

VEILED ATTACK ON PAK. AT THE U.N.

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Reject terrorism by any name: Vajpayee

By P.S. Suryanarayana

NEW YORK, NOV. 10. The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today called for "firm" steps to "rebuff any ideological, political or religious justification for terrorism".

Addressing the 56th session of the United Nations General Assembly here, Mr. Vajpayee sought to condemn Pakistan, without mentioning it by name, by asserting that the politics of terror had a vacuous base.

For "a global order at peace with itself", a "strong inner resolve for (economic) development (across the world) and (for) poverty alleviation" was as important as the current "campaign against terrorism" and the "collective search for security". He also outlined a four-point "preliminary agenda" for a "Comprehensive Global Dialogue on Development" that he had first proposed last year.

Suggesting a new focus on terrorism, Mr. Vajpayee said, "We should reject self-serving arguments (that) seek to classify terrorism according to its root causes and therefore justify (a) terrorist action somewhere while condemning it elsewhere. Those that advance these arguments should explain what the root causes of the brutal acts of September 11 were." This was an apparent attack on Pakistan, whose President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, is backing the U.S. in its war against Afghanistan while characterising the separatist violence in Jammu and Kashmir as a political phenomenon with no terrorist veneer. Mr. Vajpayee's objective was to point out that the



politics of terror could have no critical mass of respectability.

Without endorsing the controversial theory of a possible clash of civilisations on religious grounds as visualised by Samuel Huntington, he said, "We in India know from our own bitter experience that terrorists develop global networks driven by religious extremism." Such terrorist operations "are supported by drug trafficking, money laundering and arms smuggling".

"Closely-coordinated efforts of the international community" could alone "counter" those "states" that "follow a policy of sponsoring and sheltering" the terrorists, Mr. Vajpayee underlined. The veiled reference to Pakistan could not be missed in this context as well.

While rejecting the idea that terrorism could

at all have any ideological or political foundation, he implicitly pointed out that the anti-terror campaign could itself be fought to sustain a political vision. The recent terrorist strikes in the U.S. and in Jammu and Kashmir "represented an arrogant rejection of the values of freedom and tolerance, which democratic and pluralistic societies cherish".

The Prime Minister made out a case for global economic development on an equitable basis across state boundaries as a suitable antidote for terrorism of certain types. Towards this end, he reaffirmed his earlier proposal, first made during his visit to the U.S. last year, that a comprehensive global dialogue on development be held.

The objective of such a dialogue would be to "address the highly unstable situation in which one-third of the world's population lives in luxury and condemns the remaining two-thirds to poverty and want". This situation "is a fertile breeding ground for political unrest, economic chaos and social fractures".

It was against this background that he outlined the four-point agenda for a possible global development dialogue. The points are: the accelerated liquidation of the external debts of low-income and highly-indebted countries, poverty alleviation programmes, the stabilisation of international prices of primary commodities and welfare-development programmes for all of the world's needy children.

THE HINDU

France, Russia back India for permanent security council seat

UNITED NATIONS: Terming India as "strong and worthy", several countries, including France, Russia, Armenia and Vietnam, have strongly backed its candidature for a permanent seat in the UN security council as the general assembly debated the expansion and equitable representation of the 15-member council.

It was the first time that France and Armenia have come out with open and firm support for India's candidature.

Addressing the General Assembly on Wednesday, Russian deputy foreign minister Sergey A. Ordzhonikidze described India as a "strong and worthy" candidate from Asia for the permanent membership of the council.

There are also other strong candidates in other regions, he said but did not name them.

Expressing similar views, French ambassador Jean-David Levitte strongly supported India's candidature, along with that of Japan, for the permanent membership. He also supported India's stand against any piecemeal expansion of the council as suggested by some developed nations. The developing nations fear that in case of piecemeal approach, Japan and Germany may join the council while the representation of other regions is put on the backburner.

Stressing that the expansion should "necessarily embrace both developed and developing countries", he said India would be a

strong candidate for the permanent membership.

Armenian representative Arman Akopian said India deserved to be seriously considered as a candidate for permanent membership. He said, "We believe that the new permanent members must have the ability and readiness to contribute both financially and politically to the UN activities."

In this context, he said his country supported the candidature of Japan, Germany and India for the permanent seats on the expanded council. Calling for expansion of both permanent and non-permanent categories on the council, Vietnamese ambassador Nguyen Thanh Chau strongly supported candidatures of India, Japan and Germany.

He said that as most of the cases under the review of the council concern developing nations, it is essential that developing countries from Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean should be represented on the council.

"It is reasonable that new permanent seats should be allocated to industrialised countries that are willing to undertake greater commitment to the work of the UN," he said. He also supported abolition of veto and said till that happens, it should be used with restraint.

Mr Ordzhonikidze rejected the suggestion by some member states that power of veto, which permanent members China, France, Great Britain, Russia and the U.S. enjoy, should be diluted. (PT)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 NOV 2002

India snubs U.N. military observer

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Obviously angered by the statements of the chief of the United Nations military observers group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) Major-General Hermann Loidolt, the Centre said they were "unwarranted, uncalled for" and would be taken up with the United Nations. Major-General Loidolt had on Monday described Kashmir as a "tortured country", predicted further escalation of tensions between India and Pakistan, and accused the two countries of playing political games.

Political observers are puzzled as this is the first time that any UNMOGIP chief has broken the diplomatic silence. What has also puzzled observers is the Major-General's suggestion that the U.S. has a role to play. The UNMOGIP chief is an Austrian.

While refusing to state whether asking for a closure of the UNMOGIP offices in India was an option that would be exercised by the government, the external affairs spokesperson said, "We will take it up appropriately".

The spokesperson said India had never been the one to indulge in political games or diversionary tactics. "We see no need for obiter dicta on Jammu and Kashmir from third parties," she stated, adding the issue of Jammu and Kashmir was one to be discussed between India and Pakistan on the basis of the Simla Agreement.

The spokesperson's deliberate reference to the Simla Agreement was a pointer to the UNMOGIP's limited mandate in Srinagar. India has refused to recognise the UNMOGIP's role after the 1972 Agreement was put into place.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 NOV 2001

India peeved at UN official's remark

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STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

BANGLE-HATER

NEW DELHI, Oct. 30. — India has termed as “unwarranted and uncalled for” a statement made by the head of the UN Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan yesterday. It has also rejected his remarks advocating US role in the state. The head of UNMOGIP, Maj Gen Hermann K Loidolt, yesterday accused both India and Pakistan of playing “political games” and said the USA might have to involve itself to resolve the vexed Kashmir issue.

New Delhi appeared surprised by Maj Gen Loidolt's statement, especially at the backdrop of UN secretary general Kofi Annan's public statement in March this year in Pakistan and India that the matter has to be sorted out bilaterally on the basis of the Simla Agreement and not on the UN Resolution.

An external affairs ministry spokesperson said, “We absolutely regret the statement” made by Maj Gen Loidolt. “Jammu and Kashmir is an integral and inalienable part of India. We see no need for an obiter dicta on the Jammu and Kashmir issue for third parties.”

She said Kashmir “can only be discussed bilaterally between India and Pakistan on the basis of the understanding enshrined in the 1972 Simla Agreement”.

NEW DELHI, Oct. 30. — Mrs Sushma Swaraj today said General Pervez Musharraf shouldn't belittle *chudiyon* and should remember that Gen AAK Niazi had to surrender before a *chudiyonwali* after the 1971 war.

Mrs Swaraj was reacting to Gen Musharraf's recent remarks, *Hamne bhi chudiyon nahin pahni*, to imply that Pakistan is not weak to meet any threats from India. “Gen Musharraf should be reminded that when he was a middle-ranking officer in the army, Gen Niazi had to surrender before a *chudiyonwali* since Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister then.... He must be thinking that *chudi* is a sign of weakness, but then Pakistan must have a better knowledge of its strength.” — PTI

On Mr Loidolt's accusation that India and Pakistan were involved in political games on the Kashmir issue, the spokesperson said, “India has never indulged in political games or diversionary tactics.”

India plans to take up seriously the controversial statement of the army officer.

The MEA declined to give any further details on whether the government would seek the removal of the Austrian army officer.

THE STATESMAN

3 1 OCT 2001

UN headache adds to India's Kashmir agony

OUR BUREAU

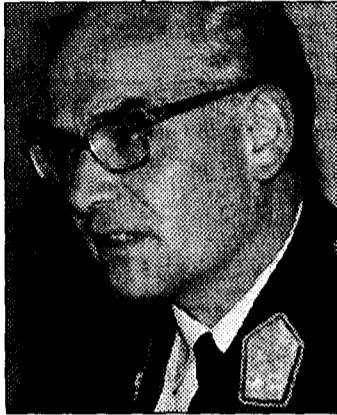
Srinagar/ New Delhi, Oct. 29: A United Nations group today kicked up a storm by accusing New Delhi and Islamabad of "engaging in political games" in Jammu and Kashmir.

A spokesman for the UN military observer group, which had given India a nagging headache for decades, said today that perhaps it was time for US intervention to resolve the dispute between the two South Asian neighbours.

India reacted sharply. "We do not indulge in political games on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir," a top official in New Delhi said and refused to take any advice from a third party on disputes with Pakistan. He stressed that all such issues should be resolved bilaterally between the two neighbours.

The head of the UN group, Herman Loidolt, said in Srinagar this afternoon: "My assessment is that the situation will become more tense in the time coming, not only along the Line of Control, but also in the whole of Jammu and Kashmir."

He described the Kashmir issue as "multi-layered", and added: "All of us are aware of the situation in Kashmir and the



Herman Loidolt

games both parties - India and Pakistan - are playing with this tormented country."

India has never been happy with the UN Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan. It was established as part of the 1948 UN resolution on Kashmir. But New Delhi feels that after the 1972 Simla Agreement when the disputed line in Jammu and Kashmir was converted into the LoC, the group does not have any real purpose for being in the state. But the Indian leadership never made any real effort to get them out of the troubled state for fear of drawing international attention.

Though the remarks by the UN

military observer come in the wake of shelling along the LoC by Indian and Pakistani armed forces, it is perhaps the most controversial statement and it indicates that the commander has exceeded his brief.

"We all know there is no easy solution. War is absolutely no solution to the issue of Kashmir. Whatever the reason for playing political games... it will be an issue for the US to (resolve)," Loidolt said.

He added: "The relations between the two countries continue to revolve around those temporary agreements, some of which had the UN involvement and at the moment it seems to arise as an important issue again. This time presumably under the auspices of the US."

Reacting to his remarks, an Indian official said in New Delhi late tonight: "India has never indulged in political games or diversionary measures. Neither do we see any need whatsoever for obiter dicta on the issue of Jammu and Kashmir from third parties."

He added: "The issue of Jammu and Kashmir can only be discussed on the basis of the understandings enshrined in the Simla Agreement and through bilateral discussions between India and Pakistan."

THE TELEGRAPH

India ranks low in UNDP report

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, July 10. — India continues to languish at 115th rank on the United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Index. The index depicts the extent of human development in 162 countries in its latest report released today.

The only solace for the Indian policy makers is that the country has improved its position by 13 places in this year's index and its neighbours are ranked much below, with Pakistan placed at 127, Nepal at 129 and Bhutan at 130. However, Sri Lanka continues to retain its place much above India at 81. The report emphasised the need for use of new information and communication technologies and bio-technology for human

development.

The HDI measures overall achievements in a country in three basic dimensions of human development — longevity, knowledge and a decent standard of living. The report states that developing countries may gain high rewards from new technologies but they are the ones who also face severe challenges in managing the risks.

India is ranked at 63 out of 72 nations in technology achievement index. In India, the ratio of granting patents is one patent per million people whereas in Finland, which is placed on top of the index, 187 patents are granted per million people.

The report says that all regions have made progress in human development in the past 30 years but they are advancing at different

paces and the achievements are at different levels. The report looks specifically at how new technologies will have an impact on the developing countries and poor people. The report states that without innovative public policy, these technologies could become a source of exclusion, not a tool of progress.

The report mentions that every year, 100,000 Indian professionals are expected to take visas issued by the US, which accounts to an estimated resource loss of \$ 2 billion to India. The report also highlights a vast difference in the income levels in the world. Around 25 per cent of the world's population receives 75 per cent of the world's income.

Poverty is still a major hurdle in development in South Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa, which lag far behind other regions.

THE STATESMAN

U.N. owes India \$40 million for peacekeeping

By Ashwani Talwar
www.timesofindia.com

NEW DELHI: As Indian soldiers pack their bags for deployment with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Ethiopia, Delhi continues to wait for over \$40 million which the U.N. owes it for similar services rendered in the past.

Figures recently tabled in Parliament show the U.N. owed \$42.59 million — nearly Rs 200 crore — to India for contributing troops and equipment to U.N. peacekeeping missions. Much of the amount is related to missions that wound up years ago like the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM), which ended in 1995, the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), which was over by 1993, and the United Nations Assistance Mission

in Rwanda (UNAMIR), which packed up in 1996.

While the exact amount of money the U.N. owes to India is under negotiation, the government says the amount due for these three old missions has been certified by the world body on several occasions. Altogether, the three old, virtually forgotten missions account for a little over \$20 million, or half of the total U.N. debt to India. Current missions account for the rest.

Among them is the U.N. mission in Sierra Leone. Indian involvement in this mission ended this month with the last batch of soldiers coming home. The Indian Air Force contingent in Sierra Leone was formally welcomed back last year.

But India remains committed to participating in U.N. peacekeeping

operations: The first batch of Indian troops is ready to take part in the U.N. mission to enforce the Eritrea-Ethiopia ceasefire.

The other current U.N. mission on which Indian troops are serving is the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), created far back in 1978. The Sierra Leone dues, however, date back only to last year.

The situation was even worse last October, when Lok Sabha member Vaiko represented India at the meeting of U.N.'s Fifth Committee, which deals with money matters. India, the meeting noted, led the list of countries to which the U.N. owed money for using their troops and equipment.

Vaiko even sounded a veiled warning. If troop contributing countries were not reimbursed ex-

penses incurred by them even after five years of the missions winding up, he said, it would be next to impossible for parliaments to express their continued support for U.N. peacekeeping operations. He had cited the missions in Somalia and Cambodia as examples.

India is among the highest troop contributors to U.N. peacekeeping missions. As of January-end, it had 2,500 soldiers, policemen and military observers deployed with the U.N. Nigeria (3,520), Bangladesh (3,324) and Jordan (2,700) had more men in the field. But the equation is expected to change again when the Indians go to Ethiopia. Figures for last November, for example, show India leading the table with 4,407 troops on peacekeeping missions, nearly 1,000 soldiers more than the next largest contributor, Jordan.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

MAR 2001

MAR 2001

Armed with peace points, Delhi ends Annan apathy

ANAY SHARMA

March 7: Having put Pakistan with its eyes in Kashmir, a has decided to re-Nations secretary-Ann for an official ext week.

it visit was in April of the Nam foreign t. Over the past few has been turning from the UN secre-office in New York Annan on the plea not convenient. rts his tour from

Pakistan later this week, but fea-ches Delhi only on March 15 for a four-day visit. To smother specu-lation that he was playing the me-diator and urging India and Pak-istan to resume dialogue, Annan will visit Nepal and Bangladesh before arriving in Delhi.

Though the Kashmir situation and the possibility of the neigh-bours returning to the table are likely to be discussed during An-nan's meeting with Pakistani leaders, Indians are not being as touchy about the issue as they have been in the past.

"Irrespective of what the UN secretary-general says on Kash-

mir or the way Pakistan or some other quarters may interpret his visit here, India's stand on the issue remains unchanged," a se-nior foreign minister official said. He pointed out that Delhi has re-fused a "facilitator, mediator or a broker" to negotiate on its out-standing disputes with Pakistan.

Prime Minister A.B. Vajpay-ee's peace initiative in Kashmir, which has earned him the respect of the world leaders and put the onus back on Pakistan to rein in militants to create a "conducive atmosphere" for talks, may be one of the reasons why South Block appears confident about receiving

Annan at this juncture.

But officials pointed out that it was not only Kashmir, but other developments in the region that made India reluctant to receive the secretary-general earlier. Delhi has found it difficult to roll out the red carpet for Annan ever since the Security Council put the onus on Annan to ensure that the nuclear twins dismantled their missile programmes and signed the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

After the Kargil intrusion in 1999 and the military coup in Pak-istan, Indian leaders tried to en-sure that the secretary-general,

with his proposed visit to both Delhi and Islamabad, could not equate a democratic country with one which had been a victim of a putsch only a few months ago. The following year, India was still smarting under the hijacking of the Indian Airlines Airbus for which it blamed Pakistan and did not want any hint that the two sides should resume talks.

Now, with the peace initiatives under its belt, India can show that while it is ready to resume dia-logue, the onus is on Pakistan to create the right atmosphere by taking strong action against mili-tants operating from its soil.

Annan is likely to meet Presi-dent K.R. Narayanan, the Prime Minister, foreign minister Jaswant Singh, home minister L.K. Advani, other Cabinet mem-bers and leaders of the Opposi-tion. He may also visit either Hy-derabad or Bangalore to interact with the leading experts on infor-mation technology.

Apart from Kashmir, senior of-ficials in South Block said, the In-dian leadership will raise a num-ber of issues like international peace and security, terrorism and the developments in Afghanistan, particularly the destruction of the Bamiyan Buddhas, with Annan.



Kofi Annan

THE TELEGRAPH

8 MAR 2001

AN **Annan may not raise J&K issue during tour of South Asia**

UNITED NATIONS: United Nations secretary-general Kofi Annan, who leaves here on Friday for an eight-day tour of India, Pakistan and some other South Asian countries, is unlikely to raise the



Kofi Annan

Kashmir issue on his own or offer any suggestion for its solution, diplomats and officials said.

He is not likely to offer his good offices even if Pakistan seeks his intervention, they said.

Pakistani diplomats here said that military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf would definitely talk about Kashmir.

In that case, Mr Annan is likely to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve the issue building on the cease-fire in the state declared by New Delhi, an official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said.

However, diplomats said that Islamabad will be on the defensive as Mr Annan is expected to urge it to help end terrorism and prevail on the Taliban to close terrorist training camps in the territory controlled by them.

While urging this, he would be only acting within the security council resolution which had toughened sanctions against the Taliban to force them to close terrorist training camps and hand over Saudi dissident Osama Bin Laden for trial, they said.

Though Pakistan denies that it has any influence on the Taliban, western diplomats think otherwise.

Mr Annan is scheduled to visit Pakistan on March 10 for a day and leave for Nepal on March 11. He will visit India for four days from March 15. He will also visit Bangladesh. In India, another official said, the scope of talks would be much wider encompassing subjects from peace-keeping and international security to financing for development, expansion of the security council and U.N. reforms in general.

The implementation of the declaration issued by the millennium general assembly in September last which calls for reducing poverty would also come up and Mr Annan is likely to review the implementation with the Indian leaders. India had taken a leading role in drafting the declaration. (PTI)

9. March
- Annan

Terrorism to feature in talks with Kofi Annan

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By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, MARCH 9. India is expected to raise developments in Afghanistan, international terrorism and the expansion of the United Nations Security Council during the visit of the U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, next week.

Mr. Annan will visit India for three days from March 15 as part of his South Asia tour. Prior to his trip to India, he is slated to visit Pakistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

According to a spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs, India is expected to raise the subject of international terrorism with Mr. Annan. New Delhi's draft comprehensive convention on terrorism is finding wide support among the U.N. members. India is also a signatory to the convention, sponsored by France, on the financing of international terrorism in the U.N. General Assembly.

Developments in Afghanistan, especially in the wake of the destruction of the Bamiyan statues by the Taliban, are expected to be discussed. India, along with the U.S and Russia, has co-sponsored the resolution on sanctions against the Taliban. The developments in Bamiyan, according to analysts, are likely to reinforce the Indian stand which advocates stringent economic and political restrictions. India has also made its position on Afghanistan explicit during earlier discussions with the U.N. special envoy on Afghanistan, Mr. Frances Vendrell.

Both sides are also expected to discuss U.N. peacekeeping operations. In fact, Mr. Annan

will visit the Rajputana Rifles centre, where Indian troops bound for peacekeeping missions, are acquainted with their responsibilities and obligations. He will later deliver a talk on peacekeeping at the United Services Institution.

During his stay, Mr. Annan will meet the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh. While in the capital, he will address the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. Mr. Annan, who visits Hyderabad on March 17, will address the Confederation of Indian Industry there.

Militant groups disappointed

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 9. The Pakistan-based militant groups and organisations operating in Kashmir have expressed disappointment over reports that the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, has no plans to meet representatives of their outfits in the course of his visit to the sub-continent beginning tomorrow.

While the United Jehadi Council (UJC), a conglomerate of militant outfits, said it had no hopes from Mr. Annan's visit, the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front chairman, Mr. Amanullah Khan, expressed 'anguish' over reports that Mr. Annan had no programme of meeting the Kashmiri leadership.

The militant outfits are particularly peeved

at the fact that while Mr. Annan has time to pay a visit to the Afghan refugee camps in the North West Frontier Province, he has no plan to visit the Kashmir refugee camps in the Pakistan-occupied Kashmir.

In a statement here, the UJC, led by the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen chief, Syed Salahuddin, said the United Nations had lost all its credibility in the eyes of the Kashmiris as it had failed to implement its long-standing resolutions on Kashmir.

"If the U.N. wants to revive its credibility, then it should practically intervene in Kashmir as it did in Iraq and East Timor and force India to get out of Kashmir. The Kashmiri people have totally lost confidence in this world organisation because of its criminal negligence and apathy about seeking a solution to the Kashmir dispute."

In a separate statement, the JKLF chairman regretted that Mr. Annan had no plans to meet the Kashmiri leaders and maintained that as per the U.N. Charter, it was his bounden duty to resolve the Kashmir dispute. Kashmir posed the greatest danger to world peace with two nuclear powers — India and Pakistan — daggers drawn on the conflict. The dispute had caused 80,000 deaths and it was the duty of Mr. Annan to resolve the dispute.

"It was therefore imperative for the U.N. Secretary-General, in the interests of international peace, if not to save South Asia from a probable catastrophe, to do all he and the world body could do to avoid that catastrophe," the statement said.

THE HINDU

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India to push for UN permanent seat

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, March 10. - India will reiterate its claim for permanent seat in the UN Security Council during UN secretary general, Mr Kofi Annan's visit to India on 15 March. This is Mr Annan's second visit to India.

Talks are expected to range from peace-keeping and international security to financing for development and UN reforms in general.

During his stay, Mr Annan will meet President Mr KR Narayanan, Prime Minister Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, external affairs minister Mr Jaswant Singh, and defence minister Mr

George Fernandes. UN secretary general, who is on an eight-day tour of India, Pakistan and other South Asian countries, began his tour from Pakistan today.

It is unlikely that Mr Annan will raise the Kashmir issue on his own or offer any suggestion, even if Islamabad seeks his intervention. It is likely that Mr Pervez Musharraf will give his country's point of view on the issue.

If Mr Musharraf pushes the issue, Mr Annan is likely to encourage India and Pakistan to resolve the issue of ceasefire announced by the Vajpayee government.

Islamabad, in all

probability, be on the defensive as Mr Annan is expected to seek their cooperation in ending terrorism, and prevailing on the Taliban to close terrorist training camps in the territory controlled by them.

Mr Annan's call on Islamabad to prevail on the Taliban will be within the Security Council resolution which toughened sanctions against the Taliban to force them close terrorist training camps, and hand over Saudi dissident Osama bin Laden for trial.

Although Pakistan has officially denied having any influence on the Taliban, western world is not ready to

buy the argument.

India will preferably not harp much on the Kashmir issue during Mr Annan's stay here, as India is not keen on any third party playing mediator's role on the issue. The two countries might touch upon the issue.

India is one of the co-sponsors of UN resolution that imposed further sanctions on the issue of terrorism on Afghanistan for defying international obligations. The thrust of Mr Annan's visit to Pakistan will ensure that Afghan refugees are not driven back to face starvation and death. He is likely to visit Afghan refugee camps near Peshawar.

THE STATESMAN

11 MAR 2001

Annan sees reason in India stand on Kashmir

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, March 11. — Mr Kofi Annan today endorsed New Delhi's stand that the 1948 UN resolutions couldn't be implemented to solve the Kashmir problem.

But the UN Secretary-General said he was optimistic that India and Pakistan would start a new dialogue under the spirit of Lahore declaration.

Addressing a press conference after meeting Pakistan's military ruler, General Pervez Musharraf, and the foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, Mr Annan said India and Pakistan should try and resume talks. The neighbours had "engaged" with each other in the past which enabled them to sign the Lahore declaration.

"Hopefully the two countries would come together for a new dialogue in the near future under the spirit of Lahore declaration," he said. His good offices were always available to help the two restore peace.

Mr Annan reached here last night on the first leg of his four-nation South Asia tour. He told reporters: "I call upon both India and Pakistan to retain the spirit of the Lahore declaration. This will require restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides."

Why the UN resolution on Kashmir couldn't be implemented like the one on East Timor? Mr Annan said there were two types of UN resolutions. "The UN resolutions under chapter 7 of the charter were self-enforcing like those on East Timor and Iraq. And there are resolutions that don't fall under chapter 7 and need the parties' cooperation to be implemented... The UN resolutions on

Kashmir don't fall under chapter 7 and hence require cooperation of the two countries that in this case is lacking," he said.

Does Kashmir need a separate UN human rights commission? Mr Annan said "no", for the one already under the world body was equipped to deal with human rights issues.

Mr Sattar mentioned Pakistan's recent initiatives to resume talks with India. He said said Pakistan had proposed a three-part process to check violence in Kashmir — that included consultations with Hurriyat leaders followed by direct talks between the neighbours.

The hour-long talks between the two delegations dwelt at length on Kashmir, Afghanistan, West Asia, UN peacekeeping operations, the Millennium summit and nuclear-related issues, a Pakistani foreign ministry press release said.

Gen Musharraf later hosted a dinner in Mr Annan's honour, before which the UN Secretary-General met the Pakistani President, Mr Rafiq Tarar.

Taliban

In an unprecedented gesture reflecting international outcry over the destruction of the Buddha statues, Mr Annan today walked out of his meeting with the Taliban foreign minister, Mr Wakil Ahmed Muttawakil.

"I walked away from the meeting not very encouraged, basically concerned that all movable statues had been destroyed and the destruction of the two Bamiyan Buddha statues had begun. But he couldn't tell me the status of demolition," Mr Annan said.

■ Hurriyat reaction: page 6

THE STATESMAN

12 MAR 2001

U.N. cannot shirk commitment: Hurriyat

SRINAGAR, MARCH 11. The All-Party Hurriyat Conference today reacted sharply to the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan's remarks on the resolution of the Kashmir issue, accusing the world body of being "biased" and "shirking its commitments" to the Kashmiris.

While the Hurriyat chairman, Mr. Abdul Ghani Bhat, refused to comment on the statement, saying it would be discussed at tomorrow's executive committee meeting, two senior leaders of the separatist conglomerate said the U.N. could not escape its responsibility in solving the long-standing dispute.

"It is the moral obligation of the U.N. to resolve the problem and use its influence to force the solution of the problem between the two countries concerned," the former APHC chairman and executive committee member, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, said in response to Mr. Annan's statement ruling out implementation of the U.N. resolution on Kashmir.

"If he (Mr. Annan) has said like

that, it is not appreciable and it would not be wrong to say then that the U.N. is inactive and biased," said Mr. Geelani. "How can they escape from the responsibility?"

Another Hurriyat executive member and former chairman, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq, said, "such statements give a hint that the U.N. is shirking its commitments made to Kashmiris."

Mr. Annan, who began his South Asia visit yesterday, ruled out implementation of the resolutions on Kashmir or a separate U.N. human rights commission for Kashmir, saying a lasting solution lay in implementation of the Lahore declaration.

Mr. Bhat said the Hurriyat was meeting tomorrow and Mr. Annan's statement would be discussed there "to see its intentions".

Stating that the Hurriyat was not averse to bilateral talks between India and Pakistan, Mirwaiz Farooq said the earlier pacts had, however, failed to achieve any breakthrough so far. — PTI

THE HINDU

12 MAR 2001

Annan rules out UN role in J&K

HTC & Agencies
Islamabad, March 11

A LASTING solution to the Kashmir problem lies in the implementation of the Lahore Declaration, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said, ruling out implementation of UN resolutions on Kashmir or a separate UN human rights commission for the State.

"I call upon both India and Pakistan to retain the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. This will require restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides," Annan said at the Chaklala airbase on his arrival here on the first leg of his four-nation visit to South Asia last night.

The Hurriyat Conference reacted angrily to Annan's assertions, accusing the UN of bias. Hurriyat chairman Abdul Ghani Bhat refused to comment, but two senior leaders said the UN could not escape its responsibility in finding a solution to the Kashmir problem.

Former Hurriyat chairman Syed Ali Geelani said, "If Annan has said like that it is not appreciable and it would not be wrong to say then that the UN is inactive and biased.... It is the moral obligation of the UN to resolve the

onstanding problem and use its influence to force the solution." There was no immediate reaction from New Delhi to Annan's comments. But former Prime Minister I.K. Gujral asked Pakistan to seriously consider the UN chief's remarks.

Explaining why a UN resolution on Kashmir could not be implemented on the lines of the resolution on East Timor, Annan said there were two kinds of UN resolutions.

"The UN resolutions that come under chapter seven of the Charter are self-enforcing like those related to East Timor and Iraq. The second type of resolutions which do not fall in the purview of chapter seven needed co-operation of the concerned parties for their implementation.

"The UN resolutions on Kashmir do not fall in the category of chapter seven and hence require cooperation of the concerned parties for their implementation and in this case it is lacking," he said. Annan said he expected the Kashmir issue to figure in his talks with the Pakistani leadership.

Annan, who reached India on March 15, will spend three days in the country.

Related report on Page 9

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 MAR 2001

UN snubs Pak on Kashmir

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, March 11: UN secretary-general Kofi Annan has ruled out implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir, stressing, instead, on reviving the Lahore peace process to solve the outstanding dispute between Delhi and Islamabad and restoring peace in south Asia.

"I call upon both India and Pakistan to retain the spirit of the Lahore Declaration. This will require restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides," Annan was quoted as saying at the Chakala airbase on arriving in Pakistan last night.

Signalling his encouragement for Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's peace initiative in Kashmir, Annan also nixed the possibility of appointing a special representative to monitor alleged human rights violations in the strife-torn state.

The fact that he made these remarks in Pakistan with emphasis on reviving the Lahore Declaration — a peace process which India accuses Pervez Musharraf of scuttling by launching his Kargil intrusion — is particularly significant to the military regime in Islamabad.

Pakistani officials tried to soften the secretary-general's remarks on Kashmir, claiming that Annan has stressed on the need for a settlement of the issue "for a durable peace in south Asia". But the All-Party Hurriyat Conference accused the UN of being "biased" and "shirking from its commitments" to the Kashmiris.

"If he (Annan) has said that, it is not appreciable and it would not

be wrong to say then that the UN is inactive and biased," Hurriyat leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani said. He was placed under house arrest this morning by the police to foil his plan to visit Nowhatta and stage a demonstration against alleged excesses by the security forces in the area.

While Pakistan seeks to stress on all international agreements, including the UN resolutions, the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration, for solving outstanding issues with Delhi, India has always argued that UN resolutions were not relevant anymore and pending disputes with Islamabad, including Kashmir, should be resolved bilaterally.

Asked last night why the resolution on Kashmir could not be implemented on the lines of resolutions on East Timor, Annan pointed out: "The UN resolutions that come under chapter seven of the charter were self-enforcing, like those related to East Timor and Iraq. The second type of resolutions, which do not fall under the purview of chapter seven, needed cooperation of the concerned parties for their implementation."

He added: "The UN resolutions on Kashmir do not fall in the category of chapter seven, and hence require cooperation of the concerned parties for their implementation and in this case it is lacking." It indicates that the UN will not try to impose the resolutions on India, despite Pakistan's goading. On the other hand, Annan has made it clear that like most international leaders, he, too, was in favour of the nuclear neighbours resolving their differ-



UN secretary-general Kofi Annan arrives at Chaklala military airbase in Rawalpindi. (AFP)

ences bilaterally.

During his talks with Pakistani leaders, including President Rafiq Tarar and foreign minister Abdul Sattar, Annan discussed the developments in south Asia, particularly Kash-

mir. He also spoke about restoration of democracy in Pakistan and the Taliban's destruction of Buddhas. Annan will be leaving for Nepal tomorrow and will visit Bangladesh before arriving in Delhi on March 15.

THE TELEGRAPH

12 MAR 2001

Lone to seek meeting with Annan

SRINAGAR, MARCH 12. The All-Party Hurriyat Conference today decided to depute its senior member, Mr. Abdul Ghani Lone, considered a moderate, to New Delhi to explore the possibilities of a meeting with the United Nations Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, during his visit to the union capital.

The conglomerate of 23 separatist groups, whose executive council met here today to discuss Mr. Annan's statement ruling out implementation of the U.N. resolutions to resolve the Kashmir issue, said Mr. Lone had been asked to seek a meeting with the U.N. chief during his stay in New Delhi.

"If the meeting between the Hurriyat conference and the U.N. chief becomes possible, he would be informed about the wishes of the people of Kashmir and the human rights violations in the State," a statement issued after the meeting said.

The meeting also discussed the recent statement by the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, ruling out any mediatory role for the APHC and delay in issuance of passports to its delegation named to visit Pakistan besides organisational matters. The Hurriyat had offered to visit Pakistan not as a mediator. "But being the basic party to the Kashmir issue, the Hurriyat has taken the step to initiate the process of dialogue," it said.

The proposed visit to Pakistan would be an "important step" to resolve the Kashmir issue. "However, the delay by the Centre in issuing the travel documents to the Hurriyat delegation left the visit hanging and created a feeling among the Kashmiris that India, while talking of peace, was creating hurdles to the peace process," the Hurriyat statement said.



The chairman of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference, Prof. Abdul Gani Bhat (centre), and Moulana Abbas Ansari (right) at a meeting at the APHC headquarters in Srinagar on Monday.

Significantly, the Jamaat-e-Islami representative, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, considered a hardliner, did not attend the meeting. A Hurriyat spokesman said the Jamaat representative had not been invited.

The Hurriyat had recently requested the Jamaat to replace Mr. Geelani with some other member in the executive council as he had been creating "indiscipline". The request was, however, turned down by the Jamaat. Mr. Geelani held a separate press conference but refused to comment on his not being invited to the Hurriyat meeting, saying "it is no issue". Mr. Geelani also called for a general strike for Friday to protest the alleged "desecration of the holy Quran" by some VHP activists in New Delhi — PTI

Attack on police: Page 13

THE HINDU

MAR 2001

13 MAR 2001

Annan's stand significant: PM

ANNAN:

(Continued from page 1)

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, March 12. - The Prime Minister today said the UN secretary-general Mr Kofi Annan's statement in Islamabad where he stressed that a lasting solution to the Jammu and Kashmir issue lay in implementation of the Lahore declaration, was very significant. Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said it clearly indicated a changed attitude of international community on the issue.

Replying to the debate on the Presidential address in Parliament, Mr Vajpayee said: "We had for long held a view that the UN resolution on Kashmir had become irrelevant and a lasting solution to the problem could be found

only through some constructive dialogue."

He said: "The extension of ceasefire in Kashmir had the support of all parties and yielded positive results. The gov-

CAMP ATTACKED

SRINAGAR, March 12. - Militants today attacked a camp of special operations group of Jammu and Kashmir police at Pattan in Baramulla district killing three police officers and a civilian, while losing one of their activists, an official said. In a separate incident, militants attacked a BSF patrol in Srinagar city with grenades, injuring 27 persons, including three BSF personnel and six women.

- PTI

was a national issue which had to be tackled politically. Mr Vajpayee said Mr Annan's statement should silence his critics who had claimed the

■ See ANNAN: page 8

Lahore declaration was aimed at gaining publicity.

There was an effort to denigrate any positive steps taken by his government to ease tension in the region. "Nobody will take such steps for the sake of fame and popularity", he said.

Mr Kofi Annan ruled out implementation of the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir or a separate UN human rights commission for Kashmir.

He urged India and Pakistan to retain the spirit of the Lahore declaration. This will require restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides.

Replying to Mr Arjun Singh (Cong), the Prime Minister said the government was bound by Parliament's resolution saying that Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir was an integral part of the nation but if the scenario changed then the House would be informed of it before initiating any dialogue on this account.

He expressed hope that the country would demonstrate unanimity on issues concerning sovereignty and integrity of the country.

The Ministry of External Affairs has termed Mr Annan's statement on Kashmir issue as "clear and self-explanatory".

The foreign office spokesman said: "We believe the comments of Mr Annan are clear and self-explanatory. India, too, has consistently been calling upon Pakistan to reaffirm its commitment to the Simla agreement and Lahore declaration.

"To create an atmosphere conducive for the reaffirmation of the composite dialogue between the two countries, Pakistan has consistently been urged to abandon the path of hostility and cease aiding and abetting cross border terrorism".

Hurriyat differences: Differences in Hurriyat Conference came to the fore today as the 23-party apex body of outfits shut out its key constituent Jamaat-e-Islami from a crucial meeting of the amalgam's decision making executive committee, adds PTI.

Jamaat representative Mr

THE STATESMAN

13 MAR 2001

Hurriyat picks Lone for Annan meeting

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA
SRINAGAR, MARCH 12

HURRIYAT Conference today decided to depute its senior member Abdul Ghani Lone, considered a moderate, to New Delhi to explore possibilities of a meeting with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan during his visit to the Union capital.

The conglomerate of 23 separatist groups, whose executive council met here today to discuss Annan's statement ruling out implementation of UN resolutions for resolving the Kashmir issue, said Lone had been asked to seek a meeting with the Secretary-General during his stay in New Delhi.

"If the meeting between the Hurriyat Conference and the UN chief becomes possible, he would be informed about the wishes of the people of Kashmir and human rights' violations taking place in the state," a statement issued after a marathon meeting said.

The statement said the meet-



Paramilitary officers stand near the body of a suspected separatist militant after he attacked a camp in Pattan near Srinagar on Monday. Five people, including three police officers, were killed in the shoot-out - Reuters

ing also discussed the recent statement by Union Home Minister L K Advani ruling out any mediatory role for the Hurriyat and delay in issuance of passports to a Hurriyat delegation named to visit Pakistan, besides organisational matters.

On Advani's statement, the Hurriyat said the conglomerate had offered to visit Pakistan not as a mediator. "But being the basic party to the Kashmir issue, the Hurriyat has taken the step to initiate the process of dialogue," it said.

CONTD ON PG 2

INDIAN EXPRESS

13 MAR 2001

WELCOME AND WISE

The explicit support of the United Nations secretary general, Mr Kofi Annan, for a bilateral resolution of India-Pakistan problems has, as expected, been widely welcomed in India. What is particularly heartening is that the UN secretary general made the pronouncements in Pakistan in the presence of senior officials of the military regime. There are two aspects of Mr Annan's statement that merit attention. The UN secretary general made it explicit that UN resolutions on Kashmir were not enforceable. This was stating the obvious, but it was important that the head of the international organization reiterate this position at a time when Pakistan has sought to create confusion by equating resolutions that were enforced in East Timor with those that were passed in 1949 on Kashmir. While the resolutions on East Timor were passed under Chapter VII of the UN charter, which deals with "enforcement" mechanisms in cases of aggression, those on Kashmir fell under Chapter VI that focuses on the pacific settlement of disputes. Resolutions under Chapter VI cannot be unilaterally enforced, but require the support and cooperation of both parties to the dispute. It was India, it may be recalled, that took the matter to the UN, and has since the mid-Fifties held that the resolutions, in the light of changed circumstances, are outdated and thus irrelevant.

The UN secretary general also emphasized the need for India and Pakistan to return to the "spirit" of the Lahore declaration that would require "restraint, wisdom and constructive steps from both sides". This focus on Lahore and bilateralism will be widely appreciated in India particularly since General Musharraf's military regime in Pakistan has sought to distance itself from the declaration and even signalled its belief that the Nawaz Sharif government had signed the documents without "adequate preparation."

It is important to emphasize that part of the UN secretary general's support for India's position stems from the wide appreciation of New Delhi's new policies on Kashmir. Nearly every government of consequence has supported the ceasefire, and explicitly demanded that militant groups and Pakistan reciprocate the move to help create the atmosphere for a dialogue. It is easy these days to forget that through much of the Nineties, New Delhi had waged a fierce diplomatic battle in international fora to prevent an internationalization of the Kashmir issue even as it was repeatedly castigated for human rights violations. Fortunately, the situation has now dramatically changed and, at least in part, because of New Delhi's recent initiatives. Not only are there few, if any, supporters of Pakistan's Kashmir policy but there is also increasing international recognition that the army of Islamic *jihadis* that are being produced in the large number of *madrassas* in Pakistan could unleash terror even beyond south Asia. The government no longer needs to feel "besieged" internationally on Kashmir, but it must recognize that a continued imaginative and sensitive handling of the province, domestically, could win it even greater support internationally. While the government can take some comfort from Mr Annan declaring UN resolutions on Kashmir as irrelevant and unequivocally expressing his support for the Lahore declaration, it must continue with its efforts to win the hearts and minds of the Kashmiri people. It must also consider whether the time has come to open a limited dialogue with Pakistan.

TBL

10 MAR 2001

UN role in J&K only if India wants: Annan

'They wanted to prepare the UN to be a third party to assist'

By H.S. RAO

Dhaka, March 14: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Wednesday rejected Pakistan's plea to use his good offices in finding a solution to the Kashmir issue, firmly telling Islamabad that it is not possible unless India also desired so.

Disclosing this in an interview to PTI on the eve of his three-day visit to India, Mr Annan said during his talks with Pakistan President Rafiq Tarar and military ruler General Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad, "it was obvious they wanted to prepare the UN to be a third party to assist" in resolving the issue.

While in Islamabad on Sunday, Mr Annan had rebuffed Pakistan's demand for implementation of the UN resolution on Kashmir saying a solution to the issue could only be

found through the Lahore declaration by exercising restraint, wisdom and through constructive steps from both sides.

In the interview to the PTI correspondent accompanying him on his South Asia tour, Mr Annan said: "Obviously Kashmir is very much on their minds and they would want to, they are very keen to talk to Indian authorities about this."

"My own position as Secretary-General is that my good offices are always available since I took over. I have not hesitated to assist wherever my intervention would be useful. But for my good offices to be effective, it has to be acceptable to both the countries and that clearly does not exist at the moment. So I explained this to them," he said. Mr Annan said there are two options — either they talk directly or they talk through

"Since the latter is not feasible at the moment, the Pakistani leadership hope that India would engage and the talks would be resumed," he said.

About India's prospects of getting a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council, he said it was an issue for the member-states of the organisation to decide.

Asked how long it would take to effect the reforms in the world body, Mr Annan said: "It is difficult for me to give you a time frame."

The current president of the General Assembly is discussing the issue with the member-states. "I believe that there is a need for a restructuring and composition of the Security Council as it should be brought in line with today's realities," he said.

However, there was hardly any tangible

agenda for almost seven years, he said, adding: "I would hope that in the next two years or so, we would be able to actually move forward with the reform."

"At this stage, we don't know the nature and extent of the reform or the size of the expanded Security Council," he said, adding that India and other countries in South Asia have indicated their keen desire to be on the new council.

On nuclear disarmament, Mr Annan said the record of the international community to achieve the goal was not encouraging.

"The record of the international community on nuclear disarmament or elimination of nuclear weapons is not one, that I think, they can be proud of. I believe the nuclear powers ... demonstrate their own determination not only to discuss disarmament but also for an

New Delhi, March 14: Railway minister Mamata Banerjee has requested Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee to review the sale of majority stake in Bharat Aluminium Company to a private company. In a letter to the Prime Minister dated March 12, which was made available to the press here on Wednesday, Ms Banerjee expressed shock over the sale of controlling stake in Balco as the company had strong fundamentals like large equity base, consistent profit-making record and earning per share.

She said Balco has also taken several measures to produce value-added down stream products in this plant. "About 8,000 employees are working in its two plants and two lakh tribals are dependent on Balco."

"Balco is the only company which produces special aluminium alloy for the Pithvi and Agni-missiles and for other space accessories and handing over the company to a private party would expose ourselves to the possibility of know-how drainage," she said.

This point was raised by a Trinamool Congress MP top. In a letter to defence minister George Fernandes, Mr Akbor Ali Khan-Abler said Balco should not be privatised at any cost to prevent the drain of this "highly precious technical know-how."

In the latter the railway minister said that Balco had already initiated Rs 1,000-crore upgradation plan for its two plants (Asansol in West Bengal and Korba in Madhya Pradesh during the Ninth Plan period (1997-2002). (UNI)

THE HINDU

15 MAR 2001

Annan calls for Kashmir talks

16/3
FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, March 15: UN secretary-general Kofi Annan today urged India and Pakistan to resume talks even as he obliquely warned Islamabad against harbouring terrorists as it may ultimately have to pay a heavy price for its actions.

"It is time to begin healing the wounds, to restore trust and to regain a sense of a common good and a common future," he said, urging the neighbours to restore peace in the region. Annan also offered to mediate between them if they wanted to return to the talks table.

"This is the right time for India and Pakistan to resume the dialogue. Pakistan's leader General Pervez Musharraf assured me in Islamabad that he is ready to do so at any time.... I stand ready to support the dialogue in any way that I can," Annan said on his arrival at Delhi airport this afternoon.

"My good offices remain available should the parties wish to engage under UN auspices," said the secretary-general, here on a three-day official visit. Annan had visited Pakistan last week.

He urged the two sides to resume dialogue in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration and repair the strained relation. "This is essential to the peace of both nations and to the security of the people of Kashmir, who have endured too many years of violence and suffering," he said.

Annan's meetings with the Indian leadership, including a detailed session with foreign minister Jaswant Singh and calls on President K.R. Narayanan and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, are slated for tomorrow. He made it clear that Kashmir and resumption of India-Pakistan dialogue will be a major focus of the talks.

"So long as grievances persist between both nations and violence continues in Kashmir India and Pakistan will be unable to tap the full potential of this important region," he said.

"The important thing is that engagements begin, so that the peoples of both nations can embrace the opportunities of the new century," Annan emphasised.

If stress on resumption of dialogue in the spirit of the Lahore Declaration was sweet music to India, Annan tried to bolster the position by his indication of Pakistan's involvement in terrorism.

Without naming any country, the secretary general said: "Countries should not give refuge to terrorists as this will comfort and protect them." As a result of such policies these countries will also have to pay a heavy price, he argued. This is Annan's second visit to India since 1997.

Indian officials, however, said a number of other issues will come up for discussion between Annan and the foreign minister. These will include the proposed reforms to the UN security council, the peace keeping efforts of the UN and the Indian initiative to have a comprehensive convention under the aegis of the world body on international terrorism.

16 MAR 2001

Annan to 'support' Indo-Pak dialogue

1167

1673

New Delhi, March 15

UN SECRETARY-GENERAL Kofi Annan today said it was the right time for India and Pakistan to resume their stalled dialogue and he was ready to support such a move.

"I am ready to support the dialogue in any way I can," Annan said at Delhi soon after his arrival here on a three-day visit. "My good offices will remain available should the parties wish to engage under UN auspices."

He said there was need for return of the Lahore spirit and renewal of dialogue with Pakistan to reduce tension and build confidence. "This is essential for peace of both nations and security of the people of Kashmir who have had too many years of violence and suffering. It's time to begin healing the wounds to restore trust and regain a sense of common future."

Annan, who will meet the Indian leadership tomorrow, said: "So long as grievances persist and violence continues in Kashmir, the two countries will be unable to tap the full potential of this region." Stressing that it was important to begin the engagement, he said: "It's the right time for India and Pakistan to resume dialogue."

Annan, who is on his second visit to India as UN Secretary-



KOFI ANNAN

General, the first being in April 1997, will call on President K R Narayanan and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee besides holding substantive talks with External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh.

He visited Islamabad as part of

his four-nation tour of South Asia. He noted that Pervez Musharraf had stated that he was ready for a dialogue with India. On the continuance of UN military observers in Kashmir, he said they had a mandate. If India and Pakistan were to engage, there is no need to have them, he added.

Annan said he would encourage the Indian Government to sign the CTBT. Expressing concern over international terrorism, he said countries had to cooperate to effectively tackle this menace. He said if terrorists were given protection, "we all pay a price". On India's demand for a permanent seat in an expanded UN Security Council, he said this was being discussed by member states and the new President of the UN General Assembly was taking it up. "It will take time."

The UN chief is accompanied by his wife Nane Annan, UN Under-Secretary General for Political Affairs Kieran Prendergaast, Director in Secretary-General's Office Lamin Sise and spokesman Fred Eckhard.

While in Islamabad as part of his four-nation tour, Annan had ruled out implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir or a separate UN Human Rights Commission for Kashmir, as demanded by Pakistan.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 MAR 2002

Annan refuses to meet Hurriyat leader

New Delhi, March 16

IN A resounding rebuff to the Hurriyat conference, which claims to be a principal party to the Kashmir dispute, UN secretary-general Kofi Annan today declined to meet its leader Abdul Ghani Lone.

Hurriyat had made a request at the UN office and Ministry of External affairs to meet Annan during his three-day stay in the country. Hurriyat sources said the UN office here had turned down their request.

A Hurriyat spokesman said the UN office had said the secretary-general had a tight schedule and could not accommodate its request. Annan said, "the only way out is dialogue" between India and Pakistan.

"There are Security Council resolutions which are important, but they are not self-enforcing," Annan, on the last leg of his four-nation tour of south Asia, told reporters after wide-ranging one-to-one talks with External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh which were followed by delegation-level parleys.

On Annan's remarks that it was the right time for resumption of Indo-Pak talks, Singh

said, "we appreciate the very wise counsel of the UN secretary general"

In Pakistan, Annan had ruled out implementation of the UN resolutions on Kashmir or a separate UN human rights commission for Kashmir, saying a lasting solution to the problem lay in implementation of the Lahore Declaration.

Stung by Annan's statement, Hurriyat Conference met earlier this week and decided to send Lone to try meeting Annan, here since yesterday on a three-day visit.

The must go down well with Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah who has dismissed the Hurriyat initiative, saying "they are only building castles in the air."

The conglomerate of 23 separatist groups, whose executive council met on Monday to discuss Annan's rejection of any resolution to resolve the Kashmir issue, had said Lone would try to seek a meeting with the secretary-general during his stay in New Delhi.

However, the request was turned down well before Lone reached the Capital this evening.

Earlier, perturbed over Annan's statement, Hurriyat

chairman Abdul Gani Bhat had said the Hurriyat executive would go into the depth of the statement and see the "intentions" behind it.

Fire-brand Jamaat-e-Islami leader Syed Ali Shah Geelani had reacted more severely saying it was "the moral obligation of the UN to resolve the long-standing problem and use its influence to force the solution of the problem between the two concerned countries."

Senior executive member Mirwaiz Umar Farooq had said, "such statements give a hint that the UN is shirking its commitments made to Kashmiris."

Annan visits Parliament: Kofi Annan today missed a chance to watch the pandemonium in Parliament.

He was supposed to watch parliamentary proceedings but his schedule was changed apprehending turmoil in the House.

Instead, he had a meeting with leaders of all parties in the Speaker's committee room.

He also met Sonia Gandhi and Manmohan Singh, leaders of Opposition in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha, besides the Rajya Sabha deputy chairperson Najma Heptulla.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 MAR 2001

Govt rider on sending troops for UN peacekeeping mission

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, March 16. — India is ready to earmark one brigade as a stand-by force for UN peacekeeping operations. But there is a condition attached to it that the brigade can be mobilised by the UN for emergency situations subject to approval from the government for the mission.

The external affairs minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, conveyed this decision to the UN secretary general, Mr Kofi Annan, at a one-on-one meeting today. Mr Singh also underscored the fact the peacekeeping operations must be under the UN command.

Mr Annan, who welcomed India's decision, had touched upon the issue of stand-by force for UN peacekeeping operations at the United Services Institution yesterday. While explaining the need for a stand-by force in an emergency situation, he had pointed out how the mobilisation of the force depended totally on the willingness of the respective countries' approval.

He had mentioned that certain nations were against a permanent force and debates were carried on in several meetings on issues such

as stand-by force, the budget involved in it as well as its location. Many countries were not interested in getting involved in it.

During the 45-minute meeting with the foreign minister today, the UN secretary general appreciated India's gesture, stating that New Delhi played a pioneering role in peace-keeping operations the world over. Mr Singh said that India had so far sent 50,000 troops on 35 peace-keeping missions around the world. Mr Annan expressed appreciation of India's peace-keeping operations in Sierra Leone and Ethiopia and Eritrea (Unmee).

Following in-depth discussions with the Indian leaders on a broad spectrum of issues, Mr Annan while speaking to the media emphasised the resumption of a dialogue between India and Pakistan to end the instability in the volatile south Asian region. He said the UN resolutions on Kashmir were important but not self-enforcing.

"The only way out is negotiations between the parties (India and Pakistan) and they have to come together to initiate a dialogue. I was encouraged that both parties are open for dialogue," he said af-



The President and his wife, Mrs Usha Narayanan, with Mr Kofi Annan and his wife at Mughal Garden in Rashtrapati Bhavan on Friday. — PTI

ter his meeting with Mr Jaswant Singh during which they discussed a host of issues, including Afghanistan, UN peace-keeping operations and re-structuring of the Pakistan.

I'm an unemployed old man: Mandela

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW DELHI, March 16. — "I am afraid that I am an unemployed person and that too, an old man."

"So I will speak a little longer than five minutes," Mr Nelson Rohlhlahla Mandela said as he began his speech at Rashtrapati Bhavan today at the ceremony to award him the Gandhi Peace Prize, 2000.

His comment, evoked laughter from the distinguished gathering which had come to witness the President, Mr KR Narayanan do the honours.

The Grameen bank of Bangladesh was also awarded the prize earlier.

As he began his speech, the South African leader said he was recovering from a cold, "but I don't want the cold to dictate"

"So I am going to force my voice to obey me," he said.

Earlier, Mr Narayanan wished Mr Mandela "happy holidays in Kerala."



Former South African President Nelson Mandela before receiving the Mahatma Gar Peace Prize on Friday at the Presidential Palace in New Delhi. At his left is Mr K Narayanan and at right is Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. — AP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

17 MAR 2001

Plan for UN disaster control hub

FROM BASANT RAWAT

Ahmedabad, May 13: The Emergency Response Division of the United Nations Development Programme has decided to set up a regional disaster management support facility in Delhi, which would work closely with countries in region-building and disaster mitigation efforts.

The announcement was made by UN assistant secretary-general and UNDP assistant administrator Hafiz Pasha here today at a conference on "Sustainable Recovery and Vulnerability Reduction".

Over 200 representatives from national and international development agencies, the Centre, Gujarat, the UN organisation and more than 30 community-based organisations attended the seminar organised by the Gujarat State Disaster Management Authority and the UN in India.

The office of the regional capacity building is expected to be set up within three months. The UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance, together with the Emergency Response Division, has come forward to

help the Indian government in disaster management.

Pasha called for a new approach to strengthen capacities at the regional, national, state and local levels to manage and reduce risks of multiple hazards like earthquake, cyclone, floods, droughts and landslides.

The highest-ranking UNDP official for the Asia Pacific region praised the Centre's response at various levels to recurring disasters. He cited, as examples, the work being done to finalise a National Disaster Management Plan and the strengthening of district-level structures to face up to natural calamities.

In his key-note address, Union home minister L.K. Advani lauded the "humanitarian concern of the UN agency" for lending a helping hand in rebuilding quake-ravaged Gujarat.

Welcoming the UNDP plan, Advani called for setting aside 10 to 15 per cent of all national and international assistance flowing into Gujarat for disaster risk reduction in other states. Fifty-five per cent of India's surface area is vulnerable to earthquakes, eight per cent to cyclone and five per cent to floods.

"Our efforts should be to prevent these emergencies," Advani said. "But this requires imaginative planning, community preparedness, quick response for effective life-saving, search-and-rescue operations, capacity building for emergency response at the national, state, district and city level." He stressed the need for setting up a network of emergency operation centres at the national and state capitals and in the district headquarters of disaster prone districts. He also underlined the need for training and equipping urban search-and-rescue teams in 30 locations in the country to begin with.

Chief minister Keshubhai Patel said his government would redouble efforts to help the quake-affected. UNDP representative in India, Brenda Gael McSweeney said the quake gave people the opportunity to strengthen their capabilities for reducing vulnerability.

She said the UN system in the country, in partnership with the government, NGOs and the international community was helping to bridge the gap between relief and long-term reconstruction.

THE TELEGRAPH

14 MAY 2001