

LET'S COOPERATE

The United States of America has much to be pleased about in the outcome of the recently concluded Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit meeting at Shanghai. The joint statement by the leaders of the forum contains a well thought out plan of action to combat terrorism. This is particularly significant given that the 21-country grouping consists of several countries with significant Muslim populations, some of which have witnessed a fury of protests at the American use of force in Afghanistan. President George W. Bush will also be glad that one vital actor, President Vladimir Putin of Russia, has signalled his support for the military action. Russia's support has come despite the continuing differences over American plans to construct a ballistic missile defence system, and Washington's desire to scrap the anti-ballistic missile treaty that had been signed by the US and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. The APEC meeting will undoubtedly go one step further in reinforcing the American claim that there is a real global coalition against international terrorism.

There are three aspects of the APEC declaration that warrant attention. First, the statement unequivocally declares that terrorist acts in all forms and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever are a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of all nations. Moreover, terrorism is also viewed as a direct challenge to APEC's vision of free, open and prosperous economies and to the fundamental values that its members hold. There is clearly a determination to ensure that the fight against international terrorism is not reduced to a clash of religions or indeed, civilizations. Second, the declaration seeks to ensure that there is a multilateral partnership within the framework of the United Nations that will take the lead in the war against terrorism. The leaders committed themselves to preventing and suppressing all forms of terrorist acts in the future in accordance with the charter of the UN and UN security council resolutions on the subject. There was a strong call for an early signing and ratification of the international convention for the suppression of the financing of terrorism.

Finally, the grouping agreed unanimously to take specific measures to prevent terrorism. Most significant was the agreement to prevent the flow of funds to terrorists by accelerating work on combating financial crimes through the APEC finance ministers' working group on fighting financial crime. No less important was the determination to strengthen APEC activities in the area of "critical sector protection". Transport ministers of the member countries have been encouraged to actively take part in the discussions on enhancing airport, aircraft and port security. There was also agreement for the need to improve customs communication networks to ensure the expeditious development of a global integrated electronic customs network, which would allow customs authorities to better enforce laws while minimizing the impact on the flow of trade. Cooperation in developing electronic movement records systems that will enhance border security was also agreed on. There was a unanimous call to strengthen capacity-building, and cooperation to enable members to put into place effective counter-terrorism measures. The declaration is pioneering and unprecedented in its vision. The real challenge is to convert the vision into real international cooperation on the ground, even beyond the APEC countries.

THE TELEGRAPH

24 OCT 2001

Apec firm on terror focus

REUTERS & AP

SHANGHAI, Oct. 21. — Leaders of the Pacific Rim bloc of nations today wrapped up the Apec Summit with a condemnation of the 11 September terrorist attacks as "murderous deeds" and a demand for international cooperation to combat such acts. The leaders took a pledge to stamp out terrorism, though they stopped short of endorsing the ongoing US military campaign in Afghanistan.

The 21-member Apec also agreed during the two days of talks here to cooperate to put their economies back on the growth path by pursuing "appropriate" policies.

"Leaders unequivocally condemn the terrorist attacks in the USA on 11 September..." the political statement read. It was the first in the 12-year history of Apec a group set up to promote free trade and investment in the Asia-Pacific region.

"Leaders commit to prevent and suppress all forms of terrorist acts," the text said. The final text went further than earlier drafts but still did not refer specifically to the US-led strikes on Afghanistan or Osama bin Laden.

"We condemn in the strongest terms the attacks as an affront to peace, prosperity and the security of all people, of all faiths, every nation," Chinese President Mr Jiang Zemin said in comments summarizing the statement at the close of the summit. "In view of the gravity of the ter-



Mr George W Bush (right) meets Mr Vladimir Putin at the Ritz Carlton Hotel in Shanghai on Sunday. — AP/PTI

rorist attack on the USA we went out of our way to discuss the issue of counter-terrorism in the course of our meeting."

The statement also expressed hope about a turnaround in the economies of the member nations. "Our confidence is grounded in the belief that the fundamentals in our economies remain sound. There is consensus among us that Apec must act to reverse the downturn," it said.

Mr Sean McCormack, spokesman for the White House National Security Council, said the United States was satisfied with the declaration even though it did not mention the bombing in Afghanistan or

USA MAY WALK OUT OF ABM TREATY

SHANGHAI, Oct. 21. — US President Mr George W. Bush and his Russian counterpart Mr Vladimir Putin met today to discuss counter-terrorism efforts and a new strategic framework including arms control.

Mr Bush and Mr Putin sat down for talks at a hotel after attending the final session of the Apec in China's financial capital here. They were scheduled to hold a joint news conference after their discussions.

Aides of Mr Bush said it is believed he may today tell Mr Putin, that the USA will have to serve notice this year on quitting the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty if an alternative cannot be found, a senior US official said.

The official spoke as Mr Bush went into his meeting with Mr Putin at the hotel after the conclusion of the Pacific Rim summit and it was unclear if he would go ahead with the advice of his aides. "Whether that's going to happen is only known by (Mr) Bush," the official said on condition of anonymity.

"The preparations are for him to say that we would love to withdraw from the treaty together with you, but if we can't work this out, we will give notice by the end of the year," the official said. — Reuters

bin Laden. "This type of declaration in and of itself is unprecedented," Mr McCormack said.

Mr Bush and his counterparts from countries including China, Russia and Japan issued the unprecedented statement about an unfolding geopolitical crisis.

Apec delegates had previously said they would not be able to mention the war in Afghanistan or the hardline Taliban's protection of bin Laden, keeping in mind the political sensibilities of two large Muslim nations Indonesia and Malaysia.

"Leaders consider the murderous deeds as well as other terrorist acts in all forms

and manifestations, committed wherever, whenever and by whomsoever, as a profound threat to the peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of all nations," the statement said.

Deviating sharply from its normal economic agenda, Apec found itself unable to back US-led assaults on Afghanistan, though Washington has the support of Russia and China. By contrast, Indonesia and Malaysia have expressed worries about the deaths of Muslim civilians in Afghanistan and called for a stop to the bombing, fearing a backlash across the Muslim world could spread instability.

THE STATESMAN

22 OCT 2001

U.S. told to find political settlement

By Amit Baruah 2/1/10

SHANGHAI, OCT. 20. Russia and China have called for a rapid transition from the military phase of the military operation in Afghanistan to a political settlement, the Russian Foreign Minister, Mr. Igor Ivanov, said today.

Mr. Ivanov's statement after a meeting between the Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin, is the clearest yet that both Moscow and Beijing are mounting pressure on the United States on dealing with complex questions in Afghanistan. Significantly, a Chinese spokesman said today that the Russian President had told Mr. Jiang that he remained in favour of retaining the Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) Treaty. On the ABM Treaty, Mr. Ivanov said the document was a "basis for strategic stability".

Interestingly, the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, himself played down the possibility of any major breakthrough in his scheduled meeting with Mr. Putin tomorrow night. Media reports have speculated about cuts in the U.S. nuclear arsenal as Mr. Bush announces a pullout from the ABM Treaty. "You know, somebody said, well, there's great anticipation that there'll be a so-called breakthrough," Mr. Bush told reporters today.

"The breakthrough occurred in our first meeting where we made a determined effort to work together to find common ground when it comes to a new strategic arrangement," the U.S. President maintained. "But I wouldn't expect any startling news except for the fact that we're continuing the dialogue," Mr. Bush added.

The possibility of co-operating on the anti-terrorist front, it is clear, has not led to any bridging of the gap on crucial issues like the ABM Treaty and national missile defence, whose unilateral abrogation is opposed by both Russia and China.

In its account of the Jiang-Putin meeting



The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin (left), greets his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin, before their bilateral talks in Shanghai on Saturday. — AP

today, the official Chinese news agency, Xinhua, said Russia and China had a similar stand on the terrorism issue.

The Chinese President, the report said, told Mr. Putin that a "unanimous attitude" and "sole standard" should be adopted in fighting terrorism and that all forms of terrorism should be "opposed and crushed".

Both Mr. Putin and Mr. Jiang stressed that Chechen separatists and the separatist East Turkestan terrorist forces (operating in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, bordering Af-

ghanistan) should be "firmly opposed and smashed".

Mr. Jiang, the news agency reported, said it was "far-sighted" of the Presidents of the six-member nations of the Shanghai Co-operation Organisation (which includes Russia) to sign a pact in June to fight against terrorism, separatism and extremism.

"Both Jiang and Putin maintained that more measures should be taken to give play to the role of the (Shanghai Co-operation) Organisation," Xinhua added.

THE HINDU

21 OCT 2001

USA, China to cooperate against terrorism

THE STATESMAN

AGENCIES

20/10
SHANGHAI, Oct. 19. — The USA and China today agreed to cooperate in wiping out global terrorism, but Beijing stressed a greater role for the UN in tackling the scourge.

US President Mr George W. Bush, who had his first face-to-face meeting with the Chinese counterpart, Mr Jiang Zemin, said there was a firm commitment by China to cooperate in intelligence matters and help "interdict financing of terrorist organisations".

"We have a common understanding of the magnitude of the threat posed by international terrorism. All civilised nations must join to defeat this threat. And I believe

that the USA and China can accomplish a lot when we work together to fight terrorism," Mr Bush said while addressing a joint press conference with Mr Jiang after their talks.

China stands "side by side with the American people as we fight this evil force," Mr Bush said.

He told reporters he is satisfied with China pursuing financial assets of the Al-Qaida and its founder, Osama bin Laden.

The two leaders met on the sidelines of the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation leaders.

"We had an in-depth exchange of views and reached a consensus on important issues such as Sino-US relations, the fight against terrorism and safeguarding world peace

and stability," Mr Jiang said. However, he said the drive against terrorism should envisage a greater role for UN.

"We hope that the anti-terrorist efforts can have clearly defined targets to avoid innocent casualties," he said.

During the meeting held at a guesthouse in the western suburbs of Shanghai, Mr Bush raised the issue of missile proliferation and discussed the anti-terrorism campaign in broad terms.

Mr Bush made the point that the war on terrorism "must never be an excuse to persecute minorities," an apparent reference to the Muslim minorities in Uighur in China's northwest Xinjiang region.

Mr Jiang told him that Beijing,

TAIWAN BOYCOTTS APEC

TAIPEI, Oct. 19. — Taiwan decided today to boycott the Apec summit. The move ended more than a week of wrangling between China and Taiwan about the island's decision to have a presidential adviser, Mr Li Yuan-zu, represent the island at the Apec forum.

China objected to the choice, insisting that Taiwan send a representative with experience in economic and not political affairs. Taiwanese foreign minister Mr Tien Hung-mao told reporters that China forced Taiwan to miss the summit.

— AP

too, has made progress. "Of course, you may reserve your judgment until you see it with your own eyes," Mr Jiang said. They discussed a visit Mr Bush paid to China 26 years ago.

During last year's presidential campaign, Mr Bush once called China a "strategic competitor," but now the USA is making determined effort to improve relations.

'Near unanimity on strikeback' Mr Bush today said Apec group members were "near unanimous" in their support for the US-led war on terrorism.

During a photo-taking session before a meeting with South Korean President Mr Kim Dae-jung, Mr Bush was asked why a planned Apec anti-terrorism declaration

did not mention Afghanistan or Osama bin Laden, who, Washington says, masterminded the 11 September hijack attacks. "I believe the Apec nations fully understand that not only terrorists should be brought to justice but those who harbour terrorists should be brought to justice as well," Mr Bush said.

Leaders are scheduled to issue their declaration after their weekend summit in Shanghai. "I can tell you that the support is near unanimous not only for the activities that are going on now but for the strategy of fighting terrorism in the long run," Mr Bush said. These leaders understand that we are in a new type of war. "They understand that the evil

ones are a threat to established governments. They understand that for there to be peace throughout the generations we must be decisive and victorious."

Earlier, a Russian official said Apec members were still haggling over the text of the anti-terrorism declaration, which would be the first major political statement by Apec in its 12-year history. It normally deals only with trade and economics. "There is a consensus on terrorism... but there might still be amendments. Every country can have its say," the official said.

"The declaration will be in two parts, one a condemnation of terrorism and the second the directions which can be taken by Apec to deal with it," he told reporters.

THE STATESMAN

20 OCT 2001

U.S., China agree to share intelligence

By Amit Baruah ¹¹⁰⁻¹⁹

SHANGHAI, OCT. 19. Setting aside previous differences, the U.S. President, Mr. George Bush, and his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin, projected a united front in the American battle against terrorism at their first-ever face-to-face meeting today.

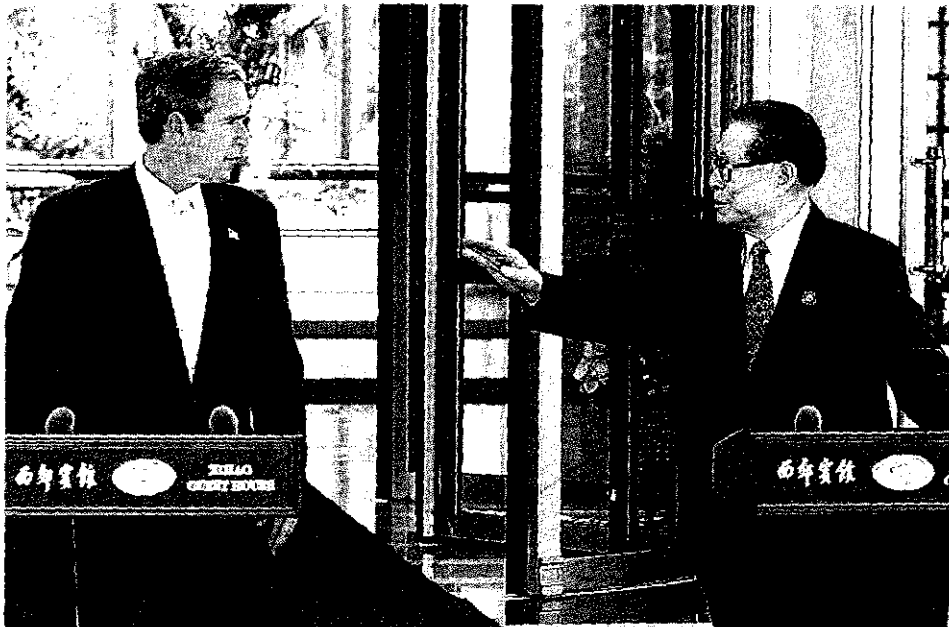
"There's a firm commitment by this (Chinese) Government to co-operate in intelligence matters and to help interdict financing of terrorist organisations," Mr. Bush said at a joint press conference with Mr. Jiang. Mr. Jiang, while supporting the military strikes against terrorism, reiterated Chinese concerns about the need to minimise civilian casualties and involve the United Nations in the battle against terror. Both sides also agreed to set up a joint working mechanism on anti-terrorist measures, a spokesman for the Chinese Foreign Ministry said after the meeting between the two leaders.

"We hope that anti-terrorism efforts can have clearly defined targets and also should hit accurately and also avoid civilian casualties," Mr. Jiang said at the press conference. The United Nations, he said, should play a "full role" in the anti-terrorist campaign. Mr. Bush, for his part, said: "We have a common understanding of the magnitude of the threat posed by international terrorism...I believe that the United States and China can accomplish a lot if we work together to fight terrorism."

During the talks, Mr. Jiang proposed that the two countries commence a high-level "strategic dialogue" at the summit level or at the level of representatives nominated by the two leaders. The American response to this proposal was not immediately known. Such a dialogue, he told Mr. Bush, was essential, as leaders of "two big powers" needed to communicate with each other.

At the press conference, the Chinese President said: "It's our first meeting, and we have had an in-depth exchange of views and reached a consensus on a number of important issues such as Sino-U.S. relations, the fight against terrorism and safeguarding world peace and stability." The Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Mr. Bush told Mr. Jiang that the U.S. did not view China as an "enemy", but as a "friend". These remarks are interesting in the context of Mr. Bush's previous remarks of China as a "strategic competitor" as opposed to a previous American description of China as a "strategic partner".

At the press conference, the U.S. President did not make any reference to "human rights"



EXTENDING A HELPING HAND: The Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin (right), gestures to his U.S. counterpart, Mr. George W. Bush during a joint press conference in Shanghai on Friday. — AFP

concerns, but did say that the war on terrorism "must never be an excuse to persecute minorities". He said talks with Mr. Jiang had convinced him that the two countries could build on their common interests. "Two great nations will rarely agree on everything, I understand. But I assured the President that we will always deal with our differences in a spirit of mutual respect."

Mr. Bush made it clear that America would bring those responsible for the September 11 terrorist attacks to justice. "I told the President (Mr. Jiang) that our nation would do what it takes to bring them to justice no matter how long it takes."

The Chinese President made it clear that China's concern on American handling of the Taiwan issue remained. "So long as the question of Taiwan is properly addressed, then there will be a bright future of our relationship." For his part, on the Taiwan issue, Mr. Bush merely referred to the need to preserve regional stability.

According to the Chinese spokesman, Taiwan remained the "core issue" in the China-U.S. relationship. The issue of National Missile Defence (NMD), a thorny issue in the past, took a back seat in the discussions. The Chi-

nese spokesman said Mr. Bush raised the issue.

While China had differences with the U.S. on the question, the spokesman stressed that this was not a "core issue" of discussions this morning between the two leaders.

At the press conference, Mr. Bush when asked about a newspaper report that U.S. ground forces were operating in Afghanistan, said: "I will not respond to rumours and information that seeps into public consciousness for fear of disrupting the operations that are taking place...we will use whatever means are necessary to achieve our objective."

The U.S. President said he was not aware of any direct links between the Al-Qaeda outfit and the cases of Anthrax exposure in America. "But I wouldn't put it past them...these are evil people and the deeds that have been committed on the American people are evil deeds. Anybody who would mail anthrax letters trying to affect the lives of innocent people is evil." He, however, added that it might be a homegrown problem. "Anybody in America who would use this opportunity to threaten our citizens, who thinks it's funny as a hoax to put out some kind of threat, will be held accountable and will be prosecuted."

THE HINDU

20 OCT 2001

Apec wants terrorist funds choked

Shanghai, October 18

THE ASIA Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum today finalised a historic anti-terrorism declaration, to be issued at a weekend summit, that calls for countries to choke off terrorist funds and bolster the UN's role in an anti-terror fight by the 21 member States.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell was present at the meeting where the foreign ministers of Pacific-rim nations agreed to intensify efforts to fight terrorism during the talks.

Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan said: "The fight against terrorism is a fight between good and evil, and a trial of strength between civilisation and barbarity, rather than a conflict among ethnic groups, religions or cultures," he said.

According to a draft of the unprecedented declaration, the Apec leaders will denounce the attacks on World Trade Center and Pentagon, pledge to choke off terrorist funds and cooperate to ensure oil security.

"Leaders unequivocally condemn in the strongest terms the terrorist attacks against the US on September 11 as a profound threat to peace, prosperity and security of all people, of all faiths, of every nation," the declaration reads. The statement will be the first separate declaration of a political matter issued by Apec, which normally confines its discussions to trade and economic topics.

Tang said the ministers had agreed that all manner of terrorist activity posed a threat to international security and should be condemned.

All anti-terrorist international

covenants and resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council should be implemented and any acts of financing terrorism should be prevented.

"It is necessary to strengthen international cooperation and give a full role to the UN and its Security Council in combating terrorism," Tang said.

China has called for the UN Security Council to spearhead any action against the perpetrators of the airborne suicide attacks last month which claimed about 5,500 lives.

Powell said the draft agreement represented a "resounding" sign of support for the US-led coalition against extremist violence. "I cannot tell you how pleased we are at the response we have received from the international community," Powell told a gathering of US business leaders on the sidelines of the Apec forum. "Earlier this morning at the Apec meeting, I got a resounding signal of support from all the members present and President George Bush will get the same signal when he meets with those leaders over the weekend," Powell said.

Later in the day, President George Bush arrived in Shanghai today to join the weekend summit and plot an economic response to the terrorism that's shaken Americans on the opposite rim of the Pacific Ocean.

Bush said he wanted to use the Apec summit to strengthen the international coalition behind his war on terrorists.

A Japanese foreign ministry official said the strikes on Afghanistan, which has caused unease in Indonesia and Malaysia, was not mentioned at the meeting.

AFP



President George Bush gives a thumbs-up as he greets military personnel and their families at the Travis Air Force Base on Wednesday.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 OCT 2001

APEC Ministers stress energy security

By Amit Baruah

19/10
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SHANGHAI, OCT. 18. The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum Ministers today stressed the importance of "energy security" in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attacks in the United States while strongly backing the commencement of a new round of trade negotiations at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the WTO due to be held from November 9 to 13.

The Ministers called for "further energy technology development, exchange, application and deployment, and for the facilitation of a diverse and efficient supply mix to avoid the risks posed to the economy by volatility in the international oil market". Referring to the slowing economic conditions, the Ministers said: "Since the end of last year, the slowdown in the United States, Japan and Europe has dampened the prospect of global and regional economy, with some members in the region affected considerably by the declining global demand."

"The recent terrorist attacks in the United States risk undermining some industries as well as consumer confidence. In the face of the less favourable global and regional eco-

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nomic environment, Ministers affirmed their confidence in the medium and long-term prospects of growth in the APEC region and agreed to strengthen co-operation to tackle the short-term economic difficulties. In this connection, Ministers reaffirmed the importance of promoting dialogue and co-operation with a view to achieving sustainable and common development," the joint statement said.

On WTO issues, it said: "Ministers reaffirmed the strong commitment to launch the new WTO round of multilateral trade negotiations in 2001. Given the global economic slowdown, Ministers agreed on the critical importance of and urgency of launching the round at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Conference..."

"Ministers called on parties concerned to demonstrate strong political will and flexibility in agreeing on a balanced and sufficiently broad-based agenda to launch the new round, which should include further trade liberalisation and strengthening of WTO rules and reflect the interests and concerns of all members, especially those of the developing ones..." the statement read.

In recognition of the concerns expressed by

Third World nations, the Ministers "reaffirmed that the concerns of developing countries should be addressed through the effective implementation of special and differential treatment and ongoing effort for capacity building and technical assistance so as to facilitate their full participation in WTO.

"Ministers reaffirmed APEC's determination in expediting the full and effective implementation of the Uruguay Round agreements and commitments, and called on the WTO to give due consideration to the concerns of members, especially developing ones, on the implementation of issues emanating from the Uruguay Round agreements and commitments when formulating the agenda for the new round," the statement said.

The Ministers wanted China's accession to the WTO to be finalised at the forthcoming Ministerial conference. "Ministers also reiterated strong support for approval of accession to the WTO by Chinese Taipei at that conference and the advancement of WTO accession by the Russian Federation and Vietnam. Ministers supported the participation of all acceding economies in the new round of WTO negotiations."

Terrorists' designs will be foiled: Bush

By Amit Baruah 19/10

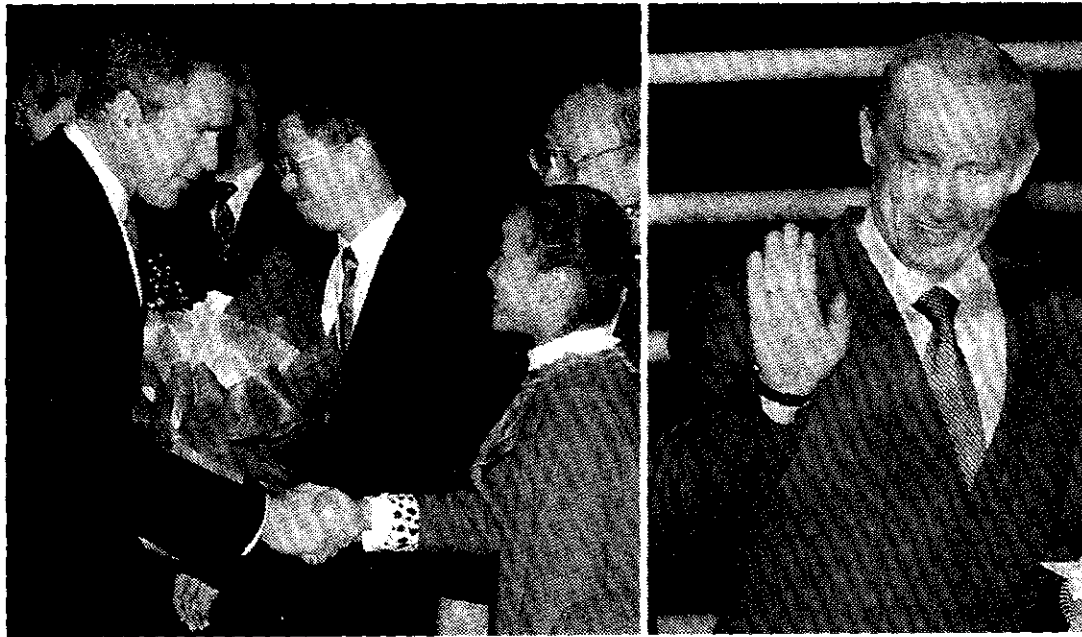
SHANGHAI, OCT. 18. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, arrived in Shanghai this evening to garner support from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries in America's battle against terrorism and meet the Chinese President, Mr. Jiang Zemin, for the first time since the former taking office. Chinese authorities have put in place extremely tight security arrangements in Shanghai. Few details are being released about Mr. Bush's schedule of meetings in view of security dictates.

"We'll be strengthening our cooperation in the war on terror. We'll strengthen the economic ties that bring growth and hope to the entire world," Mr. Bush was quoted as saying en route from Washington to Shanghai. "The terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, and we will defeat them by expanding and encouraging world trade," he was quoted as saying.

Mr. Bush will meet Mr. Jiang tomorrow in what will be his most important bilateral meeting in Shanghai. He is also expected to have separate meetings with leaders of South Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Brunei, Peru, Singapore and Russia during his stay here.

Asked about the Bush-Jiang meeting, the U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said Washington had been encouraged by the response from China in the wake of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. This support in the battle against terrorism was likely to figure in the talks between the two leaders tomorrow, Gen. Powell told reporters at a press conference this afternoon.

Referring to the multi-faceted relationship with China, including in the area of trade, Gen. Powell specifically referred to the



The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, receives flowers from a girl as he arrives at Shanghai's Pudong International Airport to attend the APEC Summit, on Thursday. (Right) The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, poses for photographers on his arrival at the airport. — AP

spy plane incident of April 1 this year and how the two countries had resolved that issue.

According to Gen. Powell, there remained differences between China and the U.S. He mentioned two specific issues — those of (missile) proliferation and human rights. He said the two countries had a valuable relationship and could speak candidly with each other about their differences.

In response to the same question, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, said the summit meeting between Mr. Bush and Mr. Jiang was "important" and took place at a time when the relationship between the two countries was improving. Stating that China was ready to

enhance cooperation with the U.S., Mr. Tang said while there were differences between the two countries, it was necessary not to lose sight of the wide areas of agreement. From the Chinese perspective, Mr. Tang stressed the appropriate handling of the Taiwan issue.

The issue of American arms sales to Taiwan has been a ticklish issue between the two countries and the Bush administration, in its early days, had made no bones of the fact that it views China as a "strategic competitor".

This description was particularly jarring because the then U.S. President, Mr. Bill Clinton, had publicly referred to China as a "strategic partner".

However, the need for Chinese support in the battle against terrorism had forced such issues to the background. With the U.S. focused on a single-point agenda at the moment, bilateral relations between the U.S. and China should have an easier ride.

Another issue on which China has been strident in its criticism is that of missile defence. A recent statement from Mr. Bush reiterating the relevance of missile defence would have been noted in China, but this is unlikely to be made into a big issue at the moment.

On terrorism, China has repeatedly stated that it is opposed to all forms of terrorism and favours a greater U.N. role in the battle against this scourge.

THE HINDU
19/10

U.S., Malaysia play down differences

By Amit Baruah

19/10

SHANGHAI, OCT. 18. The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, said today that some of his Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) counterparts had expressed the hope that the military campaign in Afghanistan be ended quickly on a note of success.

Both Gen. Powell and the Malaysian Trade Minister, Ms. Rafidah Aziz, played down previous differences on the military campaign, saying that APEC Ministers did not discuss Afghanistan at a breakfast meeting today.

But, while APEC Ministers said that a consensus on condemning terrorism had been reached, the Malaysian Minister did stress that the world community had to be mindful about the root causes of the terrorist strikes in the U.S. on September 11. "We are concerned about the loss of civilian lives," she said in the presence of Gen. Powell at a press conference. For his part, Gen. Powell said at a joint APEC ministerial press conference that the upcoming APEC Leaders' Meeting would discuss the issue of terrorism. He stressed that there was a new threat against APEC economies and they needed to respond "all together" to this new threat.

Gen. Powell said those who participated in terrorism were "criminals and murderers" and there was uniform understanding of this basic concept. The military campaign in Afghanistan was just one part of a larger anti-terrorism effort which included financial controls, intelligence work, and political, diplomatic and legal activities.

"The military campaign is necessary to root out terrorists in Afghanistan and also to separate them from the regime and punish the Taliban for harbouring them," Gen. Powell said.

Earlier, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, said a "consensus" on anti-terrorism had been reached by APEC Ministers. The points of consensus, he said, were that all forms of terrorist activities posed a threat to international peace and security and should be condemned and fought against. The international community, the Minister said, should take a common stand on the issue.

All anti-terrorist international covenants and U.N. resolutions should be implemented and the funding of terrorists be prevented while dealing with them according to law. The battle against terrorism was a "just-versus-evil" struggle rather than a conflict between different ethnic groups, religions or cultures. APEC Foreign Ministers, he said, believed that dialogue, accommodation and cooperation among "different civilisations" needed to be promoted.

A Japanese Government official said there was a "broad meeting of minds" among Ministers on anti-terrorism, who also endorsed the view that a declaration on the problem be issued by APEC leaders. According to him, the language of the declaration was "still being worked out".

In one of the first signs that the U.S. would consider a role for the United Nations in Afghanistan, Gen. Powell, who arrived here last night, told reporters on board his plane that U.N. peace-keepers may have a role to play in the transition to a new Government which will replace the Taliban.

"I think there probably will be a role for the peace-keepers of some kind and that's part of our discussions," he said adding that he was talking to the U.N. about a post-Taliban Afghanistan, with the former King Zahir Shah emerging as a political rallying point.

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THE HINDU

Apec splits hair on terrorism

Shanghai, Oct. 17 (Reuters): Pacific Rim ministers sought to hammer out a compromise agreement on fighting terrorism today as predominately Muslim Malaysia fired a fresh blast of criticism at US strikes on Afghanistan.

Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) ministers in Shanghai are also debating measures to boost the slumping global economy, but there was little sign any new ground would be broken, even as the World Bank issued a dire forecast on the global outlook. Revisions to a counter-terror declaration, which has added a political plank to Apec's normal economic agenda in the wake of the attacks on the US, are already under way.

An earlier US-written draft condemned terrorism with utmost vigour, and called for continued efforts to tighten airport and port security and anti-money laundering measures.

But in an apparent nod to China, a later version waters down other measures and completely drops the term "money-laundering", although it strengthens language condemning the attacks — calling them "murderous" and adds a provision on border security.

Neither draft carries any reference to the US strikes on Afghanistan, which followed the September suicide crashes into buildings in New York and Washington that killed more than 5,000.



A security officer patrols inside the international media centre where the Apec meet is on in Shanghai. (AFP)

US secretary of state Colin Powell arrives late today to seek support for the war on terrorism, followed by President George W. Bush tomorrow.

But building a united coalition will be difficult without backing from Malaysia and Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation. Malaysian trade minister Rafidah Aziz said today the US-led strikes could end up spawning more of the terrorism Washington has vowed to crush, hardening her government's opposition to the use of military force in Afghanistan.

"You wipe out one generation of terrorists, a new generation emerges," Rafidah said.

"We all feel that terrorism should be eradicated, but it cannot be eradicated with the use of physical methods like bombing...because terrorism is a state of mind. It's not like a virus where you kill the bacteria and it goes off," she said.

While officials have been long on rhetoric about boosting economic confidence, a draft of the general ministerial declaration shows no new initiatives to cushion the impact of a global slow-

down made worse by the September 11 attacks. The talks are being held against a backdrop of global and regional economic malaise — with Hong Kong and Japan teetering on recession and Singapore already mired in its worst since 1985.

Asian economies are eyeing the US market as a means of exporting themselves back to growth, but the September 11 attacks have pushed the world's largest economy closer to recession. The World Bank yesterday warned East Asia's growth would slip to 4.6 per cent in 2001 from 7.3 per cent in 2000 as the attacks prolong the economic slowdown.

The bland economic declaration proposed for ministers of the 21-member Apec forum pushed concerns about the economy even lower down the agenda at a gathering overshadowed by the anti-terrorism debate.

The draft statement by foreign and trade ministers said a synchronised slowdown in the US, Japan and Europe had dramatically dampened prospects for Asia-Pacific and global economies even before the attacks.

Nevertheless, the ministers, who meet today and tomorrow to make final preparations for a weekend summit — which Bush, Russian President Vladimir Putin and China President Jiang Zemin among others will attend — said their confidence in the economic outlook was undimmed.

THE TELEGRAPH

18 OCT 2001

APEC leaders see need for fresh WTO round

By Amif Baruah

SHANGHAI, Oct. 17. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, arrives here tomorrow as Asia-Pacific Cooperation (APEC) Trade and Foreign Ministers took the view that the launch of a fresh WTO round of trade negotiations was essential to inject new life into a flagging world economy. It will be his first trip abroad since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Mr. Bush, in fact, comes two days in advance of the APEC Economic Leaders' meeting which is only scheduled to begin on Saturday.

It is clear that the American President, who will have his first-ever meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Mr. Jiang Zemin, wants to use the time before the summit to shore up his anti-terrorist coalition.

The Russian President, Mr. Vladimir Putin, will also arrive in Shanghai tomorrow. Interestingly, the Philippine and Indonesian Presidents, Ms. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Ms. Megawati Su-

karnoputri, will arrive only on Friday. In the time available to him, Mr. Bush is expected to hold hectic meetings with individual APEC leaders as he seeks sanction from the larger world community in the battle against terrorism.

His meeting with Mr. Jiang will be crucial — while Beijing has clearly said that it is opposed to terrorism of all kinds — no open-ended support to the American military strikes against Afghanistan has been forthcoming. China, as is well known, favours greater United Nations involvement in such actions.

In the meeting with Mr. Jiang, American concerns like missile proliferation and human rights are also expected to figure though it remains to be seen whether Washington chooses to stress these issues at a time when Beijing's support in the "war" against terrorism is important. Giving an account of the discussions at APEC Ministerial Meeting today, a Japanese official said there was a general meeting of minds that a new round of trade negotiations should be

launched at the Fourth WTO Ministerial Meeting. "All Ministers expressed their will to see a new round," the official said at a briefing today.

The official said Japan wanted anti-dumping, investment, trade and environment to be on the agenda for discussions when the new round was launched. The only reference to the concerns of developing countries was on the issue of "capacity-building".

It would appear that the APEC meeting has as its core offering the proposed "launch" of a new WTO round as it discusses the health of the global economy. With the developed world pushing hard on the issue, opposition to the launch of a new round before implementation issues flowing from the Uruguay Round are addressed seems to be thinning.

The Philippine Trade Secretary, Mr. Manuel Roxas, told *The Hindu* that Manila's position was that the agenda for future discussions must include the concerns of developing countries — including the gaps in implementation. Mr.

Roxas said the mandated discussions on agriculture should commence as it was a commitment from the previous round.

"The general sense (among the Ministers on the new round) was that the Sept. 11 events (showed).... urgency for the economies to find common ground. ...it is important that there be a confluence of interests between the developed and developing countries in view of the slow-down in the world economy as further magnified by the Sept. 11 attacks," he said.

Mr. Roxas said a draft declaration on terrorism did not come up for discussions at the Ministerial Meeting today. He expected that the issue of terrorism would be taken up at the two-day summit meeting beginning on Saturday. "They (the leaders) will be the ones to focus on security matters."

Responding to reports that a reference to money-laundering had apparently been dropped from the draft declaration, Mr. Roxas said: "That will be discussed at the leaders' summit...."

In his address at the Ministerial meeting, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Mr. Tang Jiaxuan, said: "Currently, how to promote growth and restore confidence in the market is an issue on the top of our agenda... we must also take up the challenge of enabling people from all sectors in the Asia-Pacific region to benefit from economic globalisation and the New Economy without widening development gaps between them." In a separate development, the Malaysian Trade Minister, Ms. Rafidah Aziz, has warned that the American military action could lead to the creation of more terrorists.

Ms. Aziz said: "You wipe out one generation of terrorists, a new generation emerges. We all feel that terrorism should be eradicated, but it cannot be eradicated with the use of physical methods like bombing... because terrorism is a state of mind," she said.

"Worst of all, those Afghan children whose parents have now died, they might out to be terrorists in future," she remarked.

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China on show at APEC meet

By Amit Baruah

SHANGHAI, Oct. 17. The country is on show. It's powerful skyscrapers and enormous human resources have been mobilised to put up a grand spectacle for the ongoing Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum meetings.

Shanghai's Pudong district was all lit up last night. More than 1,000 fluent English-speaking volunteers have been assigned to help about 15,000 delegates, business people and journalists to attend and report APEC deliberations.

The arrangements in this city of 14.2 million people are impressive. With thousands of delegates and mediapersons from 21 nations covering the week-long APEC deliberations, China could not have found a better occasion to showcase itself to the world.

The streets leading to the APEC venues are almost "car-less" — an indication of the heavy security that has been mounted. Pudong, Shanghai's spanking-new business district, which is holding the conference, has been spruced up. Even along the expressway, you can see workers picking up the last bit of paper from the streets. Beginning today, many Shanghai residents will begin a five-day holiday to "keep the streets clear", the *Shanghai Daily* reported.

More than 10,000 security personnel are involved in the protection of conference venues, while the country has tightened air traffic control and surveillance, apart from increased patrolling in the waters off Shanghai.

"The year 2001 has been good for China. It won the bid to hold the 2001 Olympics in Beijing in 2008 and its football team has made a surprise entry into the World Cup finals. And, then there's APEC, of course," one diplomat told this correspondent. "The idea is to tell the world that China is a power house and Shanghai is representative of that growth."

It's being laid on thick by the Chinese. From the airport to the hotel to the media centre, volunteers are at hand to guide you at every step even as security personnel keep a close watch.

There is an APEC channel broadcasting detailed updates throughout the day. A "message channel" displays what press conferences are being held at designated media hotels.

About 20 five and four-star hotels are housing APEC visitors. A total of 2,200 vehicles have been pressed into service.

Growth in economy

It was officially announced today that China's economy grew by 7.6 per cent during the first three quarters of 2001 defying the slowdown in much of East and South East Asia. Preliminary figures suggest that China's GDP rose to U.S. \$6.7 trillion between January and September this year.

"China's economy continued to develop at a fast pace due to a series of policies designed to stimulate domestic demand in the light of the global economic slowdown," Mr. Li Xiaochao, spokesman for China's statistics bureau, said.

Retail sales, he pointed out, of consumer goods touched U.S. \$322.8 billion between January and September, an increase of 10.1 per cent compared to the previous year.

But the slowdown in the world economy has affected China as well. Despite the positive results, Mr. Li conceded that overall economic growth in China was slow. That, he said, was partly due to a stagnating American economy having a ripple effect on the rest of the world.

Whatever be the immediate prospects of China's economic growth, a comparison with India is telling. Shanghai, along with the neighbouring provinces of Jiangsu and Zhejiang, in 2000 had a GDP of U.S. \$230 billion — almost half that of India. The total exports of these three East China provinces were U.S. \$70.51 billion, twice those of India. And, in 2000, the total amount of foreign direct investment was U.S. \$11.4 billion — four times that of India.

One of the many official information booklets given to the international media has this to say about China's commercial capital: "Shanghai plays a decisive role in the country. With a population of only one per cent and a land area of 0.06 per cent of the nation, Shanghai contributes to one-twelfth of the nation's total industrial output value, one-sixth of the country's port cargo handling volume, one-fourth of the country's total exports and one-eighth of national financial revenue..." Shanghai may not be the colonialists' "Paris of the East" anymore, but its centrality to the economic life of China remains unchallenged.

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Apec ministers meet, talk terror

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE 29-7

SHANGHAI, Oct. 17. — Asia-Pacific governments opened a two-day ministerial meeting here today to put the finishing touches to an anti-terrorism declaration to be issued by leaders including George W Bush. The US president will be joining the Shanghai gathering from Friday for a weekend summit that will be the biggest international meeting since the 11 September terrorist attacks on the USA.

The Chinese foreign minister, Mr Tang Jiaxuan, opening the meeting of foreign and trade ministers from the Apec also reminded delegates of the 21-member bloc's free-trade and development goals.

"We should take effective fis-

cal and financial measures to stabilise the market, restore confidence and facilitate growth so as to enable all the Apec economies to come out, as soon as possible, of the economic slowdown," he said.

Manila, rebels walk truce path

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct. 17. — Philippine government officials and Muslim rebels expect to sign a fresh ceasefire pact in Malaysia on Saturday after earlier peace agreements were broken by renewed fighting, a rebel spokesman said. "We hope what we sign now will, once and for all, lay the ground rules for the ceasefire," he said. — Reuters

THE STATESMAN

18 OCT 2001

Anti-terror agenda may overshadow APEC meet

By Amit Baruah

SHANGHAI, OCT. 16. Anti-terrorist coalition-building threatens to derail the economic agenda at the Ninth Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' meeting, which is being seen as the single-most important international summit conference hosted by modern China.

The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, who will be here over the weekend for what will be the largest gathering of world leaders since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, will naturally be keen to shore up his anti-terrorist agenda in the presence of top world leaders.

Prior to the terrorist attacks in the U.S., it was hoped that the 21-nation APEC grouping, which brings together China, Russia, Canada, Indonesia, Australia and Malaysia, among others, would use the Ministerial Meeting, beginning tomorrow, and the Leaders' summit over the weekend, to provide fresh impetus to flagging economies.

Now, while what is being projected as a global economic slowdown will be discussed, it is apparent that America, which is leading the battle against terrorism in Afghanistan, will have other things on its mind.

A draft anti-terrorism declaration has been circulated even as the Senior Officials Meeting (SOM), who were discussing issues relating to free trade and investment, ended their deliberations a day ahead of schedule.

According to the Chinese Vice-Foreign Minister, Mr. Wang Guangya, APEC member economies will fine-tune a statement on reaffirming their commitment to the Bogor (Indonesia) goals, whose objective is free trade and investment for developed countries by 2010 and for the rest by 2020.

Separately, Ms. Zhang Qiyue, spokesperson for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, who took the view that the anti-terrorist agenda

would not overshadow the APEC deliberations, said APEC Ministers would discuss the issue at a breakfast meeting on Thursday.

"To discuss anti-terrorism issues is the common wish of all member economies, not just the desire of the United States," she said. "But, we won't change APEC's role as an economic forum since the main objective of APEC is to promote economic cooperation," Ms. Zhang added.

The fact that a draft anti-terrorism declaration is being discussed, and will be possibly issued at the end of the meeting, is a first for the APEC forum, which has in the past concentrated on trade and investment issues.

The "new agenda" could face problems from Indonesia and Malaysia, which have called for an end to American military strikes against Afghanistan. For his part, the Malaysian Prime Minister, Dr. Mahathir Mohamad,

who will be in Shanghai later this week, has taken a strong stand against Osama bin Laden and his associates.

The Indonesian President, Ms. Megawati Sukarnoputri, criticised the U.S. sharply on Sunday, indicating that she was unhappy with the unilateralist approach taken by Washington in its attacks on Washington.

Dr. Mahathir, particularly, is known to speak his mind and he will, perhaps, use the APEC Forum to project his own point of view — while condemning the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks — he is also opposed to the reaction from the U.S.

On the economic front, APEC is expected to issue a call for a new round of trade negotiations under the auspices of the World Trade Organisation (WTO). Here, too, Malaysian officials in the past have expressed concerns about the launch of a new round, and Kuala Lumpur's position on the issue will be closely watched.

17 OCT 2001

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Summit in shadow of terrorism

APBC
19/10

Shanghai, Oct. 14 (Reuters): With patrol boats cruising Shanghai waterways and armed soldiers at the city limits, host China beefed up security today for the highest profile gathering of world leaders since the September 11 attacks on the US.

But Chinese officials said they were determined the terrorism issue would not overshadow the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting of 21 members which opens on Monday in Shanghai.

More than 10,000 police and security personnel have been mobilised to protect the event to be attended by US President George W. Bush, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Russian President Vladimir Putin and other leaders.

People's Liberation Army soldiers wearing camouflage and face paint guarded checkpoints on roads leading into Shanghai, inspecting luggage on buses and turning back out-of-town trucks.

In the heart of China's financial centre, police have been checking IDs at train stations and on street corners ahead of the arrival of some 7,800 delegates.

German shepherds, Rottweilers and spaniels sniffed for bombs at the media centre, expected to host around 3,000 journalists.

State media said China had added more guards aboard com-

mercial airliners and imposed quarantine restrictions on international express mail to prevent germ warfare by post.

Mayor Xu Kuangdi declared last week that Shanghai was "the safest city in the world".

China's Apec spokeswoman Zhang Qiyue said she hoped the meeting would focus on its traditional economic agenda.

"Of course, the attack on the United States that took place on September 11 is an issue that is a concern to everyone,"

Zhang told a news conference.

"As the host of this Apec meeting, our leaders have also proposed the exchange of views concerning this question to be discussed," she said.

"But I think the character and the nature of this Apec meeting will remain the same."

Host China is keen to keep terror from dominating the week of talks. Zhang said in an interview the global economy, already teetering before the attacks, should top the agenda.

Analysts say a successful summit could help soften the downturn in the world's economies through shoring up fragile business and consumer confidence.

Apec includes the world's two biggest economies, the US and Japan. The group's members boasted a combined GDP of \$18

trillion in 1999. They represent about 44 percent of global trade.

Still, critics caution that Apec's consensus building methods result in watered down policy statements. The vast differences among its members, ranging from the US to Papua New Guinea, make meaningful action unlikely, they say.

Senior officials gather on Monday to hammer out the agenda for the foreign and trade ministers, who will forward it for endorsement to the summit of leaders on October 20-21. But with US warplanes pounding Afghanistan, and anti-US protests in Apec members Indonesia and Malaysia, it will be hard to keep attention on the usual topics of free trade and investment. US officials have said Bush will use the meetings as a platform to build support for the war on terrorism.

"Like it or not, the whole thing is going to be dominated by terrorism and the only real measure of its success will be whether President Bush turns up," said one Apec source.

"China's got to be a bit nervous." The US administration has said on several occasions that Bush is committed to attending Apec, although in the aftermath of the attacks he cancelled plans for visits to Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo in connection with the trip.

THE TELEGRAPH

15 OCT 2002

APEC forum upbeat

SHANGHAI (CHINA), SEPT. 9. The U.S. Treasury Secretary, Mr. Paul O'Neill, joined Asia-Pacific Finance Ministers on Sunday in an upbeat assessment of the global economy, predicting a quick U.S. recovery and applauding Japan's painful reforms.

Mr. O'Neill and other finance chiefs of the 21-member Asia Pacific Cooperation forum wrapped up a two-day meeting in the Chinese city of Suzhou.

In a closing statement, they expressed optimism the U.S. economy will pick up by year's end, giving a needed boost to sagging world growth rates.

"Long-term prospects remain favorable" in the global economy, the statement said.

Europe was the only economic power singled out for not doing enough to help end the global slowdown. The Ministers scolded the European Central Bank for failing to cut interest rates as aggressively as the U.S. Federal Reserve.

"Europeans can do a bit more," said Singapore's Finance Minister, Mr. Richard Hu.

In his comments, Mr. O'Neill said he saw the U.S. growth rate rebounding to 3.2 per cent next year. Figures last week showed the U.S. economy expanded at a sluggish 0.2 per cent in the April-June quarter.

He brushed aside Friday's Labour Department figures showing August unemployment at a four-year high of 4.9 per cent, saying there were already signs a pick-up in business spending was shrinking inventories. — AP

THE HINDU

10 SEP 2001

Apec wants Beijing at WTO talks this year

REUTERS

5-10 9/6
SHANGHAI, June 7. — Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) trade chiefs today made an urgent plea to the WTO to restart trade talks this year — with China at the table.

"To inject vigour into their respective economies, the ministers agreed to further enhance bilateral and multilateral cooperation to promote free and open trade and investment," Apec trade ministers said in a declaration after two days of talks.

"The ministers welcomed the substantial progress in the negotiations on China's accession to the WTO and urged for rapid conclusion of the process within 2001," the declaration added.

The US Trade Representative, Mr Robert Zoellick, who met China's chief WTO negotiator, Mr Long Yongtu, and the trade minister, Mr Shi Guangsheng, on Apec's sidelines to smooth Beijing's WTO bid, also backed the call.

"I believe that it's very important for China to join the WTO. I hope it can happen this year," Mr Zoellick told a news conference at the close of the meeting of Apec trade ministers.

Multilateral talks at the WTO's Geneva headquarters have been set for later this month to thrash out the issue of China's entry.

Apec trade chiefs, representing some 60 per cent of world output and almost half global trade, made their pleas for free trade against a backdrop of a rapidly slowing global economy, which they fear could resurrect the spectre of protectionism.

The eight-page declaration also pledged that Apec's 21-member economies would not raise fresh barriers to trade ahead of the next WTO summit, scheduled for November in Qatar.

That commitment bridged a divide between developed and developing nations at odds earlier in the day over a moratorium on tariffs until a new global round of trade talks began.

Apec's resonating and unanimous call was all the more striking for having been achieved despite trade rows that festered between various members on the conference's sidelines.

A tit-for-tat row on import curbs between China and Japan had been the most visible, escalating through the week to the point that Beijing hinted today it might make more aggressive retaliatory moves if Tokyo did not back down.

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Concern in Asia-Pacific over NMD

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, MAY 12. The debate on the merits and demerits of the National Missile Defence (NMD), which the U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush, has promised to build is growing in the Asia-Pacific region.

While Australia is an unqualified backer of everything the U.S. does or does not do, there are signs of concern in the region about the NMD in particular and the new American approach in general.

In a sharply-worded editorial, Singapore's *The Straits Times* has argued that there was no logical answer to why Mr. Bush had committed his country to building the shield.

"Almost all the experts — the (American) Joint Chiefs, the intelligence community, numerous scientists from the best universities — say the threat the (anti-missile) system is designed to counter is either exaggerated or non-existent.

"Moreover, not a single component of the system has been proven to work under realistic conditions. Of the 20 or so inter-

ceptor tests conducted since 1983, only three have been successful. The first two, in 1984 and 1991, were found later to have been faked; and the third, last year, is the subject of a probe by the (U.S.) Government Accounting Office, this newspaper has learnt, to ascertain if the Pentagon's claims match the test data," the paper said.

Building the shield, the paper said, might lead to Russia suspending the Start II Treaty, banning multiple warhead missiles, and China, according to U.S. intelligence, may increase its arsenal from 20 to 200.

"And, secondly, all the other potential nuclear powers in Asia — India, Pakistan, Japan, the two Koreas — will be tempted to become actual nuclear powers, setting off a regional arms race. The end result will not be more security, but less, for everyone, including the U.S.," the paper added.

Taking a diametrically opposite view, *The Asian Wall Street Journal* enthusiastically backed the NMD. "Far from isolating the U.S., the deployment of NMD could go far to demonstrate a continuing U.S. commitment. For

Japan, it would mean an extra measure of security against China and North Korea.

"For India and Pakistan, nuclear powers who are continually sniping at each other, the presence of a sea-based American missile defence capable of taking out missiles fired in anger might go a long way toward decreasing regional tensions," the paper said in an editorial.

It appears evident that the path of dialogue that was adopted by the previous U.S. administration towards North Korea and China is at an end. The newspaper did not refer at all to the engagement process with these countries.

"Missile defence has a lot to recommend it anywhere, but perhaps most of all in Asia where Japan and Taiwan are worried about neighbours' intentions... while countries in West Asia like Iraq and Iran often get more press for their twitchy fingers, Pyongyang has developed multiple-stage rockets and, the CIA believes, has a couple of atomic weapons. It could use these to blackmail its neighbours and the U.S.," the editorial added.

THE HINDU

21 MAY 2001

US missile plan sends fear through Asia-Pacific

By MICHAEL RICHARDSON
International Herald Tribune

Singapore, Feb 8: China's angst about US policy toward Asia under the Bush administration has been signalled loudly and clearly. Beijing worries that Washington will harden its approach to China and press ahead with development of a missile defence shield while strengthening military ties with both Taiwan and Japan.

Less well known, and perhaps less predictable, are the private concerns of US allies and friends in the Asia-Pacific region.

They fear that American policy will so antagonise China that it triggers a new nuclear arms race in

the region, causes instability that stymies economic growth and investment, and forces countries in the region to choose sides in the feuding between Washington and Beijing.

"Whenever the US and China have tensions, the rest of the region has to bear the brunt of it," said Melina Nathan, associate research fellow at the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies in Singapore.

The Japanese foreign minister, Yohel Kono, plans to meet with secretary of state Colin Powell in Washington on Friday. It is a meeting that underscores the Bush administration's commitment to base Asia policy more firmly on the long-standing alliances and

close security ties that the United States has with countries in the region, particularly Japan, South Korea and Australia.

Appearing before the Senate foreign relations committee last week, Mr Powell described China as "a competitor and a potential regional rival but also a trading partner," depiction's that contrasted with Bill Clinton's reference to China as a "strategic partner" when he was the President. "But," Mr Powell added, "China is not an enemy and our challenge is to keep it that way." He also said Japan, South Korea and Australia "and other allies and friends in the region have a stake in this process of nurturing a constructive relationship.

and we will want to work with them in responding to a new and dynamic China."

Although Mr Powell's remarks sounded positive, some Asian officials said they were concerned that the emphatic importance being given to Taiwan and missile defence by the Bush administration could override other strands of US policy toward Asia.

"Taiwan is a visceral issue for China," a Southeast Asian official said.

"And if the US deploys theatre missile defences to protect its allies and forces in the Western Pacific, China is sure to increase its rather modest nuclear arsenal so that it won't be neutralised. This will

prompt India, Pakistan and perhaps other Asian countries to follow. We'll have a new nuclear arms race."

Beijing regards Taiwan as a rebel province that must eventually unify with the mainland, by force if necessary.

Mr Powell reiterated the long-standing US commitment to the "one China" principle demanded by Beijing. But he said there must be a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan problem, one that was acceptable to people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait.

"This is one of the fundamentals that we feel strongly about and that all should be absolutely clear about," he added. //

THE ASIAN AGE

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