

A giant grievously wounded



The horror of it.

AMERICA WILL never be the same again. When terrorists hit New York and Washington on September 11 they not merely struck at the economic and military symbols and might of the United States — they hit at the heart and soul of America. And the response is going to be on lines that the world has hardly seen before, if the first indications are anything to go by.

The terrorists may have picked their time and target, but the response is going to be on America's terms. And it is not going to be confined to popping one or two cruise missiles or a sporadic dropping of smart bombs at targets. In the words of many senior officials, the campaign is going to be serious and sustained.

Internationally, the Bush administration is trying to put in place a coalition of sorts, not exactly on the lines attempted at the time of the Persian Gulf showdown a decade ago. But with the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation coming out with an unprecedented statement, there is now the hope in Washington that Russia too could be talked into going the military way, should a target be identified. And the Republican administration

not simplistic. What the Bush administration has said in the last few days is that there are no two ways of looking at terrorism — you are either on the side of Washington or on the side of the terrorists.

There has been a raft of theories on who may have been behind the attacks of September 11; and Osama bin Laden's was one name that came up from the first minutes of the disaster. But investigative agencies are also looking into whether a number of terrorist cells may have come together to carry out the deadly attacks.

There is a lot of pain in America. There is a lot of anger as well. There is also a lot of apprehension in the country — that a crime perpetrated by a bunch of cowards masquerading as crusaders of a holy war should not turn into a war pitting one religion against another. And, in the midst of all this, there is also the hope that America known to be a very tolerant country will continue to stand that way in spite of the knee-jerk reactions of a small group of hicks and red-necks.

But there is no denying the magnitude of the tragedy. Forget about the symbols in New York and Washington. The fact is that

has made it known that it is not going to make a distinction between the perpetrators, those who support them and those who harbour them. Given that, a number of countries could face the wrath of America.

And if the response of Congress to what has taken place is anything to go, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, is going to get something far more than what President Lyndon Johnson got in 1964 by way of the Tonkin Gulf Resolution. When it comes to fighting terrorism nearly every law maker is going to bend over backwards to accommodate the President and for good reasons. There is the conviction, finally many would say, that terrorism has to be rooted out or "whipped", as the President might say.

The theme may be simple but

thousands of people have perished in New York alone. Both in New York and in Washington — the former especially — very few bodies have been pulled out of the rubble and thousands of limbs are just strewn around.

Right now no one is even counting the costs of bringing New York back to where it was. The skylines changed within a span of minutes, but that is not the point. At one stroke, whether it is New York or Washington, America realised not just the viciousness of the terrorists but its own vulnerability. It was fashionable to sit at conferences and talk about hypothetical terrorist attacks. The real thing happened on September 11.

For a country that is truly a leader in technology and in intelligence gathering there was all so this rude awakening — that in spite of all the resources made available, there had just been this colossal lapse leading to such a horrendous loss of life and property. The investigative agencies were quick to bounce back, but the damage had been done. There has been the initial charge that perhaps America has overinvested in technology to the point of ignoring the human angle to this whole business.

A hefty price has been paid for lax systems at airports — four planes were hijacked at three different airports and all in a single day. Compare this to the fact that

not a single hijacking had taken place in the country in the last decade or so. Critics argue that the security systems at airports are antiquated; they fault the airlines and airports for cutting costs at the expense of security.

The answers will, fall in place; but it is going to take a long time. The weeks and months to come will show not just the determination of the U.S., its allies and friends on where this fight against terrorism is going.

In all the talk of retribution, there is also the quiet and sober feeling that civilised nations think and act differently from uncivilised ones.

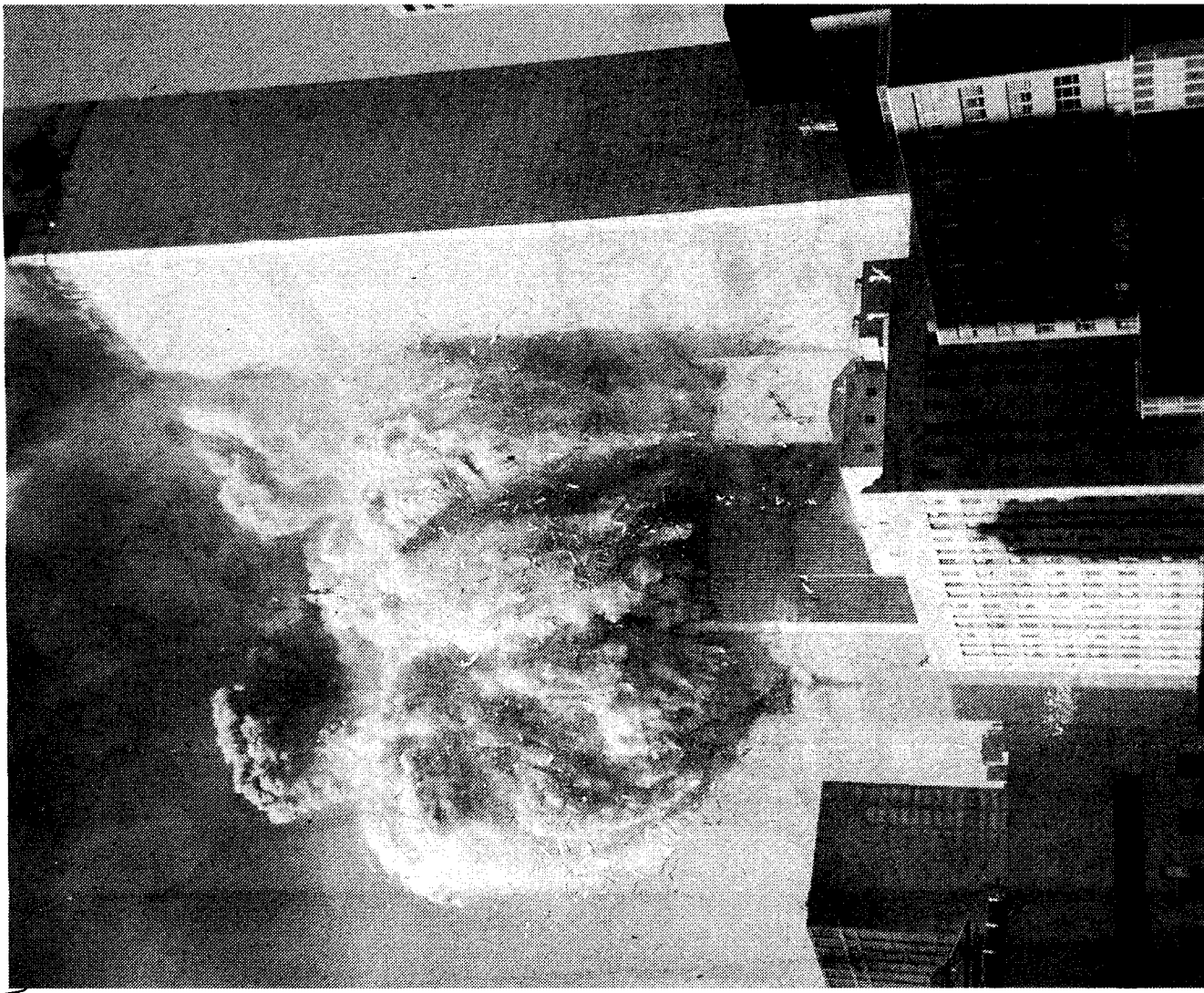
As the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, put it on Friday, a new benchmark has been set up for American foreign policy. "Willingness of a nation to support and cooperate with the U.S. is the new way of measuring the relationship and what we can do together in the future and what kind of support we can provide to you across the whole range of issues and activities," he said.

The traditional allies in Europe and Asia, after some hand wringing are likely to fall in line. The U.S. relations with Russia and China will be defined by the kind of positions the two take towards joining the international coalition against terrorism.

As the U.S. prepares to launch this new war, the greatest geopolitical changes are in store for West Asia and the Subcontinent. And this is where nations will be under the greatest stress to make choices. New sets of alliances and political equations will be formed up in the coming weeks and months.

New Delhi and Washington find themselves on the same side of the global divide for a change, and the former's unconditional support for the American war against international terrorism is likely to transform the relationship between the two.

Pakistan, on the other hand, is at a new fork in the road. It could either return to the civilised world by dismantling the infrastructure for international terrorism it has created in the last two decades. Or it could get deeper into the embrace of the jihadis, and all the unpredictable consequences inherent in that course. India should be wishing good sense will prevail in Pakistan.



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Dealing with the enemy

Homeland defence will now take precedence in the U.S., says C. Raja Mohan.

AS THE United States prepares for complete overhaul of its foreign and security policies after the terrorist assault on New York, it is struggling to come to terms with the reality that the American homeland is now vulnerable. Until now the U.S. had the extraordinary luxury of two ocean moats on either side and friendly neighbours to the North and South.

As a result, the U.S. had concentrated in dealing with the security threats arising from afar, and defining its global policies with no fear of the Continental United States coming under attack. With the homeland absolutely safe, the U.S. had huge levers and large margins of error in dealing with the world.

Now Washington must deal with an enemy who has shown the capacity to inflict a scale of punishment on America, few thought was possible without the use of weapons of mass destruction. The debate in the U.S. after the cold war about the nature of the new threat is over.

An enemy has now presented itself. The debate in future will be on crafting a strategy and creating the instruments to deal with the new challenge. The sleeping giant has been woken up, and it will mobilise resources that no great power in the past had access to. Given the new awareness of its new vulnerabilities, homeland defence will take precedence.

The debate on national missile defence will resume in this new context, after a decent interval. Both its opponents and supporters will claim the events of this week support their case. The former will argue that missile defence cannot cope with the terrorist threat and the latter will point to the real American vulnerability and call for all means, including missile defence, to secure the homeland. But the political mood in America is likely to shift in favour of the latter.

As America gears up to wage a war and defeat the new

adversaries, it is bound to be less preachy. From now on, America will be conducting a purposeful foreign policy aimed at crushing the new enemy. Every single issue will now be judged in the U.S. through the prism of counterterrorism.

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Bush asks for \$20b, Congress gives double

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 14. — Determined to show a united front, Congress moved with uncommon speed toward approving \$40 billion to combat terrorism and recover from attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon — double what President Mr George W. Bush requested.

Lawmakers also seemed to be nearing agreement on a separate measure that would back the use of "necessary and appropriate force" by Mr Bush against the people responsible for Tuesday's attacks. House Speaker Mr Dennis Hastert said the House could consider that bill as early as today.

Mr Hastert said lawmakers agreed to drop earlier language opposed by some lawmakers that would also have approved use of force by Mr Bush to "deter and pre-empt any related future acts of terrorism or aggression against the United States."

Opponents said that would have gone too far in eliminating Congress' role in future incidents.

Leaders were hoping to push the spending measure through the House as early as today, with the Senate to follow.

An eleventh-hour disagreement, with White House officials seeking fewer Congressional restraints on spending much of the money, dashed leaders' hopes of completing the spending measure yesterday.



A fire truck being pulled out of the debris even as the search continues for victims of the disaster at the World Trade Center. In New York on Friday. — AP/PTI

Even so, approval of such a vast sum just days after Tuesday's calamitous events would be lightning speed for a Con-

gress that usually takes weeks or months to approve money for anything.

"We are shoulder to shoulder.

We are in complete agreement that we will act together as one," said House Democratic leader Mr Dic Gephardt.

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The rebirth of history

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Every ten or fifteen years there comes a swivel moment in the poker game of history that determines the fortunes of the world. In 1964 an American President sent a few troops to a country called Vietnam to save the world from Communism. In 1979 the Soviet Union sent troops into Afghanistan to save Communism from the world. In 1990 Saddam Hussein sent troops into Kuwait to seize its oil for Iraq. And now in 2001 a network of shadows has sent a few of its troops into the United States to prove that it can hit the most sacred symbols of America's military and economic power. Since this is a story of human beings, there are emotional chains and practical, if hidden, interconnections between events. The parallel between Vietnam and Afghanistan is a cliché. Iraq is the only country to publicly applaud the *jihadis* who destroyed the twin towers of New York, The Pentagon of Washington and forced the President of America into hiding in his own country for a good part of a day that will define this decade, a day on which began, in the words of President George Bush, the first war of the twenty-first century. If, as certain optimistic academics wrote, history came to an end with the defeat of the Soviet Union after four decades of Cold War, then history was clearly reborn on Tuesday, the 11th of September 2001.

38,194 Americans died in Vietnam. The count is not over, but more than 15,000 Americans may have already died on the first day of the first war of the twenty-first century. America has a lot to recover from the debris of the Pentagon, starting with its credibility. Washington has to answer an assertion made by Osama bin Laden in a video that swam across websites and was hawked in bazaars in June: "America is much weaker than it appears."

Am I mistaken when I begin this chapter with an event that took place in a small town in the north of Afghanistan, Faizabad? Two "journalists", Moroccans with Belgian passports named Karim and Kassam, travelled from London to Pakistan and from there to Kabul. In the capital of Afghanistan they met Taliban officials on the pretext of working on a story. On 9 September these "journalists" met, by appointment for an interview, Ahmad Shah Masood, leader of the Northern Alliance against Kabul, a war hero many times over, and the only commander who prevented the Taliban from controlling the whole of Afghanistan. The two fake journalists carried bombs, either hidden in a camera or strapped to the body. They blew themselves up, and Masood died later from shrapnel wounds. It was the first of the suicide missions that would shake the world. How does Faizabad connect with New York, Washington, Boston, Pittsburgh, Florida and perhaps a few place-names we have yet to learn about?

The most remarkable aspect of this operation was the superb planning. Analysts will long debate and study what this multi-city, years-long operation revealed and what it exposed of America's government, its private and public institutions, free-and-fluid society, and of course mindspace. But there is no doubt that those who thought this out,

thought it through very thoroughly. This operation was planned by someone who understood America, who knew how it worked, who knew where it was porous. It was done by someone who had lived for some years in the United States, and had probably worked with its administration at some level. Someone who knew the psychological impact of a strike on symbols as powerful as the First Home of politics, the First Home of the military, and the First Home of finance. Someone with the biodata of Osama bin Laden, who once spent his father's money on high society hangouts and, when a sudden opportunity arose,

The most effective land assault could only be from the north, through that small gap outside the control of the Taliban near Tajikistan. Russia, embittered by Chechnya, would be a ready ally, but with reservations about sending its own troops. Americans would be reluctant as well to involve its troops; and if forced to do so, would minimise the body-exposure.

Washington would always prefer to use the men under Masood, re-arming them with the best weaponry, and filling out ranks with well-paid recruits from the Tajiks or any tribes that were willing to cooperate for any reason in the drive towards Kabul. But all soldiers need a commander to lead, a target to achieve, and a treasurer to keep them well-fed. The moment that Masood, the lion of Panjsher, had been waiting for ever since he lost to the Taliban would have arrived.

The elimination of Ahmad Shah Masood was not an accident

worked with the CIA to fill an empty life with the adventure of a war against the Soviets in Afghanistan. In the process Osama bin Laden found his conviction, but he did not lose his memory.

It is axiomatic that those who planned the invasion of the United States were aware of the fury of the American response. They were probably goading this response, in any case, in their search for an apocalypse. If Osama bin Laden was the mas-terminator, then he knew that he would be emotional target and Kabul the political destination. America would declare war. What would be the nature of this assault? Americans would of course use their aircraft carriers in the Indian Ocean, for which

they needed no one's permission. The south was in that sense secure, and undefended by Kabul. India would obviously help in any way it could, but geopolitics imposed limitations on what India could do for the war effort. Pakistan was easy to read. Its government did not have the strength to stand up to any American wish list. American air power would operate from Pakistan and perhaps India as well. But ground troops as an assault force through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border were another matter. Pakistan was not a country where the government was in full control. There would be popular sentiment against an American presence; worse, there was the potential for sabotage by the innumerable, armed *jihadi* groups spawned for reasons stretching from Moscow to Kashmir. The most effective land assault could only be from the north, through that small gap outside the control of the Taliban near Tajikistan. Russia, embittered by Chechnya, would be a ready ally, but with reservations about sending its own troops. Americans would be reluctant as well to involve its troops; and if forced to do so, would minimise the body-exposure. Washington would always prefer to use the men under Masood, re-arming them with the best weaponry, and filling out ranks with well-paid recruits from the Tajiks or any tribes that were willing to cooperate for any reason in the drive towards Kabul. But all soldiers need a commander to lead, a target to achieve, and a treasurer to keep them well-fed. The moment that Masood, the lion of Panjsher, had been waiting for ever since he lost to the Taliban would have arrived.

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One thought must have already entered the mind of President George Bush Jr as he follows almost precisely in the footsteps of his father, the last American President to take his country to war (the attack on Yugoslavia during President Clinton's term was a blip rather than a battle). That thought is not about who is the enemy. Henry Kissinger, the ranking Republican intellectual, has outlined both the enemy and the methodology of the response: "Any government that shelters groups capable of this kind of attack, whether or not they can be shown to have been involved in this attack, must pay an exorbitant price." That is 29 words meaning Afghanistan. The method? "It is something to do calmly, carefully and inexorably."

The question in Bush's mind must surely be not about when to start the war, but when to stop. His father paid a heavy price because he did not know the answer to the second question; he confused the start with victory, with the result that Saddam Hussein is still in charge of Iraq and has 47 countries (including India) doing business with him. What will be Washington's war aim? Once war starts, its result will be determined by only one reality. Has the Taliban government been replaced in Kabul or not? Osama bin Laden may seem like an attractive trophy, but his capture or elimination is not the answer, as any serious analyst will confirm. A martyr is always more dangerous than a living leader. America's real tar-

get has to be the movement that was nurtured by Islamabad and has now secured a national base from which a network of disciples and agents can seek and kill across the world. America's purpose will surely be the restoration of the monarchy that provided Afghanistan years of stability before Moscow's meddling with the civilian governments under the king destroyed stability for more generations than it had lasted.

Afghanistan understands war. Geography has made it history's battleground. It has seen war all through recorded history, from Alexander to Chingiz Khan (who reached the banks of the

The challenge before America is to separate the Taliban movement from the broad sweep of the Muslim world; the two are neither the same nor interchangeable. The contradictions will be difficult to manage in the confusion of conflict; Pakistan's generals, for instance, could pay a price for accepting every American demand. But war has a logic that is not always logical. Perhaps generals will understand this better than others. The unspoken danger is that Pakistan will become embroiled as heavily in this conflict as it was in the last Afghan war, also conducted with the help of Pakistani generals, then under Zia ul Haq. But Gen. Zia was a fortunate man; the whole of Pakistan was united in the effort. General Pervez Musharraf could consider himself lucky if half his country is behind his support for the US... What is relevant, and dangerously relevant, is that unlike in the Eighties, Pakistan is an active nuclear power

Indus and then retreated before the Indian heat) to Nadir Shah and the endless armies that marched and looted and pillaged and raped through the devastations of the second millennium, ending with British rule. The first millennium was serene in comparison. The Afghans have conquered and been subjugated. They have been ruled by Greeks, Persians, Mongols, Central Asians, Indians (Delhi ruled Kabul for two hundred years), British and Russians. The cliché about Afghanistan is that it has been more difficult to get out than to get in.

War has returned to Afghanistan, but this time with important variations.

Both the United States and Afghanistan will be defending

something larger than self-interest. The United States is fighting for its honour as well as for its leadership of a world it has steadily tried to fashion in its own image, built on the ideals of democracy and prosperity, equality of all citizens and constantly rising levels of material comfort. Afghanistan is in the constant frenzy of a *jihad* that it has chalked out as its rationale for existence. Kabul will not seek to involve either Muslim countries or their governments to its side. It will seek support from the underprivileged shadows of Muslim communities, from men whose faith leads them to treat death as their gift to a larger cause.

There is a precedence in Islamic history for this phenomenon. It emerged from the Ismaili sect of the Shias. In the second half of the eleventh century (a period of decline for Islamic power) Hasan-I Sabbah was born. We do not have the exact date of his birth, but by the time he died, in 1124 he had created a cult called the Ashishin (from which we get the word assassin) that chose as its target not just the infidel but all the Muslim princes that it placed in the category of betrayers, of near apostates who had weakened Islam by weakening their observance of the tenets of Islam. For the last 35 years of his life Hassan lived in the mountain castle of Alamut, an inaccessible stronghold from where this abstemious ascetic spread terror across the Muslim world. His followers penetrated every court, waiting for his signal for suicide missions in which they assassinated their targets (Masood, in that sense, was genuinely assassinated). Their terror lasted for far upward of a century; and in the end they were finally destroyed by Muslim states determined to quench their fanatic fervour. It was not just kings and princes who turned against them. As the scholar Dr Rafiq Zakaria confirmed to this columnist, one of the greatest theologians in Islamic history, Imam Ghazali warned Muslims that if they did not stop this sect the terrorists would hurt Islam immeasurably. This was not the spirit of Islam.

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The unspoken danger is that Pakistan will become embroiled as heavily in this conflict as it was in the last Afghan war, also conducted with the help of Pakistani generals, then under Zia ul Haq. But General Zia was a fortunate man; the whole of Pakistan was united in the effort. General Pervez Musharraf could consider himself lucky if half his country is behind his support for the United States. Pakistan has changed because of the policies and politics its various leaderships have pursued, but that is another story. What is relevant, and dangerously relevant, is that unlike in the Eighties, Pakistan is an active nuclear power now.

If you get up from the table alive in this poker game, you've won.

Musharraf has to yield to U.S. pressure

By Harish Khare

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15. The Cabinet Committee on Security today reviewed the fast-changing security scenario in the region in the context of the American determination to make Afghanistan pay a price for harbouring Osama bin Laden. In particular, the Indian policy-makers have to assess and understand Islamabad's response to the American demand that Pakistan actively help in inflicting retribution on the terrorists. The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, presided. The Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the three service chiefs, and other senior officials attended the meeting at the Prime Minister's residence.

The policy-makers here have watched with amusement the Pakistani military regime's delaying tactics in responding to the American demand for cooperation against the terrorist organisations. The stage-by-stage deliberations by various bureaucratic forums in Islamabad is seen here as Gen. Pervez Musharraf's way of buying time. As per the information available, the latest — and, perhaps the most decisive — round of consultation would take place between Gen. Musharraf and the jihadi groups, loosely grouped around the United Je-

had Council. This elaborate consultation process is meant to impress upon the U.S. the domestic difficulties the military regime would face in meeting the American demands. The Pakistani establishment can no longer pretend that it had no control or leverage over the Taliban or Osama, as the U.S. officials are believed to have confronted the visiting (and subsequently stranded) ISI Director-General, Lt. General Mahmood Ahmed, with clinching evidence of the ISI networking with Osama.

In particular, the assessment here is that the Taliban regime's threat against those who offer any assistance to the U.S., is essentially a Pakistani-invented tactic. As per the Indian understanding, the Taliban is in no position to threaten Pakistan or any other country; the threat is calibrated from Islamabad itself.

At least the Indian policy-makers are not impressed with these too-clever-by-half tactics.

The assessment is that Gen. Musharraf has no choice but to give in to the American demand for cooperation against Osama. The nature of the Indian-American collaboration would depend largely on how New Delhi assesses and evaluates the Pakistani calculations. According to information available here, the Pakistani army officers working with the Taliban have already been withdrawn.

The All-Party Hurriyat Conference is believed to have written to the U.S. Ambassador, expressing "solidarity with all the members of the bereaved families in letter and spirit." "Spearheading, as it does, the freedom movement in Jammu and Kashmir, (it) condemns terrorism in all its form and at all levels anywhere in the world and, therefore, resolves to join the American people body and soul together to deal with terrorism in accordance with the principle of justice."

Integrated Defence Staff to be instituted

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15. The Cabinet Committee on Security tonight decided to institute the first-ever Integrated Defence Staff and cleared the establishment of a tri-service command in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. This was announced by the External Affairs and Defence Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, after a two-and-a-half hour meeting of the CCS, presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. The Integrated Defence Staff would be a tri-service wing and would introduce for the first time joint-planning, joint-formulations and also to the extent possible, joint-training concepts. — PTI

U.S. expects Pak. to play active role

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 15. The next few days will be critical for South Asia, especially for Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. The Bush administration is drawing up plans for retaliation to the terrorist attacks and the first indications are that these will be severe and sustained.

Having identified the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, as one of the major 'candidates' in the list of suspects, the Bush administration cannot stop with just the unleashing of a few Cruise missiles. The Republican administration — and for all the legitimate noises made in the last few days — must go much more than what the for-

mer U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, did in 1998.

Whatever Washington chooses to do in the next few days against Afghanistan will have a strong Pakistan component. Some see this as an 'opportunity' for Islamabad to get back on the right side of the U.S. and that there will be a price.

A Cruise missile attack against Osama hideouts in Afghanistan will have to fly over Pakistan's airspace; it has been done before and the relevant noises will be made about airspace violation. But now, Washington expects much more from Islamabad, especially if the military brass here has determined to send ground forces.

An indication of what the Re-

publican administration expects from Pakistan came from none other than Mr. Bush during his remarks to reporters on Thursday.

While remarking that he appreciated the statement of the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on terrorism, Mr. Bush said, "We will give the Pakistani Government a chance to cooperate and to participate as we hunt down those people who committed this unbelievable, despicable act on America". The key word here is not just 'cooperate', but 'participate'. If Washington goes after Osama in a major and sustained manner inside Afghanistan, it will have an extensive operation on its hands that will re-

quire Pakistan's participation in a big way. This need not mean that Pakistan troops should join hands with American elite forces but that Islamabad should agree to basing rights to facilitate movement of U.S. military aircraft, helicopters and support equipment.

Logistically the U.S. understands that Pakistan is a critical factor for any operation against Afghanistan, more than what some of Kabul's neighbouring Central Asian states can offer. Washington does not expect just sharing of intelligence information from Pakistan about the Taliban or Osama but facilitation of a major military operation.

Osama associates acquiring nuclear weapons: report

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 15. Islamic extremists linked to fugitive Saudi millionaire, Osama bin Laden, have been acquiring chemical or biological weapons and even nuclear arms that could be used for future aggression, according to intelligence reports.

There were reports that Osama's group had acquired some type of nuclear device, the *Washington Times* quoted a U.S. Intelligence official as saying. Also, reports indicated that associates of Osama, training in Afghanistan, have been trying to develop chemical weapons.

The newspaper quoted that other attacks may be possible and the extremists could resort to methods and targets dissimilar to the attack in New York and Washington. According to a former Central Intelligence Agency counter-terrorism official, there were indications that an Islamic front group in Chicago, having ties with Osama, had invested money in a company that produced chlorine for swimming pools. There were concerns that the plant could be used to produce chemical weapons. — UNI

'We will attack any country that helps U.S.'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 15. The Taliban today threatened to launch a war against any country that allowed the use of its land or air space to launch a strike against Afghanistan and said its 'mujahideen' would have little option but to enter that country.

The Taliban's defiant posture came in a statement by its supremo, Mullah Omar, amid speculations about Pakistan facilitating strikes by U.S.-led forces either by ground or through its airspace.

The Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Saleem Zaeef, who released copies of the statement at a news conference here, said that strikes by the U.S. against Afghanistan would be deemed "acts of terrorism and invasion".

Asked if the Taliban had Pakistan in mind while referring to a neighbouring country, the Ambassador said "we have friendly ties with Pakistan. Leave alone Pakistan, we do not expect any Islamic country to collaborate with America in strikes against us".

To another question as to what provoked the threat, he said there were several countries in the region which appeared to be ready to 'collude with the U.S.'. But he refused to identify them at this juncture.

In the statement, Mullah Omar said that though

the Taliban explained its 'clear and positive stand' based on facts, statements and indications from U.S. authorities on the attacks in New York and Washington continue to focus only on the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden.

"We consider this a ploy by the American intelligence to relinquish its duty and therefore it is not acceptable. The terrorist attacks were launched inside America. Osama neither has the capacity and facilities to train pilots and launch such huge attack nor can he coordinate from the East such a big process in the West," the Taliban supremo said.

He said any attack by the U.S. on Afghanistan would be an 'aggression on the sovereignty of an independent country' and if any of the neighbouring countries, particularly Islamic countries, work with the U.S., it would spark "extraordinary danger".

Mullah Zaeef said his country had not discussed with Pakistan its possible cooperation with the U.S. He refuted reports in a section of the press that Osama had expressed gratitude to those who carried out the terrorist strikes.

"We want to repeat to all concerned that Osama has no means of communication with him. The Taliban authorities have taken away all facilities of communication like telephone and fax. There is no way he can contact anyone," he said.

Attacks on Sikhs due to mistaken identity

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 15. While the search and rescue efforts at the World Trade Center complex continue, reports from New York speak of at least 77 injured Indians being treated in various hospitals. And 250 Indians or people of Indian origin are reported missing. Authorities in New York have placed the total number of missing persons between 5000 and 10,000.

The Indian Consulate in New York and the Embassy here have expanded their facilities to ensure all assistance to those Indians or

people of Indian origin who are missing after the Tuesday collapse of the WTC complex. Several community organisations have also come forward to help.

In a larger sense, senior community leaders here are driving home the point that Indian Americans are "part of the American society" and are doing everything possible in the hour of crisis. "This is not about religion," one of them said.

If coming to grips with the injured and missing is one aspect of the post-terrorist strikes, the other relates to the sporadic attacks on a

section of the Indian community in different parts of the country — New York, Cleveland and Chicago.

The attacks may not be as intense as those against Arab Americans but the incidents are not being taken lightly either by the community leaders or by the Indian missions.

The president of the Sikh Council on Religion and Education, Mr. Rajwant Singh, has said in a statement that the attacks are as a result of the mistaken assumption that Sikhs are Muslims or that they come from West Asia.

Five rescued after 50 hours

new
5-8

JAMES BONE
THE TIMES, LONDON

NEW YORK, Sept. 14.— Cheers greeted the rescue yesterday of five firemen who had been entombed for more than 50 hours in a large car buried by rubble in the collapse of the World Trade Centre. Three of the firemen were able to walk away from the sports utility vehicle, which had been covered by tonnes of debris when the twin towers tumbled on to rescue workers on Tuesday morning.

The discovery buoyed the spirits of the exhausted rescue crews as they combed through the mountain of rubble with dogs and remote-controlled robots for signs of survivors.

More than 3,000 tonnes of rubble were taken by boat to the former dump on Staten Island unfortunately named Fresh Kills. The FBI and other investigators sifted it for evidence, hoping to find the aircrafts' black boxes.

The body of a suspected hijacker as well as an air hostess with her hands tied with wire were reported to be among the human remains retrieved.

The shattered Brooks Brothers department store across the street, which once furnished clothes for Wall Street's best-dressed men, was converted into a temporary morgue.

Mr Rudolph Giuliani, the mayor of New York, who ordered 6,000 more body bags to bring the city's total to some 30,000, explained that each individual body part would have to be stored separately. The Brooks Brothers' shop in One Liberty Plaza had later to be evacuated because of structural damage that put it in danger of collapse.

At Bellevue Hospital the doctors said they were treating a 32-year-old Hispanic woman who had fallen from the 13th floor in the collapse and was dug out of the wreckage on Wednesday after being trapped for more than 24 hours.

The woman suffered soft-tissue injuries to her legs but no broken bones. Because of blood in her urine, doctors were treating her aggressively to prevent kidney failure.

"She was pretty hysterical. She was on the surface but buried," said Dr Eric Manheimer, the medical director of Bellevue Hospital, the city's leading trauma centre. Dr Manheimer hoped for more survivors.

"In a building like that with thousands of people inside, there are a few who are flukey," he said.

"If people are just trapped and they have oxygen, they can exist as long as they are not dehydrated," he explained. "They can last up to a week."

Firemen said that tapping sounds from three other people had been heard below the rubble. "We have actually heard the sounds of three persons — three distinct noises with listening devices," one firefighter said. "It starts with just tapping when they can hear the sounds of people coming closer. Bullhorns are brought up. Fibre-optic video cameras are brought in."

THE STATESMAN

15 SEP 2001

Hijackers lived in the open with deep secrets

Kevin Sack & Jim Yardley
Vero Beach (Florida), Sept 14

FOR THE last several years, a handful of Middle Eastern men made their way to Florida to learn how to fly. Some took classes at a high-tech aviation centre here, while at least one learned to handle passenger jets at an aeronautical college in Daytona Beach. Still others took lessons on propeller planes at a flight school on Florida's Gulf Coast.

In each case, the authorities now believe, the skills they learned on American soil may have helped them carry out the worst act of terror in this country's history. Unlike the terrorists implicated in the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, who plotted in secretive cells, many of these men went out of their way to live openly and to blend in.

Some knew one another and lived as neighbours in comfort-

able homes on quiet streets. Some brought their wives and children with them and took shopping trips to the mall. Their children attended public schools and played computer games with the neighbourhood children. Some occasionally drank too much in local bars.

Here in Vero Beach, Abdul Rahman Alomar, a Saudi pilot who officials say helped hijack one of the planes in Boston, arrived in July 2000 to take classes at FlightSafety Academy. He rented a pastel stucco house, setting next door to another Saudi student, Adnan Zakaria Bukhari, and just a few miles away from another friend, Amer Mohammed Kamfar.

Ray M DeFosse, a truck driver who lives across the street from the Bukharis and Alomaris, recalls that the families typically left their garage doors open when they left home. "They

to his former neighbour, Hank Habora, who said Kamfar introduced himself simply as "John" when moving in to a rented house last fall. The man and his wife, who wore a full-length Muslim garment known as a 'chador' and spoke little English, had four children and possibly an infant. "They were just regular people. They didn't make a lot of noise."

Two weeks ago, Habora said, the family moved away abruptly, discarding much of their belongings in the trash. A van pulled up to the house and honked, he said, and the family got in and drove off. "If he was dangerous, he never showed it while living here," he said.

In Daytona Beach, another man being investigated, Waleed Al Shehri, learned how to fly at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University. "A very mild mannered person, small in stature," recalled Frank Richey, 62, a pro-

fessor in the school of aeronautical science. "He was probably one of the last persons I'd expect to do something like this. He didn't appear to be a fanatic."

Richey added: "He wanted to be a professional pilot. He was an A or B student."

Real estate records indicate that Al Shehri lived at an apartment complex in Daytona Beach, but he apparently has not lived in there since 1998, and records suggest that he may have moved to Vienna, Virginia. A man with the same name as another suspect, Muhammed Atta, lived in Port Orange, a neighbouring town, roughly the same time Al Shehri attended Embry-Riddle.

Agents have searched an apartment in Hollywood, that Atta rented from May 13 to June 13 along with another suspect, Marwan Alshehhi, who is believed to have been on the United Airlines flight that left Boston.

From July to November 2000, Atta and Alshehhi were students of Huffman Aviation in Venice, on Florida's Gulf Coast, and for some time in the first half of this year the two lived in Hamburg, Germany. By mid-May, they were back in Florida.

When Brad Warrick saw Atta's picture on television on Wednesday, he instantly recognised him as the polite man to whom he had rented a car three times in the last six weeks. Warrick, who owns Warrick's Rent-A-Car in Pompano Beach, said Atta first came into his office on August 6.

He first rented a car on August 6, kept it for a week and drove 254 miles. He came in for another car on August 15 and kept it for two weeks, driving nearly 2,000 miles. On August 29, Atta returned the car for servicing and rented a third one, which he kept out until September 9, driving 1,035 miles.

As the pilots sought to hone

their skills, they apparently used numerous flight schools to "practice". For three days last month, Atta rented a single-engine, low-wing plane for \$88 an hour though he was a certified commercial pilot with 300 hours of flying time.

There were signs that others in Florida knew of their plans. The manager of a Daytona Beach strip club and sports bar said that agents had collected evidence at his club after three Middle Eastern patrons who visited the club on Monday night were heard loudly predicting coming bloodshed in America. "There were a lot of anti-American things being said," said John Kap, manager of the club, the Pink Pony and Red Eye Jack Sports Bar. "And at one point, one of the gentlemen said, 'Wait until tomorrow, America is going to see bloodshed'."

The New York Times

330
AT-9 15/9
Party zone

ON THE Friday night before Tuesday's terrorist attack, two of the suspected hijackers spent several hours drinking Stolichnaya vodka and rum and Coke at a Hollywood restaurant called Shuckum's. Patricia Idrissi, the bar maid on duty then, remembers the men seemed happy. When she presented them with a \$48 tab, the mood abruptly changed. "They were angry. They thought that we thought they had no money," Idrissi said. One of them men flashed a wad of bills, \$50s and \$100s.

USA Today

weren't hiding anything," DeFosse said. Agents whisked Bukhari away for sustained questioning, while Kamfar remains at large.

That came as unsettling news

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2001

DE-CODING A PLOT OF TERROR ¹¹⁷⁻¹⁰

THE CRIMINAL INGENUITY of those who conspired and carried out the catastrophic terrorist strikes against America earlier this week has baffled the international community. For the legion of the U.S. investigators, who have been trying to unravel the modern world's most 'scientific' plot of terrorism, the challenges are compounded by the manner in which the actual strikes were carried out. The suicidal conspirators managed to plunge three separate state-of-the-art aircraft into their chosen targets in New York and Washington as if the hijacked planes were precision-guided missiles. Another commandeered plane crashed in the countryside of Pennsylvania. A pre-crash explosion onboard has not been ruled out by the investigators as an episodic occurrence. In a sense, the nearly-atomised wreckage, especially in the case of the collapsed twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York, has complicated the task of obtaining some unalloyed forensic evidence at the site itself. Yet the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has been able to make rapid progress in piecing the puzzle together. The reason can certainly be traced to the mass of intelligence that Washington's secret services had gathered over the years on some resourceful anti-America groups that command considerable financial means too. According to the FBI Director, Mr. Robert S. Mueller, the four ruined American passenger planes carried a total of 18 hijackers. A political-diplomatic interpretation of this and other aspects of the evolving investigative lead has also been made with considerable ease. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has therefore indicated without much hedging that Osama bin Laden, a long-suspected leader of international terror-mongers, might have masterminded these monstrous deeds as well.

Several reasons impel the U.S. investigators to quickly identify the culprits and their masters behind America's worst terrorist tragedy. The U.S. authorities are obviously keen to make

amends for the conspicuous failure of the country's intelligence establishment to warn about the signs of any impending terrorist strike ahead of this week's miniaturised holocaust. To say this is not to suggest that the ongoing investigation is being fast-forwarded without caution. It is also true, no doubt, that the international community is almost as eager as the troubled Americans to know the identity of such masterly practitioners of a doctrine of hate. Yet, for the sake of international stability, it is essential that the American investigators exercise utmost care in arriving at their final conclusions.

¹⁵⁷⁹
The investigation has entered a critical phase with the recovery of the flight data recorder ('black box') in respect of the hijacked plane that crashed. Other onboard devices of investigative value are also being scouted for. What the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, should go by is not merely the mandatory scientific thoroughness of the investigators. The integrity of the probe process has surely been enhanced by the fact that the U.S. is not refraining from seeking the help of those countries where the terrorists might have left a trail. The German authorities have been conspicuously collaborating with the Americans. At a different level, Washington wants Pakistan's intelligence agencies to advance the probe by rendering unqualified assistance despite Islamabad's existential dilemma about subjecting any Muslim fundamentalist group to an absolutely intense scrutiny. Above all, the political-diplomatic decision that Mr. Bush might make on the basis of a multi-faceted investigation must be infused with genuine transparency. In the end, the geopolitical implications of the American President's act of identifying the 'invisible enemy' will be as important to the U.S. itself as indeed for the rest of the world. Mr. Bush has already made no secret of his intention to try and wipe out the terrorist dens of those who perpetrated the latest "act of war" against America.

THE HINDU

15 09 2001

'U.S. SEEKS USE OF PAK. AIRSPACE FOR ATTACKS'

Commanders back Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 14. Within hours of the U.S. making known the list of things it expected Islamabad to do in helping it track down the culprits of Tuesday's terrorist attacks, the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today secured the support of the entire top military brass to extend fullest cooperation to Washington.

An emergency meeting of the Corps Commanders, presided over by Gen. Musharraf at the military headquarters in Rawalpindi, unanimously condemned the acts of terrorism on the U.S. and made a number of recommendations for consideration by the Cabinet and the National Security Council.

The meeting was preceded by a telephone call from the U.S. Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, to Gen. Musharraf. Mr. Powell is believed to have sought the cooperation of the military regime on three specific points — consent to use its air space in the event of the U.S. deciding to launch strikes on Afghanistan; sealing of its border with Afghanistan and exchange of information about Osama Bin Laden and his followers.

An official spokesman of the Pakistan Government did not refer to the specific points made by Mr. Powell. He noted that they exchanged views and held positive discussion on the situation arising out of Tuesday's attacks. Gen. Musharraf reiterated that

his country was opposed to terrorism and would not "hesitate to join any effort to eliminate the evil".

A statement issued by the Inter-Services Public Relations Directorate said the conference was attended by all Corps Commanders and Principal Staff Officers of the Pakistan Army. "The partici-

Taliban warns of revenge

KABUL, SEPT. 14. Taliban warned today of revenge "by other means" if the U.S. attacked Afghanistan in retaliation for the attacks on Washington and New York.

"Oh Muslims of the world, we should unite together if the U.S. attacks us," one cleric told the faithful at a Kabul mosque. Mr. Abdul Hai Murtamaen, the Taliban's chief spokesman, said, "We will take revenge if America attacks." — Reuters

pants were unanimous in condemning the acts of terrorism and the resultant human tragedy. A number of recommendations were made, which would be put up to the Cabinet and the National Security Council meeting for consideration".

Though it did not give any details of the recommendations, it is presumed that they pertained

to the points raised by Mr. Powell. Indications are that the Cabinet and the National Security Council would meet tomorrow to take a view on the outcome of the meeting.

Militants swear by Taliban

That does not mean it would be an easy task for Gen. Musharraf to fulfil the requests made known by the Bush administration, particularly given the opposition by the religious groups and the militant outfits to any support to the U.S. against the Taliban regime. This was evident from a statement issued by the Lashkar-e-Taiba. Taking the lead on behalf of the "jehadi" outfits, a Lashkar spokesman issued a statement expressing grave concern over Gen. Musharraf's offer to the U.S. for cooperation in action against terrorists following the suicide attacks in the U.S.

There was high drama and tension in the air throughout the day in Islamabad following the developments in the last 24 hours. It began early in the day with the authorities deciding to close down the Islamabad airport from 3 a.m. to 8 a.m.

Musharraf cancels visit

PTI reports:

Gen. Musharraf cancelled his New York visit in view of the postponement of the U.N. General Assembly and his meeting there with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, will not take place.

FBI questioning two 'Indians'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 14. With officials casting the net far and wide to apprehend those involved in the attacks on New York and Washington, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) is investigating in Texas two individuals, who claim they are from India.

Dated Fort Worth, the paper *Star Telegram* said the two men, who were pulled out of an Amtrak train on Wednesday after a routine search, had box cutters, thousands of dollars and hair dye. The paper identified the men as Mr. Ayub Ali Khan (51) and Mohammad Jaweed Azmath (47).

Their immigration status raised the initial concerns. They are being held by the Immigration and Naturalisation Service but have been questioned by the FBI for several hours. "We are trying to determine whether there is any connection to the terrorist attacks," the FBI Special Agent, Ms. Lori Bailey, was quoted as saying by the paper. The men are said to have ties to the New York area. On Tuesday, they boarded a plane in Newark bound for San Antonio but the plane made a scheduled stop in St. Louis and stayed there as traffic was suspended in the aftermath of the hits on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. The two then boarded the Amtrak train to San Antonio, the paper said quoting sources.

The federal authorities could not confirm whether both were from India. Officials said Mr. Azmath had

produced two fake-looking passports and that Mr. Khan's name had surfaced on an INS deportation warrant. A federal source said both claimed to live together in Jersey City, New Jersey.

Mr. Khan and Mr. Azmath were taken into custody at the old Santa Fe train depot after a "routine" search by officers and agents of the Drug Enforcement Administration. "They could not offer any paperwork which would support a residency in the United States. Therefore they were detained," Ms. Bailey was quoted as saying.

The DEA Task Force Inspector who searched the train is on record saying that the men cooperated fully. "They were pretty cordial. There was never any altercation, verbal or otherwise," Sgt. Brad Johnson said.

The *Star Telegram* also reported that when federal authorities turned over Mr. Azmath to be booked into the Tarrant County Jail, he had an employee identification card, some foreign coins, an address book, a charm and \$1.32. Mr. Khan had a watch, a necklace and \$24.33. "Authorities did not explain what happened to the box cutters, hair dye and the larger amounts of cash," it said.

Citing the arrests, *The Los Angeles Times* said authorities were trying to determine whether there was to have been a fifth hijack, perhaps from Dallas. Four planes were hijacked on Tuesday.

THE HINDU

15 SEP 2001



Roll of drums, finger on trigger

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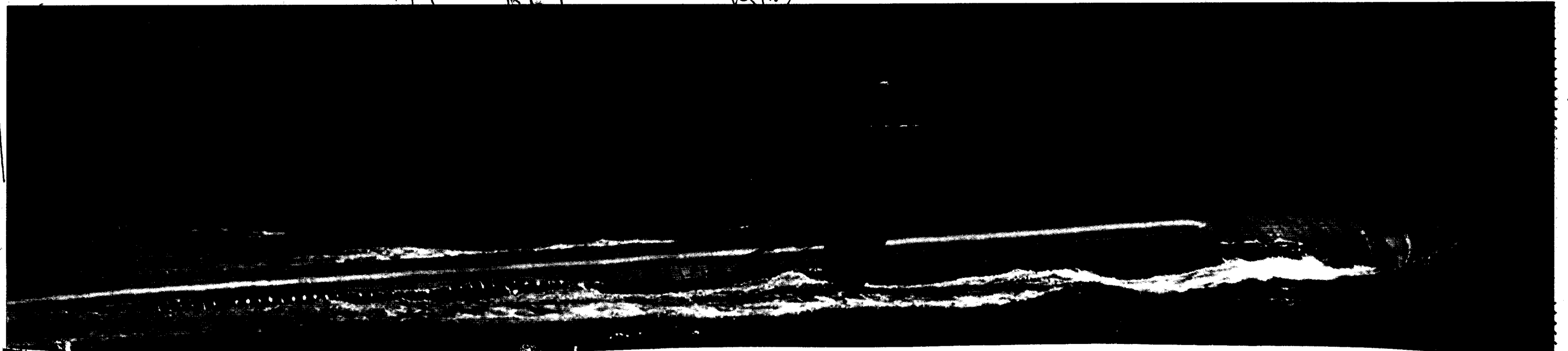
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THE PRESIDENT'S CRISIS ROLE MODELS

The Chilling Leap

PAGE 6

A US submarine moves to the Pacific: seven in ten Americans want military action



War cry pierces prayers on either side

PM hears strike siren

- DAY 4**
- Interceptor aircraft on "strip alert" across US, ready to scramble within minutes
 - Taliban urge Muslims of the world to unite against US
 - World Trade Center to be rebuilt
 - Vice-President Dick Cheney moved to Camp David
 - Ten people arrested after morning raids on Kennedy International and La Guardia airports. But released later
 - Taliban chief defends Osama bin Laden, warns of revenge if Afghanistan is attacked
 - Islamabad airport closed for over two hours for movement of military equipment
 - British Petroleum staff leave Pakistan
 - Russia says "it will likely" to join in any US retaliatory strike
 - Australia invokes rarely-used clause in a treaty with the US to formally back participation in any military action
 - Both black boxes from jetliner that crashed into the Pentagon found
 - Flight data recorder from plane that crashed in Pennsylvania found
 - Support for Bush goes up
 - Vajpayee calls off New York visit
 - Sensox fall further by 157 points to close at 2830
 - Davis Cup postponed to October 12
 - US says more than one hijacking could have been involved
 - Military aircraft patrol skies over major US cities as officials pledge to wage "the first war of the 21st century"
 - Airlines resume flying in the US but problems crop up
 - Rain hampers rescue effort in New York

Sept. 14: Behind the prayers — in America and Afghanistan — rattled the rhetoric of war. President George W. Bush led Americans in mourning the victims of Tuesday's terror strikes with the warning: "This nation is peaceful, but fierce when stirred to anger." In Kabul, the ruling Taliban warned of revenge "by other means" if the US attacked their country in retaliation, the cautionary words coming during Friday prayers.

Taliban clerics urged Muslims to unite against the US if it hit back. "Oh Muslims of the world, we should unite if the United States attacks us," a cleric said at a Kabul mosque. The theme was repeated across the capital and found an echo in the Palestinian militant group, Hamas.

Bush addressed a prayer service at the Washington National Cathedral that expressed the nation's anguish and grief and its determination to hit back. The service was a brief pause for a nation bracing itself for what the President has called the "first war of the 21st century".

With the administration making it clear that Osama bin Laden, guest of the Taliban in Afghanistan, was its prime suspect in the suicide plane attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, an opinion poll found that nearly seven out of 10 Americans supported military action against the groups or countries responsible for the attacks, even if that meant a long war with heavy US casualties.

Pakistan, a key to US action against bin Laden, has sought time to consider a list of demands that includes cooperation in a possible attack on Afghanistan. Initial indications suggested that Pakistan was ready to open its airspace to US missile or aerial strikes against Afghan targets. But it was opposed to allowing Pakistani soil being used by US ground troops or Special Forces teams for fear of fundamentalist backlash.

After a special meeting of army corps commanders chaired

FROM BUSH TO MUSHARRAF: THINGS TO DO



Access to and assistance from Pakistani intelligence

- Help in identifying the networks and agents worldwide sponsored by Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda organisation
- Tracking and closing off its financial assets and supply lines and cutting off fuel
- Closing off the nation's border with Afghanistan and all militant Islamic schools and camps in Pakistan
- Help with whatever retaliatory action the US decides to take, including access to Pakistani airspace and logistical support. The US interprets that demand

American troops in Pakistan

by President Pervez Musharraf, a military statement said: "The participants were unanimous in strongly condemning the acts of terrorism and resultant human tragedy."

The meeting "reviewed the overall security situation in the region with special emphasis on the recent scenario emerging after the terrorist attack on US cities."

The statement said they made "a number of recommendations" that would be put up to a joint meeting of Musharraf's civilian Cabinet and the military-led top policy-making National Security Council.

Senior US officials have told Pakistan it must "take sides" and cooperate with concrete steps to fight terror. But there is recognition

in the administration of the challenges Pakistan could face in meeting American demands. An official said Pakistan has been telling the

Bush administration that it wants to resume normal relations, curtailed since the 1998 nuclear tests. "What we're saying is it's not possible to have any of that if we can't get cooperation on things that matter to us when there's been an attack on the United States," a US official said.

In Islamabad, the army closed the international airport to commercial flights for two-and-a-half hours before dawn for movement of military equipment, witnesses and aviation officials said. Although embassies said they have not yet ordered an evacuation, several multinational companies have told their staff to leave or prepare to leave Pakistan.

Pakistani Muslim clerics, close to the Taliban, joined the ruling Afghan militia in warning against retaliatory strikes. They cautioned Musharraf, who has already pledged support to the US, against helping Washington to carry out

strikes on Afghanistan. In Kabul, Abdul Hai Muttasim, the Taliban's chief spokesman, also warned Pakistan against giving any assistance to the US in attacking Afghanistan or bin Laden. "If Pakistan cooperates... then it should wait for the enmity of Afghans, which is more

dangerous than any other thing." Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar defended bin Laden against accusations that he had masterminded the attacks.

Omar said that neither bin Laden nor Afghanistan had the capacity to train the suicide pilots. "The event in America itself is indicative of the acquittal of Osama because Osama has no pilots..." he said in a statement, read at a news conference by Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan.

"Training of pilots is the work of a running government and only such (a) government has the capacity to do so," he said. "Osama has no pilots, and where did he train them? In Afghanistan, there is no such possibility for the training."

The Taliban's ambassador, commenting on expectations of a US strike against bin Laden and Afghanistan for giving him shelter, said Washington should not act in haste. He told a questioner that Pakistani authorities had talked to the Taliban about the situation emerging from the attacks, but said he had no details.

In Washington, Bush and his Cabinet discussed the call-up of reserve troops. Defence officials said they had asked for permission to call up to one million reserves. An initial 35,000 troops would join air patrols of major cities such as New York and Washington and beef up staffing at US military bases.

The Senate has passed a resolution authorising Bush to order what may be prolonged military strikes. The House of Representatives is expected to follow suit tomorrow. The Senate also approved a \$40-billion package for counter-terrorism and rescue efforts.

REUTERS & LAF-WP

FROM RADHIKA RAMARESHAN

New Delhi, Sept. 14: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today

said India would have to cooperate closely with the US to "combat" terrorism and that much of the "response" to the terror attacks in the US could take place in "our vicinity".

In a veiled reference to Pakistan, Vajpayee said no distinction must be made between those who perpetrated terrorism and those who patronised it.

"In a word, my countrymen, the terrorist and those who give him a safe haven are enemies of every human being. They have set themselves against the world. The world must join hands to overwhelm them militarily, to neutralise their

poison," he said. The televised address to the nation came a day after defence and external affairs minister Jaswant Singh said the govern-

ment would not shrink from offering US logistical help if it attacked terrorist targets.

Today, US secretary of state Colin Powell called him in his bid to drum up global support against the menace.

With the same message against terrorism, the national security adviser will go to Moscow on Sunday to discuss ways of combating the scourge. (See Page 8)

"We must hold governments wholly accountable for the terrorism that originates from their countries.... We must strike at the roots of the system that breeds terrorism," the Prime Minister said.

But Vajpayee shied away from committing any concrete help to the US in case it attacked terrorist targets.

The Prime Minister asked the nation to brace itself for "harsh measures".

"As this region has become the hub of terrorism, much of the response to the destruction that the terrorists caused on September 11 could take place in our vicinity," Vajpayee said.

"Apart from the dangers with which we are confronted on our own, this response will impose heightened costs. We have to brace ourselves to bear them. And remember that this turn has come at a time when the world economy was already on the edge of a substantial slowdown. The pressures are certain to become more intense."

Living an open life, some drank too much and some took family for shopping trips

Friendly-neighbourhood suspects

- THE EIGHTEEN**
- Flight 11 (WTC 1)**
- Waleed Al Shehri
 - Wail Alsheri aka Waleed Alsheri
 - Mohammad Atta
 - Abdul Alomari
 - Satam Sugami
- Flight 175 (WTC 2)**
- Marawan Alshehri
 - Fayez Ahmed
 - Mohald Alshehri
 - Hamza Al Ghamdi
 - Ahmed Al Ghamdi
- Flight 77 (Pentagon)**
- Khalid Almhidhar
 - Majed Moqed
 - Nawaf Al Hazmi
 - Salem Al Hazmi
- Flight 93 (Pennsylvania)**
- Ahmed Al Haznawi
 - Ahmed Alnami
 - Ziad Jarrah
 - Saeed Alghamdi
- The names used by the 18 suspects

FROM KEVIN SACK WITH JIM YARDLEY

Vero Beach (Florida), Sept. 14: For several years, a handful of West Asian men made their way to Florida to learn how to fly. Some took classes at a high-tech aviation centre here, while at least one learned to handle passenger jets at an aeronautical college in Daytona Beach. Still others took lessons on propeller planes at a flight school on Florida's Gulf coast.

In each case, the authorities now believe, the skills they learned on American soil may have helped them carry out the worst act of terror in this country's history.

In Washington, officials said 18 men hijacked the planes that crashed into the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania. The number of hijackers was later revised to 19. Several of the suicide fliers attended aviation academies in Florida. At least one fellow student is at large and believed to be armed; another is in custody, apparently cooperating with federal agents.

Unlike the terrorists implicated in the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center, who plotted in secretive cells, many of

these men went out of their way to live openly and to blend in. Some knew each other and lived as neighbours in comfortable homes on quiet streets. Some occasionally drank too much in local bars. Some brought their wives and children with them and took shopping trips to the mall in their Plymouth Voyagers. Their children attended public schools and played computer games with the neighbourhood kids. While apparently preparing for the most extraordinary of crimes, they lived seemingly unexceptional lives.

In Vero Beach, for instance, Abdul Rahman Alomari, a Saudi pilot who officials say helped hijack one of the planes in Boston, arrived in July 2000 to take classes at Flight Safety Academy. He signed a \$1,400-a-month lease to rent one of the pastel stucco houses that line 57th Terrace, settling next door to another Saudi student, Adnan Zakaria Bhukari, and just a few miles away from another friend, Amer Mohammed Kamfar. Neighbours watched the men come home each day dressed in the signature white shirts and gold-and-black epaulettes that identified them as Flight Safety trainees. They had large, beautiful families.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

\$40 BILLION FOR RELIEF AND TO COUNTER TERRORISM

Senate 'go-ahead' for Bush

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 14. The U.S. Senate on Friday gave its consent for the President to use force against those responsible for this week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. It earlier approved \$40 billion in emergency aid to help the victims and hunt down the perpetrators of the attacks.

The 96-0 Senate vote on the funds came just hours before the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, accompanied by a contingent of New York lawmakers, left for New York where two hijacked jets rammed into the World Trade Center towers, destroying them. Another commandeered airliner was crashed into the Pentagon.

Senators followed with a 98-0 vote on the second measure that authorised the President to use "necessary and appropriate force" in retaliating against the terrorist strikes.

Mr. Bush will also activate up to 50,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve to aid recovery and security efforts. He acted on the recommendation of the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld, who presented the proposal during a Cabinet meeting at the White House on Friday.

Two officials stressed that the call-up was not part of a military mobilisation aimed at the terrorists. Instead, Mr. Rumsfeld wants the troops, the largest number called up since the 1991 Gulf War, to support air patrols over New York and Washington and remain alert elsewhere in the country.

Strike options

Mr. Bush prepared for the call-up as the Pentagon weighed how to eradicate the terrorists who hit New York and Washington, as well as the states and organisations that support them. The military strike options go far beyond the short-term cruise missile assaults of years past in Afghanistan and Sudan and isolated airstrikes against sites in Iraq.

Instead, they involve the potential lengthy use of military forces on the land, at sea and in the air. Options include the covert insertion of elite special forces and long-range bomb strikes from manned aircraft, said senior military and administration officials.

At full throttle, U.S. intelligence and law enforcement officials are trying to identify collaborators in the attacks to ensure they don't strike again. The Justice Department on Friday released the names of the 19 hijackers



Mississippi State University students and employees at a memorial service on Friday for the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in the U.S.—

involved in the attacks. All had West Asian names.

Among them was Mohamed Atta, 33, of Hollywood and Coral Springs, Florida, identified by German authorities as being tied to an Islamic fundamentalist group that planned to

Bush declares emergency

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 14. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, today declared a national emergency in the wake of the terrorist attacks on New York and Washington. "A national emergency exists by reason of the terrorist attacks at the World Trade Center, New York, and the Pentagon, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on the U.S.," he said. — AFP

tacks on American targets. Atta was aboard American Airlines Flight 11 that took off from Boston's Logan Airport and crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center.

On Thursday, airports in New York were

abruptly shut and authorities apprehended at least five men being sought for connection with Tuesday's attacks. A group of passengers of West Airlines who were detained at two New York airports were later determined by the FBI connection to the terrorist attack. Sen. Joseph Biden, Delaware Democrat and chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said on Friday.

The FBI searched worldwide for suspects who had recent flight trails in the hijackers or their backers, or a connection to the U.S. recently.

Black boxes recovered

Early on Friday, investigators recovered voice and data recorders from the hijacked plane that crashed into the Pentagon. On Friday, investigators found the flight data recorder from the hijacked plane that went down in Pennsylvania.

Elsewhere, U.S. and Philippine investigators searched a Manila hotel in connection with the investigation. Philippine officials questioned a Saudi Airlines pilot about his entry to nine Malaysian men suspected of having undergone terrorist training.

THE HINDO

15 SEP 2001

Fall of the ivory tower



SEEMA MUSTAFA

The world is in mourning. For no one, but no one, can condone the death of thousands of innocent people. The dead are still buried under the mountains of steel and glass that were once the towers of the World Trade centres at New York. Their relatives are waiting anxiously, hoping for a miracle. Relief teams are working day and night to bring out the bodies stopping every now and again for a sound that could indicate some life under the debris. Hope is diminishing with every passing hour as the US is getting reconciled to the painful realisation that life is never going to be the same.

The federal investigators, living up to their worldwide reputation, are hot on the heels of the terrorists having actually come up with vital clues and a list of suspects. The intelligence agencies are under cover licking their wounds, and trying to explain to themselves and the rest of their country why they did not even get a whiff of what was obviously an extensive terrorist operation. But for the moment America has decided there is no room for pointing fingers, and has closed ranks behind President George W. Bush giving him the mandate to preserve her honour, dignity and integrity.

The President, eyes brimming with tears, has promised that he will do all that is necessary. A beginning has been made. NATO has promised all support to its strongest ally under Clause 5 which treats an attack on a member nation as an attack on NATO itself. Pakistan has been singled out for specific attention with US Secretary of state General Colin Powell laying out the terms: either you are with us and will extend us all help and support, or you are with them and will have to face the consequences. A nervous General Pervez Musharraf has assured the US he is with them.

The world is expecting US retaliation. The Americans are asking for it. The others have assured Washington of their full support. India has even invited its new friend to use its territory as a base to launch the strikes. Of course action against the ugly Taliban seems inevitable. It will not be supported by even the Arab nations as all concerned are fed up of its policies and its dirty politics of war. Not just against others but against its own people who are oppressed and tortured at will.

But then what? A strong attack on the Taliban will quench American thirst. It is necessary. But will it end world terrorism? Or will it just change the images once again? Will the death of one Bin Laden, presuming the Americans are able to kill him, still the birth of others? These are questions to which there must be answers if the world is looking towards a permanent resolution of terrorism. Otherwise the US and other nations have to live as vulnerable as, always looking over their shoulder, chasing every shadow



in the park, and being held hostage to the telephone call: there is a bomb in your building.

The US will have to come out of the grief, and the desire for revenge, to take a long deep look at its own policies. Not just its intelligence and security infrastructure which will probably become the focus of internal action, but at foreign policy per se. The US has, in its overwhelming desire to control the world, always created its own monsters. The Taliban was its own creation set up to fight the Soviet troops and the Najibullah government in Afghanistan. Fed on drugs and given a free supply of weapons the Taliban, a regressive outfit of fanatics, was propped up by the US to mount a resistance to what was then perceived as the number one enemy of the Americans, namely the Soviet Union. Osama bin Laden was a volunteer used by the US to wage the war. He turned as did the Taliban.

India has been suffering terrorist attacks for the past decade. Successive governments have been virtually screaming about the terrorist training camps in Afghanistan and Pakistan which have been sending in well trained and well armed terrorists into Jammu and Kashmir to create terror in the so-called "jihad" for the liberation of the Valley. It has been asking the developed world, particularly the US, to wake up and take notice. To recognise the killing and maiming of innocent citizens as terrorism, and not as a "struggle" by the people for self determination.

But to no avail. Recently the US administration has made some noises against terrorism at large, but refused to even include the Lashkar-e-Tayyaba on its list of banned organisations. The Harkat-ul-Ansar had been included not because of the havoc and terror it spread in Jammu and Kashmir, but because it had dared launch an attack on US installations. It is this mix of an insular policy laced with support for fundamentalists that has led to the growth of terrorism in the world. The message sent out by the US has been: terrorism against us will not be tolerated, terrorism against other countries can be placed under consideration.

But as India has always maintained, terrorism knows no boundaries. And has no friends. Even benefactors can be target-

ed as the world has now been shown, and the US will have to come out of its rather arrogant ivory tower and instead of fragmenting terrorism into compartments, will have to deal with it as an entity. People all over the world are innocent, and those dying by the thousands in Jammu and Kashmir were really no different from those who have been killed in New York and Washington. Terror in New York is as palpable as terror in Srinagar. Death in Washington is as horrific as death in Jammu. Terrorism cannot be supported in some parts of the world, and decried in others.

The US will also have to

The US will have to come out of its rather arrogant ivory tower and instead of fragmenting terrorism into compartments, will have to deal with it as an entity. People all over the world are innocent, and those dying by the thousands in Jammu and Kashmir were really no different from those who have been killed in New York and Washington. Terror in New York is as palpable as terror in Srinagar

The US is in actuality the victim of closed policies that have refused to recognise reality, that have been guided by immediate returns, and that have not taken the larger ideology of true democracy into account. Those who cherish democracy for themselves but help regressive forces in their bid to deny it to others foster anger on the ground which then becomes the breeding territory of terrorists

realise that there is an anger brewing against its policies in the developing world arising out of the arrogance of a superpower. India, on a lesser scale of course, has faced this hostility from her immediate neighbours with even Nepal reacting very adversely to her "we know better" big sisterly embrace. In fact the anger of the people of Nepal came as an eye opener to those sitting in Delhi and has led to some quick rethinking in foreign policy. The "so be it" approach has never served any country well, and changes leading to a more humble and realistic approach are necessary as even superpowers cannot work out of isolation.

The danger of this particular terrorist attack hovers around a very different plane. The attacks on the Arabs in the US are an indication of what can happen, and this is as frightening as terrorism itself. For it will amount to success for the Osama bin Ladens of the world whose intention is to divide the world with one side looking upon the other with hatred and suspicion. Divided societies are the breeding ground for fundamentalism and terror, and if this latest trend is encouraged the world will become hostage to regressive and fascist ideologies.

The years of propaganda have successfully equated Islam with terrorism in the public mind, and every Muslim is now being branded as a terrorist, or at least as a supporter. The same has been happening in India for a while, with the pace having been very deliberately accelerated by the BJP government in power. Union home minister L.K. Advani in particular is jubilant about the turn of events, as it vindicates his stance that all things ugly originate from Islam. This is a short term view that will only have short term political gains for those obsessed with the vote, and crippled by the limitation of a closed mind.

Destructive politics of divisiveness can only yield negative results. The US has not been just a victim of terrorist violence. It is in actuality the victim of closed policies that have refused to recognise reality, that have been guided by immediate returns, and that have not taken the larger ideology of true democracy into account. Those who cherish democracy for themselves but help regressive forces in their bid to deny it to others foster anger and resent-

ment on the ground which then becomes the breeding territory of terrorists.

The RSS is using the image of the Muslim terrorist to consolidate its constituency in India. The Delhi police, under the able guidance of the home minister, has stopped apprehending criminals. It is only arresting allegedly ISI agents, Hizbul terrorists and Lashkar men every other day. The capital seems to be infested with these men roaming around aimlessly, and wilfully falling into the police dragnet which is otherwise ineffective in even catching the pick pocket in the bus. Every Muslim is suspect, and unfortunately now the great civilised nation of America is also demonstrating the same unhappiness tendency.

Muslims in India have often been called upon to prove their patriotism through statements and passionate assertions. After the demolition of the Babri Masjid Muslim leaders were almost compelled to emphasise their Indian roots. The same is now happening in America, on a scale that will have a long lasting impact on the world. One was horrified to see a well known Arab American brought on to CNN to assert that all Arabs were patriotic American citizens and were as horrified by the tragedy as the true American!

What can one say about a society and a government which makes such clarifications necessary? Only that the government and the society has failed to protect all its people, it has failed to inculcate in them a sense of belonging and confidence, and it has wilfully exposed them to the cultivated anger of misguided sections who instead of being reined in are patted on the back for their "patriotism." The "either you are with us or you are not" approach that bears the stamp of arrogance and oppression which can terrorise sections of society as effectively as the terrorist's gun.

There is a small section of Muslims, more specifically the Taliban, that is fostering terrorism. The Islamic jihad that is making the headlines all over is really restricted to Afghanistan and Pakistan which are just two countries of the Islamic world. The millions of Muslims including those living in the above two countries, want peace as much as anybody else. The tragedy is that they are now being called upon to state this out of the realisation that silence will now be taken as support for terrorism. It is not the innocent Muslim who should be placed in the dock, but the governments that are deliberately creating an atmosphere where to be a Muslim is to be a terrorist.

A friend called the other day blaming Osama bin Laden for spreading this impression. But the Osamas of this world want to build this impression for it helps their cause: terror through divisiveness. It is the governments of the civilised nations which are expected to counter this, to amalgamate their citizens into one confident whole, to give a sense of security to all their people irrespective of colour, race, caste and religion. For great nations are not built on hatred and suspicion. They are built on an atmosphere of confidence, love and harmony which is created and built by secure governments.

Suspects were neither secretive nor mysterious

► FROM PAGE 1

And while they did not often make heavy conversation, usually offering just a friendly wave or hello, they also seemed not the least bit secretive or mysterious.

Ray M. DeFossez, a truck driver who lives across the street from the Bukharis and Alomar, recalled that the families typically left their garage doors open when they left home. "They weren't hiding anything," he said.

So it was quite a surprise when a squad of FBI agents roused the neighbours at 5.30 am on Wednesday and shepherded them in their nightclothes to the end of the block, telling them that the nearby houses they were about to search might be booby-trapped with bombs. The shock only deepened as the agents whisked Bukhari away to their Miami field office for sustained questioning about the attacks.

Kamfar's neighbours, meanwhile, would soon learn that the police had issued a warning that he might be heavily armed. And while the FBI has not confirmed the names of the suspected hijackers, local law-enforcement officials here have suggested, at least, that Alomari, the father of four who lived across the street from DeFossez, was one of them.

Kamfar apparently remains at large. That came as unsettling news to his former neighbour, Hank Habora, who said that Kamfar introduced himself simply as "John" when moving in to a rented house next door last autumn. The man and his wife, who wore a full-length Muslim garment known as a chador and spoke little English, had four children and possibly an infant.

"They were just regular people, didn't make a lot of noise," said Abora. Two weeks ago, Habor



Rescue workers remove debris from the rubble of the World Trade Center towers in New York. (Reuters)

ra said, the entire family moved away abruptly, discarding much of their clothing and other belongings in the trash. A van pulled up to the house and honked, he said, and the family got in and drove off.

Further up the coast in Daytona Beach, another man being investigated, Walid Al Shehri, learned how to fly at Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, a four-year institution considered a leader in training pilots. He graduated in 1997 with a degree in aeronautical science.

As a foreign student, he hardly stood out at Embry-Riddle. The university says its student body represents more than 100 nations, many of them from West Asia.

Al Shehri is from Saudi Arabia, and Embry-Riddle officials said he attended on a full, four-year scholarship paid for by the Saudi Arabian government, an

arrangement not considered unusual. He was regarded by faculty members as studious and intelligent.

Quoting law enforcement officials, several Florida papers said Al Shehri died on one of the planes, but federal authorities would not confirm the names of any suspects. "A very mild-mannered person, small in stature," recalled Frank Richey, 62, a professor in the school of aeronautical science who was among several faculty members interviewed by the FBI about Al Shehri.

Whether Al Shehri ever overlapped with any of the other suspects in Daytona Beach is unclear. Real estate records indicate that a man with the same name as another suspect, Mohammed Atta, lived in Port Orange, a neighbouring town, at roughly the same time Al Shehri attended Embry-Riddle.

Atta remains a significant focus of the FBI's attention. A videotape taken from the Portland, Maine, airport on Tuesday morning showed him and Alomari passing through security gates before flying to Boston, officials said. They made the connection to American Airlines Flight 11, the first plane to hit the World Trade Center.

In the past two days, agents have searched an apartment in Hollywood, Florida, that Atta rented from May 13 to June 13 along with another suspect, Marwan Alshehhi, who is believed to have been on the United Airlines flight that left Boston shortly after the American flight.

The apartment's owner, Lynn DeLano, said agents had taken "bags of stuff", though she noted that she had previously been through the unit and had found little besides furniture, phone books and an empty Coke bottle.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

15 SEP 2001

Russia rules out role in US revenge strikes

Fred Weir
Moscow, September 14

RUSSIA APPEARS to have ruled out participation in any military retaliation for Tuesday's terrorist carnage in the US, and has made it clear that Nato forces would not be welcome to use former Soviet territory as a staging ground for action against terror bases inside Afghanistan.

"I see no grounds, even hypothetical, for a possible Nato deployment in Central Asian States, which are members of the Commonwealth of Independent States," Russian Defence Minister Sergei Ivanov told news agencies on Friday.

The 18 members of Nato have voted to regard Tuesday's attacks, which killed thousands in the US, as an act of war against the entire alliance.

General Anatoly Kvashnin, chief of staff of Russia's armed forces, also indicated that Russia plans to stay out of any US revenge attacks.

"The US has armed forces powerful enough to handle the task by themselves," General Kvashnin said on Friday. "There have therefore been no consultations with the US or Nato on any joint retaliatory actions against terrorists".

The prime suspect Saudi multi-millionaire Osama bin Laden, who has been implicated in previous anti-American acts, is thought to be hiding in Afghanistan under the protec-

No 'mindless' retaliation, says Nato chief

NATO SECRETARY-GENERAL George Robertson said on Friday there would be no "mindless revenge" after this week's terror attacks in the US, whose perpetrators he described as mad creatures.

But after observing a minute's silence for the victims of the attacks on Tuesday in New York and Washington, he said they should not have died in vain. "The mad creatures who committed these cowardly crimes this week may have hoped to provoke us into mindless revenge in order to create even more devastation. But they are wrong," he said in a speech in Skopje.

"This was an attack not just on the US, it as an attack on all of us," he said, adding that: "We must not let terrorism compromise our values."

"Those who died and suffered this week must not do so in vain," he concluded, after observing a silent minute's remembrance alongside Macedonian leaders and other Western officials.

Earlier, arriving for a one-day visit to Macedonia, he said the US terror attacks had produced a "black week for the world" which had cast a shadow far wider than US shores.

But he added that the Western-backed peace process in the fragile balkan state could provide a focus of hope after Tuesday's attacks.

AFP, Skopje

tion of the ruling Taliban. Russia has pledged to cooperate with US investigators and has urged the creation of joint intelligence-gathering bodies to keep track of international terrorism and narcotics trafficking.

Up to 10,000 Russian troops are permanently stationed in Tajikistan to stem the flow of extremist infiltrators from neighbouring Afghanistan, which Russian experts believe is aimed at destabilising the entire region.

But experts say Moscow is

unwilling to see the extraordinary situation created by Tuesday's tragedy leading to the expansion of US influence in the CIS.

"Russia doesn't want to get involved in military actions in Afghanistan for a lot of reasons," says Tatiana Shaumian, an expert with the Institute of Oriental Studies in Moscow. "We had that experience before, and we know that it's much easier to begin such actions than to finish them".

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 SEP 2001

Counter-terrorism not against any religion: Blair

By Atul Aneja

AD 11
1579

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 14. Echoing the sentiments expressed by the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, has written to his Indian counterpart, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to convey that the campaign against international terrorism should not target any religion.

Outlining the basic approach of a possible counter-terrorism strategy, the British premier emphasised that a distinction has to be made between a fight against extremist violence and the religion of Islam. Mr. Blair has circulated the letter to heads of key countries who may play a role in a collective drive against the menace.

Three days after the attacks in New York and Washington, diplomatic activity in the Capital went into high gear even as the Government activated its contingency plan to protect metropolitan cities from aerial attacks.

The U.S. National Security Adviser, Ms. Condoleezza Rice, spoke to her Indian counterpart Mr. Brajesh Mishra, last night. Both sides discussed specific issues for combating international terrorism. "It was a conversation between one national security adviser and the other", a highly-placed Government source said. Sources clarified that India had not communicated any offer to the U.S. that the latter could use its military bases in the anti-terrorist campaign. Since the U.S. has itself not clarified its operational approach of taking on terrorism, any offer of facilities would, therefore, be naturally premature. The spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said that any "specific category of action is predicated on a request by the U.S.." She added that India was ready for a "resolute global response" against the menace.

While it was premature to consider facilitation of military action, India and the U.S. are actively involved in sharing intelligence, either through the channel of the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group on

terrorism or through the framework involving the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the sources said. The FBI liaises with its counterpart, the Central Bureau of Investigation, as well as the Intelligence Bureau (IB) and the RAW, but the Ministry of External Affairs coordinates this exercise.

Visualising several scenarios involving the U.S. anti-terrorist forces on its soil, the armed forces have unilaterally begun to draw possible contingency plans. In this on-going internal exercise, it is felt that airfields of Jammu, Pathankot, Amritsar and Leh, are better situated for air strikes against terrorist strongholds in Afghanistan, if required. There is, however, a recognition that Pakistan is geographically better positioned, as a launch pad for aerial strikes across the Durand line.

Hectic diplomatic activity today saw both the U.S. Ambassador to India, Mr. Robert Blackwill, and the Israeli envoy, Mr. David Aphek, calling on the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, separately within a span of four hours. After presenting his credentials to the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, today, Mr. Blackwill also met the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, and the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Brajesh Mishra.

Recognising their global reach, the air defence network for countering a possible air strike by terrorists on the pattern of New York and Washington has been activated in the four metropolitan cities — New Delhi, Kolkata, Mumbai and Chennai. Besides, the Indian Air Force is keeping track of the civilian planes and "sky marshals" have been now positioned on 22 domestic routes, defence sources said.

Correction: In the photograph published on Page 1 (*The Hindu*, Sept. 13), the caption should read that a woman is lighting a candle at an auto plant in Wolfsburg, Germany, in memory of the victims of Tuesday's terrorist attacks in New York (and not as published). The error is regretted.

THE HINDU

SNAPSHOTS

HELPLINES

NYC information: 212-660-8730
 NYPD information: 212-741-4638 or 800-666-4187
 American Airlines: 800-848-0909
 United Airlines: 800-525-8585
 Red Cross WTC victim information: 812-804-7288
 New York hospitals:
 St. Vincent's Hospital: 212-804-7288
 Bellevue Hospital: 212-885-4141
 Copley Hospital: 212-848-6300
 Goodwater Hospital: 212-318-8000
 Gouverneur Hospital: 212-826-7000
 NYC City Mortuary: 212-868-3061
 Chief examiner: 212-847-6000
 (First dial 001 to call the US from India)
 The Indian consulate in New York has set up a website on which the names of injured Indians are being posted.
 The website is: www.indiagov.com
 The consulate's phone numbers are: 212-774-0688 or 212-774-0604

Queen to attend special service

London: Queen Elizabeth II will attend a special service at London's St. Paul's Cathedral on Friday to honour those who died in the US terror attacks, Buckingham Palace said.

A spokeswoman said the ceremony was a "special service for the American community." "We believe the Archbishop of Canterbury is going to preach and the dean of St. Paul's will lead the service," she said. (Reuters)

Studios delay the release of 2 films

Los Angeles: Reality hit home in Hollywood on Wednesday as studios delayed release of two major films featuring bombs or terrorists — including Arnold Schwarzenegger's *Collateral Damage* — and yanked ads for *Spider-Man* a day after the attacks.

Executives at TV networks, too, reconsidered their fall schedules with one, NBC, deciding to postpone fall premieres altogether by a week to make way for news coverage of the attacks. (Reuters)

Concert to take on sombre note

London: *The Last Night of the Proms* — a boisterous musical celebration of all things British — will go ahead on Saturday but with a more sombre programme because of the attacks on the US, organisers said.

The traditional fare of Edward Elgar's *Pomp and Circumstance*, Henry Wood's *Fantasia on British Sea-Songs*, and Thomas Arne's *Rule Britannia!* will not be played at the concert, the BBC announced. (Reuters)

United Airlines to resume flights

New York: United Airlines said that it would resume on Thursday limited operations which were closed down after its flights were used by hijackers to carry out attacks on the World Trade Centre on Tuesday.

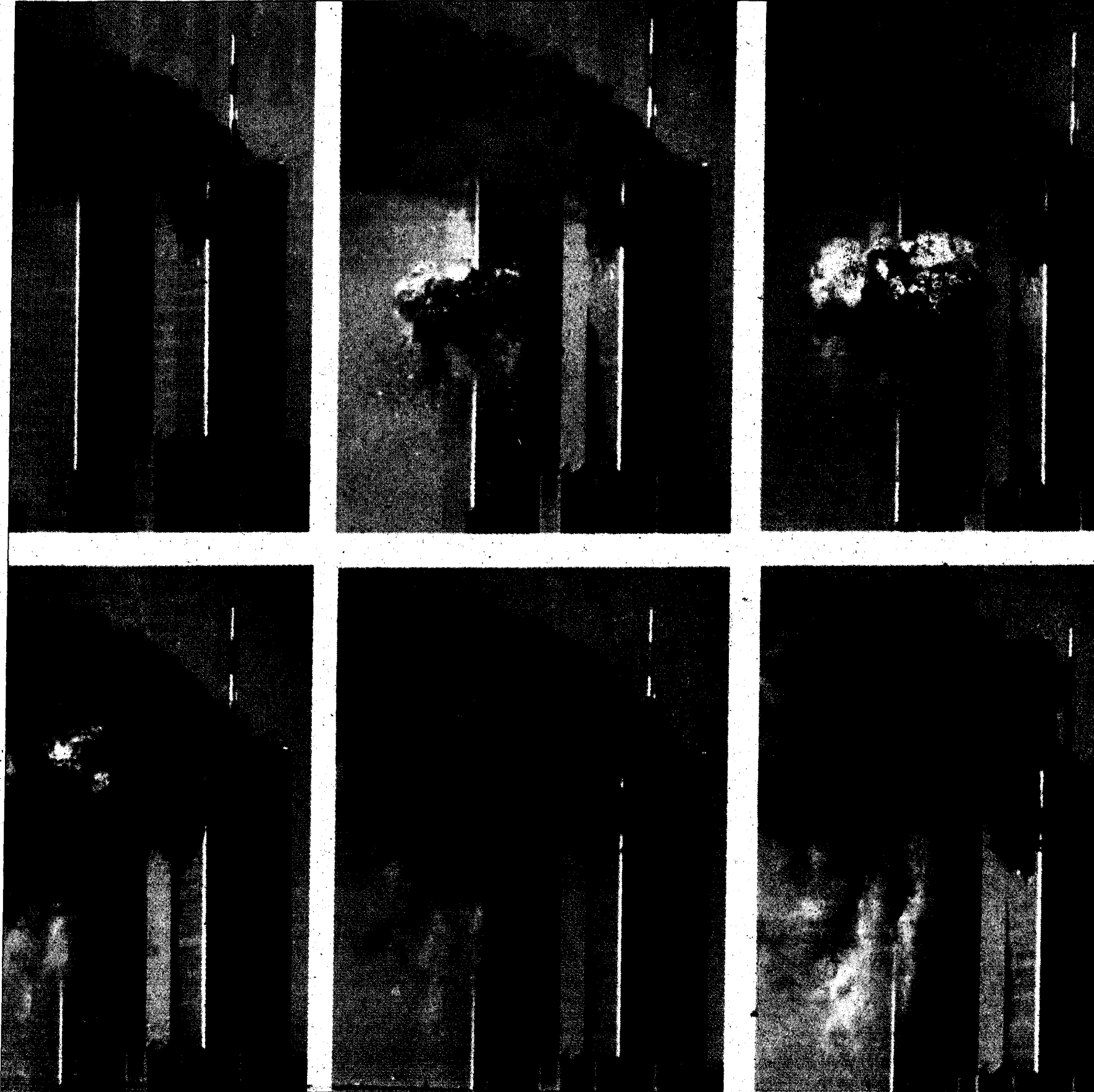
Starting at the earliest at noon, the airline will begin limited scheduled operations which were diverted on Tuesday, it said in a release from Chicago. The airline would be operating a number of "ferry" flights. (PTI)



THE FRONT PAGE: The cover of a special memorial edition of *Time* magazine, with the coverline simply "September 11, 2001," which went on sale on US newsstands on Thursday. Seven million copies of the 48-page issue, which carries no advertising, were printed overnight on Wednesday. *Time* managing editor James Kelly said the magazine's entire reporting staff worldwide was mobilised for this story "as this event is so important in our nation's history."

HOBSON JOBSON

Mull
 A contraction of Mulligatawny and applied as a distinct sobriquet to members of the service belonging to the Madras Presidency, as Bengal people are called Qui-his.



TRIAL BY FIRE: This series of photographs shows the hijacked United Airlines Flight 175 as it approaches (upper left) and impacts the World Trade Centre's South Tower (left), bursting into flames and raining debris on Lower Manhattan on Tuesday. A gaping hole in the North Tower (right) can be seen following a similar attack minutes earlier. (Reuters)

TOWERS SAID TO HAVE BEEN BOEINGPROOF

New Delhi: In the early 70s, when New Yorkers questioned the wisdom of building such a high structure in Manhattan, they were assured that the World Trade Centre could withstand the impact of a Boeing aircraft.

Their worst fears proved true on Tuesday. Ironically, two Boeings brought down the twin towers that almost touched the skies.

When the WTC was rocked by a massive bomb explosion in February 1993, it was like a nightmare come true. The bomb, that had been planted in the lobby of the building by Muslim fundamentalists, left a crater 200 feet wide and five storeys deep. Six people were killed in the blast and over 1000 injured.

Sophisticated emergency evacuation procedures were rendered useless. In a scenario straight out of Hollywood, the skyscraper in New York had become its biggest death-trap. The bill for setting right the damage topped a billion dollars.

And, the prospect of a far worse catastrophe was suddenly very real. That came true on Tuesday when two hijacked aircraft were rammed into the twin towers of the centre by suicide squads within less than 25 minutes of each other, killing those in the aircraft and thousands outside.

Ironically, this building was designed by one of the shortest architects — Minoru Yamasaki was a mere 5 feet, one inch high.

The WTC reigned as the tallest building in the world for just 12 months, before being toppled from the top spot in 1974 by the Sears Tower in Chicago. At 1368 feet and 1362 feet, its twin towers comfortably surpassed the 1250-foot Empire State Building.

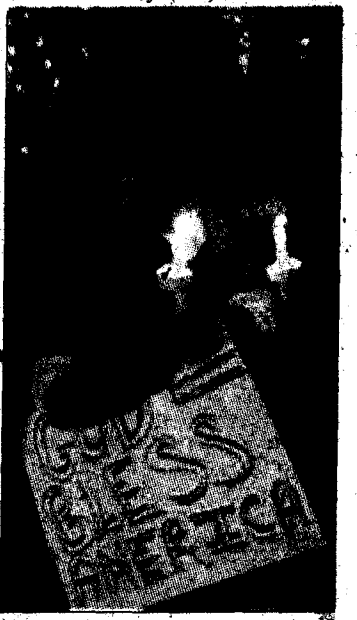
But, the WTC, financed by tycoon David Rockefeller, was admired rather than loved. The cynics had a field day, dubbing the towers David and Nelson after the Rockefeller brothers.

The complex, situated on a 16-acre site, consisted of seven buildings with a floor space of 12 million square feet. All were constructed around the five-acre Austin J. Tobin Plaza and had entrances to the plaza and surrounding streets. (UNI)



Above: A group of people light candles at a service on Wednesday in New York's Washington Square for the victims of the World Trade Centre attack. (Reuters)

Below: Courtney Elmore (left) and Dan Brummer hold each other during a candlelight vigil at Thomas & Mack Arena on the campus of UNLV in Las Vegas on Wednesday. (AP)



American terror attack stops games in their tracks

By RICHARD SANDOMIR
 New York Times News Service

VERBATIM
 This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair

The American people made a judgment: we are at war, and they want a comprehensive response. They want us to act as if we are at war and we're going to do that.

US secretary of state Colin Powell

What has happened is not only a crime against the American people or government but against humanity. It is a monstrous crime.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat

We are agreed that this attack was a declaration of war on the free world.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder

We do not know, yet, who is behind these acts or what objective they hope to achieve. What we do know is that no just cause can be advanced by terror.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan

It's a great day. It'll teach George Bush a lesson.

18-year-old Hamas member in Nabliis

New York: Until the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon on Tuesday, the assassination of President John F. Kennedy in 1963 was the pivotal event in determining the way sports leagues react to a national tragedy or natural disaster.

At such times, commissioners, team owners and other officials have debated whether it was proper to play. Whether it would have been what a slain leader wanted, or whether games were too minor not to postpone.

Kennedy's death occurred on Friday, November 22. The next day, many college football games were postponed. On Sunday, the American Football League did not play its scheduled games but the National Football League did. It stood out as NFL commissioner Pete Rozelle's greatest mistake and biggest personal regret.

"I'm quite sure Pete spoke to Pierre Salinger, his friend from San Francisco," Art Modell, who owned the Cleveland Browns in 1963, said, referring to the White House press secretary. "But he was more influenced by Bud Wilkinson, a friend of Jack Kennedy's, playing his University of Oklahoma game on Saturday. Bud tipped him over. I don't recall there was a lot of debate. I think I'm the only owner he spoke to."

Indeed, in one of the few college football games that was not postponed or cancelled, the Sooners lost to Nebraska, 29-20, in Lincoln.

Nearly five years later, when Sen. Robert F. Kennedy was killed, William Eckert, baseball's commissioner, thought it prudent that teams play. But several teams, including the Mets, objected. Twice, the Mets voted not to play on the Saturday after Kennedy's assassination in Los Angeles in early June 1968, but the San Francisco Giants initially voted to proceed with Bat Day.

"We're from New York," said Ed Kranepool, the Mets' first baseman. "It's a matter of respect."

The Mets risked forfeiting the game, but Kranepool said: "If we do forfeit, so what? It's only one game. It's better than playing."

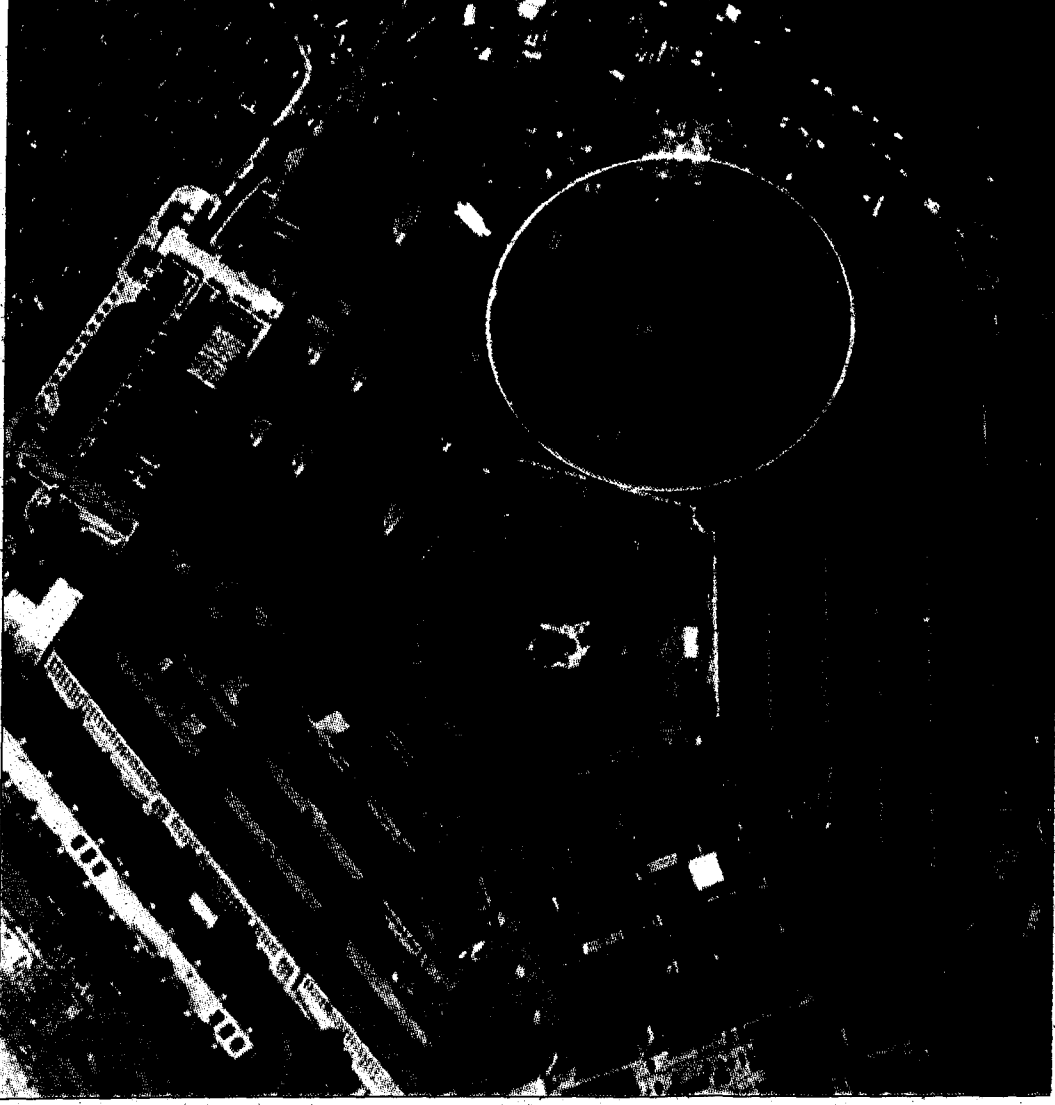
Subsequently, the Giants' owner, Horace Stoneham, relented, "in deference" to Kennedy's death. He also issued a statement that expressed regret at disappointing the "thousands of young fans who had intended to attend the Bat Day game."

Six games were postponed that Saturday and Sunday. Cincinnati Reds players wanted to postpone their game against St. Louis, but Reds manager Dave Bristol vowed to use "any nine players available to field a squad." Pitcher Milt Pappas protested having to pitch against St. Louis. The Houston Astros' Rusty Staub and Bob Aspromonte refused to play that Saturday against the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Two months earlier, when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was murdered in Memphis, baseball's opening day games were postponed, as were NBA playoff games and NHL Stanley Cup playoff games. The final 36 holes of the Greensboro Open were postponed, as were four of five North American Soccer League matches.

The attempted assassination of President Reagan in March 1981 did not prevent North Carolina and Indiana from playing their NCAA Division I men's basketball championship game in Philadelphia.

Which is why, in the aftermath of Tuesday's attacks in the US, baseball has postponed three days of games, college football games have been deferred, PGA Tour events have been cancelled, NASCAR cancelled the Friday qualifying for the New Hampshire 300, Major League Soccer postponed Wednesday's games, and the NFL is nearing a decision.



UNDEFENDED: This one-metre resolution satellite image of the Pentagon, collected on Wednesday by Space Imaging's Ikonos satellite, shows extensive damage to the western side and interior rings of the multi-ringed building. (Reuters)



ASHES TO ASHES: This satellite image of Manhattan, New York, was collected at 11.43 am EDT on Wednesday by Space Imaging's Ikonos satellite. The image shows an area of white dust and smoke at the location where the 1,350-foot towers of the World Trade Centre once stood. (Reuters)

Three planes on a date with death

Passengers vowed to go down fighting

BY JODI WILGOREN
AND EDWARD WONG

They told the people they loved that they would die fighting.

Threads began to come together Wednesday supporting what the flight path suggested: That the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 93 from Newark, New Jersey, which crashed into an empty Pennsylvania field instead of possibly a national landmark, had tried to thwart the enemy.

In cellular telephone calls during their final moments, two young men told their soon-to-be widows that they would try to overpower the hijackers, and, learning what had already happened at the World Trade Center, they vowed to prevent others from dying even if they could not save themselves.

Lyzbeth Glick, 31, of Hewitt, New Jersey, said her husband, Jeremy, told her that three or four large men planned to take a vote about how to proceed, and joked about taking on the hijackers with the butter knives from the in-flight

INSIDE FLIGHT 93

breakfast. She said Glick told her that "three Arab-looking men with red headbands," carrying knives and talking about a bomb, took control of the aircraft. "He was a man who would not let things happen," she said of her high school sweetheart and husband of five years, the father of a 12-week-old daughter, Emerson.

"He was a hero for what he did but he was a hero for me because he told me not to be sad and to take care of our daughter and he said whatever happened he would be OK with any choices I make."

Another passenger, Thomas E. Burnett Jr., an executive at a Bay Area medical device company, told his wife, Deena, that one passenger had already been stabbed to death but that a group was "getting ready to do something."

"I pleaded with him to please sit down and not draw attention to himself," Deena Burnett, the mother of three young daughters, told a San Francisco-area television station. "And he said: 'No, no. If they're going to run this into the ground we're going to have to do something.' And he hung up."

The accounts revealed a spirit of defiance amid the desperate tragedy. Relatives and friends and a Congressman who represents the area around the crash site in Pennsylvania hailed the fallen passengers as the patriots of America's darkest day.

"Jeremy and all the other patriotic heroes saved the lives of many people on the ground that would have died if the Arab terrorists had been able to complete their heinous mission," Tom Crowley, Lyzbeth Glick's uncle,

wrote in the e-mail message. Like others on the doomed plane, Glick, 31, and Burnett, 38, had changed their plans at the last minute to board the 8 am flight. Glick, who worked for an Internet company called Vividence, was heading West on business, and Burnett, chief operating officer for Thoratec Corp., was returning home from a visit to the company's Edison, New Jersey, office.

Lauren Grandcolas of San Rafael, California, left an early-morning message on her husband's answering machine saying she would be home earlier than expected from her grandmother's funeral. Mark Bingham, 31, who ran a small public relations firm, had felt too sick to fly on Monday, but was racing to make an afternoon meeting with a client.

The first phone call Bingham made once he settled in seat 4D was to his friend Matthew Hall, who had snaked through traffic to drop him at the airport just a few minutes before the scheduled departure after they slept through a 6 am alarm. "He was like, 'I made

the plane, I'm in first class, I'm drinking a glass of orange juice,'" recalled Hall, 30, who lives in Denville, New Jersey. The plane was airborne by 8:44 am, according to radar logs, and headed west, climbing to 35,000 feet and flying apparently without incident until it reached Cleveland about 50 minutes later. At 9:37, it turned south and headed back the way it came.

This time, Bingham, a 6-foot-5 former rugby player, called his mother, Alice Hoglan.

"He said: 'Three guys have taken over the plane and they say they have a bomb,'" Hoglan said.

More phone calls were placed from the sparsely populated plane. One passenger barricaded himself in the bathroom and dialed 911, insisting to dispatchers, "This is not a hoax." Grandcolas tried to wake her husband, Jack, begging him to pick up the phone.

"We're having problems," she said, according to her neighbour, Dave Shapiro, who listened to a tape of the message. "But I'm comfortable," she said, and then, after a pause, added: "For now."

His co-pilot was First Officer Thomas McGuinness and there were nine flight attendants and 81 passengers, a seemingly everyday mixture: a successful television producer, some businessmen, a retired ballet dancer, an actress and photographer, a young man who had made a success in the area's technology economy. And several hijackers.

The plane held on course, almost due west, for only 16 minutes. Just past Worcester, Massachusetts, instead of taking a southerly turn, the Boeing 767 swung suddenly to the north at 8:15 am. It had been taken over by

hijackers. Shortly after the plane took off, Justice Department officials said, an ugly bloody scene — almost identical on each of the four airliners that were hijacked on Tuesday — played itself out in the cabin. On each plane, the officials said, a group of three to six men pulled out knives and box cutters they had apparently brought on board in their carry-on luggage, perhaps concealed in shaving kits.

They threatened or slashed the flight attendants, possibly to get the pilots to open the cockpit door. The northerly turn was clear only later when the plane's fatal route toward the World Trade Center could be traced along the series of radar beacons beaming from high points of land along the way. But four minutes later, at 8:20 am, Flight 11 failed to follow an instruction to climb to its cruising altitude of 31,000 feet, and it was then that air controllers suspected something was wrong.

GROUNDING AMERICA AIRBORNE AGAIN



The first plane in more than two days takes off from John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York on Thursday. (AFP)

A nightmare not to be forgotten

FROM JOHN KIFNER

Boston, Sept. 13: American Airlines Flight 11 to Los Angeles took off on schedule out of the fangle of construction choking Boston's Logan Airport, right on time at 7:59 on Tuesday morning.

Capt. John Ogonowski was at the controls, a 50-year-old veteran who lived on a farm north of the city and was looking forward to a family picnic on the weekend.

His co-pilot was First Officer Thomas McGuinness and there were nine flight attendants and 81 passengers, a seemingly everyday mixture: a successful television producer, some businessmen, a retired ballet dancer, an actress and photographer, a young man who had made a success in the area's technology economy. And several hijackers.

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INSIDE FLIGHT 11

phone call — either on a cell phone or those on the back of the seats — to the American Airlines Operations Centre, officials there said, warning that a hijacking was in progress, and giving the seat number of one hijacker, providing a crucial lead to investigators.

Neither the airline, the flight attendant's union nor federal investigators would reveal the name of the flight attendant. On a beautiful early autumn day, Flight 11

headed northwest, where the Berkshires, the Taconic Range and the beginning of the Green Mountains mark the spot where the borders of Massachusetts, New York and Vermont intersect.

Crossing into New York, the plane flew into the area known as the Albany-Schenectady-Troy triangle and over Amsterdam and veered sharply left, heading due south to New York City. It was 8:29 am.

The flight path was straight now, along the Hudson Valley and then right above the broad river itself. It should have been a long, leisurely flight to Los Angeles.

The plane was low now, only about 900 feet high, and the silvery twin towers of the World Trade Center rose above the tip of Manhattan. In the Windows on the World restaurant on the 107th floor of the north tower, several dozen businessmen in suits and ties were enjoying a leisurely breakfast when Flight 11 slammed into the building 20 floors below. It was 8:45 am.

Washington, Sept. 13: The plane reached normal cruising altitude of 35,000 feet, at which passengers are normally free to unbuckle their seat belts and move round while the flight attendants deliver drinks and snacks.

Among the 58 passengers were a top Washington lobbyist, a savvy lawyer with a telecommunications portfolio, a group of schoolchildren and teachers on a National Geographic field trip, the President of a California-based firm that helped employees balance their work and personal lives, and a well-known conservative television commentator.

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Within striking range of White House

BY ELAINE SCIOLINO
AND JOHN H. CUSHMAN JR.

Most of the seats were empty on American Airlines Flight 77, a twin-engine Boeing 757, and the people who sat near windows for the flight from Dulles International Airport to Los Angeles had a crystal-clear view of the Blue Ridge mountains and then the Ohio River Valley far below.

At 8:51 am on Tuesday, about 40 minutes into the flight, the plane reached normal cruising altitude of 35,000 feet, at which passengers are normally free to unbuckle their seat belts and move round while the flight attendants deliver drinks and snacks.

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Osama backers in UK saw it coming

FROM SHRABANI BASU

London, Sept. 13: Two Islamic militants living in Britain, who recruit British Muslims for jihad in Kashmir and are supporters of Osama bin Laden, said the US had it coming. The attacks in New York and Washington were the consequences of US foreign policy in the Muslim world, they added.

Sheikh Omar bin Bakri Muhammad, founder of the Britain-based al-Muhajiroun group, who boasts of recruiting young British Muslims for jihad in Kashmir said: "I was expecting this to happen and it's about time the Americans paid. I regret the death of innocent people but in our hearts we are very happy."

Anjem Choudhury, a Pakistan-born lawyer who heads al-Muhajiroun, said: "People in Britain must realise that Muslims throughout the country and across the world are celebrating today."

Another Muslim leader, Sheikh Abu Hamza al-Masri, the imam of the North Finsbury mosque and a former mujahideen in Afghanistan, said the US policy in West Asia had designed a "pressure cooker without a vent". To find those responsible, he said: "America will have to go back and see whom they have provoked the most."

The Islamic militants and

their followers here are not making any effort to hide their glee. Outside the Finsbury Park mosque, there was graffiti celebrating Tuesday's attacks. One picture showed a plane crashing into the Pentagon, which had "evil" written inside it. Another drawing showed a plane crashing into the World Trade Centre. The words below it read: "WTC U R Dead."

Sheikh Bakri, a Syrian exile and a disabled cleric, said he believed that those responsible would have come from the international jihad movement, which he described as "the right hand of Osama".

Bakri had earlier openly supported the bombings of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed over 200 people.

Though Britain's new anti-terrorism law makes it an offence to support any terrorist group, the two imams still live openly in London and address Friday prayers. The al-Muhajiroun has bases across the world and aims to establish a world Islamic state. It recruits and trains young Muslims for jihad.

The new law, which came into force this March, proscribed several Muslim groups, including Harkat-e-Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammed and Al Qaeda headed by bin Laden.

The organisations have been

traced as responsible for recruiting many British Muslims to fight jihads in Kashmir, Chechnya and Palestine. In fact, Ahmed Omar Sayeed of the Harkat-e-Mujahideen — a 26-year-old former student of the London School of Economics — had kidnapped three Britons in 1994 and was one of the terrorists released by foreign minister Jaswant Singh to secure the release of the hijacked Indian Airlines flight IC 814 in Kandahar.

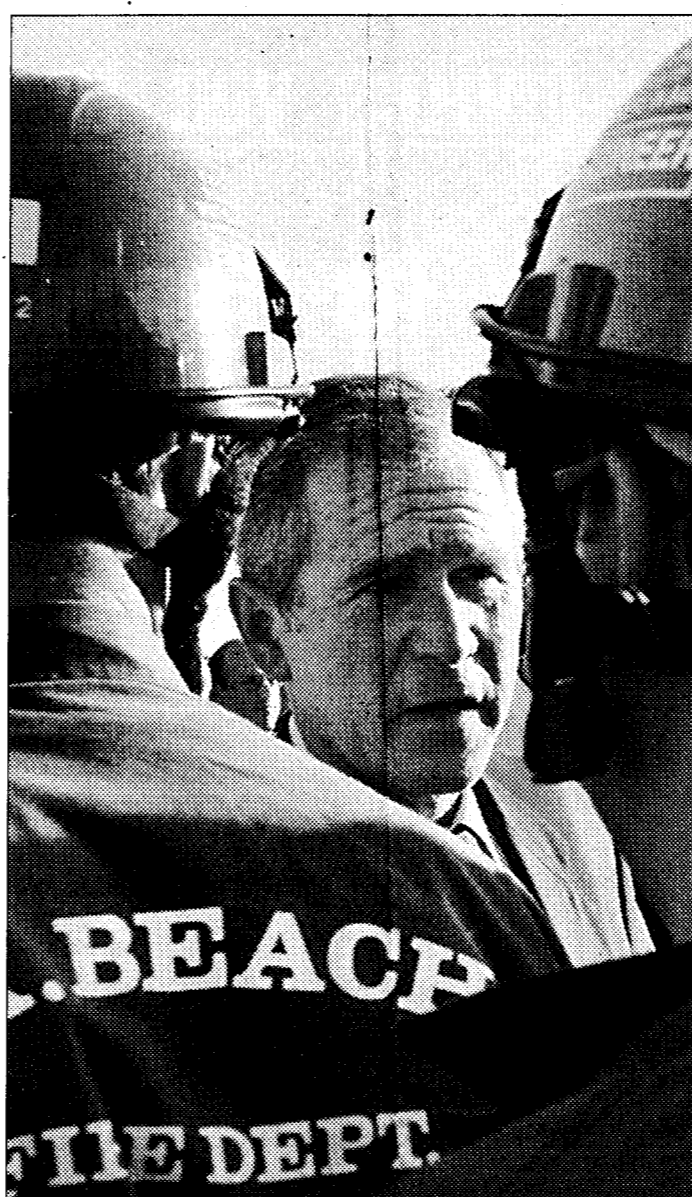
Birmingham-based 24-year-old Bilal Ahmed was the suicide bomber who drove into an army barracks in Srinagar on Christmas Day last year and killed several soldiers. He belonged to the Jaish-e-Mohammed.

The list grows longer. Another British Muslim, Khalid al-Fawwaz, 37, allegedly one of bin Laden's lieutenants, is charged in a conspiracy case in connection with the US embassy blasts.

He is in a British jail at the moment, awaiting extradition to the US.

An Al Qaeda fax claiming responsibility for the blasts was sent out from a grocery shop in Willesden near Fawwaz's house.

A Saudi dissident like bin Laden, he was living in Dollis Hill in northwest London. He is alleged to have passed on fatwas, including the one declaring holy war against Americans.



George W. Bush meets rescue workers during a visit to the Pentagon on Wednesday. (Reuters)

Indians shift loyalties after tower attack

FROM AMIT ROY

London, Sept. 13: A subtle but important change has taken place among Indians in New York: they are no longer as sympathetic as they once were to the plight of Palestinians and other dispossessed people in the Islamic world.

Although there is no hard evidence yet on who was responsible for the terrorist outrages, most Indians appear convinced that somewhere along the line militant Islamic groups were involved.

The reason for the change in Indian attitudes is very simple: further evidence emerged today that the number of Indians who perished in the World Trade Centre, as yet unspecified, could be substantial.

In Britain, the Prime Minister Tony Blair is justifying military action in support of the United States by pointing out that the number of British dead could be "significant". A figure of 500 is being mentioned, with 100 already confirmed dead today by the British foreign secretary. It appears when the final toll is established, the number of Indians could be equally "significant".

This is already indications that in future the influential Indian lobby in America will want India to align with Israel, thereby loosening the country's traditional ties with Arab states.

The well known artist, Natvar Bhavsar, who lives in a large studio in the fashionable quarter of Soho in New York, climbed onto his roof top garden with his son, Ajay, and watched as the burning towers of the World Centre collapsed before his eyes.

"It was unbelievable, incredible. On TV you don't get a full sense of what is happening," he commented. "Whatever the symbolism of the terrorist attacks — and I was previously sympathetic to what's going on (with Palestinians) in West Asia — this was inhuman."

Like most Indian New Yorkers, Bhavsar had many friends and colleagues among his countrymen in the doomed buildings. The company name which keeps cropping up is Morgan Stanley.

"Morgan Stanley had 3,500 staff, of whom 2,700 have not been accounted for," said Bhavsar, in a telephone interview. "Many are Indian." Bhavsar, who is one of America's most respected contemporary artists, recalled "a special evening" he had many years ago with Minoru Yamasaki, the Japanese-origin principal designer of the World Trade Centre who was justifiably proud of his contribution to the Manhattan skyline.

"We met when we were honoured together in Pennsylvania. He asked me for one of my paintings for a temple he was designing

That was when Olson called her husband, Solicitor General Theodore Olson, at the justice department and told him that the plane had been hijacked.

Five minutes later, she called back to say that the passengers had been herded into the back of the plane, and that the pilot was with them — not in the cockpit.

At about this time, President Bush announced in Florida that the attack in New York had been an act of terrorism and vowed to hunt down the perpetrators.

In Washington, Olson's husband relayed his wife's report immediately to a justice department command post. As the plane drew closer, local and regional air traffic control radars could see that the incommunicado plane was

the incommunicado plane was bound straight toward the restricted area around the White House, where no flights are allowed. Flights in and out of National Airport, which is not far from the Pentagon, stay over the Potomac River, skirting the edge of the restricted zone.

In theory, an early enough warning that a third hijacked plane was

heading toward Washington might have triggered the launch of supersonic fighter planes from any of several nearby bases. In this case, the seriousness of the threat may have dawned on the authorities just too late to allow any reaction. The plane hit the Pentagon at 9:45 am.

Bill Cheng, an American Airlines pilot who normally flies Flight 77, changed his plans in late August and applied for time off on Tuesday so he could go camping. When another pilot signed up for the slot, Cheng was notified that his application was accepted, and that he would not fly on Tuesday.

"As you can imagine, I have mixed emotions about this. I feel terrible for whoever picked it up," he said, adding that he would not ordinarily keep track of such a thing. "I'm sick. I'm just heartbroken." Christopher Newton, 38, the President and chief executive of Work/Life Benefits in Cypress, California, who died on the plane, was the kind of man who frequently missed flights by a few minutes, but not this time. "He was very last-minute," said Bill Gurzi, the director of the consulting group.

Among lobbyists in Washington, Raines was regarded as exceptional because she was a lawyer and patent expert. She was as comfortable dealing with the Food and Drug Administration as she was with members of Congress of both parties. Her trip to California was for a meeting of Genzyme's sales force. "It was just 'Goodbye,' and I love you" and we kissed," said Steve Push, her husband.

Whatever the intended target, by the time the plane turned back to Washington, the World Trade Centre already had been hit by two other hijacked planes. And by about 9:25 am, Washington knew that this was another hijacking.

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Unilateral US military action against terrorism bodes ill for the world

Counter-terror won't work

WS (U) HT-8 19/9 BY PRAFUL BIDWAI

NOTHING SINCE Hiroshima and Nagasaki has convulsed the world's conscience as powerfully as the butchery of innocent civilians in Tuesday's terror attacks in the US. However, the shock, agony and anger produced by these ghastly, wholly unconscionable, acts are now giving way to calls for revenge and retribution in America, and to loose talk of a new global alliance for "freedom and democracy" against "jehadi terrorism" in India. American leaders insist on portraying these attacks as acts of "war". Many are deploying language reminiscent of Reagan's "Evil Empire", which would rationalise the unleashing of retribution with unlimited or maximum force in different parts of the world as America's "self-defence".

Colin Powell has gone so far as to threaten large-scale and long-term retaliation against terrorism — whether "it is legally correct or not". And President Bush says he makes "no distinction" between "terrorists" and States that harbour them. A vengeful mindset has thus crystallised, which declares: if you're not with us, you're against us; we will pay the terrorists back in their own coin; force is the only language they understand...

Nothing could be more harmful than this mindset to the cause of democracy, freedom and pluralism — in the name of which the retribution is being threatened. Equally, nothing could more badly undermine the cause of a just, plural, multilaterally balanced, rule-of-law-based world order than unilateral military action by Washington, whether undertaken formally under NATO auspices or not. Such action seems imminent.

Yet, no power or State in the world is attempting to counsel restraint upon the US — neither the European Union nor Russia and China, nor even formerly strongly multilateralist States like India. The UN too has been passive. Ironically, the world, or rather some more innocent civilians outside America's borders, could thus end up paying a high price through insensate violence and overwhelming use of force — just as New Yorkers tragically did.

The only way to prevent this is to immediately activate the Security Council and other multilateral instruments and mandate them to act in a way that balances the use of proportionate, moderate force under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, with a staunch defence of civil liberties. After the mess that NATO made — through its unilateral intervention — of the situation in the former Yugoslavia, especially Kosovo in 1999, there is a compelling reason for doing so. Yet, the prospect of this happen-



LEGAL AND ILLEGAL: US Secretary of State Colin Powell

ing appears bleak.

Thus, we have the bizarre spectacle of a Cold War military alliance, which lost its very reason for existence a decade ago with the collapse of the Warsaw Pact, now invoking its "collective defence" Article 5 — for the first time in half a century! The US as the dominant partner of this far-from-democratic military coalition — there has always been one finger, not two, on NATO's triggers — seems all set to repeat the 1983 invasion of Libya, when Gaddafi and Co were branded "Mad Dogs" and then mercilessly bombarded. America today can target whomsoever it chooses — or rather, its all-too-fallible intelligence agencies suspect. This would be bad enough even if the US had a half-way respectable record of direct or sponsored external military intervention.

As it happens, that record is embarrassingly bad and profoundly undemocratic: from Iran and Central America in the Fifties, to Brazil, Cuba and Vietnam in the Sixties, to Chile, southern Africa, Nicaragua and El Salvador, and above all, Afghanistan in the Seventies and Eighties — not to speak of Panama, Haiti and Angola, or the first Iran-Iraq war. In each case, America either snuffed out democratic or moderately nationalist regimes and sided with brutal dictators, or produced/strengthened new monsters while fighting old ones. These include Saddam Hussein (strengthened by the US tilt towards Iraq in the first Gulf War) and the Mujahideen in Afghanistan, who in turn produced Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. Bin Laden is in many ways an American creation.

Put simply, America, which believes in its own unique Manifest Destiny, has never learned to moderate its overwhelming military power and use it wisely, to universal, democratic and just ends.

Today, it has embarked on a purely militaristic Rambo-like strategy, based upon the national-security obsession characteristic of the Republican Right, to combat terrorists by "hunting them down". However, such a strategy is badly fraught. It will inevitably lead to severe curtailment of and attack on fundamental rights and people's freedoms. It will create a climate of suspicion, paranoia and nationalist hysteria: already, certain religious communities are being openly maligned, and Arab-Americans are receiving threatening calls. It will give respectability to intellectually bankrupt "theories" like the Clash of Civilisations, itself a pitiable attempt to invent a post-Cold War "enemy" for the US.

Above all, a militarist approach will fail to tackle the conditions and causes of terrorism itself. Force may be necessary to fight terrorism in the short run, but it alone cannot suffice. It can quickly become counter-productive. Sub-State terrorism arises from and is rooted in factors such as exclusion, discrimination, communalism, anomie and ethnic hatred, often compounded by brutalising, poverty-enhancing, elitist economic policies. Unless these factors are addressed, terrorism cannot be sustainably combated. Militarism leads to State terrorism which typically ends up aggravating sub-State terrorism, and is itself far worse than it. Israel-Palestine is a good, if horrifying, case in point.

Those who are praying for a new Indo-US anti-terrorist "strategic partnership" (with Israel thrown in) or for US "global leadership" against terrorism — and there are many in India — should therefore pause and think again. It is deplorable that the Vajpayee government has blinded itself by its Pakistan obsession to offer just such a partnership to the

US. The eventual costs of a direct US presence in the neighbourhood could prove truly onerous.

There are three other major lessons in the present episode, which has exposed the limits of US military might, as well as militarism. First, the skilfully executed aircraft attacks in New York and Washington should put paid to any Missile Defence (MD) plans. Critics, who convincingly argued that MD cannot credibly meet the real security threats which the US faces, now stand vindicated. However sophisticated an MD shield might be, short-range missiles and aircraft can underfly it, and inexpensive decoys can fool it. "Absolute" security through MD is dangerously illusory.

The whole episode also puts a big question mark over the doctrine of deterrence — the idea that a rational evaluation of "unacceptable" retaliatory damage will prevent an adversary from attack. It is now plain that the world's largest nuclear arsenal cannot prevent or deter mass murder. Second, it is unwise to seek security principally through physical means and preventive barriers.

The air cover around many critical strategic structures (e.g. the Pentagon, the White House, etc.) will probably remain vulnerable to suicide-bomber aircraft. The world's 430-odd nuclear power reactors are each a potential Chernobyl which can be devastatingly triggered off by easily available conventional bombs. The current non-proliferation regime, based on physical inspection of nuclear material movements, is highly unreliable.

A leaked International Atomic Energy Agency report shows that the world's plutonium reprocessing inventories annually include or exclude scores of kilos of "material unaccounted for" — the equivalent of several Pokhran-type bombs. Again, there are severe limits to how much you can tighten X-ray screening of hand baggage at airports: weapons made of ceramic, composite material or carbon fibre will pass unnoticed. Besides, high-rise buildings, airliners and huge amounts of combustible plastic are all part of normal urban architecture today.

Finally, we must reflect on the long-term causes of terrorism-rooted in unbalanced, rootless, ruthless growth, cultural erosion, uprooting and destabilisation, social strife, ethnic exclusivism, chauvinist nationalism, and extreme centralisation of power. Only non-military social, economic and cultural policies can address these factors by promoting equitable, balanced, people-centred development, where human beings matter more than markets, and where comprehensive social security prevails over military preparedness.

Sikhs face attacks for Arab look

WSW
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14/9

New York, September 13

THE SIMILARITY in the attire of Sikhs and Osama bin Laden is making them the target of assault for Americans eager to avenge Tuesday's terrorist attacks.

To the lay American, the Sikh with his turban and flowing beard looks very much like bin Laden, who is suspected to have engineered the attacks on the US and whose images are being telecast regularly on all the news channels.

Americans have been crying for war in the aftermath of the attacks on the World Trade Center (WTC) in New York and Washington. And incidents thereafter have left the Sikh community shaken.

A gang in a car, which drove by firing what were believed to be rubber bullets, attacked a gurdwara in Richmond Hill.

Ranvir Singh, who was at the gurdwara when the incident took place, said the attackers failed to cause any damage. Police said the gang had only thrown rubber balls at the gurdwara.

In another incident, an elderly Sikh gentleman walking on a street was attacked with a baseball bat and seriously injured.

According to a member of the Richmond Hill gurdwara management who did not identify himself, instructions have been sent to the Sikh community to stay indoors as far as possible and not take any "unnecessary risks".

"There is not much we can do except take whatever precautions we can," he said.

Confirming the attack on the gurdwara, Shashi Tripathi, India's Consul General in New York, said one of the attackers had been arrested when his group went back on Wednesday morning for another attack.

She had spoken to the Diplomatic police, the New York police department and Mayor Rudolph Giuliani and informed them of the Indian community's vulnerability.

"If any Indians feel insecure in their neighbourhoods or if they

face any threats, they can alert the nearest police precinct immediately," she said. "But there are a lot of rumours floating, and the Indian community should guard against that."

Tripathi said the consulate was contemplating issuing instructions to the Indian community. "Ideally, they should stay home for a couple of days, or if they have to go out, carry some form of identification with them," she said. "We are also considering asking Indian women to wear a bindi as a distinguishing mark. Right now, everybody should be careful." Many Muslims also had to face the reality that they would be linked unfairly with the suicide bombings.

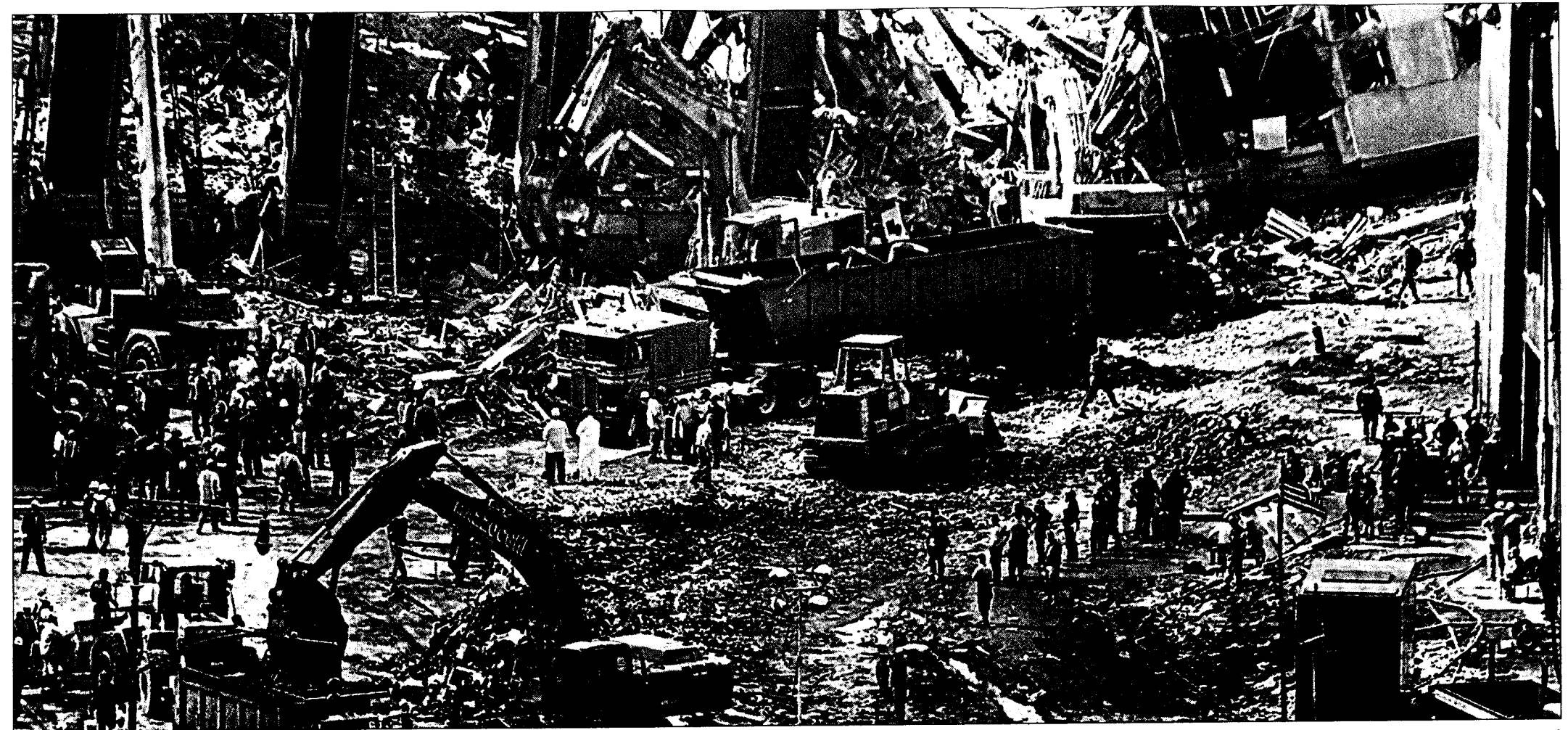
As Palo Alto café owner Sophia Omar, who is of Afghan origin, said: "When people think of Muslims, they think of terrorists." The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington reported calls with death threats, obscenities and racial slurs. New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said neighbourhoods with large Arab-American populations would receive extra police protection to protect against such backlash incidents.

"We have friends and family who work in that building, the World Trade Center. We have family and friends that worked at the Pentagon," said James Zogby, president of the Arab American Institute.

American Muslim leaders united in their condemnation of attacks on American civilians. "As Muslims we respect the lives of all human beings," said Tahir Anwar, imam of the South Bay Islamic Association in San Jose.

The mosque has received its share of hate calls, said Anwar. At the same time, leaders called on the public and the media to exercise restraint in their judgment. Classes at the Granada Islamic School in Santa Clara were cancelled after the school received threatening calls and students and parents were insulted by motorists driving by.

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Rescue workers remove debris and search for survivors in the area near the World Trade Center on Thursday.

AFP PHOTO

250 Indians feared killed, 37 in hospital

S Rajagopalan
Washington, September 13

MORE THAN 250 Indians are among those feared killed, injured and missing following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center. Indian Consul-General Shashi Tripathi said he had reports of 37 injured Indians being treated in various hospitals. There is no official word yet on any Indian death.

The aftermath of the incident, however, poses new dangers for the Indian community. Police has arrested one person for an attack on Gurdwara Richmod during which rubber bullets were fired. As anger against Arabs mounted in the United States with reports linking Osama bin Laden to the attacks and television images showing Palestinian celebrations after the attacks, Tripathi advised Indians to be more care-

ful during the next few days. The fear is that anyone looking like an Arab might become a target of ire by some groups. He said Indian women could wear bindi to distinguish and men could carry some identification, which could be used in times of need. Several Islamic organisations advised Muslims, especially women who wear burqa or headgear, to stay at home for a few days.

At least 37 persons of Indian origin have been admitted to various hospitals in New York. The Indian consulate in New York has now posted on its website (www.indiacnyc.org) a partial list of non-resident Indians/persons of Indian origin who have been admitted to the city hospitals. There are eight women on the list of 37 injured persons.

Although several thousand persons are presumed dead in the collapse of the two 110-storey

LIST OF INJURED IN THE NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY HOSPITALS

Ms Naya Desai, Mr Manu Dhingra, Mr Badruddin Lakhani, Mr John Malik, Mr William Manas, Mr Charles Mathew, Mr Myloca Byas, Mr Rajiv Nair, Mr Mohd Ismail, Ms Jasmine Singh (St Vincent's Hospital), Mr Mahan Chandu, Mr Qazir Mohd (Cabrini Hospital), Mr Fredric Grover (Chelsea Hospital), Mr Mahavir Sandra, Mr Sofal Naik (Hospital for Joint Diseases), Mr Narayan Patel (NYP Cornell Hospital), Ms Monica Manghani (Beth Israel Hospital), Mr Pundi Venkateshan (NYU Hospital), Mr Mano Hydesia (Roosevelt Hospital), Mr Daniel Suhir (BelleVue Hospital), Mr Abbas Mohd (St Luke Roosevelt), Mr Grogen Thomas, Mr Krishnamurthy, Mr Antree Mathew, Mr Fernandes Thomas, Mr Karri Kalpaha, Mr Sajik Panchal, Mr Telikepali Kalpana (St Mary's New Jersey), Mr Pundi Venkateshan, Ms Acinapura, Christine, Ms Rajkumaree Singh, Ms Jasmatia Rupharaia (NYU-ER), Mr Badheeridin Lakhani, Ms Neerja Desai, Ms Silvia Ramsunder, Mr Manu Dhingra (St Vincent, NY), Mr Dipin Chellani (Beth Israel, NY)

towers, the operation to clear the rubble and retrieve bodies is willy-nilly slow and fitful.

The army of rescue workers is struggling through mountains of

debris. "Rubble apart, we have to cut through tonnes and tonnes of steel," one of them said.

"Despite bulldozers and what have you, it is going to be a long

haul," said another.

As of 7.30 pm IST today, nearly 48 hours after the WTC collapse, Mayor Rudy Giuliani put the number of confirmed deaths at 94. Seventy-four "body parts" have also been recovered. About 4,800 people have been listed as "missing", while 2,100 others have been treated in emergency rooms.

The search for survivors has not been given up though.

All the more since workers, much to everyone's delight, succeeded in rescuing three survivors. The authorities have made it clear that they would not wish to make any estimation of the death toll.

Indian American circles are still in the dark about the number of compatriots who may have been present in the twin towers on Tuesday morning or the number who could rush out to safety.

Roughly 10 per cent of the estimated 50,000 people working in the complex are thought to be Indians, most of them working with investment bankers, insurance companies and software firms.

The Indian Consulate in New York, which has set up two helplines, has advised people seeking information on the safety of Indian residents to first log on to its website since the phone lines (212-774-04625 & 212-774-0604) could remain busy.

Meanwhile, twenty-three Keralites residing in the US are safe after the attacks in four cities of the country, according to the special cell 'Norika', set up at the secretariat in Thiruvananthapuram to give out information to relatives.

A total of 86 enquiries have been made so far, of which 23 were reported safe.

Few survivors amid debris

New York

RESCUERS USING sniffer dogs and heavy machinery sifted through the smouldering rubble of the World Trade Centre early on Thursday in a round-the-clock attempt to find survivors in what is feared to be a mass tomb.

As anxious New York families awaited clues about the fate of missing relatives, the monumental efforts of hundreds of emergency workers uncovered only seven people alive in a scene that looked like a war zone.

The preliminary death toll reached 82 by early Thursday in the attack by hijackers who crashed two commercial planes into the 110-story landmark buildings in Manhattan early on Tuesday and levelled them. About 40,000 people worked in the twin towers on a normal day.

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said he feared a few thousand people had been trapped in each of the two towers. New York City ordered 6,000 body bags.

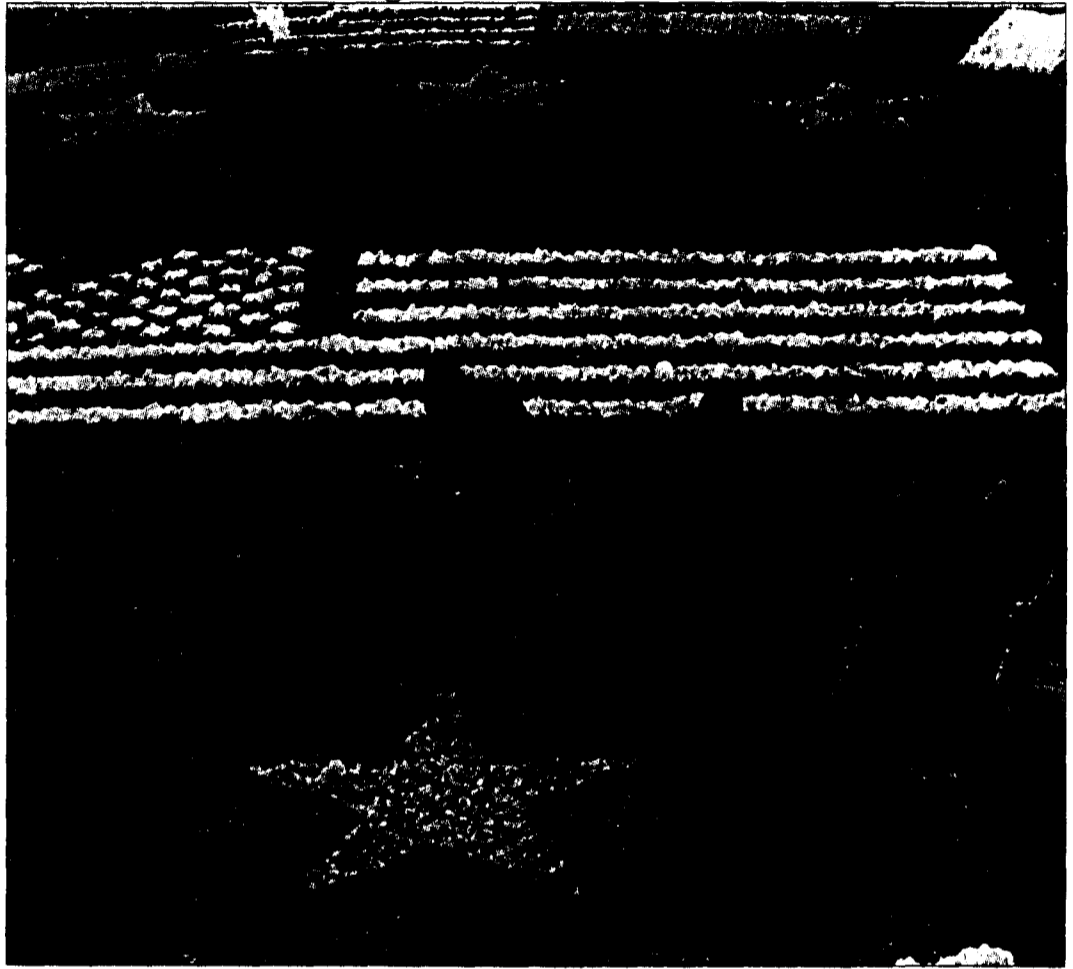
"They are sending the dogs in. When the dogs get a hit, they dig," said Chief Lawrence Cleary of the Fire Department from the scene of the rescue effort. "But as time goes on, it doesn't look good for finding survivors."

The coordinated attacks that brought down a symbol of America's financial power were followed by a similar strike on the Pentagon near Washington. A fourth hijacked airliner crashed in a field in rural Pennsylvania. President Bush described the attacks as "an act of war".

Bright searchlights lit the hellish ruins as the search went on through the night. "It's burning inside. It's like Dante's Inferno," said rescue worker Giuseppe Sergi. "There is fear that the temperature is too high, so the metal may still collapse."

Rescuers, using motion detectors to search for survivors and construction equipment to remove tons of smouldering debris, pulled a Port Authority policeman, a woman and an unidentified person from the ruins. The policeman was listed in critical condition at a hospital.

Giuliani said two other people had been rescued alive on Tuesday night, bringing the total so far to five. Sidewalks and streets around the disaster zone were strewn with mangled cars and demolished rescue equipment and blanketed with a several-inch-thick layer of dust, ash, blood, debris and a heart-wrenching array of personal belongings.



People lay a carpet of flowers at the opera place in Frankfurt, Germany, on Thursday. The carpet of flowers is in memory of the victims of the terrorist attacks in the United States. AP PHOTO

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) said 450,000 tons of debris would have to be cleared from the twin towers and another 15,000 from the third building that collapsed. Doctors at nearby hospitals reported a disturbing lack of people to treat.

In wrenching scenes played, panicked family members rushed from hospital to hospital seeking missing relatives. Weeping and supported by two friends, Daphne Bowers went to Bellevue Hospital with a small framed picture of her missing 28-year-old daughter Veronique.

"She called me and she said, 'Mommy, the building is on fire. There's smoke coming through the walls. I can't breathe,'" the distraught mother said. "The last thing she said was 'I love you, Mommy, goodbye,' and that was at 9:05." A spokeswoman for the city medical examiner's office said the process of bringing in and identifying bodies was "still in flux" as families roamed the

city, visiting hospitals in hopes of finding their relatives there.

The dead include hundreds of firefighters and police officers who rushed to the scene to help after the attack. Most were likely killed when the towers collapsed.

An eerie quiet settled over New York City on the day after the attack which traumatised its 8 million residents. A shift in the winds sent the smell of the burning buildings wafting five miles north of the stricken area, bathing Central Park in an acrid smell and causing some concern among residents that the fumes might be toxic. Giuliani said health department officials were checking air contamination levels. Manhattan. It turned out to be a false alarm. Officers at the site said the scare was set off by a bomb-sniffing dog, which had "positively detected something". Many New Yorkers stayed home, while others stopped to remember the dead and the rescue workers battling in the increasingly futile hope of saving those buried

under crushed concrete and twisted steel.

A crowd lined the West Side Highway to cheer construction workers travelling by bus to the disaster zone. Artists who use a space about half a block from Times Square invited people to write notes of love and support, and churches posted similar banners. Thousands gathered for a candlelight vigil at Washington Square Park in the heart of Greenwich Village.

Some bridges and tunnels into Manhattan were reopened and businesses and financial markets that were forced to close made plans to reopen no later than Monday. Newark International Airport in New Jersey reopened to limited traffic on Wednesday night under intense security. Some 1,500 National Guard troops were deployed, and the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier the USS George Washington was a few miles away, off the south coast of Long Island.

Reuters

A flight that turned into unforgettable nightmare

By JOHN KIFNER
New York Times Service

Boston, Sept. 13: American Airlines flight 11 to Los Angeles took off on schedule out of the tangle of construction choking Boston's Logan Airport, right on time at 7:59 am on Tuesday.

Captain John Ogonowski was at the controls, a 50-year-old veteran who lived on a farm north of the city and was looking forward to a family picnic on the weekend.

His co-pilot was first officer Thomas McGuinness and there were nine flight attendants and 81 passengers, a seemingly everyday mixture: a successful television producer, some businessmen, a retired ballet dancer, an actress and photographer, a young man who had made a success in the area's technology economy.

The plane held on course, almost due

west, for only 16 minutes.

Just past Worcester, instead of taking a southerly turn, the Boeing 767 swung suddenly to the north at 8:15 am. It had been taken over by hijackers. Shortly after the plane took off, Justice Department officials said, an ugly bloody scene — almost identical on each of the four airliners that were hijacked Tuesday — played itself out in the cabin. On each plane, the officials said, a group of three to six men pulled out knives and box cutters they had apparently brought on board in their carry-on luggage, perhaps concealed in shaving kits.

They threatened or slashed the flight attendants, possibly to get the pilots to open the cockpit door.

The northerly turn was clear only later when the plane's fatal route toward the World Trade Centre could be traced along the series of radar beacons beaming from

high points of land along the way.

But four minutes later, at 8:20 am, flight 11 failed to follow an instruction to climb to its cruising altitude of 31,000 feet, and it was then that air controllers suspected something was wrong.

It was just about then that the plane's transponder, a sophisticated piece of equipment that broadcast its location, went out.

Ogonowski apparently tried to signal air controllers by "keying" the microphone, pushing its button intermittently to signal the controllers that something was wrong and at one point allowing them to hear the voice of the hijacker, the *Christian Science Monitor* reported. "Don't do anything foolish, you won't be hurt," the *Monitor* reported a hijacker said, quoting air controllers. "We have more planes, we have other planes."

In the cabin, meanwhile, one of the flight

attendants managed to make a telephone call either on a cell phone or those on the back of the seats to the American Airlines Operations Centre. Officials there said, warning that a hijacking was in progress, and giving the seat number of one hijacker, providing a crucial lead to investigators. Neither the airline, the flight attendant's union nor federal investigators would reveal the name of the flight attendant.

On a beautiful early autumn day, flight 11 headed northwest, where the Berkshires, the Taconic Range and the beginning of the Green Mountains mark the spot where the borders of Massachusetts, New York and Vermont intersect.

Crossing into New York, the plane flew into the area known as the Albany-Schenectady-Troy triangle and over Amsterdamsdam and veered sharply left, heading due south to New York City.

11-10

Ray of Hope

19/9

It may never again be business as usual, but the US is doing its best to get back to business. Shopping malls and government offices are functioning again. Gas prices, which had soared in the immediate aftermath of the terrorist attacks on Tuesday, are back to normal. Within New York, relief operations are being conducted around the clock, and many city agencies and businesses have begun operating out of makeshift offices, with companies and hotels temporarily offering vacant space to displaced enterprises. Several places of worship are providing 24-hour service and counselling, and tales of heroism have begun surfacing. Over 300 firefighters who rushed to battle flames without worrying about their personal safety are reported missing, and New York's Fire Department chief Peter J Ganci was killed while personally supervising rescue efforts at the World Trade Center. New Yorkers, a notoriously self-absorbed lot, have banded together to cope with this collective tragedy, while Americans everywhere are giving generously — from their wallets and their veins. Perhaps nothing sums up the swing in national mood better than media reports of sales patterns in Wal-Mart, the largest US retailer. Early on Tuesday, Wal-Mart reported a scramble for bottled water and food. But by the time its stores closed, Wal-Mart had sold 88,000 American flags, 15 times its usual sales. The world's most powerful nation no longer believes it is invulnerable. But it is also realising that there are many different kinds of strength, and that the one derived from the uncrushable human spirit may work where military and technological prowess fail.

Central bankers around the world did their bit by unitedly pumping in more than \$80 billion of emergency funds into the banking system, which helped stabilise panicky financial markets. Trading of US treasury and other government securities resumed on Thursday; the stockmarkets are expected to re-open either on Friday or Monday, once logistical problems have been resolved. Analysts and financial advisors are urging investors not to resort to panic selling, arguing essentially that the fundamentals — to use a word much overused by Indian policymakers — remain sound. Meanwhile, calls have begun to rebuild the World Trade Center, as a symbol of faith and defiance. There has also been talk about how the reconstruction of New York could serve as a grim kind of pump-priming, and revive the slowdown-hit US economy. In terms of pure numbers, that argument may not hold. Though initial estimates of the material damage vary widely, the highest projections are around \$40 billion. That's not a figure to be sneezed at, but it does pale a little when set besides the US' gross domestic product of \$10 trillion. Software programmers who have been laid off will not suddenly find work again because some buildings have to be rebuilt — unless they don't mind becoming construction workers. Nor will businesses in, say, California, suddenly start buying more servers or routers. Certainly, there will be a minor boost to construction, and related sectors. But there is a far more important gain to be made by rebuilding New York — the psychological one. Cowed consumers are a surefire recipe for recession; believing you are part of a noble effort makes for a massive feel-good factor. Patriotism is said to be the last refuge of scoundrels. In this case, though, it may just be a ray of hope for the world economy.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 SEP 2001

1 4 S E P T E M B E R 2 0 0 1

NA-6 The day after, 1/19 WSN

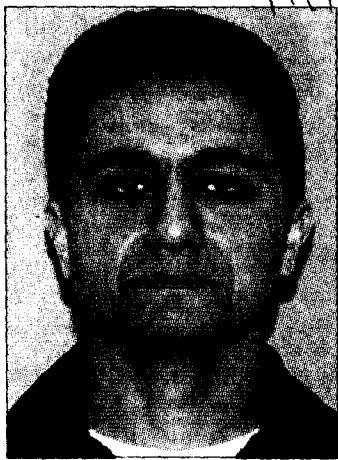
The day after is always worse than the day before. For trauma is replaced by devastating grief, and the nation has to get down to brass tacks. The people of the United States have now begun the vigil that can take days for the bodies to be brought out of the rubble that was once the World Trade Centre towers in New York. The FBI has begun the serious exercise of trying to identify the hijackers and through them the mastermind behind the terrorist attack that left not only America but the entire world gasping over the dimensions of the tragedy. It is now that the stories have started pouring out, of passengers aboard the hijacked planes who tried to establish contact with their relatives, of men and women trapped in the towers who made what turned out to be last telephone calls to friends and relatives, of death and sorrow. Underlying all this is the knowledge that the Bush administration will react. It will retaliate against those finally found responsible for the attack. It will be left with no other choice as it will have to prove to itself and the world that the US will not tolerate acts of terrorism. The fingers have started pointing at Osama bin Laden but obviously US President George W. Bush is waiting for more proof from the investigating agencies which, considering the speed with which the investigation is being conducted, will not be long in coming. The Taliban which is still protecting Osama bin Laden needs to be confronted, not just diplomatically but militarily. This group of regressive fanatics has converted Afghanistan into a virtual hell hole where the people are treated worse than cattle. The Taliban, apart from nurturing and sponsoring terrorism all over the world, is also against its own people using oppression to coerce them into abject submission. The US had turned a blind eye to the sinister antics of the force it had helped create. But the attack on New York and Washington has obviously made it impossible for the Bush administration to look the other way. Action is inevitable, it is just a question of timing now. It is, however, very important for the United States to take stock of its foreign policy and security equations. A serious review is called for where the US will do well to pinpoint the many reasons why it has become so vulnerable to terrorist attacks from almost all over the world. The remedy will lie in the answer to this question, although admittedly this introspection will be very difficult and will require a great deal of courage on the part of President Bush and his administration. Nobody has condoned the violence or the death of thousands of innocent people. Even the terrorists who are usually very vocal in their support of death have shied away from taking an extreme stand, and have actually expressed some level of sorrow for the people who have borne the brunt of the attack. It is always the innocent who suffer. Having said that it is important now for the world to unitedly crush terrorism from its map. This cannot be done by force alone, but requires military and punitive action to be supported by a well thought out diplomatic initiative which will isolate those who are not prepared to mend their ways and amalgamate those who have actually been looking for a way out. It is a difficult and even seemingly impossible exercise. But America and the world owe it to the thousands who still lie buried under the debris to at least, try.

THE ASIAN AGE

1 4 SEP 2001

Sleuths see Laden telltale

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Washington, Sept. 13: The hijackers who commandeered the commercial jets that attacked the World Trade Center and the Pentagon were followers of Osama bin Laden, federal authorities said.

The authorities said they had also identified accomplices in several cities who had helped plan and execute Tuesday's attacks. Officials said they knew who these people were and also important biographical details about many of them but declined to provide their names or nationalities.

However, German police today said they had detained an airport worker "of Moroccan origin" in connection with the attacks. Police also said two of the suspected hijackers had lived in Hamburg, including 33-year-old Mohammed Atta (AFP picture above) who was on the passenger list of one of the hijacked planes.

Officials said the hijackings featured many elements of previous operations sponsored by bin Laden: small teams; a coordinating commander who arrives on the scene at the final moment; and logistic support by local sympathisers. An aide of bin Laden today quoted him as saying that while he had nothing to do with the attacks, they were "punishment from Allah".

In Boston, authorities had recovered a flight manual in Arabic, which was believed to have belonged to one of the hijackers, Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Texas Republican, said.

The FBI has identified a team of 50 people who helped plan or carry out Tuesday's attacks, a newspaper reported. Forty "infiltrators" had been accounted for, including those who died in the suicide attacks, and 10 remained at large.

Government officials disclosed that at least two people believed to be associates of bin Laden, and who may have been involved in the attacks, had entered the US recently, slipping into the country before the immigration and naturalisation service was told to prevent their entry.

Officials said that each of the four hijacking teams had a leader and worked independently, though the teams appeared to be aware that their actions were being closely coordinated with the other groups.

At least one team entered the US via Canada and made its way to Boston, where the flights of the two aircraft that struck the World Trade Center originated.

Attorney-general John Ashcroft said that each flight was seized by three to six hijackers who boarded as passengers, then, with knives and boxcutters, overwhelmed the crew.

Investigators were focusing on possible confederates in Boston, metropolitan Washington and Union City, New Jersey — near the three airports from where the hijacked planes departed.

Ashcroft said the hijack teams included pilots who had been trained in the US, at least two of them at a commercial flight school in Florida.

With 4,000 FBI agents and 3,000 support personnel on the case, Ashcroft called the inquiry "the most massive and intensive investigation ever conducted in America".

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE
AND REUTERS

THE TELE

14 SEP

WORLD LEADERS OFFER SUPPORT TO U.S.

We will lead the war on terrorism: Bush

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19/9
WASHINGTON, SEPT. 13. Fighting back tears, the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, vowed on Thursday that America would "lead the world to victory" over terrorism in a struggle he termed the first war of the 21st Century. He announced plans to visit New York, site of the World Trade Center twin towers that were destroyed by attacks earlier in the week.

"I weep and mourn with America," the President said at the White House as officials said the toll from attacks in New York and on the Pentagon on Tuesday would reach into the thousands. "There is a quiet anger in America," Mr. Bush said in a telephone conference call with the New York Governor, Mr. George Pataki, and the Mayor, Mr. Rudolph Giuliani.

"My resolve is steady and strong about winning this war that has been declared on America," the President added. "It's a new kind of war... This Government will adjust and this Government will call other Governments to join us."

Mr. Bush's eyes were red and wet as he ended his conference, his head and hands trembling slightly as he made his remarks.

He said he had consulted a broad range of foreign leaders, had found "universal support" for the U.S. and expected there would be backing for whatever retaliation he ordered.

Mr. Bush started work in the Oval Office on Thursday with another round of calls to world leaders as part of his effort to build a multinational coalition. Leaders of Japan, Italy, Saudi Arabia and NATO "have all said they will stand together with the United States to combat terrorism," the White House Press Secretary, Mr. Ari Fleischer said.

NATO's policy-making council invoked a Cold War-era mutual defence pledge for the first time on Wednesday, declaring that the attack on the U.S. was an attack on all allies and could draw a collective military response.

With a sense of urgency on every front, the Government deployed agents to the nation's awakening airports on Thursday to help make the return to the skies safe.

'Osama prime suspect'

The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, identified Osama bin Laden as a prime suspect in the terrorist attacks and said he would press the President of Pakistan for information on his operations. Gen. Powell, at a news conference on Thursday, became the first senior Bush administration official to say for the record what many have been saying privately: that Osama bin Laden is suspected of engineering the attacks.

Numerous officials said intelligence information pointed toward a coordinated attack masterminded by Osama bin Laden. Despite an intensive investiga-

tion and widely televised police raids on hotels in the Boston area, no arrests have been made.

The Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, said "a number of hijackers were trained as pilots in the United States itself." He said federal authorities had identified a team of 50 persons who may have helped plan or carry out Tuesday's attacks.

In New York, the 54-storey building housing Nasdaq's new headquarters partially collapsed in a plume of smoke, more than 30 hours after Tuesday's attack toppled the twin towers of the World Trade Center located across it. Nasdaq had moved into the building only in recent months and would now need to find a new headquarters though its spokesman said the loss of the building would have little effect on its technical facilities.

Mr. Giuliani said 4,763 people had been reported missing in the devastation of the Trade Center. Crews combed through the ruins, desperate to find survivors. Rescue work was slowed by hellish bursts of flame and the collapse of the last standing section of one of the towers. The effort was mirrored at the

Pentagon, where 190 people were feared dead and 70 bodies had been recovered. The 4,763 missing reported by Mr. Giuliani along with the deaths in Washington and Pennsylvania when commandeered airliners crashed into the Pentagon and a grassy field southeast of Pittsburgh would bring the total to more than 5,000.

Germany joins hunt

A report from Hamburg, Germany, quoting the chief federal prosecutor, said on Thursday that authorities were searching for a man of Arab origin suspected of involvement in the attacks in the U.S.

Three of the men who participated in the attacks were believed to have studied electronics at the Technical University in Hamburg, Mr. Kay Nehm told a news conference in the city of Karlsruhe. He

said the man was suspected of murder and attacking air traffic as well as having membership of a terrorist organisation.

"There is a suspicion that, since the beginning of this year, a group has been founded in Hamburg... with the aim of carrying out serious crimes together with other Islamic fundamentalist groups abroad, to attack the United States in a spectacular way through the destruction of symbolic buildings," Mr. Nehm's office said in a statement. Two of the men believed to have studied in Hamburg were on board the first aircraft that hit the World Trade Center on Tuesday, while the third was on board the plane that crashed in Pennsylvania, he said.

Uniforms and a suicide note were found in a piece of luggage they left at the airport in Boston, Mr. Nehm said. — AP, Reuters, PTI



"I WEEP AND MOURN FOR AMERICA....".
The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, addresses a teleconference at the Oval Office in the White House on Thursday. — AP

THE HINDU

14 SEP 2001

U.S. forces asked to be on the ready

By Sridhar Krishnaswami *11-16*

NEW YORK, SEPT. 13. In what appears to be the preparation for a major military retaliation for the terrorist attacks of Tuesday, the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, has called on troops to be prepared "in the days ahead" for the battle against terrorism.

In a videotaped message to American troops worldwide, Mr. Rumsfeld said, "We face powerful and terrible enemies, enemies we intend to vanquish. The task of vanquishing these terrible enemies — and protecting the American people and the cause of freedom — will fall to you".

But in a news conference and remarks to reporters, Mr. Rumsfeld did not specifically talk about military retaliation but left no doubt as to where the Bush administration was heading.

"Time will tell. I'm kind of old fashioned. I am inclined to think if you're going to cock it, you throw it," Mr. Rumsfeld remarked, meaning that if there is the threat to retaliate, it should be gone through.

The Defence Secretary's comments come at a time when the administration has made a pointed reference to the fact that Tuesday's targets included the White House and Air Force One. This partly explains why it took the President some nine hours to return to the nation's capital, with his Air Force One touching down at secure military installations in Louisiana and Nebraska.

The thinking is that either the American Airlines plane that ploughed into the Pentagon or the United Airlines flight that went down near Pittsburgh may have been intended for striking the White House. But details as to how the Air Force One could have been targeted has not been revealed.

Venturing out of the White House for the first time since the deadly terrorist attacks of Tuesday, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, said he was both sad, angry and overwhelmed at the destruction of the Pentagon.



The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and the Secretary of Defence, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, addressing mediapersons after examining the devastation at the Pentagon, in Arlington, on Wednesday. — AP

"I am overwhelmed by the devastation... Coming here makes me sad on the one hand. It also makes me angry", he remarked while surveying the badly damaged building and talking to rescue workers at the site.

The Bush administration, in spite of all the tough words from senior officials and Cabinet members, has been measured in the manner in which it has gone about the whole thing. The thinking is that retaliation for Tuesday's attacks will be very much there, but that the U.S. is

perhaps looking at a much broader base of support before unleashing its military might.

While the solid support from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation has been widely welcomed in Washington, senior law makers are hoping that any strikes against Osama bin Laden will also include some participation by Russia. The Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Mr. Carl Levin, has expressed the hope of a "joint action" involving Russia against Osama bin Laden.

Suspects took flying lessons in Florida

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT. 13. Federal authorities have identified a team of 50 persons who may have helped plan or carry out Tuesday's air attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon. The Attorney-General, Mr. John Ashcroft, said anywhere between 12 and 24 persons were involved in the hijacking of the four planes in Boston, Newark and Washington.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation appears to have some solid leads and has detained a number of persons suspected of involvement in the terrorist acts. But no formal arrests have been made so far. Officials say that the hijackers, some of whom are believed to have learnt to fly commercial aircraft in this country, have ties to

countries like Saudi Arabia and Egypt. It is also said that the investigative agencies have seized suicide notes; the perpetrators of the deadly acts had used cash and credit cards to pay for transportation and hotel rooms.

The FBI says at least two of the suspected terrorists may have taken flying lessons from a school in Florida. "The Department of Justice has undertaken perhaps the most massive and intensive investigation ever conducted in this country," the Attorney-General said. At least six persons have been detained in different places, from Massachusetts to Florida. "We are attempting to recreate the travels of each of the hijackers on the planes — either the hijackers themselves or their associ-

ates," said the FBI Director, Mr. Robert Mueller. At this point, the investigating teams are looking beyond the Tuesday attacks, to see patterns in earlier attacks in the United States and are exploring the possibility that several terrorist cells may have co-ordinated in pulling off this week's horrific acts. "This could have been the result of several terrorist kingpins working together," a law enforcement official told a news agency.

A top Republican lawmaker appears to agree with this assessment. "Most of it today points to Osama bin Laden but the speculation at the end of the road is that he and his network were very much involved with Hizbollah, Fatah and other terrorist outfits," said Senator Charles Grassley.

The Republican Senator also said authorities had told him that all the hijackers were of West Asian descent and that each of the hijackers had a "tremendous amount of ground support".

While pursuing the "numerous credible leads", the FBI is also looking at the possibility that "one set" of hijackers with ties to Osama came to this country from Canada. In Ottawa, the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr. Jean Chretien, pledged cooperation with the U.S. on the matter. Hundreds of special agents of the FBI assisted by support personnel began work at the Pentagon and in Pennsylvania (where a United Airlines jet went down); but work has not been able to resume at the World Trade Centre site.

The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, holding talks with the newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Wendy Chamberlin, in Islamabad on Thursday. — AFP

Pak. offers full support to U.S.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 13. Pakistan has offered its 'unstinted' cooperation to the United States in the fight against terrorism and said the attacks in New York and Washington has raised the struggle against terrorism to a new level.

The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, conveyed this to the newly-appointed U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Ms. Wendy Chamberlin, when she called on him this morning to present her credentials and raise the issue of cooperation expected by Washington in tracking down those behind Tuesday's dastardly attacks.

The Press Secretary to Gen. Musharraf, Maj. Gen. Rashid Quereshi, said there was no specific request or demand from the U.S. during the meeting. However, it is believed that Ms. Chamberlin pointedly asked whether Washington could expect Islamabad's support if the U.S. were to decide to take concrete action against Afghanistan if evidence pointing to the complicity of the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, in the attacks.

Gen. Musharraf is understood to have replied in the affirmative. This was evident from Ms. Chamberlin's brief remarks to the press after her 45-minute meeting with him. "We had a frank discussion of the situation. It was direct. We had a meeting of minds. Let me point out that I am leaving after my first meeting on the occasion of presentation of credentials on a positive note. The President has made a positive and strong statement. In the course of the meeting, he repeated several times that he is with us," she said.

Her remarks assume significance in the wake of the statement by the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, in his press

conference at Washington on Wednesday. He said America would seek Pakistan's cooperation in tracking down the culprits.

In fact, even as Gen. Powell was in the midst of his press conference, Gen. Musharraf came out with a strong statement late on Wednesday night pledging full cooperation to the Bush Administration in combating terrorism.

Gen. Musharraf, who returned from Karachi around 10 p.m. on

tending cooperation to international efforts to combat terrorism in the past and will continue to do so. All countries must join hands in this common cause. I wish to assure President Bush and the U.S. Government our unstinted cooperation in the fight against terrorism," the operative portion of the statement said. While the statement and Ms. Chamberlin's remarks leave little scope for ambiguity on the readiness of Isla-

Osama moves into new hideout

KABUL, SEPT. 13. Osama bin Laden moved to a new hiding place within minutes of the terrorist onslaught in the U.S., refusing to tell anyone where he was going or where he had been when the attacks occurred, sources in Pakistan's intelligence service said on Thursday.

The sources in Pakistan spoke on condition of anonymity. Pakistan is one of only three countries that recognise Afghanistan's Taliban Government, and is considered to have good intelligence on Islamic militants operating here. A U.S. official, also speaking anonymously, confirmed the Pakistani report.

Osama bin Laden was last seen in public in February, at his son's wedding in the southern Afghan city of Kandahar. — AP

Wednesday, was closeted with his aides and advisers for over two hours. The meeting is believed to have reviewed the situation arising out of the attacks and the outcome was the strongly-worded statement.

"We strongly condemn this barbaric act of terrorism, which will live in memory as a most heinous crime against humanity. As the world tries to grasp the magnitude of the tragedy and mourns those who have perished, we pray for the recovery of thousands of others who have suffered injuries. We regard terrorism as an evil that threatens the world community. Concerted international effort is needed to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. The carnage in New York and Washington has raised this struggle to a new level. Pakistan has been ex-

mabad to cooperate with Washington, Maj. Gen. Quereshi gave an impression that Pakistan could not be expected to give up its basic position vis-a-vis the Taliban regime.

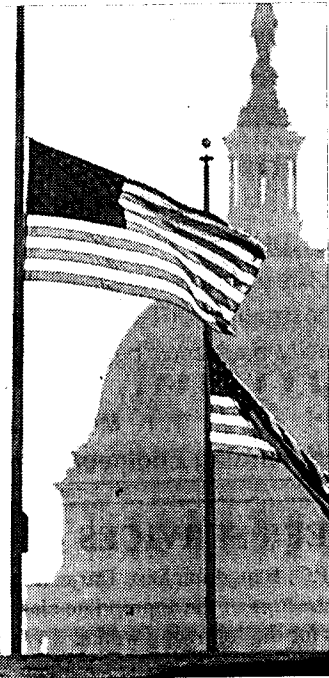
Sridhar Krishnaswami reports from New York:

Earlier in the day, the Bush administration asked Pakistan if it would help in tracking down those involved in the horrific acts of Tuesday.

"We thought it would be useful to point out to the Pakistani leadership at every level that we are looking for and expecting their fullest cooperation... as we conduct this investigation... as well as how helpful they might be if we find a basis to act on that information," the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said.

14 SEP 2001

Terrorists may have flown the aircraft: experts



With the Capitol in the background, flags fly at half-mast on the Washington Monuments grounds on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. — The terrorists who crashed planes into the Pentagon and World Trade Center probably were 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," Mr John Mica, chairman of the House aviation subcommittee, said following yesterday'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 Mr 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 knife-like instruments to take over the plane. Current airport security systems are designed to catch people carrying metal weapons such as guns and knives, said Mr David Stempler of Air Travelers' Association. And in recent years, much effort also has been expended on developing devices to sniff out bombs. Mr 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. "One thing about terrorists is just how flexible they are," Jenkins said. "When you put a roadblock in one place, they go around and find other means." "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." His view was shared by Mr 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." Mr 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." Mr Stempler said the possibility of terrorists actually taking over planes and then flying them into targets is not one that he had ever heard discussed. The Boston Herald, quoting an unidentified source, 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 yesterday 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. A radar track of American Airlines Flight 11 that struck the World Trade Center showed that it left Boston en route to Los Angeles and began its path westward normally, but then made a sharp left turn to fly down the Hudson River to New York. It was not known whether the pilot reported a hijacking. Even if a terrorist were known to be in control of a plane heading for a major city, coping would pose a huge challenge, Mr Stempler said. "I don't think we are that primed and ready at this point. I don't think we could get the interceptors up fast enough to manage that," he said. Mr Burnett said criminal investigations will be launched quickly to see whether there is a common thread in the apparent breaches of security that allowed terrorists aboard the planes.

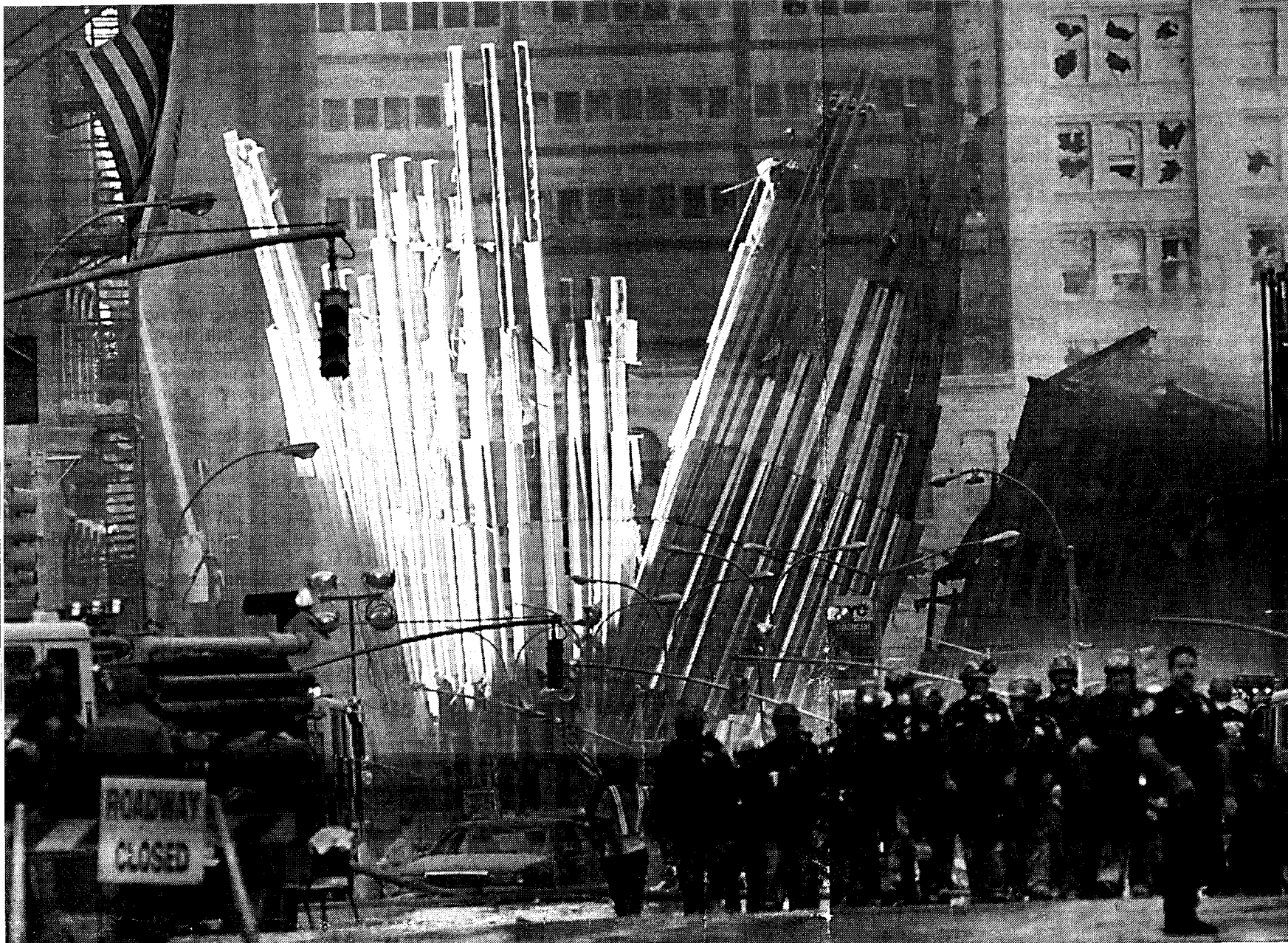
PENTAGON CRASH JET HIJACKED WITH KNIVES, CUTTERS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. — The hijackers who crashed an American Airlines aircraft into the Pentagon as part of a coordinated attack on the USA, brandished knives and cardboard cutters to take over the aircraft. The information was revealed yesterday during two telephone calls that Barbara Olson, wife of Solicitor General Mr Ted Olson, made from aboard the aircraft before the crash. Apparently the hijackers were not carrying firearms. Olson, who was also a commentator for CNN, was one of the 64 people who died in the crash of what is believed to be a Boeing 757. A total of 266 people were reported to have died in four coordinated air crashes across the Northeast. Olson made two calls to inform her husband that the air-landed plane, believed to be flying from Washington's Dulles Airport to Los Angeles, had been hijacked. She told him that the hijackers, armed with knives and cardboard cutters, herded the passengers and crew, including the pilot, toward the back of the plane. Mr Olson was said by CNN to have immediately called the command center at the justice department to inform them of the hijacking. The department, unaware of the developments, told him they would investigate. Olson told her husband that there was more than one hijacker, but made no additional comments. "What should I tell the pilots to do?" CNN reported Olson as asking her husband. The airliner crashed into the Pentagon, just outside Washington, DC, yesterday morning, setting the nerve center of US defence on fire and gutting a large portion of the structure. This was one of four air crashes involved in the attack, compared by many to the Japanese strike on Pearl Harbour during World War II, which spread terror across New York City and the nation's capital. No death toll was immediately available but officials feared the number could run into the thousands, as 40,000 people worked in the Trade Center. One passenger on the aircraft that crashed outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, locked himself in one of the plane's bathrooms and called 911 from his cell phone to report the hijacking. Mr George W Bush set off from the headquarters of the Strategic Air Command outside of Omaha, Nebraska to return to Washington yesterday afternoon, while the Federal Aviation Administration for the first time in history ordered all airplanes across the country grounded until at least noon today. — Reuters

Kuwait tense, US troops on alert

CL MANOJ STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

KUWAIT CITY, Sept. 12. — The people of Kuwait remain tense as their biggest ally and protector, the United States, is reeling under unprecedented terrorist attacks. The Kuwaiti government has sounded an alert throughout the country, which has not yet fully recovered from the memories of the Iraqi invasion in the early nineties. People remain indoors monitoring the TV news and speculating about the possible fallout of the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center on this volatile region where Saddam Hussein's Iraq still makes occasional statements of its continued defiance through hit-and-run operations. Even though there have not been any untoward incidents so far, the authorities are not taking any chances. The government has deployed its army and security personnel at strategic points like the airport, Parliament and ministries and also areas where the US embassy and other vital offices are located. Naval forces and the Air Force are also reportedly under alert, with the personnel told not to leave offices pending further orders. The Emir of Kuwait was prompt in sending a condolence message to Mr George W Bush while the commoners here still have not come to grips with the fact that the nation on whose shoulders they were leaning on for security against their regional rivals has been subjected to such a deadly blow. Mr Adel Mohammed Boreilly, a senior official with the Kuwait Airways told The Statesman that they have tightened their "three-pronged security check-up at airports and on board flights following the developments in the USA. The United States on its own has also taken many security steps to protect their men and interests in this oil-rich state where an estimated 15000 to 25000 US military personnel are camping ever since the Allied forces pulled out the Iraqis in the bloody Gulf War in the early nineties. The US forces at Camp Doha, on the outskirts of Kuwait city and also other camps in the region are on maximum alert. The US embassy through an official statement urged all American citizens here to "exercise vigilance concerning their personnel security, and to keep a low profile."



Workers gather at the site of the World Trade Center on Wednesday. In the background is a portion of the facade that has fallen from the twin towers. — AP/PTI

Don't do anything foolish, hijacker told pilot

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

BOSTON, Sept. 12. — "We have more planes, we have other planes. Don't do anything foolish, you won't be hurt," a hijacker told the pilot of one of the passenger jets, destined to be deliberately crashed into the World Trade Center in New York, a newspaper reported today. The comments were reported by an air traffic controller, who overheard the conversation between the hijacker and pilot on the passenger jet, and posted today by the Christian Science Monitor on its Internet site. "One of the pilots keyed their mike so the conversation person in the cockpit could be heard," said the controller,

who wanted to remain anonymous. "The person in the cockpit was speaking English. He was saying something like 'don't do anything foolish, you won't be hurt'." The jet had taken off from Boston for Los Angeles before the hijacker or the pilot asked for an air corridor to New York's Kennedy airport after which the plane's transponder was disconnected. The device, which responds to a radar beam, allows the plane to be identified. The air controller heard someone in the cockpit say: "We have more planes, we have other planes." But he did not immediately understand the allusion. Four passenger jets were hijacked yesterday, two of which crashed into the World Trade Center's twin towers in lower Manhattan's financial district. Another hit the Pentagon outside Washington, and one crashed in western Pennsylvania. The pilots did not enter a four-digit code, indicating a hijacking, or at least radar stations didn't receive such a signal, the air controller said. He said that he transponder might have been disconnected to prevent the pilot from alerting the control tower. While it was not clear who may have unplugged the device, it was clear that the hijackers knew what the transponder was, the air controller said.

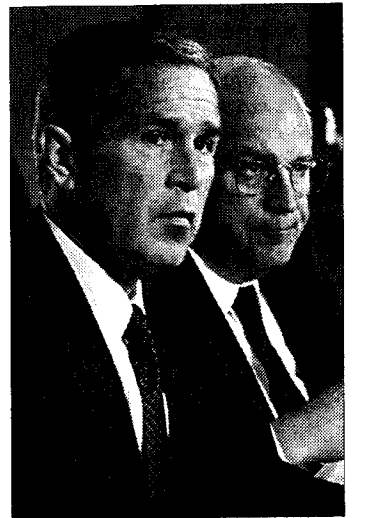
...AND THEN THERE WAS SILENCE

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. — The calls came out of the sky — a reminder of the caller's love, warnings they might never return. And then silence. Sobbing, flight attendant Cee Cee Lyles called her husband at home in Fort Myers, Florida, on her cell phone, her aunt, Ms Mareya Schneider, said. "She called him and let him know how much she loved him and the boys," Ms Schneider said. People screamed in the background, Lyles said: "We've been hijacked." The phone then went dead. The plane she was on crashed at south of Pittsburgh. The phone rang at Ms Alice Hoggan's home just before dawn in San Francisco yesterday morning. It was her son, Mark Bingham, on that same United Airlines jet. "Hi Mom ... I love you very much," he told her. "I'm calling you from the plane. We've been taken over. There are three men that say they have bombs." Barbara Olson, a conservative commentator and wife of the US solicitor general, Mr Theodore Olson, twice called her husband and described details. She said the attackers used knife-like instruments, law enforcement officials said. They gave no other details. — AP

USA will take time to organise its response

MICHAEL EVANS THE TIMES, LONDON

LONDON, Sept. 12. — President George W Bush will be seeking revenge for yesterday's attacks, but his options are limited because the United States is dealing not with an enemy state but with a covert terrorist organisation. The FBI will also have to be given time to mount an investigation to gather evidence before Mr Bush can be justified in planning a retaliatory strike. The United States has taken military action in the past in response to terrorist attacks and has faced criticism for launching raids without fool-proof intelligence to back them up.



President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney during a National Security Council meeting on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

launched a military raid in retaliation for a terrorist operation was in August 1998 when the Americans mounted simultaneous military strikes against targets in Afghanistan and Sudan associated with Osama bin Laden, the dissident Saudi accused of bombing US embassies. Tomahawk cruise missiles were fired at suspected bin Laden training camps in Afghanistan and at a factory in Sudan, reported by American intelligence to be a chemical weapons facility linked to the exiled terrorist leader. Although the training camps south of Kandahar in southern Afghanistan were successfully hit, bin Laden himself, who lives under the protection of the Taliban authorities and never remains in one place for long, survived. Later there were also accusations that the factory in Khartoum in Sudan, which was destroyed by cruise missiles, had never produced agents for chemical weapons. However, William Cohen, then the US defence secretary, insisted that the plant produced precursor chemicals that would allow the production of VX nerve agents. Bin Laden, he said, was known to be attempting to acquire chemical weapons. The Tomahawk attacks were launched from two ships in the Red Sea, and from four ships and a submarine in the Arabian Sea. In 1986, President Reagan ordered air strikes against Libya in retaliation for terrorist attacks on Americans. The US had accused Libya of being responsible for bombing a discotheque in West Berlin, in which an American serviceman and a Turkish woman were killed and 230 others were injured. American F111 bombers, taking off from a base in Britain, struck targets in Tripoli and Benghazi, including the headquarters of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. Faced by such a disastrous terrorist attack on the US yesterday, Mr Bush will be under pressure from his security and military advisers to mount a retaliatory attack to demonstrate to the terrorists that their action will be avenged. If conclusive evidence is compiled against bin Laden, there will be pressure to carry out an operation that will have a decisive impact on his organisation. But in order to target the terrorist leader himself, the US would have to launch a ground-force operation as well as air strikes, and this would involve the risk of American casualties and the "invasion" of Afghanistan's sovereignty.

Learning from past, they did it right

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. — The terrorists who crashed two planes into the World Trade Center in New York apparently had learnt a lesson from a much-lower-impact attack on the buildings in 1993. In that attack, a car, laden with explosives, was left under the building and the explosion killed 6 people and injured hundreds. It damaged several underground floors of the 110-storey buildings, but left the rest of the structure relatively intact. According to the New York Times, the twin towers, completed in 1976, were designed to withstand earthquakes and impacts from small planes. But crashing two high-speed Boeing 767s was too strong for the buildings to withstand. Construction engineering experts have pointed out that the buildings "imploded" because of the impact of aircraft-fuel-caused fire and under weight of the debris from the top floors. Fortunately, the towers did not topple over, thereby lim-



Ruzhana Vecherko, 3, puts a candle outside the US Embassy in Belarus on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

iting the area covered by the falling debris. At least 40,000 people work in the twin towers on any day, and about 1,500 tourists visit the buildings. The New York Times reported that a seismic monitoring centre reported that a seismic monitoring centre of Columbia University, based 10 miles north of Manhattan, recorded the impact of the plane crashes on its meters. The effect

was stronger than a January earthquake that shook eastern Manhattan in January, registering 2.4 on the Richter scale. The impact of the fall of the two towers was not significant. Egyptian terrorists were charged with the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center in 1995, and the mastermind of the operation was nabbed in 1998. The Pentagon, on the other hand, has been a veritable fortress. The building, one of the largest office buildings in the world, was constructed in 1941 at the beginning of World War II. The five-sided building covers 29 acres, with a 5-acre center court and 67 acres of parking space. The five-story, 71-foot tall building is a group of five concentric pentagons, covering more than 17 miles of corridor. Its gross floor area is 6.5 million square feet, with 3.8 million square feet available office space — three times the floor space of the Empire State Building, which incidentally has reclaimed its place as the tallest building in New York following the destruction of the World Trade Center towers.

REVISED TOLL RATES FOR VIDYASAGAR SETU

It is brought to public notice that Toll Rates have been revised as follows and shall be effective from 7 a.m. on 15/9/2001

Sl.	Type of vehicle	Toll per vehicle
1.	Heavy goods truck with trailer & similar other articulated heavy goods vehicles	Rs. 80.00
2.	Lorry, Bus or Tractor without trailer and similar other vehicles	Rs. 50.00
3.	Minibus, Matador, Tempo-truck, Pick-up Van, Jeep-trailer combination and similar other articulated light vehicles	Rs. 25.00
4.	Motor Car, Taxi, Jeep, Station-wagon, Tempo, Auto-rickshaw, Three wheeler Scooters or other Auto-driven light vehicles	Rs. 10.00
5.	Scooter, Motor cycle etc.	Rs. 3.00

This notice is issued in pursuance of Transport Dept. Notification No 6762 WT/E-52/94 dated 31/8/2001.

(B.D. Mukherjee)
Vice Chairman

Hooghly River Bridge Commissioners

From dust rises force of fury

FROM ALAN ELSNER

New York & Washington, George W. Bush committed the US to a "monumental struggle of good versus evil" as rescue workers dug through rubble for survivors and fought fires still burning after the worst attack on the country since Pearl Harbor.

As the nation tried to move back to a semblance of normal life, Americans also braced themselves for a death toll expected to climb well into the thousands from the attacks.

Knife-wielding hijackers commandeered four planes on Tuesday and flew two aircraft into the World Trade Center, toppling the two highest structures in the city; a third seriously damaged the Pentagon. The fourth hijacked plane crashed in Pennsylvania.

Secretary of state Colin Powell said the US was planning a "worldwide effort" to build a coalition involving not only Nato but Muslim states as well to fight "terrorism". Powell said he expected the fullest cooperation from Pakistan if the US decided to act. The UN pulled its staff out of Kabul and Islamabad, prompting an appeal from the Taliban to the US against launching an attack.

Nato invoked the mutual defence clause for the first time in its history, raising the possibility of a collective military response to the attacks.

New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the preliminary toll was 45 but the figure would move into the thousands. "The best estimate we can make, relying on the Port Authority and just everybody else that has experience with this, is there will be a few thousand people left in each building," he said, referring to the massive twin towers of the World Trade Center where 40,000 people worked.

At least 202 firefighters were still missing and 259 uniformed service members had not been accounted for, he said. Edward

Plaugher, in charge of fighting the fire at the Pentagon in northern Virginia, said the death toll at could range from 100 to 800 people.

Bush, facing the defining moment of his eight-month-old presidency, said: "This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil but good will prevail."

Americans reacted with controlled fury and a burst of patriotism as the full dimensions of the devastation began to emerge. The country was still far from functioning normally with airports and financial markets shut down and many schools closed.

Authorities had hoped to begin resuming commercial air services around noon but it became clear many airports were not ready. Financial markets were scheduled to reopen tomorrow.

The first clues began to emerge about the identities of the perpetrators, pointing towards a possible West Asian and Islamic connection. Two Boston newspapers reported that authorities in Massachusetts had identified five Arab men as suspects.

As a cloud of dust still hung over New York City, rescue workers reported signs of life in the rubble, including at least one person sending out calls on a cell phone. The world's financial centre resembled a desolate war zone, the streets of lower Manhattan coated in gray ash and a thick trail of smoke pouring into the sky from where the World Trade Center's twin towers once stood.

Arizona Sen. John McCain described the national mood as one of "controlled fury". Some New Yorkers flew American flags on their cars as they drove to work.

Powell said the US response would far surpass a single reprisal raid. "This is going to take a multifaceted attack on many dimensions — diplomatic, military, intelligence, law enforcement."

A Pakistani newspaper said Osama bin Laden had denied any role in the attacks.

THE DAY AFTER, NEW YORKERS GO TO WORK WITH FLAG ALOFT



An American flag flutters near the ruins of the World Trade Center towers. (Reuters)

Investigators

Boston hotel

Boston, Sept. 12 (Reuters): Heavily armed police and FBI agents swarmed into a hotel here this afternoon in what appeared to be a possible arrest attempt in the wake of the terror attacks.

Police cordoned off the area around Boston's Westin-Copley Hotel where an armoured vehicle and officers in riot gear arrived shortly after noon. A bomb squad with dogs and ambulances also reached the spot after Boston police and FBI agents entered the hotel.

US agents searched homes and businesses in Florida, focusing on an aviation school where two suspects may have received flight training. Search warrants were served on homes in Davie and Coral Springs, two towns west of Fort Lauderdale, and agents searched businesses in Hollywood and a home in Sarasota County on the state's west coast.

FBI agents interviewed a former employee of a Florida flight school who may have housed two of the suspects in his home for a short time and seized files and a computer from the school, a newspaper reported. Media attention focused on a man named Mohammed Atta, who was apparently listed on the flight manifest of one of the hijacked planes.

QUOTE

When you are here, the human part of it hits you. On TV, it's like a Godzilla movie

PAT PRAPAS
A New York resident

Bush vows to meet war with war

FROM DEBORAH CHARLES

Washington, Sept. 12 (Reuters): President George W. Bush has called the terror attacks "acts of war" and asked Congress for emergency authority to spend whatever it takes to recover from the worst attack on US soil.

"The deliberate and deadly attacks, which were carried out yesterday against our country, were more than acts of terror. They were acts of war," Bush said.

White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said there was "real and credible information" that White House and Air Force One were targets of the attacks and the plane that hit Pentagon was headed for the presidential house. It was also revealed that some of the hijackers were trained as pilots in the US.

Bush vowed to use all resources to "conquer" the enemy. "This battle will take time and resolve, but make no mistake about it, we will win," he said. "America is united. The freedom-loving nations of the world stand by our side," he said.

"This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail."

Bush, flanked by secretary of state Colin Powell and vice-president Dick Cheney, made the comments in the White House Cabinet room after meeting his national security team.

Bush said he was sending to Congress a request for emergency funding authority to spend whatever it takes to rescue victims, help citizens of New York and Washington and to protect the country's national security.

Bill Young, chairman of the House of Representatives appropriations committee, said he would support "whatever it takes to prove to the rest of the world that Americans are not going to be intimidated by this kind of cowardice".

Bush began the morning with intelligence briefings and later met leading lawmakers from both parties. After the meeting the lawmakers said both parties stood together in their desire to move forward on Bush's requests.

Analysts see the events of Tuesday morning as a turning point in Bush's young presidency, challenging the foreign policy neophyte to prove he can handle such a crisis.

Bush has vowed to avenge the attacks, saying he would "make no distinction between the terror-

ists who committed these acts and those who harbour them".

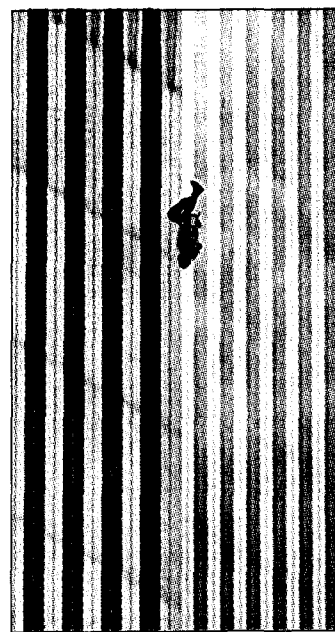
Bush said "we will not allow this enemy to win the war by changing our way of life".

White House said Bush would not be travelling in the near-term, though he wants to visit the sites of the attacks.

The world watched to see how the President would react. As they waited, Americans and politicians from all parties offered support.

Former President Bill Clinton, in Australia on vacation, said the US needed to send a clear message to the world that it stood united behind Bush.

An opinion poll showed that 78 per cent of the 619 people interviewed before Bush's Tuesday night address expressed confidence in him.



A person falls head first after jumping from the World Trade Center. (AP/PTI)

Delhi focus on terror, not Pakistan

Pervez for united fight against terror

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR

Islamabad, Sept. 12: President Pervez Musharraf has condemned the "most brutal and horrible" terrorist attacks in New York and Washington even as scrips tumbled on the country's biggest stock exchange.

In a message to US President George W. Bush, Musharraf said late on Tuesday that the people and the government of Pakistan deeply mourned the enormous and unprecedented loss of innocent lives in the terrorist strikes and strongly condemned the attacks.

Musharraf said: "We share the grief of the American people in this grave national tragedy. We strongly condemn this most brutal and horrible act of terror and violence... At this moment of shock and tragedy, I convey to you, to the bereaved families and the American people our most profound sympathy and condolence."

The President added that the world must unite to fight against terrorism in all its forms and root out this modern-day evil.

The blows that brought down two symbols of America's enduring power also jolted bourses across the world. The Karachi Stock Exchange was no exception. Reacting to yesterday's incidents, the index slipped to this year's lowest point, 1208.30, a fall of 47.69 points.

The US remained cut off from Pakistan with national carrier PIA suspending services to New York following the closure of the JFK airport. Flights to Pakistan by British Airways have also been suspended for what its officials called "security reasons".

In the morning, a news agency triggered panic by carrying a story — based on a fax message — saying that the Lashkar-e-Toiba has claimed responsibility for the attacks.

Lashkar, a militant outfit fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, took pains to deny the story. Its leaders alleged foul play, saying someone had used their letterhead and faxed the statement.

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Sept. 12: A victim of cross-border terrorism for several years, India today felt vindicated that the attacks in the US had forced the global powers to wake up to the menace and swivelled the spotlight on terrorist activities across the world, particularly in south Asia and Afghanistan.

India sought to redouble its effort to further isolate Pakistan and turn the heat on the military rulers who have been supporting *ihadis* in Jammu and Kashmir

and elsewhere in the world. At the same time, New Delhi tried to pose as a mature nation, sympathising with Americans in their hour of tragedy while making it clear that India has gone through this painful experience a number of times.

"It is high time the whole world and all peace-loving people stood against terrorism and raised their voices against the menace to fight it out," Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in a message on Doordarshan.

He pointed out that India had been raising its voice against terrorism for many years. Yesterday's attack should serve as an eye-opener for those who had doubted the reach of terrorists, he said.

Senior ministers L.K. Advani and Jaswant Singh echoed Vajpayee. The home minister hoped the strikes would help strengthen the resolve of the international community to unite and combat "more effectively" the challenge from terrorists. Advani said the NDA government had, for three

years, been trying to rally nations and societies to fight terrorism.

Jaswant, while agreeing with Advani, argued that the war should not be waged against any particular religion. "Terrorism is a crime against humanity. Its whole purpose is to hit out at innocent people. India has travelled the bylanes and dark roads of terrorism for several years now. Terrorism is not the manifestation of a single faith. Islam is not synonymous with terrorism. At least that is not a view that we subscribe to," the for-

eign and defence minister said.

Jaswant made it clear that India, officially at least, was not thinking of asking the US to declare Pakistan a terrorist state. He argued that the fight against terrorism, the roots of which could be traced to Pakistan, was not, at present, directed against any specific country. "It's a new form of warfare. The international community has to recognise that. It has to remove the source of this problem."

The Indian leadership feels vindicated that after so many

years its concerns are being shared by the world. The statements are also an attempt to build pressure on Pakistan, the main supporter of militant and *ihadis* groups and organisations in the region.

Delhi believes that if the heat is turned on Afghanistan, particularly the Taliban for harbouring Osama bin Laden, then the main source of terrorist training camps in the region can be plugged. Once that happens, it will be difficult for Islamabad to push in terrorists into India.

Cementing forces rise from ruins

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Sept. 12: The terror attack on America could result in closer Indo-US efforts to fight the scourge and source of terrorism, particularly in south Asia and Afghanistan, where renegade Saudi billionaire Osama bin Laden is supposed to be hiding.

Sources said this could lead to increased pressure from the US and the international community on the Taliban in Kabul and the militia's main backers in the region — Pakistan.

Israel, which has also been fighting terrorism for years, has expressed its desire to work closely with Delhi on counter-terrorism. The strategic dialogue between the two sides going on since yesterday focused on this issue.

Last night, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee wrote to President George W. Bush expressing India's readiness to cooperate with Washington "in the investigations into this crime and to strengthen our partnership in leading international efforts to ensure that terrorism never succeeds again". Condemning "this heinous crime in strongest terms", Vajpayee said he and the people of India shared America's sense of outrage.

With the world's focus shifting to South Asia and Afghanistan for being the main areas of terrorist activities, the military regime in Islamabad has become nervous. The hurried statement read out on Pakistan TV by General Pervez Musharraf dissociating his country from terrorist activities could not hide that nervousness.

Bush's assertion that the US will come down heavily on terrorists and countries harbouring them is a signal that has not been



AB Vajpayee with Israeli national security adviser Major General Uzi Dayan in New Delhi (PTI)

missed by Pakistan. Many Pakistani commentators have come out with opinion pieces in the country's leading newspapers arguing how many takers there will now be for Islamabad's support to the freedom fighters in their "just cause" in Jammu and Kashmir.

The *News*, in a front-page article, said: "No one will now buy our argument in any way in defence of jihad even if it is related to the most genuine cause of the Kashmiris." The attacks on the US, it said, would also toughen Delhi's position on cross-border terror.

The India-Israel dialogue that began here yesterday had terrorism listed as on the agenda. But the fast-paced developments overtook discussions on other areas.

Israeli national security adviser Uzi Dayan, who held discussions with his Indian counterpart, Brajesh Mishra, met Vajpayee this morning and his Israeli counterpart in Tel Aviv, Israeli expert in intelligence, particularly in Islamic fundamentalist and terrorist groups and organisations, is well known.

Yesterday's gruesome attacks on the US. Though it is not being discussed in detail what cooperation Delhi is seeking from Tel Aviv, Israeli expert in intelligence, particularly in Islamic fundamentalist and terrorist groups and organisations, is well known.

Apart from buying sensitive sensors and other equipment to increase vigilance along its borders, sources said India will be looking for regular intelligence sharing between the two sides.

Delhi without US airlink

OUR BUREAU

Sept. 12: The long queues were missing — the impatient line of students and businessmen going to New York or Washington.

The Indira Gandhi International Airport today had no passengers travelling to the US. All those chattered at the terminal were flying to other countries.

Both the domestic and the international terminals had been put on high alert. Hawk-eyed policemen guarded every strategic point and scanned everyone. Airport officials were told to allow only passengers inside.

Right in front of the gate that reads "departure" for international flights are a number of airline offices. They have been at work since last night.

The phone kept ringing at the counter of Northwest Airlines. The caller was a frantic passenger wanting information "about flights to the United States of America".

The passenger-handling agent at the counter told him that the Northwest Airlines Flight 005, which would have left for the US on September 13, had been cancelled. But even before the official could complete her sentence, the second phone had started ringing. The query was the same.

"Last night, four flights going to the US were cancelled. Two United Airlines flights, one Air India and Northwest Airlines flight," Arvind Deep, deputy commissioner of police, Indira Gandhi International Airport, said.

While some flights were can-

celled, others had to be reverted. "The moment we received information about the attacks, the Air India flight that took off for Chicago and New York was reverted. The passengers are still stranded in London," Rohila Jatika, Air India deputy corporate manager, communications, said.

In Mumbai, the Chhatrapati Shivaji airport resembled a fortress. Air India, Delta and other international airlines today cancelled flights to US cities. Air India is bringing back most of the passengers on its yesterday's flight for New York, which was stopped in London. The flight is expected to arrive in Mumbai early tomorrow.

The Stars and Stripes today flew at half-mast atop the US embassy. So did the flags at the Japanese, Norwegian, British and Canadian embassies as the nations stood in solidarity with an America numbed by yesterday's terrorist strikes.

The gates of the embassy remained shut and barricades surrounded the building, which also houses Roosevelt House, the residence of the US ambassador. After yesterday, nobody was willing to take any chances. Missing were the hordes of visa-seekers that normally throng the counters. The silence sat heavy, broken occasionally when guards changed position and photographers clicked to capture the uneasy calm. Embassy staff stopped a car that tried to cruise into the sanitised zone. Vehicles of other embassies and consulates were kept out too. Even US embassy cars were searched.

New war's enemy hard to spot and punish

FROM R.W. APPLE JR.

Washington, Sept. 12: Yesterday's devastating and astonishingly well-coordinated attacks on the World Trade Center towers in New York and on the Pentagon outside of Washington plunged the nation into a warlike struggle against an enemy that will be hard to identify with certainty and hard to punish with precision.

The whole nation — to a degree the whole world — shook as hijacked airliners plunged into buildings that symbolize the financial and military might of the US. The sense of security and self-confidence that Americans take as their birthright suffered a grievous blow, from which recovery will be slow.

The aftershocks will be nearly as bad, as thousands of people discover that friends or relatives died awful, fiery deaths. Scenes of chaos and destruction evocative of the nightmare world of Hitler and Erich von Stroheim, with smoke and debris blotting out the sun, were carried by television into homes and workplaces across the nation.

Echoing Franklin D. Roosevelt's description of the attack on Pearl Harbor as an event "which will live in infamy," Gov. George Pataki of New York, a Republican, spoke of "an incredible outrage" and Sen. Charles E. Schumer of New York, a Democrat, spoke of "a devastatingly attack."

But mere words were inadequate vessels to contain the sense of shock and horror that people felt. As Washington struggled to regain a sense of equilibrium, with warplanes and heavily armed helicopters crossing overhead, past and present national security officials earnestly debated the possibility of a

congressional declaration of war — but against precisely whom, and in what exact circumstances?

Warships were dispatched into New York Harbour. The North American Air Defence Command, which had seemed to many a relic of the Cold War, adopted a posture of heightened alert and suddenly seemed relevant.

Disappointing some of his political advisers and allies, who felt he should have returned to Washington at once from a trip to Florida to symbolize that the government was functioning, President Bush headed instead to Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha where a more secure command post was available. At the height of the Cuban missile crisis, John F. Kennedy stayed in Washington.

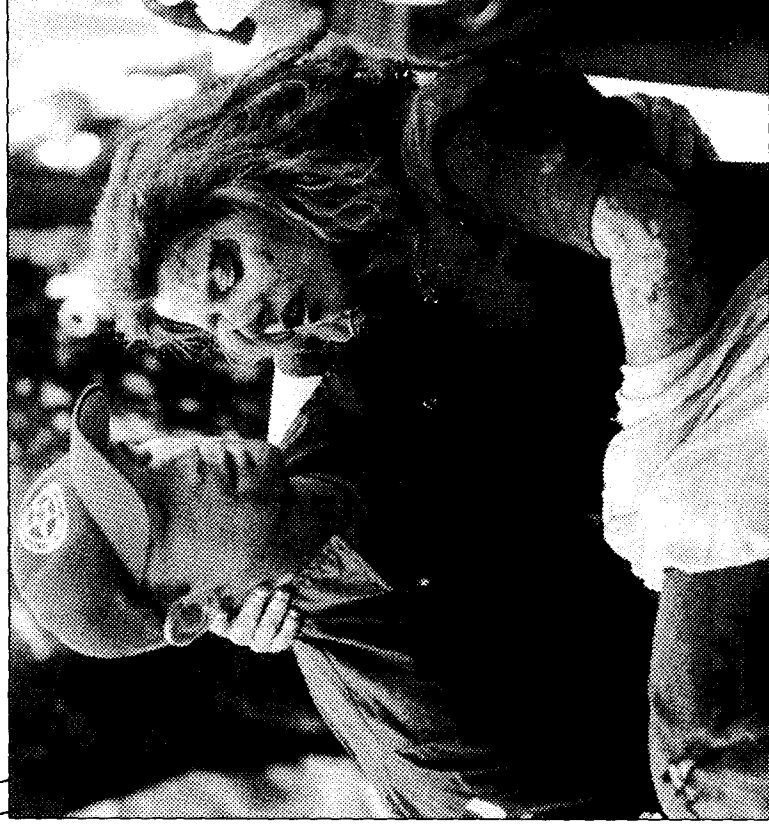
The President flew back to Washington last night, escorted by F-15 and F-16 fighters, as leaders of both parties closed ranks behind him with pledges of support and a stirring rendition of "God Bless America."

In a brief, earnest televised speech, he said the day had taken "thousands of lives" and generated "a quiet, unyielding anger" in the nation.

He promised that those who harboured terrorists would be treated as harshly as the terrorists themselves.

For Bush the attacks constituted a threat and an opportunity. A minority president, just a few months into his term, derided by many as intellectually inadequate for his job, he is likely to be judged, at least in the months ahead, on whether he can take command and act decisively.

Will he prove to be a Jimmy Carter, whose presidency was poisoned by his inability to resolve the Iranian hostage crisis? Or will he enhance his reputation, as Ronald Reagan did after the ex-



An emergency worker helps a woman after she was injured in the terrorist attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Tuesday. (AP/PTI)

position of the space shuttle Challenger and as Bill Clinton did after the Oklahoma City bombing?

Samuel Popkin, a political scientist at the University of California at San Diego, who worked in the presidential campaign of Al Gore, said: "Many Americans have come to consider politics irrelevant in recent years. Now politicians matter again, and the President, in

be caught and severely punished, and that the President would "ensure something like this will never happen again." Together, the two men's comments set the bar very high — perhaps too high.

No doubt the public will rise to the challenge as best it can; many of those in the buildings hit yesterday reacted with almost supernatural calm. But Bush alone must decide how to retaliate and against whom, and he will be operating in a murky area. "This went far beyond anything we had expected," a senior intelligence official conceded.

"We're better than we used to be at monitoring terrorist activities, but today makes it obvious we are not nearly good enough." It follows, then, that preventing another attack will be very difficult. And while it is evidently easier to identify malefactors after an attack than it is to predict their activities, many experts cautioned against assuming, for example, that yesterday's attacks were the handiwork of Osama bin Laden.

Even if Washington concludes that bin Laden's organisation or some other foreign terrorist group was responsible, devising an appropriate response will present a number of complications. For one thing, bombs and rockets tend to kill the innocent as well as the guilty. As a Democratic senator said, "You're likely to bomb a city or a village with 100 terrorists and end up with 400 or 500 when the warplanes have flown away."

Some strategists suggested that Bush might mount a ground attack on bin Laden's headquarters, which are believed to be somewhere in Afghanistan, much as Woodrow Wilson sent U.S. troops into Mexico in pursuit of Pancho Villa, "dead or alive."

But they did not get him, and Afghanistan has proved resistant,

throughout its history, to foreign forces trying to operate there.

If the US develops solid evidence that any country aided the perpetrators of yesterday's attacks, said Richard Holbrooke, ambassador to the UN under the Clinton administration, a declaration of war against that country might be appropriate and retaliation against it should certainly be undertaken in short order. Another consideration is the attitude of West Asian oil states to any retaliatory attack by the US, which remains uncertain.

Many Americans, particularly those old enough to remember December 7, 1941, compared to yesterday's events with the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbour. But in that attack, after the first few minutes of confusion, it had been evident that the planes were Japanese — they had military markings on their wings, instead of airline names on their fuselages, as was the case yesterday.

Militarily daring as the Doolittle raid on Tokyo may have been, there was no doubt that it hit the right target.

This was Pearl Harbour redux without the face of an enemy. In today's more anomalous situation, Bush is likely to avail himself more fully than he has to date of the knowledge, experience and prestige of his secretary of state, retired Gen. Colin Powell.

The President "needs Colin like he's never needed him before," an administration official said.

It appears possible that the attacks will undercut Bush's campaign for a missile defense shield by suggesting that such a shield would concentrate US resources on seeking protection against the wrong kind of threat.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Shellshocked New York embraces hope

G-7 1399 WS (W)



An early morning view of the the lower Manhattan skyline from Jersey City, New Jersey. (Reuters)

FROM JOYCE PURNICK

New York, Sept. 12: The couple stood in a tight, urgent embrace, clinging silently to each other a few hours after the attacks that no New Yorker will ever forget, rocking to a private rhythm as the obscene news bulletins — "Terrorist attacks on our country" — "World Financial Center also evacuated" — "Trading Suspended" — ran relentless electronic circles around the news zipper in Times Square.

Maybe the young man and woman were tourists or worked in the area or were in from Brooklyn or Queens for the day; in their

shock they couldn't say, couldn't speak at all, and it didn't matter anyway.

They symbolised the sorrow of this city the way that another couple embracing in Times Square on V-J Day so long ago symbolised its joy at the end of World War II, and the parallel was eerie and it was sad.

There was a sense that just as on that day in 1945, the world had been changed and would not again be the same.

New York has had its share of traumas. It has had blackouts and looting, riots and crime waves, racial murders and the bombing of the World Trade Center in 1993.

But this level of horror and inhumanity? Hijacked planes, filled with innocent people, ploughing into buildings filled with more innocent people? This was a new degree of horror, and yes, young people wept in each other's arms, and others sought comfort in the company of others on the streets of New York, a city that is too large, too crowded, too loud and too abrasive, but also very human.

New York seems to know how to survive an unspeakable trauma, how, when visited with a tragedy, to turn itself, temporarily, into a small town. Anyone who walked around the city yesterday could have no doubt that New

York would overcome the horror that was worse than any it had ever experienced.

People waited hours to give blood, they delivered food to hospitals, they offered help if they had any to give.

Police officers, firefighters and emergency workers rose to stunning challenges. Governor George Pataki, never New York's most eloquent leader, spoke with calm and command; Mayor Rudolph Giuliani radiated control. (And his security measures, which had been widely teased as extreme, seemed modest if not inadequate.) Candidates for mayor in yesterday's postponed primaries did not com-

lain, surely sensing that voters would have no tolerance for politics.

And regular New Yorkers turned to each other, because their offices closed early, or because they needed to be with others. They walked in streets that were almost empty of traffic except for fire engines and ambulances, or stood in knots or talked to strangers, some brought together by radio and television, some by people who had been downtown just hours earlier and shared their nightmares.

Edward Han, who works for Lehman Brothers in a building near the Twin Towers, was walk-

ing near Pennsylvania Station, looking unusually upset. Did he need help, someone asked? Turns out he heard the first attack and then he saw two people jump from the south tower, trying to save themselves. "Two people jumped. I saw it right out of my window," said Han, 20, his eyes tearing. "I have friends who work in the south tower. I don't know what happened to them." He wanted to leave town for his parents' home in Springfield, Mass., but the trains weren't running; he was heading for a friend's place across town because he couldn't get home to Jersey City.

Barry Novick, who manufac-

tures shearling coats, was standing outside his building on Seventh Avenue just before noon. "It seems rather trivial, operating a regular business," he said. "The world changed today. I'm not concerned about selling a few coats."

Novick said he came down to the street to reassure himself. "I like to see that it's not anarchy out here on the streets. While the terrorists may have struck a blow against society, society is functioning. You can go into the deli and buy coffee and a bagel."

You could. But somehow, you didn't want to. Not yet.

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

Death engulfs the high and mighty

New York, Sept. 12: Confirmed victims of the devastating attacks in New York and Washington ranged from corporate executives and high-profile media personalities to clergy to the pilots who flew the ill-fated planes.

Daniel C. Lewin, 31, chief technology officer and board member of Akamai Technologies Inc., was aboard the Los Angeles-bound flight that crashed into Tower One of the World Trade Center, the Cambridge, Mass.-based Internet company said. The Denver native, who was raised in Jerusalem, is survived by his wife and two sons.

Lewin, who co-founded the company three years ago, served in Israel's defence forces for more than four years, according to Akamai's website. He was seeking his doctorate degree at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "Daniel was a won-

derful person, really well-liked," said Rudi Seitz, a former fellow student.

The names of the two pilots of American Airlines Flight 11 were also confirmed yesterday.

Among others killed in the attacks was the Rev. Mychal Judge, 68, chaplain of the New York City Fire Department. He was a widely known Franciscan friar whose busy schedule sometimes included a White House ceremony one day and ministering to impoverished AIDS patients the next.

He was particularly known for his work with AIDS patients. "His death consecrated what his life had built," said Brother Denis Clark of St. Francis, who saw Judge for the last time at morning prayers yesterday. "He was always dedicated to others and available to anyone who needed him."

Last year, on a beach on Long Island, Judge spoke to mourners at a memorial service for victims of the TWA Flight 800 crash, telling the crowd that the victims' spirits lived on. "Have your memories and hold tight to your tears," he said. "Open your hearts, and let their spirit and life keep you going."

Cee Cee Ross-Lyle, 31, of Fort Myers, Fla., a flight attendant for United Airlines, called her husband, Fort Myers police officer Lorne Lyles, on a cell phone from United Flight 93 shortly before it crashed outside Pittsburgh, according to Fort Myers Police Department spokeswoman Kara Winton. Before becoming a flight attendant, Ross-Lyle was also a police officer.

Tara Shea Creamer, 30, of Worcester, Mass., was reported by her family to have been aboard American Airlines

Flight 11 when it crashed into the World Trade Center.

Companies with offices there also reported that their employees had died. Among them were 10 of 11 people working at the Providential Securities branch, according to Carl Marciniak, a spokesman for the company.

The two pilots of American Airlines Flight 11 also were also confirmed dead yesterday. John Ogonowski, 52, a former Air Force pilot who had just celebrated his birthday, and co-pilot Tom McGuinness of Portsmouth, N.H., were among those killed on the flight, which took off from Boston en route to Los Angeles, then crashed into one of the World Trade Center towers.

Ninety-two people were on board.

When Ogonowski left his Dracut, Mass., farm for Logan

Airport early on Tuesday, he tooted his car horn to family members who lived nearby, as he did every day.

But his brother Jim said he knew immediately that something had gone terribly wrong with his brother when he heard the details of the crashes into the World Trade Center.

"I had that sinking feeling on that," Jim Ogonowski said outside his brother's home. "I can't describe it." Ogonowski is survived by a wife and three daughters.

McGuinness, the co-pilot, was remembered as a family man who loved flying. A prayer service was held last night at McGuinness' church in New Hampshire.

"I think, clearly, he was a devoted family man," said Rick DeKoven, administrator at Bethany Church in Greenland.

"He was active in his community and church. I just think he set an example for all of us, and we're going to sorely miss him."

Entertainment and sports personalities were also among the victims.

Ice hockey player Garnet Bailey, director of pro scouting for the Los Angeles Kings, was one of the passengers aboard United Airlines Flight 175, the second plane to hit the Twin Towers. Mark Bavis, an amateur scout, was also aboard the flight.

The Boeing 767 was scheduled to fly from Boston to Los Angeles, where the Kings were supposed to open training camp yesterday.

"We've received confirmation from both of their families that they were on Flight 175," said team spokesman Mike Altieri. C 65
LOS ANGELES TIMES-WASHINGTON POST NEWS SERVICE

When war came to America

DOZENS — one man said he had seen at least 40 go “bam, bam, bam” — met their wretched end in a freefall. The twin towers of the World Trade Center soared so majestically over the skyline of Manhattan that, from the pavement below, it was hard to believe the writhing shapes falling from the upper storeys were office workers who had jumped to escape the flames.

What kind of desperation could drive these people to leap to certain death when the streets below were lined with ambulances and help was clearly on its way? From behind a police barricade several blocks north along the Hudson river, I couldn't see where they were landing. Then, in one almighty rumble, their dreadful reasoning became all too apparent. In excruciating slow-motion, the south tower crumbled, its middle billowed out and, before my eyes, one of the world's largest office buildings disappeared in a cloud of smoke that engulfed the rescuers below.

Even before the walls hit the ground, the onlookers around me turned and fled in panic through the canyons of Manhattan, screaming that the unthinkable had happened. A vast and silent dust-ball filled the surrounding streets, billowing inexorably towards me like a morning fog rolling over the normally vital neighbourhoods of Wall Street and Tribeca.

Those unfortunate to be closer to the collapse than I was vanished from view, submerged in the expanding balloon of debris. I felt a sudden pity for the scores, if not hundreds, of ambulance crews and firefighters who had just, I'm sure, lost their lives. Until then, the burning twin towers, holes gaping in their sides, seemed somehow familiar, even inevitable, a staple of our fevered imagination, something a screenwriter might describe as *Towering Inferno* — times two. But even the most devilish imagination in all Hollywood had never concocted a scene so awesome in its devastation as the sight of first one and then another 110-storey skyscraper crashing to extinction.

It was at this point that many of the New Yorkers who had thronged the streets to watch this compelling spectacle — many of them refugees from wars in other parts of the world — decided it was just safer to go home. Their judgment, too, was soon justified by another terrifying collapse as the north tower also buckled and fell.

It was impossible to comprehend, but now the sleek silver symbols of the New York skyline, the embodiment of the city's dominance in the modern world, were no more. New York, the self-proclaimed “capital of the world”, had been irrevocably

diminished. We were all wrong, it turns out, to believe all those reassurances after the first bombing in 1993 that the twin towers were built to withstand the full force of a commercial airliner. We are told, only now, that the experts were referring merely to a Boeing 727.

It was said that 50,000 people, enough to populate a small city, worked in those two behemoths. It was immediately and indisputably clear that more people had died than all the Americans had lost in the Gulf War, and probably more than the combined total of all the Allied forces. On the radio, they nicknamed the surprise attack after a recent Hollywood blockbuster: *Pearl Harbor II*.

Minutes after the second building collapsed, I was amazed to find survivors — yes, some survived — wandering dazed and dusty and often lost among the retreating crowds. These were people who realised, even if they were still missing loved ones, that they had just lived the luckiest day of their lives.

The thriving often frantic island of Manhattan had been sealed off and placed on “total” terrorist alert. The subway system was closed, two big buses had barricaded the entrances of the Lincoln and Holland tunnels to New Jersey, and the airspace had been “sterilised”. Even the television news helicopters had been grounded, but that did not seem to matter because the several television stations broadcasting from the World Trade Center mast had been knocked off the air.

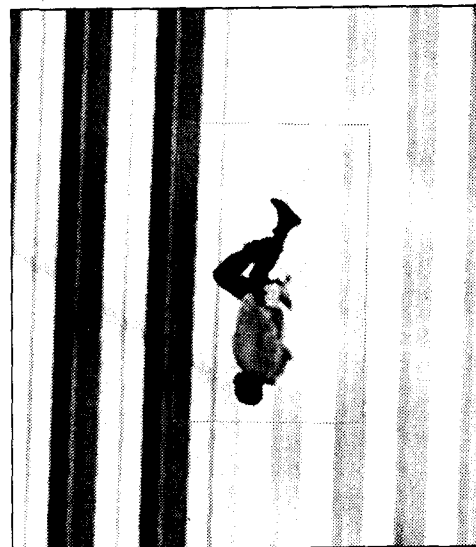
Michelle Martolli, who was clearly marked as a victim by her all-over coating of soot, was looking for transport home. The police had refused to take her, because they had other things to do. She had survived the 1993 bombing unscathed and told her latest horror story with sang-froid. She was sitting at her desk in the Goldman Sachs office on the 62nd floor of the north tower when she saw, through the window, an airliner heading straight at her. “It seemed to be a commercial liner and it was not like it missed the top of the building,” she said. “It careened right into the building. We knew right then it was not an accident.”

Like hundreds of others, she was ordered to leave the building via the water-sodden stairs. But before she could get to the

JAMES BONE was looking up at the World Trade Center minutes before the twin towers fell from the sky



People making their way amid debris near the World Trade Center in New York on Tuesday. Below: A person plunging headlong from the north tower. — AP/PTI



bottom, she was jolted a second time by the impact of another plane on the other twin tower — and a third time by that building's collapse. “When we got to the 44th floor, it was hit for a second time,” she said. “When

we got down to the ground to get medical treatment we were hit a third time and that is when we got blasted with asbestos.” The 1993 attack, executed by Islamic extremists loyal to a blind Egyptian sheikh, seemed now only like a trial run. “That does not compare,” she said. “The first bomb barely shook the building — this was much worse.”

Near by, I found Hector Orsini, an engineer covered in ash, who was on the 82nd floor of the 110-storey north tower when the first plane shook the building just above. His words, gruesome as they were, gave some hope that hundreds, if not thousands, may have escaped like him. “There were a lot of people and there was water coming down the stairs. People were hurt, their skin burnt off and bleeding,” he said. “There was a second blast when we reached the door and it just blew us straight out. There were no lights. Everyone was panicking. I thought I would die right there.”

Declining treatment from a volunteer ambulance run by Hasidic Jews 10 blocks north of the building, Orsini walked off in search of his missing wife. She who worked, unfortunately, on a higher floor.

I live only a mile from the World Trade Center on the border of Chinatown, SoHo and Little Italy, and I am used to orientating my walks through the city with its ever-present compass point. At 8.45 am, the first plane screamed over my neighbourhood at low altitude, after apparently passing over Greenwich Village's Washington Square Park, on its kamikaze mission. I stepped out of my local news agent's, run by Egyptian Arabs, to see a gaping, smoking hole in the body of the north tower. Already, people were gathering in knots to watch the fire. One woman, Lisa Smith, who saw it all from her subway train as she crossed a bridge into Manhattan, tried to explain that a “big plane went straight through”.

Less than 20 minutes later, the whole city watched, either in person or on television, as the second jet crashed into the south tower. Yet no one could believe what they had just seen. It took several minutes for television news teams to realise that they had captured the impact and the burst of flames on videotape. Some, like Marilyn

Riviero, who saw the impact from the street below, insisted the explosion had come from inside and were already concocting conspiracy theories.

Immediately after the two attacks, thousands of people streamed north up Broadway to get away. As I battled against them, like a salmon swimming upstream, I recognised the debris and smell of smoke. For years, there have been threats, but this time Manhattan had finally been transformed into a war zone.

The New York authorities have a joint terrorist task force, combining the best experts of the CIA, the FBI, the New York Police Department, and they have even practised in the shadow of the World Trade Center for a biological terrorist attack. After the 1993 attack, the city spent tens of millions of dollars on an emergency “bunker” in one of the towers. But when Tuesday's first strike finally came, the police seemed overwhelmed. Bystanders were wondering aloud: where were the firefighting helicopters, where were the Army, where were the Marines? The only evidence of a military response was the F16s that ripped the sky overhead in an effort to secure the city's airspace.

As events swelled out of control, survivors and witnesses crowded around public telephones to call their loved ones. Their mobile phones were useless because of a system overload. For so many others, this was the day their luck ran out. One man called Jim, who was trapped on the 86th floor by a locked fire door, called a television station from his mobile phone to reassure his family that the fire did not seem to be spreading. Ten minutes later, the building disintegrated.

Herb Roth, a security guard at a nearby building, was standing immediately below the World Trade Center when the first airliner struck. “All of a sudden we had an explosion and people were running and screaming,” he said. “The heat was intense. I ran. I didn't look back. I was scared because there were pieces flying everywhere. I saw one body jumping out the window. It was just flying. I presume he jumped.”

Rudolph Giuliani, mayor of New York and renowned architect of “zero tolerance” policing, strode towards the former World Trade Center clutching a mask to his face after evacuating nearby City Hall. He is due to leave office in November and, despite his achievements in cutting crime, his era is now inescapably marked by this attack. The political and social geography of the city seems destined to change.

— *The Times, London.*

■ FBI agents raid Boston hotel ■ Osama denies involvement

America searches for attackers, survivors

REUTERS and AP

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NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. — Americans reacted with controlled fury and a burst of patriotism today, as emergency workers dug desperately for survivors in New York and intelligence agencies searched for those behind the worst attack on the nation since Pearl Harbour.

President George W. Bush said: "This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil but good will prevail". The president held a meeting with his top security aides in the White House Cabinet room.

As many as 50 heavily-armed local and federal law enforcement officers today stormed the Westin Hotel in Copley Square in Boston, presumably investigating a lead linked to the attacks on Washington and New York a day earlier.

Unconfirmed local media reports suggest that five people linked to the hijacking of two commercial airplanes that left Boston bound for Los Angeles yesterday had been registered at the hotel.

The US Federal Bureau of Investigation, hoping to match names of suspects against hotel registries, saw five Arab surnames on the Westin's manifest that matched the names of people they suspected in the attacks, local media reported.

Some 20 minutes after entering the hotel, the SWAT teams exited, and suggested the ever-larger crowd of onlookers disperse. They were not seen to be



Expressions of grief near the site of the World Trade Center on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

carrying any evidence.

Earlier today a car parked inside an airport garage was seized then searched by authorities, who discovered several objects connected to suspected hijackers.

Five garbage bags of evidence were transported for investigation to the airport's State Police barracks, witnesses reported.

Two Boston newspapers reported that

authorities in Massachusetts had identified five Arab men as suspects and had seized a rental car containing Arabic-language flight training manuals at the city's Logan International Airport, where two of the hijacked planes originated.

Investigators found a copy of the Koran, a videotape on how to fly commercial jets and a fuel consumption calculator in a pair of bags meant for American Airlines

Flight 11, which crashed into the World Trade Center, the Boston Globe said.

The Boston Herald said the suspects entered the USA from Canada. Two of the men were brothers whose passports were traced to the United Arab Emirates, and one was a trained pilot.

US agents served warrants on homes and searched businesses in south Florida, and issued alerts for two cars in connection with the attacks, local media reported

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban movement said today any US strikes against the country in retaliation for yesterday's terror attacks would succeed only in sowing hatred in the region.

Taliban spokesman Mr Abdul Hai Mutmaen said from the southern Afghan town of Kandahar that US strikes could lead to further suicide attacks.

"If innocent and sinless people suffer, then it is certain that on the level of the region, hatred will further increase, the result of which will be similar to the suicide incidents," he said.

Mr Mutmaen repeated the Taliban position that the attacks were a humanitarian tragedy and that Saudi terror suspect Osama bin Laden was not involved.

(Osama's denial: Osama bin Laden has denied involvement in yesterday's attacks in the USA, but said he supported the strikes because it was the reaction of suppressed people against repression, according to a PTI report from Islamabad.

■ See SURVIVORS: page 5

THE STATESMAN

13 SEP 2001

U.S. support for Israel during the Palestinian uprising.

U.S. says it is not responsible for rocket attack on Kabul airport

KABUL: Helicopter gunships belonging to opposition troops fired rockets in the vicinity of the Kabul airport early on Wednesday, hours after the devastating terrorist attacks in the United States, according to Taliban soldiers and eyewitnesses.

The United States quickly denied any involvement in the violence in Afghanistan, which has been shielding Osama bin Laden, a suspected terrorism mastermind linked by some U.S. officials to Tuesday's attacks in New York and Washington. Kabul shuddered with the first explosions around 2:30 a.m. (03.30 IST). They came in rapid succession, seconds apart. Smoke billowed skyward. An acrid smell of smoke lingered near the airport, where Taliban soldiers erected a barricade.

Less than one km from the com-

bined military and civilian airport, sullen Taliban soldiers with Kalashnikov rifles blocked the road, turning cars away. They grunted their orders, refused to speak and waved their rifles, ordering vehicles to turn back. "It was the airport that was attacked. A helicopter came in and dropped its rockets," said Abdul Jabbar, an elderly man walking along the dusty road near the airport.

The attack occurred during the night curfew in effect in Kabul, and there were conflicting reports of whether it involved one or two helicopters. Taliban's spokesman in southern Kandahar, its headquarters, said there was no attack. He said the explosions were the result of a fire at an ammunition dump in the northern suburb of Khair Khana and that the sound of aircraft were Taliban pilots moving

fighter aircraft to safety. The Taliban operate helicopter gunships and fighter jets.

"There was an explosion in an ammunition depot, and our aircraft were flown to a safe place, creating a misunderstanding that there had been an attack. We deny that there was any attack on Kabul," he said. In Washington, White House spokeswoman Claire Buchan said the explosions reported in Kabul were not retaliatory attacks by the United States.

"The United States is not responsible," she said.

Her comments were echoed by U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld during a Pentagon briefing in Washington. "I've seen those reports," he said of the Kabul explosions. "In no way is the United States government connected to those explosions." (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

55-8
TERROR STRIKE

Repercussions will be global ¹³⁸⁹

THE extraordinary scale and ferocity of the attacks on American targets has left not just the United States but much of the world reacting with horror — they amount to nothing less than, as Jaswant Singh has put it, a crime against humanity. Within 20 minutes, two hijacked planes were crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, an attack feared to have killed thousands. Within minutes, another plane slammed into the Pentagon in Washington DC, and a fourth plane crashed near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The four carried in all 266 passengers; chances of any surviving are almost non-existent. Apart from the fanaticism of those involved, the sheer logistics of such co-ordinated attacks boggle the mind. It takes great skill to fly aircraft directly into the World Trade Centre and bring down its structures; it can be assumed that the hijackers had among them expert pilots who took over the controls. Besides, pulling off four hijackings simultaneously is unprecedented in this despicable activity. Comparisons with Pearl Harbour are not really valid since the targets attacked were primarily military. Rather, the US has just witnessed the advent of a shadowy new kind of warfare whose protagonists are unknown - it is unlikely that governments, even "rogue" ones, would directly plan such an attack since they know it will be construed as an act of war against the United States. The objective of the attack appears to have been a psychological humiliation of the United States, an objective achieved by the evacuation of the White House and the shutting down of all government buildings, national monuments and airports in the country. President Bush's statement that the federal government will deploy its full resources to hunt down the perpetrators indicates that the message has been understood.

Although many radical groups around the world may have had the motive for mounting such an attack, the degree of preparation, planning and resources necessary must narrow the list considerably. Palestinian radical groups are small and they have not attacked non-Israeli targets in the past. Another suspect would be American right-wing groups, but they have not mounted suicide attacks before and it is unclear whether they have the commitment to throw away their lives as casually as the hijackers did. As Taliban officials have said, Afghanistan is a poor country and lacks the sophistication necessary to mount an attack on this scale. Nevertheless, the Taliban has given shelter to Osama bin Laden, who has to be high on the suspect list — he has enormous funds, trained pilots and skilled personnel at his disposal. Afghanistan has to be in the spotlight because it is one of the few countries in the world willing to give shelter to such elements, and Pakistan has to be in the spotlight because it maintains close links with the Taliban and has ensured that international sanctions against it haven't really worked. Since terrorism is now global, the United States has to take the lead in forming an international coalition against it. What New York is experiencing today was undergone by Mumbai in 1993 on a different scale, when serial explosions in the city caused enormous loss of life and brought down the city's stock exchange. Governments across the world ought to recognise that they could be equally affected, and act accordingly to combat new forms of the terrorist menace.

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HORROR OF IT

There are events in world history whose horror is difficult to translate into words. On September 11, the world witnessed one such event, when hijacked planes crashed into the World Trade Centre in New York, and the Pentagon building in Washington D.C. The identity of the perpetrators of this act of terrorism remains unknown, but the world stands shaken and speechless. The scale of the tragedy is enormous, with thousands dead and injured. The loss to property is incalculable. The snowball effects are already evident in the fall of the dollar and the rise in oil prices. What is baffling, however, is the fact that the heart of the world's sole superpower could be so easily attacked. This is the first time that the mainland of the United States of America has been hit by an enemy power, and the strikes are on the nerve centres of the country. The success of the terrorist project only exposes a stupendous intelligence and security failure. Powers that be in the US will have to accept that hijackers boarded the aircraft from two of the country's busiest airports. Obviously, the security checks in these airports are lax and inadequate. The intelligence fraternity in the US will have to explain to itself and to its masters how a conspiracy on such a mammoth scale could remain outside the ambit of its knowledge. The US will have to launch a hunt to locate the criminals. It will also have to look within to locate its own lapses.

It could be argued that the US has paid the price of too much democracy. Anybody who has been on a domestic flight of the US knows that it is possible to breeze into a flight a few minutes before it is ready to depart. This makes a mockery of security precautions. Yet, US citizens value this freedom. They will now have to rethink this freedom and the costs involved in preserving it. Freedom, as the saying goes, can only be enjoyed through eternal vigilance. It is possible that this precept was taken too much for granted in a fit of complacency in the world's most advanced country. It should be underlined that the terrorists came from the sky literally like bolts from the blue. This was one direction from which attacks were least expected in a country prepared to meet other kinds of contingency.

The attacks on New York and Washington may make the state department and the people of America rethink the double standards they sometimes use. It cannot be the case that attacks on the US are acts of terrorism and violence in Kashmir is a freedom struggle. Terrorism, wherever, can only have one name. The experience might make the US more sympathetic to the plight of those who live constantly under the shadow of terrorism. Across the world, the US has innumerable enemies. To an extent, the scale of this enmity is related to the enormous power that the US enjoys. That power is a function of the historical role the US has taken upon itself after the end of the Cold War. The US is now realizing the dangers involved in being the sole sheriff of the world. These thoughts are no doubt passing through the minds of those who run the world's most powerful country. Whatever be their immediate and long term considerations, it can be said with certainty that the contours of world politics will never be the same again.

THE TELEGRAPH

13 SEP 2001

Good will win over evil, says Bush

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REUTERS and PTI

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. - Mr George W Bush today committed the nation to a "monumental struggle of good versus evil".

Mr Bush called the attacks "an act of war." "This will be a monumental struggle of good versus evil, but good will prevail," the President said, after meeting his top security aides in the White House Cabinet room.

"This battle will take time, but make no mistake about it, we will win," he said. The President asserted that "the hidden enemy" would not be allowed to hide for ever.

The secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, promised a "full scale assault" on the perpetrators.

The Congress reconvened in an extra-fortified US Capitol, vowing retaliation. Twenty-four hours after lawmakers fled the marble landmark in fear that air assaults would be repeated on the Capitol dome, they headed

back, ready to go on the offensive.

The Democratic-led Senate and Republican-led US House of

INSIDE

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Representatives planned to pass a bipartisan resolution, condemning the terrorist strikes.

Members also vowed to improve US Intelligence operations, that failed to warn of the assaults, and help clean up the damage.

Senator Mr John McCain, an Arizona Republican, said the

USA has a message for those responsible for the strikes: "We are coming after you. God may have mercy on you, but we won't." Republican Mr Constance Morella, a Maryland Republican, said: "This is the first war of the 21st century."

Scores of legislators, Republicans and Democrats gathered on the steps of the Capitol building on Tuesday night to demonstrate their resolve and, in an unscripted show of unity, sing: "God Bless America."

The House Speaker, Mr Dennis Hastert, an Illinois Republican, said: "We will stand together to make sure that those who have brought forth this evil deed will pay the price. We are not sure who this is yet, but we have our suspicions."

A number of legislators said they suspect Osama bin Laden. Lawmakers also criticised the Central Intelligence Agency and the FBI for failing to prevent the attacks.

13 SEP 2001

Keep the Taliban at arm's length, Pak daily tells Govt

Islamabad, September 12

SNEEDLE OF suspicion pointed at terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden and Afghanistan's Taliban regime for yesterday's terrorist strikes in the US, a leading daily here today asked the Pakistan Government to distance itself from Taliban and other militant outfits in order to avoid American retribution.

"With accusing fingers are being raised against Osama bin Laden and his hosts Taliban, besides Islamic jihad, the embarrassing focus too would fall on Pakistan which was being seen as Taliban's ally," The News said in a front page article.

As the blame was squarely being laid on the door of "rogue states, the Taliban regime in particular, "the greatest sufferer of the US retaliation against a variety of" Islamic terrorists are going to be the Palestinians and,

more probably the Afghans" as the US and its allies might mount an unprecedented attack on them, it said.

"This probability brings Pakistan into an embarrassing focus of an ally of the harbourers of Osama bin Laden, the Taliban," the daily said. Although Pakistan has agreed to observe UN Security Council sanctions against the Taliban, its pleas to engage the Taliban chief Mullah Omar's regime is going to backfire and may cost Pakistan too heavily if Islamabad did not amend its Afghan policy drastically, it said.

"To avoid a worst case scenario, Islamabad needs to leave Taliban on their own. If they don't amend themselves, they are unlikely to, since they refuse to listen to Pakistan's good advice under the influence of the rogue Arab fanatics in Afghanistan," it said. "Pakistan must not in any way be backing up the rogue

regime of Taliban to avoid being clubbed with the militia," the paper said adding "not only the Taliban, but also all kinds of 'jihadis' are going to be brought into a very rigorous scrutiny, including those in Kashmir who are linked to Taliban and bin Laden."

President Pervez Musharraf, who is expected to meet US President George W Bush during his US visit later this month, would be "facing a very uphill task in distancing from the jihadis and the Taliban in particular," it said. "No one will now buy our argument in any way in defence of jihad, even if it is related to Kashmir. This development will also toughen further New Delhi's position on cross-border terrorism," it said.

The paper said the yesterday's attacks in the US would make the militant groups face America's wrath. **PTI**

Foreign aid workers to leave Kabul

Kabul, September 12

THE MOTHERS of two American women on trial in Afghanistan for allegedly preaching Christianity planned today to leave the country, fearing that terrorist attacks in the US could prompt an assault by American forces, an official said.

UN and foreign relief agency workers also were expected to leave. The pullout by the United Nations was to begin tomorrow, a UN employee said on condition of anonymity. At least four German nationals employed with aid groups were to leave later today, said Helmut Landes, consular officer of the German embassy in neighbouring Pakistan.

The decision was not expected to immediately affect the location of eight foreign aid workers - including two Americans - who were being tried in Kabul on charges of preaching Christianity, or the diplomats who were in Kabul to help them. **AP**

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(Continued from page 1)

In a statement issued in Islamabad through his Taliban contacts, Osama said no organized group or outfit, including his own, was capable of carrying out such strikes, reports in some of Pakistan's Urdu newspapers said today.

Claiming that he was attempting to bring a truce between the Taliban and Northern Alliance forces in Afghanistan, Osama said after accomplishing unity between warring factions he would help the liberation of Palestine and Kashmir.

The Pentagon has halted the movement of the aircraft carrier Enterprise through the Indian Ocean toward home and ordered the warship to await orders for a possible return to the Gulf to join another U S carrier, a senior Pentagon official said.

The Enterprise, which was recently replaced by the carrier Carl Vinson in the Gulf on patrol south of Iraq, was stopped after yesterday's terrorist attacks.

US allies in Europe today considered adopting a declaration that a terrorist attack against the United States should be considered an attack on all members of NATO.

But the meeting at NATO headquarters in Brussels concluded with no decision. Another NATO session was set for Wednesday when the allies could follow through, the Secretary-General of the alliance Lord Robertson said.

The proposal involves invoking Article V of the NATO charter. This declares an attack on any member of the alliance is to be considered an attack on all of them.

SURVIVORS:

Also today, the Massachusetts Port Authority completely shut down Logan International Airport. Entry to the airport has been restricted to essential personnel, who must be shuttled to their work sites by Massport buses, an airport spokesman said.

Thousands of cars still parked in the airport's garages remain under security cordon until further notice, airport spokesman Phil Oredella said.

The airport is considering whether cars may be towed to a nearby race track to enable owners to collect their vehicles. There was still no death toll from yesterday's attacks. As a cloud of dust still hung over New York, rescue workers pulled a handful of people out

of the wreckage of the WTC this morning and reported signs of life in the rubble, including at least one person sending out calls on a cell phone.

The world's financial centre resembled a desolate war zone, the streets of lower Manhattan coated in gray ash and a thick trail of brown smoke pouring into the sky from where the Trade Center's twin towers once stood.

New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said at least 202 firefighters were still missing and 259 uniformed service members had not been accounted for. They had apparently rushed into the first of the towers to be hit and were caught inside when it collapsed.

But the mood in the country was still jittery. U.S. Agriculture Department employees

were evacuated early today from one of the department's buildings in downtown Washington. No reason was given.

Smoke was seen rising from the roof of New York's World Financial Center near the site of yesterday's attack, but the smoke stopped a short time later.

Western aid workers in Kabul began pulling out of the Afghan capital amid fears for their safety if the United States retaliated.

The United Nations said it had begun withdrawing its 80 expatriate staff but the pullout was temporary.

Pentagon toll: Fire chief Mr Edward Plaughter, in charge of fighting the fire at the Pentagon, said early today the death toll at the US military headquarters could range between 100 and 800 people.

THE STATESMAN

13 SEP 2001

... getting thoughtlessly mad.

11-10 Paradox of America 12/9

As America reeled under the horror of hellish devastation on the blackest Tuesday of the 21st century, a stunned world stood suspended in disbelief at the vulnerability of what was thought of as a Ramboesque superpower. Critics and admirers alike are stupefied at the ease with which terrorists pierced through the US security umbrella to pick their targets, strike with monstrous precision and wreak incalculable destruction. Paradoxically, America's vulnerability proved to be the same freedom that its open society so cherishes; and on which its free enterprise thrives. The business of America being business, the fast lanes of trade and commerce took precedence over cumbersome security hurdles at airports. Inevitably, lax security precautions compounded by complacency left a gaping hole through which four planes could be hijacked at almost the same time for a scorching suicide mission. In its techno-corporate avatar, America had shielded itself behind a hi-tech firewell and in the reckoning ignored human error and terror. The iron logic of technology is that it is accessible as much for benign as for beastly purposes. The mighty democracy, and the mightier dollar, have been dealt a blow the like of which David Morrell would never have dreamed of for his invincible hero. And yet when it happened it churned stomachs. Even critics of the United States administration, who took delight in dubbing Washington as a 'globocop', 'dollar dictator' and worse were shocked and dismayed at this blight descending on the land of 'The Best and the Brightest'.

If this was the America which went to war against Vietnam and unleashed the napalm bomb, this was also the country where thousands rose in protest against Washington's military atrocities. It was American civil society's conscience that stirred the world to follow its leadership in ending the Vietnam war; and the same society which brought to us Oliver Stone's unforgettable film on Vietnam, *Platoon*. Criminal misuse of the system, and its high offices, is not peculiar to the United States. But it was a unique achievement for two brilliant investigative journalists to blow the lid off the Watergate scandal and ensure that the guilty were brought to book. When Ronald Reagan blocked Congress from releasing a few billion dollars for a starved but liberated Nicaragua of the Sandinistas, there emerged a rainbow coalition to raise the amount from civil associations. These could have happened only in America, where 'Liberty', though sneered at as a statue by cynics, is a throbbing reality — borne out by the millions who migrate and the millions more who aspire to. Did this uniqueness and the rise to global supremacy as the "only indispensable nation" on earth bring to its role a certain arrogance and swagger? Or was it hubris? The fact that these questions trouble the most unrelenting critics of official America's policies underscores the distress and concern sweeping the globe at the unprecedented attack on the free world's most impregnable fortress. Indeed, today, "Why did this happen to America?" is the question that unites its confused critics and dumbstruck admirers.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

...and beyond the pale of civilization. Not back to the dark ages.

From crisis to hope

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THERE IS no doubt that the US economy will be able to withstand the impact of the terrorist attack, but the immediate fallout has been a spurt in world oil and bullion prices. Oil prices went up to \$ 31.05 per barrel, the highest since December 2000, but settled down at \$ 29.11. The shock wave among the investing community the world over has made them scramble for gold as an alternative asset. Gold prices surged by \$ 16 to \$ 287 per ounce in London. All major stock markets have felt the reverberations of the attack on America and taken a sharp knock in the stock price index.

On the whole, however, the impact of the rise in oil prices will not have a major impact on India's oil import bill because India has long-term contracts with the suppliers. But the rupee has reached a record low of Rs 47.45 as the banks and operators panicked and sought dollars to cover their positions. The dollar meanwhile fell against the euro, the Swiss franc and the Japanese yen. The rupee, however, has been sinking for some time because of the weakening of the Indian economy in which the projected

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GDP growth is much lower than the 6 per cent growth announced in the budget. The recent low export growth is responsible for the rise in demand for dollar even though the government has assured that there is nothing to fear because there is foreign exchange to save the rupee. In any case, a lower rupee would help in enhancing the competitiveness of Indian exports.

The American economy, which is experiencing a downturn, will probably take longer to recover in the aftermath of the terrorist attack although, as the world's largest economy, its resources are huge and its resilience is considerable. Americans have given a boost to the world's exports in recent months on account of their spending habits which have not been curbed by the economic slowdown. Their consumer demand has kept the exports of the developing countries buoyant. Let us hope they will remain the same even after the big jolt the US has suffered. If, however, the commitments of American companies in the process of recovery increase, their foreign investment flow to India may suffer.

INDIA

A response to insanity ⁹⁶⁸

The need to present a united front in an unsafe world

UNLIKE the attack on Pearl Harbour in 1941, to which Tuesday's attack is compared, no conclusive evidence has surfaced as yet on the identity of those who perpetrated the worst-ever terrorist attack in history. This would make any retaliatory action by the United States appear as wayward as the one it took in the wake of the bombing of the US embassies in Dar es Salaam and Nairobi. The search for a character like Osama bin Laden, reportedly hiding in a mountainous area in Taliban-controlled Afghanistan, could be as pointless as the search operation President Woodrow Wilson mounted in Mexico to capture Pancho Villa, dead or alive, before the First World War. Whoever had masterminded the diabolic act in New York and Washington on Tuesday has shown how, with minimal cost to themselves, they can wreak havoc on a nation of the size and stature of USA. While the US intelligence and defence agencies were prepared for worst-case scenarios like a nuclear or biological Pearl Harbour, they were caught unawares by the audaciousness of the September 11 attack. Simply put, conventional norms of warfare prove meaningless when the enemy does not play by the rules and, as in this case, even remains unidentified. If anything, it shows how difficult it is to fight terrorism.

But the war should not be lost just because the victims of terrorism have not joined it for one reason or another. In the fight against terrorism, countries like India — which have been suffering at the hands of terrorism on a daily basis for over a decade — must join hands with all those who lay great store by democracy. It involves cooperating

¹³⁷⁹
with one another by sharing intelligence and taking coordinated action. In this context, US President George W. Bush's statement that his country will not spare the terrorists and those harbouring them is significant. One reason why India has been hamstrung in meeting the terrorist onslaught is the moral, material and logistics support terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir has been receiving from across the border. Despite conclusive evidence of such support, the US has so far been reluctant to act. This has, in turn, emboldened the Pakistanis to equate terrorism with a "jihad". Despite its unabashed support to the Taliban and involvement in drug trafficking, the US has been extremely reluctant to respond to India's charge that Pakistan is guilty of sustained terrorist action against it. As a consequence of such a reluctance, terrorism has assumed monstrous proportions in the subcontinent.

The fight against terrorism can succeed only if it is sustained, coordinated and on a global scale. Whenever the US found itself at the receiving end of terrorism, it made some noises about it, only to put the issue on the backburner. Such a fate should not befall its determination this time to hunt down the terrorist. At the same time, conflict resolution is as central to the fight against terrorism as are military raids against terrorist training centres and economic and political sanctions against the countries hosting them. Washington may now realise how costly it was to encourage the Taliban to contain "Soviet expansionism" in the bad old days. At the end of the day, any distinction between "good" terrorism and "bad" terrorism is untenable. Terrorism of any kind is evil.

INDIAN EXPRESS

13 SEP 2001

Bush faces a crucial test, without a script

GERALD F. SEIB

US PRESIDENT Bush suddenly faces a crisis that transcends nearly any nightmare he could have imagined, and one that calls upon him to summon leadership skills he's never tested. Indeed, the very skills he now needs most — the ability to unite a quarrelsome nation, the knack for transcending partisan divides, the talent to pull America's international allies behind him — are precisely the skills that sceptics doubt he possesses.

Other presidents whose skills were similarly doubted at a time of national duress — Abraham Lincoln, Franklin Roosevelt — rose to the demands of history, showing depths of leadership and character that detractors never imagined they held. Others — Lyndon Johnson, perhaps, or Herbert Hoover — were found wanting.

In either case, there's little doubt that the defining moment of Bush's presidency occurred between dawn and lunchtime on Tuesday. Now, there is no script for Bush, for America has never before been the target of concerted attack from an unidentified foe. As Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has long noted, the difficulty in dealing with terrorism is finding the address to which you respond.

But there can be little doubt about the steps Bush must take. His first task is to calm and reassure a nation that, more than at any time since Pearl Harbor, has lost its sense of security and safety. In modern America, that is a job that only a president can perform, and one that will require Bush to project an aura of command that some Americans think has eluded him in his first eight months in office.

His calm, measured remarks to the nation on Tuesday night delivered a simple but stern message to America's foes, and marked an improvement over a somewhat shakier performance earlier in the day.

But at a time like this, Americans' demands aren't onerous. They will settle for a sense of steadiness and resolve at the top. Toward that end, Bush would be wise at this point to find ways to remind Americans that the brain trust he assembled — Vice-President Dick Cheney, Secretary of State Colin Powell, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld — could well have been designed for a national security crisis like this one.

Bush's second task will be to bury, for now and the foreseeable future, the air of partisan jockeying that has hung over Washington since last fall's contested election. Of course both



parties will pay lip service to putting aside partisan divisions; that's what politicians do at a time like this.

But ramifications of Tuesday's terrorism will linger for months, if not years. Americans will now debate how to respond, how to construct defenses, indeed, how to adjust life in America. At such moments, other nations form national unity governments. That isn't the American way.

But if bi-partisanship is to have real meaning, Bush will have to make Democratic leaders part of a unified national response. A good way to start might be to summon his foe in last year's election, Al Gore, to the White House.

The third, and perhaps most challenging task for Bush will be to marshal a united international response. If the response to Tuesday's terror is seen strictly as America's military retaliation it will be useful. If the response is a united international attack on terrorists, on their sponsors, and on their apologists, it will have far more meaning. Yet testiness in dealing with allies has been more the norm for Bush.

Yet American credibility is at stake. But what is reassuring is that history shows that American presidents, more often than not, rise to the moment.

—From the Wall Street Journal

A Terrorist Plot

US President George W. Bush escaped a terrorist attack on Tuesday as he left the White House. The plot was to protect him after the attack that destroyed the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and left the Pentagon in flames.

Flying at times with a fighter at each wing tip, Bush's Air Force One aircraft took him from Florida to Air Force bases in Louisiana and Nebraska and on to Washington.

After Bush learned of the attacks, he immediately headed to his Air Force One aircraft but it soon became clear to reporters on board that the plane was not flying to Washington as it veered towards the west. Later, a White House official said the destination was Barksdale Air Force Base near Shreveport, Louisiana. As the aircraft neared the base, it was flanked by a fighter escort that peeled off just as the plane landed.

After addressing a conference, Bush then climbed into Air Force One, which took off to a destination which the White House again refused to disclose. He later surfaced at Nebraska's Offutt Air Force Base headquarters, where he descended into an underground bunker for a tele-conference with his national security team that lasted just over an hour.

By late afternoon, the US Government disclosed that it was safe for Bush to return to the White House, where he arrived early in the evening and immediately began work on the crisis. The White House is expected to shut down its operations for several days.

US newspapers were quick to report that the attacks targeted the White House. The White House, where Bush was staying, was not damaged. The White House is expected to shut down its operations for several days. The White House is expected to shut down its operations for several days.

Some of the world's most powerful nations are expected to send troops to the White House.

Trial by Terror

Democracies Must Ally Against Jihadis

WS (10) 11-10-1999 By K SUBRAHMANYAM

THE terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center totally destroying the two landmark towers and on the Pentagon have been compared to a second Pearl Harbour. Such a monstrous terrorist act has not been witnessed since the end of World War II, and its impact will be felt in every nook and corner of the globe. There was a feeling of triumphalism among the jihadi terrorists when the Soviet Union withdrew from Afghanistan. Many of them, including the Saudi engineer who volunteered to work for the CIA, Osama bin Laden, used to tell the Americans who trained him in special operations that the jihadis had defeated one superpower and thereafter it would be the turn of the other superpower.

The precision, meticulousness and the thoroughness of the operations leave one in no doubt that these acts of terrorism have been perpetrated by highly trained and skilled people. The Pentagon was chosen as a target to show the world that the jihadis can strike at the heart of the US military command and control. The World Trade Center towers were presumably chosen since its destruction would hit three nationalities which the jihadis hate — American, Israeli and Indians — and cause large casualties among them.

The Pearl Harbour attack finally brought the US into World War II and made it the leader of the alliance of democracies fighting the Nazis and militarists. Till then, the US adopted a neutral stand even as the Nazis and fascists were overrunning Europe. Before that, the western powers were passive vis-à-vis Hitler and Mussolini since the latter were anti-communists. Their anti-communist obsession blinded them to the dangers posed by the Nazis to democracy in the world. The Nazis finally turned on the democracies. Similarly, the obsession with defeating the Soviets in Afghanistan had made the US blind to the dangers of stoking Islamic fundamentalism, arming the jihadis, training people like Osama bin Laden and being permissive to their expanding the narcotics trade.

The Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan was made necessary by a whole host of factors. The mixture of religious fanaticism, the training received and the availability of arms and narcotics money made the jihadis believe that God was on their side and that they could deal with the US too after the Soviet Union. Taking advantage of

the US obsession during the Afghan war, Pakistan also obtained nuclear weapons and missiles. The Pakistani leadership and the jihadis felt that on one side they could advance towards Ferghana, Babur's home in Central Asia and on the other side, seize Kashmir and cause the fragmentation of India.

This led to Yusuf Ramsey's first attempt on the World Trade Center in 1993 and Mir Aimal Kansi's shooting down of CIA operatives and the attacks on Iranians and Shias in Pakistan. There were talks about Pakistan acquiring strategic depth. In 1994, General Nasrullah Babar unleashed the Taliban and Pakistani servicemen and ex-servicemen under that banner swept through Afghanistan. Osama bin Laden became a mobile state bent on waging jihad. He enjoyed the advantage of not being territorially defined and attacked. The reactions of the US and the West to the proxy

IN BRIEF

- After defeating the Soviet Union in Afghanistan, the jihadis felt they could take on the US
- With the advent of the Taliban, Osama bin Laden became a mobile state
- Western democracies did not build up a strong alliance against terrorism

war in Kashmir and terrorist outrages in India, including the Mumbai explosions of March 1993 (a smaller version of what happened in New York) were not strong enough. The Taliban could not have occupied 90 per cent of Afghanistan without Pakistan's help and Osama bin Laden could not operate from that country without the permissiveness, if not active support, of Pakistan.

The US reacted only to acts of terrorism against itself, such as the CIA shootings, World Trade Centre bombing, the destruction of the US embassies in Dar-es-Salaam and Nairobi and the attack on the USS Cole. The US and other western democracies did not build up a strong enough alliance against international terrorism. The Shanghai group — China, Russia, Kirghizia, Tadjikistan and Kazakhstan — formed a separate front against terrorism. India, a major victim of terrorism, had to act mostly by itself. There was always the blackmail that if any pressure was applied to the pro-jihadi regime in Pakistan,

its successor would be more fanatical. Because of this, the US and the West failed to quarantine the states which supported jihadis just as Roosevelt's call to quarantine dictators was ignored. That shortsightedness, at that stage, led inexorably to the first Pearl Harbour. Now the world has before it the second Pearl Harbour. What happened on Tuesday is the declaration of war by jihadi terrorists on democracy.

Now the US should ally itself with other democracies and impose a quarantine on states supporting jihadi terrorism. In this endeavour, the Shanghai group and Iran are valuable allies. President George Bush has talked about the solidarity of democracies against terrorism and has proposed that the US and India should host a lunch for leaders of democracies during the UN General Assembly session. This idea should be pursued. During the UN session, the UN convention on terrorism should be promulgated.

The Security Council should be convened to monitor the state of international terrorism and formulate practical measures to quarantine states supporting or being permissive of terrorism. A global mechanism needs to be devised for nations to exchange information on terrorist activities. What happened in New York, Washington or Mumbai could happen elsewhere too.

The war against terrorism is a global one and an undivided one. Permissiveness of terrorism in certain directions can only encourage terrorists to try new adventures. The successful attack on the Pentagon may result in the triumphalism of jihadi terrorists with adverse consequences to other potential victims of terrorism, primarily India. For a start, India has to tighten its security in practical terms. Prime minister Vajpayee's forthcoming visit to the US should be utilised effectively to forge this new global alliance of democracies against terrorism.

The main lesson from the incidents in New York and Washington is the imperative need for India to devise a whole range of measures such as nuclear command and control, ensure the safety and security of political and military leaderships and put in place alternative command centres. Above all, professional institutionalised mechanism to monitor the effectiveness of our intelligence must be set up. While all these steps have to be taken secretly, there must be efforts to create public confidence that these steps are being taken.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 SEP 2001

US ready to go to war, says Powell

HT Correspondent and Agencies
New Delhi, September 12

THE UNITED States sees itself "at war" and will not be satisfied with punitive strikes against those responsible for Tuesday's terrorist attacks. US Secretary of State Colin Powell signalled this on Wednesday on NBC's Today show. "We are at war and (Americans) want a comprehensive response. They want us to act as if we are at war and we're going to do that... diplomatically and militarily," Powell said.

The former general seemed to rule out missile strikes. "Let's not think that one single counter attack will rid the world of terrorism of the kind we saw yesterday," he said. The US had used cruise missiles on militant camps in Afghanistan in retaliation to terrorist attacks. However, these attacks failed to sway the policies of the Taliban regime in Kabul.

Powell indicated the US was preparing for a protracted conflict. "This will take a multi-faceted attack on many dimensions — diplomatic, military, intelligence, law enforcement," he said.

US diplomats said their governing board is pushing NATO's government to pass a resolution invoking Article 5 of the alliance's mutual security clause. The board is scheduled to hold a meeting on Wednesday. The article compels NATO to respond as a whole to attacks on one of its members.

Though Powell said the US was "far from selecting any particular military targets" for retaliation, other US officials say they are reviewing a list of dozens of possible targets in Afghanistan that could be bombed if Osama bin Laden is found to be behind the attack. Bin Laden was last known to have been in hiding between the two Afghan cities of Jalalabad

and Kandahar. CNN reported that a Pakistani delegation has left to meet the Taliban leadership. Experts say Islamabad may demand expulsion of Bin Laden.

In the meantime, US investigators are uncovering more evidence linking the terrorist attacks to supporters of Bin Laden. Airport security camera tapes, airline voice recorders and passenger lists are being inspected as part of what is likely to be the largest criminal investigation in US history.

The focus is on Bin Laden supporters in Florida based on the identification of a suspected hijacker on one of the manifests of the four jets that crashed, sources said. The FBI was preparing to search locations in Broward County and Daytona Beach, Florida. The locations had links to the Bin Laden supporter.

US intelligence intercepted communications between Bin Laden supporters discussing the

World Trade Centre and Pentagon attacks, said US Senator Orrin Hatch. "They have an intercept of some information that included people associated with Bin Laden who acknowledged a couple of targets were hit," Hatch also said there was data linking one person on one of the four ill-fated flights to bin Laden's organisation.

In Boston, authorities seized a car in the parking garage at the airport that contained Arabic flight training manuals. A source said five Arab men had been identified as suspects, including one who was a trained pilot.

At least two suspects flew to Logan yesterday from Portland, Maine, where authorities believe they had travelled after crossing over from Canada recently, the Herald reported. The bags came from one of the men who did not make his connection. The Boston Globe reported today the bags contained an instructional video on

flying commercial airliners and a fuel consumption calculator.

Six bags were taken from the airport to the Boston FBI office, including chairs in which officials believe the suspected terrorists may have sat while waiting to board the flight.

Besides trying to determine who carried out the attacks, the investigation will focus on why US intelligence agencies failed to detect such well-orchestrated acts of terrorism. The probe also will take a look at the Federal Aviation Administration, which law enforcement sources said did not alert authorities as two passenger jets veered off course and closed in on the Trade Center's towers.

Already, there appears to be finger-pointing among US officials over who is to blame for what many are calling the greatest security breach in the nation's history.

On the fifth floor of FBI headquarters, angry and baffled,

TERRORISTS WERE AT THE CONTROLS

AS INVESTIGATORS got piecing together how four of commercial airliners could be seized so easily, suspicion grew that the hijackers had taken over the controls from the pilots for the last few miles.

The plane that crashed 80 miles from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, was spotted flying at a low altitude, with its landing gear up and wobbling — adding credence to the idea that the original pilot had been replaced by a hijacker. Just before it crashed, the plane was flying upside down.

All four planes were on internal, trans-American flights, rather than on international routes, which would have attracted a much greater degree of security. Boarding domestic flights in the US, especially for passengers with only hand luggage, can be almost as easy as getting on a bus. On some of the busiest shuttle flights, security is minimal.

The Guardian

including Attorney General John Ashcroft and US Army Special Forces officers dressed in camouflage, packed the Special Emergency Operations Center to begin sifting through the first clues from the crime scenes.

Intelligence sources say it's too soon to know for sure who masterminded the attacks, but they were unanimous in pointing to Bin Laden, indicted in the 1998 bombings of two US embassies.

More reports, photographs on pages 3, 9, 10 and 11

Bleeding NY cries for blood

New York

SCORES OF people began responding to the New York Blood Centre's emergency appeal for blood donations issued soon after the planes crashed into the World Trade Centre.

Before the crashes, the blood center had a five-day supply of blood—"a pretty good inventory" for normal circumstances, said Dr Robert L Jones, the centre's chief executive officer and president.

"We're able to process" the increased donations in part because the blood centre moved personnel from training programmes scheduled for Tuesday to collection sites throughout the city.

Traffic jams were a difficult initial handicap, and police escorts were needed to deliver blood and blood products to hospitals treating the victims.

"The city is in chaos right now," Dr Jones said. "It is the event of our lifetime, it is a war, we are at war."

The centre is working closely with the Greater New York Hospital Association and individual hospitals to monitor blood needs on an hourly basis.

Dr Jones said he was in e-mail contact with three other blood collecting organisations: America's Blood Centres, the American Red Cross and the American Association of Blood Banks. "They all stand ready to ramp up collections if necessary and also to move blood to us which happens to be on their shelves already," Dr Jones said.

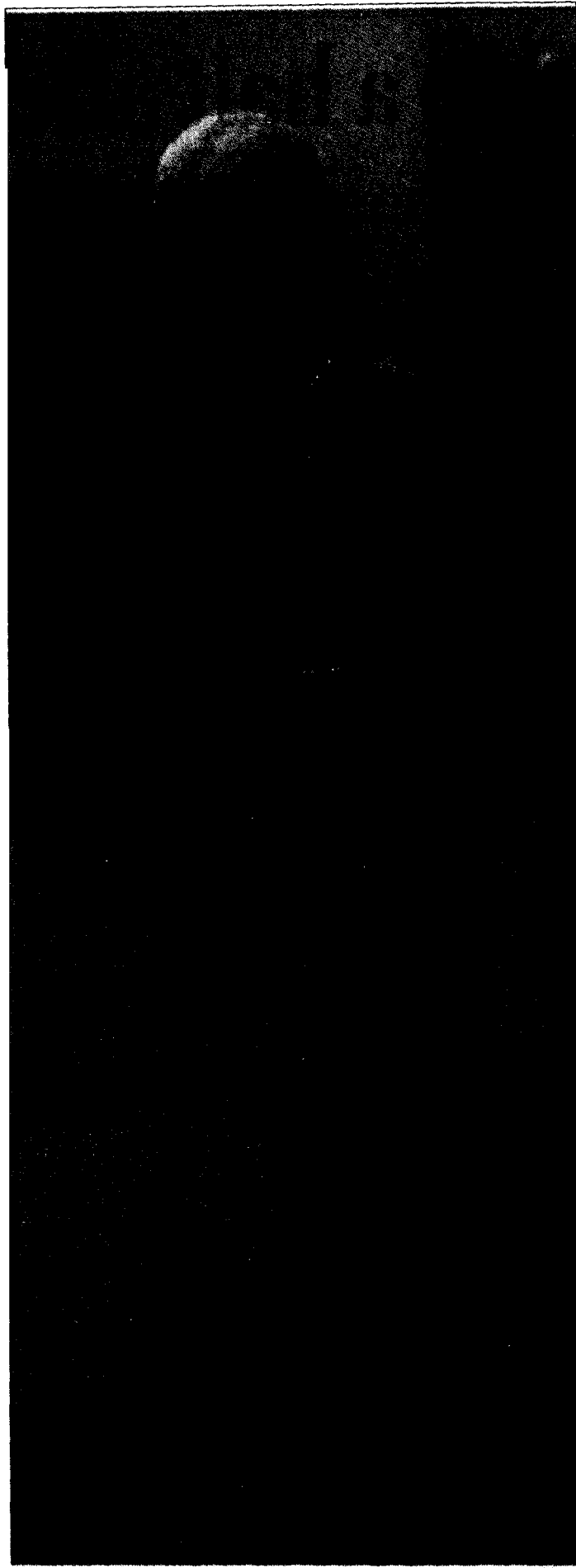
"We don't see that need right now, but it will take some time to sort out what we need," Dr Jones said at about 11:30 am.

The Red Cross centre in Boston had no blood to send to New York City, Dr Jones said. He said the center was checking on supplies in Philadelphia.

Asked how blood could be delivered to a city that was shut down, Dr Jones said "that is a good question—without air traffic, we are kind of stuck."

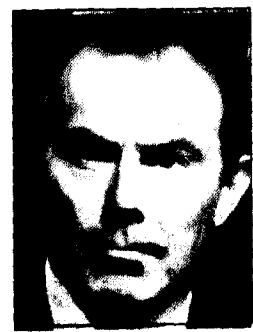
On a normal day, the New York Blood Centre collects about 1,200 units of whole blood, which is broken down into various parts. The center distributes about 2,000 units of blood products on a normal day.

The New York Times



A woman covered in dust takes refuge in an office building in New York.

HORROR AND DISBELIEF



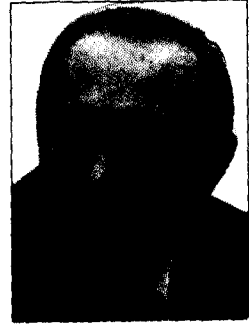
TONY BLAIR



YASSER ARAFAT



JACQUES CHIRAC



VLADIMIR PUTIN

WORLD LEADERS reacted with revulsion on Tuesday to the aircraft attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and on the Pentagon in Washington.

Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed deep sympathy for the people of the United States "in connection with this terrorist act, this terrible tragedy", the Kremlin quoted spokesman Alexei Gromov as saying.

Putin had been informed immediately of the attacks.

"I am horrified by the news we have just heard," said French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine.

"When we know more about this we will have to think about ways to eradicate the causes of terrorism around the world. But first of all, we must fight against all forms of terrorism."

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said he was rushing back to

London from a trade union conference in response, and said world leaders would have to combat international terrorism.

Foreign Secretary Jack Straw said Britain offered whatever help it could to the US Government "to bring the perpetrators to justice".

Berlin said it was shocked and said Germany's security council was convening, chaired by Chan-

cellor Gerhard Schroeder.

German air traffic authorities said all European flights to the United States had been suspended after the suspected terrorist attacks. Israeli Defence Minister Binyamin Ben-Eliezer told Israel's Army Radio it was "simply a tragedy".

"I sympathise with the American people", he said. "It's simply a terrible thing."

In Brussels, Chris Patten, European Commissioner for External Affairs, said: "We are all watching events with absolute horror. Our prayers and deepest sympathies go out to our friends in the United States."

Arafat shocked

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat expressed shock, a report from Gaza said. "It's an unbeliev-

able disaster. It is touching our hearts. It is very difficult to explain my feelings. God help them. God help them," Arafat told reporters in Gaza. "I send my condolences, the condolences of the Palestinian people to American President (George W.) Bush and his government and to the American people for this terrible act."

"We completely condemn this serious operation. ... We were completely shocked. It's unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable." Asked if he was willing to help track down the attackers, Arafat replied: "No doubt, if they ask me. ... I am ready to accept."

An anonymous caller told Abu Dhabi television earlier that the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was responsible for the attacks, but a senior official of the group later denied any involvement.

Reuters

TERROR TRAIL

OCT 12 2000: Terrorist bombing kills 17 US sailors aboard USS Cole at Aden port in Yemen. US blames Osama.

AUG 7 1998: Car bombs explode outside US embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, killing 224 people and injuring thousands. Osama the prime suspect.

JUNE 25 1996: Truck-bomb explodes outside Khobar Towers at Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, killing 19 US servicemen and injuring hundreds of people. Hezbollah indicted.

SEPT 13 1994: Rocket-propelled grenade pierces through US embassy in Moscow.

NOV 13 1995: Car bomb detonates at US military headquarters in Riyadh, killing five army men.

APRIL 19 1995: Bomb rips through the Alfred Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, killing 168 and wounding over 500. Timothy McVeigh convicted, and later executed.

FEB 26 1992: Carpark blast below World Trade Center kills six people and injures over 1,000. Six Islamic militants get life term.

DEC 21 1988: Panam Boeing 747 flying explodes over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 270 people.

SEPT 5 1985: Panam jet carrying 358 people hijacked at Karachi. Twenty people killed when security forces storm the plane.

OCT 8 1985: Palestinian militants kill a crippled US Jew, Leon Klinghoffer.

JUNE 14 1995: Shia gunmen seize TWA Boeing 727, force it to Beirut and Lebanon, demanding the release of 100 Arabs held by Israel. US navy diver killed, 39 Americans held till Syrian mediation frees them on July 1.

SEPT 28 1983: Car bomb at US embassy annexe in Beirut kills 16. US Ambassador injured.

DEC 12 1983: Shia extremists set off car bombs in front of the US and French embassies in Kuwait City, killing five people and wounding 86.

OCT 23 1983: Shia suicide bomb blows up US marine barracks in Beirut killing 241 marines.

APRIL 18 1983: Suicide bomber blows up US embassy in Beirut, killing 17 Americans.

NOV 4 1979: Islamic students storm US embassy in Tehran. 52 Americans held hostage for 444 days.



Reuters

Taliban clears bin Laden

A SPOKESMAN for the Taliban has said that Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden could not be responsible for the spate of terror attacks in the US.

"What happened in the United States was not a job of ordinary people. It could have been the work of governments. Osama bin Laden cannot do this work, neither us," said Abdul Hai Nutterman from the southern city of Kandahar.

"We are not supporting terrorism. Osama does not have the capability. We condemn this. This could have been the act of either internal enemies of the United States or its major rivals."

Taliban ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Salam Zaeef has also condemned what he called "terrorist" attacks on the United States, according to the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press. "This is a terrorist act and we strongly condemn it," he said.

The agency said the Taliban

ambassador called for a thorough investigation and those responsible for the multiple attacks on US targets to be brought to justice.

The Taliban have long angered the US for giving sanctuary to Osama bin Laden, who is described by Washington as "the world's most wanted terrorist".

Washington has offered a \$5m reward for his capture and George Tenet, director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said this week the tall, thin Saudi was the most immediate and serious threat to US security.

Apart from the embassy bombings, US officials link bin Laden to last year's bombing of a US navy ship in Yemen and with foiled plots in the US and Jordan at the turn of the millennium.

"Since 1998, bin Laden has declared all US citizens legitimate targets of attack," Tenet said.

He said bin Laden was using the internet "to acquire informa-

tion and capabilities to acquire chemical, biological, radiological and even nuclear attack".

The Taliban sprang from religious schools in Pakistan near the Afghan border and, with almost no military experience, swept from obscurity to their 1996 capture of the capital in only two years.

Beyond Pakistan, the Taliban have few friends. Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates are the only other countries to recognise the Taliban as the legal government, but they have not joined Pakistan in maintaining embassies in Kabul.

But the Taliban have other private supporters who may have deep pockets similar to bin Laden.

"It's not just bin Laden, but as Afghanistan has drifted into chaos it has become a hiding place for every terrorist group known to man," said one senior diplomat in Pakistan.

Reuters

Aftershocks may jolt W Asia

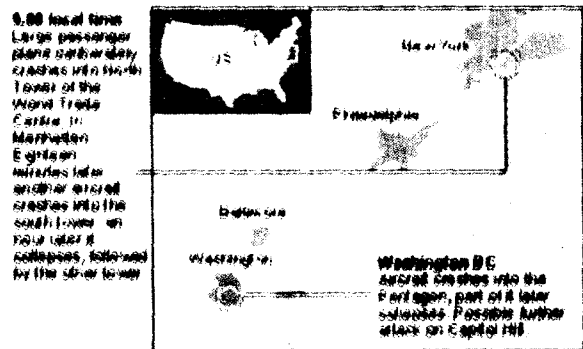
Derek Brown
New York

AFTER TUESDAY'S terrorist attacks in US the finger of suspicion will inevitably point at West Asia, at Palestinian groups and at the wider Islamist militant movement.

Even if that suspicion proves unjustified—as it is in the aftermath of the 1995 Oklahoma bombing by Timothy McVeigh—the calamities which engulfed America today are certain to send shockwaves through a region already in turmoil. It is, on the face of it, wildly unlikely that any of the known Palestinian militant groups were involved. They may have the will to commit such atrocities, but almost certainly lack the capacity or the organisational ability to do so.

The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) was said in an early news report to have claimed responsibility in a telephone call to a television station in Qatar. That report was followed by a flood of denials from the group's headquarters.

The attacks



Indeed, the idea of the DFLP carrying out such a series of attacks would be risible, were it not for the tragic context. The group has been around for some 30 years, and undoubtedly has a paramilitary apparatus. But it is tiny, and for years the leadership has been more interested in political struggle.

Much more compelling is the case for implicating Osama bin Laden, the renegade Saudi-born billionaire and Islamist zealot,

who last month boasted that he would launch an "unprecedented" attack on the US.

The condemnation could have been an attempt to pre-empt punitive attacks on Kabul by US cruise missiles, as happened after the bombings of the American embassies in Kenya and Tanzania just over three years ago.

If bin Laden is identified as the mastermind behind today's carnage, the US may be expected to go to any lengths to eliminate him.

The Guardian

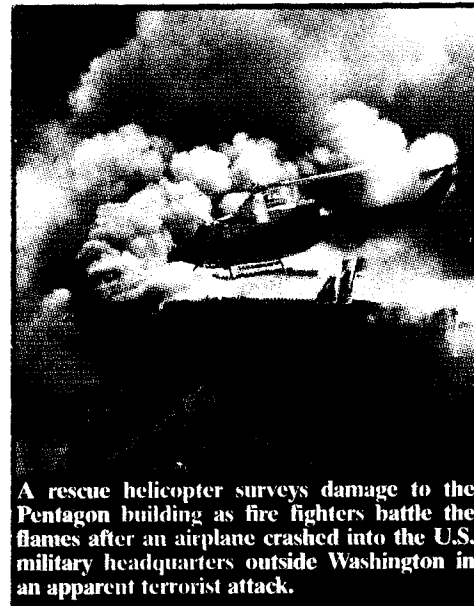
War against America, terrorists kill thousands in carnage

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

NEW DELHI/WASHINGTON: Terrorists struck at the heart and might of America on Tuesday morning in a catastrophic serial attack that may have killed hundreds, even thousands of people and seriously wounded the United States.

Several large planes hijacked almost simultaneously from airports on the East Coast were deliberately crashed into the symbols of American establishment and enterprise—the twin World Trade Center in New York, and the Pentagon building outside Washington, in an unprecedented attack on America.

Clearly, it is nothing short of war against the United States, but the initiators of the carnage were not clearly identified at the time of writing.



A rescue helicopter surveys damage to the Pentagon building as fire fighters battle the flames after an airplane crashed into the U.S. military headquarters outside Washington in an apparent terrorist attack.

Some reports said they may be terrorist groups from West Asia.

So massive was the terrorist attack that it brought down the twin towers of the World Trade Center, proud sentinels of American commerce. An hour or so after two large planes crashed separately into the belly of the buildings, the structures collapsed, leaving an eerie blank in a world-famous skyline that symbolises the business might of the United States.

The terrorists then struck at the Pentagon, the very soul of American military might, and a geometric structure that goes several floors underground with the intent of surviving a nuclear attack.

The attacks sent America into a panic. The White House was evacuated immediately although President George W. Bush was away in Florida. All government buildings and national monuments across the country were closed. Subsequently, all major buildings in Washington and New York were evacuated. The stock markets shut down. Within two hours of the attack, major airports on the East Coast itself were shut down. Trans-Atlantic flights into the United States were diverted to Canada.

Staggering as the carnage is, equally stunning is the monumental intelligence failure of a country that prides itself on being ahead of the game. How the terrorists managed to almost simultaneously hijack several aircraft and fly



AMERICA'S BLACK SEPTEMBER: Thick clouds of dust cover entire blocks in New York (clockwise from top left) as plumes of smoke continue to pour out from the World Trade Center building after the first tower collapsed on Tuesday morning. Rescue workers remove a man from the building. People run as one of the towers collapses. Onlookers react with horror at the scene of the disaster. (For more pictures, log on to www.timesofindia.com) Pics: AP/AFP/Reuters

them into the buildings with such stunning accuracy boggles the mind. It is a scenario that was only modestly conceived by the writer Tom Clancy, who once began a novel in which terrorist groups crash a plane into the U.S. Capitol Hill Building that houses the Senate and the Congress. Even he could not have imagined this nightmarish simultaneous attack.

President Bush identified this as an "apparent terrorist attack" and promised to hunt down the perpetrators. Informed of the attack in the midst of an official engagement in Florida, he blanched visibly, but recovered his composure and issued a short terse statement before taking to the air. It was not known if he was returning to the White House or even Washington, given that it is clearly one of the targets.

The United States has faced a series of terrorist attacks throughout the 1990s, but nothing remotely on this scale. Some 100,000 people work in the twin-tower WTC each day. Nearly 50,000 people had trickled into the office by 9 a.m. on Tuesday morning when a plane crashed into the first tower.

Television cameras were showing smoke billowing from this tower when 16 minutes later, a second plane—what appeared to be a Boeing 737—flew into the belly of the sec-

ond tower in an unforgettable image that will live forever on tape.

Even as the world stared stunned at this twin disaster, news came of several explosions in Washington DC, the attack on the Pentagon, and another crashed plane outside the airport in Pittsburgh.

By then, it became evident that terrorists were waging war against the United States.

Washington has always suspected that some attacks were in the works and in recent weeks and months had frequently issued warnings about such impending attacks. It frequently cautioned Americans about travelling to trouble spots across the world.

But that such a catastrophe would visit them at home was probably not even imagined. To pull such a violent feat of simultaneous attack, reminiscent in a much larger way of the serial terrorist strikes in Mumbai in 1993, required a massive amount of coordination, planning and preparation. American airports are fairly loosely guarded in sheer terms of security personnel deployed. Often it is possible for visitors to go right up to the aircraft door to receive or see passengers off. But smuggling weapons up to an aircraft through the airport terminal would require a great deal of ingenuity.

For more stories, log on to www.timesofindia.com

Target: Humanity

The scenes of devastation were truly horrific. Huge swelling clouds of smoke, towering buildings collapsing, screams and sirens renting the air, as piercing as shrapnel. It could have been Kosovo, Beirut, or the West Bank. But, in fact, it was New York City and Washington DC, the very heart of the fortress of democracy, now sought to be made even more impregnable by the Bush administration-proposed National Missile Defence. The loss in both material and human terms is colossal and will take months, if not years, to fully compute, let alone for even the world's most powerful economy to absorb. Bushfire rumour is already spreading a smokescreen even thicker than the noxious fumes pouring out of the burning buildings. Even while near-hysterical commentators were trying to describe what had happened in Washington and New York, where respectively a hijacked plane crashed into a wing of the Pentagon and the twin pinnacles of the towering World Trade Centre were smashed into rubble by two further hijacked planes striking them, other reports came in of a car bomb exploding in the U.S. capital and another plane crashing just outside the populous city of Pittsburgh.

Frantic attempts were made to evacuate other public buildings throughout the U.S. and, indeed, as far away as the Canary Wharf area of London, where that city's tallest commercial building was ordered cleared of all people. At the time of going to press, it was still unclear as to who was responsible for what is already being called the biggest and most concerted terrorist attack in history — indeed, it could be described as an assault not just on the U.S. or the West, but on the very concept of civilisation itself. Already, the political and economic aftershocks of the attack are being felt in all corners of the globe. Meanwhile, speculation is running rife about the perpetrators of this chilling strike. The names of Osama bin Laden and his organisation have already been repeatedly mentioned. It has also been pointed out that it could be more than just coincidence that barely a few hours before the strike on America, Ahmad Shah Masoud, the most credible opponent of the Taliban in embattled Afghanistan, faced an assassination attempt.

While it would be only too easy, and perhaps inevitable, to blame terrorist groups inspired by so-called 'Islamic fundamentalism', it should also be borne in mind that with over-weening power comes an equally formidable range of enmity. It would not be entirely in the realm of thriller fiction — though in fact, one of Tom Clancy's bestsellers does mention the U.S. President being killed after a plane crashes into the White House — if these attacks did not have clandestine drug connections, besides the obvious political and terrorist angles. The U.S. today is the largest recipient of mainly cocaine, but also heroin, from diverse areas, stretching from South America to the so-called Golden Crescent in Pakistan and Afghanistan. India, amongst many others, has repeatedly pointed out the growing lethal combination of narcotics and terrorist activities, both of which are an equal menace to the civilised international community. Even as it recovers from the massive body blow it has received, the U.S.' political and defence establishments must work in closer concert with their counterparts elsewhere, which are also exposed to these threats. The strikes in the U.S. call to mind the Mumbai blasts some years ago, when several commercially important buildings were bombed with an almost military precision. At that time, the finger of suspicion had pointed unerringly at those who sought both politically and economically to subvert the growing importance of India in the international realm. Such dangers still exist for all democratic communities — be it India, the U.S., or anywhere in the world. Because as we have already said, what has been grievously wounded today is not just one nation, but the very heart of humanity itself.

It's the worst terrorist attack in history... and it's not over yet. For comprehensive coverage, the latest news and pictures, log on to www.timesofindia.com.

WHAT THEY SAID

"Today we've had a national tragedy." — President Mr. George W. Bush, from Sarasota, Fla.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world. It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list." — Mr. Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport magazine.

"My mother is going crazy. I just hope (my brother's) alright. He's my work-out partner. He's my hangout now." — Mr. Edwin Cruz, 34, whose brother, Richard, works in the World Trade Center.

"I heard a 'boom.' People were jumping off the building everywhere. They were just jumping." — Ms. Serena Mays, construction worker, on the Williamsburg Bridge, which leads into Manhattan.

"Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone. It's like a war zone. There are many injured." — Mr. Mike Smith, a New York fire marshal.

"It's just sick. It just shows how vulnerable we really are." — Mr. Keith Meyers, 39, of Westerville, Ohio.

"It looked like a ticker tape parade because there were parts of the building floating down with the dust." — Mr. Matthew Low, 29, of Manhattan.

"I just can't believe what's happened. God, my heart goes out to all of these people, believe me. I just hope there is justice." — Ms. Martha Ridley, whose daughter died in the April 1995 Oklahoma City bombing.

"The fact is that there is a level of sophistication, coordination that anticipates terrorism. It's not something that we can't handle. We've never previously had a group that is so deadly, so capable." — Mr. Anthony Cordesman, a kind of terrorism expert from the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

New York's nightmare in the morning

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK, Sept. 11. — It was a nightmare — people on fire jumping in terror from the Trade Towers just before the buildings collapsed. "Everyone was screaming, crying, running — cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mr. Mike Smith, a fire marshal from Queens, as he sat by the fountain outside a state courthouse, shortly after the second tower collapsed. "A couple of marshals just picked me up and dragged me down the street. It's like a war zone."

Others compared it to Pearl Harbor as hundreds of people poured off the bridge on the Brooklyn side, covered in dust. Many wore respiratory masks, given out by police and fire departments.

Ms Shirley Bates, who worked on the 88th floor of One World Trade Center, said she saw a woman on her floor with burns on her arms and legs and singed hair. As Ms Bates and others were evacuated, they heard a second explosion. "Everything came like a tornado," she said. "People started running."

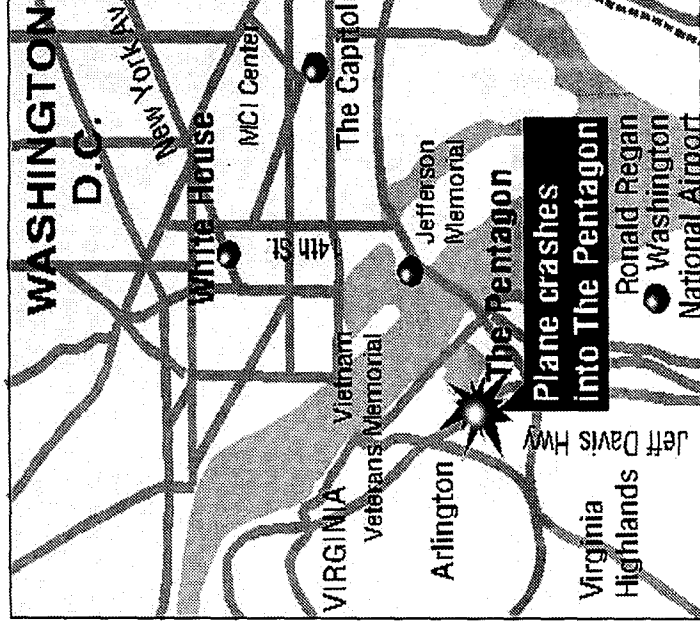
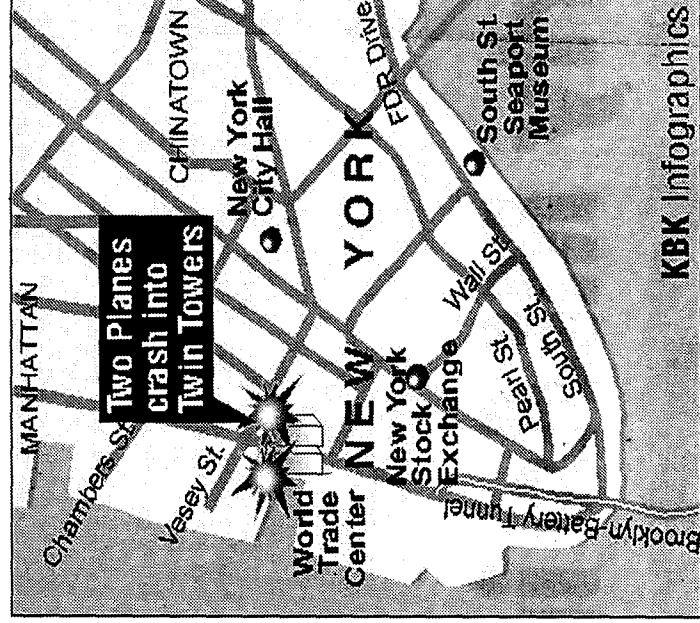
Workers from Trade Center offices wandered about in lower Manhattan in a daze, many barely able to believe they were alive.

Mr Boris Ozersky, 47, computer networks analyst, was on the 70th floor of one of the buildings when he felt something like an explosion rock it.

He raced down 70 flights of stairs. He was trying to calm down a woman in panic when the building suddenly collapsed.

"I just got blown somewhere, and then it was total darkness. We tried to get away, but I was blown to the ground. And I was trying to help this woman, but I couldn't find her in the darkness," Mr Ozersky said. After

AMERICA ATTACKED



'Something terrible has happened'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 11. — "It's around nine o'clock in the morning here. I think something terrible has happened here. I have been told with other staffers of my company to evacuate the building where I work," Mr Tushit Shukla, a software engineer in New York, gave a first-hand account of the tragedy.

He telephoned his residence in Ghaziabad while in the process of being evacuated and said: "Please don't worry about me, I am safe." The phone got disconnected.

When his family learnt of the magnitude of the tragedy on television, they tried to call him up. "We can't call him up as his mobile number is continuously engaged," they said.

They panicked and so did many others in Delhi whose relatives and friends are in USA as news about the terrorist attacks became known.

"I called up my uncle who stays in California and he told me that everybody is in a state of shock and most of them were returning home from work places as they feared more such attacks in other parts of the USA," said Mr Sanjay Kumar.

But there were not many families who could easily get through to their relatives in America.

The Videsh Sanchar Nigam Limited said more people than they could handle were trying to make international calls. VSNL's international gateway has a little over 20,000 circuits, allowing an equal number of people to make international calls simultaneously.

Initially, the sudden increase in the outgoing international traffic caught the VSNL officials off guard. "It was an unexpected and sudden increase," he said, pointing that the network started showing signs of congestion within an hour of the news of the plane attacks.

"We have deployed additional officers to monitor the traffic and are trying to clear as many calls as possible."

There is congestion, but no part of the system has collapsed. Our technical staff is present in full strength to rectify any faults that might occur," he added. The US embassy also received a large number of calls from the Indians to enquire about their relatives and friends in US, said an official.

Nearby a crowd mobbed a man on a pay-phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Ash was 2 to 3 inches deep in places.

"People were jumping out of windows," said a woman, crying inconsolably. "I guess people were trying to save themselves. Oh my God!"

Another eyewitness, AP newsman Mr Dunstan Prial, described a strange sucking sound from the Trade Center buildings after the first building collapsed.

"Windows shattered. People were screaming and diving for cover. People walked around like ghosts, covered in dirt, weeping and wandering dazed."

Ms Jennifer Brickhouse, 34, from Union, NJ, was on the escalator, heading for her 76th-floor office in the World Trade Center when she "heard this big boom. Everyone was going crazy. We all got out. The minute I got out of the building, the second building blew up. All this stuff started falling and all this smoke was coming through. People were screaming, falling and jumping out of the windows," she said.

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Mr Gabriel Ioan, in utter shock outside City Hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Center behind him. "I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Mr Dunstan Prial, described a strange sucking sound from the Trade Center buildings after the first building collapsed.

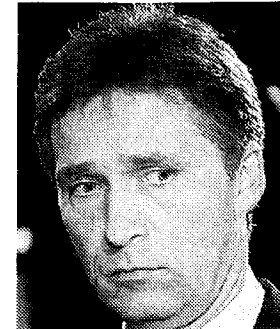
"Windows shattered. People were screaming and diving for cover. People walked around like ghosts, covered in dirt, weeping and wandering dazed."



GLOBESCAN

Norway ruling party suffers jolt

OSLO: The once-dominant Labour Party clung to power on Tuesday despite suffering its worst election setback since 1924, an apparent backlash by voters angry with high taxes and poor public service despite the country's vast oil wealth. Thousands of voters in Norway, the world's second-largest oil exporter, abandoned Labour in Monday's national parliamentary elections for the parties to its political left and right. With 98.2 per cent of the vote counted early on Tuesday, projections gave Labour 43 seats in the 165-member Parliament, a stunning decline from the 65 seats it had after the last parliamentary elections in 1997. But no party emerged with a majority, setting off a scramble to forge alliances aimed at forcing the Labour Government out of power. The Prime Minister, Mr. Jens Stoltenberg (in the picture), who at 42, became Norway's youngest Prime Minister last year, said he would remain in power while he assesses the new political landscape before the new Parliament convenes on October 10. — AP



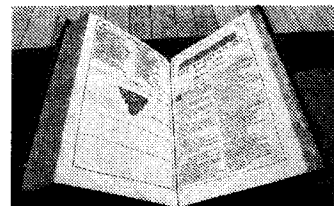
Mugabe warned of turmoil

HARARE: Zimbabwe's neighbours delivered a sharp rebuke to the President, Mr. Robert Mugabe, on Monday saying they feared that political turmoil could overwhelm southern Africa. "We were very concerned about the worsening economy, the decline in the rule of law, and the spread of violence and political instability in this country," said the President of Malawi, Mr. Bakili Muluzi, heading a group of six leaders who arrived in Harare for talks on resolving the land crisis. "Of great concern to all of us is that, if the land issue is not urgently resolved amicably and peacefully, the economic and political problems Zimbabwe is facing now could easily snowball across the entire southern African region." It was the harshest criticism of Mr. Mugabe from his neighbours, which only last year closed ranks around Zimbabwe and blamed the land crisis on Britain's refusal to pay for land reform. That the leaders of South Africa, Malawi, Namibia, Botswana and Mozambique should be so blunt only underlines the alarm that has swept through southern Africa (in the picture, Mr. Robert Mugabe welcomes the South African President, Mr. Thabo Mbeki, on the latter's arrival in Harare on Monday). — *Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2001*

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Bard's book may fetch \$3 m.

LONDON: A rare edition of the first printed works of William Shakespeare made a brief stage appearance at London's Globe Theatre ahead of a sale next month where the book is expected to fetch up to \$3 millions. The leather-bound, 1,000-page compilation of plays was made in 1623, seven years after the Bard's death, and is known as the first folio. Three further folios, or versions of the complete



works followed, but are generally less valuable. "This is one of only five complete first folio copies still in private hands, and is among the two finest," Mr. Chris Coover, a specialist on books at Christie's auctioneers, said on Monday. — Reuters



A rescue helicopter surveys the damage to the Pentagon buildings as firefighters battle flames after an apparent terrorist airplane crashed into the U.S. military headquarters outside Washington on Tuesday. In the picture on the right, a group of children near Jerusalem's Old City hold Palestinian flags and flash the victory sign on Tuesday, reacting to the terrorist attacks in the U.S. — Reuters, AP



ATTACKS IN U.S. / BUSH VOWS TO HUNT DOWN CULPRITS

Needle of suspicion on Osama bin Laden

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT. 11. The terrorist attacks against the United States in New York and Washington D.C. on Tuesday morning could have claimed "thousands" of lives.

The attacks appeared to be extremely well planned and coordinated. The country is witness to scenes of shock and panic in a manner that has not been seen in recent times. U.S. authorities are said to have closed the borders with Canada and Mexico. And aircraft carriers have been moved out of Norfolk, Virginia, and moved to the New York area.

In all three hijacked planes were involved in the destruction of the Twin Towers in New York and extensive damages to the Pentagon in the nation's capital.

In spite of all the denials of the Taliban, the needle of suspicion is on Osama bin Laden and the fundamentalist outfit in Kabul that is known to protect him.

At this time, Osama bin Laden is the prime suspect, especially after what happened to the American Embassies in Africa in 1998 and last year's bombing of the USS Cole. Official Washington has not said much of the attacks but is clearly stunned at the magnitude of the devastation.

"This is the second Pearl Har-

bour. I don't think I overstate it," remarked the Republican Senator, Mr. Chuck Hagel. Troops have been deployed in key areas in Washington and the National Guard has been called out in New York City. Authorities here are asking people to leave Lower Manhattan.

The President, Mr. George W. Bush, who was in Florida at the time of the attacks in New York and Washington D.C. left Sarasota but is not coming back to the nation's Capital in view of the security situation.

He was initially scheduled to head to the White House. Senior Congressional leaders are also being taken to different and secure locations it is said.

Reuters reports: Speaking at the Barksdale Air Force Base, Mr. Bush said the U.S. had taken all appropriate steps to protect the American people and would hunt down and punish those responsible for the attacks.

"We have taken all appropriate security precautions to protect the American people," Mr. Bush, facing the first big test of his eight-month presidency, told reporters at a hastily arranged appearance.

"Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts."

Mr. Bush said the U.S. military had been put on "high alert status" and added that he had taken security precautions to ensure the proper functioning of the Government.

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faithless coward," Mr. Bush said. "Freedom will be defended."

Share prices fall; oil, gold soar

LONDON, SEPT. 11. Shocked investors sent European share prices into a free fall and panic-buying caused oil and gold prices to soar

in response to the terrorist bombings on Tuesday in New York and Washington.

The London Stock Exchange evacuated its headquarters in the city's financial district as a precaution against a possible attack, although a spokesman said trading was continuing at an undisclosed alternative site.

The International Petroleum Exchange suspended trading of crude oil and refined products for an hour to catch up on an unusually heavy volume of transactions, while gold trading on the city's

bullion market fizzled earlier in the afternoon.

Investors dumped shares on all major regional stock markets on news of the bombings, and stocks — already battered from several days of heavy selling — plunged further through the afternoon. Among the biggest losers were stocks in airlines.

"It's a disaster. It throws the whole market background into chaos... Banks, insurers will fall the most — anything that's exposed," said Mr. Mike Lenhoff, a portfolio strategist at the London brokerage, Gerrard. — AP

Internet traffic slows, phone lines overloaded

NEW YORK, SEPT. 11. Internet traffic slowed and major news web sites were jammed on Tuesday as people searching for details on the World Trade Center and Pentagon attacks went online.

The smashed twin Trade towers, which symbolized New York's financial prowess, also housed equipment and antennas that transmitted millions of telephone calls each day. The damage and an unprecedented volume of calls overwhelmed an already strained telecommunications system, cutting off much of the city's phone system.

On the Internet, the search engine Google directed news seekers to radio and television. "Many online news services are not available, because of extremely high demand," a statement read on the popular site's home page. America Online's Instant Messenger service in New York was sporadic. AOL's dial-up connections were constantly busy, but the service was reachable through long-distance calls to Chicago.

MSNBC.com, the most popular news site on the Web, was operating without problems. Technicians removed graphics from the site to allow users to access the news faster, said spokesman, Mr. Ben Billingsley.

Keynote Systems Inc., which measures Internet performance, said it did not find any widespread problems with the Internet's main trunk lines. Keynote spokeswoman, Ms. Mary Lindsay, expected to confirm regional outages as the company continued its analyses. — AP

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SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO.1 OF 05/09/2001 TO
TENDER NOTICE NO.45/CAO/C/SC/2001 DATED 30-08-2001

Description of work: UPGRADEATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTRODUCTION OF SUB-URBAN TRAFFIC (MMTS) ON SECUNDERABAD-LINGAMPALLI SECTION. - Earthwork in formation for circulating area and high level passenger platforms, construction/extension of major/minor bridges, high level passenger platforms, sub-urban booking office, providing circulating area, approach road, laying and linking of track and execution of miscellaneous works at the following stations:-

- LINGAMPALLI STATION 2. CHANDANAGAR AND HAFEZPETA. 3. HI-TECH CITY STATION 4. BORABANDA AND SANATHNAGAR STATIONS 5. JAMES STREET AND SANJEEVIAH PARK STATIONS 6. BALKAMPET AND FATHEH NAGAR STATIONS 7. HYDERABAD - KHAIRATABAD & BEGUMPET STATIONS.

The following changes are notified in connection with the opening of Tenders for the above work:

(a) Last date for issue of Tender Schedule 08-10-2001
(b) Closing of Tender Box at 11.00 hrs on 11-10-2001
(c) Opening of Tender Box at 11.30 hrs on 11-10-2001

All the other terms and conditions of the Tender Notice stand unaltered.
Chief Administrative Officer(Const.) Secunderabad
PUB/562/2001-2002

Do not rush to conclusions: Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 11. The Taliban tonight urged the United States to be cautious in its response to the terrorist attacks in Washington and New York and warned that it would be a "big mistake" on its part if it were to decide to strike at Afghanistan on suspicion of involvement of either Osama bin Laden or anyone else from the country.

Addressing a hurriedly convened news conference here at his residence, the Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Zaeef, counselled the Bush administration to go for a thorough investigation on the incidents before arriving at any conclusion.

"It is not true. Osama or his associates are not involved in the incidents. They do not have capability to carry out such attacks," he said in response to questions about the suspicions in U.S. about the involvement of followers of Osama in the attacks. Asked if he feared any attacks by the U.S. in the wake of the latest developments, as it happened in 1998 in the wake of Okhama bombings, the Taliban Am-

bassador said that "we do not apprehend any such attacks. If they are preparing to target our country all I can say is it would be a big mistake." The Ambassador read out a brief prepared statement condemning the attacks on New York and Washington. "We want to tell the American people that Afghanistan feels the pain of the people of U.S. We hope the terrorists and the people behind the attacks are caught and brought to justice".

In response to questions, the Ambassador said that Afghanistan was waiting for the American investigations to reveal as to who is behind the dastardly attacks. He said it would not be proper on the part of anyone to rush to conclusions and every one should wait for the outcome of the investigations.

"It is not true," was his brief response when asked about the suspicion that the Saudi billionaire who is hiding in Afghanistan could be behind the attacks. "It would be a mistake to come to any such conclusion. I hope they (U.S.) would be very careful before reaching to any conclusions." Mullah Zaeef was not prepared to answer any further questions.

The Pakistani security agencies went on high alert hours after the incidents in New York and Washington. One could see extra deployment of security in and around the American buildings and offices in Islamabad.

In a related development, the Pakistani military leader and President of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, sent a message to the American President, Mr. George Bush, condemning the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington.

AP reports from Kabul: The Taliban's Foreign Minister swiftly condemned today's devastating terrorist attacks in the United States and rejected suggestions that Osama bin Laden, could be behind them. "We have tried our best in the past and we are willing in the future to assure the United States in any kind of way we can that Osama is not involved in these kinds of activities," the Taliban's Foreign Minister, Mr. Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil, told reporters.

Accused by Washington of running an international terrorist network in Afghanistan, Osama bin Laden, has lived here since 1996.

SOUTH CENTRAL RAILWAY
CORRIGENDUM NO.1 OF 05/09/2001 TO
TENDER NOTICE NO.44/CAO/C/SC/2001 DATED 30-08-2001

Description of work: UP-GRADATION OF RAILWAY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR INTRODUCTION OF SUB-URBAN TRAFFIC (MMTS) ON SECUNDERABAD - FALAKNUMA SECTION.

- FALAKNUMA & HUPPUGUDA STATIONS - Earthwork in formation, laying & linking of BG track for extension of sick siding & extension of bridges, construction of sub - urban booking office, providing circulating area and execution of other miscellaneous works.
- DABEERPURA & YAKUTPURA STATIONS - Construction of Sub-Urban booking office, providing circulating area and execution of other miscellaneous works.
- KACHEGUDA & VIDYANAGAR STATIONS - Earthwork in formation, laying & linking of BG track for EMU siding @ Kacheguda, construction of sub-urban booking office, providing circulating area and execution of other miscellaneous works.
- ARTS COLLEGE STATION - Construction of Sub - Way RCC twin box type of size 4.50 M X 3.0 M (clear) by box pushing technique.
- SEETHAPHAL MANDI & JAMA OSMANIA STATIONS - Construction of foot over bridge at Seethaphalmandi station construction of Sub - Urban booking office, providing circulating area and execution of other miscellaneous works.

The following changes are notified in connection with the opening of Tender for the above work:

(d) Last date for issue of Tender Schedule 08-10-2001.
(e) Closing of Tender Box at 11.00 hrs on 10-10-2001.
(f) Opening of Tender Box at 11.30 hrs on 10-10-2001.

All the other terms and conditions of the Tender Notice stand unaltered.
Chief Administrative Officer(Const.)
Secunderabad
PUB/558/2001-2002

CENTRAL RAILWAY
CANCELLATION OF TENDER NO.: S&T/2001/15DT. 27.07.2001

Name of Work: Provision of Integrated Power Supply and Data Logger System for signalling gears in Bhusawal-Jalgaon Automatic Block Section of Bhusawal Division on Central Railway. Total cost of work: Rs.29,50,000/- Due date of opening: 13.09.2001 at 1530 hrs. Now proposed to be CANCELLED.

PROVISION OF INTEGRATED POWER SUPPLY & DATA LOGGER SYSTEM

Divisional Railway Manager (Signal & Telecom) C.Rly Bhusawal for & on behalf of President of India invites sealed tenders from experienced and qualified contractors for the following works:

(1) TENDER NOTICE NO.: S&T/2001/24. (A) Name of work: Provision of Integrated Power Supply for signalling gears in Bhusawal-Jalgaon Automatic Block Section of Bhusawal Division on Central Railway. (B) Approximate Cost: Rs. 10,60,000/- only. (C) Completion period: 90 Days from the date of issue of acceptance letter.

(2) TENDER NOTICE NO.: S&T/2001/25. (A) Name of work: Provision of Data Logger System for signalling gears in Bhusawal-Jalgaon Automatic Block Section of Bhusawal Division on Central Railway. (B) Approximate Cost: Rs. 13,40,000/- only. (C) Completion period: 120 Days from the date of issue of acceptance letter. (3) Earnest Money (to be submitted separately for each tender): Rs.20,000/- (In l/c Sr. Divisional Accounts Officer, C.Rly Bhusawal) (4) Date of submission of both Tender Forms: 11.10.2001 up to 1500 hrs. (5) Date of Opening of both tenders: 11.10.2001 at 1530 hrs. (6) Cost of each Tender Form (In Person): Rs.1,000/- (by post) Rs. 1,050/- each (By Money Order only which should be sent in l/c Sr. Division Signal & Telecom Engineer, C.Rly Bhusawal) (7) Tender Form will be sold up to (In Person), 10.10.2001 up to 1700 hrs. (By Post): 03.10.2001. (8) Tender Form will be sent by Speed Post/Registered Post with AD. Tenderer should submit the following documents/certificates with each tender form: (A) Statement showing works of similar nature executed by him/himself. In addition, certificates from the party with whom he/they had successfully completed such works. The tenderer/s should have completed successfully at least one work of similar nature to that of this tender costing not less than 1/3rd value of this tender in last three years. (B) Valid Income Tax Clearance Certificate. Tenderer should also note that: (i) Earnest Money is to be deposited in the requisite form in l/c Sr. Divisional Accounts Officer, C.Rly Bhusawal only. The earnest Money in the form of Bank Guarantee Bond shall not be accepted. (ii) If the date of opening of the tender happens to be a Holiday, then this tender will be opened on next working day at same time & same place. (iii) Railway will not be responsible for delay in receipt and/or submission of tender documents due to postal delay. (iv) Railways reserve the right to reject any or all tender without assigning reason.

HBCR/24-25

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DIGEST

All SP MLAs in U.P. quit

LUCKNOW, SEPT. 11. All Samajwadi Party legislators resigned from the Uttar Pradesh Assembly today in a bid to build pressure on the Rajnath Singh Government to hold early elections. Of the 102 members, 94 handed over their resignations to the Vidhan Sabha Secretary this morning. They are understood to have alleged in their letters that the step is to protest against the alleged move by the BJP-led Government to continue even after the completion of its five-year-term next month.

— UNI
— Details on Page 15

Woman without veil attacked

SRINAGAR, SEPT. 11. Just a day after the expiry of the deadline, two suspected Lashkar-e-Jabbar militants attacked a woman in the heart of the city for not covering herself with a veil as demanded by the outfit.

The ultras stopped the woman at Nai Sarak and threw coloured water on her face. Policemen deployed in the area immediately arrested a suspected youth, identified as Fayaz Ahmad.— PTI
— Details on Page 13

Assembly dissolved

IMPHAL, SEPT. 11. The seventh Manipur Legislative Assembly, which had been kept under suspended animation since early June, has been dissolved by the President, Mr. K. R. Narayanan, with immediate effect.

The dissolution notice was issued by the State Law Secretary after the receipt of a Central Government notification in this regard, official sources said.— PTI

INTERVIEW



The Afghan leader, Mr. Ahmad Shah Masood, had warned in a recent interview that the Taliban and Osama bin Laden represented a threat to world stability.
— Details on Page 12

NATIONAL

● Jayalalithaa counsel's arguments — Page 13

BUSINESS

● Imports of sensitive items fall — Page 18

SPORT

● Rebecca shuts out Sheetal — Page 24

TAMIL NADU

● Talk of The Town — Page 2
● T.N. to move SC on Cauvery issue — Page 4

OPPORTUNITIES

— 8 Pages

ALL IN THE GAME



NOTHING TO WORRY— JUST MAKE SURE THE POVERTY REKHA DOESN'T CROSS THE LAKSHMAN REKHA...

America under attack

- World Trade Center collapses
- Part of Pentagon destroyed
- White House evacuated
- Thousands feared killed

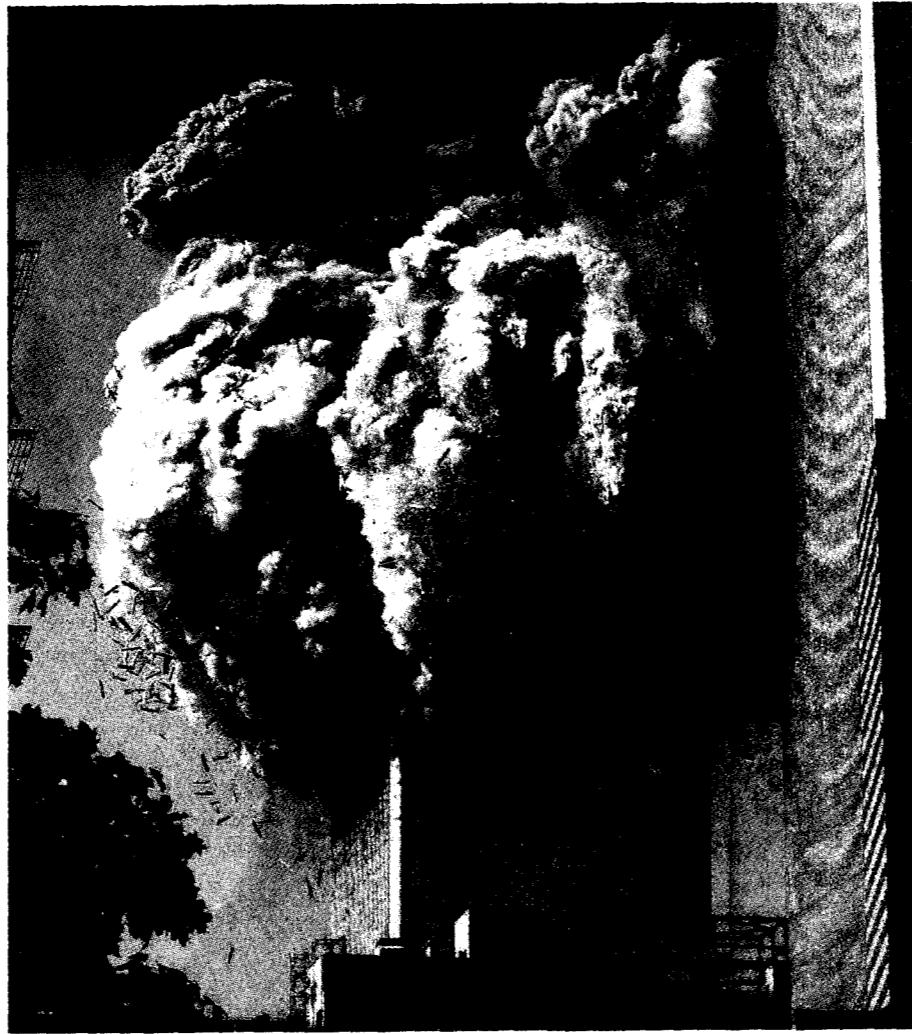
NEW YORK, SEPT. 11. In one of the most horrifying attacks ever against the United States, terrorists crashed two airliners into the World Trade Center in a deadly series of blows on Tuesday that brought down the twin 110-story towers. A plane also slammed into the Defence Department as the Government itself came under attack.

Thousands could be dead or injured, a high-ranking New York City police official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Authorities had been trying to evacuate those who work in the twin towers when the glass-and-steel skyscrapers came down in a thunderous roar within about 90 minutes after the crashes, which took place minutes apart around 9 a.m. But many people were thought to have been trapped. About 50,000 people work at the Trade Center and tens of thousands of others visit each day.

American Airlines initially said the Trade Center was hit by two of its planes, both hijacked, carrying a total of 156 people. But the airline later said that was unconfirmed. Two United Airlines with a total of 110 aboard also crashed — one outside Pittsburgh, the other in a location not immediately identified. Altogether, the planes had 266 people aboard.

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place in the world," said Mr. Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved



The second tower of the World Trade Center as it caves in. (Right): A TV grab shows clouds of smoke and dust spreading over New York as the tower comes down after having an aircraft crash into it on Tuesday. Both the towers of the Center have since come down.— Reuters, AFP

this Wednesday as the sentencing date for a bin Laden associate for his role in the 1998 bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa that killed more than 200 people. The sentencing had been set for the federal courthouse near the World Trade Center. No one from the U.S. attorney's office could be reached on Tuesday to comment on whether the sentencing was still on.

Afghanistan's hardline Taliban rulers condemned the attacks and rejected suggestions that bin Laden was behind them, saying he does not have the means to carry out such well-orchestrated attacks. Osama bin Laden has been given asylum in Afghanistan.

Mr. Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the Al-Quds al-Arabi newspaper, said he had received a warning from Islamic fundamentalists close to bin Laden, but had not taken the threat seriously. "They

130 km southeast of Pittsburgh with 45 people aboard. United Airlines said another of its planes, Flight 175, a Boeing 767 bound from Boston to Los Angeles with

65 people on board, also crashed, but it did not say where. The fate of those aboard the two planes was not immediately known.

United's pilots union said United Flight 175 crashed into the Trade Center. But the airline had no immediate comment.

An emergency dispatcher in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, received a cell phone call at 9:58 a.m. from a man who said he was a passenger locked in the bathroom of United Flight 93, said the dispatch supervisor, Mr. Glenn Cramer.

"We are being hijacked, we are being hijacked!" Mr. Cramer quoted the man as saying. The man told dispatchers the plane "was going down. He heard some sort of explosion and saw white smoke coming from the plane and we lost contact with him," Mr. Cramer said.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilised its anti-terrorism division, and security was intensified around the naval installations in Hampton Roads, Virginia. Walt Disney World in Orlando, Florida, was evacuated.

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," the Mayor, Mr. Rudolph Giuliani, said. "Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

Israel, India next?

By Kesava Menon

MANAMA (Bahrain), SEPT. 11. Israel has evacuated all diplomatic missions around the world fearing that the attacks in the U.S. might mark the end of today's tragedies. The Palestinian Authority President, Mr. Yasser Arafat, has been amongst the first to issue a statement condemning the incident. There are stray reports of signs of celebration in the Arab world accompanied with statements to the effect that "Israel and India should be next".

that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list... I would name at the top of the list Osama bin Laden."

The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act."

Within the hour, the Defence Department took a direct, devastating hit from a plane. The fiery crash destroyed one side of the five-sided structure.

The White House, the Defence Department and the Capitol were evacuated along with other federal buildings in Washington and New York.

Authorities in Washington immediately called out troops, including an infantry regiment. The Situation Room at the White House was in full operation. Authorities went on alert from coast to coast, the U.S. and Canadian borders were sealed, all air traffic across the country was halted, and security was tightened at strategic installations.

In June, a U.S. judge had set

India shocked: Page 13
Osama hand suspected: Page 16

said it would be a huge and unprecedented attack but they did not specify," Mr. Atwan said in a telephone interview in London.

In the West Bank city of Nablus, thousands of Palestinians celebrated the attacks, chanting "God is Great" and handing out candy.

American Airlines initially identified the planes that crashed into the Trade Center as Flight 11, a Los Angeles-bound jet hijacked after takeoff from Boston with 92 people aboard, and Flight 77, which was seized while carrying 64 people from Washington to Los Angeles.

In Pennsylvania, United Airlines Flight 93, a Boeing 757 en route from Newark, New Jersey, to San Francisco, crashed about

Smoke, shock spread over New York

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT. 11. The scene is truly tense in this city which has had its share of terrorism eight years ago. In 1993 an attack on the World Trade Center left six dead and more than 1000 injured. But this time around, no one is even tempted to make a guess.

The twin towers of the World Trade Center are gone, only smoke is filling the air and one that can be seen miles away. Thousands are moving away from the scene which the authorities have blocked to facilitate rescue efforts. And with the nation's airports shut down, thousands are stranded and the authorities are trying to talk people into getting out of Lower Manhattan.

People are milling around television sets in hotel lobbies or listening to radios on street corners. Some of the shops in this busy part of town that hardly goes to sleep have downed their shutters. And telephones and cell phones do not seem to be working. The frustration is very visible as one strolls down the street. In a time when roadside telephone booths seemed to be a thing of the past,

there are actually lines of people wanting to use them, if a connection could be made. The hotel lines are not any different.

If the authorities in Washington

D.C. have declared a State of Emergency and called out the army to patrol sensitive areas, the National Guard in New York has got the call to augment the 40,000



AMERICA IN AGONY: Women unable to control themselves, console one another, as they watch the World Trade Center crashing down on Tuesday.— AP

Did terrorists have their own pilots?

NEW YORK, SEPT. 11. The terrorists, who apparently hijacked four planes and attacked the World Trade Center and Pentagon, could only have succeeded by using their own trained pilots in a scheme that defied all scenarios envisioned by national security officials, terrorism experts said.

"They flew the planes themselves," Mr. Gene Poteat, president of the Association of Former Intelligence Officers, said on Tuesday. "No pilot, even with a gun to his head, is going to fly into the World Towers." The hijackers used the airplanes as weapons,

Mr. Poteat said, adding that they may also have had the ability to disable communications systems used to alert authorities to trouble. "This has been an enormously long-planned and obviously carefully planned operation."

That massive planning effort was far beyond anything conceived by counter-terrorism officials, who have focused on preventing individual attacks, said Mr. Steven Emerson of the Investigative Project, a research group focused on international terrorism. "No one thought there was a capability of doing simulta-

neous attacks so none of the counter-terrorism scenarios ever envisioned this."

Authorities had examined the chances of individual attacks on high-profile targets such as the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, including an attack on a large building using a commandeered plane.

But most research examining the potential for attacks causing devastating loss of life had focused on chemical or biological means, he said. "To the extent we know now, this is relatively low technology." — AP

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World watches in horror as terror unfolds

WS (W)
FPD-13

LONDON, SEPT. 11. Astonishing terrorist strikes in the United States quickly reached a global audience on Tuesday, with many around the world watching live coverage as both World Trade Center towers collapsed. Audiences were transfixed by the awful images from New York and Washington. Some European airlines cancelled flights to the U.S. and recalled planes already in the air.

The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, expressed condolences to the American people, calling the attacks 'terrible tragedies,' the Kremlin press service said.

The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, said who cancelled a speech at a trade union conference, said "this mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we, the democracies of this world, are going to have to come together and fight it together."

Mr. Blair summoned his senior Cabinet Ministers for an emergency security meeting.

Calling the attacks 'monstrous', the French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, expressed solidarity with the American people in a nationally-televised statement. "France has just learned of these monstrous attacks, there is no other word for it, that have hit America," he said from Rennes, in the western region of Brittany.

Arafat offers condolences

The Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, and his top aides followed the events at his seaside office in Gaza City, gathered around a television set. "I send my condolences to the President, the Government and the people for this terrible incident," he said. "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable."

PLO faction denies hand

The leader of the Democratic Front for the Liber-

ation of Palestine (DFLP), a radical PLO faction, denied on Tuesday that his group was behind the attacks.

"We are not responsible for this type of terror attack. We are against it," Mr. Qais Abdel Rahim said in the West Bank. Earlier on Tuesday, the West Bank office of the Qatar-based TV station, Al Jazeera, received a call from a man who claimed responsibility on behalf of the DFLP.

Germany condemns

In Berlin, Foreign Ministry officials huddled in a crisis meeting. "My Government condemns these terrorist attacks to the utmost," said the German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder.

"Italy is at the side of the United States," the Italian President, Mr. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, told the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, in a telegram. "The international community must respond together to this abhorrent act."

The Czech President, Mr. Vaclav Havel, said in a statement that he was shocked by the attacks and was closely watching the news. In the U.S. Caribbean territory of Puerto Rico, people scrambled for news of relatives and friends in New York, where an estimated 2 million Puerto Ricans live.

In Thailand, a spokesman for the office of Prime Minister, Mr. Thaksin Shinawatra, said they were watching the news in disbelief. A spokesman for the Philippine President, Ms. Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, said: "The President has been monitoring the events since an hour ago and she condemns what is obviously the worst terrorist attack on a leader of civilized society."

Embassy evacuated

A report from Vilnius said the U.S. Embassy in Lithuania was being evacuated and would be shut for business, a security officer said. — AP, AFP

Bush vows huntWS 11down

► FROM PAGE 1

White House said First Lady Laura Bush and presidential daughters Barbara and Jenna were taken to secure locations. Bush spoke to his wife from the base.

White House took extraordinary precautions to keep the President's location shrouded in secrecy, refusing at first to tell reporters on board the plane where he was going, while the plane climbed steeply at one point in an apparent diversionary measure.

On arrival at the base, reporters were banned even from using their cellular phones so that the calls could not be tracked back to his base and reveal his location.

A grim Bush snapped off a sharp salute to an air force officer at the foot of the steps and boarded a blue Dodge Caravan van, a departure from the regular motorcade and limousine that is the usual presidential ground transportation.

The van swept the President, accompanied by top aides, including Card and adviser Karl Rove, to a building on the base for a 10-minute meeting.

He then went to a windowless conference room in a building on the base where military personnel and aides scurried to erect a podium and two American flags so he could give a statement to reporters on the attacks.

Taped to the glass door of the building where the

news conference took place was a paper sign reading "delta" — the US military's highest security designation.

"Make no mistake, the United States will hunt down and punish those responsible for these cowardly acts," he vowed.

"Freedom itself was attacked this morning by a faithless coward," Bush said. "Freedom will be defended."

Bush later left for an air force base in Nebraska from where he was expected to leave for Washington. The President was scheduled to convene a meeting of top national security aides via teleconference from Nebraska.

Responding to the President's call, the US Atlantic Fleet despatched aircraft carriers to Washington and New York to provide air defences.

"We have not seen an attack like this, certainly not since Pearl Harbor," said Admiral Robert Natter, commander of the US Atlantic Fleet.

Despite the parallel with Pearl Harbor, the shadow of West Asia loomed large. The Camp David agreement was signed this week 23 years ago.

The fleet also sent guided missile cruisers and guided missile destroyers, capable of thwarting air attacks, and amphibious ships, equipped with on-board medical facilities, to New York.

"The amphibians have very extensive medical capabilities," said a spokesman of the fleet. "The other ships are more defensive in nature."


THE TELEGRAPH

12 SEP 2001

SHOCK AFTER SHOCK


- First plane crashed into north tower of the World Trade Center around 8.45 am
- It is said to be a small twin-engined plane. This was the beginning of the terror attack
- Eighteen minutes later, another plane crashes into second tower. It was possibly a commercial plane. Both towers collapsed later. About 150,000 people visit the twin towers every day
- About an hour later, a plane crashes into the Pentagon, part of which later collapsed in Washington. It was said to be a commercial plane
- A car bomb explodes outside the state department in Washington
- A loud explosion reported in the vicinity of the Capitol in Washington
- The Pentagon, the White House, the state department, the justice department, the Capitol, the CIA, the Supreme Court and other federal buildings evacuated, all airports closed and international flights diverted to Canada
- Sear towers in Chicago and United Nations in New York evacuated
- The center of disease control and prevention in Atlanta evacuated. It began preparing bio-terrorism teams
- All tunnels and bridges into Manhattan closed.
- New York Stock Exchange closed

COMMODITIES




The attack sent crude prices soaring by 14% to \$31 in London. Gold surged by 6% to \$288 per ounce. Copper and aluminium prices also jumped

STOCKS



International markets have gone into a tailspin with crashes echoing everywhere. Footsie crashed 260 pts and the Dow Jones fell 140 pts before NYSE was shut down. FI inflows into India likely to suffer

CURRENCIES



The rupee, which has been sliding sharply over the past few days, is likely to come under further pressure in the coming sessions. The dollar fell against the euro, the yen and the Swiss franc

FUND INFLOWS



Foreign direct investment into India is expected to be a casualty. US companies, particularly insurance giants, will have other headaches at home

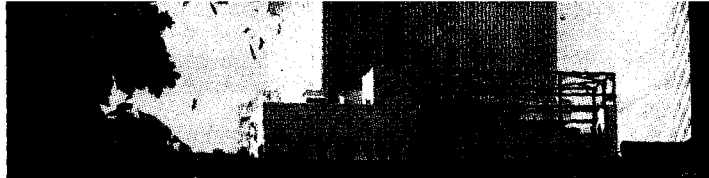
US Under Attack: Apocalypse Now

Hijacked planes crash into World Trade Center, Pentagon

Alan Elsner

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON 11 SEPTEMBER

AFTER TODAY, no one's ever going to dismiss those Hollywood movies about terrorist attacks against US targets as products of American paranoia. Even the most morbidly vivid imagination could not have conjured up the kind of terror that ripped through the heart of New York and Washington — the capitals of global business and political power. And to drive home their message, the terrorists chose their targets with deadly precision: in the Big Apple, it was the 100-plus storeyed World Trade Center, the towering landmark of international capitalism; in DC, it was the Pentagon and the State



Sequence of events

8:58 AM	Airport tower of World Trade Center building in New York struck by American Airlines Flight 11 Boston to Los Angeles (LA) 81 passengers, 11 crew
9:06 AM	American Airline Flight 77 Washington Dulles to LA (58 passengers, 6 crew) strikes the south tower
9:43 AM	United Airlines Flight no 175 Boston to LA crashes into Pentagon; 65 passengers were on board
10:10 AM	80 miles south of Pittsburgh United Airlines Flight 93 Newark to San Francisco (176 passengers) crashes
10:19 AM	Rumours of car bomb exploding outside the State Department building in Washington DC
10:38 AM	The north tower collapses The south tower collapses minutes later

Further Events

- White House evacuated; US President George Bush moved to safety
- President Bush issues a statement to 'hunt down terrorists'
- National emergency declared in USA
- FAA grounds all aircraft in USA
- USA declares terrorist attack an 'act of war'
- World markets crash across commodities, currencies and stocks
- Red alert in London and other major global financial centres

of the US' status as the world's only superpower.

Three hijacked planes crashed into major US landmarks on Tuesday, destroying New York's World Trade Center and plunging the Pentagon in Washington into flames, in an unprecedented assault on key symbols of US military and financial power.

Loss of life was expected to be catastrophic from the collapse of the giant towers of the World Trade Center, where roughly 40,000 people work. The two 110-storeyed towers collapsed one at a time in a huge cloud of smoke and fire two hours after the initial impacts.

Desperate people were seen jumping out of the burning towers before they collapsed.

President Bush, facing the first big test of his eight-month presidency, called the deliberate aerial assaults an "apparent terrorist attack", and vowed to hunt down and punish those responsible.

Senator Chuck Hagel, a Nebraska Republican, called the attacks "this generation's Pearl Harbor". The European Union's external relations commissioner said the attacks constituted "an act of war by madmen". The attacks, the worst on the US mainland in modern history, plunged the country into chaos and panic, paralysing communications, forcing the evacuation of key buildings, closing markets, schools and even theme parks. Sirens screamed as terrified people rushed through the streets seeking safety.

Bush whisked away: Even America's pastime could not escape. Major League Baseball cancelled all 15 of Tuesday's scheduled games. The Walt Disney Co temporarily shut its US parks and began assessing global

Oil, gold jump 6 per cent on panic buying; stocks, dollar nosedive

Sharman Easary

LONDON 11 SEPTEMBER

GOLD, OIL and industrial metals leapt in Europe on Tuesday as investors scrambled for safety in solid assets after attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and other US landmarks sent equities and the dollar tumbling.

"There is panic buying of metals, gold and oil. There's complete pandemonium," said Robin Bhar, metals analyst at Standard Bank London.

"Gold and oil have gone up and it's a drive towards safe haven territory."

Oil and gold rose 6 per cent and prime industrial metal copper leapt 4 per cent after two hijacked planes crashed into and later toppled New York's World Trade Center towers in what US President George W. Bush called an "apparent terrorist attack." Another plane crashed next to the Pentagon in Washington D.C. and another near Pittsburgh. Lower Manhattan and key US government agencies were ordered evacuated as stocks and the US dollar plunged and bonds climbed in the resulting tumult.

"All you can say is that the world is going to be a different place. It's difficult to say what will happen from here," a London-based trader said. "All these markets — oil, gold and metals — were short. There has been panic buying here."

London Brent blend futures broke over \$30 a barrel (nearly a 14 p.c. rise) for the first time this year until an assurance from Opec on world supplies eased the price to \$29.2, up \$1.8 or about 6 p.c.

Dealers said although there was no immediate threat to world oil supplies, buyers had been forced into action because of uncertainty surrounding the attacks. "This creates a great deal of uncertainty surrounding the whole West Asian situation and the likely US response," a US trader said.

The Bank of England confirmed it will go ahead with its scheduled bullion auction of gold on Wednesday despite the attacks and the market turbulence. This 20-tonne auction is number 3 in the third and final series of 6 sales held every two months to reduce Britain's gold reserves. — Reuters

Aftershocks

Page 5

- Big Apple logs out City of Joy
- Corporate India stunned, unsure of future

Page 6

- Avert Armageddon
- Uncertainty shroud over India's financial fraternity
- Reinsurance cover may rise on collapse of war insurance market
- US FDI inflow may not be hit
- Maritime activity runs into rough weather

STRIKES MAY CHANGE GEO-POLITICAL EQUATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA

If bin Laden has a hand, US may shed equivocal stand on J&K

Our Political Bureau

NEW DELHI 11 SEPTEMBER

BY THE time the billowing smoke cleared from the Manhattan skyline, one realisation had sunk in — the world will perhaps not be the same after Tuesday. The terrorist attack on the United States was bound to change geo-political equations and redraw adversarial positions, spelling out huge implications for most countries, including India.

The nature and degree of the impact will depend on the religious-political affiliations of the perpetrators of the attack, but it will be substantial in any case.

They might be small if the terrorists' takeover of the American skies turns out to be the handi-

work — like the Oklahoma bombings — of a disaffected US citizen. But they will be enormous if the attacks turn out to be an expression of profound hatred by Islamic fundamentalists against the "Great Satan".

Already, President Bush has termed the "audacious attack" as an "act of war". If this "war" has been waged by Osama bin Laden — as is being suspected — then the US is expected to change its attitude towards Pakistan and Afghanistan in this region as well as towards the "freedom struggle" that these countries support in Kashmir.

In short, if Bin Laden's hand is found in the attacks, the Americans are likely to shed their equivocal stance on Kashmir and

plump for India.

General Musharraf, of course, senses this danger. As is his wont, he has already made another televised speech to express his outrage at the attacks. But the links between Pakistan and Taliban, which keeps patronising Osama bin Laden in defiance of US pressure and pleas, are so strong that General Musharraf's show of solidarity with the US is hardly expected to carry conviction with the state department.

This apart, General Musharraf can hardly wipe out the hard evidence. Islamic madrasas, based in Pakistan and bankrolled by Osama bin Laden, have played an important role in promoting fundamentalism and popularising jihad.

US installations safe, says India

New Delhi

11 SEPTEMBER

THE GOVERNMENT, on Tuesday night, said it had provided full security to all US installations in the country following terrorist attacks. As Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee directed all concerned ministries to take steps in this regard.

Mr Vajpayee gave "necessary instructions" to the ministries concerned to review the emerging situation. — PTI

■ Details on Page 2

Markets may take a crash course

Our Mumbai Bureau

MUMBAI 11 SEPTEMBER

INDIAN STOCK markets are likely to crash when they open on Wednesday morning following the terrorist attacks in the US on Tuesday.

Major European bourses tumbled on Tuesday, while US financial markets closed as the nation reeled under the impact of the terrorist attacks.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average index futures, which was trading at the time of attack, fell sharply by over 140 points.

Analysts were unanimous about forecasting a slump in sen-

CRASHED			
Mid-Session	Point	%	Index
Fall	Fall	Drop	Level
EUROPE			
London (FTSE)	260	5.1	4774
Germany (Dax-Dax)	408	8.7	4262
Paris (CAC 40)	276	6.3	4107
Zurich (SSMI)	433	7.0	5695
Brussels (BEL)	149	5.5	2581
Milan (MI	1666	7.4	20793
AMERICAS			
Sao Paulo (BOVESPA)	1094	9.2	10828
Toronto (TSE 300)	296	4.3	7048
Mexico (IPC)	325	5.6	5531
Buenos Aires (MerVal)	15	5.2	272

timent over the next few days, although the impact on Indian corporates may not be severe.

"It will be more of a panic reaction rather than any immediate impact on fundamentals," an analyst said. However, companies having large exposures to US markets may see an adverse impact on the inflow of orders. Some of the major infotech companies may be hit.

Echoing such assessments, ASK Raymond James CEO John Band said: "In the short term, there could be panic selling in Indian markets in line with other global markets.

SEs may be closed today

Our Mumbai Bureau

MUMBAI 11 SEPTEMBER

STOCK MARKETS in India may remain closed on Wednesday following the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the US. Sebi is holding a meeting with the representatives of NSE and BSE early today to take a final decision.

Investors asked to bring cash against FDI commitments

Jayanthi Iyengar

NEW DELHI 11 SEPTEMBER

INNOVATIVE MEANS of funding a foreign investor's foreign direct investment (FDI) contributions are out. The FIPB has recently taken a decision that foreign investors will have to bring in cash against their FDI commitments. The board has also taken the view that netting out of payments, to and from a foreign investor and bringing in/taking out just the difference will not be permitted.

The move effectively delinks the inward and outward remittances of a foreign company in India, treating each as an independent foreign exchange stream.

However, the FIPB will continue to permit companies to swap

shares against shares and all non-cash payments against products and services. This means that a domestic company could pay for its overseas acquisitions with its domestic stake. This is a popular mode adopted by IT companies for global acquisitions.

Recent months had seen the inflow of several proposals where innovative means of funding the FDI stake of the foreign promoter had been outlined.

Some of these had also been cleared. The innovative proposals included swapping shares against cash, offsetting dividend and technology fees against FDI. In one case, a company had been willing to pay for its stake with shoe-uppers. In another, an NRI wanted his travel expenses in India to be

adjusted against the stake he brought in as the capital of a company he set up for this purpose!

Officials said it was after receiving such proposals that the department of economic affairs put its foot down. The net result was a decision not to permit a company to offset its foreign currency remittances against FDI in any other form. The reason for this decision is often the product against which the FDI inward remittances were to be set off, never or only partially materialised. For instance, when a desi company acquired shares in the parent company abroad and settled dues against the cash that the foreign promoter inducted into the domestic company, there were issues relating to valuation.

Disprin Plus is not for heart patients: Reckitt

Gauri Kamath

MUMBAI 11 SEPTEMBER

THE RS 585-crore Reckitt Benckiser India has shot off 18,000 telegrams to doctors all over the country informing them that the analgesic Disprin Plus does not contain aspirin, but another painkiller called paracetamol. Unlike the traditional Disprin, the new brand Disprin Plus cannot be taken by heart patients as a blood thinning agent.

Reckitt has taken this drastic step because of the possibility of a cardiologist prescribing Disprin Plus for this purpose.

"We started the communication campaign because we did not want to take any chances," says B.P. Shrikent, general manager, corporate affairs, Reckitt Benckiser. ET had reported on August 25 that Reckitt was replacing Disprin with Disprin Plus in order to remove it from price control. While a majority of Disprin's patients used it as a painkiller, there were some who were being administered Disprin for its blood thinning properties.


Doctors will get a detailed letter, which will reach them after the telegram and Reckitt representatives will also personally visit doctors and chemists to inform them about the change.

The company has also released public information notices about Disprin Plus in prominent positions in leading newspapers.

■ Detailed report on Page 8

SHIMNIT INDIA **ERICH UTSCH KG**
GERMANY

High Security Licence Plates compulsory for all vehicles on Indian roads



(High Security Licence Plates made compulsory for all vehicles by Ministry of Road Transport & Highways vide The Gazette of India notification no. 221(E) dated 28th March 2001)

Shimnit Utsch invites Distributors / Franchisees for a unique business opportunity!

Shimnit Kwalitee is a leader in the RETRO REFLECTIVE SHEETING (popularly known as radium patt) business in India. The high quality retro reflective sheeting with its wide range of grades is the brand of choice amongst the private and government customers.

Its success is reflected by its wide usage in: SIGNAGE (Road, Railway, Airports, Shipyards, Vehicle Number Plates / Stickers, Mines, Industries) and many other applications.

Shimnit Kwalitee, as an extension of its business, has now tied up with Erich Utsch KG in a Joint Venture to manufacture and distribute High Security Licence Plates in India.

Utsch, a German company, is known the world over for its pioneering research, innovation and implementation of High Security Licence Plate programme in over 92 countries across the world.

Shimnit Utsch's state-of-the-art plant in India will manufacture High Security Licence Plates as per the specifications prescribed by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MORTH).

The change to the new High Security Licence Plate is a move by the Government of India, that is extremely sensitive. It actually affects the security of the nation itself besides that of the individual motorist and the vehicle. To successfully implement this revolutionary project across the country, the company is inviting applications for Distributors and Franchisees.

It is important to mention, all individuals / companies involved with this project will be extensively scrutinised for their experience and business record. Only those with proven social standing, high personal integrity and business ethics will be selected.

Shimnit Utsch will provide the necessary equipment, training and any other assistance required.

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Will be responsible for a full statewide operation. Will be the face of the company with the key responsibility of day-to-day coordination with Franchisees across the state.

MAIN REQUIREMENTS:

- An existing professionally managed, profitable business.
- Inter-city infrastructure that includes computerised offices and trained personnel.
- Strong financial background. Excellent understanding of logistics management.
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FRANCHISEE

Will be responsible for RTO regionwide operation. The key responsibility will be to ensure smooth day-to-day functioning of the business by coordinating with members of the public and the local RTO authorities.

MAIN REQUIREMENTS:

- A minimum 500 sq. ft. ground floor office preferably at a location that is in proximity to the local RTO.
- Knowledge of vehicle registration formalities. Experience in dealing with RTO will definitely be an advantage.
- Strong financial background with a capacity to invest.
- Good contacts with the local media.

Clearly, this is a big business opportunity that will be financially rewarding as well as serve a critical national cause.

Interested parties may send in their details by mail, fax or email at the address given below. (As this is a high security business, any attempt to use influence will disqualify the applicant).

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AMERICA UNDER ATTACK

Shocked Bush vows all-out hunt for terrorists

Sarasota (Florida), September 11

THE WORST attack since Pearl Harbour on US soil took George W. Bush away from what should have been a routine education event and threw him today into the direct crisis of his young presidency.

The US leader was reading to schoolchildren at an elementary school when his Chief of Staff Andrew Card interrupted him and whispered into his ear.

The President's face clouded but he said nothing. "We'll talk about it later," he told reporters as he walked out of Sandra Kay Daniels' second-grade class, where he also listened to 18 smiling young pupils go through routine reading and pronunciation drills. The President spoke out after the second incident, aborting another education-themed event and declaring "a national tragedy" and vowing an all-out hunt for the authors of what he called "an apparent terrorist attack."

Bush said he had "ordered that the full resources of the Federal Government go to help the victims and their families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down and to find those folks that committed this act. Terrorism against our nation will not stand."

"Today we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the Trade Centre in an terrorist attack on our country. I have spoken to the Vice-President, to the Governor of New York, to the director of the FBI," he said.

Bush, stone-faced, led the crowd in a moment of silence, then intoned: "May God bless the victims, their families, and America."



The World Trade Centre in New York photographed moments after a second aircraft hit the tower on Tuesday.

World Trade Centre, Pentagon hit by hijacked aircraft ● Thousands feared killed in New York, Washington

S. Rajagopalan Washington, September 11

THOUSANDS OF Americans were feared killed today as history's biggest terrorist attack tore into the seats of US power and wealth and ravaged the symbols of its supremacy.

The twin towers of the 110-storey World Trade Centre were wiped out from the New York skyline as two hijacked aircraft crashed into them, and a third sent parts of the Pentagon up in flames in Washington DC.

The spiral of destruction also consumed a large aircraft which crashed in western Pennsylvania.

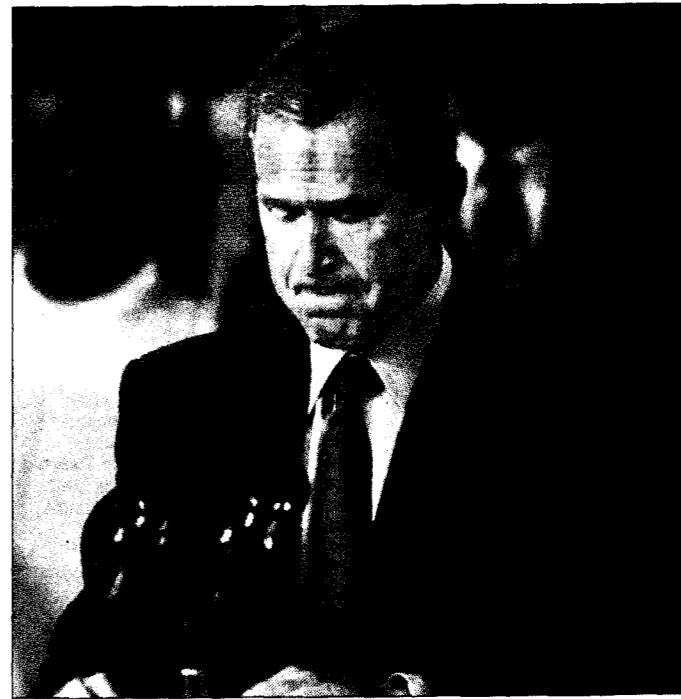
"This is the second Pearl Harbour," Senator Chuck Hagel said. "I don't think that I overstate it."

The attacks began just before 9 am local time (6.30 pm IST) when two hijacked passenger planes flew directly into the upper floors of the World Trade Centre towers, where employees and tourists had already arrived. Soon, a second hit the helicopter pad at the Pentagon, slicing off one of the five sides of the US military headquarters and killing an unknown number of people.

The third strike came an hour later. First the WTC's south tower came crashing down and minutes later the north tower too was rubble on the streets. An eyewitness said he saw bodies falling from the towers and panic-stricken people jumping off to certain death.

Almost at the same time, a large plane, believed to be a Boeing 767, crashed just north of the Somerset County airport about 80 miles south-east of Pittsburgh.

America reacted with shock and panic. Thousands were evacuated from the White House and all other government and public buildings in Washington DC and



President Bush makes a statement in Florida after the attack on the World Trade Centre and Pentagon on Tuesday.

New York, including the Treasury, the UN headquarters and the State Department. Chicago too began evacuations and all US cities went on alert. The US sealed its borders with Canada and Mexico, grounded all aircraft and diverted incoming Transatlantic flights to Canada.

New York shut down several subway lines, suspended Wall Street trading and put off its mayoral primary election. New Yorkers were told to head north away from the disaster zone. Bridges and tunnels in Manhattan were closed for fear of further attacks.

Secretary of State Colin Powell headed back for Washington to attend a national security meeting. Bush said the explosions were an "apparent terrorist attack" and that "terrorism against our nation will not stand".

Abu Dhabi television announced that a Palestinian group had claimed responsibility for the serial strikes that came three weeks after Osama bin Laden's warning of an "unprecedented attack" on US interests.

Two of the hijacked aircraft have been confirmed as American Airlines passenger planes. The first was a Boeing 767, Flight 11, flying from Boston to Los Angeles with 92 on board. The second, Flight 77 from Washing-

DAY OF TERROR

- 8.55 AM (NY local time) Passenger plane crashes into north tower of World Trade Centre
- 9.05 Another plane hits second tower
- 9.30 President Bush cuts short Florida visit, returns to Washington
- 9.40 Explosion reported at Pentagon. White House evacuated
- 10.05 South tower of WTC collapses
- 10.30 Second tower collapses, sending huge clouds of smoke over Manhattan
- 10.35 Explosion at State Department
- 10.40 Boeing 767 passenger aircraft crashes in western Pennsylvania
- 10.43 Pentagon says it is monitoring another hijacked plane
- 11.00 FAA says several planes still missing

ton to Los Angeles, was carrying 64 people. A witness to the first explosion, Jeanne Yurman, said she heard a boom and looked out of her window to see an explosion.

"The World Trade Centre exploded as I looked up. I didn't start sailing down, I couldn't believe what was happening," she said.

Another witness, Todd Harris, who saw the second explosion, said that it looked like the second plane was lining itself up to hit the building.

Thousands of pieces of what appeared to be office paper came drifting over Brooklyn, about three miles from the tower, another witness said.

The Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, condemned the attacks and called a news conference in Pakistan. It was not immediately known whether it was related to the attacks in the US.

Related reports, photographs on pages 10, 11 and 12

Attacks bear Osama signature

Pramit Pal Chaudhuri New Delhi, September 11

THIS WAS the world's most fearsome terrorist attack. No surprise that the world's most feared terrorist is virtually the only suspect. Almost every finger of blame and needle of suspicion is pointed towards Osama bin Laden.

The case stands on four legs. First is resources and planning. To have simultaneously arranged for the suicide hijacking of five aircraft, with a car bomb or two thrown in, requires more than fanatics.

It requires years of planning, putting up terrorist cells in the US, casing various airports, getting the necessary training, would require considerable money and logistical skill.

Bin Laden is the only terrorist to have shown such skill. His double embassy bombings in 1998 were, as US terrorist experts noted, not twice but "500 times more difficult" than hitting only one. Bin Laden is also wealthy; his personal fortune of \$500 mil-



OSAMA BIN LADEN

lion has been supplemented by donations from rich Muslims.

Second is symbolism. Bin Laden was linked to the Islamic terrorists who attempted to destroy the Trade Centre buildings in 1993. For example, one of the bombers had an Al Qaeda bomb manual. Al Qaeda is the name of Bin Laden's group. Through various groups, most recently the Taliban, Bin Laden has repeatedly demanded the release of the 1993 bombers. Destroying these buildings is believed to have been a long-

standing desire of the Saudi renegade.

Third, there is almost no one else. There is no shortage of groups with a grudge against the sole superpower. But few have the resources to carry out a terrorist attack on such a scale. The various Palestinian groups, for example, never attacked US territory even at the height of their movements. And their attacks have been on a much smaller scale.

There are also governments like Iraq who love to humiliate the US. However, governments run the risk of massive military retaliation. A fear of nukes led Saddam Hussein to keep his chemical weapons sheathed.

Fourth, Bin Laden had said he would do this. Arab journalists say Bin Laden warned them three weeks earlier that his group would carry out an unprecedented attack on US interests.

One London-based Muslim editor said: "We received information that he planned very, very big attacks against American interests."

Cabinet panel in emergency meet

HT Correspondent New Delhi, September 11

THE CABINET Committee on Security went in for a late night meeting to assess the security implications arising out of the incidents in the US, which India condemned today.

Initial reports suggesting involvement of extremist groups, which had also been threatening to target India lent an element of gravity to the meeting. Even before the start of the CCS' crisis session, a high alert was sounded in the metropolitan cities at the Centre's behest.

External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh minced no words in condemning the terrorist strikes across the US. "It is a dastardly crime against all humanity. India is with the US and the world against terrorism," he said.

The Government extended its deepest sympathy to Americans in what was easily the darkest hour in their country's history.

For the first few hours after news filtered in, New Delhi found it extremely difficult to take stock of developments.

Indian mission staff in the US however informed Singh that no personnel or property was affected by the attacks. India has diplomatic outposts at Washington DC, New York, Los Angeles, Chicago and Houston.

Jaswant Singh said security had been beefed up around all US establishments in India. Parallel precautionary measures were taken by the Ministry of Defence at its vital installations.

For the first few hours New Delhi was in the dark on whether there were any Indians among the casualties. "Everything is in the realm of speculation", the minister said.



Flames leap out of the Pentagon after it was attacked on Tuesday.

MARKETS

BSE Sensex	3150.40	-33.23
NSE Nifty	1023.40	-10.00
Nasdaq (1 pm)	CLOSED	
CSE 40	1633.48	-15.94
US dollar	47.42	+0.07
British pound	69.14	-0.29
Gold	4450	-5
Silver	7000	+10

NET POLL

Yesterday's Question:
Is the dispute over popularity ratings of TV programmes a product of inter-channel rivalry?
Yes 82.10%
No 14.51%
Can't Say 3.40%

Today's Question:
Has the CBI raid on the 'Palace on Wheels' affected India's image as a tourist destination?
Cast your vote daily at: www.hindustantimes.com
Poll reflects opinion of internet users only

WEATHER

Light to moderate rains accompanied by thunder in some parts.

Temperature	Max.	Min.
Tuesday	31.5°C	24.6°C
Monday	32°C	26.7°C
Relative humidity	98%	77%
Rainfall	1.3 mm	
Sunrise	5:25 am	
Sunset	5:40 pm	
Moonrise	12:36 pm	
Moonset	1:32 am	

This issue consists of 18 pages. HT City and HT Horizon are being distributed in select towns of West Bengal. Vol. 1 No. 202

2001 Toppers

SAT

Name	Score
1)Juhi Saha	1570
(World Ranker)	
2)S.Saraf	1510
3)R.Chatterjee	1470
4)A.Bubna	1470
5)A.Basu	1440
(and many more scores above 1350)	

GRE

Name	Score
1)Sohini Bose	2310
2)Ishanu Chattopadhyay	2300
4)V. Neelkantha	2250
3)Nandita Chatterjee	2210
4)R.Roychowdhury	2130
(and many more scores above 2000)	

GMAT

Name	Score
1)Piyush Agarwal	710
2)P.Banerjee	680
3)Sudip Saha	680
4)Ritul Sanghvi	660
5)Dushmanta Roy	660
(and many more scores above 650)	

SAT GRE GMAT TOEFL

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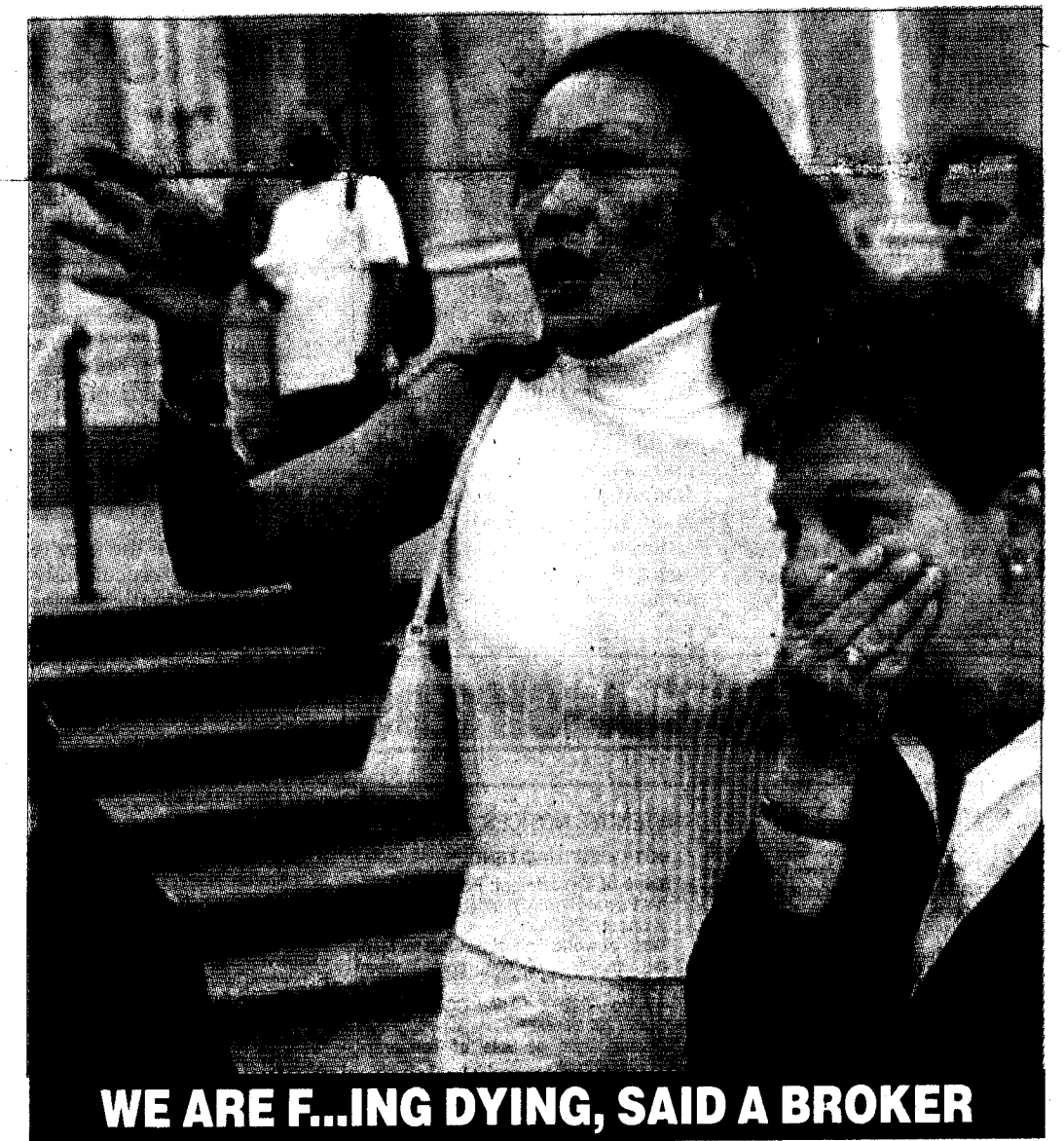
STUDY IN USA

TERROR



WORLD TRADE CENTER NO MORE, AS FIVE FLOORS OF PENTAGON

^{WS 10} ⁹⁶⁻¹ ^{12/9}
The world watched paralysed as terrorists changed forever the skyline of its greatest city, once, twice, thrice. Killed countless striking fear in the heart of its most powerful nation, a fear it has neither imagined or felt in modern history



WE ARE F...ING DYING, SAID A BROKER

4 AIRPLANE BOMBS, NO NUMBER TO DEAD

White House West Wing evacuated, President Bush and top aides in secret huddle, blasts in DC as well

AGENCIES
 NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 11

IN A HORRIFIC sequence of destruction, terrorists crashed two planes into the World Trade Centre, seen as the symbol of international trade, reducing the twin 110-story towers to a heap of rubble. Explosions also rocked the Pentagon building outside Washington, housing the Defence Department, and spread fear across the nation. There was no indication of how many people were killed in the attacks but around 50,000 people work at the WTC.

"I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost", New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "I don't know yet. Right now we have to focus on saving as many lives as possible."

"This is perhaps the most audacious terrorist attack that's ever taken place anywhere in the world", said Chris Yates, an aviation expert at Jane's Transport in London. "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none. Only a very small handful of terror groups is on the list. I would name at the top of

the list Osama bin Laden."

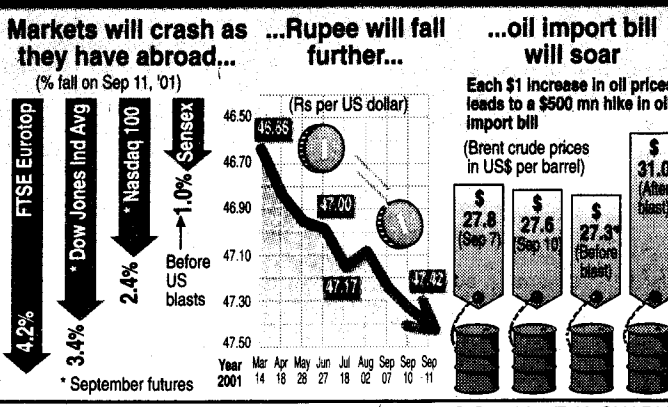
President George W. Bush ordered a full-scale investigation to "hunt down the folks who committed this act".

One of the planes that crashed into the WTC was American Airlines flight 11, hijacked after takeoff from Boston enroute to Los Angeles, the airline said.

The planes blasted fiery, gaping holes in the upper floors of the twin towers. A witness said he saw bodies falling and people jumping out. About an hour later, the southern tower collapsed with a roar and a huge cloud of smoke; the other tower fell about a half-hour after that, covering lower Manhattan in heaps of gray rubble and broken glass. Firefighters trapped in the rubble radioed for help.

Within an hour of the first strike, an aircraft crashed on a helicopter landing

From New York to New Delhi



pad near the pentagon, and the White House, the Defence Department and the Capitol were evacuated.

In Pennsylvania, a large plane, believed to be a Boeing 747, crashed about 130 km southeast of Pittsburgh. The fate of those aboard was not immediately known and it was not clear if the crash was related to the disasters elsewhere.

Authorities went on alert from coast

to coast, halting all air traffic, evacuating high-profile buildings and tightening security at strategic installations. The situation room at the White House was in full operation.

"Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone", said Mike Smith, a fire marshal. "It's like a war zone."

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Ioan, shaking his head.

Nearby, a crowd mobbed a man on a pay phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives. Dust and dirt flew everywhere. Ash was three inches deep in places. People wandered dazed and terrified. Evacuations were ordered at the

UN headquarters in New York and at the Sears Tower in Chicago. Los Angeles mobilized its anti-terrorism division, and security was intensified around the naval facilities in Hampton Roads, Virginia.

The attack also had a deep impact on the financial markets, with the New York Stock Exchange on Wall Street delaying the start of trade indefinitely. Other commodity and stock exchanges located in lower Manhattan also suspended business. The Nasdaq market said it planned to begin trading later in the day.

"They've evacuated the building", said Mike McDougall, vice-president of the Latin American desk at FIMAT USA Inc., who had been at the New York Board of Trade at 4 World Trade Center, where FIMAT brokers handle futures in coffee, cocoa and other commodities.

Employees at the World Financial Center, located to the west of the WTC and housing the headquarters of firms including Merrill Lynch and Lehman Bros, did not answer phone calls put into their offices. Several phone lines appeared to be down as well.



As it began to sink in, all eyes on the invisible Osama

AGENCIES
 LONDON, SEPTEMBER 11

MOMENTS after the first strikes on the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, US President George Bush went on air to say they were apparent terrorist attacks. And immediately the eyes of the world turned to Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, one of the US's most wanted fugitives.

Bin Laden is reportedly hiding in Afghanistan, where officials denied he was involved in the attacks.

However, an Arab journalist close to him said bin Laden had warned three weeks ago that he and his followers would carry out an unprecedented attack on US interests for its support of Israel.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based *al-Quds al-Arabi* newspaper, said Islamic fundamentalists led by bin Laden were "almost certainly" behind the attack. "Bin Laden warned three weeks ago that he would attack American interests in an unprecedented attack, a very big one", Atwan — who has interviewed bin Laden — said.

"We received information that he planned very, very big attacks against American interests. We received several warnings like this. We did not take it so seriously, preferring to see what would happen before reporting it."

THE ASIAN AGE POLL
www.asianageonline.com

TODAY'S QUESTION
Is Washington justified in treating Tuesday's terrorist attacks as an act of war against the United States?

YESTERDAY'S QUESTION
Should India switch over to multiple time zones considering the huge size of the country?

YES 46% **NO** 40% **CAN'T SAY** 14%

The results reflect the opinions only of those who voted on this site.

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16 PAGES
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TOMORROW
Health and Science

PENTAGON IN FLAMES, WHITE HOUSE EMPTY

USA FREEZES, EUROPE GOES NUMB

PALESTINIANS CELEBRATE IN WEST BANK

WINDOWS

Samajwadi MLAs in UP all resign

BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

Lucknow, Sept. 11: Seventy-seven legislators of the Samajwadi Party on Tuesday resigned from the UP Assembly with an apparent aim of mounting pressure on the Rajnath Singh government to hold early elections in the state. Samajwadi Party president Mulayam Singh Yadav demanded the imposition of President's Rule in the state and holding of Assembly elections within a month so that the new Vidhan Sabha can be constituted before October 17. Mr Yadav, accompanied by other senior Samajwadi leaders, met UP governor Vishnu Kant Shastri and gave him a letter stating their demands. Mr Shastri said he had taken cognisance of the letter but refused to comment on the mass resignations, saying that the matter was beyond his purview. UP chief minister, Rajnath Singh, meanwhile, has ruled out immediate dissolution of the state Assembly, following the resignations by Samajwadi MLAs and said the move was no threat to his government. ■ Full report on Page 2

Security zones in Delhi on high alert

New Delhi: All the high security zones of Delhi, particularly the diplomatic area, were placed under virtual siege as a high alert was sounded throughout the capital in the wake of a series of suspected terrorist attacks on vital installations in the United States. Security was beefed up at all the vital installations and patrolling in sensitive areas intensified to thwart any disruptive attempt. Special attention is being paid to the diplomatic enclave in Chanakya Park, where the embassies of the US and missions of other countries are located. (PTI)

All US offices in India shut today

New Delhi: The United States embassy and its consulates in India will be closed on Wednesday for public as part of security measures in view of the terrorist attacks in America. American centres in Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata will remain closed on Wednesday in view of the developments, press secretary in the embassy Gordon Duguid said on Tuesday. He said the US embassy had not received any specific threat to American citizens in India. (PTI)

Stockmarkets likely to crash today

New Delhi: Gold prices spurted by Rs 275 per 10 gm at Rs 4,725 on Tuesday evening unofficial trading following terrorist attacks in US while analysts predict a virtual crash in the stock market on Wednesday. Bullion analysts said gold might surge to Rs 5,000 per 10 gm, a high of more than two years, when trading commences in the morning.

All-party Cauvery meet tomorrow

Bangalore: Karnataka chief minister S.M. Krishna has convened an all-party meeting on September 13 to discuss the Tamil Nadu government's request to release water from Cauvery. Besides political party leaders, irrigation experts and former chief ministers have also been invited for the meeting, according to a release from the chief minister's secretariat here on Tuesday evening. (UNI)

HISTORY QUOTE

A hundred times I have thought: New York is a catastrophe, and fifty times: it is a beautiful catastrophe.

These lines by the eminent architect Le Corbusier (architect of Chandigarh), is inscribed on the pavement of Battery Park City's esplanade, which was built atop a landfill from the World Trade Centre's excavation

QUOTE OF THE DAY

This is the second Pearl Harbour. I don't think that I overstate it

US Senator Chuck Hagel

2 HIJACKED AIRLINERS LEVEL NY TWIN TOWERS □ 3RD HITS PENTAGON □ 4TH DOWN IN PITTSBURGH

TERROR TOWERS OVER AMERICA

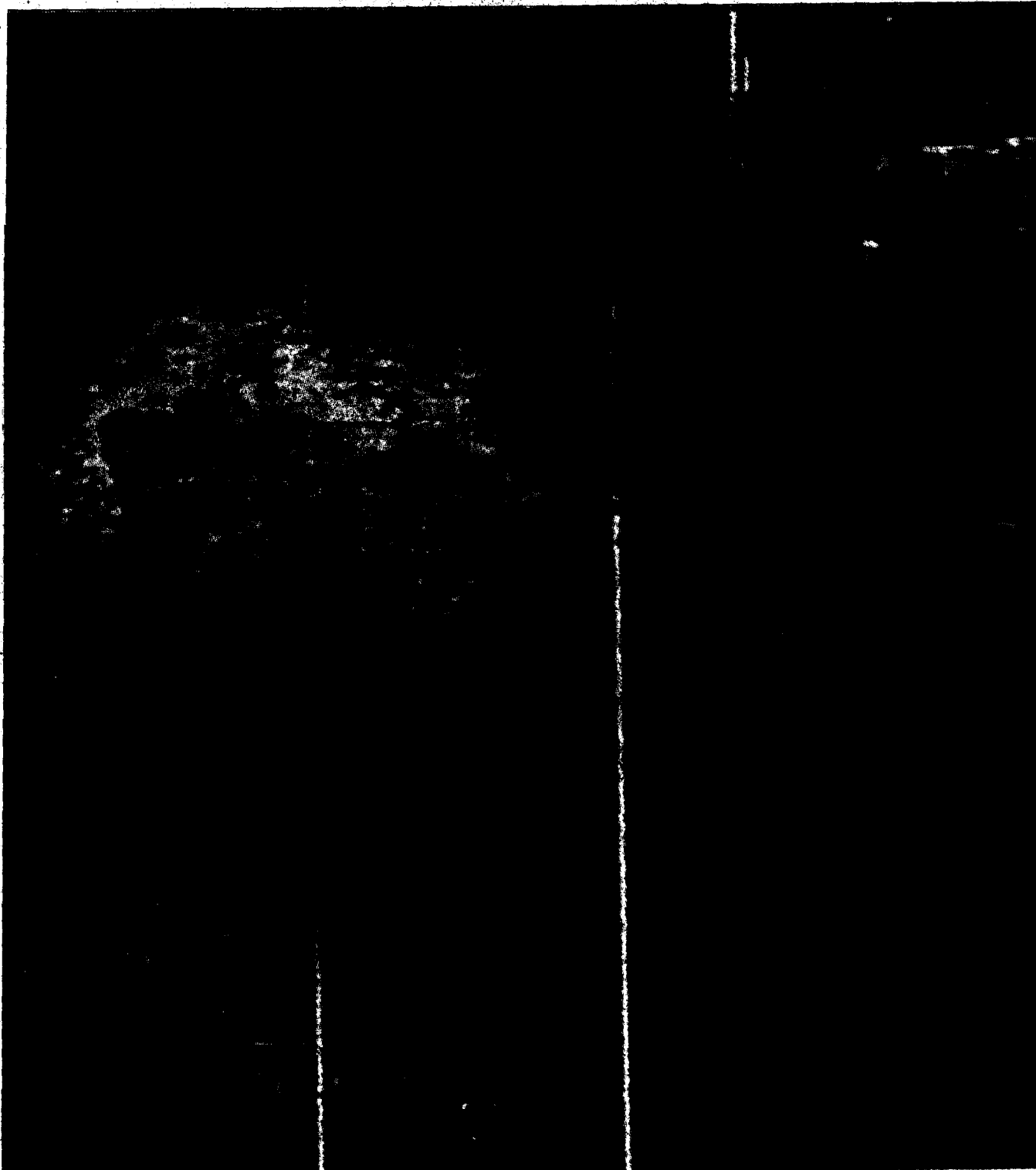
BY JERRY SCHWARTZ IN NEW YORK AND RON FOURNIER IN WASHINGTON

Sept. 11: In one of the most audacious attacks ever against the United States, terrorists hijacked two airliners and crashed them into the World Trade Centre in a coordinated series of blows on Tuesday that brought down the twin 110-storey towers.

In Washington, the Pentagon took a direct, devastating hit from an aircraft and the enduring symbols of American power were evacuated on Tuesday as an apparent terrorist attack quickly spread fear and chaos in the US capital. The nerve centre of the US military burst into flames and a portion of one side of the five-sided structure collapsed when the plane struck in mid-morning. Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood said there were "extensive casualties and an unknown number of fatalities. We don't know the extent of the injuries." Flood added: "The leadership of the defence department is OK. The secretary (Donald Rumsfeld) is OK." The plane, described by witnesses as a jetliner, impacted the portion of the building on the side opposite from where Mr Rumsfeld's office is located.

AP reporter Dave Winslow also saw the crash. He said, "I saw the tail of a large airliner. It plowed right into the Pentagon." Gen. Richard Myers, vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said that prior to the crash into the Pentagon, military officials had been notified that another hijacked plane had been heading from the New York area to Washington. He said he assumed that hijacked plane was the one that hit the Pentagon, though he couldn't be sure.

Thousands could be dead or injured, a high-ranking New York City police official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "I have a sense it's a horrendous number of lives lost," New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani said. "Right ■ Turn to Page 2



TERROR FROM THE SKY: A fireball rips apart the World Trade Centre South Tower in New York City in this image taken from TV on Tuesday morning after the hijacked American Airlines Flight 77 slammed into the building. The gaping hole at the top of its twin building, the North Tower, was caused minutes earlier when another hijacked American Airlines plane, Flight 11. The twin towers collapsed completely a little later. (AP)

WASHINGTON TAKES DIRECT HIT



NO DEFENCE: Smoke rises from the Pentagon in Washington in this image taken from TV on Tuesday after a hijacked United Airlines Boeing 757, Flight 93, hit the headquarters of the American military. (AP)

Scenes from horror film numb America

Thousands die in NY, Washington

US isolates itself, cancels all flights

Bush vows to hunt 'folks responsible'

US troops, fleet on Threatcon Delta

Taliban claims it is not responsible

Bush taken to secret Nebraska location

Rumsfeld okay, was in Pentagon office

Israel evacuates all diplomatic missions

Heathrow, other UK airports on alert

Internet slows down, phone lines jammed

In Delhi, PM holds emergency Cabinet

INSIDE

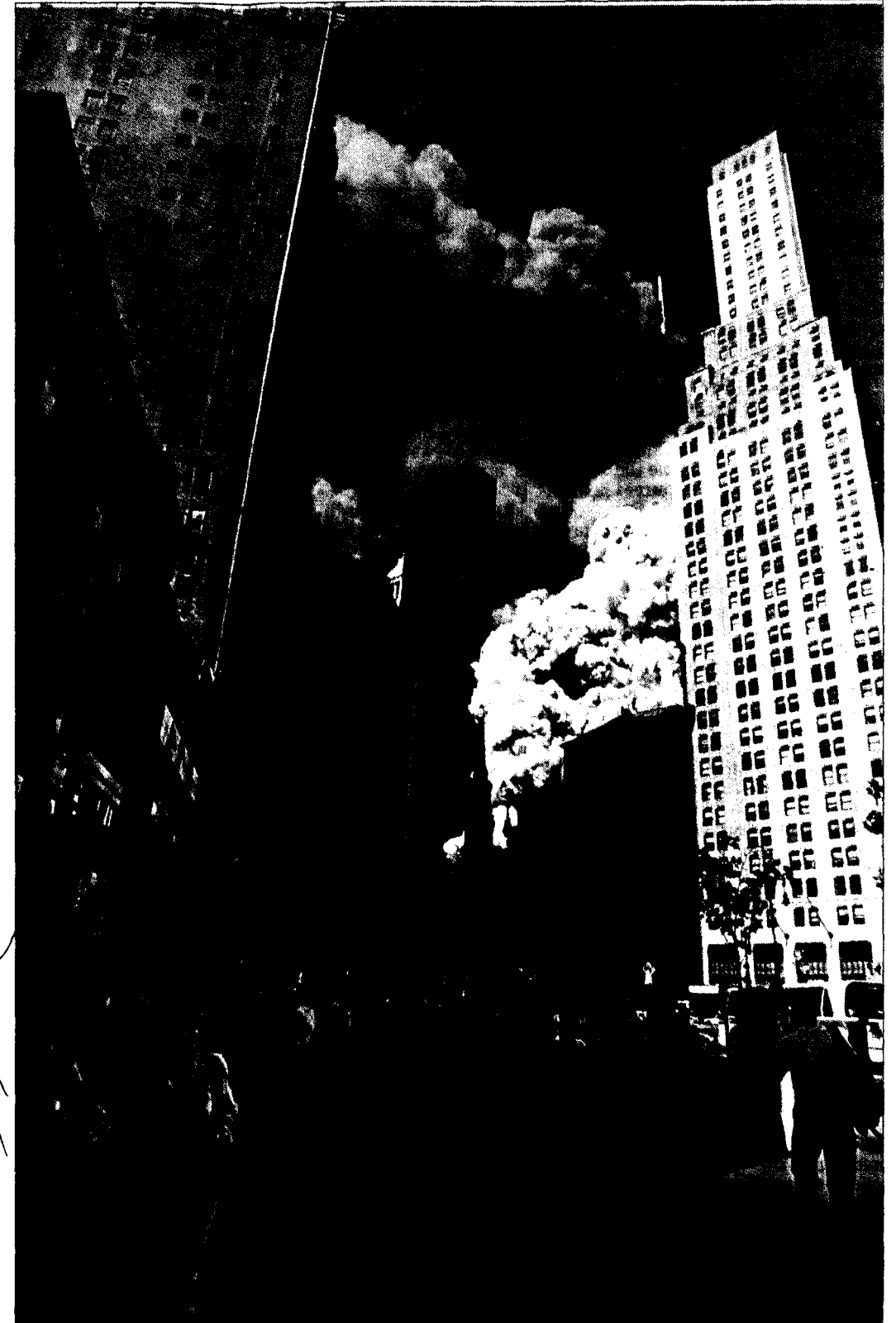
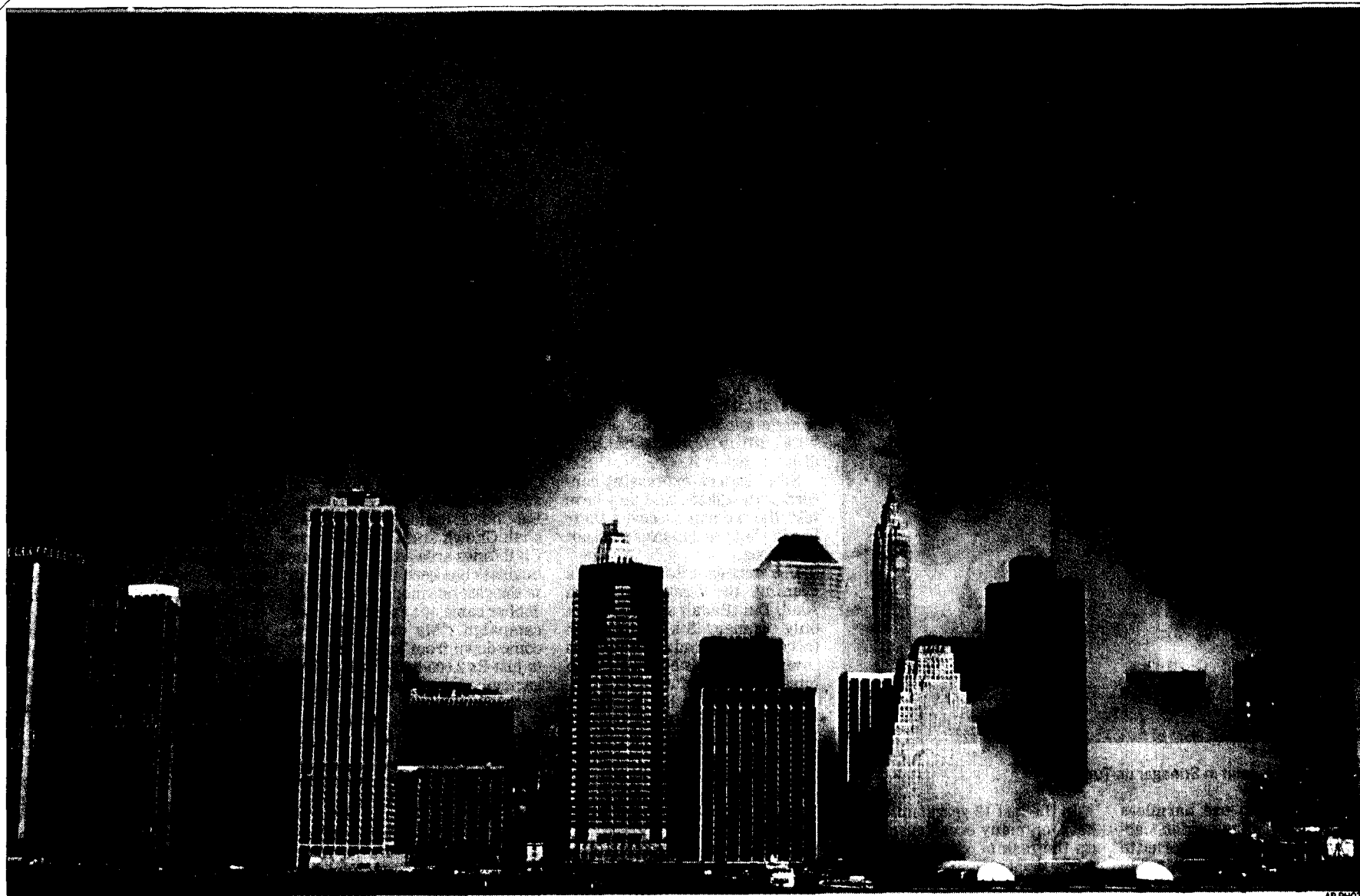
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■ Staff at Indian embassy safe

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■ Chaos reigns in D.C.

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■ Attack worst since Pearl Harbour
■ US on high alert

THE EASTERN AGE
■ Alert in Kolkata after attacks
■ Society owner manager arrested, get bail



'EVERYONE'S PANICKING...'

Eyewitnesses in New York, Washington DC and elsewhere describe the terror and panic that broke out after aircraft smashed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon:

New York
James Winter, 30, a British worker living in an apartment close to the centre: "I was in bed and there was a huge explosion. The whole building rattled and shook. I ran to the window and there was smoke billowing from the south side of one of the towers. Everyone in my building was panicking and running around."
Winter from Darlington, Co Durham, added that shortly afterwards there was a second explosion which also shook his building. "Everybody is saying that this a terrorist attack and everyone around here is panicking. It will have been really busy with people arriving for work in the financial district. It is just unbelievable that this is happening. Both towers have been taken out."
Joan Goldstein, communications project leader for Associated Press, was on a bus from New

Jersey at about 8.50 am when she saw "smoke pouring out of the World Trade Center building. We said, 'Oh, my God! The World Trade Center's on fire! All of a sudden, there was an orange plume, a huge explosion. It shot out the back of the building. Everybody on the bus was just moaning and gasping. It was the most horrible thing I've ever seen in my life."

Stephen Evans, BBC correspondent, was on the ground floor of one of the World Trade Centre Towers at the time of the attacks: "There was a huge bang, it felt to me like somebody dropped a skip full of rubbish, a great container full of rubbish from a great height in the yard which separates the two huge towers which are the World Trade Centre. The building physically shook. But seconds later, there were two or three similar huge explosions and the building literally shook... smoke appeared everywhere as if a mist had settled on the building. We all streamed out, some people running, some people crying,



Craig McFarland at Logan International Airport in Boston. He was supposed to leave on the flight that crashed into World Trade Centre.

nobody really screaming." slight angle."
Sean Murtagh, CNN vice president: "The plane was coming in low and...it looked like it hit at Gabriel Ioan, businessman: "I just saw the building I work in come down. I just saw the top of Trade Two come down."

Mike Smith, fire marshal: "Everyone was screaming, crying, running, cops, people, firefighters, everyone. A couple of marshals just picked me up and dragged me down the street. It's like a war zone. There are many injured."

Washington DC
AP news reporter: "I saw the tail of a large airliner... It plowed right into the Pentagon. There is billowing black smoke."

Paul Begala, Democratic consultant: "It was a huge fireball, a huge, orange fireball."

John King, CNN correspondent, said the evacuation of the White House was orderly to begin with: "In the last ten minutes, the last few hundred people were ordered by the Secret Service to run. They were running through the gate."

Chicago:
Cathy Grable, interior designer, was leaving the Sears Tower: "Usually the building is so full of activity, and now there's no one in the hallways. It's creepy."
Agencies

Blast and dust blind New York

New York

TERRORIST ATTACKS at the peak of rush hour paralysed Manhattan, shutting down subway lines, crippling cellular phone service, and forcing evacuations from Wall Street to the United Nations.

The mayor closed lower Manhattan to make way for emergency vehicles. Thousands of people left by walking across the Brooklyn Bridge.
The election was called off. The airports were closed. Trad-

ing on Wall Street was suspended. The UN building was evacuated. Offices throughout Manhattan closed. Children were kept in their schools because their parents could not get to them.

Victims from the attack on the World Trade Centre — many suffering from extensive burns — began arriving at hospitals in New York City about an hour after the two planes slammed into the twin towers, witnesses said Tuesday. "Hundreds of people are burned from head to toe," said Dr Steven Stern at St Vin-

cent's Hospital in the Greenwich Village.
About 50 or 60 doctors and nurses were standing in scrubs and uniforms waiting for the next wave of ambulances to come in. The first wave arrived around 10 am EDT, doctors said.

The entire entrance to the emergency room was lined with stretchers covered with white sheets. Doctors said the victims mostly had burns.

"So far we've received a few patients, mostly second-degree burns," Dr Gary Fishman at St. Vincent's said. "We are expecting the brunt of the people to arrive soon."

Mayor Rudolph Giuliani told New Yorkers to remain in their homes or businesses, unless they are located south of Canal Street. People in the downtown area are advised to head north and clear out the streets.

"Remain calm and try to assist in the rescue effort and pray," Giuliani said. "The main thing is having these streets open so we can move people out of there."

Most of the early patients were being sent to New York University's Downtown Hospital and to St. Vincent's.

At about 8:45 a.m. EDT, a plane struck one the north tower of the landmark complex in lower Manhattan, and the building was soon engulfed in flames. Moments later a second plane struck the south tower.

Both towers of the complex collapsed, the first falling about 75 minutes later and the second crashing half an hour after that. The entire south end of Manhattan was engulfed in smoke and airborne debris.

"The whole of lower Manhattan is coated in half an inch of dust," Reuters reporter Daniel Sternoff said.

People were fleeing the area in a panic. At St Vincent's hospital staff appealed for blood donors in the street. Reuters reporter Ian Driscoll said. The line to give blood was over 100 people long.

"We expect smoke inhalation, trauma, and burns," Dr Bernd Reitsbeck said. "I expect we will be working non-stop for at least the next 24 hours."

At every pay phone, people were lined up a dozen deep to call loved ones, but many ended up hanging up in frustration at the profusion of busy signals. At one pay phone in Greenwich Village, a woman was sobbing into the phone, saying she didn't know whether a loved one was OK.

Celebration time for Palestinians

Nablus (West Bank)

HUNDREDS OF Palestinians distributed sweets in the West Bank city of Nablus to celebrate a series of aircraft attacks on two major US cities on Tuesday.

Palestinian President Yasser Arafat condemned the attacks which levelled the twin towers of the World Trade Center in New York City and struck the Pentagon in Washington.

Palestinians who have often burned US flags in protests during their 11-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation celebrated in the streets of Arab East Jerusalem.

"I feel I am in a dream. I never believed that one day the United States would come to pay a price for its support to Israel," said Mustafa, a 24-year-old Palestinian gunman.

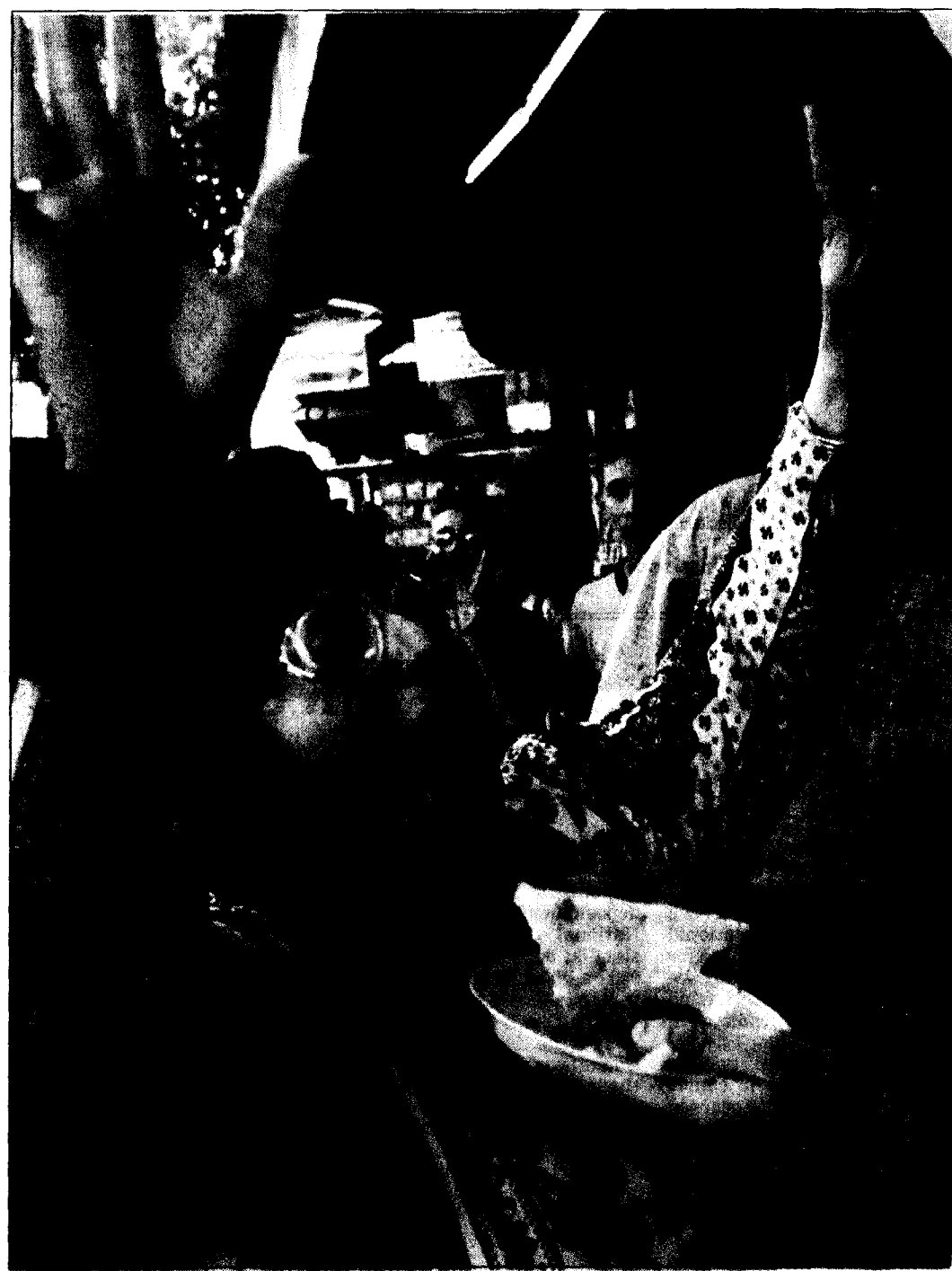
Several dozen Palestinian youths gathered in Arab East Jerusalem to celebrate as well, honking out wedding tunes on their car horns.

"We are so happy that America was hit. America is against us in supporting Israel," Suleiman, one of the demonstrators, said.

In Nablus, motorists honked their horns and gunmen fired into the air from assault rifles to cheer on the attacks which unfolded in the space of a few hours and stunned people around the globe.

Israel and the Palestinians have been locked in nearly a year of fighting since a Palestinian uprising against occupation erupted last September after peace talks stalled.

(Reuters) Palestinians celebrate with sweets and dance in east Jerusalem's Old City.



Irresistible target for terrorists

THE IMPOSING towers of the World Trade Centre lie at the heart of the New York's financial services industry, which form a city within a city at the southern tip of Manhattan.

At 9am — when the first airplane struck on Tuesday morning — many will have started work and thousands of others will have arrived by train and subway in the entrails of the World Trade Centre.

Under the twin buildings is a vast underground mall with coffee shops, banks, supermarkets and bookshops. The centre not only houses financial companies, but constitutes a vast transport hub for workers who work in the surrounding area.

Underneath the complex is an underground car park that was the target of the last terror attack. After having tried to blow up the complex from underground, the raiders this time have taken to the air, with even more devastating consequences. As a landmark and a symbol of American economic might, the World Trade Centre clearly represents an irresistible lure for America's enemies.

America proved a hard nut to crack for terrorists. The 1993 attack, in which seven people died came as a shock. It showed that even mighty oceans and the most sophisticated anti-terrorist measures could not keep terrorists at bay. Seven years on, Americans are reliving the nightmare. The latest event shows that George Bush and America have more to fear from determined terrorists using quite time-honoured methods of hijacking planes than "rogue" states wanting to launch missiles at the US.

The Guardian



A man emerges from the collapsed World Trade Centre.

Two planes crash into World Trade Center

Third plane rams into Pentagon

White House evacuated

Attack on America

Dead without numbers in undeclared war

HOW THE TOWERS CRASHED



THE TOP TUMBLES...



...ON THE MIDDLE...



...AND THEN THERE WAS DUST



FROM K.P. NAYAR AND REUTERS

Washington, Sept. 11: Three hijacked planes crashed into the symbols of American financial and military power, destroying New York's mighty World Trade Center and hitting the Pentagon in Washington.

Loss of life was expected to be catastrophic from the collapse of the giant twin towers of the World Trade Center where more than 40,000 people work. The two enormous edifices fell in a huge cloud of smoke and fire two hours after the initial impacts.

Another plane crashed near Pittsburgh. It was not clear if this was another attempted hijacking.

President George W. Bush cut short a visit to Florida and was making his way back to Washington, where a state of emergency has been declared.

Hospitals in New York were overwhelmed with patients as a massive cloud billowed into the blue skies over Manhattan where the city skyline had been dramatically and permanently altered. The two 110-storey towers, part of the largest commercial complex in the world, were reduced almost to rubble.

New York mayor Rudolph Giuliani said there had been a "tremendous number of lives lost" in the attacks on his city.

Before the buildings collapsed and while the planes were lodged near the top of each tower, bodies fell to the street below, eyewitnesses said. Darren Cohen, an electrician, said: "I heard the boom and saw flames. People were jumping out of the windows."

"I looked outside and saw a big chunk of the World Trade Center missing," said Ellen Leon, whose office is in the neighbourhood. "Bodies were flying out. I don't know if they were already dead or if they were just going to die."

Throng of people raced up the lower Broadway blocks north of the terror attack, yelling "It's coming for us", "Run" and "We're going to die".

Early speculation about the source of the attack centred on

Saudi-born guerrilla leader Osama bin Laden. An Arab journalist with access to bin Laden said in London that three weeks ago the renegade Saudi had warned of an "unprecedented attack" on US interests.

But the Taliban, Afghanistan's militia regime that has given shelter to bin Laden, insisted he could not be responsible.

It was the most dramatic and deadly attack on the US mainland in modern history. The strikes forced the evacuation of the White House, Capitol Hill, the UN and CIA headquarters and other tall buildings around the country, cut cellphone communications on the East Coast and grounded all commercial planes in the United States. All flights to the US have been diverted to Canada.

"This is an act of war by madmen," European Union external relations commissioner Chris Patten said. "It is the worst attack on the United States since Pearl Harbor," he said, comparing the devastating attacks to the Japanese surprise bombing of a US naval base in the Pacific in 1942.

"This is one of those few days in life that one can actually say will change everything," Patten added.

All three planes used in the attacks were hijacked, one of them from Boston and one from Washington. It was not immediately known who flew the planes and what happened to them.

The two largest US airlines, American and United, each said two of their commercially-scheduled flights crashed on Tuesday, with extensive loss of life among the total 266 people on board the four planes.

The day of horror began around 9 am in New York, when the first plane ploughed into the south tower of World Trade Center as workers were streaming into the building. It opened a huge hole near the top of the building. Two hours later, the whole building collapsed on itself in a huge cloud of smoke and fire.

TV stations caught the second plane ploughing into the second of the twin towers, exploding in a fireball 18 minutes after the first



A shocked law enforcement officer after the first tower of the World Trade Center fell. (Reuters)

impact. That building caved in about an hour after the first.

Forty-five minutes later, a third plane crashed into the Pentagon in Washington, throwing people off their feet inside the building and setting off a massive fire. A car bomb went off simultaneously outside the state department building. "It's clear this is terrorist-related. We're not sure who is responsible," an official said. ■ US under siege, Pages 4, 5

President vows to hunt down perpetrators

Bush looks to God

Florida, Sept. 11 (Agencies): The worst attack on American soil since Pearl Harbor tore George W. Bush from what should have been a routine education event and threw him into the direst crisis of his young presidency.

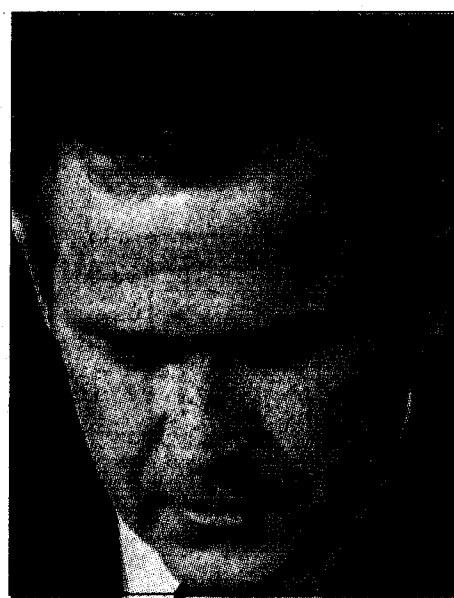
The President was reading to schoolchildren at an elementary school when his chief of staff, Andrew Card, interrupted him and whispered into his ear. The President's face clouded but he said nothing.

"We'll talk about it later," he told reporters as he walked out of Sandra Kay Daniels' second-grade class, where he also listened to 18 smiling young pupils go through routine reading and pronunciation drills.

The President spoke out after the second incident, aborting another education-themed event. He declared "a national tragedy" and vowed an all-out hunt for the authors of what he called "an apparent terrorist attack".

Bush called for a moment of silence. "May God bless the victims, their families and America," he said, his voice breaking with emotion.

Before being whisked away on



Bush observes a moment of silence. (Reuters)

QUOTE

May God bless the victims, their families and America

GEORGE W. BUSH

Air Force One with a military jet at each wingtip, Bush said: "Today, we've had a national tragedy. Two airplanes have crashed into the World Trade Center in an apparent terrorist attack on our country."

"I have spoken to the Vice-President, to the governor of New York, to the director of the FBI, and have ordered that the full resources of the federal government go to help the victims and the families and to conduct a full-scale investigation to hunt down and to find those folks who committed this act. Terrorism against our nation will not stand."

Asked what Bush's reaction was to the first crash, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said: "He obviously was struck by what took place."

Later, Bush landed in secret at a Louisiana air force base as White House scrambled to protect him. When Air Force One touched down at Barksdale Air Force Base, it was immediately surrounded by soldiers bearing automatic weapons and dressed in camouflage fatigues.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Palestinians celebrate on streets with sweets □ Arafat says he is horrified by attack

TERROR WORLDWIDE

Joy in Palestine: Arafat horrified, others celebrate

BY MOHAMMED DARAGHMEH

West Bank, Sept. 11: Thousands of Palestinians celebrated after Tuesday's terror attacks in the United States, chanting "God is great" and distributing candy to passers-by, even as their leader, Yasser Arafat, said he was horrified. The US government has become increasingly unpopular in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in the past year of Israeli-Palestinian fighting, with many Palestinians accusing Washington of siding with Israel.

In the West Bank town of Nablus, about 3,000 people poured into the street shortly after the attacks on the World Trade Centre in New York and government targets in Washington. Demonstrators distributed candy in a traditional gesture of celebration. Several Palestinian gunmen shot in the air, while other marchers carried Palestinian flags. Nawal Abdel Fatah, 48, wearing a long black dress, threw sweets in

the air, saying she was happy because "America is the head of the snake, America always stands by Israel in its war against us."

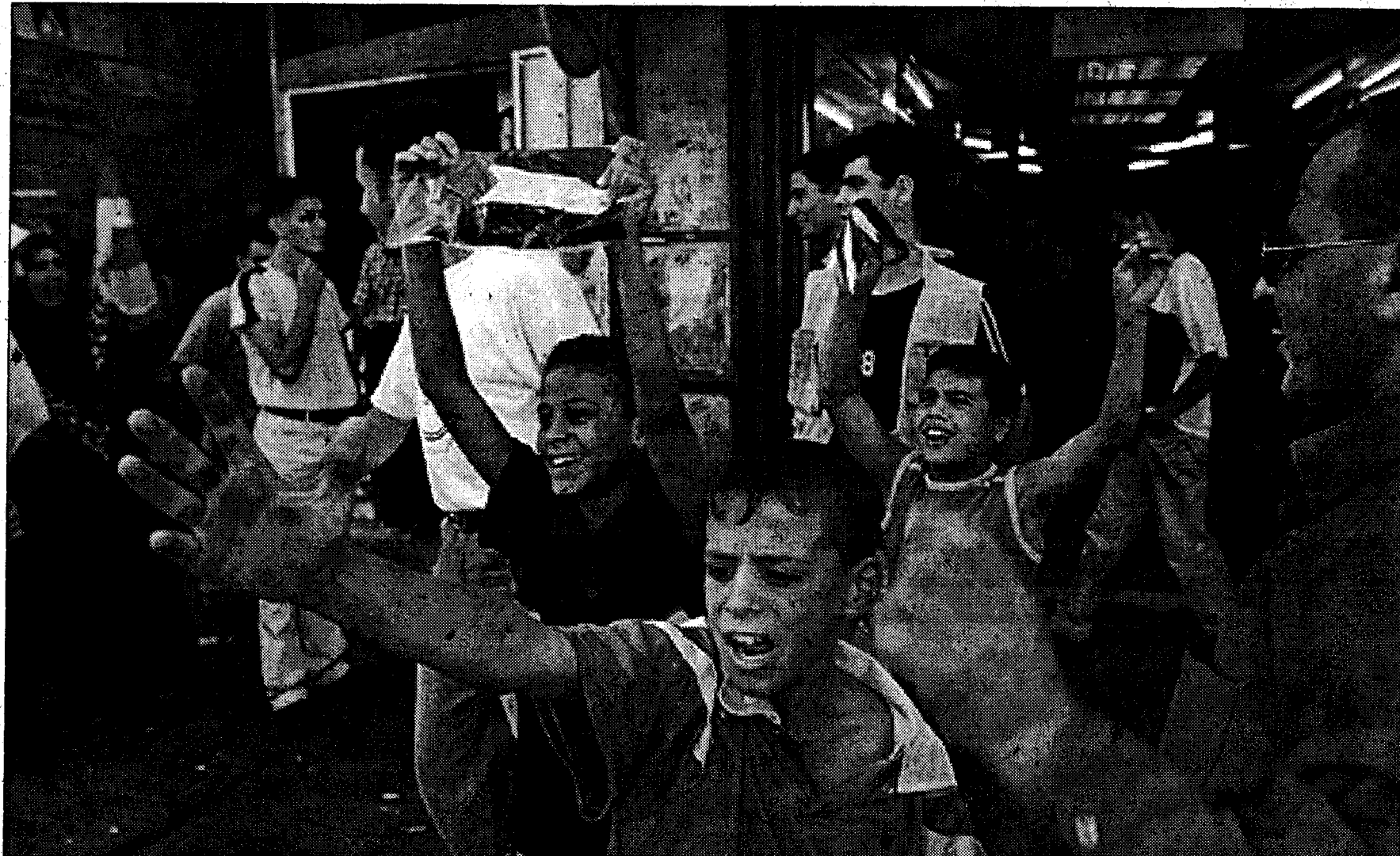
Her daughter Maysoun, 22, said she hoped the next attack would be launched against Tel Aviv. In traditionally Arab Jerusalem, there was a smaller gathering of about two dozen people, many of them young children. Some drivers passing the scene flashed victory signs from their windows.

Mr Arafat and his top advisers huddled at his seaside office in Gaza city, watching the events unfold on television. Mr Arafat later emerged to speak

reporters. "We are completely shocked. It's unbelievable," he said. "We condemn this very attack, and I convey my condolences to the American people, to the American President and to the American administration, not only in my name but on behalf of the Palestinian people." (AP)



SAD: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. (Reuters)



MORBID JOY: Children near east Jerusalem's Old City wave Palestinian flags and chant anti-US slogans as they react to the news of a terrorist attack on the World Trade Centre in New York on Tuesday (AP)

BRIEFLY...

US embassy in Rome shuts early

Rome: The US embassy in Rome sent its staff home early on Tuesday after aircraft attacks on the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington.

"The charge d'affaires has decided to send staff home early. Our level of security is high," an embassy source said.

The Rome embassy was evacuated in January after what was called "an indication of a potential terrorist attack." Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi and ministers were heading to Rome to hold a crisis meeting. (Reuters)

Italy cancels all West Asia flight

Rome: Italian airport authorities cancelled flights on Tuesday to West Asia and recalled flights to the United States in the wake of the attack on the World Trade Centre and other US targets.

Milan's Malpensa airport suspended its check-ins on Tuesday afternoon and cancelled the day's three remaining flights to the West Asia — to Beirut, Lebanon, Amman, Jordan. (AP)

Philippines police goes on red alert

Manila: The Philippines military and the police went on red alert on Tuesday after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, securing the US embassy and other high-profile installations.

"The President has called an emergency security meeting," military chief Gen. Diomedio Villanueva said shortly before midnight. "By and large there have been no untoward reports yet. The whole country is on red alert." (AP)

United Airlines grounds flights

New York: UAL Corp.'s United Airlines said on Tuesday that it has grounded all its operations worldwide after two aircraft crashed into the World Trade Centre.

The airline said that it cannot confirm any reports about the aircraft. Reports said the planes that hit the Trade Centre were hijacked flights from Boston and one of them was an American Airlines plane. Witnesses said that one of the aircraft was a white one. (Reuters)

Washington-Boston trains suspended

Washington: Train travel from Boston to Washington was suspended on Tuesday in the aftermath of attacks on the national capital and New York, where two planes crashed into the twin towers of the World Trade Centre, Amtrak officials said. (AFP)

'Israel evacuates all its embassies worldwide'

Jerusalem, Sept. 11: Israel on Tuesday ordered the immediate evacuation of all its embassies and public facilities worldwide following the concerted terror attacks on the United States, Israeli radio reported.

The Israeli foreign ministry declined comment on the report. Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon expressed his condolences to US President George W. Bush and the American people.

Foreign minister Shimon Peres said, "We have to organise a completely new strategy against terrorism. What was appropriate for the past is not appropriate for today."

Defence minister Benjamin Ben-eliezer meanwhile mobilised the national Air Force for a possible mission to fly Israel rescue teams to the US. (DPA)

Blair calls Cobra security meeting

London, Sept. 11: British Prime Minister Tony Blair on Tuesday summoned his senior Cabinet ministers for an emergency security meeting following a series of apparent terrorist attacks in the United States, his 10, Downing Street office said.

He said he was "terribly shocked" by the devastating attacks, while foreign minister Jack Straw has promised British help to find the perpetrators.

The Tony Blair government's emergency Cobra committee includes Mr Straw, home secretary David Blunkett and defence secretary Geoff Hoon, as well as Mr Blair and his top security advisors.

Two jets crashed into the World Trade Centre towers in New York, explosions rocked the Pentagon in Washington, at least one other airliner was reported to have been hijacked and heading toward the Pentagon, and the White House, state department and other government buildings were evacuated.

"This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life," Mr Blair said at a labour conference in Brighton, southern England.

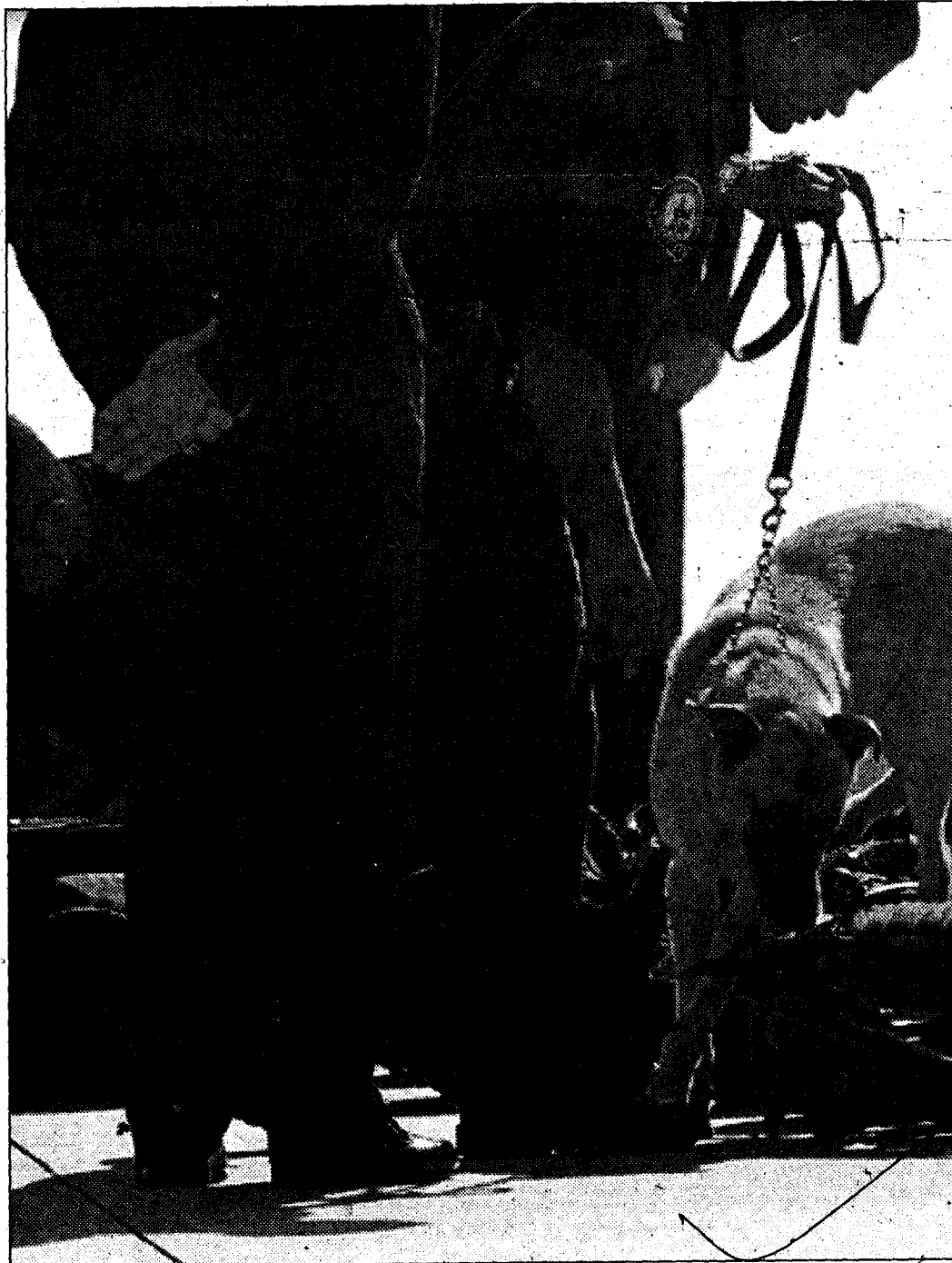
His voice trembling with emotion, he offered his sympathies to US President George W. Bush for "the most terrible shocking event."

"We can only imagine the terror and carnage there and the many, many innocent people who will have lost their lives."

Queen Elizabeth II will also be sending a message of sympathy to Mr Bush, said a Buckingham Palace spokesman.

In his own statement, Mr Straw said: "There can be no justification for these appalling acts of terrorism."

"We in Britain have offered whatever help we can to the American government to bring the perpetrators to justice." (AFP)



ON THE LOOKOUT: Secret Service agents inspect the luggage of members of the media travel pool on the tarmac next to Air Force One on Tuesday at Sarasota/Bradenton International Airport in Bradenton, Florida. (AP)

Putin convenes security meet, offers solace too

Russia suspends all flights to US, increases security

Moscow, Sept. 11: Russian President Vladimir Putin urgently convened his top security officials and expressed his condolences to the American people over the terrorist attacks that hit the United States on Tuesday.

"After receiving reports about terrorist attacks on the United States, the President held an emergency meeting with the heads of the power ministries, they were given corresponding orders," Mr Putin's spokesman Alexei Gromov said in a statement, without elaborating.

Mr Putin was watching the developments on television as they unfolded, the Kremlin Press Service said.

The Russian transport ministry suspended all flights to the United States in the wake of the attacks.

Russia's largest airline Aeroflot will divert a New York-bound flight already in the air to a Canadian airport, likely Montreal, an airline spokeswoman said.

A later flight from Moscow to Chicago may be turned around or set down in Canada as well, she said. Russia took "several anti-terrorism measures" in response to the attacks, Interfax cited air defence force

spokesman Alexander Drobyshesky as saying, without elaborating.

The Russian interior ministry heightened security around all major government buildings and put troops on increased alert around the country, the head of the interior ministry troops Mr Vyacheslav Tikhomirov was quoted as saying. The Russian emergency situations ministry said it was ready to offer rescuers or other help in the disasters, the Itar-Tass news agency reported.

The Russian government said that the battle with terrorism must be fought "everywhere around the world without the slightest weakening," the deputy head of the Russian government administration, Andrei Vdovin, was quoted by Interfax as saying.

Russian television was running live unscheduled footage of the attacks. The United States embassy said that it was monitoring the situation but it did not immediately evacuate the embassy. Meanwhile Canada's transport ministry shut down all the airports in the country in the wake of several deadly attacks carried out by hijacked planes in the United States. (AP, Reuters)

US military bases in Japan on alert

Tokyo, Sept. 11: US military bases in Japan went on alert and the Japanese police were ordered to tighten security outside their gates following a series of terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, officials said on Wednesday.

On the southern island of Okinawa, home to more than half of the 47,000 US troops stationed in Japan, military television and radio bulletins announced that all units had been ordered to the highest of five states of alert.

A US military spokesperson in Tokyo confirmed that tighter security measures had been taken by base authorities around the country but declined to provide details.

"We are increasing force protection levels but obviously I won't talk about any specific actions we are taking at the moment," said Col. Jeanette Minnich,

director of public affairs for US forces in Japan.

Meanwhile, Japan's Prime Minister instructed senior police and defence officials to increase security around US bases.

Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi gave the order after assembling members of his Cabinet at his official residence late on Tuesday for an emergency meeting to discuss the incidents, his spokesman said.

"He has instructed security authorities to give the utmost vigilance to the American presence in Japan, including American forces," said deputy press secretary Tsutomu Himeno.

A spokesman for the National Police Agency, said, on condition of anonymity that the order for tighter security had been passed along to the local police stations but added that it was unclear what

measures had been taken so far.

In Yokota, home to a large US air base 33 km west of Tokyo, the local police dispatched a riot control vehicle and two patrol cars, said spokesman Kazuo Ishizuka. Chief Cabinet secretary chief Yasuo Fukuda said at a press conference early on Wednesday that there were no reports of disturbances at US bases.

Two planes smashed into the World Trade Centre in New York on Tuesday morning, and an aircraft also crashed at the United States defence department in what was seen as a coordinated terrorist attack.

Mr Koizumi also sent a message to United States President George W. Bush in which he said he was "shocked" by news of the apparent attacks and expressed his sympathies to the American people.

In neighbouring South Korea, where 37,000 US troops are based, the foreign ministry issued a statement denouncing the assault.

"The government and people of the republic of (South) Korea strongly condemn the heinous terrorist attacks on major United States facilities such as the New York World Trade Centre and the Pentagon," the official statement commented.

South Korea's national policy agency strengthened security around the United States embassy situated in central Seoul and other United States facilities situated around South Korea, said Mr Kim Sang-Kyong, a police spokesman.

Last Friday, the United States state department expanded to Japan and South Korea a worldwide terrorist warning issued in June. (AP)

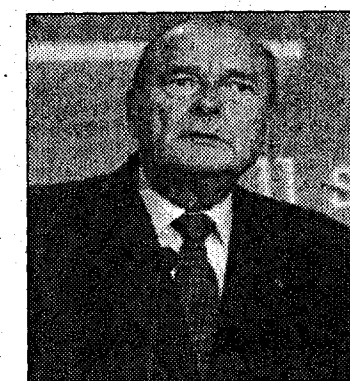
Chirac shows France's support for America

Paris, Sept. 11: French President Jacques Chirac expressed France's support for the United States on Tuesday in the wake of a terrorist attack on major US cities.

Two jets crashed into the World Trade Centre towers in New York, explosions rocked the Pentagon in Washington, at least one other airliner was reported to have been hijacked and heading toward the Pentagon, and the White House.

Mr Chirac, in a live televised address, condemned the attacks as "monstrous" and expressed his solidarity with the American people.

"France has just learned of these monstrous attacks — there is no



HORROR: French President Jacques Chirac reacts to the terrorist attacks in the US on Tuesday. (AP)

other word for it — that have hit America," Mr Chirac commented from Rennes, in the western region of Brittany. Security guards and police near the United States embassy in central Paris were removing cars from the nearby hotel De Crillon as a security precaution measure.

He expressed his "friendship and solidarity in this tragedy" with Americans.

"France unreservedly condemns terrorism. We must fight terrorism by all means," he said.

Meanwhile, the United States embassy in Paris said that no new security measures have been taken and confirmed it was open for business. (AP)

Despite being dazed, shocked by attacks, indomitable New Yorkers rush to donate blood

THE DAY NEW YORK CRIED

BY HELEN O'NEILL

New York: It was the scene of a nightmare: people on fire jumping in terror from the trade towers just before the buildings collapsed.

Everyone was screaming, crying, running — cops, people, firefighters, everyone," said Mike Smith, a New York fire marshal, as he sat by the fountain outside a state courthouse, shortly after the second tower collapsed.

"A couple of marshals just picked me up and dragged me down the street. It's like a war zone."

Others compared it to Pearl Harbor as thousands of people poured off the Brooklyn bridge on the Brooklyn Side, covered in gray dust and debris.

Many wore respiratory masks, given by the police and fire departments.

Ambulances screamed down every major thoroughfare in Manhattan, depositing casualties at hospitals and returning to get more.

Clusters of people, their hands clutched to their heads in horror, stood at boomboxes set up outside stores to listen to the news.

Others gathered around cars, their doors open and radios turned up high.

Looking down West Broadway through billowing brown and black smoke, tower two tilted across the street. Ash, 2 inches (5 centimeters) deep, lined the streets.

Police and firefighters gasped for air as they emerged from the sealed-off area.

At least three explosions were heard, perhaps from gas lines.

Army humvees whizzed by on their way downtown.

Workers from Trade Centre offices wandered Lower Manhattan in a daze, many barely able to believe they were alive.

Donald Burns, 34, being evacuated from a meeting on the 82nd floor of one World Trade Centre, saw four severely burned people on the stairwell.

"I tried to help them but they didn't want anyone to touch them. The fire had melted their skin. Their clothes were tattered," he said.

Boris Ozersky, 47, computer networks analyst, was on the 70th floor of one of the buildings when he felt something like an explosion rock it.

He faced down 70 flights of stairs, and outside, in a mob in front of a nearby hotel. He was trying to calm a panicked woman when the building suddenly collapsed.

"I just got blown somewhere, and then it was total darkness. We tried to get away, but I was blown to the ground. And I was trying to help this woman, but I couldn't find her in the darkness," Ozersky said.

After the dust cleared, he found the hysterical woman and took her to a restaurant being used by rescue workers as a triage centre.

Clyde Ebanks, vice president of an insurance company was at a meeting on the 103rd floor of the 110-storey south tower of the World Trade Centre when his boss said, "look at that."

He turned and through a window saw a plane go by and hit the other building.

He and his co-workers raced

down the stairs. When they reached the 70th floor, they felt the building shake as the second plane hit.

Later, in tears, his hair covered with gray ash, he added: "I worry about some of my co-workers."

Jennifer Brickhouse, 34, from Union, New Jersey, was on the escalator heading for her 76th-floor office in the World Trade Centre when she "heard this big boom. Everyone was going crazy. We all got out. The minute I got out of the building, the second building blew up. All this stuff started falling and all this smoke was coming through."

"People were screaming, falling and jumping out of the windows," Brickhouse said.

"I just saw the building I work in come down," said businessman Gabriel Loan, shaking in shock outside city hall, a cloud of smoke and ash from the World Trade Centre behind him.

"I just saw the top of trade two come down."

Nearby a crowd mobbed a man on a pay-phone, screaming at him to get off the phone so that they could call relatives.

"People were jumping out of windows," said an unidentified crying woman. "I guess people were trying to save themselves. Oh my God!"

"I was in the World Financial Centre looking out the window," said one woman.

"I saw the first plane and then 15 minutes later saw the other plane just slam into the World Trade Centre."

Another eyewitness, AP newsman Dunstan Prial, described a strange sucking sound from the trade centre buildings after the first building collapsed.

"Windows shattered. People were screaming and diving for cover. People walked around like ghosts, covered in dirt, weeping and wandering dazed."

"It sounded like a jet or rocket," said Eddie Gonzalez, a postal worker at a post office on West Broadway. "I looked up and saw a huge explosion. I didn't see the impact. I just saw the explosion."

Morning commuters heading into Manhattan were stranded as the Lincoln tunnel was shut down to incoming traffic. Many left their cars and stood on the ramp leading to the tunnel, staring in disbelief at the thick cloud of smoke pouring from the top of the two buildings.

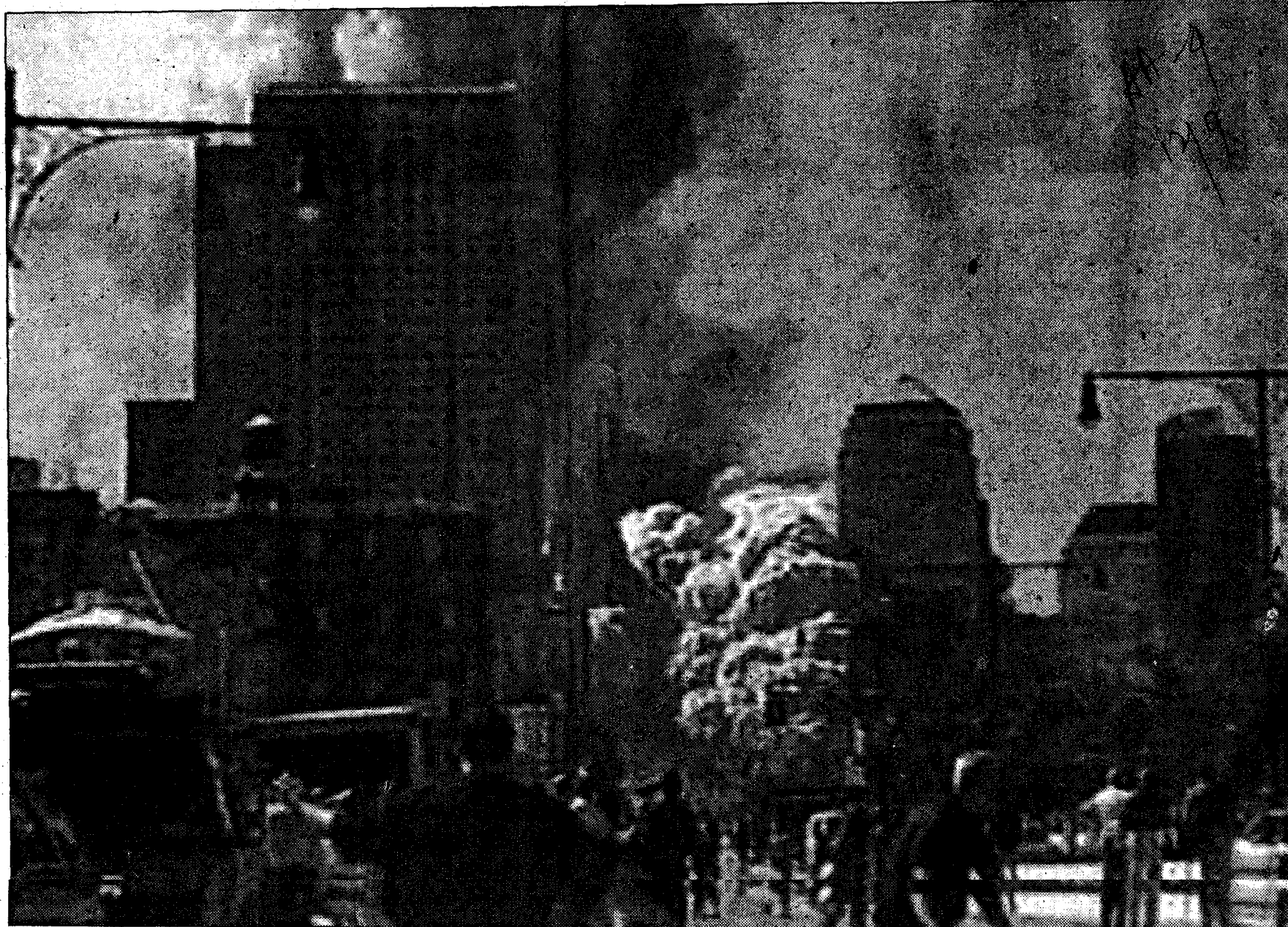
Throughout Lower Manhattan, rescue workers and police officers wore surgical masks to protect them from the dust.

The police, some of them with semiautomatic rifles and dogs, guarded federal and state buildings and prevented anyone from entering.

At the city's hospitals, hundreds lined up to give blood, after hospital workers yelled on the streets, "Blood donations! Blood donations!"

Roman Catholic Cardinal Edward Egan arrived at St. Vincent's Catholic Medical Centre to comfort the injured; other priests also were on hand, many wearing blue rubber gloves.

Mark Ackermann, chief corporate officer at St. Vincent's, said: "I was here during the World Trade Centre bombing (in 1993) and this is a hundred times worse." (AP)



ARMAGEDDON: People look on as the second tower of the World Trade Centre in New York collapses in this image made from television on Tuesday. Two planes crashed into the World Trade Centre towers on Tuesday morning. (AP)



MIRACULOUS ESCAPE: Rescue workers remove a man from the World Trade Centre tower in New York City early on Tuesday morning. Both towers were hit by planes crashing into the building. Victims from the attack on the World Trade Centre — many suffering from extensive burns — began arriving at hospitals about an hour after two planes slammed into the twin towers, witnesses said. (Reuters)

Chaos reigns in DC: Pedestrians choke streets

BY CLAIRE SOARES

Washington, Sept. 11: Panic-stricken Washington pedestrians froze in their tracks when they heard the whir of a plane overhead on Tuesday after plane attacks demolished New York's World Trade Centre and damaged the Pentagon.

Washington workers flooded the streets near the White House and elsewhere after all federal buildings were ordered evacuated and other businesses shut down. But some people seemed bewildered about what to do next.

"I'm totally freaked out. Hearing the plane going over my head was frightening," Elissa Brainard, 29, told Reuters as

she joined the 150 yard (50 metre) line to get her car from the parking garage.

But even with her car, Brainard faced a long wait to get home, as gridlock hit Washington's roads.

Drivers ran red lights and sped across intersections, sending pedestrians scattering. The police near the White House tried to direct traffic, but a few blocks away chaos reigned, thwarting the efforts of emergency vehicles.

Wailing sirens from fire engines, police patrols and ambulances mingled with car horns, whistles and human cries.

"Everything is going crazy. People are getting so stressed out," one office worker said.

Pedestrians hurried away from the fed-

eral quarter and clutched cellular telephones to their ears, desperately trying to reach loved ones. But cellular telephone networks seemed to be disrupted and people began to line up at public phones.

"I'm terrified. We tried to call on the cellphone but they weren't working," office assistant Val Thornton said.

Thornton, whose commuter bus takes her past the Pentagon to her Virginia home, did not know how she would get out of the city.

But others seemed unfazed by the city-wide panic.

When his building was evacuated, Roger Connor had been chairing a meeting of Christians, Jews and Muslims about how to help poor people in the

United States.

But Connor, struggling up a street on crutches, said he refused to be deterred by the attacks.

"Our original meeting place was close to the White House so we had to evacuate but we're moving to a different office because our meeting is going to continue," he said.

And the Williams family from Atlanta, Georgia said their tourist trip was continuing as planned.

"We are carrying on with our Washington sightseeing, just with a little extra caution," Carl Williams said, standing alongside his wife and teen-aged sons.

"We're headed to New York tomorrow but we're going to drive." (Reuters)

High alert, evacuations, closures all over the US after attacks

BY DAVID CRARY

New York: Authorities went on alert from coast to coast on Tuesday, halting all air traffic, evacuating high-profile buildings and tightening security at strategic facilities following the attacks on the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon.

Many federal and state office buildings were closed, as well as prominent tourist attractions — Disney World in Florida, Seattle's Space Needle, the Gateway Arch in St. Louis and Knott's Berry Farm in southern California. Even the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles was shut down.

Evacuations were ordered at the United Nations building in New York, and the tallest skyscrapers in Chicago, Los Angeles, Boston, Cleveland and Minneapolis.

In Massachusetts and Maine, most state employees were sent home, and state buildings shut down.

Military bases across the country went on alert. Extra security was added at the department of energy's Nuclear Weapons and Research Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, the Los Alamos national laboratory in New Mexico, the Los Alamos national laboratory in New Mexico, and at Fort Detrick in Frederick, Maryland, home to the Army's main germ warfare defence laboratory.

The Kennedy Space Centre in Florida was under an "enhanced security awareness."

In Louisiana, the state police urged petrochemical and pipeline companies to be on alert.

Louisiana offshore oil port, which handles supertankers in the Gulf of Mexico south of New Orleans, suspended operations.

In California, Gov. Gray Davis convened a meeting of the state emergency council and requested heightened security in all state buildings.

In Los Angeles, the police went on tactical alert, and mobilised an anti-terrorist division. A tactical alert means officers are held over from the earlier shift to bolster the day shift and police only respond to priority calls.

In Virginia, authorities ordered intensified security at the naval complex in Hampton Roads and imposed a lockdown of offices at the state capital.

The horrific attacks prompted Gov. Mike Leavitt of Utah to meet with law enforcement officials to reviewing security planning for the 2002 Winter Olympics.

"It's a reminder the entire world is vulnerable to lunacy," Mr Leavitt said. He said he was more determined than ever to have "the world's most sophisticated security" for the Olympics.

Under orders from the Federal Aviation Administration, airports nationwide halted all outbound flights, while keeping their runways open for incoming planes.

"We're like everyone else, in shock," said Ms Carol Windham, a spokesperson at Birmingham International Airport in Alabama. (AP)

Telecom networks stressed, but still continue operating

New Yorkers go online to email news to relatives

Chicago, Sept. 11: The United States' national phone networks were clogged with calls but still operating on Tuesday following the aircraft attacks in New York and Washington, the telecommunications companies confirmed later.

"We're experiencing double call volume of a normal busy day, which is generating network congestion. The network is fine; there's just too many calls," AT&T Corp. spokesman Dave Johnson said.

"There's absolutely no damage to AT&T's local and long-distance networks."

AT&T is the largest US long-distance carrier.

Earlier on Tuesday two planes crashed into the World Trade Centre twin towers in New York City and one into the Pentagon in Washington.

There was no immediate death toll, but hundreds are feared injured and scores dead.

"The long-distance networks are experiencing heavy calling vol-

ume and it's just way too early to tell if there are any problems; but it seems like it's just heavy calling volume," said Mark Marched, a spokesman for New York-based local telephone company Verizon Communications.

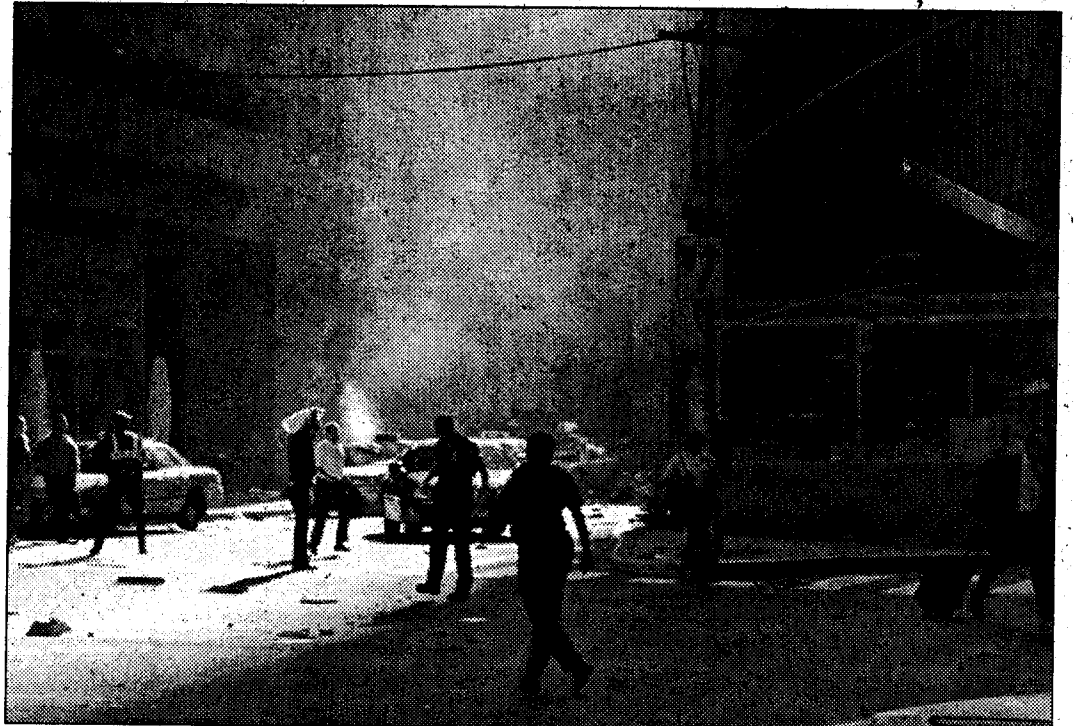
Verizon has emergency network operations staff monitoring its system, however, there have been no initial reports of network failures.

There was also heavy call traffic on wireless networks.

Some Americans who have been unable to reach family members by clogged phone networks have been turning to the Internet to e-mail relatives to let them know they are alive and well.

Core Menschen of New York e-mailed his family and friends in Texas to let them know he was all right.

Just so you know, I was not downtown when the World Trade Centre was attacked. I am in shock, the city is in shock," he said in the e-mail made available to Reuters. (Reuters)



STILL AT JOB: Rescue personnel respond along Liberty Street following the first explosion at New York's World Trade Centre on Tuesday. Planes crashed into the upper floors of the twin towers of the World Trade Centre towers minutes apart in a horrific scene of explosions and fires that left gaping holes in the 110-storey buildings. (AP)

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Terror strikes America

Attacks reduce World Trade Center to rubble, scar Pentagon, kill thousands

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11. — The Pentagon was hit directly by an aircraft and two planes struck the symbol of capitalism, the World Trade Center in New York, on International Peace Day, today, reducing them to rubble.

The Pentagon, the USA's defence centre, burst into flames and part of the five-sided building collapsed after the plane struck in the morning. Some more blasts were reported later. Air force planes patrolled the skies after the attack and the authorities deployed troops around the Pentagon to prevent more attacks.

Up to 10,000 people were either feared killed or injured in the attacks. In all, four Boeing commercial aircraft with 266 people crashed on Black Tuesday. American Airlines Boeings 757 and 767 tore into the 110-storey twin WTC towers where up to 50,000 people work, but it was not known how many were inside when the disaster occurred.

The WTC towers collapsed one at a time in a huge cloud of smoke and fire two hours after the initial impacts. TV images showed the second plane hitting the upper-middle part of the building after the first had crashed into its top floors.

Almost simultaneously AA's 757 hit Pentagon while another plane crashed near Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. One of planes that hit the WTC was hijacked after taking off from Boston, an official said, citing a transmission from the plane. The second plane may have flown out of Newark, New Jersey, and was bound for San Francisco.

The casualty figures were given by US Congressman Jim Moran, in Washington but there was no official confirmation. Mr Moran said the figures could go up.

"Terrorism against our nation will not stand," said the President, Mr George W Bush, in Florida on a morning when not only Washington was struck. He ordered



A horrifying view from Manhattan. — API/PTI

■ More reports on pages 6, 7, 8
 ■ More photographs on page 7

Helpline

The US embassy in India has set up a helpline to give information on the attacks. The phone No. is 4198000.

a full-scale investigation and rushed back to Washington to face the greatest crisis of his young presidency.

"This is the second Pearl Harbour. I don't think that I overstate it," said Republican Senator Mr Chuck Hagel of Nebraska, referring to the attack in 1941 that took the USA by surprise,

propelling it into World War II.

The loss of life was expected to be catastrophic from the collapse of the giant WTC towers, where about 50,000 people work, says Reuters. The New York Mayor, Mr Rudolph Giuliani, said there had been a "horrendous number of lives lost" in the assault on his city.

Early speculation about the source of the attacks centred on Saudi Arabia-born guerrilla leader, Osama bin Laden. But the ruling Taliban in Afghanistan, where he has reportedly set up base, denied his involvement.

A state of emergency has been declared in Washington after the worst ever terrorist attack. The USA closed its skies for air traffic and shut its missions all over the world as a precautionary measure. International flights were diverted to Canada and the Federal Aviation Administration said it had yet to account for a number of planes.

The attacks plunged the country into chaos and panic, paralysing communications, forcing the evacuation of key buildings. Sirens hooted as terrified people took to the streets seeking safety.

Mr Bush's advisers were preparing a list of options, including closing the US borders. He said it was premature to discuss military options because investigators were still trying to determine who was responsible for the attacks.

Red Army

An anonymous caller has claimed responsibility for the attacks on behalf of Japan's Red Army to "avenge the dead of Hiroshima". The caller "speaking Arabic like a foreigner claimed responsibility for the attacks in a call to our newspaper," the editor of *Al-Wahdeh* weekly newspaper, Fakhri Kawar, told AFP. "He said the attacks were carried out to avenge the dead of Hiroshima and Nagasaki," Kawar said.



Smoke rises into the skyline after the attack on the World Trade Center in New York on Tuesday. Terrorists hijacked two planes and crashed them into the WTC in a series of attacks that brought down the 110-storey twin towers. — API/PTI

World watches in horror

ASSOCIATED PRESS

LONDON, Sept. 11. — Astonishing terrorist strikes in the USA quickly reached a global audience today, with many around the world watching live coverage of an aircraft hitting the World Trade Center.

Audiences were transfixed by the awful images from New York, where both the World Trade Center towers collapsed, killing thousands of people.

The Russian President, Mr Vladimir Putin, expressed his condolences to the American people over the attacks and called them "terrible tragedies", the Kremlin press service said.

"I'm afraid we can only imagine the terror," the UK Prime Minister, Mr Tony Blair, said.

Mr Blair, who cancelled a scheduled speech at a trade union conference, said: "I know that you would want to join with me in sending the deepest condolences to President Mr Bush and the American people

ism is the new evil in our world today. It's perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of human life, and we, the democracies of this world, are going to have to come together and fight it together."

In Berlin, German foreign ministry officials huddled in a crisis meeting, and the Parliament's deputy Speaker, Mr Anker Fuchs, told lawmakers that a "terrible catastrophe" had happened. Virtually all German TV channels switched to live coverage.

"War of terror against America — live" read the bottom-of-screen banner on ZD television. Broadcasters broke into programming across Europe, Japan and India.

COLUMN

Ban on defence agents to be lifted

NEW DELHI, Sept. 11. — The Centre today decided to lift the ban on employment of agents in defence purchases. The ban came into force after the Bofors scandal in 1987. But this time, the lifting of the ban comes after a recommendation by Mr NN Vittal, CVC. — SNS (Details on page 8)

THE INTERNET EDITION OF THE STATESMAN IS AVAILABLE AT <http://www.statesman.net>

WEATHER

Light to moderate rain accompanied by thunder in some parts

Yesterday's readings:
 Maximum temperature up to 5.30 p.m. was 31.5° C (-1)
 Minimum temperature up to 8.30 a.m. was 24.5° C (-1)
 Relative humidity: Maximum 98% minimum 77%
 Relative humidity at 8.30 a.m.: 86% (+2) and at 5.30 p.m.: 91% (+2)

Rainfall: 1.3mm.
 Sun sets today at 5.43 p.m. rises tomorrow at 5.22 a.m. Moon sets today at 1.32 p.m. rises tonight at 12.36 a.m.
 New moon on 17 September

Hooghly river tides at Garden Reach:
 Sept 12: High water 7.11 am 4.88 mt
 Sept 12: Low water 3.98 pm 2.89 mt
 Sept 12: High water 8.05 pm 4.61 mt
 Sept 13: Low water 4.05 am 2.60 mt

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Smoke billows from Pentagon after a plane crashed into the US defence headquarters on Tuesday. — API/PTI

Gold, crude prices soar

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, Sept. 11. — World gold and crude oil prices rose sharply in response to the plane crashes at the WTC and explosions at Pentagon today. All the US financial and commodity markets including New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq Stock Market, were closed. While gold prices in London rose sharply by \$20 to \$290 an ounce, oil jumped up by over \$3 to breach the \$31 a barrel mark amidst apprehensions that the crude price could escalate up to \$40 per barrel. The upsurge in prices of yellow metal and black gold could severely impact India which imports about 600 tonne of gold annually and over 70 million tonne of crude a year.

Arafat condemns, Palestinians celebrate

AGENCIES

PAEANS IN HONOUR OF BIN LADEN

GAZA CITY, Sept. 11. — The Palestinian President, Mr Yasser Arafat, has condemned the attacks on USA today.

"This is something that is not believable," Mr Arafat said in his condolences sent to the US President, Mr George W Bush, and American people.

Mr Arafat said this after a meeting with the European Union envoy to West Asia, Mr Miguel Moratinos, here.

Meanwhile, about 2,000 Palestinians in Nablus in the West Bank celebrated the string of apparent terror attacks and chanted slogans in honour of the suspected terrorist, Osama bin Laden.

Dozens of Palestinian refu-

gees fired into the air with joy today at news of the attacks in New York and Washington, a report from Ain Al Helweh in Lebanon adds.

Guerrillas in military fatigues from various factions fired assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenades into the air in the Ain al-Helweh refugee camp at the outskirts of the southern port city of Sidon.

Camp residents, some still in pyjamas, interrupted afternoon rests to rush down to the streets and fired assault rifles into the air, the report said.

At the Shatila refugee camp in Beirut, Palestinian fighters also went out to the streets as soon as they heard the news of

from their television sets and celebrated by firing into the air.

Palestinians who have often burned US flags in protests during their 11-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation celebrated in the streets of Arab East Jerusalem.

"I feel I'm in a dream. I never believed that one day the USA would come to pay a price for its support to Israel," a 24-year-old Palestinian gunman, Mustafa, said.

Several Palestinian youths gathered in Arab East Jerusalem to celebrate as well, honking into wedding tunes on their car horns. "We are so happy that America was hit. America

is against us in supporting Israel," one of the demonstrators said.

Hamas reaction: The radical Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) today denied any link to Tuesday's attacks, but called on Washington to change its foreign policies, a report from Gaza City adds.

"The Hamas strategy consists of fighting against the Zionist occupier in Palestine. But we aren't looking to extend the conflict outside of Palestine, whether to the USA or elsewhere," Hamas official Ismail Haniyeh said.

Hamas is opposed to killing civilians, he said but added: "Washington must seriously revise its policies in the world."

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US UNDER SIEGE

Bin Laden had promised a very big one

FROM SHRABANI BASU AND REUTERS

London, Sept. 11: Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden warned three weeks ago that he and his followers would carry out an unprecedented attack on US interests for his support of Israel, an Arab journalist with access to him said today.

Abdel-Bari Atwan, editor of the London-based *al-Quds al-Arabi*, an Arabic-language weekly news magazine, said Islamic fundamentalists led by bin Laden were "almost certainly" behind the attack on the World

Trade Center in New York. "It is most likely the work of Islamic fundamentalists. Osama bin Laden warned three weeks ago that he would attack American interests in an unprecedented attack, a very big one," Atwan said.

"Personally we received information that he planned very, very big attacks against American interests. We received several warnings like this. We did not take it so seriously, preferring to see what would happen before reporting it."

Atwan has interviewed bin Laden and maintains close con-

tacts with his followers.

An anonymous caller told Abu Dhabi Television that the radical Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine was responsible for the two New York crashes, but a senior DFPLP official in the Palestinian territories denied any involvement. "I emphasise that the story released on Abu Dhabi TV by an anonymous person is totally incorrect," said Tayseer Khaled, a senior official of the DFPLP politburo.

Atwan said anti-American sentiment in West Asia was at its peak and moderate Arab govern-

ments had been "embarrassed" by what they saw as Bush's reluctance to lead peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. "The more moderate Arab governments were pleading with the American administration to intervene and to resume its sponsorship to the peace talks and put an end to the Israeli aggression. The Bush administration let them down," Atwan said.

He said the US, if convinced that bin Laden was behind the attacks, would probably retaliate in Afghanistan where he is thought to be in hiding. "I will not be surprised that the Ameri-

cans will send their cruise missiles to Afghanistan. There is no other country because bin Laden is in Afghanistan."

Few terrorist groups in the world could mount an operation on such a scale and the most likely of them was bin Laden, said an aviation expert at Jane's Transport here today.

He described the attack on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon as the biggest terrorist attack ever in history.

Chris Yates, an aviation expert, said: "It takes a logistics operation from the terror group involved that is second to none.

Only a very small handful of terror groups is on that list - I would name at the top of the list Osama Bin Laden."

Other analysts said the aim of the terrorists striking at the heart of the US financial centre would be to humiliate America in the eyes of the world.

"The picture of the famous Twin Towers, the symbol of America and the heart of its financial centre collapsing in full view of the world, would be just the images the terrorist would be looking for," said a foreign affairs specialist on BBC television.

The World Trade Centre was also subject to a terrorist attack in 1993. Six people were killed then.

US authorities have not yet accused anyone of orchestrating today's attacks, but bin Laden has already been named by Washington as being the mastermind of the almost simultaneous destruction of the US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania in which 224 people died and over 4,000 were wounded. Some of his followers are serving life sentences for those attacks.

The Saudi multi-millionaire, with an unrelenting hatred for

the West and specifically the US, was also named as a suspect within hours of a suicide attack on the USS *Kole* in the port of Aden that killed 17 Americans last October.

In the past he has proved untouchable, safe within the rugged terrain of Afghanistan as the "guest" of the Taliban, despite Washington offering a \$5 million reward for his capture. The US had launched cruise missiles at what it termed bin Laden training camps in Afghanistan after the embassy attacks, killing some militants but failing to touch the Saudi exile.

World is not the same any more

FROM MARK WOOD

New York, Sept. 11 (Reuters): As I stood staring in disbelief at the smoke pouring from one tower of the World Trade Center, it was with a first curiosity and then a dumbfounded horror that I saw a silver plane curl round from the East River, aim straight at the second tower and then a fireball erupt as it struck.

Standing on the top floor of a Times Square office block in mid-town Manhattan, I at first had a fleeting feeling of watching something pure Hollywood. Billowing black smoke, orange fireballs, crashing airplanes.

That sense of suspended reality was rapidly followed by the stomach-churning awareness of the gruesome truth - of the scale of death and of the indescribable suffering of the people trapped in those fiercely burning office towers just across town, as flames spurted from gaping holes and a second mountain of smoke rose skywards.

I felt, too, the growing sense that the normal order of things had just been suspended. This could not happen. This was New York, in bright sunshine, at the start of just another hectic day. If New York's landmark building could come under devastating attack in this gruesomely spectacular way, then regular assumptions about the way the world was supposed to work no longer fit. I knew full well I was watching events unfold of a historic, world-changing dimension.

Word of the fire in the first tower had spread around the elevator I was riding up to the top floor. A small knot of office staff joined me there to stare at the smoking building clearly visible from our 40th floor. Televisions running in the background were reporting frantically that an airplane had hit the tower, but there was still uncertainty about whether this was terrorism or some kind of freak accident.

The second plane ended that debate. As I spotted it snaking towards the building, I at first thought it must be some kind of military or police aircraft, coming to inspect the disaster. It became quickly, horribly clear that it was going too fast, it was getting too close. There was a thump of its broad, silver fuselage head-on as it ducked and angled and then flew directly at the second tower. It seemed to vanish and the fireball spewed from one side.

We watched in mute horror as the smoke and fires intensified. We were joined from time to time by others from our building. There was whispered speculation about the speed at which the Towers could be evacuated, the logistical problems of fighting fires 100 floors up.

The fevered theorising was replaced by new horror as we watched one of the towers suddenly bend, fold and collapse in a storm of smoke which enveloped a swathe of southern Manhattan. There were screams and cries from those around me. We were seeing unwatchable history - devastation on a scale none of us had ever witnessed.

As a correspondent I had been to war zones. I had seen the after-effects of bombing, shelling and shooting. Nothing I had seen compared in sheer enormity with the destruction of those two towers. And this was not West Asia, or some blighted part of Africa. This was the world's richest city, its biggest financial center. This really could not be happening.

I was still holding my meeting papers. Others around me were screaming into cellphones to try to track down relatives, friends. "My brother works down there," said one man quietly. "It ceased to be a spectacle viewed from behind the safety of door-to-ceiling windows. It was a disaster of epic proportions which was going to affect thousands of the ordinary, innocent New Yorkers all around me.



A rescue helicopter surveys damage to the Pentagon building after a terrorist airplane crashed into the US military headquarters outside Washington. (Reuters)

Markets crash, oil prices soar

London, Sept. 11 (Agencies): The deadly terrorist attacks against the US sent world gold and crude oil prices rocketing as European stock markets went into a tailspin.

While gold prices in London rose sharply by \$20 to \$290 an ounce, oil jumped up by over \$3 to breach the \$31 a barrel mark amid apprehensions that the crude price could escalate up to \$40 per barrel.

The upsurge in prices of yellow metal and black gold could severely impact India which imports about 600 tonnes of gold annually and over 70 million tonnes of crude a year. Gold is expected to open in Indian markets around Rs 5000 per 10 grams as against today's closing of Rs 4400 per 10 grams, market analysts said.

Crude prices over \$30 per barrel are bad news for India, analysts said, adding that every dollar rise in crude oil prices result in an additional burden of Rs 250 crore on the oil pool account, which was estimated at Rs 12,500 crore at the end of the last fiscal.

European benchmark indices fell more than six per cent and traders testified to mayhem on dealing room floors as news spread that the hijacked planes had ploughed into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Oil prices surged on fears of an escalation of the West Asia conflict, potentially sparking US retaliation. "People are linking this to West Asia. In this situation, people are buying the bulls and selling everything else, especially stocks with a US exposure and the hipsters and banks," said a trader. "One certainty is the oil price will be high, so they have bought oil stocks. Also, there will be insurance claims, so they have been sold off." London Brent blend futures hit a peak of \$31.05 a barrel, the highest price since December last year. At 2.50 pm GMT, when London's International Petroleum Exchange suspended trading for an hour.

Analysts feared Brent heading back to the \$25-30 a barrel range in the aftermath of the attacks, a trend that is likely to adversely affect net oil importing countries like India. They say oil stocks could consolidate sharp gains based on expectations of a forceful US reply to the strikes.

The London stock market fell sharply as stunned investors dumped shares after attacks on US financial and political targets. Appalled collapsing World Trade Center and columns of smoke rising over Washington.

Frankfurt exchange evacuated

The Frankfurt stock exchange was evacuated today after receiving a bomb threat. A spokesman for Deutsche Boerse, the market's operator, said employees were told to leave its two buildings in Frankfurt while trade was halted for the day. Eyewitnesses said later the alarm was called off at the bourse's historic building in central Frankfurt. There was no immediate information on what the security situation was at the other bigger site.

'OH MY GOD, OH MY GOD, THE WHOLE TOWER IS FALLING. RUN!'

New York crumbles in morning nightmare

New York, Sept. 11: In the chaos following the destruction of the World Trade Center, people who had escaped from the giant office buildings ran northward, ghost-like in their coatings of white plaster dust, many crying and shouting.

Four blocks north, outside Stuyvesant High School, others simply stood and stared. "This is the most horrifying thing I've ever experienced," said Jim Zamparelli, 54, as he stood near the school just after the southern tower collapsed, watching the northern tower burn. "Look - Oh my God, look - there's a person falling. I can't watch. Don't watch. "Oh my God," he cried. "Oh my God, as we're talking that whole tower is falling. Run!"

Those who did look saw great chunks of the building falling off. Just before the first tower collapsed, a helicopter hovered close to the tower, as if to try to rescue people clinging to the window ledges. But it pulled sharply upward and away just as the tower fell. Before the collapse, bystanders saw a jet approach the buildings. "I saw this plane screaming overhead," said David Blackford, a Manhattan resident who was walking to work at 8.45 am. "I thought it was too low; I thought it wasn't going to clear the tower."

He saw it slam into the side of the building, he said, and "The jets on each side of the plane blew up. You could see the concussion move up the building."

From the World Financial Center, another tall office building across the street to the west of the Trade Towers, employees watched out the windows in shock as the building fell. Angelo Echevarria, 49, said he had to prod fellow workers who were frozen with fear, urging them to evacuate. Once outside, Echevarria said: "I was walking by the Winter Garden, and then there was this huge noise. Then there was all this paper falling around me. The



A woman reacts after one of the World Trade Center towers collapses in New York. (Reuters)

Capital freezes in its tracks

Washington, Sept. 11 (Reuters): Panic-stricken Washington pedestrians froze in their tracks when they heard the whir of a plane overhead today after plane attacks demolished New York's World Trade Center and damaged the Pentagon.

"I'm totally freaked out. Hearing the plane going over my head was frightening," Ellisa Brainard, 29, said as she lined up to get her car out of a parking garage and make her way home through gridlocked streets.

Emergency sirens blared across the city and tens of thousands of anxious workers flooded out of evacuated buildings near the White House and elsewhere.

"It's like watching a disaster movie unfold. I don't think we will ever see anything like this again in our lifetime," said Joseph Lackey, who works in a government building across from the White House. "Lackey and scores of others huddled over a blaring radio at a vendor's stand several blocks from the White House, gasping with horror as the depth of the attacks unfolded. Police herded bewildered pedestrians further away from the White House as rumours abounded about another hijacked plane heading for the city.

"I feel like they are getting closer and closer with every minute," said Leroy Hall, a World Bank worker. Many bystanders said they felt like "sitting ducks" just waiting for the next attack to take place. "We are all sitting ducks here. We can't get out of the city. If they want to bomb the city we are all just waiting," one federal employee said.

She said many employees in her building had frantically tried to get hold of their children at schools or day care centers across the city to make sure they were safe. Drivers ran red lights



Traffic in Washington, DC, gets gridlocked as the city is shut down following suspected terrorist attacks. (AFP)

Mass terror numbs world

FROM SHRABANI BASU AND REUTERS

London, Sept. 11: Britain stopped all civilian flights over central London as prominent buildings in the city such as the Canary Wharf, the London Stock Exchange and the Lloyds Tower were evacuated.

The Canary Wharf building dominates the London skyline and is the highest building in the London. It is in the heavily built-up London Docklands area, which was developed under then Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. The nerve-centre of London's financial centre, the Stock Exchange, and the multi-storey Lloyds building was also evacuated.

London tubes started dealing with an early rush hour as thousands of office workers were sent home early.

Prime Minister Tony Blair said Britain stood "shoulder to shoulder" with Washington. "This mass terrorism is the new evil in our world today. It is perpetrated by fanatics who are utterly indifferent to the sanctity of life," he said.

Blair was joined by Palestinian and Israeli leaders in condemning the devastating attacks. "I send my condolences, the condolences of the Palestinian people to American President Bush and his government and to the American people for this terrible act," Palestinian President Yasser Arafat told reporters in Gaza.

"We completely condemn this serious operation... We were completely shocked. It's unbelievable, unbelievable, unbelievable." Russian President Vladimir Putin expressed deep sympathy to the American people "in connection with this terrorist act, this terrible tragedy."

President Jacques Chirac expressed outrage and assured the US of France's support and sympathy.

Berlin said it was shocked and said Germany's security council was convening, chaired by Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder. German air traffic authorities said all European flights to the US had been suspended.

China supplied missile tech to Pak'

DESIKAN THIRUNARAYANAPURAM
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 9. - China supplied missile technology to Pakistan, Iran, North Korea and Libya, according to a CIA report presented to Congress on Friday.

The report said India has discussed leasing nuclear-power submarines from Moscow and that Russia is supplying nuclear reactors for both China's and India's naval-propulsion systems.

The semi-annual CIA report on weapons proliferation also said that India, along with Yugoslavia, North Korea and China, was assisting Libya in building missiles and that Libya may build a medium-range missile in the future.

The report comes just a week after economic sanctions were placed against China for passing on sensitive missile technology to Pakistan - a charge the Chinese

government has dismissed as groundless.

Russia and North Korea were identified as major exporters of nuclear, chemical and biological weapon-related equipment and missile systems to rogue states and unstable regions of the world.

The report reveals details of several developing nations' programmes to develop weapons of mass destruction. "Pakistan has been moving toward domestic serial production of solid-propellant (short-range ballistic missiles) with Chinese help," the report said, adding that Pakistan also needs continued support from China for its Shaheen-2 medium-range missile.

"In addition, firms in China have provided dual-use missile-related items, raw materials, and/or assistance to several other countries of proliferation concern such as Iran, North Korea, and Libya," the report said.

It added that there are indications China has continued to assist Pakistan in devel-

oping nuclear weapons in violation of a 1996 promise to USA not to do so, and another promise not to assist Iran's nuclear programme. Iran also sought Chinese assistance for its chemical-weapons programme, although the CIA said it is not clear how successful the efforts were.

China supplied advanced conventional arms to Pakistan, Iran, Sudan and other nations. "During the second half of 2000, entities in Russia, North Korea and China continued to supply crucial ballistic missile-related equipment, technology and expertise to Iran," the report said.

Russian firms "continued to supply a variety of ballistic missile-related goods and technical know-how to countries such as Iran, India, China and Libya." Russian missile assistance helped Iran accelerate its medium-range Shahab-3 missile development. The missile has been flight tested three times, the report said.

THE STATESMAN

10 SEP 2001

Missile defence: An umbrella for US



RESIDENT BUSH'S NEW STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK:

My second exam- ple is also an issue of global importance in which my government has been transparent in its efforts to engage and collaborate with the interna- tional community.

President Bush has, in the context of his constitutional obligations, called the protection of the American homeland "an urgent duty". For most of our history, the US was sheltered by its geogra- phy. But with the invention and prolifer- ation of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems, distance no longer defines security.

We must recognise that in a strategic sense, the world of 1948, or 1968, or 1988 no longer exists. Then, the US had a single nuclear-armed adversary. Now, according to a recent speech by John McLaughlin, deputy director of the CIA, the possibility that a long-range ballistic missile tipped with a weapon of mass destruction may be used against the US, its armed forces, or its national security interests "is higher today than it was during most of the Cold War". McLaughlin predicts that the missile threat "will continue to rise as the weapons and missile capabilities of potential adversaries mature".

Confronting these fresh and growing dangers, and mastering them, will require a new understanding about the nature of what the distinguished Ameri- can strategist Fred Kle has called the "second nuclear age". It requires the world community to think boldly — as a previous generation of theorists had done during the last "golden age of nuclear strategy" in the Fifties and Six- ties. Most importantly, it requires us to realise and accept the profoundly humanitarian proposition that defending life on this planet is a better foundation for strategic stability than threatening to obliterate it.

Missile defence has drawn the most attention to the President's new strategic framework. He elaborated US policy on

missile defence in a speech on his

framework at Washington's National Defence University on May 1. On this subject, I can do no better than quote the President directly: "Today, the sun comes up on a vastly different world. The Wall is gone, and so is the Soviet Union. Today's Russia is not yester- day's Soviet Union. Its government is no longer Communist. Its President is elected. Today's Russia is not our enemy, but a country in transition with an opportunity to emerge as a great nation, democratic, at peace with itself and its neighbours. The Iron Curtain no longer exists. Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic are free nations, and they are now our allies in Nato, together with a reunited Germany.

"Yet this is still a dangerous world, a less certain, a less predictable one. More nations have nuclear weapons and still more have nuclear aspirations. Many have chemical and biological weapons. Some already have developed the ballis- tic missile technology that would allow them to deliver weapons of mass destruction at long distances and at incredible speeds. And a number of these countries are spreading these tech- nologies around the world.

"Most troubling of all, the list of these countries includes some of the world's least-responsible states. Unlike the Cold War, today's most urgent threat stems not from thousands of ballistic missiles in the Soviet hands, but from a small number of missiles in the hands of these states, states for whom terror and black- mail are a way of life. They seek weapons of mass destruction to intimi- date their neighbours, and to keep the United States and other responsible nations from helping allies and friends in strategic parts of the world.

"We need a new framework that allows us to build missile defences to counter the different threats of today's world. To do so, we must move beyond the constraints of the 30-year-old ABM Treaty. This treaty does not recognise the present, or point us to the future. It enshrines the past. No treaty that pre- vents us from addressing today's

By ROBERT D. BLACKWILL



'We need a new framework that allows us to build missile defences to counter the different threats of today's world. To do so, we must move beyond the constraints of the 30-year-old ABM Treaty. This treaty does not recognise the present, or point us to the future. It enshrines the past. No treaty that prevents us from addressing today's threats, that prohibits us from pursuing promising technology to defend ourselves, our friends and our allies in our interests or in the interests of world peace.'

So has said President Bush

PART III

children? Please, you decide.

and best markets for American prod- ucts. It also exhibits many of the most hopeful trends in democratic gover- nance. However, Asia still contains one dangerous legacy from the Cold War: the threat North Korea poses to South Korea and the region. It is also home to the continuing tensions between China and Taiwan, and between India and Pakistan. Other problems, such as Indonesia's continuing struggle for a peaceful, democratic transformation, exemplify Asia's continuing ferment. In all these areas, the US actively seeks the most positive outcomes, even though our ability to influence events varies widely.

That brings me to China, a country I have studied in an especially care- ful way. China is one of the two great rising powers of our age. The US seeks a constructive relationship with the PRC that is both firmly grounded in US national interests and contributes to the promotion of peace, stability, and prosperity in the region. Secretary of state Colin Powell has been clear about our vision of this relationship, stating that "China is a competitor and a poten- tial regional rival, but also a trading partner willing to cooperate in the areas, such as Korea, where our strategic inter- ests overlap. China is all of these things, but China is not an enemy and our chal- lenge is to keep it that way."

From promoting peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, to combating nar- cotics trafficking, to protecting the envi- ronment, to trade, we share common interests with China that are best served by a productive — and forward-looking — relationship. But, we clearly have some serious differences. Taiwan has long been one. Human rights and the rule of law are another. Beijing's arms sales around the world and its prolifera- tion of the technology of weapons of mass destruction are also important issues about which we have repeatedly expressed our concern to China. Indeed, on Saturday, the US imposed missile proliferation sanctions on the China Metallurgical Equipment Corporation

(CMEC) and the National Development Complex (NDC) of Pakistan. The sanc- tions will send a strong signal that the US opposes missile proliferation and will take the necessary measures to curb proliferation-related trade.

Finally, you may have seen stories in the press suggesting that the US might agree to a Chinese nuclear build-up in return for the People's Republic of China acquiescence to American plans for missile defence. This is not true. As Condoleezza Rice, President Bush's national security advisor said over the weekend, "The United States is not about to propose to the Chinese that in exchange for Chinese acceptance of missile defence, we will accept a nuclear build-up."

Beijing is in a position to chart a mutu- ally beneficial course for the future US-China relationship. We want that to be the case. The Bush administration seeks a productive relationship with China that promotes our interests and values and those of the entire Asia-Pacific region.

I hope the threads of this speech have implicitly indicated why the Bush administration wishes to develop a transformed relationship with democra- tic India. Such an evolution will pro- mote American national interests and values. Indians and Americans believe that democracy, freedom and human dignity should be universal. Both our Constitutions allow our citizens to say what they think, worship as they wish, and elect those who govern them. America encourages political freedom and gains when democracy advances. Indians believe the same is true for them. And the US thinks that bilateral and international cooperation among democratic nations encourages regional and global stability. So does India.

CONCLUDED

ROBERT D. BLACKWILL is the US ambassador to India. This is the third part of the public speech he delivered at a luncheon hosted by the Confederation of Indian Industry in New Delhi

US, Israel threaten race meet walkout

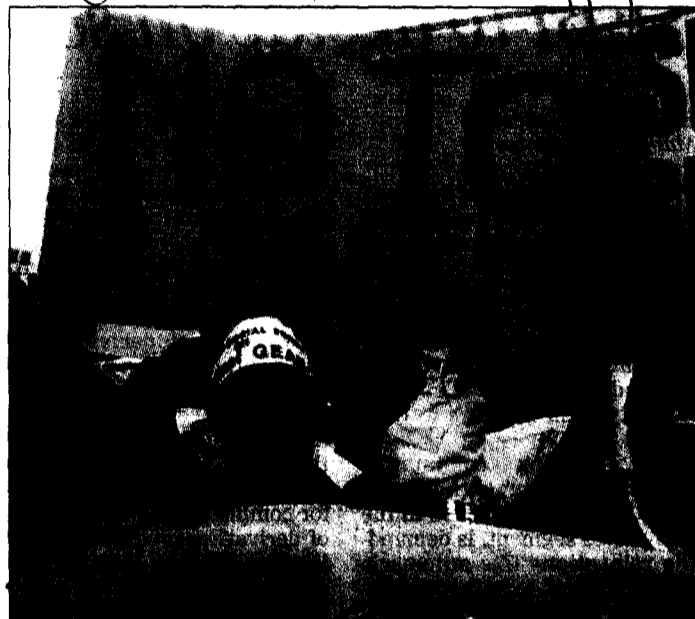
Durban, September 3

ISRAELI AND American officials have warned that they might walk out of the United Nations conference on racism here, saying that diplomatic efforts aimed at eliminating criticism of Israel from conference documents seemed to be bearing little fruit.

The officials accused Palestinian and Arab delegations of using the conference as a platform to smear Israel. The remarks by the Americans and Israelis came after a coalition of rights groups meeting here separately presented a report that attacked Israel as "an apartheid regime" that had committed "racist crimes against humanity, including ethnic cleansing and acts of genocide" in its treatment of Palestinians.

The rights groups submitted the report to the UN Human Rights Commission as delegates considered the wording of their declaration against racism, but it is unlikely that the governments would adopt such charged language.

Still, the report and its call for international sanctions against Israel were sharply criticised by the Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, who described it to reporters in Tel Aviv as "an out-



People from various organisations march through the streets of Durban towards the International Convention Centre on Monday.

burst of hate." And delegates here said the document only inflamed tensions, making sensitive negotiations even more difficult. "We are reaching a stage that we have to reconsider our participation, to consider whether to walk out of this conference," Mordechai Yedid, the Israeli Foreign Ministry's deputy

director general for international organisations, said here tonight.

"We are doing our utmost," said Yedid, who is leading the Israel delegation. "We would like to make sure this conference succeeds. The question is, if there is political will by the Palestinians and their supporters. Our feeling

is, there is no political will."

An American delegate, Representative Tom Lantos, Democrat of California, said the United States was also considering abandoning the conference. Lantos said that he had met with the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, with foreign ministers and with dozens of delegates, but that little progress was being made. Lantos said his team was working hard to resolve the dispute. But on Sunday, he said, when he spoke to Secretary of State Colin L Powell by telephone, he advised him that the US should withdraw if the talks remained deadlocked.

"If the conference fails, it will fail because the extremists are attempting to torpedo the conference," Lantos said in an interview. "This inflammatory language of the NGO's is reflective of the divisive, discriminatory and hostile climate created by the Arab extremists at this conference." It was NGO's — non-governmental organizations — that filed the report to the UN rights commission.

The meeting, which ends on Friday, is to produce a declaration against racism and a programme of action to prevent future discrimination. Many people here still hope to reach some consensus.

The New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 SEP 2001

U.S. plans to impose fresh curbs on Chinese and Pak entities

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The United States is imposing sanctions against a Chinese and a Pakistani entity in yet another periodic and largely futile expression of its concern over missile proliferation partnership between the two countries. The Bush administration's move, which could be announced this weekend according to accounts in several U.S. outlets including the *LA Times* and *Washington Post*, follows failure of talks between Washington and Beijing to stop the Chinese supply to Pakistan.

The U.S. state department has recommended the sanction after conclusive proof that China is violating terms of an accord it signed

last November with the Clinton administration under which it promised to stop proliferating.

The administration feels compelled to act because "substantial amounts" of missile parts, technology and know-how have been sold to Pakistan since the pact was signed in November, unnamed U.S. officials were quoted as saying.

The sanctioned entities will be China Metallurgical Equipment Corp., a private firm that is said to be a virtual front for the Beijing government and does nothing without its approval, and the National Development Complex of Pakistan, which received the missile parts and technology.

The sanctions decision comes just seven weeks before President

Bush is scheduled to make his first official visit to China. It is widely believed the sanctions will hurt the U.S. as much, if not more, than China. If sanctions come into effect, U.S. companies will not be issued licences to launch satellites on Chinese rockets, which they find cheaper. Similarly, it will become illegal to provide U.S. technology to China's growing satellite industry. In any case, China stands accused of acquiring such technology from the U.S. illegally.

One way to overcome this will be for Washington to turn to India's fledgling satellite launch industry, but New Delhi's space programme is under even greater sanctions than Beijing's proliferating entities. U.S. officials like to believe such sanctions will be a major blow to China's commercial industry and its technological capabilities, but in the past Beijing has easily weathered one-off embargoes and continued to build its capacity and arming Pakistan. On the contrary, there has been, and there doubtless will be, pressure on the U.S. administration from American commercial interests who will be chafing at the denial of cheap launch pads which will be used by rival European companies.

In this particular case, China was particularly blunt in facing down U.S. pressure, declining to respond to deadlines from Washington asking it to stick to previous non-proliferation agreements.

THE NUMBER OF...

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USA threatens Israel with curbs

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA

NEW YORK, Aug. 29. - The USA has warned Israel that they may impose sanctions against it for using the US-made weapons to deliver strikes on Palestine. The US Congress is authorised to impose sanctions against the countries violating the US weapon export law, which only permits the use of US-made weapons for "legal self-defence" or "internal security reasons."

Palestinian killed: Suspected Jewish gunmen killed a Palestinian in an ambush today and Palestinians defied Israeli troops occupying parts of an Arab town outside Jerusalem by firing mortar bombs at a Jewish settlement, adds Reuters.

On a West Bank road, northeast of Jerusalem, gunmen fired at a Palestinian car, killing one Palestinian and wounding two passengers, Israeli police said.

Asked on Army Radio if police suspected Jewish gunmen carried out the attack, Mr Shahar Ayalon, Israel's police chief in the West Bank, said: "That is the assessment."

Israeli radio stations said they received unconfirmed claims of responsibility from callers saying the attack was the work of Jewish gunmen avenging the death of a settler killed by Palestinians in a West Bank shooting on Monday.

Israeli officials have said they suspected a squad of Jewish militants carried out two fatal shooting attacks against Palestinians in the West Bank in June.

Palestinian officials said Israeli forces also killed a Palestinian policeman during an Israeli tank incursion in the southern Rafah area of the Gaza Strip and shot dead a Palestinian farmer near the West Bank town of Tulkarm.

The Israeli army had no immediate comment on the reported Rafah operation, which the Palestinian officials said, included a tank thrust several kilometres into Palestinian-ruled territory and the destruction of several security positions.

The army set up sandbag and concrete roadblocks on the main road between Rafah and nearby Khan Younis inside Palestinian-ruled territory, but let traffic pass.

THE STATESMAN

30 AUG 1981

Bush affirms stand on ABM pact

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 24. A day after the State Department and the White House vehemently denied that the United States had given any deadline to Russia on the 1972 Anti Ballistic Missile Treaty, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, had some plain words on the subject.

"I have no specific time-table in mind. We will withdraw from the ABM Treaty on our timetable, at a time convenient to America," Mr. Bush remarked in Crawford, Texas, during a visit to a local school.

The Under-Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security, Mr. John Bolton, raised a few eyebrows here and elsewhere when during a recent radio interview in Moscow he suggested that Washington and Moscow would have to come to terms with changes on the ABM Treaty failing which the United States may pull out of the pact.

The timeline Mr. Bolton appeared to have in mind was November when the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, trav-

els to Crawford for a summit with the U.S. President. The White House and the State Department strenuously rejected the notion that Mr. Bolton had set an "artificial deadline".

Now Mr. Bush's emphatic assertion that the U.S. will walk away from the ABM Treaty leaves only the timing for speculation. One argument has been that the President's statements along with that of his senior Cabinet members and officials is intended to nudge the Russians along into accepting changes to the 1972 Pact that reflects the post Cold War environment.

Another perception is that the U.S. is simply readying the Russians for the eventual pullout for, the Pentagon is expected to test the initial system by Spring next year. Which means that Washington will be giving the required six month notice of withdrawal some time in November, during or around Mr. Putin's visit.

In fact a major push to the Missile Defence plans of Mr. Bush is scheduled later on Friday when the President will be nominating his

next Joint Chiefs of Staff, a post that has to win Senate confirmation. All eyes and bets are on Air Force General Richard Myers, to replace Gen. Henry Shelton who steps down by the end of next month.

There are at least two things working to the advantage of Gen. Myers: he is a strong supporter of missile defence and had headed the Space Command; he is a former Commander of the Pacific Air Forces and was the Commander of American forces in Japan which makes him an East Asia hand. Both suit Mr. Bush very well given the President's emphasis on missile defence and his view of the Asia Pacific, notably that of Japan and China.

The Bush administration is being cautioned from the outside for trying to push the Russians too far on the Missile Defence to the point of totally alienating Mr. Putin who may now be inclined to see the larger perspective. Moving rapidly on the Missile Defence will also bring about more opposition from a country like China which has been totally opposed to the idea.

Changes of historic magnitude

THIRTY years ago American novelist Norman Mailer lyrically described that subtle moment when day slides into night: "And the afternoon takes a turn and is different having just passed through one of those unseen cracks of the day, everything is altered, not saying how." His words might serve as the rubric for what has been happening on the international scene in the past several weeks. Two major changes may have been set in motion, one recognised, the other less so. Both have to do with the role of the USA in the international arena as the 21st century begins to unfold.

In 1997 in Kyoto, Japan, most of the nations forged a preliminary agreement to reduce the mission of greenhouse gases which have been linked to global warming. This Kyoto Accord stipulated that the 38 industrialised nations which produce a preponderance of the world's greenhouse gases reduce their output by 2012 to 5.2 per cent below 1990 levels.

Shortly after assuming the US presidency this past January, following a contested and extremely close election, George W. Bush signalled that a new era of foreign policy was at hand. He declared that the USA would reject the Kyoto Accord and unilaterally withdraw from the collective effort to reduce greenhouse gases. American environmentalists were aghast. Equally concerned were the nations of the European Community, who saw the new President's posture as not only anti-environmental but also profoundly irresponsible, since the USA emits about 25 per cent of the global total of greenhouse gases.

Perhaps some of their leaders also saw the first hints of what has transpired since an American rejection of treaty obligations and a sharp swerve away from international cooperation. Developing nations saw the American recalcitrance as a particularly egregious example of imperialist arrogance.

President Bush, whose personal background was in the petrochemical business and whose major financial supporters came from that sector of the economy, was clearly protecting the energy industry's interests in a continuing, and highly profitable, upward spiral of energy consumption. Mr Bush was also protecting, for domestic political reasons, an American automobile industry dependent on the profitability of the American driver, whose devotion to big and energy-inefficient sports utility vehicles has allowed American industry in recent years to beat back foreign fuel-efficient automobiles. He protected, as well, corporate agriculture with its dependence on heavy use of chemical fertilisers and a consumer economy dependent on expanding sales of everything from toasters to air-conditioners, from DVD players to lawn mowers. Looking out for various American interest groups, for Mr Bush, trumped international cooperation; his defence of untrammelled consumption triumphed over addressing a major global problem.

Capitalism in general requires ever-expanding markets. This creates a troubling aspect to all American foreign policy, but Mr Bush's defence of old inefficient capitalist enterprises, instead of embracing, as the EU has done, the necessity for industrial changes, placed narrow American interests ahead of all global concerns.

Thus, it was not just his anti-environmentalism but his anti-globalism that worried America's traditional allies in Europe. Mr Bush was proposing - at the same time as he continually repeated the mantra of "free trade" he inherited from his predecessor, Bill Clinton - a new isolationism, in which America would look out for Americans, and the rest of the world be damned. (Developing nations were, perhaps, less surprised by this attitude than the developed nations in the EU.)

Mr Bush, like Mr Clinton before him, is influenced by the interests of multinational corporations. But in a true multinational economy - which has its own insidious dangers - global agreements make the world safe for economic exploitation. It seems Mr Bush wants such exploitation only on his own terms.

The European nations little knew what would emerge next from the new isolationists in the Bush Administration. But it did not take either the developed or developing nations long to find out what else these isolationists had in store. Mr Bush proposed to develop and deploy a new missile defence system, an enormously expensive, high technology "anti-missile shield", which its adherents said could protect the USA from missiles launched

The triple rejection of the Kyoto Accord, the UN draft accord on germ warfare and the ABM treaty very obviously signal a major shift toward self-centered isolationism by the Bush Administration. But another dynamic is also at work, writes HUCK GUTMAN

against its populace.

It was clear, from the moment the proposal was announced, that the anti-missile shield would in all likelihood launch a new arms race. If the system worked - a very large "if" - the USA could rain missiles down in any part of the world, resting secure that its adversary would not be able to respond in similar fashion. This imbalance of power, as history has shown, would likely lead other major powers to either match the American defence system or find new ways of delivering destructive payloads. Such a new arms race would exacerbate international tensions while it diverted government spending from social concerns to stockpiling armaments.

Yet even more ominous was a simple diplomatic fact: President Bush's proposed anti-missile shield would be in violation of the 29-year-old Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. Even the earliest tests of the possibility of this new missile defence, tests foreseen to take place in a number of months, would be violations of the ABM Treaty. It is true that this treaty allows for a nation to withdraw on six months' notice, but Mr Bush speaks not of withdrawing from the treaty but ignoring it.

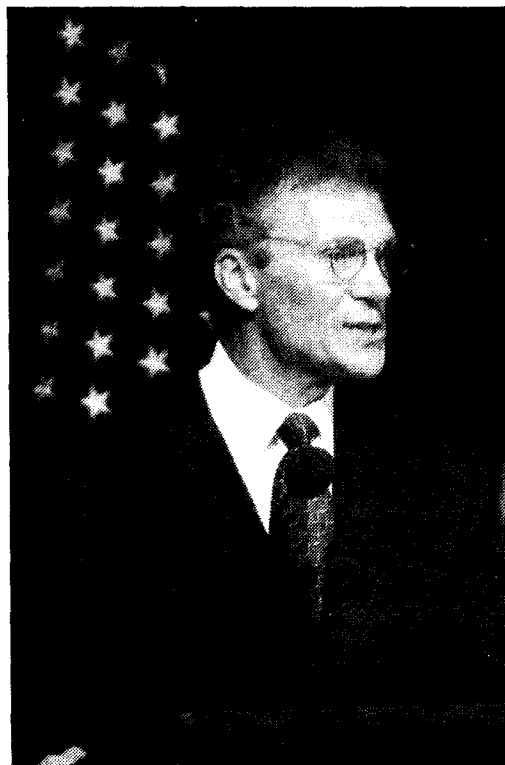
This unilateral abrogation of a negotiated major restraint on the arms race is nothing short of catastrophic. But, again, the Bush Administration seems unconcerned that world peace may be put at risk by its actions. Once again, America's needs come before international concerns, American wishes before global security.

The reversal of American international relations involved in this abrogation is a historic shift of monumental proportions. The basis of American foreign policy since 1945 has been treaty obligations, and the sacred nature of such agreements. While it is true that many of the most important treaties and partnerships, Nato and Seato chief among them, resulted from, and in turn exacerbated, the Cold War, nonetheless those treaties and obligations were the basis of a certain sort of international stability. Time and again American support and at times aggression were justified by a deep national commitment to uphold the sanctity of treaties.

Yet now, focused on ways to increase American defence spending, President Bush was - is - poised to throw out a treaty which preserved the world from an ever-escalating arms race. For almost three decades, the ABM pact used mutually assured destruction, a Machiavellian but seemingly effective threat, to assure an uneasy peace. A new arms race might well shift the balance of power in the world, which in turn could tragically lead one nation to attack another in the expectation that its aggression could not be countered.

Trying to salvage Mr Bush from the rather pathetic figure he cut at the recent economic summit in Genoa, Russian President Vladimir Putin made an unexpected statement. He declared, after a meeting with the American President, that Russia would think about reworking the 1972 ABM Treaty with Mr Bush if the latter would agree to talk about large cuts in stockpiles of nuclear armaments. But Condoleezza Rice, Mr. Bush's national security advisor, stressed that very same day that regardless of whether an agreement could be reached, the American President would "need to move forward at an appropriate time" and begin testing. The following day, Mr Bush himself confirmed that despite his seemingly amicable talk with Mr Putin, "time is of the essence", and that he would test the missile-shield technology whether or not the Russians and Americans reached a new accord. "Since I feel it so strongly, if we can't reach an agreement we're going to implement" the tests. Clearly, the President's "strong feeling" took precedence over treaty obligations.

Several days later, the Bush Administration rejected an agreement, hammered out at and by the United Nations, to append enforcement provisions to the 29-year-old treaty against



Senate majority leader Tom Daschle addressing the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, in the course of which he charged President Bush with a willingness to walk away from international agreements backed by America's allies during his first six months in office. - AP/PTI

germ warfare. Seven years in the making, the agreement provides for international inspection of suspected biological weapons sites. (One of the justifications for the bombing of Baghdad by President George Bush, Mr Bush's father, was that the Iraqis were producing chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction at uninspected sites. But that was Iraq: the USA, apparently, is a different matter.) "The draft protocol," claimed Donald Mahley, America's chief negotiator, "would put national security and confidential business information at risk." Thus did the Bush Administration sacrifice global security from biological weapons in a similar vein, the USA recently reject the international small-

arms control pact which would have curtailed illegal trafficking in such weapons.

The triple rejection of the Kyoto Accord, the UN draft accord on germ warfare and the ABM treaty are all bad news. They very obviously signal a major shift toward self-centered isolationism on the part of the Bush Administration.

But another dynamic is also at work, one which neither Mr Bush, nor national security advisor Rice, nor secretary of state Colin Powell, nor secretary of defense Donald Rumsfeld had anticipated. When a bully plays a game of football or cricket and says to the others on the field, "I'm not playing with you any more: this is my ball and I'm going home with it," the bully thinks the game is over. But it is always possible that the others on the field or pitch will find another ball and continue the game without the departed player.

This latter possibility is exactly what has come to pass. One hundred and seventy-eight nations signed a climate treaty based on the Kyoto Accord, an agreement that would for the first time require the industrialised countries to cut greenhouse gases. The nations involved had to make compromises, especially to make sure Japan, the largest economy after the USA, would join with the other nations in signing the treaty.

Although the agreement has a huge hole, since the 25 per cent of global emissions attributed to the USA are not included, the three dozen industrialised countries who signed nonetheless account for far greater greenhouse emissions, and these will

be reduced.

In its rush towards isolation, the USA has abdicated the mantle of leadership in the post-modern world. It may still be the most powerful of nations, but the combined force of the European Union has been augmented, especially as it provided the leadership the Americans were unwilling to assume. As an important American environmentalist, Philip Clapp of the National Environmental Trust, remarked, "There's really a new force on the world stage. If the United States will not lead, Europe can and will."

Echoing that statement in an even larger global context, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan described the result of the American rejection of the UN draft accord on germ warfare. The USA is "practically alone in opposition to agreements", he said, "that were broadly reached by just about everyone else". The combined nations of the world, and their legislature the United Nations, have left America sitting on the sidelines while significant moves toward a more harmonious and peaceful world are being crafted. And, having learned to play without the local bully, there is a chance that the next time the world neighborhood plays a game of cricket or soccer, other captains will choose the teams and decide the strategy.

Thus, it seems possible that the balance of global power has shifted. Not irretrievably, for the military and economic power of the USA should never be underestimated. But leadership plays an important role in global politics. The willingness of Europe and Japan to take the lead on issues of climate, when taken in conjunction with the near global unanimity which is producing an accord on biological weapons, indicates that if the USA States wants to abdicate - if it wants to take its ball away and go home - there are other nations who will lead, other nations who will assume responsibility for guaranteeing the future security of our globe.

(The author is Professor of English at the University of Vermont, USA, and author, with US Representative Bernard Sanders, of Outsider in the House.)

THE STATESMAN

20 AUG 2001

RUMSFELD FAILS TO CONVINCE RUSSIA

Existing system meets Russia's needs, "We feel no need for any pact: Ivanov"

BY CHARLES ALBINGER

Moscow, Aug. 13: Russia rejected calls by visiting US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Monday to abandon a landmark nuclear deterrence pact so that Washington could develop a missile defence.

Defence minister Sergei Ivanov told reporters Mr Rumsfeld had failed to convince him that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty preventing national missile defences should be scrapped.

"The existing, multi-layered system of strategic security which exists in the world today fully

meets Russian needs," Mr Ivanov said. "And we feel no compunction to leave... any treaty or accord which we currently have," he said.

He was speaking at a Kremlin news conference after a meeting with Mr Rumsfeld and Russian President Vladimir Putin. Mr Putin told reporters before the meeting that Moscow considered ABM closely linked to the Start-1 and Start-2 nuclear arms reduction treaties.

Russia wants to go far beyond the current Start-2 treaty which would cut the arsenals of each country by half to about 3,500 warheads.

Mr Putin said he was pleased the

two countries were proceeding with talks on last month's agreement between him and Mr Bush to link discussions on offensive and defensive nuclear systems.

"We hope that the high-level of Russian-US talks will lead to solutions in the field of offensive weapons and defensive systems," Mr Putin said. He said Russia needed answers from Washington on new and lower thresholds for the number of nuclear weapons on both sides, as well as suggestions on verification and transparency in cutting nuclear arsenals.

Mr Ivanov said verification would become a major issue once

offensive and defensive capabilities were linked.

"What we are trying to do is create a change, a whole new configuration in the US-Russian strategic relationship by looking at both offensive and defensive nuclear systems at the same time," he said. "But if you reduce nuclear confrontation and you start reducing nuclear warheads you will need verification, verification becomes that much more important."

But Mr Ivanov said that talks between the two sides could go on for some time. "I don't see any possible way we can take something that complicated and do it in

a couple of months," he added.

Mr Rumsfeld said he had discussed a wide range of topics with Mr Putin, including economy and terrorism, and that he had brought the Russian leader greetings from Mr Bush. He said Washington would have no trouble agreeing with Russia on verification of nuclear weapons cuts although Washington had not made any decision yet. "We have had over the decades a number of arrangements with the old Soviet Union that involved monitoring (of arms treaties) and we quite agree that transparency is highly desirable,"

he said. (Reuters)

ABM pact or not, NIMD stays: US

Moscow, Aug. 13: US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday that Russia and the US no longer needed nuclear deterrence pacts like the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty.

Mr Rumsfeld made it clear that Washington would go ahead with missile defence plans outlawed by the ABM pact despite Moscow's opposition.

"Here you have an agreement between two states that was developed in 1972 during the Cold War that has outlived its usefulness," he said at a meeting with Russian journalists.

"I am a simple soul. I think life is a lot simpler if we pick up and go on." Mr Rumsfeld is in Moscow for one-day talks with his Russian counterpart Sergei Ivanov on the US missile defence system and



POWER TALKS: US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld (right) and Russian defence minister Sergei Ivanov smile as they shake hands in Moscow on Monday. Mr Rumsfeld said on Monday that Russia and the US no longer needed nuclear deterrence pacts like the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty. (AP)

14 AUG 2001

MISSILE DEFENCE / RUMSFELD IN MOSCOW FOR TALKS

U.S. foresees tough negotiations

MOSCOW, AUG. 12. It is unrealistic to expect Russia to retreat any time soon from its position opposing a U.S. plan to deploy defences against long-range missiles, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld, said on Sunday. "It's a difficult road to travel," he said, referring to efforts to change the Russians' thinking.

Speaking to reporters travelling with him on an overnight flight from Washington, Mr. Rumsfeld gave no indication that he expected talks on Monday with the Russian Defence Minister, Mr. Sergei Ivanov, to produce an agreement on missile defences, offensive nuclear forces or any other security issues.

Monday's talks grew out of the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's meeting in Italy last month with his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin, in which they agreed to pursue parallel discussions on missile defence and nuclear force reductions. At the time it appeared the Russians might be warming up to Mr. Bush's view that missile defence testing and

deployment should not be limited by Cold War-era arms control treaties. But since then, there has been little indication of movement toward Mr. Bush's goal of getting Russia to agree on a mutual withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, which prohibits the kind of broad missile defence Mr. Bush says the United States must have as soon as the technology is ready.

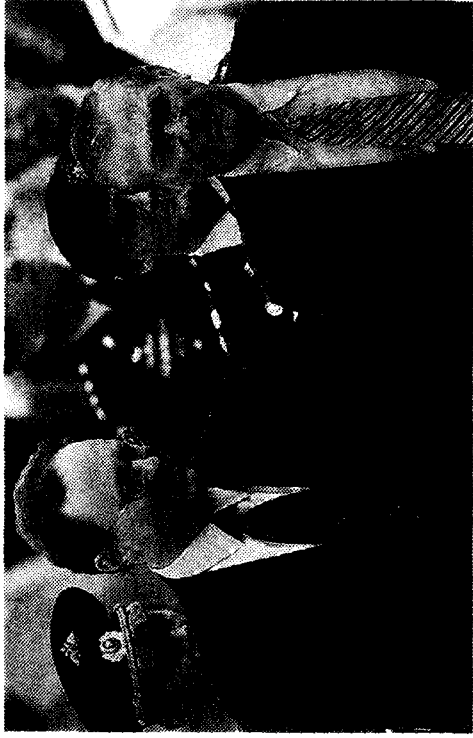
Mr. Rumsfeld said the Bush administration was attempting to forge a new, broader relationship with Russia and that this cannot be done quickly — even with regard to missile defence, which he views as a matter of some urgency. "It is not something that just happens," for two countries that considered each other enemies for more than four decades and still harbour some suspicions of each other, he said. "It takes some time."

He would not be drawn into saying how much he expected to accomplish in Moscow. He originally planned to hold two days of talks here but on Friday his office announced that the schedule —

which includes an afternoon cruise with Mr. Ivanov on the Moscow river — had been condensed into a single day. "You just don't know" what could be accomplished, he said, adding that it was enough to have an exchange of views with the Russians "and begin a process of going back and forth" with ideas. Mr. Rumsfeld said he was confident that the U.S. view on the need for missile defences will prevail eventually. "If you look ahead 10 years, I wouldn't be a bit surprised if the people of Russia had become fans of missile defence," he said. Later he added, "People's attitudes about this are going to change."

The basis of Russia's opposition is a concern that scrapping the ABM treaty could unravel the whole fabric of international arms control and that U.S. missile defences might one day undercut Russia's own nuclear deterrent.

Mr. Rumsfeld's Moscow talks are among a series of high-level U.S.-Russian contacts leading to Bush-Putin meetings in October in Shanghai and at Mr. Bush's



The U.S. Ambassador to Russia, Mr. Alexander Vershbow (left), and the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld, look on shortly upon Mr. Rumsfeld's arrival in Vnukovo airport, outside Moscow, on Sunday. — AP

ranch in Crawford, Texas, in November. Although Mr. Rumsfeld indicated there is no rush to reach an accommodation on missile defence and the ABM treaty, the administration is fast approaching the point where it will have to either scale back its testing programme in order to stay within the limits of the treaty or give six months notice of its intent to withdraw.

The administration said in July that its testing programme might come into conflict with the treaty as soon as next spring. — AP

THE HINDU

Bush mulls pact with Russia

S Rajagopalan
Washington, August 3

THE UNITED States now believes that it has a chance to work out a loose strategic framework with Russia for replacing the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty of 1972 and going ahead with its controversial missile defence plan.

"It is really our hope that we could conceivably replace the ABM Treaty with a new strategic framework that recognises the need for limited defences in this world," National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said in an interview to The Washington Times.

The next round of talks with Russia begins here next week. Rice, in another media interview, has gone on to say that in the event of a new framework, Russia could get American missile technology and possibly membership of the Northern Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) as well.

The US has been steadily



US PRESIDENT GEORGE BUSH

moderating its stance on the missile defence issue ever since President Bush's indications of a withdrawal from the ABM Treaty evoked widespread international criticism, notably from

its European allies.

Washington, however, has not abandoned its thoughts of walking out of the ABM. As Rice puts it, the US is against the idea of protracted negotiation

as it wants to get on with the development and deployment of the missile defence system "at the earliest possible date".

If the preferred course of working out a cooperative deal with Moscow does not materialise in good time, indications are that the US will withdraw from the ABM.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, during his recent talks with Bush in Genoa, has emphasised the need to bring down strategic offensive weapons while considering missile defence. He, however, has not indicated any dilution of the Russian position on the ABM Treaty.

Rice conceded during the interview that the robust testing and evaluation programme that has been drawn up could "run afoul of the treaty". The Bush administration has rejected the Clinton regime's cautious missile defence testing plan, forcing the Pentagon to restrict its tests within the confines of the ABM Treaty.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

4 AUG 2001

DIFFERENT FURROW

58 Bush strikes out on foreign policy 68

THE revisionist foreign policy President Bush is pursuing may turn out to be a lonelier furrow, as far as relations with Europe are concerned. Bush's refusal to cut US gas emissions in line with the Kyoto protocol proved a major sticking point during his Europe trip as well as the G-8 summit. While it may have seemed at one time that objections to the climate control protocol by the world's largest polluter would effectively kill it, it has been revived at Bonn by a deal worked out between the world's major industrial powers, the US excepted. This leaves the man known in Europe as the "toxic Texan" out on a limb. Another of his radical departures, however, may fare a little better — development of a national missile defence. The Bush strategy envisages deep cuts in nuclear weapons stockpiles, along with deployment of "Star Wars" type technologies to shoot down hostile missiles. European nations are divided about it, with France and Germany the most skeptical. But Bush has made some headway in persuading Vladimir Putin, NMD's principal international opponent, that ABM ought to be replaced with something new. If Bush can bring Putin on board, he should have less trouble with European objectors as well as Democratic opponents of the NMD.

The trouble is, however, that the joint statement with Putin on nuclear issues was obtained after the diplomatic equivalent of putting a gun to his head — he was told by Condoleezza Rice, the US national security adviser, that Washington would unilaterally abrogate the ABM treaty if Moscow didn't go along. If the ABM treaty is to be torn up, it is a good idea to put a new treaty in place — Putin's idea of reducing nuclear stockpiles to 1,500 missiles each side sounds like a workmanlike proposal. The dangers of pursuing a unilateralist "Fortress America" type policy are obvious — if other countries are persuaded to tear up treaties and accords whenever it suits them, that cannot be in America's best interests. Sweden's centre-left prime minister, Goran Persson, has called for a strong Europe to counterbalance US global hegemony — Bush should read that as a warning.

Starry-eyed about missile defence

48 HD-16 2 2/7

IT IS now a near certainty that whether the missile defence system of the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, works or not, it will go ahead. And the hawks are hoping that at least a rudimentary system can be put in place in about three years. It may be a tall order and Mr. Bush may not even be around as President to see it fulfilled, but that is the thinking in some quarters.

The Republican administration is adamant on missile defence for it is one of the few things that Candidate Bush pushed for at least two years — that the answer to the so-called rogue states is development of a “defensive” mechanism to protect not only the U.S. but also its friends and allies. That many of the latter do not wish to be a part of this is a different matter.

The administration appears to care even less that going ahead with the missile defence system could be a unilateral abrogation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty that Russia is so keen to keep in the books. “I have made it very clear that the ABM Treaty... we need to set it aside, we need to move forward,” Mr. Bush said on the eve of his second trip to Europe.

Part of the conservative thinking on the ABM Treaty stems from a perception that legally the U.S. is not bound by it since the Soviet Union is not around. But the crux of Mr. Bush’s argument is that the 1972 Treaty is an anachronism and has outlived its utility of the Cold War era.

Asked how long the ABM Treaty will be around, he was less clear and pointed: “It’s a new day. New leaders, younger leaders no longer wedded to the Cold War past need to think differently as to how to address the true threats of the 21st century.” One of the premises of this Republican administration is that somehow allies and friends can be won over — through a process of consultation — and that Moscow can be convinced that it is longer the “enemy.”

At the Group of Eight meet in Genoa, Italy, the agenda was not just economics; it included missile defence and global warming, where Europeans have serious differences with the U.S. But Mr. Bush was convinced that he was not going to be the one changing his mind.

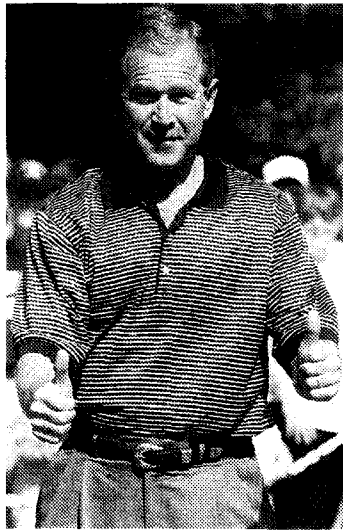
What the Bush administration has not fully grasped is the Russian and the European insistence that the ABM Treaty is still the bedrock of arms control arrangements and that it prohibits the development of “defensive” sys-

On missile defence, the U.S. administration believes that somehow or the other its allies can be won over and Moscow convinced it is no longer the enemy.

Sridhar Krishnaswami reports.

tems. The fear in many quarters is that going ahead with the missile defence system will mean endangering the strategic stability of the last 30 years; and as such it is adamantly opposed by Russia and China.

Mr. Bush, however, sees it differently. “We should not adhere



Mr. George W. Bush... confident of pulling it off.

to a treaty that prevents the U.S. and other freedom loving people from developing defences — not offensive weapons, but defences,” he said recently.

And hardline Republicans had a lot to cheer about last weekend when “a bullet hit a bullet” over the Pacific in what was a critical first test of the missile defence programme under the Bush administration. Two out of the earlier three tests had failed during the Clinton Presidency and the Democratic President wisely took the political choice of leaving it to his successor to determine whether the programme should stay or be abandoned. Needless to say, there are literally billions of dollars riding on the programme that vested interests would most certainly not want to give up.

There was a lot going on last week’s test, not just from a technology point of view, although it did not mean that another failure would have doomed the project. The Bush Presidency had made it known that it was bent on pursuing an accelerated testing programme “regardless” of the outcome. And the “success” has left the Pentagon looking for more

tests in the future, perhaps even more complicated ones.

The international dimension to the missile defence programme does not involve the Europeans alone — the Canadians are not exactly thrilled about the U.S. being on the verge of walking away from the ABM Treaty; and Japan has not yet said anything positive or substantive. The Japanese would rather be content with the cooperation that is presently there on theatre missile defence.

But a Republican White House is not merely facing some angry noises from Russia, China and Europe. Even in the conservative camp, questions are being raised on the viability of the programme; and Democrats are up in arms over what may be in store in proceeding with the project. The changed political realities on Capitol Hill with the Democrats being the “majority” in the Senate mean that the administration will have to do more listening.

Some of the Democrats are convinced that unilaterally abandoning the ABM Treaty will have two fallouts — worsen relations with Moscow and Beijing and lead to a new arms race which would have a debilitating effect. Others want to know from where the Bush White House is going to come up with the money. The argument of the administration that “it’s all there” cuts little ice, especially with the Democrats on the Hill.



Protesters in front of the U.S. Embassy in Tokyo... opposition to America’s missile defence plans is widespread.

Blair veering around to U.S. view on NMD?

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JULY 20. In his most explicit public endorsement yet of the controversial U.S. nuclear missile defence shield programme, the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair on Thursday agreed with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush that "new and imaginative solutions" were needed to cope with the threat from the so-called "rogue" States. And, in return, he won swift approval from Mr. Bush for his willingness to "think anew" unlike those who tended to reject new ideas "out of hand".

At a press conference after their meeting at Chequers during Mr. Bush's first formal visit to Britain, the two leaders repeatedly spoke of the "strong" and "special" relationship between their countries in what appeared to be an attempt to play down the perception that U.S.-British relations had lost their intensity after the departure of Mr. Bill Clinton.

Mr. Bush, in particular, was at his effusive best saying he and Mr. Blair, whom he simply called Tony, had pledged to keep the relationship "as special as possible". He praised Mr. Blair for being "more than willing to listen" to the "philosophy" behind the U.S. administration's move to get rid of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) which, he repeated,

trusting Mr. Blair's "positive" response with that of the project's critics, Mr. Bush remarked: "The Prime Minister has been very positive but some people reject new thought out of hand. I will stay in touch with Tony as to what is going on, but he has been a great person with whom to deal on this issue."

Mr. Bush's one-day visit on his way to Genoa for the G-8 summit, where he is likely to face some awkward questions on defence and environmental issues, was officially hailed as a "success". The U.S. President oozed charm, declaring that he was only a "phone call away" if Mr. Blair needed his help on Northern Ireland — an issue in which Mr. Clinton had taken a deep interest. "People should be in no doubt where my Government stands, side by side with Britain when it comes to de-commissioning of terrorist weapons," he said, declaring his support for Mr. Blair's efforts to get the IRA to disarm.

A highpoint of Mr. Bush's itinerary was a lunch that he, his wife Laura and daughter Barbara had with the Queen. The last time he dined with her was when his father was President and his mother had introduced him as the family's "black sheep". He was ordered to sit at the far end of the table. On Thursday, he was the



The British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair (right), shakes hands with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, after a media conference at RAF Halston, on Thursday. — AFP

ident Bush is right to raise the issue of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and say that it needs new and imaginative solutions because it is a huge threat facing the whole of the world." Commentators saw it as a clear indication that the Blair Government was moving towards backing the programme. Con-

had lost its relevance in the post-Cold War era.

Mr. Blair, when quizzed by journalists, was non-committal on ABM but on the missile defence programme, to which there is strong opposition not only in Europe but within his own Government, he said: "I want to say this and say it clearly. I think Pres-

ident Bush is right to raise the issue of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and say that it needs new and imaginative solutions because it is a huge threat facing the whole of the world." Commentators saw it as a clear indication that the Blair Government was moving towards backing the programme. Con-

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Bush denies 'isolationist' charge

London, July 19

GEORGE W Bush kicked off his second trip to Europe today with cultural events in London, battling charges of isolationism before talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Bush, who faces criticism at the G-8 summit for his policies on global warming and missile defence, rejected attacks from home by a senior Democratic leader who accused him of leading an isolationist foreign policy.

"We are not retreating with-

in our borders," the US President told reporters in London. "I will continue to stand for what I think is right for our country and the world." He was responding to comments by Senate majority leader Tom Daschle, a Democrat from South Dakota, who told the USA Today: "I think we are isolating ourselves, and in so isolating ourselves I think we are minimising ourselves."

Bush was speaking at the Reading Room of the British Museum, where he and his wife, Laura, read to children during a morning of cultural

events. This was followed by a tour of the Cabinet War Rooms in the basement of the Treasury Building.

At the British Museum, Bush said: "The Reading Room is spectacular. Did you know they have a book there where people signed in to read there? Karl Marx, Lenin, Mark Twain and now George W Bush." Bush said he had specifically asked to visit the Cabinet War Rooms because Winston Churchill was one of his heroes. "He was one of the fascinating leaders," Bush said.

Later, the Bushes were

greeted at Buckingham Palace by Queen Elizabeth.

He is then scheduled to meet Blair and address a joint news conference at Chequers, the Prime Minister's official country residence.

Topics of discussion were likely to include Bush's missile defence programme, America's rejection of the Kyoto accord on global warming, increasing violence in West Asia, the situation in the Balkans and efforts to implement the peace accord in Northern Ireland.

Reuters



US President George W Bush reviews the 1st Battalion of the Devonshire and Dorset Regiment Guard of Honour at Buckingham Palace, London, on Thursday.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

ABT, KYOTO / U.S. TO DELINEATE POLICY AT GENOA

Bush rules out change in stance

19/7

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JULY 18. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, who arrived here today on his first state visit to Britain, has ruled out a change in his administration's pursuit of the nuclear defence shield programme and its rejection of the Kyoto treaty on climate change — the two issues that have ruffled feathers in Europe. For Britain, however, there was good news: he supported the British Government's efforts to save the Northern Ireland peace process saying the IRA must start disarm-

ing. Mr. Bush would spend two days here before flying out to Genoa for the G-8 Summit where he is expected to face some tough questions both on NMD and the Kyoto treaty. "We'll have frank discussions, but I will just tell people what I think in a way that is forthright and transparent", he told the British media in Washington before leaving for Britain. He said he would not let the differences come in the way of the "larger picture".

Mr. Bush reiterated that the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM)

treaty had lost its relevance in the post-Cold War era and he wanted to "get rid" of it. "We need to set it aside. We need to move forward", he told the BBC arguing that what the world needed now was a defence against "rogue" states. In an interview to *The Times*, he said the threats which the ABM addressed no longer existed. The proposed NMD, he asserted, would create a more peaceful world as the shield would cover the U.S. allies as well. "We have to have the capacity to shoot somebody's missile down if they threaten us... I firmly believe it's the right thing to do to keep the peace." He assured Russia that it had nothing to fear. "As Russia looks West, she has no enemies, as long as I am President... Russia is no longer our nation's enemy and therefore, we should not view each other with suspicion", he told the paper.

In Britain, the project has provoked a strong reaction and the Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, has been urged not to allow U.S. to use the British intelligence facilities at the Menwith Hill base in North Yorkshire and at Fyling-



A demonstrator wearing a mask on Wednesday in Bonn, Germany, to protest against the climate summit that begins on Friday. — AP

known. Mr. Bush said he expected the issue to come up during his talks with Mr. Blair and he would explain his administration's position. On the Kyoto treaty, which the U.S. has rejected creating a future in Europe, he said his administration supported the goals of the treaty — reducing gas emissions which add to global warming — but favoured different means to achieve them.

In his BBC interview, he ruled out any change in his administration's opposition to the treaty. During his stay here he would have an audience with the Queen whom he met once when his father was President. Commentators said Mr. Bush's visit would be a more formal affair than his predecessor, Mr. Bill Clinton's visits.

"The itinerary contrasts sharply with visits by his predecessor. The Blairs and the Clintons were famously relaxed in each other's company and enjoyed dining out at fashionable restaurants", one newspaper said recalling that on his first visit, Mr. Clinton even sat on a Cabinet meeting.

Missile intercepted in successful test

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 15. In what is seen as a major boost to the President, Mr. George W. Bush's plan for a National Missile Defence (NMD) system, the Pentagon announced that the first of a "hit-to-kill" technology of the Republican administration had its success over the Pacific.

The Defence Department here confirmed that an interceptor soared into space from an atoll in the Pacific and destroyed its target 224 km above the surface of the Earth. "The early indication we have is that everything worked", said Lt. Gen. Ronald Kadish of the Air Force and Director of the Pentagon's missile defence programmes.

The Bush administration had been watching Saturday's key test with great interest even while making the point that its accelerated testing programme of a National Missile Defence will go on regardless. The technological aspects of the successful test aside, politically the administration gets a boost, for the Congressional Democrats were not only sceptical of the planned tests but also making the point that it would harm relations with Russia and China and lead to a new arms race.

Of the three previous tests in 1999 and 2000, only one succeeded; and the failure of the last one a year ago prompted the then President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to delay a final decision on the missile defence network. On July 8 last year, the interceptor failed to meet its target after it failed to separate from its rocket booster.

Mr. Clinton left the decision to the next administration. And one of the major foreign policy items on the Bush agenda was pursuing the missile defence system that would take care of not only the 50 States of America but also allies and friends overseas.

On Saturday, the Pentagon was following with bated breath the

outcome of the test over the Pacific.

The interceptor missile was launched from Kwajalein Atoll some 21 minutes after its target, a modified Minuteman Two intercontinental range missile with a mock warhead was dispatched from a launchpad some 8,000 km away at Vandenberg Air Force

Base in California. The collision resulted in an enormous white flash that was monitored both in the Pentagon and in the Mission Control room in Kwajalein Atoll.

The next scheduled test is in October and indications are that the Pentagon may be adding some complexities deliberately such as more decoys with a view

to fooling the missile interceptor.

The Bush administration's first test on Saturday is only one in a series that officials say will hopefully produce a broad defence against long range missiles by the year 2004.

The Bush administration is asking Congress some \$ 8.3 billions for research on the missile defence and testing for the year 2002.

This is a \$ 3-billion increase in allocation for this year. Saturday's test is estimated to have cost \$ 100 millions.

The Pentagon has made it known that acceleration of the programme also would mean additional tests — between four and six over the next 18 months.

The accelerated programme has come under strong criticism at home and abroad.

Moscow angry

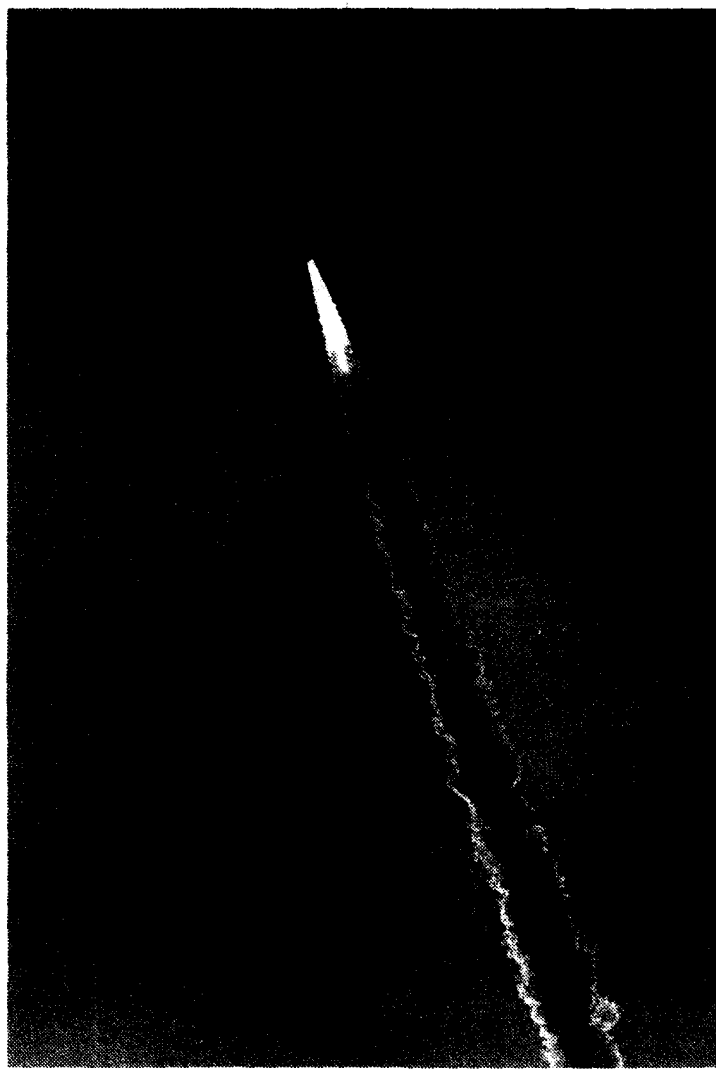
PTI reports:

Russia on Sunday strongly reacted to the U.S. test launch of the missile defence system saying it could jeopardise all previous agreements on nuclear disarmament.

This test is "yet another step towards emergence of a threat to the global arms control and non-proliferation architecture based on international treaties," the Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Alexander Yakovenko, said.

"The Russian side confirms its position on the utmost need to preserve and strengthen the Anti-Ballistic Missile agreement, and is prepared to discuss all the arising problems in accordance with its role (as a signatory of) this cornerstone treaty," he said in a statement.

A highly placed Russian Foreign Ministry source said Russia has "full capability to annihilate the hundreds of billion dollars worth U.S. NMD at a fraction of the cost, while it poses a lethal threat to 'modest' Chinese nuclear potential. This would force Beijing to take counter-measures".



A modified Minuteman II missile, the "target vehicle", leaves a vapour trail shortly after lift-off from Vandenberg Air Force Base to be intercepted by a "kill vehicle" missile launched from an atoll in the South Pacific, on Saturday. — AFP

U.S. to hold missile defence test

WASHINGTON, JULY 7. For the first time since a failed missile defence test a year ago, the Pentagon will try to shoot down a mock warhead high over the Pacific on July 14 using a prototype interceptor, officials said.

The test, a virtual replay of the failed interception, will be the fourth attempt to shoot down a long-range missile with a high-speed interceptor. Two previous attempts failed. A third, successful test was called flawed by missile critics. Unlike the case with the high-pressure test last July, which the then President, Mr. Bill Clinton, cited in deferring initial construction on a missile shield, the Pentagon is playing down the importance of the new launching,

saying the Bush administration will move forward with the programme regardless of the outcome.

Still, another failure could strengthen the hand of critics in Congress who have accused the Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald H. Rumsfeld, of trying to rush a system into operation before it has been proven effective.

Mr. Rumsfeld has requested increasing missile defence spending by \$3 billions, to \$8.3 billions. Most of that would be for research and development. Full production of a ground-based anti-missile system would cost much more than \$60 billions. The Pentagon is also testing air-and sea-based missile defences.

The new test, delayed by several months while the Pentagon combed the system for flaws, is scheduled to begin shortly after 9 p.m., when a Minuteman II ballistic missile carrying a dummy warhead and a Mylar decoy balloon will be launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in Southern California. About 20 minutes later, an interceptor missile with a prototype "kill vehicle" will be fired from Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands, 7,680 km away.

If all goes according to plan, the kill vehicle will separate from its booster, home in on the mock warhead using heat-seeking sensors and crash into it at a speed of 7,250 kmph, destroying itself and the warhead. — *New York Times*

Pentagon sets missile intercept test

Washington, July 7

AFTER MONTHS of delay, the Pentagon said on Friday it will attempt to shoot down a missile outside the Earth's atmosphere on July 14, the first missile defence test of its kind since a failed intercept one year ago.

A modified Minuteman II intercontinental ballistic missile carrying a mock warhead and a single decoy will be launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, and about 20 minutes later an interceptor missile carrying a prototype "kill vehicle" will launch from Kwajalein Atoll in the central Pacific.

If all goes as planned the "kill vehicle" — a computer-guided device with its own sensors —

PENTAGON UNSURE ON MACEDONIA

THE PENTAGON has not yet decided what specific forces it would contribute in the event NATO troops get involved in disarming ethnic Albanian rebels in Macedonia, a spokesman said on Thursday. Rear Admiral Craig Quigley, speaking for Defence Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld, said that NATO itself has not yet decided the time is right to begin the disarming effort. Nor has the alliance assembled a force for that mission.

AP, Washington

will crash into the ICBM about 10 minutes later about 140 miles above the Pacific Ocean, disintegrating the target by the force of impact.

The decoy aboard the ICBM is meant to challenge the interceptor's sensors, which are designed to distinguish between warheads and decoys. Critics of missile defense say this is one of

the hardest engineering challenges for the interceptor — to defeat simple measures to fool the sensors. Also involved in the test will be a satellite-based missile warning system, a ground-based early warning radar, a prototype X-band radar on Kwajalein Atoll and a battle management system at Colorado Springs. The July 14 test will not

have as much at stake, politically, as last July's effort, which was the second consecutive failure. Based in part on that record, President Clinton announced last September 1 that anti-missile technologies were not sufficiently advanced in testing to commit to deploying a missile defense.

But President Bush took office in January promising to pursue a more ambitious anti-missile program, and his proposed 2002 defense budget provides \$8.3 billion for missile defense research and testing — a nearly 40% increase over this year.

The previous intercept tests have cost about \$100 million each. The Pentagon announced no price tag for the next one.

AP

US sanctions against Taliban to continue

Washington, July 3: President George W. Bush on Monday issued an order maintaining economic sanctions against Afghanistan and its ruling Taliban movement for giving Saudi militant Osama Bin Laden a safe haven.

Mr Bush signed an executive order continuing a sanctions policy originally begun by the Clinton administration two years ago, after the bombing of two US embassies in East Africa, which the United States has blamed on Bin Laden.

"The Taliban continues to allow territory under its control in Afghanistan to be used as a safe haven and base of operations for Osama Bin Laden and the Al Qaeda organisation who have committed, and threaten to continue to commit, acts of violence against the United States and its nationals," Mr Bush wrote in a statement released by the White House.

The order freezes all property of the Taliban in the United States and prohibits trade by Americans involving the territory of Afghanistan controlled by the Taliban.

The decision came after Washington warned the Taliban movement on Friday that they would bear responsibility for any attack on US interests by Bin Laden.

The US ambassador to Pakistan, William Milam, delivered the warning during an hour-long meeting at the Taliban embassy in Islamabad, Taliban Ambassador Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef said last week. (Reuters)

SECRET

US cancels meet with Palestinians

Jerusalem, May 30: Senior US diplomats called off a meeting with Palestinian negotiators on Wednesday in retaliation for a Palestinian official's refusal to attend separate Israeli-Palestinian security talks.

Palestinian officials said that the US ambassador to Israel Martin Indyk and US Consul-General in Jerusalem Ron Schlicher informed the Palestinians that the meeting, to discuss the recommendations of a commission led by former US Senator George Mitchell, would not be held on Wednesday as planned.

Meanwhile a report from Ramallah said an explosion levelled a two-storey residence in the Palestinian-ruled West Bank city of Ramallah on Monday night, killing a man and a boy, witnesses said.

Sources at the scene said that apparently two men wanted by Israel were making an explosive device in the two-family building when it blew up. The police would not confirm this version. (Reuters)



FACE TO FACE: Russian President Vladimir Putin meets Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in the Kremlin in Moscow on Tuesday. Mr Arafat held talks in Moscow seeking broader international backing after Washington launched a new peace initiative to try to end eight months of Arab-Israeli violence. (Reuters)

Papal envoys go to Israel

Vatican City, May 30: Pope John Paul has dispatched two senior envoys to Jerusalem to meet Israeli and Palestinian leaders to try to broker a ceasefire in their conflict, the Vatican said on Wednesday.

A statement said the envoys would meet Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat.

The envoys, including Cardinal Pio Laghi, a seasoned diplomat, would hand the two leaders a personal letter from the Pope.

The aim of their mission was to "encourage both sides to reach a ceasefire and to resume a dialogue." At least 449 Palestinians, 90 Israelis and 13 Israeli Arabs have been killed since the Palestinians launched an uprising against Israeli occupation eight months ago. (Reuters)

EMBASSY BOMBING / PROSECUTORS SEEK DEATH PENALTY FOR TWO

U.S. court convicts four Osama aides

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 30. Four men were convicted on Tuesday of a plot to kill Americans around the world, including the bombing of two Embassies in Africa in 1998 which left 224 people dead. Two of them may now face the death penalty for their role in the bombings.

After 12 days of deliberations, the jury in the New York trial of the associates of Osama bin Laden returned a 302 count indictment. The onus is now on the federal prosecutors to convince the jury why two out of the four men should be put to death for the killing of 224 persons, including 12 Americans in the twin bombings in Kenya and Tanzania. Thousands were injured in the blast. "Taking into account what these men have done, they should have to pay. They should be hanged," said the Director of Criminal Investigation of Tanzania, Mr. Adadi Rajabu.

Attorneys for the two men facing the death penalty have argued that while their clients were involved in the bombings, their roles were quite minimal compared to the other defendants. The FBI pointed out that the Saudi citizen, Mohammed Rashed Daoud al-Owaidi and the Tanzanian, Khalifan Khamis Mohammed, had confessed to the bombing with the Saudi national admitting to riding in the truck carrying the bomb to the Embassy in Nairobi and throwing hand grenades at the security guards. Mohammed, who was arrested in South Africa and extradited to the U.S., apparently told investigators that he had rented the house used to build the bomb for blasting the mission in Tanzania, loaded the bomb on to the truck and rode some distance to the target.

The jury's verdict is the first conviction in the U.S. for crimes masterminded by Osama bin Laden. The U.S. attorney, Ms. Mary Jo White, called the Tuesday verdicts a "triumph



A United States Marine talks with an FBI investigator in front of the damaged U.S. Embassy in the Tanzanian capital Dar es Salaam in this Aug. 15, 1998 file photo.

for world justice and for world unity in combating terrorism".

The U.S. is trying to make the point that there will be no let up in its efforts to apprehend Bin Laden who is seen as the main mastermind for several acts of terrorism, including the attack on the USS Cole last October. The U.S. has a \$5 million reward for Bin Laden who is now suspected to be in Afghanistan. The ruling Taliban regime in Kabul has said that the convictions over the bombings were unfair and vowed not to hand over Bin Laden.

Meanwhile, even as the death penalty is being sought for two of the convicted, a court in South Africa has ruled that as illegal the extra-

Taliban not to hand over Osama

KABUL, MAY 30. Afghanistan's ruling Taliban today said the New York convictions of four men in the bombing of U.S. embassies in Africa were "unfair" and vowed never to hand over Osama 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," Mr. 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," Mr. Himat told the AP in Kabul.

A New York jury yesterday convicted four of bin Laden's followers of a global conspiracy to murder Americans, including the 1998 bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa that killed 224 people and injured thousands of others.

The Taliban says it will not hand Osama bin Laden over because the U.S. has no evidence proving his links to terrorism.

"America is using the issues of terrorism, drugs and human rights as an excuse against Afghanistan," Mr. Himat said.— AP

Russia's call to Pak.

By Vladimir Radyuhin
MOSCOW, MAY 30. A senior Russian security official has called on the international community to make

Pakistan stop meddling in Afghanistan and give up support for the Taliban regime.

The Itar-Tass news agency quoted Mr. Vladimir Rushailo, Secretary of the Security Council, as saying that the international community should put pressure on Islamabad to make it "stop interference in Afghanistan's internal affairs and cease material financial and political support for the Taliban, which sponsors terrorist organisations".

Mr. Rushailo was speaking at an all-Russia conference on national security problems. This is the first time a senior Kremlin official has publicly accused the Pakistani ruling establishment of propping up the Taliban regime. Until now, Moscow accused "certain quarters in Pakistan" of giving such support. According to Itar-Tass, the Russian security chief said the post-Soviet Collective Security Treaty should play an important part in efforts to get Pakistan to renounce support for the Taliban.

"Terrorism in its various manifestations is one of the main threats to this country's national security," Mr. Rushailo said. Earlier this month, the leaders of the Collective Security Treaty member-States decided to set up a rapid reaction force in Central Asia to fight the threat of Islamic violence spreading from Afghanistan.

PRESIDENT Bush's visit to Europe, his first since he became President, sets the tone for relations between America and Europe over the next few years. His was a carefully measured itinerary: major European capitals were excluded in favour of others where a good reception was guaranteed, liberalising Poland was included, and, more strikingly, a meeting with President Putin was slotted into the programme.

Thus continuity and change were both emphasised during the visit, and though the alliance partners maintain their primacy in American thinking, as Europe changes, so, too, do the emphases in US policy. This does not make for an untroubled relationship. The many demonstrations against the President and the critical reception given him by much of the European media point to difficulties ahead. Partly, this derives from a negative European perception of Mr Bush himself. He has hardly ever visited that continent and the commentaries have drawn repeated attention to his lack of knowledge of foreign countries. His unilateralism on a number of major issues has led to his being caricatured as a cowboy – these are issues on which there is often a wide divergence between America and Europe.

Beyond that is the perception that with Mr Bush there may be the dawning of a real shift in American priorities from the Atlantic to the Pacific, from Europe to Asia – a periodic European concern but possibly more relevant in today's circumstances than in the past. Europe also seems more ready to stand up for itself and not follow the American lead, now that the EU institutions have acquired strength. Thus many questions came into focus as Mr Bush journeyed through Europe.

Perhaps, the most highly charged of the current issues is that of the environment. America and Europe have vastly different responses to the Kyoto Protocol of 1997 that legislates for restraints on greenhouse gas emission. This was not ratified by the US Senate and has now been rejected by Mr Bush.

However, Europe subscribes to it and Green sentiment is strong. Some of the sharpest hostile demonstrations that Mr Bush had to face attacked him on this issue. Not that they made any substantive difference. There is nothing to indicate that America can be pushed into modifying its opposition to Kyoto.

In American comments on the subject, European hypocrisy is exposed, for none of the EU countries has yet ratified the Protocol or instituted effective measures in conformity with its requirements.

Bush in Europe

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24/6

WIDE ANGLE

SALMAN HAIDAR



President George W Bush (left) walks with Russian President Vladimir Putin after meeting for the first time in Ljubljana, Slovenia, on Saturday. – AP/PTI

Thus, these two main sources of industrial pollution seem to be expending more energy in belittling each other than on the substantive issue.

No less divisive is the NMD, the US

plan for a National Missile Defence. European stalwarts France and Germany, and some of the smaller countries, have publicly opposed it. But others within the EU and elsewhere in Europe have proved more

100 YEARS AGO

TODAY

JUNE 24, 1901

THE FOURTH GRACE PWD ACCOUNTS EXAMINATION

SIR, Not long ago one of your correspondents struck a note of warning for the benefit of prospective candidates for the "Annual Farce", in connexion with the PWD Accounts. I regret I cannot refrain from appearing for the examination now as the warning has come too late. In a printed notification which is issued to would be candidates (and also appears in the Calcutta Gazette of May 1st), it is stated: "Candidates will not be examined in any of the Calcutta Office." A couple of paras lower down: "The candidate should apply to an Examiner of Public Works Accounts ... and obtain his consent to conduct the examination if examined at the college is not convenient." The italics are mine.

On my applying to the Examiner P.W.D. Accounts Bengal, and asking to be examined at Calcutta under his supervision, examination at the College being decidedly inconvenient for me (I am a mofussil resident), I am told that I "will have to appear at Seebpore, as under the rules candidates will not be examined in any of the Calcutta Offices." What of the exception? Candidates for the Secretariat Offices are examined at Calcutta by the Board of Examiners and there seems to be no reason why the Accounts Examination cannot be held at Calcutta, too. The fee is the same - Rs 10 (and is hardly a modest one), Yours, etc., ACCOUNTANT. Jamalpore, June 21.

amenable, at least to the extent that they have shown readiness to discuss the issue. The fact that Europe has not been unitedly hostile will give a boost to this American initiative. Mr Bush made no secret of his belief that the EU should be expanded. This led to some grumbling asides from European interlocutors to the effect that this was a matter for Europe, not for America, to decide. But in itself it is nothing contentious, for expansion is already well under way. Perhaps, what was being hinted at is that the present snails pace needs speeding up. The expansion of Nato, too, was called for in the near future. This creates no problems in the West, which is already committed to this course, but is viewed with great suspicion by Russia. Now that there is no further military confrontation to sustain, Russia finds it difficult to see why Nato must expand up to the Russian doorstep.

European unhappiness at America's readiness to impose capital punishment has become an emotional divide between the two sides of the Atlantic. Mr Bush's personal record as someone who has not stood in the way of the death sentence attracts much European condemnation. Yet despite this and other smaller problems, the visit went well enough. Mr Bush made his points, his European allies saw a new US President in action, and both sides were concerned to affirm their steadfastness towards each other.

The meeting with Mr Putin had an altogether different resonance. The Cold War may be over but Russia and America do not see eye to eye on basic defence questions, such as the Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty, the NMD and the expansion of Nato. Russian policy and practice in Chechnya, on the freedom of the media, on human rights and democracy have vocal critics in the West. The two leaders could well have been at cross purposes when they met. But it turned out quite differently.

They clearly warmed to each other and set in motion a process of high-level consultation on the issues between them. Mr Bush looked deep into Mr Putin and liked what he saw, finding him trustworthy. The prejudice of generations is not easily dispelled and Mr Bush has been accused of naivete.

But face-to-face summit meetings can have dramatic results. It may not be too much to hope that the forthcoming meeting between Mr Vajpayee and General Musharraf can have a comparable outcome. Each would face domestic disparagement for any softening before the other, but unless they can find a personal connection to encourage them, their summit will achieve little.

(The author is a former Foreign Secretary.)

THE STATESMAN

'RELATIONS WITH INDIA, CHINA NO ZERO-SUM GAME'

We welcome India's thinking differently: U.S.

By Malini Parthasarathy

WASHINGTON, JUNE 19. The U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and his advisers are clearly pleased with the Indian Government's apparent willingness to listen with an open mind to his proposals on a new strategic framework for international security, a response that contrasts with the scepticism and uncertainty that marks a good part of the European reaction. "My impression is that India is one of the countries in the world prepared to think differently about the strategic environment and the role of defences in nuclear deterrence... it's a very welcome development," President Bush's National Security Adviser, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, said here on Monday.

During a conversation in her office at the White House, Dr. Rice noted that while India "has not said that it supports missile defence", it had certainly shown that it was "prepared to think differently". She also made clear that it was not that the United States was seeking support on this issue. "We are not asking that people do that... it's not that we have asked for support, nor has anyone agreed to anything specifically." Asked whether India's opinion really mattered, given that it was more crucial for the United States to be able to persuade Europe which was far more relevant to the actual implementation of the new American strategy, Dr. Rice said emphatically: "The President doesn't see it that way... India counts."

Explaining why that was the case, the U.S. National Security Adviser said that the President saw the context of his new strategic framework for international security more in terms of ensuring that "peace-loving countries ought to have the capabilities against ballistic missiles" from "rogue" nations. India, along with Spain, Poland



Dr. Condoleezza Rice (file photo)

and Britain had shown a willingness "to think differently" about the international strategic framework. That was indeed welcome, she said.

Before her current incarnation as National Security Adviser in this administration, Dr. Rice had argued in an influential article in the January 2000 issue of the journal *Foreign Affairs*, detailing the foreign policy priorities of a prospective Bush administration that, among other things, the United States ought to pay closer attention to India's role in the Asian regional balance. She had noted then that "India is not a great power yet but it has the potential to emerge as one." Observing too that India "is an element in China's calculation", she had said in that article that India "should

be in America's too". Asked during her conversation with this newspaper on Monday whether she regarded those premises as still holding good today, Dr. Rice said that they certainly did. The Bush administration sees India as "the largest democracy, an emerging economy" and believes that it "can certainly become a powerful nation", she said.

Significantly, Dr. Rice's observations underlined the fact that while the Bush administration certainly had an upbeat appraisal of the role that India could play in Asia, in no way was the administration meaning to pit India against China. Dr. Rice said categorically, "We want to see good relations among all the major powers in Asia, the United States wants to have good relations with China, India and China should have good relations." Making very clear that the Bush administration does not intend its interest in developing stronger relations with India to be construed as a move to counter China's influence in the region, Dr. Rice emphasised that "this is not a zero-sum game." Nor was it "the old-fashioned balance of power" concept that was playing out, she added.

Dr. Rice also referred positively to the proposed summit meeting between the leaders of India and Pakistan and its implication for the dispute over Kashmir. "We have been impressed with how far the Indian and Pakistani Governments are going... it's been done without the United States... sometimes the United States can be in the background!" she said. But, interestingly, she also said "if there comes a time that India and Pakistan think the United States can play a role, we will be prepared to help."

She went on to point out that "philosophically, President Bush believes that the parties themselves must want solutions

and the United States cannot impose solutions". This was what the President had felt about Macedonia and the Middle East, for example. It was no different with India. "We will play whatever role the parties think useful," Dr. Rice said.

However enthusiastic the Bush administration's perception be of the potential in engaging an India which has shown itself to be relatively more congenial to the new Bush strategic framework, it does not seem that this will have any impact on the traditional American pattern of consulting its other Asian allies and also Russia on the key issues of Asian security. Senior administration officials here also pointed to the fact that when Mr. Bush met the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, a few days ago, the Russian leader had made clear "that he wants to work together with the United States" on key issues relating to security in Asia, including issues of nuclear proliferation in South Asia. Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin then agreed at their meeting that the United States and Russia would work together on these issues.

These officials were also at pains to dispel notions that if the U.S. went ahead and implemented its plans for missile defence, it would cause Russia and China to accelerate the development of more missiles. The NMD was not aimed at China or Russia. The officials refuted the idea that the President's proposals had been negatively received in Europe. The mood in the NATO meeting was "receptive and positive", they said. President Bush and his team found the Russian President very "open-minded", the senior administration sources said, "we didn't expect him to change his mind overnight." Overall, the Bush administration believes that it is "making progress" in regard to the acceptance of its new strategic framework.

THE HINDU

19 JUN 2001

FUNDAMENTAL DIFFERENCES

Bush makes an effort with Europe

THIS is his first trip outside the United States and everyone is taking a close look at President George Bush's style, especially in circumstances which are difficult. The distance between him and the general European sentiment about which way the world should go was summed up by demonstrators in Madrid and Gothenburg, Sweden, who were protesting against the death penalty, the NMD and on the American stand on environmental issues. Conservatives in Europe are much closer to the centre than their counterparts in the United States because there is a wider humanitarian dimension to public opinion in Europe and government policy is, consequently, less modulated by pressure from the big business lobby. The principal reason why Bush withdrew from the Kyoto protocol is his proximity to the energy lobby that once employed him and which does not want to hear about greenhouse emissions. Bush, of course, believes that the effects of global warming are grossly exaggerated, but the viewpoint of the green lobby is that if action is deferred by a debate over the threshold considered dangerous then that threshold will be reached all the sooner. Above all, Bush doesn't seem to care and that goes down badly in Europe.

So, Bush went to Europe as a slightly anachronistic figure. He sent George Tenet to the Middle East after a lot of hemming and hawing, broke off talks over missile tests with North Korea and is threatening to call back American troops from the Balkans at a moment when Kosovo Albanians are on the rampage in Macedonia. The Europeans are probably perplexed and also indignant, at what they certainly see as gestures meant to undermine a painfully built consensus on global security management. Besides, if North Korea can be talked out of its missile arsenal, where is the need for deploying a theatre missile defence against it? There are other agreements that Bush is walking out of such as the one that envisages the setting up of an International Criminal Court, the CTBT and the Biological Weapons Convention. It is also apparent that Bush's foreign policy is being dictated by hardliners such as national security advisor Condoleezza Rice, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld and vice-president Dick Cheney. Secretary of State Colin Powell, whose position on several of these issues are more in tune with global thinking, is sidelined. The Allies have spoken of "unilateralism" — even though they intend to build their own security arrangement independently of the Americans — and their apprehension is that Bush may be prepared to go ahead regardless. The strain may not be visible yet but let's wait for Bush to start acting on his ideas.

THE STATESMAN

The U.S. as mediator

By Kesava Menon

HO-12
18/6
THOSE WHO would like to invite the U.S. to mediate between parties to regional disputes would do well to ponder over what such intervention has achieved in West Asia. In particular, advocates of a U.S. role should remember that the first breakthrough (at Oslo) and the last (at Taba) — current efforts to sustain a ceasefire are only a holding operation — were achieved without a contribution from American officials. When the parties have depended on the U.S. to deliver them from their predicaments, they have become hostage to the vicissitudes of the superpower's mindset.

The U.S. administration likes to take cover behind the proposition that it cannot surely desire peace more than the parties directly involved. But this excuse for non-involvement in periods when the principals are caught in a particularly strong spell of estrangement cannot obscure the fact that vital U.S. interests will be advanced if there is a final peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours. Yet, despite the imperative of its own national interests, the U.S. finds it necessary to switch off its involvement in West Asian peace-making from time to time. Meanwhile, the principals have developed so strong a dependency syndrome that their ability to deal directly with each other gets sapped. Furthermore, the principals forfeit the opportunity to use their own sensitivities and instead hand over the responsibility for creative thinking to a geographically distant third party which can never be as conversant with regional realities as they themselves are.

There is little doubt that the former U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, was thinking more of his own legacy rather than the needs of the West Asian people when he pressed hard for a final peace settlement during the last few months of his tenure in office. The stench of selfishness rising from this phase has perhaps discouraged the U.S. public from pressing the current administration to commit itself to the task. A lack of public pressure is of great convenience to an administration that has taken time to figure out how it would get the Israelis and Palestinians working together again — especially in a context where there is serious

doubt whether the new Israeli Prime Minister, Mr. Ariel Sharon, is really interested in peace. Key figures in the current U.S. administration are also known votaries of an alternative tactical plan to promote their country's interests in the region.

When leading figures in the U.S. strategic affairs establishment say that they will devote more energies to the issues posed by Iraq than to the Israeli-Palestinian dispute they are being somewhat economical with the truth. It is the same objective that they hope to achieve by pursuing either track — the consolidation of a friendly group of states that will be sympathetic to U.S. concerns over energy supplies.

When parties have depended on the U.S. to deliver them from their predicaments, they have become hostage to the vicissitudes of the superpower's mindset.

Currently Arab states disposed to be friendly to the U.S. are irritated, if not embittered, on both accounts. They resent the U.S. for blocking moves to extend international protection to the Palestinians. All Arab Governments are also worried about the U.S. failure to mitigate the rage within their societies over the continued suffering of the Iraqi people due to American policies.

The current U.S. administration thought it would keep the Arabs happy by delivering something on the Iraqi track since the prospects for delivering anything on the Palestinian track looked dim. Whether the U.S. efforts on the Iraqi track will be successful is one matter. But the U.S. discovered that it had to address itself to the Israel-Palestinian track as well on both long and short-term calculations. In the long run, the U.S. interest in building a consolidated block of friendly countries can be met only if a lasting solution to the Palestinian issue can be found. If the Palestinian demands can be satisfied and Israel thereby integrated into the region it would lead to a broadening and strengthening of the regional oligarchies. Tied as these oligarchies are to U.S. finance capital, they will provide a bulwark against an Iraq or an Iran — countries

that strive for greater autonomy in oil pricing policies.

U.S. interests in the short term are not promoted (in fact, they are damaged) by its neglect of the Israel-Palestinian track. They are already on the track and can neither stall nor slide back because they have raised expectations. Before the breakthrough at Oslo, calls from the Arab camp for a U.S. engagement with the real Palestinian leadership might not have been all that serious because no one expected Mr. Yasser Arafat to be invited to the White House. Now that a U.S. President has interacted with Mr. Arafat for about seven years, and has in the process elevated the Palestinian leadership to

near parity with Israel's, there is understandable pique at the new administration's delay in addressing itself to the issue. A story doing the rounds in these parts is that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Abdullah turned down a U.S. invitation to visit even though he was just across the border in Canada when he received the invitation.

All the regional decision-makers know that the U.S. would re-engage at some point. This has induced the principal players to drop almost all efforts for finding a solution through direct bilateral talks. Each of the principals is more busy trying to ensure that the U.S. will be tilted in their favour when it finally decides to re-engage. Mr. Arafat was trying to imprint his people's victimhood on the U.S. consciousness while Mr. Sharon tried to capture the U.S. imagination as the principled wielder of power.

The belief that the U.S. would ultimately step in has contributed to the tendency to suspend restraints. Neither the peace camp in Israel nor Mr. Arafat was unduly bothered about restraining the extremists even though they knew it was absolutely necessary. They believed that when the U.S. finally made them talk to each other they would be able to sell the need for

restraint not on its merits but on the grounds that it would win them points with the U.S.

Regional leaders have abandoned the search for a creative solution though the events of the past seven months have clearly demarcated the limits of each side's power. A realisation of their respective limits — the equation between Israel's undoubted military strength and the Palestinian powers of resistance and the moral imperatives of their cause — should have created conducive conditions for a creative solution.

A part of Israel, that represented by Mr. Sharon and the hard right, is probably quite pleased with the current stagnation since that freezes the status quo. But those supposedly interested in peace have virtually abandoned the search for a solution in their obsessive dependence on the U.S. This, despite ample proof that a third party just cannot put itself in the place of the two principals. For instance, all neutral observers might be able to understand and even appreciate the emotions that are aroused in either camp by the Temple Mount/Haram al Sharif issue. But no neutral observer can experience those emotions in quite the same way.

Engaging the services of a superpower carries its own price. Developments since last September have shown that the needs of the region can be made hostage to the tone and temper of U.S. domestic politics. Moreover, when a superpower becomes engaged it brings along the whole baggage of its global interests and U.S. priorities in other areas can come needlessly into play. For instance, if the U.S. were to be engaged in the Indo-Pakistan disputes is there any guarantee that its approach to the issue will be kept insulated from a sudden upsurge of religious sentiment in the Muslim world or a heightening of human rights concerns in the West.

Engaging the services of a superpower is most certainly not a matter to be done lightly. Even when it has vital stakes in an issue the priorities of the superpower will hardly ever coincide with the needs of a region. Its engagement carries the great danger that regional actors will abdicate the responsibility for their own existence.

THE HINDU

Bush finds it hot in Europe

RIOTING AND looting in Sweden, violent demonstrations in Madrid, vitriolic editorials in almost all European papers — the U.S. President Mr. George W. Bush, could not have chosen a worse time to make his first appearance on the European stage.

As he propagated his ultra-liberal, anti-regulation, pro-business, free-market views at the European Summit in Gothenburg, police fought pitched battles against several thousand very angry young protesters who, denouncing Mr. Bush's position on everything from capital puni-

Many Europeans see the U.S. as a nation totally absorbed by its own interests and ready to go it alone if its allies fail to come to heel.

Vaiju Naravane on Mr. George Bush's tour of the Old Continent.

the most serious ethical conflicts between Europe and the U.S. No country can join the European Union unless it has abolished capital punishment and Europeans, who view the death penalty as a human rights rather than a justice issue, say the U.S. is no better than China, Iran or Iraq, states it regularly pillories for human rights abuses. Mr. Bush's essentially "each to his own" response cut little ice with them.

But besides highly-charged, emotional issues such as the death penalty or genetically modified crops, there were several hard issues on the agenda, the

and overzealous converts to free market capitalism, Poland and Hungary. French diplomats say they would not be surprised by a U.S. attempt to drive a wedge between NATO's European members and to isolate France. "The President has already talked of European firms getting a part of the spoils by way of contracts for building the missile defence shield. Handing out commercial carrots is another way to whittle down European opposition," one of them said.

The environment was also high on the agenda and the U.S. President was severely criticised for his outright rejection of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol on global warming. Greenpeace and other environmental activists held a mock trial of Mr. Bush as a "climate criminal" and his high-handed manner only served to fuel outrage over what many see as the childish selfish behaviour of an arrogant superpower.

Ms. Condoleezza Rice, his National Security Adviser, tried to downplay the perception of a "values gap" between the U.S. and Europe. "Some say there is a strategic split. Some go a step further and posit that America and Europe are destined to become adversaries. The President and his administration fundamentally reject this premise. In many ways, the debate over a 'values gap' between the United States and Europe is the kind of self-indulgent discussion that only the very successful and well-off can afford. The debate appears to take place in a vacuum, ignoring the important work still to be done to build the kind of Europe we know we want," she wrote in the *Los Angeles Times*.

However, several European commentators took the opposite view, many coming close to calling the President's abrasive style both "brutish and brat-ish". For the French daily *Le Monde*, it was as much a question of content as of style. "American baby-boomers make up what is called the 'me-generation' which lives by the 'me first' philosophy," wrote the paper. "Baby-boomer George Bush appears to apply this principle to his foreign policy and his ambition seems to be to transform the United States into a 'nation' — a country essentially devoted to defending its own narrow national interest." This makes Mr. Bush's foreign policy a curious cocktail of unilateralism and nervous withdrawal. *Le Monde* said, echoing sentiment across the continent.



Protesters wave red flags in Gothenburg, Sweden.

shment and the environment to globalisation and strategic defence, went on a rampage attacking what they described as "symbols of the capitalist economy".

The extent and violent nature of the protests coupled with scorching comment from most European papers underlined the divergent directions in which Europe and the U.S. appear to be moving. Many Europeans today see the U.S. as a nation totally absorbed by its own interests and ready to go it alone if its allies fail to come to heel. "The Bush administration is seen as isolationist, unilateralist and aggressive, totally taken up by its own self-interest," commented Ms. Dominique Moisi, of IFRI, the French Institute for International Relations.

European media greeted Mr.

Bush's debut on the Old Continent with headlines such as "Mr. Death Penalty", the "Toxic Texan" or the "Three B President", meaning all he swore by was baseball, barbecues and the Bible. Unfortunately for Mr. Bush, his visit to Europe, just a day after Oklahoma bomber Timothy McVeigh's execution, began in Madrid in unusually adverse circumstances. A 30-year-old Spaniard had just returned home after spending three years on death row in Florida. His conviction for a double murder was overturned and Spanish media went to town lambasting the visitor who, as Governor of Texas for six years, was responsible for allowing 152 executions to take place.

To the surprise of many Americans, the death penalty has emerged in recent years as one of

most important being U.S. plans to create a ballistic missile defence system. Mr. Bush described the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty as a "relic of the past" and declared his intention to go ahead, albeit in consultation with his European allies, with building a missile defence shield. Even after a tough sales pitch in Brussels during which he claimed his NATO partners had displayed "a new receptivity", European leaders, especially from France and Germany, continued to express qualms about whether it would trigger a new arms race, destroy the existing fabric of arms control treaties and be technically feasible.

Mr. Bush did succeed in convincing at least five nations — Spain, Italy, both led by conservative Governments, its "special partner" Britain, and two recent

Russian jet in China to carry US spy plane home

Lingshui (China), June 16

A HUGE Russian cargo plane on a mission to carry home a dismantled US Navy spy plane arrived on Saturday on the Chinese island of Hainan.

The US plane has been the focus of intense diplomatic activity since the collision, which is believed to have killed the Chinese fighter pilot.

The Antonov 124 landed at the Lingshui air base, where the EP-3E Aries II has been parked since making an emergency landing on April 1 after a midair collision with a Chinese fighter jet.

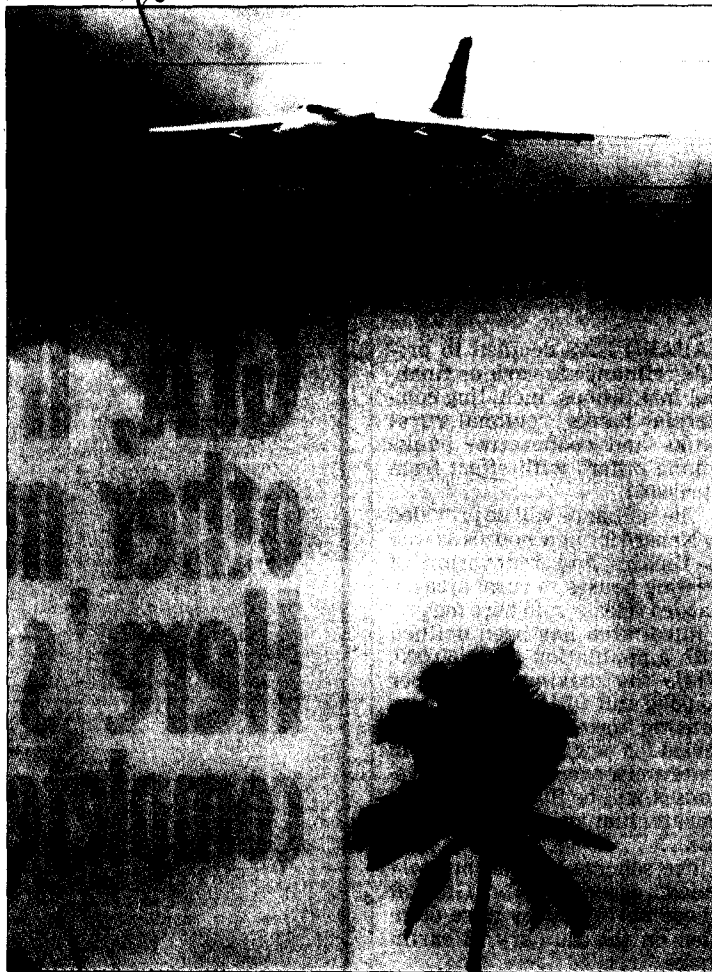
The AN-124 landed at 11:17 a.m. under clear skies, the thunderous roar of its jets shattering the morning quiet.

The Russian plane arrived from Kadana Air Base on the southern Japanese island of Okinawa. Plans call for the EP-3E to be dismantled and loaded in pieces on two Antonovs.

The US military has refused to say when the second cargo plane is to arrive. Security at the Lingshui air base was tight. Police blocked the road leading to the base, and patrol cars drove up and down the main street that passes the site.

There was no sign of an American team of diplomats and technicians sent to this tropical island in the South China Sea to prepare for the retrieval of the EP-3E.

AP



A Russian Antonov 124 cargo plane about to land at Lingshui military airport on China's Hainan island on Saturday.

Iraq ties oil sale halt to UN food deal extension

Dubai, June 16

IRAQ WILL continue to suspend oil sales if the UN agrees to another short-term extension of its oil-for-food programme, Iraqi Trade Minister Mohammed Mehdi Saleh said today.

"Any temporary renewal linked with the conditions of the first (month-long renewal) will mean a continued stoppage," he said.

Baghdad halted some 2.1 million barrels per day of oil exports on June 4 in protest at the UN Security Council's extension of its oil-for-food scheme for one month instead of the usual six months. The USA and the UK are hoping to secure UN agreement on their proposed overhaul of sanctions on Iraq by July 3.

If there is no agreement on the US-British proposal by then, Washington will likely endorse a no-changes roll-over instead of a second, one-month extension, a key European diplomat said.

A second one-month extension would only be likely if Iraq's closest Security Council ally, Russia, gave hard assurances that its objections could be overcome in that time, diplomats said.

Baghdad has made clear that export sales will resume only after the UN agrees to a straight-forward six-month renewal of the oil sales program — an exemption to stringent sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Reuters

Bush gets polite but uncooperative response at summit

MARTIN FLETCHER & GILES WHITELL
THE TIMES, LONDON

EU ENLARGEMENT

LONDON, June 15. - Mr George W Bush yesterday faced criticism for his policies on global warming and missile defence as he failed to win over European leaders on his maiden Europe trip as President.

At a summit in Gothenburg, Mr Bush and other European Union leaders failed to bridge the divisions over how to combat global warming, agreeing only to seek ways of resuming co-operation in that battle following America's rejection of the 1997 Kyoto accords.

Mr Bush's visit to Gothenburg was dogged by anti-American protests, outside his hotel and elsewhere. The failure to reach agreement at the summit followed a polite but unco-operative reception at Nato over US missile defence.

The reaction appeared to embolden China and Russia, who yesterday joined forces to deliver a forceful rejection of Mr Bush's plans to abandon the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty and build defences against ballistic missiles.

Mr Bush's first official tour of Europe has so far been dominated by disagreements, and as he and the EU leaders were talking in Gothenburg yesterday, thousands protested outside his hotel. Earlier, protesters destroyed two police cars and hurled stones and bottles at officers who surrounded a school where activists were staying. Police used mounted charges to quell the violence.

At a dinner for Mr Bush and the EU heads of government in Gothenburg last night, Mr Tony Blair delivered a "passionate speech about the importance of the relationship between the EU and USA." He argued the two continents were more united than divided, and Downing Street officials stressed this was one positive agreement to emerge from the summit.

The USA and EU will jointly push for a new round of global trade liberalisation talks when the World Trade Organisation meets in Qatar in November to pick up the pieces after the col-

GOTHENBURG, June 15. - European Union leaders today reaffirmed their commitment to enlarge the bloc soon to eastern Europe despite Ireland's shock rejection of the Nice Treaty.

"We have a clear commitment to the enlargement process and to the roadmap for enlargement, which, initially, some had said was unrealistic," said Swedish foreign minister, Ms Anna Lindh, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency. "There is a great deal of support for a more precise timetable," she said. - Reuters

lapse of its calamitous Seattle meeting in 1999.

Mr Bush and the EU leaders put the best gloss on their dispute over global warming, but did not attempt to disguise their deep differences. "We disagree on the Kyoto protocol and its ratification but we are determined to work together in all relevant fora to address climate change," the two sides said in a communique.

"The Americans have been let off the hook," said a Friends of the Earth spokeswoman. "It will mean business as usual for the planet's biggest polluter. The rest of the world will pay the price for America's selfish actions, and the millions of people around the globe who will suffer the consequences of an increasingly unstable climate, will have good cause to curse the President."

The Swedish Prime Minister, Mr Goran Persson, said America's rejection of Kyoto would have "a tremendous impact, sorry to say, because it would have sent an extremely strong signal if the USA had stuck with the Kyoto protocol. The problem is we think he's chosen the wrong policies and I have the impression he thinks the same way about Europe."

At a joint press conference, Mr Bush said, "We don't agree on Kyoto but we do agree climate change is a serious issue and we must work together". He was roundly condemned by environmental organisations.

Tense EU summit awaits Bush



US President George W Bush and wife Laura wave to journalists after arriving at Landvetter Airport outside Goteberg, Sweden on Thursday.

AP PHOTO

Gothenburg, Sweden, June 14

PRESIDENT BUSH arrived in Sweden on Thursday for a summit with European Union leaders, likely to be marked by tension over his rejection of a global warming treaty.

Amid massive security measures, thousands of protesters were gathering in Sweden's second largest city to demonstrate their hostility to a man dubbed the "Toxic Texan" for his refusal to accept the Kyoto treaty on climate change.

While Bush and Swedish Prime Minister Goran Persson sped to a manor house outside

Gothenburg, one of the biggest police operations in Swedish history was under way to keep protestors away from the summit site in the city center.

Fearing a re-run of anarchist violence that has dogged international gatherings since a 1999 Seattle World Trade Organisation conference, police sealed off a large perimeter around the summit center with a double wire fence and erected barricades of freight containers across approach roads.

Police were expecting between 10,000 and 25,000 protesters from anti-EU, anti-U.S. and anti-globalization groups. Some activists

have threatened to storm the conference center.

Iranian exiles backing the Iraqi-based People's Mujahideen guerrilla group demonstrated against alleged human rights abuses in Iran in the day's first protest, witnesses said. In a sign Bush can expect some forthright talk during his 24-hour stay, Persson said on the eve of his arrival that a strong Europe was needed to balance US world domination.

That comment by Sweden's center-left premier, who holds the rotating EU presidency until the end of June, contrasted with the optimism of US officials after Bush met NATO allies in Brus-

sels on Wednesday on his first presidential trip to Europe.

US officials, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said they came away from the 19-nation NATO meeting surprised by what they felt was growing support from some allies for Bush's plans to deploy an anti-missile shield.

Hungary, Poland, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Turkey and to a certain extent Britain recognized a growing missile threat without endorsing a missile defense, said the officials.

However, France and Germany were still skeptical and the toughest criticism came from Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok, who said unilateral abrogation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty "with Russia would be wrong. French President Jacques Chirac agreed with Kok but said that if Bush were to go ahead, a new framework for strategic stability should include agreed binding limits on nuclear arms. German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said he still awaited answers on a "host of questions" surrounding the still unproven multibillion-dollar project. Bush needs to build support for scrapping the ABM treaty, the bedrock of nuclear stability between the United States and Russia for three decades, to deploy a system of interceptors aimed at stopping incoming missiles from countries such as North Korea and Iran. The Cold War-era treaty bans such a system. Persson met leaders of environmental and anti-globalisation movements on Wednesday night in an effort to defuse violence by showing a receptiveness to dialogue.

Despite quoting communist revolutionary Vladimir Lenin in keeping with the left-wing tone of the dialogue, Persson and three other ministers were met with jeers and foot-stamping rather than any sense of comradeship.

Reuters

Bush charm works at NATO

REUTERS

BRUSSELS, JUNE 14

PRESIDENT George W. Bush came across as forceful and credible in his first engagement with fellow NATO leaders on Wednesday, if a little wound-up and fast-talking, sources said.

Not only that, US officials expecting a grilling from NATO leaders on Bush's missile defence plan came away surprised by what they felt was growing support from some allies.

The informal one-day summit in Brussels was a key stop on Bush's inaugural tour of Europe, in which his main task is to convince allies that he will be a credible steward of the lone superpower's foreign and security policy.

Most of the 18 leaders had not met the President. "The meeting

was perfectly amiable, friendly and positive, but since it was a round table of 19, there wasn't much chance to see him one-on-one, where his strength probably lies," said one alliance insider. "He seemed forceful, credible, coherent," said another NATO source who was at the meeting.

Officials speaking on condition of anonymity said Hungary, Poland, Italy, Spain, the Czech Republic, Turkey and to a certain extent Britain had spoken favourably of missile defence, while not endorsing it.

Bush was visibly elated and told reporters during a visit to a Brussels chocolate shop after the closed-door meeting that the plan had received "widespread support". "I was very pleased with the reception and the willingness of countries to think differently and to listen to different points of view."

At his news conference after



President Bush bites into a chocolate, as he and First Lady Laura Bush stopped to buy Belgian chocolate after a day of NATO meetings in Brussels on Wednesday - PTI

the summit, Bush put up a rapid-fire case for the anti-missile shield. There were no gaffes and no major verbal fluffs from Bush, who

had mispronounced the name of the Spanish Prime Minister on the eve of a visit to Madrid which kicked off his European tour.

INDIAN EXPRESS

15/6

NMD will slow India's rise

By Steve LaMontagne

The United States President, Mr. George W. Bush has found little support abroad for his costly and controversial National Missile Defence (NMD) proposal. European responses have ranged from skepticism to outright opposition, while Russia and China have warned that unilateral abrogation of the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty could undermine global security and ignite a new arms race, one that could easily spread to South Asia.

Why, then, was India one of the first and only country to express its support, albeit lukewarmly, for the NMD? The answer lies in the fact that conditions are ripe for a fair-weather friendship between India and the U.S. The Bush administration is anxious to tap India's pool of skilled labour and market of over one billion people. Moreover, several administration officials view India as a valuable strategic counterweight to China, with whom U.S. relations have soured because of the recent spy-plane incident and differences over Taiwan, weapons proliferation, human rights, and missile defenses.

India, for its part, would like to see the U.S. lift what remains of

the sanctions imposed after the 1998 nuclear tests, most of which prohibit the export of military and dual-use goods. In addition to the prospect of military and technological assistance, India also hopes to win U.S. support for a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council. Being the only country to jump on the NMD bandwagon therefore seems like a good way to grease the wheels of India's rise to greatpower status.

Unfortunately, any potential benefits of currying favour with the U.S. will be washed out by the long-term consequences of a U.S.

OPINION

anti-missile system. The implications for India's national security are especially worrisome. First, the likely Chinese response would be a qualitative and quantitative buildup of its nuclear forces. A classified U.S. National Intelligence Estimate released in August 2000 confirms this assessment, reportedly predicting that China's strategic arsenal could swell to 10 times its present size as a response to the NMD. To achieve such a buildup, China may decide both to equip its nuclear missiles with multiple independent re-en-

try vehicles and to resume nuclear tests, steps that India would find threatening.

Second, China will be less likely to honour its non-proliferation commitments in the face of growing U.S. unilateralism and support for Taiwan. Traffic of sensitive nuclear and ballistic missile components and technologies to Pakistan, among other countries, would likely increase.

The fallout from the NMD may simply increase the threat to India from its two immediate neighbours, with both of whom it has a history of conflict. China and Pakistan will be engaged in rapid nuclear buildups and will be cultivating a strategic relationship based on the proliferation of nuclear technology and ballistic missiles. These unsettling security trends could undermine improved relations between India and China as well as halt progress towards a resolution of the long-standing dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

India's social and economic development may be affected as pressure rises to respond with further increases in military spending levels, which have already risen by double-digit percentages each of the previous two

years. India may also be pushed closer to a decision to fully weaponise and deploy its nuclear forces. Such a step would entail massive expenditures on nuclear command, control, communications, and intelligence, and force officials to make critical decisions about nuclear doctrine, such as how many weapons would constitute a sufficient deterrent and which cities or facilities to target. Individual military branches will squabble for control over the largest piece of the nuclear pie.

Spending more money on bombers and nuclear weapons means that fewer resources will be available for priorities such as disaster relief, poverty alleviation, and economic development that are more important to India's future than senseless and destabilising arms races. India will still be able to pursue its interests without endorsing the concept of missile defences. Indeed, supporting the NMD may ultimately slow India's rise to greatness, not accelerate it.

(The writer is a specialist on non-proliferation at Council for a Livable World Education Fund, a Washington DC-based arms control advocacy group.)

THE HINDU

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ABM treaty is a relic of the past: Bush

By Rashmee Z Ahmed
The Times of India News Service

LONDON: U.S. President George Bush consigned the 30-year-old Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty to the ash-heap of history, even as he began his sales pitch to European and NATO allies for the controversial missile defence plan, dubbed son of Star Wars.

The ABM is a "relic of the past", Mr Bush said in Madrid at the start of his European odyssey and it prevented "freedom-loving countries from exploring the future". Arguing over and above the European outcry about antagonising Russia and China and setting off a new arms race, Mr Bush spoke of the "new threats of terrorism" in a reference to so-called rogue states such as Iran, Iraq, North Korea and Libya.

He argued that with the end of the Cold War, the strategic threat posed by Russia's nuclear arsenal was no longer so important as alleged loose-cannon within the developing world, who were fast acquiring missile technology and weapons of mass destruction.

In Spain, Mr Bush won an unexpectedly sympathetic hearing from Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, who appeared to have set what the

Spanish papers quickly began calling a minor record — the first European leader after British Prime Minister Tony Blair to offer cautious support for the new American strategy of "total security".

But there were indications that European heavyweights like France and Germany would need a lot more convincing.

Even as Mr Bush headed for NATO headquarters in Brussels, the Franco-German alliance, which was meeting in southern Germany, issued a ponderous statement of concern on missile defence that appeared to stop just short of outright rejection.

Meanwhile, the French President, Jacques Chirac, Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and German chancellor, Gerhard

Schroeder, conspicuously failed to offer the American President an official greeting, an act of diplomatic rudeness that is seen to symbolise the extent of unease at the heart of Europe.

The tensions seem unlikely to melt away at Thursday's EU-U.S. summit in Gothenburg, Sweden, which is often described as the

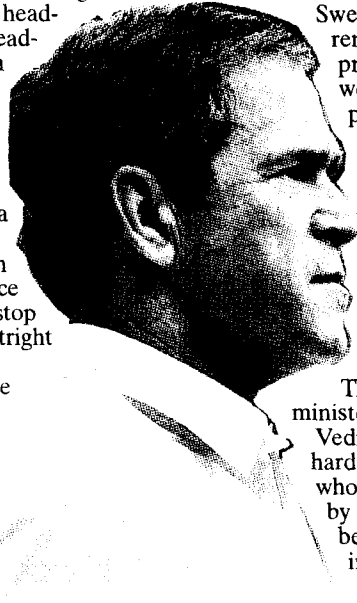
eco-capital of Europe. Sweden, which currently holds the EU presidency, said it would take a strong position on Mr Bush's casual abandonment of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol, which seeks to tackle global warming by limiting the emission of greenhouse gases.

The French foreign minister, Hubert Vedrine, echoed the hard line on Mr Bush, who has been greeted by massed placard-bearing protestors in Madrid and Brussels, saying

"Go home", "The earth is our mother, not your supermarket".

Mr Vedrine said Europe would be holding the U.S. to account for rejecting Kyoto because "a country that produces 25 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases cannot cut itself off from world efforts to curb pollution."

The French, of course, have maintained an unyielding stance from the start of the five-day visit, with the leading daily, *Le Monde* commenting acridly that an unforeseen diplomatic problem faced by Mr Bush is capital punishment and it was not enough for him to say, "we have our laws, you have yours." That, said the paper is "the kind of argument used by the Chinese leadership when taken to task over human rights violations" and it will not work for the U.S. with its claims to world leadership. The German press was hardly friendlier, offering the crushing insight that most Europeans view Mr Bush as a "self-satisfied, execution-supporting President", but the Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung counselled Washington to exercise "restraint and modesty" and for Europe to "banish arrogance and hysteria from their repertoire of reactions".



Kyoto Treaty flawed: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 12. While maintaining that the Kyoto Treaty on the environment was "fatally flawed in fundamental ways", the President, Mr. George W Bush called for initiatives to study the causes of global warming and to develop technologies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

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The administration has established the U.S. Climate Change Research Initiative that seeks to identify priority areas where additional investments can be made. The President stressed that the National Climate Change Technology Initiative will also strengthen research at universities and national laboratories. As he set out for Europe — which has been sharply critical of the administration's environmental policies — Mr. Bush stressed that any treaty on the environment must include countries like China and India and that the United States was prepared to work with these countries to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and maintain economic growth.

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"The world's second largest emitter of greenhouse gases is China. Yet, China was entirely exempted from the requirements of the Kyoto Protocol. India and Germany are among the top emitters. Yet, India was also exempt from Kyoto," the President remarked. Mr. Bush's argument was that instead of setting targets on emissions, which in his view were "arbitrary and not based on science", the U.S. must lead the way by advancing the science on climate change "and creating partnerships within our hemisphere and beyond to monitor and measure and mitigate emissions".

The President's proposed Climate Change Research Initiative will fund high-priority areas in climate change science over the next five years and strengthen research co-ordination between institutes in the U.S., Japan and Europe and other countries to understand better the causes and impacts of climate change. "The Kyoto Protocol was fatally flawed in fundamental ways. But the process used to bring nations together to discuss our joint response to climate change is an important one," Mr. Bush said while launching the initiative.

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U.S. seeks to iron out differences

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By Batuk Gathani

BRUSSELS, JUNE 12. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, arrived in Madrid on Tuesday amid protests against his policies on climate change and the National Missile Defence (NMD) system.

Mr. Bush embarked on a sensitive European mission, ostensibly to mend diplomatic and strategic fences with America's allies. He intends to use his first presidential trip to the continent to establish a dialogue of cooperation and understanding with the allies on missiles, global climate change and trade.

Although on the eve of his tour Mr. Bush modified his stand on these contentious issues that may not be sufficient to narrow the chasm between Europe and the U.S. on these issues. The silver lining for Mr. Bush is that the criticism of his policies is no more uniform among leaders in Europe who are moving away from conventional socialism to centrist and business-friendly policies to boost investments and economic growth.

Mr. Bush has told Europeans that he proposes to spend substantial sums on research into the causes of global warming and devise technologies to contain the challenges. But, according to U.S. officials, Mr. Bush is not likely to back down on his opposition to mandatory controls on emissions of green house gases. On the eve of his European tour, Mr. Bush outlined his proposals in a speech, which is rated as the first detailed response of his administration to international criticism, which followed after Mr. Bush's



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush and the First Lady, Ms Laura Bush, being greeted by King Juan Carlos of Spain (right) and Queen Sofia (far left), at the Zarzuela Palace west of Madrid on Tuesday. — AP

convinced that global climate is hotting up with impending signs of drastic changes, some European experts argue that to reach hasty conclusions would be erroneous, as the science of climate change is still in its infancy. But, the common perception based on current scientific evidence is that global warming is already happening and is rated as man-made with the risk of disastrous consequences.

Political leaders and Government officials have yet to hammer out a consensus approach to contain the challenges on climatic changes. This did not happen at the Hague conference, despite much official rhetoric to the contrary. The developed world finds itself in an ideological, moral and scientific quandary. The argument at the Hague centred on the use of the so-called emissions trading and utilisation of carbon "sinks" like forests that could lower the cost of reaching targets agreed at the Kyoto conference.

The more optimistic perception is that the Euro-American dialogue may give all Governments a chance to craft an alternative response to Kyoto protocol.

A commission on climate change, made up of the world's top scientists, concluded that man's actions had "contributed substantially" to global warming in the past five decades and that the process was accelerating.

Mr. Bush will spell out his case for a missile defence system and reiterate his strategy at the NATO and European-American summits. After conferring with the U.S.'s allies, he will meet Mr. Putin.

As the U.S. and the European Union continue with their differing postures on climate control, the prospects of a consensus emerging look bleak. A great deal about a new consensus developing depends on how effectively Mr. Bush sells his new strategy at the NATO and E.U. summit meetings this week. He will later travel to Poland and Slovenia where he will meet his Russian counterpart, Mr. Vladimir Putin.

While some members of the global scientific community are

decision to abandon the Kyoto Protocol on global warming.

The protocol committed the U.S. and 167 other nations to limits on emission of carbon dioxide and other gases, which according to the scientific community, may cause catastrophic changes in climate. The Kyoto treaty has not been ratified by the U.S. or any other major industrialised country.

However, Europeans, like the rest of the world, were taken aback by Mr. Bush's arbitrary re-

BUSH VISIT / CHIRAC TOUGHENS STAND

U.S. asked not to scrap ABM pact

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By Vaiju Naravane

PARIS, JUNE 10. The French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, has made a major defence speech just ahead of the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush's first presidential trip to Europe which begins early this week.

While admitting that the danger posed by "rogue states" to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) was real enough, he warned the United States against scuttling the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Treaty. What was needed to meet new global security challenges, Mr. Chirac said, was not the scrapping of the treaty, but a series of new disarmament measures and a stronger European defence force. This, he pointed out, would help avoid a new arms race. "We do not dispute the dangers of missile proliferation even if we have a different analysis of the magnitude of the threat and its possible evolution over time," Mr. Chirac told a seminar on defence studies and analysis.

Washington has been critical of Europe's decision to set up its own Rapid Reaction Force which it sees as undermining both the NATO alliance and its leadership role. Europe has in turn been sharply critical of American plans to establish a new Missile Defence System (MDS).

Mr. Chirac made his remarks a day after the U.S.

Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, briefed his European counterparts on the details of the proposed new missile defence system and informed them that in Washington's view the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) was dead.

In a direct, even aggressive response to Mr. Rumsfeld's remarks, Mr. Chirac said: "We do not want the ABM to be set aside in favour of a non-constraining system". Mr. Rumsfeld in discussion with NATO Defence Ministers had indicated that Washington would go ahead with plans to build the MDS despite strong reservations expressed by many European allies. "It is simply inescapable," Mr. Rumsfeld said in Brussels last Thursday.

Mr. Chirac contested America's right to unilaterally scrap the ABM treaty, saying that Russia, the other signatory to the treaty, should be asked for its views. "I urge all to weigh carefully what the scrapping of the treaty would mean", Mr. Chirac said, warning of a possible new arms race.

Reuters reports:

Thousands of Spaniards marched peacefully through central Madrid today to protest against the visit by Mr. Bush, who will kick off a tour of Europe with a one-day stay in Madrid.

THE HINDU

U.S. to resume contact with N. Korea

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7. After a three-month break, the Bush administration will be resuming contacts with North Korea on a range of issues including Pyongyang's missile programmes. No firm date has been given for the resumed dialogue which was halted by the Republican administration after a review of the existing arrangements had started.

"I have directed my national security team to undertake serious discussions with North Korea on a broad agenda," said the President, Mr. George W Bush, in a statement. "If North Korea responds affirmatively and takes appropriate action, we will expand our efforts to help the North Korean people ease sanctions and take other political steps," he said.

The resumption of the dialogue is expected to start at lower levels of the administration and work up depending on the kind of progress. In fact, the latest decision follows a serious review of the kind of progress that had been registered in the recent years with the Bush administration laying particular emphasis on North Korea's missile programme and exports. An unnamed senior administration official has been quoted as saying that the Bush administration will be emphasising "transparency and verification".

In deciding to start the dialogue with Pyongyang, the Bush White House appears to have toed the

original line of the State Department and the Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell. Back in March, Gen. Powell said the dialogue with North Korea would resume from where the Clinton administration had left. But the very next day, Mr. Bush threw cold water on this idea. And the President timed his sceptical remarks when the President of South Korea, Mr. Kim Dae-jung, was visiting U.S. Mr. Bush at the time was seen to have embarrassed Mr. Kim and his "Sunshine Policy".

The Bush administration has come up with certain basic goals that relates to the implementation of the Agreed Framework relating to Pyongyang's nuclear activities. Aside from verification and a ban on missile exports Washington is also seeking a less threatening conventional military posture. But conservative Republicans on Capitol Hill have basic problems with the Agreed Framework that was hammered out during the Clinton administration.

At this point what is also not clear is what the Bush administration is willing to "give" North Korea in return for the concessions it is expecting on various fronts. Senior officials of the administration, including the National Security Advisor, Dr. Condoleezza Rice, had been sharply critical of the incentives offered by the previous Democratic administration that included food assistance.

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MISSILE DEFENCE / EUROPE LOOKS TO BUSH VISIT

'U.S. stand not at NATO expense'

By Batuk Gathani

BRUSSELS, JUNE 5. At the beginning of his week-long, seven-nation European tour which culminates in a meeting of the NATO Defence Ministers here on Friday, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, last night assured America's NATO partners that any efforts to realign U.S. defence strategies and resources towards Asia would not come at the expense of NATO alliance. Mr. Rumsfeld said "any suggestion that United States is going to and wants to or might turn away from Europe is fundamentally flawed in logic".

The Europeans are perplexed with the fast-emerging contours of the Bush administration's defence and foreign policies. Many Europeans hope that the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, will be able to "clear the fog" this month when he travels in Europe. Also on the eve of Mr. Rumsfeld's assurance, the European media notes that Mr. Richard Perle, senior Pentagon official in the Reagan administration, is to head the defence policy board, which is mainly made up of private sector experts.

Mr. Perle, known as an ardent Bush loyalist, will regularly liaison with Mr. Rumsfeld. Mr.

Perle is also fellow of the rightwing think-tank — "American enterprise institute" — and is a prominent critic of America's European allies, who oppose the National Missile Defence (NMD) programme.

Mr. Perle has argued for a shift in the U.S.' role in NATO and has proposed American disengagement, if the Europeans go ahead with their programme of creating their own 60,000-strong defence force independent of NATO. He has been a noted critic of France's independent stance, which is often at odds with the U.S. and traditional European allies like Germany, Britain and even Italy. He is all for NATO expansion on the premise that "let us have new ones in and get rid of the old ones" meaning France.

The Europeans also note that Mr. Rumsfeld has in recent days drastically cut off Pentagon's contacts with the Chinese military establishment and is considering a "case by case" review of seminars and official visits on both sides of the Sino-American fence. Chinese military officers are no longer invited to U.S. hosted seminars.

Some Europeans and Pentagon officials have reservations about the policy of eliminat-

ing dialogue with the Chinese military establishment. The European allies in the NATO alliance would like more clarifications on this policy stand from Mr. Rumsfeld.

In February, France led a chorus of dissent against the American-British air strikes against military targets in Iraq but the German government maintained a "tactful silence". Many Europeans also believe that Iraq is now central to the long-term stability of the entire West Asian region.

After concluding meetings with Turkish officials, Mr. Rumsfeld spoke with American pilots at the U.S. military base in Turkey, and said with the help Iraq had received from China and other countries to strengthen its air defences, the risk to American pilots who patrol the northern zone of Iraq, is rising. He alleged that Chinese workers were in Iraq early this year to install fibre optic links in Iraq's air defence network.

Mr. Bush is still widely rated as "unknown quantity" amid European foreboding about "disastrous policy divisions" in the trans-Atlantic western alliance after he took over in January. Most European governments are worried that Mr. Bush is likely to move ahead with a missile defence system which could upset Russia and also prompt the U.S. to gradually retreat from its international commitments.

The silver-lining for Europeans is that the Republican administration no longer has majority in the Senate to pursue such ambitions. Nevertheless, the "Bush factor" is still weighing heavily on the future of the trans-Atlantic relationship with far reaching consequences for Euro-American dialogue in the beginning of the 21st century.

It may now seem that the old and traditional relationship between a dominant U.S. and a weaker, passive E.U. is fast fading into history. This is highlighted by the E.U.'s attempt to evolve new "common European foreign and defence policies" amid a pan-European quest to more to defend the European global and domestic interests. But despite such rhetoric, the E.U. leaders are still keen to evolve mechanisms for a "collective" decision-making process to sustain and consolidate trans-Atlantic alliance. Hence, Mr. Bush's European tour and Mr. Rumsfeld's visit have special significance.



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USA reduces military contacts with China

REUTERS

ANKARA, June 4. - The US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, has reduced American military contacts with China to signal the Pentagon's displeasure with Beijing's handling of a collision between an US reconnaissance plane and a Chinese jet fighter, a senior official travelling with Mr Rumsfeld said today.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said Mr Rumsfeld continued to look at bilateral contacts on a case by case basis but confirmed a *New York Times* report that those contacts has been reduced since the 1 April mid-air collision off the Chinese coast.

"We are looking at things on a case by case basis," the official said. "Right now, the priority is to get the plane back."

The official said Chinese officers were no longer being invited to seminars at the Asia-Pacific Centre for Security in Honolulu, the US defence department's main study centre on security issues in the region.

The official confirmed the newspaper report that though US officers were authorised to attend multi-national seminars on relief operations to which Chinese officers were also invited, the defence secretary had issued specific guidance that the American officers were to "minimise contact" with their Chinese counterparts. Under the new policy, the USA is no longer requesting port calls in Hong Kong by American warships.

THE STATESMAN

Bush condemns bomb attack

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 2. The United States has condemned in very strong pointed terms the bombing attack in Israel which has left at least 17 persons dead. In a statement directed at the Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, the President, Mr. George W. Bush, has said that the attack has illustrated "the urgent need for an immediate, unconditional cessation of violence" *HO-12 3/6*

The White House statement came shortly after Mr. Bush arrived at Camp David, the Presidential retreat in Maryland. "I call upon Chairman Arafat to condemn this act and to call for an immediate ceasefire. There is no justification for senseless attacks against innocent civilians", Mr. Bush observed. The President condemned "in the strongest terms the heinous attack in Tel Aviv this Sabbath evening", said the statement released by the White House. Mr. Bush did not appear before reporters.

The Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, expressed similar views calling the bombing at the beach resort a "horrible act" of terrorism that deserved the world's strongest condemnation. "I call on Chairman Arafat to condemn this senseless act; declare an immediate and total ceasefire; and take every action necessary to bring those responsible to justice".

The Secretary of State is due to meet with the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, on Monday in Costa Rica when they will both be attending the meeting of the Organisation of American States. One of the things that Gen. Powell has emphasised is that it was time to start adhering to the recommendations of the Mitchell Commission which had called for an "unconditional cessation of violence".

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