

PAKISTAN WILL ADAPT

5/16 Fall of Kabul a setback, not a defeat

THE fall of Kabul is interpreted as a diplomatic and political disaster for Pakistan and the collapse of that portion of Pakistan's foreign policy architecture that was premised on its relationship with the militia. This interpretation is only partly true, Pakistan had begun redoing its policy sums. The Taliban Ambassador, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef was told to shut up and the consulate in Karachi closed. This was followed by the closure of consulates in Quetta and Peshawar, all actions in keeping with the logic of Pakistan's participation in the coalition with America. Other measures were aimed at restraining the enthusiasm of pro-Taliban elements within Pakistan, beginning with the decree that mosques were not to shelter religious extremists, nor their loudspeakers used to "stir up emotions against government". Musharraf, for his part, also does not want his country and its nuclear arsenal to fall into the hands of radical Islam. The crackdown on the strike called on 9 November by the Afghan Defence Council, a coalition of 35 Islamic groups, seemed impressive. As long as the Army toes his line, Musharraf wins. Pakistanis are not fools. Abdul Sattar, the foreign minister, had hinted at the kind of campaign America would conduct in Afghanistan.

The question what do they do now, except to fight a rear-guard action as long as possible, remains; it depends on what happens in that miserable country, how long the Taliban hold on to Kandahar. Pakistan's concern for the Pashtuns is not unmixed with concern for Pakistani forces fighting alongside them in a *jihad*, now painfully exposed. Musharraf mentioned Zaheer Shah, which surprisingly echoes the coalition's own gropings in the dark. Pakistan is not yet marginalised, it could still get Blair to ask for their officers and men to be returned in safety. Finally, Pakistan is perfectly capable of adapting to any new demands the Americans may make with regard to its own *jehadi* cesspool, provided, of course, that the Americans show them the money and continue issuing statements which say that the "wishes of the people of Kashmir must be taken into account".

THE STATESMAN

DEC 2001

Pak., Iran to expand defence ties

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 3. Pakistan and Iran have decided to enhance defence cooperation. It would cover areas of manufacturing of small arms, ammunition, artillery tank ammunition, propellant and various kinds of explosives.

In an interview to the Pakistan daily, *Dawn*, the chairman of Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF), Lt. Gen. Abdul Qayyum, said both the countries had resolved their differences over Afghanistan and were now ready for increased military cooperation.

In the course of his two-day visit, the Iranian Foreign Minister, Mr. Kamal Kharrazi, and the Deputy Defence Minister, Admiral Nasrullah, had meetings with the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar.

In an apparent reference to Admiral Nasrullah's visit to the Pakistan Ordnance Factory, Lt. Gen. Qayyum said, "I must clarify here that our military cooperation will be limited to the manufacturing of tactical weapons and not nuclear weapons." The POF exports arms and ammunition to 30 countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sri Lanka and Bangladesh. Last year, Pakistan earned \$ 30 million through such exports.

In another interview with the Jang group of newspapers, Mr. Kharrazi said no interim government in Afghanistan should have a permanent head irrespective of its tenure. Each member of the administrative council should be made head on rotation basis.

Avoiding a direct answer on whether Iran would accept former King Zahir Shah as head of the interim set-up, he said no specific figure should be named.

"Such a nomination would create complications and lead to more misgivings among various Afghan groups. If the interim government is formed for 11 months and the members of the administrative council are also 11, then there is no need for any formula as each of them could be the head for a month." To avoid complication, a method of rotation should be adopted.

Mr. Kharrazi said Pakistan-Iran relations had moved in a new direction following Islamabad's shift in its policy towards the Taliban in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Iran would not maintain liaison with any of the Afghan factions. It need not stick to its previous policy of backing the United Front against the Taliban following their downfall.

OSCE to join front against terrorism

BUCHAREST, (ROMANIA), DEC. 3. European Foreign Ministers met in the Romanian capital on Monday to hammer out ways to counter the global terrorist threat and make the most of a "new political climate" since the September 11 attacks.

Ministers of the 55 countries that make up the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the continent's top security body, were considering how to join forces with NATO and the European Union to present a united front to terrorists.

"The OSCE must play its part in the broad international coalition against terrorism," said the Romanian Foreign Minister, Mr. Mircea Geoana, OSCE chairman. — AP

THE HINDU

- 4 DEC 2001

Pervez supports US, ISI arms Taliban

FROM DOUGLAS FRANTZ

Islamabad, Dec. 8: One month after the Pakistani government agreed to end its support for the Taliban, its intelligence agency was still providing safe passage for weapons and ammunition to arm them, according to Western and Pakistani officials.

On October 8 and again on October 12, Pakistani border guards at a dusty checkpoint in the Khyber Pass waved on convoys headed into Afghanistan. Western intelligence officials said that under the trucks' tarpaulins were rifles, ammunition and rocket-propelled grenade launchers for Taliban fighters.

Pakistan's premier spying agency, ISI, had long provided safe passage to convoys of truckers and smugglers who supplied weapons to the Taliban. But the policy was supposed to have changed in September after a Washington ultimatum to Pakistan. A senior Pakistani intelligence official acknowledged that the October 8 shipment did contain arms for the Taliban, but he said that it was the last officially sanctioned delivery and that the Pakistanis have since been living up to their commitment to the Americans.

Even around that time, there were signs of a change. Pakistani military advisers were withdrawn from Afghanistan during the following weeks, a move that Western intelligence officials say may have been a crucial factor in the surprisingly swift collapse of Taliban forces when confronted by the Northern Alliance.

"We did not fully understand the significance of Pakistan's role in propping up the Taliban until their guys withdrew and things went to hell fast for the Talibs," said a Western diplomat who has monitored the region



Julia Roberts points at the camera as she holds a child at the Incirlik base in Turkey. Brad Pitt and Julia Roberts arrived in Incirlik to meet US personnel working at the base. (Reuters)

for many years.

Nonetheless, the ISI remains what many describe as a state within a state, with independent, and worrying, political tendencies. "Power remains in the hands of a powerful group of jihadi generals who are outside the government apparatus, but have tentacles in government," said Pakistan's former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto.

Bhutto is hardly an impartial observer. Now living in self-imposed exile in Dubai to avoid corruption charges at home, she blames the intelligence service for conspiring to topple her second government in 1996 in part because she refused to fully back the Taliban. But her assessment is shared by many among Pakistan's intelligence and diplomatic ranks, where the strong sense is that Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the Pakistani leader, must undertake a broader political purge if he hopes to loosen

the grip of elements within the ISI who remain loyal to the Taliban — even as their forces are collapsing.

One of the agency's staunchly Islamist intelligence directors was Lt. Gen. Hamid Gul, who headed the ISI in the late 1980s and who remains an influential figure within it. "It will not be so easy for officers to set aside their beliefs and change sides," said Gul, now retired, in a recent interview.

Gul said he remains pro-Taliban and he denounced the Americans for condemning the Afghan rulers and Osama bin Laden without providing any proof of guilt. "Osama bin Laden is a sensitive man and he had nothing to do with the attacks on America," he said. "You Americans will have to support the Taliban one day. They are not going to go away. They are integral, organic, historic."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

- 9 DEC 2001

Setback for Pakistan submarine plan

France Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 9. — Pakistan's plans to build and sell the 90B Agosta submarines to friendly countries suffered a setback with Malaysia, the only country to have evinced interest, opting to buy the original version of the same from France.

The deal could be a major blow to Pakistan Navy as it planned to embark on high sales drive of the Agosta sub ever since it acquired the transfer of technology rights from France and invested \$1.5 billion to construct a submarine building and repair facility at the southern Ormara Port few years ago, media report said here this weekend.

The deal with Malaysia failed to take off as Kuala Lumpur opted to buy two scorpion class diesel submarines for about 1.8 billion dollars from France itself, instead of giving the order to Pakistan. The Malaysian decision to buy the original French submarines from France has completely eliminated Pakistan's sales prospects, The Friday Times newspaper said.

The Pakistan Navy has signed the deal with France in early 1990s to acquire transfer of technology. As per the deal one submarine would be delivered by France and other two would be built at the newly constructed Ormara base, which was set up with an eye on the exports.

Pakistan opted for the costly Transfer of Technology option as it was convinced of being able to manufacture and sell the sub at far more cheaper price due to availability of cheap labour. Besides Malaysia, similar offers were made to Saudi Arabia, Vietnam and Myanmar but without success. The Agosta was in news early this year as Pakistan Navy said it could go build a nuclear platform on it if so desired.

"Going nuclear is Government's decision. If the country has become a nuclear power, it is obvious that the government has to think of the means of delivery and most credible delivery in the history of naval power is the submarine platform," Pakistan Naval Chief Admiral Abdul Aaziz Mirza said in June this year.

He said in order to go nuclear the French-built Agosta 90B nuclear submarine "have to have independent propulsion and firing system of longer range missiles and if the Government decides we will be able to deliver to whatever extent it is possible".

THE STATESMAN

10 DEC 2001

28/12

Pak. grants \$100m. aid to Afghanistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 22 In a gesture aimed at sending friendly vibes to the new regime in Afghanistan, the Pakistan government today announced a grant of \$100 million for reconstruction of projects and humanitarian assistance besides lifting restrictions on export of items for reconstruction of the war-ravaged country.

A statement by the Pakistan Foreign Ministry said Pakistan would reopen its Embassy and Consulates in Afghanistan as soon as administrative arrangements are finalized through mutual consultation.

The re-opening of embassy in Kabul might prove to be a difficult task for Islamabad given the general degree of anti-Pakistan sentiment in the country. Reports by hordes of western journalists present in Afghanistan and diplomatic sources here suggest that it would be a while before the anti-Pakistan sentiments subsiding in Afghanistan.

The resentment against Pakistan is not only confined to senior leaders of the Northern Alliance but also prevalent among the people of Afghanistan. As a country that did its best before September 11 to promote Taliban regime in every international forum, there is little doubt that Islamabad is viewed with suspicion in Afghanistan.

In what is seen as a bid to gain the confidence of the new rulers in Afghanistan, Pakistan today sent a high-level delegation led by Mr. Abdul Sattar, Foreign Minister to be present at the installation ceremony of the new interim administration headed by Mr. Hamid Karzai.

The Foreign Minister delivered a letter from the President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to Mr. Hamid Karzai, Chairman of Interim Administration conveying a message

of goodwill and an invitation to pay an official visit to Pakistan at his earliest convenience.

Mugabe warns of racial split

HARARE, DEC. 22. The Zimbabwean President, Mr. Robert Mugabe, has slammed moves by the Commonwealth Ministers towards a possible expulsion of his country, saying the grouping risked being split along racial lines, state media said today.

The Commonwealth Action Group (CMAG) meeting in London on Thursday resolved to put Zimbabwe on the agenda of its next meeting, the first step to possible suspension.

Speaking in Libya, Mr. Mugabe told Zimbabwe's State-run *Herald* newspaper: "I don't think it (the CMAG action) will be sustainable at the Commonwealth meeting at all.

"The Commonwealth is not just the white people, you see, the Anglo-Saxon, and this is what the British wants it to be. The moment they do that there will be a break-up of the Commonwealth." He said the move was made at the demand of the "mad British Government" and reiterated that there was no going back on land reform. Zimbabwe is in the throes of a controversial land reform programme, which is seeing hundreds of farms forcibly taken from white farmers to give to landless blacks.

"They can ask even Lucifer to help them but this is our country and we will not let go," the *Herald* quoted Mr. Mugabe as saying.

In a statement, the Commonwealth Ministers repeated concerns over continued violence, property occupations and intimidation of the media, which they said was violating the Commonwealth's fundamental political values.— AFP

THE HINDU

23 DEC 2001

Musharraf twists Bush a

Pakistan 1-1 23/12



Seventy-year-old Mariam Bibi (left) embraces her sister, Bismillah, 67, before leaving Karachi for New Delhi. Mariam Bibi had to cut short her visit after India and Pakistan decided to close their airspace to each other's carriers. (AFP)

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Dec. 28: Reliving the legacy of his predecessor Zia-ul-Haq, Pakistan's President Pervez Musharraf today twisted the arm of another vacationing US President so badly that he has virtually been forced to fall in line.

Military authorities in Rawalpindi are understood to have told the Americans that Pakistani troops can no longer patrol the border with Afghanistan or look for Osama bin Laden since they are needed on the eastern border to deal with a possible conflict with India.

A panic-stricken President George W. Bush (Reuters picture on right) immediately emerged from his ranch in Texas — where he has been preparing for the New Year — to praise Musharraf and ask India to "take note... that the President (Musharraf) is responding forcefully and actively to bring those who would harm others to justice".

Of particular worry for the White House will be Pakistan's demand that the US return the Jacobabad air base in Sindh province to Pakistan's control.

Jacobabad is the nerve-centre of US military presence in Pakistan.

The Americans have already spent considerable amounts of money redoing the base and were hoping to establish a permanent presence there after the war in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's demand has put the Americans at the mercy of the military leaders in Rawalpindi in their pursuit of al Qaida and the Taliban.

It is a case of the tail wagging the dog, but it has happened before. After the Soviets invaded Afghanistan in 1979, Zia-ul-Haq made President Jimmy Carter literally dance around him. He made Carter give in to virtually every demand from Pakistan.

Queue for Afghan credit line

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Dec. 28: Samjhauta Express may stop chugging from the new year, but there's no halting the gravy train to Afghanistan which is ready to roll with a Rs 500-crore line of credit from the Indian government.

The line of credit becomes operational with immediate effect, said S.K. Lambah, India's special envoy to Afghanistan, at a gathering of Indian companies, several of which appeared eager to clamber on board.

The money can be used by Indian companies looking for business opportunities in war-ravaged Afghanistan, especially in infrastructure, health, automobiles and energy.

"As soon as a full-fledged government takes over in Afghanistan (the Hamid Karzai government has a six-month mandate before a tribal chiefs' conclave installs a formal regime), we will have discussions with them on the projects," Lambah said.

Indian companies are keen to establish a railhead in Afghanistan before competitors from Pakistan, Iran and Uzbekistan swarm the dusty landscape bristling with business opportunities.

Border snub for Pak

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR AND PRANAY SHARMA

Karachi/New Delhi, Dec. 28: Conciliatory signals coming out of Islamabad today had no effect on India.

"The issue is not about troops build-up, but terrorism across the border," Delhi said. Earlier in the day, Pakistan urged India to scale back the build-up on the border.

"We would like them to withdraw their forces to peacetime locations so that we can also withdraw our forces to peacetime locations," foreign ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan told the BBC.

"There is no point in heating up the atmosphere," he said a day after India announced downgrading of diplomatic relations, ban on overflights and restriction on movement of Pakistani diplomatic staff, drawing tit-for-tat response from Islamabad.

"This is another unique attempt on Pakistan's part to obfuscate the real issue. The question is not of troops build-up, but of terrorism," a senior Indian official said.

Pakistan did not show any signs of taking further actions against the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, held responsible by India for the Parliament attack. "If we find any evidence against any individual or

group or organisation indulging in any undesirable activities, action will be taken," Khan said.

President Pervez Musharraf made a cryptic comment open to interpretations when asked if he was prepared to act against extremist pro-Kashmiri militant groups. "We understand our responsibility. We know what we have to do."

India insisted that Pakistan was refusing to acknowledge the need to take "precise, focused steps to address the central issue of terrorism operating out of its soil". External affairs ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said: "It is Pakistan which is the epicentre of terrorism in our region. It refuses to recognise the ramifications of that situation and the gravity with which India views this entire matter."

Pakistan repeated its offer for talks at Kathmandu during the Saarc summit between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Musharraf, but India has refused to resume the dia-

logue frozen since the failed Agra summit.

Musharraf said he was willing to meet Vajpayee. "I don't mind meeting with him but you can't clap with one hand."

"He (Vajpayee) must show willingness on his side and there will be willingness on our side," the general said.

About the only friendly gesture Delhi is prepared to make is allowing Musharraf to overfly while he heads to Kathmandu. "If any request is made for overflying by Pakistan President and his delegation for the Saarc summit, it will be met," external affairs ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

The Group of Eight — its members major donors to Pakistan which needs financial support desperately for a shattered economy — asked Islamabad to crack down on terrorism. The UK did the same.

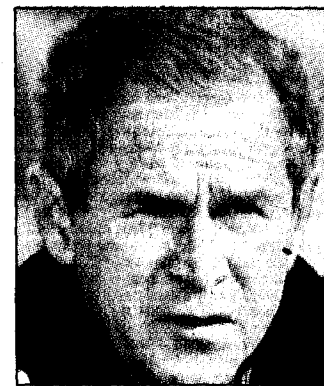
Asked about world leaders asking the two countries to show restraint, an Indian official said: "It is clear that they are scared of a flare-up here. They should not blame India, but ask Pakistan to take steps against the terrorists that we have asked for and the temperature in the region can be brought down soon after."

The official argued that India has always shown restraint in the past and so far it has not done anything to prove otherwise.

Musharraf is doing the twisting with one hand while he extends the other in unconditional friendliness.

As an unidentified official leaked the news in Islamabad that Pakistan had delivered a note to Washington it may not be able to provide crucial logistical support to US and British troops operating in Afghanistan because of a possible conflict with India, the President presented a face of complete reliability.

"Whatever we are doing on that Afghan border will continue to be done. There will be no thin-



Islamabad, Dec. 28 (Reuters): Pakistan's foreign minister Abdus Sattar said today he could not rule out the possibility that Osama bin Laden was in Pakistan.

"I can't say it is impossible."

"We have a large number of troops on the border with Afghanistan at this time. If he came to any town or city, he could be recognised and turned in," he said. "However, our country has a long border thousands of kilometres in length."

Afghanistan's defence minister Mohammad Fahim said bin Laden was probably in Peshawar. "Osama is out of our control. To a large extent it depends on Pakistan. America can pursue him with the help of the Pakistani government," he said.

ning out... No change to that situation," he said.

Similarly, his spokesman, Rashid Qureshi, raised a real threat of war for the first time from the Pakistani side while the President said Pakistan would never precipitate a conflict.

"The Indian government has put itself into a corner from where, I think, it would be difficult for it to back off," Qureshi said, referring to the buildup on the border.

He stopped short of expressing the fear of a full-fledged war, but in private Pakistani officials said there could be more than a limited conflict.

Musharraf said: "We do not want war. We will never initiate a war unless it is thrust and initiated on us."

His strategy is paying off. Bush told reporters at his ranch: "I'm pleased to note that President Musharraf has announced the arrest of 50 extreme terrorists."

Bush said secretary of state Colin Powell had spoken to the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers again today. The President said he would speak personally to Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee "if need be".

The possibility of Pakistan withdrawing its forces from the border with Afghanistan and reducing protection for US forces stationed at Pakistani bases has been an American nightmare ever since the attack on Parliament triggered a new crisis between Islamabad and New Delhi.

But by asking for the return of the Jacobabad air base, Musharraf has exceeded America's worst fears. He is now in a position to dictate the first State of Union address by Bush, the first draft of which is ready.

Bush has been hoping to announce victory in the war in Afghanistan in the address, but that will now very much depend on the Pakistani strongman.

■ See Pages 4, 6 and 8

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comes from milk,



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9/12

CLONING HUMAN EMBRYOS

Science & Technology

THE STUNNING ANNOUNCEMENT that a small Massachusetts-based biotech company cloned human embryos has evoked a predictable storm of protest. The work conducted by Advance Cell Technology (ACT) is the closest that anyone has come to cloning a human being and raises questions which are relevant to scientists, ethicists and regulatory authorities. By creating embryos using eggs that were not fertilised, the company's scientists claim to have demonstrated a process which could lead to cures for a wide variety of diseases ranging from diabetes to Alzheimer's. The hope is that stem cells harvested from cloned embryos could be used to replace damaged ones and thus set the stage for a radical new form of tissue engineering and transplantation medicine.

Not everyone of course buys the argument that cloning human embryos is but a step in the process of evolving life-saving therapies for a range of human diseases. The idea of creating human embryos in order to destroy them is something that leaves many people — and not merely adherents of the Catholic church — deeply uncomfortable. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and Congressional conservatives have accused ACT of "crossing the line" by cloning a human embryo. In Europe too, a strong note of scepticism and caution have underlined the reaction to the biotech company's experiments. Earlier this year, Mr. Bush declared that U.S. federal funds would not be used to fund research on human embryos, unless such research is conducted on stem cells already harvested from embryos already discarded or killed. Although the House of Representatives voted to ban all human embryo cloning, the U.S. Senate is expected to take up the matter only next year — a possible reason why ACT announced its findings now is that it wanted to do this before its experiments were declared illegal.

In any debate on human cloning, it is imper-

ative to distinguish between reproductive cloning and therapeutic cloning. While the object of the former would be to create human beings (in much the same manner as Dolly the sheep), the latter uses the cloning technique only to create embryos from which stem cells are harvested. While Governments have few qualms about outlawing reproductive human cloning, the questions raised by therapeutic cloning are far more complex, touching as they do on issues concerning human health and longevity. With the United Nations due to begin negotiations on human cloning and a growing body of opinion in favour of universal laws on this subject, we may see the formulation of international rules governing or regulating this thorny and controversial issue.

Meanwhile, it is important to place ACT's 'breakthrough' in perspective. The company, which used two different methods to manufacture the embryos, found that all of them died soon after they were created. While it may be harsh to describe its experiments as a failure, it demonstrates that the technique is still spotty and unreliable — ACT's embryos did not live long enough to produce the kind of material which would yield stem cells for medical research. The other thing that needs to be emphasised is that despite the tremendous potential held out by stem cell research, medical science is a long way from developing treatments and cures based on harvesting such cells. The knowledge we require to coax or tease stem cells into forming the desired tissues and cells in a form they can be used in transplantation medicine is far from available and it may be years — possibly over a decade — before we acquire it. If medical science does find a firm and legal use for therapeutic cloning, ACT is likely to be credited with taking the first steps in this direction. Meanwhile, its experiments will remain not merely ethically controversial but also open to a measure of scientific scepticism.

THE HINDU

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USA denies differences with Russia on govt formation

We joined coalition for Kashmir: Musharraf

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 19. — General Pervez Musharraf today said Pakistan's security concerns, its core interests in Kashmir and safety of its nuclear programme motivated him to join the international coalition against terrorism.

"Security of the country and our core interests of Kashmir and nuclear programme were kept uppermost while taking the decision after attacks in the USA", he told elected chiefs of the local bodies here.

The Pakistan foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, said his government was not in a hurry to recognise any new administration until a new dispensation is formed with UN assistance. "We have not yet announced de-recognition of Taliban government. That does not mean we continue to recognise it. Quite clearly the (Taliban) government has collapsed", he said.

He expressed surprise over Iran's decision to open its diplomatic mission in Kabul, saying there was no government in Afghanistan.

British envoy in Kabul: A British envoy today arrived in Kabul to set up a diplomatic mission there and start talks with local leaders, Downing Street said. Mr Stephen Evans, London's first diplomatic representative to Kabul since 1989, was accompanied by eight foreign office and defence ministry officials.

US denial: The USA today denied it had differences with Russia over the composition of



FIRST DAY FIRST SHOW: Northern Alliance police officers push away a crowd queuing up to see a film in Kabul on Monday. The city's famous Bakhtar cinema opened after five years. — AP/PTI

a post-Taliban coalition government in war-torn Afghanistan.

Bin Laden: The Taliban today said Osama bin Laden had left the militia-controlled areas in Afghanistan. But the USA said there is no evidence to suggest he has left the country.

More US special forces have been deployed in south Afghanistan to hunt down Taliban and Al Qaida leaders, the Pentagon said today.

War: Taliban forces holed up in Kunduz today offered conditional surrender even as US war planes pounded Taliban front-

lines in the north, east and south of Afghanistan amid intensive efforts to set up an interim government.

In Kandahar, the Taliban appeared to be in control amid reports that Pashtun tribal leaders were trying to negotiate a peaceful handover of the city.

The US defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, rejected any negotiations for the departure of Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar from Kandahar.

■ More reports on pages 5 and 8

4 SCRIBES 'KILLED'

LONDON, Nov. 19. — Four foreign journalists have reportedly been killed in Afghanistan, ITN TV and radio company reported today, quoting its reporter who was present at the incident site.

Armed men forced the journalists out of a vehicle on way from Jalalabad to Kabul and took them into the mountains, where shots were later heard. — UNI

THE STATESMAN

20 NOV 2001

A Confession At Last!

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POK (2)

SO finally, the cat is out of the bag! Musharraf has confessed quite plainly that he joined the coalition led by the United States against international terrorism, not out of conviction, but for the utterly irrelevant reason of extracting some mileage over Kashmir. If he had stopped to think — ordinary soldiers tend not to — he would have realised that what he was doing was dangerously close to saying one thing and doing another. Some part of the reason will, of course be attributed to the need to placate his domestic audience; it is not known whether the thought even occurred to him that if such dangerous double-talk and double think is needed to placate local opinion, he would be better to try to change that opinion instead. The effort would have raised him to the level to which he constantly aspires — Mustafa Kemal Attaturk — rather than that of an unscrupulous and dangerous maniac.

HE is saying quite plainly that stopping terrorism does not interest him, only

Kashmir does. He is admitting that he has in the not too distant past dealt with America's mortal foes, the Taliban, because in return the Taliban were sending their men to fight a *jihad* in Kashmir. He reciprocated the compliment and sent his own troop formations to fight alongside the Taliban in Afghanistan. He conned Bush into playing King Canute, ordering the Northern Alliance not to enter Kabul because of the fear of large-scale massacres of pro-Taliban forces. What greeted Bush on television screens were scenes of jubilant crowds welcoming Northern Alliance soldiers into Kabul, while angry shouts were heard of *Death to Taliban!* and *Death to Pakistan!* And why, pray! Because the Northern Alliance had removed at one stroke the uncivilised restrictions on the local population — Men cannot shave — Women cannot go out or be seen anywhere — Girls cannot go to school — Music and chess must not be played — but unhesitatingly carrying off young women with them in retreat. That is why, President Musharraf, your simulated fears

did not materialise and the populace welcomed the Northern Alliance. And yet the British landed near Kabul airport without so much as a please or by your leave. To secure the airport they say. Kabul was already secured. So, secure against whom, one may ask? Musharraf has the answer. Against the discovery of proof of what was getting known — that Pakistan and Taliban together went to war

C R IRANI

in Afghanistan in return for Afghan support over the supply of trained, financed and infiltrated terrorists into Kashmir. Pakistan was the only country to recognise Taliban, Pakistan hurriedly convened a meeting in Peshawar, which, not to put too fine a point on it, is a city in Pakistan, to arrange a government for the poor Afghans. They were spurned. Pakistan provided the venue, the

wherewithal and they even the Afghans! Musharraf has the best of the bargain with the United States. He has already two billion in the kitty, he has given doctored intelligence, which cost the Americans dear, he is most probably still involved with Osama and Omar and he is certainly doing what he can for the Taliban even now. No one likes being conned and the Americans are no exception. They have been comprehensively had. There are generally two avenues out of the mess they have got into. The easier option is to pretend it did not happen. It costs the Americans nothing to keep calling for talks over Kashmir and you will notice that Colin Powell has suddenly begun to call for a Palestinian state. Words break no bones and Musharraf probably does not know that two can play this *domestic opinion* game. Bush can produce some domestic pressures of his own — the Jewish lobby on the East coast of the United States. At this rate the decibel levels for talks on Kashmir can be expected to rise. Ignore them. You remember how Field-

Marshal Sam Manekshaw treated with contempt sending the US Sixth Fleet sailing up the Bay of Bengal to intimidate India over the creation of Bangladesh! But you need two things to keep the country together. Stop this appalling corruption — son of former Marxist chief minister, son-in-law of BJP prime minister and a whole army in between. We must be strong, united and ready to face the world. As the poet Iqbal says;

*Khudi ko kar buland itna;
Ke har taqdir se pahele;
Khuda khud apne bande se puche;
Bol teri raza kya hai!*

IF straight-forward Americans find Musharraf too devious for them, there is an option. They can always give him two billion dollars more. A man who fights a *jihad* in Kashmir in league with the Taliban and a *jihad* in league with America against the Taliban and manages to both at the same time, should be game for another two billion dollars!

Two Taliban missions in Pak shut down

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, November 20

PAKISTAN TODAY announced that it has decided to close down the Taliban Consulates in Peshawar and Quetta with immediate effect.

Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khasaid n at his daily briefing in Islamabad that the Afghan borders were no more under the control of the Taliban.

"The consulates provide consular services including visa. The visas issued by them are no

more valid for entering Afghanistan. "These consulates", he said, "have stopped functioning. When there is a new interim Government in Afghanistan then Pakistan will consider alternate arrangements." The Taliban consulate at Karachi was closed down on November 9.

About the Afghan Embassy, the spokesman said Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar explained yesterday that Pakistan has de-recognised the Taliban Government but is allowing the embassy to function as there is no alternative Govern-

ment and authority in Afghanistan.

The spokesman said Pakistan is optimistic about the outcome of the proposed conference of the Afghan groups in Germany next week, leading to the formation of a broad based multi ethnic government in Afghanistan in line with the UN resolution to restore peace and tranquility in that country.

He said Pakistan had been in touch with all the Afghan groups and it would welcome any contact from any of them even now.

Par (11)
"Discussions with them have been held several times in the past. Pakistan was not against any Afghan group and wants all the Afghan groups to cooperate with the UN and the international community to put things in order in their country.

The spokesman urged them to react positively and constructively to achieve the ultimate objective of a broad based multi ethnic Government there. He denied reports that the US had set up Naval pickets as far as Pakistan waters were concerned.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 NOV 2001

Ready to formalise n-test ban treaty with India: Musharraf

By P. S. Suryanarayana

NEW YORK, NOV. 11. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has offered India a major strategic initiative which seems designed to help the two countries steer clear of their worsening relationship. Addressing the United Nations General Assembly session here on Saturday, Gen. Musharraf said: "We (the Pakistani authorities) are ready to discuss nuclear and missile restraints as well as nuclear risk reduction measures with India in a structured, comprehensive and integrated dialogue." And Pakistan was ready to "formalise a bilateral treaty" for creating a regime of "mutual test ban" on nuclear weaponisation.

Amplifying the proposal in a larger context, Gen. Musharraf said: "We are ready to discuss how Pakistan and India can create a stable South Asian security mechanism through a peaceful resolution of disputes, preservation of nuclear and conventional balance, confidence-building measures and non-use of force prescribed by the U.N. Charter."

Affirming that Pakistan "will maintain deterrence at the minimum level," the General assured the international community of



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, addressing a press conference at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York on Saturday. — AFP

his country's reliability as a nuclear power. "Pakistan is fully alive to the responsibilities of its nuclear status. We have declared a unilateral moratorium on nuclear testing. Pakistan was not the first to initiate nuclear tests and will

not be the first to resume them... We have strengthened our export controls and established multi-layered custodial controls on our nuclear assets." Pakistan's "strategic assets are well guarded and in very safe hands," he told the

global community. There was no immediate formal reaction from the Indian camp, although New Delhi is known to disfavour what it calls "public diplomacy of a purely political kind."

Proposals and counter-proposals on many issues, including the strategic ones, have come at a dozen in the India-Pakistan exchanges over time. And, in a perceived battle with India for the minds and hearts of key international powers, Gen. Musharraf's latest proposal is aimed at converting the sceptics who might see South Asia as no more than a potential black hole of nuclear rivalry.

Also exuding a renewed sense of self-confidence as the leader of

Invitation stands, says Pak.

NEW DELHI, NOV. 11. Despite India ruling out early resumption of Indo-Pak. talks, Pakistan today said the invitation to the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, to visit that country still stands.

"Our policy remains unchanged... we are ready to talk at any time, any place and at any level," the Pakistan High Commissioner, Mr. Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, told Star News. — PTI

U.S. pledges \$1 b package to Pak.

Call for diplomacy on Kashmir

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, NOV. 11. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, have agreed that India and Pakistan should resolve the Kashmir issue through diplomacy and dialogue in "mutually acceptable ways" which take into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir.

A joint statement was released for the visit of Gen. Musharraf here at the end of the working dinner on Saturday. "The two leaders discussed ways to promote stability in South Asia. President Bush praised President Musharraf's recent call to Prime Minister Mr. Vajpayee of India. President Bush and President Musharraf agreed that India and Pakistan should resolve the Kashmir issue through diplomacy and dialogue in mutually acceptable ways that take into account the wishes of the people of Kashmir."

Earlier, Mr. Bush pledged an assistance package of \$1 billion to Pakistan and said Washington would do what it could to bring New Delhi and Islamabad "to have a good, meaningful discussion on Kashmir" with a view to finding a solution.

At the end of a 40-minute meeting with Gen. Musharraf at the Waldorf Astoria, Mr. Bush praised Pakistan as a "strong ally" and Gen. Musharraf as a "strong leader." Islamabad's efforts against terror were benefitting the entire world and linking it more closely with the world.

"The U.S. wants to help build these linkages. I've authorised a lifting of sanctions and over \$ 1 billion in U.S. support. I will also back debt relief

for Pakistan. I want to thank Senators Mr. Grassley and Mr. Baucus of our Congress for introducing a legislation that will improve market access in the United States to Pakistan's products," Mr. Bush said at a joint press availability.

When asked if he would invoke the United Nations Security Council resolution on the Kashmir issue, he said "we had a very good discussion on the subject and I assured the Pakistan President that my country will do what it can to bring the parties together to have good meaningful discussion on Kashmir so that we can come up with a solution."

Mr. Bush did not react to a question on state-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir. "I, my Government, strongly condemned the terrorist attacks on October 1 (on the Kashmir Assembly) — strongly condemned them — as did President Musharraf. We share the same vision about terror, that it should not exist anywhere in the world."

For his part, Gen. Musharraf said Pakistan was committed to fighting terrorism in all forms and wherever it existed. Politically, he saw the dawn of a "new era" in bilateral relationship. "Pakistan will hope for a very sustainable and long-standing futuristic relationship developing between Pakistan and the U.S., a relationship which we always have had in the past."

The critical component of the Bush-Musharraf meeting, by all accounts, was over Afghanistan, the current phase and the post-Taliban phase, the U.S.-Pakistan relations and the economic package for Islamabad.

"a frontline state in the (ongoing) battle against terrorism," Gen. Musharraf redefined the politics of terror in a manner designed to dispute India's view on the issue. Identifying Kashmir and the Palestine issues as two of the "root" causes of terrorism, he asked whether the alleged "state terrorism" at work or those demanding their rights under the relevant U.N. resolutions should be critically observed.

To address the varied global forms of terror, a "three-pronged strategy" should be adopted. The pursuit of individual terrorists and campaign against terrorist organisations should be supplemented by efforts to address political disputes.

Largely accepting the present American perspective on Afghanistan as the nucleus of international terror and Osama bin Laden's haven, Gen. Musharraf pleaded against an externally-imposed solution on Kabul. "The (future) political set-up in Afghanistan must be (a) home-grown (dispensation)" that could be broadbased and representative of the multi-ethnic composition of the country. It would, therefore, be "desirable" for the ongoing U.S.-led military operation in Afghanistan to be "as short and accurately targeted as possible."

IT IS STATE TERRORISM IN J&K: MUSHARRAF

'Stop bombing during Ramadan'

By Vaiju Naravane

PARIS, NOV. 8. Pakistan's President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today accused India of committing state terrorism in Kashmir. "In Kashmir's case, my view is that there is state terrorism going on by India because it is violating U.N. Security Council decisions. In the last two months in Kashmir 1400 people have been killed. This does not appear in the international media because the international media is not allowed in Kashmir," Gen. Musharraf declared at a well-attended press conference in Paris.

"If you look at Bosnia, Kosovo, Palestine or Kashmir, you see that all these conflicts are political and that they unfortunately involve Muslims. And that Muslims are the victims in each one. Therefore, in the long term one needs to address the causes of disputes around the world and the most important ones are Kashmir and Palestine," the General added. He once again declared that there were no terrorist camps in Pakistan. "We do not accept this claim about terrorism going on in Kashmir," he said.

Gen. Musharraf who arrived in Paris last night dined with the President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, at the Elysee Presidential Palace. He conferred with the Prime Minister, Mr. Lionel Jospin, this morning, prior to his meeting with the media. Immediately after his hour-long press conference, Gen. Musharraf left for London enroute to New York.

Gen. Musharraf also said that he was "concerned about maintaining a degree of balances of forces with India on the conventional plane. Pakistan followed a strategy of deterrence and a strategy of conventional deterrence has to be in place and to that extent we are getting involved in the procurement of weapons from the West."

(A Reuters report quoted the Pakistan President as saying the U.S.-led military attacks on Afghanistan should be stopped as soon as possible because the whole world saw them as a war against innocent civilians. He said he would ask the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, to suspend the bombing during Ramadan, which would start in mid-November. Continuing the campaign during Ramadan would cause trouble throughout the Muslim world.) The



The French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Musharraf, at the Elysee Palace on Thursday. — Reuters

General said his talks in Paris with both Mr. Chirac and Mr. Jospin were "constructive and fruitful" with a "meeting of minds and views" and that France had displayed both "understanding and empathy" for issues in South Asia. "Pakistan is itself a victim of terrorism and it is in our interest that intolerance, extremism and terrorism be eradicated," the General declared in his opening remarks. "The conflicts and flashpoints around the world, all of them political, in Bosnia or Kosovo or Kashmir or Palestine must be resolved with justice and equality. Despondence and despair propel people to extremism. Denial breeds extremism," the General said, in a clear reference to Kashmir.

Mr. Chirac was eloquent in his praise of Gen. Musharraf's courage. France has promised Pakistan substantial bilateral aid and sources say a weapons shopping list could shortly be on the cards. The French are above all a pragmatic nation and will have no trouble rehabilitating Pakistan once it becomes clear that the latter has a well-filled pocket book.

Blair praises Musharraf: Page 18

THE HINDU

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Pak acts tough, shuts down Taliban consulate

Imposes restrictions on envoy Mohammed Zaef

Times News Network & Agencies

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan's relations with the Taliban hit a new low on Thursday with Islamabad ordering the Afghan militia to close down its consulate in Karachi without assigning any reasons, two days after its ambassador was directed to "limit" his activities and barred from holding daily media briefings.

Pakistan's foreign office spokesperson Aziz Mohammad Khan said the consulate at Karachi, one of the four diplomatic missions of the Taliban in Pakistan, had been asked to wind up and have its staff withdrawn immediately.

Mr Khan, however, said the Taliban consulates in the border towns of Quetta and Peshawar, and its embassy in Islamabad continued to function.

Taliban ambassador Mullah Mohammed Zaef, who made full use of his presence in Islamabad by addressing a packed press conference every day to hit out at the U.S. for the military attacks against Afghanistan, has resented the curbs and has asked Pakistan to impose similar restrictions on the U.S. embassy and its diplomats for their media attacks on the Taliban.

About Mr Zaef's demand, Mr Khan said he would comment on it if something was brought to his notice. Mr Zaef also said senior Indian and Russian officers had joined U.S. army officers and were helping the Northern Alliance fight the Islamic militia, newspapers reported on Thursday.

Mr Zaef hosted a dinner for Pakistani newspaper editors on Wednesday night, a few hours after it was revealed that the authorities had ordered him to stop his almost daily press briefings. Reports of the event quoted Mr Zaef as saying that Indian, Russian and U.S. officers were guiding the Northern Alliance commanders.

He said Indian officers of the rank of general and brigadier were involved. "That is why they have started war on many fronts."

Mr Zaef added that the Taliban would never hand Osama bin Laden over and denied that there were any terrorist training camps run by the Al Qaida network in Afghanistan.

"We will fight for 100 years, but the Afghans will not abandon Islam," newspapers quoted the ambassador as saying. "We are ready to talk on all issues with everyone, but if they want to force their arrogance on us and the Islamic world then we are not ready."

But India has denied the Taliban's claim that Indian army officers have joined the U.S. army in helping the Northern Alliance to fight the militia in Afghanistan. "There is no Indian army official involved in guiding

the Northern Alliance in its fight against the Taliban in northern Afghanistan," said a defence ministry spokesperson.

A representative of an anti-Taliban Afghan Shiite Muslim faction in north-east Iran said U.S. warplanes touched

down for the first time at Afghanistan's Bagram airport, north of Kabul, late on Wednesday night.

Meanwhile, Fazlur Rehman Khalil, leader of the Pakistan-based militant outfit Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, has crossed into Afghanistan to join the Taliban's fight against the U.S. amidst reports that 85 militants of another Pakistani jihadi outfit were killed in the ongoing American bombing.

In Paris, Gen Pervez Musharraf said on Thursday that continuing the U.S.-led bombing campaign through the Muslim holy month of Ramzan would have "a negative fallout in the entire Muslim world".

Gen Musharraf said he would take up the issue with U.S. President George W. Bush when he met him in New York. (LAT-WP Svc)

POINTS TO PONDER

- ▶ Indian and Russian army officers have joined the U.S. to help the Northern Alliance, says Taliban
- ▶ India denies Taliban's claim
- ▶ Pakistan's Harkat-ul-Mujahideen leader has crossed into Afghanistan to join the Taliban

U.S., allies raid two financial networks linked to Al Qaida

By Dana Milbank and Kathleen Day

WASHINGTON: The Bush administration on Wednesday launched a round of domestic raids and international banking actions to shut down two financial networks it accused of funding Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida terrorist organisation.

The U.S. blocked the assets of the networks, called Al Barakaat and Al Taqwa, while FBI and U.S. customs agents seized records and arrested one man during raids of the American offices of Al Barakaat in Alexandria, Falls Church, Minneapolis, Boston, Seattle and Columbus, Ohio.

In related actions, Swiss police detained two financiers said to have ties to Al Qaida, while governments in the Group of Eight industrialised nations and the UAE, where Al Barakaat is based, joined the effort to freeze the two networks' assets.

Al Barakaat, by far the more important of the two, was founded in 1989 by Ahmed Nur Ali Jim'ale and uses the hawala system to move money around the globe, officials said. They noted that he is an associate of Bin Laden, who they said was a significant investor when the network was created. (LAT-WP Svc)

Pak. insists on 'pause' during Ramadan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 7. Pakistan has not given up its demand that the United States and its allies should halt the military campaign in Afghanistan during the holy month of Ramadan beginning on Nov. 17.

This was evident from the comments made by Gen. Musharraf at Istanbul where he made an un-

scheduled stopover en route to Paris.

His remarks that continuation of the campaign during Ramadan could have a negative impact on the Islamic world are significant as it was presumed that the issue was settled after the US Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, during his recent visit here ruled out the possibility.

The statement of Gen. Musharraf that he would take up the matter with the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, during his meeting with the latter in New York on November 10 came after the U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan, Ms. Wendy J. Chamberlin, has been quoted as saying in a television interview that Pakistan has not pressed for a halt in military campaign.

THE HINDU

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MUSHARRAF UNEASY!

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Pakistanis, Arabs, fought alongside Taliban

CONTINUING to drop armed and specially trained Commandos into Afghanistan appears to have at least two, not one, objectives. The avowed objective is to close in on Osama bin Laden, who is said to be within a hundred square mile radius in Afghanistan. This sounds optimistic. If they know in such detail then they probably know exactly where he is and they will produce him, dead or alive, in the not too distant future. Osama has declared that he will rather die than be captured and his wish is worth respecting because it is utterly unlikely that he will be taken alive — he will kill himself and let it be noted in passing, that suicide is also utterly un-Islamic. You can get round that one by getting an unthinking aide to shoot him through the head, although it can be argued till the cows come home as to whether one jihadi killing another by arrangement, ensures a passport to heaven without question. It is as well not to enter into the metaphysical, nor does it matter to citizens, concerned for what Islamic fundamentalism has landed us into already. The collapse of the Taliban has indeed been dramatic and the American Defence Secretary was entirely right to pull up a questioner who asked nicely balanced questions about what would happen to Taliban forces surrounded near Kunduz and who refused to surrender. Rumsfeld gave it to him straight from the shoulder and he was right to do so. He said if they refused to surrender there would be no option but to kill them.

The whole question is related to their identity. There are hundreds and thousands of Arabs, Pakistanis, and quite a few Chechens and even other foreign mercenaries who have no business there, fighting alongside the Taliban and it would be enormously embarrassing for Musharraf to have his fellow-countrymen taken prisoner in large numbers. Near Kabul 19 Pakistanis were captured in one operation but it would seem that there were many more near Kunduz otherwise the panic would not be so apparent.

Americans and British special forces are doing what they can to shield the Pakistanis in particular. This has nothing to do with the ethnic cause, even less with religion, everything to do with Musharraf's wishes. Let it be added that the second reason given is to get together an all-embracing government is not on either. Several countries, including France and even Britain have on occasions agreed that inclusion of Taliban in the new government in Kabul is not possible. Here are Pakistanis and Arabs, in large numbers and in formations, indulging in atrocities, which have caused children to spit on their bodies and cheering crowds to roar on Kabul's streets, *Death to Taliban! Death to Pakistan!*

Here is a pickle for the Americans. Their best ally, a — very understanding one — who took two billion dollars for the use of airfields, doctored intelligence and moral support — not a bad deal come to think of it, is found fighting alongside their worst enemy the Taliban and participating in atrocities, murder, torture, ambushes and promises of eternal war beginning from the outrages in New York and Washington on September 11. They are also found in unholy embrace and on the closest possible terms with other terrorists, officially encouraged, trained, financed, and sent into whatever it takes to win the jihad. And the Americans can do nothing about it, except to tell Musharraf that they may not be able to find a place for his friends, the Taliban at the head table. Small price to pay, don't you think?

THE STATESMAN

Pakistan seals Afghan border to prevent Taliban flight

K.J.M. Varma

ISLAMABAD 16 NOVEMBER

PAKISTAN, ON Friday, said it has sealed its borders with Afghanistan by deploying additional troops and border security personnel to prevent fleeing Taliban and terror mastermind Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network personnel from entering its territory.

Defence spokesman Major General Rashid Qureshi told reporters here that Pakistan moved some of its troops to bolster the large number of border guards and equipment to seal the 2,500-km border with Afghanistan.

He, however, denied reports that the Pakistan army has moved battle tanks along the Afghan border.

Asked about the number of troops moved, Maj Gen Qureshi said: "Not a very large movement. Regular troops have been moved. They have been moved to certain areas to ensure that those areas are sealed."

The situation at the Afghan border was reviewed on Friday at a high level meeting presided over by the Pakistan President,



SHUTTERS DOWN ON ESCAPE

General Pervez Musharraf, Maj Gen Qureshi said.

He said a comprehensive briefing on the situation in Afghanistan was provided at the meeting which was attended by governors of the border states, north western frontier province and Baluchistan province along with top army commanders.

He said \$73 million, promised by the US to strengthen security at the border with Afghanistan,

has not yet been received by the Pakistan government.

The allocation was made as part of a billion-dollar assistance announced by the US on Thursday to bail out Pakistan from its present crisis. Replying to a question, Maj Gen Qureshi said Pakistan was in touch with the UN to verify reports of killing of some Pakistanis in the battle for control of the Afghan town of Mazar-e-Sharif.

— PTI

The Economic Times

17 NOV 2001

UNCERTAIN PARTNERS-II

India Needs To Be Vigilant

By SANKAR SEN

AMERICANS have prepared themselves for a prolonged campaign. American strategists are aware that they are waging in Afghanistan a kind of combat unfamiliar to Americans growing up in the shadow of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and the Persian Gulf. This is a war in which the Americans have reconciled themselves to the risk of accepting casualties.

Even after three weeks of heavy bombing, the Taliban remain defiant and have dug themselves in for a protracted guerrilla conflict by retreating to mountain hideouts, private homes and mosques to wait for the invading ground troops. Bin Laden and the Taliban are hoping to draw the US into the trap that devoured the Soviet Union. As the war is prolonged, the USA will expect more help from Pakistan and ask for not only logistical support but also secure bases from where they will be able to deploy their troops deep inside Afghanistan. This demand Musharraf will possibly find difficult to accommodate and the Pak-American relationship will gradually, but inevitably, turn sour.

TRADE OFFS

At present to mollify Pakistan and shore up its economic condition and boost Musharraf's image, the West has promised economic assistance. A ban on military sales to Pakistan has been lifted and a new agreement eases the immediate burden of \$329 million in debt on which Pakistan had defaulted. Washington has pledged \$50 million in aid, Japan has come up with \$41 million and the European Union has matched that assistance. India should not feel unhappy at this since a bankrupt Pakistan is not in India's national interest.

Though economic assistance has started trickling in, it will be unrealistic to expect that all creditors will write off Pakistan's debts for which Musharraf is pressing. The Japanese have already indicated that they are reluctant to write off the debt despite their support. Economic packages offered by Britain and United States fall short of wiping out Pakistan's \$36 billion outstanding debt. Though Western assistance will enable Pakistan to avert immediate economic disaster, one Pakistani journalist (Ayaz Amir), has pointed out that \$50 million gifted by Bush to Pakistan would be the cost of bombing Afghanistan for three or four days and the Americans have been able to get Pakis-

tan's vital support at a bargain.

It has to be borne in mind that Egypt's debt write-off which is often quoted as a model for Pakistan's political and economic turnaround followed a fundamental change in Egypt's regional policy. Egypt recognised Israel and opted for a long-term regional settlement after signing the Camp David accords. Before any debt write off, America will perhaps insist and ensure that Pakistan total-

gramme is in their national interest. Arrest of Pakistan's nuclear experts on a tip-off from the FBI for their links with the jihadi outfits must have aggravated the USA's concern.

Again though Pakistan is inveighing against North Alliance, America needs them for the messy ground operations. Already Colin Powell has made clear that the USA will not care much for Pakistan's views and feelings in this matter. It has been signed up for loyal service and paid the wages and should not protest too much.

The outcome of the Afghan war remains unclear and uncertain. There is a real danger that it may trigger off chaos in Pakistan. A crisis unites countries. The opposite has happened in Pakistan. The current predicament has widened the cracks and divisions in that country and may erode its cohesiveness. Unmanageable turmoil in Pakistan will not be in India's interest. We will

then be at the receiving end. Hence developments in Pakistan have to be closely watched and counter-measures planned in advance.

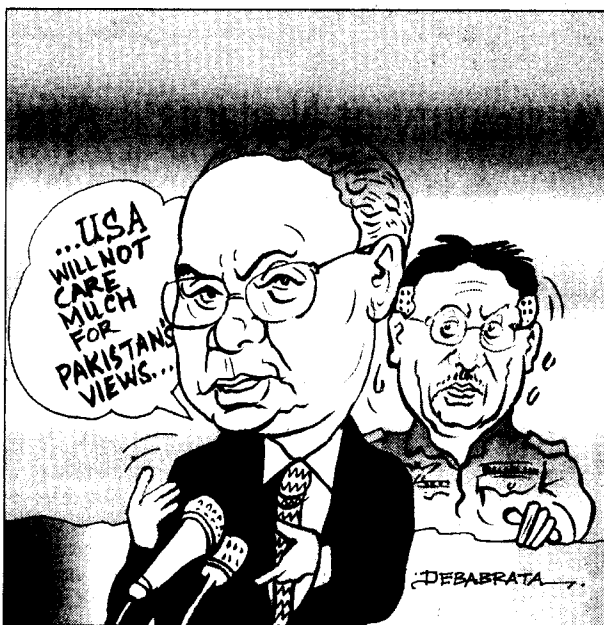
KASHMIR

Beleaguered rulers of Pakistan will definitely try to provoke trouble in Kashmir and other places in India as a diversionary move. New York Times has cautioned the US against allowing Musharraf a free hand with regard to Islamic extremists in Kashmir. However, it is not known how far Washington at this stage will be able and willing to hold back Pakistan.

Induction of the Fidayeen (suicide squads) has introduced a new dimension in Kashmir militancy. The suicide squads may now try to strike against our vital assets not only in Kashmir, but in other places of the country. Military ripostes consisting of crossing the LoC and attacking Pakistani terrorist centres is not practicable at the present juncture. This may boomerang on India and attract a large-scale war which will not be in India's interest. However, a number of steps can be taken to improve our vigilance and enhance preparedness to foil sneak attacks by the terrorists.

We have to plug holes in our security and intelligence apparatus. It is also necessary to educate the public on the terrorists' goals and tactics and ensure public support for the anti-terrorist measures taken by the government.

(Concluded)



ly delink itself from terrorism and make a lasting peace with India under America sponsorship. Thus the USA, Japan and Western Allies will bolster Pakistan in the short run and watch and wait for future events to unfold themselves.

Another unintended impact of American bombing is that it has caused massive dislocation. Thousands of displaced Afghan refugees have become vulnerable as winter approaches. This is likely to take a heavy toll of lives among the impoverished people of Afghanistan. A human tragedy of gigantic proportions is round the corner. Because of the rising tide of anti-Americanism in Pakistan and the sustained tirade against Musharraf by the radical Islamic parties, there is a distinct possibility of Musharraf being destabilised by fanatic elements in the Army acting in concert with Islamic fundamentalists.

INSECURITY

The Mullah-military nexus which came into existence in the Eighties remains quite strong. This will create a terrible situation where the USA will have to think of plans to neutralise Pakistan's nuclear capabilities. Already America has suggested to Pakistan that it should improve and strengthen the security of its nuclear assets as it is worried about nuclear weapons falling into the wrong hands. It is trying to persuade the Musharraf administration that a kind of joint command and control presence over Pakistan's nuclear pro-

THE STATESMAN

2 NOV 2002

UNCERTAIN PARTNERS-I

Musharraf Caught In Cleft Stick

By SANKAR SEN

MOUNTING civilian casualties as a result of ceaseless American bombing is adding another dimension to the war in Afghanistan. Anglo-American air strikes are no longer targeted and proportional. Innocent civilians are becoming victims of the attack and this loss of civilian lives is slowly, but inexorably, turning public opinion, particularly in the Islamic world, against America and deepening the divide between the West and Islamic world. In Pakistan, America's key ally in the campaign, public opinion which was earlier supportive of the President Musharraf's policy of unstinted cooperation with the United States, is turning increasingly hostile against this attack on a fellow Muslim nation.

General Musharraf is now caught in a cleft stick. On American pressure, he decided to make a "U" turn and ditch the Taliban and extend full support to America in its campaign

against terror in Afghanistan. General Musharraf justified this policy reversal as necessary in the national interest. To his credit, it must be said that he accepted the sudden and dramatic shift in the situation, understood that the old pro-Taliban policy of the Pakistan Government lies buried in the debris of the World Trade Center and changed his stand accordingly.

SUPPLE LEADER

A less mentally supple leader would have fallen a martyr to his own rigidities. He also cleverly utilised the situation to consolidate his position. Earlier, under cover of Agra summit, he quietly made himself the President. Now under the clouds of the Afghanistan war, he gave himself an open-ended extension as Army Chief. He also reshuffled the Army Command. All the coup leaders, who stood by him two years ago, have now been either kicked upstairs or changed.

General Mahmood, Corps Commander at Rawalpindi, who took over Islamabad and arrested Nawaz Sharif during the October 1999 coup and General Usmani, Corps Commander at Karachi, who took over the Karachi airport to ensure Musharraf's safe landing on his return from Colombo, were relegated to unimportant posts, proving the maxim that power brooks neither rivals, nor a sense of obligation and an authoritarian ruler never likes to live under a shadow of gratitude. But the most startling change was the replacement of his old trusted friend, Mah-

mood Ahmed, Chief of the Inter Services Intelligence (ISI), by Lt. Gen. Ehsan-ul-Haq, a moderate professional bereft of political ambitions. General Ahmed was a strong proponent of the pro-Taliban policies of the Pakistan Government and was opposed to the alliance with the US. He also supported Mullah Omar's adamant stand of not surrendering Osama.

It is aptly said that in Pakistan's politics, the king-maker

for the new ISI chief, to overhaul the agency filled with Islamic sympathisers. Further, the capacity of a powerful and well-entrenched intelligence apparatus to make mischief is immense and incalculable and there is great likelihood of the ISI clandestinely helping the Taliban and mounting covert operations in concert with the disaffected elements in the army to muddy the waters for Musharraf and put him on a tight spot.

In Pakistan protests against

Musharraf "policy of abjectly supporting the USA" are becoming louder and shriller. Initially protests by the holy warriors and the agitated Afghan refugees, generally unemployed and unemployable (to use the words of the Pakistani journalist Irfan Hussain), were of manageable proportions and Musharraf placed their numbers at not more than 15 per cent of the population. Indeed, a majority of Pakistanis are moderates and not

hard-headed jihadis.

In fact, religious parties have never won more than five per cent of the national votes and sent more than six members to the National Assembly at any time. But these shock-troopers who are getting increasingly armed constitute a dangerous force because of their fervour and ferocity.

PUBLIC MOOD

And no Pakistani leader during the last twenty years has dared to stand up to them and call their bluff. The moderate public opinion in Pakistan, the silent majority, initially supported Musharraf's stand against the Islamic warriors. Thus ironically in acknowledging and supporting moderate viewpoints, Musharraf, an unelected military ruler, has done what successive elected governments failed to achieve.

So far though cities like Karachi, Quetta and Peshawar, have witnessed protest rallies, Punjab, the biggest province in Pakistan, has not boiled over, though the storm clouds are gathering.

Incidentally, the Punjabis constitute 64 per cent of Pakistan's army and 90 per cent of its officer cadre. But as the war drags on with unabated bombing, sometimes going off the target and causing severe damage, the public mood in Pakistan is changing and becoming distinctly anti-American. This is compounding the worry of Musharraf, who wants a quick and surgical action and a speedy resolution of the Afghan crisis. If Enduring Freedom endures for months, he will be trapped in a maze of problems.

(To be concluded)



seldom outlasts the king. In 1971 Lt. Gen. Gul Hassan parted company with Yahya Khan and his coterie and played a key role in Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's rise to power, but after appointing him as the Army Chief, Bhutto had been removed within 90 days.

The change of guard at the ISI was probably done at the prompting of the CIA, which complained of lack of cooperation from the ISI. India reportedly tipped off the USA that the ISI financially backed the WTC suicide hijacker, Mohammad Atta. The CIA's disenchantment with the ISI is bound to grow further in future. Indeed, it is very doubtful if the new ISI chief will be able to control this "rogue elephant". The ISI has now become an invisible government with about 40,000 officers and staff. It has thousands of Pashtun-speaking Pakistanis and freelance Afghan spies and has over the years developed very intimate contacts with the very heart of the terror network in Afghanistan.

JEHADI ELEMENTS

Though Musharraf has promised intelligence-sharing, it is uncertain as to how much real help will be forthcoming from the ISI. Some time during 1999, the CIA's plot to train 60 Pakistani commandos to capture bin Laden failed because at the last moment the ISI dragged its feet. Again, a very large number of ISI officers as well as the field operatives embrace Islamic fundamentalism, and it is very unlikely that they would provide hard intelligence about bin Laden, Mullah Omar and their cohorts. It will be very difficult, if not impossible,

The author is a former Director, National Police Academy.

THE STATESMAN

1 NOV 2001

Pak. curbs on Zaeef briefings

By B. Muralidhar Reddy *pak (u)*

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 6. The Pakistan Government is said to have directed the Taliban embassy here to "restrict" its activities and asked its envoy, Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef, not to brief the press daily.

The briefings of Mullah Zaeef, who is the only Taliban envoy anywhere in the world, are embarrassing to both Islamabad and Washington as he is not only attracting a good number of journalists but also using the

opportunity to launch attacks on the U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan.

Today Mullah Zaeef was in the Pakistan Foreign Office but the spokesman, Mr. Aziz Khan, maintained that nothing important was discussed with him.

With a virtual ban by the Taliban on the entry of journalists into Afghanistan and with little credible information coming in, Mullah Zaeef's conferences are a big draw for the several journalists camping here.

After Saudi Arabia and the

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United Arab Emirates snapped diplomatic ties after the September 11 attacks, Pakistan is the only country that maintains its relations with the Taliban. Islamabad has refused to do so, saying that the Taliban embassy served as a useful window to the rest of the world to carry on humanitarian work inside Afghanistan.

But it appears that the daily briefings and the "propaganda war" being carried out from the Embassy premises have proved too much for both Islamabad and Washington. Such is the impact of the campaign run by the embassy that the U.S. is planning to set-up an office of communications experts here to counter the "propaganda". The U.S. Embassy has circulated a background titled 'Catalogue of lies' listing the various Taliban claims since September 30 and, more particularly, after the U.S. began its military campaign on October 7.

In his briefing on Monday, Mullah Zaeef sympathised with the families of American soldiers who had died in action and said that those who had not contacted their families after October 20 and later after November 3 should be considered dead.

He claimed 95 U.S. soldiers had been killed in Afghanistan till date and that there was no way of identifying them, as their bodies had got mutilated.

The Taliban had handed over the body of John Bolton, an American spy who had entered Afghanistan under the name of Mazhar Ayub, to the International Red Cross Society.

He regretted that the United Nations was playing politics instead of providing aid to the people of Afghanistan.

Another report on Page 11



A bomb released by a U.S. F-18 plane explodes on a Taliban position in Kohbacha, 25 km north of Kabul, on Tuesday. U.S. warplanes attacked Taliban guns bearing down on an opposition-held airfield north of Kabul, and the opposition claimed a battlefield victory near the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif.— Reuters

THE HINDU

NOV 2001

Pakistan

Pakistan's Trap

While there are reports in the Pakistani press about Indian armour being deployed in Jammu, Indian authorities have indicated that Pakistan has moved its armour and infantry forward in two areas. Though such movements in particular sectors may not be a prelude to general hostilities, there is no denying that they raise tensions between the two countries. Each side will charge the other with making the first move, and describe its own as a defensive reaction. In this case, Islamabad took the first step, and New Delhi is reacting to it militarily. Instead, India ought to analyse Pakistan's current show of belligerence and respond to it also in non-military terms, so as to project to the world that India is exercising maximum restraint, thus ensuring that Islamabad does not derive any diplomatic advantage vis-a-vis New Delhi. The US needs the full co-operation of General Musharraf in its campaign in Afghanistan. There have been reports of Pakistan's Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) not toeing Islamabad's official line and allowing supplies to get through to the Taliban. Moreover, Pakistani border guards have permitted a thousand armed Pakistani jihadis to cross over into Afghanistan to join the Taliban. On his part, General Musharraf has cracked down on pro-Taliban elements — who constitute a sizeable percentage of Pakistan's population — by prohibiting all processions and rallies. Inexorably, he is being pushed along a path which will bring him into conflict with the jihadi elements. At this stage, Washington and its allies are bent on ensuring that General Musharraf is left with no option but to cleanse his country of the propagators of jihad. In this context, tension on the Indo-Pakistani border is very unwelcome to the western powers.

However, even while being coerced to go along with the US, General Musharraf would like to raise the ante on the Indo-Pakistani border so that he can try and enlist American sympathies against India when he and Atal Behari Vajpayee are in Washington next week. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who will shortly visit New Delhi and Islamabad, is likely to tell both India and Pakistan to cool things down. India should rightly respond by asking Mr Rumsfeld to lean on General Musharraf to stop cross-border terrorism. New Delhi needs to take some initiatives to enlist Washington's support and demonstrate to the world that India is observing maximum restraint. As a first step, India should call for immediate talks between the two directors-general of military operations and offer to pull back forces in a reciprocal move. Indian political leaders should stop shooting from the hip, and resist the temptation of pandering to the rank and file of their respective parties. This is particularly necessary in the context of the ruling party's ongoing national executive meeting. The Indian leadership needs to be extra careful not to walk into a trap set by provocative pronouncements on the Pakistani side, however high a level they may emanate from. New Delhi has to focus on persuading the US and the world that the campaign against terrorism will be incomplete until Pakistan, which was responsible for the creation of the Taliban, is free of jihadi elements. Allowing tensions to rise across the border and the Line of Control is not the best strategy to achieve this aim.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 JUL 2001

Musharraf U-turn on Ramzan pause

Islamabad/Washington, October 31

THE PAKISTANI President bowed last night to US pressure by announcing he would no longer press Washington to abandon its bombing campaign in Afghanistan during Ramzan.

"One has to achieve the objective of the military operation," Gen Musharraf said. His volte-face follows a meeting on Monday with General Tommy Franks, who is leading the military campaign in Afghanistan.

Saudi Arabia, however, again asked for a pause in the strikes during Ramzan. Prince Turki as-Sudairi today said that Musharraf might be toppled if the US continued to bomb Afghanistan during the holy month.

Gen Musharraf said he saw the growing possibility of a revolt against the Taliban paving the way for a political solution that would end the need for the daily bombing.

"No, it's not wishful thinking," he said when pressed about the prospect of desertions among the Pashtuns who back the Taliban. He said he would open his country's borders with Afghanistan if the international community agreed to foot the bill.

'2 villages destroyed'
US bombs struck two villages in eastern Afghanistan, flattening 40 to 50 houses, a Taliban official said in Jalalabad. "Ambulances have been sent to Baloch and Barina but they have not yet come back, so we do not know how many people have been killed."

HTC & Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1 NOV 2001

1 NOV 2001

Pak. begins talks to end blockade

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 30. Alarmed over reports of continued blockade of the Karakoram Highway (KKH) by the pro-Taliban supporters in the North-West Frontier Province — to protest the Musharraf regime's support to the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan — the Pakistan Government has started negotiations with leaders of the protesters.

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Maj. Gen. Rashid Quereshi, said at a news conference here today that the Government was hopeful of a breakthrough in a day or two.

The blockade of the KKH for the fifth day has caused serious concern to the Government.

The highway is the lifeline of Northern Areas and links Pakistan to China.

'Abandoned airstrip'

The 'airstrip' occupied by the pro-Taliban elements (mostly tribesmen) had been abandoned long ago and was no longer in use, Maj. Gen. Quereshi said. "It is the ground on which children were playing cricket. If some people go and squat on it, it does not amount to capture of an airstrip."

The blockade is undoubtedly the most serious challenge faced by Islamabad since it decided to extend its unstinted cooperation to the U.S. in its fight against Osama bin Laden, the Al-Qaeda and

the Taliban. It clearly does not want to resort to strong-arm tactics as it could precipitate matters.

Denying reports in a section of the media that Pakistan had handed over three of its former nuclear scientists to the U.S. authorities, Maj. Gen. Quereshi said "there is absolutely no truth in them."

However, two of the scientists associated with the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission had been questioned by the authorities as they had floated a non-governmental organisation, involved in Afghanistan.

"The two scientists were not connected with nuclear weapons-related programmes. We have gathered that the scientists were travelling to Afghanistan to teach Afghans about alternate cropping after the Taliban banned poppy cultivation."

Reacting angrily to the report in the *New Yorker* magazine that a special U.S. unit was training with Israeli commandos to remove Pakistan's nuclear weapons to safety in case of a coup against the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Maj. Gen. Quereshi said "the U.S. State Department has already denied the report. It is a ridiculous statement... Let me say with all the authority at my command that there is no question of anyone attempting such a thing."

THE HINDU

3 OCT 2001

Pro-Taliban men take over Pak. district, airstrip

Pak 10
20/10

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 29. Armed supporters of the Taliban took administrative control of the Chillas district — about 350 km north east of Peshawar — and its isolated airstrip, on Sunday and, in the Northern Areas, thousands of Taliban supporters blocked the Silk Route on the Karakoram Highway for the fourth day today protesting the Musharraf Government's support to the U.S.

Reports said that about 2,000 armed students of religious seminaries took over the airstrip in Chillas and threatened to blast aircraft and helicopters.

In another development, the Pakistan Government stopped about 12,000 armed activists of the Tehreek-e-Nifaz-e-Shariat-e-Muhammaadi from crossing over to the Afghan province of Kunar from Bajaur area.

The Taliban has also refused to accept "jehadi" convoys from Pakistan, saying there was no need for such armies now. Its Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salaam Zaeef, told reporters that

while the militia respected the sentiments of those wanting to join the "jehad" (holy war) against the U.S., the time had not yet come to utilise their services.

The Urdu daily, *Jang*, however, said two convoys, comprising 1,700 people from Dir (upper) and Bonir areas, left for Afghanistan on Sunday to take part in the "jehad." The local administration made no attempt to stop or resist their departure, it said and claimed that more than 40,000 people had enrolled. The biggest convoy left from Shringal area in 47 vehicles.

'Some parts disturbed'

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, said during the regular briefing that the situation in some parts were "disturbed" and that the Government was trying to persuade the pro-Taliban elements to refrain from precipitating matters. Amid these developments, the United States Central Command Chief of the Armed Forces, Mr. Tommy Frank, arrived here on an unscheduled

visit and met Gen. Musharraf and the top military brass.

U.S. on the verge of major offensive

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 29. The U.S. may be on the verge of taking on the Taliban militia in a major and decisive way, while the Northern Alliance is planning a major offensive around Mazar-e-Sharif. The opposition hopes that when it begins the "final operation" against the Taliban, the U.S. air support will be there in a big way.

All eyes are on Mazar-e-Sharif, the major supply link from Uzbekistan.

Osama hideout hit

A Reuters report from Kabul quoting CNN says that U.S. warplanes hit an area of caves and tunnels in eastern Afghanistan today known as a hideout of Osama bin Laden, killing two persons. Kandahar — stronghold of the Taliban supreme leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar — came under fierce attack through the night and into the dawn.

N-scientist held again

An AP report from Islamabad said that a top nuclear scientist, Sultan Bashiru-din Mehmood, questioned by the Government for his alleged ties with Taliban, was released briefly, then detained again, family members said today. He was told he was wanted for further interrogation.

N-weapons not ruled out?

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 29. The Bush administration has refused to rule out the possibility of using nuclear weapons in its campaign against Afghanistan if the present military hardware is unable to flush out terrorists and their operational facilities from the underground tunnels and caves. The Defence Secretary, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, maintained in a Sunday talk show that "the 5,000 pound bombs are going to be able to do the job of hitting the Al-Qaeda in their underground facilities. But when pressed for an answer on whether or not the U.S. would rule out the use of nuclear weapons, especially the smaller tactical nuclear weapons, he said, "I don't rule out anything".

There has been at least one person on Capitol Hill — Congressman Steve Buyer of Indiana — who has taken the position that if the United States is unable to make much headway with the 5000 pounders to penetrate and level the cave facilities of the Al-Qaeda, the administration should think about using tactical nuclear weapons, not the larger ones in the stockpile.

During the talk show, Mr. Rumsfeld was reminded that in the Gulf War, the U.S. had deliberately refused to rule out a nuclear strike should Mr. Saddam Hussein resort to a nuclear, chemical or biological attack.

As far as the situation in Afghanistan was concerned, Mr. Rumsfeld would go no more than reiterating what he had said on earlier occasions. "The U.S. has historically refused to rule out the use of weapons like that," the Defence Secretary remarked.

Pak. rejects 'even the thought'

B. Muralidhar Reddy reports from Islamabad:

Pakistan on Monday rejected "even the thought" of using nuclear weapons tactically or otherwise in Afghanistan.

"We firmly and categorically reject even the thought of using nuclear weapons tactically or otherwise," the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, told correspondents in response to a question about a statement attributed Mr. Rumsfeld on use of nuclear weapons in Afghanistan.

ALL IN THE GAME



Pak. for resuming talks on 'Agra format'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 28. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today expressed a desire for resumption of dialogue with India "by reviving the format" agreed upon at the Agra Summit in July.

In the course of a joint press conference here with the visiting German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, he also complained about the 'persistent hostility' being demonstrated by India seeking a 'hegemonic role' in the region.

It was for the first time since the September 11 attacks that Gen. Musharraf was making a reference to the Agra Summit and to the so-called 'format'. He was obviously pointing to the draft joint declaration that could not be signed due to differences on both sides over some of the contentious issues, including Kashmir.

In the presence of the German Chancellor the Pakistan President once again referred to Kashmir as the core issue of tensions and the need for its resolution in accordance with the 'wishes of the Kashmiri people' as per the United Nations Resolutions.

He said that Indian allegations of 'cross-border terrorism' were self-serving and accused New Delhi of trying to create problems for Pakistan in the wake of the situation arising out of the September 11 terror attacks.

The situation in Afghanistan, particularly in the wake of the three-week old military campaign by the U.S.-led coalition and the growing civilian casualties in the war were the main topics of discussion between the Pakistan President and the German Chancellor in the course of their two-and-half-hour discussions.

The German Chancellor echoed the sentiments of Gen. Musharraf



The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf (right), having a word with the German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, in Islamabad on Sunday. — Reuters

on the need for India and Pakistan to resume the process of dialogue to resolve their differences.

Delhi to convey its view

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, OCT. 28. India is set to undertake a major brainstorming exercise on Afghanistan with the visiting German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder and the Japan's former Prime Minister, Mr. Yoshihiro Mori, both of whom arrived here this evening.

During his talks in India, Mr. Schroeder is certain to hear from his Indian interlocutors that the West should shed the notion of accommodating what are called "moderate Taliban" in a post-conflict government in Afghanistan. This assertion from the Indian side will be all the more necessary to dissuade western nations from acting in haste for choosing representatives of the ethnic Pashtuns in a new political arrangement in Afghanistan, analysts here said.

India is expected to convey to the German Chancellor, the need for accommodating the representa-

tives of the Northern Alliance in a new political arrangement in Kabul. The Northern Alliance represents Afghanistan's ethnic minorities including the Tajiks, Hazaras, Uzbeks and Shias. India is also willing to consider a role for the former Afghan King Zahir Shah.

India and Germany are likely to find much in common in a U.N. role in facilitating a post-Taliban transition in Afghanistan. India wants the U.N.-sponsored initiative of what are called "six plus two" countries which have been designated to bring normality in Afghanistan to cease. Instead, it wants a new 15-country initiative that includes, besides itself, Germany and Japan along with the five permanent members of the Security Council to be initiated.

The positioning of a U.N.-sanctioned military force during the transitional phase in Afghanistan is also likely to come up for discussions. The United States and Britain, reportedly favour positioning a U.N.-sanctioned force drawn mainly from Islamic countries to tackle possible incidents of violence in Afghanistan.

The visit of Mr. Yoshihiro Mori is expected to focus on reconstruction and humanitarian assistance to war-torn Afghanistan.

Mr. Mori is expected to meet the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee and his other senior Cabinet colleagues.

Pakistan
10-10

Pak. against protracted war ^{28/10}

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 27. "There has been, I think, a little bit of excessive collateral damage — that needs to be checked," the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said in an interview to ABC's 'World News Tonight'. He was referring to U.S. airstrikes on Afghanistan.

In response to a question whether too many civilians were dying in the bombing raids, Gen. Musharraf said, "Well, one doesn't know the figures. This view of children and women being injured and suffering is the collateral damage that I'm talking of. That's causing considerable concern all over the world, including Pakistan."

"Personally I would be against it (bombing during Ramadan) because that would give an excuse for all those who are against the action in Afghanistan — that would give them an excuse to raise their voice more against action in Afghanistan," he said in response to another question.

In his interview to foreign print media journalists, the Pakistan President has said the U.S. should end the bombing of Afghanistan soon and switch to a "political strategy" that would produce a post-Taliban government. He told them that the best chance the U.S. had to achieve its primary goal — capturing or killing Osama bin Laden and uprooting his Al-Qaeda terrorist network — rested

with Pakistani-backed efforts to create a successor government that would include "moderate" elements among the Taliban.

Gen. Musharraf listed the groups Pakistan would like to see in a new government: tribal elders and religious leaders from other ethnic Pashtun groups; the former Afghan king, Mohammed Zahir Shah; and the ethnic Tajik, Uzbek and Hazara groups that make up the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance.

He told the foreign correspondents that no new government could survive unless it included "moderate" Taliban leaders and groups. "Afghan society must be represented. And the Taliban

happen to be one important section at the moment."

Before the meeting with Gen. Musharraf, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, told the foreign correspondents that "we all talk about the future, but I can assure you that nobody has any solutions. There are so many questions, even in Washington — one day the Taliban will fall, the next day it won't. There is genuine uncertainty".

'Power vacuum must be averted'

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, OCT. 27. In an interview to *The Daily Telegraph*, the Pakistan

President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said the coalition against terrorism must be ready with a post-war political plan to avert a power vacuum once the fighting was over.

"If it (the vacuum) is not filled there will be anarchy and atrocities of the type after the Soviets left and before the Taliban came," he said and insisted that any alternative regime must be "home grown" and include "moderate" Taliban. He sharply questioned the argument, put forward most vocally by India, that there was no such thing as a "moderate" Taliban which India's Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, has called an "oxymoron".

Call to remove Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 27. The tone and tenor of the pro-Taliban elements and religious parties in Pakistan opposed to the U.S. military campaign in Afghanistan is getting very aggressive, though the violent protests witnessed in the first few days after the October 7 campaign have died down.

On Friday while the Jamaat-e-Islami, the largest religious party in Pakistan, urged the Army to topple the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, there was a massive demonstration in the port city of Karachi in protest against the decision of the Government to join hands with the U.S. in the campaign against the Taliban militia.

At a rally in Quetta the JI urged the Army to topple Gen. Musharraf. It was to have been addressed

by the JI chief, Quazi Hussain Ahmed, but he could not make it to the town as the Government banned his entry into Baluchistan.

"God willing we will remove Musharraf from power and drag him on to the streets," the deputy head of the Jamaat-i-Islami, Mr. Liaquat Baluchi, told the rally organised in support of the Taliban militia. "We also ask the Pakistan Army, its corps commanders and staff officers to take a decision according to their conscience and rid the nation of Musharraf to save the country's future from deterioration, because he is now a risk for the country's security," he said.

The acting leader of the pro-Taliban Jamaat Ulema-i-Islam (JUI) party, Maulana Abdul Ghani, said Islamic parties would launch "direct action" if Gen. Musharraf did not change his pro-American policy.

THE HINDU

28 OCT 2001

Pak. embarrassed over killing of Harkat cadre

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 24. Pakistan is embarrassed over reports of the deaths of many Harkat-ul-Mujahideen activists in the U.S.-led air raids on Kabul on Tuesday even as hundreds of Afghan tribal chiefs and clerics began a two-day conclave at Peshawar, capital of the North West Frontier Province, to debate on the 'post-Taliban' scenario.

There was a great deal of drama during the day at the Afghan border as initially the Pakistani border guards refused to allow the bodies of the eight Pakistani militants — reportedly killed in the Kabul air raid yesterday — to be brought into the country. The guards subsequently relented as tension mounted in the port city of Karachi over the delay in the

arrival of the bodies.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, maintained that Islamabad had no information on the death of the alleged Pakistani militants in Kabul. It had been repeatedly urging the Taliban, even before the September 11 attacks, not to allow any Pakistanis to be trained or sheltered on its soil.

"We have been asking the Taliban government to hand over persons who are convicted or wanted in cases in Pakistan reportedly hiding in different parts of Afghanistan. We have no information about any Pakistanis who have crossed over to Afghanistan. I am not in a position to confirm or deny the death of Pakistanis in the Kabul air raid."

The incident should be a matter of concern to the Musharraf Gov-

ernment as the stated position of the regime after the U.S. decision of freezing the Harkat's assets was that the organisation did not exist in Pakistan.

We will kill Americans, says Taliban envoy

Reuters reports:

The Taliban Ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaef, today vowed that the movement would not hand over Osama bin Laden, even at the cost of every life in Afghanistan. Afghanistan was ready to attack the U.S. — if

only it had the resources — and vowed to kill Americans in revenge for the killing of Afghans.

"We are not going to hand over Osama bin Laden to them," Mullah Zaef said, "if they were to kill all of the nation of Afghanistan, we will not hand over Osama because we have law, we have respect for the honour of Afghanistan, we have the culture of Afghanistan and this is against the Afghan culture."

Though negotiation was not ruled out, his country was ready to fight to the last drop of its

blood in defence of honour.

Plea for multinational force: Page 11

THE HINDU
Our office will remain closed today on account of Ayudha Pooja and there will be no issue of THE HINDU dated 26th October 2001. Consequently, the Friday Review supplement has been released with today's issue.
JOINT MANAGING DIRECTOR

THE HINDU

25 OCT 2001

\$300m. World Bank loan for Pak. banking system

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 24 The Western bloc continues to bestow 'monetary' benefits on Pakistan ever since it decided to side with the United States in its fight against international terrorism, in general, and the Taliban militia and Osama bin Laden, in particular.

The World Bank has approved a \$300 million credit for the Pakistan Banking Sector Restructuring and Privatisation Project. The Bank approved the project as Pakistan is working to develop a competitive private banking system, free from the "interference of vested interests and operating under a strong regulatory framework". Pakistan is also developing a more effective banking court system.

"Pakistan has made good progress in reforming its banking sys-

tem over the past four years," said Mr. Joe Pernia, World Bank Lead Financial Sector Specialist for the South Asia Region.

The project follows a \$250 million World Bank loan in 1997, (co-financed with another \$250 million by Japan) which supported the initial stages of Pakistan's national banking reform programme that year.

The Bank said that a new banking court system had processed nearly half of pending loan default cases at an unprecedented rate. Higher quality new loans, combined with improved loan recovery and resolution of problem loans, had helped the banking system achieve improvements in capital adequacy, asset quality, efficiency and profitability. Disclosure standards, fundamental to the reform programme, had become much more stringent.

THE HINDU

Pakistan in parley with Haqqani

Aditya Sinha & Agencies
Peshawar, October 20

PAKISTAN TODAY admitted that Jalaluddin Haqqani, the Taliban's southern military commander and Minister for Border Affairs, was in the country and had held talks with Pakistani officials (read ISI officers).

The Taliban said Pakistan had given satisfactory assurances to the militia during "special talks" recently. "These were special talks... I am satisfied. But I cannot disclose the contents of the meeting," Haqqani said. He told Radio Tehran that he was scheduled to meet Pakistan offi-

cially today. Haqqani has been holding most of his meetings in Miranshah, in the federally-administered tribal agency of North Waziristan in the NWFP.

The Pakistani Government spokesperson too admitted that Haqqani had met several officials. He pointed out that Haqqani did not start out as a talib, but had cut his teeth in the resistance to the Soviet Union. This perhaps is to lay the ground for Haqqani in case he decides to switch sides. He is important to Pakistan for it wants to keep calling the shots in a post-Taliban dispensation. Haqqani, however, denied

that any defections were taking place. In an interview to *The News* published today, he said the Taliban were eagerly awaiting the arrival of US troops so that they could do what they had done to the Soviets.

He said Osama was in good spirits and the Taliban defences were relatively untouched. "Let me say clearly that Osama is not only safe and sound, he is also in good spirits," he said.

Haqqani avoided questions about his presence in Pakistan at a time when the US continues to attack Taliban strongholds. Another question that remained unanswered was how

he could travel to Pakistan. The News said Haqqani was speaking from an undisclosed location in Pakistan through an interpreter.

Haqqani derided the Northern Alliance as stooges of India, Iran and Russia, and asked the Pakistanis if they really wanted a new Government in Afghanistan. He claimed that a new Government would mean that Pakistan would lose its strategic depth vis-à-vis India.

The admission of Haqqani's visit is interesting, for it was said that he had accompanied Taliban Foreign Minister Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil to Pakistan.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 OCT 2001

We were forced to back Taliban: Pervez



PERVEZ MUSHARRAF

Vijay Dutt
London, October 14

PAKISTAN BACKED the Taliban regime not because it wanted to but because it had no other choice. "We never wanted to support the Taliban, but we needed a stable government across the borders. And with the West turning a blind eye to the problem, we had no other option but to deal with the Taliban," Musharraf and his ministers had told Tony Blair.

The British Prime Minister said this in an interview to *The Observer* on his flight back from

Egypt, Oman and the UAE.

Blair rued the West's lack of interest in Afghanistan once Russians left and blamed it for the creation of a regime that welcomed terrorists.

"There's a lesson to be learnt here. What I've looked for from the very beginning is what good could come out of all this. When you listen you realise that a series of mistakes were made in the past, but we now have an opportunity to rectify it," he added.

He agreed that risks were inherent in a military action. But "I can't think of any

other alternative".

Osama's network, shielded by the Taliban, has been committing atrocities even before September 11, he added.

"You are not dealing with reasonable people. Their demands are that we obliterate the state of Israel, and the Arab world turns into a set of fundamentalist Taliban states."

"Bin Laden wants to replace all Arab states with fundamentalist regimes. He will fail there as well."

Blair assured that the peace process in West Asia would be kick-started. "I see strong paral-

els with the Northern Ireland peace process.

What happens when the process breaks down is that fanatics and extremists use it as an excuse to engage in more violence, bin Laden is exploiting the Palestinian cause."

"Osama doesn't want peace in the region. He wants Israel wiped off the face of the earth."

On Iraq, Blair hinted that action against it wasn't a short-time agenda. He wanted that the plans to remove UN sanctions be pushed forward so that more food and medical aid reached Iraqi people.

40-17
19/10

Sitting on a powder keg

PAK (10)

AS THE U.S.-led military campaign in Afghanistan takes an ugly turn, with claims of growing civilian casualties, the military Government in Pakistan is faced with a sensitive situation. It is not just the challenge posed by the pro-Taliban elements, who have sought to demonstrate their might by aggressive street protests. The Bush Administration's approach towards a whole range of issues related to Afghanistan and the attitude of India are also complicating matters for the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Actually, there is no surprise element in the noisy demonstrations, that have taken a violent turn in some parts, organised by the religious outfits. The fears of large-scale disturbances have been proved wrong. No doubt there is widespread anger among the Pakistanis against Washing-

ton's 'arrogant' attitude, but the overwhelming majority has chosen not to respond to the fundamentalists' call.

aggregated by a section of the international media. Gen. Musharraf also took some 'bold' decisions to purge the army of elements perceived as soft on the fundamentalists, including the ISI chief. Analysts in Pakistan believe the changes are to portray the military as liberal and professional and willing to cooperate with the world community

As an analysis in the London-based *Jane's Defence Weekly* pointed out, the new ISI chief, Lt. Gen. Ehsan-ul-Haq, is a Pashtun whose balanced views are well known. "The change indicates Pakistan's desire to see a peaceful and stable Afghanistan.

and the duration of the military campaign, not necessarily in that order. Both the U.S. and India have a role to play.

Gen. Musharraf has been openly articulating his views on these subjects. There is no way he can afford to let Kashmir be bracketed with the ongoing international campaign against terrorism. No doubt some Pakistan-based militant groups have committed heinous crimes in the name of the Kashmir struggle, but for a variety of reasons (including an orchestrated Government campaign of five decades), the vast majority of Pakistanis are convinced that the Kashmiris deserve the right to

of India on the war against terrorism will complicate matters not only for Gen. Musharraf but the subcontinent. Since Pakistan announced its 'unstinted' cooperation to the U.S. in its fight against global terrorism, serious differences have cropped on some of the vital details of the military campaign and what should follow. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, have given an impression of contradicting Gen. Musharraf's assessment that the military campaign in Afghanistan would be a short one.

The longer the military cam-

The military is in command of the situation in Pakistan... but the initiative could slip out of Gen. Musharraf's hands if the international community does not help, says B. Muralidhar Reddy.



Protests are widespread in Pakistan... and the message is clear.

ton's 'arrogant' attitude, but the overwhelming majority has chosen not to respond to the fundamentalists' call.

This is no small consolation for the Musharraf Government considering the nature of some of the decisions it was forced to take post-September 11. A month ago it was unthinkable that Islamabad would actually declare war on the Taliban. Such was the impact of September 11 that it was left with little option. What is more important, Gen. Musharraf survived despite stiff resistance from the hardliners.

By some deft moves (under pressure from the international community?) Gen. Musharraf has succeeded in isolating the extremist elements and rallying around most of the mainstream political parties for now. The military is in command of the situation, notwithstanding the sporadic incidents of violence ex-

The re-shuffle in the army hierarchy has brought senior-ranking Pashtun officers into key posts. These officers are well acquainted with the regions bordering Afghanistan and well versed in the dynamics of local tribal and political structures," the weekly said.

But the initiative could slip out of Gen. Musharraf's hands if the international community (read the U.S.) and India do not help. The fallout on the domestic front could be serious if the Musharraf regime's concerns on at least three specific counts are not addressed — Kashmir, the nature of the post-Taliban regime in Kabul,

choose their future. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, in New Delhi on Thursday sought to make out a case that most of the Pakistan-based militant outfits were part of the Al-Qaeda network and advocated the need for a holistic approach in the war against terrorism. He even included the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in the list forgetting that the Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, had a year ago described the outfit as "our own boys". Pakistan is guilty on a number of counts. But can New Delhi deny that there is a problem in Kashmir?

The Pakistan-centric approach

paigned, the greater Gen. Musharraf's difficulties on the domestic front. He has been repeatedly talking about his Government's reservations about any role for the Northern Alliance in any future setup in Afghanistan, but the U.S. and the West are openly courting it.

The international community cannot afford to gloss over these fundamental differences if it believes Gen. Musharraf is the best bet in Pakistan to take on the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban. Will the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, to Islamabad and New Delhi next week help?

THE HINDU

14 OCT 2001

Lay off politics, Musharraf tells ISI

Islamabad, October 13

AFTER REVAMPING the Army command and replacing the ISI chief, Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf has directed the intelligence agencies to reorient their focus from political activities to containing criminal, sectarian and terrorist activities in the country.

The directive has been issued after the finalisation of a new plan of action at a high level meeting of officials presided over by Musharraf.

Intelligence agencies have been asked to "reorient their focus" towards criminal activities, sectarian violence and terrorism instead of pursuing "other activities like political intelligence gathering," the Dawn quoting official documents reported.

Sectarian violence, which is largely perpetrated by extremist Sunni and Shia organisations, along with terrorist activities could get the necessary attention from now on, officials said.

The reorientation of intelligence agencies have been on the cards for the past few months, with Pakistan media carrying reports of widespread official dissatisfaction over their role with Musharraf himself castigating them for their inefficiency to check sectarian and terrorist violence.

With over one lakh active personnel and Rs 2.5 billion exclu-



A boy brandishes a toy gun as his father carries him on his shoulder during an anti-US rally in Lahore on Saturday.

AFP PHOTO

sive budget for intelligence gathering, Pakistan is considered to have the largest density of intelligence sleuths comparable only with China, North Korea and

Arab States.

As per the organisational structure of the agencies, which was rarely highlighted by the media, ISI monitored the inter-

national and political situation under the command of a Major General, with a Brigadier in each of the four provinces.

It is aided by the military intelligence (MI) also headed by a Major General, which keeps a tab on the law and order and political situation of the country through a Brigadier posted in each province.

Besides the ISI and the MI, each of the nine corps commanders in the country run their exclusive intelligence battalions usually commanded by a lieutenant colonel. These intelligence battalions keep their intelligence operatives across the jurisdiction of a corps.

In addition to these separate full-fledged intelligence units headed by colonels in Karachi and Lahore under the names of field security wing (FSW) and Pakistan rangers intelligence unit (Priu) respectively collected intelligence from civilians for the two major general who command the rangers outfits in Sindh and Punjab.

In the current scenario where not only Pakistan but also the US depended more on the intelligence information about the terrorist groups in Afghanistan and Pakistan, the agencies were being geared up to gather tactical and strategic information to take pre-emptive action against the terrorist organisations and individuals, the reports said.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 OCT 2002

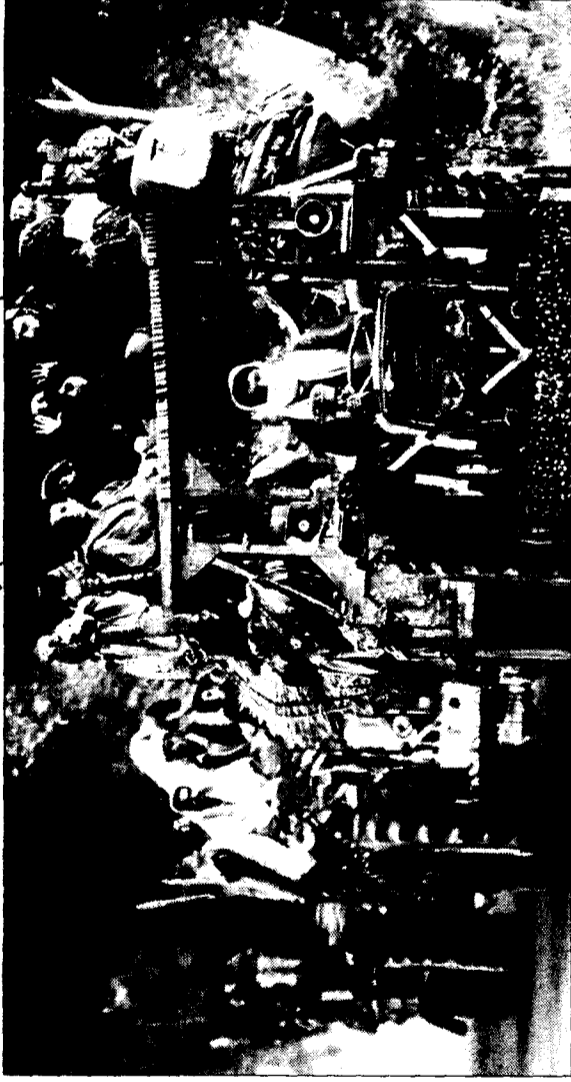
Reorient Intelligence: Pervez

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 13. — Afghanistan revamping the army command and replacing the ISI chief, General Pervez Musharraf has directed intelligence agencies to reorient their focus from political activities to containing criminal, sectarian and terrorist violence in the country, *The Dawn*, quoting official reports, said today.

The directive to tone down the political intelligence and step up the focus on sectarian and terrorist outfits has been issued after the finalisation of a new plan of action at a high-level meeting of officials presided over by General Musharraf, reports said today. Sectarian violence, largely perpetrated by Sunni and Shia organisations, with terrorist activities could get the necessary attention from now on, officials said.

The reorientation of intelligence agencies have been on the cards for a few months, with the Pakistani media carrying reports of widespread official dissatisfaction over their role with General Musharraf himself castigating them for their meagre inputs to contain growing sectarian and terrorist violence. With



A group of Afghan refugees arrives in Shakirpur in Pakistan before air strikes early on Saturday. — AP/PTI

over a lakh active personnel and Rs 2.5 billion exclusive budget for intelligence gathering, Pakistan is considered to have the largest density of intelligence sleuths comparable only with China, North Korea and Arab states. As per the organisational structure of the agencies, rarely highlighted by the media, the ISI monitored the internal and political situation under the

command of a Major General, who harbour them in Afghanistan. "Zakobabad and Pashni airports have been allowed to be used ... only for search and rescue operations to help pull out injured troops from Afghanistan," the interior minister, Mr Moinuddin Haider, said, "Our airports and other facilities have been provided for non-combat role," he told *The Dawn*.

AIRBASES

Pakistan has said permission to US forces to use two of its airbases for emergency purposes is in line with Islamabad's decision to provide airspace, intelligence and logistic support for military action

CUBA WON'T BE ATTACKED: UK

HAVANA, Oct. 13. — The USA and Britain may be leading the international coalition against terrorism, but they disagree over Washington's decision to include Cuba on a list of terrorist states, a senior British official said today.

"We're not in agreement with the US view that Cuba sponsors terrorism," the British energy minister, Mr Brian Wilson, a regular envoy from London to Cuba in recent years, said at a Havana news conference. The Castro government often evokes the threat of a US intervention in Cuba, though Mr Wilson characterised as "absurd" the fears of some Cubans that their country might become a target of the US-led international war against terrorism.

The US state department put Cuba alongside six other "rogue" states — Sudan, Iraq, Libya, North Korea and Syria — on a list of states sponsoring terrorism mainly because Basque ETA activists and US fugitives have found refuge on the island. Mr Fidel Castro, has rejected that characterisation, accusing the USA, in turn, of having supported terrorism against Cuba since the 1959 revolution. Mr Castro has condemned terrorism but has just as vociferously criticised the US attacks on Afghanistan and threats against other states "harbouring or supporting terrorists". — Reuters

Omar's call to Muslims

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 13. — The Taliban chief today said Muslims must choose a side between Afghanistan and the USA. "You, the Muslims of the world... watching... the American atrocities on Afghanistan... does your faith allow you to sit silent or to support America," Mullah Mohammed Omar said. He was speaking on the seventh day of US attacks on Afghanistan. The USA was bombing Afghanistan to mask the failure of its intelligence agencies to prevent the 11 September attacks and it would be defeated in the end, he said. — Reuters

Pak turns guns on Taliban

PAR @ WFI 11/10

Fierce shoot-out along Pak-Afghan border • Al-Qaida threatens more strikes against US



A US F-16 pilot flashes the thumbs-up sign before taking off for a sortie over Afghanistan on Wednesday. US and British forces carried out daytime raids for the second consecutive day.

HT Correspondent
Islamabad, October 10

THE TALIBAN were in dire straits today with US fighter planes pounding Kabul and Kandahar for the fourth day in a row and Pakistani troops engaging Taliban soldiers on the country's eastern border near Jalalabad. The militiamen were trying to cross into Pakistan to flee Allied air attacks.

After sunset today, explosions rocked Kabul, with US planes hitting targets near the city. Two loud blasts were heard outside the Afghan capital after US fighters swooped down with their deadly cargo of bombs triggering a defiant barrage of anti-aircraft fire.

The planes also bombed a Taliban military base six kilometres from Afghanistan's border with Pakistan. Taliban radio remained off the air for the second day, making it impossible to determine the precise targets that were hit.

In a desperate policy shift, the Taliban, which had claimed so far that they had restricted bin Laden's communications with the outside world, lifted all curbs on the al-Qaida chief. A Taliban spokesman told the BBC's Pashtu-language service that bin Laden was being given a free hand because the US was launching direct and unprovoked air assaults on Afghanistan.

In his undisclosed hideout, bin Laden was breathing fire

with no significant threat to Allied aircraft. The Taliban refuted this claim, saying the air strikes had failed to dent their air defence systems.

Today's air attacks on Kandahar concentrated on Taliban chief Mullah Mohammad Omar's house which was also targeted yesterday. The US had another strategic target in the Kandahar airport, a location of key Taliban defence installations, where 300 bin Laden associates are believed to be hiding. "Our anti-aircraft guns fired at four to five planes flying around the city," Taliban officials said.

In Washington, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "We are moving along well towards our goal of creating conditions necessary to conduct a sustained campaign to root out terrorists and to deliver humanitarian relief to the civilians of Afghanistan." He refused to rule out support to anti-Taliban forces in the country's north.

In the north, Northern Alliance officials said that their forces were stepping up pressure on the Taliban as fighting between the two sides had reached the Tajik border.

Alliance officials have reported large-scale defections by Taliban troops swelling the opposition ranks, but the reports could not be independently verified.



OSAMA BIN LADEN

today. He urged Muslims around the world to join the 'Holy War' against America. Al-Qaida spokesman Suleiman abu Ghaith told the Qatar-based Al Jazeera television network in a video recording today, "American interests are everywhere, all over the world. And every Muslim has to play his real role to uphold his religion." He asked all Muslims to attack US interests "everywhere" in the world.

Meanwhile, President George Bush said the US now had complete control of the Afghan skies

Related reports on Pages 7, 9, 10 and 11

Quetta police chief removed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 10. — The pro-Taliban Quetta police chief has been removed for failing to curb violent protests against the US-led attack on Afghanistan. Islamabad has also warned Afghan refugees not to participate in any anti-US protests.

There were no reports of violent protests in Pakistan today.

Mr Haji Habibur Rehman, DIG, has been accused of not arresting rioters in Quetta despite orders from Islamabad. *The News* said Mr Rehman had been removed because of his pro-Taliban leanings.

Five people have been killed and several others injured in Quetta after police fired on protesters who have been rocking the city since the US strikes on Afghanistan began.

In a warning to Afghan refugees, the military regime said they may be deported if found involved in pro-Taliban

demonstrations.

The interior minister, Mr Moynuddin Haider, said the refugees had no right to disturb the country's peace.

A pro-Taliban alliance of religious parties has called nationwide demonstrations on Friday to protest against Islamabad's help to the USA in its pursuit of Osama bin Laden.

Musharraf: Gen Pervez Musharraf today told his ministers that any attempt to impose a government on Afghanistan from abroad would be unacceptable to the people of that country, UNI adds.

Denial: Pakistan today denied that it had put two airports at the USA's disposal for use against Afghanistan, DPA adds from Karachi.

A foreign ministry spokesman dismissed the reports as "baseless", one of which quoted an official as saying that Jacobabad and Pasni airports would be used by US forces.

THE STATESMAN

11 OCT 2001

Walking a slack tightrope

INDIA'S UNFRIENDLY neighbourhood dictator's coup has turned sour. General Pervez Musharraf is currently in the position of a man who is having to pick up the broken pieces of his shattered dream. Having been forced to take a U-turn over his Afghanistan policy, he is now having to tread a path without much idea where it may lead. Nothing denotes his predicament more graphically than the decision to remove the ISI chief and supersede some of the army officers who had helped him to usurp power in 1999. The ISI chief's ouster is a highly significant development because this shadowy organisation has been the Taliban's friend, philosopher and guide for many years and played a crucial role in fomenting terrorism in this part of the world.

Of course, General Musharraf himself was very much a part of this unholy conglomerate till September 11 shattered his cosy world of a dictatorship in cahoots with the mad *mullahs* of Afghanistan. It is worth recalling that one of his first acts after grabbing power was to shoot down a plan to capture Osama bin Laden prepared by the Nawaz Sharif regime along with the Americans. Now all that lies in ruins as he tries to retrace his steps. But like all opportunists who have to disown their former friends, he must be aware of the dangers

involved in such backtracking. This is all the more so because his painful retreat harks back to the halcyon days of Kargil when he formulated the twin objective of a direct military assault on India along with an intensification of the *jehadi* enterprise in the name of a 'freedom struggle' in Kashmir.

In the process, General Musharraf had roused a lot of hopes among the religious extremists. Now they are up in arms against him, for they suspect that his betrayal is not only of the Taliban but also of the holy cause of *jihad*, whether in Kashmir or elsewhere. At the moment, his position at the helm may have enabled him to put the Jamāat-e-Islami chief under house arrest and bring the ISI under control. But, as a Pakistani commentator has said, he is walking a tightrope, but the rope is rather slack. His unenviable position is highlighted by his latest habit of blowing hot and cold against India. After telling New Delhi to "lay off", he makes Abdul Sattar ring up Jaswant Singh, and after telling a press conference that Pakistan is well prepared to face any possible attack by India, he phones Atal Bihari Vajpayee and promises to "inquire" about those responsible for the *fidayeen* attack on the legislative building in Srinagar. Such are the wages of those who play the politics of *jihad*.

Kabul under fire but Islamabad faces the heat

Delhi's efforts pay off as Musharraf sacks ISI chief

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is being weaned away from its hard-line militaristic posture as a result of American and British pressure which has arisen following strong views expressed by India over the courtship of Islamabad.

Washington's promise that it will hold Gen Pervez Musharraf's feet to the fire appears to have some merit considering the military regime's moves over the past two days to sideline extreme elements from the country's political and military fabric. After agreeing to crack down on fundamentalist leaders like Maulana Fazlur Rehman and Sami-ul Haq, Gen Musharraf has also undertaken a military reshuffle that is reported to have marginalised or retired generals with pro-Taliban views.

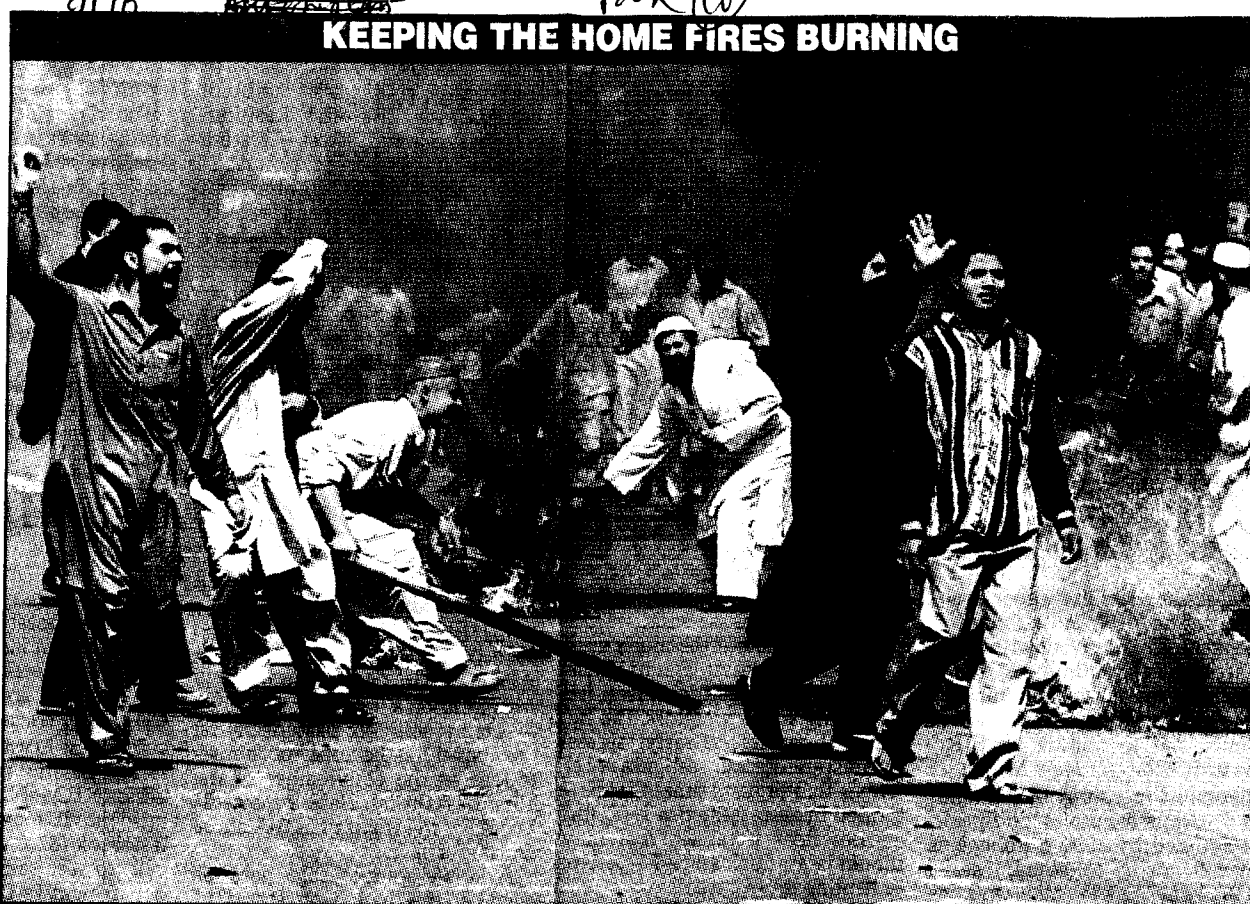
Among the 'retirees' are ISI chief Gen Mahmood Ahmed, who was in the U.S. at the time of the September 11 terrorist attacks, and the deputy chief of army staff Lt Gen Usmani. Even more significantly, Lt Gen Mohammed Aziz, the seniormost general after Gen Musharraf, who played a major role in the Kargil debacle, has been elevated to the largely ceremonial post of chairman, joint chiefs of staff committee. All three had played a key role in Gen

Musharraf usurping power in Pakistan and were vital cogs in the October 1999 coup.

U.S. analysts declined to attribute the changes directly to pressure from Washington, but said Gen Musharraf was consolidating his power only after assurances from the U.S. and UK that they were fully backing him.

Indian inputs also appear to have gone into Washington leaning on Pakistan. Reports from New Delhi speak of India pointing to links between the retiring ISI chief and Sheik Syed, a fugitive who was freed after the Indian Airlines hijacking, and who is believed to have wired \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, the mastermind behind the four-plane hijack that killed 5,000 people.

Sources also said that the sidelining of Gen Mahmood, who was earlier the corps commander in Rawalpindi and who took control of Pakistan Television there to enable Gen Musharraf stage the coup, suggested that the U.S. wanted a new ISI chief it could trust. Lt Gen Aziz was the chief of general staff at the GHQ and had effectively shut out Nawaz Sharif's counterplay during the coup. Lt Gen Usmani was the corps commander in Karachi who took over the airport to enable Gen Musharraf to land safely before initiating the coup.



Pakistani supporters of the Taliban shout slogans as they burn tyres on the streets during a protest in Karachi on Monday to vent their anger at the military strikes in Afghanistan by the U.S.-led coalition.

U.S. warning

UNITED NATIONS: The U.S. has warned the UN Security Council it could take "further actions" against other countries after strikes on Afghanistan, diplomats said on Monday.

UK security

LONDON: Security has been beefed up in Britain for ten potential targets of terrorist attacks, including the House of Commons, Downing Street and Buckingham Palace, after the U.S.-led strikes against the Taliban.

FBI alert

WASHINGTON: The Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) has put all its offices and agents throughout the U.S. on maximum alert following Sunday's strikes on Afghanistan and urged members of the law-enforcement community to maintain the highest level of vigilance and be prepared to respond to any act of terrorism.

VOA broadcast

WASHINGTON: Voice of America will expand its radio broadcasts to Afghanistan with two hours and 15 minutes of news and commentary per day in each of Afghanistan's two main languages, Pashtu and Dari, from Monday night.

Kabul takeover is imminent: Northern Alliance Pak reels under anti-U.S. protests

UNDATED: While Kabul counted its dead on Monday from a night of thunderous U.S.-led air attacks on Taliban targets, jubilant Northern Alliance forces unleashed an onslaught on Taliban positions north of Kabul, predicting that the Afghan capital could fall to them in just days.

British defence secretary Geoff Hoon said U.S. and British forces had struck 30 targets—which included terrorist training camps, military airfields and air defence sites—across Afghanistan, but the Taliban ambassador to Pakistan claimed that 20 people, including women and children, had been killed. However, there were contradictory reports about the casualties, with the official Voice of Shariat radio saying Kabul had suffered neither casualties nor material damage and Taliban officials saying three people were killed and at least four injured in three air raids on the militia's southern Afghan stronghold of Kandahar, the home of its spiritual leader Mullah Mohammad Omar, protector of Osama bin Laden.

The Afghan Islamic Press, based in the Pakistani frontier city of Peshawar, reported that ten people were killed near Kabul airport and another ten died when a bomb fell near the official Voice of Shariat radio station.

With the launch of the strikes, the nightmare scenario of as many as 1.5 million refugees flood-



Afghans clear the remains of a home which was destroyed in the missile strikes which hit central Kabul on Sunday night.

ing out of the country moved a step closer to reality on Monday. Reports from the Afghan capital said thousands of residents, fearing more attacks after three waves of bombing in the night, packed up what they could and fled the capital as dawn

broke and night curfew was lifted.

The Taliban cabinet called an emergency meeting in Kabul to discuss the crisis arising out of the strikes, but officials said no details were available. But Taliban officials in Pakistan said the militia's chief had declared a jihad or holy war against the U.S. and its Western allies.

Osama bin Laden and his aides have also declared a holy war on the U.S. Bin Laden defiantly praised the September 11 attacks and vowed that the U.S. would not know peace until it withdrew its troops from the Arabian peninsula and Palestine also enjoyed peace.

He said "a vanguard group of Muslims" was behind the September 11 attacks.

As Kabul mosques opened for early morning prayers, calls rose for a jihad against America. "We have to sacrifice ourselves for our country and Islam," was the call at one mosque.

Soon after declaring a 'holy war', the Taliban claimed it had shot down one plane and reportedly downed three others during the strikes by U.S. and British forces. However, the U.S. defence department denied this.

Meanwhile, Russia has begun to deliver weapons to the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance. Russia is believed to be planning a total shipment of up to \$45 million worth of arms, including Soviet-era T-55 tanks, combat vehicles, small arms and ammunition. (Agencies)

Future Afghan rulers must be 'friendly', says Musharraf

QUETTA: Violent anti-U.S. protests broke out in several Pakistani cities on Monday, forcing the police to fire volleys of tear-gas shells even as witnesses reported exchange of automatic weapons fire. In the largest demonstration, between 10,000 and 15,000 radical students and members of hardline Islamic groups took to the streets of Quetta, burning down a theatre and setting fire to a block of flats, a shopping plaza and several other buildings.

Chanting "Down with America" and "Death to President Bush", the crowds smashed windscreens of parked cars and hurled stones at the police. As the violence intensified, police fired scores of tear-gas canisters. Journalists on the rooftops of the city's luxury Serena Hotel could hear repeated automatic weapons fire. There were no immediate reports of any casualties.

The protests came after chief clerics of several mosques in Quetta reacted to the U.S. military attacks on Taliban targets in Afghanistan by announcing over their public address systems that a jihad (holy war) was now "mandatory" for Pakistani Muslims.

The anti-U.S. sentiment swiftly took on a more general anti-foreigner tone and as the demonstrators marched towards Serena Hotel, the base for several

hundred foreign journalists, police had to fire more tear-gas shells to keep the crowds away.

In Islamabad, another 1,500 students armed with canes and shouting anti-U.S. slogans marched towards the American Center, cordoned off by the police. Similar protests were held in the southern city of Karachi and in Lahore.

Meanwhile, Pakistani soldiers were moved into the major cities and put in places from where they could respond swiftly in an emergency.

Earlier, Gen Pervez Musharraf chose to accuse India of trying to gain political mileage from recent developments in Afghanistan and asked New Delhi not to have any illusions about a Pakistani response to any attack on militant training camps there.

Clubbing Kashmir with Palestine, he rejected New Delhi's stand that what was happening in that northern Indian state was terrorism. "It (Kashmir) cannot be identified as terrorism. There is a freedom struggle going on in Kashmir," he said at a press conference in Islamabad. He also said that future rulers in Afghanistan should be "friendly" to Pakistan and warned the Northern Alliance that they could not dominate a post-Taliban government. (Agencies)



Gen. Pervez Musharraf

Hidden agenda of Pak clerics' talks with Taliban revealed

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 7 OCTOBER

ITS OFFICIAL: Pakistan was indulging in plain deception when it said that the Deobandi clerics who accompanied the ISI chief to Kandahar had tried to persuade the Taliban leadership to hand over Osama bin Laden to the US.

General Pervez Musharraf's lie was nailed on Sunday by the Pakistani media. It said the clerics did exactly the opposite of what Islamabad had claimed about the Kandahar mission. Reports in the media said the clerics belonging to the newly-formed "Council for Defence of Afghanistan" did convey Islamabad's concern regarding the US' imminent military campaign, but they made no move

whatsoever to convince the Taliban leadership to get rid of bin Laden.

Instead, the delegation, led by top Deobandi religious leader, Mufti Nizamuddin Shamzai of the Binori Town seminary in Karachi, and escorted by Pakistan's ISI chief, Lt Gen Mahmud — is said to have invoked Islamic scriptures and assured Taliban chief Mullah Omar of their support in the holy war against the US. One of the muftis in the delegation told the newspaper that the clerics actually discussed the strategy of resistance with Omar and his lieutenants.

The support assured by the clerics, the reports said, would be in the form of accretion of the Taliban's fighting strength with

hundreds of jihadis indoctrinated and trained by the centres of learning run by the Deobandi outfits across Pakistan. The madrasas are responsible for supplying a steady stream of jihadis to different theatres such as Chechnya, Kashmir, the Philippines, Balkans and Xinjiang province in China.

There has been a strong sense of suspicion about Pakistan's double game in assuring "unstinted cooperation" in the US' anti-terrorism campaign while describing it in the same vein as a "strategic truce." Mr Musharraf's decision to send the very same Deobandi clerics who have reared the Taliban and are now preparing hundreds of Muslim youth to fight alongside the Taliban in the case of a military onslaught by the US had put

a big question mark on his intentions.

Thus, it was not surprising when the delegation returned with the predictable line that its mission to convince the Taliban had failed. The DG-ISI had even wanted to include Jamiat-ul-Islamia chiefs of their respective factions, Maulanas Samiul Haq and Fazlur Rehman, besides the Jama'at-i-Islami Amir, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, and another leader Maulana Shah Ahmed Noorani, in the mission to "convince" the Taliban but they refused to go to Afghanistan. All these parties are in the forefront of the anti-US movement.

"We turned down the offer because we do not want to go there as emissaries of George W

Bush or even of the military government," JUI chief, Maulana Fazlur Rehman said.

That the leader of the delegation, Shamzai, continues to sympathise with the Taliban was clear when he issued a fatwa last week exhorting all Muslims to join the jihad against the US if it attacked Afghanistan. He cautioned the Muslim countries supporting the US or any "infidel" forces that they were committing a "sin."

Shamzai, who threatened that his people would storm the airports and ports in Pakistan if the US forced landed there, is said to have instructed followers "not to allow any US men to go back alive from Pakistan."

According to The Friday Times, some intelligence agencies

have already warned the government about the possibility of suicide strikes against airports and foreign embassies.

Pakistani officials have also informed the US about the likely retaliation and terrorist attacks once the war or the air strikes begin. The two factions of the JUI are feverishly trying to mobilise the youth in the NWFP and Baluchistan. Intelligence officials believe these parties will rely on the networks of groups like the Harkat ul Mujahideen, Jaish-e-Mohammad and the sectarian Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan to further their cause. Sources also do not rule out the possibility of huge financial support to these groups from wealthy expatriates and other sources in West Asia.

Pak freezes 146 Taliban bank accounts

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 7 OCTOBER



Rehman: Screws tighten

THE US' squeeze on the Taliban and its supporters is beginning to tighten. In the first tangible action, Pakistan has frozen 146 bank accounts belonging to Taliban ministers and officials besides putting under house arrest, chief jihadi ideologue Maulana Fazlur Rehman of the Jamiat-i-Ulema Islami (JUI).

The JUI chief, a staunch supporter of the Taliban, has been in the forefront in organising anti-US rallies in Pakistan. According to reports from Islamabad, Rehman was placed under house arrest in his hometown of Der Ismail Khan with Pakistani police and paratroopers stationed outside his house.

The move comes after Rehman made pro-Taliban pronouncements at a public meeting in Peshawar, where he exhorted his supporters to attack any US military plane found in Pakistan. The JUI runs thousands of madrasas in Pakistan affiliated to the Deoband school and prepare young fighters to join the Taliban's ranks inside Afghanistan.

The action is viewed as a reluctant move by the Musharraf government against a fundamentalist religious party. The police are understood to have registered cases against Rehman and other JUI leaders for inciting people against the government and violating a ban on recruiting people for Jihad.

The freeze on bank accounts of Taliban officials and ministers in Pakistan, reported by the Pakistani press on Sunday, is also a significant step in blocking the financial lifeline of the Taliban. Among those whose accounts were frozen included Taliban Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil Muttawakil, defence minister Ubaidullah Akund, Supreme Court Chief Justice Noor Mohammad Saqib and their ambassador to Pakistan Abdul Saleem Zaef.

According to the Dawn newspaper, 87 Taliban ministers and governors were among those whose accounts were sealed. The step was taken in accordance to the UN resolutions.

Laden praises almighty for attacks, says US is full of fear

Cairo
7 OCTOBER

OSAMA BIN Laden, the prime suspect in the terror attacks for which the US retaliated with a missile assault on Afghanistan on Sunday night, praised God for the September 11 strikes that toppled New York's World Trade Center.

"The US was hit by God in one of its softest spots. The US is full of fear from its north to its south, from its west to its east. Thank God for that," bin Laden said in a video shown on Sunday on al-Jazeera, the Arabic satellite station.

Bin Laden was shown dressed in fatigues and an Afghan head-dress, sitting in a stone cave and flanked by two aides. It was not clear when the video was made, but it was made during the day time and referred to the September 11 attacks, but not to the retaliation by the US and Britain.

Although he praised the attacks, he did not claim responsibility. This was the first time bin Laden spoke about the September 11 attacks.

The video opened with an aide, reading a statement. "What happened in the United States is a natural reaction to the ignorant policy



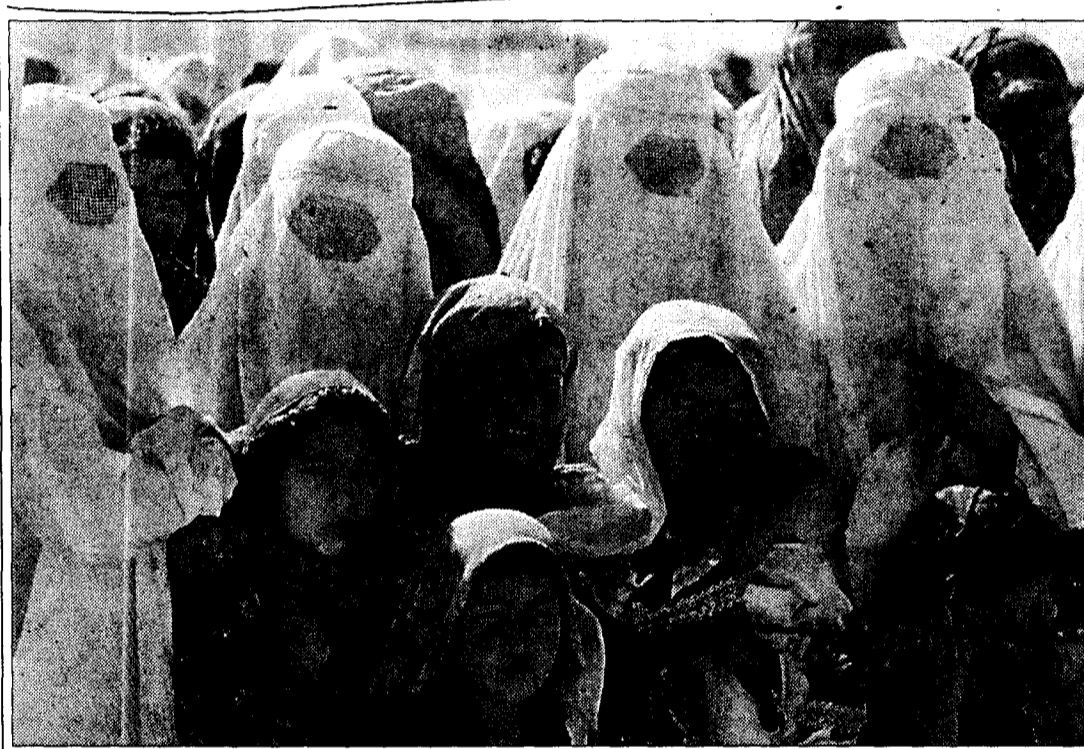
IN THE OPEN: Osama bin Laden's speech being telecast by al Jazeera television on Sunday. — AP

of the United States," the statement read by Suleiman Abu Gheit said.

"If it continues with this policy, the sons of Islam will not stop their struggle. The Americans should know what is happening to them now is the result of their support of this policy," the statement said. "The war against Afghanistan and

Osama bin Laden is a war on Islam."

The Qatar-based independent TV network has been frequently airing exclusive footage of bin Laden, prompting the United States to raise concerns about al-Jazeera's coverage during a meeting with the emir of Qatar in Washington on Wednesday. — AP



LOOK HOMEWARD ANGEL

FBI questions two Indians over shady transfer of money

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 7 OCTOBER

WHEN AYUB Ali Khan and Mohammad Jaweed Azmath transferred \$ 64,000 to their families in Hyderabad over two years ago, they had not realised that their act will land them in trouble some day.

The two Indian nationals, who were detained by the FBI sleuths in Texas last month are now being questioned for remitting an amount which is much beyond their known sources of income.

The federal authorities, according to *The Washington Post*, have not been able to gather any evidence which links them directly to the terrorist attacks. But the two Indian nationals held poorly-paid jobs at New Jersey, and the fact they could send such huge amounts of money to their families back home has created doubts.

The authorities, the *Post* pointed out, are trying to find out how the two Indians who drew a measly amount as their monthly salaries before they were detained

last month, were able to send about \$64,000 to their families.

The Hyderabad-based families of the two Indian nationals have also been questioned by both Indian and federal authorities as part of their efforts to uncover any possible links.

While admitting that the two expatriate Indians were being interrogated by the federal agents, the Indian embassy officials in Washington denied that they were in any way linked to terrorist outfits.

Khan and Azmath, the *Post* added, were taken into custody after their investigators discovered they were carrying \$5,000 in cash, hair dye and box-cutters-thought to have been used as weapons by the terrorist hijackers.

According to the officials in India and the US, Khan and Azmath transferred the \$64,000 to their families in Hyderabad in several instalments between July and September 2001. Quoting a high-ranking Andhra Pradesh police official, the *Post* said the amount

was remitted through proper banking channels.

The revelations about the remittances by the Hyderabadis is part of the piles of evidence that the US have collected to establish strong financial links between the Al Qaida terrorist network and the 19 hijackers who carried out the September 11 carnage.

It also includes transfers of thousands of dollars from hijacking leader Mohammad Atta to Al Qaida's chief financial lieutenant in the West Asia — Mustafa Mohammad Ahmed — days before the attacks. The investigating agencies had detected that as much as \$100,000 was wired from Pakistan to Atta.

As it happens, this money was wired by Omar Ahmed Sheikh, an LSE graduate turned Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist. He has been in Pakistan since January 2000 after the Indian authorities were forced to release him in exchange of the passengers of IC-814 held hostage by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists.



THE WAY TO DUSTY DEATH: Northern Alliance fighters ride atop a tank north of Kabul on Sunday. — AP

Vajpayee-Blair talks today

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 5. - Mr Tony Blair, who arrived here late tonight, will hold talks with Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and other ministers and bureaucrats at 7, Race Course Road tomorrow morning.

The British Prime Minister is arriving after whirlwind trips to Moscow and Islamabad where he held talks with Gen. Pervez Musharraf on the US-led coalition against terrorism. Mr Blair's talks with Mr Vajpayee are scheduled for half-an-hour.

The two will exchange views on a wide range of issues that have emerged after the 11 Sep-



An Afghan refugee waits for asylum papers outside the UNHCR office in Islamabad, on Friday. - AP/PTI

tember attacks. Mr Blair is expected to apprise the leaders of

the situation in Afghanistan.

Those likely to be present during the talks with Mr Vajpayee are Mr Jaswant Singh (expected to arrive late tonight or early tomorrow morning), the Prime Minister's principal secretary, Mr Brajesh Mishra, and the foreign secretary, Mrs Chokila Iyer.

Mr Blair will later address the media and then return for breakfast at the Prime Minister's residence. During breakfast, all the members of the Cabinet Committee on Security except Mr Yashwant Sinha will be present. Mr LK Advani, the foreign minister, and the Centre's mediator on Kashmir, Mr KC Pant, will be present.

THE STATESMAN

6 OCT 2002

Pak. for broadbased govt. in Afghanistan

5/10
By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 4. Pakistan is for "conciliation and a broadbased government" in Afghanistan, its Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, told a news conference today, on the eve of the "working visit" of the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair.

"We are for conciliation and a broadbased government... This has been our position for some time. We have been working with the U.N. and the OIC towards this goal."

Reiterating that the Taliban embassy in Islamabad was playing a significant role, Mr. Khan said it was acting as a window to the world and, as of now, Pakistan had no intention of reconsidering its relations with Kabul.

There was no surprise element in Mr. Khan's disclosure on the nature of the evidence provided by Washington against the Saudi fugitive, Osama bin Laden. (He told presspersons earlier that Islamabad was satisfied that there was "sufficient" basis for Osama's indictment in the September 11 terror attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon).

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, in an interview to the CNN on Wednesday had said that the U.S. had presented an 'impressive evidence' of Osama's involvement and wanted the Bush administration to publicise it all over the world to enable people make a fair judgment.

He said Pakistan had been shown 20 pages of documents besides being given an oral presentation. He was sure the people would be impressed by the good work done by the U.S. in a short time after the attacks.

"The U.S. should be confident that it has impressive evidence but Pakistan will not sit in judgment... We are hesitant to pronounce a judgment," he said.

When told that some people who had been shown some parts of the leaked evidence had rejected it as fabricated, Mr. Sattar said these people were in a small minority and had pre-conceived ideas. "They have already made up their minds and they will not accept any evidence."

However, the Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar, appeared unmoved by the signals of Pakistan's shift from over five

years of support. "I have been to Pakistan only once, that too to seek medical treatment for my injuries sustained during the 'jihad' (holy war) against the Soviet occupation troops. Ours is an indigenious movement," he said on the State-controlled radio.

'Perpetrators of J&K Assembly attack linked to Osama'

LONDON, OCT 4. The British Foreign Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw, today said terrorism continued to take an ugly toll on human life in India and condemned the recent bomb blast outside the Jammu and Kashmir assembly as "utterly unjustified" saying its perpetrators were linked to Osama bin Laden.

"Let us not forget that just this week, terrorism has continued to take an ugly toll of innocent human life, in India. In Srinagar, a suicide bomber struck literally at the heart of their democracy by detonating a bomb in the State Assembly, killing 38 and injuring many more," Mr. Straw, who opened a debate on international response to terrorism, said.—PTI

THE HINDU

- 5 OCT 2002

Musharraf aborted US-Pak commando plan to get Osama

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf aborted a secret deal between the Clinton administration and the Nawaz Sharif government under which the CIA was training 60 Pakistani commandos to enter Afghanistan and hunt down Osama bin Laden, the *Washington Post* reported on Wednesday.

The plan was set in motion less than 12 months after U.S. cruise missile strikes against Bin Laden's training camps in Afghanistan that Clinton administration officials believe narrowly missed hitting the exiled Saudi militant, the paper said.

The commando training operation was arranged by Nawaz Sharif and his chief of intelligence with the Clinton administration, which in turn promised to lift sanctions on Pakistan and provide an economic aid package.

But just as the Pakistani commando team was up and running and ready to strike by October 1999, the plan was jettisoned after Mr Sharif was ousted in a military coup. Gen Musharraf, who overthrew Mr Sharif on October 12, 1999, "refused to continue the operation despite substantial

efforts by the Clinton administration to revive it," the *Post* reported.

The paper did not elaborate on why Gen Musharraf, who has inexplicably been co-opted as a U.S. ally now despite his fervent defence of the Taliban, ditched the plan.

But it quoted a former U.S. official as saying "joint operations with the Pakistani service are always dicey, because the Taliban militia that rules most of Afghanistan has penetrated Pakistani intelligence."

In a detailed account of the cruise missile strike against terrorist camps in Afghanistan that narrowly missed Bin Laden, the paper also quoted officials as saying the world's most wanted terrorist might have escaped because he was tipped

off by Pakistani intelligence about the operation, the vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who was on a visit to Pakistan told hosts about the operation.

hundreds of non essential U.S. personnel

and dependents out of Pakistan. "Some U.S. officials believe word could have been passed to Bin Laden by the Taliban on a tip from Pakistani intelligence services," the paper said.

But it added that other former officials disputed the notion of a security breach, saying Bin Laden had plenty of notice that the U.S. intended to retaliate.

However, the American distrust of Pakistan was sufficient for Washington to withhold information from Islamabad about the missile strikes. It was only at the last moment, almost at the precise time of the launch, that Air Force Gen Joseph Ralston, then

the vice-chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who was on a visit to Pakistan told hosts about the operation.

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Elusive Bin Laden frustrates West

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed
Times News Network

LONDON: The Western coalition hunting for Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network lacks "real time" or "actionable intelligence" to strike at him, according to twin intelligence reports emerging from Washington and London.

British and American agencies quoted in *The Guardian* say they have "a pretty good idea" of where Bin Laden was a few days ago, but it is harder to pinpoint his whereabouts now. The paper says that it remains unclear if Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence provided the information or whether Bin Laden was spotted by American spy satellites.

On Monday, General Musharraf told the state department issued a public warning about a very serious threat and ordered hundreds of non essential U.S. personnel

The information was aimed at allaying any Pakistani fears that the missiles were coming from India. Following the failure of the cruise missile strike, the CIA that year launched its clandestine operation with Pakistani intelligence to train Pakistani commandos for operations against Bin Laden.

"It was a sustained effort," the paper quoted former defence secretary William Cohen as saying. "There was not a week that went by when the issue wasn't seriously addressed by the national security team."

Washington's doubts about Pakistan's reliability as an ally, stemming from both distrust and fear of its volatility, had forced the U.S. to look at staging grounds and military bases in other countries, reports here say. During his media appearance with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh, Defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld conspicuously left out Pakistan from the itinerary of countries he begins visit on Wednesday — a list that includes Saudi Arabia, Oman, Egypt, and Uzbekistan.

He did not elaborate on why he was not going to Pakistan, brusquely telling a reporter "No. I'll not be visiting Pakistan."

4 OCT 2001

Pak (10)
HD-13
1/10

U.S., Taliban must resolve stand-off amicably, says Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 30. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, for the first time conceded today that he perceived a 'danger of damage' to the Taliban because of its refusal to hand over the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden.

In an half-hour interview to the American television network, CNN, Gen. Musharraf said Pakistan would like any "further steps" to be undertaken under the aegis of the United Nations. He appealed to the U.S. and the Taliban to arrive at an amicable solution on the stand-off over the Osama issue in the interests of the people of Afghanistan and the region.

On what Pakistan would not like to see, Gen. Musharraf said "we would not like the Pakistani troops to cross our borders." The U.S., he said, had not disclosed to Pakistan the details of its operational plans in the event of a confrontation with the Taliban.

Conceding that a "small minority" of religious extremists were opposed to his decision of siding with the U.S. in its fight against international terrorism, he said his Government, which enjoyed the support of the vast majority, was fully capable of dealing with them.

Answering a question, Gen. Musharraf indirectly said Pakistan was concerned over reports of efforts to replace the Taliban with an

alternative set-up, particularly the Northern Alliance. "We are for a peaceful and friendly Afghanistan. Our position is the Government in Afghanistan should reflect the aspirations of all and take care of the ethnic composition of the country. I do not know how far the Northern Alliance fits into this category."

Gen. Musharraf agreed that Pakistan had paid a diplomatic price at the international level because of its ties with the Taliban but he was not apologetic about the relations between Islamabad and Kabul. "We were interacting with the Taliban because of our national interest. I agree we have suffered on account of our relationship with the Taliban. We continue to interact with them. We have been trying to moderate them," he said.

'Dim hope'

His Government's two missions to prevail upon the Taliban supremo, Mullah Mohammad Omar, to agree to the demands of the U.S. had not succeeded. "The hope (of success) is dim. There was some flexibility in the Taliban after the edict of the religious clerics. But the latest signals are not encouraging," he said.

So far, the U.S. had not shared with Pakistan any evidence about the involvement of Osama and his Al-Qaida in the terrorist strikes of September 11 in New York and Washington. Shar-

ing of information that was not confidential could go a long way in helping people understand the U.S. charge, the General said.

Denying that there were differences within the Pakistan Army over his support to the U.S. against the Taliban, Gen. Musharraf said the Army was one of the most disciplined institutions in the world. His Government, nonetheless, was concerned about the activities of some extremist groups within Pakistan but was determined to put an end to their activities. Even before September 11, his administration had initiated measures to tame the extremist elements to improve internal law and order.

Gen. Musharraf denied that the 'madrasahs' (religious schools) of Pakistan were the breeding grounds for extremism. They were the largest network of welfare organisations, offering free education to six lakh students. In response to a question on the safety of the nuclear facilities in his country, Gen. Musharraf said the command and control system was very secure and there was no way the facilities could fall into the hands of the fanatics.

Asked about the aid being offered by the Western block after Pakistan agreed to become a 'frontline State' again, Gen. Musharraf said his Government was not for any deal on terrorism.

THE HINDU

11 SEP 2001

The siege within

PK (W)

19-16
2009

The jihadis in Pakistan are up in arms against what they see as a volte-face by Gen. Musharraf.
B. Muralidhar Reddy reports.

AS THE United States mulls over its military response to last fortnight's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington, the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is faced with a challenge to his authority from within. The plethora of religious and militant outfits created and nurtured by successive Governments in Islamabad for over two and half decades are up in arms against what they see as a volte-face by Gen. Musharraf on Afghanistan and the ideology of jihad on which they have thrived.

As they see it, at stake is not just the future of the Taliban militia, which many of them perceive as a role model, but the very foundations of the foreign policy of Pakistan and their dreams of liberating the enslaved *kaum* (brotherhood) in the subcontinent.

Today if the Taliban is seen as a regime which aids international terrorism, can the outfits operating in Kashmir escape the dragnet? Few can deny the umbilical link. At least some of the militant outfits and religious groups in Pakistan draw their inspiration from the Taliban.

Just consider this. The transformation of the political struggle in Kashmir into a militant phase coincided with the Soviet Union's withdrawal from Afghanistan in 1989. As Afghanistan plunged into a civil war, most of the fighters from Pakistan either returned home or began to look for new areas to carry on a jihad. With the unrest in Kashmir at its peak, it was perhaps too tempting for some of the warriors who had just tasted the success of humbling a superpower.

So, however hard he may try, it is almost impossible for Gen. Musharraf to extricate himself from the fallout of the Afghan and Kashmir policies pursued by successive Governments in Pakistan for over two decades.

The President's predicament was evident in his September 19 address to the nation. What was to have been an explanation for his regime's decision to side with the U.S. in its fight against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban turned into an anti-India tirade. And for good reasons from the General's point of view.

As a seasoned soldier and a man at the helm of affairs for nearly two years now, Gen. Musharraf is aware that a battle cry against India and for the Kashmir cause alone can win him the people's sympathy. So he pulled no punches and asked India to 'lay off'. Strong language for a man who had travelled just two months ago to New Delhi/Agra.

But such was the extraordinary situation



Protests against America in Lahore... Musharraf's troubles deepen.

in the post-September 11 world that he had little option. There were two clear messages in his speech. Pakistan would never allow India's alleged designs for its (Pakistan's) disintegration to succeed. And it would not allow the U.S. and the international community to succeed in bracketing the groups fighting the cause of Kashmir with terrorism.

It will not be an easy task for the Musharraf Government. As *Janes Intelligence Digest* (JID), in an analysis on the subject has said "One of the more difficult issues which the General may have to explain is the close

links between two Islamic militant groups involved in the Kashmir region and the world's most wanted terrorist, Osama bin Laden".

The two groups in question, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen and Lashkar-e-Taiba, were singled out in the U.S. State Department's Report on the Patterns of Global Terrorism for 2000. "Although the Pakistani Government has repeatedly denied that it has any alternative involvement with these two groups, credible intelligence community sources point to close ties between senior members of Pakistan's military and security

services and both organisations," says JID.

As noted by the JID, Gen. Musharraf came to power with the support of the military. He is extremely vulnerable if the Army, or at least a significant element of it, turns against him. If he were to be ousted during an anti-Western, pro-Taliban uprising by an alliance between Kashmiri militants and nationalist military officers, the prospect of a full-scale regional conflagration might become very real.

Gen. Musharraf was conscious of the nuisance value of the jihadi outfits from the day he took charge. He began his innings with a distinct impression of being a man with liberal leanings and determined to halt the 'Talibanisation' of Pakistan. But somewhere down the line, the General, like his predecessors, developed cold feet and chose to turn a blind eye to the actions of the many jihadi groups operating from Pakistani soil.

The first sign of his trepidation was when he did not amend the procedure for registration of cases for blasphemy. Gen. Musharraf had evidently let go of the opportunity to assert his authority. And after that he could never get on top of the elements enamoured by the Taliban model. Partly under pressure from the international community, and to some extent out of consideration for the state of the economy, efforts to tame the religious zealots no doubt continued. But they were at best half-hearted.

On the occasion of the birthday of Prophet Mohammad on June 5 this year, he made a brilliant speech targeting the hardcore elements. It was considered bold and was aimed at reasoning it out with the jihadis. Once again it made little difference on the ground. In a clear reference to the growing anti-U.S. rhetoric of some religious groups, Gen. Musharraf said, "why should you be unnecessarily railing against the great powers? Is it wisdom that you invite hurt, without any rhyme or reason? As I have told you, we are not a powerful country. When we do become powerful, you can indulge in this pastime. You might impress them".

At the risk of incurring the wrath of the well-entrenched anti-India lobby, he made a specific reference to the boast of extremist elements of hoisting the Pakistani flag atop the Red Fort in Delhi. "What are you going to gain from it? On the contrary, this provides India with the excuse to talk about you as terrorists and to tell others to declare you as terrorists so that prospective investors shy away from your country. When you kill each other, who will consider Pakistan a safe place for investment," he asked. It all fell on deaf ears. He complained about how funds being collected in the name of Kashmir refugees by some outfits were going into 'private pockets' and urged them to ponder on the consequences of their actions.

After his return from Agra, the Musharraf Government attempted a sort of a crack-down on the jihadi outfits' forcible collection of funds in the name of a holy war. The hue and cry was so loud, the military Government had to retract its decision.

THE HINDU

30 SEP 2001

Musharraf 'terms' for backing U.S. against Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 27. There is intense speculation on the nature of support sought by the United States in taking on the Saudi dissident, Osama bin Laden, and the Taliban regime and the conditions put forth by Pakistan.

The U.S. defence delegation, which was here for consultations with its counterpart on the future course of action in achieving its goals, has concluded its mission.

Both Islamabad and Washington are tightlipped on the nature of discussions. The Musharraf regime insists that the delegation did not discuss any concrete plans of the Bush administration and was here for exchange of information.

Reports and commentaries in the Pakistani media clearly seem to indicate that the Musharraf Government has laid down certain conditions before it could consent for the nature of cooperation sought by the U.S.

A columnist, Mr. Irshad Ahmad Haqqani, in his column in the *Jang* listed 13 points reportedly taken by the Musharraf Government.

These are America should maintain restraint and action against Osama must be taken only after collecting all evidence. Whatever action is taken should be under the umbrella of the U.N. and the Security Council. Participation of some of the Muslims countries in the possible action should be ensured. Pakis-

tan's interests must be safeguarded in any possible internal setup in Afghanistan following the military action. No anti-Pakistan power or circle should be given any important role in the new arrangement.

According to him, America's latest stand is that it has no intention of setting up an alternative arrangement. The international community would be collectively responsible for the refugee problem. If the Taliban agrees to hand over Osama to any third country, there should be no military strike.

Pakistan would not play any role in any military action outside the country. The stay of the American troops would be on temporary basis. Kashmiris' "ongoing struggle" does not come under the definition of the terrorism and any action against them even in future would not be acceptable to Pakistan.

Only Pakistan has the authority to curb the activities of some of the 'jehadi' circles supporting the 'freedom struggle' in Kashmir from Pakistan and no other power would ever be allowed to take action in this regard. Pakistan is trying to call an emergency meeting of the Foreign Ministers of the Organisation of Islamic Countries and whatever strategy it evolves should be followed.

Pakistan would not sever diplomatic ties with the Taliban Government but in case of any untoward incident, Islamabad would review its decision. America's actions against Pakistan since 1990 have been 'unjust'. They should be stopped and measures taken to compensate them.

Musharraf includes mullahs in Kabul-bound delegation

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 27 SEPTEMBER

TRYING YET another gambit to escape the backlash in the NWFP for selling out the Taliban, Pakistan on Thursday deputed a delegation of religious parties to reason with Afghanistan ruler, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

The decision to send the delegation, comprising religious leaders who have been campaigning against Pakistan's collaboration with the US may look odd considering that General Pervez Musharraf had attacked, in his televised address to the nation, the very same set, calling it selfish and representing a wafer-thin minority. But it has been necessitated by Pakistan's imperative to guard against a domestic backlash, particularly in the Pashtun-dominated NWFP, against the sell out of the Taliban to escape US' wrath.

The inclusion of outspoken critics of Musharraf regime's decision in the Kabul-bound delegation is expected to impress upon the Pashtuns in NWFP as well as their ethnic brethren across the border, the sincerity of Pakistan's efforts to save the Taliban from a US-led attack. Members of the delegation include the chief of Jama'at-i-Islam, Qazi Hussain. A Pashtun himself, Hussain is seen as a semi-Deobandi. He is accompanied by Fazlur Rahman, chief of Jamat-ul-Ulema-Islam, the Deobandi outfit whose madrasas played a key role in raising the Taliban and moulding it into a jihadi apparatus.

By involving them in the mis-



FRIEND OR FOE?

sion to persuade the Taliban to open talks with US, the Musharraf regime is obviously hoping to

buffer itself against the explosion of resentment in NWFP. The decision to co-opt religious leaders known for their hardline stance against US is to be seen together with the statement of foreign minister Abdul Sattar that Pakistan will not be a party to any hostile operation against Afghanistan.

The statement appears to be a PR ploy in the light of Pakistan's offer of unstinted cooperation to the US, and the certainty that Bush regime's campaign against international terror will involve the use of force, overt or covert.

The refusal to cut ties with Taliban is also to be seen in the light of the imperative of preventing a severe loss of credibility among Pashtuns within and outside Pakistan.

Pak ready for broadbased govt

Islamabad

27 SEPTEMBER

PAKISTAN, ON Thursday, said it was ready to back any "broad-based" government in Afghanistan that had the backing of the Afghan people and worked for national reconciliation in the country. "It is a historical fact that a government could not be imposed on Afghanistan from outside. Only a government acceptable to the people of Afghanistan can remain stable there," ministry spokesman Riaz Mohammad Khan said. — PTI

Japan reworks \$550-m Pak loan

K.J.M. Varma

ISLAMABAD 27 SEPTEMBER

JAPAN, ON Thursday, promised to reschedule \$550 million of Pakistan's debt in recognition of Islamabad's decision to back international efforts against terrorism and offered to support multi-lateral assistance to Pakistan to overcome its economic difficulties. Japanese senior vice-minister for foreign affairs, Seiken Sugiura also announced an emergency assistance of \$40 million of emergency assistance to Pakistan. — PTI

Harkat-ul-Mujahideen assets frozen pak

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 26. The U.S. decision to freeze the accounts of terrorist outfits on its list appears to have had its repercussions here as the Harkat-ul Mujahideen is among the 27 organisations and individuals that figure in it.

A report in Pakistani Urdu daily *Khabren* quoted the Harkat spokesman, Mr. Amiruddin Mughal, as saying that the Pakistan government had disconnected telephone lines of the outfit's offices in Islamabad, Lahore and other parts of the country.

It said all the top leaders of the outfit, including the secretary-general, Maulana Fazlur Rehman Khalil, had gone underground. Pakistan might also announce a ban on the activities of Harkat in the next few days. The Government has also frozen the financial assets of the two militant outfits identified by the U.S.

The paper said the Al Rasheed Trust, another organisation banned by the U.S., claimed it had nothing to do with terrorist activities and was working in Afghanistan on humanitarian grounds.

In a related development, the Defend Jihad Forum (DJF), an umbrella organisation of various "jehadi" outfits, has announced that if the U.S. attacked Afghanistan, all the "jehadi" outfits would fight a war along with their Afghan brethren and Afghanistan

would be converted into a graveyard of Americans. A meeting of the DJF presided by Shakeelu Rehman Nasir was held in Lahore on Tuesday. Representatives of the Harkat-ul Mujahideen, the Al Badar, the Hizb-e-Islami, the Lashkar-e-Taiba, the Hizb-ul Mujahideen, the Harkat-al-Jihad Islami and the Jamiat-ul Mujahideen attended the meeting.

The DJF appealed to the people to boycott American products as their money was being used to "suppress Muslims all around the world". It was also said in the meeting that the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, should not be under the illusion that the war in Afghanistan would weaken the Kashmir struggle.

MiG crashes, woman killed

HOSHIARPUR, SEPT. 26. Kamaljit Kaur (45) was killed and seven others injured when a MiG-21 fighter of the Indian Air Force (IAF) crashed this evening into a 'choe' (seasonal rivulet) after hitting a series of houses near Raghawal Saharna village in the district. Five houses were damaged in the mishap, police sources said.

Mr. Sarva Nand, the pilot of the ill-fated aircraft on a training sortie from Pathankot airfield, however, bailed out but suffered minor injuries. — UNI

THE HINDU

27 SEP 2001

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

MUSHARRAF'S 'STRATEGIC DECISION'

GEN. PERVEZ MUSHARRAF, Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, seems eager to persuade his compatriots, especially the critics, that he faced a virtual Hobson's Choice in deciding to go along with the United States in the context of last week's terrorist raids over New York and Washington. For good measure, therefore, he utilised a televised address on Wednesday night to portray his U.S.-friendly act as a "strategic decision" that was designed to prevent a proactive India from isolating Pakistan on the international scene in the aftermath of the world's worst episode of terrorism. New Delhi's perceived attempt to drive a wedge between Islamabad and Washington was also cited by him. However, it is regrettable that Gen. Musharraf should have in this manner dragged India into a controversy that had much to do with his own Afghan policy. Now, it is true in a sense that India has also been looking for some new strategic kinship with the U.S. by emphasising their common bonds of grief and democratic outrage over the latest acts of unprecedented terror on American soil. This has certainly alarmed Islamabad, although there is little or no reason why the U.S. should consciously play zero-sum games in respect of India and Pakistan at this particularly poignant moment. So, Gen. Musharraf could have avoided a patently India-centric defence of his pro-U.S. stance at this stage. Yet, if he plainly did not do so, thereby hangs an intricate tale of Pakistan's domestic politics.

For Pakistan, the basic dilemma was that the U.S. lost no time to name Osama bin Laden, a wealthy Saudi dissident, as the prime suspect behind the terrorist carnage that shook America to its core on September 11. With Osama bin Laden being the officially notified "guest" of Afghanistan's ruthless Taliban 'government', the Bush administration demanded that Pakistan exert its patronly influence over that adamant 'regime' in Kabul to help the U.S. track down the Saudi fugitive. However, the issues at stake were

not seen in the same perspective in Pakistan, where the Islamic extremists profess a symbiotic relationship with the fundamentalist Taliban. As Gen. Musharraf seemed to indicate in his latest televised address, the pro-Taliban elements within Pakistan may constitute just 10-15 per cent of the population and yet hold the nation to account on a major issue concerning the Taliban. This should explain why the Pakistani leader assured his nation that the current American call for a fight against international terror could not be construed as an anti-Islam affront. By openly disclosing the sensitive information that the U.S. had sought the use of Pakistan's airspace as also its logistical and intelligence support, he seemed to underline that he deserved the trust of his compatriots.

Gen. Musharraf's check-list of concerns — Pakistan's integrity, the state of its economy, the sustainability of its strategic assets of nuclear weapons and missiles, besides the Kashmir "cause" — should cause no surprise at all in New Delhi. Yet, his unmistakable message to India to "lay off" and refrain from seeking strategic advantages in the present situation appears to be viewed by the Vajpayee administration as some form of sabre-rattling. In denouncing this "anti-India tirade", New Delhi is certainly right in arguing that the issue of battling international terrorism should not be lost sight of. However, prior to Gen. Musharraf's latest speech itself, New Delhi had veered to the view that the Agra process of an India-Pakistan re-engagement was receding to a back-burner in the context of a whole set of new international and regional priorities. Last week's overwhelming tragedy with global implications was seen to push this evolving set of priorities to the forefront. Now, while the India-Pakistan equation has once again plummeted, it appears that the U.S. would not, for an entirely different reason, want to see Gen. Musharraf's political position endangered in the present circumstances.

THE HINDU

98-6

Musharraf speak

21/9

The general's rabble-rousing is best ignored

EVEN General Pervez Musharraf's worst critics will have to admit it was a good speech. He pulled out all the stops in his address to the Pakistani people on Wednesday night citing everything from international law, religious teaching and rational thought to Pakistan's strategic interests in order to persuade them that his decision to support Washington was right. Inevitably, the Indian bogey was brought into service too. It is well that Musharraf lacks the flamboyance and oratory of, say, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. His flat and measured tone fitted his central message of the need for calm, collected thought and the speech will probably be more effective for that reason. This is a highly significant moment for Pakistan. The words 'turning point', 'watershed' have been used to describe it. Musharraf himself compared it to 1971, a time when the quality of leadership could make or break the country and emphasised that "wrong decisions" would imperil Pakistan's future.

So far the general does not seem to have put a foot wrong. However, it is an open question whether he has the requisite political skills to manage domestic actors through the long and challenging period ahead. Having understood quickly that Pakistan would have to join the rest of the world in an anti-terrorism campaign, he announced his support for the US and then began trying to align domestic public opinion with his stance. Anti-American demonstrations in the street in the first few days have not been as large or violent as might have been expected. But these are early days yet. Islamabad will be preparing

for all kinds of eventualities once rhetoric gives way to action in Washington or Kabul, for that matter. In the past passions in the street have been so inflamed as to be regime-threatening and the military has had to maintain order. Corps commanders of the army as well as the ulema and political parties, three powerful or potentially powerful groups, have all apparently been consulted. The true extent of their backing for Musharraf's policies is unclear. There are no visible differences within the army. But that leaders of the major political parties have not come out unequivocally in support of the military regime in this hour of crisis should be a major cause of concern. And Musharraf's speech with its lengthy quotations from the scriptures attests to the fact that the ulema still has to come aboard. The days ahead will show whether Pakistanis fully trust their president.

In similar situations, all Pakistani leaders have raised the Indian bugbear, some more shrilly than others. Nothing works better to unite Pakistanis behind the government of the day. It is quite apparent Musharraf's India-baiting is mainly intended to bring fractious Pakistanis together. He went too close to the edge in one or two matters and he may cross the line the next time. But Indians should not be too exercised by his India-baiting just now, nor need New Delhi engage in a public wrangle about concerns in Afghanistan. As Prime Minister Vajpayee has said, India wants peace and stability in the region and is committed to combating terrorism which, as every thinking person knows, menaces all countries.

INDIAN EXPRESS

21 SEP 2001

Pak recalls diplomatic staff from Kabul

U.S. team arrives in Islamabad, gets set for military reprisal

ISLAMABAD: As the U.S. stands poised to attack Afghanistan, Pakistan pulled out its diplomatic staff from that country, citing "the abnormal situation" there, while a high-level American team held talks here on Monday to firm up Islamabad's offer of cooperation for a possible military reprisal against Osama bin Laden and his network.

Meanwhile, the Taliban defiantly took over UN offices in the southern city of Kandahar and placed a communications blackout on other UN operations. The Taliban also began mobilising forces in earnest for a 'holy war' even as some reports suggested that Bin Laden may take over control of the militia in the event of a U.S. attack.

In Washington, the White House announced that President George W. Bush had signed an order to freeze Bin Laden's assets and those of his organisation in the U.S. Earlier on Friday, Japan had said it would curb the financial dealings of people linked to the Taliban and Bin Laden.

With war clouds looming large over Afghanistan, Pakistan foreign office spokesman Mohammad Riaz Khan said that "in view of the abnormal situation" Islamabad had pulled out its entire diplomatic staff from Afghanistan on the weekend. "They are all in Pakistan," he said, even as a high-level American team comprising officials from the State Department and the Pentagon assessed the situation in Quetta and Peshawar bordering Afghanistan, ahead of a meeting with Pakistani military and government officials.

The meetings are expected to take place throughout the week under extreme secrecy, CNN said, adding that the delegation was likely to inspect military facilities in Pakistan and evaluate whether they could be used for any potential U.S. military action.

But exactly how far Islamabad will go in facilitating the U.S. operation remains an open and highly sensitive question. In particular, the landing of U.S. troops on Pakistani soil are likely to be seen as a high-risk move with the potential to split the country and its military elite. Apart from seeking logistical support and intelligence inputs, Washington has also asked Islamabad to open its books to U.S. investigators, which might expose potentially embarrassing details

of its alliance with the Taliban. UN spokesperson Stephanie Bunker said most UN humanitarian operations in Afghanistan had been disrupted or had ceased altogether due to the ban on communications slapped last week. "It is possible that any attempt to communicate with the outside world could put the lives of the staff at risk," she said.

She said the Islamic militia had closed down vital relief work and mine-clearing operations amidst a deepening humanitarian crisis. The Taliban cabinet also held an emergency session in Kabul and discussed in depth defence and security affairs as also the deployment of its fighters.

Taliban defence minister Mullah Obaiddullah said 300,000 Afghans "experienced in jihad" had been deployed in Kabul along the borders and other important sites. The cabinet also reviewed reports of U.S. and British troops landing in areas under the control of the opposition Northern Alliance and the escalation in fighting.

Taliban supreme Mullah Mohammad Omar said the U.S. preparations were an attempt to overthrow the Taliban regime and take Islam "hostage". "The U.S. wants to end the Islamic system in Afghanistan, create lawlessness and establish a pro-American government," he said.

ITAR-TASS reported that Bin Laden was shutting between his numerous secret hideouts in Jalalabad and may take over the command of Taliban forces in case of an U.S. attack. The agency, quoting intelligence sources, said Bin Laden had set up several secret command centres in Jalalabad for controlling Taliban forces.

As the Taliban maintained that Bin Laden had disappeared, a claim dismissed by the U.S., Pakistan on Monday asked the militia to hand him over to face trial before the appropriate authorities in accordance with UN resolutions. Retorting to the Taliban's claim, U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said, "Of course they know where he is."

Meanwhile, Britain is drawing up a list of troops and weaponry that could be made available to the U.S. even as the first movement of British troops to a base in Central Asia, probably Uzbekistan, is expected to begin this week. (Agencies)

Pakistan begins dismantling PoK terrorist camps: defence officials

NEW DELHI: Faced with growing American pressure, Pakistan is in the process of dismantling terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK) and other places and asking the militants to move into Afghanistan, senior defence ministry officials said on Monday. Quoting wireless intercepts of instructions from Pakistani army and security agencies to militant outfits, the officials said that in the first week after the September 11 terror strikes in the U.S., "confusion" prevailed in the militant ranks about these directions.

But now there were indications of the militants moving out of PoK, although the "full impact of these measures are yet to be seen", the officials said, adding that there had so far been no large-scale exfiltration of the terrorists. (PTI)



BEYOND THIS PLACE OF WRATH AND TEARS LOOMS BUT THE HORROR OF THE SHADE...

Prayer for America: a memorial service (left) at Yankee Stadium in New York on Sunday to remember the victims of the terror attacks. Phandru village, Pakistan, (right) outside an Afghan refugee camp on Monday.

WTC attack bears fingerprints of IA hijacking

are likely to be raised with the Iranian government by British foreign secretary Jack Straw during his ongoing visit to Teheran.

Mughniyeh, who has proven expertise in hijackings, is especially prone to using pocket knives and scissors in hijacks, rather than guns. The paper recalled that the Indian Airlines hijack was accomplished by a similarly armed gang which stabbed 25-year-old Rupin Katiyal.

BEYOND KANDAHAR

while other passengers were ordered to watch him bleed to death. It said that intelligence officers discerned the same pattern in the American hijackings, with a stewardess and a business-class passenger being stabbed on the flight that crashed in rural Pennsylvania. The other passengers were told to keep watching. Investigators say Mughniyeh is linked to Bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network through the leader

of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad, Dr Ayman al-Zawahiri, who is known to be close to Bin Laden.

But even as intelligence agencies investigate the extent of Bin Laden's links with terrorist outfits around the world, the West is digesting quite a different image of the young boy through a family photograph, taken in the Swedish town of Falun in the summer of 1971.

The photograph, which appeared in several British tabloids on Monday, accompanies media revelations that not only was the young Bin Laden fairly Westernised before he embraced Islamist radicalism, he also had a close family link with American President George W. Bush.

According to *The Daily Mail* newspaper, Salem, the eldest of Bin Laden's 55 brothers and sisters, invested heavily in Mr Bush's first

Benazir pressures Musharraf to snap ties with Taliban

New York, September 23

FORMER PAKISTAN premier Benazir Bhutto has asked the Pakistani military regime to follow the United Arab Emirates and snap diplomatic ties with the Taliban.

"UAE did the right thing in cutting off relations with Taliban. I would like the Pakistan Government to do the same. In fact back in 1998, we called upon the Government to sever ties with Taliban."

"Taliban are a major problem. They are determined to go it alone," Bhutto said, appearing in *Larry King Live*.

Bhutto saw the possibility of a change in the Taliban leadership and emphasised on efforts to install a "broad-based" Government in Afghanistan.

with the northern alliance. This is just days before my Government fell. So long my Government was there we persuaded the Taliban to stick to Kandhar."

She said Taliban enjoyed support among those who fought the Afghan War against the Soviet Union but have little following among the ordinary citizens. "There are other Afghans who would like to see peaceful resolution of the issue but it is very difficult till Taliban are in power."

However, she felt, Mullah Omar would not cooperate as he is related to Osama Bin Laden.

The Afghan 'jehad', she said, had led to proliferation of weapons in Pakistan and rise of Islamic militancy.

"We find professionals being shot just because they are Shias," she said. "Terrorism is a global

issue. But it is also a very live issue for the people of Pakistan, where many are falling victims to bullet fired by terrorists."

She said "private militias" were spreading fear among people in Pakistan and the US should give political support in dismantling them.

Bhutto has backed Pak President Pervez Musharraf in promising all assistance to the US, in its war against terrorism.

The Pakistan People's Party chief said her party did not participate in any anti-US demonstration as it supports Musharraf's decision.

Bhutto said there should be a distinction between terrorists and Muslims, because militants would like to show it as a battle against Islam.

PTI



Bhutto said during her regime, Taliban had remained "handcuffed" to Kandhar and south of the country. "We had persuaded them to enter into an agreement

PAK'S 'UNSTINTED' SUPPORT TO US WORRIES CHINA

CONCERNED THAT it could lose its closest ally Pakistan, which has offered "unstinted support" to the US in its war against terrorism, China is closely monitoring the situation in Islamabad, sources here said.

"China's leverage over Pakistan could significantly diminish once the US firmly re-establishes its relations and provides incentives to the cash-strapped Musharraf regime," a diplomatic source said.

Lifting of US sanctions and liberal western aid in return for Pakistan's support for the US-led coalition against terrorism would suddenly improve

the economic condition of the country and reduce Islamabad's dependence on China for aid, sources said.

PTI, Beijing

Pervez whips India to woo Pak

OUR BUREAU

Islamabad and New Delhi, Sept. 19: When two-thirds of Pakistanis want him to support Afghanistan rather than the US, President Pervez Musharraf has little choice but to play the ace: India. And he did.

After assuring Pakistanis that the US was neither targeting Islam nor the Afghan people, President Pervez Musharraf said in a nationally televised address that the country was facing its most critical time since the 1971 war with India.

Beyond listing what is already known — that the US has sought logistic support, permission to use Pakistani airspace and intelligence sharing — the President did not give out any operational details of a possible US action against Osama bin Laden or the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. These had not been discussed yet, he said.

India was a recurring theme, though it was referred to as a "neighbouring" country most of the time. Musharraf sought to justify his decision to support President George W. Bush's call for a global coalition against terrorism by saying that if he did not offer support, India would have walked away with all the credit.

He said India had gone out of its way to offer its facilities to the US. If Pakistan did not respond to US requests for help, it would have walked into a trap laid by New Delhi, which wanted to isolate Islamabad and have it tarred as a terrorist state. India "wants the US to be with them and get Pakistan declared a terrorist state".

The President referred to a meeting in the Tajik capital of Dushanbe attended by India and Central Asian states, which have borders with Afghanistan, to suggest that New Delhi was trying to instal a regime in Kabul that would be unfriendly to Pakistan.

An opinion poll said two out of three Pakistanis oppose joining the US in an action against the

President asks Delhi to lay off and desist from tarnishing Pakistan's image



A Taliban soldier armed with a rocket-propelled grenade launcher watches over refugees in Maslakh camp near Herat in Afghanistan. (Reuters)

Taliban or in tracking down bin Laden, suggesting how difficult it is going to be for Musharraf to convince the country that the path he has chosen is the right one.

"We must make sure we are supporting the right cause," said Musharraf, who turned out in full military uniform, flanked by the national flag and a portrait of the founder of the nation, Mohamad Ali Jinnah.

As he went down the road of persuasion, Musharraf chose with dexterity all the issues dear to the heart of Pakistanis, and all concerning India: Kashmir and the nuclear programme, suggesting that had he not sided with the US, both causes would have suffered.

Using strong words, he accused India of giving Pakistan and Islam a bad name by associating them with the terrorist attacks on

the US, telling New Delhi to "lay off". He departed from his speech in Urdu to use those two words in English. "It is regrettable that when the entire world is talking about terrorism, India, with whom we were discussing peace and cooperation, is trying to give Pakistan and Islam a bad name."

India responded to Musharraf's speech in nearly the same language. "Instead of focusing on terrorism, it is most regrettable that the Pakistan President continues to give voice to his anti-Indian tirade," the foreign ministry said.

White House said it was "very pleased" with the speech which pointed at a strong US-Pakistan relationship to "counter terrorism".

Without informing the people what decision his government has taken, he asked the people to have faith in him. "I will not compromise the prestige of Pakistan."

He supported America saying that whatever it was planning to do was in harmony with resolutions of the UN General Assembly and the Security Council on fighting terrorism.

Musharraf hinted that he was expecting economic spinoffs for Pakistan. Diplomatic sources said the first measures to help Pakistan could be announced by US ambassador Wendy Chamberlain at a meeting of the Pakistan Development Forum here tomorrow.

US gets ready, Pages 3-9

Kabul plays for time

HT Correspondent/Agencies
Islamabad, September 18

A HIGH-LEVEL Pakistani team flew back to Islamabad on Tuesday evening after seeming to have failed to persuade Afghanistan's Taliban regime to hand over terrorist Osama bin Laden. The team has no plans to return to Kabul, even though the Taliban Supreme Council is to make a final decision on bin Laden in the next few days.

Despite the delegation's return, the Pakistani Foreign Office continued to insist today, "We expect the Taliban to respond to international demands." But the spokesman admitted that there was "no programme" for the team to go back to Kabul.

Two team members, ISI chief Mehmood Ahmed and the head of the Foreign Office's Afghan desk, Aziz Khan, went to meet President Musharraf almost as soon as they landed in Islamabad. They were with him until close to midnight.

TALIBAN OFFENSIVE AGAINST NORTHERN ALLIANCE

UNDETERRED AT the prospect of a possible military conflict with the United States, Afghanistan's Taliban rulers launched a major offensive against the anti-Taliban Northern Alliance on Tuesday. Analysts say the Taliban were attempting to exploit the recent death of Ahmad Shah Massood, the military commander of the Northern Alliance. Massood is believed to have been assassinated by cohorts of Osama bin Laden. If the Northern Alliance is defeated, it would wipe out the most likely candidate for a post-Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

Agencies

The Pak regime announced that Musharraf would address the nation on television on Wednesday at 9 pm Indian time.

Taliban Information Minister Qudrutullah Khan said late on Thursday that his Government was prepared to hand over bin Laden, but had told the Pakistani delegation "to give us proof that he did it, because without that how can we give him up".

The Pakistani team had warned the Taliban to extradite

bin Laden or face US military retaliation. However, the Taliban attached numerous conditions to such a handover — including that he be tried in a neutral, Islamic country and that the world end its support for the Northern Alliance — which would have been unpalatable to Washington.

The Afghan regime also summoned its Supreme Council to decide bin Laden's fate. However, the Taliban said the difficulty in assembling the entire Council

would mean that it would not meet until Wednesday. Council convenor and Kabul mayor Hamdullah Nomani said, "About 300 clerics have already arrived. We expect about 700." Taliban foreign ministry officials in Kandahar told CNN that the meeting, once convened, could take two to three days. The Pakistani delegation decided to not wait for the Council meeting to be fully convened.

Early reports quoted the Taliban number two, Muhammad Hasan Akhund, as saying on radio, "I would like to tell my people that our jihad will be formally resuming against the Americans." The Taliban subsequently denied they had declared a holy war against the US.

However, the Taliban seemed to be preparing for war. The fundamentalist regime shut down madrassas across the country on Tuesday and ordered students to join the army. Kabul had already sealed its borders and closed off its airspace.

RECEIVED
SEP 19 2001

A new chance for two neighbours

By Husain Haqqani

The terrorist attacks in the U.S. provide an occasion for Pakistan to reflect on its long-term interests and to rebuild relations with both the U.S. and India.

HD-10 1899
PAKISTAN'S LEVEL of commitment to the anti-terrorist coalition currently being put together by the United States could have profound implications for India-Pakistan relations. In recent months, there has been a perceptible U.S. tilt in favour of India. Indian leaders have also continued to engage the rest of the world on a bilateral basis. Resolution of the Kashmir dispute, the *raison d'être* of Pakistan's policy of tolerating Taliban and Jehadi extremism, would suffer a serious setback if India is seen resolutely in the U.S. corner while Pakistan wavers. The terrorist attacks inside the U.S. provide an occasion for Pakistan to reflect on its long-term interests and to rebuild relations with both the U.S. and India.

With India and Pakistan on the same side, against terrorism, this is a historic opportunity to set aside prejudices of the past. Instead of seeking support from external powers in fighting each other, India and Pakistan could work together alongside the U.S. The matter of Jammu and Kashmir, the core issue from Pakistan's perspective, could also be reasonably addressed. A similar opportunity arose in 1979, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The Janata Government made half-hearted moves to seek a rapprochement with Pakistan. But then Cold War mindsets came into play. India ended up backing the Afghan communist regime. Pakistan emerged as a frontline state in the U.S.-led battle against communism. General Zia-ul-Haq manipulated the entire situation to ensure the longevity of his own regime. In doing so, he ignored important matters relating to regional stability as well as the progress and prosperity of his own people. One hopes General Pervez Musharraf will think beyond the immediate survival of his regime while planning his next move.

Last Tuesday's terrorist attacks on the symbols of American might will force a change of thinking among the armchair Jihadis even if the hardcore ones do not change their mind. These attacks were meant to frighten the world's sole super-

power but have had the opposite effect. The U.S. is neither scared nor humiliated. It is seeking revenge and retaliation. Those who turned to terrorism in frustration over the enormity and ruthlessness of U.S. power will now learn a new lesson. The way to get American sympathy and attention is not to commit suicide while hurting innocent people. It is to engage the U.S. by taking advantage of the openness of its system through reasoning and the power of argument. The Americans, too, have understood that they cannot ignore festering problems in remote parts of the world — from Palestine to Afghanistan to Kashmir — and live in comfortable isolation. These problems can directly affect the U.S. by motivating angry, violent people to break all rules of humane conduct.

Although some in Pakistan will probably be swept by anti-American sentiment, as has happened several times in the past, a cool-headed calculation of Pakistan's national interest should put Pakistan in the U.S. corner. Until such time as the Muslim world can match the economic, military and intellectual prowess of the U.S., delusions of competing with or standing up to "Washington's arrogance" need to be set aside. Some ideologues will undoubtedly ask, "where is the evidence against Osama bin Laden". Others are already saying on the Internet that this could be the work of Israel's Mossad to fan hatred against the Palestinians and Muslims.

One conspiracy theory suggests that the U.S. military-industrial complex may have stage-managed these attacks to secure greater defence spending from Congress. But such views are as unrealistic as the idea that crashing commercial jets into New York's World Trade Center will bring western civilisation to its knees. These may be reflections of a strong sentiment

spawned by the perceived one-sidedness of U.S. policy in the Middle East but cannot be the basis of Pakistan's foreign policy.

Most Pakistanis, including saner elements in the religious right, share the worldwide indignation over the latest terrorist attacks. The presence of Pakistanis and Muslims among the thousands of casualties resulting from the September 11 attacks is reason enough to reject the views of apologists for extremism. Now the Government must rebuild the Pakistan-U.S. relationship, ignoring the sentimentality that has undermined it in recent years.

Although relations with the U.S. have been central to Pakistan's foreign policy, the Pakistani attitude has been marred by a rather romantic notion of what an international alliance means. During two wars with India (1965 and 1971), the U.S. did not help Islamabad the way it expected. The Americans had advised Pakistan against going to war on both occasions and did not consider it in their interest to get directly involved. They were pragmatic — even opportunistic — in calculating their interests even if the Pakistanis were not. But Pakistanis have felt betrayed by the U.S. ever since. Pakistan's role in the anti-Soviet war in Afghanistan has exacerbated public perception of the U.S. as an "untrustworthy" ally. The truth is that at the height of the Cold War, Pakistani leaders sought security against India through treaties with the U.S. The relationship served Pakistan well. It got better weapons and substantial economic aid. The U.S. assistance made the Pakistan Army what it is today. If the U.S. refused to fight Pakistan's wars with India, why should anyone blame it for pursuing its own national interest. After all, Pakistan never committed troops to fight in Korea and Vietnam,

despite being America's ally.

The problem in U.S.-Pakistan relations does not lie in Washington but rather in Islamabad. Pakistan's decision-makers fail to analyse the situation correctly, create false expectations and then get bitter over disappointments. There is no romance between nations and each nation must do what it considers as being to its advantage. This might not sound fair to some but that is the way it is. In the post-cold-war world, U.S. ascendance is unchallenged. The U.S. is now the world's sole superpower and symbolic terrorist attacks do not detract from that reality. Real or perceived flaws of American diplomacy and national character notwithstanding, Pakistan has to reconcile to U.S. pre-eminence in today's world and work to secure maximum advantage for itself in the context of that pre-eminence. In any case, Pakistan needs to join the global effort against terrorism because it has become a menace for itself as a nation, and its victims include the Pakistani people. The fact that Pakistanis and Muslims were among those killed on September 11 should sensitise Pakistani decision-makers to the feelings of non-combatant Indians, who get killed or hurt without having any role in the policies that terrorist acts ostensibly oppose.

Instead of allowing rhetoric to dictate policy, Pakistan must decide on the simple calculus of gains and losses. There is great need to understand American concerns, define Pakistani interests, and then blend the two for a realistic equation. But joining the U.S.-led coalition should not delude Pakistan into believing once again that it will get everything it wants, especially in relation to India. For that Pakistan will have to start dealing rationally with the decision-makers in New Delhi. The U.S. too is unlikely to give up its concerns about nuclear policy, alleged support for Islamic militants and lack of democracy, in return for using Pakistani Intelligence or air space to strike at Osama bin Laden.

(The writer was Adviser to Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto and Pakistan's envoy to Sri Lanka.)

THE HINDU

18 SEP 2001

18/9 U-turn at Islamabad Pak (1) H.F. 8

PAKISTAN'S LATEST policy formulations are so contradictory in nature that the country must brace for anarchical conditions in the coming days. For a start, its U-turn under American pressure from being a friend of Afghanistan to its foe will fuel religious passions among the Islamic zealots to an extent which the authorities are bound to find difficult to control. Pakistan's willingness to return to the warmth of American embrace is understandable. But the *volte face* on Afghanistan and the conditions it has specified as a basis for supporting America, including one on Kashmir, underline such crass cynicism that Pakistan may never quite be taken seriously in future. What is immediately obvious is that while all other countries have offered prompt and unconditional support to the US in its fight against terrorism, Pakistan has not only dithered but agreed to join the battle only if its outrageous terms are met.

Clearly, it is not the menace of terrorism which is of any concern to Pakistan. Instead, it wants to use this opportunity provided by a world traumatised by the horrifying events of September 11 to extract concessions relating to its own despicable terrorist manoeuvres. A major reason for this effort is per-

haps the realisation that a close American involvement in the Afghan offensive will expose the training camps for terrorists which it had been operating with the Taliban's help. Since the discovery will explode the myth of a 'struggle for self-determination' in Kashmir and buttress India's position, Pakistan wants to secure an assurance from the US that the Kashmir issue will not be allowed to fade away.

It is immaterial how the US responds to this contemptible move. In any event, Washington must be convinced about the heinous role which Pakistan has played in this region. The point, however, is that such preconditions, including the one about keeping India and Israel away from an anti-terrorist coalition, show how necessary it is for Pakistan to cater to the bigots who constitute the entire *jehadi* enterprise. It is worth noting that neither Saudi Arabia nor the United Arab Emirates, the two other countries which recognise the Taliban, has laid down any conditions for their support. Having played the *jehadi* game in Kashmir, Chechnya and elsewhere, however, Pakistan has no option. The irony is that these gestures to the militants will not mitigate their wrath against Islamabad, which has betrayed their cause for a pot of gold.

Hand over Laden in 3 days, Pak orders Taliban

Musharraf seeks U.S. help on Kashmir

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Sunday gave a three-day deadline to Afghanistan's Taliban rulers to hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden, or face U.S. military action. In a last-ditch effort, it is also sending an emissary to Kabul to persuade the militia.

The decision follows a late-night telephone conversation between U.S. President George W. Bush and Gen Musharraf.

In another significant development, Pakistan has told the United States that it was against involving India and Israel in any military operation in Afghanistan to hunt down Bin Laden, prime suspect in Tuesday's terrorist strikes in America. CNN reported on Sunday.

According to the CNN report, Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf also asked Mr Bush to play a more active role in settling the Kashmir issue and to lift U.S. sanctions against

the country. It was not clear from the American television network report whether Gen Musharraf's offer of full cooperation against terrorism was unconditional or whether he was asking President Bush to abandon the U.S. policy of not mediating between India and Pakistan unless both sides request mediation.

Quoting sources close to Gen Musharraf, the American TV net-

work said that Pakistan has also made it clear that it would not allow U.S. forces to use its soil and that any operation in Afghanistan should be limited to use of air-space only.

Giving details about Islamabad's ultimatum to the Taliban, CNN said a senior Pakistani diplomat will go to Afghanistan on Monday to deliver a letter to the militia asking them to extradite Bin Laden.

Bin Laden sneaks out of Kandahar

ISLAMABAD: Anticipating U.S. strikes, wanted Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden has sneaked out of the Afghan town of Kandahar, along with his wives, children and followers and moved to an undisclosed secret location in Afghanistan.

A Pakistan daily, *The News*, quoting sources in Kandahar said that not a single Arab national was now visible in the city. They said Osama's large family had been shifted to safer places in the countryside. He is reported to have four wives and several children.

Meanwhile, Osama has again denied any involvement in last week's terrorist attacks in New York and Washington. "The U.S. is pointing the finger at me but I categorically state that I have not done this," he said in a statement sent to the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press News agency on Sunday. (Agencies)

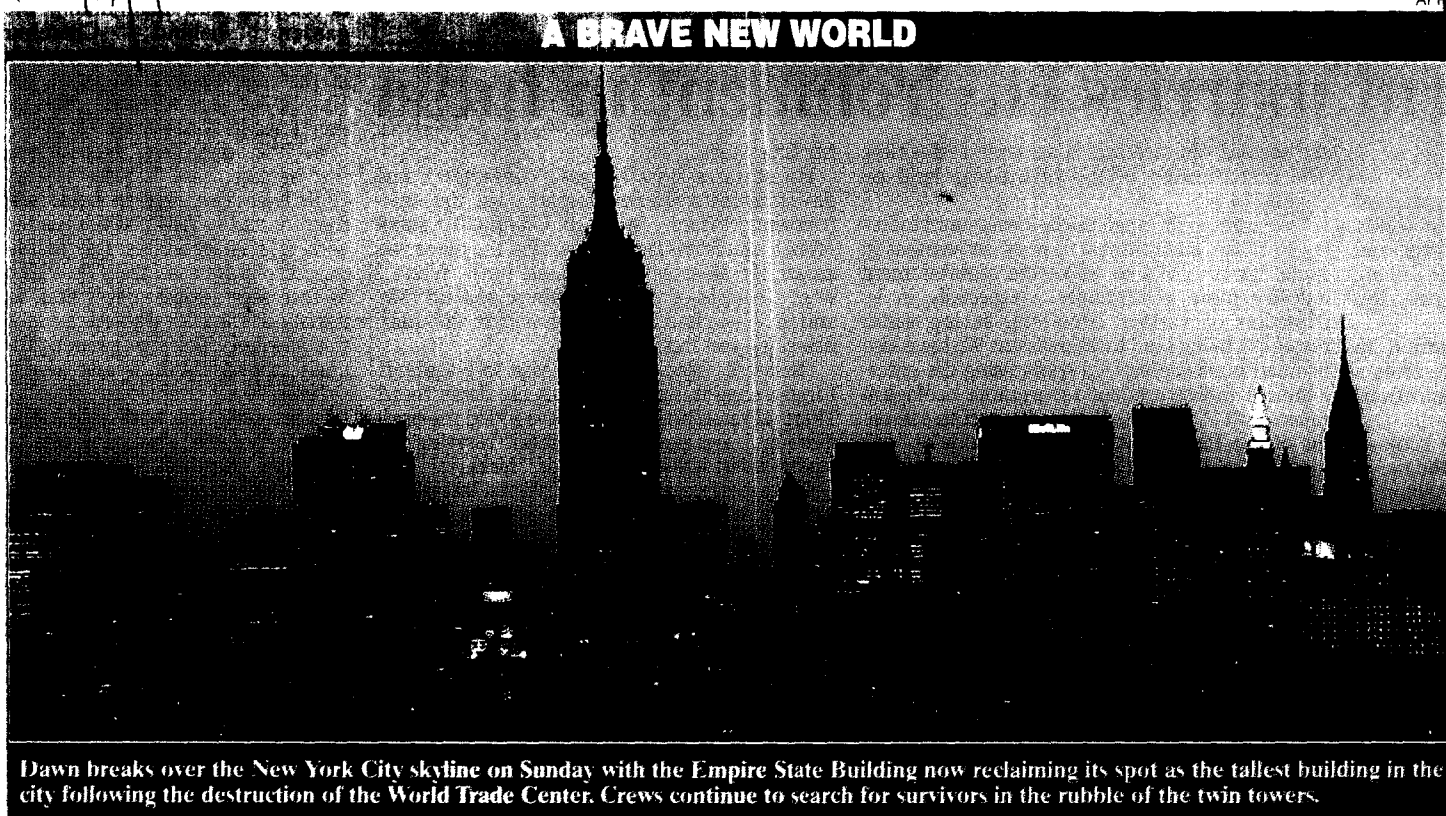
arising out of the U.S. attacks.

Media reports in Pakistan on Sunday said that Gen Musharraf planned to visit Beijing in the coming days to hold talks with Chinese leaders on the emerging situation.

Gen Musharraf has already held closed-door discussions with the Chinese ambassador Lu Shin Lin soon after presiding over an emergency joint session of cabinet and the national security council. (Agencies)

Mr Bush declared on Saturday that the U.S. was at war with global terror and named Bin Laden as prime suspect in the terrorist strikes at the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon.

Mr Bush thanked Gen Musharraf for Islamabad's decision to join the international community to fight against terrorism. Gen Musharraf, on his part, is likely to visit China in the next few days to discuss the situation



Dawn breaks over the New York City skyline on Sunday with the Empire State Building now reclaiming its spot as the tallest building in the city following the destruction of the World Trade Center. Crews continue to search for survivors in the rubble of the twin towers.

NYSE, Nasdaq will take stock today

NEW YORK: The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) and the Nasdaq Stock Market said on Saturday that the day-long tests of their electronic systems were successful and that they would reopen on Monday — ending the longest interruption of U.S. trading since before World War II.

Meanwhile, across the nation many institutions, companies and individuals were encouraging their peers to be ready to buy stock on Monday to prevent a sharp sell-off in share prices. The reopening of the NYSE's famed Wall Street trading floor is expected to provide a big psychological boost in the city and far beyond.

In addition to getting a critical piece of the country's financial system back on its feet, restarting the markets will be an important symbol of the nation's recovery from last week's terrorist attacks on New York and the Pentagon, market and government officials stressed.

Treasury secretary Paul O'Neill and other top government officials will be at the

BACK TO BEING BULLISH

- ▶ Many institutions are encouraging their peers to buy stock on Monday to prevent a sharp sell-off in share prices
- ▶ Policemen, firemen and other emergency workers will ring the traditional opening bell at 9:30 a.m.
- ▶ Top firms like Cisco Systems plan to buy back some of their shares

NYSE for the start of trading. A group of New York policemen, firemen and other emergency workers will ring the traditional opening bell at 9:30 a.m. There will be a two-minute moment of silence before trading begins. The resumption of stock trading will "send a very important message to the criminals who so heinously attacked this country, that they lost," NYSE Chairman Richard Grasso said at a news conference at the exchange.

"The American way of life goes on." The NYSE, located a few blocks from the collapsed WTC towers, wasn't physically damaged. But the communications links between the NYSE and its member brokerage firms sustained heavy damage in the attack. Phone company Verizon Communications has been working around the clock to replace damaged lines in lower Manhattan. The NYSE and Nasdaq said their tests on Saturday showed that communications were restored well enough to allow for trading to resume. (LAT-WP Svc)

Pak attempt to turn crisis into opportunity may not work

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 16 SEPTEMBER

THE VOLTE face by Pakistan in accepting the US demands, albeit with strings attached, is the direct consequence of the extreme pressure put on Pakistan by the US to declare itself against terrorism and against the Taliban.

However, Pakistan's latest move to attach a whole set of conditions for the US to fulfil before it can consider being part of a coalition against the Taliban is clearly aimed at attempting to turn a crisis into an opportunity.

In an interview on Sunday, Pakistani finance minister Shaukat AZIZ said the new partnership with the US could pay dividends for Pakistan, which is trying to claw its way out of an economic quagmire. "Clearly, as the relationship (with the US) grows, I am sure the economic ties will grow, which could mean better market access, better treatment on debt rescheduling and more money, both directly and through multilateral institutions," he added.

Foreign minister Abdul Sattar was more specific. He said Pakistan had "discussed in general terms" with the US the implica-



WHERE HAVE ALL THE FLOWERS GONE?

tions of such a collaboration against terrorism. This, according to reports, included a commitment by the US to lift sanctions against Pakistan, retire its over \$30 billion debt, ensure that Pakistan would not be part of a multinational force outside its borders, agree to mediate in Kashmir, and make sure that India and Israel play no part in a force against the Taliban or their own tanzeems.

The so-called climbdown is interesting, if one looks at the implications of the Pakistani offer. First, it exposes the longstanding Pakistani charade that it had little or no control over the Taliban and Osama bin Laden because the Taliban were a fiercely self-respecting people and would brook no interference from Pakistan, that Mullah Omar was married to Osama's daughter, that Pathans follow their own code of Pashroonwali where the guest was God and therefore couldn't be expected to give up bin Laden, etc. Clearly, it has control. And it is now demanding a price for exercising that control.

Second, Pakistan's wish-list was intended to drive a wedge between the US and India on the question of Kashmir by hinting that the US might agree to the deal. Third, it is attempting to assuage domestic unrest by trading a sell-off of the Taliban against gains in Kashmir. Will this version of mercenary diplomacy work?

High level government sources believe it is too late for Pakistan to be able to extract anything from the US. For the first time, the US leadership has indicated that it is seeing through Pakistan's deal-making efforts.

India to gain from manoeuvres to put an end to terrorism

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 16 SEPTEMBER

DESPITE PROTESTS from the Left and two former prime ministers — V.P. Singh and Deve Gowda, the political establishment is convinced that India stand to benefit from the proposed counter-terrorism campaign.

While the major political parties have agreed to go with the government, the defence and policy establishment feel it is the right opportunity to address the issue of terrorism. Although it remains to be seen how military force can be used to quell the problem, the Indian policy establishment is drawing comfort from a series of factors.

One, the US is attempting to get a vast majority of countries on board in the campaign, and this would mean an isolation of those countries and forces that harbour terrorists. The Bush administration is trying to secure the participation of more than 100 countries. This surely will create a situation where each participant will become sensitive to other's needs — something which was missing all these years.

Two, the Bush administration has said that it will give equal priority to destroying bin Laden and the financial network of jihadis. The assets of Al Qaeda from whom several terrorist outfits operating in Jammu and Kashmir draw financial and ideological

support — is estimated to be in the range of \$900 million. According to reports, \$300 million is bin Laden's personal share. Its contributors include rich Saudis and royal families of the Gulf region.

As a matter of fact, in their interaction with FBI officials, the Union home ministry had said that money for the jihadis in Jammu & Kashmir was channelised through Pakistan. According to information with the government here, the funds are laundered through dummy firms and so-called humanitarian groups — another word for sponsors of terrorism.

If the new alliance being forged by the US can bring diplomatic, economic and military pressure on Pakistan, it could be a major achievement for Delhi.

Domestically, the Vajpayee government is not apprehending any major opposition to its pro-US policy. But there is a fear that a section could try to communalise the issue. Already there are strong indications, with subversive groups like the Students Islamic Movement of India coming out in the open to oppose the

WHITHER SHALL WE WANDER?

government's decision. SIMI, which has been lionising bin Laden, has said that he should not be made a target of attack. The security forces are aware of the organisation's ability to create troubles. Already, several Congress ruled states like MP and Rajasthan have banned their activities in communally sensitive areas.



HD-17 1679

In a bind

It is a time of reckoning for Pakistan's military establishment as the Americans pile on the pressure, writes B. Muralidhar Reddy.

WITHIN HOURS of tragedy striking at the heart of the only superpower, the repercussions are felt halfway across the world in a tiny third world country. Pakistan is in the news for the role it will have to choose as the U.S. launches its revenge on the perpetrators of the September 11 carnage. The focus of U.S. investigations is on the Saudi fugitive, Osama Bin Laden, and his host, the Taliban.

As the closest ally of the Taliban, or, as many believe, the very architect of the militia, it is a time of reckoning for the military establishment in Islamabad. Either it chooses to carry the baggage of Islamic 'fundamentalism' as the West sees it or cashes in on the 'chance' it has been offered, to borrow the phrase of the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush.

The role it has played so far in supporting the Taliban in Afghanistan, who have in turn supported Osama Bin Laden, will be ignored if and only if it decides to support the U.S. in its terrorist hunt. Otherwise, it faces the risk of international isolation and wrath. And for a country like Pakistan, already buckling under economic, political and so-called moral sanctions, that could be the last straw.

The U.S. has placed its demands. These range from consent to use Pakistani airspace if and when it decides to launch retaliatory attacks on Afghanistan in pursuit of Osama; closure of the border with Afghanistan and of fuel supply to the Taliban, and sharing of all information on Osama.

This is a tall order for any regime in Pakistan. Pakistan faces one of its biggest-ever challenges. And, needless to say, it is going to test Gen. Pervez Musharraf's mettle. Either Pakistan has to join the international war against terrorism or be pulverised alongside the extremists it might decide to support in keeping



A Pakistani police officer checks an Afghan's papers near the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad... time to make the choice.

with its internal compulsions.

The high stakes for Pakistan vis-a-vis the Taliban can be gauged from the simple fact that Afghanistan has been a crucial component of Islamabad's foreign policy for nearly two and half decades now. Even before the September 11 catastrophe, there had been a furious debate within Pakistan for several months now on how the Afghanistan policy was a virtual disaster. The Pakistan establishment has used it as a support base for its policy on Kashmir, but the Taliban has affected the country's very social fabric. Taking the Taliban as a role model, an extreme-fundamentalist religious class has now become an internal threat, besides the Taliban becoming adventurous on the Durand Line itself in pursuit of a greater Pashtoon nation.

This is the dilemma for the military establishment as it braces to tackle the pressure from the U.S. for cooperation. The repercussions within Pakistan if the Musharraf Government were to give a blank cheque to the Americans were evident from the reactions to the prospect. Political, religious and militant outfits

have all spoken in one voice against allowing U.S. troops to operate from Pakistani soil.

That does not mean all of them are happy with the Government's Afghan policy. In fact, a majority in Pakistan believes that it is a sure recipe for disaster — the 'Talibanisation' of Pakistan. However, the overwhelming public opinion in Pakistan is to preserve 'national honour' and not to appear to be acting as a puppet of the U.S. While there is wide-ranging sympathy for the victims of the tragedy, one cannot ignore the sentiment that this is perceived as payback time for long-term U.S. policies in the region.

In the eye of the storm is Osama bin Laden. Drawing his might from the fortunes his family made in the construction business in Saudi Arabia, he has achieved hero status in the Arab and Muslim world. His organisation, Al Qaeda has been linked with the 1993 World Trade Center bombing, the 1996 killings of 19 U.S. soldiers in Saudi Arabia, the Nairobi and Dar-es-Salaam Embassy bombings and the attack on USS Cole in Yemen.

He is considered the force

behind getting people from all over to join in a pan-Islamic movement of jihadis, mujahideen and fidayeen. The Taliban gave him refuge when all others turned him away following pressure from the U.S. Today, the chances that the Taliban does not know where Osama actually is are not that low. He is known to operate with highly sophisticated communications equipment. The Taliban chief, Mullah Omar, considers him a friend and an ally but the regime seems nervous in the face of the dangers his presence poses to their very existence today.

However hard the Musharraf regime might try, there is no way it can do any balancing act. It is time to take sides despite the consequences in both the options. It is a million-dollar question how Gen. Musharraf will respond to the challenge. Will he turn it to his advantage and rule happily ever after or allow the fundamentalists to take control and lead his nation into an economic abyss and obscurantism. Irrespective of what he does, the politics of South Asia is poised for a total overhaul.

Pak extends half a hand of help

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR IN ISLAMABAD AND REUTERS

Sept. 15: President George W. Bush today vowed a "sweeping, sustained and effective" campaign against those behind Tuesday's terror attacks as Pakistan accepted US requests for cooperation in combating terrorism.

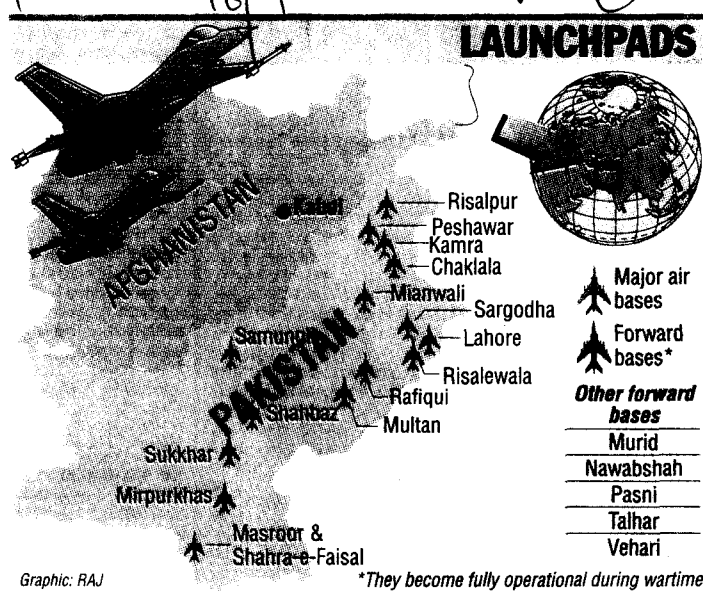
Secretary of state Colin Powell said at Camp David that Pakistan had agreed to all US requests, which would mean allowing air and ground attacks to be mounted from its soil on Osama bin Laden, believed to be hiding in Afghanistan. The Taliban regime warned Pakistan and any other country cooperating with the US of "extraordinary danger".

It was not clear yet if Pakistan was ready to permit its territory to be used for launching ground attacks, a possibility Bush did not rule out as he and his team met at Camp David late tonight. Bush phoned Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and thanked him for Islamabad's "full" support.

Earlier, asked if he had a message for the 50,000 reserve troops, whose call-up he has approved, Bush said: "The message for everybody who wears the uniform — get ready. The United States will do what it takes to win the war."

After a four-hour joint meeting of the National Security Council and the Cabinet in Islamabad, foreign minister Abdul Sattar said: "Pakistan does not expect to take part in military operations outside our border."

He said Pakistan would comply with all UN Security Council resolutions to combat terrorism. There was no word from Islamabad as to what it had agreed to. "The government will discharge its responsibilities under international law," Sattar said, adding



Graphic: RAJ

that the specifics were still being worked out. This could mean Pakistan would ask for a UN resolution supporting action against Afghanistan.

Sources said Pakistan might provide air or sea space for launching attacks but this could fall short of US expectations, which include ground-troops movement. Earlier this week, it had handed Pakistan a list of requests: closing the border with Afghanistan, cutting off fuel supplies to the Taliban, sharing intelligence and helping in air and ground attacks.

Pakistan has been consulting its allies, China and other Muslim nations. An envoy of Saudi Arabia flew in yesterday.

India has signalled that it is ready to let the US use its bases. India could provide a large base for strikes at Afghanistan, but US jets would still

have to cross Pakistani airspace.

Attending a national security meeting with Bush and top advisers, Powell said he wanted to "thank the President and people of Pakistan for the support that they have offered and their willingness to assist us in whatever might be required in that part of the world". Asked what he meant, Powell said Pakistan had agreed to all US requests.

As winds of war strengthened, Bush for the first time singled out bin Laden as the prime suspect. Bush warned bin Laden he would not be able to hide from America's wrath. "If he thinks he can hide from the US and our allies, he will be sorely mistaken."

Bush stepped up his rhetoric to its highest pitch since Tuesday's attacks, which have left hundreds confirmed dead and almost 5,000 people

Indians detained

Dallas, Sept. 15 (Reuters): Two men being questioned by the FBI in connection with Tuesday's attacks have said they are Indian. They gave their names as Ayub Ali Khan, 51, and Mohammed Jaweed Azmath, 47, police said.

Investigators have not confirmed their names or nationality. The two men, taken off a train in Texas and questioned for two days, have been moved to New York for further questioning.

On Wednesday, they were taken off an Amtrak train for causing a disturbance and found to be travelling without legal papers and with items police described as suspicious.

missing. "Those who make war against the United States have chosen their own destruction," Bush declared.

The risks for Pakistan in agreeing to US conditions became immediately apparent. "If a neighbouring country or the regional countries — particularly Islamic countries — gave a positive response to American demands for military bases, it would spark off extraordinary danger," Taliban's ambassador to Pakistan, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef said in Islamabad.

The Taliban called for a jihad against anyone cooperating with the US and vowed to send fighters to extract revenge.

"It is not impossible that we would attack such (a) country under compulsion and the mujahideen would have to enter the territory of such a country," he added.

The Taliban told the few remaining foreigners in Afghanistan to leave "for their own security".

■ See Pages 4-8 and Business Telegraph

QUOTE

Those who make war against the United States have chosen their own destruction

GEORGE W. BUSH

Islamabad agrees to fall in line

Mubashir Zaidi and Agencies
Islamabad/Kabul, September 14

PAKISTAN TODAY gulped and agreed in principle to cooperate with the US in its hunt for Osama bin Laden, swallowing the 'chance' offered by George Bush to prove its commitment to battling terrorism, a highly placed Government source said.

But the Taliban struck a defiant posture, saying it was expecting massive US air strikes, which, if carried out, would surely be met with force.

"We are ready to pay any price to defend ourselves and to use all means to take our revenge," a spokesman for the Islamic militia's supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar said over satellite phone from Kandahar.

"Now they are indicating in clear words that they are going to strike," Omar's spokesman Abdul Hai Mutmaen said. He said he expected the attacks to be far more extensive than the 1998 cruise missile strikes over bin Laden's alleged complicity in the bombing of US embassies in Africa.

The Taliban statement coincided with the US Senate's nod to

use of force and Bush's decision to call up 50,000 reservists.

The Taliban spokesman warned Pervez Musharraf that cooperating with the US would trigger a backlash from his own people.

In Islamabad, the decision to lend the US all out cooperation was taken at a marathon meeting of all corps commanders presided over by Musharraf at General Headquarters.

But the official Press release barely hinted at the regime's willingness, saying the military commanders had unanimously condemned Tuesday's attacks in New York and Washington. It added that the commanders had made certain recommendations to the Cabinet and the National Security Council, the country's supreme decision-making body.

The contents of the recommendations were held back, but sources in the Pakistan Government said that the regime had sought a few days' time to build a consensus in the country before announcing its support for possible US action against bin Laden, which could include letting US warplanes use Pakistani airspace for attacks on bin Laden's



OSAMA BIN LADEN

hideouts in Afghanistan.

The release sought to dispel impressions of any difference of opinion within the army about cooperating with the US. "The meeting was attended by all corps commanders and principal staff officers," it said.

ISI chief General Mehmood, now in Washington, had been given permission to give the FBI and the US Government all information about Osama Bin Laden and his Al Qaida, it was learnt.

An official spokesman said President Musharraf had told

US secretary of State Collin Powell on the phone last night that Pakistan would not hesitate to join in any effort to eliminate the evil of terrorism. He also invited domestic newspaper editors to his home on Sunday to take them into confidence about his Government's decision.

The President is expected to hold meetings with politicians and heads of religious parties in a couple of days and has asked the leaders to remain in the capital for the next 72 hours.

Analysts here believe that Musharraf has found a godsend opportunity to refurbish Pakistan's sullied international image and revive the ailing economy, his prime concern.

The 'maulvis', so vocal otherwise in their support for jihad against the US and India, made emotional speeches today in sympathy for the people who had died in the New York and Washington attacks. The closure of Islamabad airport for nearly six hours this morning triggered speculation that a US plane with FBI officials and military hardware had landed in the capital for retaliatory strikes.

1 5 SEP 2001

US plans sustained military campaign; Indian, Russian, Iranian diplomats meet in Dushanbe; FBI has over 50 suspects; More than 250 Indians feared killed; Taliban shift chief to secret location

BUSH: WE WILL LEAD THE WORLD TO VICTORY

PAK TRAPPED IN DEBRIS

AA-1
19/9

PAK (W)

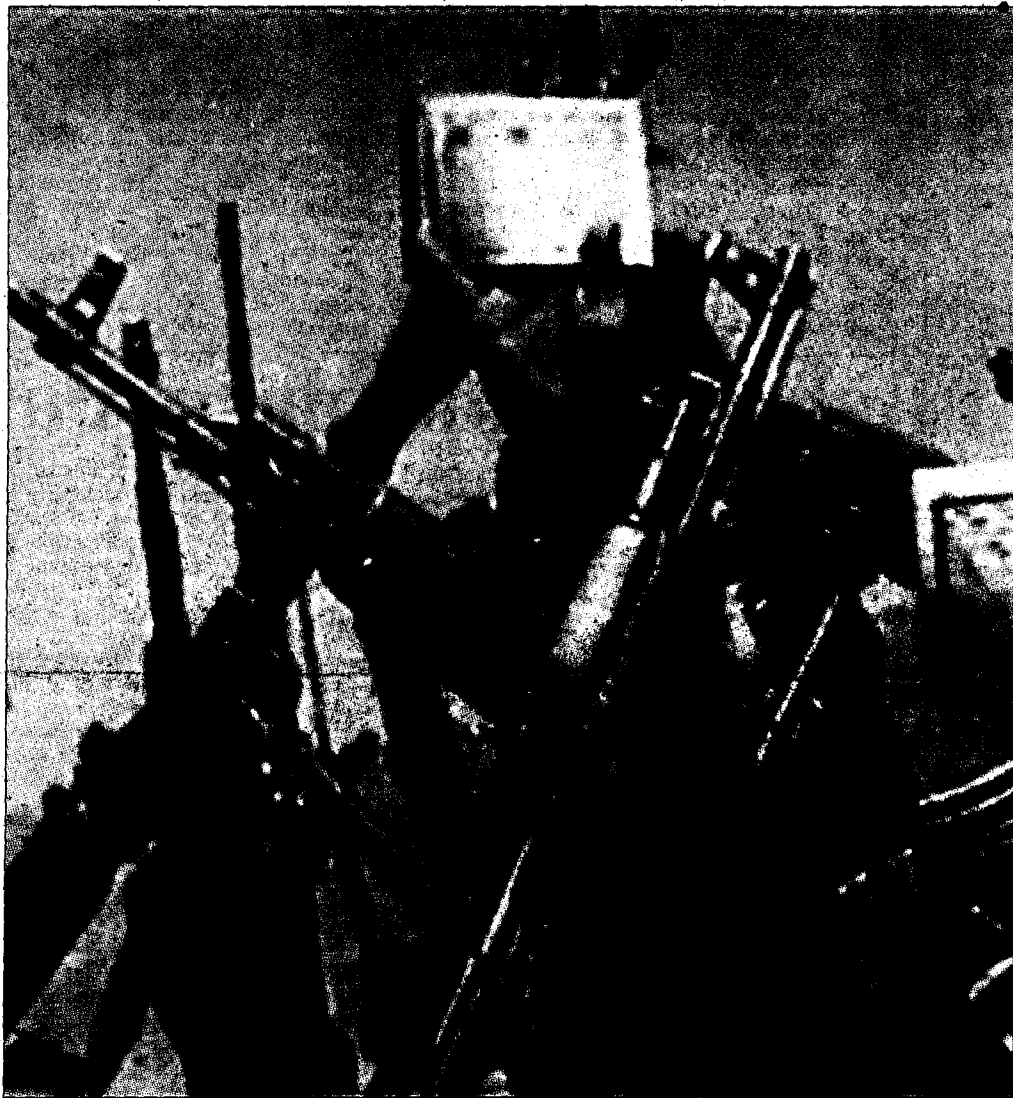
BY SEEMA MUSTAFA

New Delhi, Sept. 13: The United States, which is close on the track of dreaded terrorist Osama bin Laden, is now exerting full pressure on Pakistan to extend all cooperation and support for any retaliatory action that might be taken by Washington against him and the Taliban.

Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf, who has promised "unstinted cooperation," has been virtually hemmed in by the Bush administration with US secretary of state Colin Powell asking him directly over the telephone whether he was with the terrorists or against them. Mr Powell did not bother to hide the conversation and told reporters in Washington later that "we had thought it would be useful to point out to the Pakistan leadership at every level that we are looking for and expecting their fullest cooperation and their help and their support."

The US administration, hot on the heels of prime suspect Bin Laden, has surrounded Pakistan diplomatically with the clear message: deliver, or else... US ambassador to Pakistan Wendy Chamberlain met President Musharraf on Thursday to follow up on Mr Powell's conversation with him and Pakistan foreign minister Abdul Sattar. US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage met Pakistan ambassador to the US Maleeha Lodhi in Washington to drive home the message. Mr Armitage was also to meet ISI chief Mahmud Ahmad.

Mr Powell said the intention was to find out "how helpful" Turn to Page 2



READY FOR WAR: Recruits of Saudi-born billionaire Osama bin Laden wave their guns and display Qurans in this frame grab from an undated training video at an undisclosed location in Afghanistan. Stalls in Pakistan have been selling VCDs issued by Bin Laden's Al Qaeda organisation which shows Muslim youths being trained to fight the West. Bin Laden is the prime suspect behind Tuesday's devastating attacks on New York and Washington. (Reuters)

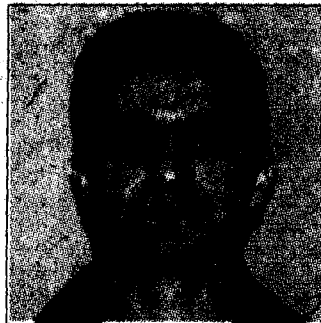
THE SUSPECTS



Osama bin Laden



Adnan Bukhari



Mohammed Atta

14 SEP 2001

Pakistan trying to avoid punitive action

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 12 SEPTEMBER

AS PROSPECTS of severe US retaliation against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden heightened on Wednesday, Islamabad was believed to be scrambling together a last-ditch effort to work out an escape deal with the Taliban, by sending a team of senior officials to Kabul.

Although the objective of the mission could not be confirmed, the speculation here is that Islamabad, in evident desperation, was trying to persuade the Taliban into jettisoning Osama bin Laden, and sparing themselves US punitive action. Observers here were doubtful of the success of Islamabad's latest mission, not the least because of the Taliban regime's stubbornness to appear as the saviour of Islam.

This has put Islamabad square-

ly in the horns of a dilemma. By appealing the US, Islamabad stands to incur the wrath of the fanatical Taliban and similar organisations within Pakistan, and its anyone's guess which one will fly a plane into Musharraf's home. But by refusing to ally with the "civilised" world, Islamabad will incur the terrible wrath of the US and might end up writing the obit of its relationship with Washington. After all, George Bush has promised to go after countries that "harbour" terrorists and Colin Powell has promised to retaliate.

The Taliban was nurtured and fostered by Benazir Bhutto's government under the stewardship of her interior minister, Lt Gen Nasrullah Babar, who planned to kill several birds with one stone: first, it would rid Pakistan of what it saw was a "two-frontier problem" — India on one side and a

fractious NWFP on the other. Related to this was the perceived lack of strategic depth vis-à-vis India. Second, Pakistan believed that a "pliant" regime in Kabul would take care of Pashtun irredentism which was seeking to expand the frontiers of Afghanistan beyond the Durand Line and into Pakistan. Third, control of Afghanistan would give Pakistan a strategic stake in the land-locked Central Asian countries, just emerging from the Soviet Union and adopting Mohammed instead of Marx, their oil and gas wealth and a unique strategic space in Asia. And lastly, the madrassas and training camps would train jihadis to rain terror on Kashmir and keep India bleeding. Pakistan also prides itself on being the protector of the faith and since the Taliban claim to be the most "purified" Islamists in existence, there is

no way the Pakistan government can make a case for the US to the Taliban who view the US to be the personification of every abhorrent quality.

Therefore, it is virtually impossible for Pakistan to jettison the Taliban at this point, especially since it remains one of three countries in the world which recognises the Taliban government, the others being the UAE and Saudi Arabia.

Any such action promises to create an implosion within Pakistan's civil society, given the mushrooming jihadi groups, each new one more orthodox and intolerant and suffused with the desire for war than the other. On such issues, there is a conspicuous lack of coherent authority in Pakistan, where even General Musharraf doesn't seem to have full control. This is evident not only in the roll-backs that is the fate of all his pro-

nouncements, but his recent tirade against his own security and intelligence agencies — a unique situation for a military dictator who should presumably control his own security systems. Besides, the Talibanization of Pakistani society is not merely in terms of religious ideology, it also manifests itself in established vested interests from the drug mafia to the transport mafia and everything in between.

Senior diplomatic sources believe that Pakistan had been playing with fire for years and it is now coming home to roost. This time, Pakistan's perennial "after-us-the-deluge" argument too promises to find fewer takers in Washington. After Tuesday's attacks, at stake is not merely the future of Afghanistan (and US officials have been quoted as identifying targets within that country) but of Pakistan itself.

Commonwealth to keep doors shut on Pak

Vijay Dutt
London, September 5

PAKISTAN WOULD remain suspended from the Councils of Commonwealth as per decision by the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) after two-day talks in London. But, it recommended the revocation of suspension of Fiji to the Commonwealth Heads of Governments provided Commonwealth observer group judged the elections there being held today as free and fair.

Pakistan President Gen Pervez Musharraf's announcement of the country's "road to democracy" apparently failed to convince the eight foreign ministers who are members of CMAG. The body expressed concern over the "continuation of non-democratic Government in Pakistan, in violation of the Commonwealth's fundamental values expressed in the Harare Commonwealth Declaration". Botswana, Barbados, Malaysia, Nigeria, Bangladesh and the UK, were expected to argue for the revocation, but *Hindustan Times* learns that after a long discussion, they decided not to change the status.

A source said that last-minute efforts by Pakistan is likely to be made at the next CMAG meet on October 5, just before the meeting of Commonwealth heads at Brisbane. But the communique issued at London contains strictures, which would not be easily overcome. Commonwealth Secretary General Don McKinnon has been

MILITARY EXERCISES

PAKISTAN AIR Force Chief Air Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir has announced that the armed forces will hold military exercises next month. The PAF along with Army and Navy would be trying a number of new concepts in air warfare named High Mark-2001, he said during an interview with. He also disclosed that PAF would buy 52 more Chinese aircraft and funds in this regard have been provided to the force by the government. "Our fleet is much more potent than it was five years back. We are in the process of receiving 46 F7-PG aircraft from China to replace our old F-6 aircraft, he said.

HTC, Islamabad

requested to play an active monitoring role in the period leading to the democracy

Russia to launch Pak satellite

Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov has reportedly authorised a Russian space launch vehicle to send a Pakistani satellite into orbit. A bilateral deal has been signed between Islamabad and Moscow for Badr-B to be placed in orbit by Zenit from the Russian space launch station Baikanur.

Indo-Asian News Service,
Moscow

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

- 6 SEP 2001

Musharraf to keep date with Kashmir

Vijay Dutt
London, May 29

PAKISTAN'S CHIEF Executive Pervez Musharraf has accepted Prime Minister A B Vajpayee's May 25 invitation for an Indo-Pak summit in New Delhi and said he was going "with an open mind to make it historic".

Speaking to the BBC, the General said: "I really appreciate Prime Minister Vajpayee for his statesmanship, his vision, his courage and boldness in accepting reality, and to address an issue that has bedevilled relations between our two countries." But a cautious Musharraf warned that though he was flexible and was prepared to discuss a range of topics, "the core issue is Kashmir and let there be no doubt in that".

On making the LoC permanent and on the question of independence to Kashmiris, Gen Musharraf avoided a direct answer. "We'll cross the bridge when we arrive there."

Gen Musharraf said Pakistan has proposed any date after June 20 for the planned summit. "We are proposing any date after the 20th, 25th, end of June or early next month."

Formally accepting Vajpayee's invitation, Musharraf wrote in his reply, "I accept your invitation to me and my wife to visit India with great pleasure." The General's letter was handed over by Pakistan High Commissioner Ashraf Jehangir Qazi to Foreign Secretary Chokila Iyer.

When asked whether the invitation meant the countries had come out of the low point after Kargil, he replied: "That is all history. We need to move ahead, look ahead with optimism."

The General even said he was willing to go along with Vajpayee if India wanted to place nuclear weapons on the agenda.



Pervez Musharraf

But the Pakistan Chief Executive was decidedly cagey over domestic affairs. On speculation that he would be the next Pakistan president and whether he was going to stay in that role or any other role after the elections next October, he said, "We haven't taken any such decision. There are certain national interests that have to be kept in mind."

When told that a controlled democracy contradicts the idea of a true democracy, Musharraf said, "Unbridled power is unavailable to anyone. If the chief executive is not functioning within the checks and balances, there has to be a constitutional answer to correct those violations. Our chief executive has been working against the national interest."

What if the elections were won by either the Pakistan Muslim League or the Pakistan Peoples Party, and they decide to bring back their exiled leaders, Nawaz Sharif or Benazir Bhutto?

"I have no differences with these parties. Whoever wants to come back, their role can only be clear after they are held accountable for their misdeeds in this decade of disaster."

Related reports on Page 11

'SIDELINING KASHMIR WILL NOT HELP'

We'll change history: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 15. Striking a tough posture on his proposed summit meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the Pakistan military ruler and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today reiterated that Kashmir was the 'core issue' of tension between India and Pakistan and any attempt to sideline it would not help improve relations between the two countries.

Taking part in the 'face the nation' programme on the State-controlled Pakistan Television (PTV), Gen. Musharraf agreed with the formulation of a questioner that resolution of the Kashmir dispute was an "unfinished agenda" of Pakistan and it needed to be addressed not only in the interest of peace in South Asia but also for the betterment of the impoverished people of India and Pakistan.

He maintained that his approach of 'open-mindedness' in talks with Mr. Vajpayee, at the proposed summit meet would be directly 'proportional' to the openness from the Indian side. At the same time, he was hopeful that he, along with Mr. Vajpayee,

10/1 16/6
would change the course of history. "I am sure my counterparts in India... will also show open-mindedness and this time we will change history," he said.

He regretted the recent statement by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, that the whole of Jammu and Kashmir was an integral part of India and said that, hopefully, the Minister did not mean it. "I hope India does not take the stand when we enter into a dialogue".

In response to a specific question from the audience, Gen. Musharraf said it was for the first time that India had referred to Kashmir as an issue between the two countries. The question was whether it amounted to tacit recognition of Kashmir as a disputed territory by India.

When a questioner wanted to know the status of Kashmir in the eight-point composite dialogue process (CDP) proposed by India, Gen. Musharraf said as far as Pakistan and he was concerned, Kashmir was the agenda of the summit. "Any discussion on the eight points without Kashmir would not be acceptable. Yes, we are prepared for discussions on other subjects but Kashmir is the



core issue". When a questioner sought to remind him of the Iran-India gas pipeline, Gen. Musharraf said that no doubt it was an important issue but it was the problem of India. "It is not our problem. We are for the project. If India is not interested, let them pay 25 to 30 per cent extra for their energy requirements".

Anchored by a prominent journalist along with a panel of two well-known scribes, the audience in the studio consisted of a number of editors and columnists of Pakistani papers. The 90-minute programme was dominated by questions on the state of the economy, concern on law and order and the growing menace of sectarianism.

Gen. Musharraf staunchly defended the performance of his

Government in the last 18 months. His assertion that the government had drawn up a five-year strategy to get Pakistan out of the debt-trap prompted one of the anchors to ask if it meant he intended to stay on in power for five years. The Chief Executive ducked the question.

Cautious optimism

In response to a question about his expectations from the New Delhi visit, Gen. Musharraf said that given the past experience of relations between India and Pakistan, and the unresolved issue of Kashmir, he was travelling to New Delhi with 'cautious optimism'.

"I agree with you that there has been no progress on the Kashmir issue in the past. I hope it would be different this time and, hopefully, we would change history. If there is cooperation from the other side, we would make a new beginning", Gen. Musharraf said when a questioner told him that from Liaqat Ali to Nawaz Sharif the experience of Pakistan with India had not been happy.

Asked what he meant by 'flexible approach' and how far he was prepared to be flexible, the Chief Executive said that no line could be drawn on the expression he had used. "I suppose the word flexibility is creating confusion. Let me say that my openness of mind in talks with the Indian Prime Minister would be directly proportionate to the openness the other side shows. So it is not possible to clearly lay down the line on flexibility", he said.

'Ready for a bus ride to Muzaffarabad'

By Our Special Correspondent

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 15. The Pakistan military ruler and the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has said he would be glad to take a bus ride from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad.

Taking part in the 'face the nation' programme on PTV, Gen. Musharraf told a questioner that he would be glad if there was an agreement between India and Pakistan on running a bus service from Srinagar to Muzaffarabad on the lines of Delhi to Lahore.

There had been reports suggesting that this was one of the ideas being floated for the summit between the two leaders.

THE HINDU

16 JUNE 2001

Musharraf starts consultations on summit

19/6 By B. Muralidhar Reddy 19-13

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 13. The Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has begun consultations with a select group of politicians and religious leaders on his coming summit meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Gen. Musharraf's decision to talk to a cross-section of politicians and religious leaders is in response to the demand from various quarters that he take the nation into confidence before he leaves for New Delhi.

All major political and religious parties have complained about the attitude of the military Government on the summit. The recent statement of the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, that there was no need for the Government to consult politicians and others was strongly criticised.

He had argued that there was no need to hold any consultations as there was no change in Pakistan's policy on Kashmir. However, political leaders have pointed out the contrast across the border and quoted the example of Mr. Vajpayee informing the Congress leader, Ms. Sonia Gandhi, about the invitation to Gen. Musharraf.

The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) chairperson and former Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, has been most vocal in her criticism of Gen. Musharraf's visit to New Delhi. In numerous articles and interviews, she has argued that Gen. Musharraf does not have the mandate to negotiate with India and has predicted that he would return empty-handed on the 'core issue' of Kashmir.

Another former Prime Minister and leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), Mr. Nawaz Sharif, has accused Gen. Musharraf of 'begging' the invitation from India and said

the manner in which the military Government has stretched its hands before the Vajpayee Government was a matter of 'national shame'.

The fulmination of both the former Prime Ministers have not only been seen as in bad taste but are also considered a reflection of their frustration. For instance, Ms. Bhutto has been openly critical of India for inviting Gen. Musharraf and in the process conferring legitimacy on his regime.

On Monday, Gen. Musharraf had a long meeting with the leader of the Pakistan Muslim League (Like-Minded), Mr. Mian Azar, at Lahore and the summit meeting with Mr. Vajpayee was one of the topics of discussion.

It is ironical that the military Government should choose to talk to the splinter group of the PML first about the Delhi trip. The group, born as a result of a split in the Muslim League led by Mr. Sharif, is seen as a creation of the Government and is not part of the conglomerate of parties opposed to the military rule.

If reports in the Pakistani media are to be believed the secretariat of Gen. Musharraf has drawn a list of leaders of political and religious parties, Ulema and senior journalists that the Chief Executive would meet in the run up to the summit.

In his meeting with Mr. Azar on Monday, Gen. Musharraf has been quoted as saying that he would not compromise on the basic interests of Pakistan in his meeting with Mr. Vajpayee. Most of the political and religious leaders, who have welcomed the summit, have counseled the Chief Executive to stand firm on the position of Pakistan vis-a-vis Kashmir.

Reports said Gen. Musharraf would hold meetings with leaders of 13 religious and political parties including the Alliance for Restoration of Democracy (ARD) chairman, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, Jamat-e-Islami

chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, JUP chief, Maulana Shah Noorani, Tehreek-e-Isteqal chief, Air Marshal (retd.) Asghar Khan and Tehreek-e-Insaf chief, Mr. Imran Khan.

However, no individual invitation would be extended to either of the ARD partners including the PPP, PML(N) and the ANP. Both factions of the JUI would also be invited for consultations.

Gen. Musharraf's decision to hold consultations with the leaders appears to have been partly influenced by the deliberations of the recent conference of the core commanders.

At least one Urdu paper has noted that the meetings would certainly help polish his political image apart from lowering dangers of any agitation against his visit to India. The *Ausaf* has said his decision to take politicians into confidence has come into focus after his visit to Lahore and the important aspect of this development is that Lt. Gen. Aziz Khan is the Corps Commander of Lahore.

It said the military is united on the point that doors of talks with India to resolve the Kashmir issue should not be closed. But, on the other hand, India should not be allowed to crush the 'Mujahideen's struggle' in the name of talks.

The "Indian offer for talks seems to be well-timed. Mujahideen intensify their activities in months May, June and July with the melting of snow in the area. India made the offer in May; the month of June will be for the preparations and talks would be held in July. India wants to take full advantage of these talks against Mujahideen. If we analyse the situation carefully, it becomes clear that India has not shown any interest to make the atmosphere conducive for talks", the paper said.

Sattar for U.S., U.K. ^{11/6} 119-14 -

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 10. The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, is leaving tomorrow for an official trip to the United Kingdom and the United States for discussions on matters of mutual interest.

Though the visit to the two countries was scheduled some time ago, it assumes significance in the wake of recent developments centered on India-Pakistan relations and the proposed summit between the Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Mr. Sattar's Washington visit would be watched with interest in view of the consistent efforts made by the United States to bring India and Pakistan to the negotiating table.

The proposed summit, nuclear non-proliferation, with particular reference to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, measures

taken by the Musharraf Government to contain extremist organisations and lifting of U.S. sanctions are expected to top the agenda of his talks with the Bush Administration.

During his three-day stay beginning from June 17, Mr. Sattar would meet the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell.

Efforts are being made from the Pakistani side for an audience with the President, Mr. George Bush.

Mr. Sattar's visit is in response to an invitation extended by Gen. Powell for an exchange of views on matters of mutual interest between the two countries.

There has been a certain degree of unease, though unstated, in Pakistan's military establishment about its ties with the U.S., particularly after the recent one-day visit of the Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, to Washington.

The Minister's trip to London

is also significant, as it would be the first formal interaction between the Pakistan Government and the Blair Government after the October 1999 military takeover in Islamabad.

The relations between Pakistan and the U.K. have not exactly been sound. The Musharraf Government has not taken kindly to the harsh comments from London, from time to time, on matters which Pakistan considers are essentially 'internal affairs.'

Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on more than one occasion has accused the Blair Administration of shielding prominent personalities of Pakistan who 'plundered' the country.

Mr. Sattar would meet the new Foreign Secretary, Mr. Jack Straw.

The change in the Foreign Office in the U.K. is good news for Islamabad, as the military establishment did not get along with Mr. Cook.

THE HINDU

Proposed summit ^{Q-12} makes it easy for Pak to deal ^{with} U.S., U.K.

ISLAMABAD: With the Vajpayee-Musharraf summit scheduled to be held in early July, Pakistan hopes to make positive gains during the visits of foreign minister Abdul Sattar to Britain and the U.S. next month.

Mr Sattar would visit Britain from June 12 to 15, from where he would go to the U.S. at the invitation of secretary of state Collin Powell. His visit will be the first highest-level contact between the Bush administration and Pakistan.

Foreign office officials here, who have begun apprising diplomats of various countries — including Britain and the U.S. — about the developments since India's invitation



A.B. Vajpayee

to military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf for talks, say the proposed summit has brought about a dramatic change in the complexities of the visits.

Mr Sattar's trips to Britain and the U.S. were earlier considered to be extremely difficult missions considering the simmering tensions between India and Pakistan.

In the changed scenario, the minister in his discussion with British foreign secretary Robin Cook is expected to make a more confident plea not to press for boycott of Pakistan at the forthcoming Commonwealth summit. The Commonwealth, which continues to be critical of the Musharraf regime, said it would call for sanctions if the military rulers failed to restore democracy by October this year.

Mr Sattar is expected to appeal to the Commonwealth and the

Blair administration to recognise the deadline of October 2002 set by the Pakistani supreme court.

Mr Sattar's visit, considered more difficult and crucial in the light of the U.S. influence in channelling the much needed international financial aide to tide over the crisis due to Pakistan's 38-billion-dollar foreign debt, is now expected to be somewhat smooth, in view of the proposed summit with India, the officials said.



Gen Musharraf

During his talks with Mr Powell, the minister is expected to make a strong plea for the lifting of the sanctions imposed by the U.S. as well as the G-8 which have virtually crippled Pakistan. The first U.S. sanction was slapped in the form of Pressler amendment in the late-80s followed by fresh ban after the 1998 nuclear tests.

Pakistan is also expected to do a lot of explaining about its continued relationship with the disgraced Taliban regime and its failure to pressurise the Afghan militia to hand over Osama bin Laden.

The U.S. has been extremely critical of Pakistan for its continued backing of the Taliban despite U.N. sanctions against them.

Besides attempting to convince the White House of the Musharraf government's efforts to internally stabilise the economic and political crisis, Mr Sattar is also expected to try and convince Washington about Islamabad's efforts to establish a strict regime on nuclear materials to prevent proliferation. (PTI)

N-programme under control: Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 1. Pakistan today rejected allegations levelled by the United States that its nuclear weapons programme was not under "adequate control".

A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office said, "These concerns, reportedly expressed by some U.S. officials, are unfounded. Pakistan does not export sensitive nuclear technology to any country. It pursues a policy of responsibility and restraint." The Musharraf Government had further reinforced the structure of administrative and legislative controls to prevent any export or leakage of such technology.

The spokesman was reacting to a report in the *Financial Times* of London, quoting officials in the U.S. that Pakistan could be spreading nuclear capabilities to other States, notably North Korea.

Anxiety on the part of the Pakistan Foreign Office to clarify the matter is understandable as the

Foreign Minister Mr. Abdul Sattar, is scheduled to visit Washington in the third week of June for discussions on matters of mutual interest, including nuclear non-proliferation.

The London paper is believed to have quoted the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, as saying that "the U.S. has concerns of proliferation with Pakistan". The concerns, according to the report, centered on people who were employed by the nuclear agency and had retired.

The paper, quoting other U.S. officials, said there had been contacts between North Korean officials and senior figures in the Pakistani nuclear establishment.

In another development, a report in the Urdu daily, *Jang*, said that the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan would meet in Colombo on Thursday and prepare proposals for the framework of the summit meeting between

the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, and the Pakistan Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Quoting diplomatic sources, the paper said no formal request for a Foreign Secretary-level meeting was made by either side. However, both countries had reached "a silent understanding" to hold an extraordinary meeting because of the intervention of the SARRC Secretary-General.

Parties extend support

The Jamat-e-Islami, the largest religious political party in Pakistan, has extended unconditional support to Gen. Musharraf's proposed visit to India. Its chief, Qazi Hussain Ahmad, was quoted as saying in Karachi that his party expected Gen. Musharraf to reflect the aspirations of Pakistan as well as the Kashmiris during his meeting with Mr. Vajpayee.

Pakistan should urge India to accept the participation of Kash-

miris in talks and resolve the issue in accordance with U.N. resolutions. At the same time, he warned the military regime that if it made any attempt to "deceive" the nation, people would never forgive it.

In another development, the Al-Badr chief, Bakht Zameen, said that the offer for talks was a U.S. conspiracy against Kashmiris. He was quoted in the Urdu daily, *Ausaf*, as having said that the U.S. was working on a two-point agenda either to divide Kashmir or to create an independent State.

Militants were aware of such conspiracies and would foil each and every American design through jihad, he said.

A report in another Urdu daily, *Pakistan*, quoted him as saying that jihadi outfits would continue their mission during the Indo-Pakistan talks. They would respond to the talks by intensifying strikes in Kashmir.

Pak. happy with invitation

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 26. The Pakistan military establishment is pleased with the text of the invitation extended by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to the military ruler and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to visit New Delhi for peace talks.

A senior official in the Pakistan Government noted that the tone and tenor of the letter of Mr. Vajpayee did not pose any 'irritant' to Islamabad in accepting the invitation.

"The Chief Executive's Secretariat and the Foreign Office are burning the proverbial mid-night oil to produce an appropriate reply. Hopefully the reply should be ready in two to three days".

The initial reaction of the official in the military establishment was that "there was nothing painful in the letter". When pressed to elaborate he said Islamabad was happy to note that the letter did not make reference to any of the sore points.

Avoidance of reference to 'cross border terrorism', a phrase India has been harping on for several months now, has not gone unnoticed in the military government. The managers of the Musharraf regime have also noted that the letter does not join issue with Islamabad on the 'oppressive and suppressive policies' of New Delhi in Kashmir.

"We have no reason to complain given the tone and tenor of the letter of the Indian Prime Minister. The response of the Chief Executive could only be expected to be equally warm and sweet", the official said.

The official however did concede that the military government would have to do a great deal on the domestic front in building a favourable public opinion before embarking on the journey to New Delhi.

"It is particularly necessary given the reaction of the jehadi and the religious outfits. The Musharraf Government is fully conscious of the fate suffered by the Nawaz Sharif Government in the wake of the Lahore Summit and would undertake in the days to come an exercise to initiate talks with all those concerned," the official said.

He claimed that though the exact nature of consultations with the political and non-political forces before the departure of the Chief Executive was yet to be decided, the process would begin soon.

Asked about the speculation on the dates of the summit, the official said, "we have seen reports in the Indian media suggesting early July for the summit. I suppose it suits Gen. Musharraf perfectly well. Though he has no engagements abroad in the month of June, he would be busy in the first few weeks with the preparations for the budget".

The Pakistan budget for 2001-2002 is scheduled to be presented by the Finance Minister, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, in the third/fourth week of June.

THE HINDU

Pak told to look beyond Kashmir

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, May 28: India today made it clear that Kashmir was an "integral part of the country" and ruled out plebiscite to find a solution to the decades-old dispute.

Foreign minister Jaswant Singh also drove home the point that Pervez Musharraf was coming to Delhi on Atal Bihari Vajpayee's invitation; therefore speculation about his proposed meeting with Hurriyat leaders here was a "non-issue" which would not be entertained.

"We are not in the game of defining the bottomline on any issue. The Prime Minister's letter has made it clear that discussions will have to be held in the spirit of the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration with the aim of restoring peace and normalising bilateral relations," Singh said.

The comments were a warning to Pakistan not to hype the Kashmir dispute and give it primacy over other issues as domestic pressure would then force the government to take a rigid stand. Musharraf, he stressed, should indicate the type of long-term rela-

tionship his country wanted with India. "We seek reconciliation, friendship and cooperation from Pakistan. This is our long-term policy," Singh said. "But is Pakistan clear on what kind of a long-term relationship it wants to enter with India?"

At a news conference to clarify why Vajpayee invited the Pakistan chief executive, Singh said: "Our policy towards Pakistan is not absolutist." The policy, he added, was reviewed from time to time to take into account the changing reality.

Singh refused to agree with Pakistan's argument that Kashmir was the core issue of dispute which could be solved by a plebiscite. "The Indian Parliament had passed a resolution stating that the entire state of Jammu and Kashmir was part of India. Our stand on this remains unaltered and there is no scope in either implementing the United Nations resolution or to hold a plebiscite in the state," he said.

Sources said the remarks were aimed at hardliners, assuring them that the invite did not imply that the nation's interests were being bartered away.

The minister described as a

"non-issue" Musharraf's proposed meeting with Hurriyat leaders in Delhi. "Musharraf is coming here on the invitation of our Prime Minister. I don't see how these additionalities are now being included in his visit," he said.

But the man who had refused to shake hands with his then Pakistani counterpart, Sartaz Aziz, for Islamabad's "great betrayal" at the height of the Kargil flare-up seemed more introspective today.

"We have to move beyond the confines of history. Unless we address the challenges of tomorrow, we will do great damage to our people," Singh said, emphasising that the time had come for India and Pakistan to work together to fight the common curse of "poverty".

Singh said there had been a clear shift in Pakistan's policy of driving militants into Kashmir as firings across the Line of Control had come down considerably in the past six months.

Asked why Delhi has invited Musharraf though groups like the Lashkar-e-Toiba continued to speak of *Jihad* , Singh said: "India is talking to the government of Pakistan...."

■ Another report on Page 6

THE TELEGRAPH

29 MAY 2001

Musharraf likely to visit Delhi in July

^{Pak} Vajpayee sends formal invitation to ^{HT-1 26/5} Pak military ruler

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, May 25

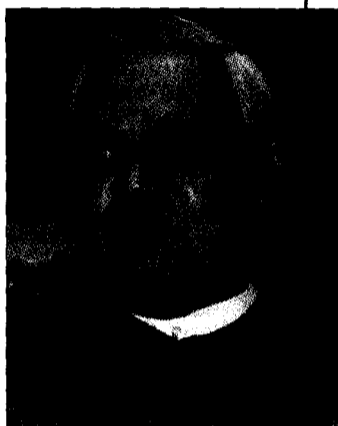
THE SUMMIT between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistan's Chief Executive General Pervez Musharraf is likely to be held in New Delhi some time in July. A formal invitation from Vajpayee to Musharraf and his wife was delivered today by India's acting high commissioner in Islamabad, Sudhir Vyas, to the Pakistani foreign secretary.

Though official confirmation of the time and place are awaited, indications are that both leaders are keen to go through the process before their respective Independence Day celebrations in August. For Musharraf especially, the political importance of that is considerable as he would be able to pack into his Independence Day speech substantial hyperbole about a breakthrough in his Kashmir initiative.

Pakistani high commissioner in India, Jehangir Qazi, said "We will attach the highest priority to the summit while going through the calendar of the Chief Executive as the Indian Prime Minister has been so kind to request him to come at his earliest convenience. However, we believe the Prime Minister is scheduled to have an operation in June and much depends on the length of the period of his convalescence."

Pakistani sources said the traditional position of Islamabad of insisting on drawing the Hurriyat into the talks process is unlikely to pose a roadblock to the summit. But there may be a subtle indication in Musharraf's official response to Vajpayee's invite about the need for Kashmiri involvement to settle the "core issue".

Diplomatic sources expect the Pakistani side to pack in some public relations move during Musharraf's visit like requesting the host country to arrange a visit by the Chief Executive to the walled city of Old Delhi



VAJPAYEE



MUSHARRAF

where his roots lie. But New Delhi is chary of that and may shoot it down citing security considerations.

In his letter to Musharraf, Vajpayee said: "India, through dialogue, consistently endeavoured to build a relationship of durable peace, stability and cooperative friendship with Pakistan. Our common enemy is poverty. For the welfare of our peoples, there is no other recourse but a pursuit of the path of reconciliation, of engaging in productive dialogue and by building trust and confidence. I invite you to walk this high road with us."

Vajpayee reminded the General that during his February 1999

FIVE JAWANS KILLED IN HIZBUL STRIKE

FIVE CRPF men were killed on their way to Chenani from Sudhamahadev in Jammu, when an explosive device planted in their car blew up the vehicle at Gauri Kund around 7 am on Friday. The Hizbul Mujahideen claimed responsibility for the blast.

In another militant-engineered explosion at Manjoos in Doda district's Banihal area, a jawan was killed and another seriously injured.

PTI, Srinagar

visit to Lahore he had recorded at the Minar-e-Pakistan that a "stable, secure and prosperous Pakistan is in India's interest". He urged Musharraf, "We have to pick up the threads again, including renewing the composite dialogue, so that we can put in place a stable structure and address all outstanding issues, including Jammu and Kashmir."

It is apparent that Vajpayee is looking for proceeding with wide-ranging cooperation rather than getting bogged down with Kashmir which figures only once in his letter. He has consciously steered clear of reference to terrorism, the six-month-long ceasefire and other contentious issues. The obvious intent is to reach across to a wider spectrum of Pakistanis than just the military leadership with reliable information in tow that the people of Pakistan have had enough of the "core issue" strangulating their opportunities for economic progress.

The forthcoming SAARC special session at the foreign secretary level will offer the opportunity to the two countries' foreign secretaries to meet on the sidelines and discuss the contours of the agenda for the summit. The meeting will be held in Colombo on June 8 and 9.

THE HINDUSTAN

26 MAY 2001

AD-12
7/15

Pak. joint chiefs meet discusses Kashmir

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 21. A meeting of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of Committee (JCSC) of Pakistan here today discussed matters relating to "defence, national security and professional matters".

Presided over by the military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the meeting presumably reviewed the situation in Kashmir. Though a brief press statement issued by the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR) was silent on the details of the deliberations, the assessment of the Committee, particularly on Kashmir, is significant as India is expected to take a decision on the extension of ceasefire in the valley this week.

"A meeting of the JCSC was held at the Joint Staff Headquarters here today. The Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf presided. The meeting which was attended by the service chiefs, senior officers of the armed forces and the Ministry of Defence discussed important matters related to defence, national security and professional matters", the release said.

The importance of the meeting lies in the fact that as a man in uniform, Gen. Musharraf has always kept senior colleagues in the military informed of the proposed moves of his Government on all important subjects. It could be

presumed that the recent visit of the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, and the forthcoming meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan on the sidelines of the SAARC meeting in Colombo would have also figured at the meeting.

A senior official said the situation in Kashmir in the context of the Indian allegations of firing from the side of Pakistan, the letter of the JKDFP President, Mr. Shabir Shah, and the possible extension of ceasefire by the Indian Government came up for discussion.

No detailed discussion on the latest letter of Mr. Shah to Gen. Musharraf seeking his co-operation in finding a peaceful solution to the Kashmir issue could take place as the letter is yet to reach the Pakistan High Commissioner in New Delhi, Mr. Ashraf Qazi Ahmed.

Mr. Shah has not only responded positively to the invitation extended by Mr. K.C. Pant, the interlocutor on Kashmir, but has also shown his inclination to talk to the Indian Government. The JKDFP chief has been quoted as saying that he has no problems in meeting Mr. Pant when he visits Srinagar. The stated position of Islamabad on the Kashmir peace initiative is that it is a meaningless exercise unless followed by some concrete steps.

THE HINDU

21 MAY 2001

Pak. softens stand on NMD

By B. Muralidhar Reddy 410-1

ISLAMABAD, MAY 15. In what could be construed as reversal of its position, Pakistan today said the remarks made by the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, three days ago about fears of a new nuclear and missile race had nothing to do with the National Missile Defence programme of the United States.

At a press conference here, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said Gen. Musharraf's observations were general in nature and were not related to the events of the last two weeks. "What Gen. Musharraf has said is the known principled stand of Pakistan as well as a large number of members of the United Nations. Pakistan as well as several other countries has valued the strategic balance among the greater powers (United States and Russia) on account of the Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty (ABM) of 1972. So we are opposed to any statement that might upset the strategic balance," Mr. Sattar said.

On the statement of the Chinese spokesperson that during his discussions with the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, the Chief Executive had broached the subject of NMD and apprised him of Islamabad's position on it, the Minister said Gen. Musharraf had only explained the country's principled stand.

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The press conference was called to apprise the media about the highlights of the just-concluded visit of the Chinese Prime Minister. The Finance Minister, Mr. Shaukat Aziz, also present on the occasion, was asked if Pakistan's position on NMD did not hurt its interests vis-a-vis the international financial agencies it had approached for loans and aid.

Mr. Aziz said the negotiations with the international financial agencies for loans and aid were on the basis of economic parameters and the economic performance of the Musharraf Government. "Other issues have no role."

It is indeed a tight-rope walk for Pakistan on the NMD given its friendship with China and its dependence on international financial agencies to bail it out of its tough economic situation. The United States' control over these financial institutions is well-known.

Another factor that could have prompted the military establishment to soften its position on the NMD is Mr. Sattar's visit to Washington in June for discussions on matters of mutual interest.

In the presence of Mr. Rongji, Pakistan came out openly against the NMD saying it was against any action that re-initiates nuclear and missile race in South Asia. Gen. Musharraf said Pakistan was in agreement with China on the subject.

THE HINDU

15 MAY 2001

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AF-1

Musharraf opposes NMD

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 12. Pakistan today came out openly against the National Missile Defence (NMD) programme announced by the Bush Government and said that it was against any action that re-initiates nuclear and missile race in South Asia.

The military ruler and Chief Executive of Pakistan, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, told journalists in the presence of the visiting Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, that Pakistan was in agreement with China on the subject.

It is for the first time since the new Government unveiled its NMD programme that the military Government in Islamabad has given its reaction. Gen. Musharraf was replying to a specific query from a Chinese journalist on the subject at a function where Mr. Rongji planted a sapling.

The significance of the decision of Pakistan to speak out against the NMD at a juncture when Mr. Rongji is on an official tour did not go unnoticed in diplomatic circles.



The Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji (left), and the Pakistan military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, at a reception in Islamabad on Saturday. — Reuters

“Perhaps Pakistan was hesitant all these days to spell out its stand on the subject for fear of antagonising the Bush administration. The presence of the Chinese Prime Minister seems to have provided an opportunity for the military Government to speak out its mind on the subject,” com-

mented a senior Western diplomat. “We have commonality of views on all the issues,” was how Gen. Musharraf put when he was asked to comment on the Bush plans.

Both Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Rongji did not refer to the issue at

the joint press conference at the end of their parleys. But later at the banquet hosted in honour of the visiting dignitary, Gen. Musharraf made an indirect reference to the subject.

“We share the international concern at the development and deployment of ballistic missile defence which could jeopardise strategic stability, trigger a new arms race and undermine international efforts aimed at arms control and disarmament.

“We will work together with our Chinese friends in pursuit of our shared goals and further strengthen this model bilateral relationship which remained a vital element for the peace and stability of South Asia and beyond.”

Kashmir issue

Kashmir was the dominant theme of the speech made by Gen. Musharraf. He reiterated Pakistan's desire for a peaceful settlement of the issue and complained about lack of response from India to its offer for a dialogue.

More reports on Page 8

Pakistan will maintain minimum deterrence

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, May 9. - Pakistan's military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf has said his country would continue to maintain minimum credible deterrence to "safeguard" its national and security interests.

"We will maintain minimum credible deterrence to safeguard our national security and sovereignty", Gen Musharraf told a meeting of Pakistani Naval Commanders at the Naval headquarters here yesterday. His comments came even as India was conducting military exercises in bordering Rajasthan.

Pakistan has criticised the holding of exercises as "a blatant show of force aimed at creating war hysteria". A foreign office spokesman yesterday said: "The exercises are not going to impress Pakistan. Pakistan's defences are now unassailable. We are capable of deterring any aggression against Pakistan".

Quoting informed sources, Pakistani daily 'The Nation' today reported that Gen Musharraf said his government was conscious of the country's security needs and would meet all the defence-related requirements within the available resources. The military regime has, in principle, decided to cap defence budget at the last year's level of Pakistani Rs 155 billion, owing to serious financial crisis arising out of the \$38 billion foreign debt.

However, a seven per cent raise in defence budget is likely to be proposed in the annual budget to be submitted in the coming weeks by finance minister Mr Shoukat Aziz.

Appreciating the role played by the navy in safeguarding the maritime interests of Pakistan, Gen Musharraf said his government had taken note of the requirements of the navy and would provide necessary resources to fulfill them.

THE STATESMAN

Pak faces tighter curbs, full suspension from C'wealth

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
LONDON, MAY 6

PAKISTAN faces higher level of sanctions and prospects of "full suspension" of Commonwealth membership if it fails to announce the schedule for democratic elections in the country before the Commonwealth Heads Of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Brisbane in October, Commonwealth sources said today.

"If Pakistan fails to announce date for elections before CHOGM, there is a good chance of its full suspension from membership and even if it does announce a date and the date remains October 2002, there will be pressure from a number of countries to have sanctions, a higher level of sanctions," they said quoting the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group of Foreign Min-

isters (CMAG).

Though for long, the Commonwealth has stressed speedy restoration of democracy, signals emanating from Islamabad are "don't tell us what to do, we will do at our pace and what we judge is in the best interests of our country...that democracy has done disservice to Pakistan," the sources told *PTI*. It is a very dangerous argument and the Commonwealth leaders have effectively rejected it, they added.

"The next step will be suspension of membership - its name will not appear any more in Commonwealth conferences and its flag will not fly in Commonwealth meetings and NGOs will have injunction in dealing with it," they said.

Pakistan is currently suspended from the Commonwealth Council and cannot participate in official meetings - ministerial, official and

inter-governmental - but can take part in Commonwealth games, cultural events and NGOs continue to have links with the country.

India has been pressing for implementation of the Millbrook Action Programme which stipulates a two-year time-frame for restoration of democracy (in countries) where institutions are not in place to permit holding of elections, the sources said.

A maximum of six months are given to states where institutions such as election commission and voters list are in place. Pakistan has an Election Commission, though the voters list is stated to be faulty.

"India is making the point that if you have a Millbrook Action Programme, then you implement it. You can't seem to be going against a code of conduct that you have agreed upon," they said.

7 MAY 2001



The Pakistani Chief Executive, Gen. Perviz Musharraf, with the Vietnamese Prime Minister, Mr. Phan Van Khai, reviewing a guard of honour at the Presidential Palace in Hanoi, on Thursday. — AP

Pak. for getting closer to Myanmar

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, MAY 3. The Pakistani Chief Executive, Gen. Perviz Musharraf, believes the uniformed regimes in Islamabad and Yangon have much in common.

Gen. Musharraf, who became the first non-ASEAN leader to visit Myanmar since the 1988 military takeover, said: "The fact that the two of us are of a uniform culture means that there's a certain bond between each other."

For its part, the Myanmar regime rolled out the red carpet for the Pakistani military leader, with the junta chief, Senior-General Than Shwe, going to receive Gen. Musharraf at the Yangon airport.

"Pakistan certainly wishes to get closer to Myanmar," Gen. Musharraf was quoted as telling reporters. "The future looks very bright."

The General said the two coun-

tries would develop new trade and commercial links. At present, two-way trade totals a paltry \$ 20 millions. "We have to have better future relations in trade and commerce.... that's why I brought a team with members who could focus on the issue of economic relationship," he said.

Gen. Musharraf's visit comes at a time when India-Myanmar relationship has taken off both in the economic and political fields. The February visit by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, marked an important milestone in bilateral relations.

It is well-known that the Chinese and the Pakistanis have an excellent understanding.

The official press in Myanmar has also prominently written about the military backgrounds of India's eastern and western neighbours. "Both General Musharraf and Senior-General Than

Shwe are soldier-statesmen in their own right, having weathered similar storms and having been given the helmship of State under similar circumstances," the *New Light of Myanmar* wrote.

"The two leaders....are dedicated soldiers hoisted by the needs of history into the arena of national politics," it said. It hailed the Chief Executive's visit as a resounding success, stating that it had "further strengthened the already strong ties".

Arrives in Hanoi

DPA reports:

Gen. Musharraf arrived in Hanoi today and held talks with Vietnam's Premier, with the two leaders expressing a desire to expand their relationship. Gen. Musharraf and the Prime Minister, Mr. Phan Van Khai, reviewed a guard of honour before entering the presidential palace.

THE HINDU

2 1 1997

HO-14
14/4

Pak., Nepal ties under a cloud

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 13. Diplomatic ties between Nepal and Pakistan have come under strain following the detention of one of the Pakistani diplomats by the authorities in Kathmandu on Thursday in connection with the seizure of explosives.

The Nepalese Ambassador here was called to the Pakistan Foreign Office and handed over a "note of protest" and it was pointed out to him that the detention of the diplomat along with his wife and the denial of access to him is contrary to Article 29 of the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

In Kathmandu Pakistan lodged protest with the Nepalese Government over the incident and said that the detention of the diplomat was in contravention to the diplomatic convention.

In a statement, the Pakistan Foreign office said that "it is evident that elements hostile to Pakistan-Nepal friendship are responsible for this unfortunate episode. We are confident that the Government of Nepal would not allow such designs to succeed".

The incident is bound to cast a shadow on the good relationship between Nepal and Pakistan. It is evident from the strongly worded statement issued by the Pakistan Government.

"It has been repeatedly urged to the Nepalese authorities that such an action constitutes a clear violation of the Vienna Convention and that adherence to its provisions is in the interest of the conduct of diplomatic relations between states."

Reports from Kathmandu said Nepalese authorities on Thursday detained a Pakistani diplomat and his wife with 16 kilograms of powerful explosives in Kathmandu.

It appears the diplomat has completed his term in Kathmandu and was all set to return back to Pakistan.

Quoting sources in the Nepalese government international wire agencies had said that Pakistani Embassy First Secretary, Mohammad Arshad Cheema and his wife were detained and their statements were being recorded. The reports said the diplomat was trying to leave Kathmandu.

YEP
14 APR 2001

Pak diplomat held with RDX in Nepal

BY OUR NEPAL CORRESPONDENT

Kathmandu, April 13: A day after Pakistan first secretary Mohammed Arshad Cheema was arrested, the Pakistani embassy reacted strongly to the arrest. In a statement issued on Friday, the embassy claimed that Cheema was "framed on false and fabricated charges." They have also accused the Nepal police of violating diplomatic conventions that provide immunity from arrests to diplomats. "It has been repeatedly urged to Nepali authorities that the arrest constitutes a clear violation of the Vienna Convention."

The Nepal police had detained the first sec-

retary at the Pakistani embassy in Kathmandu for allegedly keeping high-energy explosives, ostensibly destined to be smuggled into India, in his apartment, newspapers reported on Friday.

Mohammed Cheema and his wife were detained by the Kathmandu police late on Thursday from their apartment where investigators found 16 kg of RDX, which is used in high-energy plastic explosives. The police says the amount of explosives seized is enough to blow up an entire neighbourhood.

Cheema's arrest came just a day before he was scheduled to leave Kathmandu after completing his three-year diplomatic assign-

ment. He and his wife were being held in a police detention centre.

Media reports said the police was tipped off by a "special source" whose identity has not been disclosed. District superintendent of police Madhav Thapa, who led the police raid on Cheema's apartment in the Baneshwar suburb of Kathmandu, confirmed only that explosives had been found but did not elaborate. It has been alleged that such explosives routinely find their way into India through the porous Nepal-India border. India regularly accuses Pakistan of smuggling explosives into India through Nepal. Pakistan just as regularly denies it.

charges, and Nepal always reiterates its position that it will not allow Nepali soil to be used against any neighbour.

Cheema was arrested in an apartment rented by a Pakistani civil contractor who had been living there for five years while doing business in Nepal. Cheema reportedly told the police that he had been living in the apartment for only three days before flying out of Kathmandu after completing his diplomatic assignment.

Meanwhile, the Nepal government is taking steps to ~~debar~~ Cheema, "persona non grata," sources in the Nepal foreign ministry said.

THE ASIAN AGE

14 APR 2001

HD-13
9/14

Russian 'no' delays Pak. fighter plane project

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, APRIL 8. Plans of the Pakistan Air Force (PAF) to acquire and build state-of-the-art fighter plane, Super-7, in collaboration with China, is believed to have run into rough weather following the Russian Government's decision of not supplying the engine.

According to diplomatic sources here, Russia had initially agreed to supply the engine but withdrew the offer a few months ago. As China does not have the capability to build a similar engine, the crucial project is likely to suffer a delay.

Pakistan is eager to acquire the fighter aircraft early to replace its entire fleet of ageing F-6, F-7, A-5 and Mirages. The need has become all the more acute after the United States decided to stop the supply of F-16 aircraft under the Pressler amendment.

The China Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIC) first conceived the Super-7 project in 1992. It later invited PAF to invest in the design development as Pakistan was looking for alternatives for its ageing military aircraft. These aircraft, according to a recently released official PAF book, *The Story of the Pakistan Air Force*, were lined up for replacement in this decade as they progressively turned obsolete.

As per the project profile, the S-7 aircraft, designed to be a 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 Mikoyan Design Bureau of Russia.

The project was approved by the former Prime Minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, in 1995, and the MoU was signed by Mr. Nawaz

Sharif during his visit to China in 1999.

As per the initial understanding, Russia had agreed to supply over 100 engines for the S-7 project.

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.

Hopes of the project were kept alive till February this year when the PAF Chief, Air Vice-Marshal Mushaf Ali Mir, visited China.

Before his much-publicised visit, media reports quoted top Pakistan officials as saying that he was expected to finalise the modalities for the S-7 project.

But later reports suggest that all he could discuss was the induction of FC-1, which according to PAF's official book, has Chinese avionics and weapons.

THE HINDU

9 APR 2001

Pak fighter plane project suffers setback

ST-5
9/18
PAK (11)

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, April 8. — Pakistan's bid 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 to fit the fighter aircraft.

Moscow had agreed to supply over 100 engines but later backed few months ago, sources said. However, it was 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 was believed to be a match to 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 air force 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, the book said 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 Super-7 project was cleared by Mrs Benazir Bhutto in 1995. The Mou was signed during deposed Prime Minister Mr Nawaz Sharif's visit to China in 1999. The project, also termed S-7, was conceived by the China Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation in 1992 which later invited Pakistan air force to invest in the design development.

S-7 aircraft, 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 includes multimode pulse doppler radar, a mission computer, and multi-function displays. Its weapons systems includes 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.

THE STATESMAN

9 APR 2001

Pak. 'grudgingly' backs Annan's candidature

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 29. Pakistan has 'grudgingly' endorsed the candidature of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, for a second term.

This is evident from the comments made by the Pakistan Ambassador to the U.N., Mr. Shamsad Ahmed, who also happens to be the chairman of the five-nation Asian group at the U.N.

"I had to convey the sentiments expressed by an overwhelming majority of the Asian group," he told Pakistani correspondents after presiding over the group's meeting.

He conceded that Pakistan initially wanted to support an Asian candidate, as it was Asia's turn. But in the spirit of Asian-African unity, it went along with the general trend of supporting Mr. Annan.

Mr. Ahmed was quoted as saying his country should not appear to be isolated from the rest of the world. The rich tributes Mr. Ahmed paid to Mr. Annan's role during his first term have certainly not gone down well with a section of the press.

"There was unanimous appreciation, acknowledgement of his qualities of leadership and there was no doubt in the minds of anybody that he will be re-elected," he said.

Besides the desire to see an Asian at the helm of U.N. affairs, the Secretary-General's recent tour to the Sub-continent partly contributed to the not-so-enthusiastic response in Pakistan for his second term.

Mr. Annan's statement minutes after he landed in Islamabad urging India and Pakistan to attempt to find a solution to the Kashmir issue in the light of the Lahore Declaration and his view that the U.N. resolutions on Kashmir could not be enforced without cooperation from India did not go down well with several quarters here.

However, Mr. Ahmed defended Mr. Annan saying that the Secretary-General had not been unfair to Pakistan. He was quoted as saying that Mr. Annan's statements were 'largely misunderstood' here.

Assault on scribe condemned

The incident involving the kidnap and severe beating of a senior journalist with the English daily, *The News*, on Wednesday by a group of five un-

identified armed men has sent shock waves among the journalist community here.

The group of men who kidnapped the chief reporter of the daily, Mr. Shakil Sheikh, from the heart of the city repeatedly told him as they thrashed him that "you write too much. Now you will not write anymore".

In a report on the incident the paper said the unidentified gunmen beat him for three and a half hours before abandoning him in a deserted village some miles away from the main commercial centre in the capital city. Mr. Shakil sustained multiple injuries, including head injury when he was hit with the butt of an AK-47.

Mr. Shaheen Sehbai, Editor of the daily, has condemned the attack and demanded an immediate enquiry into the incident. He has dubbed it as a blatant attack on the freedom of press. The military government has promised immediate action to bring to book all those behind the attack.

Second n-plant inaugurated

Meanwhile, Pakistan's second nuclear power plant, built with Chinese aid and expertise, was inaugurated today at Mianwali in the Punjab province.

The Chief Executive and military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, was originally scheduled to declare open the Chashma Nuclear Power Plant but due to inclement weather he could not reach the place. The Science and Technology Minister, Dr. Attaur Rahman, opened the plant amid much fanfare.

Those present included a large Chinese delegation led by the Chinese Minister for Science and Technology, Mr. Liu Jibin, and the diplomatic core from Islamabad.

The contract for the plant, which uses nuclear power to generate electricity, was signed between the Pakistan Atomic Energy Commission (PAEC) and the China Nuclear Cooperation in December 1991 and it took almost a decade for completion of the project. It will supply 1,840 million kw per hour of electricity to the State power authority.

There has been a major build-up in the last few days by the Pakistani establishment to project the plant as yet another 'model of cooperation' between Beijing and Islamabad.

THE HINDU

9 0 MAR 2001

France will supply 16 used Mirage fighters to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD: France has agreed to deliver the remaining consignment of 16 overhauled Mirage aircraft to Pakistan by June this year, media reports here said. The planes were being delivered as part of a \$120-million deal signed in 1996 between Pakistan and Sagem of France, to supply 40 used type III and V Mirage aircraft.

So far Pakistan has received 24 planes in three consignments. "The remaining consignments will arrive by June, completing the process of Mirage induction in the Pakistan Air Force (PAF)," sources said. The aircraft, each costing about \$3 million, were being delivered after overhauling as Pakistan's own Mirage rebuild factory at Kamara was over-booked with jets from PAF and from friendly countries, Pakistan newspaper *The Statesman* quoting the sources said.

The reconditioned planes have virtually doubled the Mirage fleet in the air force, it said. Their induction was crucial as Mirage continues to be a frontline fighter of the PAF ever since its induction in 1970s. "Keeping in view the resource constraints, being faced by

the country, induction of these jets would be a long way in strengthening air defence", it said.

Due to heavy debt repayments, Pakistan has decided not to increase its defence budget and pegged it around the last year level of Rs 159 billion.

Meanwhile, PAF has test-fired its "indigenous" surface-to-air "Anza" missile along with several other missiles including those of American and French origin during an exercise aimed at enhancing its combat preparedness, media report said on Tuesday.

"Anza", a shoulder-launched missile weighing about 10 kg, and other surface-to-surface and air-to-air missiles were testfired at Sonmiani firing range in Baluchistan on Monday.

Military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf and top military officials witnessed the missile firing show held on the concluding day of the week-long "Missile Firing Camp 2001." The air-to-air missiles fired by different fighter plane included French- origin Infra Red R-550 Magic, AIM-P (Sidewinder) and US origin heat seeking AIM9-L. (PTI)

Pak. harps on U.N. resolutions

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

HD-13
12/3

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 11. The United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, began his visit to the subcontinent on a rough note with both Pakistan and Afghanistan urging him to play a more pro-active role in their favour even as they paid little heed to his counsel.

The theme song of the Pakistani leaders who interacted with Mr. Annan today was that they had high expectations from the U.N. on implementation of its resolutions on the Kashmir dispute. They stuck to the point, though the Secretary-General made it clear moments after he had landed here last night that the U.N. could do precious little on the Kashmir resolutions in the absence of co-operation from both sides.

Addressing a press conference at the end of his meeting with the Chief Executive and military ruler, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, the U.N. Secretary-General expressed the hope that India and Pakistan would get to the negotiating table for a resolution of their differences, carrying forward the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. Gen. Musharraf was present.

In the course of the day, Mr. Annan had a detailed interaction with Gen. Musharraf, the President, Mr. Rafiq Tarar, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar. All of them reminded him of the U.N. resolutions on Kashmir and Pakistan's high expectations of the international body to get them implemented, not withstanding the helplessness expressed by Mr. Annan.

As the Pakistan leaders harped on U.N. resolutions and the right of the Kashmiri people to

self-determination, Mr. Annan reiterated the need for India and Pakistan sitting across the table to resolve all their differences in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. He promised to do his utmost to facilitate the dialogue process.

The Pakistan President told Mr. Annan that "the Kashmir issue involved a fundamental principle of the U.N. Charter and a fundamental right of the people.

Without respect for the principle of the right to self-determination, it would be impossible to have justice and peace in the world".

Mr. Tarar accused India of continuing repression and atrocities in Kashmir and said Pakistan looked to the U.N. in general and the Secretary-General in particular for redeeming the pledge the world body had made to the Kashmiri people. Mr. Annan said it was his intention to have a detailed discussion on Kashmir during the visit.

It was the same story at a luncheon hosted by the Foreign Minister, who complained that the U.N. resolutions, though accepted by both the parties, remained unimplemented. Ten million people awaited with increasing desperation the fulfilment of the pledge that they would decide the future of their state in a free and impartial plebiscite.

The Minister told Mr. Annan that Kashmir was the root cause of all problems between Pakistan and India and referred to Islamabad's proposals in its December 2 statement for progress on resolution of the dispute. "Just as our commitment to the U.N. is deep, so are our expectations high."

Meets Kashmiri women

A delegation of Kashmir women presented to Mr. Annan a memorandum containing an appeal for personal intervention to protect the 'fundamental rights of Kashmiri people' and for 'bringing a just solution of the problem in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people and U.N. resolutions'.

The burden on Pakistan on account of the Afghan refugee problem was the other major theme of Pakistan leaders. They urged Mr. Annan to prevail on the international community to be more liberal in help.

Gujral plea

PTI reports from New Delhi:

The former Prime Minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, today asked Pakistan to "seriously consider" Mr. Annan's observations that the 1999 Lahore Declaration could hold the key to a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Annan's "observations do deserve very serious consideration by Pakistani authorities. India's policy in this context is known. We have always taken the position that we can discuss every issue with Pakistan under the Shimla agreement and the Lahore Declaration," Mr. Gujral told PTI when his reaction to Mr. Annan's statement in Islamabad was sought. Referring to the two meetings between the former Pakistani Premier, Mr. Nawaz Sharif, and the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, and his own four interactions with Mr. Sharif, Mr. Gujral said "these interactions between the Prime Ministers had been moving in the direction of friendship and peace." India should sustain the momentum

THE HINDU

1 2 MAR 2001

#10-13

Pak. appeals to Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 8. In what is seen in diplomatic circles as a damage control exercise, the Pakistan Government today summoned the Taliban Ambassador here and appealed for a stop to the destruction of pre-Islamic artifacts, including the Bamiyan Buddhas.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, told *The Hindu* that "we conveyed not only our appeal but also those received from other countries" to the Taliban Ambassador, Mulla Abdul Salaam Zaef.

The appeal was made by none other than the Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. Islamabad, which enjoys good relations with the Taliban, has been inundated with appeals from virtually all over the world to prevail upon the Taliban to give up their mission to destroy the pre-Islamic artifacts.

The military establishment has every reason to be concerned over the furore against the Taliban decision as the controversy could not have erupted at a more inopportune time. With just two days to go for the visit of the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, to the sub-continent, the decree threatens to overshadow all other issues. Pakistan has been trying its best in the last few days to keep Kashmir on the top of Mr. Annan's agenda.

"We told the Taliban envoy to preserve Afghanistan's cultural heritage as it is an asset of the world community," Mr. Khan said. The Taliban representative was also apprised of the concerns of the Organization of Islamic Conference.

Earlier in the day, a parliamentary delegation from Japan left for Afghanistan. Led by Mr. Akihiko Kumashiro, of the Liberal Democratic Party, the three-member

team will seek a meeting with Taliban supreme leader, Mulla Mohammad Omar.

Lashkar defends decree

PTI reports:

Justifying the destruction of the statues, the militant group, Lashkar-e-Taiba, has drawn a parallel between the Taliban action and Mahmood Gazni's attempts to destroy the Somnath temple in Gujarat.

The Lashkar chief, Hafiz Mouammad Saeed, said the decision was "correct" as the destruction of statues "is a religious and historic duty of Muslims". At Id prayer meeting at Chiniot, Saeed, a teacher at the University of Engineering and Technology at Lahore, said, "Ghazni launched 17 attacks on India in a bid to destroy the statue of Somnath. He continued to break idols until he brought to an end idol worship."

THE HINDU

9 MAR 2001

Pakistan Navy to test-fire Exocet anti-ship missile

Mudashir Zaidi
Islamabad, February 16

PKM
HT-15

THE PAKISTAN Navy will test-fire a medium range anti-ship French missile, SM 39 (Exocet), from its Agosta 90-B submarine on March 4. Quoting a senior Navy official, The Pakistan Observer reported today that the decision to test-fire the missile was taken to boost the Pakistan Navy's prowess in response to India's growing naval capabilities.

The Exocet will be fired on a target ship from an unknown position in the southern far coast of the Indian Ocean. The Pakistani Navy has already sent NOTAMS (advance information) to world

capitals, including New Delhi, as per its obligation under the Confidence Building Measures Agreement.

Officials at the naval headquarters said that the entire naval fleet would be involved in the landmark test firing. Atlantic aircraft, Sea-kin helicopters as well as Fokkers will be used for close air vigilance of the area.

The Exocet SM-39 is a submarine-launched fire-and-forget missile that can carry high explosive warheads up to 165 kg. The maximum range is believed to be from 42 km to 70 km.

Besides France, Pakistan is the only country to have SM-39 missiles that can be launched from a

submerged submarine.

17/2 ✓

The Exocet uses a SNPE Naval composite case-bonded sustainer and a SNPE Condor composite propellant. A cold missile would take two minutes to launch but a warmed up one will take only one minute, although in an emergency situation, the missile can be launched in 20 seconds.

Naval officials claimed that Exocet has given the Pakistan Navy a great boost, it needed badly due to the absence of surface ships. "The test-firing is also aimed at warding off the false perception that the Indian Navy can affect an economic blockade of Karachi by blocking sea lines of communications," the officials told the paper.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 FEB 2001

Pakistan's drift towards fundamentalism is the reason for its flight from reality in its relations with India

Still in denial

BY PREM SHANKAR JHA

HT-10
6/2

BY EXTENDING the cease-fire in Kashmir for a third month in the face of growing misgivings in the Home and Defence Ministries, and despite mounting *jehadi* violence, the Prime Minister has demonstrated the sincerity of his quest for peace in Kashmir. Atal Bihari Vajpayee has also made it clear that he is only waiting for a substantial reduction of cross-border militancy to open a dialogue with Pakistan at any level. The next step needs to be taken by Pakistan. But is it capable of taking it?

Apart from regretting the threat made by the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba to Vajpayee's life, Pakistan has maintained a studied silence. In fact, General Pervez Musharraf on Sunday attacked India, accusing it of 'oppressive' rule in Kashmir. All Islamabad has had to say is that the violence will come down automatically once talks between India and Pakistan commence.

But there have been numerous indications of the wide gap that exists between the two countries. The most tell-tale was the sudden characterisation by Hurriyat's former president, Ali Shah Geelani, of the Kashmir struggle as a religious and not a political one. This is so completely at odds with the history of the Kashmir insurgency that one can only conclude that Geelani was acting as a mouthpiece of Islamabad when he made this claim.

Behind this assertion lies a chasm in perceptions. Seen from the Pakistani viewpoint, if Kashmir is a religious dispute, then the *jehadis* have a moral right to be there. Second, if the Kashmir insurgency was religious, then it brought back into play the very basis on which India and Pakistan were created — the two-nation theory.

Pakistan, therefore, treats the proposal made by Farooq Abdullah and others to turn the LoC into an international border as simply India's opening position in a future negotiation, from which it must offer further concessions. India, instead, sees it as the 'interim' settlement enshrined in the Simla agreement, on which the two countries must ultimately converge for the 'final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir' that the agreement talked about.

The implications of Pakistan's position should not be missed. Pakistan wants India to surrender the rights it ceded to it by signing the Simla agreement. In exchange, it is offering a half-promise to rein in the *jehadis* once talks begin. The *jehadis* are, therefore, the essential 'military' backup to Pakistan's attempt to overturn the Simla agreement and attain as many of its original goals in Kashmir as possible, through negotiations. The question of acceding to Vajpayee's request to curb them first does not therefore arise.

To any disinterested third party, the anomaly in Pakistan's position must be obvious: how does it expect to get, through negotiations, what it could not get by force of arms for over 50 years? Negotiations imply willingness to compromise. All that Pakistan seems willing to offer is the surrender of a small part of what it has never possessed.

This anomaly has two origins. The first is a belief that India is making peaceful overtures from a position of weakness. This is because it is exhausted by the battle in Kashmir, does not know what to do with the *jehadis*, is terrified by the prospect of

an increase in their number, and has been effectively prevented from making a conventional military riposte by Pakistan's nuclear threat.

Almost to a man, Pakistanis believe their own propaganda that India is being bled dry by having to keep more than 700,000 troops in Kashmir. Indian assertions that barely half that number are deployed in Kashmir fall on deaf ears. They also believe that they won the Kargil war, and that the attacks by the *jehadis* on the security forces since then, particularly the *fidayeen* (suicide) attacks, have sapped the morale of the Indian army.

Most Pakistanis also find it almost impossible to believe that while Kashmiris may bitterly resent the presence of Indian armed forces in Kashmir, most of them are not desperate to join Pakistan.

Behind this make-believe world lies a compelling need to believe in the ideology of Islam. Pakistan is the only Muslim country that was created specifically to protect Islam. This plunged it into the Kashmir conflict within days of its birth. The ready availability of an ideology and an enemy made it unnecessary for Pakistan's rulers to find an alternative base for national unity and other integrating ideologies, such as democracy or economic success.

Zulfikar Bhutto's flirtation with economic populism in the Seventies, when he enacted some land reforms and nationalised a number of industries, led to disaster. Therefore, when democracy made its belated appearance in 1988, it was as elitist as the military and the senior bureaucracy.

No secular political party had roots in the common people. The only exceptions were the Islamic parties. Given the State's official blessings by President Zia-ul-Haq in the late Seventies, these speedily filled the gap in education created by the secular State's obsession with defence spending, to set up *madrasas*. The Afghan war and Saudi money combined to turn these into seedbeds of Islamic fundamentalism.

By one estimate, there are now over 8,000 *madrasas* in Pakistan with more than a million students. These provide recruits to 14 private armies, trained in approximately 128 training camps where they learn to use rifles, Kalashnikovs and rocket launchers, and to make explosive devices. From there, they fan out to wherever they believe Muslims are being oppressed. The pick of the trainees comes to Kashmir.

Six of the 14 private armies have devoted themselves almost exclusively to *jehad* in Kashmir. The most feared, the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, has 2,200 recruitment centres and no dearth of money.

Till very recently, Pakistan's minuscule secular elite used to comfort itself by saying that while the *mullahs* had crowd pulling power, they had little

political power. This was because none of the Islamic parties had, either singly or together, polled more than 3 to 4 per cent of the vote. But Nawaz Sharif's high-handedness during his last tenure of power from 1997 to 1999, and the tacit alliance struck by the army and the *jehadis* to blame him for selling out a 'victorious' Pakistan to President Clinton during the Kargil war discredited the democratic system. This left a vacuum that the Islamic parties have rapidly filled.

Just how rapidly and completely this was filled was revealed by a US State Department survey last year. Sixty per cent of the respondents said that religious leaders should play a larger role in politics. Seventy-eight per cent said that the schools should teach more religion. Nearly 50 per cent said that men and women should not work together.

Islamisation has filtered into the intelligentsia and the armed forces. In an interview given to Robin Wright of the *Los Angeles Times*, Khalid Rahman, Executive Director of the Institute for Policy Studies at Islamabad, said: "A feeling is emerging in Pakistani society that we have a special role to play in uniting Muslims all over the world." And retired ISI chief Hamid Gul told the same writer: "Pakistan will go through its own version of an Islamic revolution." The army, Gul predicted, would offer little resistance, because so many of its troops were already sympathetic to the Islamist cause.

Pakistan's drift towards Islamic fundamentalism is the main reason for its progressive flight from reality in its relations with India. Today, the army is the last remaining defender of a modern Pakistani State. But no one is keen to test its loyalty by pitting it against the *jehadis*. In the final analysis, therefore, it does not matter whether General Musharraf is unwilling — or unable — to control the *jehadis* in Kashmir. Even if he wants to rein them in, his only course is to somehow get talks started and hope that the momentum for peace that might build up will discourage them.

But this is a strategy born of weakness, and would therefore preclude his meeting even the minimum of India's requirements.



THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

6 FEB 2001

Pak. Minister to hold talks with Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 7. Pakistan Interior Minister, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Mo-nuddin Haider, left for Afghanistan today on a two-day official visit to discuss a host of thorny issues with the Taliban regime.

This is the first major visit of a high-level Pakistan delegation to Afghanistan since the military take-over in October 1999. The visit has acquired importance as it is taking place immediately after the U.N. Security Council's new sanctions against the Taliban that came into effect in the third week of January.

Pakistan is undoubtedly the closest ally of the Taliban but even Pakistan has its own set of complaints against the regime. The main grouse of Pakistan against the Afghanistan Government is that it is providing shelter to "terrorists" who are accused of involvement in sectarian violence. It is only natural that extradition of "criminals" hiding in Afghanistan should be on top of the agenda of the Pakistan Minister in his discussions with Taliban authorities. Pakistan is believed to have provided a list of 60 wanted

persons in Afghanistan who are in the wanted list of Pakistan belong to extremist anti-Shia organisations. The Taliban has not responded positively to repeated requests by the Pakistan Government for extradition of these persons.

Before his departure for Kabul, the Pakistan Minister said he would discuss with the Taliban "all the matters of mutual concern between the two countries as well as concerns of the world will be discussed with the Afghan Government".

A number of influential countries like the United States and Russia have been prevailing upon the Pakistan Government to use its influence with the Taliban and prevail on it to close down the camps inside Afghanistan where youngsters are being trained to take part in "jehad" (holy war).

THE HINDU

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Pak. claims Shaheen inducted into army

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 26. Pakistan has claimed that the medium range Shaheen-I and the intermediate range Shaheen-II ballistic missiles were not only in "regular production" but have already been inducted into the army.

While the Shaheen-I is supposed to be an answer to India's Prithvi, Shaheen-II is claimed to be a match to Agni-II, which India test-fired for the second time last week.

The first reaction of the military establishment to the test of Agni-II was that it posed a direct threat to Pakistan's security.

However, within 24 hours, the Pakistani Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, said more than Pakistan, it was for countries like China to be worried. His logic was that most of Pakistan was within the range of missiles like the Prithvi.

Quoting official sources, the Pakistani English daily, *The News*, reported that all missile systems were in regular or serial production.

As Pakistan has not even test-fired Shaheen-II, the claim of the official, as reported by the paper, sounds incredible.

The assertion of the unnamed official could at the best be seen as a reminder to India, and the rest of the world, about Pakistan's missile capability. Perhaps through the report, Pakistan is seeking to convey the message that it is on par with India in missile technology and capability.

"All missiles are in regular or

serial production. The world would be at fault in underestimating the talent of the Pakistan, particularly its scientists", the paper quoted the official as saying.

In response to a question on whether Pakistan was preparing to give a matching response to the January 17 Agni-II test-fire, the official told the paper that "Pakistan will conduct the test at an appropriate time and would not be dictated by tests conducted from across the border".

The official claimed that Agni missile had an "extremely unstable" flight because of its length and pencil-thin design. In contrast, the paper quoted him as saying that Pakistan's Shaheen missiles were highly stable.

It said use of state-of-the-art technology has put the Pakistan missile programme far ahead of that of India. "Shaheen-I and Shaheen-II and other missiles are a class of their own, and all are solid fuel-based, terminal guided which can hit the pin-head as was witnessed during the Shaheen-I test-fire", the official told the paper.

It quoted the official as saying that Pakistan missile programme is more than a decade old and the ground testing facilities are advanced with simulation facility. It is no longer necessary to resort to multiple flight tests to confirm the performance of the missiles and that cold tests were sufficient.

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Pakistan, Syria sign four agreements

By arrangement with Dawn

Damascus, Jan. 9: Pakistan and Syria signed on Monday four agreements in various fields to promote cooperation.

Pakistan Chief Executive Gen. Pervez Musharraf and Syrian Prime Minister Mohammad Mustafa Miro inked an overall agreement on general cooperation. The agreements are: executive programme for cultural cooperation 2001-2005, first executive programme for science and technical cooperation, cooperation agreement between SANA and APP, and the memorandum of understanding on agricultural cooperation. Foreign minister Abdul Sattar, science and technology minister Dr Altaur Rehman and commerce minister Abdul Razzak Dawood signed the agreements on

behalf of Pakistan. Pakistan's ambassador to Damascus Sibte Yahya Naqvi and Syrian Arab News Agency director-general Ali Abd Al-Karim Ali signed the agreement of news cooperation on behalf of APP and SANA, respectively. Gen. Musharraf and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad inaugurated an IT training centre in Damascus set up jointly with Pakistan at a cost of \$400,000. The Damascus Information Technology Centre is financed by Syria, Pakistan's Commission on Science and Technology for Sustainable Development in the South, and OIC's scientific and technical cooperation committee. Syria put up half the cost, and the two commissions the other half. Syria is lagging behind Lebanon and Jordan in information technology, and has only 5,000 internet subscribers from a population of 17 million.

Eight die in Pak train mishap

Hyderabad (Pakistan), Jan. 9: At least eight people were killed and about 100 injured in a train accident in Pakistan's Sindh province on Tuesday, rescue workers and hospital officials said.

They said three carriages of an express train were derailed near the town of Kotri, 100 km north of the port city of Karachi. The cause of the accident was not immediately known.

Edhi ambulance workers said from the scene of the accident that at least eight people were killed and 100 injured when the carriages derailed at about 9:30 am.

Hospitals in the nearby city of Hyderabad said they had received eight dead bodies and admitted for treatment 46 injured people. Rescue workers said they were trying to recover more people trapped in the wrecked carriages. (Reuters)

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