

Islamabad to receive F-7s from China

London, December 30

PAKISTAN WAS expected to receive delivery of the first two batches of new-generation F-7 series fighter aircraft from China this month, adding more teeth to its air force, a leading defence weekly has said.

Quoting Pakistan Air Force (PAF) chief of staff Air Chief Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir, the *Jane's Defence Weekly* said the service's new F-7 PG fighters were scheduled to arrive in Karachi on December 17 and 20 aboard Chinese ships. The report, however, does not confirm the delivery.

Chinese specialists were also expected to arrive in the country in late December to oversee the aircraft's assembly. PAF upgradation is taking place just before it retires the fleet of 1960's-era F-6 air-defence fighters on March 23.

First deliveries of the new aircraft are slated for the 31st fighter wing at air force base Quetta/Samungli, with both batches to enter frontline service by April.

The new generation aircraft is a further development on the MiG-21 design, the J-7 PG features improved avionics and a more powerful engine than the PAF's current inventory of F-7 MP 'skybolt' fighters.

The PAF is understood to have ordered 50 aircraft from a requirement for up to 80 F-7PGs. The fighter jet was selected after Pakistan's bilateral development with China of the FC-1/Super-7 fighter ran into difficulty as Russia declined to supply engines.

Pakistan also expects to take delivery of spare parts for its 32 remaining air force-operated F-16 fighters and their associated weapon systems from early next year. The PAF acquired 28 single-seat F-16As and 12 twin-seat F-16Bs in 1988 during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan during the height of Cold War.

The US embargoed a further 28 aircraft following their manufacture for the service.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

31 DEC 2001

China favours Indo-Pak. talks

BEIJING, DEC. 21. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today asked China to use its "influence" in finding a solution to the Kashmir issue. Beijing, however, said the "best way" was for New Delhi and Islamabad to resolve the problem through peaceful bilateral negotiations.

Addressing a select gathering of newspaper editors, scholars and policy-makers at a breakfast meeting here, Gen. Musharraf said he had requested the Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin, at their summit talks on Thursday to use his influence for settling the Kashmir issue.

There was a "high degree of tension" between the two nuclear states of India and Pakistan after the December 13 attack on Parliament, Gen. Musharraf said, and warned that this would escalate further if the "root cause" of the problem was not addressed properly.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry official, Mr. Sun Guoxiang, told presspersons after the Jiang-Musharraf

meeting that China was for a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir dispute and that the Chinese President wanted direct talks between India and Pakistan.

"The best way to solve the issue is for the two sides to discuss the issue themselves," he said when asked if China would offer to mediate.

"If China has any role to play, we will help relaxation of tensions and improvement of relations between India and Pakistan," Mr. Sun said, adding, "but the key to the question is for the two countries to solve their dispute in a peaceful manner."

Asked whether Mr. Jiang had pressed Gen. Musharraf to contain the operations of the Kashmiri militants in Pakistan, Mr. Sun said it was entirely an internal affair of Pakistan. The Chinese side had taken note of the fact that Pakistan had taken some measures to deal with fundamentalists within its territory. The official declined to say if arms sales between China and Pakistan had been discussed during Gen. Musharraf's visit. — PTI

THE HINDU

22 DEC 2001

Pervez praises China to balance foreign relations

Beijing, December 20

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf reassured old ally China on Thursday it was a cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Musharraf wasted no time in emphasising that Sino-Pakistani relations remain strong despite Pakistan's commitment to the war on terrorism in the wake of the September 11 attacks on the US that drew US forces into China's backyard.

Musharraf's visit, which kicked off in a meeting with President Jiang Zemin, will focus on bolstering economic ties and the new strategic equation in Central Asia following the defeat of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

"The cornerstone of Pakistan's foreign policy is its close association and relationship with China," Musharraf said at the start of his talks with Jiang, immediately addressing Chinese concerns that Pakistan was drifting into the US camp.

"China has been our trusted friend, and our relationship has remained time-tested, and we are very positive that in the future also this relationship, this strategic association and relationship will continue," Musharraf said.

Jiang hailed the visit as a high point in celebrations marking 50 years of Sino-Pakistani relations. "I trust that your visit will serve to vigorously advance our comprehensive partnership of collaboration," he said.

China has been a critical source of economic aid and military hardware for Pakistan and Western military sources say Islamabad's nuclear weapons were built from Chinese blueprints.

Musharraf's visit gives him a

NO COMMENTS PLEASE

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf, who arrived in Beijing on Thursday, was not accompanied by journalists from Pakistan's print media.

Only the official media — Associated Press of Pakistan, Pakistan Television and Radio Pakistan — accompanied Musharraf in an apparent attempt to project only the official line. While no press conferences have been scheduled by the Pakistani side, Musharraf would have a breakfast meeting with leading members of Chinese thinktanks and senior editors on Friday.

PTI, Beijing

well-timed opportunity to refresh relations with China after committing Pakistan to the US-led war on terrorism. He would be eager to show China he is "not lost to the Americans for good", said Jean-Pierre Cabestan of the French Centre for Research on Contemporary China in Hong Kong.

Both sides "have to give more evidence that both countries need each other as much as before September 11", he said.

Within days of the September 11 attacks, Musharraf withdrew support for Afghanistan's hard-line Taliban, offered bases for US forces and let US warplanes use Pakistani airspace.

In turn, Washington lifted sanctions imposed in 1998 after Pakistan tested its first nuclear device and agreed with other allies to billions of dollars in aid and debt rescheduling deals for the country's ailing economy.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 DEC 2001

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Pakistan, China to chalk out common regional strategy *Shaw RM*

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 19. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is expected to visit China in the third week of December to exchange views on region, in the particular context of the latest developments in Afghanistan.

According to the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP), State-run news agency, the proposed visit would provide an opportunity for Gen. Musharraf and the Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin, to adopt a "common strategy" for establishing peace and stability in the region. The proposed visit assumes significance in the wake of the developments in Kabul that have taken Islamabad by surprise and upset all its calculations. China shares its concern over the situation arising out of Afghanistan's "occupation" by the Alliance forces, in disregard to the wishes of the U.S. and the United Nations.

There were indications that Gen. Musharraf had plans to visit China immediately after the

September 11 terrorist attacks in the U.S. but deferred his travel on the advice of the Chinese leadership. A special envoy of Mr. Jiang was here to exchange views with Gen. Musharraf after Islamabad announced its decision to extend its "unstinted" cooperation to the U.S. in its fight against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban. In the course of a telephone conversation on Friday, Mr. Jiang and Gen. Musharraf agreed that the world must push to create a stable and diverse transitional government in the wake of the Taliban's collapse.

Quoting diplomatic sources in Beijing, the APP said the two leaders felt the United Nations should play a leading role in Afghanistan and ensure that no dangerous power vacuum occurred. Mr. Jiang also conveyed his concern over the humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan and hoped the international community would come to the rescue of the civilians.

The agency quoted the spokesperson of the

Chinese Foreign Ministry, Ms. Zhang Qiyue, as having said that China supported Pakistan's efforts to establish peace and stability in the region and a broad-based government in Afghanistan. She referred to the recent meeting of the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, and Gen. Musharraf in New York and said the two sides reiterated their common concern against terrorism and their resolve to work together for peace and stability in the region.

The Pakistan Ambassador in Beijing, Mr. Riaz Khokhar, in an interview to the agency said Sino-Pakistan relations would not be affected by Pakistan's decision to join the U.S.-led coalition. "China will continue to enjoy the highest priority in Pakistan's foreign policy." On the visit of Gen. Musharraf to China he said "the purpose of the visit is to pay a tribute to our five-decade-long fruitful and mutually beneficial relations and strengthen them further, as we enter the 21st century."

THE HINDU

20 NOV 2001

Chinese arms sale to Pak continues: report

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27. — China is continuing to provide Pakistan with material for weapons of mass destruction, media reports quoting intelligence officials has said.

US intelligence agencies had detected a shipment of material used in making chemical weapons in early September.

The shipment was described as a "dual use" precursor chemical destined for Pakistan's chemical-arms programme, the *Washington Post* reported.

Officials, who wished not to be named, did not identify the Chinese state-run company involved in the chemical transfer but said that it was one of the several companies that had been involved in earlier chemical arms-related deliveries, the daily said.

Discovery of the chemical-related shipment came after 1 September, when the Bush Administration imposed sanctions on a Chinese State-run company for supplying missile technology to Pakistan. That missile technology transfer violated a pledge made in November by Beijing not to provide any material for foreign nuclear missile programmes.

The missile goods sale, detected in August, involved material for Pakistan's Shaheen-1 and Shaheen-2 missiles, both of which are regarded as nuclear-capable systems.

Quake rocks China: Scores

TAIWAN STAND

TAIPEI, Oct. 27. — Taiwan today welcomed a US proposal to sell the island an anti-tank missile system. The USA has said it is considering selling 40 Javelin anti-tank missile systems to Taiwan at an estimated cost of \$51 million.

"We are happy to see that happen," a spokesman at Taiwan's ministry of national defence said. "With those (weapons), it will help a lot to our defence systems." The spokesman said he did not know if the USA would sell other weapons to Taiwan in the near future.

The US Defence Security Co-operation Agency said the Javelin anti-tank missile systems will enhance Taiwan's medium anti-tank capability for the infantry, scouts, and combat engineers. — **Reuters**

of houses were destroyed when an earthquake measuring six on the Richter scale jolted Yongsheng county in south-west China's Yunnan province today, an official report said.

Six villages in a neighbouring county were also stricken by the quake, where many houses caved in. The quake, which occurred at 1.35 p.m. was centred at 26.14 degrees north latitude and 100.34 degrees east longitude.

THE STATESMAN

10/27/10

HP 8
9/99

China supplied missile technology to Pak.: CIA

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

SW PAN

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 8. The Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) has said that China had supplied missile and related technology to Libya, Pakistan and North Korea.

The semi-annual report of the CIA to Congress made the point that Russia and North Korea were major exporters of nuclear, chemical, biological weapons-related equipment and missile systems to rogue States and unstable regions of the world.

It also said that Russia was supplying nuclear reactors to China and India's naval propulsion systems and that India had discussed the prospect of leasing nuclear-powered attack submarines from it. On a different note, the CIA spoke of Libya building missiles with help from Yugoslavia, India, North Korea and China.

The part on China and Pakistan comes at a time when the Bush administration has slapped sanctions for violating American domestic laws on proliferation of missile technology. The sanctions, announced last week, were also in the context of Beijing going back on a November 2000 pledge not to assist nations in their nuclear and missile arsenals.

The CIA's report covered the period between July and December last year. "During the reporting period, Chinese entities provided Pakistan with missile-related technical assistance. Pakistan has been moving towards domestic serial production of solid propellant (short-range missiles) with Chinese help."

Further, the nodal intelligence agency said that there were indications that China continued to assist Pakistan in developing nuclear weapons in violation of a 1996 pledge to Washington against this. China, the CIA maintained, had also supplied advanced conventional arms to Pakistan, Iran and Sudan, among other nations.

Equally standard and routine have been the denials of Beijing and Islamabad, something that has not merited serious attention here. China, for instance, tried to pass off the impression that it could not be expected to have a tight leash on "private"

entities involved in the dubious missile and technology trade; Pakistan tried to project an image of being unnecessarily sullied. Both do not cut much ice in the political and intelligence community.

The continued reporting of clandestine and dubious transactions from China to Pakistan on the nuclear and missile fronts has put Islamabad in a tough spot. The prospect of additional sanctions aside, the intelligence reports come at a time when the Bush administration is seriously looking at ways of coming to grips with the post-1998 Glenn Amendment sanctions as they related to Pakistan.

While Pakistani officials and diplomats have been hammering away at the concept of a "non-differentiated" approach vis-a-vis India, the administration is really in a dilemma. Broadly speaking, there is a feeling in the administration that while the President cannot go the whole hog and lift or waive sanctions against Pakistan given the democracy linkages, "something" ought to be done.

On the one hand, there is the realisation that further alienation of Pakistan would only push its regime further into Taliban-type extremism and fundamentalism, which would not be in the interests of the U.S. On the other hand, constant reports of dubious nuclear and missile transactions with China has not helped matters much.

UNI reports from New Delhi:

In its latest report on global demography trends, the CIA has said that Pakistan was on the verge of breakdown due to globalisation as the country "seems to encompass the worst of everything".

"Globalisation means there could be breakdowns in bigger, developed, urban places where the U.S. may not be able to intervene," the report published in Pakistan's *The News* said. In addition to contributing to political volatility in several already unstable regions and countries, youth bulges could provide large numbers of Afghan and Pakistani youth for terrorist activities.

The report said the immediate problem would involve a breakdown in a place where moral intervention was not possible but where there were greater strategic consequences.

Chinese firm denies Pak links

■ Terms US sanctions for 'transferring missile parts to Islamabad' as 'groundless'

REUTERS
BEIJING, SEPTEMBER 3

A CHINESE company on Monday denied allegations it had transferred missile technology to Pakistan and struck out at US plans to target it with sanctions.

China Metallurgical Equipment Corp (CMEC) insisted it exported machine tools and other parts for civil and industrial use only after the US State Department said on Saturday it would impose unspecified sanctions.

"We did not do that. We only do business in our own areas and which are set by the government," a company spokesman told Reuters by telephone. "The US sanctions are groundless," he said. There was no immediate comment from China's Foreign Ministry but Beijing has repeatedly denied breaking its commitments on proliferation of missile technology.

The US move followed reports in American media that the United States had warned China it could impose sanctions to crack down on what it believed was the transfer of missile know-how and parts. If true, China would have violated a November 2000 pledge

not to help any country develop ballistic missiles that could be used to deliver nuclear warheads.

Washington has highlighted missile proliferation as a top issue as the United States and China rebuild ties after clashes over defence and human rights in the first half of 2001. The *Los Angeles Times* said the sanctions would mean that US companies would not be issued licences to launch satellites on Chinese rockets nor be allowed to give US technology to China's growing satellite industry. The US wants China to abide by the November 2000 commitment and to stick to the Missile Technology Control Regime — a voluntary accord that tries to limit missile exports to unstable regions.

US President George W. Bush is under pressure to impose sanctions on some Chinese companies following reports of transfer of military components to Pakistan this year. China says it has abided by the November 2000 commitment and demands the US lift a ban on licences for US satellite exports to China.

■ Curbs selective: Regime

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
ISLAMABAD, SEPTEMBER 3

PAKISTAN today termed as "regrettable" US sanctions against a Pakistani firm for violating proliferation regime and said the action was indicative of a selective approach on the issue as "missile related transfers are taking place in our neighbourhood."

"Pakistan has not received any technology or equipment from China in violation of missile technology control regime (MTCR)," a foreign office statement here said reacting to US' slapping sanctions on its National Development Complex (NDC) for importing missile technology from a Chinese firm. Though the sanction would have little practical impact as NDC was already under US embargo, the statement said "they are indicative of a selective US approach on the issue."

Making a veiled reference to India, the statement claimed that the US itself has acknowledged that missile related transfers were taking place in "our neighbourhood" relating to development of supersonic cruise missiles as well as ballistic missiles through acquisition of technology from other countries including European sources. "These activities clearly violate MTCR parameters yet no sanctions have been imposed against these violations. Only Pakistani entities have been subjected to MTCR sanctions on the basis of unsubstantiated allegations," it said.

China welcomes
Musharraf's 'road map' ^{HO-4}
^{Si} ^{par} ²⁰⁰⁸

BEIJING, AUG. 19. Welcoming the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf's 'road map' for restoration of democracy, China has told the United States that continued sanctions against Islamabad would only 'complicate' the situation.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Sun Yuxi, said China appreciated Gen. Musharraf's August 14 announcement regarding general elections.

"As a friendly neighbour of Pakistan, we hope and believe that the domestic political situation in Pakistan could continue to be stable and Pakistan's economy can further develop," Mr. Sun told PTI in response to a question. On Washington's cautious reaction to Gen. Musharraf's latest pledge and linking lifting of sanctions to restoration of democracy in Pakistan, Mr. Sun said the Chinese Government's stand on sanctions had all along been clear.— PTI

THE HINDU

26 AUG 2001

China cosies up to N-buddy

Chandan Nandy
New Delhi, July 13

AMID ALL the excitement building around the Vajpayee-Musharraf summit, strategic military cooperation between Pakistan and China has risen to new heights and spells an ominous dimension for India's security.

After providing Pakistan with nuclear weapons design and missile development technology, including the M-11 missiles, China has now renewed its offer to develop a full-fledged naval base for Islamabad at Gwadar, on the Baluchistan coast, off the Gulf of Oman.

The Gwadar project was conceived some years ago, primarily on account of operational constraints the Pakistan Navy had faced during the 1971 war with India.

That was because of over-congestion and lack of essential facilities at the Karachi harbour.

Moreover, the Karachi port being within close striking distance of Indian naval bases, Pakistan felt an urgent need for a separate naval base and harbour as far away as possible from the reach of Indian fighter aircraft and destroyers.

After a prolonged site-selection exercise, three places were shortlisted. These were Gwadar, Ormara and Pasni. On the advice of Chinese experts, Pakistan chose Gwadar. China offered to build the facility on a "turnkey" and "build-operate-transfer" (BOT) basis but work did not progress because of acute financial constraints.

Beijing has reportedly been impressing upon Islamabad the need to accelerate construction work at Gwadar.

China is also reported to have

promised a long-term soft loan to Pakistan in aid of this crucial Defence project. The earthwork has reportedly been resumed and frequent parleys between Pakistani and Chinese experts have been reported. Even Oman has shown some interest in a stake in the Gwadar project.

After the Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji's recent visit to Pakistan, work on the implementation of the project appears to have gathered fresh momentum.

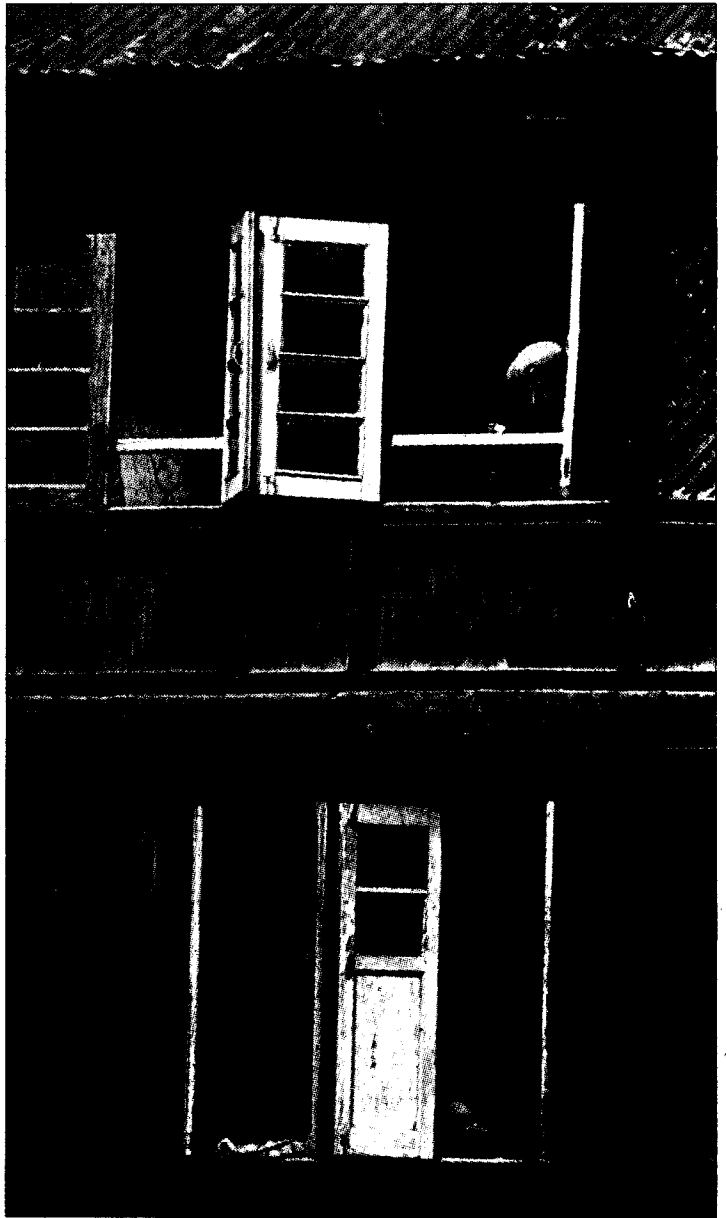
Details of the Sino-Pak agreement regarding the construction of the Gwadar naval port and the extent of its use by China have been kept a closely-guarded secret.

But Indian intelligence and Defence officers have "no doubt" at all that the Chinese Navy will have free access to the port's berthing, dry dock and other facilities.

Analysts here recall how China helped Myanmar build naval facilities in Haingyi and Coco Islands not far from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The use of these facilities in the eastern flank of the sub-continent by China and availability of similar, if not more sophisticated, facilities at Gwadar will immensely increase China's blue water reach and power projection capabilities to the Indian Ocean, the Arabian Sea and beyond.

The reported review by the Bush administration, focusing on Far East and China as the next theatre of a major war might have influenced the Chinese military strategists' decision to offer Pakistan substantive help and concessions to go ahead with the Gwadar project.



A policeman keeps vigil from the top floor of a house in Srinagar on Friday,

AP PHOTO

South Asia a victim of regional hegemonism

China role vital for peace: Musharraf

FROM RAJA ASGHAR

Islamabad, May 15 (Reuters): Pakistani military ruler Pervez Musharraf said today a Chinese role remained vital for peace in South Asia, which he called a "victim of regional hegemonism".

"As a close neighbour, China has always played a crucial and positive role for peace and stability of South Asia," the official APP news agency quoted him as saying in a speech at the state-funded Institute of Strategic Studies.

"This role will remain vital, specially so in the changing geo-strategic realities," Musharraf said a day after Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji ended a four-day visit to Pakistan, a traditional ally of China.

Musharraf said the nuclear weapons tests by India and Pakistan three years ago had added a "new dimension to the perennial tensions" that threaten regional peace.

He said unfortunately the end of the Cold War did not usher in an expected era of peace. "It in fact has led to a change in global equations leading to the emergence of

regional hegemons," he was quoted as saying.

"South Asia is such a victim of regional hegemonism which creates strategic imbalance," he said of what Pakistan sees as attempts by India to dominate South Asia.

He said it was in the interests of Pakistan's security to maintain a regional strategic balance.

Pakistan and India have fought three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947, two of them over Kashmir.

Tensions remain high between the two countries over an 11-year-old separatist insurgency in the Himalayan region.

Musharraf said he fully endorsed China's advocacy of peaceful coexistence but, in a reference to wars with India, added that Pakistan's "sovereignty and territorial integrity had been threatened in the past".

"We desire peace with dignity and honour. This cannot be done without solving disputes that have plagued security in South Asia and continue to be a hindrance in improving the overall environment," he said about what Pakistan calls the "core issue" of

Kashmir.

China had been a firm supporter of Pakistan's position on what Islamabad calls the Kashmiri struggle for the right to self-determination.

But that support has been muted in recent years as China moved to mend fences with India.

China has traditionally been seen as a key supporter of Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes, which Islamabad says are aimed at securing the country against the perceived Indian threat. But both Islamabad and Beijing deny their cooperation has violated international agreements governing weapons of mass destruction or transfer of missile technology. Musharraf said in his speech that Pakistan-China cooperation "in the field of defence remains strong and will continue within the bounds of international regimes".

Zhu Rongji will explore ways of expanding skimpy trade levels between China and Nepal in talks with business officials. Zhu is the first Chinese Premier to visit Nepal in 12 years.

THE TELEGRAPH

16 MAY 2001

Zhu's pat to Musharraf surprises Opp

59-5 1575



Mr Zhu Rongji (centre) flanked by Pakistani soldiers walks towards poet Iqbal's grave to pay tributes. In Lahore on Monday. — AP/PTI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, May 14. — The reported remarks by Chinese Prime Minister Mr Zhu Rongji that the October 1999 coup by military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf "brought stability to Pakistan" surprised the Opposition parties, clamouring for an end to the military rule, news reports said today.

The chairman of Alliance for Restoration of Democracy, Nawabzada Nasurullah Khan, declined to comment on Mr Zhu's remarks but regretted the decision of the military regime which had kept politicians away from Mr Zhu.

"This attitude isn't good for the people who admire China, the most trusted friend of the country," Mr Khan said. Mr Zhu, during interaction with businessmen here on Saturday, reportedly praised Gen Musharraf's 18-month rule.

THE STATESMAN

15 MAY 2001

Zhu begins four-day state visit to Pakistan

REUTERS
ISLAMABAD, MAY 11

CHINESE Prime Minister Zhu Rongji arrived in Pakistan on Friday for a four-day visit which Pakistan hopes will cement close military and economic ties the two countries have enjoyed for half a century.

Zhu was greeted by Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf as he stepped off a China Air plane to a booming gun

salute as schoolchildren waved the countries' flags.

"I am convinced this visit will further consolidate and strengthen the traditional friendship between China and Pakistan and help to promote steadily the China-Pakistan partnership of all-round cooperation," Zhu said in a statement on his arrival.

"History has proven that this friendship is not only in conformity with the common aspiration and fundamental interests of the



Zhu... Pak's best friend

two countries and two peoples, but also conducive to peace, stability and development of the region," the statement, quoted by the official APP news agency, said.

Zhu visits Pakistan at the start of an 11-day, five-country trip that will take him to Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Maldives and Thailand. But the trip does not include India where US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage began talks on Friday on Washington's global missile defence plan.

The US Envoy is on an Asian tour to explain and win support for the Bush Administration's strategic vision on missile defence, but he is not due to visit Pakistan.

India was on Friday observing the third anniversary of its nuclear tests which shook the global regime for nuclear disarmament and raised fears of a South Asian arms race.

In response to the Indian tests, Pakistan conducted five tests of its own on May 28, 1998, and one

more on May 30. China is seen as a key supporter of Pakistan's nuclear and missile programme through Islamabad and Beijing deny that their cooperation has violated any international laws governing weapons of mass destruction or transfer of missile technology.

Pakistani officials say they have identified half a dozen projects, such as the building of reservoirs, a new Port and a coastal highway, in which China could help.

China backs Pak. position on Kashmir

By B. Muralidhar Reddy ^{HD-13} Missile Defence (NMD).

ISLAMABAD, MAY 11. China tonight virtually endorsed the position of Pakistan on Kashmir and said that it backed the efforts for resolution of the issue through 'peaceful means'.

Addressing a news conference along with the Pakistan military ruler and the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, said "we appreciate the position taken by Pakistan calling for a peaceful settlement of the problem".

He was responding to a specific query on what role China could play in resolution of the conflict. "It is a left over of history and a very complicated issue. We would spare no effort to our utmost to support the efforts aimed at resolving this dispute through peaceful means".

The endorsement of the Pakistani position by the Chinese Government is bound to catch India by surprise and could perhaps be attributed to the perceived closeness between India and the United States on several issues including the controversial proposal unveiled by the President, Mr. George Bush, on National

There was no reference in the comments made by Mr. Rongji to either the bilateral process for resolution of the conflict or the Lahore Declaration or the Shimla Agreement between India and Pakistan on the Kashmir question.

Of course, the Chinese Prime Minister did make it a point to mention that the Kashmir dispute is a "left over of history and a very complicated issue". But the position is bound to leave India unhappy. The very fact that the Chinese Premier deemed it necessary, within hours after his arrival in Islamabad, to articulate a position on Kashmir that may not be palatable to India is an indication of the fact that China may not be happy with the Indian stand on some of the developing issues, particularly the NMD plan.

Both the leaders chose not to respond to a specific question shouted by a journalist on the reaction of the Indian Government to the plans made known by the Bush Administration on the NMD.

The joint press conference of the Chinese Prime Minister and the Pakistani military ruler got delayed by over an hour as the discussions between them on

matters of mutual interest to both the countries got prolonged. In the course of the dialogue, both sides signed a memorandum of understanding on several subjects mainly centered on strengthening of economic relations.

What struck the journalists, who waited patiently for both the leaders to emerge from their one-to-one discussions, was the lavish praise on the performance of the military government by the visiting dignitary.

Mr. Rongji maintained that in the perception of China, the Musharraf regime, in the course of last 18 months, had done a good job and Pakistan had little to worry on any front. He said China was prepared to help Pakistan in all fields.

Both sides appear to be thrilled over the outcome of the discussions. Gen. Musharraf and the Chinese Prime Minister repeatedly referred to the enduring nature of the relationship between the two countries and said nothing could shake the nature of their ties.

'Pak. least bothered'

Gen. Musharraf, addressing presspersons, claimed that Pakistan was least bothered about the

hike in India's defence budget and said his country was fully prepared to defend any "aggressive designs" from across the border.

"We always maintain a certain level of deterrence that will deter any aggression from India. We are very confident that this level of deterrence is maintained", he said.

Earlier, the Chinese Premier arrived here on a four-day official visit to a tumultuous welcome from the military establishment in Pakistan.

The high-level delegation led by Mr. Rongji was received at the military base by Gen. Musharraf, senior Ministers and chiefs of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. A 19-gun salute heralded the arrival of the Prime Minister of a country described as an 'all-weather friend' of Pakistan. After a customary call on the President, Mr. Rafiq Tarar, Mr. Rongji was closeted with Gen. Musharraf.

Though the visit, first by the Chinese Premier to Pakistan in the last five years, is essentially meant to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries, economic co-operation would dominate the agenda of the high-profile visit.

THE HINDU

12 MAY 2001

China to help Pakistan build deep-sea port

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 12. China has promised support to Pakistan in building an ambitious deep-sea port and development of a coastal highway leading to the Iranian border.

After substantive discussions with the military leadership on the first day of his stay here, the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, got down to looking at ways to strengthen the economic ties.

Addressing a meeting of senior members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Rongji said, "China will support Gawadar deep-sea port and coastal highway projects." He put forward a four-point proposal to achieve

closer economic bilateral ties.

Mr. Rongji told the meeting, attended among others by the Pakistan military leader and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, that the Chinese Communications Minister would visit Pakistan soon to "discuss ways and means and to what extent we can extend support to these projects."

"The gracious announcement of the Prime Minister regarding the Gawadar port and the coastal highway, if found feasible after the visit of the Chinese Minister, will form a symbol of Pakistan-China friendship in the new millennium," Gen. Musharraf said in his speech.

Pakistan has carried out a feasibility study of the project and has been seeking international help

for the multi-million dollar port which became important after the 1979-89 Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. Gawadar offers an important sealane for oil traffic from the region and would also provide the shortest route to the Central Asian republics.

Pakistan has started the 750-km coastal highway from Karachi to the Iranian border but, so far, only a 250 km-stretch has been completed.

Mr. Rongji said Beijing and Islamabad should work together to ensure a just international economic and political order for all developing economies to flourish in. "The Chinese side is ready to work together with all countries in South Asia including Pakistan and contribute our due share to realizing this goal."

THE HINDU

13 MAY 2001

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Zhu calls for better trade ties with Pak

Islamabad, May 12

CHINESE PRIME Minister Zhu Rongji said on Saturday his country and Pakistan ought to step up economic cooperation, and praised the record of Pakistan's military ruler since he took power 18 months ago.

"We are convinced that with the joint efforts of both sides, China-Pakistan economic cooperation will be surely brought to a new high in the new century," Zhu told a gathering of Pakistani businessmen.

Zhu arrived in Islamabad on Friday and held discussions on regional and economic matters with General Pervez Musharraf.

The two sides signed seven project agreements which officials say might involve about \$500 million of investment by Chinese companies in Pakistan.

Zhu said Musharraf had also asked for Chinese support in developing Pakistan's Gawadar port and a coastal highway in Baluchistan province.

"Last year Pakistan-China trade hit a record high of \$1.16 billion, doubling that of 10 years ago," he told a lunch held by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Zhu praised Musharraf's record since he took power in a bloodless coup. "Your country is more stable and the downward spiral of the economy has been reversed and the people's living standard has also improved somewhat," Zhu said.

Musharraf has begun political and economic reforms and tried to improve the investment image of Pakistan after it was badly tarnished by a row with foreign-backed power companies.

The IMF extended a standby loan last year to tide the country over a balance of payments crisis and talks are expected soon on a longer term programme. Islamabad also expects fresh funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

13 MAY 2001

Zhu hopes for more trade, praises Pervez

Islamabad, May 12: Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji said on Saturday that his country and Pakistan ought to step up economic cooperation, and praised the record of Pakistan's military ruler since he took power 18 months ago.

"We are convinced that with the joint efforts of both sides, China-Pakistan economic cooperation will be surely brought to a new high in the new century," Mr Zhu told a gathering of Pakistani businessmen.

Mr Zhu arrived in Islamabad on

Friday and held discussions on regional and economic matters with General Pervez Musharraf.

The two sides signed seven project agreements which officials say might involve about \$500 million of investment by Chinese companies in Pakistan.

Mr Zhu said Gen. Musharraf had also asked for Chinese support in developing Pakistan's Gawadar Port and a coastal highway in Baluchistan province.

"Last year Pakistan-China trade hit a record high of \$1.16 billion,

doubling that of 10 years ago," he told a lunch held by the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry.

Mr Zhu praised Gen. Musharraf's record since he took power in a bloodless coup. "Your country is more stable and the downward spiral of the economy has been reversed and the people's living standard has also improved somewhat," Mr Zhu said. Gen. Musharraf has begun political and economic reforms and tried to improve the investment image of

Pakistan after it was badly tarnished by a row with foreign-backed power companies.

The International Monetary Fund extended a standby loan last year to tide the country over a balance of payments crisis and talks are expected soon on a longer term programme. Islamabad also expects fresh funding from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

FPCCI president Iftikhar Ali Malik said the balance of trade had always been in China's favour.

"We would like to see the volume of bilateral trade grow further in a more balanced manner," he urged.

Mr Zhu said China might send a team to look into commodity imports from Pakistan as a way of making trade more balanced.

Among other agreements China has agreed to help lay a petroleum pipeline from Mehmud Kot to Karachi. The two sides also agreed to cooperate in the field of telecommunications, as part of which China will provide \$100 million to Pakistan. (Reuters, UNI)

'Pak.-China ties not against any country'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 13. In an unusual action, the Chinese Foreign Ministry invited a representative of the Indian High Commission here to the press briefing meant for the international media and sought to emphasise that the ties between China and Pakistan were not directed against any country.

The briefing by the Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Ms. Zhang Qiyue, late on Friday night was intended to provide an account of the engagements of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji.

It could not be known if representatives of other missions were also invited. After a brief narration of Mr. Rongji's meeting with the Pakistani President, Mr. Rafiq Tarar, the spokesperson left the field open for questions.

It was in the course of the question-answer

session that followed that the spokesperson was at pains to emphasise on the desire of China to maintain good relations with all the countries. The first question she faced was about the "anti-voices" from New Delhi on defence co-operation between Islamabad and Beijing.

The spokesperson said "the focus of the visit of Mr. Rongji was on economic and trade relations. Our relationship with Pakistan is very good. It is what our Pakistani friends call the all-weather friendship and we would like to further enhance it.

"India is a close neighbour, and over the years we have developed good relations with it. We would like the ties to develop further. Our relationship with Pakistan is not directed against any country and we want to develop peace relations with South Asian countries, including India".

To a question on "continuing Indian brutalities in Kashmir" and the recent Indian military exercises, the spokesperson said China's position on Kashmir had been consistent. "We are for a peaceful resolution of the Kashmir issue. We favour a just and reasonable solution. We desire that all countries in the region treat each other with respect".

On the military exercises, Ms. Qiyue said China had taken note of the development. "We hope that whatever the country (India) is doing is good for peace and stability".

The spokesperson declined to answer a question on the Indian reaction to the National Defence Missile programme unveiled by the Bush administration saying it was not in her "jurisdiction". On Pakistan's reaction to the programme, she said the Pakistan chief executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, had explained his country's viewpoint in the course of his discussions with Mr. Rongji and the Chinese premier merely listened.

On the possibility of China and the U.S. getting engaged in super-power race, she said China was a developing country and even if it were a developed country, it would not be a super or hegemonic power. "We are a peace loving country. We are not interested in having spheres of influence. We want our people to live well".

TO a question on India's bid to become a member of the United Nations Security Council, the spokesperson said the subject was under discussion in the U.N. and China had no opinion at the moment about eligible candidates.

Asked if China expressed its concern about the Taliban to the Pakistani leadership, Ms. Qiyue said that Gen. Musharraf explained to Mr. Rongji the position and policies of Pakistan on Afghanistan.

Rongji calls for South Asian unity

By Our Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, MAY 13. The visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, has called for South Asian cooperation for establishment of a new international political and economic order.

Speaking at a banquet hosted by the Pakistan President, Mr. Rafiq Tarar, the Chinese premier said, "we are all developing countries shouldering the historic mission of promoting the establishment of a new international political and economic order".

Mr. Rongji said South Asia was an important component of the world, boasting

as it does a vast land area of five million square km and 1.3 billion diligent and talented people.

He said China sincerely hoped that in the new century, countries in South Asia would live together in peace and amity, resolve differences, expand regional cooperation and realise common development.

The Chinese premier flew this morning to Lahore. The Punjab Government had organised a civic reception in his honour. He is expected to spend the night there.

Mr. Rongji, who is here on his first leg of the five-nation Asia tour, will leave for Nepal tomorrow.

THE HINDU

14 MAY 2001

Karachi, Beijing ground fighter plane plans

Islamabad, April 18

PAKISTAN AND China have deferred their decade-long plans to manufacture the multi-purpose Super-7 futuristic war plane following the Russian Government's decision not to supply the required engine for the aircraft.

"In view of the Russian decision, both Pakistan and China have decided to use indigenous technology currently available in both countries to manufacture modern fighter planes," *Jang* said quoting reliable sources.

It said the Pak-China fighter expected to be test flown in about one and a half years would be fitted with a Chinese engine, instead of the powerful Russian made RD-93 type of engine used in Mig-29. There was, however, no official comment from either Islamabad or Beijing on the issue.

Commenting on the reports, diplomatic sources who had earlier revealed the Russian Government's decision not to supply the engines following pressure from India, said China had no matching engine at present on its shelf. This was the reason why the Pak-China plane project had to bank on the Mig-29 engine being manufactured by Mikoyan design bureau of Russia.

They said the set back to the plane project could have serious consequences for Pakistan Air Force (PAF) which was looking for medium-tech combat aircraft to replace its entire fleet of ageing F-6, F-7p, A-5 and Mirages. PAF at present has around 350 warplanes.

The most modern combative

BHUTTO TO RETURN HOME AFTER AUGUST LOCAL POLLS

EXILED FORMER Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto will not return to lead the Opposition movement against the military regime until after local elections in August.

She was waiting for "great political mobilisation as well as national and international attention," her party was quoted as saying in a daily. The two-time Prime Minister has lived in exile in London and Dubai since shortly before her conviction for corruption here in 1999, but she has said she will be back to lead the Opposition

AFP, Islamabad

aircraft in PAF shelf continues to be the 35 odd American made F-16 fighter planes which it acquired in 1983 during the height of the Afghanistan war.

Since then Islamabad's request for 70 more F-16 has been turned down due to Pressler amendment in US, which effectively prevented any high tech arms sales to Pakistan. In view of this PAF appears to have been stranded without a modern aircraft to match the Russian made SU-30 being acquired by India.

The Super-7 was conceived by the China Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation in 1992. Catic later invited PAF to invest in the design development. The project was approved by former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 1995 and an MoU was signed during deposed Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in 1999.

PTI

Blow to Pak fighter plane purchase

Islamabad, April 8

PAKISTAN'S PLANS to acquire Super-7 fighter planes in technological collaboration with China has suffered a setback after Russia backed out to provide the required engines for the state-of-the-art aircraft.

Diplomatic sources here said the Russian decision not to supply the required engine could sound a death knell to the ambitious Sino-Pak project to build a futuristic aircraft as Beijing has no matching engine yet in its shelf to fit the fighter aircraft.

Moscow had agreed to supply over 100 engines but later backed

few months ago, sources said. However, it is not yet known whether the Russians have supplied any MIG-29 engines for experimental purposes, which could enable the Chinese to develop an equivalent in the coming years.

In terms of weapon systems and avionics, Super-7 (S-7) was believed to match the state of the art, Russian Su-30 aircraft being acquired by India.

The story of the S-7 was virtual repeat of Russia's promise to supply MIG-29 and Su-27 aircraft in 1992. Russia had later backed out under pressure from India, sources said.

The intensity of the setback can be gauged from the importance the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) had attached to the project in its official book "the story of the Pakistan Air Force," released last year which said, "the S-7 is vital for the PAF as it is expected to fulfill about 70 per cent of its operational requirements."

The induction of the S-7, was very important as Pakistan's 350-odd fighter aircraft consisting of F-16, F-7, A-5, Mirage, K-8 were poised for a phase out, the book said.

The Super-7 project was cleared by former Pakistani

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in 1995. The MoU was signed during deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in 1999.

The project, was conceived by the China Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation in 1992 which later invited PAF to invest in the design development.

As per the project profile, S-7 aircraft, which was designed to be multi-role light weight day and night fighter to attack ground targets, ships and enemy aircraft from considerable range would be fitted with MIG-29 engines to be supplied by Russian Mikoyan Design Bureau.

Besides the Russian engine, S-7's design included multimode pulse Doppler radar, a mission computer and multi-function displays.

Its weapons systems include a variety of conventional and guided weapons.

Bogged down by the Pressler amendment which prevented the induction of American F-16s and the serious economic constraints resulting in the Government's decision to cap its defence budget, Pakistan continues to rely on 40 odd early versions of F-16s supplied by the Americans in 1993.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

9 APR 2001

Pak opens Chinese-built nuclear plant 11-12

ISLAMABAD: Energy-starved Pakistan on Thursday opened its newest nuclear power plant, built with Chinese technology and money. Heavy rains prevented army ruler General Pervez Musharraf from opening the 325 megawatt plant at Chashma, some 225 km southwest of Islamabad.

Inaugurated by Pakistan's minister of Science and Technology Atta-ur Rehman, Chashma is Pakistan's second nuclear power plant. The other plant in the southern port city

of Karachi was built in the early 1970s using Canadian-built nuclear reactors.

Chashma, which has the capacity for another 600 megawatts of power, was built by seven Chinese companies and institutes which provided the design, construction, manufacture of supply of equipment. Attending the opening was China's minister for science, technology and national defense Liu Jibin.

Mr Musharraf on Wednesday lauded the Chinese assistance as "yet another manifesta-

tion of close friendship and cooperation that exists between the two countries."

Mr Liu delivered a letter from Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji, describing the project as a "symbol of traditional friendly relations."

The U.S. had earlier accused China of sending Pakistan nuclear-related equipment that could also be used to build nuclear weapons. But both countries said the only equipment being sent to Pakistan was for the Chashma plant. *(Agencies)*

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airport, they were handlers the ay. They have been in custody since being arrested on October 27 last year. Justice Dohm, however, dismissed on Wednesday the prosecution concern that if released, the accused might flee to Pakistan using false passports or by obtaining passports from other countries, according to *The Vancouver Sun* newspaper. (PT)

Pakistani Navy to acquire Chinese warship, build 3

ISLAMABAD: The Pakistani Navy, in a \$630 million modernisation plan, is to acquire a frontline Chinese warship and build three others indigenously under technology transfer, according to Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Abdul Aziz Mirza.

Declaring that the process of acquisition of the four warships would be completed by the next decade, Admiral Aziz said that procurement of warships from China would be cost-effective in comparison with the purchase of ships from other western countries.

The Pakistan naval chief was quoted by *The News* as saying that the induction of Chinese warships was part of moves by the navy to phase out the British built destroyers in a phased manner in the next ten years. Admiral Aziz, the paper said also hinted at moves to develop Gawadar Port on the Makran coast in Baluchistan as an alternative to the country's main seaport Karachi, which he said was vulnerable to Indian warships.

Admiral Aziz said that building of an alternative seaport was also a must keeping in view plans to lay gas pipelines from Central Asian states via Afghanistan. He also said that Malaysia, Saudi Arabia and Qatar had shown interest in acquisition of French built Agosta submarines from Pakistan. He also said that Pakistan would soon acquire a survey ship at a cost of \$70 to 75 million. (PT)

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