silent and unrepentant and unknowingly staring into a television camera that beamed his execution back to the city he devastated, Timothy McVeigh was put to death today for the bombing that killed 168 people in Oklahoma City on April 19, 1995.

The man who committed the worst act of terrorism on American soil left behind a defiant written testament — a handwritten copy of a famous 19th century poem, *Invidius*, in which crippled poet William Ernest Henley declares: "I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul." Richard Burr, one of his lawyers, said McVeigh died by lethal injection with no regrets about what he had set out to do — attack a building crammed with workers for a federal government he deemed oppressive. Another McVeigh attorney, Robert Nigh Jr., said: "To the victims, I say I am sorry I could not get Tim to say words of reconciliation."

McVeigh had described his execution — the first federal execu-

tion in 38 years — as a state-assisted suicide and he was a willing partner. He was cordial when war-den Harley Lappin spent a half hour with him describing how he would die. He was co-operative when guards strapped him to a gurney and wrapped him so tight in a white sheet that he looked like a mummy. The Gulf War veteran, who believed he was on a military mission to strike at the heart of the US government, tried to look every witness to his execution in the eye. There were four rooms of witnesses and only one that McVeigh could not see through because of tinted glass — the room reserved for the victims and their families, although they could see him. McVeigh then lay on the gurney staring straight up — at a camera which was beaming his execution back to an auditorium in Oklahoma City where 232 victims or family members were watching. He seemed to stare straight at them.

He got what he wanted

In Oklahoma City, Karen Jones, the wife of a bombing victim said: "He got what he wanted. It was

laying there glaring right at us." Larry Whicher, the brother of a bombing victim, said: "It was a totally defiant stare, that if he had the chance he would do it all over again. There was no remorse — none whatsoever."

"We feel at peace now," said Claudia Denny, whose two children were severely injured but survived the April 19, 1995, blast that killed 168 people, including 19 children. "McVeigh is a coward and a low-down bastard. Somebody tried to take my life, they deserve to burn in hell," said Raymond Washburn, who was at his concession stand in the Alfred P. Murrah building when McVeigh detonated the bomb.

McVeigh died at 7.14 a.m. local time (8.14 a.m. EDT/1214 GMT), about 10 minutes after the execution began. Witnesses said he died with his eyes open and that after he drew his last breath, his skin turned flush yellow. A justice department spokeswoman said that McVeigh, an agnostic, had accepted the last rites of the Catholic Church but gave no further details.

Said CBS newsmen Byron

Pitts, a witness: "There was no sign of suffering, no sign of discomfort, no sign of fear."

President George W. Bush, who leaves later on a European tour where he is expected to encounter strong opposition to the death penalty, said: "The victims of the Oklahoma City bombing have been given not vengeance but justice. Today every living person who was hurt by the evil done in Oklahoma City can rest in the knowledge that there has been a reckoning."

Condemned in Europe

The execution was condemned in Europe, where opposition to the death penalty outweighed abhorrence at McVeigh's crime. European critics of capital punishment called it a barbaric, blood-thirsty way of making McVeigh pay for his crime. "The death penalty is a barbarism inappropriate to our times," said Antonio Maria Pereira, president of the Portuguese human rights group Law and Justice.

For many Americans, McVeigh's execution was final justice to avenge a vicious attack on

innocent men, women and children. Some of the victims and their families hoped it would bring closure to a painful chapter of US history.

But for some Americans questions still remain about the attack on the steel and glass Alfred P. Murrah federal building. Prime among those questions is whether McVeigh acted alone or whether there are still conspirators at large. McVeigh, 33, insisted he acted virtually alone.

McVeigh's lawyers, who also witnessed the execution, had said in advance his body would be cremated but the location where his ashes will be stored has not been disclosed.

Only a few dozen protesters stood in the fields outside the prison to register their feelings. The death penalty opponents stood in silent vigil while death penalty supporters chanted "die McVeigh die!" and "this is for Oklahoma city!" at the time of his scheduled execution.

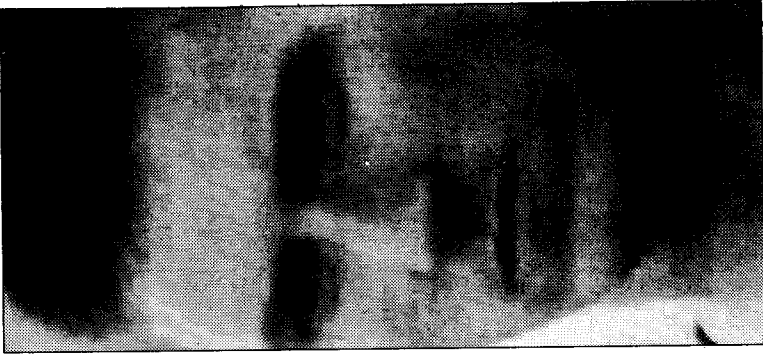
McVeigh did not admit to the bombing during the 1997 trial in Denver, where he was convicted of killing eight federal officers who

died in the blast. But he confessed in interviews with two reporters for the *Buffalo News* after the trial, saying he acted alone out of rage prompted by the raid on the Branch Davidian cult compound in Waco, Texas, in which nearly 90 people are believed to have died.

In a book *American Terrorist* by the *Buffalo News* reporters, Dan Herbeck and Lou Michel, McVeigh said he regretted the "collateral damage" that came with the deaths of 19 children at a day care centre inside the federal building when he drove a one-tonne fertiliser truck bomb up its entrance.

The closest McVeigh came to an expression of remorse was in letters to the *Buffalo News* in which he said: "I am sorry these people had to lose their lives, but that's the nature of the beast. It's understood going in what the human toll will be."

His execution was originally scheduled for May 16 but was delayed by the revelation that 4,000 pages of FBI documents had not been turned over to McVeigh's lawyers before his 1997 trial, as they should have been.



Timothy McVeigh

THE TELEGRAPH

Prayers, protest meetings mark eve of McVeigh death

MICHAEL CONLON
TERRE HAUTE (INDIANA)

PRAYERS and protests on Sunday marked the eve of Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh's execution, as the mastermind of the worst act of domestic terrorism in US history counted the hours to his death.

Said by his lawyers to be both prepared to die and facing it without apparent fear, he reportedly said goodbye to family members in telephone conversations. And while he remained publicly unapologetic for the deaths of 168 men, women and children in the cataclysmic 1995 federal building bombing, newly released letters said to have been written recently offered another hint of remorse.

"I am sorry these people had to lose their lives," McVeigh said. "But that's the nature of the beast. It's understood going in what the human toll will be."

The letters were addressed to reporters Dan Herbeck and Lou Michel of the *Buffalo News*, authors of a book based on prison interviews with McVeigh, who grew up near Buffalo, New York, that have provided much of the recent insight into his history and motivation. They were published in Sunday's edition of the newspaper.

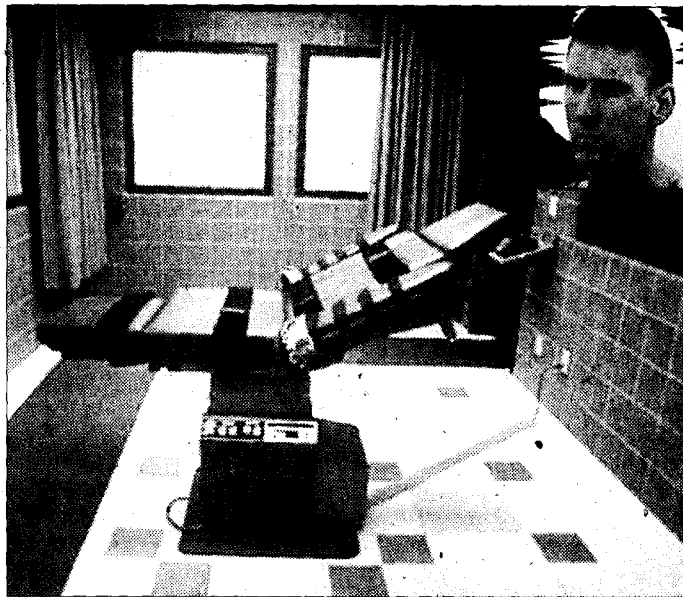
The apology was only incrementally stronger than others he has made in interviews or that have been characterized by his lawyers, and like the others was accompanied by a justification. It remained to be seen whether he would offer a direct and unqualified expression of regret just before he is executed, when allowed a final statement in the presence of victims of his crime who will witness his death.

Prison officials said they would move the decorated Gulf War veteran to a bare cell in the windowless death house on the prison grounds, where he will spend his last hours, steps from the room where he was to die by lethal injection.

In this Indiana college town some regular Sunday church services were devoted to the execution. The First Unitarian church brought in a speaker to discuss capital punishment.

At nearby St. Mary of the Woods College, nuns from the Sisters of Providence order planned a silent prayer vigil for the victims of the bombing and the man who brought it about.

His execution by a lethal injection of three chemicals —



File photo of one of the rooms at the US penitentiary where lethal injections are administered. (Inset) Timothy McVeigh

scheduled for 7 am (1200 GMT) on Monday—has sharpened the debate on capital punishment in the United States, where the death penalty is under a renewed scrutiny.

The Pope earlier this year asked President George W. Bush, a strong proponent of the death penalty, to halt the execution.

But a recent Gallup-CNN poll found that the horror McVeigh unleashed made him an exception even for some people who generally oppose the death penalty. Eight out of 10 questioned said they thought McVeigh should die.

Prison officials gave both sides separate but equal forums, on the green meadows surrounding the US Penitentiary just south of Terre Haute.

Those protesting the execution and those supporting McVeigh's death were allotted fenced-in areas with portable flood lights and temporary toilets where they could begin to gather at midnight, seven hours before the execution. Prior to that, they could assemble at two city parks.

McVeigh's death was to be witnessed at the prison by 10 victims or survivors of victims, 10 media representatives and four people McVeigh had invited, including two of his lawyers. The fifth of McVeigh's guests, novelist Gore Vidal, said he could not attend.

A request by lawyers representing a man about to go on trial for murder to videotape the execution, so it could be used to dissuade jurors from imposing it, in his case, was pending before the Supreme Court. But that

ruling will not impact the timing of McVeigh's execution.

The United States government has not carried out an execution since 1963 when a kidnapper was hanged in Iowa. Executions at the state level are commonplace, with more than 700 occurring since the US Supreme Court reinstated capital punishment in 1976.

During the 1997 trial in which McVeigh was convicted of killing eight federal officers who died in the blast, he did not admit to the bombing; but in a number of interviews since then he has, saying he acted alone out of anti-government rage prompted by the federal raid on the Branch Davidian cult compound in Waco, Texas, in which nearly 90 people are believed to have met a fiery death.

In the book written by the Buffalo reporters he said he regretted the "collateral damage" that came with the deaths of 19 children who were among toddlers inside the Murrah federal building when he drove a one-ton fertilizer truck bomb up its entrance.

His execution was originally scheduled for May 16 but was delayed by the revelation that 4,000 pages of FBI documents had not been turned over to McVeigh's lawyers before his 1997 trial. McVeigh launched a court appeal but dropped it after being turned down on two levels of federal courts.

He is to die by an injection of sodium pentothal, pancuronium bromide and potassium chloride that stops the heart and lungs and results in death within 10 to 15 minutes.

—Reuters

MD-16

U.S. bans Real IRA

7/5

WASHINGTON, MAY 16. The United States is to announce on Wednesday that the Real IRA, the splinter group that carried out the Omagh bombing, will be outlawed in America and its supporters denied visas.

British and Irish officials who have lobbied for the group to be added to the State Department's list of "foreign terrorist organisations" hope that this will enable the American authorities to clamp down on fund-raising activities and attempts to buy weapons. A British Government official said: "This is something we have been waiting for some time. The announcement will be welcomed."

Security sources believe that many Provisional IRA members in South Armagh and County Louth in the Irish republic have defected to the Real IRA. An American official said the ban would also cover the 32-County Sovereignty Movement, the Real IRA's political wing. "We will prevent any front groups from doing the Real IRA's business," he said.

Sinn Fein and its Irish-American supporters say the move will be counter-productive because it will "glamourise" the Real IRA and boost its claim to be the only true Irish republican group. The Real IRA

murdered 29 persons in the 1998 Omagh bombing. Since then it has fired a rocket at the MI6's headquarters in London and made several bomb attacks in the capital. Mr. Martin Galvin, the Northern Aid leader who broke with Sinn Fein after the IRA's 1997 ceasefire, said this month: "Any ban would indicate that the British Government recognises the Real IRA as the main threat to British rule in Ireland."

The Provisional IRA has not been banned in America because of its ceasefire. Mr. David Trimble, Northern Ireland's First Minister and the Ulster Unionist Party leader, said in Washington recently: "It is quite remarkable that the organisation responsible for the largest single atrocity in Ireland in 30 years has not been listed as terrorist."

Mr. Andrew Mackay, the Conservatives' spokesman on Northern Ireland said: "I am delighted that at last, under George Bush's presidency, the United States is banning the Real IRA and confirming that they are dangerous terrorists. It is now important that the U.S. authorities clamp down on any fund-raising for these evil people." —
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THE HINCH

17 MAY 2001

Hizb warns of attacks on India

on India By Shujaat Bukhari

SRINAGAR, MAY 21. The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen today warned of intensifying attacks on India and the Jammu and Kashmir administration in the "killings in custody" were not stopped. In the latest incident of custodial death, one of the activists of the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party (JKDFP), whose chief, Mr. Shabir Ahmad Shah, has been actively involved in the peace process, was allegedly killed on Sunday. Nine custodial killings have been reported in the last one week.

In a statement, the Hizb's supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, took strong exception to the "custodial killings" and said his outfit would intensify attacks. "We will carry out attacks which will shake the Indian capital," he said in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir.

Mr. Salahuddin said that Hizb could strike anywhere and claimed "we achieve the support of the local populace at different places". Terming the ceasefire a "fraud" he said those who were taking part in the peace initiative were sabotaging the "freedom movement".

The JKDFP received a setback when its ac-

tivist, Aijaz Ahmed Kitab, was allegedly killed in custody by the Special Operations Group (SOG) of the State police. Kitab was a close associate of Mr. Shabir Shah and was arrested on May 19 outside the JKDFP headquarters and his body thrown in Malabagh on Srinagar's outskirts.

Mr. Shah said the killing of Aijaz was an attempt to sabotage the peace process. However, police said Aijaz was a militant of the Harkat-ul-MUjahideen and was killed in an encounter with a joint patrol of the BSF and the SOG.

General strike

Meanwhile, a general strike was observed across the Valley in response to a call given by the All-Party Hurriyat Conference to commemorate the death of late Mirwaiz Mohammad Farooq who was gunned down by unknown assailants in his house on the same day in 1990.

All shops and business establishments were closed and traffic was disrupted. Over 10,000 people, mostly followers of the Mirwaiz family, thronged his cemetery at Eid Gah to pay tributes.

Hurriyat leaders, including the late Mir-

waiz's son and former APHC chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, addressed the gathering and pledged to take the movement to its logical end.

Shah continues talks

PTI reports:

On the peace talks front, Mr. Shabir Shah held separate meetings with top Kashmiri leaders even as former Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Aga Shahi, and the Muslim World Congress welcomed Mr. Shah's initiative.

The JKDFP chief met prominent Shia leader and president of Anjuman-e-Sharie-Shian, Agha Syed Mustafa Almoosvi, the president of the People's Political Front, Mr. Fazal Haq Qureshi, and the chief of the Mahaz-e-Azadi Mohammad Azam Inquiabli to seek their support for his bid to enter into a dialogue with the Centre, a party spokesperson said.

The Agha assured Mr. Shah of full cooperation and support for the steps taken by him for the "restoration of basic rights" of the people of Kashmir, he said.

However, the spokesman remained silent over the response of Mr. Qureshi and Mr. Inquiabli.

THE HINDU

22 MAY 2001

HD-12
8/5

Taliban may agree to Osama trial

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 5. The Taliban regime in Afghanistan is believed to be working on a strategy to agree to the trial of the Saudi billionaire wanted by the United States to be tried in America.

A news report in the Pakistani English daily, *The News*, said here today that the Taliban appears to be ready for trial of the dissident, now hiding in Afghanistan, in the U.S. or any other country, under the Shariat (Islamic) Law.

It said the Taliban is prepared for the trial in absentia in which the Saudi billionaire would testify but would only through satellite technology. The paper said the position and mode of trial of Osama are being finalised at the spiritual headquarters of the Taliban at Kandahar.

The report gives an impression that the Taliban is working out a strategy to meet the concerns of the U.S. on the subject. America has been asking the Taliban to hand over Osama for trial for his alleged role in the bombings of the American Embassies in 1998.

There have been several rounds of informal discussions between the U.S. authorities and the Taliban over the demand for handing over of Osama. The Taliban has

been consistent in its stand that it would not allow trial of the Saudi dissident in any non-Muslim country.

The newspaper report said under the strategy being considered by the Taliban the trial of Osama must take place under the Shariat law. The judges of the court in which Osama is tried should be "well-versed" in Shariat law and the appointment of judges should take place with mutual consent of both sides.

"The Taliban leadership maintains that Osama's physical presence in his trial will undermine his physical safety since some governments have already concluded that he is guilty. This pre-trial conclusion of the guilt, they argue, will risk his life if he is in the hands of those who are already convinced that he needs punishment", the paper said.

The paper said the Taliban was keen to evolve a formula under which all principles of a fair trial should be observed. Both prosecution, the U.S. Government and the defendant, Osama, would be free to appoint their own lawyers. "Before the beginning of the trial the prosecution side and the Government of Afghanistan should both undertake to honour the verdict of the court."

THE HINEL

E 6 MAY 2001

Rift between U.S., India comes to the fore over Lashkar

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: Despite an ongoing security dialogue and a joint working group on counter-terrorism, there are serious differences between India and the U.S. on the role of terrorist groups operating from Pakistan.

While the U.S. State Department has failed to designate the Lashkar-e-Toiba a terrorist organisation, India is of the view that the tangible evidence available in this regard leaves no room for doubt.

The U.S. State Department, while indicting Pakistan for continuing to encourage and support terrorist groups operating on its soil, has not added any new names to the list of terrorist organisations operating out of Pakistan.

Maintaining a cautious approach, the Indian government has pointed to the fact that several countries have already designated the Lashkar a terrorist organisation. Referring to this and also the activities of the Lashkar, an external affairs ministry spokesman expressed the hope that this body of tangible evidence would leave no doubt about the organisation's terrorist credentials.

India and the U.S. had set up a joint working group on counter-terrorism following the visit of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to the U.S. last year. Referring to this institutional framework, the external affairs ministry spokesman said India

shared U.S. concerns about terrorism.

Meanwhile, the Centre's negotiator for the Kashmir talks, K.C. Pant, met home minister L.K. Advani on Tuesday and apprised him of the progress on the peace dialogue with terrorist groups in the Valley.

Asked about the Hurriyat Conference's condition for involving Pakistan in the talks, Mr Pant said, "I have not received any formal communication from them and, therefore, I have no comments to make."

Mr Pant had sent the 23-party Hurriyat Conference a written invitation for the talks without any pre-conditions, following which the Hurriyat leaders met several times.

On April 26, the Hurriyat Conference responded by saying "a just, ever lasting and honourable solution to the Kashmir issue can be found only through tripartite talks involving Pakistan".

Regarding the statement of senior Kashmiri separatist leader Shabir Shah seeking certain clarifications, Mr Pant said the Centre had an "open mind" on the peace process.

Mr Shah, who heads the Jammu and Kashmir Democratic Freedom Party, had said his party was not opposed to holding talks with the Centre but was seeking "certain clarifications", which included whether the talks were for a resolution of the Kashmir issue and whether Pakistan should be involved in the dialogue.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

U.S. in no hurry to dub Pak. terrorist sponsor

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 1. Even if the United States has used some blunt words while condemning Pakistan's role in global and regional terrorism, the Bush administration has said in plain terms that it is neither inclined nor in a hurry to bring Pakistan into the list of States sponsoring terrorism.

The State Department's Patterns of Global Terrorism 2000 Report took Islamabad to task both for its links with the Taliban in Afghanistan and support for groups that indulged in terrorism in Kashmir. But at the late afternoon briefing, the distinction was made between Foreign Terrorist Organisations and State Sponsors of Terrorism.

Mr. Edmund Hull, the Acting Coordinator for Counterterrorism was repeatedly asked why it was that countries that should have been on the list — like Pakistan — were not there. "... we're dealing with two lists here and I think we ought to keep that straight in our mind. As regards State sponsorship though, we designate a country as a state sponsor based on the totality of its actions in the area of counterterrorism," he said.

Mr. Hull explained the "totality" as it related to Pakistan, a challenging case, as he put it. "...on the one hand, the Paks. do provide significant assistance in the area of counterterrorism. They have been instrumental, for example, in some of the legal prosecutions and renditions for crimes against Americans."

The Official also pointed out that Islamabad had cooperated in making officials from that country who were important in the ongoing trials of accused in New York for the Africa Embassy bombings; and that Pakistan provided "considerable amount of security" for American missions and other presence in that country. That said, Mr. Hull went on to describe the problematic areas with Pakistan and ones that have been pub-

lished in the Patterns of Global Terrorism Report.

"But as the Patterns make clear, we have a number of areas in which we have problems with Pakistan's position; their support for groups engaged in terrorism in Kashmir, the HUM (Harkat ul Mujahideen) and other groups that we are watching, and I think probably most significant in terms of U.S. terrorism problems is Pakistan's traditional support for the Taliban and the result that has in Afghanistan," he said.

Washington has also made it known that there is another factor that weigh in favour of Pakistan on the terrorism front — the formal undertaking of Islamabad to respect United Nations Security Council Resolution 1333 with respect to the sanctions against the Taliban.

"I think that's an important commitment on Pakistan's part and we want to do everything we can to encourage Pakistan to fulfill that commitment," Mr. Hull remarked. At the United Nations, however, there is a strong feeling in some circles that Pakistan is in violation of Resolution 1333.

Asked if the Bush administration is indicating that Pakistan and Lebanon are at a "stone's throw away" from being placed on the list of State Sponsors, Mr. Hull responded, "I don't think we characterised it as such in the Report."

Presenting the Patterns of Global Terrorism Report at the State Department, Gen. Colin Powell, mentioned India in the list of countries the United States has cooperative relations in the counterterrorism strategy.

"We maintain strong working relationships with many of our allies in the Middle East, including Jordan, Egypt and Israel and we look to expanding partnerships in the Arabian Peninsula. We are reaching out to the Central Asian States. We continue to work closely with India. And we work through multilateral organisations such as the U.N., the G-8 and a number of others," he said.

THE HINDU

MAY 2001

US report slams Pak over J&K terror

S Rajagopalan
Washington, April 30

THE US report on global terrorism indicts Islamabad for helping a host of Kashmir terrorist groups and stepping up its support for the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

The report, released by the State Department, puts the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba in the category of "other terrorist groups", but stops short of naming it as a "designated foreign terrorist organisation".

The one Pakistan-based terrorist group that continues in the "designated" category is Harkatul-Mujahideen.

That the US now regards South Asia as a focal point of ter-

rorism against it is clearly brought out by the report. It says the events of 2000 provide further confirmation about a shift in this pattern of terrorism from West Asia to South Asia.

Pakistan's military regime, it says, has only continued the previous Government's support for Kashmir insurgency. "Kashmiri militant groups continued to operate in Pakistan, raising funds and recruiting new cadre."

Several of these groups, the report says, have been responsible for attacks against civilians in Kashmir. It recalls how the largest of these groups, the Lashkar, had claimed responsibility for a suicide car-bomb attack against the Indian military garrison last April.

However, the US's failure to formally include the Lashkar in its category of "designated foreign terrorist organisations" is bound to disappoint New Delhi, considering that its diplomatic establishment has sought to move heaven and earth to bring that about.

The State Department report describes the Lashkar as "one of the three largest and best-trained groups fighting in Kashmir against India". It details several of the attacks mounted by Lashkar in Jammu and Kashmir, notably the eight separate attacks last August that killed nearly 100, most of them "Hindu Indians".

According to the report, the US "remains concerned about reports of continued Pakistani

support for the Taliban's military operations in Afghanistan". On the basis of "credible reporting", it says that Pakistan is providing Taliban with material, fuel, funding, technical assistance and military advisers.

"Pakistan has not prevented large numbers of Pakistani nationals from moving into Afghanistan to fight for the Taliban," the report says and finds fault with Islamabad for failing to take effective steps to curb the activities of certain madrasas that "serve as recruiting grounds for terrorism".

All this despite Pakistan having "publicly and privately said it intends to comply fully with UNSCR 1333, which imposes an embargo on the Taliban".

Madhavpura chief traced

THE GUJARAT Police on Monday traced the eluding Chairman of the Madhavpura Mercantile Cooperative Bank (MMCB), Ramesh Parikh. He has not been formally arrested as he was admitted in a city nursing home with complaints of chest pain.

"But he is in our custody for all practical purposes," police said.

The CBI in another fraud case of Rs 150 crore involving the Bank of India earlier picked up the MNCB chief, which had slipped into a liquidity crisis following illegally siphoning off depositors' money to Mumbai big bull, Ketan Parikh. He was released on bail, but the Gujarat Police was looking for him in connection with the MNCB scam.

HTC, Ahmedabad

'Osama seeks base in Gaza'

REUTERS

Jerusalem
5-5

JERUSALEM, April 24. - Osama bin Laden is trying to establish a "terrorist" infrastructure among Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, a spokesman for Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon said today.

A senior Palestinian security official denied the allegation, voiced after Israel arrested a Gaza lawyer it suspects of involvement with the Afghanistan-based Saudi dissident on the USA's most wanted list.

"This is not the first time that Bin Laden has been attempting to influence or to establish an infrastructure (in Palestinian areas)," Sharon spokesman Mr Raanan Gissin said.

Last August, a month before the outbreak of the current Palestinian uprising, Israel arrested 23



Osama bin Laden

suspected Palestinian guerrillas whom it said were linked to Bin Laden and planned to carry out bombing attacks on Israelis.

A US Congressional report, issued on the same day Israel announced the group had been detained, said the presence of Bin Laden operatives in neighbouring Jordan and Lebanon sugges-

25/4

ted his organisation may be planning attacks in the Jewish state.

"His fingerprints are really here. We'll do all in our efforts, and I think it's incumbent on the Palestinian Authority to do everything, that these fingerprints don't turn into a massive infrastructure of terrorist activity," Mr Gissin said.

The Palestinian security official accused Israel of disseminating propaganda.

"As far as we know, Osama Bin Laden's organisation has no extensions in Palestinian territories," said the official.

Another Palestinian official denied that the man Israel arrested on Monday, Adnan al-Hajjar (33), was linked to Bin Laden.

Israel detained Hajjar, a member of a Palestinian human rights group, as he returned from a visit to Egypt.

THE STATESMAN

25 APR 2001

Najma for global action to combat terrorism

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

Washington, APRIL 13. The Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, Dr. Najma Heptulla, has stressed the need for global action to combat terrorism and AIDS in a conversation with the Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr. Kofi Annan.

Dr. Heptulla discussed a wide range of subjects with Mr. Annan in New York when she called on him to bring him up to date on the deliberations of the 105th Conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union which Dr. Heptulla presided over in Havana last week.

She informed Mr. Annan that it was the decision of the IPU to fo-

cus primarily on AIDS, as also the concerns about the welfare of children at the next meeting in Burkino Faso in September.

The Executive Director of the UNICEF, Ms. Carol Bellamy, met Dr. Heptulla and the discussion was on the IPU's focus on children's welfare and the dangers to children from AIDS, especially in Africa.

In conversations with both Mr. Annan and Ms. Bellamy, Dr. Heptulla discussed the scourge of terrorism and how this affected India; the destruction of the Buddha statues at the Bamiyan in Afghanistan by the Taliban; and the adverse impact of the Taliban regime on women, children and education.

Dr. Heptulla is said to have pointed out the support the Taliban was getting from Pakistan and how terrorism was being perpetrated in India over the past decade. At a press conference, it was apparently pointed out that 40,000 Muslims had been killed in Kashmir in the name of Islam and that Pandits in the area were being killed and evicted. "Islam means peace and they are making it war," she remarked.

Brushing aside the criticism of the Indian Government's cease-fire in Jammu and Kashmir, Dr. Heptulla argued that this showed the "sincerity" of the Government and that New Delhi had done more for peace, even after Kargil.

US rests its cases against Bin Laden followers

New York, April 5: Federal prosecutors on Wednesday rested their conspiracy case against four followers of Osama Bin Laden after two months of testimony aimed at proving the Saudi dissident headed a broad conspiracy to kill Americans.

Prosecutors closed their side of the case by reading out loud communications claiming responsibility for the deadly 1998 bombings of two US embassies in East Africa.

The messages were signed by an organisation that prosecutors allege was made up of members of Bin Laden's militant Al Qaeda group. The claims by the "Islamic Army for the Liberation of the Holy Places" were sent from London to various news organisations on August 7 and 8, 1998.

Translations of the communications said the organisation "declares its absolute co an interests everywhere." Prosecutors read the claims to the Manhattan Federal Jury at the end of testimony aimed at showing the defendants were part of Bin Laden's long-running plot.

Testimony against the men began on February 5, with the government calling more than 80 witnesses, far fewer than it had initially planned. (Reuters)

THE ASIAN AGE

APR 11 1999

CALL FOR BROAD-BASED GOVT. IN AFGHANISTAN

India, Iran for global regime against terrorism

HDT
11/2

By C. Raja Mohan

TEHERAN, APRIL 10. Proclaiming a significant political convergence, India and Iran today condemned international terrorism, called for a broad-based Government in Afghanistan, supported tolerance and pluralism, and agreed to quickly find a viable mechanism to transport natural gas from the Gulf to the Subcontinent.

In the Teheran Declaration issued here tonight, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Iranian President, Syed Mohammed Khatami, minced no words in denouncing international terrorism "in all its forms". Going a step further, the two leaders castigated those nations which "aid, abet and directly support" international terrorism.

Demanding a stronger international legal regime against terrorism, the two sides endorsed the Comprehensive Convention on Terrorism currently being considered in the United Nations.

'Path-breaking declaration'

The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, who briefed the press here called the Declaration a "path-breaking one". This was the first time India and Iran had issued such a statement, he said.

Mr. Vajpayee, who arrived here this afternoon to a warm welcome, held talks with Mr. Khatami in the evening. The two leaders met without aides for 40 minutes, and were joined later by the full delegations.



The Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, with the Iranian President, Syed Mohd Khatami, at the Sadabad Palace complex in Teheran on Tuesday. — PTI

Mr. Singh called the meeting "a turning point in the relations between India and Iran". The discussions between the two leaders, Mr. Singh added, were marked by "cordiality and a determination to move the relationship forward". Besides the Declaration, the two sides signed a number of agreements for cooperation on energy, trade, information technology and customs.

The broad agenda for cooperation between the two countries sharing an oil-rich and politically volatile region could send powerful political signals all around.

The agenda is rooted in the joint commitment to a dialogue rather than conflict among civil-

isations and their shared opposition to forces of extremism.

The emphasis on political pluralism, tolerance and the celebration of diversity is part of Mr. Khatami's attempt to redefine Iran's internal and external orientation. India has enthusiastically endorsed Mr. Khatami's political charter.

Dealing squarely with the common threat they faced from the Taliban, the two leaders called for a broad-based Government in Afghanistan to replace the present regime. At the same time, India and Iran came out in strong support of the independence, unity, sovereignty, and territorial integrity of Afghanistan.

On the key question of trans-

porting natural gas from Iran to India, the two sides emphasised the importance of "accelerating" the efforts to find the most "appropriate" option. Iran favours an overland pipeline running through Pakistan.

Expressing reservations on this idea, India wants more studies on other options such as an under-water pipeline.

The two leaders called on the joint committee of experts to come up with a final set of recommendations in the near future. India and Iran also agreed to commission a feasibility study, funded by both sides, of the various options.

In the Declaration, India and Iran called for the total abolition of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, and insisted that international cooperation in peaceful uses of nuclear energy should not be constrained in the name of controlling nuclear proliferation.

The two countries have announced plans for civilian nuclear cooperation with Russia, which has come under some criticism from the Western nations.

Mr. Vajpayee will conclude his substantive talks with the leadership here when he calls on the supreme religious leader, Ayatollah Khamenei, who has a very powerful standing in the political system.

Mr. Vajpayee will address the Majlis (Parliament), tomorrow and interact with a group of Iranian and Indian businessmen the day after.

Iran diary: Page 13

THE HINDU

11 APR 2001

Lashkar chief gunned down in encounter 29/3

HT Correspondent *Jammu*
Jammu, March 28

IN ONE of its biggest successes, police shot dead Lashkar-e-Tayyeba chief Salahuddin in an encounter at Nowgam in central Kashmir this afternoon.

Salahuddin, who operated under the aliases of Nadeem, Abdul Rehman, Ubada and Tariq, was a Pakistani and carried a reward of Rs 5 lakh and guided Lashkar's operations in the State. This was the highest reward placed on any militant in Jammu and Kashmir.

According to a Government spokesman, Salahuddin and his associates attacked a police patrol party in Nowgam. He died on the spot when police fired back. Police have launched a hunt for his associates in the nearby jungles.



Body of Lashkar chief Salahuddin

This attack came close on the heels of Lashkar's suicide attack on a CRPF camp in Wazir Bagh in Srinagar. Four CRPF men and a civilian were killed in the attack. Two of the attackers were also killed in the crossfire.

The Lashkar chief had entered

Kashmir about two years ago. He was from Sheikhpora in Pakistan's Punjab and had been guiding Lashkar operations in the State. He had recently declared a war against the security forces and police.

Praising his force, DGP Ashok Kumar Suri said the policemen had done an "excellent job in repulsing the attack on the patrol and killing the most dreaded militant".

Meanwhile, one Major and two jawans were injured in a landmine explosion in Kanachak, a border area in Jammu. Their vehicle was extensively damaged in the explosion. This afternoon's counter attack by police appeared as if the force had avenged the death of its men killed in Lashkar's suicide attack at the police control room in Srinagar on February 9.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

23 MAR 2001

USA accused of double standards on terrorism

MOSCOW, March 27. — Russia today termed as “immoral” a senior US official’s meeting with a separatist Chechen envoy and accused the Bush administration of adopting “double standards” in combating global terrorism.

“The pompous reception of the representative of the Chechen militants by USA has shown which side it supports,” a Russian foreign ministry spokesman said.

He was referring to the meeting of the foreign minister of Ichkeria, Ilyas Ahmadov — an envoy of the Maskhadov-led separatist Chechen regime — with the special US aide on CIS in Washington yesterday.

The spokesman rejected the US stance of gathering “first hand” information from all the conflicting parties, saying the US was gathering information from “hands soaked in blood”.

Russian authorities have made arrests relating to bomb blasts in three north Caucasus towns on Saturday. — PTI

THE STATESMAN

28 MAR 2001

India cautioned against threat of bioterrorism

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, MARCH 15. Quoting a Nobel laureate who said "Man's only competitor in this world was virus...", the distinguished service professor and Director of the Centre for Civilian Biodefence Studies at the Johns Hopkins University, the U.S., Dr. Donald A. Henderson, today cautioned India against the threat of bioterrorism from terrorist organisation having access to biological weapons.

With India witnessing increased instances of terrorist activities, threat perception of extremists using non-conventional methods of attacks such as use of biological weapons could not be ruled out, said Dr. Anderson while addressing a press conference here today.

Dr. Henderson, who has worked as the Scientific Advisor to the President of U.S. and spear-headed the World Health Organisation's global programme of immunisation in 1974, said biological weapons, which meant use of microorganisms in the form of virus, bacteria or fungus to inflict damage to human life, could prove to be much more dangerous than traditional weapons or nuclear or chemical weapons as it takes some time to detect any biological weapon attack.

"An attack with biological weapons could initiate an epidemic that sickens or kills a large number of citizens," he said, adding by the time it could even be recognised what really had happened, the damage would have already been done.

Referring to his country's programme for developing a com-

prehensive defence mechanism against the biological weapons threat, Dr. Henderson said, "The present U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, considers biological weapons a greater threat compared to nuclear or chemical weapons. On these lines, the U.S. was spending an annual budget of billion dollars developing comprehensive security mechanism."

He said that at present, Libya, Iran and North Korea were pursuing the biological weapon programme.

Arguing that biological weapons were attracting the attention of terrorist groups across the globe, Dr. Henderson said developing biological weapons required no big infrastructure as it could be done in small laboratories. Besides, it was a cheaper mode of destruction having far more lethal and widespread repercussions compared to other weapons.

While on the global front nothing much was being done except for a meeting convened by the United Nations, the positive aspect was that countries had started noticing this danger of the 21st century, he added.

Virus know no borders and every country should act urgently before this menace gains alarming proportions, Dr. Henderson warned, adding strong intelligence network, cooperation among nations in dissemination of information and knowledge and making preparations to tackle any eventuality were the three most important steps that should be taken to tackle any bioweapon threat.

10-16

Nemesis overtaking Osama?

By Chinmaya R. Gharekhan

110-12 1A/3

ACCORDING TO reports published in the media on February 10, 2001, datelined Islamabad, Afghanistan's Taliban militia has reiterated its willingness to discuss sending Osama bin Laden for trial by Muslim clerics in an Islamic country. A spokesman of Pakistan's Interior Ministry was quoted as saying that the Taliban's readiness to consider such a proposal was conveyed to Pakistan's Interior Minister, Mr. Moinuddin Haidar, during his visit to Kabul during the past few days. In another report published the same day, Pakistan's military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was quoted as having told the *Khaleej Times* in an interview that the Taliban would never hand over Osama to the Americans and suggested that he be tried by a court in a third country: "The U.S. is demanding that Laden be handed over to it... This is impossible." Gen. Musharraf added that Osama's trial in a third country by Islamic judges was not an impossible option.

This is the beginning of the end of Osama Bin Laden. So long as the Taliban had taken the position that he was an honored guest and that it would never consider handing him over to anyone, there was some hope, however faint, for him. Now there is none. The case of the two Libyans wanted by the Americans for the bombing of the Pan Am flight 103 over Lockerbie in 1988 explains why.

India was a member of the Security Council when the Libyan drama unfolded and concluded with the imposition of mandatory sanctions against Libya in 1992. We first saw a report in the *Washington Post* in December 1991 that the U.S., the U.K. and France were preparing to bring to the Council their case against Libya for its alleged responsibility in the two civil aviation disasters involving Pan Am flight 103 and the UTA flight crash over Niger. The three Governments had asked Libya to hand over to them certain suspects as well as for compensation. Libya refused, hence the decision to raise the matter in the Council. Even though the U.S. mission in New York initially denied the story, most of us in the Council were inclined to give full credence to it. In the first week of January 1992, the three countries circulated documents detailing re-

ports by their respective investigating agencies on evidence against the particular individuals as well as the involvement of Libyan intelligence.

The Libyans feared that, before long, these three permanent members would ask the Council to impose mandatory sanctions against them. This was indeed the intention of the three countries as they explained to the other members of the Council. The Libyan Ambassador met the Non-Aligned members of the Council on January 8 and suggested that the Council was not a proper forum to deal with such legal issues. However, Libya could agree to the Secretary-General being asked to investigate the matter and suggest ways of

Having conceded the principle of giving him up, the Taliban and Pakistan will look for a formula to save some face and leave Osama bin Laden to his fate.

solving it. Alternatively, the Council could set up a committee to look into the matter in an impartial manner.

The Libyan situation was very embarrassing for the Non-Aligned. We were most unhappy at the attempt of the three countries to use the Council to settle their bilateral scores with Libya and to punish a country on the basis of allegations made by their domestic agencies and not an impartial international body. The three countries argued, with some logic, that it was better from the international community's viewpoint that they bring such matters to the Council rather than take unilateral punitive action. They picked a country which did not have too many friends at that time and they picked an issue — international terrorism — which no country would want to be perceived as defending.

Things moved fast. On January 13, the three countries circulated a draft resolution which did not contain threat of sanctions but merely said that the Council would remain seized of the matter in case Libya did not comply with the demands of the Council. The cause of the three had become the cause of the Council! The Non-Aligned managed to obtain a role for the Secretary-General by requesting him

to seek Libya's cooperation to provide a full and effective response to the Council's demands. Resolution 731 was adopted unanimously on January 21.

The U.S., the U.K. and France, anticipating that Libya would not surrender the suspects, kept up the pressure for sanctions. The then U.S. President, Mr. George Bush Sr., the then British Prime Minister, Mr. John Major, and the then French President, Francois Mitterand, used the occasion of the first-ever summit meeting of the Security Council on January 31 to lobby other leaders. The then Prime Minister, Mr. P. V. Narasimha Rao, told Mr. Major that, as a lawyer, he found it difficult to accept the proposition that the Council

should act on the basis of allegations by one or two states.

On February 14, the Libyan Ambassador told the Non-Aligned caucus in the Council that Libya was prepared to surrender the suspects, but a mechanism was required to deal with Anglo-American requests since Libya did not have diplomatic relations with them. He suggested that the Secretary-General could provide the mechanism. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who knew his Libyans, was reluctant to get involved but agreed to help if so asked by the Council. Everyone was looking for a way out to avoid sanctions. A few days later, the Russian Foreign Minister, Andrei Kozyrev, claimed that Libya was willing to hand over the suspects to a third country. Libya filed a case with the International Court of Justice on March 2. This introduced a new important element, since many in the Council thought that it should not act while the Court was seized of the matter. The three permanent members absolutely rejected any such suggestion and even the Legal Counsel of the U.N. agreed that the Court and the Council were principal organs of the U.N., each with its own competence and neither was subordinate to the other. At one stage, the Libyan Ambassador said that his Govern-

ment would hand over the suspects to the UNDP office in Tripoli and it would then be up to the Secretary-General to decide the further course of action. On March 22, Major Jalloud, the No.2 man in Libya, informed the Indian Ambassador in Tripoli of Libya's decision to hand over the suspects to the Arab League. A seven-member Arab League delegation went to Tripoli on March 24, but returned empty-handed; it was even ridiculed by the Libyan media for having gone on such an unholy mission in the holy month of Ramadan!

Eventually, the Council adopted resolution 748 on March 31, imposing Chapter VII sanctions in respect of civil aviation, arms embargo and diplomatic presence in and of Libya. India, along with China, Morocco, Zimbabwe and Cape Verde abstained. The Libyans till the end were counting on a Chinese veto. It took several years, and dozens of hours of patient and persistent work by the present Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to get Libya agree to the arrangement whereby the two suspects were tried by a Scottish Court. The Court's judgment a few weeks ago exonerated one accused and found the other guilty of some of the charges, enough to sentence him to 20 years imprisonment.

Compared to the two Libyans, Osama is in a hopeless situation. The international community today is much more united and determined to deal severely with international terrorism. Osama's involvement in terrorist acts is more readily believed than were the allegations against the Libyans. There is no mention anywhere of a third country being involved in the acts alleged to have been committed by Osama. And it is not just the U.S. — Russia, China, India and many others are interested in bringing Osama to justice. The Taliban, like the Libyans, is keen to avoid further sanctions and Pakistan would want to give, for political and economic reasons, concrete evidence of its commitment to fight international terrorism. Having conceded the principle of giving him up, the Taliban and Pakistan will look for a formula to save some face and leave Osama to his fate in the hands of a court which will not necessarily be to his liking.

THE HINDU

14 MAR 2001

Curbing terrorists

WIDE ANGLE
SALMAN HAIDAR

helpful. As the difficulties mounted, India sometimes felt that the UK was not doing all it should to deal with a dangerous problem. Britain had devised tough new measures to deal with its difficulties in Northern Ireland and there seemed no good reason why similar measures could not be applied to India's concerns. The issue created considerable unhappiness at the time. Since then, matters have been rectified. Cooperation at all levels on terrorism has improved enormously. An extradition treaty between the two countries has come into effect. The traditional good relations have been restored, and the latest measures will no doubt serve to improve matters further.

The UK has a uniquely significant part to play in India's fight against terrorism. A good deal of the anti-national, often violent, activity against the country has come out of its extensive diaspora, a significant part of which is concentrated in the UK. Other South Asian countries, most notably Sri Lanka, have similar problems.

The newly prosperous South Asian emigrant community in the UK is often generous in the donations it gives for social and religious purposes. Unfortunately, unscrupulous persons have been able to get their hands on some part of these funds to divert them into totally different channels. In some cases, regular

100 YEARS AGO



Bodies of Lashkar-e-Taiyaba militants killed in a Fidayeen (suicidal) attack on an Army camp in Baramullah on Sunday being taken in a police vehicle. — AP/PTI

THE British decision to move towards proscribing a number of extremist groups, among them many whose baleful impact is all too well-known in India, has rightly been welcomed here. Terrorism has long drawn succour from international networks that are difficult to identify and expose, and London has been one of the key centres for groups that target India.

It is only fitting that they should be unmasked and shown in their true colours. In recent times, groups that may be prepared to use violence in pursuit of their aims have taken advantage of the relative liberality of British laws about political activity.

In the 1980s, India was dismayed to find during the insurgency in Punjab that Britain had become

something of a haven for hostile groups formed and financed within the Indian diaspora in that country. Their activity brought India-UK relations to a low point and it took quite a while for something better to emerge. India found that it had become the target of a ceaseless campaign of vilification by UK-based parties, which was disagreeable, but what became insupportable was that funds were raised in the UK to support violent groups in Punjab. Some of those involved had fled from India to the UK, from where they conducted their hostile activity with considerable freedom. India wanted the offenders to be extradited to face the law in India but could do little to force the issue, for the legal processes in the UK were not

practical steps to back it up will cut at their support and will encourage those who oppose their purposes and their methods.

The pressure should also be felt in Pakistan where three of the most active groups are based. Pakistan has been ready enough to give munificent support for what border, yet it is wary about what they could do in Pakistan. They only have to

As international sensitivity

look at their erstwhile creature, the Taliban, in neighbouring Afghanistan to know what could come about if the religious extremists are given their head.

Pakistan, and the rest of the world, can only sit idly by while the sickening destruction of Bamayan takes place and one of the glories of the world's civilisation is reduced to rubble. One can expect that after the naming of several of its proteges in the UK list, Pakistan may find it a more complicated matter to maintain the obvious fictions and duality of its policy.

As international sensitivity

to the issue of terrorism strengthens, it should not expect to be immune from the pressure.

No immediate impact of this latest development should be expected on the ground in Kashmir. The struggle there is bound to continue, against violence and terrorism, in favour of peace and reconciliation. India's initiative for ceasefire and dialogue sets the scene for new developments in the State, and needs to be pursued with renewed application.

(The author is a former Foreign Secretary.)

SUBDUING TERRORISM

THE INTERNATIONAL TIDE of opinion against political terrorism is gathering pace, if the latest move by the British Government to proscribe as many as 22 organisations, including a fiercely motivated anti-India outfit like the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT), is a definitive indication. An obvious question, especially from New Delhi's standpoint, is whether the U.S., already poised to undertake soon its periodic monitoring- review of the worldwide scene of terrorism, will bring its legal axe down upon the LeT this time. The ferocious group has either claimed responsibility for or is suspected to have masterminded most of the recent heinous crimes in Jammu and Kashmir. Not surprisingly, the LeT looms as a larger-than-life practitioner of strategic terror insofar as the psychological war between India and Pakistan is concerned. In a sense, the LeT, like the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen (HuM), has come to occupy a critical centrality in New Delhi's distilled view of Islamabad. Only the All Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC) as a collective political entity, whose credentials and 'cause' Islamabad tends to espouse, receives equal or greater attention in New Delhi as the Vajpayee administration constantly carries out a litmus test of Pakistan's 'hostile' intentions at this time. To ride the cross-currents of international politics, which determine the proscription of terrorist organisations by major powers at any given time, New Delhi will need to fine-tune its diplomacy to their specific apprehensions.

Mr. Michael Sheehan, U.S. Coordinator for Counterterrorism under the previous Clinton administration, quite categorically indicated as far back as last July that a legal procedure had been set in motion to determine whether the LeT should be designated a foreign terrorist organisation under the relevant American laws. Globally, the manifestations of political terror have only magnified since then, and two key U.S. congressional testimonies last year by Mr. Sheehan still retain much resonance of relevance to the India-

Pakistan context today. Zeroing in on a "shift in the locus of terrorism to South Asia", he portrayed Pakistan as being tolerant of terrorists who were well disposed towards it. Noting that Pakistan, itself a "victim" of some forms of terror, was being used as a "base" by "numerous Kashmiri separatist groups", including the HuM which the U.S. labelled a terrorist group, he drew attention to the "continuing reports of Pakistani material support for some of these militants". Apparently high on the U.S. agenda still is what Mr. Sheehan had identified as the need to "disrupt the financing of terrorist groups and activities" through a mix of measures ranging from unilateral to multilateral sanctions and diplomacy.

For India, the moot question now is not about the undoubted fervour of the international outcry against terrorism. It is simply about the steps that New Delhi could take in order not only to persuade major powers to ban the LeT and the others like it but also to contain them in the face of Pakistan's rejection of the related charges emanating from the U.S. and elsewhere. Pakistan's Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has argued in recent months that India might expect to see a lowering of what is portrayed as Islamabad-inspired terrorism if only the Vajpayee administration could bring itself to begin meaningful talks with the various Kashmiri groups including the APHC. New Delhi has been no less quick to ignore such arguments as either clever logic or simply disingenuous diplomacy. However, it stands repetitive scrutiny that New Delhi should do all that is politically feasible to reverse the sense of alienation among large sections of the people of Jammu and Kashmir. As for the existential reality of politically-motivated terrorism in the State, the Vajpayee administration will do well to heighten the security vigil without negating the 'spirit' of the ongoing ceasefire itself. In addition, suitable cooperation with the security and intelligence agencies of friendly countries will be in order.

THE HINDU

- 7 MAR 2001

11-10 Striking at Terror 5/3

Britain has finally joined the fight against international terrorism. Though the British have been victims of terrorist acts carried out by various groups of the Irish Republican Army for well over three decades, the anti-terrorism legislation in the United Kingdom only targeted the IRA till now and permitted various international terrorist organisations to raise funds and operate freely from British soil. Unscrupulous terrorists took full advantage of this to pursue their terrorist campaigns against countries like India and Sri Lanka even while abiding strictly by the anti-terrorism laws enacted by London. Britain has a long tradition of giving shelter to dissidents but today's terrorists waging internationalist terrorist campaigns are not in the category of Kossoth and other non-violent liberal dissident leaders. In terms of technological capabilities 21st century terrorism is very different from 19th century terrorism. Today, there is increasing recognition that international terrorism is a common security problem that needs to be tackled collectively by the international community. The usual obfuscation that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter is no longer acceptable. The core of terrorism is that it deliberately targets innocent civilians and not security forces. There is today a very well defined and well understood differentiation between terrorism and freedom struggle. Blowing up aircraft, bombing civilian targets like buses, trains and marketplaces cannot, under any definition, be confused with freedom struggles.

International terrorism today combines narcotic trafficking, money laundering, and illegal arms running with extortion of funds from expatriates and collaboration with organised crime syndicates to sustain its campaigns against targeted countries. Religious fanatical groups have not hesitated to employ terrorism to wage war against other religions and sectarian groups. Russia has complained that some of the higher institutions of learning in Britain have become recruiting grounds for fundamentalist religious groups. Britain as one of the leading centres of trade, commerce, international finance and with large expatriate populations vulnerable to subversion and extortion became a very convenient hub for various international terrorist organisations to operate from. The upgradation of communication technology enabled them to keep in close touch with their field organisations in target countries and effectively manage the terrorist campaigns. The current British ban on 21 identified international terrorist organisations shows how widely the British liberal values had been abused by them. The Lashkar-e-Taiba, Jaish-e-Mohamed, Babbar Khalsa International, International Sikh Youth Federation and Harkatul Mujahideen now banned are terrorist organisations targeting India. LTTE primarily targets Sri Lanka but also operates in India. Excepting LTTE all others are based in Pakistan but use British soil for their international terrorist operations. Five out of 21 terrorist organisations named and banned by London have their headquarters in Pakistan. The infamous Taliban also originated in Pakistan and was unleashed on Afghanistan and the rest of the world. The US is to release its new list of international terrorist organisations in the state department's publication, *Patterns of global terrorism*, in the next few days and, hopefully, organisations like the Lashkar-e-Taiba will figure in it. These are all still early steps in the long and hard struggle against international terrorism.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

5 MAR 2001

UK names Lashkar, Harkat in terrorists' list

■ **Continued from Page 1**
high commissioner to Britain H.S. Puri said the proscription of these groups shows that "India's protestations have been taken on board by the UK." The home office made it clear that the list does not target Muslims. Mr Straw said, "The Terrorism Act is an important legislation which brings our provisions into line with the European Convention for Human Rights and ensures that we are better able to deal with the serious threats which terrorism poses."

Among the 21 groups Mr Straw listed, 16 are Islamic organisations from Kashmir, Turkey and West Asia, and three of them are based in Pakistan. Mr Charles Clarke, a home office minister, said, "We deeply respect the contribution which the Muslim community makes to the life of this country. We are concerned on the other hand to isolate and attack international terrorist organisations, and that is why we have named the

organisations we have. We make no presumption that Muslim organisations are more or less likely to be terrorist organisations."

Under each group listed, evidence of their activities, attacks and aims have also been made known. It states that the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, earlier known as Harkat-ul-Ansar, "seeks independence for Indian-administered Kashmir" and mentions the cases of the kidnapping of Western tourists in Delhi and Kashmir in 1994 and 1995 and the Indian Airlines hijack in 1999. It states that the aim of the JeM is to seek "the liberation" of Kashmir from Indian control as well as the 'destruction' of America and India. JeM has a stated objective of unifying various Kashmiri militant groups." Set up in 1999 by Maulana Masood Azhar after his release from a Srinagar jail, the group has been involved in several attacks.

The order states that LeT "seeks indepen-

dence for Kashmir and the creation of an Islamic state using violent means." Set up in 1993, LeT "has a long history of mounting attacks against Indian security forces in Kashmir." For the ISYF, it points at the recent case of Mukhtar and Paramjit Singh, which demonstrate "that UK-based extremists involve themselves in terrorist support activities."

The draft order is expected to be debated in Parliament in the coming weeks. Sources reveal the detailed list leaves very little room for criticism against it. For India, which has been urging Britain to crack down on terrorist groups creating havoc in Kashmir, this is welcome news. Talks on terrorism have reportedly ranked high in discussions between Union home minister L.K. Advani and British home secretary Jack Straw, both during Mr Advani's visit to the UK last year followed by Mr Straw's visit to India in September. But Mr Clarke denied that govern-

ments with whom Britain had friendly relations, such as India, Turkey or Saudi Arabia, had any influence on which groups were included.

The draft order is being seen as Britain's commitment to fight terrorism and a signal that Britain will no longer be a "safe haven" for terrorists. Mr Straw said, "The UK has no intention of becoming a base for terrorists and their supporters, nor see it flourish abroad, and we will take every legal action to prevent this." But some fear a rise in terrorist activities following the ban.

The secretary of state has the power to proscribe any organisation he believes "is concerned in terrorism." Once the proscription of these organisations take effect, any organisation or person affected by it can make an application to the home secretary for deproscription. If the application is refused, an appeal can be made to a tribunal, the Proscribed Organisations Appeal Commission.

U.K. to ban LTTE, Lashkar

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, FEB. 28. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), the Lashkar-e-Taiba and Babbar Khalsa are to be banned in the United Kingdom under its new Anti-Terrorist Act. They are among the 22 organisations which the Home Office has decided should be banned, it was officially announced this evening but the decision would need approval by Parliament.

It is highly unlikely that Parliament would not give its approval, as the Home Office decision follows intensive discussions and consultations with MPs cutting across party lines.

Among other groups which India wanted proscribed, the axe has fallen on the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and the International Sikh Youth Federation. As many as 15 of the 22 organisations, identified for the ban, are Muslim extremist groups which led officials to allay fears that Muslims were being targeted. They said the Government had explained the situation to the representatives of the Muslim communities and they appreciated its viewpoint. The move was directed against international terrorism irrespective of religious affiliations.

Officials said that while a number of governments had given representations and lists of groups they wanted banned, ultimately the decision was taken by the Home Secretary Mr. Jack Straw, independently on the "best advice" of British security services. It was not influenced by outside pressure.

The list includes the Abu Nidal organisation, the Kurdistan Workers' Party, Al-Qaida, the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, the Hizbollah External Security Organisation, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad-Shaqai and the Armed Islamic Group.

Once they are effectively banned, their members would be liable to prosecution.

THE HINDU

2001

Help against terrorism will continue

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, Feb. 27: Israeli ambassador David Aphek said in the city on Tuesday that his country will continue to help India fight terrorism by rendering professional assistance.

Mr Aphek said: "Terrorism is plaguing the world. We want to help the Indian government crush this menace." Israel intends to fulfil this mission by sharing its experience and expertise with India.

Mr Aphek said his country's policy with regard to Palestine and India's policy in Kashmir are similar.

"India cannot let violence and negotiation co-exist in Kashmir. Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee was justified in his stand that peace negotiations with Pakistan would be started only when the terrorism is over. We in Israel follow a similar policy with our neighbours," Mr Aphek said.

"Perhaps this has delayed the peace process and we are yet to achieve peace. But we cannot compromise on issues like giving up our right to Jerusalem and allowing Palestinian refugees to settle. Israel's economy had slowed down due to the continuous conflicts with neighbours and it cannot sustain the burden of the Palestinian refugees, who would

double the total population of the country. India also had not allowed Pakistani refugees to come back," he added.

Israel has 50 years of experience in combating terrorism. It is, therefore, well-equipped to provide consultative services to India.

Mr Aphek said: "We will not provide India with troops to fight terrorism. We also don't intend to intervene in the India's conflicts with any country or group. We are helping the home ministry with our expertise, technology and guidance with regard to security issues. We would like an Indian delegation to visit Israel and see the actual impact of terrorism in our country and the methods we have adopted to combat it."

With regard to the peace process in his country, the ambassador said, with the Labour Party joining the united government in Israel, the country expects that the new prime minister will not make "painful concessions" to peace.

Mr Aphek said: "We feel Mr Sharon will be able to handle peace and security well as he has military background."

Mr Aphek emphasised that terrorism has an adverse effect on economy of a country. Due to terrorism, the tourism industry in Israel has suffered a major setback in the last five months.



TRADE TALKS: Israeli ambassador David Aphek at the Indian Chamber of Commerce. With him are industrialist Harshavardhan Neotia (left) and ICC president C.K. Dhanuka. An ASIAN AGE photograph.

Israel wants to invest in state

BY OUR CORRESPONDENT

Kolkata, Feb. 27: Israel plans to enter into several joint venture projects with the West Bengal government in the agricultural, fishery and information technology sectors.

A two-member Israeli delegation comprising of ambassador David Aphek and embassy economic department head Gil Shaki along with industrialist and honorary consul of Israel Harshavardhan Neotia met chief minister Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee to discuss

the prospective Israeli investment.

Israel wants to set up a model demonstration fishery project in the state. Mr Aphek said: "The state can utilise our technical expertise." He also met state commerce minister Banshagopal Chowdhury. Mr Neotia said the details of the fishery project have not been finalised.

Mr Bhattacharjee said: "Israel is interested in investing in information technology, agro-based industries and other sectors. We may have joint ventures in all these." "I inaugurated an Indo-Israel joint

venture project, Agrodev, in Purulia a few days ago. Two other agro-based companies will be set up in Bankura and Jhargram," he added. Mr Shaki said: "Our companies are interested in long-term joint ventures in India." Mr Aphek feels trade between the two countries will increase to over \$1 billion in the coming financial year.

A 3.5 million-dollar joint venture commercial project under West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation is on the anvil. The feasibility study has been done and WBIDC is looking for a partner.

THE ASIAN AGE

28 FEB 2001

Crackdown on Osama's network in UK, Germany

New York, Feb. 21: The police in Britain and Germany have recently arrested more than a dozen Islamic radicals following growing international alarm about Osama Bin Laden's militant networks, a media report said here on Wednesday. The *New York Times* quoted American officials as saying that some of those arrested were plotting terrorist attacks in Europe and elsewhere. American and foreign officials said the arrests were part of an intensified effort to crack down on a network with ties to Bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi accused of masterminding the bombings of two American embassies in East Africa in 1998 which killed 224 people. Last week British police officers, the *Times* said, raided several houses in London and arrested 10 men, six of whom have been charged with preparing to engage in "acts of terrorism." Among the four arrested was Omar Mahmood Abu Omar, who American and Jordanian officials say is a key agent for Laden in Europe. Jordanian courts, the *Times* said, have twice convicted Omar, who is known as Abu Qatada, on terrorism charges in Absentia, in 1998 for his role in bombings. (PTI)

THE ASIAN AGE

22 FEB 2001

'Taliban agrees to hand over Bin Laden to Saudi Arabia'

Islamabad, February 19

AFGHANISTAN'S RULING Taliban militia has told Pakistan that it is willing to hand over Saudi dissident and terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden to his native country to face trial, a leading Pakistani daily reported today.

The offer to send Bin Laden to Saudi Arabia was made by Taliban's supreme leader Mulla Moheemmad Omar to Pakistan's Interior Minister Moinuddeen Haider during the latter's recent visit to Kabul, *The Dawn* quoting authoritative sources said.

Omar offered to hand over Bin Laden to Saudi Arabia even without Haider raising the issue, the newspaper said.

"We never raised the Osama issue. It was raised by Mulla Omar during the talks," it quoted a high level Pakistani official.

The paper quoted the official as saying that Omar told Haider that if Saudi Arabia was not willing to accept Osama because of political repercussions in the country, Kabul was ready to shift him to another Muslim country. He however did not name any particular country, the official said.

The Saudi Government has already stripped Bin Laden of his citizenship for his

terrorist activities at home and abroad. Since then he has stayed put in Afghanistan under Taliban patronage.

Haider met Omar at Kandahar during his recent visit to the war ravaged country. He was the first outside official to visit Afghanistan after UN sanctions against Taliban regime came into effect since January 19.

UN Security Council has issued sanctions against Taliban for its refusal to hand over Bin Laden whom it has accused of acts of terrorism, including bombing of several American embassies in 1998.

The newspaper said the offer follows Washington's request to Pakistan to use its influence with the Taliban to hand over Bin Laden either to the US or to a third country,

the newspaper said.

Though Pakistan is yet to publicly acknowledge its desire to mediate over the Osama issue, an official spokesman recently said Pakistan was not averse to the idea if both US and Afghanistan requested it.

Taliban earlier said that it was willing to hand over Bin Laden to any third Muslim country provided he was tried under the Islamic laws.

(PTI)



Osama bin Laden

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

20 FEB 2001

New UK terrorism law welcome relief for India

Udayan Namboodiri
New Delhi, February 19

BRITAIN HAS passed a new law that will empower its police to arrest and seize the assets of terrorist groups operating from the country. For India, the decision is more than welcome. It had been pressurising Britain to do something about the *jihad* groups operating there. However, there are fears that the law could have a retrogressive effect on the peace process in Sri Lanka.

For several *jihad* groups, Britain

is a safe haven. They give direct and indirect sustenance to groups operating in Kashmir. The government is drawing up a list of terrorist bodies that will be covered under the new law.

Britain's huge Pakistani-origin population (80 per cent of which are believed to be from Kashmir) is a source of strength for the Laskhkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) and other terrorist groups. They have been fuelling militancy in Kashmir and have also been recruiting young men to fight in Kashmir.

Not surprisingly, India had pointed

out the surfeit of *jihad* sympathisers in Britain during meetings of the bilateral Joint Working Group.

The new law has narrowed the definition of terrorism but broadened its scope from the hitherto focus on Irish terrorism.

The new law makes it illegal to plan a violent campaign, even if it's executed abroad. Fundraising and open support will lead to arrest. A new list of terrorist groups is being drawn up. Once an organisation is on the list, it will be considered illegal to be a member of the group, display its emblems or even

share a forum with other members of the group. Even cyber terrorist groups who hack into government websites will be targeted.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) is expected to be covered by the new legislation. The Sri Lanka government had been lobbying to get London to hit out at the group. But the new law comes at a juncture when the LTTE is in a mood to negotiate. Anton Balasingham, the LTTE's London-based spokesman, described the law as "counter productive" to the Norwegian initiated peace process

U.K. law to check export of terrorism in place

By Hasan Suroor

10-14
20/2

LONDON, FEB. 19. The assorted terrorist groups, operating out of the United Kingdom, woke up to a more vulnerable existence this morning as a new stringent anti-terrorism Act quietly came into force giving the Home Office vastly more powers to crack down on extremist activities.

For the first time, raising funds and recruiting volunteers for political or religious "struggles" in other countries could become grounds for declaring an organisation a terrorist outfit if it is established that such mobilisation is intended to destabilise a foreign Government.

The Terrorism Act 2000 has raised expectations in countries, targeted by these groups, that the British Government would move quickly to ban them. India and Sri Lanka are among a host of countries who have given lists of organisations which they want proscribed but before taking any action, the Government would make its own assessment on the basis of inputs from its security services.

The decision to ban an organisation would also take into account its political implications. In the case of the LTTE, for instance, a factor which is likely

to be considered is its impact on the ongoing peace process.

After the Home Office determines that a group falls within the scope of the Act, the decision to ban it would be taken to Parliament for approval. Members of the banned organisations would be prosecuted and could face imprisonment. Any direct or indirect association with a proscribed body would be deemed an offence under the new Act, the most significant feature of which is that it removes the distinction between actions aimed against the British Government and foreign Governments.

Until now, extremist groups could thrive so long as they did not break any domestic law and thus, innumerable organisations have proliferated over the years claiming to be victims of religious or political persecution. They have been openly running recruitment centres and raising funds to support "liberation struggles" or "jihad" in other countries. From now on, such activities could be construed as a "conspiracy" to export terrorism.

The list of groups, which India wants banned, includes the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, while Sri Lanka wants a ban on the LTTE.

THE HINDU

2 FEB 2001

20 FEB 2001

UK to let LTTE off the hook for now

HT Correspondent
Colombo, February 18

THE NEW British anti-terrorism law will be coming into force on Monday but there will be no simultaneous announcement of any list of banned foreign terrorist organisations, London correspondents of Sri Lankan Sunday papers say, quoting British officials.

In effect, this means that several foreign terrorist organisations, including the LTTE, are being let off the hook, at least for the time being.

Political observers here attribute this stance to the delicate stage in which the Norwegian brokered peace process in Sri Lanka is at the moment. Thanks to the British interest in keeping the peace process here going, the other foreign terrorist groups in line for proscription will also be let off the hook, albeit for the time being only.

By refraining from proscribing any foreign terrorist organisation now, the British government will be seen as being even-handed and neutral in the Sri Lankan context. This is because, a ban on the LTTE will alienate the Tamils even though it will please the Sri Lankan government. On the other hand, not banning the LTTE while banning other foreign terrorist organisations will give the impression that the LTTE is being

favoured and Colombo is not going to like it. The British may want to avoid being caught in such controversies.

The British have a role to play in finding a solution to the Sri Lankan ethnic problem, especially after the conservative junior minister, Dr Liam Fox, had brokered a bi-partisan Sri Lankan approach to the LTTE in April 1997. The UK is also home to many Tamil refugees and International Headquarters of the LTTE.

Britain can and wants to play a supportive role in the Norwegian peace bid. Its clout and potential role could be jeopardised if it is seen to be biased by any one of the two sides in the conflict.

The peace process in Sri Lanka is now at a delicate stage. Despite periodic sabre-rattling from both the Sri Lankan government and the LTTE, the Norwegian peace bid is going on with visible signs of progress.

The two sides are discussing Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) ahead of direct talks. Norway is even working on a group of countries which will monitor the implementation of any Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that may be signed in this regard.

Above all, the government is now observing an unofficial cease-fire in response to the LTTE's unilateral cease-fire.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 FEB 2001

'Osama's technology better than USA's'

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12. - Osama bin Laden has better communications technology than the United States, according to the director of the national security agency, Gen Mike Hayden.

Moreover, Bin Laden was able to orchestrate almost simultaneous bombings without NSA detection because he has more resources, the head of the NSA said in a rare interview.

"Osama Bin Laden has at his disposal the wealth of a \$3 trillion a year telecommunications industry that he can rely on giving him access to better technology," Gen Hayden told CBS's "60 Minutes II" in an interview that will be broadcast tomorrow night.

Later in the interview, he recounted how a telecommunications failure within the agency had made Americans around the world more vulnerable to terrorists for three days in January 2000. All the

agency's computers at headquarters had failed.

"NSA headquarters was brain dead. We had some residual ability at our locations around the world, but I don't want to trivialise this. This was really bad," Gen Hayden said.

The NSA, which its director says is "behind the curve in keeping up with the global telecommunications revolution", is a supersecret intelligence agency considered to be the eavesdropping branch of the intelligence community. It

gathers information through satellites, telephone intercepts and other methods. Not much else is known about it, and employees joke that the agency's initials stand for "no such agency."

Prosecutors have portrayed the 1998 blasts at the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania as part of a worldwide plot by Bin Laden. Four men are currently standing trial in New York for the bombings, which had killed 224 people including 12 Americans.



Osama Bin Laden

THE STATESMAN

1 3 1998 201

Don't shut doors on talks on Laden, Taliban tell US

AFGHANISTAN'S RULING Taliban militia is considering a new proposal to resolve the issue of international terrorist Osama Bin Laden, foreign minister Wakil Ahmad Mutawakel said today, urging the US not to shut the doors on reaching an understanding.

"We call upon the US not to close the doors to understanding. We are considering to work out a fourth proposal on the issue of Osama Bin Laden," Mutawakel told AFP. He said the latest proposal had not been yet chalked out.

"We are just prepared to consider it," he said, speaking from the southern city of Kandahar. The US

has ordered the Taliban to close its New York office in line with the UN sanctions slapped last month to punish Taliban rulers for refusing to hand over Laden.

The Taliban had earlier said Washington should provide to the Taliban Supreme Court evidence of Laden's alleged involvement in terrorist attacks. It later offered to keep Laden under surveillance of monitors from the Organisation of the Islamic Conference.

The third Taliban proposal was that a panel of clerics from three Islamic states should come to Afghanistan to deal with the Laden issue.

AFP, Kabul

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

12 FEB 2001

'Britain's anti-terrorist law will stifle dissent'

LONDON: The sweeping anti-terrorist legislation that comes into force in Britain this month, is being hailed by the government as a powerful weapon against international violence. But opponents say the law will stifle dissent, making it illegal to post information on the Internet or wear a subversive T-shirt.

The Terrorism Act, which takes effect on Monday next, empowers Britain to outlaw groups that commit acts of violence both at home and abroad — and to crack down on supporters who channel funds and recruits to terrorist organisations. Potential targets are already reacting sharply. "It's goodbye to the peace talks" if Britain bans the Tamil Tigers, London-based spokesman Anton Balasingham was quoted as saying in a Tamil-language newspaper published in Sri Lanka.

An animal rights activist complains that someone who frees beagles raised for experiments will have fewer rights than murderers. Governments have pressed the British to outlaw organisations such as the Tamil Tigers, the Islamic resistance movement, or Hamas, and the Kurdistan Workers' Party, the PKK.

The home office says that it has not yet decided which groups to ban. It plans to issue a list some time after the new law takes effect.

The law was created to plug holes in the existing legislation, much of which was rushed into effect in 1974, after the Irish Republican Army bombs killed 19 people in Birmingham. Unlike the United States, Britain does not maintain a list of foreign organisations banned from operating on its soil — the only outlawed groups are Northern Irish paramilitaries, including the IRA and the pro-British Ulster Defence Association.

Conspiring to commit terrorist activities abroad was only made illegal in Britain after the 1998 bombing at Omagh in Northern Ireland, which killed 29 people.

Critics say the legal gaps have made Britain a haven for terrorist groups. "Most major cities of the world have support groups for terrorist organisations, and London has often been criticised for not doing anything about it," said Paul Wilkinson, director of the Centre for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at St Andrew's University. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 FEB 2001

Srinagar police complex stormed, Lashkar blamed

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, February 9 *HT*

SUSPECTED Lashkar-e-Tayyeba militants today stormed the main police control room (PCR) complex in Srinagar on Friday evening. Initial reports said two policemen and a militant were killed and six police personnel wounded in the attack. The gunfight was continuing till last reports came in.

Police sources said that SP (South) R K Jhala was among the injured. The PCR complex has about dozen offices of the police. As many as 100 policemen were presumed to be inside the complex at the time of the militant attack.

Sources said a group of militants

belonging to the suicide squad of the Lashkar appeared at the main entrance of the control room in Batamaloo around 7.15 pm. The militants fired on the policemen guarding the complex. The militants then rushed inside and took up position inside a building near the office of the SP, Control Room.

The Army and the BSF have been called in and the entire area has been sealed. BSF has sent in two bulletproof vehicles to identify the exact place where the militants are holed up. A spokesman of the Lashkar told newspaper offices in Srinagar on phone that four militants—Salahuddin, Abu Hafiz, Abdullah Omar and Abu Mawiya—were behind the attack.

This is the first major militant attack after the ceasefire was extended for the third time on January 23.

In a related development, the Centre finalised a two-pronged strategy to instil confidence among the Sikh community in Kashmir. The strategy includes deploying additional paramilitary forces, especially in Sikh-dominated areas, and extending support to the State in providing fresh avenues of employment to Sikh youths. The strategy was finalised at a high-level meeting chaired by the Prime Minister, who is understood to have deputed Defence Minister George Fernandes to visit Srinagar tomorrow.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

10 FEB 2001

Taliban ready for Osama trial in Islamic country

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 9. — Afghanistan's ruling Taliban militia has reiterated its willingness to discuss sending indicted terrorist Osama bin Laden for trial by Muslim clerics in an Islamic country, a Pakistani official said today.

An interior ministry spokesman said the Islamic militia voiced its preparedness to consider such a proposal in talks with visiting Pakistani interior minister Mr Moinuddin Haider in Afghanistan this week.

"They are prepared to talk about handing over Osama to a third country ... if they are convinced that he will be given a fair trial," spokesman Mr Tahir Khushnood said.

"They are prepared to talk if the USA is prepared to talk." The USA has previously rejected the idea, which the Taliban has suggested in the past as a way of breaking the bitter deadlock over the Laden issue. Mr Khushnood said Pakistan was prepared to "mediate" between the Taliban and Washington on the third-party idea, but not on other matters.

Mr Haider this week became the first high-level Pakistani official to visit Afghanistan since military ruler General Prevez Musharraf seized power here in a coup in October 1999.

Musharraf suggestion: Gen. Musharraf has said that the Taliban militia will never hand over Osama bin Laden to the USA and suggested the indicted terrorist be tried by a court in a third country, PTI adds from Dubai. "The USA is demanding that Laden be handed over to it. ... This is impossible and the Taliban will never hand him over," Gen. Musharraf told Arabic daily the *Al Khaleej*. He said Laden's trial in a third country by Islamic judges is not an impossible option, given that two Libyan suspects in the Lockerbie bombing case were tried in a Scottish court in the Netherlands. "They (Taliban) also do not mind if the trial takes place in Pakistan or Egypt. But they also say there is no evidence against him and nobody has provided them with evidence."

THE STATESMAN

1 0 5 6 0 2 1 1

Terrorists use Net to plot attacks

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. - Muslim extremists, including the Saudi dissident, Osama Bin Laden, are posting encrypted, or scrambled, photographs and messages on popular websites and using them to plan attacks against the US and its allies, a newspaper report said here today.

The USA Today quoted US law enforcement officials and experts as saying that extremists were using e-mail, compu-

terised files, and encryption to

hide maps and photographs of their targets, and instructions for carrying out attacks on sports chat rooms, pornographic bulletin boards and other web sites.

The internet has become a new form of the "dead drop", a cold war-era term for where spies left information, the paper quoted officials as saying.

They said the messages were scrambled using free encryption programs set up by groups that advocate privacy on the

sages.

"To a greater and greater degree, terrorist groups, including Hezbollah, Hamas, and Bin Laden's Al Qaida group, are using computerised files, e-mail, and encryption to support their operations," CIA director, Mr George Tenet, had written to a closed-door session of the Senate's foreign relations committee in March 2000, the report said.

Officials say Bin Laden began using encryption five years ago, but recently increased its

use after US officials revealed that they were tapping his satellite telephone calls in Afghanistan to track his activities.

"We will use whatever tools we can - e-mails, the internet - to facilitate jihad against the (Israeli) occupiers and their supporters," the paper quoted Sheik Ahmed Yassin, the founder of the militant Muslim group, Hamas, as saying in a recent interview in the Gaza Strip, in which he had also

said: "We have the best minds working with us."

THE STATESMAN

27 FEB 2001

Lashkar behind Sikh killings

Shishir Gupta
New Delhi, February 7

THE PAN-ISLAMIC Lashkar-e-Tayyeba (LeT) has been identified as the group behind last Saturday's killings of Sikhs in Srinagar.

Highly-placed Government sources said the Sikhs were being targeted by the LeT to derail the peace process. The objective is to vitiate the atmosphere so much that NDA partners, notably the Akali Dal, challenge the ceasefire.

It was on February 3 that two LeT activists opened fire on a group of Sikhs in Mahjoor Nagar, gunning down six of them and grievously injuring eight.

On January 19, the Government was informed at the highest level about the possibility of the Sikh community being targeted by the militants. The information was based on radio intercepts from Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir

(PoK).

According to the sources, communication between the PoK-based LeT camps, code-named "Salahuddin" and "Khyber", was picked up by the Indian listening posts. The massacre was ordered

within days but was delayed, as the outfit had problems finding "volunteers". The assessment here is that the LeT paid a tidy sum to hitmen hired for the operation.

While the security forces were on high alert and were keeping a vigil

establishment kept its calm and did not resort to any retaliatory action like the one prompted by the Chhittisinghpura killings.

The killings did anger the community, which took to the streets. The Army had to be called out in Jammu after one person was killed and two were injured in police firing on an agitated mob. To guard against any "over-reaction" from the security forces, the Army has since stepped up vigil.

In fact, Chief of Army Staff Gen. S. Padmanabhan and senior officials flew to Srinagar yesterday to size up the situation. They also meet Lt General R.K. Nanawati, the newly appointed Northern Army Commander, to review developments.

The Army Chief's visit will help him in getting first-hand account of the massacre. His advice to the field commanders? Regardless of the provocation, there is no need to press the panic button.

Police wipe out Hizb-ul-Mommin

THE SECOND most deadly militant outfit Hizb-ul-Mommin has been wiped out in Jammu and Kashmir by the State Police.

This is the second group to have been wiped out from the map of Kashmir militancy in the past less than a month. The police had arrested the entire top leadership of the Jamait-ul-Mujahadeen group three weeks ago. Director General of Police A K Suri said that the Kashmir Police have arrested all the top leaders of the group in Srinagar. "The group had deadly plans and the arrest of its leaders has helped us in preventing those actions by the group".

The Hizb-ul-Mommin that had claimed responsibility for assassinating Shia Muslim leader Agha Sayed Mehdi and also two attempts on the life of another Shia leader Moulvi Iftikhar Hussain Ansari, found its top leadership in the net of the State Police.

HTC, Jammu

by a LeT commander identified as Mawi.

The order was to be executed

on the Sikh-inhabited villages near the Line of Control, the outfit struck at Srinagar. The security

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Lockerbie kin to sue Libya

FROM ED CROPLEY

Edinburgh, Feb. 2 (Reuters): The American families of victims of the Lockerbie air disaster are to sue the Libyan government for up to \$10 billion in damages, their lawyer said today.

Jim Kreindler told BBC Radio Scotland the conviction of Libyan secret service agent Abdel Basset al-Megrahi for the murder of 270 people over the Scottish town in 1988 gave them sufficient grounds to launch a civil action.

"With the conviction of Megrahi and a very detailed explicit finding that he was an agent and employee of the JSO — an arm of the Libyan Government — we are in a position to hold Libya responsible as his principal or employer," Kreindler said.

"This finding should facilitate

our ability to obtain a very large judgment against Libya this year."

He said it could involve damages totalling \$10 billion.

"Our suit against Libya not only seeks additional compensation, but it seeks punitive damages to punish Libya, the JSO and its employees for the intentional murder of a plane (load) of its victims."

Megrahi was sentenced to 20 years in a Scottish prison on Wednesday for committing Britain's biggest mass murder. He has two weeks following the conviction to lodge an intention to appeal.

Now that the main criminal trial is over — bar an appeal — the way is clearer for the families to push ahead with a civil case against Libya.

Jim Kreindler's father, Lee, who is lead counsel and chairman of the 150 families of Lockerbie victims, said the conclusions of the special Scottish court in the Netherlands supported their case.

"The written judgment concludes that what Megrahi did was in concert with the Libyan government," he told the UAE's English language *Gulf News*.

"He was a fairly high-ranking officer in the Libyan Intelligence Agency and his activities appeared to have, and can be reasoned to have, government involvement," Lee Kreindler said.

"But we have to prove that now," he said, adding that it would take six months to put facts together.

"We are no longer prevented from getting evidence so we will move forward irrespective of

whether there is an appeal."

Yesterday, Scotland's top legal officer, Colin Boyd — the man who decides whether further prosecutions can go ahead — pointed an accusing finger at Colonel Muammar Gaddafi and his Libyan government, saying it was clear Megrahi had not acted alone.

However Boyd, the Lord Advocate, said there was insufficient evidence to launch criminal proceedings against any other persons or parties at present.

A federal jury was selected yesterday in the case against four Osama bin Laden allies charged with conspiring with the Saudi dissident to bomb US embassies in East Africa in twin 1998 attacks that killed more than 200 people. Opening statements are due to begin Monday in Manhattan federal court.

THE TELEGRAPH

3 FEB 2001

EU supports Delhi's proposal on anti-terrorism convention

The Times of India News Service

NEW DELHI: The European Union on Monday extended strong support to New Delhi's proposal for a comprehensive UN convention against terrorism.

This was conveyed by visiting European commissioner for external relations Chris Patten during meetings with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and national security adviser Brajesh Mishra. Counter-terrorism experts from the two sides are likely to meet soon to discuss joint measures to combat terrorism, Mr Patten told reporters adding the question of financing of terrorism also needed to be discussed threadbare.

"We are determined to raise the profile of our relations with India," Mr Patten said. Now that India-EU relations are on firm ground, there was the need to "put relations between EU-India on a businesslike basis." The EU, Mr Patten said was keen to "broaden and deepen ties with India."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 FEB 2001

Libyan convicted in Lockerbie case

FROM DOUGLAS HAMILTON

Camp Zeist (Netherlands), Jan. 31 (Reuters): A Libyan intelligence agent was convicted today of murdering 270 people in the bombing of a Pan Am jumbo jet over Lockerbie in Scotland 12 years ago.

In a dramatic climax to the nine-month trial at a heavily guarded court in the Netherlands, Abdel Basset al-Megrahi was found guilty, but co-accused Al-Amin Khalifa was acquitted and set free. In an 82-page written judgement, the court said it accepted evidence that Megrahi "was a member of the JSO (Jama'hariya Security Organisation), occupying posts of fairly high rank".

Relatives of the victims said this verdict made it plain that the Lockerbie bombing was a case of state terrorism and that Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi was behind it. Jim Swire, who lost his student daughter in the suitcase bombing of the Pan Am jumbo jet, collapsed after the verdict was issued by presiding judge Lord Sutherland.

Relatives, including many who had flown in at short notice from the United States, gasped then broke into sobs, holding each other. They had waited 10 years to see the Libyans handed over for trial, and two more years for a verdict. A spokesman for American families said the conviction of Megrahi pointed directly to



Al-Amin Khalifa and Abdel Basset Ali el-Megrahi. (AFP)

Gaddafi as the author of one of the worst terrorist outrages of modern times. Megrahi's lawyer said his client maintained his innocence. State-run Libyan television reported that he would launch an

appeal, and Libya's UN envoy told CNN that Libya "had nothing to do with this tragedy at all."

President George W. Bush applauded the conviction and said the government of Libya must take responsibility. The White House also issued a statement saying that the delivery of the verdict against suspects in the Pan Am flight 103 bombing was not enough to signify an end to UN sanctions against Libya.

In a unanimous verdict, three Scottish judges found Megrahi, 49, guilty of planting the bomb aboard a flight in Malta which connected via Frankfurt with Pan Am's London-to-New York flight.

The judges were also unanimous in acquitting co-accused

Libyan Al-Amin Khalifa of causing the explosion, which destroyed the Boeing 747 at cruising altitude over Lockerbie. It killed all 259 aboard and 11 people in the town.

"In view of the verdict of the court, you are now discharged and free to go," Lord Sutherland told Fahima, who immediately left the courtroom. "He maintains his innocence, so there is nothing I can say by way of mitigation," said Megrahi's lawyer Bill Taylor. The verdict took less than five minutes to announce. Megrahi and Khalifa sat side by side in the dock as they have done for the past 85 sessions. They were dressed in traditional white robes, Khalifa in a dark fez and Megrahi a white one.

THE TELEGRAPH

1 FEB 2001

'Pak. training militant groups'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 30 The Pakistani military establishment is deeply involved in the funding and training of the militant groups engaged in Kashmir operations, an article in the latest issue of *Time* magazine has claimed. In a report from Islamabad and Muzarrabad, the magazine has given concrete instances of encouragement to the military outfits from the Musharraf regime and said India's allegations of involvement of Pakistan in fomenting trouble in Kashmir 'rings a lot truer'.

"Despite a decade of denials — Islamabad insists it provides only moral and political support, not training or tangible aid — Pakistan is fuelling militant activity in Kashmir.

Of the five main militant groups operating in Kashmir, four are based in Pakistan, where open recruiting and fund-raising are commonplace. Training of militants is also done on Pakistani soil. The Pakistani military is deeply involved, especially in the smuggling of anti-Indian militants across the Line of Control", the article said.

It begins on a dramatic note containing the alleged conversation between the Lashkar militants and a Pakistani Army Colonel minutes after the Srinagar airport attack on January 16.

The magazine has said in response to a telephone query by the Colonel as soon as the Lashkar militants had wireless information about the attack the militants in Islamabad told him "why don't you find out from your side?" as

they are not the only one's here to receive the radio transmission.

"Militant groups have roots all over Pakistan, from their well-equipped training centres in Muzaffarabad — the capital of Pakistan's slice of Kashmir — and the country's Northwest Frontier Province to the nice, middle class houses in Lahore and Islamabad. Those houses may look no different from their neighbours at first glance, but what about the strange antennas on the roofs, the international phone lines and the transient occupants," with unkempt hair, camouflage jackets and hiking boots? And what of those unmarked four-wheel drive vehicles pulling up at dawn with clock work precision", the article said.

Budget session from Feb. 19

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 30. The session of Parliament would start on February 19 and subject to exigencies of Government business would conclude on May 11.

It would start with an address by the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, to a joint sitting of the two Houses at the Central Hall of Parliament House at 11 a.m.

THE HINDU

31 JAN 2001

Help stop J&K violence, U.S. tells Pakistan

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 25. The Bush administration has welcomed the extension of the ceasefire in Kashmir by the Indian Government and has called on Pakistan to use its influence with the militant groups "very soon" to halt the violence.

At the State Department, the spokesman was asked about the extension of the ceasefire, whether the peace process was moving forward or stagnating and about India's insistence on deciding which of the Kashmiri leaders should go to Pakistan for talks.

On the extension of the ceasefire, the spokesman Mr. Richard Boucher, said, "Certainly we think it's a good thing. We welcome the announcement by the Indian Government. This followed on earlier steps, positive steps that we have seen from both India and Pakistan. We believe the peace process would be greatly enhanced if the Kashmiri militant groups responded positively to India's

announcement by taking steps to halt the violence. We would encourage all the parties to take initiatives to reduce violence and foster peace to end the conflict in Kashmir".

The spokesman said that he did not have any ideas on what the composition of the delegation to the talks should be. "... our general view has been that all the groups, that everybody involved should halt the violence and be involved in the process, that the Government of Pakistan as well should use its influence with the militant groups very soon to halt the violence", Mr. Boucher said.

EU hails decision

PTI reports from New Delhi:

The European Union (EU) today welcomed the extension of ceasefire by India and hoped there would be an "encouraging response" from Pakistan to pave way for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue.

'Kashmir only hurdle': Page 13

Vijayaraje passes away

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, JAN. 25. The senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader, Vijayaraje Scindia — popularly known as "Rajmata" — died here early this morning after a prolonged illness.

Ailing from meningitis and other medical complications, the "Rajmata" was admitted to the Apollo Hospital on January 2. She breathed her last at about 3.20 a.m., doctors said. She had been in deep coma for the past few days.

She is survived by three daughters — Ms. Usha, the Union Minister, Ms. Vasundhara, and Ms. Yasodhara — and a son, the senior Congress leader, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia. The last rites will be performed at her Jai Vilas Palace in Gwalior on January 27, family sources said.

The Rajmata's body was taken to Gwalior by a special plane later in the afternoon from her Scindia Villa residence here, where it was kept for a couple of hours for people to pay their respects.

Besides Mr. Scindia, Ms. Vasundhara, her two sisters and immediate family members, the Union Home Minister Mr. L.K.



Advani, who was among the first few to rush to the hospital on hearing about her death, accompanied the body from New

Delhi to Gwalior.

Her body was taken from Apollo Hospital to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences where embalming was done. From there, her body was taken to Scindia Villa, where the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, the Vice-President, Mr. Krishan Kant, the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, and the Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, were among the first to pay floral tributes.

Vijayaraje was one of the leading figures of the BJP and the erstwhile Jan Sangh. She was the vice-president, when the BJP was formed in 1980, and continued to hold the post till her health received a setback a couple of years ago. She formed the core group of the party and played a leading role in the decision-making process.

Obit, tributes on Page 13

THE HINDU

26 JAN 2003

India, Britain discuss terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 23. India and Britain have concluded the first meeting of their Joint Working Group (JWG) on international terrorism and its nexus with drug trafficking.

The delegation from the Indian side was led by the Joint-Secretary (West Europe), Ms. Bhaswati Mukherjee, while the British side was headed by the Director, Security, in the British Foreign Office, Mr. William Ehrman. The decision to set up a JWG was taken during the visit to Britain by the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani.

Visa for Dubai fête

DUBAI, JAN. 23. Indians holding the International Visa credit card can get a visiting visa to Dubai through the Emirate Airlines during the Dubai Shopping Festival 2001 beginning March 1.

"Indian shoppers are very crucial and important to us and we are very pleased to offer this special facility to allow Indians to visit Dubai," the CEO of the festival, Mr. Hussain Ali Lootah, said.

The visa, valid for 60 days including exit day, would cost \$ 45 a passport, he said. — PTI

THE HINDU

24 JAN 2001

Terrorists' bombs kill 9 in J&K

Blast bid on
Jammu NC
head office

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
AND AGENCIES

SRINAGAR/JAMMU, Jan. 21.

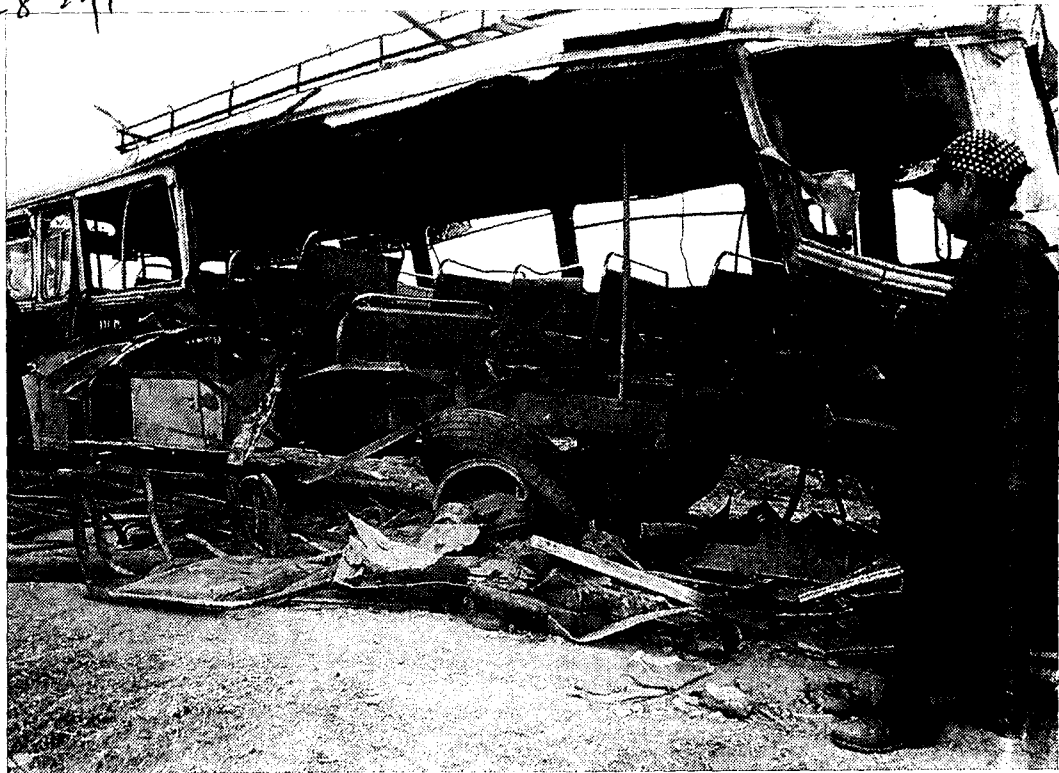
— Militants today blew up a government bus and targeted a security vehicle, killing nine people and injuring 41 in Jammu and Kashmir. Pakistan-backed militants also exploded a bomb just outside the National Conference headquarters in Jammu this morning.

A State Road Transport Corporation bus, carrying civilians and Armymen, was blown up in a landmine explosion near Kreeri at Pattan in Baramulla district around 10 a.m., killing six passengers and injuring 19, an official spokesman said.

The dead included two of the 10 soldiers travelling in the bus from their Watergam camp to Pattan. The injured — 11 civilians and eight Armymen — were admitted to hospitals where the condition of most of them was reportedly critical. About 20 kg of RDX was used to blow up the bus on its way to Pattan from from Kaw-check village, the spokesman said.

In Jammu, militants planted an explosive device in a municipality dustbin outside the Sher-Kashmir Bhavan in Residency Road, the NC headquarters in the winter capital.

Though there were no casualties, the impact of the blast was so powerful that window panes of nearby houses were shattered, SRTC buses suffered damage, and a few



The mangled remains of the bus blown up by militants at Kreeri in Baramulla on Sunday. — PTI

buildings developed cracks.

Soon after the blast at 7 a.m., police covered the area and a search operation was started but no arrests were made.

Another grenade explosion in Pulwama town killed two civilians and a policeman, and injured 19 people, including two policemen. The grenade was hurled towards a security patrol, but it missed the target and exploded on a busy road, causing the civilian casualties, the spokesman said.

Another group of terrorists attacked an Indo-Tibetan Border Police camp and gunned down two surrendered militants in the Kashmir valley where police repulsed attacks by ultras on their posts and a

bridge since last evening.

An official spokesman said the militants fired two rifle grenades towards the ITBP camp at Gazigund, some 80 km from here on the Srinagar-Jammu National Highway around 8.45 a.m.

Police killed six militants in Arnia, Jammu, this afternoon. **Alert:** A red alert has been sounded in the state following Intelligence inputs that Pak-sponsored militants are bent on disrupting peace process and may strike in a big way on the Republic Day.

Though the security had been intensified in Jammu in the last week of December following the reports that the four Lashkar militants, involved in

the Red Fort shootout, had sneaked into the area, emphasis had now been laid on security in Srinagar city.

All entry points to Srinagar are being constantly monitored and vehicles regularly frisked along with the commuters.

Police said more barricades have been erected on roads leading to Srinagar. Police have got reports that the Jamaiat-ul-Mujahideen with the help of the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba may carry out attacks on Republic Day.

The main venue for Republic Day celebrations in Jammu — Maulana Azad Stadium — has been declared out of bounds for everybody, including journalists.

THE STATESMAN

22 JAN 2001

SIX MILITANTS, FOUR JAWANS AMONG 12 KILLED

Lashkar bid to storm Srinagar airport foiled

By Shujaat Bukhari

JAMMU, JAN. 16. Twelve persons, including six Lashkar-e-Taiba *fi-dayeen* (suicide squad) members, and four CRPF jawans were killed in a fierce gunfight at the gate of the highly-guarded Srinagar airport this afternoon. The attack, first major strike of the year, was another attempt by the Lashkar to storm the airport on the outskirts of the State capital after a similar bid was foiled on January 7.

Reports said that a stolen jeep of the State Forest Department (JKC 7538) halted some distance from the airport's main gate around 2.45 p.m. Immediately, six heavily-armed militants in police uniforms alighted and began firing at personnel of the CRPF's 8th battalion manning the gate, 1 km from the main complex. The militants had followed a Minister's car going to the airport.

The CRPF jawans returned the fire killing two militants instantly. The others sped to a shopping complex nearby. Two militants continued firing from there while the others reached another gate, closer to the airport, and engaged the security forces there. All the four militants were killed in the battle. By then, at least 20 persons including two civilians had faced the brunt of the firing.

Official sources, however, said the six militants were killed at the first gate itself. The operation ended around 5.30 p.m., police said. The Minister of State for Home, Mr. Mushtaq Ahmed Lone, told *The Hindu* that 11 persons, six of them militants, three CRPF jawans and two civilians, were killed and 13 injured. "The security forces have successfully foiled the militants' attempt to storm the airport." Late in the evening, police sources confirmed the death of four CRPF jawans taking the toll to 12. Three women constables and nine jawans of the CRPF and a State police constable are being treated at the Air Force hospital.

Just 10 minutes after the attack, a Lashkar spokesman telephoned the local news agency CNS and claimed responsibility. He said four of the six militants were in-



Security forces rushing towards the Srinagar airport after Lashkar-e-Taiba militants attempted to storm the complex on Tuesday. — Photo: Nissar Ahmad

involved in the January 7 attack. He identified the militants as Abu Ubaida Tariq, Abu Hanzal, Abu Abdullah, Abu Abdullah Sayaf, Abu Khubaib and Abu Osama, all said to be Pakistani nationals.

Soon after the incident, security

was further tightened at sensitive installations in the city. The Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, along with the Director-General of Police, Mr. Ashok K. Suri, rushed to the spot.

Talking to reporters later, Dr.

Abdullah said such attacks would not deter the Government from the task of restoring peace. (According to a PTI report, Dr. Abdullah later left for New Delhi to apprise the Centre of the situation).

Concern, not panic

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 16. Notwithstanding the seriousness of the attack by militants on the Srinagar airport complex, the Centre has reasons to be satisfied with the response of the security forces, which by evening had managed to kill all the six members of the Lashkar-e-Taiba suicide squad. Asserting that there was no "security lapse", those in know of the "operation" at Srinagar, believe that the CRPF personnel did a "splendid job" in responding to the attack.

In fact, while there was a sense of concern, there was no panic among senior policy-makers. The Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, did not deem it necessary to make any change in his travel plans to Mumbai. The "review" was only at the official level.

However, the officials were suggesting that after today's failed attempt at the Srinagar airport complex, those wanting to reconsider the peace-process would gain an upper hand. In any case, there is bound to be further delay in taking a decision about granting passports to the Hurriyat delegation wanting to go to Pakistan.

'Reprehensible' says Brajesh Mishra

PTI reports:

The Government tonight termed as "reprehen-

sible" the abortive bid by militants to storm the Srinagar airport and accused Pakistan of failing to rein in terrorists operating from its territory and sabotaging the peace process in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The attack is reprehensible," the National Security Adviser, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, said adding, "while India is trying for peace, Pakistan is not reining in the militant groups and sabotaging the peace efforts."

PTI reports from Srinagar:

The J&K police had prior specific information that militants would carry out an attack on Srinagar airport, the State Director-General of Police, Mr. A.K. Suri, said today.

"We had specific information that the militant group would be indulging in a Fidayeen attack. So we had erected additional barriers leading to the airport and ensured that militants did not get past them," he told Star News.

Mr. Suri said the 16-year-old girl who was killed in the gun battle between security forces and militants near the airport was suspected to be an associate of the ultras.

"There are suspicions that she may be an associate of the militants because she was noticed travelling in the area three times." However, police were investigating the matter, he said.

THE HINDU

17 JAN 2001

SOMETIMES, a more frightening mutual enemy can drive two enemies to each other's arms. Perhaps the rising of a new horror inspired the recent peace parleys, glimmering bleakly like the winter sun over the mountains and valleys of Jammu and Kashmir.

With the exploding growth of terrorist groups like Lashkar-i-Taiyaba ("Army of the Pure"), perhaps both Atal Behari Vajpayee and General Pervez Musharraf sense the new Frankenstein monster now threatening to run amok in two countries.

Perhaps both the embittered nations, particularly Pakistan, sense time is skating on thin ice. The Lashkar-i-Taiyaba variety of monsters tends to go the scripted way of other engineered monsters. Like Bhindranwale's ghost devouring Indira Gandhi, they tend to first live off and then destroy their creator.

So, Pakistan has reasons to feel nervous. The Lashkar-i-Taiyaba is spinning out of Gen. Musharraf's control. Hounded by a doomed economy, psychopathic fanatics masquerading as religious leaders, and his nation's tradition of replacing one military dictator with the next, the perspiring General may have felt the heat hot enough to try cool things along the LAC.

That his army even announced a pull-out recently from the

Frankenstein monsters and thin ice

border was significant enough, whether it actually happened or not. That Mr Vajpayee hasn't ruled out meeting his shaky counterpart in neutral territory was significant enough, whether he actually does so or not. The factors that force an event are often more telling than the event.

At this point in history, Indo-Pakistani peace parleys are destined to go the same indeterminate way as the preceding peace pow-wows. The radical and lunatic fringes on both sides ensure that. But keep squeezing the factor, and who knows, some magic may flow out of the event.

One factor, the economic numbers, is old hat. In 1998, the Pokhran year, India spent two per cent of its \$469 billion GDP on defence. Pakistan spent about five per cent of its \$61 billion GDP on defence, including an army hardly half the size of the 1.1 million-personnel Indian Army.

With an increasing foreign debt, a failed economy and a hungry army, Pakistan stares starkly at a bankrupt future.

India, according to estimates, has nearly half a million troops in Kashmir. It can't afford the



Arrested militants of the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba in Srinagar on 7 January. Inset: General Pervez Musharraf. — AP/PTI

costs of a few hundred crores in rupees daily and neither can it afford the inevitable negative backlash such a massive army presence has on the local population. For Pakistan, the terrorist groups it aids and abets are a nice cheap way of keeping a huge chunk of the Indian Army tied down and bleeding in Kashmir.

Now a new kid on the block is changing those old equations. With a recent series of terrorist strikes, the Lashkar-i-Taiyaba is emerging quickly with a different dimension of threat. For one, it doesn't depend on Pakistan for funding. Money from non-governmental organisations in West Asia and anonymous contributions through the Internet has reportedly bloated this group's belly to the extent it is now reportedly considering opening its own bank. It's Jihad Inc, on a new high.

For over a decade, Pakistan has nurtured and fed a host of mercenary groups rendered jobless after the Russians pulled out of Afghanistan. Prominent Kashmir-based groups like the Hizbul Mujahideen were born out of parent groups like Maulana Abdul A'la Maududi's Jamat-e-Islami that were partly sponsored by Pakistan.

With the recent rise of further offsprings like the Lashkar-i-Taiyaba and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, the centre of power gravity shifted out of Kashmir into Pakistan.

Now Pakistan is increasingly finding there are two sides to the anti-India sword it created. The biggest backlash is coming from the new wave of religious schools or madrasas that are sprouting in hundreds all over Pakistan. In a country with a 40 per cent illiteracy rate, these madrasas provide not just free education, but free food, housing and clothing. According to *Foreign Affairs*, the journal of the American Council of Foreign Affairs,

A dangerous new dimension of terrorism makes the current peace parleys on Kashmir a window both India and Pakistan cannot afford to shut, writes
RAJA M

some madrasas funded by the Sunni political party Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) reportedly even pay parents for sending their children.

These madrasas teach only their version of the Quran. They don't teach mathematics, science or any form of secular education. The result is a brainwashed product that thinks life is best spent in losing it in a jihad. Gen. Musharraf recently wanted the world to distinguish between a jihad and terrorism.

But first, he may have to distinguish between the genuine meaning of jihad and the psychopathic version of it. Islamic scholars say the real jihad, meaning "striving for justice", actually means the inner striving to purify the self.

Blowing up innocent children to bits or tossing hand grenades into crowds isn't part of any religion, except the perverted version of it as practised by the likes of the Lashkar-i-Taiyaba.

Now the religion angle is becoming unwanted baggage in the emerging version of jihad. Researchers studying the terrorist groups are reporting a dangerous new mindset. Kashmir is now becoming irrelevant.

Brainwashed youth are now admitting they are addicted to jihad and they won't stop even if India gives up Kashmir. Their

new Holy Grail is Islamising South Asia, starting with a Taliban-style regime in Pakistan. Gen. Musharraf has good reason to feel nervous. Out of the estimated 40,000 to 50,000 madrasas in Pakistan, only about 4,300 are registered with the Pakistani government. The others are free radicals running loose, promoting and celebrating martyrdom. Any funeral of a youth killed in Jammu and Kashmir becomes a major public event, with honours and rewards bestowed on the surviving family.

The other aspect is economic, with Jihad Inc booming. Money flowing in is making jihad the fastest growing home business in Pakistan. A mid-level operative in the Lashkar-i-Taiyaba reportedly earns about Rs 15,000 a month, several times more than the average monthly Pakistani income.

The net result is that Gen. Musharraf is now beginning to feel the control levers fast slipping out of his hand. One immediate fallout is the radicals turning on minority groups like the Shias, also clubbed in the infidels' category, and turning Pakistan into a blood bath of sectarian violence that's already beginning to burst around that country. Maybe the General won't be taking bus rides to New Delhi. But he knows it's time to talk. The question is how strategically India can use the current situation.

On the one hand, a Taliban-like Pakistan with nuclear weapons ability is a not-to-be ignored nightmare. On the other hand, like others before him, the General is only using talks with India to play for time, play to the donors in the West his country so desperately needs, and for his own survival. He knows as well as his counterparts in India that signing any peace accord with India means signing his own

exit warrant. The time may have come for the General and his army to have very little or no control over the maniacs they have unleashed. Even if very little or no tangible results emerge from any peace talks with Pakistan, Mr Vajpayee and Co, may have reached a situation in time when they have to play out the charade.

The Pakistanis respect him, see him as a statesman and distinguish him from RSS rabble-rousers. Maybe the talks

will not reach the flurry of diplomatic activity, also ultimately futile, that happened from May 1997, paused after Pokhran, and resumed from October 1998 until the historical bus ride to Lahore in February 1999.

But it may have to be seen through like a ritual, to pull the situation back from skating on thin ice.

The Kashmir conundrum might take many more generations to be ultimately solved. But these little windows, that pop open from time to time, are little openings to the future. They cannot be ignored. Maybe it's time to pick up that phone Mr Vajpayee.

(The author is a freelance writer.)

THE STATESMAN

16 JAN 21

Moral low ground

THE SHOCKING part of the grenade attack on a gathering in Srinagar on Sunday in which Farooq Abdullah had a narrow escape is not that it actually happened. After the attack on Red Fort and a series of other acts of violence since the Prime Minister's announcement of a unilateral cease-fire in Kashmir, it was expected that the subversives would be looking for a high profile target. What is disturbing is that it was not one of the foreign-funded groups such as the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba that did it, but a group that is one of the main militant interlocutors in the proposed dialogue that the Hurriyat leaders are itching to initiate. Shortly after the grenade attack in downtown Srinagar, the Hizbul phoned an AFP correspondent in Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, claiming responsibility for the act. Worse still, they have threatened that they will continue to treat the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister as a target in the days to come. *RG 10 161*

The incident raises the question whether this Pakistan-based group, which holds a prominent position among the armed outfits spawned with Islamabad's backing, is genuinely interested in talks at all. Irrespective of the many failings of Mr Abdullah's Government, the fact remains that in any discussion on the future of Kashmir, he remains a crucial factor. Besides, he is the elected head of the state Government. It's true that the 1996 Assembly elections that sent him to office were not held in the best of conditions, but that exercise was still better than what has been happening in the PoK. As for the Hurriyat leaders, they have yet to seek an endorsement of their claim to leadership through a popular vote. Moreover, in any engagement seeking to evolve a way out of the current impasse, all groups and leaders have a right to be consulted.

Just because some outfit flaunts the gun, it does not give it a natural right to silence others who have a different position on Kashmir. This militates against the idea of a democratic solution. Ironically, even while the grenade attack was on, Hizbul chief Salahuddin was telling an interviewer in Islamabad that he wanted to see more "tangible proof" of New Delhi's sincerity behind the cease-fire offer. The sheer temerity of this position is amazing. Here is a group that continues to persist with its murderous attacks, and still wants to appropriate for itself a moral high ground. The brazenness of it all will make even the Hurriyat leaders feel the awkwardness of the mission they seem set to undertake.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 JAN 2001

Farooq escapes attack a day after talking tough

The Times of India News Service

SRINAGAR: Militants made an abortive attempt on the life of Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah on Sunday. Two rifle grenades were fired at the venue of the function the CM was attending, official sources said. No one was injured in the attack.

The Hizbul Mujahideen has claimed responsibility for the attack. Inspector-general of police A.K. Bhan told *The Times of India News Service* the militants fired the grenades at the newly-constructed Haba Kadal bridge while the CM was addressing a gathering after inaugurating the bridge about 12.30 p.m. The grenades were fired from the Khanyar side in downtown Srinagar. While one grenade fell into the Jhelum, the other exploded in the air, 200 metres from the venue, the I-G said.

Security forces in the area fired several warning shots in the air after the attack. The function, which was disrupted for a short while, resumed and the CM continued his speech.

Undeterred by the attack, Mr Abdullah said he work for his objective to restore peace in Kashmir undeterred by "bullets and bombs". Mr Abdullah is one of the 12 VIPs who have been provided with "Z-Plus" security cover in the country. The attack has come barely 20 hours after the CM said the police had been ordered to kill militants wherever they were. "I do not want to fill the jails," he had told a meeting at Rafiabad in Baramulla district on Saturday.

The solution to the Kashmir problem lies in the restoration of autonomy to the state and the conversion of the Line of Control into a soft international border so people on both sides can move about freely, he said. "This will allow the people of the state to visit Pakistan and PoK and see for themselves the plight of the people living there," he said.

Hurriyat's breakthrough must be in Delhi: Hizb

By Siddharth Varadarajan
The Times of India News Service

RAWALPINDI: Even as the much tom-tommed visit to Pakistan by a delegation of the All Party Hurriyat Conference is yet to take off, Hizbul Mujahideen chief Syed Salahuddin has questioned its utility saying "the real place (for the Hurriyat leaders) to make a breakthrough is Delhi".

In his first extensive interview to an Indian newspaper since the ceasefire announcement, he told *The Times of India* that he wanted to see tangible proof "of the Vajpayee government's sincerity" before he considered entering into any kind of political process with Delhi. Even if the APHC leaders made certain peace proposals that had Delhi's blessings, Salahuddin said he would not be inclined to accept these unless they were backed up by actual changes in official policy.

"Hava mein koi cheez qubool nahin karenge (We need to be convinced about the sincerity of the offer before accepting it). Unless we see that the process has started, we cannot trust the Indian government."

He said the Hurriyat's visit was the result of Pakistan's positive response to India's cease-fire: "There has been a significant de-escalation along the Line of Control and now the Musharraf regime has invited the APHC to come here. My wish is that India grant them the necessary travel documents, but I don't see any benefit of them coming here unless there is some breakthrough in India first. I don't see what they will achieve by talking to us."

Z MAN WALKING



Minutes before the attack in Srinagar

PM's Chinese menu

BALI: Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee has said that India will manage its ties with China in the context of the present era, where old tensions and conflicts are giving way to newer relationships. Mr Vajpayee, who is scheduled to meet Chinese leader Li Peng on Monday, said efforts to resolve the border dispute were

THE TIMES OF INDIA

15 JAN 2001

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The empire strikes

FINALLY NEMESIS seems about to catch up with the U.K.-based expatriate terrorist groups who have, for years, abused British hospitality and exploited legal loopholes to export terrorism abroad. Beginning next month, however, life for self-proclaimed "mujahideen" and other extremist elements should become a lot more difficult as a new Act seeks to seal their conventional escape routes. The Terrorism Act 2000 which comes into force in mid-February radically redefines terrorism to include activities of such organisations that until now have managed to stay beyond the pale of the law by masquerading as religious or human rights movements.

For the first time, the police would have the powers to crack down on groups suspected to be using religion or political victimisation as a cover for carrying out activities that can be construed as a conspiracy against another country. At present, no questions are asked if an organisation is not in breach of domestic laws but once the new Act is in place actions directed against the "public of a country other than U.K." would also be deemed to be an offence. The definition of what constitutes a conspiratorial act has also been broadened to include fundraising, organising meetings and recruiting volunteers. It would not be enough for an association to claim that it is raising money or recruiting activists for a religious or a "just" political cause; once it is suspected of using the money or activists for conspiring against another country the onus of proving its innocence would be on the organisation or individual concerned.

If a group is classified as a terrorist body it would be proscribed, and anyone found to be associating themselves with it would be liable to prosecution. Mobilising support for a proscribed organisation or even attending a meeting which it is known would be addressed by a member of a banned organisation would be an offence.

The Act has a very comprehensive list of grounds which would be deemed to constitute an offence, and amount to an act of terrorism. It is by far the most stringent anti-terrorism legislation and has been compared to the tough American laws against terrorism. The British Government, which has faced criticism for being

Nemesis seems about to catch up with expatriate terrorist groups who have for years abused British hospitality. HASAN SUROOR on the U.K.'s Terrorism Act 2000.

"soft" on expatriate extremists, has decided to take off the gloves and made it clear that it is determined to ensure that Britain is not used as a safe haven by terrorist organisations. Indian diplomats in Britain have welcomed it describing it as a "step in the right direction." They expect that it would lead to more "robust" extradition procedures.

India, along with Sri Lanka, have borne the brunt of Britain's hitherto liberal anti-terrorism regime, and there is clearly a view, though not

each case. On the basis of information supplied by countries which are victims of extremism, the British Government would prepare a list of potentially mischievous outfits and watch their activities in terms of the scope of the new act.

Even if, in coming months, everything does not work entirely to the satisfaction of all one thing is certain: the big holiday enjoyed by groups such as Jaish Mohammed and Al Mahajiroun with links stretching back to Pakistan is over. Not

out? Or would procedural niceties allow them to get away with it? Britain has long experience of fighting terrorism in Northern Ireland but soon it might realise that dealing with backroom terrorists — trying to pass themselves off as victims of political persecution by "intolerant" regimes in their own countries — is perhaps more difficult than tackling hands-on gunmen. The task becomes more difficult when ethnic and racial sensitivities come into play as happens to be the case with expatriate extremists. The authorities would need to tread very cautiously to avoid charges of racism which are bound to be hurled at them as they start pursuing non-white offenders.

It is a paradox that Britain, despite its deep-seated conservatism, has a long



THE TERRORISM ACT 2000

The most significant element of the new Act is that it removes the distinction between actions aimed against the British Government and foreign Governments. The following are some of the other salient features:

- ✎ Fundraising and recruitment of volunteers are activities liable to be construed as aiding and abetting terrorism
- ✎ The definition of 'conspiracy' would be extended to include a number of activities at present beyond the pale of the law.
- ✎ The use of threat for the purpose of advancing a political, religious or ideological cause will come under the ambit of terrorism.
- ✎ Any group which "commits or participates in acts of terrorism" or "promotes or encourages terrorism" will be proscribed.
- ✎ Any individual who has any direct or indirect association with a proscribed organisation would be deemed to have committed an offence.
- ✎ The scope of association extends to attending a meeting of any leader or member of a proscribed organisation.

Graphics by: K.G. Rana; arajan

officially articulated, that a more stringent law was overdue.

Several West Asian countries including Saudi Arabia and Egypt had also complained of Britain's "lenient" approach and pressure had been building up on the British Government to take a tougher line. To some extent, the success of the Act would depend on the ability of the "targeted" countries to convince the British authorities of their case against organisations or individuals they suspect to be running terrorist networks. India is likely to work closely with Britain in identifying anti-India terrorist groups though eventually it would be for the British Government to determine independently the nature of

every organisation engaged in exporting violence may be nailed immediately but the fact that they would know they are being watched is likely to serve as a deterrent. The Act comes amid reports that militants operating out of Britain have stepped up their activities and in recent weeks Muslim extremists have been publicly talking about their "achievements."

It would be interesting to see how the new law affects men like Sheikh Omar Bakri Mohammed who have publicly proclaimed their commitment to terrorism in the name of fighting "jihad." For instance would the Government take *suo motu* notice of their public pronouncements and flush them

tradition of playing host to radical activists of different hues ranging from the extreme Left to the decadent Right.

The fact that the world's most famous revolutionary, Karl Marx, is buried here shows how far back the tradition stretches, not to mention Lenin's long and eventful association with Britain in the build-up to the Bolshevik Revolution.

Meanwhile, even as the Terrorism Act is to be welcomed, it is a pity that a land where "gentlemen" radicals could once seek refuge and quietly pursue their affairs is now lost to hired killers masquerading as religious warriors. Gooybye, Karl Marx, hello Mohammed Bakri.

Terrorism poses threat to Asia: PM

Jay Raina

Hanoi (Vietnam), January 8

HC-13

INDIA AND Vietnam are to strengthen their collaboration in defence, especially in the training of their military personnel in each other's countries. This was revealed here this evening by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee while addressing a joint Press conference with his Vietnamese counterpart Phan Van Khai. Replying to a pointed query over reports of Indian forces being trained here in "jungle warfare", Mr Vajpayee stated that it was an ongoing programme. However, he did not elaborate further on the issue.

Significantly, in his banquet speech later in the evening, the Prime Minister made a pointed reference to the recognition of two countries to the challenges impinging upon the "security of Asia, stemming from terrorism, religious extremism and subversive and separatist activities."

The issue of cross-border terrorism is also understood to have come up for detailed discussions during the formal meeting of the two Prime Ministers this morning. According to a senior Indian official, the discussions that were spread out to over ninety minutes were comprehensive covering a large gamut of bilateral relations including greater collaboration in the areas of peaceful uses of nuclear energy, oil and natural gas exploration and agriculture. India and Vietnam also signed three agreements on the extension of the Cultural Exchange programme, utilisation of Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes and greater

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cooperation in travel and tourism. Mr Vajpayee's remarks regarding training of Indian troops in jungle warfare comes close on the heels of Vietnam's unambiguous stance over New Delhi's stand on Kashmir. New Delhi is understood to have shown interest in "jungle warfare" training in the light of considerable experience gained by the Vietnamese troops during their decades-long combat with the US troops.

On his part, the Vietnam Prime Minister reiterated his country's support to India's claim to a permanent seat in the expanded UN Security Council, besides membership in all the important economic and political fora of the region.

In his banquet speech, Mr Khai sought New Delhi's help in software technology given the emergence of India as a major power in this frontier technology. Significantly, the MoU on peaceful uses of nuclear energy commits India to continuing collaboration with Vietnam in the training of its scientists and exploration and exploitation of uranium. India has offered Vietnam assistance in the form of equipment for a nuclear science laboratory at Dalat. To be set up with the Vietnamese investment component of 200,000 US dollars, Hanoi expects India to chip in with at least an assistance of 400,000 US dollars in the form of grant by way of equipment and other inter-related back-up.

Even as India's dialogue partnership with ASEAN came up for discussions between the two Prime Ministers and their subsequent talks at the delegation level, New Delhi is reported to have offered massive help in the modernisation of Vietnam's IT-sector.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

9 JAN 2001

WEB OF TERROR

The Taliban are fuelling a series of extremist movements in Central Asia

BY ANURADHA CHENYOY

Extrémism fuelled by the Afghan Taliban movement continues to spread across the post-Soviet countries and beyond. Chechnya, Dagestan and the North Caucasus in Russia, the Fergana Valley region in Uzbekistan, bordering Kirgizia and the mountainous regions of Tajikistan, are all facing Islamic insurgencies that threaten the region. The Uigar secessionist movement in the Xinjiang-Uigar autonomous area of China and the terrorist movement in Kashmir have links with this region. How big is this threat and are the moves to counter this threat adequate?

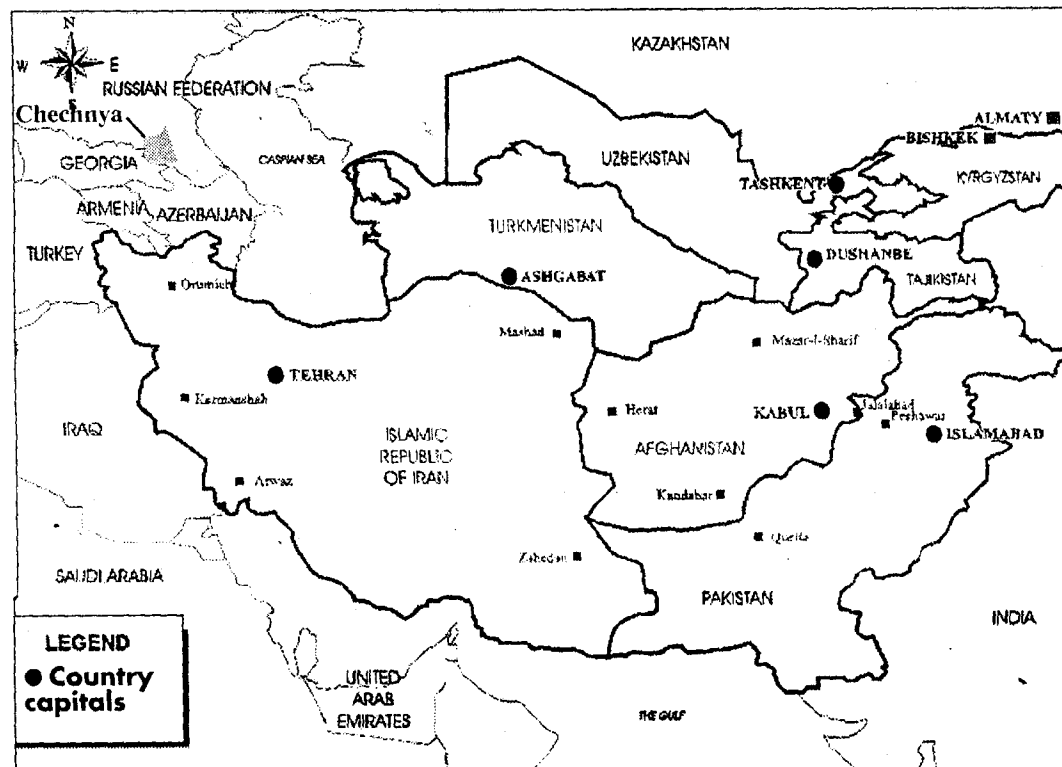
The Afghan *mujahideens* have played a pro-active role in almost all conflicts that have involved Islamic forces in the post-Soviet countries. In the Nineties, the government of Azerbaijan asked the Afghan *mujahideens* for help against Armenian forces in the Nagorno-Karabakh region. It is at this point that the Arab militant Khattab entered Baku. Chechen rebels including their leader Shamil Basayev participated in this fight with the Afghans, and General Jokhar Dudayev the leader of the Chechen rebellion who became President, established contacts with them.

Plane loads of militants were brought in from Afghanistan between 1990 and 1994 and return flights took Chechens to training camps near Kunduz and Taloqan that also served as bases for the Tajik as well as the Uzbek Opposition and rebels, who had been pushed out by the Russian Army from Tajikistan. The Tajik rebels established contacts with the Chechens and the militant Khattab, who joined the Tajik Opposition for some time, before going to the Balkans.

In Tajikistan, a civil war between the Islamic Opposition and the ex-Communists led to over 100,000 Tajik refugees taking shelter in North Afghanistan. These refugees were repatriated, but the Islamic Opposition established connections with the Taliban movement. Despite support from Moscow, the Tajik President has little control of regions beyond the capital. Extremist leader Juma Namangani's detachments have been launching attacks on him from the mountainous regions.

As President Islam Karimov outlawed Islamic groups in Uzbekistan, its members fled to Tajikistan and then to Afghanistan. Taliban territory is now used as a training ground for Chechen and Uzbek extremists, who plan to penetrate areas of Kirgizia and Uzbekistan and create an Islamic state in Fergana Valley. Small groups of fighters engage Kirgiz border guards and Uzbek forces. Linked with the extremists are Islamic rebels in Kirgizia's Osh region.

Armed units of the Islamic Taliban movement have been pushing back the Northern Alliance, whose leadership includes



A map of South-Central Asia which is plagued by militancy

deposed Afghan leaders like Rabhani, Masood and Dostum. The Taliban have in the last few months, claimed towns like Taloqan and Hajaghar barely 20 kilometres from the Tajik border that is guarded by over 10,000 Russian troops. The threat is further increased because the rebel fighters of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) are assisted by the Taliban who consider them brothers in arms. These groups are persistently building a corridor from Tajikistan through Kirgizia's Batken region, that will give them access to Tashkent where the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan is increasing its control. This Afghan military expansion is taking place against the backdrop of the worst drought in 30 years in its southern and northern parts.

Reports from the Central Asian and Russian press indicate that a centre for training militants for these regions functions from Kandahar. Among its trainees are Chechens, Central Asians and the Uigurs. The radical wing of the Uigar movement is connected with the Islamic groups in Central Asia. And they feel the route to independence can come through Afghanistan and Fergana.

The Taliban are concentrating some of their armed detachments at the Uzbek and Tajik borders but the Afghans are clear that an armed invasion of Central Asian Republics (CARs) would be disastrous. Pakistan gets implicated with the Taliban movement

Reports from Central Asian and Russian press indicate that a centre for training militants for these regions functions from Kandahar. Among its trainees are Chechens, Central Asians and the Uigurs. The radical wing of the Uigar movement is connected with the Islamic groups in Central Asia. And they feel the route to independence can come through Afghanistan and Fergana

because the Taliban roots go back to the *madrassa* students trained there. These students emerged as armed detachments, escorting caravans travelling from Pakistan to Turkmenia. Moreover, Pakistan continues to retain the concept of *Jihad* (holy war) as part of its security paradigm.

The states facing threats from extremist movements have taken some steps to counter these. President Islam Karimov who so far had

stayed away from close alliances with Moscow has understood the problem and done a turnaround in favour of a collective security treaty, and has called neighbouring states to pool in their efforts and appeal for Moscow's military assistance. Russia alone can unite the Central Asian leaders and neutralise their relapses of unlimited sovereignty or personal conflicts. The former quarrels between the Kirgiz and Uzbeks have been put aside to coordinate actions against terrorist threats. Joint military groupings have been set up.

The Central Asia Economic Community (CAEC) signed an agreement to coordinate efforts in combating extremism. The Uigar problem has brought China into the picture and the Shanghai 5 (China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizia and Tajikistan) was created to deal with border problems. But this agreement has already outgrown its mandate and the Shanghai 5 along with Uzbekistan (which does not share a border with China) have to work on the challenge of extremism. Russia and India set up a joint working group to specifically monitor problems of cross-border terrorism in October, after Putin's India visit.

Does this mean that CARs, Russia and China will support the Northern Alliance of Masood against the Taliban? Moscow is certainly keen to do so, but any direct support to the Alliance is

unlikely, especially since it goes against the United Nation's resolution banning military supplies to armed groups in Afghanistan.

Moreover, as is evident, Taliban and extremism are only part of the problem. And if security for this region is restricted to military operations against the extremists, the crisis can only continue. Economic deprivation, political oppression and ethnic mobilisation also play significant roles in these rebellions. For example, Fergana Valley has a tangle of problems. High levels of youth unemployment are pushing young, inexperienced people towards these movements. Some reports claim that 70 per cent of local residents support Islamic extremists.

In Uzbekistan, the President has evolved a highly authoritarian system and suppressed all political opposition. In these conditions, the Islamic parties are seen as the only opposition to the regime. In Chechnya, an ultra-chauvinist militant nationalism based on Islam was constructed on the memories of the Chechen deportation to Kazakhstan during the time of Stalin, and the future of a greater Chechen nation. This helped the Dudayev regime overcome inter-clan hostility by mobilising people on this platform. Instead of exposing Chechen ultra-nationalism, their violation of the Constitution and choking off Dudayev's support base. Russia resorted to military tactics that caused massive civilian casualties through an indiscriminate use of military power. The slaughter on both sides started the vicious circle of vengeful killing on both sides, making the disengagement of Russian troops difficult. The bitter war fought between the Chechen rebels and Moscow between 1994 and 1996, killed 80,000 people made thousands of refugees. The expenditure incurred by the war was estimated at \$4.5 billion, much of which was misused from an IMF loan by Moscow. The first Chechen president, Dzhokhar Dudayev, was killed during the war that refuses to end. Moscow has used the threat of Islamic fundamentalism to scuttle the issue of ethnic and minority rights.

Clearly then, movements caused by religious extremism and militant Islam are not the cause but the consequence of deeper and more tangled problems. The attempt to control extremism through military agreements cannot be the only solution. The issues of alienation, political democracy, economic rights and social justice to people will have to be simultaneously addressed. Otherwise, extremism of infinite varieties will only continue and flourish.

ANURADHA CHENYOY is a professor with the Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

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Hizb wants a full Hurriyat team

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 31. The pro-Pakistan militant outfit, Hizb-ul- Mujahideen, has insisted that if all the seven executive council members of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference did not travel to Pakistan it would be an "exercise in futility".

"If some (leaders) are allowed and some are barred (from travelling to Pakistan), it will create doubts about the Hurriyat. Rather, it can create an impression that the alliance is divided into moderate and extremist people," the Hizb's supreme commander, Syed Salahuddin, said in an interview to *The Dawn* newspaper.

Mr. Salahuddin's remarks come in the wake of reports that the travel documents to Syed Ali Shah Geelani, a hardliner in the APHC, were not being issued by New Delhi.

"I will advise the (Hurriyat) leaders to avoid a visit to Pakistan unless all of them are allowed to travel. And if all of them get permission, then they should first sit together and evolve an agenda in consensus with each other for the tour," Mr. Salahuddin said.

Our headache: Umar

In Srinagar, senior Hurriyat leader, Mirwaiz Umar

Farooq, said the Centre should issue passports to all the seven executive council members and leave the composition of the team to the Hurriyat.

"It is our headache who will go and who will not go," the Mirwaiz told a foreign radio network. "Nobody has a right to decide on our behalf."

Lashkar man admits to Chattisinghpura massacre

NEW YORK, DEC. 31. A Pakistani militant, arrested in connection with the March massacre of 35 sikhs in Chattisinghpura in Kashmir, has admitted to being a member of the attackers' team and his affiliation to the Pakistan-based Lashkar-e-Taiba outfit.

Suhail Malik of Sialkot, interviewed by a *New York Times* correspondent in an Indian prison, said he had no regrets for participating in the massacre, which coincided with the visit of the U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to India from March 20. Malik said he had opened fire because he had been ordered to do so. — PTI

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