

## Vajpayee rules out talks with Pervez in NY

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 29. — The Prime Minister today ruled out a meeting with the Pakistan President during his visit to the UN General Assembly in New York next month.

"I don't have to go to New York to meet General Pervez Musharraf. We can meet either in Delhi or Islamabad," Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee said after an hour-long meeting with the visiting German Chancellor, Mr Gerhard Schroeder, who has urged both countries to resume their bilateral talks.

Mr Vajpayee's rejection came a day after General Musharraf urged India to resume talks by picking up the threads from Agra.

The Prime Minister said he and Mr Schroeder discussed the global campaign against terrorism and the need to pursue it to its logical conclusion.

THE STATESMAN

31 OCT 1999

# ISI used Al-Qaida camps to train J&K militants: U.S.

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has at long last directly implicated Pakistan for terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir. Washington now says Pakistan's intelligence agency, the ISI, has "even used Al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan to train covert operatives for use in a war of terror against India".

American officials have made this landmark admission (as far as India is concerned) of a fact that was widely known but seldom acknowledged in administration circles. The ISI maintained direct links to guerrillas fighting in Kashmir, unnamed officials told *The New York Times*.

In confirming charges the Indian government has repeatedly made in the past several months, American officials also told the newspaper that the ISI had turned a blind eye for years to the growing ties between Osama bin Laden and the Taliban.

The remarks by U.S. officials came even as Pakistan's military leader Gen Pervez Musharraf told

visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder that India's allegations of cross-border terrorism were self-serving.

The immediate provocation for the embarrassing disclosures about its ally and frontline state appeared to stem from the unhappy and distrustful relationship between the CIA and the ISI. Both

Within the U.S. establishment, a few officials and lawmakers have voiced their concern about Pakistan's use of terrorism as a state policy in the guise of backing the so-called freedom-fighters in Kashmir.

Even the Indian-American Caucus of lawmakers has been silenced by the administration's expediency of buying Pakistan's support with aid and a blind eye to its record on terrorism.

One rare exception is California Congressman Dana Rohrabacher who has repeatedly cautioned successive administrations about ISI activities and Pakistan's role in exporting terrorism.

But now U.S. officials themselves have begun to talk about Pakistan's role in fomenting terrorism. While they had previously maintained that Islamabad had kept up a veneer of "plausible deniability", even that has become difficult after U.S. forces—for the second time in three years—bombed a terrorist camp in Afghanistan and found the so-called guerrillas of the ISI-backed Harkat-ul-Mujaheedeen instead of Al-Qaida terrorists.

## BARING THE TRUTH

- ▶ ISI had for years turned a blind eye to growing ties between Bin Laden and the Taliban
- ▶ CIA, ISI blame each other for botched covert mission that resulted in the death of Pashtun leader Abdul Haq
- ▶ Bombed terrorist camp in Afghanistan had guerrillas of the ISI-backed Harkat-ul-Mujaheedeen

sides now blame each other for the botched covert mission last week resulting in the death of Pashtun leader Abdul Haq at the hands of the Taliban. Washington believes renegade Pakistani intelligence officials may have betrayed Abdul Haq's mission to the Taliban. Islamabad believes the CIA did not keep it fully informed.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

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# Musharraf suggests talks

Indi Pak ST/ 29/10 ✓✓

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 28. — The Pakistani President, General Pervez Musharraf, today suggested the resumption of the Indo-Pak summit in New York on the format discussed at Agra. The visiting German Chancellor, Mr Gerhard Schroeder, egged the two neighbours to pick up the threads left at Agra.

General Musharraf, at a joint press conference with Mr Schroeder, said "it's our wish the two countries should resume dialogue on the format agreed at Agra which should be revived."

General Musharraf's comments followed reports he decided to go to the USA on a tour starting 8 November to address the UN General Assembly and meet world leaders, including Mr George W Bush. The timing of his visit to New York is significant as Mr Atal Behari



Mr Gerhard Schroeder (left) and General Pervez Musharraf at a press meet in Islamabad on Sunday. — AP/PTI (Schroeder in Delhi: page 8)

Vajpayee is also scheduled to begin his US tour to meet Mr Bush and address the UNGA from 9 November.

General Musharraf accused

India of threatening peace in South Asia by deploying troops along the LoC, and said: "India is seeking hegemony and the role of a regional power."

THE STATESMAN

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2001

## THE ELUSIVE SPIRIT OF RESTRAINT

THE SPIRALLING RHETORIC on the India-Pakistan front shows how intense are the hard feelings that the Governments on both sides seem inclined to let fly at each other like some uncontrollable sparks. Admittedly, the two countries are very wary of each other's real intentions in a tremendously complex regional context. The growing bilateral tensions are, in a sense, traceable to last month's strategic decision by Gen. Pervez Musharraf, Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, to cooperate with the United States in its war, now under way, against Afghanistan. Relevant to this is the emotional upheaval, which is being felt differently by the people of India and Pakistan, on account of the uncontested belief that Afghanistan's Taliban regime, presently under fire from the U.S., had in the first place owed its genetical links to Islamabad itself. The extent of Pakistan's benign or reformatory influence over Osama bin Laden, the Taliban's patron-guest and America's prime target now, is of secondary importance to New Delhi and Islamabad in this context. An overall regional ambience so perceived seems to have spurred the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, in his latest poser to Pakistan. The burden of his tactical taunt is that Pakistan, which is "waging a war" against its own Taliban, can hardly be trustworthy as a dialogue partner.

In a chronological sequence, Mr. Vajpayee's doubts over Pakistan's credentials as a credible interlocutor have only followed Gen. Musharraf's intemperate warnings. Gen. Musharraf asserted only a day earlier that Islamabad would "teach India a lesson" if it were to opt for any military "mischief" on the bilateral front at this particularly fragile moment in their relationship. The surmise in Gen. Musharraf's official camp at this stage seems to be that India has no business to quarrel with Pakistan if it has been able to join the U.S.-led "international coalition against terrorism". The subtle point at issue is that Washington

is willing to accept Islamabad as a key player in this unpredictable venture despite New Delhi's line against Pakistan's encouragement of cross-border terrorism within India. In New Delhi's perspective, Pakistan's geostrategic location rather than its 'moral' stature should explain the current convergence of interests concerning Washington's "anti-terror" war and Islamabad's new foreign policy orientation. New Delhi, provoked by Gen. Musharraf's latest remarks, is now squandering the sign of restraint which it signalled only a few days ago when it clarified that it had no intention for the present to embark on "hot pursuit" of the Kashmir-related terrorists inside the territory controlled by Pakistan.

Mr. Vajpayee clearly wants to put Pakistan in the dock on the international stage by pointing out the perceived inconsistencies in Gen. Musharraf's foreign policy. The Prime Minister has asked Pakistan to choose either peace or animosity in relation to India without mincing words or quibbling about policy. Mr. Vajpayee may naturally be eager to let the global community know India's point of view. However, his parallel move to slam the door on the idea of re-engaging Pakistan seems to presage a new and dangerous drift on the bilateral scene. So, both he and Gen. Musharraf must face the true test of statesmanship by reining in the rhetoric so that it does not become a blighted substitute for a genuine and sustainable dialogue. Pakistan's latest 'démarché' to India in regard to some statements by its Home and Defence Ministers, Mr. L. K. Advani and Mr. George Fernandes respectively, is illustrative of how far Islamabad has gone down the path of confrontation in a context that has more to do with America's strategic compulsions. While New Delhi is right in wanting to avoid a "sterile" debate with Islamabad over each other's rhetoric, it will be unwise to give up the search for a possible re-engagement between the two.

THE HINDU

25 OCT 2001

# Vajpayee lashes out at Musharraf

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STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 23. — Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today lambasted General Pervez Musharraf for his scathing remarks against India.

Mr Vajpayee accused Islamabad of opportunism, betrayal and violation of democracy in PoK and Pakistan.

Countering Gen Musharraf's rhetoric, the Prime Minister dismissed the Pakistani President's description of terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as "freedom struggle." He asked Islamabad to decide what they really want — peace or otherwise.

"Our neighbour sometimes sings about peace and sometime threatens us. I want to tell them that they should decide what they want," said Mr Vajpayee while referring to Pakistan's inconsistent attitude. Recently there have been reports from Islamabad about Pakistan wanting a dialogue with India but last night Gen Musharraf threatened India with attacks.

The Prime Minister was addressing a gathering of Sikhs

from various organisations.

Charging Pakistan with opportunism and betrayal, Mr Vajpayee said it was Islamabad which trained and armed the Taliban and used the militia to threaten India occasionally. But the same country has now turned its face away from the Taliban.

"Our neighbour has waged a war against their friends, the Taliban. Who will trust them? If we are friends, we are real friends. We stand by our friends and are ready to pay any price for it. There is no opportunism in our policy nor are they dictated from outside," he said. "We decide on our own as to what is good for the country and that is why we are respected and .....our views are sought on the future of Afghanistan," Mr Vajpayee said.

Referring to Gen Musharraf's description of terrorism in Kashmir as "freedom struggle", he asked "whose freedom are they talking about and freedom from whom? India is a free country with a Constitution, Parliament, media and politi-

cal parties to protect the citizens' rights." But there are no democratic values in PoK or in Pakistan, he said.

While Pakistan has been in favour of US mediation in the talks between New Delhi and Islamabad, India has been consistently resisting any such move. For India it's a bilateral issue which needs to be sorted out between India and Pakistan and there is no place for a third party.

Unlike Pakistan, India's asset is unity and it would maintain peace and harmony, he said. New Delhi feels Islamabad is misusing Islam.

Meanwhile, the ministry of external affairs spokesperson termed Gen Musharraf's remarks as being on "predictable lines" and said India wouldn't like to get into the "sterile debate".

She also said: "India never sought to compound Pakistan's difficulties at this juncture. ... Pakistan should address cross border terrorism ... its compulsive hostility towards India is the root cause of differences with India".

THE STATESMAN

# India not for 'sterile' debate

By Atul Aneja 21/10

NEW DELHI, OCT. 23. India today declined to rebut last evening's remarks by the Pakistan's President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, by pointing out that it did not wish to enter into a "sterile debate" with Islamabad. (Gen. Musharraf had warned against "anti-Pakistan rhetoric by Indian leaders" and said that Islamabad would pay New Delhi in the same coin if it were to indulge in any misadventure across the border.)

In response to a question, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs said that India had never sought to compound Pakistan's current difficulties.

According to her, Pakistan should shed its "compulsive hostility" towards India as it was its negative disposition that was at the root of Indo-Pak differences.

Pakistan should stop chasing "chimeras". Instead, it should address the question of cross-border terrorism, she said.

In response to questions about the remarks by the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, while returning from Shanghai, the spokesperson asserted that India and Pakistan

had to address their problems directly, without intervention by any other party.

She reiterated that a meaningful dialogue with Pakistan was possible only if Islamabad terminated cross-border terrorism. "There has to be a reduction of cross-border violence and transformation on the ground", she observed.

Despite being members of the international coalition against terrorism, India and Pakistan

differ widely in setting up a post-conflict regime in Afghanistan.

Contrary to the Pakistani view, India rejects the notion of accommodating a "moderate Taliban" in a new government in Afghanistan.

Unlike Pakistan, India would like a new regime in Afghanistan which mainly revolved around the Northern Alliance and King Zahir Shah along with some

more representatives of the Pashtuns.

According to Government sources, Pakistan is behind a parallel initiative of promoting Pashtun representatives friendly to it. Under this arrangement, Afghanistan's minorities can also play a diminished role in the new government. Pakistan's standpoint, they say, is reflected in the conference of a 19-party coalition slated to begin on Wednesday in Peshawar.

## Pak. 'demarche' to India

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 23. Pakistan today formally handed over a 'demarche' to India over the alleged provocative 'anti-Pakistan statements' from New Delhi and the reported additional movements of troops on the Line of Control and the International Border.

The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam-ul-Haq, gave the 'demarche' to the Indian High Commissioner, Mr. Vijay K. Nambiar, at his office in the evening. Mr. Nambiar was called to the Foreign Office and was apprised of Islamabad's views.

In an interview to the state-run PTV on Monday, the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, had accused Indian leaders of resorting to 'anti-Pakistan rhetoric' and warned of a 'befitting reply' if India attempted any 'misadventure'.

According to diplomatic sources, Mr. Haq drew

Mr. Nambiar's attention to the 'provocative' statements made by the Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, and the Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, and told him that such remarks did not augur well for the improvement of bilateral relations.

Mr. Haq is believed to have spoken to Mr. Nambiar about the additional movement of troops on the border, including some Air Force assets, and emphasised the need for restraint.

Mr. Nambiar reportedly told Mr. Haq that the movement of troops on the LoC and the IB was routine in nature and that the Indian troops were compelled to open fire on Monday on the LoC to prevent crossborder infiltration.

He is believed to have pointed out to Mr. Haq the earlier statement of the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, that New Delhi had no intention to add to the woes of Islamabad at the current juncture.

THE HINDU

24 OCT 2001

# PM throws to Pak choice between war and peace

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FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Oct. 23: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee today reiterated that the violence in Kashmir is terrorism, not a freedom struggle, and questioned Pakistan's sincerity about making peace with India.

Vajpayee ruled out resuming talks now and said: "Our neighbour sometimes sings peace and sometimes threatens us. I want to tell them that they should decide what they want."

Charging Pakistan with opportunism and betrayal, the Prime Minister said the country had trained and armed the Taliban and, occasionally, used them to threaten India.

"Where are the Taliban now? Now our neighbour has waged a war against that very Taliban. Who will trust them? If we are friends, we are real friends. We stand by our friends and are ready to pay any price. There is no opportunism in our policy, nor is it dictated from outside," Vajpayee said.

"We decide on our own what is good for the country. That is why we are respected and have a place in the comity of nations, and our views are sought on the future of Afghanistan."

The hard-hitting comments follow Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's interview last night in which he described the militancy in Kashmir as a "freedom



Our neighbour sometimes sings peace and sometimes threatens us. I want to tell them that they should decide what they want

Vajpayee

If they try hot pursuit, they will be paid back in the same coin. Pakistan is not a *chhota mota* country. We are not wearing *chudiyen* (bangles)

Musharraf

struggle" and said his forces would pay India back in the same coin if it opted for "hot pursuit" of terrorists across the border.

Home minister L.K. Advani today clarified that Indian forces would not cross into Pakistan in pursuit of terrorists. "International laws allow us to go across the border but we will not do that," he said.

Vajpayee is matching Musharraf's fiery rhetoric to please the domestic audience and also to bring Islamabad's doublespeak to the notice of the global community, particularly the US. He plans to use this to argue against resuming talks with Pakistan now.

Musharraf's remarks were seen here as an attempt to tell

his audience that the country is on excellent terms with the West — America in particular — and will be able to realise its goal on Kashmir.

The rhetoric from both sides of the border indicates that India-Pakistan relations are back to the pre-Agra summit days.

In the run-up to the July meet, both countries had tried to lower the temperature in the region. Pakistan, then under severe pressure from the West, had used the Agra summit to tell the world that it was committed to talks.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao today said talks would not be meaningful unless cross-border terrorism ends. This argument, which was put on hold by the Indian leadership, appears to have staged a comeback after the September 11 attacks.

## Indian envoy called

Hoping that Vajpayee will change his mind about holding talks with Musharraf, Pakistan today called Indian High Commissioner to Islamabad V.K. Nambiar and sought clarifications on Indian troop movement across the Line of Control and reasons behind the tough-talking done by some Indian leaders on Indo-Pak ties, PTI reports from Islamabad.

Sources said Nambiar met Pakistan foreign secretary Inamul Haq and discussed the latest developments along the LoC.

THE TELEGRAPH

24 OCT 2001

# Vajpayee in no hurry to meet Pervez

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## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

**LUCKNOW/NEW DELHI, Oct. 22.** — The Prime Minister today ruled out a meeting with the Pakistani President in the immediate future.

Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's remark indicates a meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session in New York, scheduled between 8 and 12 November, is highly unlikely.

Given the situation in the Kashmir valley, Mr Vajpayee today said, a meeting with General Musharraf was not possible until Pakistan stopped backing cross-border terrorists.

"You can draw your own conclusions," he said at a press conference at Raj Bhavan in Lucknow, when asked about prospects of such a meeting.

He said the suicide squad attack on an airforce base in Srinagar today, in which one jawan and four militants were killed, was proof of cross-border terrorism. "There will be no gainful purpose of having talks under these circumstances,"



Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee

But he said: "It doesn't mean that the doors for future talks are closed." India has always been prepared to talk to Pakistan but the only condition was that it immediately stop cross-border terrorism.

In New Delhi, a foreign ministry spokesperson said India did not receive any formal commu-

nication from Pakistan for a meeting between Mr Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf in New York next month.

Asked about reports from Islamabad that Gen. Musharraf was keen on a second summit meeting with Mr Vajpayee in New York, the spokesperson said: "I have no information."

Will India take an aggressive posture, such as an attack, against Pakistan? Mr Vajpayee said: "We've been fighting terrorism for years in Kashmir. We've been victims of terrorism for years; we'll continue to fight it. Our policy on terrorism is well known. Our foreign policy is not being dictated by others."

"Other countries have been informed of our view and there has been a positive impact of this. They first want to be successful in their campaign against Taliban, and then take on terrorism in other parts including India," he said.

In reply to a question, Mr Vajpayee said the Taliban was a creation of Pakistan, and that country couldn't be absolved of what it (Taliban) was doing.

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

**NEW DELHI, Oct. 22.** — The BJP president today said there was "no communication gap between the party and the government", and Mr Vajpayee's statement about such a situation was made in a jocular vein. "If the Prime Minister says there is deficiency, I will sit with him, discuss and try to find out ways to remove it," Mr Jana Krishnamurthy said.

Mr Vajpayee had said a communication gap was the main reason for his absence at the flag-hoisting ceremony at the BJP national council meeting yesterday. He gave the impression that because of this "gap" it appeared as if the party wanted him only for the valedictory session while Mr LK Advani was sought for the "margdarshan" lectures. "There is no such gap at least in the party," Mr Krishnamurthy said.

In the olden days, the president explained, Jana Sangh ideologue Deen Dayal Upadhyay delivered the valedictory address, termed "margdarshan". It has been a tradition to ask Mr Advani to inaugurate its national council meetings and for Mr Vajpayee to issue the valedictory address.

"There is no gap between the party and the government except for a *lacman rehka* dividing the two. We cannot interfere in government affairs but we offer suggestions regarding policies and

point out inadequacies," Mr Krishnamurthy said. No particular significance should be attached to Mr Vajpayee not hoisting the party flag. It is just that he could not reach on time and the party president took over the task. It is not unusual for the party chief to hoist the flag, he said.

A BJP leader said Mr Vajpayee was invited to hoist the flag at least a month in advance. But the party did not know that the invitation would not reach him as the PMO official who had received it got transferred. In another disclaimer, the BJP president sought to dispel the impression that most party decisions were taken by either Mr Vajpayee or Mr Advani and not him. **VHP on Ayodhya:** The VHP today expressed full confidence in Mr Vajpayee over resolving the Ayodhya issue by 12 March next year. It sought to dispel reports that the issue was ignored at the national council meeting yesterday. The VHP said it did not doubt the Prime Minister's commitment on this issue.

**Congress blasts Advani on Ayodhya:** The Congress today said Mr L K Advani's claim at the BJP national council that the Ayodhya movement helped the party grow has exposed the BJP's game-plan. "This belated confession of Mr Advani is a message to Mr Vajpayee and others that credit must be given to him for the BJP's growth," Mr Jaipal Reddy said.



# Bid to storm IAF base foiled

Four militants killed in fierce gun battle  
● Lashkar-e-Tayyeba claims responsibility

HT Correspondents  
Srinagar/Islamabad, October 22

PAKISTAN WARNED India not to attack Jehadi camps in PoK, on a day when four militants tried to storm the Quil airport at Awantipora in the first-ever attempt to penetrate a forward airbase.

All four died in the subsequent gun battle with soldiers and Air Force personnel. The Lashkar-e-Tayyeba later claimed responsibility for the attack.

A securityman and a civilian were also killed in the afternoon encounter, which came after a night of heavy gunfire and mortar shelling by Pakistan on Indian positions in Nowshera. India said the firing, which killed a junior officer, was unprovoked.

Reacting to reported statements by Indian leaders that New Delhi would attack terrorist camps in PoK, Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman Riaz Mohammed Khan said India should not make such a mistake.

The four men who tried to storm the Quil airport were in police uniform as they drove up in a hijacked Santro (JK01-E-1109) around 2:30 pm, armed with automatic weapons. Two of them got down at the main gate and fired indiscriminately on the security and sentry posts. The bullets hit two Defence Signal Corps personnel, killing one of them instantly.

That, however, was as far as the militants could get. They tried to enter the airport but sol-



IAF personnel gather round the bodies of the dead militants who tried to break into the Awantipora air base near Srinagar on Monday.

diers, BSF men and Air Force personnel put up a stiff fight, killing all four.

A civilian driving a Tata-407 was caught in the crossfire and died.

Militant outfit Lashkar-e-Tayyaba spokesman Abu Osama called up journalists saying the four militants were members of the Lashkar's fidayeen squad. He identified them as Abu Omer, Abu Sooban, Abu Shaheedain and Abu Hammad. He also claimed that eight Indian soldiers were killed in the attack.

Last week, the Lashkar had

threatened to intensify fidayeen attacks on security formations in Jammu and Kashmir to avenge what it said were attacks on Pakistani positions in the Akhnoor sector.

The Indian armed forces use the Quil airport frequently. This is the first fidayeen attack on the airport, which caught media attention soon after the September 11 strikes on America. Some newspapers reported that Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had offered to let the USA use it as a base for its campaign against terrorism.

Defence Minister George Fernandes yesterday visited the frontiers in Rajouri and Poonch, which border PoK. He asked troops to be extra alert in view of the prevailing situation in the region and the US-led offensive in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani firing on Indian positions came hours after that visit. The first round of firing started around 11.30 at night, and continued till 1 am. It resumed after an hour's lull, killing Second Lieutenant Anoop Kumar who was leading a patrol party.

## NO TALKS WITH PAK NOW: PM

PRIME MINISTER Atal Bihari Vajpayee today ruled out any fresh dialogue with Pakistan till it ceased to encourage cross-border terrorism in Kashmir.

Replying to questions on Indo-Pak ties, the PM said he had always been open to a dialogue with Pakistan, but talks should be held for some 'benefit' and not mere 'propaganda'.  
HTC, Lucknow

## Russia, China cry 'halt', US pushes for march to Kabul

S Rajagopalan & Agencies  
Washington/Moscow, October 22

ations to form a post-Taliban Afghan Government.

THE US today urged the Northern Alliance to get moving towards Kabul "more aggressively", with its own planes paving the way by pounding Taliban positions 25 miles from the capital.

"I think they are gathering their strength to at least invest (surround) Kabul or start moving on Kabul more aggressively," Secretary of State Colin Powell said yesterday. The rebel forces are now marching towards Mazar-e-Sharif in the north.

Russia too pledged support to the Northern Alliance today, saying it was the "sole legitimate Government" in Afghanistan. It signed a statement with ousted President Burhanuddin Rabbani on "the need to find a political solution for Afghanistan".

During a stopover at Dushanbe on his way back from the Shanghai, Russian President Vladimir Putin said the Taliban regime would have no role to play in a future Afghan Government. The remark was in sharp contrast to Pakistani insistence on a role for the Taliban in any future Afghan Government.

Throughout the day, US fighter planes kept pounding Taliban positions outside Kabul. Quoting Intelligence sources, *Newsweek* said Osama bin Laden's Afghan hideout had been pinned down to a "20-by-20 mile area". But the area was so full of caves and tunnels that it was "impossible to seal" the place.

US Special Forces were trying to collect better Intelligence to attack bin Laden from the air with greater precision, it said.

Meanwhile, the Taliban claimed they had shot down another US helicopter and displayed its wreckage on Qatar's Al Jazeera TV network. The pictures showed landing gear, tyres, metallic pieces and large casings stamped with words like "Boeing", "Philadelphia" and "Pennsylvania". But Pentagon promptly dismissed the visuals as a "Taliban lie".

The American prescription for a more aggressive Northern Alliance almost coincides with Russian news agency Ria Novosti's reports that work would begin after two or three weeks of more US military oper-

Member countries of the international anti-terrorist coalition would work out the modalities with assistance from the Northern Alliance and Afghanistan's former King Mohammed Zahir Shah, the agency quoting military-diplomatic sources said today.

The Taliban today accused Washington of using chemical weapons and charged that a 100-bed hospital in Herat had been destroyed in US air strikes. But they denied US air raids had killed Taliban chief Mullah Omar's 10-year old son.

With military operations in full swing and diplomatic efforts moving in tandem, Washington is looking now at a breakthrough before the onset of winter in mid-November. This is also the time when all Islamic countries of the world will observe the holy month of Ramadan and are almost certain to pressure the US to suspend military action. Pakistan has already told the US of its desire to this effect.

Also, America's allies outside the Islamic fold like China and Russia have begun speaking in favour of an approach shift. "It is necessary to move on quickly from the military phase to political means in search of a solution in Afghanistan," a Russian spokesman said yesterday after President Vladimir Putin's meeting with Chinese leader Jiang Zemin in Shanghai.

"We will never overcome the problems of Afghanistan by military means," Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said. Unless things go wrong, Washington expects to record sufficient progress in three weeks on the formation of an interim Government to succeed the current Taliban regime. Clinching the issue before the fall of Kabul would be vital, because a power vacuum could trigger infighting among the anti-Taliban forces.

"It would be in our interest and the interest of the coalition to see this matter is resolved before winter strikes and makes our operation that much more difficult," Powell said in interviews to American television networks.

Related reports on Pages 9, 10, 11

## Rs 8,000-crore bonanza for banks, courtesy RBI

HT Correspondent  
Mumbai, October 22

IN AN EFFORT to kickstart the sluggish economy, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has slashed the cash reserve ratio (CRR) by a massive 200 basis points from 7.50 per cent to 5.50 per cent. This would release an additional Rs 8,000 crore as lendable funds for the banks.

The CRR cut would take effect in two stages. The apex bank has also lowered the bank rate to 6.5 per cent from seven per cent. This would allow banks to lower interest rates.

RBI Governor Dr Bimal Jalan made these announcements as a

part of the monetary and credit policy for the second half (Oct-March) of the financial year 2001-02. This is the lowest bank rate since May 1973. The bank rate cut will pave the way for the financial institutions to reduce their lending rates.

Dr Jalan, however, warned, "The apex bank will continue to use the CRR instrument in both directions for liquidity management."

"We hope to achieve a long-term objective through the current CRR cut. We don't need a liquidity constraint now," he said at the customary press meet after releasing the monetary policy at a meeting with bank chiefs.

According to the RBI, the CRR will be reduced to 5.75 per cent effective from the fortnight beginning November 3, 2001, and to 5.50 per cent from December 29, 2001. The apex bank has also decided to pay a higher interest rate to banks on their CRR balances at 6.5 per cent. "This will result in interest earning of about Rs 1,000 crore for the banks," Dr Jalan said.

In order to improve retail participation in the Government securities, the RBI has finalised a scheme for provident funds, trusts in the primary market on non-competitive basis.

The RBI is also undertaking a review of the satellite dealers in

the light of emerging alternative mechanism of retailing Government securities on screen-based trading in exchanges. What's more, the RBI has cleared the decks for the pure inter-bank call money market by indicating that the proposed Clearing Corporation and the Negotiated Dealing Settlement System (NDS) are expected to commence test-runs by November this year.

The apex Bank has also proposed to issue further prudential guidelines in order to contain the risks arising out of non-SLR portfolio of banks and financial institutions. These guidelines would cover fixing of prudential limits with separate sub-limits

for unrated, unquoted and privately placed debt instruments.

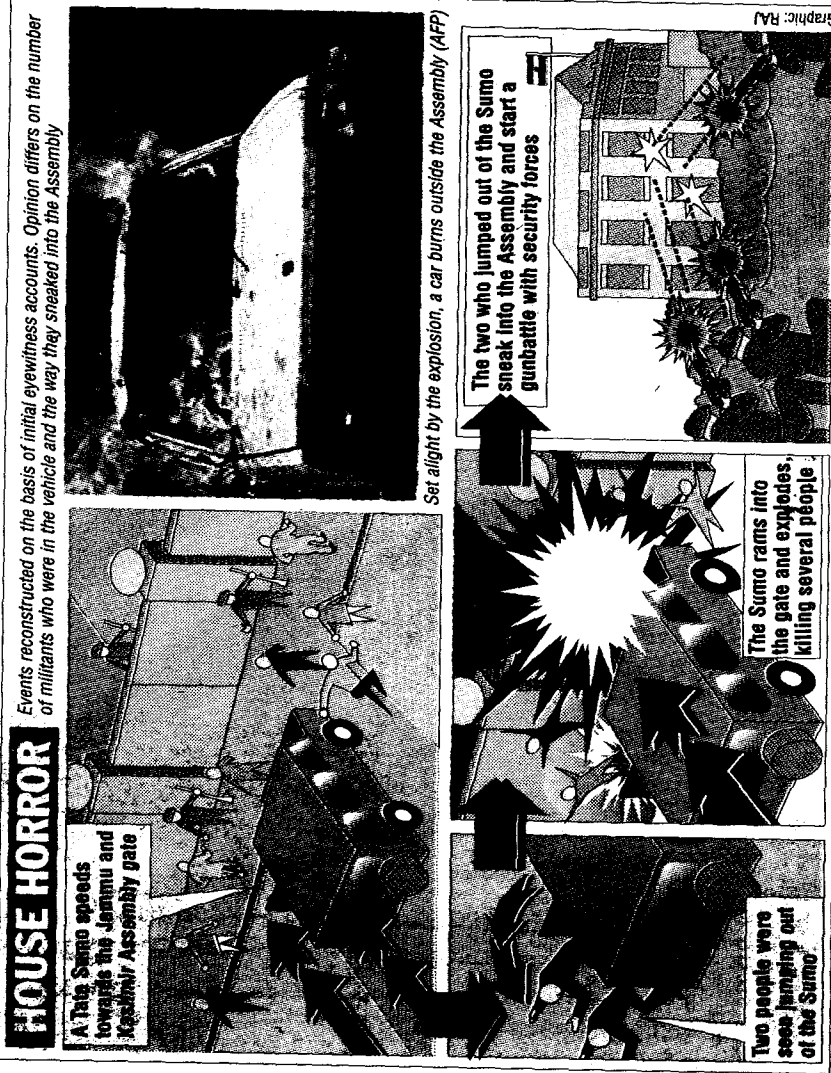
The Urban Cooperative Banks (UCBs) also get a boost as the RBI decided to allow them to grant loans against shares and debentures within the overall ceiling of 20 per cent of the owned funds by keeping a margin to the extent of 40 per cent.

In a bid to improve the effectiveness of liquidity adjustment facility (LAF), the RBI has reiterated that in addition to overnight repos, it will also have the discretion to introduce longer term repos up to 14-day period as and when required.

Related reports on Page 12

# Suicide attackers strike home

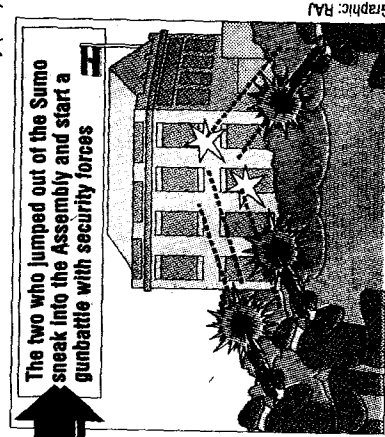
## Militants flaunt Pakistani hand in Assembly car-bomb blast



Events reconstructed on the basis of initial eyewitness accounts. Opinion differs on the number of militants who were in the vehicle and the way they sneaked into the Assembly



Set alight by the explosion, a car burns outside the Assembly (AFP)



The two who jumped out of the Sumo sneak into the Assembly and start a gunbattle with security forces

Graphic: RAJ

### FROM MUKHTAR AHMAD

**Srinagar, Oct. 1:** Militants singled out the seat of power in Kashmir for their worst strike since the aerial attacks on the US, killing 23 people in a suicide bomb explosion and in the gunbattle that followed. Guerrillas of the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad drove up in a hijacked explosives-packed Tata Sumo to the main gate of the Assembly in Jehangir Chowk and triggered the blast, police said. At least 17 people died in the explosion. The House was in session but had broken for

lunch during the attack that took place around 2.00 pm. After the strike — not as spectacularly audacious as the New York and Washington attacks that terrorists can hit at will — Jaish unleashed a missile at Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf. Owning responsibility for the incident, it said the suicide-bomber was a Pakistani, handing New Delhi a weapon to fire at Islamabad. In a statement late tonight, India said its "patience is fast running out". Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee said: "The killing... indi-

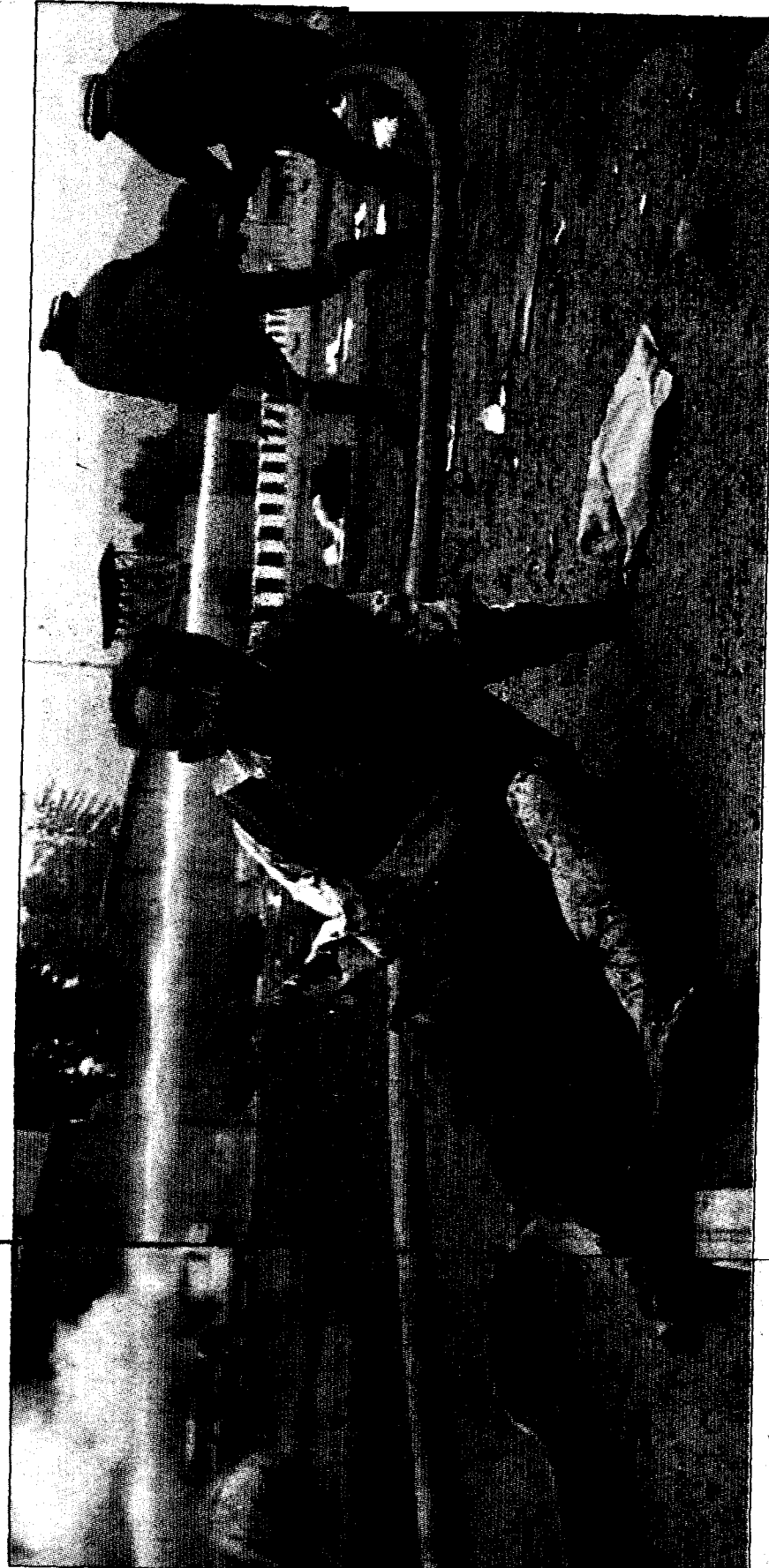
cates that it was a pre-planned conspiracy. But this is a symbol of their (militants') frustration as they know terrorism does not have a future." Pakistan condemned the attack. As the Jaish militants headed for the heavily-guarded Assembly this afternoon minutes after traffic restrictions were withdrawn, two guerrillas in police uniform jumped out of the speeding white Sumo. The vehicle, like the planes that crashed into the World Trade Centre and the Pentagon, was hijacked half-an-hour before the attack. The vehicle belonged to the

telecom department. After their third colleague blew himself up at the gates, the duo sneaked into the building. They opened fire from automatic weapons and hurled grenades. A trapped Assembly employee, Abdul Ahad, said: "I saw two militants coming towards the main Assembly building firing from automatic weapons in all directions... and the others took shelter in a room. But in the exchange of fire, one of my colleagues died." The police said at least 70 people were wounded (one of them the Reuters picture above) in the blast, that left dozens, including civilian bystanders, Assembly employees and policemen, sprayed in pools of blood. Witnesses said explosions and gunfire were heard after the attack. Speaker Abdul Ahad Vakil, who was inside, was rescued by special commandos. A Jaish spokesman phoned newspaper offices and said: "One of

### QUOTE

**The militants opened fire while I was being evacuated**

SPEAKER



our 'suicide bombers, Wajahat Hussain, drove up to the Assembly building gate and blew himself up. (A) Number of our *mujahideen* have sneaked into the Assembly building and the fight continues." Armoured vehicles were moved in and the area was cordoned off as gunfire was traded between the holed-up militants and security forces. The BSF, the CRPF and police launched a joint operation to evacuate those trapped inside. The gunbattle ended around 11 pm. The police said the militants were dead and Assembly employees stuck in the building freed. Earlier, security forces rained

shells on the complex to smoke out the militants. The Assembly caught fire and part of it was gutted. "There is a danger the fire may spread to the old civil secretariat complex. Our vehicles are fighting the fire," said the duty officer at the fire headquarters. A nationwide alert has been sounded and security beefed up at airports after Jaish threatened to hijack a plane from India in two days. A senior officer at Calcutta airport said the police force "was on its toes" and "on the highest alert to thwart such designs".

Jaish-e-Mohammad was launched in February 2000 by Masood Azhar, one of the three terrorists freed in Kandahar. Masood had once met Osama bin Laden who is said to have funded Jaish. The Karachi-based Al Rashheed Trust blacklisted by the US has links with Jaish. In April 2000, Jaish claimed credit for a suicide attack on the Badami Bagh cantonment, the first such in Jammu and Kashmir. Jaish was also involved in a rifle grenade attack on the secretariat building.

See Page 6

## Musharraf, Vajpayee may meet in New York next month

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan has said there is a likelihood of a meeting between President Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York next month.

"There is a chance of the two leaders meeting as Gen Musharraf too would go to New York to address the UN general assembly session," Pakistan foreign minister Abdul Sattar said in an interview to PTV on Saturday night.

"On our part, we would be ready to resume the dialogue process with India, and if they reciprocated there is likelihood of a meeting between the two leaders at the sidelines of the UNGA session,"

Mr Sattar said.

Asked about the rational b e h i n d Pakistan's desire to resume dialogue with India, Mr Sattar said, "Being the i m m e d i a t e neighbours it would be in the best interest of both India and Pakistan to settle all their outstanding matters through peaceful and meaningful dialogue."

He also said, "There should not be any heart burning in India if Pakistan gets any benefit in view of the prevailing situation due to its pivotal role in the fight against ter-



Gen. Musharraf



A.B. Vajpayee

rorism." "At least they should shun such an attitude if there is no harm to them," Mr Sattar said.

Mr Sattar said Pakistan's positive policy has yielded greatly

in its favour. It is currently the focus of world attention and nations around world are appreciating its stance against terrorism. "They are also extending economic assistance to Pakistan to stabilise its fragile economy in the face unprecedented economic pressures due to U.S. attacks on Afghanistan," he said.

Asked whether the renewed friendship towards Pakistan from the U.S. would be enduring or is it seasonal one like in the past to meet their own ends, Mr Sattar said, "The policies of nations do change with the passage of time to serve their interests but as the Americans were themselves saying we hope that this time the desire of having close and friendly relations with Pakistan would be enduring."

Replying to a question about Pakistan's new Afghan policy, the foreign minister said, "New adjustments were necessitated to protect our national interests in view of the fast changing world scenario after the September 11 terror attacks in New York and Washington." (PTI)

ANNAN INVITES THE GENERAL

## Islamabad keen on Musharraf-PM meet

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 20 Pakistan tonight announced that Gen. Pervez Musharraf would travel to New York on November 10 to take part in the United Nations General Assembly session and would look forward to a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

In an interview to the state-run Pakistan Television (PTV), the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said Islamabad desired a continuation of the dialogue process with New Delhi and looked forward to an opportunity for a meeting between Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Vajpayee in New York.

Mr. Vajpayee would be in New York on November 10 and he is slated to address the U.N. Assembly on the same day. He is expected to travel to Washington for a one-to-one meeting with the U.S. President, Mr. Bush.

Mr. Sattar criticised what he termed India's "negative attitude" towards Pakistan ever since September 11 and maintained that Islamabad was in favour of extending the hand of friendship.

"It appears the concern of India is about gains for Pakistan in the post-September 11 situation rather than anything else. This is not the right attitude," he said.

The U.N. Secretary-General, Mr. Kofi Annan, had on Friday night telephoned Gen. Musharraf and urged him to come to New York and participate in the General Assembly session.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, speaking to newsmen earlier, said Mr. Annan had told Gen. Musharraf that the U.N. members and the world community looked forward to listening to Pakistan's views on the emerging situation.

## Pak. continuing with proxy war: Fernandes

SIACHEN BASE, OCT. 20. The Defence Minister, Mr. George Fernandes, today accused Pakistan of aiding and abetting terrorism against India and said the international community should take concerted efforts to eradicate the menace.

"No airstrike can eradicate the menace of terrorism completely and the international community has to make concerted efforts to eradicate it," he said addressing the troops at the Siachen base camp.

Mr. Fernandes, who visited the world's highest battlefield for the first time in his second stint as Defence Minister said, "India has been highlighting the menace of terrorism for decades now. But, unfortunately the world never understood our contention that terrorism has no boundaries".

Accusing Islamabad of continuing with the proxy war, Mr. Fernandes said Pakistan had been abetting terrorism and pumping narcotics money in training and equipping militants. — PTI

### We can tackle J&K terrorism: Advani

By Our Correspondent

SHIMLA, OCT. 20. The Union Home

Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, said today that though India had been trying to attract the world's attention to the menace of terrorism for a long time, not much attention was paid to it. But now, after the terrorist attacks on the U.S. the world opinion has started emerging.

Mr. Advani, who was in Kullu Himachal Pradesh, to inaugurate a Hydro power project, said India was fully capable of handling the terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir without any outside help. It had become a global problem now and the consensus on solving it was a welcome development.

### Warns Pakistan

PTI reports:

Mr. Advani warned Pakistan to be prepared for the consequences if it continued with its policy of supporting terrorism.

"Hot pursuit is accepted as a legitimate course of action in international law but, at the moment, we are confident we will be able to overcome terrorism without resorting to that," he told newsmen. During the Kargil war, he said, "there was a desire, there was a natural inclination to go beyond the LoC, but we did not do it. We exercised restraint even at that time."

THE HINDU

17 OCT 2001

# India raising tension: Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

9/10/10  
10-20/10  
ISLAMABAD, OCT. 19. The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi, has alleged that India wanted to raise the level of tension and after the September 11 events, the Indian media as well as the government went on raising tension and their only focus was to link Pakistan to whatever "wrongs" were happening in the world.

Participating in a programme on the state-run Pakistan Television, he said the Indian media had started saying that there was a link between Pakistan and what had happened in the United States, but nobody paid attention. However, the Indians continued to say that the ISI was somehow linked to Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaeda outfit, but this was again rejected outright by the world community.

Gen. Qureshi said an explosion occurred in Srinagar and India said the Jaish-e-Mohammad had claimed responsibility. However, this was denied by the JeM. This incident happened when the Indian External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, was in Washington. When Mr. Singh moved to London, there was an attempted hijacking of an Indian airliner.

When Pakistan conveyed that it would not allow the aircraft to enter its airspace or land at its airport, the Indians said it was a hoax. When the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, arrived in Islamabad, Indian troops opened fire across the Line of Control with artillery, mortar, rockets and machine-guns on not just Pakistani positions but also on civilians, he alleged.

Gen. Qureshi said the Indian effort was not to be sidelined, not to be forgotten, to stay around in the world media because Pakistan seemed to be getting all the attention and India seemed to be ignored.

In a related development, the Pakistan Religious Affairs Minister, Dr. Mehmood Ahmad Ghazi, has been quoted in the local media as saying that "Pakistan has to save its nuclear capability and the atomic bomb for a war against India." Speaking at a seminar on 'Pakistan's security and Ulema's role' in Islamabad, he urged the people of the country to maintain restraint on the Afghan issue, as President Musharraf had taken the right decision in the supreme national interest.

He has been quoted as saying that "Pakistan is ready for a war with India and since it is the first atomic power of the Islamic world, it should not become the victim of farce emotions and sentiments." He said Gen. Musharraf had opted for a lesser evil.

"The bad thing is that our brethren are being killed but, on the other hand, the destruction of Pakistan would be worst and disastrous for the entire Islamic world," he told the audience.

In another development, the Chief of the Al-Badr outfit, Mr. Bakht Zameen, has said that if India made any aggression against PoK or Pakistan, the Mujahideen would destroy all Indian airbases. He has been quoted in the Urdu daily, *Ausaf*, as saying that the Mujahideen were present all over India and the rulers of the country and the army should not be under any illusion.

# Jaswant Singh refutes Pak. claim

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 19. The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), which met here tonight, dismissed reports of sustained and enhanced firing along the border. After the relatively heavy firing on October 15 to check

infiltration, there had been no major firing incident.

Any suggestion by Pakistan that India was escalating tension along the border was incorrect, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said after the CCS meeting. "The activity

along the Line of Control (LoC) at present is no departure from that in the past. Firing along it extremely limited."

Earlier in the day, the Defence Ministry suggested that reports indicating heavy firing, specifically along the LoC in Akhnoor, Punch and Rajouri, in the past few days, had been exaggerated. Admitting to "low-level exchanges of fire, which are of a routine nature", it said no heavy firing had taken place in the past four days. "Some small sporadic firing here and there is of no consequence," the Ministry spokesperson said.

The previous heavy exchange took place after the Army detected infiltration and used small arms fire to kill and pursue terrorists attempting to sneak into Jammu and Kashmir

across the LoC. A Ministry spokesperson had on Thursday denied that there was any heightening of tension along the LoC. The firing, described as routine, was restricted to small arms, mortars and automatic grenade launchers. India refrained from using artillery, he added.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesperson indicated New Delhi's desire to reduce tension along the border. In response to a question, she said India was still awaiting a response from Pakistan about its earlier proposal of a possible visit to Islamabad by the Director-General of Military Operations (DGMOs). However, both DGMOs maintain their weekly telephonic contact. They last spoke on Thursday.

## Pak. warns of consequences

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 19. The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi, has said that "Indians know well that if they resort to any adventure they will suffer tremendous losses".

Participating in a programme on the state-run Pakistan Television, Gen. Qureshi said that India was seeking to gain attention in the wake of the September 11 events.

"But the limit to which Indians are going, I am afraid they will have to face the consequences." Pakistan could not ignore completely that there had been troop movements in Kashmir, where he claimed there were already more than 650,000 troops.

CHIEF MINISTER

DEPARTMENT

20 OCT 2001

## INDIA'S STRIKEBACK

Proxy war ought to have consequences

**T**HE strong action taken by the army, when several Pakistani posts in the Akhnoor and Mendhar sectors on the LoC were destroyed in response to infiltration attempts by militants in that area, was long overdue. After the devastating suicide attacks on the Jammu and Kashmir assembly, the message ought to be sent across the border that the threshold of tolerance for further attempts to push militants into Kashmir is very low. The integral link between Pakistani armed forces and Kashmir militants was underscored once again by threats held out by the Lashkar-e-Toiba to avenge the destruction of Pakistani border posts by launching suicide attacks in India. There is a further issue here. When the Taliban breaks in Afghanistan under the pressure of the US-backed anti-Taliban coalition, fleeing Taliban fighters will almost certainly make their way to Pakistan's NWFP where they will have sanctuary among fellow Pashtuns. Pakistan which is backing the US-led coalition will see them as a destabilising force, and try to push them into India in the name of Kashmir's "freedom" movement. Strong disincentives are needed to convince the Pakistanis that this is not on.

The Pakistan army has launched its own "Operation Khabardar" in response to India's "Operation Kamyab", and heavy troop movements have been reported across the border. It is possible that it may attempt to avenge its casualties for which preparations need to be made and the battle joined if that happens. While it is welcome that the armed forces are at last taking the battle to the other side, aggressive actions need to be specific and calibrated to the degree of provocation. Escalating the situation is not in India's interests now.

THE STATESMAN

# Prepared to meet Delhi's designs, says Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 18. Pakistan has denied India's charge of firing by its troops in the Akhnoor sector in Jammu and Kashmir early today, and maintained that New Delhi could be making it up to cover up the "embarrassment over detection" of movement of its forces along the LoC and the International Border.

"There was no firing from our side," a spokesman of the Pakistan army said. Pakistan and India often exchanged fire on the "working boundary" because of a dispute on fencing, but no Pakistani forces were firing in that area on Thursday. "The dispute in this area is that India wants to fence it, which is against the international law. There were paramilitary forces deployed in the sector."

At the regular press briefing, the Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, said the situation on the Line of Control was

calm. "The situation was more or less calm except for exchange of light machinegun fire across the working boundary and the LoC. The factual position is that since yesterday the situation has been more or less calm."

Mr. Khan said Pakistan continued to observe the policy of maximum restraint on the LoC. "As regards reports from India about heavy shelling and intensive exchange of fire, we do not know why these statements which are not borne out of the situation are being made. Maybe to cover up the embarrassment of the Indian feelings because the detection by the U.S. of the moves that they have made day before yesterday and yesterday."

If India had any other design, the Pakistan army was fully prepared to meet any eventuality. "If India is preparing for war, it would be madness. It is ours as well the effort of the international community to reduce tension with India. This is what the U.S. Secretary of

State, Gen. Colin Powell, stressed during his visit here".

Asked about India's demand that terrorists hiding in Pakistan be handed over to it, the spokesman said he could not figure out what terrorists New Delhi was talking about. "Pakistan is in the forefront in the fight against terrorism and in the past it had co-operated with the United Kingdom and countries in West Asia in handing over identified terrorists. The Indian claims do not appear to be based on facts".

Mr. Khan reiterated that Kashmir was the central issue to normalisation of ties between India and Pakistan, and expressed the hope that sooner or later New Delhi would respond to the invitation for resumption of dialogue. Gen. Pervez Musharraf had extended an invitation to Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and Mr. Jaswant Singh to visit Pakistan to carry forward the dialogue process.

THE HINDU



## TENSION MOUNTS IN AKHNOOR SECTOR

# Heavy firing by Pak. troops

By Shujaat Bukhari

**PALLANWALA (LoC), OCT. 18.** As Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing in the Chicken Neck area of the Akhnoor sector on Wednesday, tension along the Line of Control is mounting.

A Defence spokesman confirmed that the Pakistani troops resorted to heavy firing on Wednesday night. "They used heavy calibre weapons and automatic grenade-launchers were indiscriminately fired in an open area where a large number of people are dwelling." The grenade-launchers, in fact, were being used for the first time by Pakistan. This had created panic and people in the vicinity were rushing towards safer areas. "Necessary retaliation is being taken up," the spokesman added.

Unlike as in Kathua, the situation here is highly tense and there has been a visible movement of additional troops. The "build-up" had started soon after the U.S. bombing in Afghanistan. India's action on Monday (of shelling Pakistani army posts across the LoC in Mendhar and Akhnoor sectors) may indicate a major offensive against the militants. The "ruthless action," could start from here, a senior official told *The Hindu*.

The movement in these areas, including the Rajouri-Poonch sector, has not been confined to infantry troops which have been moved in larger numbers. The artillery and tank units are on their way to the forward areas. The troops are conducting new exercises and the main thrust is on plugging the infiltration routes. Sources here said the Army headquarters had cleared the "build-up."

Pakistan, in the last few years, had set up special launching centres code-named Border Action Teams. Over 30 such camps are active along the LoC from Poonch to Kathua. The Army is now concentrating on new plans to pre-



Soldiers patrolling on the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu on Thursday. — Reuters

vent infiltration in these areas as the passes in the Kashmir Valley will be closed due to snow. The areas just close to the LoC are being cleared of the large bushes, known as Sarkanda, which can cover many at a time. A few belts are also being mined to foil militant attempts.

The nature of the Army offensive is not yet clear; but frustrating Pakistani attempts to facilitate infiltration will form the basis of any operation. Analysts believe that this may be the beginning of a hot pursuit to strike at training camps, something the Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, has been demanding.

The Pallanwala area of Akhnoor has been the worst-hit in the recent years as Pakistan continuously shelled civilian areas and many migrated to Jammu. "Apprehensions of war loom large and there is no hope," Ram Lal, a resident, said. If the Army launches a major offensive, the situation in the border areas will be alarm-

ing with no chance for thousands of migrants to go back.

### Troop movement routine: India

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 18.** India today denied reports of any "heightened tension" along the Line of Control (LoC) and described the remarks of the Pakistani spokesperson to the contrary as "intemperate and uncalled for."

"There has been no heightening of tension and we have not recalled anybody from leave," an army spokesperson said at a joint briefing with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA).

He described the movement of a formation as "normal", as troops were being rotated routinely.

According to the spokesperson, the Directors-General of Military Operations (DGMO) of India and Pakistan spoke on Wednesday afternoon. During the unscheduled conversation at Islamabad's re-

quest, the Indian side stated that it had no intention of taking advantage of the complex situation in Pakistan. The Indian DGMO, Lt. General S.S. Chahal, also "categorically" refuted the assertion that the IAF had been deployed for offensive action.

But India, as is "self-evident", was "duty bound" to prevent any attempt at infiltration, he added.

Meanwhile, a senior Defence Ministry official described the firing along the International Border (IB) and the LoC in Jammu division as routine and provoked by Pakistan. Both sides exchanged only small arms fire.

"No serious damage was reported and so far there have been no reports of casualties," said a senior Defence Ministry official.

He maintained that India retaliated to the firing that was restarted by Pakistan in the morning. Small arms, mortars and automatic grenade-launchers were used, but artillery was avoided.

THE HINDU

19 OCT 2001

# Pak. unnecessarily edgy, says India

18/10  
By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, OCT. 17. India has dismissed Pakistani claims about heightened Indian troop movement along the border.

"No additional movement of troops or air assets has taken place," said a senior Defence Ministry official. He rejected claims of Indian troop build-up by the Pakistan Defence spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rashid Quereshi in Islamabad, as "unacceptable". The Foreign Office also described the Pakistani allegation as "complete fabrication".

Ruling out the movement of additional troops to Jammu and Kashmir, the official felt that Pakistan was being unnecessarily edgy. The border had seen only a routine turnover of units which normally took place after monsoons and before the onset of winter. Some units were returning after completing their tenure while others were taking their place. Routine adjustments were also carried out routinely at this time of the year to prevent infiltration, he added.

## Pak. forces on high alert

B. Muralidhar Reddy reports from Islamabad: Pakistan today accused India of moving its troops and relocating its air force assets along the Line of Control (LOC) and the International Border (IB) and said this action might prove

to be a threat to Pakistan's security.

The Press Secretary to the Pakistan President and Director-General of Inter-Services Public Relations, Maj. Gen. Rashid Quereshi, who made a sudden appearance at the fag-end of the regular briefing of the Foreign Office spokesman, declared that Pakistani forces were on high alert to thwart any "mischief and misadventure."

"Now we have information wherein India has moved some troops and relocated some air force assets. This action in the context of the irresponsible remarks of the newly-appointed Defence Minister of India and unprovoked firing by the Indian forces on Monday in Azad Kashmir (Pak-occupied Kashmir) as well as the international border has become a cause of concern."

The Pakistan armed forces were fully alive to the situation and were on a high state of alert. While world attention remained focused on developments in Afghanistan, no one would be allowed to take advantage of the situation.

Pakistan reserved the right to retaliate against any act of aggression. Demonstrations by some extremist elements in different parts of Pakistan might have conveyed an impression of weakness, he said and maintained that Pakistanis had always demonstrated unity in any hour of need.

Earlier in his briefing, the Pakistan Foreign

Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammad Khan, said Islamabad was intrigued by some of the developments in India. "We find a sinister pattern in these incidents", he said specifically mentioning the firing on Monday and the car blast outside the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on October 1.

Asked if Pakistan was blaming the Indian authorities for the incident outside the Srinagar Assembly, Mr. Khan said that in the past renegade elements encouraged by Indian intelligence had indulged in such acts. "India has been trying to use these incidents to malign Pakistan and the freedom struggle in Kashmir."

He said the car blast outside the Srinagar Assembly, which Pakistan had condemned as an act of terrorism, took place at a juncture when the Indian Foreign Minister was in Washington. "The Indian media to malign Pakistan used it. The hijack of the aircraft was another incident".

Mr. Khan said the massacre of Sikhs in Chattisinghpura coincided with the visit of the former U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, to the region. He maintained that India refused to hold an impartial enquiry into the killings of the Amarnath yatis in August last year on the ground that it would 'demoralise' the armed forces.

THE HINDU

18 OCT 2001

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2001

## NEED FOR RESTRAINT

THE INTENSIVE SHELLING of some Pakistani military positions by the Indian Army on Monday night has exposed the fragility of the Vajpayee administration's strategic thinking on the Kashmir issue in the present volatile international situation. New Delhi should first guard against making any move that might result in a dangerous drift towards full-scale hostilities with Pakistan. To say this is not to ignore or belittle the sense of outrage that the Indian Army in the Mendhar and Akhnoor sectors of Jammu and Kashmir obviously felt as regards the Pakistan-encouraged terrorist infiltration into the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) in this particular instance. However, an apparently trigger-happy response to the perception of a provocative infiltration carried the elementary hallmark of routine ground-level tactics. The available accounts indicate that India's field commanders considered it prudent to target some Pakistani military infrastructure in a "punitive action" that was aimed at pre-emptively discouraging such terrorist infiltrations in the future. In a sense, there is nothing very unusual about the latest infiltration or even the Indian response except for their timing, but this reality is of critical importance. There can be no two opinions indeed about the need for utmost vigil by India's military forces. Not arguable, too, is the principle of sustaining their morale at a very high pitch. However, New Delhi should move beyond the threshold of statesmanship while meeting the suspected efforts by Pakistan to raise the diplomatic-military stakes concerning Jammu and Kashmir at this enormously sensitive stage.

The spiralling tensions in India's extended neighbourhood are undeniably the direct consequence of Washington's ongoing war in Afghanistan. Moreover, official Pakistan was among the first to make common cause with the U.S. over what is now turning into an unpredictable and messy adventure. The ongoing American military offensive in Afghanistan is also beginning to cause considerable discomfort within the Islamic

bloc. In the books of the Vajpayee administration, Pakistan therefore figures as an increasingly unstable state in quest of America's strategic support over the Kashmir issue at this time. New Delhi's transparent concern is that Islamabad may see the Kashmir 'cause' as the political glue that could keep Pakistan together in these circumstances. This explains the External Affairs Ministry's denunciation of Pakistan for "exaggerating" Monday night's "incidents along the LoC" so as to "misuse" the U.S. Secretary of State's current visit to South Asia.

What New Delhi has so far failed to see in today's nebulous international environment is the sagacity of adopting a policy of strategic restraint in regard to Pakistan. Instead, some policy-planners, such as Mr. L. K. Advani with no hands-on responsibility for navigating India's foreign policy through uncharted but troubled waters, have even advocated a "hot pursuit" of the Kashmir-related terrorists behind the Pakistani lines along the LoC. Now, it requires no elaborate reasoning to recognise that India's national interest will be best served at this moment by a decision against imitating America's current ideas and manoeuvres that include the notion of a hot pursuit of Osama bin Laden, don of international terror. A policy of meaningful caution about the U.S.' aims will indeed enable New Delhi to exercise strategic restraint in respect of Pakistan too. It will be a foolhardy recipe at this juncture if New Delhi were to shift its stance, unwittingly or otherwise, from its own admirable record of military and political restraint as practised with consummate ease at the height of the Kargil crisis not long ago. In a sense, India's stature on the international stage rose dramatically in that Kargil context. Those moral and political gains must not be frittered away. Given also the inter-linked political destinies of India and Pakistan, the two can and should seek to coexist through a continuous process of dialogue before and after a settlement of the Kashmir issue.

THE HINDU

17 OCT 2001

# Reading the General HRS 11/10

**S**INCE IT is now clear that India has to fight its own battle against terrorism, it will be worthwhile for it to ponder over the possible implications of the war in Afghanistan. First, the positive features. There must be some satisfaction in New Delhi that the emergence of, if not an overtly friendly, but at least not a hostile regime in Kabul in the not too distant future will mean a big setback to the *jehadi* enterprise run so far by Islamabad and the Taliban. In addition, Pakistan, too, will not be able to give as much free play to the terrorist outfits for some time. The arrest of several clerics and the removal of hardliners from senior positions in the army and the intelligence services suggest that Pakistan will try to project itself as a moderate Islamic State to remain in the good books of the US.

The irony, of course, is that this posture of restraint is being adopted by none other than General Pervez Musharraf, the hero — or anti-hero, in Indian eyes — of the Kargil misadventure. From this standpoint, how much can he be trusted will always bug Indians, not least because the dictator is a smooth talker. If he is now holding out the olive branch to India, it is evidently because of American pressure. In addition, he may have seriously expected India to take advantage of his cur-

rent discomfiture to launch an attack. As a master dissembler himself, it is not surprising that he expected a stab in the back — of the kind he inflicted on Nawaz Sharif. India had done well, therefore, to demonstrate its maturity by assuring Pakistan that it did not want to exploit its difficulties even as General Musharraf was telling New Delhi to “lay off”.

But notwithstanding the present slight defusion of the tense relations between India and Pakistan, New Delhi can never be sure how serious Islamabad will be in the quest for peace in the coming days. It is difficult to believe that Pakistan will forsake its policy of terrorism in Kashmir which it has pursued with such diligence since the late Eighties. Much will depend on the tussle between moderates and hardliners in the Pakistani establishment. But it is a safe presumption that, where India is concerned, they are all hardliners. India, therefore, will have to formulate its policies with great care, reaching out to the more responsible sections in Pakistan with the kind of various confidence-building measures which the Vajpayee government had taken on the eve of the Agra summit. At the same time, New Delhi has to remember that it is still the villain of Kargil who is in charge in Islamabad.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 OCT 2001

## 9/6 Pro-active firing 9/20/02

Troubled times do not mean Pakistan can take advantage

**A**FTER a lull of many months, the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir suddenly came alive on Monday night with heavy fire from the Indian side destroying a dozen Pakistani posts in the Mendhar and Akhnoor sectors. It appears that this marks the start of a "pro-active approach" by the Indian army. Certainly a military spokesman describes it as such and for the army to take "punitive action", in response to what it says are Pakistani army attempts to send militants across the LoC, is a departure from recent practice. The change of tactics, if indeed that is the case, will probably receive popular support in India. It follows the worst-ever terrorist strike in Kashmir of October 1 when 40 people were killed outside the Assembly building by a suicide bomber and three accomplices. The Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed initially claimed responsibility for the massacres which caused widespread outrage in India.

A pro-active policy on the LoC may be designed to meet domestic demands for a tougher Indian response to cross-border terrorism. It may also be intended to send the kind of message Washington needs to hear. The Bush administration is seen by many within the government and in the country generally to focus exclusively on its own agenda, to take India's support for granted but not take sufficiently into account terrorist assaults on India at present and over the last decade. Perhaps the tension at the LoC will be a reminder that India is left with no choice but to act on its own to mitigate the terrorist threat. It should help to concentrate US secretary of state Colin

Powell's mind on these issues. There is an obvious American dilemma in Pakistan's importance as a frontline state in the US-led campaign against terrorism and Pakistan's role in aiding terrorists who strike in India. Powell will doubtless argue for putting objectives into sequence, getting Osama bin Laden first and dealing with other forms of terrorism later. India's fear is that Washington will not pursue what some analysts in the US for politically expedient reasons are already calling 'local' terrorism. Because Pakistan is a potential long term US ally, a blind eye will be turned to its activities as was the case throughout the 1980s.

Monday's action on the LoC will sharpen all these issues when Powell meets Indian leaders. Hopefully India's concerns will be thoroughly discussed. At the same time India's expectations from the Americans need to be moderated by a better appreciation of international terrorism, by the fact that the elimination of Al-Qaeda will reduce the terrorist threat in this region and that Pakistan will come under some pressure to cut its links with jihadi groups. As for the LoC, the risks attendant on a pro-active military approach are serious and call for careful consideration. Monday's action ended quickly, in a matter of hours. Other border engagements may not be so short and swift but could escalate tensions and lead to protracted action. Pakistan's army certainly needs to be deterred from taking advantage of Islamabad's present privileged position to send new batches of jihadis into Kashmir. But risky military action should be avoided.

INDIAN EXPRESS

# India fires across LoC, Bush calls for restraint

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 15. — Eleven infiltrators were killed and several Pakistani posts that provided them logistical support were destroyed by the Army across the the LoC in Mendhar and Akhnoor sectors of Kashmir today, the defence ministry confirmed. *PK* "The Army launched a successful operation against the repeated involvement of Pakistani troops in abetting activities across the LoC and the international border," a senior Army officer said.

Officers in Jammu said heavy firing had been reported over the last few days in response to Pakistan providing troop cover to terrorists in these sectors. Unconfirmed reports said the operation was named

*16/10*  
"Operation Kamiyab". The Army reportedly shelled a number of batallion-support weapons in the Pakistani posts across the LoC wreaking widespread damage.

Similar heavy firing occurred in Akhnoor sector after Pakistani soldiers helped militants place four explosive devices which could blow up electricity poles and transformers in the area.

During the firing, there was largescale destruction of Pakistani army bunkers and fortifications. Indian soldiers used mortar- and rocket-launchers for the operation.

An operation on this scale by the Indian Army comes after a lull of almost six to seven months.

The strikes come at a time when the US secretary of state, General Colin Powell, is in

Islamabad amidst severe protests there against the US action in Afghanistan. Mr Powell arrives in India tomorrow.

After the exchange of fire, Mr George W Bush, speaking from the White House, called on India and Pakistan to "stand down". "It is very important that India and Pakistan stand down during our activities in Afghanistan, or for that matter, forever," he told reporters.

**Protests:** Anti-America protests virtually shut down Kashmir as sporadic demonstrations rocked the state today during the bandh called by various religious organisations in support of Osama bin Laden. Police fired water-cannon and tear gas shells in Srinagar, injuring a over a dozen persons and arresting 20.

THE STATESMAN

10 OCT 2001

# News blackout for Indian mission in Pak

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10. — The Pakistan government has snapped access to all Indian news television channels for the Indian High Commission in Islamabad by disconnecting the local cable and satellite dish connections.

A peeved Indian government has termed the development at this juncture as "unfortunate". The lone access available is the entertainment channel. The government was informed about this new development today.

In the backdrop of this development, the external affairs minister, Mr Jaswant Singh's visit to the region does not seem imminent. "Is it possible for the minister to pay a visit to Islamabad now when

things are shaping up this way?" said a senior government official. Apparently the Karachi cable operators association, ostensibly at the behest of the Musharraf regime, had last month decided not to beam Indian channels in Pakistan through their networks.

Ironically, while the Indian High Commission was deprived of news channels, the Pakistani foreign ministry additional secretary Aziz Khan, on the other hand said yesterday that if Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee finds it difficult to visit Islamabad soon, foreign minister Jaswant Singh could pay a visit "as soon as possible".

When Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf called up Mr Vajpayee, he, too, reminded the Prime Minister about

his pending visit. But with the latest developments, the authorities are very unhappy. The government is awaiting a detailed report on the matter. Discussions and consultations are believed to be continuing. Keeping last month's incident in mind, the government is also looking into a possible Pakistan government hand in the whole affair. So far it has been decided that India will take up the issue with the Pakistani authorities.

MEA spokesperson, Mrs Nirupama Rao, said: "We understand that all access to news and information to our High Commission has been cut off. If it is true, it is an unfortunate development. We will take up the issue with the appropriate authorities. There is something amiss."

The High Commission has every right to information access, particularly from India, which is an absolute necessity in these times, she said. However, responding to a question whether India would retaliate by banning Pakistan Television in the country, Mrs Rao said, "this is not a zero-sum game," implying that no such move is being contemplated.

About the foreign minister's visit to Islamabad, Mrs Rao said that the visit was "not imminent". Keeping the Afghanistan developments in mind, she added that this might not be the best time for a visit and "it has nothing to do with our policy". At no point did India say that it would cut off political contacts between the two countries, she added.



A Pakistani passenger on the Delhi-Lahore bus waits for Customs clearance at Wagah on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

## VAJPAYEE BRIEFS SONIA

NEW DELHI, Oct. 10. — The Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee, met the Congress president, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, to brief her on the developing situation in the region after the United States launched its retaliatory air strikes on Afghanistan. The meeting, according to officials, took place last night at the Prime Minister's Race Course Road office.

The only official comment available was, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had agreed to meet regularly "to exchange views" on issues of national importance.

The Prime Minister apparently informed Mrs Gandhi of the details of the telephonic conversations he had held with the Presidents of the United States, Russia and Pakistan. He also informed her of the government's stand on the conflict, and the likely fallout in the region.

Congress declined to comment on Mrs Gandhi's one-on-one meeting with Mr Vajpayee. Apparently, the Prime Minister briefed the Congress president on India's role in the emerging situation in Afghanistan. — SMS

1 1 OCT 2001

THE STATESMAN

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Pmk

# Musharraf rings up Vajpayee

By Harish Khare

10-1

NEW DELHI, OCT. 8. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, late this evening is believed to have "promised" the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, that he would hold an inquiry about Pakistani involvement, if any, in the suicide car bomb attack at the Assembly building in Srinagar recently.

This "promise" of a sort was made by the Pakistani ruler when he rang up the Prime Minister. The call, which lasted 15 minutes, was expected to take place early in the evening but for some inexplicable

reason could materialise only rather late. The call is understood to have been made as a result of gentle goading from the American and British leaders.

Both Washington and London have been left in no doubt that New Delhi could not appreciate the new role being assigned to Pakistan in the "global war against terrorism" without at least acknowledging Islamabad's track record in aid and abetting terrorist activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

Gen. Musharraf told the Prime Minister that he condemned the Srinagar attack. Mr. Vajpayee is believed to have told the General

that in that case why could the Pakistan Government not arrest those involved in the attack, that claimed more than 30 lives, mostly civilians. It was then Gen. Musharraf made the promise that he would order an "inquiry".

The Pakistani leader began the conversation with an expression that the tension between the two countries should be lowered; Mr. Vajpayee responded by reiterating that India had always wanted peaceful relations with Pakistan. It was in this vein that the Pakistani leader offered his condemnation of the car bomb incident.

The third and last point Gen.

Musharraf made was that the stalled process of dialogue between the two countries should be re-started.

The Prime Minister is understood to have agreed with the suggestion in principle, but pointed to the Pakistani leader that if the unifocal insistence remained on Kashmir, and only Kashmir, then the dialogue would remain stalled; instead, Mr. Vajpayee suggested, the two countries should be willing to talk of other issues, though not excluding Kashmir. The Pakistani leader politely heard out Mr. Vajpayee.

THE HINDU

9 OCT 2001



# Pakistan nuke arsenal worries India

SRINJOY CHOWDHURY  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 8. — The Centre is concerned about the state of Pakistan's nuclear arsenal in the event of political instability in the country.

Discussions were yesterday held on the issue at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security. The meeting, convened in the wake of the US air strikes on Afghanistan, was attended by members of the Cabinet Committee on Security and senior military officers.

Besides taking stock of the current situation, they discussed the possibility of civil strife by fundamentalists which might result in political instability in Pakistan. Though there may not be any immediate likelihood of General Pervez

Musharraf being ousted, the government has to consider the possibility.

There could be domestic strife in Pakistan if the war continues for a prolonged period. If the general is overthrown, Pakistan's arsenal of nuclear weapons would fall into the hands of an "unknown quantity".

A senior government official said adequate precautionary measures were being taken. Officials said the India is aware that USA and Britain are also concerned about Pakistan being a nuclear state. There is a feeling among officials that a destabilisation of Pakistan won't be to India's advantage.

**A long war:** Contrary to expectations in some quarters, the war in Afghanistan is not going to be over in a week, say, by the US secretary of state, General Colin Po-

well's trip to India. Indian officials believe the war will last longer — perhaps, at least till the Northern Alliance (supported by India, Russia, Iran, Tajikistan and now, the USA) captures Mazar-e-Sharif in the North and Kabul. That is likely to take three weeks. Bagram airport is another target, likely to be achieved earlier as the Northern Alliance troops are already dug in close to the airport's perimeter, leaving it non-functional.

**Air force radars:** Air force radars, "opened" for surveillance after the 11 September attacks, have been deployed in operational locations last week. This means the IAF is keeping a very close watch on the situation in Afghanistan, including American strikes and Afghan retaliatory tactics.



Policemen check motorists passing by the US consulate in Mumbai on Monday. — API/PTI

THE STATESMAN

19 OCT 1988

# Kashmir, Afghanistan different: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 8. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today once again described the situation in Kashmir as "freedom struggle" and said it was not related to what had been happening in Afghanistan.

Gen. Musharraf, who was addressing a news conference here, said that to address the root of terrorism the international community should resolve political disputes including Kashmir and Palestine. "The root lies in the sense of deprivation and powerlessness. Wherever there are disputes around the world they need to be settled in a fair and just manner."

Describing the efforts taken by the world community in Afghanistan as plucking the leaves of a big tree, he said: "When you aim at an organisation like the Al-Qaeda you are cutting off a branch. The tree remains. The need is to identify the root of the problem".

Asked about the reported statements of Indian leaders, he said the response from across the border was regrettable. "When the world is facing such a catastrophe India is trying to draw mileage".

In response to a question whether he had taken up the Kashmir issue, he said it would be unbecoming on his part to talk of the Kashmir dispute with world leaders. However, the issue had figured indirectly in his discussions with world leaders, he said and emphasised the need for the international community to redress issues such as Palestine and Kashmir.

On the car bomb blast outside the Srinagar Assembly last week, he said it could not be part of the "freedom struggle" and Pakistan

strongly condemned the terrorist act. "Pakistan condemns all forms of terrorism in general and the terrorist acts perpetrated on September 11, in particular."

To a question, Gen. Musharraf said "certainly any operation in Afghanistan will not root out terrorism. We need to address the root causes which are giving birth to terrorism and are the causes of extremism."

On "internal terrorism", he said, "it hurts me when these killing take place within Pakistan. There is no fixed solution to address this problem. To address it we are taking certain actions to root out the causes."

The General said there was a need to improve law and order and "we are giving potency to the law enforcing agencies. We also need to improve the intelligence

and investigative set-up. We are moving in a very considered and deep manner to get to the root cause (of the problem). The problem is not just due to internal factors. There is an external influence to it that is very important. I know them. I can't believe that Muslims can go to mosque and kill people," he said, adding that "the external influence needs to be addressed."

## 'Campaign will be short and sharp'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, OCT. 8. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has expressed the hope that the military campaign by the U.S. and its allies against the Taliban militia would be "short, sharp and targeted" and care would be taken to ensure that there are no civilian casualties.

Addressing newsmen here today, Gen. Musharraf appeared totally in command and confident of overcoming the extraordinary situation within his country arising out of the American retaliatory attacks to get at Osama and his associates.

Though at the beginning of the 75-minute press meet he appeared tense, as the conference progressed Gen. Musharraf was more at ease. He candidly responded to questions, including that on the U-turn in the Pakistan policy on Afghanistan, and justified it on grounds of 'supreme national interests' and the changing ground realities.

Gen. Musharraf said the biggest concern of Pakistan was the nature of the dispensation to succeed the Taliban. In his opening remarks he said the emphasis should be on a broad-based political dispensation and that rehabilitation work for the Afghan people should be undertaken "promptly and adequately."

The Pakistan President lost his cool once when a reporter wanted to know if efforts would be taken to ensure that international aid for the Afghans does not make its way into the "pockets of a few Generals".

"Do not entertain such naive thoughts. Everyone

has indulged in loot and plunder that you are talking about. Generals have neither done in the past nor would they in the future," a visibly agitated Gen. Musharraf told the reporter.

Unmindful of the protests and demonstrations in different parts of the country by pro-Taliban elements against the policy of his Government to side with the U.S., Gen. Musharraf claimed that internally, "a vast majority of people is with our decision."

The President reiterated that his country had agreed to co-operate in sharing of information and intelligence, providing airspace and logistic support to the U.S. "No air base in Pakistan has been used in air strikes against Afghanistan," he categorically stated.

Asked for the basis of his optimism on an early end to the military campaign against the Taliban, Gen. Musharraf said his assessment was that the militia could no way match the technology and equipment of the rest of the world.

"I am reasonably sure that the action going on is targeted on terrorist camps" in Kabul, Kandahar, Jalalabad, Mazar-i-Sharif and Herat "and that is the desire of the forces involved in the action."

Gen. Musharraf said the impression conveyed by the media that the towns of Afghanistan were the target of Sunday night strikes was not correct. "It is an action against terrorists and not against the people of Afghanistan." Side by side, he said, "astute diplomacy" was going on, and hoped the environment would become normal and suitable.

THE HINDU

9 OCT 2001

# India not averse to talks with Pak.

AD 1 W 10  
By Atul Aneja

Ind. PMK

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 9.** A day after the telephone call by the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, to the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, the debate within the Government to re-engage Islamabad in a dialogue is beginning to acquire momentum.

Highly-placed Government sources said India was not averse to restarting the stalled talks, provided Pakistan reoriented itself and agreed to a broadbased dialogue.

But the foreign office spokesperson said a visit by the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, to Pakistan was not imminent. Mr. Singh had been invited by Islamabad, but no date had been fixed. Referring to the conversation between Gen. Musharraf, and Mr. Vajpayee, she said India was prepared for a dialogue, provided Islamabad was not fixated on the single-point Kashmir agenda. The talks should cover all aspects of the relationship including people-to-people contacts and trade.

Sources said India, in its diplomatic interaction with world leaders in the coming days, was likely to spell out the ground rules to reinitiate a dialogue. Pakistan should also do its bit to curb terrorism in Kashmir, besides responding positively to the confidence-building measures. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, and the German Chancellor, Mr. Gerhard Schroeder, are among the high profile vis-

itors who are expected to visit India this month.

In a goodwill gesture to Pakistan and the people of Afghanistan, India is sending relief supplies, including food and large quantities of medicines, to the Afghan refugee camps in northern Pakistan.

While the Government debated re-engaging Pakistan, there is considerable scepticism about the Islamabad's decision to characterise the suicide attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly as an act of terrorism. "We will have to wait and watch how the Pakistani attitude evolves," the spokesperson said in response to a question.

The Government finetuned its assessment of the changes instituted by Gen. Musharraf in his team of Corp Commanders. On the diplomatic front, Mr. Jaswant Singh held a 50-minute conversation with his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan. Both leaders discussed possible bilateral cooperation to counter terrorism and ways to improve their security and economic ties.

This conversation assumes importance as Mr. Singh has postponed his visit to Beijing and the Chinese Prime Minister, Mr. Zhu Rongji, has deferred his November visit to New Delhi. China is concerned about ensuring stability in Afghanistan as some ethnic Ughyurs who have been trained in Afghanistan have been involved in acts of terrorism in its western province of Xinjiang.

THE HINDU

10 OCT 2001

## Pak. epicentre of terrorism: Jaswant

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 5.** In a clear expression of displeasure over the U.S. overlooking Pakistan as a sponsor of terrorism, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, today said there cannot be "compromises" in the fight against this scourge.

"Pakistan is part of the problem (international terrorism)," Mr. Singh said in an interview to a TV channel, adding "the fight against terrorism simply cannot be through compromises".

Washington was now employing Islamabad as a "tool" while accepting the "ground reality" (of Pakistan sponsoring terrorism). The U.S. had to decide what was best for them, he said.

Asked whether any deals were being struck between the U.S. and Pakistan behind India's back, Mr. Singh replied in the negative but added that New Delhi would see if and when any such step was taken. Mr. Singh said Pakistan should not be part of the U.S.-led global coalition as it was the epicentre of terrorism. "Pakistan is part of the problem and the U.S. has backed India's position during our recent meetings," Mr. Singh said.

### Intriguing, says Pak.

Pakistan today said Mr. Jaswant Singh's stand that

Islamabad should not be included in any assault on global terrorism as it was the epicentre of terrorism was "not only surprising but intriguing".

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Mohammed Khan, said the Kashmir problem was over the right of self-determination of the Kashmiris and needed an early solution. "This is our basic stand and the world community fully realises the gravity of the situation," the spokesman said. Mr. Riaz, when asked if Pakistan would take up the Kashmir issue with the British Prime Minister, Mr. Tony Blair, during his short working visit to Pakistan today, said the issue could be discussed when Mr. Blair would meet the President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

He said he was not aware whether Mr. Blair was carrying with him any message or warning for Pakistan. "This is a working visit and Pakistan welcomes it is an effort to help in dealing with terrorism." He said Pakistan hoped that the visit of Mr. Blair would boost the relationship between the two countries.

Asked whether Pakistan would like Mr. Blair to carry a message for India, where he would reach this night, the spokesman said "we are not interested to send any message to India through Mr. Blair". — PTI, UNI

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## Drama aimed at maligning us: Pakistan

PTI & UNI

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 4. — Islamabad has alleged that yesterday's "hijack drama" was staged by Indian Intelligence agencies to discredit Pakistan. The foreign office spokesman, Mr Riyaz Mohammed Khan, said the Indian media "exploited" the incident to malign Pakistan and the "Kashmir movement".

The state-owned Pakistan TV said the "drama" proved right a warning by Pakistani Intelligence agencies on 2 October that India was planning to enact a hijack to malign Islamabad.

The reports circulated on 2 October by a private news agency and published in newspapers yesterday had warned that Indian intelligence agencies had planned to hijack a plane and bring it to Pakistan to get Islamabad declared a terrorist state. Islamabad had ordered not to allow the plane to enter its airspace.

### Sanctions

The US Senate foreign relations committee today moved to lift sanctions against Pakistan, seen as a key ally in the USA-led coalition against terrorism, AFP adds from Washington.

"Pakistan has chosen to stand with the USA," said the committee chairman, Mr Joe Biden. "We need to assist this important front-line state."

The measure, which passed unanimously by a voice vote, would waive a series of restrictions imposed on Pakistan following its 1999 military coup.

■ Editorial: No passion  
spent, page 6

THE STATESMAN

5 OCT 2002

■ 'When will we act, PM? Kashmiris caught between two countries, one targeting us, other not defending'

# Farooq sheds tears and some reason

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3

**M**IXING emotion and rhetoric, Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah today shed tears in the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly urging Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to ensure that the "militant training camps in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir are smashed so that the misery of the people comes to an end."

"Why are we waiting for so long, PM sahib? This war is 12 years old. When will we act?" he asked. And then got so carried away that he virtually declared Kashmir independent. "The Kashmiris are very unfortunate to have been caught in the fire of two countries," he told the House which met two days after the car bomb blast at its main gate. "One is targeting us and the other is not defending us against the aggression unleashed by the former."

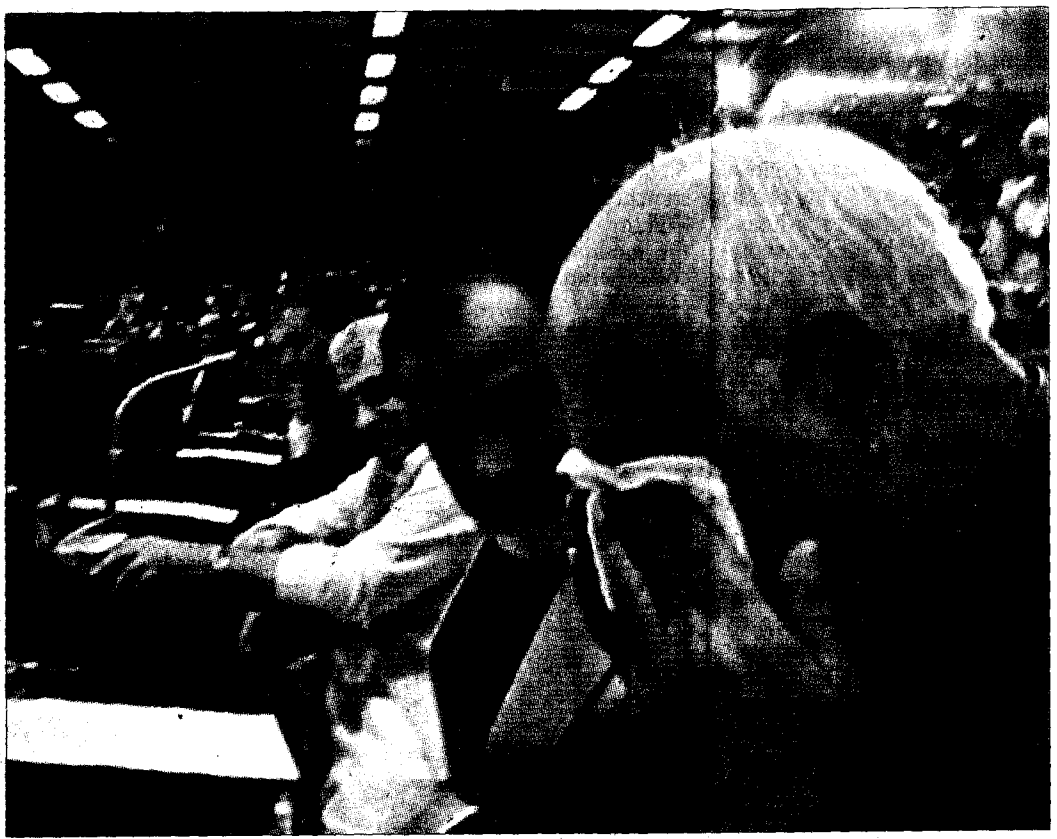
Thirteen employees of the Assembly and Council were among the 37 killed in Monday's blast for which the Jaish-e-Mohammad first claimed responsibility and then, apparently under pressure from Pakistan, issued a denial a full day later.

*Ab waqt aa gaya ki hum us mulq se phaisla karein,* (It's high time we settle it once and for all with Pakistan) Abdullah said. "Many mothers have lost their sons, sisters have grieved over the loss of their husbands and children have mourned over the bodies of their parents... We don't know how many more people will get killed. People are getting massacred daily. Prime Minister sahab ab hame itna sabar nahin hai. Aap kuch keejiye."

As for his role, he said that if Pakistan and ISI were baying for his blood, he would "submit"

## Chorus: let's go get them

- "The militant training camps in PoK should be smashed so that terrorism is not imported on our soil"
- "We don't know how many more will get killed. People are getting massacred daily. Prime Minister sahab ab ham me itna sabar nahin hai. Aap kuch keejiye (We have lost our patience, please do something)"  
— Farooq Abdullah, J&K CM
- "It does not have to be (done) overtly... You can do it covertly and destroy these training camps because bleeding by a thousand cuts is really not the way to go about it"  
— Omar Abdullah, Minister of State for External Affairs
- "Striking terrorist camps in PoK has always been a possibility. This has been one of the options" but any such decision would have to be taken by the Union cabinet after consultations with political parties.  
— I D Swami, Minister of State for Home



In between the appeals, the emotions inside the J-K Assembly. Express photo by Javeed Shah

himself at the border "provided they promise me to end the bloodshed there... Let them fire as many bullets as they can upon me. If that saves my people, I am ready to die."

Abdullah said that India was not against Pakistan but it was Pakistan, the ISI and the Hurriyat who were whipping up passions against Hindus and India. Hindus are not against Pakistan but the converse can be true, he said.

Praising the policeman, Assembly employees and fire-fighters—"they stood like a rock in the time of crisis and I'm proud to be a Chief Minister of this state—he criticized the media for giving "liberal" coverage to Hurriyat and militants. "I don't want this type of a press. I appeal them to expose the

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

## Return Jaish chief: Advani to Pak

TARIQ BHAT  
SRINAGAR, OCTOBER 3

UNION Home Minister L K Advani today said if Pakistan was earnest in fighting terrorism then it should handover the leader of Jaish-e-Muhammad to India. Jaish had claimed responsibility for the attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on Monday in which 38 people were killed before issuing a denial 24 hours later from Pakistan.

Moulana Masood Azhar, the Jaish leader, who Advani now wants Pakistan to deliver to India was personally escorted by Union Minister for External Affairs and Defence Jaswant Singh and handed over to the kidnappers of the IC-814 flight in Kandahar in December 1999. The kidnappers had demanded the release of Azhar, a Harkat-ul-Mu-



jahideen commander who was in Indian jails since 1994, as a condition for the release of the hijacked plane.

Advani who addressed a press conference here today along with the state Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah and Governor Girish Saxena said Prime Minister Vajpayee has written to the US about the Srinagar attack and emphasised that for more than a decade India has been bearing the burden of such attacks. He also said India has demanded that Jaish be included in the list of banned terrorist groups.

"The prime minister has stressed that we have been witnessing terrorism over a decade and India's patience has a limit," Advani said. Jaswant Singh, who is in the US, has drawn Washington's

**CONTINUED ON PAGE 2**

INDIAN EXPRESS

4 OCT 2001

# Manifestation of Pak.'s anger, says Advani

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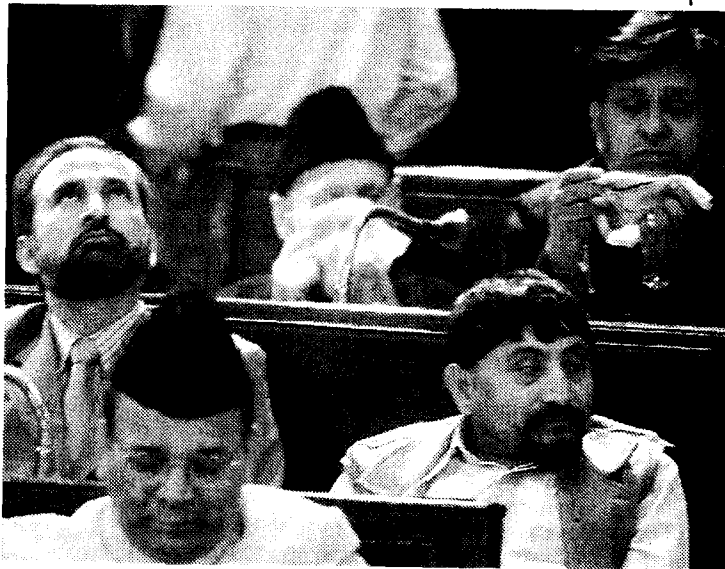
By Shujaat Bukhari

**SRINAGAR, OCT. 3.** The Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, said today that Pakistan had targeted the Jammu and Kashmir legislature on Monday (when a suicide attack by the militant outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammad, claimed 36 lives) because it was a representative institution and reflected the people's commitment to democracy, secularism and unity with India. Speaking to mediapersons at the end of his one-day visit to Srinagar, he said Pakistan was angry with the people of the State for having belied the two-nation theory and acceded to secular India. "This (the attack) is a manifestation of that anger."

## 'Turning point'

Addressing the joint session of the legislature, scheduled at the legislative complex but held at the Sher-e-Kashmir International Conference Centre, Mr. Advani told the legislators that the attack was a turning point in the 12 years of militancy and would define a new road map to tackle the menace of terrorism. In the hour-long closed-door meeting, he assured the members of the Centre's support, sources said.

Later, Mr. Advani chaired the meeting of the Unified Headquarters — apex body of the State security and intelligence agencies. The situation arising out of the



**Jammu and Kashmir legislators wipe away tears as the Assembly session in Srinagar resumed on Wednesday, after the suicide bombing that claimed 36 lives. — AP**

strike and measures to deal with such eventualities were discussed.

The Jammu and Kashmir Governor, Mr. G. C. Saxena, the Chief Minister, Dr. Farooq Abdullah, the Union Minister of State for Home, Mr. Vidyasagar Rao, the Minister of State Home for Jammu & Kashmir, Mr. Khalid Suhrawardy, the Union Home Secretary, Mr. Kamal Pandey, the Chief Secretary, Mr. Ashok Jaitly,

and the top brass of the Army, the para-military forces and police attended the meeting.

Soon after his arrival in Srinagar, Mr. Advani and his team visited the legislative complex. He was escorted to the gutted portion of the building. Mr. Advani asked senior officers if there had been a security lapse. Unprecedented security arrangements were made in the city for Mr. Advani's visit.

## CCS reviews J&K situation

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, OCT. 3.** The Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS), reviewed the security scenario in Jammu and Kashmir today. It was the second meeting of the CCS this week which focussed on the situation in Kashmir, particularly after Monday's suicide attack on the J&K Assembly in which 36 people have died so far.

The meeting, presided over by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, was attended among others by the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, the Finance Minister, Mr. Yashwant Sinha, the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Mr. Brajesh Mishra, the Centre's interlocutor on Kashmir, Mr. K.C. Pant and the three service chiefs.

## Swamy for action against terrorists

By Our Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI, OCT. 3.** The Janata Party president, Dr. Subramanian Swamy, has called upon the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to "make amends for his Government's softness to terrorists" in the handling of the 1999 Kandahar airline hijack.

In a statement released here today, he said the Prime Minister must direct the Air Force to bomb "terrorists training camps in Skardu and Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-held Kashmir, as well as send our Israeli-trained commandos to hunt for the LTTE supremo, Mr. V. Prabhakaran, in Sri Lanka".

THE HINDU

4 OCT 2001

# Pak raises Kashmir at UN

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, Oct. 3. — Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the UN General Assembly yesterday, calling for a lasting and honourable settlement to the "dispute".

Pakistan's ambassador to the UN, Mr Shamsad Ahmad, referred to Kashmir during a debate on steps to combat terrorism.

Mr Ahmad was the first delegate to rake up the issue. He said Pakistan had done a lot to "help" the international coalition against terrorism.

"But there are people who remain deprived of their fundamental right to self-determination. The Security Council resolution pertaining to their destiny and future remains unimplemented in the archives of this organisation," he said. "It's time for courageous decisions to correct historic wrongs and to redress endemic injustices."

"Our obligation to fight terrorism must not deflect us from the need for a just, lasting and honourable settlement of the Palestine and Kashmir disputes," Mr Ahmad said.

## Pak clerics call off trip

Disappointed by the stands of the Taliban and the USA, Muslim clerics have cancelled their Afghanistan trip, reports AP from Islamabad, quoting an Islamic Party spokesman.

Leaders of four major parties were to visit the Taliban headquarters in Kandahar this week to meet Mullah Mohammed Omar. But the trip was called off because the clerics saw no chance of a breakthrough.

THE STATESMAN

4 OCT 2001



# Vaipayee to Bush: Pakistan testing our patience

9/2/02  
 PAK  
 CIA

2/10

## STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Oct. 2. - India wants the USA to include Pakistan-backed militant groups in its list of terrorist organisations. The Centre said it was running out of "patience" with Pakistan, but ruled out any immediate military strikes on the terrorist camps in Pakistan-occupied-Kashmir.

The Prime Minister has written to Mr George W Bush, indicating urging him to warn Islamabad against intensifying tension in J&K. He has mentioned the link between yesterday's terrorist attack in Srinagar and Pakistan's role in abetting terrorism in J&K.

The Jaish-e-Mohammad, headed by Pakistan-based Maulana Masood Azhar, had claimed responsibility for the attack.

(Islamabad has, however, denied involvement in the blast and said it might have been triggered by renegades, PTI adds from Islamabad. "India has been making such allegations in the past... Evidence suggests most of such acts are

perpetrated by renegade elements," said the foreign office spokesman, Mr Riyaz Moham-mad Khan.)

The toll in the blast and the subsequent shoot-out in the Assembly complex has risen to 38. The DGP, Mr Ashok Suri, said bodies of three missing Assembly officials had been recovered from the gutted part of the complex. Among the dead were nine Assembly employees, seven policemen, two BSF jawans, a CRPF jawan and two information department employees. The rest were civilians. About 70 injured are being treated in Srinagar hospitals.

New Delhi has warned Pakistan against testing its patience by continuing to "aid, abet and sponsor" terrorism. It has asked Islamabad to immediately stop material and political support to J&K terrorist groups. "Pakistan must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the people of India", Mr Vaipayee has written.

India doesn't want to "overload" the USA's agenda. However, "incidents of this kind raise questions for our security which,

terrorist groups were operating from Pakistani soil. The letter has been delivered to the US President in Washington by Mr Jaswant Singh. He also discussed the J&K militancy with Mr Bush.

The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Omar Abdullah, today ruled out immediate bombing of terrorist camps in PoK, though "there is a limit to India's patience". He hinted that India would, instead, urge the international community to include the groups in the list of terrorist organisations.

Mr Abdullah said yesterday's attack exposed "credible links between terrorist groups in the valley and Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida."

The Jaish not only claimed responsibility, it even said one of the terrorists, Wajahat Hus-sain, was from Peshawar. To buttress the fact that Pakistan had a hand in the attack, India said the claim of responsibility came from Pakistan within minutes of the blast.

In an attempt to establish the link between Jaish and Osama, India said the Jaish was

formed with the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen cadres. It's headed by Harkat's former ideologue, Masood Azhar. Azhar was the general secretary of Harkat-ul-Ansar, later renamed as Harkat-ul-Mujahideen.

**Police claim:** The J&K police chief, Mr AK Suri, today said Osama had a hand in yesterday's *fidayeen* attack in Srinagar.

"Yesterday's attack on the state Assembly, terrorist strikes on the USA and other terrorist attacks in J&K are part and parcel of the same chain and system which is connected to Osama Bin Laden through Taliban."

He said the militants gave "a deceptive interception" that the Taliban had asked foreign militants in J&K to move to Afghanistan to fight the USA. "The wrong information is provided to mislead the forces here. Infiltration of militants across the border is still continuing."

He denied there was any major security lapse. "If a vehicle loaded with RDX and driven by a suicide bomber is prepared to explode itself, then nobody can prevent such attacks."



A jawan on Tuesday guards the damaged J&K House. - AP/PTI

as a democratically elected leader of India, I have to address our supreme national interest," the Prime Minister has said. "There has been understandable anger in the country at this wanton act of violence."

He said the incident took place a day after Gen Pervez Musharraf claimed that no ter-

# Musharraf vulnerable on Kashmir dispute

JACK REDDEN  
REUTERS

ISLAMABAD, Oct. 2. - He lives next door to the world's top pariah state, his people are angry that he has shifted support from his Muslim neighbours to the USA, and now the job of Pakistan's military President has just got much tougher.

A bloody suicide attack in Kashmir has left General Pervez Musharraf squeezed between his participation in a global fight against terrorism and deep domestic support for militants fighting in J&K.

Yesterday's car bomb attack in Srinagar that killed 38 persons couldn't have come at a more awkward moment for him.

"This is distinctly bad timing," said Brig. (ret'd) Shaukat Qadir, now a political writer, who sees Gen. Musharraf as one of the

victims. "This is a particularly vulnerable time for Musharraf." India sent a letter to President George Bush, who's assembling a coalition against terrorism that includes Pakistan, accusing Islamabad of aiding Islamic militants in Kashmir.

The Srinagar attack came as Gen. Musharraf was trying to contain domestic opposition to his support for US demand that the Taliban hand over Osama bin Laden. After the attack, Pakistan condemned "terrorism in all its forms and manifestations" but didn't comment on the claim of Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed (Army of Mohammed), that it was responsible.

"This act of terrorism in Srinagar is specially reprehensible as it appears to be aimed at maligning the legitimate struggle of the Kashmiri people for their right to self-determina-

tion," said a Pakistani foreign ministry spokesman.

Though Gen. Musharraf would like to distance himself from violence in Kashmir when the world is outraged over the WTC and Pentagon attacks, he found little help from the group initially reported to have claimed responsibility.

Jaish members took nearly a day to deny the claim made by their fellow activists in Kashmir. The group was formed by Maulana Masood Azhar, a militant freed by India in exchange for 155 hostages on an Indian Airlines plane



General Pervez Musharraf

hijacked in 1999 to Kandahar.

But it's only the newest of many Pakistani groups dedicated to *jehad* in Kashmir. Pakistan denies giving more than diplomatic and moral support to the outfits, whose fight has claimed more than 30,000 lives. That sits uncomfortably with boasts of attacks by hard-

line Islamic groups like Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, which calls itself Pakistani rather than Kashmiri. Since seizing power in October 1999, Gen. Musharraf has taken some steps to rein in Islamic militants in Pakistan who look to Taliban for inspiration. But the

acts have been more noted for caution than impact.

A plan to moderate a blasphemous law, criticised globally, was abandoned early in his rule and a drive to collect illegal arms this year quietly faded away.

Gen. Musharraf publicly condemned militants for sectarian killings and high-profile attacks that he said only blackened Pakistan's image and drove away those few foreign investors still willing to consider the country. He banned two of the smallest groups, caught up in domestic sectarian violence. The attacks on the USA have now dramatically raised the stakes.

Gen. Musharraf has signed up for a global campaign to eradicate terrorism that has not defined the term.

Pakistan's view that the struggle in Kashmir is a legitimate national liberation war - trying

to ring-fence it from any global campaign on "terrorism" - was certain eventually to become an issue, especially with India too backing the US campaign.

"We strongly condemn the attack today in Kashmir, as we have previous attacks," the US state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said on Monday. "India is a key partner in the global coalition against terrorism. We believe that terrorism must be ended everywhere."

Gen. Musharraf, however, is in no position now to try to curb the Pakistani militants fighting in Kashmir.

Demonstrations against his backing for the US pressure on the Taliban, though muted so far, could escalate if attacks begin. Massive protests on the streets would be certain if Gen. Musharraf tries to obstruct the *jehad* in Kashmir.

THE STATESMAN

2001

# Atal letter bomb for Bush

S. Rajagopalan  
Washington, October 2

9280  
PANK

HFI

29/10

INDIA ON Monday took the extraordinary step of warning Pakistan through the US, a move that prompted President George W Bush to hastily reassure New Delhi that Washington's war on terrorism will be truly global.

"Pakistan must understand that there is a limit to the patience of the people of India," Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in a letter to President Bush within hours of Monday's terrorist outrage in front of the Kashmir Assembly, killing more than 30 people.

The letter, personally handed over by External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh, also contained a subtle message for the US. Vajpayee told Bush that just as he was discharging his core



**Vajpayee**  
*Talking tough*

**Bush**  
*Understanding*

responsibility of safeguarding the interests of American people, he himself had to act in defence of India's supreme national interest.

That Washington took the Prime Minister's missive seriously became clear with President Bush himself holding an unscheduled meeting with Singh, lasting 40 minutes. The meeting took place when Singh was in the midst of consultations with the US National Security

Adviser, Condoleezza Rice.

Singh, speaking to reporters later, declined to go into details of the "very candid, very productive" meeting, except to say that Bush was very clear that the US's war on terrorism "will not be unidirectional". The inference was that the focus would go beyond Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida and stretch to other groups, including the ones operating in Jammu and Kashmir.

Asked about the US's single-minded pursuit of bin Laden, to the seeming exclusion of terrorism elsewhere, Singh said it would be wrong to conclude that Washington was limiting the battle to the Saudi dissident. "President Bush has said it will not be unidimensional".

The minister indicated that he had no reason to doubt the US's stated resolve to fight terrorism

in all its manifestations on a global plane "after they have addressed their principal objective" of dealing with bin Laden and his men.

Vajpayee's letter, which spoke of the national anger against the latest terrorist outrage, pointed out that the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammad had claimed responsibility for the dastardly act. That apart, "a Pakistani-national based in Pakistan" was one of the suicide bombers in the Srinagar operation.

The Prime Minister highlighted the "irony" that the Srinagar attack by the Pak-based outfit came just a day after President Musharraf claimed in a TV interview that there was not a single terrorist group operating from Pakistan's territory.

Full text of PM's letter on Page 7

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

3 OCT 2001

# Pak must back off, PM warns in letter to Bush

By Chidanand Rajghatta  
Times News Network

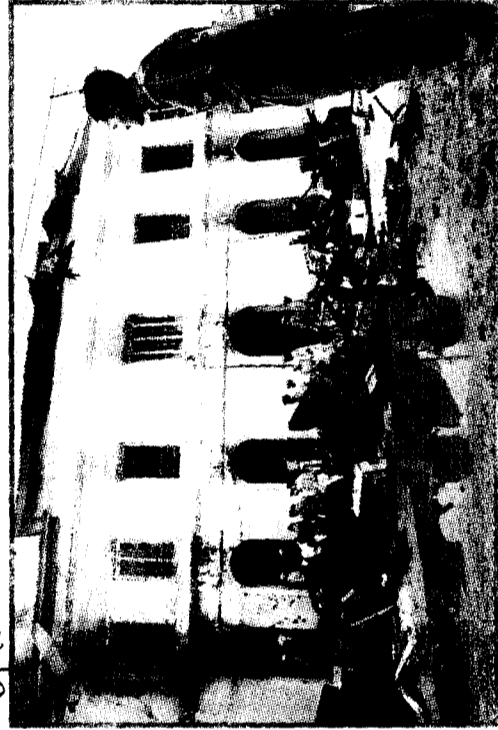
WASHINGTON: Conveying India's anguish and outrage about the latest terrorist attack in Kashmir to the United States in very strong terms, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Tuesday cautioned Pakistan that there was a limit to the patience of the people of India.

The warning is contained in an extraordinary letter the Prime Minister has written to President George Bush that was delivered to him on Tuesday afternoon by external affairs minister Jaswant Singh.

The tone of the letter is so grave that Mr Bush himself dropped in during a 75-minute meeting Mr Singh had with national security advisor Condoleezza Rice at the White House.

The U.S. President stayed for 40 minutes discussing the latest developments relating to terrorism with Mr Singh. Emerging grim-faced from the meeting, Mr Singh said he had a very candid and productive discussion which left him with no doubt that the U.S. would address the issue of terrorism everywhere and not just where it affected America. In his letter to Mr Bush, Mr Vajpayee minced no words in directly blaming Pakistan for the latest massacre in the Kashmir legislature.

"There has been understandable anger in the country at this wanton act of violence. Incidents of this kind raise questions for our security which, as a democratically elected leader of India, I have to address in our supreme national interest," Mr Vajpayee wrote.



A BSF jawan stands near one of the damaged buildings inside the state legislature complex in Srinagar on Tuesday.

He noted that Pakistan must understand that there was a limit to the patience of the people of India.

By emphasising his position as the elected leader of India and pointing out that the terrorists had attacked the state parliament, Mr Vajpayee appeared to make clear his misgivings about Washington allying itself so readily with the military ruler of Pakistan.

The Prime Minister said that a Pakistan-based organisation, Jaish-e-Mohamed, had claimed responsibility for the attack and had even named a Pakistani national based in Pakistan as one of the suicide bombers involved. Yet the President of Pakistan was telling the world through television interviews that Pakistan had no terrorist groups operating from its territory.

Mr Vajpayee's letter ended by saying that he had asked his external affairs minister "to convey to you more fully our sentiments in this regard".

Following this, Mr Jaswant Singh is understood to have told the administration about the rising public anger at home at the wanton acts of terrorism being promoted by a state that has been patently militaristic towards India.

Despite the grave atmosphere that surrounded the meeting, Indian officials said they found the U.S. fully understanding about New Delhi's concerns.

Mr Vajpayee, in fact, prefaced what was virtually a warning to Pakistan conveyed through the U.S. that India understood Washington discharging its core responsibility for the interest and security of the American people.

Samir Ranjan

THE TIMES OF INDIA

3 OCT 2001

# PoK camps give high-altitude training to ultras

SRINJOY CHOWDHURY  
STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

58-10  
20/9  
9-22  
PoK

NEW DELHI, Sept. 29. — Militants in Jammu and Kashmir receive specialised training in mountain warfare in camps just north of Kargil on the other side of the Line of Control.

There are 17 training camps for about 500 terrorists in the Northern Areas of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, across Kargil and Baramulla, officials said. In 1999, Pakistani soldiers, supported by militants, infiltrated into Kargil and it was only in September, after three months of fighting, that they were pushed back.

Militants belonging to the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, the recently formed Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Al-Badr and the Hizbul Mujahideen are trained in these camps. It's not just drills, firing automatic weapons and use of explosives. Militants learn to use camouflage, ice-axes and other mountaineering equipment.

There are two "layers" of camps in the Northern Areas. There are some camps very close to the Line of Control, less than 20-25 km away. They are in little hamlets or small towns at Nekrun, Taobat, Minimarg, Gultari, Mansher, Dudgai, Kamri, Domel and Makshi. These are small camps in which a few dozens militants receive training. The second "layer" of camps are probably larger and are further inside PoK. Four such camps have been identified. They are at Skardu, which was one of the administrative hubs of the Pakistani Army during the Kargil war in 1999, Gilgit, Chitra and Khapalu.

But after the World Trade Center bombings, many of these camps have been cleared and the terrorists trained there are "mingling" with the local population. Many militants fought in the 1999 Kargil war but a large number of them served as irregulars, often ferrying food and equipment to the mountain peaks. After the war in 1999, militants have made very few attempts to infiltrate into the Drass-Kargil area. There have been many more infiltration bids in other sectors. The Army is likely to have an IG to monitor its state of morale, discipline and equipment readiness.

THE STATESMAN

30 SEP 2001

# SIMI ban was in the works, says govt

■ No immediate provocation, says it is building up case ■ Arrests continue, national chief held in Delhi

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE  
NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 28

THE decision to ban the Students' Islamic Movement of India was premeditated and not a sudden reaction, the government said today, claiming to have unearthed evidence showing the outfit's connections with Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida and a number of pan-Islamic organisations stretching from West Asia to Chicago. Meanwhile, arrests of SIMI activists continued all over the country, including its national chief in Delhi.

Home Secretary Kamal Pandey said that, contrary to the prevailing opinion yesterday — which had linked the ban to the SIMI chief's recent speech denouncing the Indian Government and praising bin Laden — there was "no immediate provocation" for the ban.

"We have made a thorough study of SIMI's activities and prepared our case accordingly. Bin Laden is just one individual; SIMI's links go much beyond that. We do not want to go to the tribunal (yet to be set up, it will issue final endorsement of the ban) with a weak case," Pandey said. SIMI, he added, would also be given a chance to represent its case before the tribunal, which will be headed by a sitting High Court judge.

Giving a statewide breakup of the arrests, Pandey said Uttar Pradesh accounts for maximum arrests — 90 — with the police sealing SIMI offices in Luc-

## Why the ban is easier said than done

■ The Govt has referred the decision to a special tribunal headed by a sitting High Court judge. This tribunal, after hearing SIMI's defence, can either cancel the ban or endorse it, in which case the ban remains valid for two years

■ If the Govt wants to extend the ban, it will at that stage have to issue a fresh notification and go through the same procedure with another tribunal

■ Despite arrests that follow the banning of an organisation, it often manages to stay alive as some of its members either go underground or operate through other fronts

■ The law also penalises anybody who funds or otherwise extends support to any banned organisation. It was for this reason that, as a sequel to an expose in *The Indian Express*, three top Tata Tea executives were booked by the police in 1997 on the charge of funding the ULFA.



SIMI president Shahid Badr being produced in court in New Delhi on Friday. Express photo

know, Mathura, Rampur and Aligarh. In Maharashtra, 45 SIMI members have been put behind bars; in West Bengal the figure was 35. The states where the police crackdown is still continuing also include Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Delhi, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

One of SIMI's stated objectives, Pandey said, is 'jihad' for the cause of Islam, destruction of nationalism and establishment of Islamic rule or a Caliphate. "In short, the organi-

sation does not believe in the nation state, it does not believe in the Constitution or the secular order. It regards idol worship as a sin and its holy duty to end idol worship."

As for unearthing SIMI's alleged anti-national activities, the Home Ministry this evening churned out a list of such acts. These include:

■ Eulogising the valour of the 'death-defying mujahideen' in Kargil and absolving Pakistan of any involvement in the conflict

■ In the wake of Pokhran-2,

condemning India's nuclear preparations as being directed against Pakistan and the Islamic world, justifying Pakistan's nuclear tests.

■ Extending clandestine support to what it calls 'Jihad' in Kashmir and advocating secession of Kashmir from India

■ Lauding Osama bin Laden as the quintessential 'Mujahid' and portraying Maulana Masood Azhar as Mehmood Ghaznavi

Pandey said after receiving recommendations of various state governments for a ban, the

matter was carefully examined and discussed with the Law Ministry and Department of Legal Affairs. It was felt necessary to ban SIMI, he insisted, otherwise it would have got an opportunity to "escalate secessionism and support militancy, disrupt the secular fabric of the country by polluting the minds of people and creating communal disharmony, propagate anti-national sentiments and instigate riots in a bid to win over the Muslims to its hard-line fundamentalist and anti-national approach."

INDIAN EXPRESS

29 SEP 2001

# Qazi left out of Islamic nations envoys' meeting

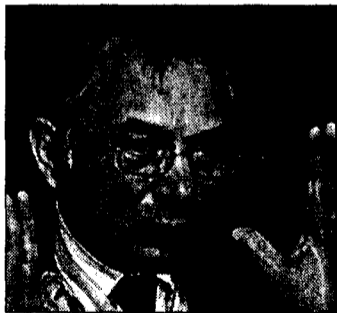
HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, September 27

INDO-PAK RELATIONS have been worsening since the September 11 terrorist strikes in the United States. Another instance of this was evident today when the Pakistani High Commissioner, Jahangir Qazi, was left out of a list of 24 envoys of Islamic nations invited to a meeting with Omar Abdullah, the Minister of State for External Affairs. Qazi was also not invited to a meeting of envoys of South Asian countries convened by Foreign Secretary Chokila Iyer.

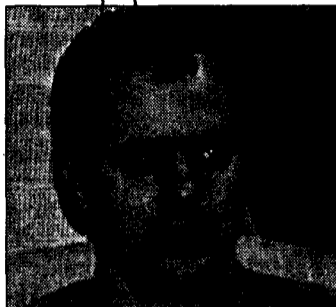
The meetings were part of New Delhi's policy of convincing the Islamic nations that India, while being a full-fledged supporter of the "war against terrorism", would ensure there is no persecution of Muslims. No specific reason was given for leaving Pakistan's High Commissioner out of the guest list.

India has made it clear that continuing with the Agra process is not its priority at the moment. Rather, sources said that New Delhi would henceforth focus on Pakistan's role as a sponsor of terrorism at international forums. As the last backer of the Taliban regime, Pakistan is quite assisting the Indian effort.

At next month's Commonwealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) summit in Brisbane, India is likely to make a pitch for sanctions against countries sponsoring terrorism. Pakistan, which is banned from the Commonwealth since the October



JAHANGIR QAZI



OMAR ABDULLAH

1999 coup, will not be present at the forum.

The envoys of Egypt, Somalia, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Palestinian Authority, Morocco, Arab League, Iraq, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and the central Asian countries were invited to the meeting convened by Omar Abdullah at Hyderabad House. Omar told them that India, the country with the second highest Muslim population, expects the world to recognise that the war against terrorism should not be confused with Islam.

Pakistan's exclusion was also motivated by the interview its envoy gave to a national daily today in which the country's support to terrorism in Kashmir was reiterated. Qazi used the opportunity to make the distinction Islamabad is trying to make between terrorism and "freedom movements". He claimed that the US held an identical point of view.

External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh left tonight for Paris, Washington and Berlin for consultations with his counterparts. The spokesperson of the MEA made it clear that India would be raising its concerns about the operations of Pak-sponsored terrorist groups like Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

Yesterday, US national security adviser Condoleezza Rice assured Brajesh Mishra that Washington would ban some more organisations in due course.

# Centre clamps down on SIMI, imposes ban

*4 killed as violence erupts in Lucknow, 67 activists held*

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The Centre on Thursday banned the radical Muslim outfit, the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI), which is alleged to have links with Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) as well as some Kashmiri terrorist organisations. The ban immediately sparked violent protests in Lucknow, where four persons were killed in police firing.

The home ministry confirmed the two-year ban imposed under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, on SIMI. The ban implies that all activities of the organisation will be construed as illegal, its offices will remain sealed and its office-bearers will not be able to function.

The ban comes in the wake of strong demands by the state governments of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh following incidents of violence allegedly fanned by the organisation. Some top SIMI leaders were also accused of indulging in destabilising activities and making controversial remarks questioning the country's sovereignty and integrity.

Home minister L.K. Advani confirmed that the government had been monitoring the activities of the organisation for some time and that the state governments had been asked to report on their activities to the Centre. "The preliminary reports that I got from all the state governments have only con-

firmed their (SIMI's) tendencies. The government will handle it firmly," he told mediapersons.

Union home secretary Kamal Pande had told newsmen about two months ago that more than 40 militant activists had been rounded up in nationwide raids and among those arrested were activists of SIMI, the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Hizbul Mujahideen. A substantial amount of seditious literature, documents and some weapons had also been recovered from some of them, he had claimed.

The ban has led to violent protests in some parts of the country. Shortly after the Centre's order banning SIMI, the Uttar Pradesh police had, in a statewide swoop, arrested 67 SIMI activists.

Sources said the interrogation of Tahir Jamal, former president of the Maharashtra unit of SIMI, and his confidante Saqib Nachan had confirmed that prominent SIMI leaders had been asked to provide all possible assistance to militants besides raising squads of Muslim youths in communally-sensitive pockets.

In Lucknow, at least four persons were killed when the police opened fire on violent demonstrators who were protesting the arrest of three office-bearers of SIMI.

Principal secretary (home) Naresh Dayal said an indefinite curfew had been clamped in the Chowk, Wazirganj, Saadatganj and Bazar Khala localities of the walled city.

*Police still to shut down SIMI office in Mumbai*

Times News Network

MUMBAI: Until Thursday evening, the Kurla police had not shut the office of the Students' Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) even though the Centre had banned the organisation.

Irshad Khan, a spokesperson for SIMI, said, "Nobody has asked us to close our office. Although we have heard reports about some of our workers being picked up and subsequently released on bail in the Kalyan area, no action has been taken against us in Mumbai."

Minutes after receiving a copy of the ban order, the city police despatched teams to several parts of Mumbai to verify whether SIMI activists had fallen in line.

Police commissioner M.N. Singh said, "Now that the Centre has issued a ban, SIMI activists should freeze their activities. If they take the law into their hands, the police will come down heavily on them."

Deputy chief minister Chhagan Bhujbal has been requested the Centre for the past several months to ban the outfit. According to Mr Bhujbal, SIMI activists have been found to have a nexus with certain terrorist organisations as well.

In an earlier meet-the-press function, Mr Bhujbal had said "Security agencies have proof to establish their (SIMI's) links with those responsible for Air-India's Kanishka crash."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 SEP 2001



# India wants more Pak outfits on US list

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 25. - India wants the USA to include more Pakistan-based militant outfits, active in Jammu and Kashmir, in its list of 27 terrorist organisations.

India today said it was confident that New Delhi's concern over terrorism will be recognised by the USA and international community.

"We are not plagued by any sense of insecurity," the ministry of external affairs spokesman said.

Mr George W Bush had yesterday ordered a freeze of the assets of Osama bin Laden and 26 terrorist organisations, including Pakistan-based Harakat-ul-Mujahideen.

New Delhi said: "We hope to see more of such organisations being targeted as the USA

spreads their web wider to deal with such organisations, known to indulge in terrorist activity and have used financial networks and fund-raising to support violence and terrorism."

Not immediately, though. "They (USA) have made a beginning - listing one of such terrorist organisations," the spokesman said.

An MEA official said India was "crystal clear" in its policy vis-a-vis the response to the developments after the 11 September attacks and was moving in the right direction. "This isn't the time to talk to the USA about our problems and expect help," the official said. Now, India has to help fight against terrorism in any way it can. In any case, he pointed out, India is not looking at the USA's direct involvement in tackling

## 'ATTACKS A RESULT OF ISOLATING TALIBAN'

DEOBAND (UP), Sept. 25. - The country's oldest Islamic madrasah, Darul-Uloom, has said the conflict between Washington and Afghanistan is a result of "isolating" the Taliban regime.

"Recognise the Taliban as rulers of Afghanistan and the problem will be solved. Today's situation is a result of isolating them from the international family," Darul Vice-Chancellor, Maulana Marghoob Ur Rehman, said. Disapproving terrorism, he said: "It is painful if any Deobandi is involved in terrorist activities," referring to Maulana Abdul Haq, a former Deoband student and founder of Pakistan's Haqqania madrasah, a training ground for the Taliban leadership.

Cautioning Washington, Maulana Rehman said: "An attack on Afghanistan would vitiate terrorism in Kashmir in future or resolving the "dispute" over border terrorism. "We'll have to fight our own battle...we don't expect someone else to do that for us," the official said.

Rice, along with other senior US officials and Congressmen. "He is not there asking for support for India's fight against terrorism," the official said. He is there for consultations with the US administration to determine the scale of the response in Afghanistan, he added.

The MEA, however, refused to comment on the international community, softening its stand on Pakistan. Washington is reportedly thinking about lifting sanctions imposed on Pakistan after the coup and Japan has decided to ease sanctions against the country. On Japan's move, the spokesperson said: "Our relations with Japan stand on their own and we don't see them through the prism of Japan-Pakistan relations".

As for President Bush's remarks that Washington would work for the stability of Pakistan, she said it was for America to determine whether sufficient progress has been made on restoration of democracy in Pakistan. Referring to the post-Taliban scenario in Afghanistan - an issue discussed when Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee spoke to Mr Tony Blair last night - she said India has always supported a fair and broad-based multi-ethnic government and supported territorial integrity, sovereignty and independence of that country.

To a question on the Pakistani military regime not giving visas to Indian media, she said: "It speaks for itself about Pakistan's approach to free and unfettered journalism". Requests for visa from a number of Indian journalists wishing to cover developments in Pakistan.

THE STATESMAN

26 SEP 2001

# RDX, fake currency smuggling

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

## INDIA ALLEGES PAK INVOLVEMENT

NEW DELHI, Sept. 23. — The Directorate of Revenue Intelligence has revealed that Pakistan embassy officials posted in Nepal were smuggling huge quantities of RDX and fake Indian currency notes (FICN) into India. The concession and facilities granted to Nepal under the bilateral Treaties of Trade and Transit were being "misused" by "unscrupulous" elements, it alleged.

The DRI has claimed that Nepalese authorities have seized huge quantities of RDX and FICN and officials of the Pakistan embassy in Nepal and ISI operators were involved.

Sources in the DRI told The Statesman: "It is difficult to estimate the exact quantity of FICN in circulation in India. However, judging from the seizure effected and Intelligence inputs available, large number of syndicates from across the Indo-Pak, Indo-Nepal borders and also from the

Gulf countries are involved in the racket." They did not name the persons involved. The Nepal authorities have already intimated its counterpart in India about the officials' involvement, sources added. Though various enforcement agencies have initiated measures to curb the menace, DRI sources said: "It is estimated over Rs 3-4 crore FICN in Rs 100 and Rs 500 denominations were pumped into Indian economy by various syndicates through Nepal border last year." In March, Mumbai police had seized a FICN worth Rs 1 crore. The DRI, after intercepting a post parcel at Mumbai's airport transit mail office had also seized over Rs 50 lakh FICN.

Running along Uttaranchal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Sikkim and West Bengal the Indo-Nepal border has increasingly become an area of concern and currently the

most active and vulnerable stretch from the point of view of smuggling of arms and ammunition, explosives and FICN, sources said adding: "The problem requires immediate attention from the government of India."

Sources said: "In view of the friendly relations between India and Nepal, the Indian government had granted certain concessions and facilities to Nepal under the bilateral Treaties of Trade and Transit. These were being misused by the unscrupulous elements." DRI sources said besides the Indo-Pak border, which continues to be vulnerable to smuggling of narcotics - mainly heroin, the Indo-Myanmar border running along Manipur, Mizoram, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland has also become more vulnerable to smuggling of gold, spices, teak, Chinese consumer goods and Burmese pre-

cious stones. "The insurgency problem makes this area prone to smuggling of arms and ammunitions too," sources added.

The Treaty of Transit permits unhindered movement through the territory of India of third country goods imported by the land locked Nepal through the Kolkata port. Intelligence, however, suggests that Nepal's imports of third country goods exceed its domestic requirement and these goods get deflected in to the Indian market before they reach Nepal and a substantial portion also gets smuggled into India after reaching Nepal.

DRI sources also said that in the wake of recent terrorist strikes in USA, the possibility of more smuggling of contrabands from Afghanistan to India cannot be ruled out due to Afghanistan's requirement of liquid money to resist possible US retaliation. However, enforcement agencies would keep a close watch on the smuggling sources added.

THE STATESMAN

# CHANGING FRONTIERS

New Delhi must contain the dogs of war

**G**IVEN Afghanistan's predicament and General Pervez Musharraf's commitment to the USA, Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence may find itself in two minds on scaling down clandestine activities in the North-east. It is no secret that specially trained agents financed by ISI have been operating in the region since the early 1990s. They were suspected to have planted bombs at New Jalpaiguri railway station during the Kargil conflict which killed several jawans. Huge quantities of explosives were unearthed thereafter from Assam and Sealdah station. Most Ulfa hardliners have been trained in Pakistan and are unable to shake off the ISI yoke. What was National Socialist Council of Nagalim general secretary Thuingaleng Muivah doing in January 2000 at Karachi a fortnight before he was to resume talks with the Indian emissary in Thailand? He was arrested at Bangkok airport for allegedly travelling on a false passport. Several Muslim organisations have sprung up in Assam in the name of safeguarding the community. The emergence of an Islamic Revolutionary Force unit in Manipur prompted former People's Liberation Army chief Bisheswar Singh to form a resistance group, leading to communal clashes for the first time in 1992. But for the chance discovery of the existence of yet another Islamic Liberation Army unit, their presence would have remained undetected.

Indian Army generals have rightly said law enforcement agencies in the region are engaged in a proxy war. New Delhi's acknowledgement of the ISI presence is not enough; it must wake up to the all too obvious threat. It also underscores the need to tone up the Intelligence network and tighten vigilance over vital installations and at the same time keep tabs on the nuisance potential of suspect organisations. The North-east may not resemble Kashmir, but the possibility exists. Much will depend on which party comes to power in neighbouring Bangladesh after the October elections.

THE STATESMAN

24 SEP 2001

# Enter the spy in diplomatic war

G-1 24/9



The man (right) accused of attempting to blow up American Airlines Flight 63 is taken from the Massachusetts State Police barracks at Logan International Airport in Boston. (Reuters)

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR  
IN ISLAMABAD  
AND OUR DELHI BUREAU

Dec. 23: Charges of spying were met with allegations of torture as the diplomatic war with Pakistan exploded into its second round amid heated exchanges of words between the leaderships of the two countries.

Mohammad Sharif Khan, an official of the Pakistan high commission in Delhi, was picked up for questioning by police when he was allegedly receiving "sensitive" documents from an employee of India's Parliament secretariat. The police arrested Ajay Kumar, senior executive assistant in the secretariat's question cell, for supplying documents relating to defence, atomic energy, nuclear research, railway security, ship designing and technology upgradation to Khan at a restaurant at Rajendra Place in West Delhi yesterday.

Khan, 38, was handed over to the high commission after questioning. Pakistan accused India of kidnapping and torturing a member of its mission and said it had lodged an official protest with the Indian authorities.

The Pakistan foreign ministry issued a statement saying Khan was kidnapped by Indian intelligence operatives while he was shopping. The statement did not mention the status of Khan.

"During interrogation, he was stripped naked, severely beaten and tortured, resulting in visible and internal injuries. The medical report confirms that Mr Khan was ruthlessly beaten and tortured," the Pakistani statement said.

The embassy worker was released after five hours, but was forced to sign a statement acknowledging involvement in espionage, it added. "The ministry of foreign affairs has lodged a strong protest with the Indian high commission in Islamabad over this reprehensible, provocative and unacceptable action on the

part of the Indian government." Delhi police said Kumar's interrogation revealed Khan had in the past asked him about security arrangements around Parliament House and to arrange a pass for him to view the proceedings inside. They said Kumar had told Khan parliamentary security staff were unarmed while on duty.

"It is being probed if there is involvement of Pakistan high commission-based intelligence operatives in the recent attack on Parliament," the police said.

A trap was laid near the restaurant after receiving a tipoff that a Pakistani intelligence operative would meet an Indian at 8 in the evening.

Alleged involvement of a Parliament employee adds a more serious dimension to the incident than the questioning of spying, a routine charge.

India has been claiming official Pakistani link in the attack on Parliament through ISI handlers of the terrorist outfits Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad.

It has already had Mohammad Afzal, arrested for being a part of the conspiracy, go on television to indicate Pakistan's involvement. Ajay Kumar's alleged disclosure that Khan had asked for information on Parliament security is even more damaging for Islamabad.

The incident came to light as the war of words between the two sides escalated. Foreign minister Jaswant Singh said it was "extremely regrettable" that President Pervez Musharraf had chosen to describe India's decision to recall its envoy from Pakistan as "arrogant".

"I do not wish to descend to the level of military barracks-room dialogue. This is extremely regrettable."

After a meeting of the Cabinet committee on security, Singh said: "I cannot help feeling that the reaction to an issue of such importance (only shows) he is living in an Alice in an Wonderland kind of situation."

## Donor pressure on Pervez

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Dec. 23: Mounting pressure on President Pervez Musharraf for acting against terrorist outfits operating out of Pakistan kept up India's hope of a diplomatic resolution to the crisis caused by the attack on Parliament.

The European Union has lent its voice to President George W. Bush's call on Musharraf to act against terrorist outfits based in Pakistan.

Publicly, Indian leaders maintained their resolve to take tough action against Islamabad if the military regime failed to respond to demands for cracking down on the terrorists. Home minister L.K. Advani said a decisive moment has come when India has to act against terrorists and their sponsors.

The EU, which is offering financial support to Pakistan, issued a statement calling for "rapid and firm action" against terrorists by Islamabad. It argued that Islamabad should fulfil its role as part of the anti-terror coalition by acting "particularly against those terrorists based in Pakistan" and working against India.

South Block is pleased with the EU stand because it believes Musharraf will not be able to ignore global pressure for long.

### QUOTE

I don't wish to descend to the level of military barracks room dialogue

JASWANT SINGH  
on Musharraf's comments

# Sattar calls up Jaswant Singh

23/9  
By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 22. In what appears to be an attempt to mollify New Delhi over the remarks made by the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, three days ago, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, today telephoned the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, and exchanged notes.

India was taken aback at the no-holds-barred attack by Gen. Musharraf on New Delhi for allegedly attempting to fish in troubled waters in the wake of the terror attacks on the U.S.

The warning to New Delhi by Gen. Musharraf to "lay off" triggered a war of words from the other side and the telephone call by the Pakistan Foreign Minister is seen in diplomatic circles as an effort by Islamabad to defuse the tension.

A spokesman of the Pakistan Foreign Office told a news conference here that in the course of the telephonic contact, the two Ministers exchanged views on the situation arising out of the terrorist attacks on the American cities.

According to him, Mr. Sattar explained to Mr. Singh the provocation for the blunt remarks made by the General in his address to the people of Pakistan. The Pakistan Foreign Minister stuck to the theme that Islamabad was prompted to react in the light of

"vicious propaganda" by the Indian media and a segment of the ruling combine against his country.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister told his Indian counterpart that Islamabad was fully cooperating

with the international community in its endeavour to build a coalition against terrorism.

The direct contact between Pakistan and India should help defuse the tension between the two countries following a war of

words in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy. It is also perhaps reiteration of desire on both sides to keep alive the process of dialogue that started at Agra two months ago.

## 'We won't add to Pak.'s woes'

By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 22. India today said it was not interested in adding to Pakistan's current difficulties and stepped up its efforts to reach out to the world leaders.

Replying to Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, over telephone, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, said, "India had no intention to add to the complexities that the Government and people of Pakistan were faced with."

Incidentally, Government sources here pointed out that Mr. Singh's reassurances come at a time when Pakistan had shifted two brigades of its key 16 Division away from Umarkot-Panaoqil sectors, facing parts of the Gujarat and Rajasthan border with India.

During the day, the Prime Minister Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, spoke to the French President, Mr. Jacques Chirac. Both leaders agreed that the tragedy in the U.S. underscored the need for a unified international response against terrorism.

## War against terrorism includes J&K too: Powell

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, SEPT. 22. The impending U.S.-led assault on terrorism would be targeted at terrorist actions anywhere in the world, including Jammu and Kashmir, the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, has said.

In an interview to the BBC, he said the proposed anti-terrorist campaign in the wake of the carnage in New York and Washington on September 11 would be aimed at all terrorist operations that threatened legitimate governments and the right of innocent people to live their lives.

Asked by the interviewer, Mr. Jeremy Paxman of BBC's Newsnight, whether it was a "war" against all terrorism including Irish, Kashmiri and Basque terrorism, Gen. Powell said: "I think that is correct. Any organisation that is interested in terrorist operations to overthrow legitimate governments, democratically elected governments, or governments that represent the will of their people is a threat. We should go after them. This is not new for the United States. We recently designated the Real IRA a terrorist organisation. We have done the same thing with three organisations in Colombia, the FARC, the ELN and recently their para-military, the AUC."

Gen. Powell, who preferred to call it a campaign rather than a war, said the U.S. had already been in the "forefront" of combating terrorism but after the September 11 incidents there was need for a worldwide campaign, "not just the United States or even just the U.N. but rather everybody coming together." What happened on September 11 was an attack on "democracy" and "civilisation" and the values of the free world, he said.

23 SEP 2001

# India, Pakistan out of sync over dialogue

HT-7  
22/9

New Delhi/Islamabad, Sept 21

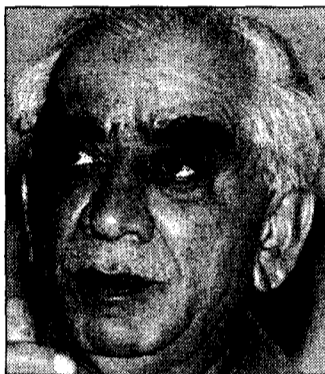
ON A day when Pakistan toned down its anti-India rhetoric and expressed willingness to resume dialogue with New Delhi, Jaswant Singh virtually ruled out talks in the near future, saying Islamabad was now "too pre-occupied".

The Minister for External Affairs said the terrorist strikes on the USA had transformed the situation "beyond recognition". After a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security today, Jaswant told reporters: "Until the situation currently faced by Pakistan is fully resolved, its leadership will really have no time or inclination to address this issue."

He also said that no meeting between the leaders of the two countries was scheduled at the moment. "If I am not visiting Islamabad, how can the Prime Minister be visiting?" Pakistan, he said, was "too preoccupied" with its internal situation, and the one on its western front. So the earlier plan of a meeting between Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and President Pervez Musharraf on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly does not stand any more.

Pakistan, on the other hand, said it wanted to resume dialogue with India, a statement that is being seen as a softening of stand. At the same time, however, it expressed resentment about "Indian attempts to declare Pakistan a terrorist state."

Pakistan foreign office spokesman Raiz Mohammad Khan told reporters: "We want dialogue with India to address Kashmir and other issues. Presi-



JASWANT SINGH

dent Musharraf was looking forward to meet Prime Minister Vajpayee in New York this month. The invitations have been extended to the Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister to visit Pakistan. Pakistan remains interested in resumption of dialogue."

Khan alleged that since the attacks on New York and Washington, the Indian media and some Indian leaders had carried out a "vicious" propaganda against Pakistan, saying it should be declared a terrorist state and questioning Pakistan's participation in international coalition against terrorism.

"This propaganda has been strongly and firmly rejected and repudiated by Musharraf in his address to the nation two days ago. President has also asked India to stop anti-Pakistan propaganda," Khan said. In New Delhi, Jaswant said that it was an "uncanny coincidence" that the assassination of Ahmad Shah Masood should have come at the same time as the strikes on the US.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 SEP 2001

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# Jaswant to Pervez: Lay off from what?

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 20. — A day after Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf in his address to the nation asked India to "lay off", New Delhi quietly snubbed him, terming his "anti-India tirade" as his "domestic compulsion".

Referring to General Musharraf's remarks on India, the external affairs minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, wondered what the military ruler meant: "lay off from what". While suggesting the leader was catering to a domestic audience, Mr Singh said: "I don't want to further compound the difficulties he faces domestically."

The government found it ironic that while Islamabad proclaimed to be a supporter of the global fight against terrorism, it still continued to encourage terrorism. Mr Jaswant Singh said, "Pakistan hasn't stopped sponsoring terrorism. All nations continue to flourish on Pakistan's soil."

Gen Musharraf's India-specific speech has stirred a hornet's nest, especially his references to the 1971 situation, the Kash-

mir cause and questioning of India's interest in Afghanistan. However, Mr Singh expressed confidence that the USA would take into account Pakistan's support and encouragement to cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir and its strong linkages with the Taliban in Afghanistan. "I am sure Washington will take all factors into consideration".

While dismissing the military ruler's charge that New Delhi was stirring up anti-Islamic feelings, the minister said the fight was against global terrorism which has entered a "testing phase" in the region and not over India-Pakistan relations.

The foreign minister dwelt upon India's stand on terrorism. He said India has emphasized time and again that terrorism couldn't be made synonymous with the noble faith of Islam which doesn't encourage terrorism of any form. "Musharraf forgets the fact that the number of Muslims in India far exceeds their number in Pakistan," he said.

Accusing Pakistan of being responsible for the "birth, growth and nurturing" of Taliban, Mr



Mr Jaswant Singh speaks to the media in New Delhi on Thursday. — AP/PTI

Singh said he was happy that its child was now "face to face" as an adversary. The Taliban wouldn't have existed without Pakistan's support, including military, economic and training aspects.

On Mr George W Bush's remarks on Indo-Pak ties, he said New Delhi backed Washington's stand of shaking terrorism against terrorism was merely

loose from sponsoring states. India would welcome a "change of heart" by Pakistan which has been indulging in "compulsive and perpetual hostility" against it, Mr Singh said, adding that it remained to be seen if Pakistan's "sudden conversion and arrival into the global concert of nations standing up against terrorism" was merely

loose from sponsoring states. India would welcome a "change of heart" by Pakistan which has been indulging in "compulsive and perpetual hostility" against it, Mr Singh said, adding that it remained to be seen if Pakistan's "sudden conversion and arrival into the global concert of nations standing up against terrorism" was merely

a declaration of intent or would be translated into action. He confirmed the Taliban su-

premo, Mullah Mohammed Omar, has issued an "appeal" to all terrorist groups currently operating in Jammu and Kashmir to quickly move out to Afghanistan to assist the militia against impending American military strikes.

## INDIA WILLING

NEW DELHI, Sept. 20. — While he did not think that the USA would need airbases in India, Mr LK Advani has said any request for use of airbases within the country for air strikes on Afghanistan can be considered only when it is made.

He told Karan Thapar in a BBC interview that there had so far been no specific request and therefore the government hadn't taken any decision. The question related to media reports that airbases in Avantipur, Adampur and Jamnagar were likely to be permitted for use by the US Air Force.

Mr Advani didn't see the possibility of third country troops being stationed in India.

While agreeing that it would have been 'better' if the USA had made strikes under a UN-led initiative, he referred to the power of veto that countries in the world body possessed. — UNI

# US happy with General's speech, India frowns

■ Musharraf should know the issue is terrorism, not Indo-Pak relations, says MEA

SONIA TRIKHA

NEW DELHI, SEPTEMBER 20

In response to Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's address to the nation, India on Wednesday told the general that "the issue is terrorism not India-Pakistan relations".

Describing India's displeasure at being cited in a speech that was meant to address the issue of terrorism, the Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson said, "instead of focussing on terrorism which is responsible for the present situation, it is most regrettable that the President of Pakistan continues to give voice to an anti-India tirade." According to sources, Musharraf's "lay off" comment is being seen as a

"crude" representation of his sentiments.

The official US reaction expressed by White House spokesperson Ari Fleischer was that the US is very pleased by the Pakistani show of support. But Asia watchers and scholars in Washington are advising India to hold their peace. Washington was thick with discussions on its implications. But the advice from there was "silence is golden". Brookings Institution scholar Stephen Cohen, whose new book *India: Emerging Power* has been hugely acclaimed, said India must not join the war of words with Musharraf and said the Indian government is known for its "more cautious and prudent approach".

He was supportive of Pakistan's pledge of support to the US in its fight against terrorism but said "I dread to think what would have happened if he had not agreed to it". Cohen was, however, surprised by Musharraf's "lay off" comment to India. But clarified that there was "no possibility of an alliance with Pakistan". In his view, Musharraf's cooperation will result in a more "normal relationship with Pakistan".

but it would not be targeted against India. In his view Musharraf was misreading the signals from the US that it would make a choice between the two neighbours. "No one here is talking about lessening India as a high priority because of support from Pakistan," said Cohen. He added that he was unsure about the accuracy of Musharraf's remark on India offering military bases to the US because "I have not heard anything of the sort here".

Cohen recognised that Pakistan's support was vital to the US and he suggested that if US using India as an option had moved Pakistan closer to supporting Washington "then it is a good thing". But added that Pakistan must bear in mind the main aim of the cooperation was to end those terrorist camps in Afghanistan and to cease similar activity within Pakistan.

On Kashmir and the peace process, Cohen, who has closely studied the region for many decades, indicated the US presence in the region should take the two side closer to a settlement. "But", he said, "the

US should not be a mediator". Cohen said he understood the depth of Indian insecurities in the US dealing with Pakistan and those insecurities and the people should feel insecure but they must not believe there is going to be an alliance. US influence on Pakistan will mean that it will keep that country from "deteriorating into a gigantic nuclear terrorist state" and that can only be a good thing for India. He said Pakistan has realised "that it had to make a firm choice" and it has made it on the right side of history.

Speaking in Pakistan, the US ambassador Wendy Chamberlain said Musharraf has "pledged quick and unconditional" support. She, however, said no specific detailed agreement has been reached between the two countries on modalities for future co-operation. She was appreciative of Pakistan's help and said "both our President, George Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell have expressed profound appreciation of his (Musharraf) quick and unconditional pledge of support for us when we needed it."

U.P. RAJYA VIDYUT UTPADAN

■ TENDER NOTICE

INDIAN EXPRESS

21 SEP 2001

21 SEP 2001



# Team Atal wary of Pak role in terrorism war

## Jaswant, Advani explain stand

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 18 SEPTEMBER

INDIA'S RESPONSE to the situation created by the terrorist attack on the US came under a detailed scrutiny at a full-scale meeting of the Union Cabinet.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Tuesday let external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and the Union home minister L.K. Advani, both members of the Cabinet Committee on Security, explain the government's stand to the Cabinet. The marathon discussion, lasting four hours, saw several participants seeking clarifications, mainly on Pakistan's machinations and the preparedness to deal with the threat of intensified subversion by the ISI.

The external affairs minister said the main driver, as far as India is concerned, has been national interest and, particularly, the concern over terrorism. He said the current focus on international terrorism is welcome to India. Battling terrorism had already figured right on top of our "to do" list and, the new determination — a by-product of the carnage in the US — of the international community to fight the scourge can help the country's cause.

Mr Singh said while support from any quarter for country's counter-terrorism initiative can be welcomed, it needs to be remembered that it is our own battle whose outcome will be decided by our resources and determination.

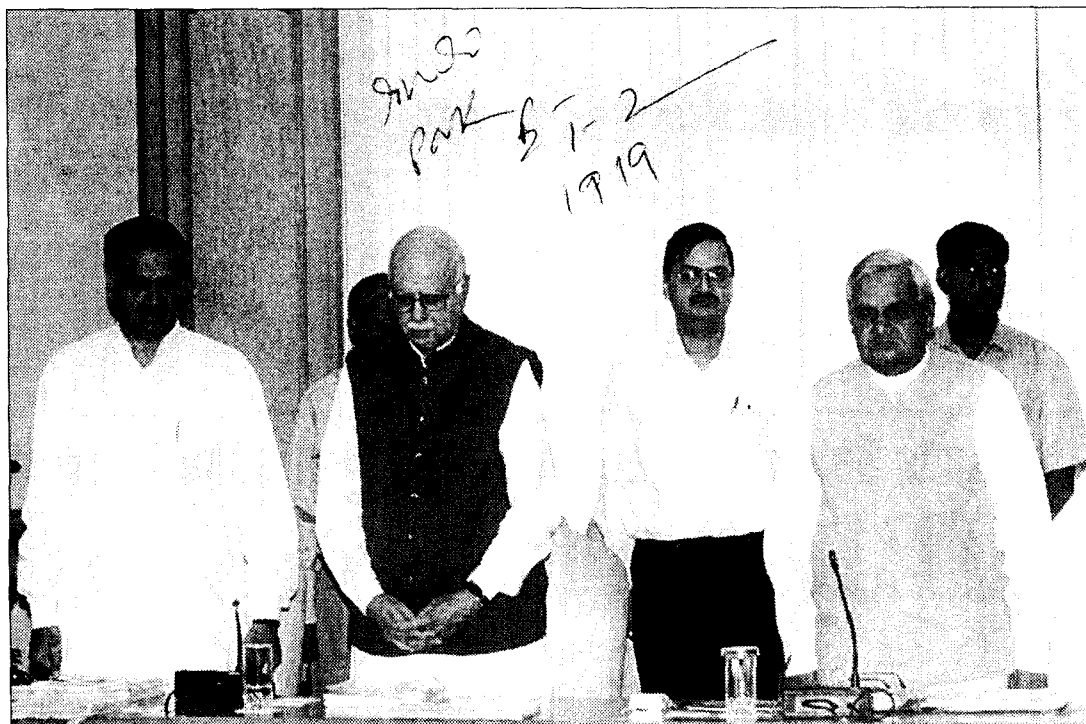
"The bottomline remains that nobody else is going to fight this battle for us," he said. Some of the participants like telecommunications minister Pramod Mahajan referred to the reports about Pakistan seeking to cut a deal which could leave India at a disadvantage.

He seemed to hint that Pakistan, because of its location and deep links with the Taliban, could be of greater utility to the US. I&B minister Sushma Swaraj, it is learnt, also felt that chances of US taking Pakistan up on its offer of "unstinted cooperation" looked plausible.

Disinvestment minister Arun Shourie observed that while Pakistan may seek to cash in on its location and nexus, its so-called advantages will turn into liabilities.

L.K. Advani said the United States ambassador had denied that there any deal had been cut with Pakistan.

"The ambassador even said Pakistan, by circulating reports, was trying to drive a wedge between India and the US," Mr Advani said. The point was buttressed by Jaswant Singh.



SOUND OF SILENCE: Prime Minister Vajpayee, home minister L.K. Advani and urban development minister Ananth Kumar (far left) observe a two-minute silence in New Delhi on Tuesday, in memory of those killed in the recent US attacks. — AP

## Pak blackmail not enough

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 18 SEPTEMBER

THE DIPLOMATIC blackmail by Pakistan may not be enough to push India out of the alliance forged by the US for attacking terrorism. This is the impression government leaders have gained after their interactions with officials of the US administration.

Home minister L.K. Advani and external affairs minister Jaswant Singh, who have been interacting with US ambassador Robert D. Blackwill, shared their assessment with their Cabinet colleagues on Tuesday and said that the Americans themselves were sensing a Pak ploy to drive a wedge between

India and the US. "It is one of those usual efforts. It is surprising that the Pakistani assertions have found much attention here," the US ambassador is believed to have said.

The assessment here is that the US, which requires Pakistan because of its geographical proximity to Afghanistan, would also like to have India on board as the counter-terrorism agenda is not restricted to just killing or capturing Osama bin Laden. The US, the external affairs minister said, will have to give equal priority to the larger question of terrorism, as it is the urge to quell it in their respective backyards that has been prompting countries like Russia to align with the US in counter-terrorism initiatives.

Mr Advani said this would put Pak in a spot. "The choice will be between a rock and a hard place," he said. A majority of the Cabinet ministers, who were inclined to go with his perception, said the choices for Musharraf had shrunk considerably after Islamabad received the US wish list.

## Cabinet urges vigil against ISI

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 18 SEPTEMBER

THE UNION Cabinet, on Tuesday, stressed the need for stepped up vigil against possible subversion by ISI "sleepers". Although the security agencies have busted nearly 110 ISI modules spread across several states over the recent years, there exist an equal or even greater number of these cells which are dormant but can be activated as part of the Pakistan agency's gameplan to perpetrate terror.

The Cabinet felt that the ISI, under pressure from the fundamentalists in Pakistan who are opposing President Pervez Musharraf's offer of unstinted cooperation to the US in its fight against the Taliban, may act out of desperation and strike some vulnerable targets in the country including dams.

The dams, mostly located in the interiors, often lack security which makes them easy targets of subversion.

The assessment of the intelligence agencies is that the "activated" ISI "sleepers" may train their guns on these low-security installations with the aim of causing maximum economic damage to India.

It is in this background that the Cabinet, on Tuesday, discussed the need for a comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation.

The proposal to enact Tada-II, albeit with safeguards against human rights violations, had to be set aside following opposition from a majority of states who were not satisfied with the "safeguards" proposed in the draft anti-terrorism bill prepared by the Law Commission. Earlier, the NHRC, too, had rejected the need for a central anti-terrorism law.

## Afghans must get registered

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 18 SEPTEMBER

AS PART of its preparedness in the event of a US attack on Afghanistan, the government has instructed all Afghan nationals residing in India to register themselves with the country's immigration authorities. The revised policy, announced by the Union home ministry on Tuesday, requires Afghan nationals possessing valid or expired travel/immigration documents to get duly registered. The cases of Afghans residing without any documents will be put up before a committee constituted within the MHA.

The MHA has waived the penalty fee for non-renewal of registrations.

## Musharraf move foments unrest

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 18 SEPTEMBER

POPULAR UNREST against Pakistan's decision to ally with the US is gathering intensity and pace. Intelligence agencies reported that the biggest yet demonstration against the US was carried out on Tuesday in the Pathan-dominated areas of NWFP and Balochistan in Peshawar and Quetta near the Pakistan-Afghanistan border.

In Karachi, the famous Binori mosque, which has been the training ground for Taliban cadres, witnessed a 3,000-strong crowd protest against the proposed US strikes and Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's pro-US stand.

Musharraf's decision has had the inevitable fallout within Pakistan as protests gather steam, which puts the Pakistan government's offer of full cooperation to the anti-terrorism effort on shaky ground. The immediate future looks even more uncertain as the DG-ISI Lt Gen Mahmud Amed and Nasrullah Babar headed back to Islamabad on Tuesday evening, having failed to convince the Taliban to hand over bin Laden.

The reports of protests are coming in from as far as Sindh and the NWFP, touching every section from the army to the students. The madrassas are also causing great concern. These seminaries have been reportedly seething with rage against the proposed action in Afghanistan. There are 5,900 seminaries, with almost 500,000 students in Pakistan, which are well-known breeding grounds for terrorists and fidayeens. About 2,550 seminaries are operating in Punjab and 80 in Lahore alone. The Pakistan home ministry identifies 780 seminaries in Punjab as being affiliated to the Deobandis, 650 seminaries in the NWFP, with some 100,000 students as well as the JUI-run 700 seminaries in Balochistan with 50,000 students.

## Shahi Imam calls strikes divine wrath



Ahmed Shah Rukhari

# India may have been upstaged by Pakistan'

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 17. — Even as official assurances to the contrary were available, there were serious apprehensions within the Indian establishment that Pakistan has managed to upstage India vis-a-vis the USA in the global initiative against terrorism.

A strong section of opinion within the defence establishment apprehends that Pakistan, by agreeing to offer its services against Osama bin Laden and the Taliban in Afghanistan, has managed to curry enough favour with the USA establishment to allow it to turn a blind eye on militancy in Kashmir, and to ignore the fact that the Pak-Afghan region has emerged as the major breeding ground of the Islamic fundamentalist brand of terror practiced by bin Laden.

Officially, however, the US ambassador, Mr Robert Blackwill, today assured India that it had not entered into any bargain with Pakistan on Kashmir in return for Islamabad's military and other assistance against bin Laden's terrorist bases in Afghanistan. Mr Blackwill met Union home minister, Mr LK Advani, for the second time in three days to dispel such apprehensions. Top ministry officials said the Bush administration had clarified that the USA would never bargain in its "crusade" against terrorism. Mr Blackwill also met the foreign and defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, today.

The Prime Minister and Mr Advani met J&K chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, today to factor in these inputs.

The USA and Pakistan both denied that Islamabad's offer for assistance to the USA was conditional. Sources in the Pakistan high commission here said there has been no official statement of conditional assistance, and reports suggesting pre-conditions by Islamabad were mere media speculation.

The US embassy also clarified that Islamabad's offer was totally unconditional.

The foreign office spokesperson, however, said if Pakistan's offer was pre-conditioned, then it "trivialises the global approach" that India was trying to build up against terrorism, and also the colossal dimensions of the recent tragedy.

With officialdom believing that Pakistan is caught "between the devil and the deep blue sea," the official line is that India has been fighting terrorism for over a decade and has offered its unqualified support to the USA. It is unlikely, therefore, that the USA would wish to alienate India while firming up a global coalition to combat terrorism.

The Indian defence establishment, however, is weighing the emergence of concrete expressions of Pakistan's commitment against terrorism. For those could establish the future contours of India's own terrorist problems, in J&K in particular.

Can Pakistan be part of the solution to the problem when it is itself a breeding ground of terrorism?

■ See PAK: page 8

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## PAK:

(Continued from page 1)

Senior military officers say it would be imperative that the government doesn't allow the USA to lose sight of the bigger picture simply because it might be provided some immediate assistance from Pakistan in striking bin Laden's bases.

Will Pakistan sell the USA a dummy, they ask.

If it was indeed committed to eradicating terrorism, would it have spelt out certain pre-conditions: lifting of sanctions, an economic revival package, and a greater American role in Kashmir?

The Indian defence establishment entertains suspicions that Gen Pervez Musharraf will make the right noises, create an impression that he has risked earning the wrath of powerful domestic forces in taking a tough line with the Taliban and bin Laden without actually doing so — except for posturing.

In facilitating US military action against the six or seven known bin Laden camps in Afghanistan — most probably deserted by now — Pakistan would be deflecting attention away from the 127 camps that function in PoK and Pakistan.

Pakistan, which had ceased to be a major player in the American scheme of things, could win back some favour by assisting them, with the resultant danger that, military officials say, the West will lose sight of the Pakistan-Afghanistan region being the foremost nursery of terrorism in the world.

Reports over the years have suggested that terrorists nurtured in the region operated in Bosnia, Chechnya, the Philippines, and the USA.

Afghanistan is a major producer of opium, and, last year, an estimated 4,600 metric tonnes of it passed through Pakistan.

Pakistan having tested nuclear devices and not being a signatory to the Chemical Weapons Convention are ground realities that the USA must keep in mind while engaging that country.

India will have to keep presenting to the international community that the vast majority of so-called freedom fighters in J&K are foreigners, mainly Afghans. The thrust of the Indian exercise — whether or not it gets directly involved in military action — must be to prevent any dilution of this focus.

THE STATESMAN

18 SEP 2001

# Anger brews against Musharraf regime

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 16. The first signs of unrest and anger against the military Government are beginning to surface here, over the prospect of allowing the Pakistani soil to be used by the U.S. and its allies to launch strikes against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan.

It is clear that the Government is faced with the big challenge of convincing the people of the compulsions which may leave Islamabad with little option but to help the U.S. operate against the Taliban.

The shape of things to come was evident from a hard-hitting statement by the Jamaat-e-Islami (JI) chief, Quazi Hussain Ahmed, at an all-party meeting in Lahore earlier in the day. While the original agenda was to demand early elections under the supervision of an independent Election Commission, developments arising out of the U.S. attacks and possible American retaliation against Afghanistan dominated the meeting.

"We advise Pakistani rulers and the United States to keep away from a path that led to the defeat and destruction of the Soviet Union. Arrogance and power games would bring nothing but destruction," the Qazi is believed to have said.

The stand of JI, largest religious party in Pakistan, is significant. Unlike other religious parties, there is no love lost between the Taliban and the JI. The JI chief has, on many occasions, denounced the Islamic version practised by the Taliban. So his opposition to the Government's offer of helping the U.S. and its allies against the Taliban has less

to do with Afghanistan and more to do with the U.S. — it is a reflection of the prevalent 'anti-American' sentiment.

Most of the political, religious and militant outfits have expressed serious reservations on giving a 'free run' to the U.S. Some, like the Lashkar-e-Taiba, have gone to the extent of warning the Government of "active resistance."

All the parties — religious and political — and militant groups have condemned the attacks on the U.S. At the same time, they believe that the Bush administration is jumping to conclusions on culprits behind the attacks.

It is difficult to guess how the Musharraf Government will tackle the ground situation within Pakistan. It is the fear of a 'backlash' from within that has forced it to adopt a cautious approach. The political parties are also worried that the Government could take advantage of the crisis to impose martial law. The Pakistan People's Party has demanded a clarification on reports that a tougher military rule would be imposed as a *quid pro quo* for assistance to the international community against terrorism.

## Protests against U.S. threat

UNI reports from Islamabad:

Several demonstrations were held today in many parts of Pakistan against the U.S. threat to wage a war against the Taliban and Osama bin Laden.

A large number of people, belonging to the Afghan Front and other religious parties, staged rallies in Rawalpindi and protested against the Americans. They threatened strikes if the government assisted the United States.

THE HINDU

17 SEP 2001

# Pakistan's nexus with Taliban cannot be ignored: Advani

HP 8  
16/9

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, SEPT. 15. Stating that Pakistan and the Taliban have been working in tandem in abetting terrorism, the Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today said the U.S. should not overlook this fact while formulating any strategy on curbing terrorism.

"The world cannot disregard the fact that for over a decade, Pakistan and now Taliban have been promoting terrorism. They have been giving refuge and asylum to all those indulging in terrorist violence," Mr. Advani said while talking to mediapersons after inaugurating the 30th annual training conference of the Border Security Force.

The attacks in the U.S. followed by subsequent developments and actions would have a direct consequence on the subcontinent, said Mr. Advani, adding, "the im-

pact will be felt on the security scenario where our neighbour in the West will be the most affected from it."

He further noted: "We have to face this challenge emerging from the new scenario. We do not know how the entire scenario takes shape, but the kind of experience and determination our security forces have shown so far, we are ready to face all our adversaries."

Mr. Advani said Osama bin Laden, whom the U.S. was suspecting to be the mastermind behind the attacks, was regarded as a 'hero' among Islamic terrorists and also among extremists who were active in the Kashmir Valley. "There have been instances when security personnel have recovered Osama bin Laden's photographs from bodies of terrorists."

Mr. Advani said the recent in-

cidents showed how in a single day a group of not more than 100 people could perpetrate such terror in the U.S. leaving the entire democratic world stunned. "It is a war in which we do not know the enemy, and this is the biggest difficulty we face in fighting terrorism." He said India had succeeded in its efforts to make the world realise that fighting terrorism was a "global challenge". "Our efforts have been reinforced by what happened on Tuesday but in a manner never imagined," he said.

Reiterating that Pakistan was training terrorists to spread terror and kill innocent people in India, Mr. Advani — indirectly referring to Gen. Pervez Musharraf's statement describing terrorists as "freedom-fighters" — said, "one man's terrorism cannot be another man's freedom struggle".

# Vajpayee and Musharraf drop NY visit

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 14 - Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee's scheduled visit to New York to address the United Nations has been called off following terrorist attacks in the USA. This was officially announced today.

(According to an agency report, General Pervez Musharraf today cancelled his New York visit in view of the postponement of the UN General Assembly session and his meeting there with Mr Vajpayee won't take place. The press secretary to the Pakistani President, Maj.-Gen. Rashid Qureshi, said the UN meeting itself has been postponed and therefore he won't be going to New York.)

As a result, some of the bilateral meetings which were to take place with President George W Bush and Gen Musharraf, have been also cancelled. "The Prime Minister has decided that it is necessary for him to remain in India under the present circumstances," a ministry of external affairs statement said. Apparently the decision to call off the visit was taken after consultations with the UN secretary-general and other UN officials.

India feels there was already enormous strain on the US authorities because of the damage caused by the terrorist attacks. "We don't wish to add to the enormous strain by added demands on security when their energies are fully devoted towards search and rescue operations," the statement said.

Mr Vajpayee is yet to speak to President Bush, but political level contact has been made.

# PoWs: India wants 'thorough' probe

New Delhi, September 10

INDIA TODAY demanded a "thorough" investigation into the whereabouts of 54 missing Indian prisoners of war (PoWs), allegedly lodged in Pakistani jails. Meanwhile, Islamabad has formally conveyed its offer to facilitate a visit to Pakistan by relatives of the PoWs.

"We would like a thorough inquiry that will address the issue fully, comprehensively and satisfactorily," an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson told reporters.

The relatives should be given all facilities to establish the whereabouts of the PoWs, she said.

The formal communication was handed over to India's Deputy High Commissioner in Islamabad Sudhir Vyas when he met Rashed Salim Khan, director-general, South Asia on Saturday.

"The next step is to work out feasible and practical modalities for the visit," the spokesperson said. New Delhi will now get back to Pakistan with its proposals for the visit.

A six-member delegation of relatives of the missing PoWs had visited Pakistan in September 1983, but had come back empty-handed without coming across any of their kin.

Asked whether the Govern-

ment was contemplating taking the assistance of the International Red Cross Society, she said only the Government-to-Government channel was being looked at for the moment.

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf last week said he would like to invite these relatives to see for themselves that no soldier of the 1971 Indo-Pak War languished in the country's prisons.

Official sources pointed out that for such visits, satisfactory arrangements would have to be worked out which would meet the concerns of the relatives as well as address the issue which is 30 years old.

Pakistani defence spokesman Maj-Gen Rashid Qureshi said in Islamabad last week, "With the investigations by higher officials of the Pakistani armed forces, interior ministry officials and other official agencies into the allegations of Indian PoWs drawing a blank, the president has instructed his officials to invite the family members of the 54 missing Indian soldiers to visit any Pakistani jail and scrutinise records."

He said those who wanted to visit Pakistan to look for their missing kin could approach the Pakistani High Commission in New Delhi and obtain necessary travel documents.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 SEP 2001

## NEW PLOY ON POWs

51/2/93  
Playing to the gallery 119

**P**ERVEZ Musharraf is either terribly naive or dangerously disingenuous in throwing an open invitation to the families of the 1971 prisoners-of-war to visit Pakistan and check things out for themselves. The families whom Musharraf was addressing were least impressed for it has been their consistent case that their loved ones languishing in Pakistani jails are not listed as POWs, for obvious reasons. Pakistan is a signatory to the Geneva convention which requires that POWs be repatriated at the earliest. It would hardly allow its official records to reflect such guilt. The families are also fully aware that a somewhat similar exercise in 1983 proved futile. Visiting Pakistan only to inspect the records which the Interior Ministry has already certified as being free of POWs would be as traumatic as it would be unproductive.

Any effort to trace the 54 POWs — how many of them are still alive is a moot question — would have to go a long way beyond official records and begin by piecing together scraps of information that have emanated over the years. Jail wardens, prisoners and a host of others would have to be contacted and their inputs collated and analysed. It would have to be a non-bureaucratic exercise conducted with both military efficiency and missionary zeal. A Pakistani NGO is working on that front and if Musharraf is really serious he could invite an Indian NGO or an international organisation, perhaps the Red Cross, to associate itself with the endeavour. And ensure that no governmental hurdles are created. Maybe that would result in at least some of the 54 cases attaining finality.

RECORDED

11 SEP 2001



# PM for continuing talks with Pak. #9 17

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, SEPT. 9.** The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, is in favour of continuing a dialogue with Pakistan on the Kashmir issue. However, talks on other subjects related to trade and increased contacts among the two peoples were also important as these would help build confidence between the two neighbours.

Mr. Vajpayee expressed these views informally over a luncheon meeting with Hindi editors today. His forthcoming meeting with the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on September 25 on the sidelines of the United Nations meeting came up during the relaxed conversation.

The impression gathered was that Mr. Vaj-

payee was keen that the dialogue with Pakistan should not be allowed to break down. Although the two countries would expectedly reiterate their known positions, the fact that Mr. Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf will be meeting again after the Agra Summit in July was itself significant.

Although the New York talks are expected to be one-on-one, depending on what direction they take, official participation later is not being ruled out. In fact, reports suggest that Pakistan may be inclined to agree to a structured arrangement for these talks, which may mean that while Kashmir and terrorism would be handled at the "political level", other issues could be taken up at the official level.

There is also expectation that after the New

York meeting, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, would travel to Islamabad to continue the dialogue and perhaps prepare the ground for a summit meeting in Pakistan.

Mr. Vajpayee will be meeting the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, on September 24 and Gen. Musharraf the next day. On September 23, he is expected to attend a Bharatiya Vidya Bhawan function.

On Saturday, Mr. Vajpayee had an informal meeting with several editors of important newspapers associated with the Editors' Guild. Today, he met a large number of editors of Hindi publications, and officials in his office have hinted that he would be meeting editors and other journalists in batches as part of an interaction exercise.

THE HINDU

10 SEP 2001

POW ISSUE / TRAVEL DOCUMENTS TO BE ISSUED

9w93  
Pak

# Pak. invites Indian families to visit jails

HD-13  
7/8

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 6.** Pakistan is willing to allow Indian families, who believe their kith and kin are lodged in various Pakistani jails as 1971 POWs, to travel to any part of the country to check for themselves the veracity of the truth.

An official statement by the Pakistan Foreign Office on Wednesday had declared that the military government had come to the conclusion after thorough investigations that there were no Indian Prisoners of War (PoWs) in any of the Pakistani jails or prisons.

The Ministries of Interior and Defence had investigated the matter on the direction of the Pakistani military ruler and President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

This was one of the issues raised by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, at the Agra Summit and Gen. Musharraf had promised to personally look into the matter.

After the Pakistan Government came to the conclusion that there

are no Indian PoWs in any of the Pakistani jails, Gen. Musharraf instructed his officials to invite any of the interested relatives of the so-called 54 Indian PoWs to visit the Pakistani jails to satisfy themselves about official claims that no missing soldier of 1971 Indo-Pak war languished in its prisons.

Gen. Musharraf's Press Secretary and Defence Spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi, said the family members who wanted to visit Pakistan could approach the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi and obtain necessary travel documents.

He said that Gen. Musharraf had asked the foreign ministry officials to facilitate the visit of family members of the PoWs to visit Pakistan.

The issue of missing Indian soldiers of the 1971 war has been a bone of contention between India and Pakistan for several years.

While India has continued to maintain that there are 54 PoWs lodged in different jails of Pakistan, Islamabad has denied the

charge. According to a Pakistani human rights activist, Mr. Ansar Burney, foreign prisoners were housed in about 77 jails located across Pakistan. Last month, he said his organisation, Burney Welfare Trust, had begun its own investigations into the allegations and promised to come out with details in about two months.

A report in the local English daily, *Dawn*, said that the Interior Ministry apprised the Cabinet about its efforts to verify the charge of presence of PoWs in jails and found no evidence to substantiate it. The Cabinet was informed that pictures of the PoWs, which were provided by the Indian Government, were also circulated to all the prisons in the country.

The Cabinet has also been informed that all the intelligence agencies, including the Inter-Services Intelligence, (ISI) had been involved in the combing of country's prisons to locate the Indian PoWs, it said.

THE HINDU

SEP 13

# Agra peace process to continue: Vajpayee

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 6. - India is committed to the peace talks set in motion in Agra despite Pakistan's rigid stand on Kashmir and sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. This was clarified by Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee today at the 2001 Conference of Directors-General of Police.

The Prime Minister said dialogue alone could lead to a negotiated settlement on outstanding issues, including Kashmir. Claiming that he had taken the initiative to invite Gen. Pervez Musharraf for talks, he said: "Our efforts haven't yielded... results so far. Yet, a definite step has been taken... We will continue the process set in motion in Agra."

Expressing "serious concern"

## FOUR ARMYMEN KILLED IN J&K BLAST

JAMMU, Sept. 6. - Four Army jawans were killed and 10 injured in a landmine blast triggered by ultras on the Jammu-Srinagar highway today. The ultras targeted an Army convoy at Digdol, near Jammu. Two jawans died on the spot and two later. In Budgam, a CRPF jawan died and four were hurt when an ultra stormed a camp of SOG of J&K Police. - PTI & SNS

over the situation in Jammu and Kashmir, he said the government had asked the security forces not to initiate combat operations against militants for six months.

New Delhi is furious with Islamabad for insisting on raising Kashmir at international fora.

Recent provocative statements by the Pakistani President and foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, forced New Delhi yesterday to get its high commissioner in

Islamabad, Mr Vijay Nambiar, to clarify with the foreign secretary, Mr Inamul Haq, the intentions of Pakistani leaders. Pakistan's obsessive nature before the Vajpayee-Musharraf meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly on 25 September has cast doubts on Islamabad's sincerity in taking a progressive approach to talks.

Mr Nambiar told Mr Haq that he had sought the meeting to understand what Pakistan expected

and wanted from the Vajpayee-Musharraf meeting in New York.

He said questions were being asked in India about the purpose of such a meeting and whether it would lead to productive results.

India and Pakistan today discussed the logistics for the 25 September meeting. The Pakistani high commissioner, Mr Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, and the secretary (west) in the foreign ministry discussed the administrative arrangements.

### Musharraf gesture

Gen. Musharraf has invited the relatives of 54 Indian POWs, allegedly lodged in Pakistani jails, to visit the country and see that no soldier of the 1971 war is there in its prisons, adds PTI from Islamabad.

THE STATESMAN

- 7 SEP 2001

# Rise in Pak infiltration bids in Jammu

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

JAMMU, Sept. 6. - Desperately trying to activate the Line of Control and international border in Jammu division and thus depict it as a "disturbed one" besides keeping the Indian Army heavily engaged, Pakistan has been making a number of infiltration bids in the region.

According to defence statistics, Pakistan has made a total of 87 infiltration bids from the LoC in Jammu region since January to August this year. Thus, the figures show a startling increase in the number of infiltration bids made by

Pakistan this year. Only 65 such bids were made by the Pakistani troops on the LoC last year while there were just 39 in 1999.

Similarly, till August this year, 11 infiltration bids by

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Pakistani rangers have been foiled and 18 intruders gunned down. A total of 169 infiltrators were killed by the Indian forces on the LoC till August this year.

The figures also show an increase in the killings of foreign terrorists this year in Jammu region which is a pointer to the fact that maximum number of foreign mercenaries have infiltrated to this region. Starting from January this year up to

August, 379 foreign terrorists have been killed by the security forces in Jammu region which constitutes almost 65.4 per cent of the total number of mercenaries killed in this area. Last month alone, 41 foreign mercenaries were among 69 militants killed in Jammu region. Eighty-two foreign terrorists were killed in June this year.

Even in the post-Agra summit

## INDEFINITE NIGHT CURFEW IN DODA

JAMMU, Sept. 6. - Fear and panic have gripped the people of the twin border districts of Poonch and Rajouri and the militancy-infested Doda district following a series of attacks on police posts and District Police Lines (DPLs) by Pakistan-sponsored terrorists. In the past fortnight, the militants have targeted Poonch police station, DPL Doda and the DPL Poonch. The latest attack on DPL Poonch was on Monday night. The people are feeling very insecure. The Pakistan-backed Fidayeen militant squads attacked the heavily guarded DPLs in Doda district on Saturday. Three Fidayeen militants had killed a sub-inspector lines officer. Nine other policemen, including an inspector were also injured in the attack which was the third in a fortnight.

After the recent attacks in Doda district, the DM has announced night curfew from 7 p.m. onwards in the entire district. As per an official notification, this will continue for an indefinite period. A red alert has already been sounded in Doda, Poonch and Jammu and instructions have been issued to all the police stations and other high security installations to remain on maximum alert. - SNS

period, Pakistan has changed its firing pattern on the LoC and the IB. Besides using small arms and heavy calibre fire, it has also

resorted to mortar shelling. This year alone, 1,313 mortars (both 82 mm and 60 mm) were fired on the LoC in the Jammu sector.

THE STATESMAN

- 7 SEP 2001

# Pak. should exercise restraint, says Omar Abdullah

9/20/01  
10-13

**CAPE TOWN, SEPT. 4.** Taking strong exception to the recent statements by Pakistani leaders on Kashmir, India today said if Islamabad did not exercise restraint, the Vajpayee-Musharraf meeting at New York later this month was unlikely to make any headway.

"It is expected in order to achieve success after summit-level talks at Agra that maturity and restraint is exercised supportively to maintain the commitment towards dialogue by Pakistan," the Minister of State for External Affairs, Mr. Omar Abdullah, who arrived here on a two-day official visit, told PTI.

He said given the tone and the substance of the recent statements by the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, and "the fact that Pakistan is refraining from learning from the recent experience and is not exhibiting any desire publicly to work towards stability and cooperation in the region, I wonder if any purpose will be served by the meeting in New York."

Mr. Abdullah was reacting to a statement made by Gen. Musharraf during his address in the Legislative Assembly of northern areas where he had stated that solving of Kashmir issue was a pre-condition to normalisation of ties between the two countries.

## OIC links J&K to Palestine

PTI reports from Durban:

A day after Pakistan raised the Kashmir issue at the World Conference Against Racism (WCAR), the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) has sought to compare the developments in Jammu and Kashmir to those in Palestine.

"Turning a blind eye to such crimes can only create powderkegs of tension, disputes and conflicts worldwide as best exemplified and evidenced in what occurred in Bosnia-Herzegovina in recent years and what is happening in Jammu and Kashmir, Palestine and other areas of the world," an OIC statement said.

The statement at the WCAR plenary was made by the OIC Secretary-General, Mr. Abdelouahed Belkeziz, last night.

## Pak. raising pitch on Kashmir

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 4.** With the meeting between the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, in New York just over three weeks away, Islamabad is beginning to give a distinct impression of raising the pitch on the Kashmir issue.

A brief but terse statement by the Pakistan Foreign Office tonight contested India's claim that at the Agra summit, Pakistan had agreed not to raise the Kashmir issue at multilateral forums even as the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, reiterated that Kashmir was the only stumbling block in normalisation of ties between India and Pakistan.

The provocation for the statement is presumably the remarks made by the Indian Foreign Office spokesperson questioning the manner in which Mr. Sattar raised the Kashmir issue at the World Racism Conference in Durban in violation of the understanding arrived at Agra.

Describing the Indian claim on the understanding as "pure fabrication and figment of some one's imagination," the Pakistan Foreign Office said, "at no stage was such an assurance given to any body. Jammu and Kashmir is an internationally- recognised disputed territory and Pakistan would continue to raise this issue at international forums till the resolution of the dispute in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmir people".

At Durban, Mr. Sattar took observers by surprise when he accused India of denigrating the "struggle" in Kashmir as terrorism and associating it with Islam. Taking exception to what he termed as "vilification of Islam," he said

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New Delhi was resorting to such methods to justify the ongoing "brutal repression" of Kashmiris. On his return, Mr. Sattar told presspersons at Karachi that Pakistan had never been averse to a dialogue with India on issues other than Kashmir. Both sides understood that after the conclusion of the Agra Declaration there would be a structured dialogue process. The priority issues were identified as Jammu and Kashmir, peace and security, nuclear and conventional arms, confidence-building measures, drug trafficking and terrorism. Mr. Sattar said Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Vajpayee would meet in New York on September 25 for talks on Kashmir. "We do not expect finalisation of any draft at the meeting, but both leaders may decide how to proceed."

On developments in the valley, he said, "the Kashmiri struggle is indigenous and the Indian response was not political and peaceful as they let lose a reign of terror". He accused India of "cynically trying to portray" the Kashmiris' legitimate struggle for self-rule as terrorism and extremism.

In a separate statement, the Pakistan Foreign Office condemned the arrest of Shaikh Abdul Aziz, member, executive council of the All-Party Hurriyat Conference (APHC), and the detention of Mr. Ashraf Sehrai, another APHC leader.

## 'No joint statement'

PTI reports:

Pakistan today ruled out the possibility of a joint statement or declaration after the New York summit between Mr. Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf.

The two leaders were expected to pick up the threads from the Agra summit but not scheduled to sign any joint statement or declaration. "It would be reasonable to say that we do not expect the finalisation of the draft in New York," Mr. Sattar said.

He, however, hoped that the declaration would be "consummated" when Mr. Vajpayee visited Islamabad later in response to Gen. Musharraf's invitation.

THE HINDU

5 SEP 2001

## MEAs objects to Sattar remarks at Durban

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, SEPT. 3.** India today objected to Pakistan's Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar's remarks at the ongoing World Conference Against Racism in Durban, saying that they were not conducive to the satisfactory resolution of the Kashmir issue.

Mr. Sattar had accused India of denigrating the "struggle for self-determination" in Kashmir as terrorism. In a spirited response, the spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) termed Mr. Sattar's remarks as "self-serving". "The Pakistan Foreign Minister gratuitously overlooks

that there are more followers of the noble faith of Islam in India than in Pakistan. India, which is governed by a secular Constitution, has never associated any one faith with terrorism."

The spokesperson, however, singled out for criticism, the involvement of Pakistan and the Taliban regime in terrorism including cross-border terrorism.

Dismissing the allusion to "self-determination" in Kashmir by Mr. Sattar, the spokesperson said the killing of innocent civilians was an expression of terrorism and considerations of ideology, race, ethnicity or religion could not justify it.

THE HINDU

• 4 SEP 2001

## Pak. rakes up Kashmir at Durban

**DURBAN, SEPT. 2.** Pakistan today raked up the Kashmir issue at the United Nations World Conference Against Racism here and accused India of "brutal repression" that had "led to the killing of 75,000 people."

Addressing the conference, the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar, said "it is sad that in our own region, this theme of denigrating the struggle for self-determination as terrorism and associating terrorism with Islam is being actively promoted to justify the ongoing brutal repression of the Kashmiri people."

"The effort by Indian publicists to exploit prevalent prejudices cannot mask the fact that 75,000 people — Kashmiris — have been killed in the last decade of their struggle for freedom," Mr. Sattar said.

Pakistan's reference to Kashmir is in violation of Islamabad's promise of not raking up the issue in international fora. — PTI

**More reports on Page 14**

**THE HINDU**

**• 3 SEP 2001**

# Pakistan rejects Delhi offer to send DGMO for talks

**Mubashir Zaidi**  
*Islamabad, August 31*

PAKISTAN HAS turned down India's offer to send its Director-General Military Operations (DGMO) to Islamabad for discussions along the LoC and bilateral consultations on security concepts and nuclear confidence building measures at the official level.

Islamabad says that such issues would be sorted out between General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee when they meet in New York next month.

A local English-language daily today quoted an unidentified Army General as saying that DGMOs of both countries talk on a weekly basis over the hotline. "There is no need for the two countries to have further contacts on peace and security along the LoC."

He ruled out any extra-ordinary meeting of DGMOs in Pakistan before the next round of talks between the two leaders in New York. "It's much better for both the countries to raise issues pertaining to peace and security at the highest political level. Any other attempt will be construed as a tool to hoodwink the core issue, which is of course the precarious security situation in

Kashmir."

Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee had offered on July 6 to send his DGMO to Islamabad to discuss security matters and explore ways of restoring peace along the LoC.

The General said a number of military confidence building measures were already in place, which included the conventional Border Ground Rules, 1960, Border Ground Rules, 1961 and setting up of hotlines between the DGMOs. Both countries had agreed to give prior notice to each other on military exercises and troop movements.

The two countries had also agreed to prevent Air-space violations. In 1992, they had issued a joint declaration on complete prohibition of chemical weapons.

Since all these instruments were in place, it was necessary that India conducts talks on the CBMs at the highest level with utmost sincerity, he advised.

## Levy slash on 50 Pak items

Moving a step further to create a congenial atmosphere for Indo-Pak peace talks in future, External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh today announced a list of 50-items on which levies could either be removed or reduced, on

imports from Pakistan, HTC adds from New Delhi.

The list of the items, which the minister placed in Parliament, includes dried mushrooms and truffles, pistachios, dental cements, lip and eye make up, printed books, newspapers and journals appearing four times a week and wooden furniture.

Among other items, it includes frozen fruit and nuts, apricots, calcium carbonate and fresh or dried figs, gelatin, raw skins of sheep or lambs with wool on, building bricks and pre-shave, shaving or after-shave preparations. The Department of Revenue will issue a formal notification in this context soon.

In a statement issued in both the Houses of Parliament, Singh said the Commerce Ministry has drawn the list of 50 tariff lines through inter-ministerial consultations on Prime Minister A B Vajpayee's instructions shortly after Agra summit. The Government believes that increased trade between the two countries will help improve bilateral relations.

Referring to the CBMs, he said "these initiatives were born out of our continuing conviction that the foundation of peace between India and Pakistan has to be laid in the minds and hearts of the people of both countries."



Paramilitary forces maintain vigil in Srinagar on Friday during a bandh called by the Hurriyat Conference in protest against the rising incidents of human rights violations in Kashmir.

## No fixed agenda for NY meeting

**HT Correspondent**  
*Islamabad, August 31*

THERE'S NO fixed agenda for the meeting between President General Pervez Musharraf and Prime Minister A B Vajpayee in New York next month.

"This is a bilateral meeting between the two leaders on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly. Normally, there's no fixed agenda for such meetings. As to what would be discussed, we have noted the official statement from India that the effort will be to pick up threads from the Agra Summit. This is a positive signal and this has been also our intention. Our approach to discussions with India is well known. We emphasise the need to address the Kashmir dispute which is at the heart of tensions and conflicts between the two countries. Simultaneously, we are ready to discuss other issues. It has been stated that progress on these issues is possible in tandem with progress in dialogue on Kashmir," Foreign

Office spokesman Riaz Mohammed Khan said today.

The spokesman, however, said since the Agra Summit, there has been an "escalation in violence in Kashmir. The Armed Forces Special Powers Act has been extended to Jammu. This law, described by Kashmiris as black law, gives a free hand to Indian forces to shoot and kill, arrest and enter premises and search vehicles without warrants. There have been reported moves to accord amnesty to personnel accused of human rights abuses.

There have been arbitrary arrests of APHC leaders and, as you are aware, today the Kashmiri people in the Valley are observing a protest. Pakistan, of course, fully supports, morally, politically and diplomatically, the just struggle of the Kashmiri people."

The spokesman said Pakistan continues to pursue the policy of observing maximum restraint along the Line of Control and there has been no change in this policy.



# India <sup>5/8</sup> rubbishes Musharraf statements

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE 10

NEW DELHI, Aug. 31. — India has rubbished General Pervez Musharraf's reported statements accusing the Home Minister, Mr LK Advani, of blocking the joint declaration between India and Pakistan at Agra.

This is perhaps the first time since the Agra summit that Pakistan categorically mentioned the Union minister's name. Earlier, it had accused a "hidden hand" and "hard-liners" in the government for the deadlock. The external affairs ministry is awaiting the "full and authorised" text of the Pakistani President. The Indian High Commission in Islamabad will be obtaining it.

Meanwhile, the spokeswoman of the ministry has "dismissed" the statement. "There is nothing that is new in these comments. Such rumours about our Cabinet have appeared on earlier occasions, too, after Agra, and have been, and are dismissed again", she said.

The Prime Minister had already made it "abundantly clear" in Parliament that the question of a joint document had to be abandoned by India mainly on account of "Pakistan's insistence on the 'settlement' of the Jammu and Kashmir 'issue', as a precondition for any movement forward"; and also on account of "its reluctance to acknowledge and address cross-border terrorism", said the spokesperson.

The government is categorically clear that an approach based on an adversarial relationship, or seeking to hold the entire relationship hostage to one issue, "has not worked in the past and will not work in the future either".

But the government also is committed to continue with the Lahore process, seeking fruitful dialogue with Pakistan as part of "our quest for a relationship of peace, friendship and cooperation," she said.

THE STATESMAN

- 1 SEP 2001

# India announces duty cuts for Pak. products

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 31.** Sustaining the initiative on Confidence Building Measures (CBMs) prior to the meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee and the Pakistani President, General Pervez Musharraf at New York, India today announced 50 tariff lines where duties will be cut or withdrawn on imports from Pakistan.

These include newspapers and books as well as dried fruits, mushrooms, cosmetics, raw hides and unprepared leather.

The tariff lines have been identified by the Commerce Ministry following a directive by the Prime Minister prior to the Agra Summit.

According to the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, it was one of the unilateral initiatives announced in July to enhance people-to-people ties and assist in the establishment of durable peace and stability between India and Pakistan.

Making a statement in the Lok Sabha today, the Minister said the initiatives were born out of India's continuing conviction that the foundation of peace between the two countries had to be laid in the "minds and hearts of the people of both countries".

He stressed that India felt that increased trade between the two countries would have its own dynamics and would have a positive impact on the bilateral relations.

Accordingly, on July 4, the Prime Minister had instructed the Commerce Ministry to identify 50 lines on which tariff could either be eliminated or reduced. These had been identified through a process of inter-ministerial consultations, he said.

Mr. Jaswant Singh said the Department of Revenue will be issuing formal notifications in this regard after completing necessary procedural requirements.

In a related development, India today released 24 Pakistani na-

tionals, who were lodged in a high-security jail in Amritsar. These prisoners were handed over to the Pakistani Rangers by the Border Security Force personnel at the Wagah checkpost in Punjab.

Meanwhile the Ministry of External Affairs reiterated that the relations between India and Pakistan could not be held hostage to "one issue". This observation was made by a spokesperson of the MEA in reply to a question on Gen. Musharaff's reported contention that he and Mr. Vajpayee were close to a breakthrough twice in their talks at Agra.

The spokesperson, however refused to be drawn into a comment on why the Agra Summit remained inconclusive. The Prime Minister and Mr. Jaswant Singh had themselves commented in considerable detail on the summit in Parliament, she maintained.

THE HINDU

2001

# Unanswered questions

MANI SHANKAR AIYAR



IT'S official. The Agra Summit collapsed because of two words. The first was "cross-border terrorism". External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh claimed his government had brought the expression "centre-stage" in international discourse after Kargil. Which, of course, is why the word does not appear in the Lahore Declaration. In explanation of why "cross-border terrorism" was irrelevant to Lahore but the "core issue" at Agra, the prime minister in Parliament essays the explanation that cross-border terrorism before Lahore was limited to "minor incidents" (*chhut-phut ghatmayein!*)

The other no-no word at Agra, we are told, was Musharraf's refusal to accept the militants in J&K as "terrorists" and his gall at describing them as "freedom fighters". Was this the Pakistan President's semantic discovery in the blinding beauty of the Taj Mahal? Or is this what Pakistan has been saying since 1947? Did Musharraf not make it clear, over and over again in the run-up to Agra, that what are "terrorists" to us are "freedom fighters" to Pakistan? Should this not have ended the hoopla and hype over the Agra summit?

After all, this is not the first time that our heads of state/government have met in either country. Contrast the workman-like manner in which Rajiv Gandhi encountered Zia-ul-Haq in Delhi in December 1985 and February 1987 with the circus that was set up in Agra.

Moreover, the external affairs minister and prime minister failed to respond to the following questions raised by the Opposition in the debate:

■ Was Agra a success or a failure? Why did the external affairs spokesperson rubbish it when the Government in Pakistan is making tall claims for it?

■ Did Vajpayee invite Musharraf to make a new beginning — or to send him back "long faced and empty-handed" (*"munh latkaye hue aur khaali haath"*)?

■ Does the Government understand the distinction between "dialogue" and "summitry"?

Why rush into a summit without a preparatory dialogue at lower levels? The prime minister referred to Musharraf's offer of talks at "any time" and "any place". Why did he forget Musharraf's offer of a dialogue at "any level"?

■ Does the Government accept that Kashmir is a "root cause" of "tension" between India and Pakistan, as stated in the G-8 resolution and the UN Security Council resolution of June 1998? If not, has the Government lodged protests and repudiation with the Government of the G-8 and the UN Security Council? If not, why not?

■ Did not President Clinton refer to "Kashmir" as an "area of dispute" in his address to the Joint Houses of Parliament in Central Hall? Did the Government of India reject this formally or publicly then or at any time thereafter? If not, why not? Did this not signal Musharraf that he too could get away with such abuse of our hospitality?

■ Does the Government accept the validity of the word "Kashmir" in the G-8 resolution, the UN Security Council resolution and President Clinton's address in the Central Hall of Parliament? Is not the area in question the state of "Jammu & Kashmir"? If no objection has been lodged, is this because the Government's hidden agenda is the trifurcation of the state on communal lines?

■ Did not the external affairs spokesman affirm that J&K was NOT on the agenda for the prime minister's Summit meeting with President Clinton at the

lution of 6 June 1998, the first in 33 years to mention "Kashmir"?

■ Why did the prime minister not repudiate in his reply my bringing to his attention (he was present in the House) the assessment of his then Raksha Mantri, George Fernandes, in his Foreword to the 1999 Penguin edition of D.R. Mankekar's *The Guilty men of 1962* dated New Delhi, December 17, 1998, the eve of the Lahore visit, that "The well-fostered myth

TARUN VIJAY



WE became prisoners of our own *sharafat*. He came and badmouthed everything about us. Kargil, Mukti Bahini, Sushma, Freedom Struggle, Jihad. Then he played smart on home turf. His

ated that made him nostalgic in Islamabad?

Earlier Vajpayee-speak in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha was dull and almost monotonous because he read the statement. This time he spoke to the nation, and he spoke out well. I'm sure by this time he felt the pulse of the nation.

People were getting uneasy over the arrogant General's charade-talk and the seemingly silence of the lamb-like diplomat-stalwarts.

"How many certificates of good conduct would you like to collect, Sir?" people were asking. This deadly hobby, history tells us, always ends up with some Kargil or worse, a Pervez! You may give him Taj Mahal, but he loves to shoot bullets.

Vajpayee was hurt indeed and it showed up during his remarkably candid speech on Tuesday. He has cleared the air and emerged as the same old Atal Behari, giving the clarion call to the nation to defend its sovereignty and as-

took over, did you try to know people's wishes," he asked!

He was witty and Mr Acid-Aiyar got the taste of it. No one makes him even represent the party he defends with all the arsenal of abuses at his command. Scindia smiled, naturally.

Vajpayee did what a nice guy could do. He chose to forget Kargil, he tried to ignore the fact that this man, the General in hurriedly worn civils, remains the most despised name in the Indian households, where every day Kargil was fought and martyrs saluted. Vajpayee invited the General with such fanfare that it drew criticism from his best friends too. But he stuck to his guns. Peace, he said, is needed and peace I shall talk. Look at the response the Indian people gave — wholehearted support.

That's the Hindu psyche at work. Whether it is named, in a sarcastic way, Prithviraj Chauhan-Mohammad Ghauri syndrome or anything else. Readily trusting, pardoning the most untrustworthy, compromising even at the cost of the dearest ones, and maintaining a baffling calm in front of arrogance-incarnate. That's how we have been all these years.

Every nook and corner of this Hindu land witnesses havans and yajnas for world peace! Every bit of rituals ends with a Shanti Path, a peace-prayer, every prayer calls for the good of all, not just the followers of Hindu Dharma. Between India and Pakistan, the main difference is of the ideologies.

They demanded partition, not us. They made millions of people leave their hearth and homes, not us. And we accepted it, thinking it would bring peace. Immediately after the ghastly bloodbaths, they wanted a loan of 52 crores. Nehru and Patel opposed but the Mahatma, a devout Hindu, sat on fast and had the loan delivered. Next thing that happened to us was the so-called tribal attack on Kashmir and we lost two-thirds of it.

Every milestone of our relation with Pakistan is marked with deception, a mockery of accepted norms of behaviour and a strange hatred for the Hindus believed to have bequeathed by foreign Islamic invaders. That's the lineage Pakistan loves to position itself in. And wrongly for sure, because foreign invaders never did any good for the local converts. An Indian Muslim is as Indian as an

Indian Hindu.

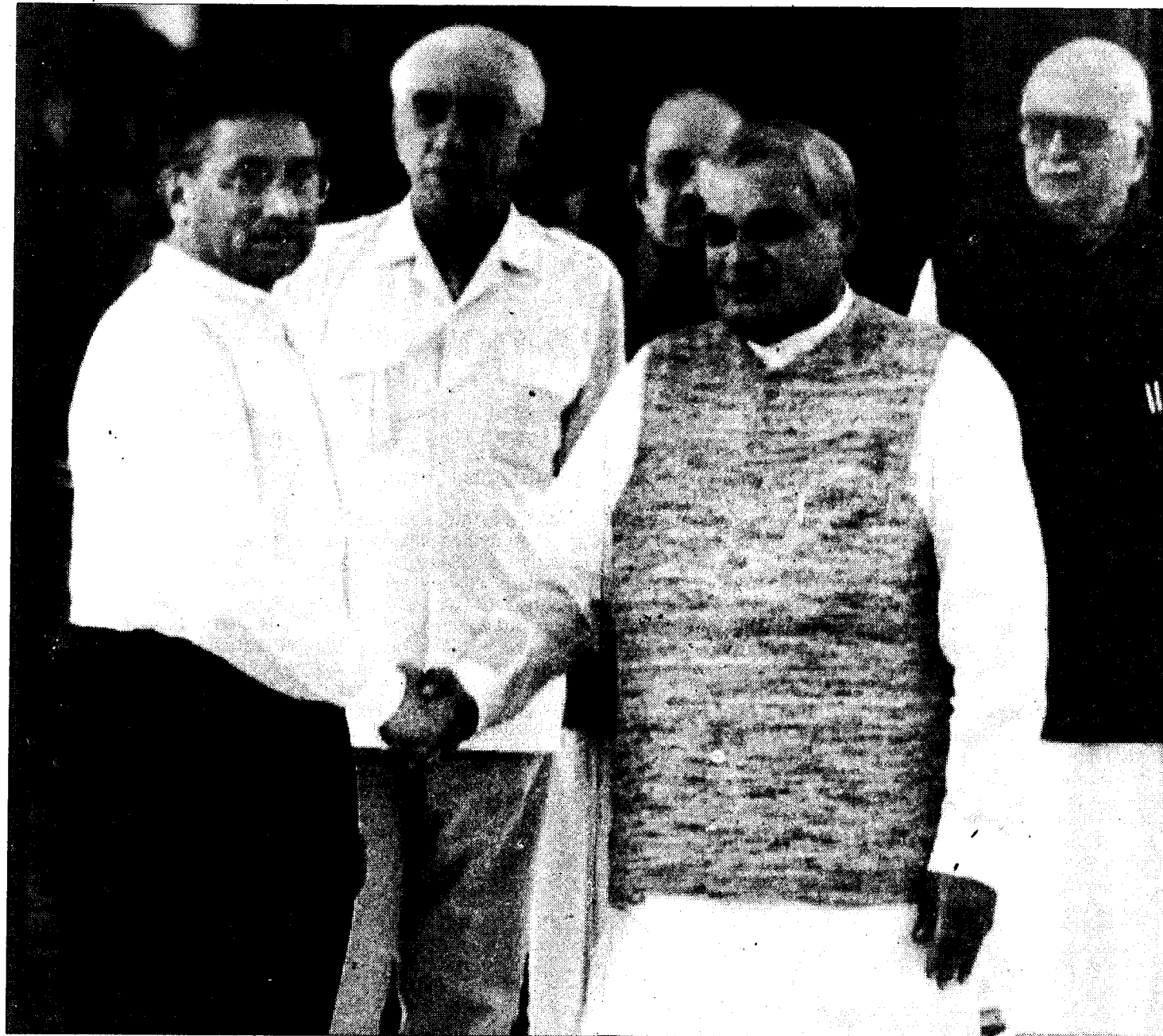
A Pakistani is a Pakistani in Riyadh, he has nothing to do with the invaders and he genuinely belongs to Taxila, Harappa and the legacy of Dahir and this has to be understood.

Unless this hatred in Pakistan's eyes is removed, and it ceases to look at us through the Jihad Islamic eyes, you may try any number of Lahores or Agras, the barbarism in the Valley will continue. That's what we have to address now.

Softly Vajpayee unveiled the steel in him.

(Tarun Vijay is Editor, Panchjanya)

# The gentleman spoke at last!



Prime Minister Vajpayee with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf during the summit in Agra. Express photo by Praveen Jain

**Was Agra a success or a failure? Why did the external affairs spokesperson rubbish it when the Government in Pakistan is making tall claims for it? Did the prime minister invite Musharraf to make a new beginning or to send him "long faced and empty-handed"?**

White House in September 2000? Did not the US president nevertheless insist on bringing up the issue in the talks? Did not the prime minister cravenly permit this? Did that not signal the Pakistan president that he only had to stick to his "core issue" and the prime minister would succumb?

■ While the Government has expressed considerable satisfaction over the UN Secretary General's press statement in Islamabad that earlier UN resolutions on J&K are "not enforceable", has the Government asked the UN Secretary General to clarify whether this also applies to the UN Security Council reso-

lution of the threat from Pakistan has been exploded?

Does the Government accept that the threat from Pakistan is a "myth" — or that it has been "exploded". If not, how can such a dangerous individual, a palpable threat to national security, be selected and continue as the convenor of the National Democratic Alliance, only waiting in the wings to return as defence minister?

The Agra Summit was a tragedy; the Government's defence of it in Parliament a farce.

(Mani Shankar Aiyar is a senior Congress MP)

Excellencies and His Excellencies! Every one was counted during his thanksgiving service, from Manbir Singh to the ADCs. Except one. And everybody knew who he was.

What great diplomacy did the General play! So he said everyone was falling in line, Kashmir, yes, Kashmir, His Excellency Jaswant Singh, Vajpayee Saheb, they were all very nice guys. Very understanding. But someone did play something and he had to return home midnight. *Khali haath!*

The nation wanted to know from Mr Vajpayee what happened during those long six hours of one-to-ones. What was being negoti-

ating people of his leadership. He made the General return *khali haath*, and it was his decision. "The General vitiated the atmosphere when he termed terrorism as a freedom struggle," he said. "Kashmir may be a piece of land for them, but for us it is a part of our life, our *zindagi*."

"We are talking peace from a point of strength and not because we are tired or our army has fatigued," was the rebuff.

He spoke about Ghulam-Kashmir, about Kashmir's part given away to China, made a dig at the General's demand to know the wishes of the people of Kashmir. "When you

**Vajpayee did what a nice guy could do. He chose to forget Kargil, he tried to ignore the fact that this man, the General in hurriedly worn civils, remains the most despised name in the Indian households, where every day Kargil was fought and martyrs saluted**

# Arafat seeks India's help

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 23.** With the arrival of the Palestinian leader, Mr. Yasser Arafat, today and the visit on Friday by a senior Israeli official, India is being asked by the two West Asian adversaries to help revive their peace talks.

While calling on the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, Mr. Arafat formally sought India's role to revive the peace talks with Israel. A foreign office spokesperson said Mr. Arafat also wanted New Delhi's backing for a U.N. General Assembly session on the West Asian crisis. Mr. Arafat pointed out that he supported the statement of G-8 on the prevailing situation as well as other international initiatives to end the strife in Israel and areas under Palestinian authority. He was accompanied by his chief negotiator, Mr. Erekat and chief adviser, Mr. Nabeel Abu Dineh.

The Prime Minister reiterated the need for the revival of the peace talks. There was no military solution to the dispute between Palestine and Israel.

Significantly, a special emissary of the Israeli Foreign Minister, Mr. Shimon Peres, is arriving tomorrow. Mr. Y. Biran, senior Additional Secretary in the Israeli foreign office, will hand over a letter to the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, on behalf of Mr. Peres.

In a statement on arrival, Mr. Arafat said the Palestinians were "facing military escalation. There is siege on our villages and towns." He said he had no objection to meeting Mr. Peres to revive the peace process as proposed by Germany. "I have



**The Palestinian President, Mr. Yasser Arafat, with the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, in New Delhi on Thursday.** — Photo: Anu Pushkarna

met Mr. Shimon Peres several times. Last time, I met him in Egypt. So we have no objection. We are waiting for a final response from Mr. Joshka Fischer (German Foreign Minister)."

On his visit to India, Mr. Arafat said he had come here for "consultations." "We have to carry on in the international field, specially the U.N., Security Council and the NAM. We are in need, no doubt of

help of the Indian leadership", he observed.

Mr. Arafat met the Congress president, Ms. Sonia Gandhi and the Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, Ms. Najma Heptullah.

His meeting with the President, Mr. K.R. Narayanan, was cancelled as the latter was indisposed. He later left for Beijing en route Islamabad.

THE HINDU

1993

# Musharraf blames it on Advani

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 30. For the first time since the Agra Summit one and half months ago, the Pakistan military ruler and President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has virtually accused the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani, of blocking the joint declaration between India and Pakistan. *Q. D. P. M.*

In his address to the Northern Areas Legislative Council in Uluil this morning, Gen. Musharraf maintained that the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, would have signed the joint declaration but for the pressure from the hard-liners within his Government.

The candid observations of Gen. Musharraf, on what according to him went wrong at Agra, has come after categorical assertions in the last three days that normalisation of ties between India and Pakistan was not possible

till the Kashmir issue was resolved.

It is clear that Gen. Musharraf has stepped up his rhetoric on Kashmir after keeping a low profile since the Agra Summit. Even in the face of hard-hitting statements from various leaders, including the Prime Minister, from New Delhi, Pakistan chose not to join issue with India on what led to the failure to come out with a joint declaration-statement. *3118*

Gen. Musharraf told the Northern Areas Legislative Council that on July 16, the last day of the two-day summit, the Mr. Vajpayee had agreed on the draft declaration at 1.30 p.m. and was ready to sign it.

"I was certain that Vajpayee would sign the declaration in which the centrality of the Kashmir issue was agreed upon. But the hard-liners prevailed over the Indian Prime Minister", he said. He said after finalisation of the

mutually agreed declaration, he returned to his hotel to change the dress as he was proceed to Ajmer Sharif after the signing ceremony. *101*

But soon after he reached his hotel, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdul Sattar informed him that things had gone wrong and the Indian side was saying that the Cabinet did not approve the declaration. "I was astonished, as there was no Indian Cabinet in Agra except for two or three Ministers, including L.K. Advani".

Gen. Musharraf told the Council that the Indians sent an amended draft later in the evening. "We agreed to sign the second draft. We were told that the signing ceremony would take place within 15 minutes or so. But nothing happened". He claimed that in the both the drafts the centrality of Kashmir issue was recognised.

THE HINDU

31 AUG 2001

# 'Indo-Pak relations shouldn't be hostage to one issue'

PTI & UNI

NEW DELHI, Aug. 29. - India today said that while it stood for building an all-round relationship with Islamabad, it opposed attempts at holding bilateral relations hostage to a single issue, rejecting General Pervez Musharraf's stance on Kashmir.

(A Pakistani daily *Khabren*, said today that Mr Jaswant Singh will visit Islamabad in September's first or second week, before Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee and Gen Musharraf meet in New York. The Indian high commission, however, is not aware of such visit.

(The two countries have begun diplomatic efforts to work out a formal structure and agenda for the New York meeting.)

Gen Musharraf earlier this week said real progress couldn't be achieved in the bilateral ties unless the core issue of Kashmir was resolved in accordance with the aspirations of the Kashmiris. He said the Kashmir problem must be given top priority.

Mr Vajpayee, who has accepted an invitation from Gen Musharraf for a meeting in New York next month, is expected to underscore the need for the two countries to work for a broad-based, all-round relationship.

"We reject the notion of centrality and talk of Kashmir as a core issue," a foreign ministry spokesperson said. Indo-Pak ties, she said, "can't be held hostage to one single issue."

Asked about the status of confidence-building measures, including easing visa rules unilaterally announced by India before the Agra Summit, she said Pakistan's response was



**ETERNAL VIGILANCE:** A jawan on an armoured vehicle in Kishtwar, near the Indo-Pak border, in J&K, on Wednesday. - AP/PTI

being awaited.

**Army men killed:** Three Army men were killed and several injured in an unprovoked and indiscriminate Pakistani shelling along the LoC in Uri, Baramulla, district today. Indian troops fired back but there was no report of any casualty on the Pakistani side.

**New border posts:** Six new border posts will be soon be set up in Sir Creek, Gujarat, to reduce security threats from Pakistan, the BSF IG, Mr OPS Malik, said here today. The Centre has also sanctioned sophisticated arms for the BSF and fencing was underway along the international border in Gujarat.

**Bail pleas rejected:** A Delhi

court today dismissed the bail pleas of Rahmana Yusuf Farooqi and Babar Mohsin Bhagwala, arrested in the Red Fort shoot-out case in which three persons were killed on 21 December, 2000. Lashkar-e-Taiyaba ultras took part in the operation.

**Hurriyat strike:** The Hurriyat today called a strike in Kashmir on Friday to protest against "growing incidents of human rights violations by security forces". Before the meeting began, former Hurriyat chairman, Syed Ali Shah Geelani, was put under house arrest.

**US team:** A three-member US Congress team today visited Line of Control at Chakothei in PoK.

THE STRAITS

30 AUG 2001

# Pakistan-funded madrasas spreading radicalism: IB

Chandan Nandy  
New Delhi, August 26

HI-7  
2/18

PAKISTAN IS "subverting" the Muslim population in some of the border States of India and funding the construction of mosques and madrasas to propagate hatred and fundamentalism, a recent Intelligence Bureau study has revealed.

The document, a copy of which is with *Hindustan Times*, says Pakistan "aims at encircling India with fundamentalist organisations and its design is to wean Indian Muslims in the border districts from their traditional Indo-Islamic roots and implant in them the philosophy of pan-Islamic fundamentalism".

The study identifies several mosques and madrasas along a 10-km border stretch in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Rajasthan and Gujarat that are allegedly funded by Pakistan.

The study identifies 51 mosques and 52 madrasas built by "Muslim fundamentalists" in Siddharthnagar and Maharajganj, which are the two most sensitive districts.

The madrasas "ostensibly" confine themselves to imparting religious education, but since 1993 the teachings have acquired a "militant tone".

The report says that the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelli-

gence has influence over some of the madrasas frequented by Muslim theologians from Nepal, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia.

One of the preachers from Nepal is suspected to be "in touch" with Dawood Ibrahim and Pakistani Intelligence agencies. The document names several people, including local leaders of a UP-based political party, who are allegedly linked to the ISI.

Barhni to Krishna Nagar and Khunwa to Tauli Hawa in Siddharthnagar, Sonauli Belahia and Bargadwa to Bishanpur in Maharajganj are reportedly the chief infiltration routes for "anti-India elements".

Kishanganj and East Champaran districts are the hotbeds of ISI activities. Many of the 671 madrasas situated along the Indo-Nepalese border in Bihar provide logistic support to the ISI.

One reason for the heightened fundamentalist and ISI activities is the influx of illegal immigrants from Bangladesh and Nepal to Kishanganj. This has resulted in an "abnormal" growth in the Muslim population estimated to be nearly 7 lakh or about 66 per cent of the district's population.

According to the document, the border districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan have 150 and 28 mosques and 71

and 41 madrasas respectively. Teachers of the Bareilvi and Deobandi schools, which are "primarily fundamentalistic in approach", teach in these madrasas.

In Kutch district, there are 490 mosques and 230 madrasas that receive funds from Gulf countries.

The IB has suggested a "counter-plan" to "instil in Muslims living along the borders a sense of Indian identity and a vested interest in resisting infiltration by their co-religionists from Bangladesh and Nepal".

Besides, strengthening the provisions of the Foreign Currency Regulation Act (FCRA) would check the flow of foreign funds to border areas. The report suggests "discouraging Arabic and encouragement to Urdu among Muslims to insulate them from pan-Islamic influences".

To check illegal immigration, the agency has advised promoting village defence societies along the borders, introduction of photo identity cards and inner-line permits in a 10-km stretch along the entire land border in India. It also advocates enactment of laws in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar to check the unregulated growth of Islamic fundamentalist institutions.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 AUG 2001

# Eco-terrorism new threat

RAJU SANTHANAM *Just from*

NEW DELHI, Nov. 25. — In the new Afghanistan scenario India may not only be confronted with infiltration into Kashmir of Taliban-trained jihadis, but the sceptre of "eco-terrorism" through circulation of fake currency notes which authorities say is more sinister and less difficult to detect.

Authorities say there has been a spurt since October last year and quote a "secret" finance ministry circular to the Central Board of Direct Taxes and Excise which talks of the "ominous proportions" of this menace. According to the National Crime records bureau recent seizures of Rs 7 crore were

## ISI MOVE

JAMMU, Nov. 25. — The ISI has intensified efforts to bring all terrorist outfits under the umbrella of Hizbul Mujahideen to give an indigenous colour to militancy.

Pakistan-backed ultras today attempted to blow up the Jawaharlal Nehru tunnel, the only road link between the Kashmir Valley and the rest of the country. — SNS

(Detailed reports on page 8)

made in Uttar Pradesh alone while Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra account for seizures worth Rs 5 crore and Rs 4 crore respectively.

Indian authorities claim that Pakistan has been involved in the business of publishing fake currency notes and circulating them in this country since 1993. Pakistan's motive — to strike at India's economy and also use the fake currency to fund militants.

The present extent of circulation estimated at a few hundred crore will hardly make a major dent in the Indian economy, but the ramifications are nation-wide since fake currency arrests and seizures have been effected in many as 11 states of the country.

As evidence of Pakistani involvement Indian authorities

■ See ECO-TERROR: page 8

THE STATESMAN

20 AUG 2001



# Delhi sends Benazir reminder to Pervez

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Nov. 25: Former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has welcomed the proposed talks between Atal Bihari Vajpayee and General Pervez Musharraf in Kathmandu, but said any agreement with a military ruler will lack the credibility a democratic government offers.

"It is always a good thing when people meet. I am a firm believer in communication. My only concern is that Gen. Musharraf is an unelected leader in Islamabad and it is important for the relationship between India and Pakistan that they (talks) be conducted at a level where the people of Pakistan are carried along," Benazir told reporters.

The leader of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) arrived in India today on a three-day private visit. Ostensibly, she is here to attend a seminar, but is using the opportunity to meet the Indian leadership.

She called on Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee this evening and spent nearly 40 minutes at 7 Race Course Road. Earlier, Benazir met home minister L.K. Advani and discussed Kashmir with him.

At the meeting with Vajpayee, the former Pakistani Prime Minister admitted that though India had taken several initiatives to normalise relations with Pakistan, successive regimes in Islamabad, including the one she headed, had "missed the opportunity" to reciprocate.

Benazir's visit is not as innocent as it looks. The message that goes to Musharraf from India is that a large political space exists beyond him and New Delhi will not hesitate to use it. It is also a signal to the West, which has stumbled upon the virtues of the military dictator after the September 11 attacks, that Musharraf is not the only answer to Pakistan's problems.

For Benazir, who has been out of the political process for a while and lives mainly outside the country in self-imposed exile, the trip to New Delhi can provide the ideal launch pad for her re-entry into politics. The timing of the visit is significant as Musharraf has promised to restore the democratic process in the country within a year's time.

At the meetings with Vajpayee and Advani, Benazir tried to project herself as a mature leader who

has learnt from past mistakes and is keen to improve relations with India. She said by visiting India, she was trying to create a precedent of promoting people-to-people contact even at times when relations at the official level were at a low ebb.

In an interview to a private TV channel, Benazir said she would urge Islamabad to respond substantially to India's initiative in normalising ties. She also wholeheartedly supported India's proposal for creating "safe and open borders" between the two countries to facilitate easier and freer movement of people of the two countries.

Benazir agreed with Advani's view that the Kashmir problem could be resolved only through negotiations and not by an open or a covert war. She spoke of India's efforts to get the process of arriving at a solution going by its unilateral declaration of ceasefire, release of some Kashmiri leaders and invitation to All Parties Hurriyat Conference leaders for talks.

Benazir said: "These are initiatives that give the people of India and Pakistan an opportunity to work towards substantive peace."

THE TELEGRAPH

26 AUG 2001

# Giving India MFN status is pointless, says Pak minister

HT Correspondent  
New Delhi, August 24

INDIAN INDUSTRY today got a major jolt when Pakistan Commerce, Industry and Production Minister Abdul Razak Dawood rejected the demand to grant most favoured nation (MFN) status to India, saying it was "pointless".

But there was something to cheer about too. Dawood announced that Pakistan will soon lift the ban on import of textile machinery from India and expressed his Government's keenness to cooperate with India to develop its information technology (IT) sector.

The ban on sugar import, however, stays.

Dawood said that granting reciprocal MFN status to India at this time was pointless unless some of the "speed breakers" in the bilateral relationship were addressed. Answering queries during an interactive session held by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (Ficci), he said that though India had granted MFN status to Pakistan, their products still have "problems getting in". "We have to sit across the table and sort out the tariffs and other issues," he said.

He said Pakistan had no objection to laying of a gas pipeline between India and Iran passing through its territory. "Though the issue was not specifically taken up during discussions with the Indian counterparts, we have said we have no objections to it," Dawood said.

On cooperation in the IT sector, Dawood said, "India has done extremely well in IT sector and

Pakistan itself was keen on this sector." He said Pakistan was in the process of setting up technology parks. Some Indian entrepreneurs from Silicon Valley, under the aegis of The IndUS Entrepreneurs (TIE), had met President Gen Pervez Musharraf to work on a strategy to develop the IT industry in Pakistan.

"We are right now in the process of allowing your textile machinery into Pakistan," Dawood said, and since it made "good business sense", Pakistan wants to "continue further".

The minister, however, clarified that the ban on import of sugar from India would not be lifted. He also stated that the decision to continue ban on Indian sugar was totally non-political.

"The decision was taken by none other than myself, but I assure you that there was no politics of the sub-continent or politics of pressure groups operating within Pakistan. The decision was purely economics," he said. "We are facing a situation of vast sugar surplus," Dawood said.

He further said that if the Pakistani businessmen approached him to remove some items from the restricted list, the Pak Government would "consider it" and the request would be acceded to within a week.

In July, Pakistan had allowed import of 50,000 tonnes of refined Indian sugar and line of credit had been opened prior to the ban on March 8 this year.

Asked if Pakistan was keen to sell its surplus power to India, Dawood said the "situation" had changed and Pakistan would "run out of surplus power in a year's time".

# India won't play cricket with Pak

HT Correspondents  
New Delhi, August 21

INDIA WON'T play the Asian Test Championship tie against Pakistan in Lahore scheduled between September 13 and 17. The Government has also rejected Jagmohan Dalmiya's proposal of a "friendly" India-Pakistan one-dayer to raise funds for Gujarat's quake victims.

The decision was based on Intelligence reports saying the "atmosphere wasn't ripe for holding such cricket matches," much less sending a team to the neighbouring country.

The matter was discussed threadbare at a meeting attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Home Minister L K



TAUQIR ZIA



UMA BHARTI

Advani and External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh. The decision was taken collectively.

The big three had before them a letter from Union Sports Minister Uma Bharti in which she had expressed reservations about Indian participation at the championship. The decision was later

conveyed to the Sports Ministry.

The Government, it was learnt, was under intense pressure from the Indian and Pakistani boards to clear the team's participation.

The Pakistani board has already begun printing tickets for the match and planned to sell them from September 1. Khalid Butt, Pakistan Cricket Board (PCB) spokesperson said: "Indian board officials had unofficially shown us a letter from their Government granting permission for the match. They had asked us to ignore media reports that India wouldn't come."

Tauqir Zia, PCB president, had earlier said the tournament would go ahead even if India didn't ensure full participation.

India in fact had harboured hopes of hosting the final of the tournament.

But regardless of what Zia had said, with India refusing to play the Lahore match, the future of the tourney is in jeopardy. The television rights for the tournament were reportedly set to fetch about Rs 9 crore — on the assumption that India participated.

The Asian Cricket Council, organiser of the tournament, is contemplating action against India. But it isn't getting any comfort from the International Cricket Council. Says ICC spokesman Ian Barber: "We aren't thinking of taking any action. We don't come into the picture at all. This is a matter between India and Pakistan."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

22 AUG 2001

## Another Indo-Pak. meeting

21/8  
By C. Raja Mohan 410.11

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 20.** The first political contact between India and Pakistan after the Agra summit last month will take place when the Pakistan Commerce Minister, Mr. Razzak Abdul Dawood, arrives here later this week.

Mr. Dawood is coming to attend a ministerial meeting of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation. The meeting of the SAARC Commerce Ministers has been convened by India on short notice earlier this month. The objective of the meeting is to coordinate the South Asian positions before a crucial meeting of the World Trade Organisation at Doha later this year.

Although Mr. Dawood's visit takes place in the multilateral context of the SAARC process and is focussed on global trade issues, it provides an important opportunity for direct high-level communication between the two governments.

The divisive domestic debate in India on the Government's handling of the Agra summit may have sent mixed signals to Islamabad about India's willingness to engage Pakistan

at the highest level. A series of recent statements from senior Pakistani officials have expressed disappointment at the lack of a formal Indian decision on the next meeting between the two heads of government at the earliest possible occasion.

The indications here are that the Government is actively considering a meeting between the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in New York on the margins of the United Nations General Assembly next month.

Bilateral consultations between Mr. Dawood and the Indian leadership could help remove misperceptions if any on either side on future engagement between the two leaders.

Mr. Dawood's visit is significant for other reasons as well. It marks the revival of the SAARC process at the political level. This is the first ministerial meeting of the SAARC since the Kargil confrontation in the summer of 1999 stalled the functioning of the regional forum.

Mr. Dawood's trip could also act as a spur to

the broadening of the bilateral agenda beyond Kashmir and nuclear confidence-building measures.

On the eve of the Agra summit there was considerable expectation in New Delhi that Gen. Musharraf's visit could open the door for reviving commercial bilateral engagement. Before the summit, India also announced some unilateral trade concessions to Pakistan.

With Gen. Musharraf deciding to focus almost exclusively on Kashmir during his visit to India, he chose not to bring any Minister other than his Foreign Minister, Mr. Abdus Sattar.

Although Mr. Murasoli Maran, Commerce Minister, was in the Indian delegation to Agra, his counterpart, Mr. Dawood, was not in the Pakistani delegation. This week the two leaders will have an opportunity to exchange views on trade issues at the regional and global level.

But Messrs Maran and Dawood should know that as two large neighbours who cannot do business with each other, India and Pakistan will not be taken seriously when they thunder against the discriminatory global order at Doha in November.

THE HINDU

21 AUG 2001

CENTRE COLLECTING EVIDENCE AGAINST SIMI

**PM may visit Pak. to continue talks: Advani**

HO-1  
19/8

92nd  
60K

By J.P. Shukla

LUCKNOW, AUG. 18. The Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today said the Government was collecting all available evidence against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) to make a 'foolproof case' against the organisation. However, the Government was carefully examining the legal aspects before taking any action to ban the SIMI.

He told presspersons that the Government had received disturbing reports from various quarters about the SIMI's activities and the question of banning it was being examined. Several State Governments had sent reports to the Centre about its 'objectionable activities'. Reports had also been received from other intelligence and police sources.

He said that under the provisions of the Unlawful Activities Act, it was required to constitute a judicial tribunal to examine the validity of a ban.

Mr. Advani, who was here on a day's visit to participate in a function to honour workers and activists associated with the Sangh Parishad since the days of the Bharatiya Jana Sangh, said there had been an ideological continuity in the BJP's functioning. The party was working on the basis of a common agenda for the National Democratic Alliance since its political constituents had agreed to give good gov-

ernance, he said.

Mr. Advani said his party believed that Kashmir was an integral part of India and this had been made clear by him during his talks with the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. While Gen. Musharraf stressed that Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed territory, the Indian stand was that it did not subscribe to the two-nation theory. Kashmir could be discussed but only in the context that terrorism and killing of innocent people could not be called 'jehad'.

(According to agency reports, Mr. Advani said in an interaction with editors and bureau chiefs of newspapers and news agencies that India favoured continuance of dialogue with Pakistan but made it clear that it had the will and capability to deal with cross-border terrorism by crushing the militants' designs. "Our stand is clear that peace should not be held hostage to the resolution of differences on any issue with Pakistan.")

He indicated that the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, would visit Pakistan to continue the dialogue in a bid to resolve differences.

Mr. Advani told reporters later that the Agra summit would have come to a meaningful conclusion had Gen. Musharraf not met the Hurriyat leaders, not called the Pak.-spon-

sored terrorism in Kashmir a "freedom struggle" and not talked of the division of Bangladesh at his meeting with the Indian editors.

"Right from the beginning Gen. Musharraf was in no mood to work for an understanding and was merely addressing the people of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue," he said.)

He claimed that during the past three months, security forces had launched an effective action against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir. The number of terrorists killed during the period was more than those killed in past years. It was a different matter that terrorists had targeted innocent people during the same period.

There was an improvement in the situation, if the increasing number of tourists to the Valley during the past three years was an indication, Mr. Advani said.

**'Winnability not enough'**

On the Uttar Pradesh elections, Mr. Advani said it was not enough to win a majority but "it was equally important to fulfil the people's aspirations". He asked the State BJP leadership to keep in mind the characters of individuals while selecting candidates. Winnability should not be the only consideration in candidate selection, especially for the BJP which was a "party with a difference".

THE HINDU

19 AUG 2001

# India, Pak. not 'doomed' to continue conflict: Haq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

92nd  
Pak

119-8

WASHINGTON, AUG. 18. Though the history of India-Pakistan relations has been one of conflict and tensions, it does not mean that both countries are "doomed" to continue with that. "We are sure that there is sufficient wisdom in both countries to bring about a change in their perceptions, in their policies, in their understanding to resolve the issues that separate them...", says the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam-ul Haq.

Mr. Haq, who was in Washington in the last few days for foreign office consultations, was speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Centre. He touched upon a range of issues in his formal address as also in the question period that followed.

Calling for an end to the "blame game" that started after the Agra summit, Mr. Haq said there would be no recriminations on who was at fault even while making the point that some sections in India had resorted to this game.

"We have not done that. We see that some sections of opinion in India have done that. But we believe we should move beyond that very quickly so that we can pursue the dialogue process in order to reduce tensions between the two countries and to promote the idea that both leaders have underlined, and that is devoting resources of their countries and of the region to socio-economic development," Mr. Haq said.

## 'Summit not a failure'

He stressed that the Agra summit could not

be called a failure just because an agreement or a declaration could not be agreed upon. "That the agreement could not be finally signed should not be seen as a failure because India and Pakistan have a very complex relationship and sometimes it is better not to have an agreement on which there might be later controversies than to have an agreement," Mr. Haq said.

At the same time, Mr. Haq maintained that it was New Delhi that was at fault for a declaration not materialising. "And the declaration finally could not be adopted because a formulation on Jammu and Kashmir which had been agreed to at the level of Foreign Ministers was not approved by the Indian side. We worked on that formulation. It was reformulated. But again, even the reformulation, which was done by the two Foreign Ministers, was not agreed to by the Indian Government," Mr. Haq said.

He denied that China was transferring missiles or technology in recent years pointing to the fact that the Chinese leaders "at the highest level" had denied reports to this effect. Senior lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. are furious that Beijing is violating a pledge not to export missiles and technology and at least one Republican Senator has called for fresh sanctions against China for sending shipments to Pakistan. Therefore, Mr. Haq's assertions will not cut much ice in influential sections of the polity here. Mr. Haq, who formally ended his official meetings here on Friday, was hopeful that

sanctions against Pakistan would be lifted by the Bush administration. "We hope that in the near future these sanctions will be revoked, because they have not proved effective. They are, in fact, redundant," he said.

Pakistan, in calling for the removal of sanctions, has said that there cannot be a "differentiated" approach of the Bush administration — that is easing the punitive measures against India and not doing the same for Pakistan. Washington has been making the point that some sanctions against Pakistan will have to stay because they are "democracy-related".

In Sydney, Australia, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, has been quoted as saying that a lifting of sanctions against India would likely be applied to Pakistan as well. "We have some similar sanctions against Pakistan and some different because Pakistan is not a democracy... but clearly we have to move somewhat with Pakistan," he said.

## PTI reports:

Mr. Armitage said on Friday that the sanctions against India would come off soon and was hopeful that a meeting would take place between the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, at the U.N. General Assembly in New York next month.

"With the advice of Congress, they will be coming off; this is some of the sanctions... Certainly the post-May 1998 nuclear detonations sanctions would be the first to go."

DHF 111111

19 AUG 2001

# Let's stop the blame game and move beyond Agra: Pak. official

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 18. Though the history of India-Pakistan relations has been one of conflict and tensions, it does not mean that both countries are "doomed" to continue with that. "We are sure that there is sufficient wisdom in both countries to bring about a change in their perceptions, in their policies, in their understanding to resolve the issues that separate them..." says the Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam-ul Haq.

Mr. Haq, who was in Washington in the last few days for foreign office consultations, was speaking at the Woodrow Wilson Centre. He touched upon a range of issues in his formal address as also in the question period that followed.

Calling for an end to the "blame game" that started after the Agra summit, Mr. Haq said there would be no recriminations on who was at fault even while making the point that some sections in India had resorted to this game.

"We have not done that. We see that some sections of opinion in India have done that. But we believe we should move beyond that very quickly so that we can pursue the dialogue process in order to reduce tensions between the two countries and to promote the idea that both leaders have underlined, and that is devoting resources of their countries and of the region to socio-economic development," Mr. Haq said.

## 'Summit not a failure'

He stressed that the Agra summit could not be called a failure just because an agreement or a declaration could not be agreed upon. "That the agreement could not be finally signed should not be seen as a failure because India and Pakistan have a very complex relationship and sometimes it is better not to have

an agreement on which there might be later controversies than to have an agreement," Mr. Haq said.

At the same time, Mr. Haq maintained that it was New Delhi that was at fault for a declaration not materialising. "And the declaration finally could not be adopted because a formulation on Jammu and Kashmir which had been agreed to at the level of Foreign Ministers was not approved by the Indian side. We worked on that formulation. It was reformulated. But again, even the reformulation, which was done by the two Foreign Ministers, was not agreed to by the Indian Government," Mr. Haq said.

He denied that China was transferring missiles or technology in recent years pointing to the fact that the Chinese leaders "at the highest level" had denied reports to this effect. Senior lawmakers, Democrats and Republicans in the U.S. are furious that Beijing is violating a pledge not to export missiles and technology and at least one Republican Senator has called for fresh sanctions against China for sending shipments to Pakistan. Therefore, Mr. Haq's assertions will not cut much ice in influential sections of the polity here.

Mr. Haq, who formally ended his official meetings here on Friday, was hopeful that sanctions against Pakistan would be lifted by the Bush administration. "We hope that in the near future these sanctions will be revoked, because they have not proved effective. They are, in fact, redundant," he said.

Pakistan, in calling for the removal of sanctions, has said that there cannot be a "differentiated" approach of the Bush administration — that is easing the punitive measures against India and not doing the same for Pakistan. Washington has been mak-

ing the point that some sanctions against Pakistan will have to stay because they are "democracy-related".

## Sanctions may go

In Sydney, Australia, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Mr. Richard Armitage, has been quoted as saying that a lifting of sanctions against India would likely be applied to Pakistan as well. "We have some similar sanctions against Pakistan and some different because Pakistan is not a democracy... but clearly we have to move somewhat with Pakistan," he said. The Deputy Secretary of State also argued that "at least some" of the sanctions against India will be lifted if there was Congressional concurrence and that Washington is looking forward to a meeting, "hopefully", between the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, at the United Nations next month.

"I have begun the consultations (on sanctions) along with some of my colleagues. With the advice of the Congress, they (sanctions) will be coming off; this is some of the sanctions...but certainly the post-May '98 nuclear detonation sanctions would be the first to go," Mr. Armitage said.

The senior Bush administration official then went on to say, "We are looking forward, hopefully, to a meeting between our President and the Prime Minister of India at the UNGA in New York".

Asked if more engagement with India by the United States was an attempt to establish a strategic counter-weight to China, Mr. Armitage argued against this thinking. "You should put zero value on that. I think whenever you try to establish a relationship with a country, which is based on a third country, then you are doomed to fail."

THE

19 AUG 2001

## CENTRE COLLECTING EVIDENCE AGAINST SIMI

# PM may visit Pak. to continue talks: Advani

HDT  
19/8

Jawad Khan

By J.P. Shukla

LUCKNOW, AUG. 18. The Union Home Minister, Mr. L.K. Advani, today said the Government was collecting all available evidence against the Students Islamic Movement of India (SIMI) to make a 'foolproof case' against the organisation. However, the Government was carefully examining the legal aspects before taking any action to ban the SIMI.

He told presspersons that the Government had received disturbing reports from various quarters about the SIMI's activities and the question of banning it was being examined. Several State Governments had sent reports to the Centre about

its 'objectionable activities'. Reports had also been received from other intelligence and police sources. Mr. Advani, who was here on a day's visit to participate in a function to honour workers and activists associated with the Sangh Parivar.

Mr. Advani said his party be-

**Advice to partymen: Page 7**  
**RSS against autonomy: Page 8**

lieved that Kashmir was an integral part of India and this had been made clear by him during his talks with the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. While Gen. Musharraf stressed that Jammu and Kashmir was a disputed territory, the Indian

stand was that it did not subscribe to the two-nation theory. Kashmir could be discussed but only in the context that terrorism and killing of innocent people could not be called 'jehad'.

(According to agency reports, Mr. Advani said in an interaction with editors and bureau chiefs of newspapers and news agencies that India favoured continuance of dialogue with Pakistan but made it clear that it had the will and capability to deal with cross-border terrorism by crushing the militants' designs.

He indicated that the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, would visit Pakistan to continue the dialogue in a bid to

resolve differences. Mr. Advani told reporters later that the Agra summit would have come to a meaningful conclusion had Gen. Musharraf not met the Hurriyat leaders, not called the Pak-sponsored terrorism in Kashmir a "freedom struggle" and not talked of the division of Bangladesh at his meeting with the Indian editors.

"Right from the beginning Gen. Musharraf was in no mood to work for an understanding and was merely addressing the people of Pakistan on the Kashmir issue," he said. He claimed that during the past three months, security forces had launched an effective action against terrorists in Jammu and Kashmir.

THE HINDU

19 AUG 2001



10-13

# 'Meet in New York unlikely'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 16. Pakistan today hinted that the Pakistani military ruler and President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, and the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, might not meet on the sidelines of the General Assembly of the United Nations scheduled in the fourth week of September.

"A meeting between the two leaders does not seem to be on the cards," was the cryptic comment of the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman in response to a specific question at a news conference here.

But the Pakistan spokesman seem to have based his comments on the statements attributed to the Foreign Secretary, Mrs. Chokila Iyer, after her meeting with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Inam ul Haq, on the sidelines of the SAARC meeting at Colombo.

The Pakistan spokesman referred to the reported statement of Mrs. Iyer that the Prime Minister has accepted the invitation extended by Gen. Musharraf to visit Islamabad to continue the process of dialogue

started at Agra.

The spokesman said Islamabad had received from Mr. Vajpayee a formal letter of acceptance of the invitation extended by Gen. Musharraf. Asked for details of the letter, the spokesman said it merely mentioned about the acceptance of the invitation and did not talk about any timeframe. "It is normal diplomatic practice to work out the dates of such visits through diplomatic channels."

On a possible meeting between Gen. Musharraf and Mr. Vajpayee, the spokesman made it a point to mention that the travel plans of the Pakistani President to New York had not been finalised yet. He said Islamabad was not aware of the programme of Mr. Vajpayee in New York. Indications are Gen. Musharraf would pay an official visit to Cuba before the special session of the U.N. scheduled on September 18 and he intended to stay on in till September 26 in New York.

The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman while maintaining that he was hesitant to join issue with Mr. Vajpayee on the Agra summit spoke about the position

of Islamabad on a spate of statements from New Delhi after the Agra summit.

The spokesman took exception to some of the remarks emanating from across the border and said there was no gain in 'trying to portray that Agra as a non-event'. On the repeated emphasis by New Delhi on Lahore and Shimla as the only basis for any future understanding between the two countries, the spokesman said Islamabad was not only committed to the two pacts but also to other instruments such as the United Nations Security Council Resolutions on plebiscite in Kashmir.

Implied in the statement of the spokesman was the suggestion that New Delhi cannot be selective on the various pacts between the two countries and if Lahore and Shimla are insisted upon, it would harp on the 1948 U.N. Resolutions.

Quoting Gen. Musharraf the spokesman said Pakistan favoured continuation of dialogue with India for resolution of the Kashmir issue

in accordance with the wishes of the people of Kashmir. He said that while Pakistan had emphasised on the centrality of Kashmir for normalisation of ties with India, it was willing to simultaneously address 'other differences' with India.

The spokesman, however, dismissed the concerns of India on violence in Kashmir and said that whatever was happening there was the reaction to the stepped up offensive by forces.

## Salaries of MPs go up

NEW DELHI, AUG. 16. The Union Cabinet was tonight understood to have given its nod to a bill seeking to increase salaries of members of Parliament by nearly three times.

Under the proposed amendment to the Salaries and Allowances Act, the salaries of the MPs would be raised from Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 11,000, highly-placed sources said. Following its approval by the Cabinet, the bill is likely to be introduced in Parliament next week, the sources said. — PTI

17 AUG 2001

17 AUG 2001

'THEY WON'T RAKE UP KASHMIR AT SAARC'

# Broad framework for talks with Pak.: PM

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, AUG. 16. The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today suggested that India had arrived at a broad 'framework' with Pakistan to continue the dialogue and sought to put an end to doubts over the outcome of last month's Agra summit.

Replying to a discussion in the Rajya Sabha over his statement on the summit, he said the talks would be carried forward with an accent on improving relations and cooperation and to "untangle knots and not tie new ones".

One of the positive outcomes from the summit was the assur-

ance that Pakistan would refrain from raising the Kashmir issue in international conferences, including SAARC. When the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries met this month at Colombo, Pakistan had kept its word, he said and hoped this trend would continue.

Mr. Vajpayee elaborated various facets of the summit, sprinkling his 40-minute speech with witty observations through which he answered critics. He took the wind out of the Opposition's sails when he said he would prefer to adopt as his own the suggestion of the Leader of the Opposition on Indo-Pak. relations.

Mr. Vajpayee said Jammu and Kashmir was an indivisible part of India and ruled out another partition on religious lines.

His Government prepared for the Agra summit just as it had for Lahore but things changed in Islamabad, and New Delhi had to deal with a power which was not willing to accept the Lahore Declaration and which adopted an ambivalent stand towards the Shimla pact. He said there was a "vacuum and crisis of trust" and the Agra summit was aimed at renewing the link which snapped after Kargil.

On the charge that India had insisted on Pakistan putting an end to cross-border terrorism, he said the ceasefire had brought about a change in Jammu and Kashmir. But the terrorist groups did not respond to the ceasefire.

Mr. Vajpayee once again rejected Gen. Musharraf's terming of terrorist acts as 'jihad' and warned that terrorism would lead to problems in Pakistan. Terrorism was a 'double-edged weapon'.

Mr. Vajpayee said that during the long talk with Gen. Musharraf, he poured out all that he had accumulated over the last 40 years on Jammu and Kashmir, a journey that began with the erstwhile Jana Sangh leader, Syama Prasad Mookerjee. Disagreeing with the Opposition charge that India accorded legitimacy to Gen. Musharraf by inviting him, Mr. Vajpayee said the latter had assumed all powers before arriving here.

## 'No proposal from India'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 16 Pakistan tonight said that it had no proposal from India for a "broad framework" for the next round of talks between the two countries and maintained that it would not raise the Kashmir issue at the SAARC meetings as the Association Charter did not permit a debate on political issues. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Mr. Riaz Muhammad Khan, told the State-run news agency, Associated Press of Pakistan, that there was no change in Pakistan's stance that Kashmir must occupy the central place in any dialogue between the two countries. He was responding to a question on Mr. Vajpayee's statement in the Rajya Sabha earlier in the day. The spokesman said that while Kashmir would have to be the focus of any dialogue between the two countries, Pakistan was willing to hold discussions with India on other issues as well. "The SAARC charter clearly states that only matters of economic and technical nature relating to the member-countries could be raised at its meetings. Bilateral issues between two countries could be raised on the sidelines of the meetings and Pakistan would continue to raise the Kashmir issue at such meetings," he told *The Hindu*. Asked if Pakistan would raise Kashmir in multilateral forums such as the U.N., he said, "of course, we would continue to raise the issue of Kashmir in forums such as the U.N."

17 AUG 2001

# Observe restraint, Musharraf tells India

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 15. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has urged Indian leaders to observe "restraint and discretion" while making statements about the Agra summit.

Gen. Musharraf's remarks came before the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's address to the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, wherein he squarely blamed the Pakistani military ruler for the failure to reach an understanding at Agra.

Addressing diplomatic corps here at a dinner hosted in connection with Pakistan's Independence Day celebrations here on Tuesday night, he said "I only wish that there is a degree of restraint and discretion in the statements across the border on the Agra summit".

Gen. Musharraf said Pakistan was interested in peaceful and negotiated settlement with India on all outstanding issues. It also wanted the dialogue process with India to continue.

## 'Pak. depicting terrorism as peripheral issue'

NEW DELHI, AUG. 15. The Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, today said the Pakistan President, General Pervez Musharraf, wanted to put the issue of cross-border terrorism on the back-burner and maintained his rigid stand that Kashmir was the core issue between the two countries during the Agra summit. "Pakistan is still trying to depict cross-border terrorism as the peripheral issue, but for India it is a matter of prime concern," Ms. Swaraj said at a seminar 'Agra Summit and the two-nation theory' here. Gen. Musharraf was avoiding talks on cross-border terrorism and was only talking about the LoC, she said adding even at the summit he was playing with words.

Referring to the recent killings, including the attack on Amarnath pilgrims, she said, "The magnitude of cross-border terrorism could be gauged from the fact that everyday innocent people are killed in Jammu and Kashmir." The Minister said India was prepared for a composite dialogue on all issues of differences, but Gen. Musharraf insisted on having one-to-one talks with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee. The National Conference leader, Mr. Sharifuddin Shariq, said in the name of jihad, innocent people were being killed in Jammu and Kashmir. "It is against the tenets of Islam. Those who are involved in this brutal act have no religion," he said.

Mr. Shariq said, "Kashmir will remain incomplete unless Pandits come back to the Valley." — PTI

THE HINDU  
10 AUG 15

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# Resolving Kashmir issue key to peace: Musharraf

Indo Pak

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 14. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today declared that there could be no peace and prosperity in the region without resolution of the longstanding Kashmir dispute.

Addressing the nation for the first time in his capacity as the President, Gen. Musharraf minced no words in saying that Kashmir was the biggest hurdle in normalisation of India-Pakistan relations.

For the first time after the Agra summit, Gen. Musharraf was specific and categorical. Since his return, he had been maintaining a low-profile on relations with India, and the explanation from his managers was that he would not like to do or say anything that could "weaken" the position of the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

The 12-minute speech was clearly intended for the interna-



Pakistan Army officers handing over sweets to their Indian counterparts at the Wagah border post to celebrate Pakistan's 54th Independence Day. — AP

## Polls next year

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 14. The Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, today promised national elections and a return to democracy in October 2002, the third anniversary of the bloodless coup that



brought him to power. In speeches marking Pakistan's 54th anniversary of Independence, he said elections for the two Houses of Parliament and

the Provincial Assemblies would take place from October 1-11 next. — Reuters

tional audience. Speaking in English before an audience of Islamabad-based diplomats and Pakistan's senior military and civil officers, the General focussed on the achievements of his Government in the last 22 months it has been in power. He also patted himself on the back for an impressive performance, particularly on the economic front.

On foreign policy, he claimed that his Government had brought the Kashmir issue "out of the closet and made it the focus of world attention". "We are not high-bound in our attitude and I have categorically stated on my return from Agra that we are in favour of further talks with India on Kashmir dispute and other issues of difference between the two countries."

The President said, "without

sacrificing our sovereignty and our national honour and our national dignity, we are willing to go to any length in order to maintain friendly relations with all our neighbours." "This is particularly true with regard to India because we are convinced that without an amicable solution to the thorny and long-standing Kashmir dispute the two countries cannot progress and develop." He said the military Government had frozen defence spending "which, considering the situation on our borders, is no mean achievement".

But in a reference to India, he said: "The armed forces of Pakistan, by the grace of Allah, backed by our nuclear potential, provide us complete security from external threat."

Vajpayee's message: Page 13

The ...

## Jaswant slams Pakistan for support to ultras

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, Aug. 14. - Pakistan is still encouraging cross-border terrorism in J&K and other parts of the country, said the defence minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, today in his broadcast to the armed forces.

Mr Singh said Pakistan had to stop cross-border terrorism if it wanted peace and prosperity in the subcontinent. India's willingness to talk should not be seen as a weakness.

He said the responsibilities of the armed forces have increased and the Centre, facing a changed security environment, would provide the latest weaponry to the armed forces. Shortage of funds will not be allowed to come in the way. He cited the increase in the defence budget this year as a step in this direction.

Mr Singh said the PM was ready to visit Islamabad even though India and Pakistan did not sign a joint declaration during the Agra summit. He hoped Pakistan would "understand the reality" and begin cooperating with India.

He also spoke of a number of welfare measures for the armed forces personnel.

**Two new warships:** *INS Kulish* and *INS Tarasa* will join the Indian Navy in the next few days. The *Kulish* is a missile corvette and will be commissioned at Kolkata, while the *Tarasa*, a fast attack craft, will be deployed in the Andaman and Nicobar islands to check poaching and smuggling.

THE STATESMAN

15 AUG 2001

# Fillip to Indo-Pak trade overdue

1418

**I**NDUSTRY in India and Pakistan feel the need for exchange of expertise and legislation on issues pertaining to the World Trade Organisation and anti-dumping, with the Doha summit coming up in November.

There is also the realisation that a clampdown on the illegal cross-border trade worth \$1 billion - highest in the region, and five times the official trade which is a meagre \$200 million - would need initiatives from both sides. It is in this regard that a reciprocal gesture from Pakistan like according the Most Favoured Nation status to India becomes as imperative as India removing some restrictions in trade that Pakistan finds prohibitive.

Hopes had soared with the resurrection of dialogue between the two countries that a conclusion at Agra would give a momentum to addressing the constraints that bedevil Indo-Pakistani trade.

According to a Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry research study, India's formal share in the Pakistan import basket is just 1.4 per cent, while Pakistan has less than 0.2 per cent in Indian imports.

At the Saarc meeting in Colombo in December 1999, India had announced the removal of quantitative restrictions on 2,000 items for Saarc countries, including Pakistan.

This was an additional concession. However, Pakistan industry contends that the balance of trade remains in India's favour. During 1999-2000, exports from Pakistan stood at \$53.65 million whereas exports from India was to the tune of \$127.40.

Smuggling activities through the Pakistan-Afghanistan border and informal passage of goods through third countries, mainly Dubai and Singapore, have been on the rise even as official bilateral transactions between the two countries remain less than one per cent of the global trade.

The items flowing through the third-country channel are industrial machinery, cement, tyres, chemicals and tea. Smuggled goods coming to India from Pakistan are pulses, edible oil, spices and dry fruits.

Unless Pakistan accords MFN status to India, thereby expanding the list of 600 items which are at present allowed for import into Pakistan from India, the unofficial trade is threatening to become intractable. Along the land border between India and Pakistan, there is just one trade transit point with rail/road link and customs/immigration facilities, that, too, with very limited facilities for loading, unloading, transit storage and trans-shipment.

There is shortage of rail wagons and complete lack of coordination between the rail authorities of India and Pakistan. Bilateral shipping arrangements do not permit loading by ships of one country cargoes meant for third countries at sea ports of the other country. Ships from Karachi cannot land at Mumbai or another port and vice versa, unless they have touched the third country.

Then, while India has liberalised the visa regime significantly relieving business visa seekers from long queues and exempting them from reporting to the police almost routinely, the same is not the case with visiting Indian businessmen. India, allege Pakistani businessmen, has an inclination to increase exports at a greater pace than to increase imports. India is a natural outlet for Pakistan's exports of consumer goods provided it relaxes its import policy.

The labour costs in India are lower than Pakistan and eventually it leads to lower production costs. This has direct bearing on the export competitiveness in the international

markets. According to an estimate, the labour wages in India's manufacturing sector are two-thirds those in Pakistan with better productivity and superior technology. Pakistan also seeks multiple-entry visa facility, which would facilitate movement of businessmen on either side.

Though Agra failed to remove the deadlock over contentious political issues, there is an air of expectancy because of the confidence-building measures taken through Track II diplomacy - heightened interaction between industry, trade representatives of the two countries.

So, there is greater awareness in Pakistan of the need for granting MFN status to India.

At a meeting of the India-Pakistan Chamber of Commerce in Islamabad in May - as a precursor of the Agra summit - it transpired that with the formal onset of the WTO meeting round the corner, Pakistan

desires a strategic alliance with India to work out a joint strategy to meet the challenges of globalisation like protectionism.

Pakistan supports the Indian demand for further expansion of the permissible list of items of Pakistan as a first step to the granting of MFN status and will push its government on multiple-entry visa without any city-wise restrictions for genuine business persons. With both countries a signatory to the Uruguay Round, India and Pakistan have to open up markets to all the other signatories.

Whatever the geo-political situation, Pakistan will be ex-

**Though India's overtures to Pakistan on the economic front have created a favourable climate for forging a consensus on WTO issues, bottlenecks still thwart an MFN partnership, ideally a precursor, writes NIVEDITA MUKHERJEE**



Sri Lankan foreign minister Lakshman Kadirgamar addressing the Saarc session in Colombo on Thursday. No such meetings have been held since the Kargil conflict.

pected to open up its markets for Indian goods. This is where forming a common platform through bilateral dialogue on specific issues of WTO at Doha in November will be useful.

A beginning can be made by exploring the mutual complementarities. The strongest sector potential is agriculture which is a strong co-component of GDP and the largest employment generation sector in each country. Liberalised India-Pakistan trade in the agro sector would generate about 2.7 lakh jobs in India and 1.7 lakh jobs in Pakistan. Common policies in the trading of cotton would allow each side to help the other in times of bad crop.

There is scope for export of textile yarn and fabrics, leather and leather products, fruits and vegetable, electrical fans, water coolers, crude petroleum and marine products to India. Engineering goods and skills, information technology, textiles, sugar, cement, chemicals, iron and steel, oil refining, and ship building could be the hot scouting grounds. A bilateral deal under which Pakistan can supply liquefied petroleum gas to India and import from India her surplus high speed diesel and scope for cooperation in the oil and gas sector have been mooted.

A natural pick up in trade flows would also take place through arrangements with the export processing zones in Pakistan to buy back finished products which may be manufactured in these zones through imports of raw material from India.

India and Pakistan can no longer afford the luxury of keeping economic development a hostage to their intransigence on contentious political issues. Saarc has been virtually rendered inactive, visions of a South Asian Free Trade Agreement remain curtailed by combative postures and the region is abysmally trailing in all areas of economic progress as reminded dutifully by UN development reports. Coal and steel were the lead sectors in European integration.

India and Pakistan begin with their strong agrarian bases.

(The author is on the staff of The Statesman, New Delhi.)

THE STATESMAN

1 AUG 2001

# We want a peaceful accord, says Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 13. The Pakistan military ruler and President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, has said that his country favoured a dialogue with India for peaceful settlement of the Kashmir issue "in accordance with the wishes of the Kashmiri people".

In an informal talk with correspondents at the Rawalpindi railway station here this evening, Gen. Musharraf maintained that this was the burden of his statements in Delhi as well as Agra during his recent visit to India.

"I would like to urge all the leadership across that they must stick to whatever actually happened there and they must not get involved in statements which are not the reality", he said.

Pakistan has recently accused India of distorting the truth about the deliberations of the Agra summit and complained that some of the statements made by Indian leaders in recent days were in 'poor taste'. The Pakistan Foreign Office contested some of the statements made by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, in the course of his reply in the Lok Sabha on the Agra summit debate last week.

In another development, the Election Commission of Pakistan has asked all political parties to sub-

mit a statement of its finances and accounts within 75 days of the close of the financial year (July-June) to the Director-General Audit, Islamabad under Political Parties Rules 1986.

The directive of the Commission to the political parties to submit their accounts by September 13 assumes significance as Gen. Musharraf is expected soon to announce the schedule for the provincial assembly elections. Under a deadline of the Pakistan Supreme Court, the military government has to complete the elections by October 2002.

A statement of the Pakistan Election Commission said these statements would have to be submitted under the provisions of Section 3A of the Political Parties Act, 1962. Under the provision, every political party is required to submit a statement of its finances and accounts in 75 days of the close of the financial year (July-June) to the Director-General Audit, Islamabad.

According to Election Commission of Pakistan, the financial year, 2000-2001 has closed on June 30, 2001. All such political parties, who have not so far furnished their accounts for audit, are advised in their own interest, to submit the statements of their finances and accounts to the Director-General Audit.

## Pak. dailies report fresh intrusions in Kargil, Drass

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 13. If reports in a section of the Pakistani press are to be believed, militants have once again intruded into the Kargil and Drass sectors and launched attacks on Indian forces.

A number of Urdu dailies quoting the Pakistan-based militant outfit, Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, have said that on the night of August 12, militants led by 'the Commander', Omar Shaheen, intruded in Kargil and attacked two posts in the Banial area near Drass along the LoC.

The reports said they initially used rockets and hand grenades but later opened fire on the fleeing Indian soldiers. The outfit claimed that 18 Indian soldiers were killed in the attack.

### India denies report

NEW DELHI, AUG. 13. The Defence Ministry tonight termed as "baseless" a report in a Pakistani newspaper that militants belonging to Harkat-ul-Mujahideen had intruded into Kargil and Drass sectors on the night of August 11 and launched attacks on Indian troops. "The report is baseless and motivated," a senior official said when asked about the report. — PTI

In a press statement it said the strike was launched to avenge killing of two Harkat-ul-Mujahideen men in an encounter with the Indian forces sometime back. Omar Shaheen has been quoted as saying that soon militants

would launch fresh strikes in Jammu sector also.

According to a report in the Urdu daily, *Ausaf*, the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen secretary-general, Maulana Fazlur Rehmal Khalil, has rewarded Omar Shaheen and his contingent for the successful attack.

In a related development the Lashkar-e-Taiba chief, Hafiz Mohammad Saeed, has said after conquering Kashmir, mujahideen would also get Indian Muslims "liberated from the Indian possession and complete the ideology of Pakistan".

In a statement he has said that instead of celebrating Independence Day, the people of Pakistan should think about liberating crores of Indian Muslims from the repressive Hindu rule.

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Pakistan to  
continue  
peace mission:  
Musharraf

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA 9/2/90

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 12. - Pakistan would continue to pursue the goal of peaceful relations with India and seek ways to resolve the Kashmir issue despite the impasse at the Agra Summit, General Pervez Musharraf said.

The Pakistani President told this to the visiting Japanese foreign minister, Mr Tsutomu Hata, yesterday.

The two leaders also discussed issues like nuclearisation of South Asia and the Afghan problem, Pakistan television reported.

In Bangalore, the foreign minister, Mr Jaswant Singh, today declined to comment on media reports from Islamabad and Colombo on Pakistan's readiness for talks on "cross-border terrorism" and its "disappointment" over India "airing grievances" after the Agra Summit.

Mr Singh said he was yet to meet the foreign secretary, Mrs Chokila Iyer, after her visit to Colombo, where she had talks with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr Inam ul-Haq.

"I have been out of Delhi since the morning. She (Mrs Iyer) is on her way back to Delhi. Unless I talk to her, I don't wish to comment on the Pakistani foreign secretary's statement," he told reporters.

Mr Singh, who is also the defence minister, refused to talk on the progress made with British defence and aerospace giant BAE Systems Plc over the supply of 66 Hawk jets to Indian Air Force.

"I don't discuss weapons procurement in public," he added.

THE STATESMAN

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**'WE CAN PROCEED ON AGREED STRUCTURE'**

# **Pak. ready for talks on 'cross-border terrorism'**

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

**ISLAMABAD, AUG. 11.** The Pakistan Foreign Secretary, Mr. Inam ul-Haq, has said that Pakistan is ready to discuss the issue of "cross border terrorism" with India.

In an interview to BBC after talks with the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, in Colombo on Saturday, Mr. Haq said that the issue of "cross-border terrorism" figured at the Agra summit between the Pakistani President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf and the Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee.

He claimed that an agreement was reached to take it up at the political level. Although there was no joint declaration at the end of the summit, yet a structure was agreed. "We can go ahead on this structure if the two countries so desire," he said.

In response to a question, Mr. Haq said in the interview: "No, India never said that it did not want to discuss Kashmir. Rather, Jammu and Kashmir and confidence-building measures were going to be discussed at the political and official levels. Working

groups were being constituted for this purpose". Mr. Haq described his meeting with Ms. Iyer as "very positive". "It was agreed that the process which was initiated at Agra by the two countries had to be carried ahead. The process of dialogue needs to be continued to resolve the issues including Jammu and Kashmir. The Indian Foreign Secretary confirmed that the Indian Prime Minister and the External Affairs Minister had accepted our invitation to visit Pakistan. The dates will be decided later".

## **Next summit likely by year-end**

By Our Special Correspondent

**CHENNAI, AUG. 11.** The Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, today indicated that the next Indo-Pak summit would be held by the end of this year or early next year and that both sides "agreed that the dialogue process must continue".

Ms. Iyer, who was returning to New Delhi from Colombo after participating in the SAARC meeting, told presspersons at the Chennai airport that the "response from the Pakistan side

with regard to the next summit is that the process of engagement has started between the two countries and the dialogue should continue. The exact dates for the proposed summit are still to be sorted out."

Core issues such as Kashmir and cross-border terrorism also figured during her discussion with her Pakistan counterpart. On the prisoners of war issue, she said, "We did raise the subject again with them and they told us that they will look into it. And they have asked us if we could give more details."

"I think I had a very good visit. The SAARC meeting was very constructive. We were able to complete most of our agenda," Ms. Iyer said.

The NDA convener and Samata Party leader, Mr. George Fernandes, welcomed Ms. Iyer's statement that there was consensus between India and Pakistan on continuing their dialogue. "I think it is a good idea, and it is very good news," he said in an informal chat with presspersons at the Chennai airport. He arrived here tonight from New Delhi on a short visit.

# Pak., not India, was unprepared: Jaswant

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, AUG. 10. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, today said that contrary to the widespread impression of Indian underpreparedness at Agra, it was in fact the Pakistani side which did not have "clear instructions" from its President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. It was Gen. Musharraf who preferred to draw the draft declaration with the Prime Minister, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee.

Intervening in a discussion in the Rajya Sabha on the Prime Minister's statement on the summit, the Minister said that when both sides agreed officials would work on a possible Joint Declaration or Joint Statement, the Pakistani officials declined for "they had no clear instructions or prepared documents". Mr. Singh said Gen. Musharraf wanted to draft the document with the Prime Minister, an exercise the heads of Government were not expected to undertake, and it was then that he proposed that the task be taken up by him and his Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Abdul Sattar.

Clarifying that he had not initialled any draft along with Mr. Sattar, Mr. Singh said they had drawn "six square brackets" which were taken back to the respective camps to eliminate as many as possible. The Cabinet Committee on Security then decided that the priority was not to find an agreed text but to see what would meet India's aspirations.

During his 90-minute intervention, interspersed with anecdotes, couplets and a detailed account of the summit, the Minister sought to counter Opposition charges, some of which he took personally. He said the Vajpayee Government was tackling problems it had inherited, in particular those from successive Congress regimes.

Mr. Singh seemed particularly stung by the remarks of the Leader of the Opposition, Dr. Manmohan Singh, and cited three errors in foreign policy pursued earlier in areas of Jammu and Kashmir,

the Sino-Indian border and Indian Peace Keeping Force operations in Sri Lanka.

Jammu and Kashmir was not a territorial dispute since Pakistan had made illegal occupation and also ceded land to China but it was a "dispute over fundamentals" which sprung from Pakistan's two-nation theory, which India did not subscribe to. Mr. Singh said that while 85 to 95 per cent of population in the Kashmir Valley were Muslims, they were the dominant community in some other parts of the country too. "What should I do with these people? Put them on a railway rack and send them to Pakistan? We will not be able to accept it,"

## 'Donkey and two men

NEW DELHI, AUG. 10. In a lighter moment during the discussion on Agra summit in Rajya Sabha, the External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, today recalled the fable of the 'donkey and two men' to explain the difficulties his Ministry faced in handling foreign policy issues.

Intervening during the discussion, Mr. Singh narrated the fable to say how the father and son ended up carrying the donkey instead of riding on it, heeding the advice of the people on the way. — PTI

he said. The Minister denied any pressure from the United States and sought to correct any misconception on this count. He asserted the agreements of Shimla and Lahore would be the basis while drawing on the understanding from the Agra summit in future talks with Islamabad.

Defending the role of the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, at Agra, Mr. Singh said any shortcoming in media management was his responsibility. However, his priority at Agra was to bridge the differences between India and Pakistan and not to provide information to 24-hour news channels.

11 AUG 2001

# India will not walk away from peace process

By C. Raja Mohan

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 10.** India is ready for a sustained engagement with Pakistan, but wants Islamabad to create the right conditions for the resolution of the differences between the two nations by ending cross-border terrorism.

After a series of mixed signals on how it would deal with Pakistan after the disappointing summit-level encounter at Agra, the Government is defining the contours of its policy towards Islamabad.

Despite the sharp criticism at home on its handling of the Agra summit and a resurgence of hawkish sentiments within the ruling party, the Government today insisted that it will not walk away from the peace process initiated at Agra.

At the same time India is also affirming that the success of this engagement would depend entirely on Pakistan's readiness to address India's main concern — cross-border

terrorism. The External Affairs Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, informed the Rajya Sabha today India will not allow Pakistan to use cross-border violence as a "negotiating tactic".

Even as the Rajya Sabha today debated the reasons for the perceived political debacle at Agra, the Indian Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, met her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Inamul Haq, at Colombo on the margins of a conference of senior South Asian officials.

The very fact that the meeting between the two Foreign Secretaries took place, diplomatic observers here say, is proof of the Indian willingness to pick up the threads from the unfinished conversation at Agra.

But the first meeting between Indian and Pakistani officials since Agra was also an occasion to communicate in no uncertain terms India's strong concerns on the rising levels of violence supported from

across the border. In Colombo, Ms. Iyer told Mr. Haq that the spurt in cross-border violence since the Agra talks has "created extremely negative sentiments both at the public and political level".

While not linking future talks with Pakistan to a cessation of cross-border terrorism, India is emphasising that such violence casts a shadow over the peace process.

Pointing out that cross-border terrorism "violates" the Shimla and Lahore agreements as well as the accepted norms of international conduct, India is calling for the creation of a climate "conducive to the resolution of our differences".

India has also signalled its readiness to proceed with the implementation of the various unilateral initiatives announced by India in the run up to the Agra summit.

India made a special reference to the importance of moving forward on nuclear risk reduction and im-

plementing various conventional confidence building measures.

Unlike Pakistan which is linking movement on these issues to progress in talks on Kashmir, India is hinting its readiness to move forward separately in addressing the threat of an accidental or unintended nuclear conflict in the region.

The clarification of the Indian line on talks with Pakistan today is bound to send reassuring signals to the international community that is concerned about the dangers of war that could eventually turn nuclear.

India today reaffirmed its position that it is ready to negotiate across the broad front of bilateral relations and not hold the conversation hostage to any one issue.

Reiterating its readiness to discuss Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan, India today rejected the notion that it is "central" to the normalisation of bilateral relations.

THE HINDU

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## INDIA'S TOUGH MESSAGE TO PAK.

# 'Normalisation linked to cross-border terrorism'

By Nirupama Subramanian

COLOMBO, AUG. 10: While maintaining its commitment to the continuation of the dialogue initiated at the Agra summit, India today put across a tough message to Pakistan at the meeting of the Foreign Secretaries of the two countries here that the engagement would not be on its terms.

Contrary to the impression in the run-up to the Agra summit that India was willing to concede the "centrality" of Kashmir in bilateral talks by giving it the primary position in the eight-point composite dialogue process, a strongly-worded statement following today's meeting rejected Kashmir as the "core" or "central" issue. Instead, the statement linked "normalisation" of relations to the stoppage of "cross-border terrorism".

It said the Indian Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, conveyed to her Pakistan counterpart, Mr. Inamul Haq, that the recent incidents of civilian killings in Jammu and Kashmir, had created "extremely negative sentiments" at the public and political level. "Ultimately, it would be for Pakistan to choose the kind of relationship it would like to have with India," the statement declared.

### Disappointing, says Haq

Reacting to the Indian statement, Mr. Haq told an international news agency that it was "disappointing", particularly as both sides had "agreed not to air their grievances". However, before the Indian statement was made public, both Ms. Iyer and Mr. Haq



The Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Inamul Haq, in Colombo on Friday. — AFP

told journalists, as they emerged from the 75-minute meeting, that the exchange was "useful" and "positive". "The importance of continuing the process from Agra has been noted by both the sides," Ms. Iyer said. The Indian Foreign Secretary also conveyed the acceptance of the invitations to the Prime Minister and the Minister of External Affairs to visit Pakistan.

Mr. Haq said Pakistan was "keenly looking forward" to the visits, the dates for which would be decided through mutual consultation. Ms. Iyer said the two discussed the confidence building measures announced by India before the Agra summit. India also raised the issue of the 54 PoWs from 1971, believed to be still held by Pakistan. Both she and Mr. Haq

said the two sides had agreed to discuss the "impediments" in the bilateral relationship through further exchanges.

But the statement put out by India, which closely mirrored that of the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, in the Lok Sabha earlier this week, minced no words in articulating what New Delhi considers to be the chief obstacles.

Distributed minutes after the meeting ended, it said Ms. Iyer had asserted that the insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir "with its foreign mercenaries and generous assistance from abroad" could not be anything but "cross-border terrorism".

It was evident from the statement that India virtually erased the Agra discussions at today's meeting, emphasising instead that it would be "necessary to observe and implement the provisions of the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration" for the improvement of relations between the two countries. The statement revealed for the first time that India had sought to incorporate in a joint document in Agra the structure of a future dialogue process on all issues, including meetings at the official, ministerial and summit levels.

"We also made proposals for addressing the issue of peace and security, including nuclear and conventional confidence building measures, Jammu and Kashmir, terrorism, and all other issues from the composite dialogue," it stated. Ms. Iyer had conveyed to Mr. Haq that the document had to be "abandoned" because of Pakistan's "unacceptable and untenable fixation" on Kashmir, a reluctance to address cross-border terrorism, and a "negative approach" towards the Shimla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration.

## Not helpful, says Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 10 The military establishment in Pakistan is clearly disappointed at the stand taken by India at Colombo. There was no official reaction here to the Indian statement detailing the points made by the Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, in her interaction with her Pakistani counterpart, Mr. Inamul Haq. Though the standard reply of the managers of the military establishment was that they would not like talk without a close look at the statement, it is unlikely that Islamabad would let the Indian viewpoint go uncontested.

The unofficial view here is that India's posture would not help carry forward the process of dialogue that began at Agra. "We believe it can only reverse the gains made at Agra", a senior official said. In its response to a spate of statements from New Delhi since the Agra summit including the reply of the Prime Minister, Mr. A.B. Vajpayee, in the Lok Sabha, the Pakistan Foreign Office two days ago had accused New Delhi of distorting the proceedings and outcome of the summit. What must have come as a surprise to Islamabad more than anything else in the articulation of the Indian position by Ms. Chokila Iyer is the issue related to the centrality of Kashmir to normalisation of relations between the two countries.

This is one issue on which the Musharraf Government cannot be expected to maintain its diplomatic silence. The categorical rejection by India that it does not accept any suggestion on Kashmir as either the core or the central issue to the tensions between the two countries is likely to be contested.

THE HINDU

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# Foreign Secys meet to carry forward Agra peace process

By Nirupama Subramanian

COLOMBO, AUG. 9. The bilateral meeting between the foreign secretaries of India and Pakistan that is scheduled to take place on Friday is expected to reiterate the existence of the political will to continue the process initiated at Agra despite the acrimonious statements immediately following it.

"We hope to carry forward the Agra process at tomorrow's meeting," Mr. Inamul Haq, the Foreign Secretary of Pakistan, told journalists today.

Expressing happiness that both the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Foreign Minister, Mr. Jaswant Singh, had accepted their invitations to visit Pakistan, Mr. Haq said there was also a window for a meeting between the leaders of the two countries next month on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly at New York.

The Foreign Secretary, Ms. Chokila Iyer, told journalists that the meeting had to be seen in the light of statements by both the Prime Minister and

the Foreign Minister that India would continue its dialogue with Pakistan. The meeting was expected to be short, but its significance lay in the fact that it would be the first official exchange between the two sides after Agra, Ms. Iyer said.

The meeting between the two foreign secretaries is scheduled for around noon tomorrow, and has no specific agenda.

The External Affairs Ministry spokesperson in New Delhi said earlier this week that the two would discuss all issues of bilateral interest at the meeting.

One of the issues that may be discussed is the list of confidence-building measures, announced by New Delhi before the Agra summit, and now officially communicated to the Pakistan Government.

Pakistan had said it would examine each of the five measures and decide whether or not to accept them on "merit".

Ms. Iyer told reporters in Chennai that she would also pursue the issue of the 54 Prisoners of War that India believed were being held in Pakistani jails.

# U.S. pressure led to Agra summit, says Congress

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**NEW DELHI, AUG. 9.** The Congress today accused the Vajpayee Government of succumbing to pressure from the United States in holding the Agra summit and said the outcome of the talks showed a betrayal by Islamabad.

The very fact that Washington indicated the dates of the summit when the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, was in a Mumbai hospital showed India was "prodded" into holding talks with Islamabad, the Congress member, Mr. Kapil Sibal, said participating in the resumed discussion on the summit in the Rajya Sabha.

"You must have been pressured by the international community. You must have been prodded by the U.S.," Mr. Sibal said referring to the White House spokesperson expressing Washington's full support to the summit when Mr. Vajpayee was still in hospital and the date for the parleys not yet announced.

The Congress member said the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf's rhetoric reflected the mindset of the other side, yet India innocently hoped something would come out of the summit.

Mr. Sibal also criticised the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, who said Mr. Vajpayee had conveyed a strong and tough message to Gen. Musharraf during the talks. "We did not see Mr. Vajpayee speaking during the summit," he said wondering how the Prime Minister could have sent a tough message.

On the stepped-up violence in Jammu and Kashmir, Mr. Sibal said the External Affairs Minister, Mr.

Jaswant Singh, claimed the caravan of talks would continue but what was being witnessed in Kashmir was only a caravan of dead bodies splattered with blood. The BJP's Mr. Dinanath Mishra said no

## 'A good media manager'

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 9.** The Congress member, Mr. Kapil Sibal, today paid a left-handed compliment to the Information and Broadcasting Minister, Ms. Sushma Swaraj, in the Rajya Sabha for her "management" of the media.

"She expressed her innocence about management of the media. But when I see today's newspapers, she has mastered media management. It was managed beautifully," Mr. Sibal was referring to the positive media projection she got for her intervention during the debate on the Agra summit in the House yesterday. The media management by the Government during the summit had come under attack from the Opposition during the debate which Ms. Swaraj had rejected. — PTI

breakthrough could be achieved in bilateral relations without a change in the "hate-India" mindset in Pakistan. The BJP's Mr. Ravi Shankar Prasad said the biggest achievement of the summit was that the Government had been able to prove, after two years' consistent effort, that Pakistan was using terrorism as a diplomatic tool and indulging in cross-border terrorism. — PTI

THE HINDU

10 AUG 2001

# Pak refrains from raking up Kashmir issue at UN meet

UNITED NEWS OF INDIA  
GENEVA, AUGUST 8

FOR the first time in 13 years, Pakistan did not launch a scathing attack on India on the Kashmir issue at a meeting of the UN Commission on Human Rights, reflecting change in its approach to seek resolution of the problem through bilateral dialogue.

Official representatives of Pakistan, who always utilised the forum to rake up Jammu and Kashmir issue in one or other form, this time chose to focus mainly on the Agra summit.

The issue found mention only when Pakistan permanent representative Mu-

nir Akram in his statement stated "that the dispute continues to block progress towards normalisation of relations between the two countries."

Contrary to this, Pakistan backed Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) were more aggressive in their presentations against India, accusing the security forces of alleged human rights violation.

There was no occasion in the past when Pakistan missed any opportunity to criticise the Indian Government on the Kashmir issue. Every now and then the Indian and the Pakistani delegates used to clash on the issue. But the situation was different during the

current session.

The Pakistani delegates also preferred not to take right of reply when many NGOs expressed concern over Islamabad's support to Jehadi groups to spread terrorism.

While Akram said the Agra summit did not fail although it remained inconclusive, the NGOs vociferously criticised the Indian Government. One of the representatives of the Pakistan occupied Kashmir (PoK)-based Hurriyat Conference Mir Tahir Masood urged the Commission to direct the international criminal court to take "cognisance of the existing situation of armed conflict, where forces were trying to crush the

peoples' struggle." The court would be able to take action against political and security personnel for what he described "systematically violating fundamental human rights". Another pro-Pak separatist leader Prof Mohammed Safi pointed out numerous cases of disappearances in Jammu and Kashmir and urged the Commission to take note of it.

Mumtaz Khan was critical of the role of Hurriyat leaders, saying they are not visionary and their sole aim is to get the state merged with Pakistan.

Meanwhile, several NGO representatives highlighted the issue of violence in the Kashmir valley.

Paul Beersmans in his presentation before the Commission said ten years of violence and bloodshed had proved that the gun culture brought only death and destruction, but no peace in the region.

He made a fervent appeal to India and Pakistan to start peace talks. Prime Minister Vajpayee's acceptance of an invitation to visit Pakistan was a positive signal to the world that India was sincere in resolving the Kashmir and other issues.

Firdous Syed of the European Union of Public Relations said it was not possible for the people of the troubled state to enjoy economic, political and social rights in a situation of conflict.

INDIAN EXPRESS

9 AUG 2001

# Pak. questions Vajpayee's claims

9/8

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 8. Hardening its stance on the eve of the formal meeting between the Foreign Secretaries of India and Pakistan in Colombo, the military government here today denied the charges of "cross-border terrorism" levelled by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, against it in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday.

A Pakistan Foreign Office spokesperson reiterated what was said on Tuesday that "misrepresentations and intemperate remarks could neither alter the reality nor promote the cause of normalisation of relations between Pakistan and India" and questioned several statements made by Mr. Vajpayee on the Agra summit.

Rejecting the charge of cross-border terrorism, he said it was an attempt to denigrate the Kashmiri "freedom struggle" and to draw attention away from the "massive violations of human rights of the Kashmiri people by the Indian forces".

Mr. Vajpayee's "contention" that no elec-

tion had ever been held in Pak-occupied Kashmir (PoK) as an "incredible display" of lack of knowledge. Elections had regularly been held in PoK and unlike the "fraudulent elections in Kashmir, their validity had not been contested".

On the reported remarks of Mr. Vajpayee about the Pakistan-China border agreement of 1963, he said no such discussion took place

at any stage. "The Indian Prime Minister's outrageous claim is, therefore, a figment of his imagination". The reference is obviously to Mr. Vajpayee's remarks, as reported in a Pakistani English daily, *Dawn* that Gen. Musharraf told him that Pakistan could take back the part of the PoK territory it had given away to China if there was a settlement of the Kashmir dispute between India and Pakistan.

## Pak. keeps off Kashmir at Geneva

GENEVA, AUG. 8. Pakistan, for the first time in 13 years, did not launch a scathing attack on India on the Kashmir issue at a meeting of the U.N. Commission on Human Rights, reflecting a change in its approach to seek resolution of the problem through bilateral dialogue. Pakistan, which always utilised the forum to rake up the Kashmir issue in one or the other form, this time chose to focus mainly on the Agra summit.

The issue found mention only when the Pakistan permanent representative, Mr. Munir Akram, in his statement said "the dispute continues to block progress towards normalisation of relations between the two countries." Contrary to this, Pakistan backed NGOs were more aggressive in their presentations against India, accusing the security forces of alleged human rights violation. — UNI

THE HINDU

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THURSDAY, AUGUST 9, 2001

## FOR SUSTAINABLE TALKS WITH PAKISTAN

THE FIRM PLEDGE by the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, to pursue a process of dialogue with Pakistan is certainly a welcome sign of salutary diplomacy. An exposition of the necessary political will marked his reply to a debate in the Lok Sabha on the recent Agra summit. Undeniably, this acquires importance in the context of unmitigated frustrations in both New Delhi and Islamabad over the manner in which the Agra talks had decelerated without a definitive outcome. However, Mr. Vajpayee has also disclosed, perhaps consciously, that he resorted to rhetorical repartees in a serious effort to stop Pakistan's President and Chief Executive, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, in his tracks at Agra. Finding that Gen. Musharraf would not relent in his advocacy of the "wishes" of the Kashmiris, the Prime Minister, by his own statement, asked the Pakistan Army Chief whether he had in fact "consulted" the people of his country while assuming power in 1999. Now, shorn of the perceived efficacy of this candid counter-argument in silencing Gen. Musharraf on that occasion, Mr. Vajpayee has shown himself to be not averse to adopting negative tactics to score simple debating points. Gen. Musharraf had in fact been invited to that summit in spite of his status as a military ruler who suppressed democracy in his own country. Nonetheless, it is also possible that the Prime Minister has not revealed the totality of the relevant context out of some concern for the confidentiality of the overall conversations that he had with Gen. Musharraf at Agra. Yet, a rational reality that must be underlined is that diplomatic semantics, however smart, cannot lead to a sustainable dialogue with Pakistan. Moreover, there is really no meaningful alternative to substantive parleys with Islamabad.

It is no less true that the Musharraf administration often tends to play to the gallery outside the strict domain of an active engagement with India. Notable among Pakistan's contributions to the semantic discourse on the Agra summit is Gen. Musharraf's presumptive attempt at a dia-

lectical dismissal of New Delhi's accusations about Islamabad-inspired cross-border terrorism within Jammu and Kashmir as also elsewhere in India. In Islamabad's book, the alleged acts of terror on the Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) do not bristle with horrific attributes on two counts. Pakistan's contention is that the LoC is not the same as an international border and that the saga of terror, which India campaigns against, is intrinsically a characteristic of the Kashmiri "freedom struggle". Now, while the Kashmiri "freedom struggle" is in some ways central to the main dispute between New Delhi and Islamabad, quintessentially semantic indeed is Pakistan's proclivity to disregard India's arguments on the basis of a distinction between the LoC and a border.

Certainly unexceptionable is Mr. Vajpayee's sense of confidence in India's ability to meet the multi-pronged menace of terrorism and also any external aggression. In a sense, though, the future course of India-Pakistan talks may be charted in the context of the Prime Minister's insistence on judging Pakistan by the "litmus test" of the efforts it might make to end cross-border terrorism. Islamabad's considered responses, as distinct from its initial dismay over some aspects of Mr. Vajpayee's latest statement, will also be crucial. At Agra, Mr. Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf appeared to have reckoned, either directly or implicitly, with the possibility of a trade-off between Pakistan's plea for intensive discussions on Kashmir as the prime issue and India's demand that Islamabad agree to address the question of cross-border terrorism. In this limited sweep, the deliberations at Agra marked a qualitative departure from the Lahore Declaration of 1999. New Delhi's perception is that the Lahore and Shimla documents do not enthuse Gen. Musharraf. However, a forward movement can yet be envisioned if India and Pakistan strive harder for friendship in the unstable bilateral environment that calls for conventional and nuclear risk reductions too.

THE HINDU

- 9 AUG 2001

# A distorted picture, says Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy *qupnt*  
**ISLAMABAD, AUG. 7.** In a sharp reaction to the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee's reply to the debate in the Lok Sabha on the Agra summit, Pakistan today accused India of presenting a "distorted picture of the negotiations" at Agra and urged it not to "vitiating the atmosphere" for bilateral engagement.

Though a brief statement of the Foreign Office did not refer directly to the Prime Minister's remarks, it left no doubt that the military government was not amused with the Prime Minister's comments.

"Since the Agra summit, a number of statements have emanated from India, including at the highest level, that present a distorted picture of the negotiations held at Agra and contain remarks which are in poor taste.

The Government of Pakistan believes mis-

representations and gratuitous observations can neither alter facts nor serve to promote the cause of normalisation of relations between Pakistan and India. Pakistan, therefore, urges India not to vitiate the atmosphere for engagement between the two countries," it said. The statement assumes importance against the backdrop of two developments.

The two Foreign Secretaries are to meet in the course of the next two days in Colombo on the sidelines of the Special meeting of the Standing Committee of the SAARC.

More significant, the statement follows the two-day deliberations of the Pakistan military commanders in Rawalpindi on Monday and Tuesday. The summit was one of the main items discussed.

In a related development, the new Prime Minister of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, Sardar Sikander Hayat Khan, accused India of try-

ing to "suppress the Kashmiris' struggle for the freedom of their motherland".

In perhaps his first major speech on Kashmir, Sardar Khan said, "liberation movements can never be cowed down by threats".

"The freedom forces in Kashmir are determined to bury down into the mountains the military pride of India."

Referring to the Union Home Minister, Mr. L. K. Advani's statement on India's determination to crush militancy in Kashmir, he said over the last 12 years the ongoing movement could not be dented by over 700,000 Indian troops. India could not suppress the will of the Kashmiris any longer, he said adding the world had realised that India had always been the aggressor in Kashmir. Condemning "the cultural decimation" of Kashmiris by Indian forces, he said, "we will make India stand at the bar of international justice soon."

THE HINDU

- 8 AUG 2001

'ENDING TERRORISM WILL BE LITMUS TEST'

HD-1  
8/8  
**Onus on Pak.: PM** ①

By Our Special Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 7.** Reiterating that friendship with neighbours was a matter of commitment with India, the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, today asserted that the onus was on Pakistan to put an end to cross-border terrorism if Islamabad wanted a peaceful relationship with New Delhi. "Pakistan can and it must stop cross-border terrorist incidents (like the one in Doda a few days ago); this would be the litmus test."

9nd. Pak

Replying to the debate in the Lok Sabha on the Agra summit, the Prime Minister revealed for the first time the kind of plainspeaking that took place between him and the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf. According to Mr. Vajpayee, he told the General that Pakistan was invoking the principle of the "wishes of the people" of Kashmir, but "were the people of Pakistan consulted when you took over power?"

For good measure, the Prime Minister added that his interlocutor did not expect this kind of candidness. Yet, he said, there was no alternative to letting diplomacy play its part. "Without sacrificing our national interests, we would keep trying to improve our relations with Pakistan."

This was the Prime Minister's first comprehensive account of the summit, and while placing the blame for the summit's failure on Gen. Musharraf's "one-point agenda", he was careful not to sound too strident. He kept insisting that there was no dilution in India's commitment to carry forward the process of dialogue, and at the same time he was keen on serving notice that India would not negotiate from a position of weakness and that there was going to be no compromise on cross-border terrorism.

The Prime Minister also revealed that during the delegation-level talks, he had told Pakistan "India would not give in to terrorism and no one should underestimate India's capacity to put down this terrorism". Mr. Vajpayee added that "we wanted the message to sink in; that is why we did not rush to the media to reveal; we were firm but also courteous, we

followed the rules of protocol, and we lost out (in the media war)." However, the Prime Minister assured the House that the lesson learnt (in the media war) would be kept in mind.

Mr. Vajpayee also emphasised quite a bit on the consequences of the change of regime in Pakistan, from a civilian to a military set-up. He pointed out that while the Lahore Declaration did acknowledge terrorism as a problem, the installation of a military government changed the entire scenario. "We could not persuade the Pakistani delegation to acknowledge cross-border terrorism; not only that, they described it as freedom struggle; this was totally unpalatable to us and vitiated the summit atmosphere."

**Part of our life**  
The Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, made the following observations in the Lok Sabha in his reply to the debate on the Agra summit.  
"We are ready to have talks on Jammu and Kashmir. For you, (Pakistan) is a piece of land. But Kashmir is a part of our life.  
"The malicious propaganda that Kashmir will drop like a ripened fruit in Pakistan's lap must end. India can deal with any aggression, face any challenge... It is India's consistent policy that it wants friendship. It is not a sign of weakness."

The Prime Minister shared with the members his reading of the perceptions within Pakistan. Quoting a write-up in the Pakistani newspaper, *The Dawn*, he said within Pakistan a feeling was setting in soon after Kargil that there could be no military solution to the Kashmir problem. "Had there been no change of regime after Lahore, perhaps there could have been some settlement." The Prime Minister also cited the case of an unnamed Kashmiri leader who changed his tune after the military coup in Pakistan.

As per the Prime Minister's account, he told Gen. Musharraf rather bluntly that if he kept insisting on the centrality of the Kashmir dispute the talks would not take off. He explained that while India did not subscribe to the two-nation theory, "we wished Pakistan well but at the same time Pakistan should not make efforts to dismember India". "Such efforts would be defeated," he had warned.

However, instead of striking a hawkish posture, Mr. Vajpayee gave the impression of wanting to mobilise the entire House to convey to Pakistan the country's resolve in the process of dialogue and the battle against cross-border terrorism. Mr. Vajpayee was heard with rapt attention, and those in the press gallery could not help admiring glimpses of "Vajpayee the orator of old" when he used to keep the House enthralled.

THE HINDU

- 8 AUG -

# Jaswant blames Pak for flopshow, again

Our Political Bureau  
NEW DELHI 6 AUGUST

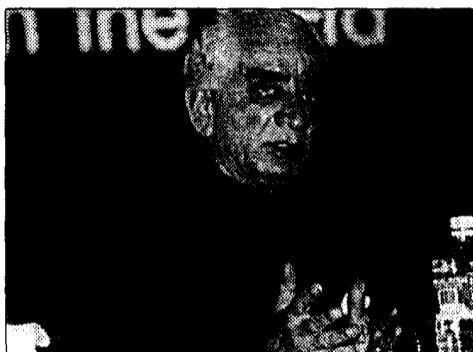
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS minister Jaswant Singh on Monday told the Lok Sabha that it was Pakistan that had come unprepared for the Agra summit and said the inability to reach an agreement was due to Islamabad's attempts to hold Jammu and Kashmir hostage to Indo-Pak relations.

However, refusing to describe the summit as a "failure" Mr Singh, while reiterating that India will pursue the peace process with Pakistan, also sent a stern warning that Islamabad put an end to the "compulsive and perpetual hostility" towards India. He cautioned that Pakistan could end up being chaos-ridden, similar to the prevailing political anarchy in Afghanistan, if it continued to encourage cross-border terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

"The caravan of peace is in motion. The dogs of war cannot be allowed to deviate from this process," he said. Reaffirming that J&K was at the core of Indian nationhood, he said its division on religious grounds propounded by the two-nation theory and its treatment as a "territorial dispute" was unacceptable.

"India has no ill will towards Pakistan. We are a country on the move. We don't covet even an inch of Pakistan," he said, contending that it was Pakistan which was pre-occupied with India as it had an Indo-centric policy.

Articulating the government stand in a 90-minute intervention during the debate on the Agra summit in the Lower House on Monday evening, Mr Singh gave detailed clarifications on four broad areas that included the preparations, agenda, media response and outcome of the summit. Unfortunately for the Opposition,



Jaswant: Same Old Story

many of its members, who consider themselves well versed on matters relating to external affairs, were conspicuous by their absence. Mr Singh did admit, though, that there had been shortcomings on the media front and accepted full responsibility for it.

Mr Singh used the opportunity to clarify aspects of the summit that were unclear so far. He said Goa had been originally decided upon as the venue for the talks with the idea that the two leaders retreat to a place where they could have a frank and thorough discussion.

However, he said General Musharraf personally called Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to express his desire to come to Delhi. "When the dignitary himself says that he must spend a night in Delhi, how can we refuse," Mr Singh maintained.

Refuting the Opposition charge that the government had not done its homework, Mr Singh countered that it was the Pakistani delegation which had been in a state of unpreparedness. "Until the last day, Pakistan was not

clear itself because General Musharraf had not taken the Pakistani establishment into confidence," he said. He revealed that on July 15, officials from the Pakistani side refrained from sitting for delegation-level discussions because they had no documents with them.

"It was at 11 in the night after the banquet hosted by the UP governor that they finally indicated their readiness to sit for discussions," he said, adding that these talks continued till 4.30 in the morning. "If there was any preparation, it was from our side. We had all drafts ready with us even before the summit began," he said.

To drive home his point on the lack of diplomatic finesse on the part of the Pakistanis, he said they deviated from norms practised worldwide. "Normally draft agreements are never prepared even at the foreign minister's level, leave aside the highest level," he said. He asserted that this had led to his making corrections in his own hand on various drafts.

Answering the queries posed by the Congress MP Priya Ranjan Dasmunshi on whether the declaration had been in the stage of being almost clinched, Mr Singh said: "I cannot understand this. It is like stating someone is almost pregnant. How can that be. Either an agreement is reached or it has not reached. In this case it was not." He also denied that there was pressure from any foreign country.

Mr Singh also referred to the Tashkent talks after the 1965 Indo-Pak war when India conceded Haji Pir pass to Pakistan, the 1972 Simla agreement which spoke of a "final settlement" to the Kashmir issue and the IPKF misadventure in Sri Lanka and asked whether then Congress regimes had done their preparation!

The Economic Times

--87 AUG 23 1997

# Advani blasts Pakistan for Doda massacre

Times News Network and Agencies

ALIGARH: Union home minister



L.K. Advani

L.K. Advani on Sunday described cross-border terrorism as the "single most critical issue" faced by the country today.

Addressing a gathering on the occasion of the 99th anniversary of the freedom fighter late Mohan Lal Gautam, Mr Advani charged Pakistan of being directly responsible for the recent killing of 15 innocent villagers in the Doda region of Jammu.

Reacting sharply to the massacre, Mr Advani said, "Is this part of the same freedom struggle which Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf referred to during his visit to India?"

He said, "The Agra Summit was doomed the very moment, General Musharraf chose to describe cross-border terrorism as a freedom struggle."

Mr Advani said, before the formal opening of the Agra summit, he had told General Musharraf that the summit would provide the "best opportunity" in recent times, to resolve all Indo-Pak issues. General Musharraf, however, chose to stick to the Kashmir issue, as the main agenda during the summit.

Reports from New Delhi said that the Shiv Sena, an ally in the National Democratic Alliance government, on Sunday demanded the dismissal of the Farooq Abdullah government in Jammu and Kashmir and handing over the state to the army in the wake of the killings in Doda.

Terming the killings as a 'dastardly act', the Sena's Delhi unit leader Abhimanyu Gulati demanded the imposition of President's rule in the state as, "the National Conference (NC) governments failed to protect the minority community from repeated massacres."

"Enough is enough. The state government does not have either

the competence or the will to crush militancy. The state should be handed over to the army and the troops should be given a free hand," Mr Gulati said in a statement here.

Sangh Parivar outfits, including the RSS and the VHP have also been demanding severance of diplomatic ties with Pakistan and destruction of terrorist training camps across the border, in the wake of the recent spurt in attacks on the minorities in J&K.

Meanwhile, the 13 massacred persons were cremated on Sunday evening amidst protests by people demanding a visit by Union home minister L.K. Advani even as security forces intensified the hunt for the assailants and curfew remained in force in two nearby towns gripped by tension set off by the massacre.

The last rites were performed as hundreds of mourners attended the cremation at Atholi village in Kishtwar tehsil after the authorities

persuaded the relatives of the deceased to carry out the rituals, an official spokesman said here.

As the protestors relented on their demand for Mr Advani's visit to the massacre site, the bodies of the victims were taken to Atholi from Kishtwar for cremation.

As shutdowns were enforced in various parts of Doda district, curfew, imposed in Kishtwar and Baderwah towns following the massacre on Friday night to prevent possible outbreak of communal violence, continued, the spokesman said. He said the Rashtriya Rifle troops and Special Task Force of the state police stepped up operations in the hilly district to trace the militants responsible for the killings.

The government has also sanctioned 1,000 special police officers equipped with automatic weapons for the district to protect the meadows from militants.

One company of Central Reserve Police Force has moved to the Atholi-Paddar-Sharoti Dhar areas to provide security to villagers who move to the meadows with their cattle in summer, he said.

## VALE OF TEARS

- Fifteen cremated amidst protests
- Shiv Sena calls for President's rule in J&K
- Curfew continues in Kishtwar, Baderwah towns
- 1,000 special police officers to protect villagers

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE TIMES OF INDIA

6 AUG 2001

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM AGRA?

The Agra Summit was an extraordinary meeting between Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf which, despite the negative note on which it ended, was not a failure. It was not mishandled by the two leaders but there were other negative elements which bear scrutiny. The political dialogue laid the basis for an ongoing dialogue between the two leaders and the two nations, but to be sustained the political classes in the two countries will need to maintain a sense of perspective about the future. They will need to develop a clear public identification in favour of peacemaking rather than domestic bickering which confuses and spoils rather than facilitates a peace settlement. Forward looking social forces should be examining, with a microscope, the events on the day the meeting failed to produce the final declaration when personal agendas and interests of a foreign power wrecked the acceptance of the draft agreement. An objective analysis is needed to facilitate a breakthrough in the dialogue but this requires negotiations and not political theatrics and psychological warfare. The focus now should be on "Agra and Beyond", not on Agra and the Indo-Pakistani history of conflict since 1947. Just as Pokhara II has a "beyond" in the form of negotiated relationships with the major powers in West and the East, thinking beyond Agra means to develop the two legs of strategy, first to achieve the military strength to fight, and the second, to develop the internal commitment to negotiate by practical steps rather than megaphone diplomacy and finger pointing. Thinking beyond Agra means to reflect on the long term value of Indo-Pakistani peaceful relations for the tranquillity of Kashmir as well as the growth of linkages through the flow of ideas, peoples and goods rather than insurgents between the two countries. But the starting point of thinking beyond Agra is July 16, 2001. Certain key actions would have to be taken to clear the underbrush before Vajpayee and Musharraf meet again. The poisonous weeds would have to be exposed and uprooted so that new seeds have a chance to grow.

The Agra Summit was derailed by a powerful combination of Indian and foreign players and there were errors of commission and omission that shaped the negative ending. One must go beyond the lines of foreign minister Jaswant Singh to understand the interests and the high stakes for the spoilers. In his press conference on July 17, he argued that Pakistan had a unifocal approach on Kashmir and that India's issue was "cross-border terrorism." This is political theatre and not the truth because the private discourse showed a willingness to develop an exit strategy on Kashmir and to do so via the building of a linkage between reducing "cross-border violence" and "improving the human rights situation in Kashmir".

Another part of the exit strategy was to find ways to assess the opinions of the Jammu and Kashmir stakeholders, and there are many: Jammu Pandits, Ladakhi Buddhists, the Valley population, apart from "Azad Kashmir" and the Kashmir which Pakistan provisionally handed over to China. An exit strategy requires on-going high level political dialogue that would bring into play the various J&K constituencies. This requires a bilateral Vajpayee-Musharraf track as well as an intra-Kashmir track of building the peace oriented constituencies and putting distance between the Pakistan Army and the Islamic *jihadis*.

There are already signs that the Corp Commanders Committee in Pakistan recognises the importance of containing the Taliban and the *jihadis* forces within Pakistan, to curb ISI's involvement in Kashmir and to reduce the shelling across the LoC. Note that the Pakistani military brass has thought through its new approach to India: it knows it cannot gain Kashmir by force, it has a failing economy and needs world support, including India's, to re-establish its internal economic position and its international standing. Moreover, as Pakistan foreign minister, Sattar pointed out in his July 17 press conference, "no substantive discussions about a settlement of the Kashmir question took place at Agra." Pakistan cannot ignore the Kashmir issue because of domestic compulsions, but if an exit strategy is being sought, it is in the Indian interest to explore it and not shut it out. Mr Jaswant Singh is doing just that by diverting attention to his agenda. The structural changes in Pakistani politics, in the adoption of a negotiation position by the corps commanders (Musharraf works by consensus and has his act together), and Pakistan's shaky international position require serious Indian negotiations rather than grandstanding. In other words, Musharraf the author of Kargil has gone beyond Kargil in his thinking and his diplomacy, but the Indian and foreign spoilers have not. A joint statement would have given him the legitimacy to nurture the Vajpayee-Musharraf dialogue and to develop meaningful trade-offs and linkages with India through significant but small steps in a variety of issues and areas. Obviously the foreign minister and his Pakistan desk do not have the diplomatic intelligence and the expert analysis about these fundamental and subtle changes in Pakistani diplomatic and military affairs. Hence, the fondness for the recycled political speech and the frenzied mobilisation of emotion in Indo-Pakistani affairs.

Who had an interest against Indo-Pakistani peace making? Who were the spoilers at Agra? Here is a list for the consideration of the reader.

● CHINA: Chinese leaders often proclaim the importance of trust and regional peace in their visits to India, yet China

## BY PROFS. M.L. SONDHI & ASHOK KAPUR

### An Indo-Pakistani peace process would reduce Pakistan's role as a line of military and diplomatic pressure in Chinese subcontinental states. The stakes for China are high. This is why the Chinese defence minister was in Pakistan when Vajpayee was engaged in the Lahore bus exercise. This is why China's supply of missiles to Pakistan continues

#### PART I

An Indo-Pakistan strategic discourse would bring out the contradiction between China's peace talk and the strategic aims which are revealed by the pattern of its dangerous meddling in the region. If the situation is framed as above, then one has to wonder why the MEA has a soft policy towards China and now a very hard one against Pakistan. (It should be the other way around given the view of Indian defence professionals that China is a big problem for India). If Pakistan is a military problem, from outside powers (first America and Pakistan's role as a line of military and diplomatic pressure in Chinese policy of containment of India through Pakistan and other subcontinental states. The stakes for China are high. This is why the Chinese defence minister was in Pakistan when Vajpayee was engaged in the Lahore bus exercise. This is why China's supply of missiles to Pakistan continues. China is also involved in developing port facilities in Pakistan (Gwadar), which along with Chinese activity in the Bay of Bengal, indicates a long term strategic plan vis-à-vis India.



● **INDIAN SPOILERS:** Is it just a coincidence that Mr Swaraj Kaushal, MP (husband of minister of information, Sushma Swaraj) and Mr Sanjay Nirupam, Shiv Sena, MP, were the leading lights of the Chinese Embassy-handpicked delegation (July 1-7; 2001) to Beijing which was intended to give a new momentum of the India-China relationship? Does it throw any light on Sushma's conduct at Agra and Mr Nirupam's attack on the PMO?

The Agra Summit unravelled after Sushma Swaraj had her press briefing on the substance of the tasks. Who briefed her (minister L.K. Advani)? Who authorised the press briefing at the time? President Musharraf took a hard line after the Swaraj conference and the result is known. Here too it appears that the MEA was more interested in bureaucratic level activity rather than a political level breakthrough. Now MEA argues that it was sidelined. True enough, but there was a reason. In major breakthroughs in recent years (China-US normalisation in the Seventies, the German treaty and in the Korean discourse) breakthroughs come through the de-bureaucratisation of the political ice-break process. This is done because bureaucracies have over the years developed an attachment to a system of control and having learnt to manage it, it becomes in their interest to stay involved. In other words, there is a conflict of interest between bureaucratic politics and conflict resolution. So, on the last day of the Agra Summit an interface between MEA bureaucratic politics and the China lobby cannot be ruled out. Having grown up as practitioners in a system of Indo-Pakistani conflict for over 50 years, India's Pakistani hands in the MEA have a hard time thinking and coming up with creative solutions outside the old box.

● **THE HARDLINES:** This constituency did not want a conciliatory position on Pakistan and Kashmir and they argued that Vajpayee was soft on Kashmir. This is not true and it is also short-sighted because the endgame, according to Western experts, was not the joint declaration in Agra, but rather it was to explore the possibility of recognising over time the LoC as the border while India agreed to discover the real voices in J&K, give autonomy (whatever that means) in exchange for Pakistan scaling back its support of militants and the *jihadis* were tamed by the professional Pakistani military, a combination of Indian carrots could be used to promote the economic and social development of the entire J&K region, and this could change the context of Pakistani policy and thinking. The aim of foreign policy is to create situations which alter the other side's thinking and policy from hostility to neutrality and then to friendship. It is a long road and it requires careful step by step moves. It

rests on the simple proposition that people respond to carrots and if compromise by the other side is sought, there must be the offer of some meaningful compensation. This is the logic of the Indian bazaar and this is also the logic of international politics.

● **AMERICAN DIPLOMACY:** American diplomacy was poor during the Agra Summit. The new US ambassador was appointed, and he has an impressive background in Chinese and Russian affairs. He understands geo-politics. But he arrived in India after the Agra Summit, and the embassy was leaderless for months. During this period three American foreign policies were in play in Delhi politics. The official line consisted of actions out of Washington which highlighted India's importance in the context of Asian affairs and its economic performance. But in Delhi there was a policy vacuum. The second American foreign policy line goes back to the Clinton administration as expressed by Madeleine Albright, Frank Wisner and Thomas Pickering, it sought Indian containment in the subcontinent, and joint Sino-American leadership in Asia, India a nuclear and missile disarmament, continued Pakistan pressure on India on the military and nuclear fronts, American commentators — K. Subrahmanyam, Kamal Bajpai, Amitabh Mattoo, Praful Bidwai — have expressed views which corresponded to the Wisner/Pickering foreign policy. This line has specific indicators: non-weaponsisation of its nuclear potential, adherence to the CTBT and eventually the NPT. The Ford Foundation representative in Delhi, Gowher Rizvi, the author of a book which advocated Indo-Pakistani bipolarity and hence a bipolar system of conflict in the subcontinent, too had his or Ford Foundation's foreign policy. The second and the third American lines corresponded to Chinese interests and those of the Clinton administration and they revealed a commitment to Indian disarmament as well as Indo-Pakistani parity, and hence to the maintenance of an Indo-Pakistani system of conflict. These non-governmental commentators and opinion makers in Delhi have over the years enjoyed American patronage and at the same time their work fits neatly into the Chinese agenda. What is going on? Whose side are they on? The US government needs to decide which of the three foreign policies it wishes to pursue on the ground in Delhi, and if it is the first one, then it needs to get some discipline among its lobbyists in India.

■ *To be concluded tomorrow*  
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# Till we meet again

HC-8 1/8

*The Agra summit was not a complete failure. But if India wants to taste success the next time it sits down to talk with Pakistan in Islamabad, it must be more adept at playing the diplomacy game*

**T**HE SUMMIT is over. Long live the summit. Agra was a failure in the sense that a piece of paper was not initialed by India and Pakistan. But it was not a complete failure. There appears to have been areas in which the two sides converged and that convergence should be the basis for negotiations at the next summit — if there is a next summit. So far, the Indian prime minister is holding to his promise to go to Pakistan. What lessons should he take with him when he boards the plane for Islamabad?

The first lesson — if it can be called a lesson — is that the Agra summit and everything associated with it was not altogether a failure. There is a powerful view that everything we have ever done with Pakistan reeks of failure. This is not true. From 1947 to 1963, India and Pakistan solved virtually every conflict peacefully, sometimes bilaterally and sometimes with external help.

We nearly solved Kashmir in 1955-56 when Jawaharlal Nehru got the Pakistani prime minister to agree to divide the state along the ceasefire line. Since 1963, there have been other important episodes of cooperation including Tashkent, Simla, Salal Dam (1975), confidence building, and Lahore. All these agreements have had their uses and some have been consummately successful — especially the Indus Rivers Treaty, but also Simla, and in some ways, Lahore.

The second lesson is that the next time we will need more preparation. The Agra summit was an agenda-setting one. In effect, the deliberations on July 15 and 16 were about what the agenda for India-Pakistan negotiations should be: Kashmir and cross-border terrorism at the top, with everything else to follow.

Critics in India have said that there should have been a carefully worked out agenda for Agra. Perhaps. But we must recognise that there was a chicken-and-egg problem. After Kargil, it was important to begin talking, and to begin by getting down to the nitty-gritty of agendas might just have put us into a stall right away. Having an unstructured meeting was worth the risk. That said, the next time should be different, and the foreign secretaries' — and even the foreign ministers' — meetings should be about the agenda for a future summit.

The third lesson from Agra is that while the one-on-one meetings between the Indian prime minister and the Pakistani president are necessary, they were overdone this time round. At the next summit, closed-door meetings should be restricted to the bare minimum. The chemistry between the two leaders was not particularly good at Agra, and Musharraf's various television appearances have done everything to make them even worse.

One-on-ones need to be prepared for as well. Vajpayee is not always the most rigorously prepared politician, and India will be better served by delegation-level meetings. This is not to suggest that the prime minister can be fooled easily. But in India-Pakistan relations,

you need the dour technical-minded Rahul Dravids of negotiations as much as anything else.

The fourth lesson Vajpayee and his team should take along with them is that the media can be both friend and foe. In a liberal democracy, it is the media's job to be critical. That is how they get politicians to be more mindful of the public will. Vajpayee's remark that the Indian press should be more "patriotic" is a sad commentary on a leader who has been in the business for over 50 years. It is the duty and obligation of the press to break stories and to keep the public informed. It is not the job of the press to play along with the government and anticipate the wishes of politicians and officials. That way lies self-censorship.

The lesson for the Vajpayee team is that you get the media to play your game not by hitting them with charges of sedition, but rather by leaking information to them. The Pakistani side knows this: they use the media by giving out information, not by withholding it. Islamabad overplayed its media cards in the end, but it's a long way ahead in understanding media policy than New Delhi.

Fifth, don't say things categorically in public that you cannot sustain. After Kargil, India said it would not talk to Pakistan until Islamabad stopped helping the militants. After the Musharraf coup, we said we

would not deal with dictators. After Agra, the Indian foreign minister said that "the slate had been wiped clean" and that negotiations with Pakistan would begin anew. This is throwing the baby out with the bath water.

Moreover, the Pakistanis could retort that if we want to wipe the slate clean, then why not go all the way and forget about Lahore, Simla and Tashkent? We would then have to say something equally inflammatory such as: "And why

not add the Indus treaty?" However short-sighted the Pakistani stand on past agreements, competitive brinkmanship over earlier agreements will do us no good. We have both signed agreements with other countries, and this kind of behaviour will do our reputations no good. States which don't keep promises don't get promises.

Finally, unilateral gestures have their uses, but should be used with care. The Pakistan government fears our unilateral people-to-people gestures in particular because they may be popular with its public. It also fears that they distract attention from the "core issue". Nothing piques official Pakistanis more.

Having said that, we have an interest in maintaining links with Pakistani civil society. In the long run, that is the way in which lies peace and cooperation. To brandish these populist unilateral measures in the run up to a summit is not, however, the most apt thing to do. Just as Musharraf upstaged Vajpayee by his use of the media and pushed India into a corner, similarly Vajpayee upstaged Musharraf and made him squirm before the summit by unleashing a series of unilateral measures on Pakistan.

See you in Islamabad.



NOW, WHERE WERE WE?: Musharraf and Vajpayee in Delhi

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## Panun Kashmir urges PM to call off Pak. visit

**NEW DELHI, AUG. 5.** The Panun Kashmir today termed the massacre of 17 people at Doda as unfortunate, and said that the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, should review the policy on Jammu and Kashmir and firmly assert India's protest against the incident with Pakistan. "This incident is unfortunate, but it was expected.

The Lahore diplomacy brought us the Kargil incursion and the Agra summit the Doda killings," the Panun Kashmir convenor, Dr. Agnishekhar, said.

Dr. Agnishekhar urged the Prime Minister to call off the proposed visit to Pakistan, and said that the Doda massacre was yet another attempt at ethnic cleansing and Islamisation of the State, and the Government should send a clear message to Islamabad that cross-border terrorism would be dealt with sternly.

"The Government should make its stand clear that twelve years of violence is enough, and convey to Pakistan that we won't take it any more," he added.

Dr. Agnishekhar, on an all-India campaign, al-

leged that adequate security was not provided to Hindu families in Doda which resulted in the massacre and said the village defence committees were not equipped with sophisticated weapons to counter militants. Demanding immediate rehabilitation of Hindus in Doda, the convenor said, "since the number of Hindus in this region is very small, they are soft targets for terrorists.

They should be rehabilitated at one place as a temporary measure for their security. As a permanent solution to this issue there should be a geopolitical reorganisation of the State and a separate homeland, under the Indian Constitution," he added.

He ridiculed the demand of the Hurriyat Conference to order an independent probe into the massacre, and said, "the perpetrators of violence should condemn violence instead of asking for an inquiry. The separatist alliance should stop using violence as an open means to gain political aspirations. The conglomerate is just a political front for criminal activities." — UNI

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# Indo-Pak. nuclear asymmetry

By M. R. Srinivasan

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THE AGRA summit between India and Pakistan would no doubt have discussed the nuclear issue, even if Gen. Pervez Musharraf wished to talk only about Kashmir. For about 50 years, the Western media has managed to convey the impression of an equivalence between India and Pakistan in spite of the big difference in size, population and economic strength.

This fitted into the Anglo-Saxon image that the great British Indian empire had been broken into two contending halves. Over time, Indian diplomats got used to being twinned with Pakistan. Galling it was but there was just no way out. Now the Western media is upto its old tricks referring to India and Pakistan as the South Asian nuclear rivals.

Simply because Pakistan conducted six tests at Chagai in May 1998, there is certainly no parity in nuclear capabilities between Pakistan and India. Pakistan has a limited capability for producing enriched uranium at the centrifuge enrichment plant at Kahuta.

India's capacity for producing plutonium is very large if we take into account the plutonium available in the spent fuel of its ten unsafeguarded operating reactors. India has three plants for separating plutonium from spent fuel.

Immediately after the Pokhran II tests, India announced a 'no first use' policy. It wanted other nuclear weapon powers also to commit to such a policy. Pakistan has rejected it implying that it reserved the right to use nuclear weapons first. It has justified this policy on the ground that its conventional military might is no match to what India can deploy.

This situation therefore necessitates that India develop a 'second strike' capability. This means that India should be able to resort to a nuclear attack after it has been the victim of a first attack. India will therefore have to withstand

the consequences of the initial attack and then retaliate.

In the specific case of Pakistan, apart from Lahore, Karachi and Islamabad, the other obvious targets are Kahuta, Sukur barrage, Tarbela and Mangla dams. There are no other large cities or concentrations of economic assets. Most of Pakistan is either agricultural land or desert.

They find it easier to deal with dictators than the raucous politicians who have to satisfy the expectations of diverse constituencies and win elections in democratic states.

Gen. Musharraf may be sincere in talking about Kashmir's aspirations. But what about restoring democracy in Pakistan itself and returning it to civilian rule? The concerns of fifteen million

## *To get an idea of the relative status of nuclear developments in China, India and Pakistan, one should go beyond nuclear weapons into the realm of nuclear power.*

Kashmiris are no doubt important. But so are peace and prosperity of the more than one hundred million Pakistanis and a thousand million Indians.

The 50 years of U.S. handling of global disputes has virtually frozen nearly all of them and carried them over to the present. It is arguable that some of the disputes such as the one between Taiwan and Korea, that between Taiwan and China and that between India and Pakistan would have reached some resolution if external interventions had not taken place.

This situation has no doubt been seriously compounded by the inability of the leaderships of India and Pakistan to see where the long term interests of their peoples lie.

In recent times, some well-known American nuclear strategists have argued that states at an early stage of possessing nuclear weaponry with small arsenals have a tendency to be impulsive and unstable. This could be interpreted as a call to build more nuclear weapons to graduate to a responsible and stable level.

States with large numbers of people diverted in poverty have no business to divert scarce resources on weaponry, conventional or nuclear. Gen. Mushar-

raf stated recently that Pakistan will not accept the Line of Control (LoC) or indeed that Jammu and Kashmir was part of India. Partition took place some 50 years ago.

We may not like the ground rules adopted then but we cannot go back and rewrite history. The only way out is to accept international borders as they have emerged and arrange relations with neighbouring countries in a civilised manner.

To get an idea of the relative status of nuclear developments in China, India and Pakistan, one should go beyond nuclear weapons, into the realm of nuclear power. China has built on its own one PWR reactor of 300 MW at Chin Shan. It has imported two reactors from France which are operating. It is now building reactors in collaboration with Canada and Russia.

India has 14 operating reactors. Two reactors at Tarapur, our oldest, were imported from the U.S. and two in Rajasthan from Canada. Ten reactors operating at present were all designed and built by India. India has taken up construction of two reactors of 540 MW at Tarapur and two reactors of 220 MW at Kaiga as units 3 and 4.

Pakistan has an old reactor of 140 MW near Karachi, supplied by Canada. China is building a 300 MW PWR at Chashma. The Indian Government and even the Department of Atomic Energy have unfortunately not been very enthusiastic in stressing the great progress made by India in nuclear power technology on a self-reliant basis.

Going beyond nuclear weapons and nuclear power, nuclear technologies have been of great benefit in health, industry and agriculture. The nation has reserved the credits mostly for work in the weapons area. This distortion in acknowledging progress in different applications needs to be corrected.