

# US denies planning assault on Iraq

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, JULY 30

ANY of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear arms sites are "deeply buried" and would be difficult to destroy using air power alone, US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Monday.

He refused to say how Washington might go after such deadly arms stores and research facilities, but lashed out at recent and conflicting reports of US planning for a military ground and air assault to remove President Saddam Hussein from power.

"The Iraqis have a great deal of what they do deeply buried," he said, responding to questions at a

press conference in Virginia. Mobile trailers, he said, were another problem for air power alone. "A biological laboratory can be on wheels in a trailer and make a lot of bad stuff. And it's movable and it looks like most any other trailer," he said when asked why the US did not simply bomb "weapons of mass destruction" sites.

Rumsfeld said the Iraqis had benefited from information from American spies who had defected to the Soviet Union and Russia — a long-time friend of Baghdad — and learned how to conceal the "precise location, actionable locations" of military targets.

"You don't believe everything you read in the newspaper, do you?" he quipped to laughter when asked about a *Post* report that many

**'US exploited inspectors'**  
STOCKHOLM. Former chief UN arms inspector Palf Ekeus has accused the US and other powers of exploiting UN inspection teams in Iraq for their own political ends, including tracking President Saddam Hussein's movements. Ekeus, the Swedish diplomat who led the first inspections from 1991-97, said, at times, crises were created that could possibly form the basis for military action. — Reuters



senior US military commanders favoured continuing the current US policy of "containment" of Saddam rather than trying to remove him with military might.

The *New York Times* reported on Monday that US officials were exploring the idea of seizing Baghdad and one or two key command centres and weapons depots in the hope of toppling Saddam's government.

The article, which drew no substantive comment from the White House, was the latest in a series of newspaper accounts of possible US military strategies toward Iraq, ranging from a three-pronged mass assault from Kuwait, Jordan and Turkey to US generals lobbying against any attack at all.

The newspaper stories have angered Bush and Rumsfeld, who has said anyone disclosing such top secret information could put US soldiers in danger and should be jailed.

22 JAN 11 1998

702

# U.S. plans to 'strike' Baghdad

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JULY 29. The Bush administration is said to be considering plans to strike Baghdad and one or two command centres in the hope of bringing about a collapse of the Saddam Hussein regime, *The New York Times* said.

The so-called inside-out approach will capitalise on the United States' strike ability over long distances and manoeuvring forces to envelop a target, the paper said, quoting unnamed senior administration and Pentagon officials.

The inside-out approach has apparently not yet been presented to the President, George W Bush, or senior members of his national security team. The focus of military planners is on minimising the deployment of American troops and pre-empting Iraq from using weapons of mass destruction. It is believed that it is possible to paralyse the highly centralised and authoritarian system in Iraq.

The Republican administration, starting with the President, has been sharply critical of the Saddam Hussein regime but has not been willing to discuss any of the plans for a military invasion of that country.

Mr. Bush maintains that no war plans have reached his desk. At the heart of the inside-out approach is the reluctance to commit large ground troops in any invasion of Iraq. One estimate is that as many as 250,000 troops will be needed for a variety of combat tasks, including support functions.

The Defence Department has made no official comment on the *Times* report; and the Pentagon says it will not comment on potential military plans for Iraq. But Iraq has been receiving increasing attention.

The Senate Foreign Relations Committee is due to hold a number of hearings on Iraq this week. "There is a divergence of views on how can one best diminish the prospect that he uses weapons of mass destruction with any efficacy," said the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden, who insists that the administration has not yet briefed him on the latest thinking.

"That is where the argument for an inside-out operation gains credibility. There is a diminished possibility that he (Saddam Hussein) will use chemical or biological weapons," Mr. Biden has said in an interview.

Although there is wide support on Capitol Hill for measures to oust Mr. Hussein, several lawmakers — including top Republicans — have said that Mr. Bush must make a convincing case that there is a direct threat against America before it engages in any massive operation against Iraq.

30 JUL 2002

## SPOTLIGHT ON JAMMU & KASHMIR POLLS

# U.S. steps up pressure on India, Pakistan

By Amit Baruah

110-1  
2507

NEW DELHI, JULY 29. Great power diplomacy led by the Americans is in full play in South Asia. An intensive exercise is under way to nudge both India and Pakistan towards some "forward movement" on the Kashmir issue.

The United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who spoke frankly on a range of issues during his visit to New Delhi on Sunday, has placed the spotlight on the coming elections to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly.

Interestingly, America's chief diplomat put the onus on both Pakistan and India to provide a conducive atmosphere for elections in Jammu and Kashmir which he saw as a "first step" towards addressing the larger issue to address Kashmiri grievances.

"There should hopefully be an atmosphere of safety and peace provided by both sides. I will be speaking to the Pakistani side about taking every effort to avoid disturbing these elections..." he said in response to questions at his press conference.

A "credible" election held in Jammu and Kashmir cuts at the heart of Pakistan's strategic interest in the Indian State.

That has traditionally been the case and there is no reason to believe that this overarching interest has altered in any fashion.

Pakistan has always called elections in Jammu and Kashmir "a sham" and continues to describe Farooq Abdullah as the "puppet" Chief Minister of the "Indian-held Kashmir".

Though levels of violence may have possibly dipped in recent weeks on account of the post-September 11 pressures, the terror potential of the "jehadi groups" remains intact. Whether the Pakistani establishment controls each and every "jehadi" group to the last "action", of course, remains an open question.

US (U)  
South Asia

By saying that he will tell Pakistan not to disturb the Kashmir elections, Gen. Powell has taken on an enormous responsibility. The American ability to restrain Pakistan during the elections will be closely watched.

While Gen. Powell may have lectured India on the fine details of holding elections in Kashmir, he has also placed the American Government's credibility on the line by committing himself to ask Pakistan not to disturb the polls.

If Gen. Powell is successful in this venture, it will make New Delhi's job easier in conducting the polls — an issue which must necessarily remain an open question till the elections are over.

As the American-led diplomatic exercise unfolds, it would be instructive for the Bush administration to analyse the results of the post-May 1998 efforts which had been launched when Bill Clinton was the American President.

At that time, too, a succession of visits from the U.S. State Department took place — an exercise which culminated in the February 1999 visit of the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, to Lahore.

Soon after, however, the Kargil incursion by Pakistan unfolded and all the gains made from the Lahore visit were nullified. And, yet another downward spiral in India-Pakistan relations which led to a limited war followed.

There is no doubt that India did little wrong after Lahore — it was the Pakistani establishment which launched its adventurist exercise — for which it had to pay a heavy diplomatic price as well.

Ironically, in 1998 it was Pakistan that was not keen on a dialogue with India — today it is keen on resuming talks.

India, for its part, which traditionally favours the bilateral route, wants Pakistan to create a conducive atmosphere for the talks — by ending cross-border terrorism.

THE HINDI

3 5

11 2002

# US weighs selective Iraq hits

*3/3 20/7*  
**New York, July 29** (Agencies): The United States is exploring the concept of taking Baghdad and one or two key command centres and weapons depots first in the hope of prompting a quick collapse of Saddam Hussein's Iraqi government, the *New York Times* reported today.

The aim would be to kill or isolate Saddam and pre-empt Iraq's use of weapons of mass destruction, whether against an incoming force, front-line allies or Israel. The Baghdad-first or "inside-out" approach would capitalise on the American military's ability to strike over long distances, manoeuvring forces to envelop a large target, the *Times* said, citing senior administration and Pentagon officials.

Advocates of the plan say it reflects the desire to avoid committing a quarter-million American troops, yet hits hard enough to succeed, the newspaper said.

The advantages and risks of strikes aimed deep inside the country and radiating outward are under discussion, though no formal plan has been presented to President George W. Bush or senior members of his national security team.

Officials say it may be possible to paralyse the highly centralised and authoritarian Iraqi command-and-control system. Mid-level officers are not taught to improvise, should they be cut off from commanders.

While other options are being considered, the Baghdad plan could appeal to Gulf allies of the US who are nervous about a large-scale US military deployment, the unnamed officials told the *Times*. Yet the 250,000-man figure could still be accurate, the newspaper said, as it might take that many troops to ensure that forces dropped into Baghdad are not isolated or surrounded, bereft of support, food and ammunition.

Defence department deputy spokesman Bryan Whizman had no comment in response to the article, the newspaper said.

## Dissidents' council

Exiled Iraqi dissidents, including Nizar al-Khazraji, plan to set up a "higher council of national salvation," an aide of the Denmark-based former general said today.

"The higher council of national salvation, which will be

formed within days in Denmark, will include 24 members, most of whom held key posts in the Iraqi military or the ruling Baath party" before their defection, the source said.

Members of the proposed council are expected to include ex-military intelligence chief Wafik al-Samarrai, who has been in exile in London since 1997, according to the same source. Khazraji himself said it was "premature" to go into details about the planned body.

Any such move "will be announced in due course," he said. Khazraji and Samarrai stayed away from a conference of former Iraqi army officers held in London in mid-July which set up a 15-member "military council" to spearhead efforts to topple Saddam Hussein.

Two Kurdish guerrillas have been killed in gun battles between rival factions in breakaway northern Iraq, a senior official in the regional administration said. Fighting broke out after about 10 members of the Kurdistan Democratic Solution Party entered territory controlled by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK).



President George W. Bush takes a break while playing golf at the Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland. (AFP)

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR OBSERVERS IN J&K

# Delhi says no to Powell prescription

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, July 28. — The US secretary of state today raised hackles in the government by suggesting that India should permit "independent observers" to monitor the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections and free "political prisoners" to make the polls more credible.

"We look forward," Gen Colin Powell said, "to concrete steps by India to foster Kashmiri confidence in the election process. Permitting independent observers and freeing political prisoners would be helpful."

India rejected the suggestions, saying it did not need "prescriptions" on how to conduct polls, nor were there any political prisoners in the state. "We don't need prescriptions and advice by self-styled monitors on how to conduct free and fair polls," said a foreign ministry spokesperson.

Gen Powell, however, said he was here not as a mediator, but "as a friend". J&K polls alone, he said, wouldn't resolve Indo-Pak problems, but could be a first step in a process that would address the grievances of Kashmiris and lead the two countries back to talks.

While ruling out appointment of formal monitors, the government, however, said it had no objections to foreigners visiting J&K to "observe" the election process.

As for the alleged political prisoners, the spokesperson said: "I don't think there are any political prisoners. All these prisoners were arrested for violating the law of the land. Action had to be taken against the people who're engaged in anti-national

activities."

These issues, she said, didn't come up during Gen Powell's talks with the Prime Minister, Mr LK Advani, Mr Brajesh Mishra and Mr Yashwant Sinha. "Had he raised the issues, there would have been frank and forthright discussions. We've said very clearly that we don't object to diplomatic or media representatives wishing to go to the state, but not to investigate or certify the elections."

Instead, the government had made it clear to the secretary of state that New Delhi expected Islamabad to take concrete steps to permanently end infiltration and dismantle the infrastructure of terrorism "before we take any consequential measures".

It was clear de-escalatory measures wouldn't be taken soon.

Gen Powell said in New Delhi as well as Islamabad that infiltration had declined, but not ended. The statement contradicts the Pakistani President's assertion that nothing is happening across the LoC.

(While receiving Gen Powell in Islamabad, Gen Pervez Musharraf said: "Infiltration certainly stopped in the past. It isn't taking place and whatever the Indian side is saying is absolutely baseless," PTI adds.

(He said he didn't need to offer any more concessions to India on Kashmir. "I don't have to do anything because we've already done it." India, he said, should enter into a dialogue with Pakistan to end the stand-off.

(India dismissed Gen Musharraf's claims on infiltration as "terminological inexactitude". The foreign ministry spokesperson said: "Let me say that it's a terminological inexactitude... infiltration continues.")

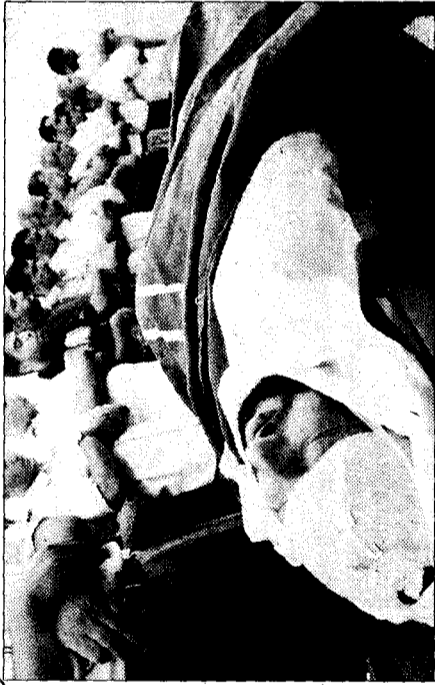
# US calls Palestinians for peace talks

JEFFREY HELLER  
JERUSALEM, JULY 28

THE US said on Sunday it planned talks with Palestinian officials on security reforms and Israel pledged to ease hardships on Palestinians in the West Bank.

It was expected to be the most senior contact between the US Administration and Palestinian Authority officials since President George W. Bush called last month for President Yasser Arafat to be sidelined as Palestinian leader.

"Last week I met with an Israeli delegation. This is part of the process of moving forward to help the Palestinian community transform itself," said US Secretary of State Colin Powell, who is on Asian tour. He said the meeting would be held early next month after he returns to Washington.



**Palestinians pray beside the body of 25-yr-old Anwar Faeed, who died in an Israeli army assault, on Sunday. Reuters**

The new diplomatic efforts to end 22 months of bloodshed came after fresh violence on both sides.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres reaffirmed Israel's intention to ease hardships for 700,000 Palestinians under Israeli

## Arrests shed light on Israelis selling weapons

JERUSALEM: The arrests of 10 Israeli men on suspicion of selling 50,000 spent bullets to Palestinian militants has put the spotlight on a long-running furive trade that helped arm the Palestinians both before and during their current uprising. All of those detained were current or former members of the security forces who apparently tried to exploit their access to ammunition stockpiles.

— AP

In an apparent gesture to ease tension after Tuesday's Gaza Air raid, Israel will hand over \$15 million of frozen tax revenue to the Palestinian Authority on Monday, Israel Radio reported.

Powell made clear that a US

plan for reforming the Palestinian security forces would be a theme of his talks. He said other issues would be peace moves by a "quartet" of mediating entities — the US, Russia, the UN, and the European Union.

In a policy speech last month, Bush accused Palestinian authorities of "encouraging, not opposing, terrorism," an allegation they denied. He called for an externally supervised effort to rebuild and reform Palestinian security services.

Powell said on Sunday the names of the Palestinian participants of the delegation would be announced later. Palestinian Cabinet Minister and senior negotiator Saeb Erekat said on Saturday the delegation would include himself and new Interior Minister Abdel Razzak al Yaha, who is in charge of the Palestinian security forces.

—Reuters

HD-8  
26/7

# India, Pak. recognise need for talks, says Powell

WS (W)  
South Asia

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

**NEW DELHI, JULY 27.** The United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, who held talks this evening with the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, was quoted as telling reporters accompanying him on the flight to New Delhi that both India and Pakistan favoured a dialogue.

"I think both sides now recognise the need for a dialogue. It is a question of timing and it is a question of expectations and conditions met. What I will have to do with both Indians and Pakistanis is when they are comfortable, beginning a dialogue," he said. A controversy surrounding whether or not America's chief diplomat will meet the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, or not has been laid to rest with an official announcement this afternoon that Gen. Powell will meet Mr. Vajpayee tomorrow.

The U.S. Secretary of State, who is on his third visit to India, told presspersons accom-

panying him that he would hear the perception of both India and Pakistan on the question of infiltration, a trend which was "hard to measure with any level of precision".

Asked when he expected an India-Pakistan dialogue to get going, he replied: "Will it be when the escalation goes down? Will it be when there is greater assurance that there is no cross-border infiltration? Will it be when elections (in Jammu & Kashmir) are over?" These, he said, were possibilities to be explored "with the two sides and see if we can even begin talking about talks at some point in the near future".

"Ultimately, we have to get to a dialogue or else we will just be stuck on a plateau which would not serve our interests. We do not want to be back where we were a few months ago..." he was quoted as saying by news agencies.

"I am not expecting a breakthrough yet of the kind we saw a month or so ago...I just

want to make sure we are not just stopped and I want to see what both sides might be willing to do to keep going down that escalatory ladder," Gen. Powell maintained.

From his comments, it is apparent that, in the American perception, the situation in South Asia remains uncertain despite some relaxation in tensions.

The Powell mission, it would appear, is to ensure that tensions remain at the current level between India and Pakistan and there is no escalation.

Clearly, Gen. Powell feels there is considerable scope for a return to the situation that prevailed a couple of months ago between India and Pakistan.

While exploring the possibility of a resumption of talks between India and Pakistan, the U.S. Secretary of the State obviously feels there is a need to engage in person with the Indian and Pakistani leaderships and tell them to move in the direction of de-escalation.

28 JUL 2002

28 JUL 2002

# US mulls arms curbs on Israel

Washington, July 26

WS (2) H. ASH H2-15 2777

THE BUSH administration has served notice on Israel that it is reviewing the use of American equipment in military operations that exact a heavy civilian toll.

The US concern is the impact on difficult peacemaking efforts. Targeting foes of Israel in densely populated areas does not make Israel more secure, State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Thursday. "There's no question of our support for Israel's security. There's no question of our support for Israel's right to defend itself."

But, he said, the bombing does not improve chances for peace and "when we see things that we don't think are advisable we point that out."

The notice of a continuing review came from Secretary of State Colin Powell at a news conference. But he gave no indication that Israel's use of an

American-made F-16 fighter jet to kill Hamas military leader Salah Shehadeh in Gaza City on Tuesday will be judged a violation of US law.

Israel is required to restrict use of American-made weapons to self-defence. Hamas has carried out several suicide bombings that killed scores of Israelis. And according to Israeli officials, Shehadeh was planning more attacks. The bomb was dropped on a densely populated neighbourhood. It levelled three houses and killed 15 Palestinians, including nine children.

Powell said the administration was concerned about the loss of human life and about targeting an individual in a densely populated area. "We are constantly reviewing the manner in which equipment provided to the Government of Israel is used," he said.

Israel also was looking into the strike, including how it was

planned and how it was directed, Powell said at the State Department. "We are not seeing this as a legal issue," spokesman Boucher said later. "We're not trying to find legalistic technicalities to hang Israel on."

## Tanks roll into Gaza

Israeli forces pushed into Gaza City on Friday, blowing up three buildings housing rocket workshops where rockets were being made, the Israeli army said.

Palestinian security officials said four Palestinians were wounded in the first Israeli incursion since an air strike on Tuesday in Gaza City killed 15 Palestinians, including Hamas military commander Salah Shehadeh and nine children.

In New York, Arab delegates put off introducing a UN Security Council resolution on Tuesday's bombing in a Gaza City neighbourhood, with diplomats saying

there were divisions among ambassadors over the text.

Commenting on the ground assault, the army said: "During the night in south Gaza City, an Israeli military force discovered three buildings that were used as Qassam rocket factories. The three buildings housed 22 rocket-manufacturing workshops.

"Israeli soldiers exploded the workshops in a controlled manner. When finished, the forces left the Palestinian-controlled area," it said. Three thunderous explosions shook Gaza before Israeli tanks rumbled back to Israeli-occupied territory about three km (two miles) away.

The army statement said dozens of mortar bombs and Qassam rockets—short-range weapons improvised by Palestinians—had been fired at Israeli military posts and communities inside and outside the Gaza Strip in the past few days.

Agencies

THE WASHINGTON POST

27 JUL 2002



# US scraps payment to UN population fund

FROM ELAINE MONAGHAN

Washington, July 23 (Reuters): The Bush administration yesterday scrapped its \$34 million payment for 2002 to the UN Population Fund, saying it indirectly helped China force women to have abortions under Beijing's one-child policy.

The decision to invoke a loosely-worded US law barring money to groups that help others who manage coercive abortion programmes appeared to contradict a state department report recommending the cash should be paid out. It satisfied a conservative anti-abortion lobby ahead of congressional elections in November, infuriated Democrats and disappointed UN secretary-general Kofi Annan.

Secretary of state Colin Powell diverted the money to other family planning and reproductive health programmes conducted by the US government, Powell's spokesman Richard Boucher said. Boucher told a

news briefing that the UN Population Fund — known by the acronym UNFPA — had funded purchases of computers and vehicles in China which "are used to send notices to people about not having further children."

He added: "In the context of the PRC (People's Republic of China), they are supplying equipment to the very agencies

that employ coercive practices and that amounts to support or participation in the management of the programme."

In New York, the agency said the decision would cost the lives of tens of thousands of poor women and children.

Executive director Thoraya Obaid said her agency did not support or promote abortion anywhere. The money would have prevented 2 million unwanted pregnancies, nearly 800,000 induced abortions, 4,700 maternal deaths, nearly 60,000 cases of serious maternal illness and more than 77,000 infant and child deaths, she told reporters.

Her agency has noted that China has made forcing women to have abortions illegal, but criticised Beijing's policy of taxing families who have more than one child as coercive.

A May 29 report by a three-person team sent by Powell to China said "not more than \$34 million" should go to the UN agency.

## China angry

Beijing, July 23 (Reuters): China blasted the Bush administration decision to scrap a \$34 million payment to the UN Population Fund, saying today it would harm government efforts to stop forced abortions.

"The United States cancelling its donation to the population fund will weaken the population fund's ability to assist developing countries," the Chinese foreign ministry said in a statement.

# Pak must first keep its pledge: USA

South Asia

5/13  
20/7

**Desikan Thirunarayanapuram in Washington**

July 19. — Pakistan will have to keep its pledge to stop infiltration of militants into India before the “fundamental differences” between the two countries can be resolved, a Bush administration official



Ms Christina Rocca

told a congressional panel yesterday. “President Musharraf has pledged that infiltration into Kashmir from his country will end permanently. Pakistan needs to keep that pledge in order to begin a process of resolution of the immediate crisis and of its more fundamental differences with India,” Ms Christina Rocca, assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, said.

“Once Pakistan stops infiltration permanently, “the process should be continued by New Delhi agreeing to resume talks with Islamabad on all issues, including Kashmir,” she said.

“A surge in violence” such as the Jammu attack last week could spark a military confrontation, she said, adding that the “enemies of moderation” in the region are trying to exploit it via high-profile terrorist attacks.

Meanwhile, Representative Frank Pallone, a Democrat from New Jersey and a leading member of the India Caucus, yesterday introduced a bill in Congress that seeks to reinstate democracy-related sanctions against Pakistan to protest Gen Musharraf’s “unwillingness to bring democracy to Pakistan.”

The sanctions were lifted earlier this year by President Bush, in an apparent trade-off for Pakistan’s cooperation in the war against terrorism.

“War is just not an option for India and Pakistan,” Ms Rocca told the South Asia subcommittee of the House International Relations Committee, and advised dialogue and confidence-building measures. She said the USA is working with both countries to help them find “mutually acceptable ways to begin the deescalation process.”

Ms Rocca also repeated the much-rejected offer of mediation, saying “we will continue to offer our good offices in helping the two sides resume dialogue to resolve their differences.”

Ms Rocca’s remarks and the offer of “good offices” come just days after deputy prime minister Mr LK Advani criticised Washington in Parliament and ruled out third party mediation in Kashmir.

Ms Rocca yesterday repeated secretary of state Gen Colin Powell’s statement before a Senate committee recently that the USA wants to “make sure that both the Indians and the Pakistanis understand that the USA is interested in them beyond this crisis.” She described US relations with India as “strong and growing” and “transformed,” especially since 11 September.

With Pakistan, she said, “we have broken free of over a decade’s difficult relationship, as that country sets a course of moderation and cooperation with the USA.”

Gen Powell will visit India and Pakistan in about a week, his second visit to the region since January. Calling India “an increasingly important player in world affairs,” Ms Rocca listed the improving relations between the two countries in various fields.

“US-India counter-terrorism cooperation has contributed to the arrest of many terrorists around the world,” she said. The latest meeting of the US-India joint working group on counterterrorism was held in Washington on 11 and 12 July.

28 JUL 2002

THE STATESMAN

# U.S. regrets death of Afghan civilians, not raids

US @ 16/7  
Afghanistan  
11D-15

**BAGRAM (AFGHANISTAN), JULY 15.** The U.S. Government was justified in an air raid that killed innocent Afghan civilians because the strike was aimed at enemy targets where "bad guys" were hiding, the Deputy Defence Secretary of the United States, Paul Wolfowitz, said Monday.

Afghan officials say 48 Afghan civilians were killed and 117 others were injured on July 1 when a U.S. gunship fired on several villages in Uruzgan province. Among the dead were 25 people at a wedding celebration, Afghans said.

U.S. officials say the attack was launched after forces reported coming under anti-aircraft fire around the villages. A joint U.S.-Afghan investigation is underway.

"We are always concerned when we believe we may have killed innocent people and we think that happened and we regret that," Mr. Wolfowitz said during a visit to Bagram air base, headquarters for U.S. military operations in Afghanistan. "We have no regrets about going in after bad guys and there were some there."

The attack angered many Afghans because it followed a series of mistaken raids and friendly fire incidents, most of which occurred in the ethnic Pashtun areas of the south.



**A girl 'injured' in the U.S. bombing raid on a wedding party in a village in Afghanistan on July 1.**

Since the attacks, U.S. forces have been fired on several times in different parts of Afghanistan. It was not clear if the attacks on U.S. troops are linked to the airstrike.

U.S. investigators arrived on Saturday to open the formal inquiry in the killings. Mr. Wolfowitz was due to meet the President, Hamid Karzai, in the Afghan capital of Kabul later.

Tony Przybyslawski, assistant director of operations at Langley Air Force Base, Virginia, said his 12-member team would work closely with Afghan officials, visit the site and interview witnesses. "This is no easy task as you can imagine," Brigadier

Przybyslawski said. "Of the utmost importance is, obviously, to prevent these types of situations from ever occurring during this combat operation."

In response to the civilian deaths, the Governor of Kandahar province, Gul Agha Sherzai, demanded that U.S. troops seek local permission before striking at suspected Al-Qaeda and Taliban units in the south. The U.S. opposes the idea.

Mr. Sherzai also wants a 500-man rapid reaction force to hunt down Taliban and Al-Qaeda fugitives and a 3,000-strong unit to patrol part of the borders with Pakistan and Iran.

Some southern Governors were meeting on Monday to discuss Mr. Sherzai's plan, which could undermine a U.S.-backed plan to build a national army controlled by Mr. Karzai's Government.

Mr. Sherzai had expected six southern Governors to attend, but only two had turned up, said Amhed Wali Karzai, a brother of the Afghan President and his special envoy to Kandahar, where the meeting was taking place. — AP

16 JUL 2002

# Pentagon report sees threat to Taiwan

119-121 14/3 WJ W  
WASHINGTON, JULY 13. In a new assessment of China's military power, the Pentagon on Friday told Congress it sees a disturbing emphasis on modernisation moves that threaten Taiwan, defence officials said.

One of those areas is a build-up of short-range ballistic missiles within range of Taiwan. U.S. officials have expressed concern that China is adding missiles at a rate of nearly 50 per year. In a war China could use them to target air defence sites, airfields, naval bases and communications centres.

Another area of concern is the recent acquisition of Russian-made submarines, which could be used to cut off Taiwan's sea lanes of communication and to hold at risk American forces that might respond.

These and other developments are noted in a report to Congress that provides a wide-ranging assessment of China's military power, according to officials familiar with it. The Deputy Defence Secretary, Paul Wolfowitz, signed the report and it was delivered to Congress on Friday, the officials said.

It questions China's commitment to a peaceful settlement of the Taiwan issue and highlights China's potential to threaten other countries in the Asia-Pacific region, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The sale of U.S. arms to Taiwan is one of the prickliest issues between Beijing and Washington. On Thursday, the Chinese Foreign Ministry condemned the sales as a danger to regional stability.

Responding to reports that Washington was considering giving Taiwan access to advanced air-to-air missiles, the spokesman, Liu Jianchao, called military sales to Taiwan a gross violation of China's internal affairs.

Asked about the Pentagon report, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said he had not read it but saw no cause for concern about China's military modernisation as long as it does "reflect any kind of new strategic purpose."

"We are monitoring it very carefully," Gen. Powell said.

He said China's new wealth should be

used to benefit the Chinese people. "We know some will be used to modernise the military".

Kurt Campbell, an Asia specialist at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and an Asia policy adviser at the Pentagon during the Clinton administration, said the Bush administration was right to express concern about the continuing build-up of short-range missiles opposite Taiwan. "It's clearly the biggest area of concern," he said.

Mr. Campbell added, however, that the administration had understated the areas in which China's military is having problems modernising. It has had difficulties integrating its air, naval and land forces, for example, in ways that would enable China to conduct sustained, joint-service operations offshore.

He and many other analysts believe China — which has repeatedly threatened to attack Taiwan if it holds out against reunification with the mainland — lacks the planes and ships needed for a successful amphibious invasion. — AP

THE HINDI

14 JUL 2002

# US plan calls for air, land, sea-based attack on Iraq

By ERIC SCHMITT

Washington: An American military planning document calls for air, land and sea-based forces to attack Iraq from three directions—the north, south and west—in a campaign to topple President Saddam Hussein, according to a person familiar with the document. (11-17-02)

The document envisions tens of thousands of marines and soldiers probably invading from Kuwait. Hundreds of warplanes based in as many as eight countries, possibly including Turkey and Qatar, would unleash a huge air assault against thousands of targets, including airfields, roadways and fibre-optics communications sites.

Special operations forces or covert CIA operatives would strike at depots or laboratories storing or manufacturing Iraq's suspected weapons of mass destruction and the missiles to launch them. None of the countries identified in the document as possible staging areas have been formally consulted about playing such a role, officials said, underscoring the preliminary nature of the planning. Defence secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld visited American bases in Kuwait and Qatar and the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain on his most recent trip to the Persian Gulf region in June.

The existence of the document that outlined significant aspects of a "concept" for a war against Iraq as it stood about two months ago indicates an advanced state of planning in the military even though US President George W. Bush continues to state in public and to his allies that he has no fine-grain war plan on his desk for the invasion of Iraq.

Once a consensus is reached on the concept, the steps toward assembling a final war plan and, most importantly, the element of timing for ground deployments and commencement of an air war, represent the final sequencing that Mr Bush will have to decide. NYT News service

9 JUL 2002

## ALIENATING ANTI-TERROR ALLIES

THE HUMANITARIAN TRAGEDY which the U.S. seems unable to control during its ongoing military campaign against the rump elements of the Al-Qaeda inside Afghanistan cannot be explained away. At least 40 Afghan civilians are reported to have been killed and 70 others injured as a result of a new tragic episode at this point. The push-button culture of America's satellite-guided warfare is said to be technologically advanced, but the "smart weapons" have not always hit the right targets. Washington has, of course, characterised the several episodes of civilian deaths in its "novel war" against the Taliban-Al-Qaeda terrorist cartel as "collateral damage". Since October 7 last year, when the U.S. launched military raids against the "terrorist infrastructure" in Afghanistan, many civilian deaths have occurred on account of America's actions. However, an authentic estimate of the killings has not been made. One of the factors behind such a rudimentary lapse can be traced to the nature of America's high-tech military drive itself — the growing impersonalisation, even dehumanisation, of the remote-controlled war itself. This dimension of America's experiment with the techniques of 'post-modern' warfare cannot, however, exonerate the Bush administration of its responsibility, even culpability, regarding the deaths of ordinary Afghans as distinct from the terrorists and their patrons. Several persons as also the materials belonging to America's allies in the campaign against terror, be they state actors or international humanitarian organisations, have also come under fire from Washington's warriors. It is against this background that the U.S. must quickly identify the circumstances of the latest tragic episode.

The transitional government in Kabul seems convinced that the U.S. is to blame for callous negligence that killed at least 40 ordinary Afghan civilians in the latest manifestation of "collateral damage". Washington is reluctant to accept the blame and expose itself to any kind of interna-

tional scrutiny on this score. This explains the inordinate delay in the efforts by the U.S. military authorities to determine the sequence of events that led to the latest humanitarian fiasco. On one occasion earlier, Washington had rejected the claims by Afghan officials that an American military pilot had caused the deaths of some ordinary people in a case of mistaken identity. The traditional but "celebratory" use of small arms by a few Afghans during a wedding ceremony was said to have been misconstrued as an attempt, even if only an amateurish one, at damaging a U.S. combat aircraft. Even now, similar accusations are being hurled at the Americans who, in turn, have not entirely ruled out the possibility of blaming an errant "smart bomb" — a precision-guided warhead that might have gone astray from a B-52 bomber.

America's deep sense of discomfort has been accentuated by the fact that the latest criticism has come from an Afghan Government that is headed by Hamid Karzai, who is widely recognised as a U.S. "protege". Afghanistan, a fractious and multi-ethnic society, is at present engaged in a delicate exercise to democratise itself by shedding its image and habits of a failed state. Now, even as Afghanistan tries to move away from its more recent moorings as a sanctuary for international terrorists, the diverse ethnic communities within Afghan society are beginning to reassert their traditional spirit of unfettered thinking and of political independence. It is this aspect that accounts for the severe criticism of the U.S. that the present Kabul regime, a U.N.-guided dispensation, has resorted to. America's task, therefore, is quite clearly cut out. Although the U.S. faces no significant opposition from any section of the international community, Washington has the moral responsibility to ensure that its hunt down of the Taliban-Al-Qaeda remnants does not trample upon the fundamental rights as also the basic dignity of the ordinary Afghan people. //

5 JUL 2002

# U.S. stance may delay thaw

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), JULY 3. The U.S. demand for the removal of the Palestine leader, Yasser Arafat, as a pre-condition for the resolution of the Arab-Israeli row is likely to put an early rapprochement between the two sides firmly on hold.

At least three key reasons underpin the likelihood of the stand-off between the Israelis and the Palestinians persisting in its present form, at least for the next few months. The Palestinians, the Arab world, and the Europeans are looking inwards on the implications of Washington's insistence on leadership change in the Palestine National Authority (PNA) on their domestic constituencies. That, it turns, will determine to the extent to which they can go along with the U.S. proposals. As for the Arabs, the unpalatability of Mr. Arafat's ouster has been reinforced by Washington's lack of parallel insistence on Israel to fulfil its obligations in order to bring about lasting peace in the region.

Consequently, the one-sided U.S. exhortation to the Palestinians has cramped the room for manoeuvre, even for those Arab regimes, which can influence the Palestinians and may not be entirely averse to considering fundamental changes in the ruling establishment in the Palestinian authority. Not surprisingly, key players in the Arab world — Saudi Arabia and Egypt — notwithstanding their internal tussle for leadership of the Arab horizon, have both rejected jettisoning Mr. Arafat.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince, Abdullah bin Abdulaziz, has said that the Kingdom rejected "any intervention by any side in Arab internal affairs, and on top of it the affairs of the Palestinian people, who alone have the right to choose their leadership". The Egyptian Foreign Minister, Ahmad Maher, on his part, putting his country's weight behind Mr. Arafat said, "Egypt strongly supports the democratically elected Palestinian leadership and refuses any attempt to outflank it".

Both countries have, however, not rejected the

desirability of democratic reforms in the PNA. Their readiness to accept calibrated changes in the PNA, in turn, opens the door for negotiations with the U.S. on the subject. Washington has demanded that power among Palestinians should be more evenly and "democratically shared and not concentrated in the hands of one individual, in this case, Mr. Arafat alone".

The Arab hands are tied on yet another count. Keen to prevent street level protests by extremists that have sizeable pockets of influence, most Arab regimes are unlikely to deviate from their comfortable pro-status quo disposition on the question of Palestinian leadership, unless there are definite gains to be made. The U.S.'s disinclination to publicly accommodate Palestinian concerns, at least for the next few months, is also likely to harden Arab resistance to change. Analysts point out that Washington's present negative slant towards the Palestinians can be partly attributed to domestic considerations. According to observers, the rising influence of the pro-Israel constituency among the Republicans, as indicated in a recent Gallup poll, may have to be factored more prominently in analysing the U.S. decision.

This pro-Israel influence is likely to become even more pronounced as the autumn U.S. Congressional elections approach. Consequently, a show of flexibility by the U.S. on the Palestinian question, that is vital for the Arab regimes to change direction, is unlikely till then. The U.S., in order to garner Arab support, may also have to make provisions for accommodating aspects of the Saudi peace plan that calls for the convening of an international peace conference on Palestine.

Accommodation of Saudi Arabian interests can spin off larger benefits because of Riyadh's considerable influence among the Persian Gulf States. A peace conference can also bring the European Union on board as the Europeans, feeling the need for a more prominent niche in the Arab-Israeli affairs, have also fully backed multilateral convention on Palestine.

4 JUL 2002

THE HINDU

19  
10-10

---

## AMERICA'S DUBIOUS DISSENT <sup>217</sup>

THE UNITED STATES has once again revealed its unilateralist agenda on the international stage by exercising a veto at the U.N. Security Council as regards an issue with far more serious implications than meet the eye. The Bush administration has now set its face against the extension of a peacekeeping mission which the U.S. itself had in the first place endorsed quite enthusiastically with reference to Bosnia. However, America's latest action concerning Bosnia is hardly related to the direct issues of war and peace there. In the event, the dubious dissent, which sets Washington apart from its traditional allies, is linked to its strange fear of a newly evolving aspect of international law itself. The coincidental launch of the International Criminal Court provided the diplomatic setting for America's new discourse on the familiar subject of its 'unique' status in global politics. While the court will be empowered to try cases regarding any allegations of criminal conduct by the U.N.-sponsored peacekeepers as well, America's primary concern is to stay above this new dimension of international law by actually concealing an innate fear of the evolving legal process in this regard. It is apparent that the U.S. wants to be a law unto itself as the sole superpower on the global stage.

The International Criminal Court is an institution designed to curb all forms of discernible crimes against humanity. The justiciable crimes range from genocide and war-related atrocities to a variety of other infractions of human rights. Cases can be referred to the court by the U.N. Security Council or by any aggrieved state which can access this institution. Surely, the U.S. is in a firm position to thwart the moves that might be made against it within the confines of the Security Council. Why should the U.S. then fight shy of the authority of the fledgling International Criminal Court? Washington tends to believe that it cannot prevent its detractors in the international

arena from dragging American peacekeepers to the Court in spite of their U.N. mandate. This sums up the ostensible logic of the latest U.S. veto, which is rooted in the assumption that any legal petition against the American peacekeepers at any time would be influenced by frivolous hostility towards Washington.

If America's Western allies themselves do not share its self-centred view of the wider world, the reason has much to do with the "safeguards" that the International Criminal Court will invariably provide for against motivated litigation. One of the guarantees is that the Court can take cognisance of any case only after ensuring that the state concerned is unable or unwilling to prosecute the accused person(s) over whom it exercises legal jurisdiction. Another facet of the proposed due process of law for the purposes of this Court is that cases could be initiated by a state where an alleged crime might have been committed. While this particular aspect might not be easily amenable to the superpower strengths of the U.S., Washington does not really seem to be reconciled to the idea that the U.N. Security Council is not the sole repository of powers to initiate cases before this court. Overall, a doctrinaire Bush administration is in no mood to listen to political counsel from its allies, although the movement for the International Criminal Court had at first received support from the U.S. itself under an earlier President, Bill Clinton. America's current tendency to see itself in a 'hyper-power' league of its own is certainly not limited to the issue of human rights. Some recent examples of America's 'unilateralist overdrive' (a West European critique) relate to several important issues such as the abrogation of the U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty or the implementation of the Kyoto Protocol on global climate. It is a trend that does not bode well for the global community.

3 JUL 2002

THE HINDU



# Kabul blasts US bombing, wants review of raids

Agencies

KANDAHAR, July 2. — In an unprecedented statement, the new Afghan government today demanded the USA take "all necessary measures" to avoid civilian casualties following an apparent accidental air attack on a marriage party in which scores were killed.

The government said President Hamid Karzai "called officials and commanders of the US forces to his office and strongly advised them of the grave concern and sorrow" over yesterday's attack in Uruzgan province, in which the Afghans say 40 civilians were killed and another 100 were wounded.

The statement said Mr Karzai, who relied on US support for his rise to power after the collapse of the Taliban, insisted that coalition forces "take all necessary measures to ensure that military activities to capture terrorist groups do not harm innocent Afghan civilians." In Kabul, foreign minister Mr Abdullah told reporters that coalition military operations against the Al-Qaida and Taliban should continue but that the rules for launching attacks "should be reviewed to avoid such incidents." Mr Abdullah said four villages were attacked in a pre-dawn raid yesterday around the hamlet of Kakarak, about 280 kilometers south-west of Kabul.

"Strong measures have to be taken to avoid such further incidents," he said. "This situation has to come to an end. Mistake can take place, human errors are possible, but our people should be assured that every measure was taken to avoid such incidents."

The Afghan government and US military were investigating the bombing. US helicopters were ferrying a team of soldiers from Bagram airbase, 50 km north of here, to the remote village of Dherawad in Uruzgan province, 400 km south-west of the Afghan capital.

"Because of the disparity of the reports the Afghan government in conjunction with the (US-led) coalition is going to send a team down... to do an investigation," US military chief spokesman in Afghanistan, Lt-Col Roger King, told reporters over phone from Bagram.

US military officials say a bomb went astray during an air attack that was launched after a US-led coalition reconnaissance mission was fired by anti-aircraft artillery near the village of Tirin Kot, 30 km east of Dherawad.

The region around Tarin Khowt was believed to be a stronghold of fighters loyal to Mullah Mohammad Omar. US forces recently launched an operation to hunt down Mullah Omar, whose ancestral home was in Dherawad, according to the Afghan Islamic Press.

"The fire that we received from the ground, that would probably be the heaviest fire we've seen in at least a month," Col King said adding that the coalition reconnaissance mission had included a pre-planned strike by a B-52 bomber on a previously identified anti-aircraft artillery site that had fired in the past on US forces.

THE STATESMAN

3 JUL 2002

# Palestinians reject Bush's threat on US aid

Gaza: Palestinian officials on Thursday brushed aside US President George W. Bush's threat to withhold financial aid and said Palestinians would defy US pressure to replace their longtime leader Yasser Arafat.



George W. Bush

Reinforcing his call for a new Palestinian leadership "uncompromised by terror," Mr Bush said late on Wednesday that US financial aid to the Palestinians would be contingent on their embrace of reforms and rejection of terrorism.

"The call by Mr Bush contradicts the principles of democracy claimed by the United States," Palestinian Telecommunications Minister Imad al-Falouji told Reuters.

"No one has the right to intervene in the internal affairs of the Palestinian people."

Mr Bush issued his threat at a summit of major industrialised nations in Canada just hours after Arafat called new elections for next January and set plans to run again despite US opposition. Opinion polls show Arafat the likely winner.

"I've got confidence in the Palestinians, when they understand fully what we're saying, that they'll make the right decisions," Mr Bush said.

But he warned: "I can assure you, we won't be putting money into a society which is not transparent and (is) corrupt, and I suspect other countries won't either."

Mr Falouji scoffed at Mr Bush's remarks, saying: "Bush is threatening something that does not exist, because the United States has never sent financial aid to the Palestinian people."

The United States provides no direct funding to the Palestinian Authority but has funnelled millions of dollars in aid to humanitarian and development projects.

Mr Arafat's aide Ahmed Abdel-

## Arafat issues decree

Gaza City: Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Thursday signed a decree putting the police, preventive security and civil defence under the umbrella of the recently created interior ministry.



Yasser Arafat

"All the possessions and equipment of the police, preventive security and civil defence will also be taken care of by the interior ministry," the decree said. AFP

Rahman accused Mr Bush of conducting an "unfair campaign" against the Palestinian leadership.

Key US allies have expressed little enthusiasm for Washington's efforts

to reinstate Arafat, elected Palestinian President in 1996, as part of a new West Asia policy aimed at ending 21 months of Israeli-Palestinian violence. Israeli forces, meanwhile, kept up their siege of a Palestinian Authority compound in the West Bank in an attempt to smoke out 15 wanted men Israel said had taken cover inside.

For the second day tanks and helicopter gunships pounded the building in Hebron, the seventh Palestinian city to be retaken by Israeli forces after a spate of Palestinian suicide bombings.

By setting a date for the first elections since 1996, Arafat appeared to be underscoring his message to Washington that only the Palestinian people could determine their leader.

Cabinet minister Saeb Erekat said on Wednesday balloting would take place some time between January 10 and 20. He also pledged an overhaul of security services, finances and courts. Another minister said Arafat would stand for re-election. Reuters

2 JUN 2002

# The U.S. and Iraq

By Qamar Agha

140-10  
2876

**I**RAQ'S PRESIDENT, Saddam Hussein, has got a reprieve. The European Union and the Arab allies of the United States have finally succeeded in convincing George W. Bush to delay his plan to change the regime in Baghdad. The move to strike against Iraq has not been postponed out of any human consideration. But, the U.S. has been told that attacking Iraq now will damage Western economic interests in West Asia.

The E.U. believes a military confrontation with Iraq could get out of hand, with the risk of a widening conflagration in the oil-rich Persian Gulf region. A prolonged war in the region could disrupt oil supplies to Western nations.

Mr. Bush has already dubbed Iran, Iraq and North Korea the "axis of evil" and promised to change the regime in Baghdad. The U.S. believes these regimes produce weapons of mass destruction and pose a threat to not only Western nations but also to Israel, America's strategic ally in West Asia. Mr. Bush chose Iraq as the first target because he was hoping to get the support of neighbouring Arab states threatened by Baghdad's belligerence.

American forces have protected Iraq's neighbours since 1990 when its forces occupied Kuwait. The country was liberated with the help of Western nations in 1991 and the United Nations imposed economic sanctions on Iraq which still continue. Iraq is strategically located and the installation of an American-friendly regime there could help the U.S. deal with neighbouring Iran, another member of the "axis of evil".

But now the entire U.S. plan to strike Iraq has been shelved, at least for some time. The U.S.' Western allies believe there are diplomatic and economic avenues available to ensure that Iraq does not develop weapons of mass destruction, and that it should be pressed to allow U.N. inspectors to return to the country.

They found the U.S. administration's approach towards Iraq too "simplistic". Britain, France, Germany and other European allies are deeply fearful about a military clash with Iraq and are firmly opposed to expanding the war on terrorism beyond Afghanistan. The stand taken by the European allies against any military strike and the realisation within the U.S. that toppling Mr. Hussein may not necessarily help America achieve its

dorsing Saudi peace proposals. However, the U.S. immediately cast doubts on Iraq's promises and intentions. The Arab leaders emphasised that "Washington should note that Baghdad on the same day recognised both Kuwait and Israel. It is a signal that the mood in the Arab world has shifted since September 11".

In fact, Saudi Arabia played a key role in convincing Iraqi leaders to accept the reality. Arab diplomacy's aim

2876

which invited the U.S.-led international forces to liberate the oil-rich emirate but in the process Iraq's civilian and military infrastructure was destroyed.

Soon after the Gulf War, the Shia majority and the ethnic Kurdish minority revolted against the Government. The rebellion was suppressed by the army which remained loyal to Mr. Hussein. The Government may have succeeded in suppressing the revolt but the powerful underground movement led by the Shia clergy as well as nationalists still exists.

In the north, rival Kurdish factions rule and they are protected by the no-fly zones imposed by the U.S. and Britain. The pro-West Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP) and the pro-Iranian Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) have been struggling for long to gain autonomy. Their demands are backed by the Western nations but they are suspicious of the U.S. intentions as they were betrayed twice in the past.

The opposition in Iraq is, in fact, struggling to establish a democratic and federal state where Sunnis, Shias, Christians and the ethnic Kurdish minorities can live in peace. But at the same time, they don't want to be dragged into a "half-baked adventure without a clear-cut outcome". Nationalism is deep rooted in Iraq and the opposition doesn't want a pro-U.S. Government to substitute the present regime.

The Arabs may rejoice at the Iraqi reprieve. But in the long run, new developments in the region will further weaken the Arab world. The Bush administration will not stop at this; its next demand would be to seek Arab cooperation in the containment of Iran, which would mean an end to Arab-Iranian rapprochement.

The U.S. still does not trust Mr. Hussein and the Bush administration will eventually change the regime in Iraq and deploy its troops where the opposition also poses a threat to American interests.

---

***There is a growing realisation within the Bush administration that toppling the regime is not difficult but installing a pro-U.S. Government in Iraq is.***

---

objectives in Iraq prompted Mr. Bush to announce that he had "no war plan at his desk". There is a growing realisation within the Bush administration that toppling the regime is not difficult but installing a pro-U.S. Government in Iraq is. For, anti-American sentiments are running very high because sanctions have not only destroyed the economy but also the lives of ordinary Iraqis.

The Arab street also feels Iraq is being punished for its alleged involvement in the production of weapons of mass destruction whereas Israel is being rewarded by the U.S. for stockpiling these weapons and occupying Arab territories since 1967.

The Arab leaders have also collectively opposed a possible U.S. military intervention in Iraq to change the regime. At the recent Beirut summit, Arabs called for lifting of the U.N. economic sanctions, the clearest appeal yet by the Arab League to end the embargo. They also welcomed the resumption of Iraq's dialogue with the U.N. on the return of arms inspectors. In a bid to patch up with the Arab world, Iraq signed a document recognising Kuwait's sovereignty and security and pledged not to repeat its 1990 invasion. Iraq is also considering en-

was to ensure that without changing the regime the U.S. achieves its objectives in Iraq, including the return of U.N. inspectors and the dismantling of all weapons of mass destruction. The U.S. in the bargain expects Iraq to give up its opposition to its moves in the region. It means that Iraq should allow U.S. oil companies to operate in the country and should not pose any threat to Israel.

Iraq suffered another setback when Russia, its main backer at the U.N., started distancing itself as part of an emerging strategic understanding with the U.S. Russia, which was earlier opposing the American-British proposals of "smart sanctions", now supports the idea. The new sanctions regime would revamp the oil-for-food programme of 1996. Smart sanctions are intended to allow civilian goods to be sold while further squeezing Iraq's military capability.

Mr. Hussein may have got a reprieve from the Americans, but the situation in the country is no good; people have been suffering for more than two decades. First, its bloody war with Iran in the 1980s lasted eight years, in which more than a million people lost their lives. Later, in 1990, Iraq occupied neighbouring Kuwait,

THE HINDU

28 JUN 2002

15/10  
Srin  
Asia  
HID-10  
27/6

# An interactive U.S. role

By P. S. Suryanarayana

**T**HE SUPER cop image of the U.S. is being accepted in some key sections of India and Pakistan in the context of Washington's new activism in South Asia. New Delhi has calculated that the U.S. is capable of being the guarantor of Pakistan's latest pledge to end forever all terrorist incursions into India. There is no evident hint, though, of how Washington might wish to interpose itself in the India-Pakistan equation over the time-horizon. The main issue is whether the U.S. has drawn up a definitive game plan to play a good cop or any other role in South Asia from the present moment. The answer to this question will fall short of an absolute 'yes' because of two reasons — (1) the short attention-span that the U.S. is notorious for in world politics and (2) the fact that Washington, still worried about more terrorist attacks against it, has had little time to imagine the future.

For the present, therefore, America is busy playing an interactive role that might help promote its differing interests in respect of India and Pakistan at the same time. Several top U.S. interlocutors, who have visited New Delhi and Islamabad since the terrorist attack on Parliament House last December, have portrayed their efforts as those of a friend to both. Has the U.S. found it easy to be friendly with both India and Pakistan? Certainly not, although Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, is hinting that he has gradually recognised that he should trim his country's sails to ride the anti-terror winds from not only America but also India. In these circumstances, America's next big move in South Asia will depend on whether Gen. Musharraf is able to do this.

9/11 was to Washington what an extraterrestrial invasion might be to the other countries. As a consequence, the U.S. President, George W.

Bush, has slowly but surely recognised that terrorism is not divisible into categories of a bad crime or a good cause. America's learning curve of this type, which seems to hold firm for the present, has much to do with the interconnectivity of the major terrorist networks. As part of this strategic analysis, the U.S. is beginning to

address the globalised phenomenon of inter-state 'jehadi' campaigns which many Islamic radicals are engaged in. The new political reality is that America finds itself caught in the vortex of 'jehadi' terrorism which has a target-range that includes not only the U.S. but also Israel, India, Russia and China besides a few others.

## *America's diplomacy in regard to India and Pakistan is driven, in a limited but significant fashion, by the fears of a nuclear winter.*

If this companionship adds a new dimension to the U.S.-India interactions, the Bush administration is also keen to keep by its side some leaders of the Islamic countries, such as Gen. Musharraf, with the intention of deflecting suspicions that Washington is not above religious prejudices. From Mr. Bush's standpoint, the strategic value of such Muslim leaders will evaporate if they fail to promote America's anti-terror agenda in all its nuances. It is this sub-text that defines America's exchanges with Gen. Musharraf's Pakistan at this point.

Immediately prior to Gen. Musharraf's latest pledge, Mr. Bush seemed to be extremely wary of any Pakistani tendency to portray terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir as an intrinsic aspect of a difficult separatist "struggle" by some co-religionists. The U.S. is eager at this juncture to douse the flames of terrorism that might be fuelled by passionate notions of reli-

gion as the defining factor of political affinity across inter-state frontiers. To be seen in this light is the observation by the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, about the existence of "indications", however "speculative", that some elements of the Al-Qaeda terrorist organisation might have recently shifted their operations to Pa-

kistan-occupied Kashmir from Afghanistan. There has also been no dilution of America's concerns about Al-Qaeda, and about its links with some sections of Pakistan's secret services. Yet, Pakistan has also succeeded in fulfilling its dream of "internationalising" the Kashmir dispute as never before. The downside of this dream is that it has not evolved on the lines imagined by Pakistan itself. Why? The ideology of treating religion as the basis of political identity in respect of any group of people is now clearly at a discount on the wider international stage. Not surprisingly, therefore, it is India and not Pakistan that has brought the U.S. to the South Asian scene at this time. New Delhi has calculated that this is the best time to "internationalise" India's concerns regarding the fissionable impact of external terrorism which draws sustenance from a religious core. India's sense of urgency in this regard is derived from a realisation that the gains of its catalytic role in the creation of Bangladesh in 1971 have remained illusory. If the myth of religion as the political bond between two or more diverse peoples had been exploded in the 1970s, the localised impact of that event has not at all brought India any

positive dividend in regard to Kashmir. It is against this background that New Delhi has now virtually invited the U.S. to the South Asian scene.

The U.S., on its part, has found it easy to extend its "good offices" to India and Pakistan at this stage. America's move has been facilitated, too, by the manner in which India welcomed the Clinton administration's decisive intercession at the height of the Kargil crisis. Western diplomats believe that Pakistan's civilian political leadership sought America's help for an exit strategy even as Islamabad's military planners had found the going tough after surprising New Delhi at Kargil. The predicament of Pakistan's civilian leaders during the Kargil crisis was in some ways related to the substance of some media-leaks in America at present. Pakistan's military leaders, it is said, were willing to flex their 'Fist of God' — Islamabad's nuclear arsenal — at one point during what was turning into a "fiasco" for them at Kargil.

America's diplomacy in regard to India and Pakistan is driven, in a limited but significant fashion, by the fears of a nuclear winter. Such fears are compounded by the argument that a political doomsday machine is already ticking in South Asia in view of Pakistan's refusal to reciprocate India's policy of not being the first to launch a nuclear strike against any country and any non-state actor. With India accusing Pakistan of resorting to "nuclear blackmail" and with Islamabad talking of immobilising New Delhi through "nuclear deterrence", America finds itself watching these exchanges very seriously. This does not necessarily mean that the U.S. has drawn up an end-game for peace in South Asia. Western diplomats draw attention to Winston Churchill (paraphrased) jibe that America would often get its act right after exhausting all other options.

THE HINDU

27 1972

US  
W Asia

**W. ASIA / BUSH SETS OUT BLUEPRINT FOR PEACE**

HD-14  
26/6

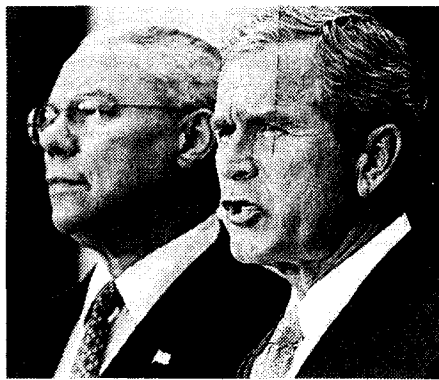
# 'Palestinians must elect new leader'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**NEW YORK, JUNE 25.** The U.S. President, George W. Bush, called on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders and sought an end to violence against Israel as pre-conditions for U.S. support for the creation of a Palestinian state.

"Peace requires a new and different Palestinian leadership so that a Palestinian state can be born. I call on the Palestinian people to elect new leaders, leaders not compromised by terror," Mr. Bush said in his long-awaited speech on a West Asia peace plan. "Today, Palestinian authorities are encouraging, not opposing, terrorism. This is unacceptable. And the United States will not support the establishment of a Palestinian state until its leaders engage in a sustained fight against the terrorists and dismantle their infrastructure," Mr. Bush said.

"And when Palestinian people have new leaders, new institutions and new security arrangements with their neighbours, the United States of America will support the creation of a Palestinian state whose borders and certain aspects of its sovereignty will be provisional until resolved as part of a final settlement in the Middle East. Today



**SETTING TOUGH TERMS:** The U.S. President, George Bush, announces a blueprint for a Palestinian state in Washington on Monday as the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, watches. — AP

the elected Palestinian legislature has no authority, and power is concentrated in the hands of an unaccountable few. A Palestinian state can only serve its citizens with a new constitution which separates the powers of government," he said.

Though he expressed solidarity with the

people of Israel, which has seen a wave of suicide attacks recently, Mr. Bush's speech held a message for the Jewish state as well. "Israel also has a large stake in the success of a democratic Palestine. Permanent occupation threatens Israel's identity and democracy. A stable, peaceful Palestinian state is necessary to achieve the security that Israel longs for. So I challenge Israel to take concrete steps to support the emergence of a viable, credible Palestinian state". He called on Israel to stop incursions into Palestinian areas, to freeze settlements, to restore freedom of movement when violence subsides and to release frozen Palestinian revenues into "honest, accountable hands." He also called for Israel's eventual withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Ultimately Israelis and Palestinians must address the core issues that divide them if there is to be a real peace, resolving all claims and ending the conflict between them. This means that the Israeli occupation that began in 1967 will be ended through a settlement negotiated between the parties based on U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 with Israeli withdrawal to secure and recognised borders," Mr. Bush said.

THE HINDU

JUNE 26 2002

# Bush under pressure to delay move

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 22. The President, George W. Bush, is coming under intense pressure from Conservatives and leading Democrats on Capitol Hill to delay his proposal for the proclamation of an interim Palestinian state against the backdrop of the ongoing violence.

The Democratic Leader in the House of Representatives, Richard Gephardt, appealed to the President to delay his announcement because of the continuing "barbaric suicide attacks" against the Israelis and argued that any announcement was not going to alter the scheme of things. "It is fine to set out the dream and the goal

and to hope that will give people on the Palestinian side some hope. But it isn't going to change anything in my view", Mr. Gephardt remarked.

It appeared this week that Mr. Bush was all set to make his major announcement on West Asia, but at the same time indications were that his major advisers were still debating the finer points of the plan.

On Friday, the President met the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and the National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice. Mr. Bush is expected to remain at the White House over the weekend spending time on the subject.

Mr. Bush, his advisers say, remains committed to an interim

or provisional Palestinian state which will eventually develop into a full-fledged state that will live side by side with Israel in peace. Unnamed officials have been quoted as saying that some "marginal" issues were to be worked out but that the President's basic idea was not open to major alterations. "There are still discussions going on", remarked the State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher. "This is an evolving process but the President has indeed reached some conclusions", he said.

One view is that the administration is coming under pressure from conservatives within and from the outside on why the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, had to be given anything at

all given what has been taking place. The timing of Mr. Bush's announcement has itself become a subject of intense speculation. The spate of attacks against Israel and the response of the Jewish state in the last few days have pushed back the plan; and now it is not clear if Mr. Bush will be going ahead with his announcement sometime next week. About the only thing that the White House will say is that the media need not expect anything over the weekend. "I'll give the speech when I'm ready to give the speech", remarked Mr. Bush to reporters in Florida.

Condemning the latest series of attacks, the President stressed that Israel had the right to defend itself.

First-ever push for conversion of LoC

# Indian line on border, via US

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, June 19: After extracting a commitment from General Pervez Musharraf to end infiltration into Kashmir and defusing South Asia's military crisis, the US is now setting its sights on a more durable solution to the disputes between India and Pakistan.

The first step in this direction was taken unobtrusively, but unambiguously, yesterday when Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman Joseph Biden called for converting the Line of Control in Kashmir into an international border.

This is the first time in recent memory, perhaps the very first time, that any American public figure has called for the conversion of the LoC into a border.

That Senator Biden was the one to take this initiative is significant. Though he is a Democrat, Biden is one politician outside the US administration whom President George W. Bush has been consulting most on international issues in recent mo-

nts because of his chairmanship of the Senate committee.

Biden's choice of venue for making the call is equally significant. He chose a platform where Indian politicians were present: a meeting here with members of the recently-formed Indo-US Parliamentary Forum, led by co-chairman Kapil Sibal.

Indulging in some plain-speaking, Biden said: "Let us face it, Pakistan's record against India over the past five decades has not been one of military success.... In the long term, Pakistan has to become more realistic about the future of Kashmir. If India is willing to make substantive changes in its policy towards Kashmir, Pakistan must be willing to accept the LoC as a border and end its support for insurgency."

Because the idea has come from Biden, an Opposition politician, the burden of the call to convert the LoC into a border will not have to be carried by the administration.

If the proposal had come from an official of the Bush team, there would have been a chorus of protests from Pakistan, possi-

bly from India as well.

All the same, the reaction to Biden's call will be closely watched not only in the White House and the state department but also within the strategic community with an interest in South Asia.

The reaction will also be watched by foreign offices across the world. Though no one in New Delhi will admit it in public, top aides of Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee have recently told several foreign leaders that the only long-term solution to Kashmir was to make the LoC a permanent border.

These aides, however, added the proviso that if India suggested this, the idea would be a non-starter. Moreover, they said it would require time even in India to build a consensus around any such proposal.

Biden said if Pakistan accepted the proposal and ended support to Kashmir's insurgency, "India will have to find a way to regain the true allegiance of the people of Kashmir. Eventually, India must seek a creative approach — perhaps a return to some form of autonomy of the 1950s".

20 JUN 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

# India, Pak must protect fragile peace, says US

Washington: Despite the lessening of tension between India and Pakistan a terrorist attack "beyond the control of either side" could provoke a reaction, US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld has said.

"There is a clear perception that tensions are easing and that the likelihood of a conflict is lessening" but the military situation on the ground and the respective levels of alert had "really not changed notably", he told reporters here on Monday while briefing about his recent visit to India and Pakistan.

He, however, said "there are several risks ahead in the period we're now entering, including the possibility, of course, of a terrorist act beyond the control of either party, which could be misunderstood and conceivably provoke a reaction".

He said both Pakistan and India had indicated a desire for continued US involvement and

slashing duty on over 600 items imported from India. Pakistan also decided in principle to allow India to avail the tariff concessions that are being worked out under the South Asian Preferential Trade Agreement (Sapta).

*The News*, a Pakistani daily, said this had been stated in a government notification that came into effect from June 15. It said similar concessions had been offered to Iran and Turkey.

The new order could pave the way for the normalisation of trade relations between India and Pakistan, which have always been linked by Pakistan to the resolution of the Kashmir issue.

However, Pakistan so far has not extended the most-favoured-nation status to India, which is required under the Saarc charter, even though India has extended the same to Pakistan along with other members.

The slow progress of Safta (South Asian Free Trade Agreement) process is also blamed on the Indo-Pak tensions. Indo-Pak trade is stated to be around \$500 million, with the balance of trade in favour of India. But official trade through third countries is stated to be over \$1 billion per annum.

Regarding the Al Qaida, Mr Rumsfeld said the network was just as dangerous as ever, although the war on terrorism had forced it to change tactics. "They move across a spectrum, looking for ways to achieve their goal. And their goal is to kill innocent men, women and children," Mr Rumsfeld said. "And there are lots of ways to do that."

The US-led war on terrorism had made it harder for Osama bin Laden's group to communicate, raise money and train members, he said.

"We keep doing things that disrupt their ability to engage in terrorist acts, but unquestionably, we're not going to disrupt them all," Mr Rumsfeld said. "There's no way to do that. Life's not perfect." Agencies

- 'The two neighbours are entering a crucial phase'
- 'India, Pak have realised the impact of tension on their economies'
- Pak slashes duty on 600 items imported from India

had appreciated the efforts that President George W. Bush, British Prime Minister Tony Blair and others had been making.

Mr Rumsfeld said both nations had taken some initial steps that, while not being definitive, were having a positive effect. The leaders of both countries were increasingly becoming aware that the tension in the region was hurting them economically, he said.

"We raised that issue with both countries, and I think they are sensitive to it," he said.

On Tuesday, reports from Islamabad said Pakistan had raised prospects of a large-scale increase in bilateral trade by



HP-12  
18/6

**IRAQ / MILITARY ACTION NOT RULED OUT**

W3 (W) W Asia

# Congressmen back 'oust Saddam plan'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**WASHINGTON, JUNE 17.** Top Congressional leaders from both the Democratic and the Republican parties have said that they would back any administration plan that toppled the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

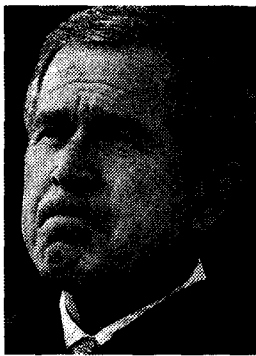
Law makers have said that they would support a plan that is quick and decisive, including a military strike. On Sunday, *The Washington Post* had reported that the President, George W. Bush, had authorised the Central Intelligence Agency to use all means necessary to remove Mr. Hussein from power.

According to unnamed sources, the CIA has been authorised to take up a comprehensive covert operation that would include the use of Special Forces. The start of a covert operation against Iraq is seen in some quarters as the beginning of a full-fledged war, something that many in the Bush administration have been wanting to do for quite some time now. Mr. Bush, however, has been maintaining that he did not have war plans on his desk but has been stressing that Mr. Hussein has to go. "If we wait for threats to materialise, we will have waited too long. The war on terror will

not be won on the defensive — we must take the battle to the enemy", the President remarked at the West Point Military Academy last week.

Mr. Bush did not identify any country specifically but has included Iraq in his "Axis of Evil" list. "The President's right on track. How we do it, when we do it, I don't know. And I'm not sure even the President knows. But this man (Saddam Hussein) needs to go", said Senator Richard Shelby, Republican who is senior member in the Senate Intelligence Committee.

"The sooner we have a regime change, the better off we'll be", Mr. Shelby argued. Another senior Republican, John McCain, has said that plans to topple Mr. Hussein are "fine" but that the country would have to be prepared for any eventual military



**DETERMINED?:**  
George W. Bush

strike. Of Mr. Hussein he said, "... he presents a clear and present danger".

Leading Democrats like the Senate Majority Leader, Tom Daschle, were not too far behind their Republican colleagues.

"I think there is broad support for regime change in Iraq. I think the timing of all this is very important. But we want to work with the administration and try to find the best way and the best time to do this", said Mr. Daschle in a Sunday talk show.

Mr. Daschle, while making the point that *The Washington Post* report was not news to Congress, said there was satisfaction about consultations between the administration and the Congressional leadership.

The Minority Leader, Richard Gephardt, said the House has been briefed about the order "some months ago".

Getting rid of Mr. Hussein, even if it means that he would have to be killed in the process, does not amount to assassinating a Head of State which is prohibited by domestic law, according to Mr. Gephardt. "The policy is still intact. I think in this case, it's trying to bring about a change of regime because they have continued to violate and flout U.N. Resolutions and international law", the top Democrat in the House argued.

**THE HINDU**

18 JUN 2002

## Rumsfeld spoke in a generalised sense: Fleischer

1576 110-1 ✓  
By Sridhar Krishnaswami  
WSR S. Ravi

**WASHINGTON, JUNE 14.** The White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said on Thursday that the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, spoke only in a "generalised and vague sense" about the presence of the Al-Qaeda in Kashmir, during his visit to the subcontinent.

"I don't think it was a declaration of anything. I think what he said was that — not hard evidence that they're there, they may be there, we can't rule it out; but he said that he didn't have any actionable evidence, any intelligence information of a hard type. And he talked about scraps of information", Mr. Fleischer said on Thursday.

"So the Secretary spoke in a generalised and vague sense about what we may or may not know about the presence there...I think you have to be careful", he cautioned the media on reading too much into what Mr. Rumsfeld may or may not have said in India on the issue of the Al-Qaeda in Kashmir.

As the Defence Secretary wrapped up his trip to South Asia, the White House is making it known that the U.S. President, George W. Bush, is encouraged with what he is hearing and pleased at the steps that have been taken so far. At the same time the situation in the subcontinent is still being considered tense.

"... The President continues to be encouraged by what he hears. In terms of de-escalation, the President urges all parties to continue the steps they have taken to de-escalate the crisis in the region. So the President is pleased with the steps that have been taken so far..."

4  
JUN 2007

## **Bush defends ABM withdrawal**

WASHINGTON, June 14. — Promising an early deployment of a missile defence system, Mr George W Bush defended the withdrawal from the ABM treaty saying the cold war era was over and new threats from terrorists and rogue states need to be addressed.

Mr Bush said he is committed to deploying the defence system as early as possible against the threats faced by the USA as well as its allies around the world. Defending the American people against these threats is the highest priority as the Commander-in-Chief of the USA, he said. Mr Bush had given a six month-notice on 13 December that Washington was pulling out of the 1972 accord with the Soviet Union, which prevented installation of missile defence systems. The work for the missile shield project will commence tomorrow at Fort Greely, Alaska. — PTI

THE STATESMAN

15 JUN 14 1992

FRIDAY, JUNE 14, 2002

## EASING TENSIONS

110-10

THE UNITED STATES seems to have been cognizant of India's political sensitivities while suggesting that it might be a good idea to install ground-based electronic sensors under the control of local forces on either side of the Line of Control (LoC) in Jammu and Kashmir. It requires no specific insight to recognise that the American objective is to monitor the implementation of Pakistan's latest pledge to cease permanently all terrorist incursions into India. By outlining the proposal with a degree of flexibility, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has sought to encourage both India and Pakistan to consider the idea seriously. His latest visit to New Delhi and Islamabad, projected by the U.S. as a delicate trouble-shooting mission, is said to be aimed at ratcheting down the India-Pakistan tensions over the terrorism issue from an astronomical peak to a manageable low level. Given India's strategic opposition to any external intervention in regard to its crisis-laden relationship with Pakistan, it is not surprising that Mr. Rumsfeld's initiative is laced with caution even as it had considerable candour. Discernible is the logic, inherent in his proposal, that the high-tech sensors will not necessarily negate India's adherence to the principle of bilateralism in its dealings with Pakistan at any time. Of crucial relevance to this prospect is the reported American clarification that the military forces of India and Pakistan might themselves operate the sensors that could be installed on either side of the LoC. It is in this sense that the installation of technically efficacious gadgets can be compatible with India's recent suggestion to Pakistan that the two countries should patrol the LoC in a joint exercise aimed at ending the endemic terrorist infiltration. The chief merit of joint patrolling, an eminently reasonable proposition, is that it can help India and Pakistan learn to trust each other over time through a scrupulous adherence to bilateralism. India's short-term objective is to convert the LoC

XX

14/6 XX

into a virtual line of confidence. There can be no argument against any such initiative. In an entirely technical sense, no external power will be intrusively present on the India-Pakistan scene to operate the surface-level electronic sensors if and when they are positioned. This aspect of America's thinking reflects the extent of its willingness to address India's political and diplomatic concerns. Yet, Mr. Rumsfeld may have also quietly sought some political leverage for America in interpreting the data that might be gathered in the event of electronic sensors being located on either side of the LoC. In his view, "it is for the technical people to see" how far "we (the Americans) could be helpful".

Playing a different ball game, Mr. Rumsfeld has raised the international community's stakes in the India-Pakistan standoff by some inept but alarming double-speak on the explosive issue of whether or not the Al-Qaeda terrorists are operating inside Pakistan-occupied Kashmir at this time. While in New Delhi, Mr. Rumsfeld spoke definitively about the "indications" that "the Al-Qaeda is operating near the LoC". Islamabad reacted angrily by treating this as an unkind stricture on Pakistan's proactive assistance to the U.S. in its ongoing campaign against the Taliban-Al-Qaeda terror mafia. Against this background, Mr. Rumsfeld virtually retracted from the position he took in New Delhi and said in Islamabad that the "speculative... scraps of intelligence" about Al-Qaeda's presence along the LoC were neither verifiable nor actionable at this stage. Yet apart from the U.S. Defence Secretary's evident fumbling regarding the question of whether there is hard evidence on this issue, which strikes at the root of Islamabad's sensitivity and credibility, India should begin to intensify its de-escalatory diplomacy and explore opportunities for the resumption of the bilateral process of talks. India may usefully consider altering the posture of its Army too.

14 JUN 2002

# US's West Asia policy row deepens

By Steve Holland

**Washington:** Confusion over US policy towards the West Asia has deepened as the White House distance itself from an idea mentioned by secretary of state Colin Powell for establishing a provisional Palestinian state.

With President George W. Bush preparing in the near future, probably next week, to outline a possible road map to peace negotiations, Mr Powell was quoted on Wednesday as telling the Arabic daily newspaper *al-Hayat* that a provisional Palestinian state was a possibility.

In order to set up a state called Palestine, Mr Powell was quoted as saying, Mr Bush "knows that to get to that vision it may be necessary to have a provisional state, an interim step; it may take several steps to get there."

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer made clear that Mr Bush had not signed on to the idea. He

said such a state was one among many ideas that Mr Bush is receiving in his consultations with Arab and Israeli leaders as he seeks a way to end Palestinian suicide bombings against Israeli targets, end Israeli incursions into Palestinian areas, and establish a Palestinian state.

"It's reflective of a variety of pieces of advice that people in the government are paid to listen to, from whatever source they may originally derive," Mr Fleischer told reporters.

Mr Powell was asked about the idea as he flew to a G-8 meeting of foreign ministers in Canada. "I did not say there would be a state. I said these are the ideas that are out there," he said. "I'm just trying to lay out to you the range of ideas that are out there, the issues that the President is examining."

Asked about details of a possible transitional state, he said: "That's a question that will have to be answered but if it's going to be a state



Colin Powell

In Canada later, Mr Powell was asked whether there was a disconnect between his remark that the idea of a temporary state was a consistent element in discussions and Mr Fleischer's comment that Mr Bush got advice from various people on the issue.

"Ari's absolutely accurate. There's no distance or space here. The concept of final political settlement and provisional interim status has been part of the dialogue for months," Mr Powell said.

"What I have been doing is trying to help the press and the public

it will have to have some structure. It will have to have something that looks like territory even though it may not be perfectly defined forever."

understand the options that are out there and help the press and the public understand the advice the President has been receiving from a number of different people who have come to visit him," he added.

"It isn't really news and I think the more important thing to watch for is what the President decides."

The question of setting up a transitional Palestinian state was only the latest in a number of issues that left a confusing picture of U.S. West Asiapolicy.

Mr Bush told reporters on Monday during a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon that the time was not ripe for a Middle East conference because "no one has confidence" in the Palestinian government of Yasser Arafat.

The state department, on the other hand, is more positive about the idea for a conference this summer and has been less dismissive of Mr Arafat as a player in the moves toward negotiations. Reuters

THE TIMES OF INDIA

4 JUN 2002

# Al Qaida active on LoC, says US

US (A. G. S. Azim)

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Hensh Tyagi

**New Delhi:** India and the US say they have evidence of Al Qaida terrorists operating in the region near the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir. Although the two countries discussed various matters in this regard during US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld's meetings with senior Indian leaders here on Wednesday, the only detail they provided was that discussions about a monitoring mechanism on the LoC had taken place.

While official sources in the Indian government said the US role would be purely technical and would not include foreign personnel, they affirmed that India was "open to the idea of any additional to the technical capability to monitor movement across the LoC".

Mr Rumsfeld was also told that there would be no further diplomatic de-escalation unless India saw concrete signs of steps taken by Pakistan.

"I have seen indications that Al Qaida is in fact operating in areas near the LoC," Mr Rumsfeld told reporters after a 75-minute meeting with Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. "(But) I don't have any hard evidence of who, how many or where," he added, replying to questions on whether Osama bin Laden's outfit was influencing events in J&K. Indian officials confirmed that India had provided information on this issue to Mr Rumsfeld.

During the meetings, the US re-



**US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld addresses the press outside the Prime Minister's residence in New Delhi on Wednesday.**

newed its offer to provide advanced ground sensors like infrared, thermal, seismic, acoustic, magnetic and radar devices to India. Stating that the situation along the LoC "continues to be tense", Mr Rumsfeld said he had discussed a whole range of subjects, including the sensors, with the Indian leadership. Although no decision about the sensors has been taken so far, the devices

would be operated by local forces rather than by US or other foreign experts, official sources said.

With the US actively engaged in the role of an arbiter in the region, India said it was willing to take further steps down the path of military de-escalation if Pakistan stuck to its pledge of "permanent sealing" the LoC in a visible and decisive way and also dismantled the terrorist camps on

its soil.

Officials said the US had been given the message that India would like to wait and watch before committing itself to any further steps. "Understandings" have been reached with the US on how to deal with some immediate problems, to "help create a better atmosphere in the sub-continent", said defence minister George Fernandes.

# Bush stands by Israel

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, June 11. — President Mr George Bush has reiterated Israel's right to defend itself against terrorist attacks and stressed the need to work towards a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Mr Bush met with Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon in the Oval Office yesterday as Israeli tanks and troops surrounded Arafat's compound in Ramallah.

Strongly defending Israel's right to defend itself against terrorism, Bush called upon Israeli and Palestinian leaders to "work together to create conditions that prevent a few from stopping what most people

## Suicide attack

JERUSALEM, June 11. — At least 15 people were wounded in an apparent suicide bombing tonight in Herzliya, north of Tel Aviv, Israeli public radio said. The explosion took place before 8:00 p.m. at a restaurant.

Israeli army radio said the bomber, who had entered the Jamil restaurant in central Herzliya, survived the blast and was in serious condition. — AFP

in the region want, which is peace." Mr Bush, however, refused to set any date for proclamation of a Palestinian State as demanded by President Mubarak of Egypt, saying the

12/16  
US (N) WAM  
political and economic reform of Palestinian Governmental institutions would bring confidence not only to Israelis seeking a negotiating partner, but would give hope to Palestinians as well.

He added that along with reform, a political process towards a solution to the conflict should be continued. Mr Bush said the two of them discussed ways of achieving "security and peace and economic hope to all the people of the region".

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded next to an Israeli bus carrying some students through the West Bank near Hebron, injuring several people, police and Israeli radio said. At least, three persons were injured, one of them seriously, rescue workers said.

THE STATESMAN

12 JUN 2002

prevent Burnham's escape.

# Bush vows help against Abu Sayyaf

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER/ANN

MANILA, June 8. - President George W. Bush has called for stepped up joint operations against Abu Sayyaf guerrillas after they killed an American hostage in southern Philippines, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said today.

"President Bush assured us of the continuing help of the USA in pushing the operation forward. We will forge on with greater fervour and tenacity until the Abu Sayyaf is finished," Ms Macapagal said at a news conference.

She said the US leader called her late yesterday, hours after the bloody rescue attempt that left US Christian missionary Martin Burnham and Filipina nurse Ediborah Yap dead.

Martin's wife Gracia was rescued and treated for a gunshot wound on the leg. Four Abu Sayyaf members were also

## Hostage penned note for kids

ZAMBOANGA, June 8. - A US hostage rescued from Muslim guerrillas in the Philippines said her husband wrote a letter to their three children before he was murdered by the rebels, a Filipino general said today.

Mrs Gracia Burnham told me that her husband, Martin, had a premonition he would die after their year-long jungle ordeal in the hands of the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, General Ernesto Carolina, the most senior military commander in the troubled southern Philippines, said. "She felt that Martin had a premonition that he's not going to make it. Martin wrote a letter, it's for their children," said Ms Carolina, who met Gracia at a hospital in Zamboanga city before her departure late yesterday. The contents of the letter were not revealed. - AFP

slain and eight members of the leaders, including Khadafy security forces were wounded, Janjalani and Abu Sabaya, and but officials say it was now has sent 1,000 US troops to the likely that most, if not all, of the Philippines to train the Filipino top five leaders of the Muslim soldiers fighting the guerilla guerrilla group may have group.

The Burnhams are the escaped. Washington last month issued remnants of 20 people seized a \$5 million bounty on the from a western Philippines heads of the top five Abu Sayyaf island resort on 27 May last

US (W) . 5 5 AM 11

year. The Abu Sayyaf last year murdered one of the other captives, Peru-born American Guillermo Sobero.

"The USA stands with President Arroyo, the Armed Forces and the people of the Philippines in this just cause."

Gen Colin Powell, meanwhile, said Ms Macapagal, "a staunch ally of the global war on terrorism, has expressed an unwavering determination to bring to justice or destroy the Abu Sayyaf terrorists."

**Gloria promises justice:** President Arroyo reiterated her previous vow to crush the Abu Sayyaf after American Martin Burnham and Filipino Ediborah Yap were killed in the course of military operations against the Abu Sayyaf in the hinterlands of the Zamboanga peninsula.

"The terrorists shall not be allowed to get away with this," she declared.

2002



MAKE ACTION EVIDENT, U.S. TELLS MUSHARRAF

## 'India should reciprocate once Pak. takes action'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 7. The United States continues to maintain that the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, must stop terrorist infiltration across the Line of Control in Kashmir on a "permanent basis," and when this becomes clear, Washington will look to India to reciprocate.

"...the goal that affects the relationship and the situation in Kashmir is to stop infiltration across the LoC on a permanent basis. And as that becomes clear, as that becomes evident, we look to the Indians to reciprocate," the U.S. State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said.

The United States was talking to Gen. Musharraf on how to make the checking of terrorist infiltration effective, Mr. Boucher said. "He (Musharraf) has made clear repeatedly that there won't be any support from Pakistani-controlled territory for terrorist activity. And so what we're talking to him about is how to make that effective, and in some ways how to make that evident to all of us that that kind of activity has ceased."

With the U.S. Deputy Secre-

tary of State, Richard Armitage, having finished his talks in Pakistan, the Bush administration said the situation in the subcontinent was still very tense, although somewhat better. "... the situation does remain very tense but there are elements of progress, some marginal progress, that can be recorded," Mr. Boucher said, defending the Department's travel warnings and advisories on India and Pakistan. "On the one hand, you have a very tense situation that means that we strongly urge our own people and other Americans to depart; at the same time, we are in there, Deputy Secretary Armitage is in there, trying to make it better."

The Bush administration is not responding to queries on the subject of joint patrolling along the LoC. There have been media reports of the administration here leaning towards some kind of a U.S.-British helicopter force monitoring the LoC. "I don't really have anything to say at this moment," Mr. Boucher said.

Meanwhile, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Richard Myers, has been quoted in Brussels as saying that to his knowl-

edge, there is no American intention of offering the use of American troops to monitor the LoC.

Also, in what seems to be routine planning, the American military has drawn up plans to reposition its troops operating in and around Pakistan, in the event of a war in South Asia.

### Al-Qaeda plot against Musharraf

PTI reports:

The U.S. intelligence agencies have picked up information indicating that the Al-Qaeda terrorists are planning to assassinate Gen. Musharraf.

An intelligence report from Southwest Asia, which has not been confirmed, stated that the activists of the terror outfit, Al-Qaeda, were trying to conduct the assassination to precipitate the conflict between Pakistan and India, *The Washington Times* reported today. "The Al-Qaeda views a conflict as good for the organisation.

The war would make it harder for Pakistan to cooperate with the U.S. military and intelligence forces now searching for Al-Qaeda terrorists in Afghanistan and Pak."

08 JUN 2002

THE HINDU

# Armitage shuttle with LoC monitor

US (W) South Asia

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR AND PRANAY SHARMA

Islamabad/New Delhi, June 8: US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage dropped broad hints in Islamabad today after talks with President Pervez Musharraf that he would carry to India proposals for verifying Pakistan's claim that infiltration has stopped.

Armitage said his talks with Musharraf touched on how to monitor incursions across the Line of Control. "We're discussing all sorts of monitoring

mechanisms, without any prejudices one way or another," he said.

Though Pakistan had described Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's proposal for joint patrolling of the Line of Control as unworkable, indications coming out of Islamabad suggest the idea is far from dead.

Pakistan repeated its statement yesterday that if India were serious about the proposal, it should put it forward formally. Information minister Nisar Memon called upon India to present it through the diplomat-

ic channel, adding that a mechanism had to be worked out for joint patrolling.

"That will be the beginning of the dialogue between the two countries... we will discuss the counter-proposals as well," he said.

Apparent in the statement was the suggestion that if Delhi agreed to talk, Islamabad was prepared to discuss a mechanism for joint patrolling as well.

That was exactly how it was read in Delhi, too. India said it would not establish formal contact until it was satisfied infiltration had stopped.

The expectation in the Indian camp is that when Armitage arrives tomorrow, he may bring a proposal for developing an information-sharing mechanism among India, the US and the UK on infiltration. This could include the use of American sensors and satellite imagery.

A foreign ministry official said such coordination might be necessary since in the past information collected by India and the West has not matched.

Signalling that the blinding whirl of diplomatic activity is making headway, Armitage said: "President Musharraf has made

it very clear that he is searching for peace and he won't be the one to initiate a war."

"I will be hopefully getting the same type of assurances tomorrow in Delhi," he added.

Vajpayee chaired a security meeting tonight with his Cabinet colleagues to assess the situation on the border, where the shelling was a little less today than it has been in recent days. Home minister L.K. Advani, foreign minister Jaswant Singh and defence minister George Fernandes were present at the meeting along with senior officials.

India maintains that its proposal for joint patrolling was the best way of verifying whether or not infiltration was taking place. "It is a very serious, major and significant offer," foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

"It is the most practical and do-able step," she added.

Though it is not being said in public, the joint patrolling proposal may also be an attempt by India to legitimise the LoC as the ultimate settlement point to end the decades-old dispute on Kashmir.

See Page 6



Armitage in Islamabad. (Reuters)

07 JUN 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

# Superpower Retreat

## Bowing to Nuclear Blackmail

By K Subrahmanyam

May 31, 2002 is likely to turn out as fateful a day in history as September 11, 2001, when the superpower was attacked on its home turf. On the former day, the sole superpower virtually yielded to nuclear blackmail by Pakistan (conveyed by its ambassador to the UN). Instead of taking Pakistan to task as was done in 1990, the US chose to keep silent on the issue. Worse, the US administration obliged Pakistan by recalling its staff from the subcontinent.

Whether this was a momentary loss of nerve on the part of Washington or a permanent cerebral stroke incapacitating the superpower, the next few weeks will tell, as deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage and defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld visit the subcontinent.

The advisory of US and western powers to their nationals verged on utter panic. It also brought out two factors which will affect the future, irrespective of any policy reversal by the United States and possible recovery of its confidence. First, in spite of the non-proliferation treaty, the counter-proliferation strategy and the Security Council summit resolution of January 1992, the US and its nuclear allies are in no position to impose nuclear discipline on Pakistan. The message is loud and clear to other potential rogue states that if they could clandestinely acquire nuclear weapons, then the US and the rest of the international community would keep off. It would confirm the potent role of nuclear weapons in international relations.

The western leaders praised General Musharraf for more than four months for his speech of January 12, 2002 and his commitment to stop cross-border terrorism. Then, on May 31, 2002 they spoke about the possibility of an Indo-Pak war consequent upon the continuing cross-border terrorism. In other words, the sole superpower and its allies were not able to prevail upon Pakistan to abide by its commitment and invoke Security Council resolution 1373 (which mandates states not to support terrorism). Further, bin Laden, Mullah Omar and the leadership cadres of the Al-Qaida and the Taliban are today in Pakistan and regrouping their forces. In spite of Pakistan being an ally of the US, the terrorists were able to move from Afghanistan to Pakistan in November-December 2001 before the Indo-Pak border stand-off began and while the Pakistani army fully manned the Afghan border. Out of 22 leaders of the Al-Qaida, only two are accounted for. Most of the high profile operations of the elite US and British forces on Afghan-Pakistan border have been futile.

The US vice-president and the director of FBI have asserted that new terrorist threats

are inevitable and cannot be stopped. Yet, they seem oblivious of the fact that today the epicentre of terrorism is Pakistan, from where the Al-Qaida is busy plotting new attacks on the US. The Al-Qaida used to proclaim that they had defeated one superpower (the Soviet Union) and they would surely defeat the second (the US). The US's current indulgent behaviour towards Pakistan would appear to validate their claims.

Lastly, by giving in to Pakistani nuclear blackmail, the US has allowed the nuclearisation of terrorism, thereby encouraging the Al-Qaida and the jihadis to continue their terrorist activities behind the shield of Pakistani nuclear capability. Today, the Al-Qaida and the Taliban may have lost Afghanistan, but they have successfully established themselves in the safe haven of Pakistan, thanks to General Musharraf's brilliant strategy of claiming to be an ally of the US, while in practice supporting and sustaining the operation of the terrorist groups.

This strategy is derived from the one successfully practised by the Al-Qaida and the jihadis in the eighties in Afghanistan. They derived their weapons, skills and other resources from the US for the purpose of

overthrowing Soviet occupation and used them successfully against the US itself. Similarly, using General Musharraf's professed alliance with the US, the Al-Qaida will derive the necessary wherewithal to wage its war of terrorism. In this respect, General Musharraf has been hunting with the American hound even while running with the jihadi and Al-Qaida hares.

In these circumstances, the world, as well as India may have to adjust themselves to a new international security paradigm in which the sole superpower does not have the will to commit itself to a war against terrorism or towards effective countering of nuclear blackmail. The present Indian strategy is based on certain assumptions of superpower behaviour. The May 31 events call for a radical reassessment of our assumptions. The possibility of the US not pursuing the war against terrorism or countering nuclear blackmail has to be factored in our calculations. Many may rejoice in the sole superpower losing its nerve and abdicating its responsibility. Others may be disoriented by it. For the Al-Qaida and the jihadis, this will be a morale booster and it will be logical to expect them to initiate more terrorist attacks both against India and the US. The former is far more vulnerable than the latter.

It is also possible the Americans may treat this as a temporary loss of nerve and return to their normal superpower behaviour pattern. In that event continuity will be restored, though at significant cost to the US image and credibility.

### IN BRIEF

- The US could not impose nuclear discipline on Pakistan
- The American advisory to its nationals is a panic reaction
- America's image as a superpower has been hurt irretrievably

'THE SITUATION IS TENSE AND WE ARE WORRIED'

# Infiltration still on: Powell

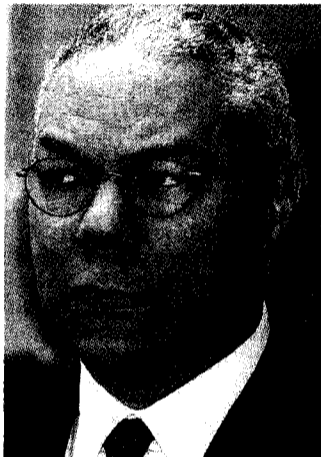
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 31. The Bush administration has criticised Pakistan for the continuance of cross-border terrorism and debunked its President, Pervez Musharraf's repeated assertions that "nothing" is happening along the Line of Control (LoC).

"There is an urgency to it... The situation has not improved in the last month or so. We were receiving assurances from President Musharraf that infiltration across the LoC would be ended. But unfortunately we can still see evidence that it is continuing," the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said in an interview to the Public Broadcasting network.

He has now given assurances again and these assurances are more positive and we hope he is giving the necessary orders and taking all the necessary action to stop the infiltration."

"The situation was tense," Gen. Powell said, adding that the U.S. was trying to make sure that India and Pakistan never reached the point of war. "We are pressing President Musharraf



very hard to cease all infiltration activities on the part of terrorist organisations across the LoC and we are asking the Indians to show restraint until we can determine whether or not infiltration activity has ceased."

He said that if indeed infiltration had ceased, it would be a basis for India to reciprocate by starting to get down the de-escalation and de-mobilisation ladder. "So right now it is a tense situation; we're worried abo...

it." Gen. Powell did not respond when asked if a conflict between India and Pakistan would eventually lead to the use of nuclear weapons but pointed out the implications and consequences, including worldwide condemnation, on the nation that chose the nuclear route.

The Secretary of State said that Kashmir was a "very sensitive issue" between India and Pakistan and that while there might have been a number of ideas and plans over the years, right now there was "nothing active" before the two countries for the resolution of the problem.

"It is a very sensitive issue between the two sides. There are political consequences, there are religious issues involved in it. It has been an intractable problem for 50 years. It has to do with the various populations that co-exist within Kashmir. And they have never been able to find a political way to solve this difficult problem that really has been there since the formation of these two countries."

He stressed that "any outside plan" will not work in solving

the Kashmir problem; neither was there a role at this point for a mediator to come in from outside.

Reuters reports:

In an interview to BBC World Service radio, Gen. Powell said that he needed absolute proof that Pakistan was effecting a clampdown on militants.

"Instructions have been given to cease this kind of activity, but it is too early to say that it has stopped. If it does stop, it must also stop permanently."

"I think that what we are expecting President Musharraf to do is to use all the authority he has to stop it and to keep it stopped so that we can get this crisis behind us."

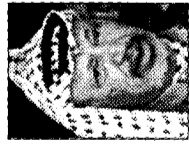
THE HINDU

0 1 2002

# Debate on Arafat stalls U.S. West Asia policy

By Patrick E. Tyler

Washington: An intense debate among President Bush and his top advisers over whether to press for the removal of Yasser Arafat as the leader of the Palestinian Authority has effectively frozen the nation's Middle East policy, according to some administration officials.



**Yasser Arafat**

It has also prompted George J. Tenet, the director of central intelligence, to delay his mission to the region until the policy is worked out.

For more than two weeks, Mr Bush and secretary of state Colin L. Powell have said that Mr Tenet will go to the Middle East to work to restructure Palestinian security forces after the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the West Bank. But no date was set, and until now, there was no coherent explanation for the delay. In the meantime, the White House has decided to send William Burns, the assistant secretary of state for Near Eastern affairs, to the region. He is expected to leave early next week for Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Israel and the Palestinian territories.

Word of the debate in the White House has reached Mr Arafat's senior advisers, one of whom has been in Washington for two weeks arguing Mr Arafat's case in the state department and the Pen-

tagon. In an unusual meeting about a week ago, that adviser, Muhammad Rashid, debated the "centrality" of Mr Arafat's role with deputy secretary of defense Paul D. Wolfowitz, who had been one of the critics of Mr Arafat in the administration.

President Bush tried to settle the issue of Mr Arafat's leadership in two meetings of his principal advisers before he left for Moscow on Wednesday, administration officials said, and Mr Bush took part in the second meeting. But lengthy discussions failed to resolve the question of whether the United States was prepared to accept Mr Arafat based on his pledge to undertake extensive changes, intended to tighten security, end corruption and broaden the Palestinian leadership.

At the same time, given the current political ferment in the Palestinian territories that had given rise to strong criticism of Mr Arafat among Palestinians, the delay gave the administration time to assess the political challenges that Mr Arafat was beginning to face at home, officials said.

"The Americans are watching the situation", said a senior Arab foreign policy adviser whose government had been in close contact with secretary Powell. "And we do not feel they are off course. The most important thing going on right now is the dialogue among the Palestinians themselves."

"Arafat is admitting mistakes and he is re-assessing how to be a better Arafat if he wants to

stay", the adviser said. But one pro-Israeli lobbyist, who has been tracking the administration's debate, said that Mr Bush and his advisers "have got themselves tied in a knot".

Mr Bush is described as being inclined to work with Mr Arafat in collaboration with moderate Arab leaders who put pressure on him to make changes. But Mr Bush has repeatedly spoken of Mr Arafat's need to fulfil the expectations of western and moderate Arab leaders.

On Tuesday, before leaving on his trip, Mr Bush spoke with a number of European reporters and said that Mr Arafat had "had chance after chance, and by failing to lead, he has really let the Palestinians down". Later he said, "Somebody said, 'Has he earned your respect?' I said, 'He never had my respect, because he let his people down.'"

The debate in the Bush administration has divided along familiar lines, officials said, with defense secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Vice President Dick Cheney pressing for a policy that will undermine Mr Arafat's control over the Palestinian Authority and pave the way for a change in leadership. Secretary Powell and Mr Tenet are said to argue that there is no alternative to Mr Arafat. They advocate keeping him under pressure to deliver on his pledges of change. According to this view, political and economic reconstruction of the Palestinian Authority would set the stage for statehood. NYT News Service

# Show results, Bush tells Musharraf

PARIS, MAY 26. The United States President, George W. Bush, today told the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to "show results" in keeping militants from carrying out terrorist acts in Kashmir. That issue, he said, was more important than Pakistan's two missile tests.

After meeting with the French President, Jacques Chirac, he said the U.S. had expressed its concerns about the tests to the Musharraf Government. But he said, he was more interested in seeing Gen. Musharraf take action to prevent attacks in Kashmir, where Indian soldiers and civilians have been killed.

"I'm more concerned about making sure that President Musharraf shows results in terms of stopping people from crossing the Line of Control," he said. "Stopping terrorism. That is more important than missile testing."

Mr. Bush today joined his Russian counterpart, Vladimir

Putin, in expressing his "strong reservations" over the missile tests conducted by Pakistan even as the current India-Pakistan standoff figured prominently during the talks.

"We are spending a lot of time on this subject," said Mr. Bush, whose summit with the Russian President, Vladimir Pu-

tin, moved to Russia's former imperial capital of St. Petersburg today from Moscow.

"We are making it very clear to both parties that there is no benefit in war, there is no fit in a clash that could lead to wider war. We are deeply concerned about the rhetoric. There is a lot of diplomatic effort going into bringing some calm and reason to the region," he added.

"Obviously we hope that there is restraint in the area, that the tests will not be seen as a provocation", Mr. Bush told presspersons here. "Everyone can understand danger in the region. We are hopeful that slowly but surely we can erode that distrust", he said, adding that "we just have got to continue to work the problem".

Mr. Putin also expressed regrets over the tests. The leaders continued to pressurise Gen. Musharraf to stop cross border terrorism in Kashmir.

"We are deeply concerned about the rhetoric. It is very important for President Musharraf to do what he said he's going to do on terror, and that is stop the incursions across the LoC", Mr. Bush said while urging Gen. Musharraf to put a curb on Islamic militancy. — AP, Reuters, PTI

## PAK. TEST-FIRES ANOTHER MISSILE

ISLAMABAD, MAY 26. A day after the successful testing of the Ghauri missile, Pakistan today test-fired a short range version of its surface-to-surface Haaf series of missiles.

India which had dismissed the test of the 1500-km range version of the missile yesterday saying "We do not take it seriously", today said "we are not perturbed by the tests. It is part of the stocks, clandestinely procured by Pakistan and aimed at addressing the domestic audience." The Haaf-3 (Ghaznavi), which is capable of carrying warheads accurately up to a range of 290 km, was test-fired for the first time today.

The U.S. President, George Bush, said: "We have already expressed reservations over the tests". He advised India not to view them as a provocation. He asked both the countries to slow restraint. "The flight data collected indicated that all design parameters have been successfully validated," the Inter Services Public Relations said in a statement. — UNI

27 MAY 2002

143 (W) 49-14

FRANCE / FOCUS ON TERRORISM, WEST ASIA

275

# Bush meets Chirac amid protests

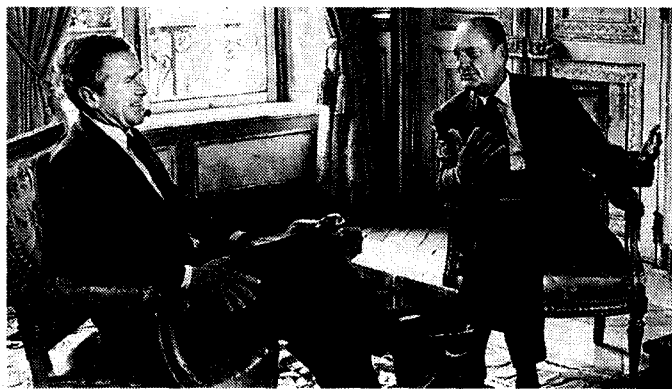
PARIS, MAY 26, The U.S. President, George W. Bush, arrived in Paris today for a two-day trip to France, beginning with talks with the newly re-elected President, Jacques Chirac.

After a short ceremony at Paris Orly airport, Mr. Bush was whisked away to the presidential Elysee Palace in a heavily-guarded motorcade for his meeting with Mr. Chirac.

The two heads of state were expected to discuss the U.S.-led war on terrorism, West Asia, trade relations between Europe and the United States, and the tension between India and Pakistan.

Just before leaving St. Petersburg for Paris, Mr. Bush again called on India and Pakistan to show restraint in their military stand-off, expressing "strong reservations" about new Pakistani missile tests. He also urged India not to view the tests as a provocation.

France is Mr. Bush's penulti-



**WEIGHING OPTIONS?:** The U.S. President, George W. Bush (left), listens to the French President, Jacques Chirac, in the Elysee Palace in Paris on Sunday. — AP

mate stop on his European trip, during which he has charmed German lawmakers, signed a landmark nuclear arms reduction treaty with Russia and bonded with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

But the French are Mr. Bush's most vocal critics among his Western allies and relations

were strained recently when he annoyed France and other key U.S. trading partners in Europe by imposing hefty tariffs on steel imports.

In Paris and in Caen in north-western France, protesters, many of whom perceive Mr. Bush to have a unilateralist bent, gathered to demonstrate

against U.S. policies.

"U.S. imperialism: that's enough!" ran one banner in Caen.

At least 30 organisations have joined forces for the protests on issues ranging from a possible U.S. attack on Iraq to Washington's West Asia policy, trade and the environment.

Some 3,500 police were deployed around Paris to provide security for Mr. Bush and to supervise the demonstration.

Hours before Mr. Bush arrived, several dozen death penalty opponents gathered near a smaller replica of the Statue of Liberty in Paris to denounce his support of capital punishment. The statue is located near a bridge where death-penalty opponents hung cardboard figures that dangled from string to denote the 152 people executed in Texas during Mr. Bush's six years there as Governor.

Environmental activists too plan to take part. — AP

THE HINDU

27 MAY 2002

27 MAY 2002

# Bush asks allies to get tough on terrorism

WSN  
11-12  
29/5

**Berlin:** President George W. Bush told skeptical allies "we've got to be tough" on terrorism today as tens of thousands of anti-war protesters greeted his arrival in Europe and German leaders questioned U.S. hopes of toppling Saddam Hussein.



G. W. Bush

Opening a seven-day, four-nation trip, Mr Bush warned that Europe may be the terror-

ists' next target.

"Even though we've had some initial successes, there's still danger for countries which embrace freedom, countries such as ours, or Germany, France, Russia or Italy," the President said as he left the White House shortly after dawn.

Hours later, Mr Bush stepped off Air Force One onto a red carpet lined by white-jacketed military troops. For his only appointment on the first evening of this trip, he ducked into a coffee house at the site of the old Berlin Wall with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, U.S. ambassador Dan Coats and Berlin Mayor Klaus Wowereit.

Almost a picnic atmosphere prevailed here as tens of thousands of people marched in opposition to Bush's anti-terror war plans, their placards carrying both harsh and humorous messages. "War is terror — stop the global bush fire," read one.

Mr Bush shook hands in the cafe and received a polite round of applause from the selected group drinking coffee and beer.

Previewing the speech he will give the German Parliament on Friday, he said before leaving Washington, "As an alliance, we must continue to fight against global terror. We've got to be tough."

Mr Bush also said that he opposed a special commission to probe how his adminis-

tration handled the pre-September 11 terror warnings and opted instead for a Congressional inquiry that would protect intelligence.

"I, of course, want the Congress to take a look at what took place... the investigation would best be done in the Intelligence Committee," he told reporters during a news conference in Berlin with German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Senate majority leader Tom Daschle, a South Dakota Democrat, is pushing for an independent commission after disclosures suggesting the White House missed a series of hints last year that critics believe might have helped prevent the attack.

Mr Bush said that, because "we're still at war," it was important the information he received "be protected because we don't want to give away sources and uses and methodology of intelligence gathering."

The President's comments came as he faced U.S. reporters for the first time since the revelations that he was briefed prior to the September 11 terror attacks that Islamic militant followers of Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden might try to hijack American aircraft.

The United States blames bin Laden's Al Qaida network for the attacks in which 19 men hijacked four U.S. commercial aircraft, driving two into the twin towers of New York's World Trade Center and a third into the Pentagon. The fourth crashed in a Pennsylvania field after a scuffle between passengers and the hijackers.

The debate over an independent commission flared after last week's disclosure, confirmed by the White House, that Mr Bush received an analysis on August 6, raising the possibility of Al Qaida seeking to hijack planes. Agencies



## THE NEW U.S.-CUBA COLD WAR

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, George W. Bush, has sought to justify Washington's new Cold War agenda in relation to Cuba, America's tiny off-shore neighbour. He categorically refused on Monday to lift the economic sanctions that the U.S. imposed on Cuba about four decades ago. Now, by insisting that the White House will not take the initiative to engage Fidel Castro's communist Government in Havana, Mr. Bush has simply recited some old American demands. The new backdrop though is an accusation hurled in a manner designed to produce a resonant impact on his ongoing global campaign against terrorism. The Bush administration has indeed accused Cuba of being involved in a secret programme of developing a limited but offensive capability to wage a bioterrorist war by unleashing germs. Having tried in this manner to update Gen. Castro's image as America's most proximate bogeyman in terms of the idiom and ideology of Washington's current anti-terror campaign, Mr. Bush now finds it convenient to rule out any kind of normal links with Cuba for the present. America's great debate about a small country like Cuba actually dates back to the time when that tiny Caribbean state came under communist control several decades ago. Washington's latest charge of bioterrorism against Havana marks the most dramatic downturn in their official relationship since the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. It was then that the U.S. and the old Soviet Union in its status as Havana's benefactor played out the world's first major face-off over nuclear weapons and their delivery systems. While the de-escalation of the Cuban missile crisis is in itself a major saga in superpower diplomacy of the Cold War era, Washington's latest attempt to paint Havana in terrorist colours has acquired some bizarre overtones.

Jimmy Carter, now a "civilian statesman" who was formerly America's President, has certainly

disputed Washington's new depiction of Cuba. Mr. Carter points out sharply that the Bush administration officials had assured him, prior to his ground-breaking visit to Havana that ended only a few days ago, that there was no evidence to implicate Cuba in any kind of terrorist agenda which might be of concern to the U.S. at this time. Mr. Carter's freelance diplomacy as Cuba's official guest is apparently designed to hasten the end of a Cold War legacy that bears the stamp of unabashed McCarthyism. In a sense, Mr. Carter rather than Mr. Bush seems to be more attuned to the reported trends in the latest American opinion polls regarding ties with Cuba. A growing number of Americans is said to favour a liberalised regime of travel to and trade with Cuba. Almost inevitably, therefore, Mr. Bush himself has now underlined that the American sanctions on Cuba might yet be lifted if that country could usher in a pluralist and representative democracy at home at the time of planned legislative elections next year.

The main argument against the political logic of sanctions on Cuba — a theme increasingly articulated within American opinion circles — is linked to the incongruity of Washington treating Gen. Castro differently from the rulers in China and, to a lesser extent, North Korea too. Democracy and human rights are the political principles Mr. Carter has recommended to the Cuban people while speaking to them on their own soil and praising the strides that they have made in such social spheres as education and health care. Overall, the case of Cuba deserves to be re-examined by the U.S. in the larger context of its own anti-terror campaign, whose indicated focal point is not any avowed opposition to communism itself as the governing principle or practice of statehood. However, as Mr. Bush's critics point out, he seems more inclined at present to woo the anti-Castro Cuban-Americans than to look at Mr. Carter's call to America's conscience.

THE HINDU

23 MAY 2002

40-19

EUROPE TOUR / ANTI-WAR PROTESTS AWAIT U.S. PRESIDENT

4

2375

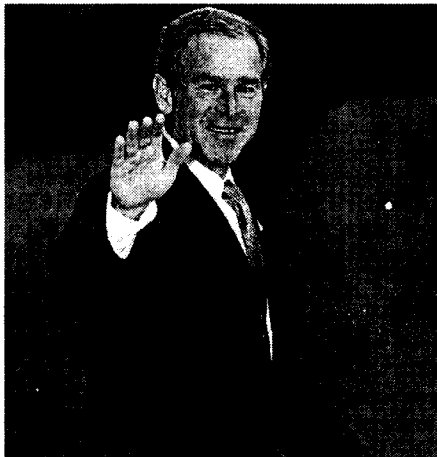
# Allies too face terror threat: Bush

WASHINGTON, MAY 22. Seeking to counter European doubts about the U.S.-led war on terrorism, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, opened his weeklong trip on Wednesday by warning allies they too could face attacks and urging their continued support for military action.

"Even though we've had some initial successes, there's still danger for countries which embrace freedom, countries such as ours, or Germany, France, Russia or Italy," Mr. Bush said as he departed the White House for a four-nation tour. "As an alliance, we must continue to fight against global terror. We've got to be tough."

Mr. Bush flew to Berlin, where he was to use an address to the German Parliament on Thursday to underscore the need for continued co-operation against terrorism. "I know America can't win the war on terror alone," he told the German TV station ARD. But a stark reminder of European scepticism awaited him: Some 100 protests were planned across Germany on Wednesday and Thursday to coincide with his visit, and a demonstration in Berlin on the eve of his arrival drew as many as 100,000 people, most opposing any expansion of the war.

Mr. Bush has not fielded questions from White House reporters in a week, a period in which it was disclosed that he learned last August that Osama bin Laden wanted to hijack U.S. airplanes, and did not answer queries after his brief statement on Wednesday morning. But Mr. Bush submitted to a series of interviews from European



**The U.S. President, George W. Bush, waves as he leaves the White House on Wednesday for a week-long trip to Europe and Russia. — AP**

journalists on Tuesday, eager to win hearts and minds there in advance of his trip to Germany, France, Italy and Russia.

Looking across a table at the White House at reporters from all four countries, Mr. Bush told them he surveys a threat-assessment report each morning, and added: "I am confident that I've read threats that were directed to the countries represented here."

"The best way to secure our homeland,

the best way for Italy to be secure, and other countries, is to find these killers, is to hunt for them, is to chase them down," Mr. Bush later told Italy's RAI television. Throughout the sessions with European journalists, Mr. Bush moulded his answers to fit his message on terrorism. — AP

Batuk Gathani reports from Brussels:

Nearly 17,000 protestors and 10,000 police are gathering in Berlin ahead of Mr. Bush's arrival, in what is rated as the largest police operation in Berlin since World War II.

Mr. Bush will fly into the German capital tomorrow on his first-ever visit as the U.S. President. According to local observers, Mr. Bush faces a mixed reception as scepticism grows over widely perceived American unilateralism. For his 20-hour visit, demonstrators are planning three days of protests.

For the average German, Mr. Bush is neither a John F. Kennedy nor a Ronald Reagan — both of whom expressed important themes of German-U.S. ties in the past. Today, Mr. Bush has yet to inspire confidence in his trans-Atlantic credentials.

"Every trip by a U.S. President to Europe matters, both in symbolism and substance. This week's visit by President George W. Bush to Germany, Russia, France and Italy matters more than most. It comes at a time when trans-Atlantic dialogue is in danger of being distorted by mutual misunderstanding ... They need to learn to listen to each other again," a *Financial Times* writer states.

THE HINDU

2002

WS (M)  
HP-10  
20/5

# The Washington factor

By K.K. Katyal

*There should be no doubt about America's continued diplomatic involvement in the affairs of the subcontinent, especially when it sees India and Pakistan moving towards the brink.*

**W**HETHER WE like it or not, whether we want it or not, Washington's diplomatic engagement with India and Pakistan will be the single most important factor in determining the future shape of the uneasy relationship between the two countries — in particular, whether the present stand-off continues or degenerates into an armed conflict. And the United States has not minced words that it is for restraint.

There is nothing to suggest that either the decision-takers in New Delhi or a large section of the Opposition or the non-official strategic community are particularly averse to U.S. moves. The Indian side makes a distinction between third-party intervention (by the U.S. or, for that matter, any other country), on the one hand, and in the use of leverages by America with Pakistan to secure an end to cross-border terrorism, on the other.

True, the BJP and others in the ruling alliance during last week's debate in Parliament spoke of "moral and diplomatic ambivalence" of the U.S. towards the activities of the militants based in Pakistan and trained by agencies there. True, the Home Minister, L. K. Advani, disclosed what he told the U.S. Ambassador, Robert Blackwill — that India was deeply disappointed by the U.S. stance which only served to encourage Pakistan to continue its proxy war. The Home Minister was categorical in his assurance that "we are not dependent upon others" and that the terrorism menace would be tackled by "our troops, by our people".

These open expressions of anguish and disappointment over the U.S. stance notwithstanding, New Delhi will find itself involved in Washington's diplomatic initiatives. Some moves are already on. What else is the meaning of the long-distance calls by the U.S. President, George W. Bush, to the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, by the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, to the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, and the South Asia-related flurry of activity in Washington, New Delhi and Islama-

bad? Or of the planned visit to the subcontinent by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage? We may well see a repeat of the hectic diplomatic processes witnessed in January when the build-up of troops by India on the border with Pakistan caused a scare. As a result of those moves, the Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, came out with his anti-terrorism package, while India refrained from pushing ahead with escalation.

There should be no doubt about America's continued diplomatic involvement in the affairs of the subcontinent, especially when it sees India and Pakistan moving towards the brink. New Delhi may be justified in maintaining that, in the new-found love for Pakistan (in the wake of 9/11), the U.S. was not mindful of India's concerns or that it chose to ignore the wide gaps between Gen. Musharraf's professions and actions. At the same time, it should be possible to make good use of the opportunities presented by America's interest in the area — not through rhetoric but by the marshalling of hard evidence. The U.S. believes — as was indicated by a senior official in a recent interview to *The Hindu* — that infiltration of militants into Jammu and Kashmir has waned. If the facts are conveyed to Washington, the U.S. should have no difficulty in correcting itself.

An important point to be emphasised is that the objectives of India and the U.S. converge. After all, it was the resolve to strike at the source of international terrorism that prompted the U.S. to proceed against the Taliban regime in Afghanistan and Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda. The Taliban has, no doubt, been ousted from power in Kabul, but the top echelons of its leadership as also the

Al-Qaeda cadres are intact. Osama, who was to be captured dead or alive, is still around. A good section of these elements is in the tribal belt, near the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

As the *Washington Post* reported the other day, "the major remaining concentrations of Al-Qaeda fighters are in western Pakistan rather than in Afghanistan but Islamabad has resisted U.S. pressure to launch large-scale attacks on them". It pointedly identified the Waziristan area of western Pakistan where they were concentrated. A Pentagon official was quoted as complaining that "our guys haven't been getting the cooperation" requested from the Pakistani Government. Pakistani officials, it was pointed out, had been moving very slowly despite the U.S. offers to provide intelligence, helicopters, Special Operations troops or even conventional military units.

Equally revealing was what the newspaper was told by Pakistani officials that "they fear an internal political backlash, both in the unruly border area and from Islamic extremists across the nation, if they take military action against the suspected Al-Qaeda pockets". They cited another reason — that their military was strained by the ongoing standoff with India. Pakistani officials were conscious that the U.S. could act unilaterally against the terrorist pockets. And if that happens, the U.S.-led offensive on the Pakistani side of the border would mark a major widening of the eight-month-old counter-offensive against terrorism in which overt combat had been restricted to Afghanistan.

There is a tendency in Washington to treat India and Pakistan as co-victims of international terrorism. This is an over-simplification based on the

fact that both the countries have experienced terrorist strikes of late. For Al-Qaeda, Gen. Musharraf is as much a foe as the rulers of India and the U.S. That accounts for the Karachi blast that claimed the lives of French personnel, working on a submarine project in Pakistan — or, for that matter, other killings, including those at a church in Islamabad. Barring Al-Qaeda, all militant groups in Pakistan continue to enjoy the support and patronage of the ISI and other Pakistani agencies. Gen. Musharraf's January 12 package was not meant to apply these groups, functioning from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and, as such, Pakistan had sought to claim that its territory was not being allowed to be used as a springboard for terrorist violence in Kashmir. So far as Kashmir-related operations are concerned, there is nothing that divides Al-Qaeda and the other jihadis. If the U.S. is made to grasp this central fact, New Delhi would be able to turn the American "interest" in the subcontinent to its advantage. And to the extent that U.S. pressure on Pakistan works — as it did in January — the danger of an India-Pakistan standoff taking a serious turn would lessen.

America did play a decisive role during the Kargil conflict. That fact was known then but the graphic account of how it all happened is now given by a senior director in the Clinton administration's National Security Council, Bruce O. Riedel. The operative portion of the discussions during the July 4 meeting in Washington between Bill Clinton and the then Pakistani President, Nawaz Sharif, bears repetition — "Mr. Clinton asked Mr. Sharif if he knew how advanced the threat of nuclear war really was?... The President reminded Mr. Sharif how close the U.S. and Soviet Union had come to nuclear war in 1962 on Cuba. Did Mr. Sharif realise that even if one bomb was dropped... Mr. Sharif finished his sentence and said it would be a catastrophe. Under intense pressure Mr. Sharif agreed to order a withdrawal, defusing the conflict and the immediate potential for a nuclear exchange."

THE HINDU

20 MAY 2002

# No decision yet on Armitage mission

S Rajagopalan  
Washington, May 18

THE UNITED States seems to be in a quandary on how to contain the deteriorating Indo-Pak situation. After the barrage of criticism in Parliament over its failure to bring round Pakistan, top US functionaries are weighing their options for a meaningful initiative to end the standoff.

The US State Department has not yet taken a decision on sending Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage amid fears that in the absence of worthwhile concessions from Pakistan another hurried visit could meet with the same fate as the failed Christina Rocca mission.

"There is no further decision at this point on travel to the region," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said on Friday, scotching reports of an urgent Armitage mission. A visit by Armitage to both the countries, possibly by early June, has been on the

cards. The department is still to decide whether to advance that visit.

The US has sought some more time from India to work with Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf for action on New Delhi's demands to end infiltration into Kashmir and hand over the 20 wanted terrorists. Powell reportedly made the point again when he spoke to External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh on Friday.

While there was no immediate reaction here on India's decision to ask Pakistan to withdraw its envoy, analysts believe a graduated response instead of a resort to military action will still provide elbowroom to peacemakers.

Prior to the Indian decision, the State Department voiced its concern at the deepening crisis and said the US would continue its efforts to ease the standoff. "We will continue to be involved at a high level and see what we can do," Boucher said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19 MAY 2002

# Probe demand over Osama alert to Bush

Washington, May 16

A DAY after the White House revealed that the Bush administration knew prior to September 11 that Osama bin Laden was seeking to hijack aircraft, lawmakers called for a deeper investigation into why American intelligence agencies and the Federal Bureau of Investigation had failed to put together individual pieces of evidence that, in retrospect, now seem to suggest what was coming.

"Was there a failure of intelligence?" Richard Gephardt, the House Democratic leader from Missouri, said in a news conference today. "Did the right officials not act on the intelligence in the proper way? These are the things we need to find out."

On the NBC News programme "Today," Senator Richard C. Shelby, the Alabama Republican who is the vice chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, said: "There was a lot of information. I believe and others believe if it had been acted upon properly we may have had a different situation on September 11, we don't know that."

On Wednesday night, the White House said President Bush was warned by American intelligence agencies in early August of bin Laden's desires to hijack airplanes. But, White House officials said the warnings did not contemplate the possibility that the hijackers would turn the planes into guided missiles for a terrorist attack.

"It is widely known that we had information that bin Laden wanted to attack the United States or United States interests abroad," Ari Fleischer, the president's press secretary, said on Wednesday night. "The president was also provided information about bin Laden wanting to engage in hijacking in the traditional pre-9/11 sense, not for the use of suicide bombing, not for the use of an airplane as a missile."

The revelation by the White House came in response to a CBS News report on Wednes-

day about the intelligence warning.

In the last few days, government officials have acknowledged for the first time that an FBI agent in Phoenix had urged the FBI headquarters to investigate Middle Eastern men enrolled in American flight schools.

That memorandum also cited bin Laden by name and suggested that his followers could use the schools to train for terror operations, officials who have seen the memorandum said.

Administration officials reached Wednesday evening said the warning given to Bush did not come from the FBI or from the information developed by the Phoenix agent. Instead, it was provided as part of the CIA briefing he is given each morning, suggesting that it was probably based on evidence gathered abroad.

The CIA had been listening intently over the July 4 holiday last year, after what one investigator called "a lot of static in the system suggesting something was coming."

But then the evidence disappeared as quickly as it had arisen, and by August, officials have said, little was heard from Al Qaeda.

The warning of the hijacking was given to the president at his ranch in Crawford, Tex., where he was on vacation.

Taken together, the news of the CIA warning and the information developed separately by the FBI explains Bush's anger after September 11 that intelligence gathered on American soil and abroad was not being centrally analysed and that the agencies were not working well together.

Several times he has told audiences that he is working on solving that problem, and these days he is briefed jointly by the FBI and the CIA, ensuring that each hears information from the other agency.

It was not clear Wednesday evening why the White House waited eight months after the terrorist attacks in New York and Washington to reveal what Bush had been told.

New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 MAY 2002

## Rocca mission a failure

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

65 (A)  
P. K. M. 110-11  
1975

**ISLAMABAD, MAY 16.** A day after the "fire-fighting mission" of the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, it is clear that the visit has not helped defuse tension between India and Pakistan.

On the contrary, the latest terrorist incident in Jammu has further raised the temperature and the relations between the two countries have touched a new low. This was evident today from a strongly-worded statement issued by the Pakistan Foreign Office in response to the charges made by the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, pointing fingers at the involvement of Islamabad in the attack.

The Foreign Office spokesman said Mr. Fernandes's claim was "irresponsible and reflective of the Indian mind set of constantly levelling baseless accusations against Pakistan" and took particular exception to Mr. Fernandes' reported insinuation against the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf. He said Pakistan could also accuse the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vaj-

payee, and his Cabinet colleagues of "training fascist Hindu terrorists to kill and rape members of minority communities in India but would desist from doing so, in the interest of maintaining some dignity in the discourse between the two countries".

Pakistan condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and as a frontline member of the international coalition against terrorism bore the "brunt of the battle", he added.

The spokesman said that immediately on learning about the Jammu attack, the Government of Pakistan had condemned the civilian deaths and called for an "impartial inquiry to unmask the motives of its perpetrators".

Such baseless allegations (by India), before a proper investigation into the incident, strengthened the suspicion that the allegations and the threat of retaliation were part of an effort to divert attention from the ongoing genocide of Muslim minority community in Gujarat as well as the domestic difficulties being faced by the Indian Government.

THE HINDU

1975

The Saudis are now beating the Israelis at their own game in Washington

# A question of chemistry

**T**he recent flare-up in west Asia, the biggest in the region since the Yom Kippur war nearly 30 years ago, has valuable lessons for India.

For the first time in half a century, it has brought into sharp scrutiny, Israel's hitherto successful handling of its ties with its biggest and most important supporter in the world: the United States of America. For several decades, successive Indian ambassadors in Washington have fantasized that they could do to the US what the Jewish lobby has always done with great finesse — twist the American establishment around their little finger the way they wanted.

For about ten years now, New Delhi has tried to replicate the Israeli experience in Washington in terms of winning friends and influencing people. To a very large extent, India's successes in dealing with the US in recent years and building on them were the result of these efforts to copy the Jewish way of dealing with official America. India is not alone in doing this. There are very small countries which have scored in Washington well beyond their size and importance simply because they have tapped into the Israeli lobby in America under various pretexts: in some cases only because the envoys from these countries are Jewish and have been able to cash in on the camaraderie which it entails.

Diplomats in the US capital are, however, realizing that for the first time since the founding of the Jewish state these unwritten rules of diplomacy in Washington are being challenged in the wake of the violence in west Asia, which began with Ariel Sharon's controversial visit to Temple Mount. That the rules of the game in Washington are being rewritten for America's Jewish lobby was brought home during the visit to the White House last week of Israel's hawkish prime minister. Sharon's White House visit, to the surprise of most America-watchers, was a bit like Pervez Musharraf's trip to the US earlier this year: not a failure, but much less of a success than was predicted or expected.

**H**erein lies the lesson which India cannot afford to miss as Indo-US relations are at the crossroads. Simply replicating the *modus operandi* of the Jewish lobby in the US will no longer work. There is room for more original thinking in India's dealings with the US, and more important, room for an injection of greater substance at various levels. This is an assertion which may surprise many, but the rising star on the US's diplomatic horizon, believe it or not, is Saudi Arabia. But more on that later. Sharon arrived in the US last week with a clear agenda and was con-

5-12/15/5  
fident that he could get the *imprimatur* of the White House on his objectives. After all, the Israelis have all along been used to having their way in Washington. Primarily, Sharon was determined to eliminate Yasser Arafat from any future decision-making process on Palestine and secure US backing for his line that Israel would not negotiate with the chairman of the Palestinian Authority.

**I**n order to achieve this goal, the Israeli prime minister arrived with briefcases full of documents, which, he claimed, implicated Arafat directly in acts of terrorism. Before Sharon's arrival, supporters of Israel and Tel Aviv's diplomats here made the point that there was more evidence linking Arafat to terrorist acts than any documentation which established a connection between Osama bin Laden and the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11. Which, incidentally, is true. Moreover, Sharon wanted to put the west Asia peace plan of the Saudi Arabian crown prince, Abdullah, out of the reckoning and, instead, get American endorsement for his own peace proposals to end the violence in the region. Critically aware that Riyadh's stars are rapidly rising in Washington, Sharon hoped to dent Abdullah's credibility and discredit the Saudis by insisting that they were financing the suicide bombers in the West Bank and Gaza.

To prove his point, Sharon brought along papers which listed \$165 million in payments by Riyadh to Palestinians, half a million of this amount in assistance to families of suicide bombers in the last one and a half years alone. The prime minister had detailed talks with George W Bush, but he returned to Jerusalem without achieving any of his three objectives to the silent chagrin of Jewish lobbyists and other supporters of Israel in America.

That this happened in spite of unprecedented support for the Jewish state in the US congress is something which should make Indians sit up and think. Indian lobbyists and the Indian-American community have invested heavily on securing goodwill on Capitol Hill. In times of crisis, when the executive branch of the US government has been ambivalent, they have used the US congress as their route to get to the White House and the rest of the administration. But Sharon's experience in Washington is a timely reminder to New Delhi against any temptation to put too many, if not all, of India's eggs

## DIPLOMACY

K.P. NAYAR

in the Capitol Hill basket. Timed to coincide with Sharon's visit, both the US senate and the house of representatives passed separate resolutions expressing America's solidarity with Israel. Only two senators dared to vote against the motion: in the house of representatives, the vote was 352 to 21.

But it is a reflection of the way busi-

ness is done in the Bush White House that such overwhelming sentiment in favour of Israel did not sway the president into giving in to the prime minister of Israel last week. The personality of the present occupant of the White House is such that chemistry is very important. And there is no chemistry between Bush and Sharon. On the other hand, there is a lot to be said for the chemistry between Bush and Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz. Prince Bandar is the son of Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, the kingdom's second deputy prime minister and minister of defence.



ness is done in the Bush White House that such overwhelming sentiment in favour of Israel did not sway the president into giving in to the prime minister of Israel last week. The personality of the present occupant of the White House is such that chemistry is very important. And there is no chemistry between Bush and Sharon. On the other hand, there is a lot to be said for the chemistry between Bush and Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz. Prince Bandar is the son of Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al-Saud, the kingdom's second deputy prime minister and minister of defence.

An alumnus of Washington's Johns Hopkins University and several US military colleges, Prince Bandar communicates with Bush far better than most foreigners the president meets, simply by having been ambassador in Washington for 19 years and having a

There is a lot to be said for the chemistry between Bush and Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Washington, Prince Bandar

Bush, he made sure that every minute that he spent in the Oval Office, every sentence that was uttered there was carefully cultivated to build that chemistry. Singh told Bush at that meeting, for instance, that the president had the opportunity which comes but once in history to completely transform America's ties with India, a process which his father had started. Singh subsequently told everyone he could in Washington how wrong the public per-

ception of Bush was, what a good grasp he had on public issues, how he went straight to the core of a problem and how graceful it was of the president to have received an Indian minister on a day when the Senate was voting on his pet tax cut proposals.

**T**his was well before September 11 catapulted Bush to dizzy heights of popular approval. Millions of Americans still thought of Bill Clinton as the last elected president of the US, and *Bushisms*, the book which listed the president's record of putting his foot in his mouth, was raking in dollars in bookstores all across America. But while chemistry is an important ingredient in the Bush White House, it becomes omnipotent when it is also backed by sound policy, as the divergent experiences of Sharon and Prince Bandar reveal. Sharon returned to Jerusalem empty-handed because Israel overplayed its hand in Washington. Over the head of the Bush administration, the Israelis tried to inordinately influence the American political process by discrediting the Saudis on the eve of a meeting between the foreign minister, Prince Saud al Faisal, and the secretary of state, Colin Powell.

The Saudis are now beating the Israelis at their own game in Washington. Riyadh pays a phenomenal \$200,000 a month to the lobbying firm, Qorvis Communications, to promote its interests and point of view. In addition, it has hired two other lobbying firms: Patton Boggs for a flat fee of \$100,000 for two months, and Hill and Knowlton on a longer-term arrangement for a fee of \$77,000 a month. The latter helped Kuwait to put together its public relations campaign in Washington after the emirate was occupied by Iraq in 1990.

Slick efforts by Prince Bandar in doing diplomatic business the way it is done in Washington have convinced the White House that its interests lie in going along with the Saudis on multiple fronts. Bush, therefore, believes that Crown Prince Abdullah's peace plan is the only viable path to peace in west Asia at this moment and that Sharon is being negative in trying to discredit that plan.

**B**ut most important of all, Bush wants Saudi, and Arab, support for his crucial plans to overthrow Saddam Hussein in Iraq, and Riyadh has let him know that the key to any such support is its peace plan. Embracing that plan also means giving Arafat a role in the peace process, although the idea may be anathema to Sharon. All of which means the Israelis have a problem in Washington, which they had never encountered before.

# US shadow on Carter visit

FROM ANTHONY BOADLE

**Havana, May 14 (Reuters):** Former US President Jimmy Carter yesterday toured Cuba's main biotechnology facility and suggested Washington's allegations that Havana was developing weapons of mass destruction were designed to cast a shadow over his landmark, goodwill visit.

Accompanied by a sporty-looking Fidel Castro, who wore a light blue "guayabera" shirt typical of Cuba instead of his trademark fatigues, Carter said US officials had told him before his visit there was no evidence linking Cuba to the export of biological weaponry.

"I asked them specifically about any evidence that Cuba has been involved in sharing any information with any other nations that could be used for terrorist purposes ... and the answer was no," he told reporters, in a reference to pre-trip briefings by US intelligence.

US secretary of state Colin Powell has appeared to back off from an allegation by a senior US official a week ago that Cuba was working to develop biological weapons.

Powell, speaking to reporters yesterday on his way to a Nato foreign ministers' meeting in Iceland, said the US was concerned the Communist state "has the capacity and capability



**Former US President Jimmy Carter applauds after listening to a musical programme by students during a visit to a Havana school. (AFP)**

to conduct such research."

John Bolton, US undersecretary of state for arms control and international security, charged a week ago that Cuba was working to develop biological weapons and had shared such technology with other rogue states.

But Carter said the Bush administration's charges were timed to coincide with his visit. Carter is the first US President to visit Cuba since Castro took power in a 1959 revolution.

THE TELEGRAPH

15 MAY 2002



# Rocca for restraint

The US must insist on Islamabad delivering on its promise

US Assistant Secretary of State Christina Rocca would, no doubt, speak to the government in New Delhi and advise restraint against any escalation by India on the borders. However, this is a welcome opportunity for the government to brief the lady in some detail about the ground situation that remains a cause of concern to policy-makers in Washington. The global war against terrorism has myriad dimensions. But the American and Indian goals in this war converge. The US war was able to achieve substantive success as long as it was conducted in Afghanistan. But it now appears to be getting stymied largely because of the lack of sincerity in co-operation it receives from Islamabad. India in its own interest would exercise restraint, at least up to a point. But the crux of the matter is whether Pakistan delivers on its promises? In dealing with the situation Washington must recognise that both the US and India are fighting the same war even if the specifics of the battles and tactics of dealing with them are different. They must co-ordinate their strategy and policies.

Eight months after the terrorist strikes on the US, the scorecard indicates that the Taliban have been dismantled and Al-Qaeda dispersed. But 90 per cent of the top Al-Qaeda leaders remain at large and along with their cadres are clearly inside Pakistan, often moving with impunity to and from Pakistan into Afghanistan. The US is misreading the nature and reasons of the opposition to Musharraf which essentially comes from the erosion of his credibility to deliver on his promises of good governance. Half-hearted counter-terrorist measures have only encouraged the jihadi entities

to escalate terrorism as the killings in Islamabad and Karachi demonstrated. More important, Washington must recognise that Pakistan (especially its army and the ISI) is part of the problem rather than the solution. It, therefore, needs to craft a policy that takes into account the harsh realities where co-operation beyond dismantling the Taliban would not be possible without ripping open the innards of Islamabad's favoured instrument of state policy, the jihadi machine itself, through concerted, co-ordinated measures.

Five months after the jihadi attack on the Lok Sabha and four months after Musharraf's soothing speech delivered under the combined India-US pressure, the scorecard is even less satisfactory. The commando in Musharraf repeatedly claims that the military mobilisation is actually hurting India and its army more, although his government plans to use that as an excuse to increase defence budget next month. He even rattled the nuclear sabre to bolster his referendum campaign. The list of 20, which was offered as face-saving opening negotiating chip has lost all meaning. The bulk of the 2,000 plus radicals and jihadis arrested after the January speech have been released. Above all, the incidence of terrorism in J&K during the months since then has been distinctly higher than in the winter months during the previous years. The number of terrorist training camps and launch pads in Pakistan Occupied Kashmir have been increasing and so is the possibility of Al-Qaeda moving in. India's options would keep narrowing if the US were unable to pressurise Islamabad to reverse terrorism quickly, firmly and permanently.

INDIAN EXPRESS

14 MAY 2002

# Infiltration to figure in talks with Rocca

14/5  
By Atul Aneja

110-1  
NEW DELHI, MAY 13. The U.S. Assistant Secretary of State on South Asia, Christina Rocca, arrived here tonight to make a first-hand assessment of Indo-Pak. tensions on the Line of Control and discuss ways to defuse them.

Her talks on Tuesday will take place in the backdrop of Thursday's conversation between the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh and the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

The two leaders had exchanged notes on the ground situation along the LoC and on ideas to bring about a thaw.

Brajesh Mishra, National Security Adviser to the Prime

13 20  
Minister, has also been in touch with his U.S. counterpart, Condoleezza Rice.

Responding to a question, the External Affairs Ministry spokesperson, Nirupama Rao, acknowledged that the day-long discussions would focus on the "regional situation."

India is expected to impress upon the U.S. that Pakistan is not exerting itself on restricting cross-border infiltrations.

In fact, the official view is that cross-border intrusions have been on the upswing since March this year. Neither has Pakistan acted on the list of 20 terrorists that India has provided.

"(We have) not seen any shift by Pakistan as its actions continued to be propelled by

110-11  
hostility against India. There is absolutely no cause for satisfaction", the spokesperson said, adding that "as far as tensions along the LoC were concerned, the responsibility of this state of affairs rests entirely with Pakistan".

Commenting on the prevailing situation, she said India could neither be "complacent" nor draw any comfort.

The assessment here is that less burdened by the Israel-Palestine issue, the U.S. now appears to be getting ready for a new round of engagement with India and Pakistan.

During this phase, it expects to see that "real steps" are taken that would reduce tensions in the subcontinent.

In Pakistan, the safety of its

nationals, especially after the Karachi blasts, and the public display of anti-US sentiments in certain border areas of the country, are of considerable concern.

Analysts here say that despite U.S. exhortations, Indo-Pak. tensions are unlikely to abate soon.

Committed to the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly elections, India needs its troops and is expected to re-deploy them in order to prevent infiltrators from disrupting the polls.

Pakistan, on its part, is focused on its October general elections where the continuation of an anti-India rhetoric, till then, can be helpful.

# Criminal court: U.S. bill authorises use of force

WASHINGTON, MAY 12. With strong support from the U.S. President, George W. Bush's administration, a Congressional committee has voted authorisation for the President to use force to rescue any American held by the new International Criminal Court and to bar weapons aid to nations that ratify the court treaty.

The measure, sponsored by the Texas Congressman and majority leader, Tom DeLay, is part of an emergency appropriations bill that contains \$29.4 billion for military and domestic security spending. The House is likely to pass the bill next week.

Mr. DeLay told the Appropriations Committee that his provision was necessary so the nation would never see an

"American soldier or elected leader dragged before this court", which he called a "rogue court".

The bill would also codify the administration's announced policy of refusing to cooperate in any way with the court, and it would bar the extradition of anyone sought by the court, whose founding treaty has been signed by 139 nations and ratified by 66, including most democratic nations.

The Senate passed a weaker version of Mr. DeLay's measure last December, but Democratic leaders who opposed it were able to halt it in a joint conference. This year, with the court scheduled to come into existence on July 1, they may not be able to block it.

Before the committee's 38-18 vote to adopt the plan, it was bitterly attacked by several Democrats. The Wisconsin Congressman and senior Democrat on the panel, David R. Obey, said the committee should not even consider the measure, but should leave it to the International Relations Committee, which has the necessary expertise to address it. He insisted that most committee members did not even know what was in the 28-page amendment.

Mr. DeLay, however, said the threat to American troops was so urgent that "we don't have time for Obey to read the bill".

Mr. Obey, after demonstrating that some committee members did not

know the court would be located in The Hague, asked whether Mr. DeLay understood that under the rescue provision, "We would be sending our troops to invade the Netherlands." Mr. DeLay said he did not consider that a serious question. The White House confirmed that it had worked with Mr. DeLay on provisions that would allow the President to grant waivers, if he thought them necessary, for arms deals to nations that ratified the treaty. The arms deal ban exempts NATO countries and other major allies, but arms deals with nations like Colombia or the Philippines would require a waiver. — *New York Times*

ONE HINDU

13 MAY 2002

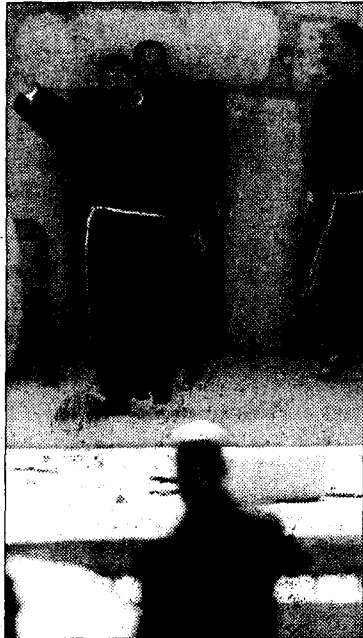
# Israel PM takes his 'most serious peace plan' to US

REUTERS  
JERUSALEM, MAY 5

ISRAELI Prime Minister Ariel Sharon headed to the United States on Sunday for a White House visit, armed with what he called a "serious" peace plan ahead of a US-sponsored international West Asia conference.

Sharon is due to meet US President George W. Bush at the White House on Tuesday for the fifth time. Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, accused repeatedly by Bush of not doing enough to crack down on terrorism, has not yet received an invitation.

The right-wing Israeli leader was carrying what Palestinians see as his usual baggage — a desire to sideline Arafat and a vision of peace that does not go beyond a long-term interim deal leaving Jewish settlers on Israeli-occupied land. A winding-down of Israel's West Bank offensive and a US-brokered end on Wednesday to Israel's month-long siege of Arafat's headquarters have raised hopes of a new chance of breaking a 19-month-old cycle of Israeli-Palestinian violence.



Catholic leader of Church of the Nativity leaves the building with two monks on Sunday to hold a mass at a nearby religious university. Reuters

In a surprise move, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said Washington was preparing for an international conference early this summer to take advantage of a "window of opportunity" opened by the end of Arafat's confinement.

Arafat welcomed the proposed forum but said he wanted to consult Arab leaders before giving his final acceptance. Arafat met with Egypt's Foreign Minister Ahmed Maher and presidential adviser Osama al-Baz, who expressed Cairo's solidarity with the Palestinian leadership.

Sharon also has called for a regional conference that would include "moderate" Arab leaders. He has said Arafat can no longer be a peace partner, but failed to persuade Bush at their last meeting in February to seek a replacement Palestinian leadership.

In his run-up to the Washington visit, Sharon said on US television that he would be bringing "a serious plan, maybe the most serious, that has been presented by now (on) how to reach peace in West Asia".

He gave no details, but Israeli political sources said it mirrored his previous proposal for a long-term interim arrangement that would include Israeli security buffer zones in the West Bank and leave Jewish settlements in place.

Sharon was taking a 100-page report to Washington, which Israel said showed Arafat's personal involvement in terrorism and that his Fatah faction took a leading role in attacks against Israelis.

▲ 6 MAY 2002

WEATHER OR POLITICAL ACTIONS COULD BE RESPONSIBLE

# Infiltration in Kashmir has gone down, says U.S.

By Malini Parthasarathy

WASHINGTON, MAY 5. Infiltration across the Line of Control in Kashmir from Pakistan has declined recently, in the assessment of the United States, senior Bush administration officials say. But they reserve judgment as to the significance of that statistic, stating that it is not yet clear as to whether it is a result of "deliberate actions" or just because of the weather conditions.

Speaking to this newspaper in an exclusive conversation at his seventh floor office in the State Department last Friday, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, said that it was clear that "cross-border infiltration has gone down" but given that the snows had only just begun to melt in the area, it would be possible to "get a better sense" of the situation only now to determine whether the decrease in infiltration reflected the result of "deliberate actions" or the weather. "In the winter when there's snow, there is some reduction anyway... so it is difficult for me to sit here on May 1 and tell you that the reduction is because of a definite political will..." Mr. Armitage said. But, he noted, the Bush administration has had discussions with Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, on the subject and does believe that his "intentions are to do just that" but "it will take a while to see if he's been successful."

## 'We have to bring down the temperature'

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State confirmed the active role of the United States in speaking to both India and Pakistan to calm the simmering tensions. "President Musharraf knows perfectly well, just as the Government of India knows perfectly well, we are talking with both sides," he said. The American effort, he explained, is "first of all, to try to reduce the level of potential violence as well as the actual level of violence across the LoC in Kashmir... in the first instance, we have to bring down the temperature... we are devoting a lot of efforts towards that."

The Bush administration has had discussions with the Government of India "about the need to be balanced and measured." Likewise, with Pakistan's President Musharraf. The U.S.-Pakistan discussions focussed "additionally on the need to stop the cross-border terrorism," Mr. Armitage said. He also pointed out that the U.S. Government had placed the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed on the terrorism list to indicate its own view "of what sort of groups are undermining stability in South Asia."

Indicating that the primary concern of the United States in respect of the tensions between India and Pakistan was that both countries had nuclear weapons, Mr. Armitage said: "To the extent that two highly armed armies face each other over a volatile situation, there is always a possibility of a spark and I fear that spark... it's more the unintended consequences that can come from having two spring-loaded armies facing each other over a volatile situation that I fear..."

Highlighting the enhanced international scrutiny of the military capabilities of the two nuclear states was Mr. Armitage's pointed observation during the course of



The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage (file photo).

the conversation that "We don't like the fact that both India and Pakistan are nuclear... we'll be looking very carefully at delivery systems, ranges and things like that. We'll be doing our best to try to bring down the temperature in South Asia and I am talking about political temperature so that one side or the other will never even contemplate the possibility of the use of nuclear weapons."

## 'De facto' nuclear states

Asked whether there was now on the part of the United States a conceptual acceptance of the nuclear status of India and Pakistan, the Deputy Secretary said that while the big five powers had de jure status, there was no question that India and Pakistan had become "de facto" nuclear states because of their nuclear devices. "We don't like it and no one else likes it but it is a fact and so that's where we are..." he observed.

Was there any suggestion either from Washington or an offer from New Delhi to station American troops in India to assist the U.S. military operations in Afghanistan? Mr. Armitage's response was that he did not see the necessity for that. "I don't think we've requested... and I just can't imagine why we would want to station troops in India... (but) the interesting thing about this war on terrorism is that we're not sure where it goes next. So I wouldn't rule anything out."

## New Delhi 'very helpful'

He said that New Delhi had "been very helpful" in assisting with the "logistics and flights..." and what was more significant is that the U.S.-India military-to-military relationship was now "astronomically different" from what it had been in the last year, with the number of high-profile visits of military delegations increasing from the U.S. to India and the fact of arms sales, including the latest sale of the AN/TPQ 37 firefinder radars. He also noted appreciatively the enhanced level of cooperation between the navies of the two countries. "We love the idea of being able to call on occa-

sion on Indian ports, naval ships... we hope it will be good for U.S.-India relations."

## Praise for Musharraf's decision

Asked as to whether the United States was assured of the political stability of its ally in the war on terror, Pakistan's President Musharraf, in the context of the recent referendum and the consequent political polarisation, Mr. Armitage was all praise for Gen. Musharraf's "fundamental" decision last September to "take Pakistan out of the cul-de sac (which) he recognised as a dead end..." and to join the United States in its war. Mr. Armitage noted that fears then about whether Gen. Musharraf could pull it off in the face of the angry street protests in Pakistan last year had proven groundless. Even at this moment, it was for Gen. Musharraf to "be the judge of how much stability is there in his government..."

On the controversial referendum and the issue of democracy in Pakistan, Mr. Armitage said: "Our view regarding Pakistan is that 140 plus million people deserve better governance than they've got in recent years even under fully democratic governments and... President Musharraf has promised us that there will be parliamentary elections in the fall that will be open and fair and full and in which the Opposition will speak their mind as appropriate. We trust that he will be a man of his word."

Asked whether the United States was satisfied with the pace and manner of the investigation of the murder of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, by Pakistani authorities, Mr. Armitage said that there were aspects about which the U.S. had questions but it believed that the Pakistani authorities were "trying to do the right thing, they have a lot of questions to be answered... it affects their own security. We are getting cooperation..."

## 'No compromises on human rights, democracy'

In response to a question as to whether the Bush administration's policy focus on combating terrorism was not resulting in an erosion of emphasis on human rights and democracy, especially in the context of Palestine, Mr. Armitage said that the question implied the suggestion that the United States was "suborning or seconding human rights and democratic development" and that the U.S. was "making compromises" in order to retain its focus on terrorism. He strongly rejected the suggestion, observing that he had noticed that "there are some in India who have accused the United States of giving President Musharraf a break on his recent referendum" in order to keep him on the side of the U.S. in the war on terrorism, but "we are equally criticised for not criticising the Government of India for the activities of sectarian violence in Gujarat... so we're always walking a tightrope ourselves..."

On a broader plane, he pointed out that the criticism of even close allies of the U.S. such as Israel in the State Department's annual reports on human rights, religious freedom and trafficking in persons indicated that the administration had "not backed away from criticising even those who are in the alliance with us when it is appropriate to do so... you will see that this will be the case next year when we roll out... the reports."

# 10-10 379 America's nuclear hit-list

By P. S. Suryanarayana

THE PENTAGON is poised to turn America's nuclear security doctrine upside down. In a comment on the classified suggestions by the Pentagon as contained in the leaked versions of its latest Nuclear Posture Review, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, has said that the idea is to enhance America's power of deterrence. He has, in effect, redefined deterrence — a protective firewall of nuclear weapons. He wants the offensive power to pre-empt America's potential enemies from acquiring weapons of mass destruction. China and Russia are among those dismayed over this.

The notion of pre-emption as an updated aspect of the prevailing doctrine of nuclear deterrence may indeed appear to be logically simple in conception. However, the power of pre-emption, now being sought by the U.S., is technologically complex to attain. Not only that. A moral issue about America's high-handedness will cloud any future policy of the Bush administration aimed at pre-empting its potential foes from acquiring or developing weapons of mass destruction — nuclear bombs as also chemical or biological capabilities of war and the like. Washington knows that any pre-emption will entail a greater political aggressiveness than that which might be manifest in the "rockets' red glare" during a possible stand-off between the U.S. and its growing legion of adversaries. James Wirtz and Jeffrey Larsen have aptly visualised "rockets' red glare" to capture the surreal drama of America's emerging prowess at missile defences and of consequential world politics.

Washington's ongoing programme of fashioning a missile defence shield is actually a super-tech adventure. The stated objective is to enable America to shoot down incoming ballistic missiles that might be launched by its potential and existing foes among the world's terrorists and "rogue states". Washington's assumptive reasoning is that such missiles, if aimed against the U.S., would

be laden with crude or even sophisticated weapons of mass destruction. Now, America's idea of pre-emptive deterrence goes a massive step beyond this real-time objective of destroying the missiles and their payloads that might be launched against the U.S. homeland. The novel concept, in fact, is that America's real and potential antagonists must be prevented even from being able to assemble mass-destructive weapons for anti-U.S. purposes. The Bush ad-

ministrations connected with the development of any type of mass-destructive weapons. The only nagging doubt, which troubles non-partisan observers and many international diplomats alike, is whether it is sufficient if Washington were to act unilaterally in determining the need to launch pre-emptive nuclear strikes of this kind against its perceived enemies. This political question cannot be neutralised by persuasive arguments about the technological precision of

transforming its notional nuclear deterrence into a reasonably realistic one over time. However, India cannot embrace a morally controversial idea which is implicit in the Pentagon's reported thinking that favours nuclear strikes against those without the proven means to retaliate in a like manner. New Delhi (no less than Beijing) has repeatedly proclaimed adherence to the principle that India will not initiate a nuclear war by being the first to use the atom bomb. From an Indian perspective, therefore, the idea of a first nuclear strike, as distinct from a retaliatory second strike, can only imply a doctrine of nuclear permissiveness.

Now, the U.S. has most recently thought nothing amiss about reneging on its obligations under the bilateral Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty with Russia. Obviously, Washington can no longer accept parity with the country that lost the Cold War. The U.S. had never thought of circumscribing its options since the dawn of the nuclear security era. In a sense, Washington now seems determined to regain, as decisively as possible, its lost position of the Harry Truman era. The U.S. is now seeking the position of unassailability as a nuclear power even if not its old status as the sole possessor of atomic weapons. It is in this sense that the Pentagon's much-publicised leak about a virtual nuclear hit-list acquires added significance. The countries that the U.S. might target, if considered necessary with nuclear weapons, are Russia, China, Iraq, Iran, North Korea, Libya and Syria. Add to this the Pentagon's reported suggestion that the U.S. can use massive conventional weapons or small but powerful nuclear-tipped missiles against sites of concern to America anywhere in the world. The result is an enlarged nuclear hit-list and an implicit message. With the old U.S.-Soviet bipolarity having disappeared, the U.S. is now in quest of a qualitative nuclear monopoly that can be consistent with the changing security paradigms of the space frontier and cyberspace.

***The Bush administration is consciously extending the theory of war to cover every peacetime move of America's potential and actual enemies.***

ministrations is consciously extending the theory of war to cover every peacetime move of America's potential and actual enemies insofar as their suspected preparations for war might be concerned. This certainly is a new frontier in America's security consciousness itself.

The classified yet leaked recommendations in the Pentagon's latest Nuclear Posture Review contain several ideas which many U.S.-friendly states too, not just its adversaries, might well regard as indicators of Washington's willingness to think the unthinkable. Ironically, the idea of "thinking the unthinkable" was also originally visualised in the U.S. so as to read the evolving minds of its present and presumptive enemies, including non-state actors, on the international stage. A particularly "unthinkable" idea, now being considered by the Pentagon, is that the U.S. must fabricate miniaturised clones of mind-boggling nuclear weapons. The reported purpose is to use such nuclear-tipped bunker-busters or similar earth-penetrative weapons to incinerate the underground sites of anti-U.S. forces anywhere in the world. The only definitive guideline for the U.S. administration in this optional context is that such underground locations must actually be the bases for oper-

American satellites that could remote-sense the activities of its enemies in subterranean sites.

Another risk, seen from a purely diplomatic plane, is that the U.S. may feel compelled to renounce or dishonour some important international agreements regarding the spread of nuclear weapons. A cardinal principle enshrined in the controversial yet critical Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is that the five acknowledged powers with atomic weapons — the U.S., Russia, China, France and the U.K. — will not target the other states and their territories with such devices. The U.S. might also find it expedient, at another level, to flout the spirit of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, which has not yet come into force because of Washington's own intransigence among other factors. Any such U.S. action might trigger new waves of nuclear weaponisation by several others too, including China and Russia.

Although India has over time expressed serious reservations about both the NPT and the CTBT, New Delhi cannot afford to see with equanimity or unconcern any future American transgressions of these agreements. The reason is not far to seek. Washington's growing disenchantment with the CTBT may catalyse India's own plans, if any, for

30 APR 2007

THE HINDU

# In Kabul, Rumsfeld vows end to terror

REUTERS

KABUL, APRIL 28

**U**S DEFENSE Secretary Donald Rumsfeld swept through Afghanistan on Saturday, giving a pep talk to US troops, promising to help rebuild Kabul's military and taking a first-hand look at the sensitive border with Iran.

On a day-long visit marked by security scares, Rumsfeld warned the battle against global terrorism must be won swiftly before Islamic radicals used weapons of mass destruction.

In his speech to US troops at the Bagram Air Base he said US led forces were ready to "go after" any Al Qaeda and Taliban guerrillas who regrouped to launch a

their allies in the Al Qaeda network. He said the troops of the world were determined to end "the tyranny of terror."

Addressing concerns that rebels were using bases across the border in Pakistan to escape US forces, Rumsfeld praised cooperation from Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf but added: "It is impossible to seal completely the Afghanistan border with Pakistan. But it is not impossible to find concentrations of Taliban and go after them."

Rumsfeld shied away from the idea of a "Marshall Plan" for Afghanistan, like the one which rebuilt Europe after World War II, but said restoring security in the country was important.

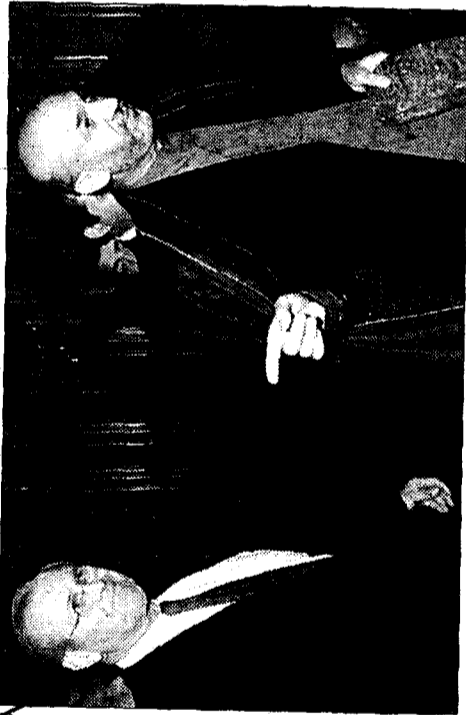
But in a joint news conference with Afghanistan's interim leader

Hamid Karzai, Rumsfeld said the US would give all the help it could to help rebuild the country's shattered military.

In an interview to mediapersons travelling with him, he pledged more US military support for an international security force of peacekeepers, but promised no US troops would be sent despite pressure from international aid and human rights groups.

Rumsfeld's final stop before heading to Turkmenistan was a meeting with the governor of Herat Province bordering Iran. He talked to Ismail Khan, a close ally of Iran, at Herat city airport.

The US has made complaints, rejected by Ismail Khan and Iran, that some fleeing Taliban and Al Qaeda forces have managed to escape into Iran from Afghanistan.



Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai with US Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld after a press meet in Kabul on Saturday. AP/PTI

spring offensive. Rumsfeld met some of the 7,000 US and 5,000 other Western troops here.

110-14

TEXAS / ABDULLAH-BUSH MEET TERMED CORDIAL

213 (w)

# Israel must complete withdrawal: U.S.

271 By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, APRIL 26. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, has called for a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian areas. As balance, he has also called on the Palestinians to "do more" to stop terror.

"Israel must finish its withdrawal, including resolution of standoffs in Ramallah and Bethlehem, in a non-violent way," Mr. Bush told reporters after talks with the visiting Saudi Arabian Crown Prince, Abdullah. The President met the de facto ruler at his Crawford, Texas ranch against a backdrop of increasing Arab frustration over America's continued support for Israel, in spite of the latter's military crackdown in Palestinian cities and the virtual house arrest of the Palestinian Authority leader, Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Bush has termed his meeting with Crown Prince Abdullah as "very cordial", which confirmed, among other things, a strong bilateral relationship. But an unnamed administration official has been quoted as saying that the Saudi leader did raise concerns about the direction of Washington's ties with the Arab world in the context of the recent Israeli violence.

There had been speculation that Saudi Arabia is so outraged at the direction of American foreign policy that it could consider backing an Iraqi-led oil embargo; even mere conjecture along these lines had an impact on energy markets. But Mr. Bush allayed such fears, saying, "Saudi Arabia has made it clear...that they will not use oil as a weapon and I appreciate that". An administration official has said that the Crown Prince has given assurances to Mr. Bush; officials from Saudi Arabia have dismissed reports of any backing to the Iraqi



The U.S. President, George W. Bush (left), greets the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah at Mr. Bush's ranch in Crawford, Texas, U.S., on Thursday. — AP

embargo. "Oil is not a weapon. Oil is not a tank. You cannot fire oil," said the Saudi foreign policy advisor, Adel al-Jubeir.

Some analysts are saying that the tone of the Crawford meeting could suggest that the two sides have not been entirely successful in coming to terms with disagreements of the recent past. This is particularly true with respect to the Israeli occupation and Mr. Bush's subsequent response on Thursday. Some maintain that the concerns of Saudi Arabia vis-à-vis the implications of Israeli actions have not been fully addressed at the summit.

According to a Saudi Arabian official, if the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, is

left to himself, "he will drag the region over a cliff".

For his part, Mr. Bush is said to have impressed upon the Crown Prince the need for Arab leaders to restrain from inciting anti-Israeli violence and also to accept the Jewish state as a nation and a neighbour. Mr. Bush's administration has been upset over a Saudi telethon for relatives of suicide bombers; Washington does not see suicide bombers as "martyrs", but as terrorists. According to one U.S. official, the Saudis have given assurance that the money collected was for humanitarian purposes and was being disbursed through non-governmental organisations.

27 APR 2002

THE HINDU



## Rift among U.S., allies over W. Asia policy

By Batuk Gathani

2/19  
RD-1A  
**BRUSSELS, APRIL 20.** The divide between the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and his European allies over West Asia is quickly widening. While Mr. Bush now asserts that Israel has met his "timetable" in withdrawing from some of the Palestinian areas, Europeans are shocked by reports of the massacre of Palestinian civilians by Israeli troops in the Jenin refugee camp — suspicions confirmed by the United Nations Special Envoy to West Asia, Terje Roed-Larsen, who on Thursday night described the condition of Palestinian refugees as "horrible and shocking beyond belief". Reports in the European media yesterday put the number of Palestinian civilian casualties between 400 and 500.

Recent surveys indicate that Europeans remain less supportive than Americans of the U.S.-led counter-terrorism campaign, as well as the plan to attack Iraq and destabilise the regime of the President, Saddam Hussein. In the Arab-Israeli dispute, Americans tend to support Israel, while most Europeans side with the Palestinians. Mr. Bush's praise of the Israeli Prime Minister,

Ariel Sharon, as "a man of peace", coupled with a continuing sense of U.S. unilateralism, appears to have fuelled greater support for an independent European approach to security and diplomatic affairs.

*The Economist* said: "In the Muslim world, of course, but also in much of Europe, the uneven battles on the West Bank have encouraged demonstrators to burn the American flag on the streets, alongside the flag of Israel. But even before those battles (Afghanistan and the West Bank) European politicians were lining up to denounce Mr. Bush's 'simplistic' foreign policy and deplore America's preponderance in the world. The loyalty to Mr. Bush shown by Britain's Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had begun to alienate not only Britain's European Union partners, but also his own Labour Party... This rift was visible before Ariel Sharon invaded the West Bank. But Mr. Sharon has made the rift suddenly deeper. "America is not responsible for the fighting, still less for its grisly climax in what may turn out to have been a war crime in Jenin. But as the provider of Israel's sword and furnisher of its diplomatic shield, America is being held responsible. In most

of the world, but not in America, pictures of the bulldozed refugee camp plaster the front pages. To an extent that Americans do not realise, being blamed for Israel's actions is ripping up the coalition."

A *Financial Times* editorial writer stated that Mr. Bush is a man "in a hopeless muddle in his Middle East policy who seems to have thought that sending Mr. Powell to the region would be a useful public relations exercise. Mr. Bush's top priority is to remove Saddam Hussein in Iraq. For that he needs a modicum of loyal Arab support, so he dreamed up the gesture of sending his Secretary of State on a mission. It was not only hopeless, it was pointless."

If these latest comments are any criterion, the trans-Atlantic divide between the U.S. and the E.U. could be widening. In another survey, it was revealed that 80 per cent of citizens in four large west European countries — Germany, France, Britain and Italy — disapprove of Mr. Bush's foreign policy, which is seen as "catering exclusively" to U.S. interests. Similarly, many European officials overtly disapprove of U.S. foreign policy, dubbing it both "isolationist" and "patronising".

21 APR 2002

THE HINDU

# Powell peace mission to West Asia fails

Associated Press

JERUSALEM, April 17. — The US secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, wound up his 10-day West Asia peace mission on Wednesday with little to show beyond Israel's promise to withdraw its troops from the West Bank within a week and some oft-repeated admonishments that Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat must do more to fight terrorism.

Israel and the Palestinians blamed each other for Mr Powell's failure to achieve more.

"Who can accept this?" a visibly angry Mr Arafat said, complaining of the Israeli siege of his Ramallah headquarters.

Mr Powell, for his part, focused on the Israeli Prime Minister, Mr Ariel Sharon's promise to wind down the Israeli military offensive in Palestinian towns and villages, calling it an obstacle to starting peace talks.

"I came here not knowing how long the operation would go on," Mr Powell said. "We had heard everything from a couple more

## Sharon 'bloodthirsty': Arafat

TUNIS (Tunisia), April 17. — Besieged Palestinian leader Mr Arafat issued a pressing appeal for Arab and international help and called the Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon "bloodthirsty" in an interview on Tunisian television.

Mr Arafat told TV7 television that the world must put an end to Israel's escalating military campaign in the Palestinian territories." Mr Arafat, in a telephonic conversation broadcast last night, called Mr Sharon "bloodthirsty." "His history is known, his hands are stained in blood," he. "We can't forget, it was he who was behind the butchery at the Palestinian camps of Sabra and Chatilla." — AP

weeks to a couple more months. I leave here able to say ... it wasn't immediate but it is now coming to an end."

Gen Powell said Israel must end its incursions into Palestinian-run land and resume security talks with the Palestinians if a ceasefire is to be achieved.

"Only with the end of the incursions and engagement in security talks can a ceasefire be realised," he said.

In a press conference before heading to the USA via Egypt, Mr Powell said he would return to the region "to move ahead" with efforts to get peace negotia-

tions on track. He gave no date and said, in the meantime, the CIA director, Mr George Tenet, US mediator, Mr Anthony Zinni and the assistant US secretary of state, Mr William Burns, will try to improve security and direct the two sides to peace making.

"There can be no peace without security, but there can be no security without peace," Mr Powell quipped.

On that front, Mr Powell said the biggest problem was Israel's determination to arrest Palestinians in Ramallah accused of attacks on Israel. He said US diplomats would try to work some-

thing out between Israel and the Palestinian Authority.

Mr Powell clarified that a cease-fire cannot be imposed while Israeli troops remain on the West Bank.

After their meeting, Mr Arafat focused on Israel's siege of his Ramallah compound and appealed for international help.

"I have to ask the Bush administration, the international community, is this acceptable that I cannot go out the door?" he said, his voice rising with apparent exasperation. Just next door, Israeli gunners peeked through half-opened windows and Israeli tanks ensured the confinement of the Palestinian leader. "They are returning back," Mr Arafat said, referring to Israel's latest surge into Palestinian areas, after Mr Sharon had said he would withdraw Israeli troops within a week from all towns and villages except Ramallah and Bethlehem.

Mr Sharon's adviser, Mr Dore Gold said Mr Powell had not come away empty-handed, and faulted the Palestinians for the limited results of his visit.

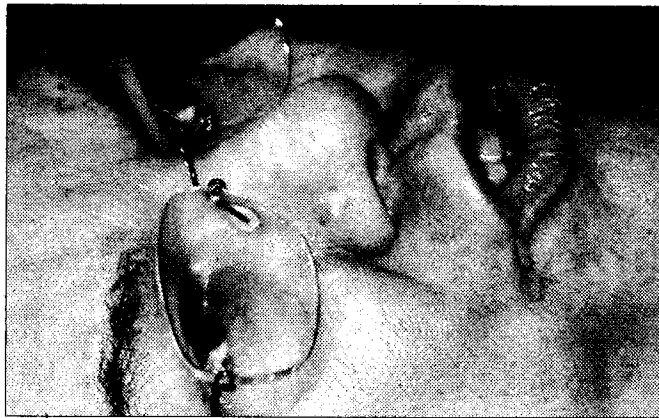
THE STATESMAN

## Mission Impossible

Secretary of state Colin Powell's somewhat pointless shuttle diplomacy in West Asia was not expected to produce any drastic results. Even so, when a person as powerful as Mr Powell comes calling, courtesy would demand that at least a pretence of complying with Washington's demands would be made by Tel Aviv. But Israeli prime minister Ariel Sharon is clearly not one to observe such niceties. To Washington's curt demand that he pull his troops out of Palestinian areas, Mr Sharon's obstinate response has been that he will do so when the job is done. The job here being ostensibly to eradicate terrorism. In the months to come, the true dimensions of Israel's actions will be revealed and the picture will be chilling. In his bid to hunt down terrorists, Mr Sharon's troops have literally bulldozed through the homes of civilians in places like Jenin on the West Bank, mowing down innocent people. In a scene reminiscent of the worst of Bosnia, dead Palestinian bodies lay rotting on the streets, the next of kin unable to bury them. All this is quite necessary, Mr Sharon avers, in order to teach the Palestinians a lesson. His efforts have been buoyed by the arrest of top Fatah leader Marwan Barghouti, something of a coup for Israel. Mr Barghouti has been a bitter opponent of Israel and is allegedly a mastermind behind some of the more spectacular attacks against it. But, after the initial euphoria over his arrest, saner voices have emerged from the Israeli establishment questioning the wisdom of this move. Former justice minister Yossi Beilin has sought the immediate release of Mr Barghouti on the grounds that it will only inspire more terrorist attacks.

Already ominous warnings have come from militant groups in the West Bank and Gaza threatening violence if anything were to happen to Mr Barghouti. Over the last year, the pattern of violence has undergone a change. For each act of violence from Israel, the Palestinian response has been equally vicious. The proposal for a US-led peace plan is perhaps the only silver lining in an otherwise dark cloud, but with Israel not officially calling a halt to its operations, the prospects appear dim at the moment. Besieged in his Ramallah headquarters, Mr Arafat has had little option but to agree to it, albeit conditionally. But his cooperation amounts to naught at a time when he has no control over the forces battling with Israel. Mr Sharon's policy of completely humiliating and rendering powerless an adversary with whom Israel once claimed it could do business will only backfire on him. Today, there is no Palestinian who has enough stature or vision to engage in peace negotiations with Tel Aviv. The orgy of terror and violence over the past month has been too severe and so wounding that any talks at this juncture will fail. If Tel Aviv were to undertake a full troop withdrawal and other confidence-building measures, a conducive atmosphere could be created to restart talks. The failure of the Powell mission underscores how little outsiders can do to smooth over historic animosities. The initiative must come from within and the ball is now firmly in Mr Sharon's court.

# Powell's peace mission ends with a pledge



REUTERS  
JERUSALEM, APRIL 17

**U**S SECRETARY of State Colin Powell ended his peace mission on Wednesday with little to show apart from a pledge from Israel to end its reoccupation of battered West Bank cities within "a week or so".

As Powell flew to Cairo on his way home, about 30 Israeli tanks rumbled out of Jerin and a shattered refugee camp nearby, witnesses said. The Army had no comment.

A furious Yasser Arafat said earlier that troop pullbacks were a sham and one of the Palestinian President's aides accused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of sabotaging Powell's efforts.

Sharon said on Monday troops would quit the devastated cities of Nablus and Jerin within a week, but would stay in Ramallah and Bethlehem until militants said to be in Arafat's compound and the Church of the Nativity surrendered.

Asked about efforts to achieve a cease-

fire, a grim-faced Powell told a news conference in Jerusalem the term could become relevant only after Israel ends the offensive it launched on March 29 after suicide attacks that killed scores of Israelis.

Powell said the United States was "disappointed" with Arafat's performance in fighting violence.

Effectively dropping the US insistence on an "immediate" withdrawal, Powell said he had stressed to Sharon the urgency of completing the pullout and was taking him at his word when he promised to do so "in the next few days or a week or so".

Powell pledged to return to the region, but set no date. US envoy William Burns would stay. CIA Director George Tenet could come and another envoy, Anthony Zinni, would be back soon to promote security talks aimed at a ceasefire.

Dore Gold, a senior adviser to Sharon, said Powell's main achievement was to get a withdrawal "timeline" from Sharon.

"That's a clear, tangible accomplishment. Unfortunately, Yasser Arafat has not

reciprocated," he told CNN, adding that Powell's visits to Lebanon and Syria appeared to have reduced the threat to Israel from Hizbollah guerrilla attacks.

Arafat, speaking after a final round of talks with Powell, raged at Israel for confining him to his Ramallah headquarters. "Is this acceptable that I can't go outside from this door?" He told reporters Israel had announced troop withdrawals from two cities, only to return, and was also making "shameful attacks" on Church of the Nativity.

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the situation was much worse than when Powell had arrived. "It is very unfortunate that every effort exerted by the secretary was torpedoed by Sharon," he told reporters in Ramallah.

In Israel's latest raids, troops and tanks swept into the village of Bal'a, and Silat al-Harthiyeh, North of Jerin. Witnesses said soldiers shot dead Anwar Nassar as he stood on his roof in Bal'a. Israeli military sources confirmed both operations were underway, saying they were aimed at seizing militants.

## Conditional extension for PLO



**WASHINGTON:** The Bush administration said on Tuesday it would allow the Palestine Liberation Organisation to keep an office in Washington for another six months, but warned that it could be locked out and have funds cut off in future if Arafat fails to crack down on terrorism.

The announcement by President Bush came as Powell whipped up his West Asia mission. In a memorandum to Powell, Bush said it was "important to the national security interests of the US" to waive the provisions of a 1987 law which imposed restrictions on PLO activities. The six-monthly waivers have been routine since 1994, after the PLO and Israel recognised each other. — Agencies



# Talks with Arafat useful, says Powell

Ramallah/ Bethlehem, April 14

COLIN POWELL today described as "useful and constructive" his talks with Yasser Arafat, but indicated no progress towards a ceasefire agreement from the Palestinian leader who remains under Israeli confinement in his rocket-scarred headquarters.

"We just completed a useful and constructive exchange...and we exchanged a variety of ideas and discussed steps on how we can move forward," Powell said.

A top Arafat aide said the Palestinians "absolutely" pledged to curb violence against Israelis, but only after the Israeli military ends the 16-day-old incursion in Palestinian cities and villages in the West Bank.

"When the Israelis complete

the full withdrawal we will carry out our obligations," Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said.

Powell, in a terse statement after three hours of talks, said he and Arafat "exchanged a variety of ideas" to be followed up when the two sides meet again Monday, though it was unclear if Powell would see Arafat again.

Powell said he talked with Arafat about "steps on how we can move forward", but offered no details.

Arafat accompanied Powell to the front door of his blackened compound and shook hands with him at the end of the meeting. But he did not step out to speak to reporters. "Arafat did not come out for security reasons," Erekat said. "You see the Israeli snipers all around. We are not going to take that risk."

As Powell and Arafat sat across a dining table, with Palestinian and American aides at their side, Arafat seemed in good health though he's been under pressure that is "unreal for an old man like him".

Powell, carrying a sheaf of papers, entered the compound surrounded by US security personnel. Israeli tanks had pulled back a bit from the compound for the meeting. About two dozen international protesters raised slogans of "Free Palestine! End the occupation!" outside the building.

When he meets Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon later in the day, Powell will push the US call for a swift Israeli military withdrawal from the West Bank, for restraint by Israeli forces who are looking for militants

and terrorists and for "unimpeded access to humanitarian organisations" for Palestinians.

Meanwhile, tension ran high around the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem after Israeli troops shot and killed a Palestinian, while more than 200 armed Palestinians remained inside the shrine.

Hassan Mesman, a member of the Palestinian police, was hit in the chest. He managed to make his way back into the church, where he died an hour later. An Israeli army spokesman said there was an operation underway in the area, but "the army did not fire on the church".

At the Jenin refugee camp, journalists saw the devastation left after days of the most ferocious fighting in the campaign. Agencies



REUTERS PHOTO  
Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat greets US Secretary of State Colin Powell in his Ramallah office on Sunday.

HD-12  
M/A

## U.S. stress on Mitchell plan

By Vaiju Naravane

**PARIS, APRIL 10.** The U.S. Secretary of State, Gen. Colin Powell, the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Anan, the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, the Spanish Foreign Minister, Josep Pique, and the European Union's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, met in Madrid just hours after another suicide bomb in the Israeli town of Haifa killed 10 persons. Mr. Pique was also representing the European Union whose rotating presidency Spain currently holds.

The five, who agree that the immediate objectives are a cease fire, a cessation of all violence and terrorism and the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from the occupied territories, held their talks as Israel refused to heed calls for a withdrawal, ignoring appeals made by the U.S. President, George Bush, and the international community.

Gen. Powell who met the Spanish Prime Minister, Jose Maria Aznar, will hold several bilateral meetings with his Russian and Spanish counterparts before leaving for Jordan on Thursday.

Eyebrows are being raised in European capitals over the inordinately long time Gen. Powell seems to be taking to reach Israel and the Palestinian territories for meetings with the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, and the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat. "Gen. Powell is dawdling en route to Jerusalem, so as to give Mr. Sharon more time to finish off his business," Jacques Amalric, a respected editorialist noted in the French daily *Liberation*. Europeans are hoping their discussions with Gen. Powell will lead to more strident calls for the application of U.N. Resolution 1402 on an immediate Israeli withdrawal from Palestinian territories.

Before his arrival in Madrid, Gen. Powell indicated that he would aim to accelerate the implementation of the Mitchell Plan for restarting peace negotiations between the two parties. He said, however, that the U.S. did not plan to impose sanctions against Israel. He also confirmed that the United States was prepared to send a small contingent of observers to monitor an eventual ceasefire. "We're talking about some small numbers of people that we would draw perhaps from our diplomatic presence there, or send in some other individuals from state department or other government agencies," he said. "They would not be an interpositional force trying to keep people from shooting at each other."

Gen. Powell said he would meet Mr. Sharon and that he had "every intention of meeting Chairman Arafat." The Israelis said they would not object to a meeting between Gen. Powell and Mr. Arafat. "I'm prepared to stay for some while," he said. Mr. Solana pleaded for firmer E.U. action in West Asia, saying the situation had gone "beyond acceptable limits" Chris Patten, the E.U.'s Commissioner for Foreign Affairs, said there were attempts to "destroy the legitimate ambitions of the Palestinians to establish a stable state on their own land."

11 APR 2002

THE HINDU

## U.S. upset by Russia-N. Korea project

WASHINGTON, MARCH 29. A Russian move to build a nuclear power plant for "axis of evil" state North Korea after already constructing one in "co-axis" Iran could threaten Moscow's improving relations with the United States, a senior U.S. official said.

"For the Russians to do this is a very, very bad sign and would add one more burden to the relationship on non-proliferation and one more important topic we've got to get straight with them," he told Reuters yesterday.

The move would leave only Iraq among the three countries the U.S. President, George W. Bush, branded an "axis of evil" in his State of the Union message in January without an active nuclear relationship with Russia. "This is very bad news at a time

when we were expressing our doubts about North Korean compliance with the Agreed Framework," the official said, referring to a 1994 accord under which Pyongyang pledged to freeze its nuclear program.

The Russian Nuclear Energy Minister, Alexander Rumyantsev, told a news conference in Moscow on Wednesday that Russia would complete a nuclear power plant reactor in Iran despite U.S. opposition.

And, in what would be an expansion of Russian nuclear activities, he said Moscow was also considering a tentative North Korean request for a similar plant.

A day earlier, a senior U.S. official told Reuters that while the Bush administration has made little progress in persuading Moscow to end nuclear assistance to Iran,

this was unlikely to disrupt U.S.-Russia ties that warmed considerably since the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

"Now is it (Russia-Iran nuclear cooperation) enough to derail the (U.S.-Russia) relationship? Not if the Russians don't expand cooperation and proliferation with this and other countries," he said in an interview. If the status quo holds, "it's possible it would simply be a continuing problem," said the U.S. official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

However, if Russia "expanded their (nuclear) cooperation ... it would be a big problem," he added. Mr. Rumyantsev predicted the \$800 million Iranian plant at Bushehr would be finished in the year 2005. — Reuters

THE HINDU

3 0 11 2002



# US joins UN pullout demand

S Rajagopalan & Agencies  
Washington/Gaza, March 30

THE US joined other Security Council members today in adopting a resolution calling for the immediate withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities.

But Israel continued its siege of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat at his office in Ramallah, cutting his phone lines and electricity to snap his links with the outside world. Israeli soldiers also seized the Voice of Palestine office in the West Bank city.

The UN resolution was approved by a vote of 14 to 0, with Syria skipping the meeting in protest and leaving its seat empty, a rarity in the council. It had submitted its own resolution against Israel.

The US vote represents a change of position from Friday's comments by Secretary of State Colin Powell, who expressed sympathy with Israel's decision to respond militarily after attacks on Israeli civilians.

The resolution, proposed by Security Council President Ole Peter Kolby of Norway, was negotiated after a Friday emergency public debate called by Arab nations in response to Israeli troops besieging Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's compound in the West Bank town of Ramallah.

It was the second time this month that the US, Israel's closest ally, supported council action after blocking all resolu-



Palestinian men surrender to Israeli troops in Ramallah on Saturday, following a night-long streetbattle.

tions on West Asia for more than a year. But on March 12, US envoys had startled the council by introducing a resolution they drafted, demanding an immediate ceasefire.

Saturday's resolution calls on Israelis and Palestinians to move immediately to a "mean-

ingful ceasefire" and "withdrawal of Israeli troops from Palestinian cities, including Ramallah". The resolution expresses "grave concern" at the recent suicide bombings in Israel and the "military attack" against Arafat's Palestinian Authority headquarters.

A Palestinian official, meanwhile, said that Arafat now has no contact with the outside world, with telephone lines cut and mobile phones out of power. Israeli troops took over the compound except Arafat's offices, where the leader remained holed up, an aide told reporters.

# Osama's No. 2 held in Pakistan

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies  
Islamabad/Washington, Mar 30

AL-QAIDA SECOND-IN-COMMAND and close aide of Osama bin Laden, Abu Umaid, was among 65 militants arrested in the joint US-Pakistani raids on the hideouts of the terror network inside Pakistan in the past two days.

One of the arrested has a close resemblance to Abu Umaid and other details would emerge during the interrogation, The News daily on Saturday quoted officials as saying. "However, sources insisted he was Umaid," it said. Umaid, who coordinated the activities of al-Qaida, was injured in the operations by Pakistani and US forces in Faisalabad and Lahore, it said.

The operations were temporarily halted after the capture of the al-Qaida activists, mostly foreigners. The decision was taken as others holding out in other hideouts might have gone underground, the daily said.

Meanwhile, Washington has clarified that no US soldier participated in the raids, though the US provided intelligence to Pakistan. "We have not, up to this point, asked to be able to conduct joint operations in Pakistan," General Tommy Franks said.

The operation was conducted in Faisalabad, 270 kilometres

## Omar challenge

A LAWYER for British-born militant Omar Sheikh and three other men charged with kidnapping and murdering US journalist Daniel Pearl on Saturday challenged a Pakistani court's decision to hold the trial in jail.

Defence lawyer Abdul Wahid Katpar filed a petition with the Sindh High Court asking it to overrule an anti-terrorism court's decision on Friday to conduct the trial in Karachi's central prison. The petition asks the Sindh High Court to "direct that the case against the applicants be tried in an open court which will promote the ends of justice".

The petition says, "no reason has been assigned" for holding the trial in jail. *AFP, Karachi*

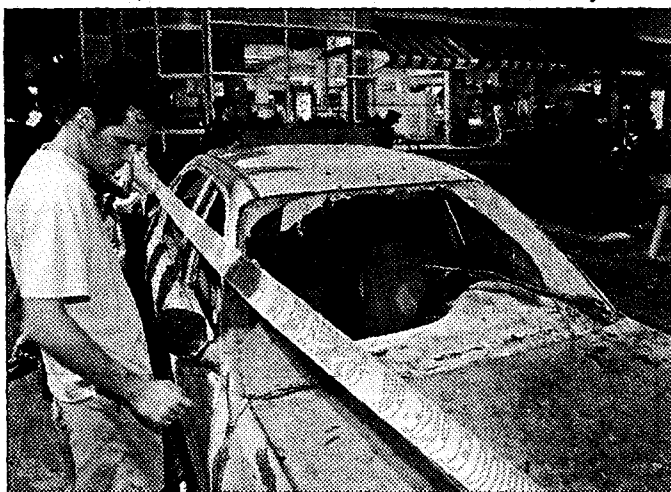
south of Islamabad, under the supervision of about 20 US law-enforcement agents, Pakistani police sources said.

Terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the ousted Afghan Taliban regime were among those arrested after a series of raids in which at least one suspect was killed and three wounded in a gunfight.

# Lima blast kills 9, Bush firm on trip

**Lima, March 21 (Reuters):** At least nine people were killed and dozens injured when a powerful car bomb exploded yesterday across the street from the US embassy in Lima, three days before a visit by US President George W. Bush, authorities said.

Brushing off security concerns after the blast, US President George W. Bush said today no "two-bit terrorists" would deter him from visiting Lima.



A youth inspects a vehicle destroyed in the Lima blast. (AFP)

It was not immediately known who planted the bomb, which exploded around 10:45 p.m., recalling scenes of carnage from more than a decade ago when Peru was gripped by leftist rebel violence.

The blast was so powerful, the body of one victim was blown around 165 feet across a dual carriageway separating the scene of the explosion from the embassy, witnesses said.

Police were examining the body, which had a leg and clothes blown off. Part of a car engine lay nearby.

Peruvian President Alejandro Toledo, speaking to RPP radio shortly after arriving in Monterrey, Mexico, for a UN development summit, condemned the attack and guaranteed full safety for Bush's 17-hour visit this weekend.

"My deepest condolences to the families of the victims, who have been hit in such a cowardly way by a terrorist attack," he told RPP radio. "I want to express my strongest condemnation ... We will not yield even a centimetre to terrorism."

A police officer at the scene said rescue workers were combing the wreckage to determine the number of dead. "At the moment, there are eight dead between security staff, police and civilians," he said.

Interior minister Fernando Rospigliosi said there were six dead, including one police offi-

cer, while the deputy commander of Lima's firefighters, Juan Piperis, had reports of nine dead and up to 40 injured. One of the victims was an 18-year-old man, who had been rollerblading, he added.

"It looks like there were around 30 kg of explosives," Piperis said. The blast left a large dent in the ground.

THE TELEGRAPH

22 MAR 2002

# More U.S. troops for Philippines

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, MARCH 21. A total of 2,665 American soldiers will take part in a military exercise with Philippine troops next month, the Philippine Defence Secretary, Angelo Reyes, has said. Mr. Reyes said in Manila that 10 military exercises would be conducted during the course of the year, but the April exercise termed "Balikatan 02-2" and the ongoing "Balikatan 02-1" were larger exercises. He also revealed that there was a proposal to merge "Balikatan" with a larger military exercise that would involve several other countries.

"Now, there is a move to have all these under one exercise and call it Team Challenge... if we have Balikatan for part of the larger exercise, then that will be a foreign policy issue and we might have to discuss that with the Department of Foreign Affairs and eventually seek clearance from the President," he was quoted as saying. Responding to criticism from Opposition members in Parliament, the President, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, said the scheduled arrival of more American troops should not alarm the people since war games were held regularly under the Philippines-U.S. Visiting Forces Agreement (VFA). She said groups protesting against the presence of American troops were the same as those who had taken exception to the VFA. "These are the people who are always criticising Balikatan, the VFA, which the Supreme Court

has upheld as constitutional," Ms. Arroyo maintained. The "Balikatan 02-1" exercise, currently taking place on Basilan island, a base of the militant Abu Sayyaf, is a clear indicator that the U.S. has decided to take on a more proactive role in the region. Apart from the fact that the Abu Sayyaf currently holds an American couple hostage, the group has made kidnapping a specialty and reportedly also has links with the Al-Qaeda network.

From the Philippine point of view, the Americans have provided significant monetary and logistical help in the battle against the Abu Sayyaf - something which is welcome by itself. However, the Americans, who are said to be only "exercising" on Basilan, have not produced the Philippine troops into any major success against the Abu Sayyaf so far. In a sense, the success or otherwise of the American involvement in the Philippines can only be measured by the successes that the security forces are able to notch up against this Islamist outfit. It is also evident that the Americans want to cooperate actively in South-East Asia against what they see as terrorist forces and will go all out in this battle.

The Arroyo Government, so far, has been the most cooperative in the region and the Bush administration is taking full advantage of this. It remains to be seen whether the choice made by Ms. Arroyo will benefit the country in the long run.

THE HINDU  
11 MAR 2002

# Arabs reject US strike on Saddam

19/3 HFC 11  
S Rajagopalan  
Washington, March 18

US VICE-PRESIDENT Dick Cheney has failed in his bid to enlist the support of Arab nations for a confrontation that the US is itching to launch against Iraq. As his 11-nation West Asia visit draws to a close, Cheney has reportedly heard the same talk everywhere: We don't want another war.

Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler, Crown Prince Abdullah, went even public against a military strike on Iraq. On the eve of receiving Cheney, he told ABC News that it would not be in the interests of the US, the region or the world to mount an offensive against Iraq. "And I don't think it will achieve

the desired result."

For the US, the "desired result" is to send Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein packing, either peacefully or through a military confrontation. The farthest that the Arab nations are going up to is to make Saddam comply with UN resolutions and let in the weapons inspectors whom he had thrown out.

The failure to win over Arabs was evident from Cheney's remarks to newsmen in Bahrain. According to media reports reaching here, Cheney sought to play down the Arab criticism of the US stance on Iraq by insisting that Baghdad was only one of several things on his tour agenda.

This contrasted with the

WS (W) H. Azla  
build-up for Cheney's visit to the region. After President George W Bush's "axis of evil" statement, the visit was widely reckoned to be a bid to drum up support for a campaign against Saddam Hussein. Cheney's own remarks before leaving Washington buttressed the view.

But this agenda has apparently been upstaged by the worsening Israeli-Palestinian situation in recent days. In a significant remark at a joint news conference with Cheney, Bahrain's Crown Prince Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa said: "The people who are dying on the streets today are not as a result of any Iraqi action."

Cheney has encountered

similar concerns in other Arab capitals. As the Arabs see it, the pressing concern in the region is not Iraq, but how to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Cheney himself conceded the point, saying this conflict was the "preoccupation for everybody in this part of the world".

An upshot of the Saudi opposition to a face-off with Iraq was a Bush invitation to Crown Prince Abdullah for talks in his Crawford ranch. Saudi support for any offensive against Iraq is crucial from a logistics standpoint as well. The country has a long border Iraq and has been the host for US forces patrolling the "no-fly zones" over Iraq for a decade.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

19/3/2002

# 17-0-04A Iraq: U.S. will consult allies, says Cheney

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, MARCH 11. Britain today extended its full support to the American initiative to end the spiral of violence in West Asia, but widespread unease remained over Washington's threat to attack Iraq as the U.S. Vice-President, Dick Cheney, held talks with the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, ahead of his discussions with Arab leaders.

These two issues dominated the talks which took place against the backdrop of mounting impatience with America's hitherto 'laid back' approach to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in sharp contrast to its overtly pro-active stance on Iraq. At a joint press conference later, Mr. Blair and Mr. Cheney maintained that the threat from the weapons of mass destruction

accumulated by Iraq was very 'real' and needed to be met but said no decision had yet been taken on how this should be done. "We need to reflect, consider and deliberate," Mr. Blair said. Mr. Cheney assured that U.S. would consult its allies before taking a decision.

Mr. Cheney received forceful backing for his West Asia mission from Mr. Blair who has consistently maintained that a solution of the Palestinian issue would help the war on terrorism, and make it easier to focus on Iraq. Today's meeting was held amid growing pressure on Mr. Blair not to back military action against Iraq and instead explore all diplomatic means to make Baghdad see reason.

"We do not need to inflict further suffering on the people of Iraq. The best possible thing

is to let the U.N. inspectors and even the staunchly pro-U.S. *Times* acknowledged that any "Anglo-American entente against Iraq will be immensely controversial, not merely inside the Labour Party but with a wide section of public opinion".

In his talks with Mr. Cheney, Mr. Blair shared American concerns over Iraq but is believed to have underlined the need to keep the allies on board.

The view in Downing Street was that the greater the support for any action that the U.S. and Britain might eventually take, the greater would be its credibility. It reiterated its commitment to the campaign against terrorism in a 35-page document which warned that there were still many countries which harboured terrorist or extremist networks. "We will

take action we deem necessary in support of this aim including military action, if absolutely necessary," it said in what was seen as a veiled reference to Iraq.

Meanwhile, Richard Perle, who advises the U.S. President, George W. Bush, on defence and is regarded as a big 'hawk' in political circles here, hit back at America's critics.

He told the BBC that the U.S. would not allow its "self-defence to be determined by the preferences of others, no matter how friendly, now well-meaning."

"The U.S. is the target and the U.S. has to take that seriously, whether others agree or not," he said raising the level of rhetoric over Iraq ahead of Mr Blair's visit to Washington next month.

take action we deem necessary in support of this aim including military action, if absolutely necessary," it said in what was seen as a veiled reference to Iraq.

Meanwhile, Richard Perle, who advises the U.S. President, George W. Bush, on defence and is regarded as a big 'hawk' in political circles here, hit back at America's critics.

He told the BBC that the U.S. would not allow its "self-defence to be determined by the preferences of others, no matter how friendly, now well-meaning."

"The U.S. is the target and the U.S. has to take that seriously, whether others agree or not," he said raising the level of rhetoric over Iraq ahead of Mr Blair's visit to Washington next month.

# US nuclear arms are deterrent, says Bush

Washington, March 14

PRESIDENT BUSH said on Wednesday his administration has "all options on the table" as the Pentagon reworks its nuclear weapons policy to deter any attack on America — including from non-nuclear States such as Iraq and Iran.

The US nuclear arsenal is "a way to say to people who would harm America: Don't do it," Bush said. "We've got all options on the table because we want to make it very clear to nations that you will not threaten the United States or use weapons of mass destruction against us or our allies or friends."

With the war against terrorism having entered the "second stage" and Osama bin Laden "marginalised", the US has sought support of its allies in taking the battle to Iraq while asserting that Washington retains the right to take unilateral decisions and slammed Israel for its recent attacks against Palestinians.

The US President George W Bush yesterday said that he is consulting with friends and al-

lies about Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein but reserves the right to take unilateral action against him if necessary. "We are going to consult. I am deeply concerned about Iraq. And so should the American people be concerned about Iraq, and so should people who love freedom be concerned," he said.

Iraq, he, said during a rare press conference, is a nation run by a man who is willing to kill his own people by using chemical weapons, a man who won't let inspectors into the country, a man who has obviously got something to hide.

Bush said that while he understands the linkage between Iraq and the Palestinian-Israeli problem in the minds of the people in the region, for the United States, the Iraq policy "stands on its own."

In his sternest criticism yet of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon for his military action against the Palestinians, Bush said "frankly, it is not helpful what the Israelis have recently done in order to create conditions for peace... the recent actions are not helpful."

Bush pointed out that the US helped engineer the Security Council resolution that specifically mentioned a Palestinian state. On bin Laden, Bush said he did not know whether the al-Qaida chief was dead or alive but finding him was not central to the success of US-led war on terror.

"Terror is bigger than one person, and he's a person who's now been marginalised. His host government has been destroyed," he said. But "focusing on one person really indicates to me people don't understand the scope of the mission," he said, meaning the "war on terrorism" he declared after the September 11 terrorist onslaught against the United States.

Referring to the controversy generated by the leaked Pentagon document that revealed Russia, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria and Libya are on a possible nuclear hit list, Bush said that while his interest is in reducing the number of nuclear warheads, he is also determined to deter a war against the US, its friends and allies.

## Court order against Hasina

Dhaka, March 14

A BANGLADESHI court has ordered main Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina Wajed and four newspaper editors to explain why they should not be charged with contempt of court regarding comments she made about the judiciary, officials said today.

The two-judge High Court Bench issued the notice late yesterday after hearing a contempt petition by lawyer Syed Ziaul Karim.

The judges gave the former Prime Minister four weeks to justify her reported comments on the judiciary during a visit to the United States last year. She made the comments in an interview with a New York-based Bengali-language weekly newspaper Thikana which published the comments on December 21, 2001.

Four Dhaka newspapers *Sangbad*, *Manavzamin*, *Inqilab* and *Sangram*, reproduced the report the next day and their editors were also given four weeks to argue the case. Thikana interviewed Sheikh Hasina while she was on a private visit to the US shortly after her Awami League Government was defeated in elections in October by her arch rival Khaleda Zia.

PTI

AFP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 MAR 2002

# Pentagon's call for new breed of N-arms faces hurdles

**By WILLIAM J. BROAD**  
**WASHINGTON:** The Pentagon's call for a new generation of nuclear arms is setting an ambitious but extremely difficult agenda for the nation's ageing nuclear arms enterprise, experts said on Sunday.

The coast-to-coast enterprise, run by the Department of Energy and employing thousands of the nation's best scientists, has been weakened in recent years by charges of spying and mismanagement, reduced demand for its services after the Cold War and substantial drops in jobs, capabilities and prestige.

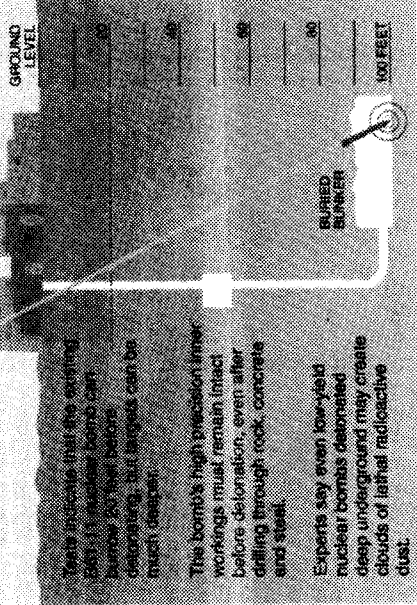
The top labs — Los Alamos, Livermore and Sandia — have recently sought new challenges to work on the design of warheads, most especially ones robust enough to penetrate solid rock and hardened concrete to demolish enemy bunkers buried deep underground.

Stephen M. Younger, then at Los Alamos and now at the Pentagon, wrote a paper in June 2000 that stirred debate. He said that the nation needed to develop a new class of nuclear arms that would have low explosive yields but burrow deep. "With precision delivery," he said, "many hard targets might be able to be defeated." In a new report whose secret details were disclosed publicly over the weekend, the Pentagon has now endorsed such weapons, laying out a military rationale for their development and bringing the start of such research closer to reality.

But even if development work is approved, translating it into new weapons could face numerous hurdles of technology and politics,

## Next Generation of Nuclear Bombs

A Pentagon plan for new nuclear weapons cites the need for bombs that can penetrate deep underground to destroy bunkers or other targets. Experts debate how deep they might be able to go.



experts said on Sunday.  
 First, a small nuclear device, perhaps smaller in explosive power than the Hiroshima bomb, is not necessarily easy to build.

"It's not clear that there's much additional

technology that could be developed to increase the effectiveness against underground targets," said Dr Frank von Hippel, a physicist who advised the Clinton administration and now teaches science policy at Princeton University.

The Pentagon's goal, he said, is apparently to make a less powerful version of the nation's current nuclear bomb for penetrating into the earth, the B-61-11.

Robert W. Nelson, a physicist who consults for the Federation of American Scientists, a private group in Washington, has recently contended that no earth-penetrating weapon can burrow deep enough to contain the ensuing blast and radioactivity.

Another hurdle is the nation's atomic enterprise itself, which has shrunk enormously in size and lost major parts of its manufacturing prowess. A decade ago, it employed nearly 100,000 people in 13 states and cost more than \$10 billion a year to operate. Now it is much smaller and less capable.

"They're trying to bring it back to a semblance of what it was during the Cold War," said Robert S. Norris of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a private group in Washington that monitors trends in nuclear arms development.

A final hurdle could be political, experts agreed. On Monday, the nations of the world were to observe a ban on underground nuclear explosions. The absence of such blasts is seen as a brake on the development of new kinds of nuclear arms, which usually must be exploded to test their reliability. (NYT News Service)

# US slams LTTE for truce violation

Colombo, March 11

IN A sharply-worded indictment of the LTTE, the United States today accused the militant group of endangering its truce with the Sri Lankan Government by carrying on with smuggling of arms, recruitment of cadres, including children, and harassing civilians.

"We have heard credible reports that the LTTE are engaged in activities that could jeopardise the indefinite ceasefire accord reached with the Sri Lankan Government," the US embassy said in a statement here. "These reports recount increased LTTE recruitment in Sri Lanka's north and east, including of children, as well as kidnaping and extortion, especially of Muslims," the statement said.

The US warned the Tigers that their conduct would increase their international isolation and harm the interests of Sri Lankan Tamils who earnestly wanted an end to the war.

"If the LTTE chooses the path of peace, ends its reliance on terrorism, accepts

that an independent Eelam is both unattainable and unnecessary, and honors democratic and human rights norms, the US will respond positively." The US demanded that the LTTE honour the terms of its truce, noting that it had "credible information" that the LTTE was smuggling weapons and had not stopped abductions and extortion, the targets being mostly Muslims.

However, it added that "incidents of recruitment, kidnaping and extortion have apparently decreased in recent days," and hoped the trend would continue.

This is the first time since the government and the lte began their indefinite ceasefire last month that any member of the international community had come out with a statement on the conduct of one of the parties. It is a clear warning to the lte that its behaviour is under scrutiny and it cannot get away with violations.

The US said it understood that both sides—and not just the LTTE—had responsibilities under the terms of the ceasefire pact.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

March 11, 1990



RUSSIA CONCERNED OVER US PLANS

# USA: List targets China more than Russia

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, March 10. — In an apparent damage control exercise, the USA, while confirming reports of preparing for possible nuclear attacks against seven countries including Russia, said the new guidance gives greater emphasis to potential use against China, North Korea and several "threatening" West Asian states than against Moscow.

The Pentagon's review sought to justify a change in traditional US targeting, away from a focus on the Russian threat, the officials said. It drew a distinction between more likely "immediate" contingencies and less likely "potential ones", they added.

Officials told *The Washington Post* that they placed a conflict with China over Taiwan, a war with North Korea and confrontations with Iraq, Iran, Libya or Syria in the "first category," viewing these nations as more likely than in the past to require plans for nuclear weapons use.

The possibility of a nuclear war with Russia has been "relegated to the status of a lesser contingency," they said adding only Russia has the only nuclear arsenal that rivals America's in size.

While scenarios involving these countries already feature to some degree in existing nuclear plans, they are now being given added weight, they said.

The "proposed guidance" is contained in a "draft presidential directive currently under review," the *Post* said quoting US officials.

Earlier, a top US defence official had described the report in the *Los Angeles Times* as "misleading leaks".

In Moscow, a former defence official took a serious view of the matter and said Russia would have to reassess its security needs. "The report would force Russia to take a close look at the military security of the state," General Leonid Ivashov was quoted by Interfax news agency.

"The heart of the United States political doctrine is to weaken or push powerful Russia

off the political scene," he said adding the USA considers post-Soviet Russia as its rival.

The US-Russian relations have improved markedly since the end of the Cold War, and President Mr George W Bush has stressed that Russia should no longer be regarded as a strategic adversary.

The Pentagon review also called for studying the development of a new generation of nuclear weapons for attacking hardened or deeply buried targets, including facilities for stockpiling chemical and biological weapons.

The report says the Pentagon should be prepared to use nuclear weapons in an Arab-Israeli conflict, in a war between China and Taiwan, or in an attack from North Korea on South Korea. It presented three possibilities where nuclear weapons could be used: against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack, in retaliation for attack with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons; or "in the event of surprising military developments."

17 MAR 2002

# Fresh US strike wipes out al-Qaida bunker complex

Gardez/Bagram, March 10

US BOMBING wiped out an al-Qaida bunker complex and top Afghan commanders gathered on Gardez's battle frontline on Sunday for what loomed as a final US-led assault on besieged rebels in mountain caves.

With the sky clear after several days of bad weather and Afghan troop reinforcements, including tanks, in place, local commanders said they just awaited the order to advance on what Afghan leader Hamid Karzai has called the last major al-Qaida base in the country.

Some Afghan commanders said they would prefer to give several hundred rebels a last chance to negotiate a surrender before a dangerous advance across land mine-littered landscape leading up to bunkers and cave entrances 95 miles south of Kabul.

They said the issue was not raised with US military leaders

who are adamant there can only be unconditional surrender or death for rebels who have held US-led forces at bay for eight days.

In Kabul, Interior Minister Yunis Qanuni said the Afghan Government backed the US policy of giving the rebels no quarters. "Based on the strategy of the interim Afghan administration, it has been decided to purge them," he told reporters.

"A series of operations are underway to purge them, both by the international coalition and the Afghan defence ministry. The purging operation is going successfully."

US military spokesman Major Bryan Hilferty told reporters an AC-130 gunship, known as "Puff the Magic Dragon" because of its thunderous firepower, had destroyed at least one al-Qaida bunker complex with rebels in it now that the weather had lifted.

He said while the battlezone 20 miles from Gardez city in Paktia province was covered by snow,

fighting had been "very light" with no sustained fire from rebels hunkered down in caves.

But the US-led forces were back on the offensive inching toward the caves in mountains that soar to 12,000 feet near the Pakistan border.

"Our ground forces saw that a bunker had several people in it and called in an AC-130 gunship," he told reporters at Bagram air base on the outskirts of Kabul. The base is the control point for "Operation Anaconda."

The US military says eight US troops and seven Afghan soldiers have died and there have been about 100 wounded in what has turned into the biggest battle of the five-month-old war.

In Gardez, just-arrived Afghan commanders sped out of the town to the frontline in four-wheel-drive vehicles with bodyguards riding in the back, holding machine guns and rocket-propelled grenades.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 MAR 2002

# US says N-test report misread, Moscow miffed

Washington, March 10

AFTER SENDING disturbing signals to Moscow by labelling Russia as a likely target for US nuclear strike, the Pentagon today denied that any of the seven countries mentioned in the leaked report were on Washington's present hitlist and said the report was misinterpreted.

The Bush administration's secret nuclear posture review submitted to the Congress by the Pentagon on January 8, and obtained by the *Los Angeles Times*, read: "While the United States is making every effort to maintain the nuclear stockpile without additional nuclear testing, this may not be possible in the indefinite future."

"In setting requirements for nuclear strike capabilities, distinctions can be made among the contingencies for which the United States should be prepared. Contingencies can be categorised as immediate, potential or unexpected," *The New York Times*, which claimed that it too had a copy of the review, said.

"While Russia has the most formidable nuclear force, relations with Moscow have improved. As a result, a contingency involving Russia, while plausible, is not expected," the report had said. Still, the United States cannot be sure that its relations with Russia will always be smooth and thus must be prepared to "revise its nuclear force levels and posture whenever necessary", it added.

"We will not discuss classified details of military planning or contingencies, nor will we comment on selective and misleading leaks," Army Lt Col Catherine Abbott said reacting to the report published yesterday.

The United States refrained from issuing a categorical denial to the sensational leak, but said it should be "far less likely" that the United States or other countries will rely on nuclear weapons over the next decade,

the paper said quoting a top defence official.

She pointed out that the confidential report submitted to the Congress on January 8 is mandatory under law and said: "It does not provide operational guidance on nuclear targeting or planning." In Moscow, a former defence official took a serious view of the matter and said Russia would have to reassess its security needs. "The report would force Russia to take a close look at the military security of the State," General Leonid Ivashov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

"The heart of the United States political doctrine is to weaken or push powerful Russia off the political scene," he said, adding that the US considers post-Soviet Russia as its rival.

The Bush administration in its report has allegedly directed the US army to prepare contingency plans for use of nuclear weapons against Russia, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Libya and Syria.

The administration directed laboratories to build smaller nuclear weapons to be used in battlefield situations, the report had said. The report said that the Pentagon should be prepared to use nuclear weapons in an Arab-Israeli conflict, in a war between China and Taiwan, or in an attack from North Korea on South Korea.

The report presented three possibilities, where nuclear weapons could be used: against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack; in retaliation for attack with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons or "in the event of surprising military developments".

The *Los Angeles Times* said that according to analysts, the report's reference to "surprising military developments" referred to Pentagon's fears that a rogue regime might suddenly unleash a wholly unknown weapon that was difficult to counter the conventional US arsenal.

## Hunger strike at Guantanamo continues

Guantanamo Bay, March 10

MORE THAN two dozen detainees at this US base refused meals on Saturday in a lingering protest over their indefinite detention, with three of them not having eaten for more than a week, military officials said.

Among the 300 captives from the war on terrorism held at Guantanamo Bay, 27 skipped breakfast and 26 refused lunch, said Marine Capt Eric Dent, a military spokesman. Among that group, three had not eaten since at least March 1, he said.

The number of men who refused dinner on Saturday was not immediately available.

The number of detainees refusing food has dropped steadily from a high of 194 shortly after the protest started February 27.

Dent said the military had administered intravenous drips to twenty prisoners suffering from dehydration or undernourishment.

The hunger strike began after guards stripped an inmate of his turban, but participants have told their captors their primary motivation is to know their fates.

The military says the captives now held in the temporary compound of Camp X-ray include fighters of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network, believed responsible for the September 11 attacks in the United States, and the fallen Afghan Taliban regime that harboured it.

US officials are determining whether and how to prosecute the men, and say those not tried by a military tribunal empowered with the death penalty could be prosecuted in US courts, returned to their home countries for prosecution, held indefinitely or released outright.

AP

## US mulls withdrawal of forces from Saudi

New York, March 10

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

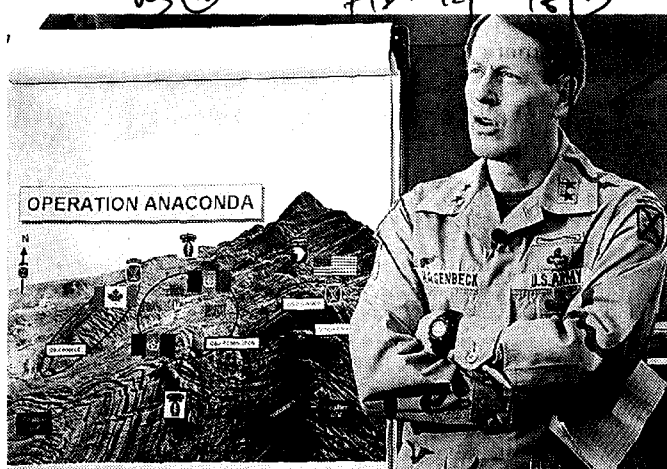
11 MAR 2002

# Operation Anaconda winds to a close

**GARDEZ (AFGHANISTAN), MARCH 15.** After 12 days of bombing and ground fighting by about 2,000 U.S. and Afghan troops, Operation Anaconda is ending much as it began — in confusion.

So far, there is little hard evidence to support claims by U.S. officers that hundreds of Al-Qaeda and Taliban militants had been killed. Afghan fighters said about 25 bodies were found in the initial sweep of the area, and Maj. Gen. Frank L. Hagenbeck of the U.S. force said the number of bodies found so far was only in “the double digits.”

Some possibly many bodies may be buried in caves that collapsed during the ferocious U.S. air bombardment. Others have been blown to bits. There is also disagreement, however, over just exactly how many caves are



**Maj. Gen. Frank L. Hagenbeck of U.S. gives a briefing at the Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan on Thursday. — AP**

in the area around the village of Shah-e-Kot. The Afghan commander, Zia Lodin, one of the leaders of the final assault on

Al-Qaeda and Taliban positions, said there were no more than five caves there. A U.S. Special Forces officer, who re-

fused to give his name, put the figure at “couple of dozen” but added, “Lord knows how many more are on the other side of the mountain.” One of the problems facing military planners as they assess enemy casualties is uncertainty about how many Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters were there in the first place.

Mr. Lodin estimated there were roughly 300 Al-Qaeda fighters in Shah-e-Kot when the battle began on March 2.

Another Afghan commander, Khushkyar, repeated the 300 estimated but added “most of them left” while the battle was under way.

At the Bagram air base north of Kabul, Maj. Gen. Hagenbeck said he believed about 1,000 Al-Qaeda fighters had been in Shah-e-Kot when the battle began. — AP

16 MAR 2002

THE HINDO

# US and Afghan troops declare victory but chase to continue

MEHRDAD BALALI  
BAGRAM AIR BASE, MARCH 13

US AND Afghan troops said on Wednesday they had overrun the cave complex in eastern Afghanistan where Taliban and Al Qaeda rebels had held out for nearly two weeks, and were now chasing remnants of the rebel force.

"We have finished our operation," said Major General Karamuddin, chief of office in Afghanistan's Defence Ministry. "We have cleaned Shahi Kot and killed most, and the rest fled."

Karamuddin said Afghan troops had returned to Gardez town, about 150 km south of Kabul, after completing their job in the mountain battle zone near Shahi Kot.

"It's a great success," US military spokesman Major Bryan Hilferty told reporters earlier at Bagram, control point for Operation Anaconda, on the outskirts of Kabul. "Probably the next objective is to make sure that everything is secure." "It is a 60 square mile (155 sq km) area. We have seized the ma-

9/26 19/3  
jority and have control of the majority of the (Shahi Kot) valley," he said. "There are less than 100 (Taliban-Al Qaeda) left."

For the first time, US and Afghan forces were entering caves still protected by landmines and booby traps searching for docu-

ments and weapons left by the rebels. Hilferty said the key to victory had been the capture of the region's highest mountain and a key ridgeline known as *The Whale*. Mountains in the area soar up to 12,000 feet and are dotted with deep, hidden caves.

On Tuesday, Afghan General Abdul Joyenda said the allied troops had overrun the Shahi Kot rebel positions, sending the fighters fleeing toward the border with Pakistan and effectively ending the biggest battle of the Afghan war.

Major Hilferty said there was still work to be done in the Shahi Kot area and the war in Afghanistan was not over with other rebel pockets elsewhere in the country to be rooted out. "I hope this is the last one but I'm not making any plans (to go home)," he said.

Karamuddin too warned there were Taliban and Al Qaeda fighters scattered in other parts of the country. The US military said eight US troops and three other coalition troops were killed and nearly 100 wounded in the 12-day operation.

—Reuters

## Films for troops

■ LOS ANGELES: US troops in Afghanistan are getting a morale boost from Hollywood. Steven Spielberg, Tom Hanks and USO showman Johnny Grant, the honorary mayor of Hollywood, are sending videotapes of this year's best picture Oscar nominees to Afghanistan for US soldiers to see. The videos were scheduled to leave on Wednesday aboard a military plane. Videos of *A Beautiful Mind*, *Gosford Park*, *In the Bedroom*, *The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring* and *Moulin Rouge* would be viewed as part of Grant's Foxhole Premieres programme.

—PTI

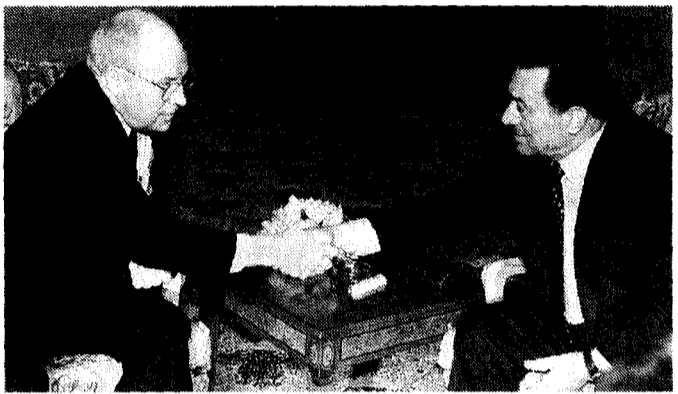
W. Bush U.S. / "I'M NOT THAT CONCERNED ABOUT BIN LADEN" HD-1A 15/3

# We will deal with Saddam: Bush

WASHINGTON, MARCH 14. The President, George W. Bush declared that the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein is a menace "and we're going to deal with him," and said Osama bin Laden — a man he once wanted dead or alive — has been reduced to a marginal figure in the war on terrorism.

"He's the ultimate parasite who found weakness, exploited it, and met his match," Mr. Bush said of the suspected mastermind behind the September 11 attacks. "I truly am not that concerned about him."

In his first full-blown news conference in five months, the President produced strong rhetoric on the war and America's enemies. Mr. Bush said he is leaving "all options on the table" as the Pentagon reworks its nuclear weapons policy to deter any attack on the United States — including from non-nuclear States such as Iraq, Iran, Libya and Syria. Critics say the Pentagon's plans to produce less powerful nuclear weapons make it more likely that the United States will eventually launch a nuclear attack. But the President said a modern nuclear arsenal is "a way to say to people who would harm Amer-



The Egyptian President, Hosni Mubarak (right), meets the U.S. Vice-President, Dick Cheney, at the Red Sea resort of Sharm al-Sheikh, some 500 km south east of Cairo, on Wednesday. Mr. Cheney was on his second stop of an 11-nation West Asian tour aimed at building support for the U.S.-led war on terrorism and eliminating Iraq's ability to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction. — AP

ica: 'Don't do it.' ... that there is a consequence." "The President must have all options available to make that deterrent have meaning," he said.

In a slap at one of the closest U.S. allies, Bush criticized Israel for escalating military action against Palestinians. "It's not helpful what the Israelis have recently done," he said. Still, the President said Israel had a right to protect itself and expressed

optimism that his envoy, Anthony Zinni would be able to reduce violence during his West Asia trip. Israel contends it is waging war against Palestinian terrorists, but Bush drew a sharp distinction between his war on terrorism and the West Asia conflict:

On Iraq, Mr. Bush did not tip his hand, but pledged to consult with allies, many of whom are urging the United States not to

take military action. "All options are on the table," Mr. Bush said. "But one thing I will not allow is a nation such as Iraq to threaten our very future by developing weapons of mass destruction." The Vice-President, Dick Cheney is in the region building the case against Iraq.

Mr. Bush said Mr. Hussein has a record of killing his own people, developing weapons of mass destruction and breaking agreement to allow weapons inspectors into the country. "He is a problem, and we're going to deal with him," Mr. Bush said. Turning to another foe, Mr. Bush was unusually dismissive of Bin Laden. "I know the man's on the run if he's alive at all," Mr. Bush said. He asserted that Bin Laden, if alive, is marginalised as a leader, no longer running a country or heading a command structure. "We shoved him more and more on the margins," Mr. Bush said. — AP

Reuters reports  
Iraq's most influential newspaper today called Mr. Cheney a "messenger of war". Mr. Cheney is on a West Asia tour of 11 nations, including countries bordering Iraq, to drum up support for U.S. military action against Iraq.

THE HINDU

15 MAR 2002

# US indicts Omar on two charges

FROM JAMES VICINI

Washington, March 14 (Reuters): British-born militant Ahmed Saeed Omar Sheikh was indicted on two charges in the kidnapping of US reporter Daniel Pearl that led to his death, the US justice department announced today.

The indictments, handed up in Trenton, New Jersey, charged Sheikh Omar with one count of hostage-taking and one count of conspiring to take hostages resulting in the death of Pearl, the South Asia bureau chief of *The Wall Street Journal* who was killed on January 30.

"If Omar Sheikh is found guilty of the crimes he is charged with committing against Daniel Pearl, he could receive the death penalty," attorney general John Ashcroft said.

Omar Sheikh organised the abduction of Pearl as a hostage to affect US government policies after the September 11 attacks on the New York's World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Omar Sheikh organised the killing of Pearl through a series of e-mails which the indictments cited as indications of his role in the journalist's death.

Pearl was abducted on January 23. A grisly video of his murder surfaced in Pakistan last month. Pakistan has arrested four suspects in connection with the case, including Omar Sheikh.

Two days ago at a remand hearing in Pakistan, Omar Sheikh threatened to make the United States pay dearly if he was extradited from Pakistan to face charges.

Pearl disappeared in Karachi as he tried to contact Islamic militant groups and investigate possible links between alleged shoe-bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network.

New Jersey was chosen for the indictment because the corporate headquarters of Dow Jones & Co. Inc., which publishes *The Wall Street Journal*, is in South Brunswick, New Jersey, justice department officials said.

## Militant violence

Pakistani police shot dead three suspected Muslim militants today during a firefight in Punjab, police said. The clash at Vehari, 125 km from Multan, began when the men opened fire while trying to break through a police cordon.



Omar Sheikh



Colombian pop singer Shakira poses in Istanbul to promote her new album *Laundry Service*. (Reuters)

THE TELEGRAPH

15 MAR 2002

# US to wrap up Operation Anaconda

Gardez Air Base, March 12

US-BACKED AFGHAN forces have seized key terrain in eastern Afghanistan and captured Taliban and al-Qaida men amid reports of an onslaught to wrap up Operation Anaconda, a spokesman for coalition forces said today.

"Our Afghan allies continue to aggressively attack from the north and the west and yesterday seized key terrain in the objective area," US major Bryan Hilferty said.

"In the last 24 hours we have more detainees," he said without specifying how many or who the prisoners were. He said Afghan troops were using US air support and were being "very aggressive" in their operations against the extremists.

After more than a week of fighting in the biggest US-led battle of the five-month Afghan war, the reinforcements gathered near Shahi Kot, about 95 miles south of Kabul in Paktia province, close to the Pakistani border.

While the focus remained on the Shahi Kot fighting, a senior Afghan military official said Taliban and al-Qaida rebels had also regrouped in four eastern provinces, including Wardak, Khost, Ghazni and other locations in Paktia province. At Bagram air base on the outskirts of Kabul,

conflict point for the battle, a US military spokesman said there were about 1,000 Afghan troops at the front line. He said although about 600 US troops had been withdrawn, another 1,000 remained in the combat area.

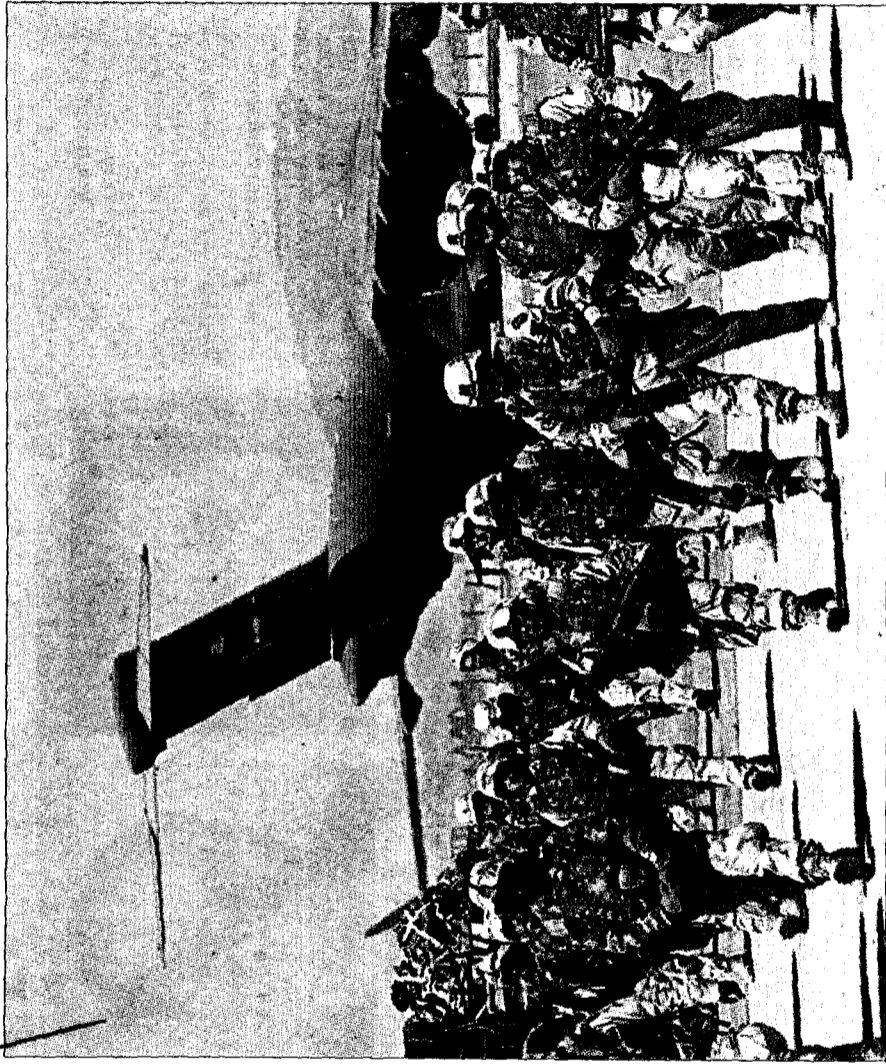
In Washington, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld that said despite the limited pull-out, the US military remained in charge of Operation Anaconda aimed at mopping up al-Qaida guerrillas in a rugged Afghan mountain battlefield stretching over 60 square miles.

"The US will stay very much in charge," Rumsfeld said. He said the military hoped the battle, which also involved a number of allied nations, would end sometime this week. "There has been no sustained or accurate fire from the rebels in the last four or five days," Major Bryan Hilferty told reporters at Bagram.

The senior Afghan official who warned of other rebel pockets, said thousands of government troops were already on the way to the areas to head off trouble.

"We have intelligence that remnants of the Taliban and al-Qaida are armed and still active in these (four) regions," the official, who is a top aide of Defense Minister General Mohammad Fahim but who declined to be identified, said.

Reuters



Members of the US Army's 101st Division return from Bagram, Afghanistan, where they were part of the recent fight in the Paktia province, to the military airbase in Kandahar on Tuesday.

AP PHOTO



# US jets bomb al Qaida caves

FROM CHRISTINE HAUSER  
AND MEHRDAD BALALI

**Gardez/Bagram Air Base (Afghanistan), March 12** (Reuters): US planes bombed Taliban and al Qaida cave hideouts in eastern Afghanistan today as hundreds of Afghan troops and a number of tanks gathered at the battle's front line, waiting for the order to advance on remaining rebels.

After more than a week of fighting in the biggest US-led battle of the five-month Afghan war, the reinforcements gathered near Shahi Kot, about 150

km south of Kabul in Paktia province, close to the Pakistani border.

While the focus remained on the Shahi Kot fighting, a senior Afghan military official said Taliban and al Qaida rebels had also regrouped in four eastern provinces, including Wardak, Khost, Ghazni and other locations in Paktia province.

In Gardez, about 32 km from the fighting, distant bombing could be heard overnight.

At Bagram air base north of Kabul, control point for the battle, a US military spokesman said there were about 1,000

Afghan troops at the front line, and another 1,000 US and other foreign troops in the combat area.

Major Bryan Hilferty said about 600 US troops had been withdrawn from the battlefield in the last few days, but said the offensive would continue.

"Eleven days into the fighting hundreds of terrorists and killers are dead. Some are captured and others are alive and on the run," he said.

"We will continue combat operations in these areas until we remove these parasites from Afghanistan."

Hilferty said resistance was light and there had been no accurate or sustained enemy fire for more than five days.

There had been no coalition casualties in the previous 24 hours, leaving the overall coalition toll at 11 dead and about 80 wounded.

"We will continue to use fire, primarily from aircraft, to destroy known terrorist positions.

Our Afghan allies continued their attacks from the north and the east and have seized key terrains in the objective area," Hilferty said.

THE NEW YORK TIMES  
15 MAR 2002

# Steel to come

WSD  
SF-4  
Bush may start a trade war 183

America habitually lectures the rest of the world on free trade. Most of the time the lecturing is valid, because, emergencies apart, high tariffs are anti-development and anti-growth. Most of the time America also practices what it preaches, it is one of the freest markets in the world. That credibility has now been shattered by George Bush's decision to impose tariffs as high as 30 per cent on steel imports. The decision comes not because Bush is unfamiliar with trade theory — although it may well be true, since during campaigning he had memorably called for cutting "bariffs and terriers", Bush-speak for tariffs and barriers. The president's letting loose the dogs of trade war — the EU has already threatened to respond, so will others — and putting more teeth on, as it were, the terrier has do to with that old fashion vice of elected politicians: election politics. The close fight with Al Gore was "won" in part by Bush's promises to Virginia steel industry and workers. The usually Democratic state voted Republican in 2000. The steel lobby is now insisting on a payback and Bush obliges in the worst fashion possible. He could have explored ways to fund restructuring of the ailing US steel industry, as well as asked his economic managers to look at schemes for retraining and supporting steel workers who lose their jobs. Instead he has taken a decision that will not only be challenged at the WTO but is likely to lead to retaliatory measures. The compounded effect may well put severe pressure on the new trade agreement in Doha. More so because the tariff hike will not apply to Canada and Mexico — US's partners in the North American Free Trade Area — and thereby raise more questions whether regional trade blocs are more advantageous than global agreements.

The fact that exports of steel from India are not affected for the present because we are a developing country is welcome but represents small comfort. The criticism that the United States fashions policies with scant regard for international obligations remains relevant. The best hope for world trade is a WTO verdict against the US decision.

THE STATESMAN

12/11/01

---

## U.S. 'plan' to use n-weapons

W(1) Ho-t  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 9 Citing a classified Pentagon report, the *Los Angeles Times* reported today that The Bush administration had told the Defence Department to prepare, on a contingency basis, plans to use nuclear weapons against at least seven countries.

The military was also directed to build smaller nuclear weapons for use in certain battlefield situations, the newspaper reported.

The countries named in the secret report — provided to Congress on Jan. 8 — were China, Russia, Iraq, North Korea, Iran, Libya and Syria, the paper reported.

The three contingencies listed for possible use of the weapons were "against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attack; in retaliation for attack with nuclear, biological or chemical weapons; or "in the event of surprising military developments," according to the newspaper.

"The report says the Pentagon should be prepared to use nuclear weapons in an Arab-Israeli conflict, in a war between China and Taiwan, or in an attack from North Korea on the South. They might also become necessary in an attack by Iraq on Israel or another neighbour," the paper said.

"Officials have long acknowledged that they had detailed nuclear plans for an attack on Russia. However, this "Nuclear Posture Review" apparently marks the first time that an official list of potential target countries has come to light," analysts told the paper. — Reuters

---

THE HINDU

10 MAR 2002

time she may have to wait only until March 15. And she may just have to thank a 'Manuwadi' governor and some state BJP leaders for that.

## Steel the Show <sup>W</sup> <sup>(N)</sup> <sup>(11-8)</sup>

US president George W Bush talked the talk as he traipsed through Asia last month, advising Japan to overhaul its over-protected economy and urging China to promote free trade. Back in Washington, though, he had to walk the talk — and promptly stumbled. Under severe pressure from the ailing US steel industry, Mr Bush imposed tariffs ranging from eight to 30 per cent on several varieties of imported steel. Japan, Russia, South Korea and Brazil promptly howled in protest, and European Union (EU) trade commissioner Pascal Lamy accused the US of acting in a “wild west” fashion. Even British prime minister Tony Blair — who has been described as the ‘head of the 51st American state’ — denounced the decision as “unacceptable and wrong”. The EU has already filed a complaint with the World Trade Organisation, but the US insists that its measures are in accordance with that body’s rules, especially since exports from developing countries have been exempted from the new duty. India benefits from this waiver, and its steel exports to the US are anyway negligible, so it may not make much of a fuss. But there is an indirect threat: Countries which find the American market blocked to them may now start dumping their surplus steel on India. That could invite pleas for protection by Indian manufacturers, but if these are granted, the exporting countries could retaliate. In short, India could find itself sucked into a global trade war. Why did Mr Bush act as he did? Well, steel-producing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and West Virginia are politically crucial. There are about 190,000 American steel workers, and another 600,000 retirees who will lose retirement benefits if their former companies fold up. That’s a huge section of the populace to antagonise in ‘swing’ states.

In the light of Enron, Mr Bush is also doubtless sensitive about criticism that he favours big business, but is callous towards the common man. The US administration, though, has cloaked its defence in strategic terms, saying the president lacks ‘fast-track’ authority to clinch international trade agreements. He can only obtain it from Congress by assuaging the fears of free trade opponents. That is, Mr Bush has taken a step back on steel tariffs in order to wrest gains in other aspects of US trade policy. Unfortunately, even if that’s true, there’s no guarantee the gamble will pay off. The US may insist that its actions are within the letter — if not the spirit — of WTO rules. But its moral authority to preach on free trade has been eroded. Worse still, if this row escalates, it could severely undermine the new round of trade talks. Even within the US, many argue that the steel industry is ripe for a shakeout. Over the past year, US steel imports have dropped by about 20 per cent, but several companies have still gone bankrupt. So curbing imports will just delay the inevitable. Besides, raising steel prices could actually impede the US economy’s recovery, by increasing the cost of steel-made products like automobiles. Mr Bush has obviously steeled himself to brave both domestic criticism and international isolation. But buckling in this particular case would not be cowardice, just plain good sense.

**Prince Harmin**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

9 MAR 2001

# U.S. steps up Afghan battle

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 7. The United States, even while arguing that the current phase of the campaign in Afghanistan is "very messy", is saying that there are no alternatives. "The days ahead are going to continue to be dangerous days for our forces that are committed to this effort. But the alternative to taking such a risk is not acceptable in my view", the War Commander, Gen. Tommy Franks, remarked.

Gen. Franks was speaking to reporters after briefing the President, George W. Bush, on Operation Anaconda in eastern Afghanistan where American ground forces and special operation units are in fiercest battle with hardened Taliban and Al-Qaeda units. At least 1,200 American troops are fighting alongside 200 elite commandos from allied nations and some 800 Afghan fighters.

"There's a fierce battle waging. But we're winning that battle", Mr. Bush said. Eight American soldiers have lost their lives and another 40 or so are believed to have been wounded. The U.S. forces involved in the fighting in Gardez are from the 10th Mountain Division and the 101st Airborne Division. An assortment of air power including the heavy set B-52 are pummeling targets in the area.

As has always been the case, senior U.S. officials and military commanders are unwilling to say whether top Al-Qaeda and Taliban leaders including Osama bin Laden are holed up in Gardez. But the possibility has not been ruled out and speculation to this effect has been reinforced by the fierce nature of the fighting. One impression is that the Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters have been pressed into the area and ordered to give all



**A U.S. military CH-46 helicopter takes off from Bagram airport north of Kabul. Fighting continues near Gardez in the largest offensive of the war involving U.S. Special Forces on the ground and bombing attacks. — Reuters**

resistance possible to protect the top leadership. While operational details are not readily forthcoming from the Pentagon, the general impression has been that the U.S. is rushing additional reinforcements of personnel and material from the neighbourhood. Several Cobra attack helicopters have joined the battle for eastern Afghanistan and Appaches are also heading that way. The Air Force has pressed into service not only the F-15s and F-16s, but also the B-52s and B-1s. The AC-130 gunships are also being used for maximum effectiveness. The U.S. Navy is said to be redirecting some F-14 and F-18 jets out of an aircraft carrier in the Arabian Sea. While the B-52s have been pounding away at targets, the Pentagon is also believed to be using thermobaric bombs which suck air out of caves.

The U.S. military has used the bomb earlier in the battles for Afghanistan along with fuel air

bombs and 15,000-pound Daisy Cutters in the battle for the caves and mountain peaks.

AP reports:

A Soviet-era anti-aircraft missile exploded on Wednesday when international peace-keepers in Kabul tried to defuse it. Two German and three Danish soldiers were killed and eight others were injured, officials said.

Brig. Gen. Carl Hubertus von Butler, commander of the German peace-keeping troops in Afghanistan, called the explosion a "tragic incident" and said the top priority is caring for the wounded, who were rushed to peace-keepers' medical facilities in Kabul. The soldiers were attempting to destroy two Russian-made SA-3 ground-to-air missiles with a controlled explosion at a munitions collection point about 5 km from the German military's base in Kabul, said Gen. Harald Kujat, Germany's top military officer.

RENDU

8 MAR 2002

# Russia retaliates, bans U.S. poultry

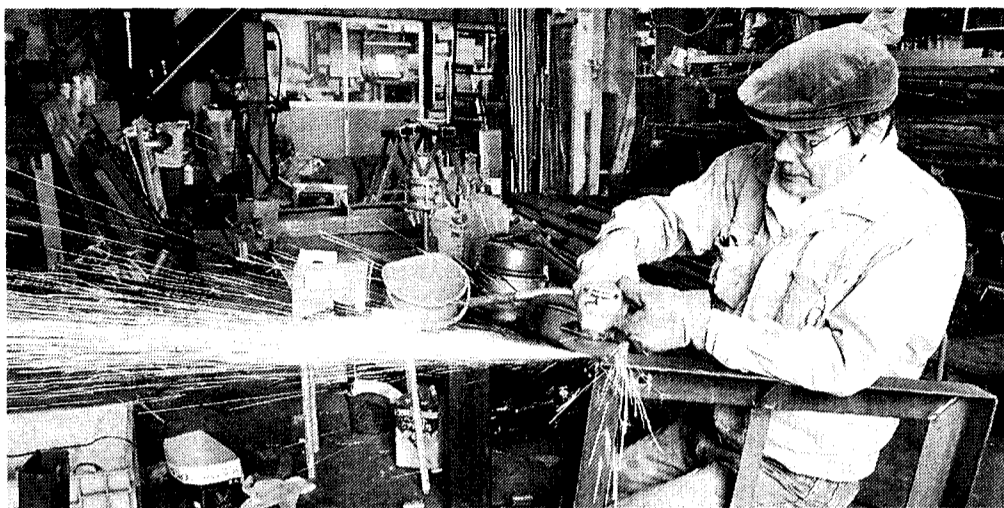
By Vladimir Radyuhin

**MOSCOW, MARCH 6.** Russia has promptly retaliated to U. S. punishing tariffs on steel imports by announcing a ban on American poultry.

All imports of U. S. poultry to Russia will be banned as of March 10, an official of the Russian Economics Ministry said on Wednesday, hours after the U. S. President, George W. Bush, announced steep tariff hikes on American steel imports. Russia will be one of the biggest losers from the U. S. tariff hike, which effectively blocks all Russian steel exports to the U. S. Analysts said it could cost Russian steel producers \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion a year and cause massive layoffs in an industry that employs 750,000 people.

The U. S. producers of poultry may be hit even harder by the Russian ban. Russia is the single largest buyer of U. S. poultry, which is popularly known as "Bush legs" here (Russia buys mostly chicken legs from the U. S.). With half of all U.S. poultry exports shipped to Russia, America faces massive layoffs in three-fourths of its States where poultry is produced. The two disputes threaten to escalate into a trade war between the U. S. and Russia, with both sides strongly protesting the other's protectionist measures. Russia appears to have a stronger legal case in the dispute, while the U. S. is in a stronger position to punish Russia.

Russian officials claimed the new U. S. steel tariffs violated a Russian-American agreement on steel trade, which set quotas for Russian exports of a vast range of steel products, at levels



**SPARKS FLY OVER U.S. MOVE: A Japanese small steel works owner polishes a metal frame at his factory in Tokyo on Wednesday. — Reuters**

which the United States said would not harm its industry. For its part, Moscow said the ban on American poultry was being clapped down because the Russian veterinary inspection had found unusually high concentrations of salmonella in nine recent shipments from the U. S.

The U. S. Ambassador in Moscow, Alexander Vershbow, warned Russia that its ban on American poultry risked inflicting "serious harm" on bilateral economic relations.

## E.U. may go to WTO

By Batuk Gathani

**BRUSSELS, MARCH 6.** A trade war appears imminent between the U.S. and its biggest trading partner over the U.S. President, George Bush's decision to impose punishing tariffs of eight per cent to 30 per cent on several

types of imported steel under a three-year plan to aid the U.S. steel industry.

European Union countries account for one fifth or 20 per cent of steel imports by the U.S. followed by Japan, South Korea, China and Russia. Last night, the E.U. promised quick and swift retaliation against the proposed tariffs. The E.U. is likely to challenge the decision before the World Trade Organisation. E.U. officials point out that the move has come even as the Bush administration promoted a free trade agenda and was trying to hold together a fragile anti-terrorism coalition. They say Mr. Bush has chosen the worst option to resuscitate an ailing American steel-making industry. Over 30 companies have gone out of business in recent months.

Ostensibly, Mr. Bush's decision is aimed at protecting American jobs. Analysts say Mr.

Bush has restored to "naked protectionism" for the sake of political expediency. They say he has ignored the fact that poor productivity and utilisation of obsolete manufacturing technology has made U.S. steel less competitive in the global market.

The E.U. has emerged as the world's largest steel producer in 2002 with 155 million tonnes followed by North America, China and Japan. The American steel companies have a powerful lobby in Congress.

Although steel exporters have threatened to go to the WTO to challenge the U.S. decision, the process may take about two years.

If the U.S. does not give in, major steel manufacturing countries may follow suit and adopt protective measures. This does not augur well for the trade accord signed in Doha last November

# Blair, Bush on a collision course

By Hasan Suroor

**LONDON, MARCH 6.** The "planet's best political buddies", as one newspaper described the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, and the U.S. President, George W. Bush, were on collision course today amid a furore over the U.S. decision to impose tariffs on steel imports from Europe.

The move, widely seen as a death-knell for Britain's ailing steel industry, prompted angry calls for Mr. Blair to intervene and tell Washington to roll back the tariffs if it wanted continued British support for its war aims in Afghanistan and elsewhere. "If they want our support, they must withdraw the levy," an angry Opposition leader said echoing the nationwide fury over the issue.

There was embarrassment in government circles as it emerged that Mr. Bush had ignored a personal appeal from Mr. Blair. The Prime Minister not only wrote to his closest political ally arguing against the move, but also spoke to him on the phone last week. Yet the American President went ahead signalling what observers termed as the "triumph of politics over principle." He was roundly condemned today by political parties, commentators and business leaders for putting his domestic political agenda above the larger interests of his international coalition partners. The decision was widely seen as an appeasement of America's powerful steel lobby which played a crucial role in Mr. Bush's election as president.

"Angering foreign friends and starting a trade war with Europe appears to be a price that Mr. Bush is prepared to pay for support from the rust belt which could swing the control of the House in 2002 and of the presidency in 2004," *The Guardian* said in an editorial.

In a rare attack on Washington, the Government rejected Mr. Bush's defence of his action and Downing Street said: "We recognise the U.S. steel industry has to restructure, but we do not believe it is in the interests of the world economy that it should impose tariffs." The Trade and Industry Secretary, Patricia Hewitt, went on air to denounce the American decision, calling it "totally unjustified" and in "breach" of international trade agreements. "We are already in touch with our European colleagues to ensure that we launch an immediate complaint to the WTO and take appropriate action to safeguard British steel workers," she said. The Government, she declared, would stand by the domestic steel industry and "do everything to fight this totally unjustified action".

There was particularly sharp reaction from Wales, home to Britain's largest steelworks Corus for which America is the second largest export market. The company has been in decline and was forced to lay off several thousand workers last year. The Welsh steel industry had protested when Mr. Blair helped the Indian industrialist, Lakshmi Mittal, a Labour Party donor, buy the Romanian steel plant Sidex arguing that it would hurt domestic interests.

The Mittal issue was revived today with the media highlighting the fact that his American subsidiary had lobbied heavily for import tariffs. The government has been accused of showing "favours" to Mr Mittal in return for his donations to the Labour Party.

**INSTRUMENTS RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT  
ESTABLISHMENT**

DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT ORGANISATION

# US unleashes foreign fury with its new steel tariffs

AGENCIES  
WASHINGTON, MARCH 6

FOREIGN steel manufacturers and exporting nations reacted angrily to a US decision to impose 30 per cent tariffs on the bulk of its steel imports. The European Union announced it would take its complaint to the World Trade Organisation, while Japanese and Russian steel makers described the US action as wrong-headed and unproductive. Asked in a news conference whether he expected a backlash, President George W. Bush replied: 'this is a remedy allowed under the World Trade Organisation. It also is a part of our law. And I intend to enforce our laws.'

Bush's decision was taken under section 201 of the 1974 trade law, which allows the President impose punitive tariffs on imports found to have caused injury to the domestic industry. The measures included 30 per cent tariffs on flat steel, hot-rolled bar and cold-finished bar and tin mill products—accounting for the majority of imports. All of the tariffs, which range from eight per cent to 30 per cent, decline slightly over a three-year period.

'The EU will of course launch an immediate complaint in Geneva against this clear violation of World Trade Organisation rules, and we will take whatever measures are necessary to safeguard our own market,' European Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement released in Brussels.



An employee at the South Korean steel producer, Pohang Iron and Steel Co. South Korea, world's biggest steel maker, said it may contest pending US steel import tariffs that analysts predict will only dent rather than buckle exporters. Reuters photo

## US cites India's example!

WASHINGTON: THE White House has defended the punitive tariffs, saying many countries, including India, have imposed safeguard measures. Many of our major trading partners, including the EU, Japan, (South) Korea, Brazil and India, have imposed safeguard measures covering a wide range of products, White House said in a factsheet. Imposed under section 201 of US trade law, the import relief measures start on March 20 and last three years, the White House said. Foreign steel producers, with huge amounts of excess capacity due to government subsidies, have flooded the US, seriously affecting its steel producers, workers and communities, the factsheet said. Since 1998, firms accounting for 30 per cent of US steel making capacity have filed for bankruptcy. Steel prices in the last quarter of 2001 were at their lowest in 20 years and a number of steel producers posted significant losses last year. PTI

The tariffs cover steel imports except those from countries that have signed free trade agreements with the US—Canada, Israel, Jordan and Mexico—and developing countries with only limited steel exports. Britain also expressed displeasure. 'We will of course need to study the details of the US announcement, but I am extremely disappointed that these tariffs are wholly unjustified and clearly in breach of World Trade Organisation rules,' British Trade and Industry Secretary Patricia Hewitt said.

INDIAN EXPRESS

- 7 MAR 2002

# U.S. troops facing riskiest phase

WASHINGTON, MARCH 5. Codenamed "Anaconda", the American-led offensive in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan marks the largest and riskiest shift in U.S. military tactics against Osama bin Laden's network.

Rather than relying heavily on Afghan proxy forces as it did in the battle for Tora Bora last year, this time Donald Rumsfeld, U.S. Defence Secretary, directed that more than 1,000 American troops, special forces and regular forces, be sent into the fray against several hundred enemy troops.

It was the first time since hostilities began in October that large numbers of American "boots on the ground" were used.

They comprised troops from the 101st Airborne and 10th Mountain divisions and some 60 special forces men. The operation also involved small numbers of troops from Australia, Canada, Germany, Denmark and Norway.

The Pentagon plan was to surround the enemy forces, dug into caves complexes built by the mujahideen during their war against the Russians in the 1980s, before pounding them from the air and moving in for the kill. Operation Anaconda is named after the snake that coils around its prey before suffocating and crushing it.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said the terrain was difficult, "like being out in the middle of the Rocky mountains in the winter" but "there should be no

doubt about the outcome in this case".

The area had long been considered an al-Qaeda stronghold.

Afghan tribal allies were reluctant to search caves and appeared more intent on looting or striking deals with their adversaries than killing or handing them over to coalition forces.

Lt Col Ralph Peters, a retired U.S. Army intelligence officer, said: "In Tora Bora, there were high hopes that the Afghans would in fact do more for us than they actually did, which is why you're now seeing more U.S. forces on the ground."

Before Operation Anaconda began, U.S. special forces had spent weeks training Afghan fighters in infantry tactics.

Rather than advancing and then retreating as they had previously done, the Afghans were taught how to take and hold ground.

The amount of force deployed by the Pentagon, including the use of Apache helicopters, AC-130 gunships and the new thermobaric "Big Blue Two" 2,000lb bombs, indicated that the U.S. was determined not to leave Afghanistan with the job unfinished.

It also underscored the fact that the al-Qaeda and Taliban forces still pose a potent threat.

Mr. Rumsfeld and senior Pentagon officials had adopted a mantra in recent weeks that the war in Afghanistan was not over even though the political focus had shifted to Iraq. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002



U.S. soldiers with special off-road vehicles secure an area close to an airfield on the outskirts of the Paktia province town of Gardez, Afghanistan, on Tuesday. — AP

THE HINDU

6 MAR 2002



# Rockets pound US Afghan base

Gardez (Afghanistan), March 4

A US military base was attacked by rockets on Monday as ground fighting resumed in the biggest US-led ground attack of the Afghan war on Taliban and al Qaida forces.

There were other signs of revived Taliban-al Qaida action in eastern provinces adjacent to the key snow-covered front line near Gardez, capital of Paktia province 150 km from Kabul and 32 km from the fighting.

Unconfirmed reports said that Canadian, Australian, Danish, German and French forces and planes had joined US troops in the operation around Gardez that started on Saturday morning.

The *Washington Post* reported that upwards of 1,000 American and other Western military personnel were deployed near Gardez. The Monday morning rocket attack was on a US base near the city of Khost, about 70 km southeast of Gardez. Khost Shura (Council) spokesman Kamal Wazir said the airport was hit by two rockets and fire from men armed with Kalashnikov rifles. "The firing went on for five

minutes from 3.20 am," Wazir told by telephone from Khost, which is about 160 km southeast of the capital Kabul.

"Shortly after the attack a US plane bombed the site of the firing," he added. "Our troops also rushed to the area but the gunmen had escaped."

Checkposts, manned by US soldiers, have been established on roads from Khost to Gardez to stop other al-Qaida-Taliban fighters joining the Gardez fighting. Afghan soldiers involved in the Gardez fighting said recently the US recruited Afghan soldiers from the Khost area for the Gardez operation.

They have been transported to the battlefield by US military transport helicopters, the soldiers said. US warplanes on Monday launched fierce bombing raids on the area around the high-altitude village of Shahi Kot where Afghan soldiers said either hundreds or thousands of al Qaida-Taliban forces are in bunkers and caves. B-52s and F-16 fighters dropped bombs and plumes of smoke and machine gun fire were heard from the area.

Reuters



An Afghan soldier displays his rocket launcher as he waits with others to take part in fighting against al-Qaida and Taliban fighters in Gardez on Monday.

# The U.S.' agenda in South Asia

By P. S. Suryanarayana

WSO South Asia 12-10 2/3

**T**HE U.S. President, George W. Bush, has voiced evocative sentiments about both India and Pakistan in his ongoing global 'campaign' against terrorism. In a sense, this is surprising because of his incremental interaction with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, about America's unfinished war in Afghanistan. However, a reality check will show that the U.S. is pursuing its own geostrategic agenda that does not, arguably, meet the expectations of either India or Pakistan. To say this is not to imply that the U.S. might be acting against the interests of Indians and Pakistanis. Yet, the new American calculations of avoiding a zero-sum game with reference to New Delhi and Islamabad have given rise to some puzzles. For Washington, a stable relationship with these two prime South Asian states may well depend on how these puzzles are sorted out.

The most important puzzle relates to the strategic weightage that the U.S. will like to assign to India and Pakistan in the short run and over the relative medium timespan too. Mr. Bush may have said, during his State of the Union address in January, that he would like to act in cooperation with Russia and China as also India. Given the subsequent evolution of his actual foreign policy, though, it is patently evident that the U.S. will not seek to fashion any firm alliance of peace involving India and Russia or China to carry forward the globalised 'campaign' against terrorism. This much is clear in a narrow but important near-term perspective, especially in the light of Mr. Bush's visit to China in early February.

Now, a conventional argument among the Chinese scholars, eloquently enunciated by G. Ji in the mid-1990s but articulated to this day, is as follows. The U.S. "still cherishes the ambition to rule the world, but its ability is not equal to its ambi-

tion". What the U.S. is eager to do at the latest juncture is to disprove such notions about its disabilities. The Bush administration not only regards such perceptions as fallacies, but also wants to demonstrate its supreme power across the world. Not surprisingly, even some U.S.-friendly European policy-planners such as Chris Patten have noted that America is unwisely keen to speed up its

seen against the vibrance of the U.S.-Pakistan equation. The new tie-up between Washington and Islamabad is not without some contra-indications. It will indeed be naive to imagine at this stage that Gen. Musharraf has been able to set his own political house in order in the face of domestic opposition that he triggered by extending strategic support to the U.S. for its action in Afghanistan.

Pakistani leader's record of staying the anti-terror course since last September when the U.S. co-opted him. He had begun to consider the pros and cons of purging Pakistan of religious extremism even before Mr. Bush signalled his demands.

Overall, the U.S. seems to have preferred a non-democratic Pakistan on the strategic count of its Islamic "value" in the anti-terror context. Closely related to this is the third puzzle — America's economic interests in South Asia. While India may not have fallen off America's economic calculus since last September, Pakistan is certainly in its reckoning. The U.S. wants to resurrect Pakistan's collapsing economy for its continued assistance. This explains Mr. Bush's willingness to write-off Pakistan's colossal external debts and the reported U.S. congressional conditionalities. The demands are that Pakistan should have democracy restored and must also reduce tensions with India. However, the most critical demand seems to be that Islamabad should guarantee a sustainable curb on the movement of terrorists into and out of Pakistan.

Now, if America's attitude towards India and Pakistan today does not appear to match their respective pluses, can it be that the U.S. is no longer playing a zero-sum game in South Asia? Viewed differently, America's plan now seems to be one of asking for strategic assistance, not political alliances, in South Asia. This should explain not only Mr. Bush's present equation with Gen. Musharraf but also America's move to seek India's help in manning some sea-lanes in its neighbourhood. Moreover, the U.S., which sees itself as the sole superpower, has already begun to "marginalise" the other major powers on the strength of its "futurist" military power. This macro-reality may impinge on India's overall strategic autonomy even as the U.S. itself "helps" New Delhi address "cross-border terrorism".

---

*America's plan now seems to be one of asking for strategic assistance, not political alliances, in South Asia.*

---

"unilateralist overdrive". The point is that the U.S. does not simply care to pause and ponder over the likely adverse consequences for the stability of international relations. It is in this overall milieu that America's current exercise in calibrating the relative strategic importance of India and Pakistan should be evaluated.

Beyond the maze of diplomatic statements being made by the Bush administration about its new partnership with India lies the really marginal value assigned to New Delhi. A top U.S. military official, Richard Myers, has certainly indicated quite categorically that the Bush administration looks towards India as the potential part of a global surveillance grid that the U.S. wants to build against terrorism. From a genuine Indian standpoint, though, this specification simply translates into a less flattering reality. What deserves to be pushed to the background, for the present, is the romanticised view that Washington and New Delhi may have already become "engaged democracies" in some strategic kinship.

Instead, India's primary value to the U.S. at this moment is one of how far the two can work together in containing terrorism. This must be

Moreover, Gen. Musharraf has compounded his task at home by taking some anti-terror action which might only weaken Islamabad's policy of eroding India's case on Kashmir. Yet, if Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf are cruising together, the reason is simple. Mr. Bush cannot allow an Islamic state to disengage itself from a cooperative arrangement with the U.S. which seeks to tame a terror-phenomenon that has extensive links to the misguided sections of the Muslim world. Of no immediate concern to the U.S., therefore, is the democratic viewpoint that Gen. Musharraf today is just the power-that-be in Pakistan with no direct mandate from its people.

The mystique of democracy has often been portrayed as the magic bond between Washington and New Delhi in the context of the U.S.' more recent rediscovery of India which had remained outside its constellation during the earlier Cold War era. So, the second significant puzzle about the current U.S. policies regarding South Asia pertains to the irrelevance of democracy as a factor in America's war on terror. Yet, Mr. Bush's inclination to trust and verify the actions of a military ruler like Gen. Musharraf can be traced to the

THE HINDU

4 MAR 2002

WAR ON TERROR / THERMOBARIC BOMBS USED

## U.S. pounds Al-Qaeda bases

<sup>1990</sup>  
<sup>19, 14</sup>  
**GARDEZ (AFGHANISTAN), MARCH 3.** U.S. warplanes today bombarded suspected Al-Qaeda and Taliban hideouts in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, but Afghan soldiers said a planned ground assault has been set back by heavy resistance.

Afghan soldiers said they had made no headway into the snowy Amra mountains 20 km south-east of here, the base of an estimated 2,200 to 2,300 hardliners, where the United States has for the first time dropped a powerful bunker-busting thermobaric bomb.

One commander, Said Zoher Suleyman Zoda, who went to the frontline, said the ground situation was "critical" despite new U.S. bombings today. "The Al-Qaeda forces hold the mountain tops. We were forced to go back," he told AFP. "Only major air bombings can change this disparity in force. For the moment the ground troops aren't efficient," he said.

Gilani, the son of local warlord Padsha Khan, said the "Arab and Al-Qaeda fighters are resisting fiercely". "At the beginning we didn't think they would resist so much," he said. Local forces said five Afghans and one U.S. serviceman have been killed since the operation began late Friday. U.S. officials have confirmed the deaths of one American and three Afghans.

Doctors at the hospital in

Gardez, capital of Paktia province, said they received some 12 wounded fighters yesterday and were ready for more. Anti-Taliban Afghans had blocked off potential escape routes today from the mountain frontline as U.S. warplanes hovered overhead. U.S. Major AC Roper, a spokesman for the coalition forces based in southern Kandahar, said the "firefights have been intense". He confirmed new U.S. bombing raids today but said the operation was "an Afghan effort; we have a supporting role".

A soldier with Padsha Khan's forces, 22-year-old Mohammad Wali, said the U.S. military had given the local forces weapons. "The Chechens and the Arabs are up high in the mountains. Now everyone wants to get rid of Al-Qaeda. The Americans are here to help us," he said. Mr. Gilani said some Arab and Chechen members of Al-Qaeda were believed to be living in the mountains with their families. Taliban and Al-Qaeda fighters were today also battling forces loyal to the internationally backed interim Afghan leader, Hamid Karzai in adjacent Logar province, an official from the State Bakhtar news agency said.

U.S. warplanes carried out raids in Logar yesterday after a force of between 300 and 500 extremists, led by Arabs and other foreigners, attacked a post of local troops at Charkh,

<sup>13</sup>  
about 25 km south-west of the provincial capital Pul-i-Alam, Sediqullah Tawhidi, the deputy chief of the agency told AFP in Kabul. He said casualty figures were not available but that fighting was less severe than in Paktia.

In a sign of how much importance the United States is placing on the operation in Paktia, the military said it had for the first time used a new deadly thermobaric "fuel-air" bomb. The bomb is capable of penetrating deep underground to reach hidden command bunkers or caves, according to experts and defence officials.

"It works as a combination of a shock wave and a fuel explosion," said Navy Lieutenant Commander Matthew Klee, a spokesman for the Central Command. "The first explosion spreads flammable aerosols through the underground complex. Then, the second ignites the fuel." — AFP

THE HINDU

4 MAR 2002

# Fresh US raid on al-Qaida base

Gardez/Washington, March 2

AFGHAN FORCES AND US BOMBERS today launched a ground attack against suspected al-Qaida positions in eastern Afghanistan which left at least two dead.

"Intense fighting has erupted in the Arma mountains and both sides are using heavy weapons," Saif Ullah, head of the local shura or tribal council in Paktia province, said. "Our army is attacking al-Qaida positions with tanks and artillery. Al-Qaida fighters are responding with mortars. Two of our people have been killed and five

injured by al-Qaida mortar fire." The fighting was taking place about 30 km from Gardez, capital of Paktia province, residents said. The Pentagon says it has intelligence that pockets of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and followers of deposed Taliban leader Mullah Omar are seeking to regroup in the province.

There was no indication that bin Laden and Mullah Omar, both of whom Afghan officials say are still alive and on the run, are located at the scene of the latest fighting.

"There has been heavy US bombing since last night and it is still going on today," Kamal

Wazir, spokesman for key warlord and former governor Padshah Khan Zadran said.

"We started a ground attack by 600 of our fighters on the area at 2 am. There are 50 or 60 American advisers with us," Wazir said. "The Taliban and al-Qaida men are fighting back by firing rockets and heavy weapons at us....The fighting is around the mountain village of Shahi Ko in Arma district," he said.

More than 500 al-Qaida fighters along with their families are holed up in the area of Paktia province, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported.

Top Pentagon officials on Fri-

day said the US military had been watching the area since toppling the Taliban and sending the remnants of al-Qaida guerrillas into hiding in the rugged country. US defence officials said no action had been taken yet, but made it clear that it could be the focus of upcoming operations in Paktia.

"We are seeing pockets of al-Qaida and Taliban" around Gardez, said Lt Gen John Rosa, a senior operations officer on the US military's Joint Staff.

**Landmine blast kills 2:** Two Afghan soldiers were killed and four others wounded when a

landmine exploded near the US military base at Kandahar airport, officials at the base said.

Two unidentified people were seen digging in the area after the blast late on Friday, raising concerns that hostile groups were planting booby-traps to target Afghan and foreign troops, a US spokesman at the airbase, Major A C Roper said. "Two individuals were killed and four wounded."

Afghan and Canadian patrols sent to investigate the blast tried to capture two people seen digging in barren ground surrounding the airfield.

Reuters

# Bush welcomes initiative

WSJ 12-12 2002

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

**NEW YORK, FEB. 27.** In perhaps his first enthusiastic comments on the West Asia peace process, the U.S. President, George W Bush has welcomed Saudi Arabia's proposal which calls for a full Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip in return for Arabs resuming full diplomatic ties with the Jewish State.

Mr. Bush telephoned the Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to convey his views on the plan. "The President praised the Crown Prince's ideas regarding the full Arab Israeli normalisation once a comprehensive peace agreement has been reached," the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said. The spokesman, however, called Prince Abdullah's proposals short of a breakthrough.

The Saudi plan has not been detailed but the Palestinians have welcomed the move. Israel, which has been quite wary of a return to the pre-1967 borders, has not said anything about the proposal. One media report said the Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, considered the initiative an "interesting one". At this preliminary stage, it is not clear if the proposal also involves the withdrawal of Syrian troops from Lebanon. "This is the first

time we've heard any nation in the region talk about full normalisation between Arab nations and Israel at the end of the peace process. The President decided that he had to embrace the moment," an unnamed senior administration official was quoted as saying in *The New York Times*.

The Saudi plan comes at a time when there is increasing concern about the events in West Asia. It is feared that the spiralling violence in the region could get out of hand. The positive response of the Bush administration also comes at a difficult stage in U.S.-Saudi relations, which cooled a bit post-September 11. Washington was unhappy with Saudi Arabia for not doing enough to root out extremism and Saudi Arabia, for its part, was concerned about the war on terrorism extending beyond Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the U.N. Security Council debated the violence in West Asia. While pro-Palestinian members in the Council like Syria are pushing for a resolution calling for the withdrawal of Israel from Palestinian territories, the United States is against any Security Council action, stressing that the two parties to the conflict must work things out.

1000000000

1000000000

# U.S. analysis finds no sign that Osama has N-bomb

By Thom Shanker

WASHINGTON: An analysis of suspected radioactive substances seized in Afghanistan has found nothing to prove that Osama bin Laden reached his decade-long goal of acquiring nuclear materials for a bomb, administration officials say.

The analysis of suspicious canisters, computer discs and documents conducted by the government suggests, in fact, that bin Laden and Al Qaida may have been duped by black-market weapons swindlers selling crude containers hand-painted with skulls and crossbones and dipped, perhaps, in medical waste to fool a Geiger counter, officials said.

More than 110 government buildings, military compounds, terrorist camps, safe houses and caves in Afghanistan have been searched for clues about Al Qaida's plans and its development of advanced terror weapons. Forces found three containers with contents worrisome enough to be shipped back for detailed analysis by nuclear scientists.

No significant amount of radioactive material was found in the containers, two seized at the Taliban Ministry of Agriculture

in Kabul and one at an Al Qaida compound in the Kandahar region, officials said.

"We did not find any type of serious radiological material," one Pentagon official said. "The stuff we found in Afghanistan was not the real stuff. They were swindled, like a lot of other people." Another administration official who has been briefed on the materials seized in Afghanistan said, "Their value for a weapon was zero."

The analysis, officials at other departments and agencies said, represented the consensus of government-wide intelligence officials. But these officials cautioned that it is impossible to make a blanket assertion that al-Qaida possesses no nuclear material.

Despite the analysis and Al Qaida's rout from Afghanistan, the group still has the desire, resources and global network of operatives to seek and, perhaps someday, acquire nuclear materials, or biological or chemical ones, that could be used in a terror attack, officials said.

The search for weapons of mass destruc-

tion in Afghanistan provided evidence of the difficulty of acquiring sufficient fissionable materials for a small atomic weapon, or even enough radioactive material for a 'dirty bomb', in which laboratory waste or nuclear fuel rods used in commercial power plants would be wrapped around a conventional explosive and detonated, spreading poison and contamination.

Officials said this analysis helps explain a notable section in President Bush's State of the Union address, in which he warned of terrorists' joining forces with states possessing biological, chemical or nuclear weapons. The alliance would be a logical one for terrorists who have found that they are unable to purchase these weapons or their components on the black market.

"States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world," Mr Bush said before a joint session of Congress on Jan. 29. "By seeking weapons of mass destruction, these regimes pose a grave and growing danger.

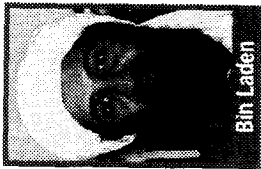
They could provide these arms to terrorists, giving them the means to match their hatred."

Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld and Director of Central Intelligence George J. Tenet have routinely warned that any terrorist group capable of hijacking airliners and slamming them into office buildings would use even deadlier means of destruction if it could.

American officials also disclosed on Monday that the U.S. had yet to find evidence that Al-Qaida was able to create a chemical or biological weapon at any of its camps, command centers or caves in Afghanistan.

Gen. Tommy R. Franks, who commands American forces in the Afghan war zone, said that searches had been conducted at about 60 locations suspected as sites for production of weapons of mass destruction and at 50 or so that he described as "sensitive sites."

"We have seen evidence that Al Qaida had a desire to weaponise chemical and biological capability, but we have not yet found evidence that indicates that they were able to do so," he said at a news conference. (NYT News Service)



Bin Laden

# US ducks EU call to lift Arafat curbs

Washington, February 26

THE US has refused to join a European call for Israel to remove all travel restrictions on Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who has been confined in the West Bank since December.

Instead, the State Department called for both Israel and the Palestinians "to take positive actions that will create that environment for moving forward."

Spokesman Richard Boucher said yesterday, "That means maximum efforts by the Palestinian authority to confront violence and terror and steps by the Israeli Government to both facilitate Palestinians efforts on security and help promote a more positive environment on the ground."

Pique reaffirmed the EU position that Arafat must be able to move outside Ramallah if he was to fulfil demands to crack down on anti-Israel violence. "If we ask for 100-per cent effort in order to fight against terrorism we have to guarantee also 100-per cent capacity to do that," Pique said.

Meanwhile, Yasser Arafat has said the Palestinians would resume security meetings with Israel, mediated by the US.

"That was a request from our

## Child of peace

A PALESTINIAN baby found abandoned at birth in a roadside heap of trash was rescued by Palestinian doctors, fed and strengthened by a group of nuns and its tiny heart repaired by an Israeli surgeon. The survival of tiny Salaam, whose name means 'peace' in Arabic, has become a rare tale of the region's usually fractured and clashing people working together to save a life.

AP, Jerusalem

friend the European Union and our friend Javier Solana and I couldn't say no to that," Arafat said after meeting the European Union foreign policy chief in Ramallah yesterday.

In a fresh surge of violence, two Palestinians and two Israelis were killed in the West Bank and a Palestinian gunman wounded 10 Israelis on Jerusalem's outskirts before Arafat and Solana held their talks.

Israeli retaliation loomed after a pause in bombings of Palestinian targets during the Muslim Eid al-Adha holiday, which ended on Monday and followed a week of the most sus-

tained violence in the 17-month-old Palestinian uprising.

"Israel will take all necessary measures to protect its citizens," Ariel Sharon's office quoted the Prime Minister as saying in a telephone conversation with Secretary of State Colin Powell following the latest bloodshed.

## Israel President invites Saudi crown prince

Despite heightened tension, Israeli President Moshe Katzav invited Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah to Jerusalem to discuss a new Saudi peace initiative that has been welcomed by Palestinians and has drawn cautious praise from Israel and the US. Katzav's spokeswoman said the President was also willing to travel to Saudi Arabia if invited.

The proposal floated by Saudi Arabia's de facto ruler calls on Arab States to recognise Israel.

Powell called it "an important step" which he hoped would be fleshed out in greater detail in the weeks ahead.

On Friday, Powell had described Abdullah's proposal as a minor development. Arafat said at the Ramallah news conference he "appreciated and supported completely" the Saudi initiative.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 FEB 2002

# Pearl case: U.S. seeks extradition of all suspects

27/15  
19-15  
WSW  
By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 26. In what is seen as a "test of loyalty" the United States has urged Pakistan to extradite all the suspects in the murder of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl, including Omar Sheikh.

The U.S. Ambassador to Pakistan, Wendy Chamberlin, today called on the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and expressed the desire of the U.S. for extradition of Omar Sheikh and three others who are currently under detention by the Pakistan police in connection with the Pearl murder.

In her meeting with Gen. Musharraf, Ms Chamberlin profusely thanked him for all the cooperation in tracing the culprits behind the dastardly killing but "encouraged further movement in the case".

The state-run Pakistan Television in its report on the meeting did not refer to the extradition issue. It said that both of them discussed the India-Pakistan tensions and emphasised the need for an immediate de-escalation.

The diplomatically couched demand of the U.S. for extradition of all the suspects in the Pearl case could prove be an embarrassment for Gen. Musharraf domestically as the Government critics have already stepped up the attack for failure to protect Pearl's life.

The Anti-Terrorism Court judge in Karachi on Monday extended the remand of Omar Sheikh and his associates for another two weeks after the investigators submitted that they needed him for some more time to recover the body of Pearl and the weapons used to kill him.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan English daily, *The News* has reported that some of the Pakistan officials probing the case received death threats asking them to stop the investigations or face the consequences.

It said that police received the first threatening call the day before Pearl's kidnappers handed over the videocassette depicting the last moments of

Pearl. The threatening call was made from Pearl's mobile phone.

Subsequent threatening calls were received after the police received the videotape on February 22. According to the report, the callers had indicated that Pearl has been killed on February 20 and not before as claimed by the prime suspect, Omar Sheikh, who surrendered to police on February 5.

It said the Pakistani and U.S. investigators, who were jointly probing the murder, however, believed that Pearl was probably killed on January 30, the deadline set by his abductors to release him in response to their demands to set free the Taliban and Al-Qaeda prisoners imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba. Pearl was kidnapped on Jan 23.

"There is not a single shot in the video showing Pearl being killed," one police official said. He said when Pearl was forced to say on camera that his father and mother were Jews and he was a Jew, it might be around January 27, four days after his kidnapping.

"There is no confusion in the investigators' mind that Pearl was killed some time after he was forced to make the statement about his Jewish background," the newspaper quoted an investigator as saying.

Some Pakistani police officials are privately speculating that Danny might have been gunned down while making an attempt to escape from captivity and the decision to decapitate his body could have been an afterthought on the part of his killers, the report said.

Some investigators are now more inclined to believe Sheikh on the ground that the video contained disjointed shots of a haggard Daniel making statement about his religious beliefs. These shots were cut into a scene where even the butcher-like deep cut of the knife could not wake Daniel up from his deep sleep.

"When the knife sliced his neck, Daniel was no more a living person," a source observed.

THE HINDU

27 FEB 2002



# Omar Sheikh extradition: U.S. may invoke 1931 treaty

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, FEB. 26. The U.S. has made it known that it is interested in getting custody of Omar Sheikh, key suspect in the gruesome murder of Daniel Pearl, the South Asia Bureau Chief of *The Wall Street Journal*. A formal decision is likely anytime now.

An indication of the Bush administration's thinking in this connection came from the U.S. President, George

Bush. "...Yes, we're always interested in dealing with people who have harmed American citizens," he said on Monday.

The White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, was more specific. "The U.S. would very much like to get our hands on Omar Sheikh," he said, making the point that Washington was likely to invoke a 1931 treaty with Britain that covered colonial India. The State Department says that by extension it applied to Pakistan as well.

The U.S. and Pakistan do not have an extradition treaty.

In spite of its private misgivings with respect to Pakistan for the manner in which it has gone about with the Omar Sheikh issue — even prior to the kidnapping of Pearl in Karachi on January 23 — the Bush administration continues to praise the Musharraf Government publicly for the efforts it has taken and the promises that have subsequently been made.

"I am satisfied with the response of President Musharraf and the Pakistani Government. I got a phone call from him when I was flying back from China. And I could tell from the tone of his voice how distraught he was, how disturbed he was that this barbaric act had taken place in his country... And he vowed to me on the phone that he would do everything in his power to chase down the killers and bring them to justice," Mr. Bush remarked.

id  
r-  
ig  
is  
r.  
a  
;-  
A

44-111-11

27 FEB 2002

# U.S. to pursue Pearl's assassins even in Pak

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has said it will pursue the assassins of Daniel Pearl even within Pakistan.

Defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, speaking in an interview on CBS television, however, expressed doubts about the involvement of Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) in the Pearl assassination.

Asked if Washington would be asking for the extradition of Pearl's murderers, Mr Rumsfeld said, "The U.S. government may very well want to try to extradite the people involved if possible for the killing of an American, which would seem to me as a non-lawyer to be a reasonable thing."

But, he said, President Bush had yet to take a decision on that.

Mr Rumsfeld said there was speculation that the Al Qaida network was involved in the Pearl kidnapping on January 23 and his subsequent murder.

"That is a matter that needs to be carefully looked at before charges and allegations are made. But I have seen snippets that suggest that that's the case," Mr Rumsfeld said about the connection.

He conceded that there had been a report that disgruntled Pakistani intelligence agents whom President Pervez Musharraf had ousted may have been behind the Pearl kidnapping and death, but emphasised he had no theory on the killing.

He said Gen Musharraf had been "terrific".

"He (Musharraf) went after the ISID (Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate) leadership, changed it, and there's undoubtedly some disgruntled people there. Does that mean there's a connection between that and Pearl? Who knows. Time will tell," Mr Rumsfeld said.

Following revelations on the grisly video of Pearl's death that came to light two days ago, analysts have been predicting that Washington is not only re-evaluating its relation-

ship with Pakistan but also putting greater pressure on Gen Musharraf on implementing the anti-terrorist agenda he announced January 12.

Mr Rumsfeld also indicated that Washington may be looking to the extradition of Omar Saeed Sheikh who is in custody and has admitted to masterminding Pearl's abduction.

Any extradition of terrorists from Pakistan

to the U.S. would test New Delhi's demand that Islamabad extradite 20 fugitive terrorists and criminals named in a list. Steps the U.S. takes in Pakistan to root out terrorists that have been involved in Pearl's killing would also strengthen hawks in India who have called for going after Pakistan-based terrorists who have conducted operations on Indian soil.

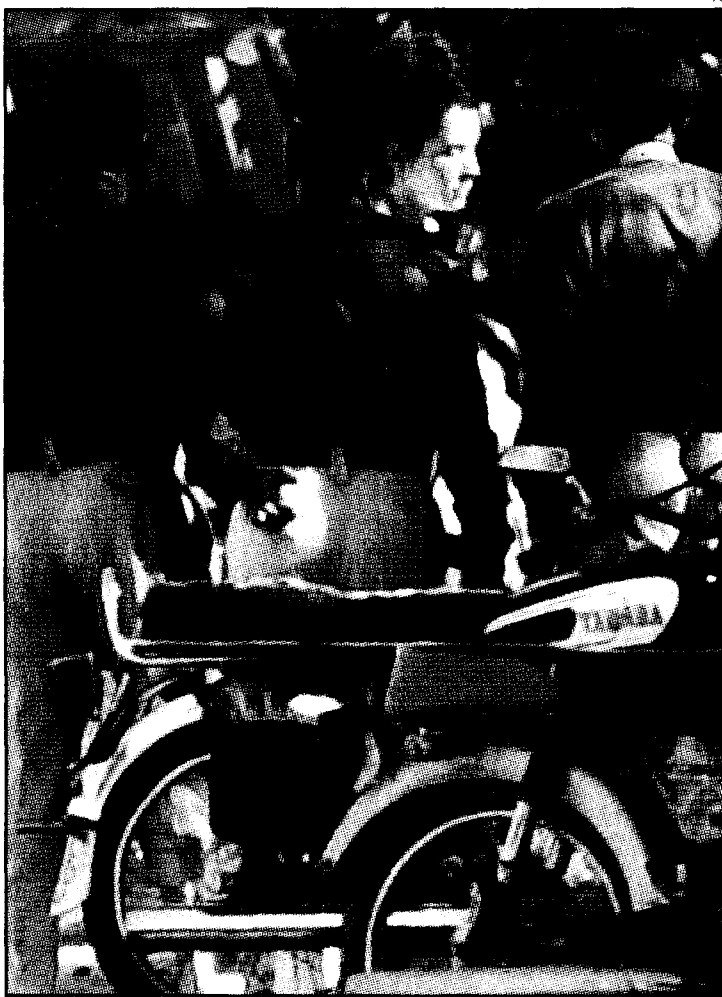
AP Asked if the U.S. would retaliate were a connection found between Al Qaida and the Pearl killing, Mr Rumsfeld said, "You know, we're not into the retaliation or the retribution business. Our goal is to defend our country. And to do that, we have to go after terrorists. Some people think of that as retaliation. I don't. I think of it as self-defence."

"If we've got terrorist networks out there and people that are killing people, innocent people, we simply have to go find them and run them to ground and see that justice is done," Mr Rumsfeld asserted.

"We saw a well-planned, well-executed taking of a hostage; the use of television to dramatise it and to show the world how successful they were that they tricked him and carefully planned and executed that," Mr Rumsfeld recounted.

But when asked how secure Gen Musharraf was, Mr Rumsfeld called him competent, forward-looking, courageous and aware of the dangers he faces. "And, on the other hand, people who are that visible are vulnerable. And if people are willing to give their lives to take someone's life, they can pretty much do that, no matter who it is," Mr Rumsfeld said.

Media reports here have hinted that Islamabad engineered the release of information on Pearl's whereabouts for its own political gains during the visit of Gen Musharraf to the U.S. (IANS)



Marianne Pearl, wife of 'Wall Street Journal' reporter Daniel Pearl, is pictured outside her residence in Karachi on Monday.

# Pearl murder may be part of larger plot against U.S.: reports

By Vasantha Arora

WASHINGTON: Pakistani authorities believe the murder of U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl could be part of a larger terrorist plot against Americans abroad, TV reports say.



Daniel Pearl

They say Pearl's murder may be part of a larger terrorist scheme to destabilise the country following Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's pledge to rid the country of Islamic extremism and terrorism in the wake of September 11.

But even as the American State Department has praised Gen Musharraf's handling of the Pearl case, U.S. officials have not ruled out the possibility that Pakistani security officials were involved, according to NBC News.

The Pakistan government had warned foreign missions, embassies and dignitaries to boost their security, interior ministry officials said.

Four persons have been arrested and charged in the Pearl case, including Omar Saeed Sheikh, who said during a court hearing he had engineered Pearl's abduction to protest Pakistan's alliance with the U.S. in the post-September 11 war on terrorism.

Pakistan also said on Saturday the videotape of Pearl's killing was too gruesome for public release. It is also believed that Gen Musharraf's regime had discussed releasing the tape but decided it was too barbaric to air.

The videotape has reportedly been sent by a radical Islamic gang, which is suspected to have kidnapped Pearl, to a newspaper worker who handed it to the authorities. It showed the reporter's severed head in its last frame.

However, different sources have provided different accounts of what appears on the tape. According to a report in *The New York Times* on Saturday, people with detailed knowledge of a videotape of Pearl's murder said it showed that he had apparently been unconscious when his throat was cut. (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 FEB 2002

# China, N Korea up the ante after Bush visit

ROLAND WATSON &  
OLIVER AUGUST  
THE TIMES, LONDON

BEIJING, Feb. 23. — US President Mr George W Bush returned to the USA yesterday after an awkward Asian tour ended with fresh criticism from Chinese students and North Korea, which described him as a "politically backward child".

China also responded to Mr Bush's calls to allow greater religious freedom by arresting 47 Christians in Beijing, for what it described as forming an illegal gathering, during his visit.

In a clear attempt to pave the way for better Sino-US relations in the future, Mr Bush held a private meeting with Mr Hu Jintao, the enigmatic heir apparent to the President, Jiang Zemin. He invited Mr Hu, the Chinese Vice-President, to the White House in what may be one of the most important outcomes of his six-day trip to the region, during which he also visited South Korea and Japan.

Mr Bush's attempts to soothe sentiments in the region after he had accused North Korea of being part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq appeared to have foundered.

In its first reaction to Mr

Bush's visit, the North Korean foreign ministry said that the US President had insulted Mr Kim Jong Il, the country's leader, and dis-



**MAN'S BEST FRIEND:**  
*President Bush with his dog on Friday after returning from a trip to Asia as First Lady Laura Bush looks on. — AP/PTI*

missed his requests for renewed dialogue. "The remarks of Mr Bush, prompted by the desire to conquer the government of another country by dint of strength and dollars, remind people of a puppy knowing no fear of the

tiger," its statement said.

"[North Korea] can never pardon anyone who dares chastise its supreme headquarters and slander its political system, even though he is a man bereft of an elementary reason or a politically backward child."

Mr Bush was also put on the defensive by Chinese students, who forced him to concede that there were cultural and educational shortcomings in the USA when they challenged his account of the depth of American values. Visiting China's foremost university, Mr Bush urged the country's leaders to embrace tolerance, diversity and dissent.

One student said that he had read about high levels of American crime and juvenile delinquency in Mr Bush's autobiography.

Mr Bush said: "There's no question that we have people living in poverty." He said that one of the saddest aspects about American life was the significant number of nine-year-olds who could not read. "It's a shame for America" He was also pressed twice on American policy towards Taiwan by the students. Mr Bush remained politely good-humoured as he chose six questioners from the audience of about 200 students.

THE STATESMAN

24 FEB 2002

# America sad & angry: Bush

Islamabad, Feb. 22 (Reuters): Tributes flowed in for murdered *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl today, with US President George W. Bush saying he was deeply saddened by the killing and Pearl's family mourning the loss of a "gentle soul".

Bush told reporters in Beijing, where he is on the final day of a six-day trip to Asia, "All Americans are sad and angry to learn of the murder. Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the United States of America to rid the world of these agents of terror."

The US state department said its Pakistan embassy had received evidence that Pearl, kidnapped by suspected Islamic militants about a month ago in Karachi, was dead.

In Karachi, a Pakistani source close to the investigation, said a videotape showed Pearl's neck being slashed. "The scene that apparently confirmed the murder was when one person's hand cut the US reporter's neck with a sharp tool," the source said.

The 38-year-old reporter disappeared on January 23 as he tried to contact Islamic radicals and probe links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network.

The group that claimed to hold Pearl, calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, accused him of being a spy — first for the CIA, then for Israeli intelligence — and said it was protesting against US treatment of Taliban and al Qaida prisoners.

President Bush said: "Laura and I and the American people are deeply saddened to learn about the loss of Daniel Pearl's life. And we're really sad for his wife and his parents and his friends and colleagues who have been clinging to hope for weeks.

"We are especially sad for his unborn child, who will now know his father only through the memory of others," he added. Pearl's wife Mariane, a French citizen, is seven months pregnant with the couple's first child.

A statement issued on behalf of Pearl's family said: "Danny's senseless murder lies beyond our comprehension. Danny was a beloved son, a brother, an uncle, a husband and a father to a child who will never know him.

"A musician, a writer, a story-teller and a bridge-builder, he was a walking sunshine of truth, humour, friendship and compassion. We grieve with the many who have known him in his life and we weep for a world that must reckon with his death."

UN secretary-general Kofi Annan saluted Pearl's courage. "The crime highlights the enormous dangers encountered by journalists, particularly in areas of conflict and violence," Annan said.

Pakistan, which has been in the frontline of the US-led war on terror, said its government and people were deeply grieved by the killing. "We strongly condemn this outrage," said its embassy in Washington.

"We are heartbroken," *Wall Street Journal* Publisher Peter Kann and managing editor Paul Steiger said in a statement.

THE TELEGRAPH

9 FEB 2002

# US would defend Taiwan: Bush

Beijing, February 22

US PRESIDENT Bush on Friday told Chinese students and China's heir apparent that the United States would help Taiwan defend itself if it was provoked, but hopes Beijing and Taipei can resolve things peacefully.

Taipei immediately hailed Bush as the first American president in two decades who pledged to defend the island while standing on Chinese soil.

Taiwan, which gets nervous anytime US and Chinese leaders cozy up, has been watching every word Bush says to see if he gave anything away.

Bush and Chinese President Jiang Zemin had played down the touchy Taiwan issue on Thursday, but the US President took a harder line on Friday after being pressed by students.

"When my country makes an agreement we stick with it and there is (something) called the Taiwan Relations Act and I honor that act, which says we will help Taiwan defend herself if provoked," Bush said after a speech at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"We've also sent the same message that there should be no provocation by either party, rather peaceful dialogue," he said when pressed by students

## 'In 1975 everybody wore same clothes'

US PRESIDENT George W Bush on Friday highlighted the fashion sense of young Chinese as an example of the "amazing change" which has swept the country since he was last in Beijing more than 25 years ago.

"In 1975 everybody wore the same clothes," said Bush, who was last in Beijing when his father George Bush senior, headed the US liaison office there. "Now people pick their own clothes, just look here on the front row, everybody's dressed differently." In 1975 China's people, who were still experiencing the chaos of the cultural revolution, almost uniformly wore cotton "Mao" jackets in drab colours. "It is an amazing change — for the better, I might add," he concluded.

AFP, Beijing

on why he called for "peaceful resolution" rather than "peaceful reunification" between the mainland and Taiwan.

Bush was greeted at the campus by China's Vice President

Hu Jintao, widely expected to succeed Jiang in a leadership succession this year. In his speech, Bush extolled freedom of religion and called for national democratic elections in China.

But the Taiwan issue came flying back at him in the first two questions from English-speaking students — they were about Washington's policy towards Taiwan.

### Most sensitive problem

Earlier, at a breakfast meeting with Bush, Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji said Taiwan represented the most sensitive problem in Sino-US relations, official Xinhua news agency said.

Bush had said repeatedly during his 30-hour visit to Beijing that the United States upholds the one China policy, which says the mainland and Taiwan are part of a single country.

China regards Taiwan as a rebel province and has threatened to attack if the island declares independence or delays reunification talks indefinitely.

During his early days in office in 2001, Bush broke with years of ambiguity over Taiwan by saying that the United States would do "whatever it takes" to defend the island.



AFP PHOTO

US President George W Bush and First Lady Laura Bush visit the Great Wall of China on Friday.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

23 FEB 2002

# Bush pushes for Koreas merger

*M/2* *Wg @ . E. Ayra* *HT-10*  
Panmunjom (Korea), Feb 20

STANDING AT Korea's barbed wire divide, President Bush on Wednesday urged the "despotic regime" in the North to unite with the free South. "No nation should be a prison for its own people," Bush said.

"No Korean should be treated as a cog in the State's machinery," the commander in chief said at a train station just 200 yards from the Demilitarized Zone, a desolate expanse of land that is the world's most heavily guarded border.

Hours earlier, the President sought to assure South Korea and other jittery allies that he was not threatening war by calling North Korea, Iran and Iraq "an axis of evil" in his State of the Union address. "We have no intention of invading North Korea," the President said at a news conference with his South Korean counterpart, Kim Dae-Jung.

Still, he didn't spare hard-nosed language on Wednesday, even calling the North Koreans "evil" at one point.

North Korea fired back, accusing Bush of war mongering. Korean Central Radio, a North Korean Government mouthpiece,

said the President's address "exposed a reckless plot trying to attack militarily on our side".

Bush hoped to square his "axis of evil" doctrine with the "sunshine policy" of Kim, who wants to reach out to North Koreans in hopes of easing tensions. Bush endorsed Kim's efforts and said the US would be willing to open talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong II. But he made clear that he won't trust the North Korean "until he proves to world that he cares about people that live in his country."

The focus on the quality of life in the North marked a shift in Bush's justification for calling the three nations evil. After the news conference, Bush took a helicopter ride to the Demilitarized Zone. The US has stationed 37,000 troops in South Korea.

Speaking later at the Dorasan train station, the President painted a grim portrait of life in North Korea, saying, "Korean children should never starve while a massive army is fed."

"My vision is clear," Bush said. "I see a peninsula that is one day united in commerce and cooperation instead of divided by barbed wire and fear."

AP

# Bush talks tough but offers hope on ties with North Korea

By BOB DEANS

PANMUNJOM (South Korea): In the weeks since he declared North Korea part of a global "axis of evil," President Bush has given much thought on how best to deal with the heavily armed but badly failing communist state.

In his visit to the border on Wednesday, Mr Bush discovered what other presidents have learned before him: that the closer he gets to the North Korea problem, the more enigmatic it appears.

At a U.S. Army observation post along the demilitarised zone, he gazed across fields of brown grass and frozen mud toward the North. There, he was outraged to learn that North Korea displays a pair of axes its soldiers used to hack to death two American soldiers along the DMZ a quarter century ago. The display is in what Pyongyang calls a peace museum.

"No wonder I think they're evil," said Mr Bush, who, as commander-in-chief, bears responsibility for the 38,000 American forces based in South Korea as a deterrent against attack from the North.

Earlier he used the term "despotic regime" to describe the government of North Korea's communist leader Kim Jong Il, who pours a quarter of his nation's gross domestic product each year into maintaining a 1.2-million-man army, while chronic food shortages press some 20 million others near the brink of starvation.

"I will not change my opinion on the man, on Kim Jong Il, until he frees his people," said Mr Bush, "... until he proves to the world that he's got a good heart, that he cares about the people that live in his country."

Mr Bush has accused North Korea of selling long-range ballistic missiles and parts to troublesome nations like Iran. The two countries, together with Iraq, form the axis that Bush fears might help terrorist groups get their hands on nuclear, chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction — and perhaps

the sophisticated long-range missiles to deliver them.

In a strategy reminiscent of Ronald Reagan's posture toward the Soviet Union in the 1980s, Mr Bush has held out the prospect of dialogue with North Korea, even as he talks tough.

He took evident pride when South Korean President Kim Dae-jung compared his 'axis of evil' phrase to Reagan's use of the term 'evil empire' to describe the Soviet Union.

"And yet, (Reagan) was then able to have constructive dialogue with Gorbachev," Mr Bush said in a joint press conference with Kim.

Mr Bush avoided the term 'axis of evil' in public this week. Instead, he stressed the prospects for better relations with the North, never more so than when he joined Kim at a sparkling new railway station South Korea has built at the border.

South Korea has spent \$150 million to build seven miles of new rail lines headed north, part of Kim's Nobel Prize-winning "sunshine policy" of trying to engage secretive North Korea. Pyongyang has yet to lay a single foot of track headed southward to complete the handshake.

"I made it very clear to the President that I support his sunshine policy," said Mr Bush. "And I'm disappointed that the other side, the North Koreans, will not accept the spirit of the sunshine policy."

When Mr Bush took office a year ago, he inherited from the Clinton administration a robust diplomatic dialogue with North Korea, a place former secretary of state Madeleine Albright had visited just months before Mr Clinton left the White House.

One of the first things Mr Bush did as President was to put that diplomacy on ice, pending a policy review that was completed last June.

The move stunned Kim and left his sunshine policy in limbo. The 'axis of evil' remark seemed a puzzling part of a larger piece. (IANS)

**Mr Bush avoided the term 'axis of evil' in public this week. Instead, he stressed the prospects for better relations with the North, never more so than when he joined Mr Kim at a sparkling new railway station South Korea has built at the border**

THE TIMES OF INDIA

7 1 2002



KILLING HAS DEFAMED ISLAM: MUSHARRAF

# Video shows Pearl dead

WSW  
SFI

23/9

Desikan Thirunarayanapuram  
& Agencies

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. — The USA yesterday said a videotape received by the American embassy in Islamabad proves that the abducted *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl, has been killed.

The video, being reviewed by the FBI, was delivered to the Pakistani authorities on Wednesday and passed on to the US embassy, state department officials said.

President George W Bush described the murder as a "criminal and barbaric" act. "Those who would threaten Americans, ... those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts, need to know that these crimes only...deepen the resolve of the USA to rid the world of these agents of terror."

A Pakistani news agency that received the tape said today the killers decapitated Pearl after he read a statement saying he was Jewish and that Muslims were being persecuted in several parts of the world.

"He (Pearl) appears calm and he is saying his mother and father were Jews...He is also

saying (in English) that Muslims in Palestine and Kashmir and other parts of the world are being oppressed and brutalised...As he is finishing the statement, a hand appears from behind and grabs his head while another hand appears with a

## A family mourns

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 22. — "We were shocked and saddened at the confirmation that our worst fears have been realised. Up until a few hours ago, we were confident that Danny would return safely, for we believed no human being would be capable of harming such a gentle soul," said a statement released by Daniel Pearl's family. "Danny was a beloved son, a brother, an uncle, a husband and a father to a child who he will never know," it said.

Pearl's wife Mariane is expecting a child. — AFP

sharp-edged weapon and cuts his throat," the agency said.

The camera then zooms in on Pearl's head separated from the body.

The Pakistani interior minister, Mr Moinuddin Haider, said the video was delivered to a

Karachi-based Pakistani journalist. Later, the authorities passed it on to US consular officials.

President Bush spoke over telephone with Gen Pervez Musharraf, who did what he could to prevent the killing, Gen Colin Powell told reporters aboard Air Force One.

The Pakistani President has expressed his regret to President Bush, he said.

"Pearl's murder has not only defamed Pakistan but also Islam," Gen Musharraf told PTV tonight.

He had ordered a round-up of all suspects linked to the kidnapping. "Gen Musharraf has directed the government of Sindh and other national security agencies to apprehend each and every member of the gang of terrorists linked to this gruesome murder," an official statement said.

The 38-year-old journalist, kidnapped on 23 January while pursuing a story in Karachi in Sindh province, is the ninth journalist to be killed in Afghanistan and Pakistan since 11 September.

More reports on pages 3 and 8  
Editorial: Checks and balances, page 6

# Weapons cloud on Bush's S Korea visit

## Agencies

SEOUL, Feb. 19. — US President George W Bush arrived in South Korea today for a three day-visit to thrust the spotlight on North Korea's missile sales and feared weapons of mass destruction.

The US President and his wife Laura were greeted here by South Korea's foreign minister Mr Choi Song-Hong before heading to the US embassy.

American and South Korean army units, backed by surveillance aircraft, increased monitoring of the demilitarised zone (DMZ), the unofficial frontier which has divided the Korean peninsula since 1945, military authorities said.

Tomorrow, Mr Bush and South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung will hold a summit to discuss how to persuade the communist North to end its alleged missile sales and resume steps to reconcile with the rival South.

The two leaders will then travel to the DMZ to make speeches urging the North to withdraw its huge forces away from the tense frontier, officials said.

Mr Bush will get his first sight of North Korea, which he last month said was part of an "axis of evil" with Iran and Iraq.

"North Korea is a regime arming itself with missiles and weapons of mass destruction, while starving its citizens," declared the US leader.

But South Korea is worried Mr Bush's hard line may have undermined Mr Kim's four years of trying to engage the North peacefully with his "Sunshine Policy."

Bush has insisted he supports the South Korean leader's peace efforts but has also stuck to his

uncompromising line over the North's military threat.

"We want to resolve all issues peacefully, whether it be Iraq, Iran or North Korea," Mr Bush said yesterday in Tokyo, but reaffirmed: "I will keep all options on the table."

Japan expressed support for Washington's North Korea policy and in a speech to the Japanese parliament today the US leader said he wanted to defuse tensions on the Korean peninsula.

"We seek a region in which demilitarised zones and missile batteries no longer separate people with a common heritage, and a common future," Mr Bush said.

In recent days North Korea's strictly controlled state media has kept up a virtual daily propaganda onslaught against the Republican leader, calling him the head of "an empire of evil" and "the most bellicose and heinous" US president ever.

North Korea has even encouraged their southern brothers to stage protests against the visit responding to which all military and police anti-terrorism units have been put on alert.

**Taiwan hails assurance:** Nervously scrutinising every word by US President George Bush, Taiwan today hailed an assurance by Mr Bush to uphold US commitments to the diplomatically isolated island.

"The President's remarks are significant, indicating the USA's firm support for democratic Taiwan," Taiwan foreign minister Mr Eugene Chien said shortly after Mr Bush made the pledge in a speech in Japan.

"The USA not only sees Taiwan as a good friend but also cherishes Taiwan's democratic achievements and pays close attention to security in the Taiwan Strait. We are deeply confident



Police scuffle with South Korean protestors during an anti-Bush protest in Seoul on Tuesday. — AP/PTI

of Taiwan-US relations," Mr Chien said.

Speaking to Japan's Diet before heading to Seoul, Mr Bush said: "America will remember our commitments to the people of Taiwan."

The Republican leader said USA would seek common ground with Beijing. "We will work with China in the great task of building a prosperous and stable Asia," he said.

Taiwan is watching closely Bush's February 21-22 visit to China, which includes a summit meeting with Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

A special Taiwanese taskforce, set up since last week, has been working around the clock to monitor Mr Bush's visit.

The Taiwan government has gone out of its way to try to assure the island's 23 million people there would not be any significant change to US policy coming from Bush's visit to China.

Beijing has regarded Taiwan as a breakaway province since their civil war split in 1949. China has wooed the island to return to the fold peacefully, but has said it would retake the island by force if Taiwan declares independence.

## Protests of many hues

SEOUL, Feb. 19. — Police with shields and riot sticks patrolled here and checked drain covers and sealed off roofs as scores of left-wing activists demonstrated against the visit of US President George W Bush.

"We are against Mr Bush's visit to Korea, his plot to expand the war on terrorism to other countries and finally the unequal US-Korea investment treaty," they said as other demonstrators smashed a mock US fighter jet.

The leftist groups had a list of complaints for Bush including US bases, his missile shield scheme, alleged US atrocities during the Korean War and American weapons sales to its ally South Korea.

About 200 Buddhist monks, Roman Catholic nuns and Protestant priests rallied at Seoul's biggest Buddhist temple urging the USA to ease tension in the Korean peninsula. — Reuters

THE STATESMAN

20 FEB 2002

# U.S. rules out intervention in Indo-Pak stand-off

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The U.S. has ruled out any mediatory role in the present situation along the Indo-Pak border, holding that all outstanding issues between the two countries would have to be sorted out by themselves.

"Indo-Pak issues will have to be worked out by India and Pakistan," said the visiting chairperson of the U.S. joint chiefs of staff, General Richard G. Myers, on Monday, adding that the U.S. military presence in this region was focused only on Afghanistan.

Gen Myers said that Indo-US military-to-military cooperation had been blossoming for the last one year, and noted that strong defence ties between the two were central to maintaining long-term stability in Asia.

As part of the rapidly growing defence ties, India is likely to procure the AN/TPQ-37 weapon-locating radars from the U.S. in the near future. The absence of such a

system was deeply felt by the Indian Army during the 1999 Kargil conflict.

Gen Myers said a team led by Maj-Gen Bruce Scott, the commander of the U.S. Army Security Assistance Command, will be arriving here on Wednesday "to seek consensus on an agreement for the government to purchase the AN/TPQ-37 radars". Sources say India wants to purchase around 200 of these fire-finding radars.

Similar deals in regard to other procurements like the GE-404 engines for the Light Combat Aircraft, P-3C Orion maritime reconnaissance aircraft, C-130 Hercules heavy-lift military aircraft and electronic ground sensors for the border, among others, are also being worked out.

Gen Myers' visit comes soon after the revival of the Indo-US Defence Policy Group, which went into deep freeze after the 1998 Pokhran-II nuclear tests. He described the recent executive

steering groups meant to bolster service-to-service cooperation as "successful and extremely productive".

Gen Myers invited senior Indian defence ministry officials to a meeting of the Indo-US Security Cooperation Group in Washington next month. The meeting will address future military sales and export licensing procedures and draw up an acquisition and cross-servicing agreement.

Gen Myers said his talks were primarily focussed on enhancing military and strategic relations. A spin-off of this accelerated defence interaction would definitely affect the war against terrorism, he said.

During his day-long visit, Gen Myers held discussions with external affairs minister Jaswant Singh, national security adviser Brajesh Mishra, Army chief General S. Padmanabhan, IAF chief Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy and defence secretary Yogendra Narain, among others.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1999

China.

# Bush focuses on anti-terrorism, worsening economy in Japan

By SANDRA SOBIERAJ

TOKYO: Opening his first state visit to Japan, U.S. President George W. Bush brought Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi a double-edged message — appreciation for this island nation's anti-terrorism solidarity and growing apprehension about its deteriorating economy.

The President and First Lady Laura Bush arrived here on Sunday night and were greeted at Haneda airport by an old friend, U.S. ambassador to Japan Howard Baker, who was White House chief of staff when Mr Bush's father was vice-president.

The two leaders meet on Monday for three hours at Iikura House, a government conference centre, where White House aides expected the talks to focus on global implications of Japan's worsening economic slump.

Mr Bush's visit is a balancing act of public expressions of confidence in Mr Koizumi's economic reform plan, on the one hand, and private prodding of Mr Koizumi to deliver

quickly on the changes he has promised.

"We're obviously concerned about our friend's economy," Mr Bush said in advance of Monday's meetings. The Bushes capped their 14 hours in flight from Washington with an informal dinner at the ambassadors' residence before retiring there for the night.

At a refuelling stop in Alaska, Mr Bush told U.S. military personnel that he was eager not only to thank Japan and other partners in his anti-terrorism campaign, but also to emphasise his resolve not to rest "until we have destroyed terrorism."

A much pricklier topic is Japan's economy, the world's second largest, whose problems run deep — years of recession, billions of dollars in bad government and private loans, a falling stock market, and record levels of corporate bankruptcy and unemployment. Mr Bush is anxious to keep these troubles from spilling over into the already anaemic global economy and potentially deepening America's own recession.

"The message is very clear that the U.S. expects more aggressive economic restructuring. And it is blunt: don't let your trouble spread across the region or the world; get it straight right now," said Naoko Munakata, a former official in Japan's ministry of economy.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill was in Tokyo just last month airing U.S. frustrations with the slow pace of reform and worries that Mr Koizumi, whose public approval is crumbling, may be losing heart for tough rescue measures.

"This is not the same Koizumi that Bush met last year," said Shigenori Okazaki, a political analyst in Tokyo for the investment firm UBS Warburg. "Bush is looking for a strong and sound Japan. But Koizumi is much weaker."

On Monday, the President and Ms Bush were getting a look at exactly how the 'yabusame' works, courtesy of a horseback archery demonstration arranged by Mr Koizumi on the forested grounds of the Meiji Shrine. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

18 FEB 2002

WAR AGAINST TERROR / 'U.S. WILL NOT BE DISSUADED BY CRITICS'

# We will stop Saddam: Cheney

WASHINGTON, FEB. 16. The U.S. Vice-President, Dick Cheney, offered a strong rebuttal to allied officials who have criticised the Bush administration's aggressive stance toward Iraq, saying the United States was prepared to use all available means to stop Saddam Hussein from continuing his development of weapons of mass destruction and that he expected allied support if "aggressive action is required."

Addressing the Council on Foreign Relations here, Mr. Cheney stressed that Iraq and Iran were dangerous adversaries and underscored that Washington had a responsibility to broaden its campaign against terrorism. He said Washington would not be dissuaded by international criticism that the Bush administration was too eager to use force and too unilateral in its actions. "America has friends and allies in this cause, but only we can lead it," Mr. Cheney said, referring to the war on terrorism. "Only we can rally the world in a task of this complexity against an enemy so elusive and so resourceful. The United States and only the United States can see this effort through to victory."

Speaking of the new phase of Washington's efforts, Mr. Cheney said Mr. Bush was determined to press on and stop Iraq, Iran and North Korea from continuing to develop weapons of mass destruction. "The President's made it clear that this will be a priority," Mr. Cheney said. "We will use all the means at our disposal — meaning military, diplomatic, intelligence, etc. — to address these concerns." This week allies have become increasingly critical of the administration's tough tone, fearing that it signals a dangerous expansion in Washington's war on terror. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin and the Canadian Prime Minister,



The U.S. Vic-President, Dick Cheney, gestures during an address before the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington. — AP

Jean Chretien, have also urged Washington not to act unilaterally against Iraq or Iran. South Korean officials have quietly fretted that Mr. Bush's comments have undercut their efforts to engage North Korea. "If we try to do it unilaterally it will go nowhere," Mr. Chretien said.

Mr. Cheney's appearance before the council represented his most comprehensive presentation in a public forum since the September 11 attacks. For several months, he has rarely been seen in public and has often worked in an undisclosed location outside Washington, a precaution against

terrorist attacks. Asked whether his elusive working habits had given him a James Bond-like aura, he seemed to savour the question for a moment and then answered in his characteristically droll manner. "There are certain features of his lifestyle I've not been able to avail myself," Mr. Cheney said. "But I'm certainly hopeful."

Mr. Cheney's message on foreign policy, however, was tough and certainly not the one that many allied officials wanted to hear. On Iran, he acknowledged that his views had hardened since his oil business days a year and a half ago, when he was urging efforts to rebuild a relationship with Teheran. In the sharpest criticism of Iran by a Bush administration official, he asserted that the Iranian Government was trying to derail the Arab-Israeli peace process by shipping arms to the Palestinians. "There is a great yearning on the part of the Iranian people to restore and re-establish relationships with the U.S. and the West," Mr. Cheney said. "By the same token, the Government appears to be committed, for example, to trying to destroy the peace process as it relates to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. And we've seen all too many examples of their active support of terrorism and their, as the President said the other night in the State of the Union speech, unstinting efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction."

As for Iraq, Mr. Cheney's comments come at an important juncture. Next month, he is scheduled to visit 12 allied and West Asian nations in a trip widely seen an effort to elicit their co-operation in overthrowing Saddam Hussein through the use of tougher economic sanctions, covert operations and, potentially, military force—  
*New York Times*

THE HINDU

17 FEB 2002

# Bush offers alternative to Kyoto pact

WASHINGTON: U.S. President George W. Bush unveiled an alternative to the Kyoto climate change treaty he spurned last year, to the dismay of environmentalists who saw the plan as a gift to corporate America.

"The Bush administration is sticking to the polluting policies that the energy industry asked for rather than taking the sensible steps that can protect our health," said executive director of the Sierra Club Carl Pope.

Mr Bush, in one of his first actions upon taking office in January 2001, yanked U.S. support for the 1997 Kyoto protocol, which requires wealthy nations to cut to 1990 levels the emissions of greenhouse gases blamed for global warming.

Mr Bush sparked a worldwide uproar with his decision to abandon Kyoto because he said it was likely to cost millions of U.S. jobs.

On Thursday, he insisted the new plan, which would slow emissions growth by reducing "greenhouse

gas intensity" — the ratio of emissions to economic output — by a target of 18 per cent over 10 years, does not shortchange economic growth.

"I will not commit our nation to an unsound international treaty that will throw millions of our citizens out of work. Yet, we recognise our international responsibilities," he said in an address at the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration in nearby Silver Spring, Maryland.

"This is the common sense way to measure progress. Our nation must have economic growth. Growth is also what pays for investments in clean technologies, increased conservation and energy efficiency."

"We must encourage growth that will provide a better life for citizens, while protecting the land, the water, and the air that sustain life," he said.

Those are noble goals, said top House Democrat Dick Gephardt, but not goals that may be achieved through Mr Bush's alternative plan, which reveals the administration's greater interest "in giving assistance to the corporate special interests, than in achieving genuine reductions in carbon dioxide emissions."

Henry Waxman, a member of the U.S. House of Representative's caucus on climate change, went a step further, deriding the Bush plan as "doublespeak."

"What he calls a reduction in 'greenhouse gas intensity' is in reality a large increase in actual greenhouse gas emissions. And his proposed voluntary system for tracking emissions will make Enron's books look honest in comparison," the California Democrat said.

Neighboring Canada said the Bush plan was not an adequate solution to the global warming

problem. "We do not agree that this is a better approach," said Canadian Environment minister David Anderson.

Japan acknowledged Bush's announcement but insisted on the establishment of a "common rule in the future in which all countries including the U.S. and developing countries participate" to address global warming.

Australian Prime Minister John Howard welcomed Mr Bush's plan as a positive alternative to the Kyoto protocol, despite opposition to it by environmental groups.

Mr Bush's voluntary plan would lower U.S. emissions from an estimated 183 metric tonnes per million dollars of gross domestic product in 2002 to 151 metric tonnes per million dollars of GDP in 2012, the White House said.

To induce businesses and consumers to go along with the plan, Mr Bush's initiative offers \$4.6 billion over five years in tax credits for renewable energy sources. (AFP)



George W. Bush

THE TIMES OF INDIA .

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES  
THE TIMES OF INDIA

# USA rejects Pak mediation plea

ST-1 16/2 WSU South Asia

Agencies & SNS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — As General Pervez Musharraf wrapped up his visit to the USA, the Bush administration rejected his plea for mediation on Kashmir and said it didn't share his doubt whether the attack on Indian Parliament could be called an act of terrorism.

"...We don't believe this is something that mediation or facilitation is going to help. What'll help is to have the two parties (India and Pakistan) decide it's time for dialogue, and we're encouraging that," the national security adviser said.

Ms Condoleezza Rice was briefing the media on President George W Bush's scheduled visits to Japan, South Korea and China.

She rejected Gen Musharraf's statement at the National Press Club yesterday that Islamabad was yet to get "any evidence" that could prove terrorists' hand in the 13 December attack. "The problem we encountered with (the attack) on Parliament was that a democracy...was attacked (and it) showed that terrorism was also a threat to a stable and secular Pakistan."

The state department spokesman, Mr Phil Reeker, was more categorical. The attack, he said, was an "act of terrorism" and it had further reinforced the need to fight the menace across the world.

At the press club, the general said: "The excuse that there was a terrorist attack on Parliament — of which we haven't not got any evidence — shouldn't have been taken for this brinkmanship... This is brinkmanship at its worst."

India, however, rejected Pakistan's demand for de-escalation on the border, saying it would take whatever steps it thought necessary to fight cross-border terrorism, a report from New Delhi adds. "We stand exactly where we stood before. The

steps we've taken are precautionary measures which we are perfectly entitled to take in the defence of our national interests," a foreign ministry spokesperson said.

In a live interactive session on MTV, the US secretary of state said he had urged Gen Musharraf and Mr Jaswant Singh to try and resolve bilateral issues peacefully. "We want both countries to have a dialogue... We're doing everything we can to defuse the situation on the borders where Indian and Pakistani forces are in close proximity."

Gen Colin Powell was answering questions from youths of seven countries, including India. Asked by a Kashmiri youth whether the USA was

practising "double standards" on terrorism, he said: "An American life is not more precious than an Indian life, or a Pakistani life, or a Kashmiri life."

Another Indian youth asked him whether Washington was placing strategic interests before value systems by being "hand-in-glove" with a military dictator like Gen Musharraf. The USA, Gen Powell, said, was "not unmindful of how he came to power". An Afghan youth wanted to know why didn't the USA wake up to the Afghan problem before 11 September. Gen Powell said the "level of consciousness" before the attack was not what it should have been.

Gen Musharraf returned home tonight.

**Border firing:** An Army jawan was killed and a civilian

injured last evening when Pakistani troops fired in RS Pura and Chamb sectors, a report from Jammu adds. Firing from across the border were also reported from Khari-Karmura, Jhulas, Salotri and Dalan today. Indian troops retaliated injuring some Pakistani soldiers.

**Editorial: Difference is for real, page 4**  
**Pak ignores APHC poll commission, page 6**

## Musharraf: I am the greatest democrat

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. — Gen Pervez Musharraf, who took power after a coup in 1999, declared himself as Pakistan's greatest ever democrat and mounted a strong defence of his "roadmap" to return the country to democracy. He, however, said that even after the elections he had promised to hold in October, he may have to play a role.

"I may be a military man... but I'm more democratic than any government in Pakistan," he said yesterday.

Gen Colin Powell, however, said President Musharraf had been "candidly" told that preparing the "roadmap" wouldn't be enough, he must stand for elections as well. "The USA will be watching very closely."

— AFP/PTI

THE STATESMAN

THE STATESMAN

✓ Omar misled police ✓  
**Pak says Pearl  
fate unclear** <sup>was 9.3</sup> <sub>19/2</sub>

**FROM SIMON DENYER**

**Karachi, Feb. 13 (Reuters):** Pakistani police said today the fate of kidnapped US reporter Daniel Pearl remained unclear, despite the arrest of the chief suspect in the case.

"Unless we discover firm evidence about what has happened to Daniel, I would say it is unclear (if he is still alive)," said Syed Kamal Shah, police chief for the southern province of Sindh, of which Karachi is the capital.

Police said their prime suspect, British-born Islamic militant Omar Sheikh, had told them Pearl was still alive and in the southern port city of Karachi, where he disappeared three weeks ago. But Shah said Omar Sheikh, who was picked up in the eastern city of Lahore yesterday, could have been misleading his interrogators. "When an accused person comes up with an initial statement, it may not be true," Shah said. "Initially every accused... tries to dodge his interrogators, tries to mislead them."

"We are still interrogating him and it may take some time," he said. "We have found him to be a hard nut to crack." Other of-

ficials said they remained optimistic. "Don't worry, we will recover Pearl soon," said Sindh interior secretary Brig. Mukhtar Ahmed. "We have so far no evidence to indicate that he (Pearl) is not alive... and, therefore, we believe that he is alive," Karachi police chief Tariq Jamil said.

As police closed in on him, Omar Sheikh had decided to give himself up in return for a promise that his family would be protected, including his wife and baby son.

THE TELEGRAPH



INDIA TO TEST NUCLEAR BOMB: MUSHARRAF

# USA can help in talks: Bush

SC1

14/2

W. Bush - South Asia

**Desikan Thirunarayanapuram and agencies**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13 — Mr George W Bush today expressed hope that the USA could facilitate a dialogue between India and Pakistan to resolve the Kashmir issue.

Emerging with Gen Pervez Musharraf after their first-ever meeting at the White House, Mr Bush told reporters that “the USA will encourage the two countries to start a meaningful and serious dialogue to resolve the Kashmir issue. We will continue to press for it.”

Gen Musharraf said he had informed Mr Bush of a “massive and aggressive” build-up of Indian troops on the border. “The immediate return of the Indian forces to the peace-time locations and early resumption of dialogue between Pakistan and India is the way forward,” he said.

He welcomed the role played by Mr Bush and Gen Colin Powell in urging restraint and defusing military tension in the area.

On how the USA would mediate between the two

countries in resolving the Kashmir issue as bilaterals had failed, Mr Bush said: “The only way it is going to be resolved is that the Pakistani government and Indian government sit down and have a serious and meaningful dialogue.”

On a question by a Pakistani

## Pak stand on list

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 13. — Pakistan today stuck to its stand linking its response to the extradition of 20 criminals and terrorists to India with the resumption of dialogue between the two countries. Islamabad said it was ready for talks on the list, provided India agreed for a dialogue on all issues. — PTI

journalist as to whether the US would dump Pakistan after the war on terror and “how did it plan to help Pakistan in its struggle for survival against mighty and militarised India”, Mr Bush said: “It’s a very legitimate question and it’s one of the reasons why President Musharraf and I are spending

time together.”

The official transcript, however, dismissed the reference to “mighty and militarised India” as “illegible” and said it was not clear whether Mr Bush heard it.

Mr Bush said Gen Musharraf was going to meet Mr Donald Rumsfeld today. “He (Gen Musharraf) negotiated and we willingly supported a strong aid package in the fiscal 2002 budget. We are now discussing help in the 2003 budget,” he said.

Yesterday, Gen Musharraf told a Washington audience that India was preparing to test another nuclear bomb, and said he would ask President George W Bush today to try and prevent the test.

“There are certain indications I did share with the US leadership”, the Pakistani President said on the first day of his three-day official visit here. “The missile test carried out by India” and “some information, some news even of maybe a possibility of a nuclear test, is most untimely and, may I also say, provocative,” he said in a forum organised by the Woodrow

Turn to page 6

THE STATESMAN

THE STATESMAN TIMES

14 FEB 2002

# US mulls Saddam ouster sans force

Washington, February 13

SECRETARY OF State Colin Powell told a Senate committee in Washington on Tuesday that the US wanted to oust Saddam from power but had no plans for military action against him.

"The President does not have before him right now a plan for a conflict with anybody," he said. "With Iraq, we are always examining options for regime change... But we are not at some point where we are going into contingency plans to invade Iraq."

"With respect to Iran and with respect to North Korea, there is no plan to start a war with these nations," Powell said. In contrast, in discussing Iraq, he delivered a stern message.

"With respect to Iraq, it has long been, for several years now, a policy of the United States government that regime change would be in the best interests of the region, the best interests of the Iraqi people," he said. "And we are looking at a variety of options that would bring that

about." Powell's comments were made in testimony before the Senate Budget Committee as the administration approached a decision about how to dislodge Saddam.

Senior officials said there was a consensus within the administration that he must be overthrown and that plans to do so are being drawn up. But there no agreement as to how precisely that should be done or how long the United States should be prepared to wait for action. Still, there are indications that the planning is becoming increasingly serious.

Next month, Vice President Dick Cheney is scheduled to visit a number of nations that border Iraq, including Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey. Cheney also plans to visit Britain, Egypt, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Qatar and Oman, all of which might provide useful support in a campaign against Iraq.

At the Pentagon, officials have been drawing up plans for an Iraq campaign. The Iraqi Na-



Colin Powell

tional Congress, as the Iraqi opposition is known, has received a much warmer reception from the administration since the State of the Union speech, though the administration still has not agreed to provide its members with military training. During a recent meeting at the White House, a senior administration official told Iraqi opposition officials that President Bush had decided that Saddam Hussein needed to be replaced.

"We were told that the President has made up his mind: Saddam has got to go," one opposition official recalled.

Gen. Tommy Franks, the head of the United States Central Command, which is overseeing the campaign in Afghanistan and which would run any campaign against Iraq, said today that a military plan had not yet been settled.

## Saddam calls US 'power dizzy'

President Saddam Saddam, accused by President Bush of being part of an "axis of evil" seeking weapons of mass destruction that could be made available to terrorists, urged European countries to try to make Washington see sense. He accused a "power dizzy" Washington of wanting to destroy the world.

"America does not only want to destroy the world, but rather as a result destroy itself, too," Saddam said in a meeting in Baghdad with Austrian far-right leader Joerg Haider.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 FEB 2002

# Omar held in Lahore, says Pearl is alive

ISLAMABAD: In a major breakthrough in the Daniel Pearl case, the police on Tuesday arrested Sheikh Omar Saeed, the main suspect in the kidnapping of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter. Omar, a top militant of the Jaish-e-Mohammad, is reported to have told his interrogators that Pearl was alive and in Karachi.



Daniel Pearl

Sheikh Omar, one of the three men released by India during the Kandahar hijack drama in 1999, was arrested in Lahore and handed over to the Sindh police. The British-born Omar was earlier connected with the Al Faran, a mil-

ws (11-1 18) 2  
**'Arrest vindicates India's stand'**

Times News Network

**NEW DELHI:** India on Tuesday said the arrest of Sheikh Omar, leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the main suspect in the kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl, had confirmed that Pakistan was providing a safe haven to fugitives. "The latest development only confirms what we have been saying all along— that Pakistan is a safe haven for such elements. We hope that Pakistan will take simultaneous action in apprehending the fugitives, criminals and terrorists whose names figure in the list of 20 that India has provided," an external affairs ministry spokesperson said.

itant outfit which was banned following the abduction and killing of five foreign tourists in Kashmir in 1995.

Omar's arrest was followed by the detention of two former officers of the Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), Khalid Khawaja and Aslam Khan Sherani, who reportedly had ties with militant groups like the Jaish and had even trained fighters to battle the erstwhile Soviet forces in Afghanistan. Officials said Khawaja, a former air force officer, had also worked for Saudi fugitive Osama bin Laden as a pilot. He was also close to Sheikh Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani, whom Pearl was to meet but for his abduction on January 23. Besides, Khawaja was also among the first people contacted by the journalist for an interview with Gilani. (Agencies)

## Nuclear Iran worries USA

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, Feb. 11. — Iran may be just a few years away from developing nuclear weapons capability, contributing to a sense of urgency on the need for a more assertive US policy toward the strategically placed country, US officials say.

The US administration's concern over a variety of Iranian weapons programmes is coupled with what it says is an expanded Iranian role in support of regional and global terrorist groups.

CIA director Mr George Tenet told a Senate hearing last Wednesday that Iran may be able by itself to produce enough fissile material for a nuclear weapon by late 2010's.

But he went on to say this estimate could be cut by years if Iran is able to obtain material from outside sources.

THE STATESMAN

12 FEB 2002

# India not involved in Pearl case, says US official

US ECONOMIC BUREAU  
MUMBAI, FEBRUARY 11

US Deputy Treasury Secretary Kenneth Dam gave a clean bill to the Indian Government saying that it was not involved in the kidnapping of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl.

"There is no reason to believe that the Indian Government is involved," Dam told reporters here when asked to comment on allegations by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf that Indian intelligence agencies could be in-

volved in the kidnapping. "But I would not be surprised that some terrorists from Indian soil contacted others in Pakistani soil." Dam is on a visit to India to strengthen cooperation between the two countries to combat terror-financing.

Dam said the United States had frozen financial assets worth \$80 million since the start of America's war on terror. "The amount that has been frozen is \$80 million — \$35 million in the US and \$45 million abroad," he said. "We have disrupted the flow (of terror funds) and we are trying to get more information from

more countries. Many governments are taking measures informally," he said in reply to a question on the value of financial assets frozen.

Dam said he had discussed the issue of money-laundering with Indian authorities, adding that the federal government was working on legislation to curb this menace.

The United States is looking at better ways to detect money-laundering, including a boost in funding for FinCen, the Treasury's financial crimes enforcement network that tracks suspected money-laundering.

Dam said the Bush administration has identified six challenges needing cooperation from other states, including India. This includes more information sharing, encouraging independent notification of terrorist groups by other nations, redoubling efforts against hawalas, redoubling efforts by the US and allied nations against charities, particularly the role of donors and, doing a better job of exploiting the documents captured in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

"Finally, we hope to use the financial investigation to track down the ticking time bombs or

sleeper cell that President Bush mentioned in his recent state of union," said Dam.

"Any funding of terrorist activities in India by the any group operating from Pakistan is also being monitored by our intelligence system," he said. Cooperation is key to winning the war against terrorism and India is among the 147 nations that have blocked accounts in co-operation with the United States, he added.

"After all money moves around the world faster than terrorists can, but if you can stop the money, you can stop the terrorists," Dam said.

On the Indian economy, the US deputy secretary said he has been engaging in a dialogue regarding implementation of key fiscal, financial sector, trade and investment reforms with Indian officials.

"The road map to achieve growth and prosperity, in my view, is crystal clear. It contains four planks — fiscal reform, financial services sector reform, attention to the investment climate and trade liberalisation,"

he said, adding that the end result of these reforms was strong economic growth and a reduction in poverty.

INDIAN EXPRESS

MUMBAI 11 FEB 2002

# US baffled over tilt of Cuba captives

AGENCIES

GUANTANAMO BAY, FEBRUARY 10

**T**HE US, which this week said it would apply the Geneva Convention to captured Taliban fighters but not to members of Al Qaeda, is struggling to differentiate between the prisoners held in Cuba, according to a senior army officer.

Brig. Gen. Michael Lehnert said on Saturday the US Army had been unable to determine to which of the two groups many of the prisoners at the Navy base at Guantanamo Bay belonged.

Another 34 prisoners arrived at Guantanamo Bay at about 2.30 p.m. EST (1930 GMT) on Saturday aboard a military transport plane, bringing to 220 the total number of Afghan war captives at the Cuba base. The US holds 237 in Afghanistan.

Saturday's flight was the second batch of prisoners transferred from

Afghanistan since flights resumed on Wednesday after a hiatus of more than two weeks while more outdoor cells were built to hold them at the controversial prison camp.

But Lehnert, in charge of the task force running the Guantanamo Bay prison, indicated the interrogation process was painfully slow and that many of the prisoners were being uncooperative and giving false information.

"A large number claim to be Taliban, a smaller number we have been able to confirm as Al Qaeda, and a rather large number in the middle we have not been able to determine their status," Lehnert said at a media briefing.

"Many of the detainees are not forthcoming. Many have been interviewed as many as four times, each time providing a different name and different information," he added.

He said some of those claiming to be members of the Taliban may be ly-

## Iran cracks down on Hekmatyar

**■ TEHRAN:** Iranian authorities, accused by Washington of meddling in Afghanistan, have closed the offices of renegade exiled Afghan warlord and foe of the interim Kabul government, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, sources said on Sunday. A spokesman for the Interior Ministry said the government envisaged his expulsion from the country.

An aide to Hekmatyar confirmed a report in the daily *Iran* that the office in north Tehran had closed. The newspaper quoted Hossein Zareh-safat, a deputy governor of northeastern Khorassan province responsible for security, as saying the office in the provincial capital Mashhad had been shuttered "on the orders of the government".

Afghan sources in Tehran said on Sunday he could remain and receive visits, but must refrain from political activities against the Kabul administration. But the ministry spokesman said: "The expulsion of Mr Hekmatyar is envisaged, and is currently being considered," without indicating where he might be sent. —PTI

ing to "secure favourable treatment."

He said prisoners identified as fighters belonging to Osama bin Laden's Al Qaeda network were generally confirmed through other sources and not through their own admission.

US President George W. Bush de-

Some human rights groups have criticised Washington for deciding not to give the detainees PoW status and for not applying the Geneva Convention to Al Qaeda fighters.

Bush's decision on the prisoners followed pleas even from ally governments to clarify their status. But international law experts say denying the Taliban PoW status effectively means there is no distinction in how the groups should be treated.

The move could blunt criticism from abroad and encourage any captors of US soldiers to apply the Geneva Convention.

None of the detainees has yet been charged with a crime, but Washington has maintained the prisoners are being treated humanely as it seeks information from them that could prevent future attacks on the US.

Lehnert said the prisoners were likely to be segregated at once a new, permanent prison was built at the base.

# Two more held in Pearl case

1191 By B. Muralidhar Reddy 11/2

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 10. The Pakistan police have arrested two more persons in connection with the abduction of American journalist, Daniel Pearl, though the search for the missing scribe has so far proved to be futile.

The Islamabad police senior Superintendent, Nasir Khan Durrani, said the two men were taken into custody in the capital in recent days. With this, the total number of those arrested in the case has gone up to 16.

"They have been detained for verification of some reports. The arrests relate to some phone calls they made from a mobile telephone set", he said.

The Pakistan Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, has for the first time conceded that Omar Sheikh, one of the three militants released by India in December 1999 in exchange for the freedom of the hijacked Indian Airlines passengers, is the main suspect in the case.

It seems the biggest worry for the authorities in Pakistan is the total silence of the kidnappers for

the last several days. Police said they have had no contact with Pearl's kidnappers for the last 11 days. "They (the kidnappers) have suddenly turned silent", Lt. Gen. (retd) Haider told Pakistan Television late on Saturday. "They are now neither sending any e-mail nor using any telephone because we have arrested three of their people and we have found the clues."

## Doubts over 'Indian links'

PTI reports:

Police officials in Karachi have expressed serious doubts over allegations of "Indian links" to the kidnapping of Mr. Pearl.

According to *The News* daily, police investigators, with the help of the FBI, had established that the three Indian telephone numbers called from the cell phone that was used to lure Mr. Pearl to a Karachi restaurant, were of an Indian Cabinet Minister and two MPs in New Delhi. But it was later found that the Indian telephone numbers were listed on an Indian website and it appeared that the calls to New Delhi were made to deceive the investigators, the newspaper said.

THE HINDU

11 FEB 2002

# Pearl abduction dims Pervez's lustre in USA

US (W) 107  
AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE SF-12

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 9. — The kidnapping of US journalist Daniel Pearl has proved an embarrassment for Pakistan as it tries to improve its image in the West and has put added pressure on President Gen Pervez Musharraf as he prepares to meet US President Mr George W Bush.

Gen Musharraf has been praised by Mr Bush for his crackdown on terrorism, but the abduction of Pearl has exposed a continuing militant force in Pakistan with links extending to Kashmir and the Al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

The kidnapping of a journalist from the influential *Wall Street Journal* is not only a setback for Mr Musharraf — Western diplomats here fear it is a warning of worse to come. Pearl (38), vanished on 23 January while exploring the shadowy web of Islamic militants in Pakistan's treacherous southern port city of Karachi. Photos of the journalist in chains and with a gun pointed at his head surfaced soon after he was seized in e-mails sent to newspapers and TV networks threatening to kill him by 31 January.

The abduction hit world headlines and underlined the battle Gen Musharraf faces in reigning in Muslim extremists, angered at the routing of hardline Taliban militia in Afghanistan and at Islamabad's efforts to outlaw them.

Pakistanis who fought with the "Afghan brothers" they had often studied with in the same religious schools returned home humiliated and looking for revenge.

"They are digesting their defeat. It will only be a few weeks before we are likely to be confronted by organised terrorism," a European diplomat said.

Adding to their bitterness at defeat in Afghanistan is Gen Musharraf's no-nonsense stand on terrorism and extremism announced last month.

Among five separatist groups banned by Gen Musharraf was Jaish e-Mohammed, a name that crops up frequently in the search for Pearl. Jaish e-Mohammed was blamed by India for the December attack on the parliament in New Delhi. It has also been accused of the October suicide strike on the Kashmir legislature building.

Chief suspects have all been tied to Jaish or its parent, the Harkatul Mujahideen. British-born extremist leader Sheikh Omar, described as a Jaish leader, is said to have masterminded the abduction.

Mohammed Hashim Qadeer and Mohammad Bashir, both linked to Harkatul Mujahideen, are said to have worked with a fourth suspect, Imtiaz Siddiqui, in luring Pearl into a trap. When Pearl was last seen on 23 January he believed he was being taken to meet Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani, leader of a little-known militant Muslim group, Tanzeem-ul-Fuqra. Gilani denies knowing anything about such a meeting.

THE STATESMAN

10 FEB 2002



# Taliban minister surrenders

Washington, February 9

THE TALIBAN'S foreign minister turned himself in to authorities in Afghanistan, giving American forces what could be one of the biggest Intelligence prizes in the war so far.

Mullah Abdul Wakil Muttawakil surrendered on Friday, the same day US troops travelled to a remote site in eastern Afghanistan to determine whether top al-Qaida figures had been killed in a missile attack.

Muttawakil turned himself in to Afghan officials in Kandahar, US defence officials said. The Kandahar authorities transferred Muttawakil to the US military base at the city's airport, where he was being held.

A spokesman for the US Central Command, Maj Brad Lowell, confirmed that a former Taliban foreign minister, whom he did not identify, was in US custody.

US authorities were questioning Muttawakil, looking to gain valuable information, officials said. Muttawakil is the highest-ranking Taliban official to have been captured so far, and thus could help in the search for Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed Omar and other top leaders of the radical Islamic militia.

Muttawakil was considered one of the Taliban's moderate figures. In the weeks after September 11, his name was mentioned as someone who might be acceptable to Afghanistan's majority Pashtuns to provide an alternative leadership to the Taliban.

There were reports that



AP PHOTO

**NEW WONDER:** Girls study at the Zarghona Ana High School in Kandahar on Saturday.

he and Omar had argued about the presence of Osama bin Laden in Afghanistan. Some reports said Muttawakil had been jailed in the last months of Taliban rule for trying to press for bin Laden to be handed over.

Omar Samad, a spokesman for the Afghan Foreign Ministry, said he could not confirm the surrender, but said the interim Afghan Government had been expecting Taliban officials to give themselves up.

"We have been expecting some important Taliban lead-

ers who are on the run to either turn themselves in or to be caught and to be brought to justice," Samad said.

Muttawakil had been seen as relatively moderate within the Taliban — reportedly travelling in secret to Pakistan in October to urge a slowdown in US bombing so the Taliban could reconsider its decision not to turn over terror suspect Osama bin Laden.

But he stuck with the Taliban's hard line in public, challenging the United States and Britain last October to send in ground

troops. "Let them come here in the ground," he said. "We will fight and let's see who will win."

Now that the US has won, officials are hoping that Muttawakil's surrender could prompt other Taliban leaders to give up as well.

Before Muttawakil turned himself in, the highest-ranking Taliban official in custody was the former army chief of staff, Mullah Fazel Mazloom. He is among the 186 prisoners being held at the US Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

10 FEB 2002

# Detenus to get Geneva Convention protection

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 8. In a change of policy that does not in any way alter the ground realities either in Afghanistan or in Guantanamo Bay Base in Cuba, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, has decided that captured Taliban fighters would be legally protected by the Geneva Convention.

The White House, in making the announcement, has made it clear that Mr. Bush continues with the policy of not giving the same legal status to Al-Qaeda fighters. And at the same time, the administration has made it known that neither Taliban nor Al-Qaeda members would be declared prisoners of war.

The President's decision on the distinction to be made between the Taliban and Al-Qaeda should bring to a close a debate within the administration, especially among top Cabinet officials. For instance, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, had asked Mr. Bush to reconsider his Jan. 18 decision. And in Mr. Bush coming out with his latest determination, "both sides" could claim "victory" on the subject. The small change in

policy was also meant to take into account the criticism that the U.S. was facing from allies, especially in Europe, on the treatment of the detained persons at the Guantanamo Bay base.

The Republican administration has been consistently maintaining that the detainees are being treated well and in consonance with the principles of the Geneva Convention. The administration is making the point that although the U.S. has never recognised the Taliban, the group does make the qualification under the Geneva Convention. But the prisoners of war status cannot be made as the Taliban did not follow the other rules and customs of the Geneva Convention. Legal experts, particularly on the Geneva Convention, have said that the determination made by the President on Thursday does not change anything either in Afghanistan or in Guantanamo Bay base. Intelligence agencies want to have access to the detained persons for interrogation purposes; and the technical distinction made by the President will not change the present arrangements.

# Geneva Convention only for Taliban, not Al Qaeda: Bush

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 8

95-7 9/2  
95-7 9/2

THE US President declared on Thursday the country will apply the Geneva Convention to Taliban soldiers captured during the Afghanistan war, but not afford the same recognition to Al Qaeda members.

The White House also said it will treat each group humanely but not classify either as prisoners of war (PoW), a move that could permit US officials to interrogate the captives indefinitely and not have to automatically repatriate them after the war has ended.

The President reached his decision after criticism about how the detainees were being handled. The announcement also appears to settle a rift in the administration over concerns raised by Secretary of State Colin Powell that the detainees fall under the protections of the Geneva Convention, just as any American soldier would expect if he was captured abroad.

But the administration argues that the war on terrorism is unprecedented and does not fit neatly into the parameters of the Geneva Convention. So, the government says, the detainees don't meet the convention's definition of a PoW. A government official explained it this way: "We've applied the law, and the law doesn't apply" to the Taliban.

The decision drew quick fire from many human rights groups who said it appeared the White House was trying to have it both ways by applying some rules of the Geneva Convention and ignoring others. Alistair Hodgett, a spokesman at Amnesty International, called it a "willful misinterpretation" of the Geneva Convention. The government decision was made public at the White House by spokesman



Military police at Cuba's Camp X-Ray escort a detainee to an interrogation room on Friday. Reuters

Ari Fleischer. Fleischer said the administration had determined that soldiers for the Taliban were fighting for the government then in power in Afghanistan.

They noted Afghanistan backed Geneva Convention for humane treatment of war captives, and therefore it should apply to Taliban captives. "There are going to be no changes in the way they are being treated at Camp X-Ray," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Ed Buclatin.

NDIAN EXPRESS

# FBI, Pak police grill Jaish militant in Pearl case

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan on Thursday said progress had been made in investigations to locate kidnapped U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl. The police arrested another activist of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) outfit and conducted nationwide raids to locate prime suspect and JeM leader Sheikh Omar Saeed.

"What I can say at this stage is that all-out efforts are being made to solve this kidnapping. We can say there is progress," defence spokesperson Maj Gen Rashid

Qureshi told reporters here.

Expressing the hope that Mr Pearl would be rescued soon, Mr Qureshi refused to give any details saying it could harm investigations. Mr Pearl has been missing since January 23.

The police have also arrested an Arab national who is a JeM activist in Rawalpindi in connection with



**WANTED: Omar Saeed**

the kidnapping, *The News* a daily, said.

The Arab, Hannan Ahmed, is being interrogated by a team of local police and FBI officials, it said, adding that Ahmed had provided some leads during the interrogation.

Nationwide raids were also conducted by special police parties to locate Saeed, who is one of three

JeM extremists released by India to end the hijacking crisis in Kandahar, reports here said.

Saeed's house was raided in Lahore on Wednesday by police as they believed that he was present there the night before. While the raids drew a blank, the police briefly detained two women in the house for questioning and later released them, *Dawn* reported.

The paper quoted a police official as saying Saeed's arrest may lead to Mr Pearl. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

8 FEB 2002

# Tenet defends CIA on Sept 11 attacks

Washington, February 7

CIA DIRECTOR George Tenet, in his first appearance before Congress since September 11, rejected suggestions on Wednesday that US intelligence services had failed to anticipate the terrorist attacks.

At the hearing, the most dramatic exchanges occurred as Tenet was quizzed about the CIA's lack of knowledge of the September 11 attacks. Congress plans separate hearings on the subject later this year. "What went wrong?" asked Senator Richard Shelby, R-Ala.

Tenet said that the CIA had thwarted three or four attacks on US targets overseas last summer, and the agency had known "in broad terms" that bin Laden and his followers might attack targets within the United States. Tenet acknowledged, however, that the CIA had not known of the September 11 plot, which he said was held "in the heads of three or four people."

He rejected any suggestion that the CIA failed to do its job. "Failure means no focus, no attention, no discipline, and those were not present in what either we or the FBI did, here and around the world," Tenet said. He said the CIA has "a record of discipline, strategy, focus and action. We're proud of that record. We've been at war with al-Qaida for over five years."

When asked by Senator John Edwards, D-N.C., whether bin Laden is alive, Tenet answered, "I don't know, sir." He said he thought Taliban leader Mohammed Omar is alive.

Tenet also warned that despite the US military campaign in Afghanistan and more than 1,000 arrests of terrorist suspects in 60 countries, Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network remains a deadly threat to US interests, both at home and overseas.

Tenet has warned that the al-Qaida still remains a grave threat to America and called for a long battle to root out the ter-

rorist menace. Testifying before the Senate Intelligence Committee yesterday, CIA director George Tenet said the al-Qaida remains a serious threat, looking to strike "high profile" American targets, including the Olympics that open on Friday in Salt Lake City.

"We know that terrorists have considered attacks in the US against high-profile government or private facilities, famous landmarks and US infrastructure nodes such as airports, bridges, harbours and dams."

"High-profile events such as the Olympics or last weekend's superbowl also fit the terrorists' interests in striking another blow within the US that would command worldwide media attention," Tenet told the committee.

"Their modus operandi is to continue to have multiple attack plans in the works simultaneously and to have al-Qaida cells in place to conduct them," Tenet said.

The al-Qaida, he said, also has plans to strike US and allied targets in Europe, the West Asian, Africa and Southeast Asia, adding American diplomatic and military installations are at high risk, especially in east Africa, Israel, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

Admitting that network has not yet rooted-out as yet, Tenet said, "al-Qaida cells are in place

in major cities in Europe and the West Asia. It can also exploit its presence or connections to other groups in such countries as Somalia, Yemen, Indonesia and the Philippines."

Terrorist groups worldwide, said Tenet, have ready access to information on chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons via the internet, "and we know that al-Qaida was working to acquire some of the most dangerous chemical agents and toxins."

There is today a convergence of threats, he said adding the dangers exist not only in those places on which attention has been focused most but also in other areas that demand it.

This includes Somalia, where the absence of a national government has created a potential haven for groups like the al-Qaida, Indonesia, where political instability, separatist and ethnic tensions, and protracted violence are hampering economic recovery and fuelling Islamic extremism; Colombia where Left-

ist insurgents who make much of their money from drug trafficking are escalating assault on government and in places like Connecticut in the US where the death of a 94-year-old woman in her own home of anthrax poisoning "can arouse our worst fears about what our enemies might try to do to us"

He reiterated his belief that bin Laden was seeking to acquire or develop a nuclear device saying al-Qaida may be pursuing a radioactive dispersal device — what some call a "dirty bomb"

"We are also alert to the possibility of cyber warfare by the terrorists," said Tenet. September 11 demonstrated US dependence on critical infrastructure systems that rely on electronic and computer networks. Attacks of this nature will become an increasingly viable option for terrorists as they and other foreign adversaries become more familiar with these targets, and the technologies required to attack them.



GEORGE TENET

# Jaish leader key suspect in Pearl case

HEI 3/2  
Islamabad, February 6

JAISH-E-MOHAMMAD leader Sheikh Omar Sayeed, linked to the American Center attack in Kolkata, is now the key suspect in the kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl. Omar had been released by New Delhi with Masood Azhar and three other militant leaders during the Kandahar hijack trade-off.

The lead on his connection with Pearl's abduction emerged from the interrogation of three militants arrested in the case yesterday. The trio told police that the photograph of Pearl sent with the e-mails were given to them by Omar, English daily *Dawn* reported today from Karachi.

The three men — Fawad, Salman and an unidentified man — were reportedly working as intermediaries between Pearl and militant outfits. Pearl apparently interviewed members of militant groups through these men.

"We are very close to solving this case," Home Secretary of the Sind Government, Mukhtar Ahmed Shah, told reporters. It "could be today or tomorrow. In any case very soon."

Another newspaper, *The Nation*, reported that the kidnapping of Pearl might end "in a day or two" as the police have closed in on the abductors. Two prime suspects, who had sent the earlier two e-mails with Pearl's pictures, have been arrested by the joint Pak-US probe team and the computers and scanner used by them have been recovered.

In Islamabad, US deputy Treasury Secretary Kenneth Dam said Pakistan was investigating the January 23 abduction, which threatens to cloud President Musharraf's Washington visit.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

28 2002

LS (2)  
KD-9

# U.K. calls for Indo-Pak. talks

W  
7/2

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 6. The British Secretary of State for Defence, Geoff Hoon, today urged India and Pakistan to step back from the path of confrontation and engage in the process of dialogue to resolve their differences.

Mr. Hoon, who is here on a two-day official visit, told a news conference here that the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, deserves to be "congratulated for his courageous stand in tackling terrorism."

Mr. Hoon is here to hold talks with Pakistan on a wide range of issues with particular focus on military cooperation between the United Kingdom and Pakistan. He made a specific reference to the January 12 speech of Gen. Musharraf and hailed it as "courageous".

Earlier, he met Gen. Musharraf and discussed bilateral military cooperation. He expressed

satisfaction over the forthcoming meeting of the defence consultative group scheduled to be held in March in London.

An official statement said that at the meeting both the sides underlined the need for promotion of ties in the area of defence and discussed ways and means for furthering bilateral cooperation.

## 'Steps taken to stop terrorist funding'

NEW DELHI, FEB. 6. The Home Minister, L.K. Advani, today assured the U.S. that India was taking necessary steps to combat terrorist funding and money laundering.

This was conveyed by Mr. Advani to the U.S. Deputy Treasury Secretary, Kenneth Dam, during a 30-minute meeting here, officials said.— PTI

THE HINDU

1999

# US aid for India, Pak to combat

WASH (W) SF1  
Press Trust of India 4/9

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. — The Bush Administration has announced military assistance of \$ 50 million each to India and Pakistan for the war against terrorism.

It, however, pegged the overall development assistance to Islamabad at twice the amount of over \$151 million for New Delhi.

In the US President, Mr George W Bush's \$2.12-trillion budget for fiscal 2003 beginning October this year, India is now treated as a "frontline state" like Pakistan and Jordan, meaning it is allied with the USA in the war against terrorism, administration officials said.

India gets \$151 million under various heads apart from PL 480 programmes which are handled by the US agriculture department.

Pakistan gets \$304 million total assistance, twice that of India, presumably because of its economic condition and the expenditure it is incurring in providing base and other facilities to the USA. Under Foreign Military Financing, apart from the \$ 50 million for fighting terrorism, India also gets \$ 1 million for International Military Education and Training for the coming year against a similar amount in 2002 and \$ 498 million in 2001.

In the assistance for India, \$ 75 million has been set apart for development assistance, child survival and health programme and \$ 25 million from Economic Support Fund to promote energy efficiency, strengthening local governance, enhancing the openness of India's emerging market economy and improving disaster preparedness.

THE STATESMAN

18 2002



# US rewards new friends,

# India among main beneficiaries

# US rewards new friends, India among main beneficiaries

REUTERS  
WASHINGTON, FEBRUARY 5

**T**HE Bush administration asked Congress for a 5.9 percent increase in spending on diplomacy and foreign aid in 2003, with much of the increase devoted to rewarding governments that have supported President George W. Bush's war on terrorism, United States officials said on Monday.

The main beneficiaries will be Pakistan, India, Jordan and Oman, described by Joseph Bowab, director of resources, plans and policy at the State Department, as front-line states in the US campaign against its enemies.

Other portions of the increase will go to protect US embassies abroad and on global counter-terrorism programs designed to prevent future attacks on the country.

"The tragic events of September 11 changed the world. The conduct of the

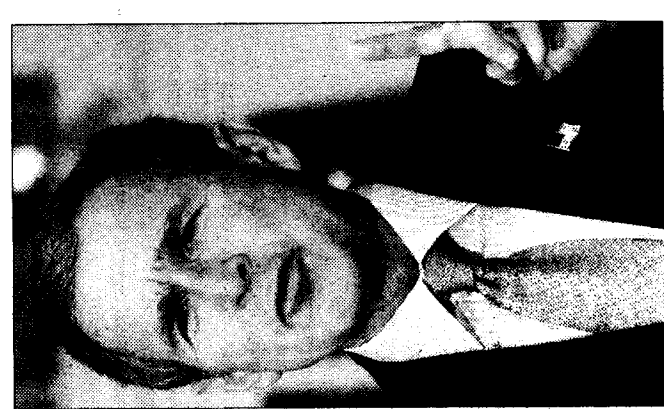
nation's foreign affairs has taken on a heightened sense of urgency," said Bowab.

The losers will be Russia, Eastern Europe and most of the countries of the former Soviet Union, which will see a decline of \$155 million in funds to support civil society and democracy.

Economic support funds for Africa and Latin America, areas which appear to be marginal to current US anxieties, also showed a marked decline. The total budget request for the State Department and international operations is \$25.4 billion, up from an estimated \$24.0 billion this fiscal year, which ends on September 30.

Pakistan, which received emergency aid of \$600 million this year for helping the US campaign in Afghanistan, would get \$200 million in economic aid and \$50 million in military aid, after \$9.5 million in economic aid in the original 2002 budget.

India, which offered to help the



## 'Bush, Blair nominated for Nobel'

REUTERS  
OSLO, FEBRUARY 5

US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair have been nominated for the 2002 Nobel Peace Prize, a member of Norway's Parliament said on Monday.

Harald Tom Nesvik, who represents the far-right Progress Party, told Norwegian news agency NTB that he had nominated both Bush and Blair for their work in fighting terrorism and promoting world peace after the Sept. 11 attacks. Neither Bush nor Blair is likely to win. Bishop Gunnar Stazskott, a member of the secretive five-member Nobel committee which elects the winner, has spoken out against the US-led and British-backed strikes on Afghanistan.

The Nobel committee said last week that many nominations were related to Sept. 11 and its aftermath. Among those tipped for the prize are former New York Mayor Rudolph Giuliani, praised for his role after the attacks. The Norwegian Nobel committee keeps nominations secret, but it is common for those who make nominations to make public the identities of their candidates. The Salvation Army has been nominated for this year's award, as it frequently has in the past, two Members of Parliament from the Christian People's Party told NTB. Former laureates, members of the Nobel committee, members of every national parliament and professors of politics are among those entitled to make nominations, before a February 1 deadline.

United States against the Taliban and al Qaeda and was dismayed at the revival of the US friendship with Pakistan, earned a smaller reward—a total of \$75 million in aid, compared with \$7 million in 2002.

Jordan would become the fourth largest recipient of US aid—after Israel, Egypt and Colombia—with a doubling of its allocation to \$448 million from \$225 million this year.

The administration wants to give Jordan \$198 million in the form of weapons, compared with \$75 million this year. Aid in the form of economic support funds would rise to \$250 million from \$150 million, the documents said.

"The money will be used to improve border controls targeting the flow of weapons, including weapons of mass destruction, and to support financial training, trade and investment and to strengthen educational opportunities," the White House Office of Management and Budget said.

Uzbekistan, Oman, Yemen, Morocco, Kyrgyzstan and the Philippines—countries with governments seen as sympathetic to the US campaign—are also selected for aid increases, though at much lower levels.

The Bush administration, which has already invested heavily in embassy security, plans to extend that program in 2003, spending \$1.3 billion on construction work and security upgrades, about \$30 million more than this year.

In other spending which responds to the September 11 attacks, the State Department would like a 19 percent increase in programs designed to prevent terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

Explaining the cuts in spending on countries in Eastern Europe, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State James Millette said the United States had always planned to phase out these programs and that Western Europe was making up the differences.

INDIAN EXPRESS

6 FEB 2002



# Bush rhetoric worries U.K.

5/2  
By Hasan Suroor WJW

LONDON, FEB. 4. The U.S. President, Mr. George W. Bush's remarks denouncing Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an "axis of evil" have raised concern here over Washington's plans for the so-called "phase II" of its war against terrorism, and prompted calls for a more a "robust" British approach to what is seen as American "sabre-rattling".

The British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, who was in America when Mr. Bush made the remarks in his State of the Union address last week, sneeringly dubbed them as electoral posturing ahead of Congressional elections, and here at home critics attacked American policy makers for indulging in "unnecessarily aggressive" rhetoric. "The 'axis of evil' is a memorable phrase, but not a coherent strategy," one leading commentator pointed out in *The Times* warning of the dangers of America's "war" mentality. There is a growing view that Britain should draw a line beyond which it would not be dragged into American plans, and should stop playing the "poodle".

Mr. Straw's assertion that the U.S. President's speech was "best understood by the fact that there are mid-term Congressional elections coming up in November" has provoked an angry reaction from his hosts. They described his statement as "inappropriate", and the row escalated at the weekend when Mr. Bush's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice retorted that "this is not about American politics, and I assume when the British Government speaks about foreign policy, it's not about British politics."

The British media has played up Mr. Straw's attempt to "mock" Mr. Bush's remarks, with one

40-12  
newspaper saying they amounted to accusing the U.S. President of "playing party politics with the war on terrorism". While there has been no official comment, Foreign Office sources have been quoted as saying that they are deeply concerned by what they see as hawkish posturing. There has been a particularly sharp reaction to Mr. Bush's denunciation of Iran whom Britain has been keen to cultivate as an ally in the current campaign against terrorism.

Observers recalled that within weeks of the start of the campaign, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair despatched Mr. Straw to Teheran as part of his diplomatic initiative to get the Muslim world's support for the anti-terror coalition. They fear that by clubbing Iran with Iraq and North Korea Washington risks weakening, even alienating, the moderates in Teheran who want to work with the West in fighting terrorism. "Privately British officials were dismayed by the decision to name Iran in the speech because some diplomatic progress has been made with the regime in Teheran," according to a report in *The Times*.

Mr. Straw himself made clear that he did not buy the Bush doctrine on Iran, and instead shared the more moderate assessment of the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell. At his press conference he said: "As far as I am concerned the relationship we have enables us to have very frank conversations with Iran. Overall our position about Iran is as Colin Powell expressed it yesterday: an appreciation for the role of the reformist Government...at the same time we are all concerned that parts of the Iranian authorities appear to be involved in supporting terrorist organisations."

THE INDU

7-4-00 1012

**Afghan war detenus  
grilled according  
to law, says U.S.**

GUANTANAMO BAY NAVAL BASE (CUBA): Detainees of the war on terrorism are being interrogated in a way that meets U.S. laws, with no drugs or torture involved, the general in charge of the detention mission has said.

"The questioning that goes on is within the bounds of normal legal procedures that are in effect within the U.S.," Brigadier General Mike Lehnert told reporters. "For example, there is no torture, whips, there are no bright lights, drugging. We are a nation of laws."

Journalists allowed to within about 30 meters of the detention area could see detainees on stretchers being carried from the wooden buildings, that are makeshift interrogation centers, to their open-air temporary cells at Camp X-Ray.

They appeared to be among the third of the 158 detainees here who U.S. officials say have war wounds inflicted before they were captured in Afghanistan, mainly gunshots to the legs and arms.

The U.S. has refused to identify the detainees, except to say that they come from 25 countries, as Brig. Gen. Lehnert confirmed on Saturday. Only a handful of countries have said the U.S. has informed them it is holding their nationals at this U.S. base on the eastern end of Cuba, among them Australia, France, Britain, Saudi Arabia, Sweden and Yemen. (AP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

- 4 FEB 2002

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2002

## BUSH'S NEW STRIDENCY

110-8 ✓

THE ARROGANCE THAT marked the latest Manichaeian pronouncement of the U.S. President, George W. Bush, alleging an "axis of evil" on the international stage has justifiably produced a backlash of adverse reactions. In his State of the Union address to the U.S. lawmakers on January 29, Mr. Bush categorically identified Iran, as also Iraq and North Korea, besides their "terrorist allies" as a functional anti-U.S. entity and as a collective "axis of evil" in the global arena. By raising this new political bogey in the specific context of the present U.S.-led international "campaign" against terrorism and by aggressively harping on such ideas at a Republican caucus on February 1, Mr. Bush has left little or no room for doubt about his real foreign policy intentions. The defining characteristic of the presumptive "axis of evil" is portrayed as a tendency on the part of its constituent states and non-state players to acquire weapons of mass destruction (WMDs). What is more, Mr. Bush has already begun articulating a policy designed to "prevent" such "outlaw regimes" and their "terrorist" cohorts from "threatening America" and its "friends and allies". It is in this climate of an impassioned American campaign against new phobias that some powers like China have joined the chorus of protest by the three countries named by Mr. Bush.

There is no reason to cavil at the universal consensus against terrorism on the international stage. Yet, the least that Mr. Bush should have done is to prove his accusations of a collusive nexus among Iran and Iraq, two Islamic countries, and North Korea, arguably a reclusive 'Stalinist' state, besides their alleged "terrorist" accomplices. The communicative compulsions of dancing to the tunes of evocative sound bytes cannot adequately explain Mr. Bush's failure to substantiate this theme during his internationally televised address. His denunciation of Iran, in particular, is a case that illustrates Washington's

urge to underline America's supposed pre-eminence as the only superpower in history with a universal jurisdiction. By provoking Iran at this sensitive stage in the global "campaign" against terror, Mr. Bush has inadvertently encouraged the protagonists of a prospective "clash of civilisations", a controversial thesis that underlines the religious divide.

Iran's Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has described the U.S. itself as "the greatest evil". Given Mr. Bush's objections to the suspected Iranian plans of acquiring WMDs, Ayatollah Khamenei is critical of America's archetypal "sales of lethal weapons" to Israel and others. However, it has been left to Iran's President, Mohammad Khatami, to reaffirm Teheran's sustainable advocacy of a "dialogue among civilisations" as the cultured answer to the "insults" that Mr. Bush has now heaped upon the Iranian people. While Iraq and North Korea tend to see America's new gameplan as an extension of its characteristic policy of "hegemony", China is aghast at the ridiculous terminology of America's new thinking and its unexplained logical basis. In a macro-perspective, it appears that Mr. Bush has chosen to raise this new spectre so as to promote his pet theme of a space-age missile defence system for America and its allies. This may, in part, explain why he clubbed two Islamic states with a religion-neutral country. At the micro-level, though, the U.S. President has obviously counted on his country's several different disputes with Iran, Iraq and North Korea over time. As for Teheran specifically, its defiant view of America's expanding strategic-military presence in Iran's neighbourhood at this juncture may have weighed with Mr. Bush. In the event, the dynamics of an emerging Iran-U.S. tussle will determine his actions against the "axis". Clearly at this point there is no cause for the international community to support American efforts to widen the campaign beyond Afghanistan.

THE HINDU

4 110 79



# U.S. will not bow to kidnappers' demands: Powell

Times News Network  
and Agencies

WASHINGTON/NEW DELHI: The U.S. on Friday ruled out any negotiations to secure the release of *The Wall Street Journal's* Mumbai-based South Asia bureau chief Daniel Pearl and demanded his unconditional release by his captors in Pakistan.

At the same time, Pakistan foreign minister Abdus Sattar, who is on an official tour of Germany, tried to implicate India in the crisis, claiming in Berlin that one of Mr Pearl's kidnappers was in touch with top Indian officials.

However, India dismissed his claim. "Let them come up with the names. This is a great charade they are playing," external affairs ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao

said in New Delhi. She added that neither Pakistan nor the U.S. was in touch with India on the issue.

U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell said that the conditions set for Mr Pearl's release "are not demands that we can meet or deal with or get into a negotiation about".

A previously unknown group, calling itself the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping of the journalist on January 23 and threatened to kill him if its demands were not met by Friday.

Mr Powell said the U.S. was doing everything it could to locate the reporter and rescue him.

The Pakistani foreign minister, Mr Sattar, said his information about an Indian connection was based on the records of a cell phone used by the lead kidnapper, whom he identified as Mubarak Shah. The records were obtained by the Pakistani police, he said.

The exact connection to India was unclear, Mr Sattar said. "I want to be careful, we are not alleging that this person was working in complicity with somebody in India, but this fact I think should be known," Mr Sattar said.

"Our police authorities were able to obtain a copy of the bill of the mobile telephone that was

used by the person alleged to be the kidnapper—I myself saw the information that was gleaned from that bill—that Mubarak Shah had made a number of foreign calls," Mr Sattar added. "Included among the numbers that he called in India were those of persons who occupied certain important positions in the Indian government." Pressed for details on the officials' identities, he refused to elaborate.

So far, the U.S. media does not appear to be taking Pakistan's allegations of an Indian link in Mr Pearl's kidnapping very seriously. A report in the *Washington Post* said both Pakistan and U.S. law enforcement officers familiar with the investigation had dismissed the allegations of an Indian link as political posturing.



Daniel Pearl

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 FEB 2002

# Bush again warns 'evil axis' trio

S Rajagopalan  
Washington, February 1

DISREGARDING INTERNATIONAL concerns, President Bush has repeated his warnings to Iraq, Iran and North Korea, telling them to "get their house in order" or face the consequences.

Bush's renewed broadsides came on a day when North Korea called him a "moral leper" for branding it an "axis of evil" along with Iraq and Iran. Pyongyang, in its delayed public reaction, viewed Bush's pronouncement as a virtual declaration of war.

On Thursday, Bush did not take recourse to the "axis of evil" expression or name the three countries, but said that nations developing weapons of mass destruction, sponsoring terrorism or teaming up with terrorist groups would be on the US's "watch list".

"People say, 'well what does that mean?'. It means they better get their house in order. It means they better respect the rule of law. It means they better not try to terrorise America and our friends and allies, or the justice of this nation will be served on them as well."

The only pause in Bush's harsh rhetoric was when he expressed the hope that "nations make the right choice". Said Bush: "Many nations are realising (that) when we say you're either with us or against us, we mean it. There's no middle ground when it comes to freedom

## US AERIAL SURVEY ALLEGED

NORTH KOREA on Friday claimed that the United States had carried out intensive aerial reconnaissance over the communist State and air drills in preparation for attacks.

"After pinpointing us as the next target for attacks, the United States conducted aerial reconnaissance and aerial war exercises aimed at us with a view to invading us at a time of its own choice," North Korea's central broadcasting station said.

AFP, Seoul

and terror." While Bush held forth at Atlanta, his top officials here sought to justify the verbal offensive. National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice said the three named countries had "a choice to make — to abandon the course they now pursue".

To those surprised at Bush's lumping North Korea with Iraq and Iran, and in apparent response to the Stalinist nation's stinging reaction, Rice said that Pyongyang now happened to be the world's No. 1 merchant for ballistic missiles. It is ready to do business with anyone, "no matter how maligned the buyer's intention".

Though the US had offered a road map for reciprocal measures for a better course, North Korea had not come up with any worthwhile response, she said.

Bush's comments have worried South Korea, which fears a setback to the bid for rapprochement with North Korea.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

2 FEB 2002



# War and its pieces

Bush sights the world beyond Kabul. First a few questions

FOR a man who had pledged to patiently accumulate successes in his country's war against terror, US President George Bush has switched gear rather rapidly. Tuesday's State of the Union address provides a sharp contrast to the speeches aired since the September 11 attacks. Bush has charted out the next phase of the war — which he says has only just begun. Now that B-2s have installed Hamid Karzai in Kabul, his attention has shifted, and Iraq, Iran and North Korea have been put on notice. The American President has redesignated these three countries, thus far only condemned as rogue regimes, as "the axis of evil". It is perhaps par for the course for him that the first gasps he has elicited are over semantics. If his post-WTC declaration of a "crusade" against terror led to a quick change in phraseology, the use of the word axis has prompted queries, whether he seeks to summon memories of World War II and the Nazi threat. It is a small matter, sorting out misunderstandings over his creative use of the English language comes easy to George W.

However, keeping together the international coalition against terrorism may now prove to be rather more tricky for the US. Its European and other key allies — bar Britain which remains America's delayed echo — fear that the 48-minute speech affirms Washington's unilateral bent. Now that they have been enrolled in Operation Afghanistan, they are bound to go through the address with a microscope to find the exact implications of Bush's warning that if nations do not act against terrorism, "America will". More specifi-

cally, the repercussions of announcing this three-nation axis are varied. Governments around the world, India's and Britain's among them, have for long been engaging Iran. Its government has played a constructive role in toppling the Taliban and urging caution to ambitious pro-Iran warlords. Hopes have been voiced that moderates in the country are gathering strength. Bush's rhetoric could revert Iran to isolationism. The strident warning to North Korea, the abrupt end to Clinton's policy of engaging Pyongyang, has already resulted in worried utterances from officials in South Korea, Japan and China, all of them focussed on the destabilising potential of an American operation against the Hermit Kingdom. It is interesting that Bush will visit these three East Asian countries in coming weeks. Lastly, the consensus on action against Iraq is considerably stronger, at least within the US. But countries like Turkey, anxious about the implications for their restive Kurdish population, are bound to be insistent that they be consulted before any operation is finalised. America's friends and allies will certainly be queuing up for clarifications.

On the other hand, India could extract some comfort from the nuances in the address. Bush's insistence that countries act against terrorism — along with a reiteration of the threat posed by groups like the Jaish-e-Mohammed — could be construed as a commitment to lean upon Pakistan to annihilate the terrorist network on its soil. So, it's a heavy burden the US president carries now: he must reassure an uneasy international community, while being seen to act upon his words.

INDIAN EXPRESS

1 FEB 2002

# White House pipes down on 'axis of evil'

S Rajagopalan  
Washington, January 31

A DAY after President George W Bush put the "axis of evil" (Iraq, Iran and North Korea) on notice, the White House has sought to lower tensions by signalling that the US is not contemplating immediate military action against the three countries.

The clarification follows apprehensions voiced by some US allies and friends that Bush's threat and possible action could damage the international coalition against terrorism.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Bush's recourse to the "axis of evil" phrase was "more rhetorical than historical". The description was not intended to draw a parallel with the axis powers of World War II (Germany, Italy and Japan).

The State Department, doing its bit of damage control, said the US continued to be ready for unconditional talks with Iran and North Korea.

But spokesman Richard Boucher had a hard time explaining how the offer would square with Bush's harsh language against those countries.

Fleischer said Bush was "not sending a signal that military action is imminent" against the three countries. He defended the President's tough talk, saying it was an expression of how seriously the President took his job of protecting the country.

Singling out Iraq, Iran and North Korea in his State of the Union address, Bush had said: "States like these, and their terrorist allies, constitute an axis

of evil, arming to threaten the peace of the world...I will not stand by, as peril draws closer and closer. The US will not permit the world's most dangerous

regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons."

The three nations have for long been on the US's list of State sponsors of terrorism, analysts say the categorisation is connected more with their pursuit of weapons of mass destruction.

In the case of North Korea, the Clinton administration initiated talks and the then Secretary of State Madeleine Albright even undertook a visit to Pyongyang. But there has been no forward movement in the discussions over North Korea's missiles programme.

"We have said that there are serious issues to discuss with North Korea, that we're ready to sit down and discuss those issues at anytime, anyplace...We're prepared to discuss issues with other governments, including Iran," Boucher said.

In contrast to the moderation of tone by the White House and the State Department, Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld kept up the offensive, saying the US would keep a close watch on Iraq, Iran and North Korea.

Iran may have made some initial offers to help in the war on terrorism, but the fact is it has been sending terrorists to threaten Israel, he said.

**China blasts Bush:** China today condemned President Bush's usage of the term 'axis of evil' to describe Iraq, Iran and North Korea, but welcomed his resolve to step-up cooperation with Beijing to maintain regional and world peace and stability, agencies add from Beijing.

"(The) China side does not favour the use of such terms in international relations," the Chinese foreign ministry spokesman told reporters.



An Iranian passes by a mural showing the US Statue of Liberty with a skull on the wall of the former US embassy in Teheran.

AFP PHOTO

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1 FEB 2002

## US AND THEM

The United States of America has been transformed by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. So has the US president, Mr George W. Bush, if his first state-of-the-union speech is good evidence. Mr Bush entered office in January 2001 as probably the least foreign policy oriented US president in recent history. Not only did his electoral campaign focus primarily on domestic issues, but he had also displayed little knowledge and even lesser interest in international affairs. Recall that Mr Bush could not even identify Mr Pervez Musharraf during the campaign. Consider now the transformation. Much of his state-of-the-union address focussed on US foreign policy and the global war on terrorism. There was no sign of the old Mr Bush who had almost acquired the reputation of being an isolationist. Instead, the US president confirmed that there would be a continuation of the new phase of internationalism that has been in evidence in US foreign policy since the terrorist attacks. The main focus of US policy will be terrorists and rogue regimes which threaten US interests. But Mr Bush's address deserves particular attention for two other reasons.

It is clear that Washington is going to continue the war against terrorism beyond Afghanistan. Already, as the president indicated, "America is acting elsewhere." In the Philippines, the US troops are helping to train the country's anti-terrorist cells. American soldiers are working with the Bosnian government to seize terrorists who were plotting to bomb various embassies. And the US navy is patrolling the coast of Africa to block the shipment of weapons to terrorists in Somalia. What will particularly reassure New Delhi is the identification of Jaish-e-Mohammad, with Hamas, Hizbollah and Islamic Jihad as the terrorist groups that the US is determined to fight. What the president also confirmed was that while terrorist organizations may be spread all over the world, Afghanistan, for most of the past decade, has been the principal training ground. Also, the president revealed that there will be a huge rise in US defence spending, the largest increase in two decades. Not only will the new challenge of terrorism be addressed, but traditional threats from countries like North Korea, Iran and Iraq will also be confronted. There will also be no let-up in the construction of a ballistic missile defence system.

Mr Bush obviously feels that Mr Musharraf continues to be the best bet for Washington in Pakistan and will do nothing to undermine his regime. India can take some comfort from the fact that it was bracketed with Russia and China as countries with which the US is working in unprecedented ways to "achieve peace and prosperity" and particularly because a "common danger", according to the president, is erasing old rivalries. Mr Bush spent the latter half of his address indicating measures that he is going to take to lead the US out of the economic recession. But much of what he said on the economy was small print compared to the huge focus on the war against terrorism. Indeed, Mr Bush, in his new incarnation, may prove to be more internationalist than his predecessors.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 JAN 2002

THURSDAY, JANUARY 31, 2002

## RAISING THE 'ANTI-TERROR' STAKES

BUOYED BY SUCCESS of the kind achieved in Afghanistan in the ongoing "campaign" against international terrorism, the United States President, George W. Bush, has now propelled himself along a more ambitious course. Without adequately defining the character of the U.S. military "campaign" within the confines of Afghanistan but seeing that as the first phase of the present "war against terror", Mr. Bush seems set to take off on a more hazardous trajectory. The expeditionary goal now, according to him, is to "prevent regimes that sponsor terrorism from threatening America or our friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction (WMDs)". Illustrative of his emboldened adventurism of an arguably moral kind is a warning that he has delivered during his latest State of the Union address to the U.S. lawmakers. "Some of these regimes" that sponsor anti-U.S. terror "have been (sitting) pretty quiet since September the 11th" when high-profile targets in America came under terrorist strikes. "But we know their true nature," Mr. Bush said, identifying them as the regimes in North Korea and Iran as also Iraq. Without naming the "dozen countries" where terrorist-training "camps still exist", he has also raised the disturbing spectre of "an axis of evil" in operation — a loaded 'moral' phrase. His message is that America will rally its forces as also those of other willing state-partners to wage a qualitatively new war under the rubric of an anti-terror mission. It requires no incisive analysis to recognise that any such self-righteous political zeal is fraught with unpredictable consequences for the global order.

On Mr. Bush's horizon, the "axis of evil" consists of states such as Iran as also Iraq and North Korea plus "their terrorist allies". A "terrorist underworld" has also come into being in this overall matrix which includes Hamas, Hizbollah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-Mohammad (JeM) and others. Of these, the Pakistan-based JeM has

been banned recently by the country's President, Pervez Musharraf, in the context of last month's terrorist attack on India's Parliament House. With America having played a critical role behind the scenes in respect of the JeM's newly determined status as a purveyor of terror, Mr. Bush is deeply appreciative that "Pakistan is now cracking down on terror". At one level, his "admiration" for Gen. Musharraf's "strong leadership" in Pakistan may reflect Washington's desire to keep as many rulers in the Islamic universe on America's side as possible. The same factor accounts for Mr. Bush's plans to improve the social indices of the Islamic bloc. The U.S. Peace Corps, which will now be revitalised, is cited as a player while an American Freedom Corps is proposed to be created too. However, any precipitous step by the U.S. against the suspected state-sponsors of terror may engulf the entire world, not just the Muslim segment of it, in turmoil. There is no place in the anti-terror agenda for conventional foreign policy objectives.

The voice that Mr. Bush raises against the alleged fabricators of WMDs — Iran, Iraq and North Korea — is being projected as a logical crescendo of the anti-terror "campaign" itself. North Korea is the only non-Muslim state in the specific list of "outlaw regimes" as seen from the White House. For some preventive diplomacy in this situation, Mr. Bush holds out the promise of futurist missile defences as the protective umbrella for America and its allies. On another plane, he says "America is (already) working with Russia and China and India" to "achieve (global) peace and prosperity" in the overall context of his vision of a "world beyond the (current) war on terror". To avoid or manage the inevitable seismic changes in the global order in this context, America should not see itself as the sole power of a stratosphere. Washington must, instead, consult these and other states that can reshape the world.

THE HINDU

31 JAN 2002

# War on terror has just begun: Bush

WSJ 5-1-02 3/11

## Desikan Thirunayanapuram in Washington

Jan. 30 — US President Mr George W. Bush said yesterday America's war on terrorism was "just beginning," and suggested it could soon be expanded to other parts of the world.

In his first State of the Union address before Congress, Mr Bush used strong words to warn terrorist groups and especially Iraq, Iran and North Korea - whom he called "an axis of evil," drawing a parallel to USA's World War II foes.

"America will not permit the world's most dangerous regimes to threaten us with the world's most destructive weapons," he said, noting Iraq's Saddam Hussein regime has been developing biological weapons for long.

With Afghan interim leader Hamid Karzai and two of his Cabinet colleagues in the audience, the President said America can intelligence now believe thousands of potential terrorists have been trained by the Al Qaida in Afghanistan since 1996 and "are now spread throughout the world like ticking time bombs - set to go off without warning."

First the first time, Mr Bush revealed that in digging through Al Qaida's hideouts, "we have found diagrams of American nuclear power plants and public water facilities," along with instructions for manufacturing chemical weapons and maps of major American cities and their landmarks.

In expanding America's immediate defensive goals, he said he would soon deal with countries that manufacture the nuclear and biological weapons that terrorists covet.

Referring to Iraq, Iran and North Korea he said, "states like these and their terrorist allies constitute an axis of evil."

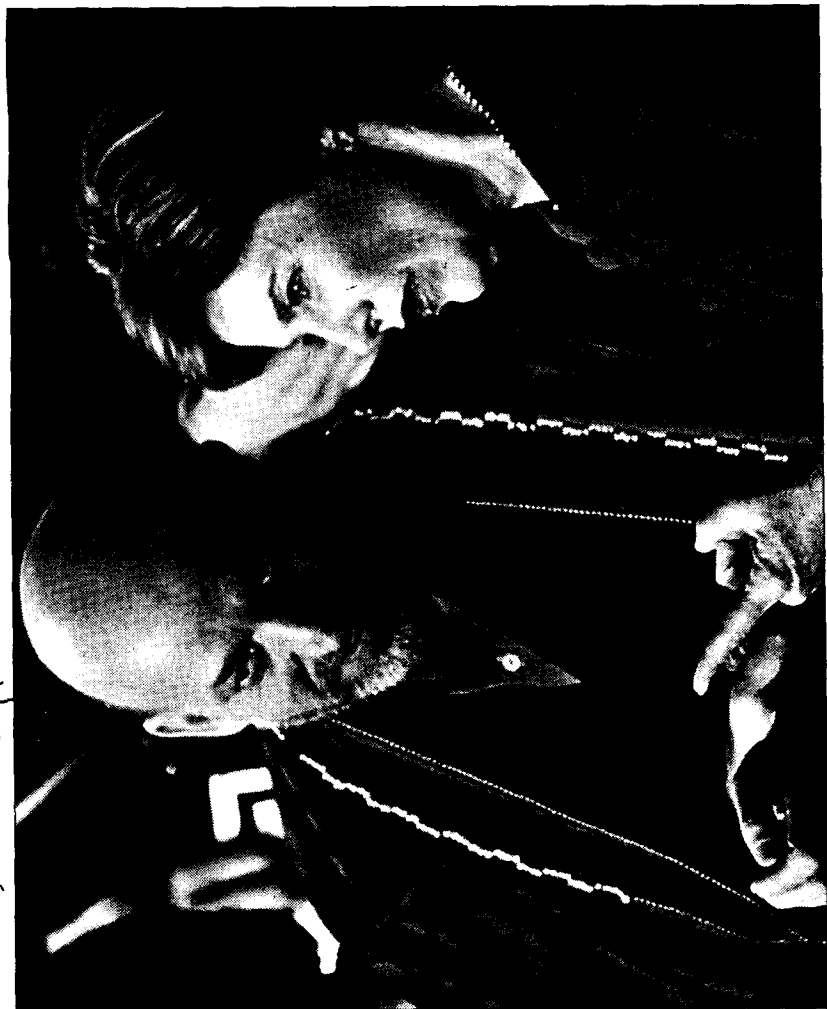
In the only reference to terrorism in the subcontinent, he said, "Our military has put the terrorist training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist under- world, including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-

Mohammed, operates in remote jungles and deserts, and hides in large cities."

On the domestic front, the Republican leader pressed the Congress to approve increase in defence spending, make tax cuts permanent, and stressed the country was on its way out of recession.

This, is Mr Bush's second speech before Congress since he became President. Soon after the WTC attacks he spoke before the chambers outlining US plans to fight terrorism.

Yesterday's address was attended by a few heroes of 11 September and after, including two flight attendants who overpowered shoe-bomb suspect Richard Reid and the widow of a CIA officer killed in Afghanistan.



US First Lady Mrs Laura Bush talks to head of interim Afghan government Mr Hamid Karzai during Mr Bush's State of the Union Address at Capitol Hill on Wednesday. - AP/PTI

## No bearhugs... only polite handshakes

Reuters

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. — This time there were no bearhugs, no emotional embraces, none of the heightened anxiety and drama that had marked President Mr George W. Bush's first appearance before the Congress on the heels of the WTC attacks.

For Mr Bush's first official State of the Union address last night, polite handshakes and respectful scepticism replaced the surge of emotional and bipartisan solidarity that had enveloped 20 September. Speaking to a packed House of Representatives chamber in a heavily fortified US Capitol, the President won rousing cheers from both parties for his orchestration of the war on terrorism but faced deep doubts among many Democrats about his domestic priorities and the budget's return to deficit spending.

With an election looming in November, most Democrats sat stonily while Republicans roared for their leader's comments on tax cuts and an economic stimulus package that has divided Republicans and Democrats for months.

While Mr Bush and Senate Democratic Leader Mr Tom Daschle hugged emotionally after Bush's speech in September, yesterday they simply managed a polite handshake.

Democrats expressed surprise at the President's spending initiatives and emphasis on what they said were traditional Democratic issues such as health care, welfare and jobs. "I've never seen so many Republicans stand and applaud for spending," jabbed Democrat Ms Patty Murray, leader of the Democratic Senate campaign committee.

## Iran, Iraq, North Korea reject threat

Agencies

TEHRAN/BAGHDAD/SEOUL/GAZA CITY/DAMASCUS/MANILA, Jan. 30. — Mr George W. Bush's singling out Iran, Iraq and North Korea as "an axis of evil," angered the trio who had their points to make against the US President.

Iran reacted sharply by vehemently rejecting the US charges that Tehran is involved in international terrorism. "We consider the accusations of Mr Bush to be an interference in its internal affairs,"

Iranian foreign minister Mr Kamal Kharazi said.

Reacting to the US charges, Iraq today alleged Mr Bush of practising state terrorism. "The USA is the only country in the world, along with the Zionist entity, to practise state terrorism against people and governments that do not surrender to US wishes, under the pretext of fighting the sources of terrorism," said an Iraqi official.

North Korea today angrily called for the withdrawal of the US troops from South Korea. The ruling party's Rodong-

Simnun newspaper said the "loudmouthed" US warnings over the North Korea threat were to justify the presence of US troops in South Korea and "persistently pursue the policy of aggression" against the North.

Rejecting Mr Bush's threat against it, Hamas today promised to continue its struggle against Israel. Sharing the same stand with Hamas, an Islamic Jehadi leader said from Damascus: "The USA does not have the right to accuse (us) of terrorism while it is carrying out the same every day throughout the world in committing murder and destruction and by economic pillaging."

In Manila, Philippine officials chafed today at being lumped together with renegade states like North Korea and Iraq in the US President's address.

Spokesman Mr Rigoberto Tiglao said: "We are not the Taliban Afghanistan. We are totally different from Iraq and North Korea and President Bush's statement was obviously in response to nations that have been doing nothing against terrorism."

# Bush, Karzai sign joint pact

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Jan. 29. — The USA and Afghanistan have signed a joint statement underlining the “new partnership” between the two countries and asserted that both Kabul and Washington “stand united in determination that Afghanistan will never again become a training ground for global terror”.

Promising consistent help to Afghanistan, the USA also pledged another \$50 million towards reconstruction of the war-ravaged country and assured that Washington will help Kabul develop its own military as quickly as possible.

“We are equally determined,” said the joint statement signed by US President Mr George W Bush and Afghan interim Prime Minister Mr Hamid Karzai, “that Afghanistan’s tragic experience, where terrorists were allowed to hold an entire nation hostage, will not be repeated or replicated anywhere in the world.”

The two leaders expressed their commitment to build “a lasting partnership for the 21st century, determined to fight terrorism and ensure security, stability and reconstruction for Afghanistan, and foster representative and accountable govern-

ment for all Afghan men and women.” They pledged their respect for the culture and traditions of the different peoples of Afghanistan and for the great religion of Islam, tragically distorted

## ‘Flag of martyrs’

KABUL, Jan. 29. — The national flag of Afghanistan was raised in Kabul for the first time today, with border affairs minister Mr Amanullah Zardran, describing it as the “flag of martyrs” and calling for national unity. About 100 officials attended the special ceremony which included prayers and the sacrifice of a sheep for the future prosperity of the country. — AFP

ted and misused by the erstwhile Taliban regime.

The statement also reaffirmed their commitment to work together to root out the remnants of the Taliban and Osama bin Laden’s Al-Qaida network.

Among other things, the joint statement envisages the printing and distribution of ten million textbooks in Dari and Pashtu, focussed on maths, reading and science, in time for the official start

of the Afghan school year in March. Basic training will be provided to 4,000 teachers, at least half of whom will be women.

Recognizing that the Taliban destroyed several of Afghanistan’s great historic statues and cultural sites, the two countries also agreed to work together to help restore and preserve the country’s heritage. “The USA will continue to be a friend to the Afghan people,” Mr Bush said. The USA has already pledged \$297 million to Afghanistan.

“Afghanistan must as quickly as possible develop her own military and we will help train it and General Tommy Franks (Commander-in-Chief, Central Command) is fully committed to this idea,” Mr Bush said.

Mr Karzai, the first Afghan head of state to visit USA after King Zahir Shah’s visit in 1963, thanked USA for helping to oust the Taliban from Afghanistan and assured Mr Bush that he will not allow terrorism to return to the country.

“Afghanistan is a good partner. It will stay a good partner,” Mr Karzai said.

The USA, which is not part of the UN sanctioned peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan, said it will help the multilateral forces if they face any trouble.

THE STATESMAN

30 JAN 2002

# U.S. faces a dilemma over PoW status to Taliban, Al Qaida captives

By T.V. Parasuram and Dharam Shourie

WASHINGTON: Differences at the top level in the U.S. administration have come to the fore once again with Vice President Dick Cheney and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld rejecting Secretary of State Colin Powell's view that captured Al Qaida and Taliban prisoners being held in Afghanistan and a Cuban base be treated as prisoners of war (PoWs) under the Geneva Convention.

Appearing on CNN on Sunday night, Mr Cheney said the Al Qaida captives detained in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay in Cuba would not get the status of PoWs irrespective of the decision that the administration might take on the request of Mr Powell to review how the Geneva Convention could apply to them.

Mr Cheney suggested that the State Department's view that the captives should be treated within the confines of the Geneva Convention would be rejected.

"There is a category under the Geneva Convention for unlawful combatants, and one argument, the State Department's argument, is

they ought to be treated within the Geneva Convention. The other argument," he continued, "is the Geneva Convention doesn't apply in the case of terrorism, and that leads you down a different track from a legal standpoint."

Mr Cheney said, "The ultimate result is they will be treated humanely, but they are not going to be accorded the treatment you would accord, for example, to the Iraqis that we captured in the Gulf War who were treated as PoWs."

*The New York Times* said Mr Powell agreed that the captives should not be given prisoner of war status but wanted the administration to reconsider whether to adhere to the Geneva Convention governing treatment of prisoners in wartime. But in the television interview, Mr Cheney rejected application of Geneva Convention to them, saying it did not apply as they were not conventional soldiers but terrorists operating outside internationally accepted norms.

The question, he said, was whether the prisoners should be treated within the confines of the convention or outside it. He preferred the latter course because it

would allow flexibility in interrogation. "There's another school of thought that says the Geneva Convention does not apply to terrorist attacks. It was set up to deal with a war between sovereign states. It's got provisions for dealing with civil war. But in a case where you have non-state actors out to kill civilians, then there's a serious question whether or not the Geneva Convention even applies," Mr Cheney said.

"The detainees are being treated humanely. These are the worst of a very bad lot. They are very dangerous. They are devoted to killing millions of Americans, innocent Americans, if they can, and they are perfectly prepared to die in the effort," he said.

Mr Rumsfeld, who visited the Cuban camp on Sunday, said these prisoners were not combatants of an army in uniform. They were unlawful combatants and terrorists and hence they were detainees. As many as 158 prisoners are being held in Guantanamo. The issue of application of the Geneva Convention has arisen following sharp criticism by human rights groups about the treatment of the captives. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

29 JAN 2002

## Bush, Powell differ on Al-Qaeda 'prisoners'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 26 In what would be the first signs of open dissent within the Bush Cabinet, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, is apparently asking the President, George W. Bush, to reverse his earlier decision and have the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban "detainees" as prisoners of war.

*The Washington Times*, based on a four page internal White House memorandum, has reported that Gen. Powell has made the specific request and the National Security Council will be meeting on Monday morning to discuss the subject.

"The Secretary of State requested that you consider that decision", White House Counsel, Alberto Gonzales, has written in a memo to Mr. Bush. "Specifically he (meaning Gen. Powell) has asked that you conclude that GPW (the Geneva Convention II on the Treatment of Prisoners of War) does apply to both Al-Qaeda and Taliban", Mr. Gonzales has said.

"I understand however that he (Gen. Po-

well) would agree that Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters could be determined not to be prisoners of war (POWs) but only on a case-by-case basis following additional hearings before a military board", Mr. Gonzales had said.

The issue of the classification along with the treatment of Al-Qaeda and Taliban "detainees" at Guantanamo Bay facility in Cuba has become a bone of contention between the United States and some of its key allies in the "coalition". The Bush administration not only insists on calling those brought to the facility as "detainees" but adamantly maintains that their treatment is humane and meets any standard.

The President, on January 18, had decided that the members of the Al-Qaeda and Taliban, who were captured by American and Northern Alliance forces, would be called "detainees". Now, Gen. Powell, perhaps in an effort to soothe ruffled feathers overseas, is calling for a reversal of this determination. But most members of the National Security Council and the White

House Council are opposed to any sort of going back on the subject.

The memorandum from Mr. Gonzales comes with a cover sheet from the National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, marked to the Vice-President, the Secretary of State, the Defence Secretary, the Attorney-General, the Head of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff asking them to have a position ready by Saturday morning so that a final memorandum could be presented to the President.

Several senior members of the Bush Cabinet, particularly the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, are extremely wary of designating Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters as POWs as that would open up a whole new set of parameters going over and beyond that of better sleeping quarters and canteen facilities. For instance, it is being pointed out that the Federal Bureau of Investigation will not have unlimited access for interrogation under the Geneva Convention.

THE HINDU

27 JAN 2002



## Situation along LoC is dangerous, says Blackwill

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: U.S. ambassador Robert D. Blackwill said the situation between India and Pakistan, including along the Line of Control, continued to be dangerous.

He said Secretary of State Colin Powell's recent visit to India and Pakistan has lowered the temperature at least to some degree. He qualified this by saying Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's historical speech and India's response to it both of which also helped lower the tensions.

Asked about his assessment of the situation during his recent visit to Kashmir, he said, "It is worrisome when you have two armies next to one another fully forward and deployed and ready. One worries about a spark setting it (war) off."

Talking about cross-border terrorism Mr Blackwill said it would take some time before any conclusive judgment can be made. He lauded steps taken General Musharraf and said they were now in the implemen-

tation stage. The U.S. ambassador said, "This isn't going to be done instantly. It took more than a decade to build the terrorist infrastructure and culture, and it is not going to disappear overnight."

Mr Blackwill said Gen Musharraf was moving down that road in the interest of his country and that terrorism would not emanate from Pakistan or the territory controlled by Pakistan.

Saying the U.S. was now in South Asia for a prolonged engagement, Mr Blackwill identified three reasons for it: the desire to engage with India, equities in Pakistan where, Gen Musharraf has made a historic speech, and third, the U.S. commitment to Afghanistan.

Mr Blackwill said the U.S. military presence in the region would remain as long as it is necessary to destroy the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban but not longer.

On Enron, Mr Blackwill said the US had done what it routinely did, to help U.S. companies based outside.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

25 JAN 2002

# Cuba transfers on hold, question time begins

## AGENCIES

GUANTANAMO BAY/ALEXANDRIA  
(VIRGINIA), JANUARY 24

96-7 251  
**A**S JOHN Walker Lindh returned to US soil to face conspiracy charges, the Pentagon on Wednesday abruptly suspended all future transfers of Al Qaeda suspects from Afghanistan to the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba, saying US intelligence officials need more time to prepare for interrogations.

US investigators started interrogating the 158 Afghan war detainees at this remote US outpost on Wednesday.

Lindh, the captured Al Qaeda fighter charged with conspiring to kill Americans in the war in Afghanistan, on Thursday was ordered held without bond after being presented to a federal court. Dressed in a green prisoner jumpsuit, his hair closely cut and beard shaved, Walker said quietly, "I understand," when the four charges against him were read at the US District Court in Alexandria, Virginia.

In Washington, President George W. Bush brushed aside the international outcry over treatment of the detainees, telling



legislators they "should be proud" of the US treatment of terrorist suspects.

Military officials in Guantanamo said the detainees were not allowed lawyers as officers from several US civilian and military agencies questioned them on subjects including training of terrorists. The interrogations are taking place in a tent set up at Camp X-ray, the hastily built detention center fortified by three rows of fences topped by coils of razor wire and watchtowers and patrolled by attack dogs.

Members of the International Committee of the Red Cross plan to monitor the interrogations, representative Darcy Christen said from Geneva, but he was not sure how that would be done.

The last flight, on Tuesday, raised the detainees' number to 158. Because Guantanamo officials won't identify inmates by

**Chinese President Jiang Zemin complimented Afghan leader Hamid Karzai on Thursday on his wardrobe. "I heard your costume has taken the lead in world fashion," Xinhua news agency quoted Jiang as telling Karzai. The Afghan leader met Jiang decked out, as usual, in his striped Uzbek robe and cap. Reuters**

nationality, they have refused to say whether a flight last week carried six Algerian terrorist suspects arrested by Bosnian authorities and turned over to the US, as US military in Kandahar had reported.

The Red Cross and several European countries demanded this week the detainees be recognised as prisoners of war (PoW). Under the Geneva Conventions, POWs must be tried under the same procedures as US soldiers, by court-martial or civilian court, not through military commissions as the US has proposed.

Lindh, who flew to America aboard a military cargo plane amid high secrecy and tight security, returned home roughly two years after he left for Yemen to study Arabic and Islam. He was captured in Afghanistan after a November uprising by Taliban prisoners in which a CIA officer was killed.

The FBI alleges in court papers Lindh in June became a foot soldier for Osama bin Laden, who thanked him for "taking part in jihad". The FBI claims Lindh learned within weeks of joining bin Laden about suicide teams being sent to the US. The allegations are largely based on statements Lindh made to investigators during two days of interviews in December.

INDIAN EXPRESS

25 JAN 2002

# USA suspends POWs' flight to Cuba base

Agencies

## Relief reaches

### Congo

GOMA, Jan. 23. — Thousands of people ran cheering into Goma's Unity Stadium Wednesday to collect the first food aid delivered to the devastated city since a volcano erupted last week, pouring lava through the middle of town.

The UN World Food Program, assisted by other aid agencies, distributed 22.5 tons of food, enough to feed 70,000 people for a week, said agency spokeswoman Ms Laura Melo.

Vulcanologists said the only danger that remained was from eruption-related earthquakes.

— AP

Walker Lindh was being flown to Washington to face trial.

The 20-year-old American member of the Taliban, hailing from California, left Afghanistan on a military cargo jet yesterday and was expected to land at Dulles international airport later today. Walker was expected to be escorted to a detention centre by US marshals.

Civil rights groups and some foreign lawmakers have criticised the treatment of shackled detainees on flights to Guantanamo Bay and at the base as well as the USA's refusal to designate them as prisoners of war under the Geneva Convention.

Mr Rumsfeld had defended

the treatment of the captives as humane, though the captives — considered extremely dangerous — were shackled and masked in transit from Afghanistan to Cuba.

Steve Lucas, a spokesman for the Southern Command, said today that questioning of the captives had not begun yet and that an inter-agency government task force was determining how best to get and coordinate information to halt possible future strikes following the 11 September terror attacks.

"My first choice would be for many of those (detainees) to end up back in their countries and to be processed through their systems," Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the

US defence secretary, said today. "The most important thing from our standpoint is gathering intelligence," he added.

The defence secretary further said that some prisoners would be detained by USA and tried in the American criminal justice system and some could face special military tribunals.

The spotlight in Washington was on Walker, captured in Afghanistan and charged on Jan. 15, with conspiring to kill U.S. nationals in the Afghanistan war and with providing support to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network.

If convicted by the US courts, Walker could be sentenced to life imprisonment.

THE STATESMAN

24 JAN 2002

---

## Petition filed on detainees' rights

Reuters

WS (W) 95-6

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 22. — A federal judge in Los Angeles has agreed to hear a petition from civil rights advocates demanding that the US government clarify the situation of terrorism suspects held at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba.

US district court judge Mr Justice A Howard Matz scheduled a hearing today on the petition, the first court challenge to the US government's detention of Al Qaida suspects in Cuba, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

Dramatic pictures of gagged and manacled Al Qaida and Taliban prisoners at the prison camp have stirred controversy in Europe and West Asia.

---

THE STATES

23 JAN 2002

23 JAN 2002

# US faces prisoner case

Los Angeles, Jan. 22 (Reuters): A federal judge has agreed to consider a petition from civil rights advocates demanding the United States bring terrorism suspects held at Guantanamo naval base before a court and define the charges against them, the *Los Angeles Times* reported.

US district judge A. Howard Matz scheduled a hearing to be held later, the newspaper reported on its website.

The unusual petition, filed in a venue far from the Cuban base, is the first court challenge to the Bush administration's detention of al Qaida suspects.

Prepared on behalf of more than 100 al Qaida suspects taken into custody in Afghanistan and transferred to the US Navy base in Cuba, the petition was delivered on Saturday evening to the judge, who agreed last night to hear the case, the *Times* said.

The petition alleges the detainees are being held in violation of the US Constitution and the Geneva Convention. It requests that US authorities produce the prisoners in a US court,

explain the reasons for their detention and accord them due-process guarantees. It also seeks to block any transfer of the detainees from the US base in Cuba.

The petition was filed for a coalition of clergy, journalism professors and civil rights attorneys, including former attorney general Ramsey Clark.

But the newspaper said a chief obstacle for the court is whether the US district court, which ordinarily is restricted to a geographical area, has jurisdiction over prisoners held on Cuban territory leased to the US government. Also, the judge must determine whether the petitioners from Los Angeles have the legal standing to pursue such a case.

Pictures of captured Taliban and al Qaida fighters in handcuffs and shackles and wearing blacked-out goggles have drawn complaints from civil rights groups in Britain and elsewhere.

The Bush administration has said the detainees are not prisoners of war and are being held for

interrogation. Some could be tried before a military tribunal.

International Red Cross officials have begun questioning detainees about their treatment.

## Bin Laden brother

One of the 53 siblings of the man the US accuses of masterminding the September 11 attacks, said today in Geneva he had registered "Binladin" as a trademark, but would not use it commercially at present.

Yeslam Binladin, a millionaire Saudi financier who spells his last name differently to Osama bin Laden, said the trademark had taken effect in February last year.

"In the aftermath of September 11, it would be insensitive to consider the use of the name for commercial purposes at the present time," Binladin said in a statement.

"However, trade mark protection guarantees that the name will not be used for negative ends by third parties," he added.

He did not specify what commercial plans he had for the

name. But his Zurich lawyer, Juerg Brand, who was not immediately available for comment, was quoted in the *Wall Street Journal* last week as saying the trademark was registered in Switzerland and the European Union. Binladin, who has lived in Geneva for 20 years and was granted Swiss nationality last year, runs investment firm Saudi Investment Company.

THE TELEGRAPH

23 JAN 2002

# Bugging report won't hurt China ties, says Powell

Tokyo/Washington, Jan 20

THE US Government and experts today played down the reported bugging of an American jet built for Chinese President Jiang Zemin, citing how China has never protested about it in three months and asserting that it wouldn't harm US-China relations.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell said that Chinese officials had never raised the matter with him. He who refused to confirm or deny the report, but said he didn't believe the alleged incident would affect President George W Bush's upcoming visit

to China. "In all the conversations I've had with Chinese authorities over the last several months, this has never been raised," Powell said in an interview with ABC television.

In another interview to the Fox news channel, Powell expanded his remarks, but still declined to comment on the veracity of the report that appeared in *The Washington Post* and *Financial Times* yesterday.

"I'm not aware of any contacts between us and the Chinese Government concerning this so-called matter that we read about in the newspapers," he said. Although he refused to com-

ment on the reports themselves, Powell said he did not expect the furor raised by them to interfere with the Bush trip to China that is scheduled for next month.

"I don't expect anything to derail that trip," Powell told Fox. Asked a similar question in the ABC interview, he replied: "I don't see any reason to think so."

"We've received acceptance, of course, from the Chinese of the presidential visit and I know they're looking forward to it; they're quite excited about it and so are we."

Powell's statement broke a long spell of embarrassed silence from the US authorities,

who had declined to comment on the disclosure or say whether Beijing had protested or otherwise contacted Washington about it. "We never discuss these kinds of allegations," White House spokesman Taylor Gross had said.

Newspaper reports on Saturday said Chinese authorities discovered the bugs during a test flight last October. That Beijing has not protested to Washington, three months afterward, suggests the possibility that Chinese authorities have reason to suspect their own people played a role in the episode.

The CIA had no comment. The

Post reported that after the listening devices were discovered, 20 Chinese air force officers and two officials involved in negotiations for the airliner were detained and are being investigated for negligence and corruption. It also said a senior air force officer is under house arrest for his role.

*The Washington Post* quoted unidentified sources as saying Chinese aviation and military officers believe US Intelligence agencies planted the listening devices aboard the plane while it was being fitted in the US with special bathroom and other accommodations for President

Jiang Zemin. The Chinese Government made no public comment on the matter.

The disclosure comes a month before President Bush is scheduled to travel to Beijing to meet Jiang. Bush was at the Camp David on Saturday and received his usual intelligence briefing. A former US Government official said he believed there would be no lasting impact.

Bates Gill, a China expert at the Brookings Institution, said that if the bugs were found before the plane went into use as Jiang's personal aircraft, then China's intelligence loss would be minimal and the scandal may

blow over fairly quickly. "My sense is this will not have any lasting effects" on US-China relations, Gill said. "This can, in a relatively short period of time, be set aside as simply a failed intelligence operation. It shouldn't surprise anyone in the US or China that someone is trying to collect intelligence."

Chinese officials were puzzled as to how and when the bugs were planted, reports said. China had carefully monitored the plane's construction at the Boeing Co plant in Seattle, and the fitting of its interior by several aircraft maintenance companies in San Antonio, Texas.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

21 JAN 2002

## U.S. consolidates its position in Central Asia (11-15)

WASHINGTON: U.S. forces are settling in Central Asian countries to finish their anti-terrorist campaign, stabilise Afghanistan and maintain a presence in the region, experts say. But how long will that presence continue?

The presence of American soldiers in Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, which has worried Russia, comes in addition to their presence in Pakistani bases. Besides, hundreds of U.S. military advisers are headed for The Philippines.

Soon after launching its operation in Afghanistan with Moscow's support, the U.S. deployed 1,500 servicemen in Khanabad, Uzbekistan. Together with its Western allies, including France, Washington has begun expanding Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan, which is expected to be able to

house 3,000 troops. According to Gen Tommy Franks, the military officer in charge of Operation Enduring Freedom, Manas could become a transit point for planes headed for Afghanistan. The base might be used by U.S. planes to conduct raids without using the airspace of Pakistan, which is negotiating U.S. withdrawal from two of the four air bases on its soil due of tensions with India.

In addition to its strong presence in West Asia, particularly Saudi Arabia, since the Gulf War, Washington has deployed over 60,000 troops in the region in the wake of the September 11 attacks. Gen Franks has also obtained, at least until March, two aircraft carriers accompanied by support groups which carry thousands of marines on board.

In Afghanistan, where Americans

want to suppress pockets of Taliban and Al Qaida resistance, the Pentagon now has nearly 4,000 soldiers stationed at Kandahar in the south and Bagram in the north.

In addition to these, said an official, a significant number of U.S. special forces and CIA teams were operating in the country. An expert from the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) said, "There is no grand design for a U.S. presence in Central Asia, (but) the United States as the sole superpower is going to be a major actor in Central Asia."

Asked about the U.S.' plans for Central Asia, defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said he believed it would be premature to think about where the country would want to have permanent bases.

But he noted that Central Asia was very important to the U.S., and

the world. "It's a region that is going through a transition. We like that relationship, that cooperation and that partnership that's been established," he added.

But deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz said in an interview the function of the bases might be more "political than actually military". He said, "The bases and exercises will send a message to everybody, including important countries like Afghanistan, that we have the capacity to come back in and will come back. We're not just going to forget about them," he said.

Commander of the Russian border guard troops General Konstatin Totski said in Tajikistan that the presence of U.S. forces in the former Soviet Republics would become unnecessary after the completion of the operation in Afghanistan. (AFP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 JAN 2002

# Prison conditions humane: US

WSW HFI 1811  
Guantánamo Bay, January 17

SMARTING A bit from criticism by international human rights groups, US troops here, who received 30 new prisoners from Afghanistan, were determined today to show that their captives would be treated properly.

"Each detainee has an Isomat to lay on," said Brig Gen Mike Lehnert, holding up an inch-thick piece of olive-drab foam to show reporters.

"It isn't particularly comfortable. It is also the same thing issued every day to our soldiers and marines in the field. I myself have spent a good portion of my Marine Corps career on one of these mats."

The third load of prisoners arrived yesterday, raising the total to 80. The detention centre has a capacity today for 200 pris-

oners but with the constant construction going on here, will soon have the capacity for more than 600 detainees.

General Lehnert, who is head of security at the base's prison, said the captives are not being interrogated here, so they do not have lawyers. Nor have they been charged with anything, he said, while Washington determines their status.

A delegation from the International Committee of the Red Cross on Thursday is scheduled to inspect the prisoners and conditions at the expanding prison compound here. What the Red Cross will see are men whose heads have been shaved to prevent the spread of lice.

The prisoners, including at least one British and one Australian citizen, at times read the Koran, and at times yell to their

captors that they intend to kill them. "We have an international community of suspected terrorists from all over the world," General Lehnert said.

"Several (of the terrorists) have publicly stated here their intent to kill an American before they leave Guantánamo Bay. We will not give them that satisfaction."

Their toothbrushes are cut short so that the sharp end cannot be used as a weapon. They are issued plastic spoons to eat their meals but must return them when they finish.

Their cells are actually wire cages, six feet by eight feet, bathed all night in halogen floodlights so that their every move can be monitored.

Eventually, the entire base is to hold 2,000 prisoners, but General Lehnert suggested today

that the arrival of detainees was outpacing the construction of secure facilities.

He said the prisoners who arrived today would be held in X-Ray for three months "and be moved to a more permanent detention facility here in Gitmo once we have it built".

Reporters were allowed to view the prisoners from a grassy hillside about 400 feet away but were not allowed to photograph them.

As part of the effort to meet the standards of the Geneva Convention, General Lehnert held up a thin sheet and referred to the steamy tropical weather in Cuba. "It's about what most of our Marines sleep with. Our security forces are living in the same kind of environment that they are," he said.

The New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

178 JAN 2002

18 JAN 2002



# Powell pledges to stand by Afghans

Kabul/Washington, January 17

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell, on a landmark trip to Kabul on Thursday, said Washington would stand by Afghanistan and vowed to eradicate Islamic extremists in the country.

As US warplanes hunted for remnants of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network and the former ruling Taliban, Powell told Afghanistan's new leaders his government planned a significant contribution to the country's reconstruction.

In the southern city of Kandahar, US Marines questioned a man who said he was a key financial backer of the Taliban, while British police made a wave of anti-terror arrests, charging two Algerians with belonging to al-Qaida. There was still no word, however, on the whereabouts of bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the September 11 attacks on the United States, and his protector, vanquished Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Far away in the Philippines, the United States opened a new front in its war on terrorism, set-

ting up camp on a southern island to join operations against Muslim rebels suspected of links to bin Laden.

Powell, on an Asian tour dominated by confrontation between India and Pakistan, was the highest-ranking US leader in the Central Asian country since then-Secretary of State Henry Kissinger stopped there in 1976.

"We will be with you in this current crisis and for the future," Powell told a joint news conference with Afghanistan's interim leader, Hamid Karzai.

"We are committed to doing everything we can to assist you in this time of transition to a new Afghanistan, an Afghanistan where people will be able to live in peace and security."

The World Bank estimates Afghanistan's reconstruction will cost \$15 billion over 10 years.

Karzai diplomatically reminded Powell that many Afghans wondered whether Washington would abandon them after full victory over the Taliban leadership, as it did after US-backed rebels drove Soviet troops out in 1989.

"In all our meetings with the

Afghan people, they ask us — 'Is the United States committed? Will they stay with us?'" said Karzai, who wore his trademark bright green Uzbek robe and Persian lamb hat. "Now I can tell them, 'yes, the US will stay with us'."

Powell arrived from Pakistan on a regional tour, flying into Kabul international airport by helicopter via the Soviet-built Bagram air base north of the city. "The United States presence here is still directed toward pulling up al-Qaida and Taliban," he said. "We don't want to leave any contamination behind."

**War expansion:** In its first major expansion of its war on terrorism, the United States deployed troops to advise and train the Philippines in its fight with Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

The US is sending about 160 special forces and 500 support and technical staff to the southern island of Basilian and elsewhere in the Mindanao region, officially to give the army training and advice but not to play a combat role.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

18 JAN 2002

18 JAN 2002

# US homegrown Talib could face life term

Washington, January 16

THE UNITED States has charged American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh with conspiring to kill US nationals in the Afghanistan war and with providing support to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network, charges that spare him from facing the death penalty.

Attorney General John Ashcroft announced the charges against Walker, a 20-year-old Californian, that carry a maximum punishment of life in prison. Treason charges have not been ruled out, he said.

"Walker knowingly allied himself with terrorist outfits," Ashcroft told a news conference. "He chose to embrace fanatics and his allegiance to them never faltered, not even with the knowledge that they had murdered thousands of his countrymen."

Walker was charged with conspiracy to kill Americans overseas, providing support and resources to designated foreign terrorist outfits, including the al-Qaida and engaging in prohibited transactions with the Taliban.

Walker's parents, Frank Lindh and Marilyn Walker have attempted to portray their son as a misguided idealist rather than a Muslim extremist.

According to the affidavit in

support of the charges, Walker spent seven weeks in an al-Qaida training camp and also personally met bin Laden, who thanked him for taking part in jihad (holy war).

In a training camp in Afghanistan in June, Walker learnt that bin Laden had sent people to the US to carry out suicide operations, according to the affidavit signed by FBI agent Anne Asbury. She said Walker learned on September 11 or 12 of the attacks. He knew bin Laden had ordered the attacks and that more would follow, she said. After September 11, Walker said all of bin Laden's training camps were closed and those in the camps were sent to defend against US retaliation, according to Asbury.

Walker will not be tried by a military tribunal. President Bush has said military tribunals will be used against only foreign nationals and not US citizens.

Walker is in the process of being transferred from the US military to the FBI. Walker currently is the only "detainee" being held aboard the US Navy warship Bataan in the Arabian Sea.

"We may never know why he turned his back on our country but we cannot ignore that he did. Youth is not absolution for treachery, and self-discovery is not an excuse to take up arms against one's country," Ashcroft said.

**'A very sweet kid':** Walker's parents, who are in the midst of an amicable divorce, have described Walker as a "very sweet kid" whose initial interest in Islam was prompted by a high school assignment on *The Autobiography of Malcolm X*, the US Black Muslim leader. Raised a Catholic, Walker embraced his new faith after officially converting at the age of 16. In studies at a local mosque, his interest deepened and he took to wearing Islamic dress and grew a beard.

While still in school, Walker began visiting an Islamic centre for prayer. "Here was this young white kid from the suburbs who was very dedicated and who wore the traditional clothing, doing even more than some of the other kids whose parents were Muslim," Abdullah Nana, a friend from the centre, said.

In 1998, after graduating early from high school, Walker took the name Suleyman Al-Lindh. Then he set off to further his studies, heading first to Yemen to study Arabic and then to Pakistan for religious education.

"We want to give him a big hug and a little kick in the butt for not telling me what he was up to. I would not have given him permission to go to Afghanistan," Walker's father told CNN's *Larry King Live*. **Reuters**

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES:

17 JAN 2002

# USA takes terror war to Philippines



A child lies wounded, hit by a stray bullet when rebels clashed with the police at a rally in downtown Jolo, southern Philippines on Wednesday. — AP/PTI

Agencies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. — The Pentagon has extended the war on terrorism to the Philippines, sending “several hundred-plus” troops to support the efforts of local forces fighting an extremist group with links to Al-Qaida.

Defence secretary Gen Donald H. Rumsfeld disclosed Tuesday that US troops have arrived in the Philippines to train and support Philippine troops fighting Abu Sayyaf.

Gen Rumsfeld mentioned no specific number, but Philippine officials have said the American contingent would total about 600, including 160 US Army special forces.

“The Philippine government and the USA have had discussions about the terrorist problem that exists there and as we have done with dozens of countries around the world we’re providing the kinds of assistance that we can,” Gen Rumsfeld said.

President Mrs Gloria Macapagal Arroyo today defended the deployment of hundreds of US forces in a risky training exercise in the southern Philippines, where Muslim

gunmen allied with Osama bin Laden are holding an American couple hostage.

The deployment was within the bounds of the 1987 constitution and American soldiers will only be acting as advisers, Mrs Arroyo told local radio.

Manila has committed to crush Muslim militants in its backyard as part of the US-led global war on terrorism, she said.

Mrs Arroyo was reacting to criticism by the opposition who claimed the deployment could lead to a similar US military debacle as in the Vietnam War in the 1970s.

Mrs Arroyo today said the US soldiers would only be “observing our soldiers from the back” and “will not be joining combat”.

Meanwhile, White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer reiterated that President Mr George W Bush will not support deploying US forces to Afghanistan for the British-led peacekeeping mission.

“The President’s view is unchanged — that America’s military forces should be used for fighting and winning a war. That is their mission in Afghanistan,” the press secretary said.

THE STATESMAN

17 JAN 2002

# Jail term, not death, for US convert

## CALIFORNIAN YOUTH GIVEN TRAINING IN HARKAT CAMP

Walker  
knew 9/11  
was in  
store

FROM DEBORAH CHARLES

Washington, Jan. 16 (Reuters): Three months before the September 11 attacks on America, John Walker Lindh learned that Osama bin Laden had sent people to the United States to carry out suicide missions, according to the US justice department.

Walker, the 20-year-old Californian who joined Taliban fighters in Afghanistan last year, met bin Laden several times while at a training camp for al Qaeda fighters where he learned to use explosives and a variety of weapons.

In a criminal complaint filed yesterday, charging Walker with aiding a terror group and conspiracy to kill Americans, the US justice department gave the most detailed version of Walker's alleged links to bin Laden and his al Qaeda network.

The US has blamed bin Laden and al Qaeda for the September 11 attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center that killed nearly 3,300 people.

George Harris, a San Francisco attorney hired by the family, said yesterday that Walker had not been given an opportunity to speak to a lawyer.

The justice department complaint, based on interviews with Walker after he was captured in Afghanistan in December, spells out a trajectory that began when the American converted to Islam in 1997.

It said that Walker stayed with al Qaeda despite knowing that bin Laden ordered the attacks that killed thousands of people. He even expected additional attacks to follow.



Eva Rupp (centre) who lost her step-sister Deora Bodley on Flight 93 during the September 11 attacks, is surrounded by Afghan children in Kabul. Four relatives of the victims of the September 11 attacks in the US met with an Afghan family who lost five family members who were killed by a bomb dropped from a B-52 plane. (AFP)

Walker's fighting training began in Pakistan last May, the complaint said, when he joined a paramilitary training camp run by the Harakat ul-Mujahideen, one of a dozen groups fighting India's rule in Kashmir.

Following the training course, Walker was offered a choice of further training in Pakistan or fighting with the Taliban in Afghanistan.

He chose the Taliban, according to the US criminal complaint, and in late May reported to a recruiting centre in Kabul where he "told them that he was a Muslim who wanted to go to the front lines to fight."

Because of his lack of language skills, Walker was assigned to bin Laden's al Qaeda group and ordered to attend the al-Farooq al Qaida training camp, according to the complaint. "Walker ... stated that he knew at the time that bin Laden and al Qaeda were 'against America and the government of Saudi Arabia' and that al Qaeda's purpose was to fight Americans," the complaint said.

And at that training camp, Walker apparently learned of possible attacks on the US. "Within the first several weeks of his arrival there, in or about early June 2001, Walker

learned from one of his instructors that bin Laden had sent people to the United States to carry out several suicide operations," the complaint said. But he stayed on for a seven-week course which included courses in weapons, orienteering, navigation, explosives and battlefield combat, it said.

Walker told US officials that bin Laden visited the camp three to five times and gave lectures. Walker and four other trainees met bin Laden who thanked them for taking part in jihad, the complaint said. "Once his training was completed Walker was given several options which included trav-

elling outside Afghanistan to conduct operations against the US and Israeli targets.

Instead, Walker decided to go to the front lines to fight the Northern Alliance, the complaint said.

It was then that the suicide hijackers slammed planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon. Walker said he heard of the attacks by radio shortly after.

"According to Walker, it was his and his comrades' understanding at the time that bin Laden had ordered the attacks and that additional attacks would follow," the complaint said.

# Importance of being American

Washington, Jan. 16 (Reuters): The United States today charged American Taliban fighter John Walker Lindh with conspiring to kill US nationals in the Afghanistan war and with providing support to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network, charges that spare him from facing the death penalty.

Attorney general John Ashcroft announced the three charges against Walker that carry a maximum punishment of life in prison.

Treason charges, which could bring the death penalty, would have been difficult to prove, but have not been ruled out, he said.

"Walker knowingly and purposely allied himself with certain terrorist organisations," Ashcroft told a news conference.

"He chose to embrace fanatics and his allegiance to those fanatic and terrorists never faltered, not even with the knowledge that they had murdered thousands of his countrymen."

The case has drawn attention in the US as people debate whether Walker was a traitor. Walker's parents, Frank Lindh and Marilyn Walker, have attempted to portray their son, who converted to Islam at the age of 16, as a misguided idealist rather than a Muslim extremist.

President George W. Bush has said military tribunals will be used against only foreign nationals and not American citizens.

Bush's top lieutenant reached a consensus 10 days ago about Walker's fate, and Bush agreed.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said Ashcroft called American interests," Ashcroft said.

drew Card as Card flew back from New Orleans with Bush to tell him he was ready to go public with the charges. Card told Bush and "the President told him to proceed," Fleischer said.

It marked the second major case brought in the US since the September 11 attacks.

In the first charges brought last month, Zacarias Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, was indicted for conspiring with bin Laden, the 19 hijackers and others to murder thousands of people. His trial is scheduled in October.

In California, a spokesman for Walker's family lawyer said he had no comment on the charges. Ashcroft said the charges filed against Walker were based on voluntary statements he had made after his capture in Afghanistan.

An FBI agent interviewed Walker on December 9 and 10 after he waived his right to remain silent or have a lawyer present, Ashcroft said.

Walker is in the process of being transferred from the US military to the FBI. It was not known when he would be brought to the US and when his first court appearance in Virginia would be.

Walker currently is the only "detainee" being held aboard the US Navy warship *Bataan* in the Arabian Sea. He is among 483 al Qaeda and Taliban members in the custody of the US military, 50 of them now at the US Navy base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

"Even after September 11, with the full knowledge of the thousands of dead in the United States... Walker continued to fight for the Taliban against American interests," Ashcroft said.



Walker

# U.S. expands its military ties worldwide

By Sally Buzbee

WASHINGTON: The United States is rapidly increasing its military ties with nations large and small, thanks to the war on terrorism. That means more U.S. soldiers will be spread around the globe in coming years, despite President George Bush's warning during his election campaign that the military was stretched thin, with too many overseas deployments.

Already, American special forces train armies across Africa. The Pentagon fights war games in West Asia. U.S. soldiers engage in scores of joint training exercises from South America to Southeast Asia.

Even before September 11, the military had a presence in 140 countries worldwide.

Now it is busy expanding or considering expansion not just in Afghanistan, where the war against accused terror mastermind Osama bin Laden is taking place, and neighbouring Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan, but in a slew of countries beyond: Armenia and Azerbaijan in Central Asia to Somalia in East Africa to the Philippines and Indonesia in Southwest Asia.



George W. Bush

"Overall, the American military global presence is more pervasive today than at any point in American history," said John Pike, a military analyst in Washington.

Defense secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld has suggested a pullback in only one place, a cut of about one-third in NATO troops on peacekeeping duty in Bosnia.

The new reach of America's military is worrying some nations.

Iran is increasingly nervous about being encircled by countries with new U.S. military ties, said Judith Kipper, a West Asia expert in Washington. China has long worried about American power. The military presence worldwide also could further anger Islamic hardliners across southwest Asia and West Asia. In Laden first targeted America when thousands of U.S. troops who came to Saudi Arabia to fight the Persian Gulf War stayed on to maintain regional security.

During his 2000 campaign for president, Mr Bush criticised his opponent, Al Gore, and the vice-president's boss, President Bill Clinton, for over extending U.S. military forces by intervening in places where vital U.S. security interests were not at stake.

Yet a recent Pentagon paper identifies vital American security interests in almost every part of the globe, with the notable exception of Africa.

The Afghan campaign again has taught U.S. officials that it pays to have relationships with countries important and obscure worldwide, whom the United States may need tomorrow, national security adviser Condoleezza Rice said recently.

After the September 11 attacks, the United States moved quickly to strengthen ties with Pakistan so it could use Pakistani air bases. It approached the former Soviet republics of Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan and reached deals to put air bases in both.

In return, those countries get valuable help with military training or access to equipment. Countries like Singapore, where Navy ships dock, get a public linkage with America that might deter aggression, even if the United States makes no formal guarantee of military help.

The United States also increasingly tries to preposition military equipment worldwide, to lessen its dependence on cargo planes when trouble pops up, said Loren Thompson, an analyst at the Lexington Institute in Washington. A recent Pentagon study proposed putting even more equipment in the Arabian Sea and Indian Ocean.

"Coming out of Desert Storm (in 1991), we started to build up prepositioned things," Pentagon spokesman Rear Adm John Stufflebeem said Monday. (AP)

RECEIVED BY UNIT

10 JAN 2002

## ✓ Omar slipped out in rickshaw, claims aide

aj (w) Afghanistan

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. — US and Afghan troops had come close to capturing Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar during the bombing raids on his compound in southern Afghanistan but he managed to escape in a rickshaw, later moving from house to house, sleeping in basements.

Qari Saheb, long time driver of Omar now hiding in Pakistan, has told a magazine that he was with Omar at his compound in Kandahar last 7 October when the first American bombs began to fall. Omar initially spurned advisers who begged him to flee to safety saying "even if [President] Bush shows up at my door, I will not leave".

Knowing that the Americans would target his Sports Utility Vehicle, aides ushered Omar into a rickshaw and pulled him to the centre of town. Omar shifted to a mud-covered truck and disappeared, the *Newsweek* quoted Saheb as saying. Omar spent the next several days moving from house to house, sleeping in basements, it said.

Saheb claimed that Omar's supporters were hiding so close by that they threw grenades as the Americans withdrew. A Taliban commander ordered his six tanks to open fire, but US bombs destroyed them first, it added.

15 JAN 2002

# US on DNA hunt for Osama

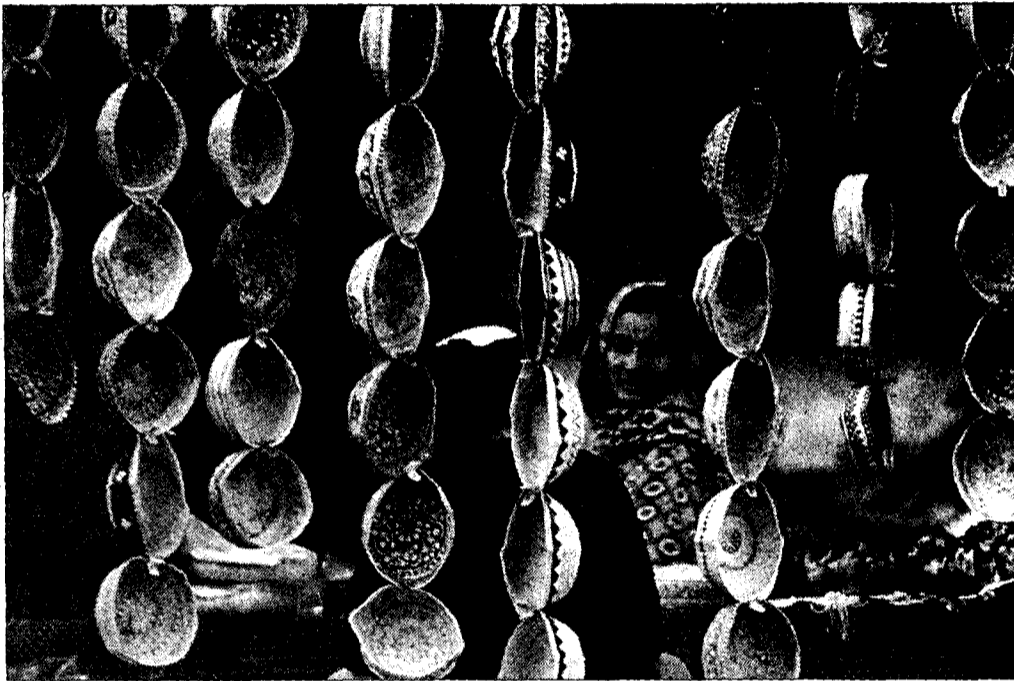
398 1A/1  
Agencies

LONDON, Jan. 13.— US special forces searching the Tora Bora cave complex in Afghanistan are collecting dismembered fingers and human organ tissue recovered from the caves in an attempt to establish whether Osama bin Laden and other Al-Qaida leaders were killed during the recent bombing.

The tissue samples are being collected in forensic bags of the type used by detectives at murder scenes and sent refrigerated to the USA.

There FBI scientists are trying to match them with DNA culled from swabs provided by members of Bin Laden's immediate family. FBI agents travelled to Saudi Arabia in November, when the Taliban were clearly on the verge of defeat, and took DNA from some of bin Laden's 53 siblings.

It is believed they also asked for a sample from his mother. They used the standard method in criminal inquiries, a mouth



As tension escalates in Pakistan after the Afghan war, demand for traditional caps shoots up in Islamabad. — AP/PTI

swab, brushed lightly inside the cheek, to remove surface skin cells.

Quoting Intelligence sources, the *Observer* today reported that they were "virtually certain" that

Bin Laden was still hiding in the caves just hours before the main Al-Qaida strongholds fell last

December.

They based their belief on CIA analysis of communications intercepts from Taliban and Arab fighters, and interrogation of prisoners of war.

A total of 58 Taliban prisoners, all Pakistanis, are imprisoned at a remote jail high up in Afghanistan's Hindu Kush mountains, prison officials said.

Two of the prisoners were seen chopping firewood outside the walls of the jail during a snowstorm but were whisked inside when an AFP team arrived.

The head of the prison refused to be interviewed, nor would he allow access to the prisoners.

But guards said there were 58 Taliban prisoners at the Baharaq jail, in the upper Panjshir valley, some 200 kilometres north of Kabul. "Some of them were captured five years ago, some three years ago, and others just a few months ago," said one of the guards on conditions of anonymity.

THE STATESMAN

14 JAN 2002

14 JAN 2002

# Baghdad slams Washington

Reuters

BAGHDAD, Jan. 13. — Iraqi newspapers today blasted suggestions that the USA might target Iraq in its war against terrorism and said Washington itself was a threat to world stability.

The official *Al-Qadisiya* newspaper condemned "US threats against the so-called rogue nations" which include Iraq.

"The USA have once again repeated their threats...US officials have repeatedly threatened Iraq and other nations saying that these countries threaten their stability, while Washington is the one which threatens world stability," it added.

US assistant secretary of state, Mr William Burns, said yesterday that Washington was still to decide whether to use military force against Iraq and that this

issue will be discussed with its allies from the 1991 Gulf War.

Speculation has intensified that Washington could start a new phase in its war on terrorism after Afghanistan by attacking such countries as Somalia, Iraq or Sudan.

The US President, Mr George W Bush, recently warned that the Iraqi President, Mr Saddam Hussein, would "find out" the consequences if he did not allow UN weapons inspectors to return to Baghdad. This had triggered speculation that Iraq might be the next US target. The newspaper *Al-Thawra* said Washington wanted to use the issue of weapons inspectors as a pretext to attack Iraq. "Accusations by US officials that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction are false and aimed at achieving other goals," the paper said.

14 JAN 2002



## Coalition not to chase fleeing Taliban

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 12. The United States-led coalition has denied reports that its troops will chase the fleeing Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters into Pakistan and said there was no agreement for the coalition troops to operate inside the Pakistan territory.

The clarification by the spokesman for the Coalition Information Centre, Keith Kenton, should put at rest apprehensions among a section of the Pakistani society about the prospect of the coalition forces operating inside Pakistan.

There has been concern within Pakistan over the prospect of the U.S.-led coalition forces entering the country ever since Islamabad extended its "unstinted support" to the war in Afghanistan and provided some air bases as part of the logistical support.

Ambassador Keith told a news conference here that there was no agreement between Pakistan and the coalition forces that U.S. troops would follow fleeing Al-Qaeda members into Pakistan.

"At many levels the co-operation between Coalition and Pakistan is there but there is no

agreement for U.S. troops operating in Pakistan," he said. Ambassador Keith said Pakistan had deployed its forces on the Afghan border "even in the present situation" and the co-operation between Pakistan and Coalition would continue.

In response to a question, Mr. Keith said Pakistan from the very beginning was an essential part of the coalition in its fight against terrorism. About action against militants inside Pakistan, Mr. Keith said, "I am in agreement with President Musharraf when he says that he is committed to root out terrorism inside and outside Pakistan." To another question Mr. Keith said the coalition in its fight against terrorism was not only interested in Afghanistan but many other places at various levels. "Many countries have made moves to combat terrorism by circumventing the financial resources of the terrorist organisations. They have done certain legislation to combat terrorism" he said.

About a news report that Pakistan had asked the coalition to vacate its air bases in view of the building tension with India, the spokesman said he was not

aware of any such demand from Pakistan. He confirmed the gun fire incident while shifting Al-Qaeda members to the Cuban base. "There was gunfire and it underlines the reality that war against terrorism is still not over."

He said there were still armed people inside Afghanistan. About the arrest of Al-Qaeda members who could perhaps be hiding in refugee camps in Pakistan, the spokesman said the coalition was in communication with Pakistan on this issue and also on other subjects. He said Taliban and Al-Qaeda members who had harboured or committed terrorism should be detained and brought to justice.

About the deployment of International Security Assistance Forces (ISAF), he said according to the Bonn agreement the force will be deployed in Kabul to provide support to the interim government. "If interim authority in Kabul feels it necessary, it can make changes regarding deployment of ISAF," Mr. Keith said. He said the ISAF would be the key to breaking the link between Afghanistan and international terrorism.

THE HINDU

13 JAN 2002

WAR AGAINST TERROR / HARSH CONDITIONS IN DETENTION CAMP

# Taliban prisoners head for Cuba



**A U.S. Air Force C-17 Globe Master is unloaded at sunset as troops prepare to rehearse the arrival of Taliban and Al-Qaeda detainees from Afghanistan at the U.S. Naval Base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba on Wednesday. — AP**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 11. The first Al-Qaeda and Taliban prisoners bound for an American prison camp in Cuba, where they will be held in cells open to the elements, were flown out of Afghanistan Thursday.

The 20-strong group was led, chained and blindfolded, wearing orange prison overalls and with their beards apparently shaven, on to the tarmac of Kandahar airport before being escorted one by one up the ramp of a C-17 transport aircraft. Each was then locked to a seat. They were the first of 368 men, thought to be among the most dangerous Al-Qaeda and Taliban fighters captured, who will be sent to the U.S.

military base at Guantanamo Bay. Shortly after the aircraft took off, the base came under small arms fire. Marines responded with heavy fire and helicopters circled the area in pursuit of the gunmen. The remaining prisoners are being held in American custody in various parts of Afghanistan or on board U.S. Navy vessels in the Arabian Sea, and will be transferred to Cuba in groups of 20 to 30.

The gunbattle involving U.S. Marines at Kandahar airport yesterday lasted between 30 and 40 minutes and US forces did not suffer any casualties, Marine Corps officers said. The officers also said the exchange of fire be-

tween Marines based at the airport and "enemy forces" was not related to the take-off of a C-17 aircraft carrying a first batch of prisoners from southern Afghanistan to the U.S. base in Cuba. "The contact started with some illumination flares that were launched over the perimeter towards the runway where we had aircraft on the ground," Capt. Dan Greenwood told reporters at a briefing.

Once in Guantanamo Bay, a Marines base that America kept despite Fidel Castro's revolution in 1959, the prisoners will be kept in harsh conditions while the White House works out what to do with them. The detention

compound, known as Camp X-Ray, resembles a Second World War prison camp with Alsatian dogs patrolling and barbed wire coiled in every direction. The prisoners will be held in a series of 8ft by 8ft rectangles with walls made of chain-link fencing and simple roofs.

Journalists visiting the site described them as cages, and Col. Terry Carrico, commander of the security force at the base, admitted that if it rains, "there's a possibility they could get wet". He described the units as "outdoor cells". Brigadier General Michael Lehnert, commander of Joint Task Force 160, formed to guard and prisoners, said: "Our job here

is to take these terrorists out of the fight by locking them up. We have no intention of making it comfortable for them. We'll make it humane."

The camp was last used to house the most unruly elements among 40,000 Cuban and Haitian refugees during a crisis in the mid-1990s. It could now accommodate as many as 2,000 terrorists from around the world.

The status of the prisoners remains uncertain. America refers to them as "battlefield detainees", which gives them only limited rights under the Geneva Convention compared with prisoners of war, but allows them to be

charged with war crimes. The U.S. President, George Bush signed an order in November that would allow the Pentagon to conduct military tribunals on the men. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

THE HINDU

12 JAN 2002

# US hunts for Marine victims, bombs Khost

Kabul, January 10

US WARPLANES struck at an Osama bin Laden base in eastern Afghanistan on Thursday while steep, rocky terrain hindered efforts to recover the bodies of seven Marines killed when their tanker plane crashed into a mountain in Pakistan.

It was the worst US casualty toll of the Afghanistan campaign, and included the first woman killed since Afghan bombing began in early October. Residents in the region reported seeing helicopters flying over the site early Thursday.

In Kandahar, where the Marines have established a base, spokesman 1st Lt John Jarvis said the plane was on its final approach to the Shamsi airfield. It had been on the first of what normally would be four refuelling stops per mission, so it likely had an almost full cargo of fuel.

A military team was heading from the Marine base at Kandahar to Shamsi to investigate, Jarvis said, echoing statements from the Pentagon that there had been no indication of hostile fire. He had no information on any weather factors, either.

"We're going to do everything we can to find out what caused the accident," Jarvis said. "Recovery is going to be tough. It's very tight terrain — mountainside, not vehicle accessible. It's going to be tough going up to the point the accident occurred."

A Pakistani military official at the base where the plane was headed said that "US officials are examining debris at the site of the incident and we are extending them full support".

## IRAN THREAT TO AMERICAN FORCES

IRAN IS seeking to exert political and military influence in areas on its border with Afghanistan in ways that challenge the authority of the interim Government in Kabul and threaten Washington's long-term goals in the country, Pentagon said on Thursday. Officials say Iran has grown increasingly concerned about the pro-Western tilt of Kabul's Government and is moving to flex its muscle in a part of Afghanistan where it has long held sway. US intelligence shows that Iran is giving safe haven to small numbers of al-Qaida fighters fleeing Afghanistan, with the view that they will fight to weaken Western influence.

NYT, Washington

Marines and Pakistanis approached the site within hours after the crash about three miles from the airport, but no bodies were recovered immediately.

In Kabul, interim Afghan leader Hamid Karzai has ordered armed men out of Kabul and identified a primary goal of re-imposing security across the rugged, war-shattered land where rival warlords swiftly grabbed fiefdoms in the weeks following the collapse of the Taliban.

Karzai said the capture of reclusive Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar and his cohort bin Laden, accused of orchestrating the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, was just a matter of time. "We will keep looking for both these persons," Karzai told CNN. "They will be

arrested, they will be taken. It is just a question of time."

US jets bombed positions around Zhawar Kili, a training camp some 30 km southwest of Khost, an area that has come under air attack for days in the hunt for remnant Taliban and fighters of bin Laden's al-Qaida, the private Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

Several helicopters ferried in about 50 US ground troops to eastern Khost, taking the number in the area to about 150.

"American jets began bombing the area overnight and continued into Thursday morning. There was no information about casualties," AIP said, quoting unidentified sources.

Zhawar, where members of al-Qaida were believed to have tried to regroup after weeks of military defeats, is less than 10 km from the Pakistani border.

Karzai has said the bombing, which has claimed scores if not hundreds of civilians, must continue until it can achieve its goal.

In his first television address to the nation late on Wednesday, Karzai urged unity to create a national army. He spoke just hours after the new government ordered armed men off streets and soldiers back to barracks in the battered capital.

Citing lawlessness on Afghanistan's dilapidated roads where travelers are frequent prey for bandits, Karzai said the situation was being tackled. With a major aid donors conference scheduled for Tokyo later this month, Karzai has outlined plans to restore order to his war-weary country.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

11 JAN 2002

# AMERICAN POWER

## US-Led Coalition Can Deal With Pak Military Regime

By SK DATTA

50-9  
10/1

Let us get real. Pakistan-sponsored terrorism has crossed the benchmark by attempting to kill as many politicians as possible in Parliament on 13 December. A rehearsal of this was done on 1 October by attacking the J&K Assembly. All these attacks were carried out during the current US-led "war on terror". General Musharraf was literally "conscripted" to join the alliance. He admitted that he had no alternative but to join the US-led alliance to preserve the state of Pakistan. If he had not acted the way he did, Pakistan would have been clubbed with Afghanistan and dealt with severely. Pakistan was already designated as a state "not cooperating fully" under the US anti-terrorism laws.

### Tricks of denial

Under the US laws there is a well calibrated mechanism to mount diplomatic and legal pressure on states which refuse to take action against terrorist groups. Pakistan was declared a state "not cooperating fully". The US National Commission on Terrorism determines the status of states not doing enough to deal with terrorist activities. This body functions under the US law called US Foreign Operations Export Financing and Related Programme Appropriation Act, 1999. It is charged with identification, verification and notification of any foreign terrorist organisation as FTO for the purposes of US Anti-Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act, 1996. Under Section 219 of this Act the state department is authorised to designate a foreign terrorist organisation.

If a state fails to take action against the foreign terrorist organisation, the next step available under the US laws is to declare such a state as "not cooperating", a status that can lead to imposition of severe "trade and defence sales embargo" by the President. Pakistan was on the threshold of attaining this status. Therefore, General Musharraf, not out of conviction but of dire necessity, decided to join the US-led coalition to avoid being declared as "not cooperating" state.

This is reinforced by his statement when he addressed the nation after joining the US-led coalition. He told his domestic audience that his stand was tactical and cited two examples of Prophet Mohammed when he entered into "temporary peace pacts" with Jews of Medina and "Kafirs" of Mecca to secure Islam. For all intents and purposes, Musharraf's "peace pact" with US-led coalition is temporary and tactical management of events. After 13 December, he condemned the attack on Indian Parliament immediately after the event as if the "draft" condemnation statement was kept ready for issuance. Subsequently, his very able military spokesman Major General

*The author is former Director of the CBI.*

Rashid Qureshi floated the theory of Indians having engineered the incident "to defame Pakistan". Even in the case of hijacking of IC-814 the same line was taken to confuse world opinion.

All the tricks of denial ended up in smoke when the Delhi police cracked the case and proved that all the five *fidayeen* were Pakistanis. Their photos and names were shown in newspapers and on television. Pakistan refused to take back the bodies of *fidayeen* militants for decent burial. The same *modus operandi*

The thrust of the advice was that it should declare that Lashkar-e-Toiba would not hit US nationals anywhere in the world and would not also hit any target on US soil. The second major advice was to get itself delinked from Osama bin Laden and Al-Qaida. The third advice was that the Lashkar-e-Toiba would only attack combatants and their structures.

The US was addressed with a communication by the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the state department responded by sta-



was adopted in the Kargil war. The bodies of Pakistani regulars mostly hailing from the Northern territories, which was part of J&K, were not taken charge of by Pakistan as they were dispensable. This resulted in a near revolt situation in the north, which the architect of Kargil had to visit in order to defuse the volatile situation. The war heroes were posthumously honoured and families were compensated.

### The Pentagon nexus

At the beginning of 2001 the US was seriously thinking of declaring Lashkar-e-Toiba as a foreign terrorist organisation. Professor Hafiz Mohammed Saeed, chief of the Markaz Dawa Wal-Irshad, the parent body of its fighting outfit called Lashkar-e-Toiba, was literally unnerved and engaged the best of Pakistani legal brains to work out a strategy to prevent Lashkar-e-Toiba being declared as an FTO. The legal brains made a presentation of US laws on FTO and advised Professor Saeed and other luminaries of Lashkar-e-Toiba to reformulate their strategies.

ting that it noted the points raised by the Lashkar-e-Toiba. Perhaps as a result of this massive legal and PR exercise, the Lashkar-e-Toiba just managed to escape being declared an FTO in early 2001.

The Lashkar-e-Toiba's new strategy manifested itself on the ground. It attacked the Srinagar headquarters of the Army, BSF HQs at Bandipora and Red Fort of Delhi. What it did not realise was that attacks on Srinagar Assembly and Parliament were "acts of war". The threshold of tolerance was crossed. No government worth its salt would just sit idle and seek a dialogue with General Musharraf for reining in *jehadi* outfits operating in J&K and elsewhere in India.

How strange it is that the BBC and CNN continue to describe Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad as Kashmiri outfits. This is a blatant lie. These outfits are totally composed of Pakistanis, controlled by Pakistani *jehadis* and operate under the directions of the ISI. The BBC and CNN, for reasons best known to them, are trying to focus on the Kashmir problem in a way that suits the US and its Western allies.

General Anthony Zinni, after General Musharraf's coup, visited Pakistan and described Musharraf as "the last hope" of Pakistan. After all the Pakistan army is the spoilt child of the Pentagon as is the case of ISI with CIA. Their 53 years of deep association with military outfits of Pakistan managed to throttle democracy in Pakistan. Each army regime was supported by the Pentagon and CIA. There is a plethora of evidence to prove this nexus.

### US has the leverage

Let us be clear that the situation of today, warlike as it is, is the creation of Pakistan's obsession with India. Kashmir is incidental to this programme of balkanisation of India. History would show that whenever there had been a general at the helm of the affairs of the state in Pakistan, it had launched military adventurism against India.

The people of the sub-continent wonder whether India would attack Pakistan by way of retaliation of the 13 December attack on Parliament. If we go by past history, the date and time of attack will be determined by Pakistan's military establishment. We may organise a massive build-up to defend India, but our basic strategic thinking is based on "defensive offensive" and not "offensive defensive" strategy. This is well understood by Pakistan military strategists and they always exploited this syndrome to their initial benefit. In 1971 General Manekshaw left the decision of attack to General Yahya Khan and the latter did it on 3 December 1971.

Pakistan's ISI and the Press of Pakistan have all the evidence against the *jehadi* outfits. If Pakistan is sincere, all video clippings on *jehadi* trainings, operations, conference records, utterances claiming responsibilities and intercepts would be available. Independently, India has enough evidence to prove a case of conspiracy. Once India presents its case to Pakistan for prosecution of Azhar and Saeed, Pakistan is sure to reject the evidence as inadequate. The US did the same exercise and produced evidence against Osama bin Laden on 1999 to Taliban. The Taliban court of clerics absolved Osama bin Laden of "all sins". Are we to witness a repeat of that? It is far better to produce evidence before the international community as the US did in case of 11 September attack.

The US-led coalition has sufficient leverage on Pakistan. The coalition has ousted Pakistan and Taliban from Afghanistan in just two months of operation. In the same way the US-led coalition has in reserve a series of diplomatic and legal methods to deal with the military regime in Pakistan. The war between India and Pakistan will erupt if US fails to change the course of history in Pakistan. It is a now or never situation.

THE STATESMAN

1 0 JAN 2002

# U.S. missed three chances to nab Osama bin Laden

Then U.S. President Bill Clinton turned down at least three offers involving foreign governments to help seize Osama bin Laden after he was identified as a terrorist who was threatening America, according to sources in Washington and West Asia.

Mr Clinton himself, according to one Washington source, has described the refusal to accept the first of the offers as "the biggest mistake" of his presidency.

The main reasons were legal: there was no evidence that could be brought against Bin Laden in an American court. But former senior intelligence sources accuse the administration of a lack of commitment to the fight against terrorism.

When Sudanese officials claimed late last year that Washington had spurned Bin Laden's secret extradition from Khartoum in 1996, former White House officials said they had no recollection of the offer. Senior sources in the former administration now confirm that it was true.

Far from being an isolated incident, this was the first in a series of missed opportunities right up to Mr Clinton's last year in office. One of these involved a Gulf state; another would have relied on the assistance of Saudi Arabia.

In early 1996, America was putting strong pressure on Sudan's Islamic government to expel Bin Laden, who had been living there since 1991. Sources now reveal that Khartoum sent a former intelligence officer with CIA connections to Washington with an offer to hand over Bin Laden—just as it had put another terrorist, Carlos the Jackal, into French hands in 1994. At the time, the State Department was describing Bin Laden as "the greatest single financier of terrorist projects in the world" and was accusing Sudan of harbouring terrorists. The extradition offer was turned down, however.

A former senior White House source said: "There simply was not the evidence to prosecute Osama bin Laden. He could not be indicted, so it would serve no purpose for him to have been brought into U.S. custody." A former figure in American counter-terrorist intelligence claims, however, that there was "clear and convincing" proof of Bin Laden's conspiracy against America. In May 1996, American diplomats were informed in a Sudanese government fax that Bin Laden was about to be expelled—giving Washington another chance to seize him. The decision not to do so went to the very top of the White House, according to former administration sources.

They say that the clear focus of American policy was to discourage state sponsorship of terrorism. So, persuading Khartoum to expel Bin Laden was in itself counted as a clear victory. The administration was "delighted".

Bin Laden took off from Khartoum on May 18 in a chartered C-130 plane with 150 of his followers, including his wives. He was bound for Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan. On the way, the plane refuelled in the Gulf state of Qatar, which has friendly relations with Washington, but he was allowed to proceed unhindered.

Barely a month later, on June 25, a 5,000lb truck bomb ripped apart the front of Khobar Towers, a U.S.

military housing complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. The explosion killed 19 American servicemen. Bin Laden was immediately suspected.

Mr Clinton is reported to have admitted how things went wrong in Sudan at a private dinner at a Manhattan restaurant shortly after September 11 last year. According to a witness, Mr Clinton told a dinner companion that the decision to let Bin Laden go was probably "the worst decision of my presidency".

Mr Clinton could not be reached for his comments, but a former senior White House official acknowledged that the Sudan episode had been a "screw-up".

A second offer to get Bin Laden came unofficially from Mansoor Ijaz, a Pakistani-American millionaire who was a donor to Mr Clinton's election campaign in 1996. On July 6, 2000, he visited John Podesta, then the president's chief of staff, to say that intelligence officers from a Gulf state were offering to help to extract Bin Laden.

Details of the meeting are confirmed in an exchange of e-mails between the White House and Mr Ijaz, which have been seen by *The Sunday Times*.

According to Mr Ijaz, the offer involved setting up an Islamic relief fund to aid Afghanistan in return for the Taliban handing over Bin Laden to the Gulf state. America could then extract Bin Laden from there.

*The Sunday Times* has established that after a fierce internal row about the sincerity of the offer, the White House responded by sending Richard Clarke, Mr Clinton's most senior counter-terrorism adviser, to meet the rulers of the United Arab Emirates.

They denied there was any such offer. Mr Ijaz, however, maintained that the White House had thereby destroyed the deal, which was to have been arranged only through unofficial channels.

Mr Ijaz said that weeks later, on a return trip to the Gulf, he was taken on a late-night ride into the desert by his contact who told him that Mr Clarke's front-door approach had upset a delicate internal balance and blown the deal. "Your government has missed a major opportunity," he recalls being told.

Senior former government sources said that Mr Ijaz's offer had been treated in good faith but, with the denial of the UAE government, there was nothing to suggest it had credibility.

A third more mysterious offer to help came from the intelligence services of Saudi Arabia, then led by Prince Turki al-Faisal, according to Washington sources.

Details of the offer are still unclear although, by one account, Turki offered to help to place a tracking device in the luggage of Bin Laden's mother, who was seeking to make a trip to Afghanistan to see her son.

The CIA did not take up the offer. Richard Shelby, the leading Republican on the Senate intelligence committee, said he was aware of a Saudi offer to help although, under rules protecting classified information, he was unable to discuss the details of any offer. Commenting generally, he said: "I don't believe that the fight against terrorism was the number one goal of the Clinton administration. I believe there were some lost opportunities." (*The Sunday Times*)



Bill Clinton



Osama bin Laden

# Afghan war gives US a chance to hunker down in Muslim world

■ WILLIAM M. ARKIN

Behind a veil of secret agreements, the US is creating a ring of new and expanded military bases that encircle Afghanistan and enhance the armed forces greater ability to strike targets throughout much of the Muslim world. Since September 11, according to Pentagon sources, military tent cities have sprung up at 13 locations in nine countries neighbouring Afghanistan, extending the network of bases in the region.

**FROM BULGARIA AND** Uzbekistan to Turkey, Kuwait and beyond, more than 60,000 US military personnel now live and work at these forward bases. Hundreds of aircraft fly in and out of so-called "expeditionary airfields."

The new build-up is occurring with almost no public discussion. Indeed, it has passed virtually unnoticed outside the region — in part because of operational security and force protection considerations in Afghanistan and in part because of agreements between Washington and host governments not to discuss the bases in public. But the reasoning behind these agreements underscores the risk: Though Washington has obtained the support of the ruling regimes, including some inside the former Soviet Union, virtually all bases are in countries where an American military presence stirs resentment among Islamic extremists.

"I swear to God that America will not live in peace before all the army of infidels depart the land of the Prophet Mohammed," Osama bin Laden said in his first video recording released after September 11. US policy-makers have tended to dismiss such statements as propaganda, but some analysts think they reflect widespread Muslim sensitivities that the US has been slow to appreciate. In the view not only of Osama but also of many Islamic sympathisers, the continued presence of American forces in Saudi Arabia and other Arab states after the end of the Persian Gulf War in 1991 constituted "defilement" of Muslim holy places. Without accepting this reasoning as a justification for terrorism, some analysts believe US officials underestimate the impact that prolonged stationing of American forces may have in the Muslim world — especially since it is highly visible there, though it has attracted little attention in

the West.

The Arab media in particular are filled with speculation and conspiracy theories about the ultimate purpose of the US presence. Many see it as evidence of an American desire for hegemony and control. "The old basing structure, honed to fight the Soviet Union," is gone, says defense analyst James Blaker, author of a Pentagon study of overseas bases. "But does the new one open us up to counteractions?"

The American build-up in the region began long before September 11, and it has been paralleled by a shift in the focus of terrorist groups. As the United States built a network of facilities in a half dozen Persian Gulf states after the Gulf War, terrorism increasingly focused on large US targets, from the bombing of the Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia and the USS Cole in Yemen to the attacks on the Pentagon and the World Trade Center. In the words of novelist John le Carre, who set some of his stories in the Muslim world, "What America longs for at this moment, even above retribution, is more friends and fewer enemies." Instead, "what America is storing up for herself is yet more enemies," he said in an essay that appeared in the *Toronto Globe and Mail*. "Because after all the bribes, threats and promises that have patched together this rickety coalition, we cannot prevent another suicide bomber being born — and nobody can tell us how

Reuters

to dodge this devil's cycle of despair, hated and, yet again, revenge."

**SINCE THE END OF THE** Cold War, the US military presence overseas has changed profoundly. A 1999 Army War College study found, "While permanent overseas presence has decreased dramatically, operational deployments have increased exponentially." The Pentagon pulled out of 700 facilities in Europe and abandoned the containment ring of bases around the old Soviet Union. In sheer numbers, it reduced the overseas presence to about 60% of what it was when President Reagan took office. Most of the numerical reduction took place in Germany, as forces were demobilised and the military shrank its Cold War size there by two-thirds.

The far more significant change, however, came in the way troops were used abroad. In earlier times, members of the armed forces were routinely "stationed" overseas, usually for tours of several years and often accompanied by their families. Now they are "deployed," with the length of tour more uncertain and dependents almost never

allowed. On any given day before September 11, according to the Defense Department, more than 60,000 military personnel were conducting temporary operations and exercises in 100 countries.

Beyond the burdens it places on those involved, the new system draws the military into situations that are murkier and potentially riskier. Consider the case of Master Sergeant Evander Earl Andrews, the first American casualty of Operation Enduring Freedom. Andrews, an 18-year Air Force veteran, died in a construction accident. He was one of more than 2,000 civil engineers deployed in the region building and fixing up bases.

The Defense Department initially said Andrews was at a "forward deployed location" supporting the Afghanistan war. Eventually, it divulged that the location was Al-Udeid, Qatar. Al-Udeid is a billion-dollar base. Its 15,000 foot runway is one of the longest in the Gulf. Construction began after an April 2000 visit by Defense Secretary William Cohen.

Qatar already housed equipment for an Army brigade and, in 1996, hosted

30 Air Force fighters on an "expeditionary" deployment. Although the original justification for gulf bases such as Al-Udeid was preparedness for renewed action against Iraq, a senior defense official said last year the Qatar facilities were "not focused at one particular country or another, but part of a system we would like to have in place."

**ISSUES OF DECISION-MAKING,** jurisdiction and authority held by the host country are spelled out in documents called status of forces agreements. As of September 11, the US had formal agreements of this sort with Qatar and 92 other countries. Since September 11, new arrangements have also been established with Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

How long will the US remain? No one inside the Pentagon or at Central Command headquarters has a timetable, but it may be instructive to recall that the Persian Gulf bases have now been occupied for more than a decade. They were constantly upgraded and improved during the 1990s, setting the stage for the current deployments. The process went forward on a largely ad hoc basis, focused on practical arrangements and conditions in each country.

Then, as now, what seems to have been missing was a broad conceptual view of what the whole effort might add up to, or what its more distant implications might turn out to be.

(LA Times-Washington Post)



**The new US build-up is occurring with almost no public discussion, in part because of agreements between Washington and host governments. However, though Washington has obtained the support of the ruling regimes, virtually all bases are in countries where an American military presence stirs resentment among Islamic extremists**

INDIAN EXPRESS

8 JAN 2002

# U.S. govt may now target Al Qaida fighters in Somalia

By Sarah Baxter

LONDON: The next theatre of the war on terror looks increasingly likely to be Somalia, amidst growing American fears that it could become a haven for fleeing Al Qaida forces.

Warlords running the country say they would welcome the return of American forces, who were chased out of a peacekeeping mission in humiliating circumstances in 1993.

"We've had enough," said Muhammad Kanyare Afrah, a businessman who controls a swathe of Mogadishu and the surrounding countryside. "We want to help the Americans. They should not worry about 1993 happening again."

Bombing raids, rather than the use of troops, are being planned. American air reconnaissance missions over Somalia were stepped up last week after defence officials suggested that Al Qaeda might be trying to regroup there. "Our intelligence about

Somalia is increasing every day and what we're learning worries us," said one U.S. official.

Up to 100 Al Qaida terrorists are said to be operating in the country already, although it is not clear how senior they are. They have been linked to the Islamic rebel group Al Ittihad Al Islam, known as Al Al, which has received financial aid from Osama Bin Laden.

The group has gone to ground and its training camps, in remote, uninhabited regions, are difficult to identify. Al Al has lost much of the territory it controlled, but the march of fundamentalist Islam in Somalia has made it easier for its

forces to melt into the population.

"Al Qaida terrorists could easily be hidden away in Mogadishu," said Vincent Cannistraro, the CIA's former head of counter-terrorism. "Despite heavy naval patrols they could be entering in small fishing vessels and dhows."

What the American vice-president Dick Cheney called "the secret war" against Al Qaida networks is becoming more obvious. Washington believes its warning to nations with a known terrorist presence is having a salutary effect. Yemen last week moved to expel 80 foreign students from an

Islamic fundamentalist institute and a number of Arabs were detained for questioning. It also emerged that American forces will train Yemeni troops to hunt for Al Qaida operatives.

Somalia has been riven by feuds and faction-fighting and its capital reduced to a rubble. There has been no government worth the name for ten years. After chasing the Americans out in humiliating circum-

stances in 1993, many Somalis say they would be glad to have them back if they can provide peace and stability. Past experience has shown that warlords can easily turn hostile should America overstay its welcome. However, their support is opportune as the hunt for Al Qaeda operatives beyond Afghanistan gains urgency.

American air reconnaissance missions over Somalia were stepped up last week after defence officials suggested that Al Qaeda might be trying to regroup there. "Our intelligence about Somalia is increasing every day and what we're learning worries us," said a Bush administration official. (The Sunday Times)

## 15 held for planning terror strikes

**BANGKOK:** Singapore has arrested 15 people and accused them of planning to blow up military targets and embassies in the small city-state. The government said at least some of them might have received training from Osama bin Laden's terrorist organisation, Al Qaida.

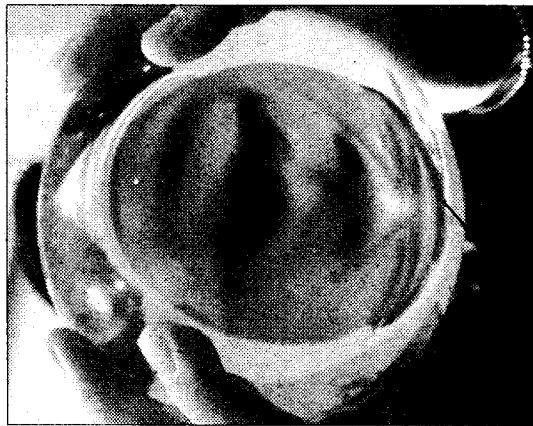
Announcing the arrests on Saturday, the Singapore government said the men detained between December 9 and December 24 had been found with bomb-making instructions and with photographs and videotape of buildings apparently being considered as targets. The government said it had also found falsified passports and forged immigration stamps as well as material linking the men to Al Qaida. (NYT News Service)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

8 JAN 2002

# US soldier's killer vanishes, fate uncertain

JEREMY PAGE  
KABUL, JANUARY 7



EVEN as US jets pounded suspected Osama bin Laden training camps in eastern Afghanistan on Monday and the ground special forces pursued scattered fighters of the Al Qaeda, tribal elders postponed the meeting to decide the fate of the 14-year-old boy who is believed to be responsible for the first US casualty in the war after he disappeared.

Afghan tribal elders were to convene a *jirga* (tribal council) to discuss whether to hand the boy over to the US military,

South Korean crystalball gazers predict Osama bin Laden's capture in January and death by Jujé. *Reuters*

sources in the Pakistani border town of Miranshah said.

The slain US soldier was part of a 25-member fact-finding mission in eastern Paktia province to verify reports by locals that US planes had hit civilian targets in Khost's Mata Chinah area. AIP reported last week. There was confusion over who may have killed Chapman.

A former Afghan Army general from Khost and in regular contact with the area, said four other men were suspected of involvement in the shooting. Meanwhile, British paratroopers arrived in Kabul to bolster a foreign force with a strong UN mandate to ensure security in Kabul.

US jets bombed areas around Khost where bin Laden once ran training camps and where he or his Al Qaeda fighters may have taken refuge, the private Pakistan-

based Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) said.

US helicopters landed in the area near the Zawara training camp, delivering US ground troops for a search operation for remnants of Al Qaeda and the vanquished Taliban militia.

Through the night and into Monday morning, US planes were bombing the area, AIP said, describing the raids as intense. It gave no details of damage or casualties. At least four helicopters had landed to bring in US ground troops, AIP said, quoting unidentified sources in the area. Fighters loyal to Taliban commander and former minister for tribal affairs, Jalaluddin Haqqani, were still believed to be in Zawara, it said.

The UN Special Envoy to Afghanistan said US forces were being very careful in their raids and he had not requested a halt

to the bombing that has killed numerous civilians. "They know that in some cases civilians have been hit, and I am sure they will exercise maximum care to avoid these accidents in the future," he said.

Asked if he had requested an end to the US bombing, Brahimi said: "I don't think we have spoken about that." Khalilzad said on arriving in Afghanistan on Saturday the US would continue its bombing until it had eliminated Taliban and Al Qaeda.

US troops have been searching cave complexes of Bin Laden's Al Qaeda network in the Tora Bora region of eastern Afghanistan, earlier shattered by US bombing, and also around Khost. Afghanistan's new leader said on Sunday he was determined to arrest the reclusive cleric Mullah Omar. — *Reuters*



# US envoy backs Israel, stresses W Asia security

Associated Press

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. — US envoy Mr Anthony Zinni today met Israeli foreign minister Mr Shimon Peres, and appeared to back the Israeli view that even though no Israelis have been killed in Palestinian attacks in three weeks, more remained to be done on the security side.

"It is a long road and a long path," Mr Zinni said. "And it has to start with security and it has to start with countering terrorism and it has to start with security cooperation."

Mr Zinni later met Israeli and Palestinian security commanders. He expressed optimism that the trip, ending Monday, might help cement a ceasefire. But despite the marked reduction in violence in recent weeks, trust has been badly undermined by Friday's announcement by Israel that it had seized a ship carrying 50 tonnes of weapons to the Palestinian areas.

Israeli Prime Minister Mr Ariel Sharon today, accused Palestinian President Mr Yasser Arafat of ordering the purchase of munitions found on board. The Palestinians, meanwhile, continued what they describe as a good-faith effort to quell the violence.

Mr Sharon said the interception proved the Palestinian Authority is "totally contaminated by terrorism" even though



Mr Anthony Zinni

the Palestinians have emphatically denied any involvement and one US official suggested the weapons might have been bound for the Lebanese militia Hezbollah.

Mr Zinni's trip is aimed at nudging the sides toward implementing a truce plan drafted last year by CIA chief Mr George Tenet, which calls on Israel to lift blockades and other measures and on the Palestinian Authority to end violence against Israelis.

The sides would then implement a plan worked out by US Senator Mr George Mitchell which calls for a Jewish settlement freeze and the resumption of peace talks.

Palestinian police today arrested a top militant wanted by Israel.

In an early morning operation, about 200 Palestinian police

swept into the Jenin refugee camp in the northern West Bank and arrested six members of the militant Islamic Jihad.

Among those detained was Ali Saffouri who, Palestinian security officials said, was the second most-wanted man on a list of 33 suspected militants whose arrest Israel has demanded for months.

Israel says the Palestinians have arrested only about 10 people on the list and those detained were not being interrogated.

Israel stood firm today in its decision not to permit Palestinian leader Mr Yasser Arafat leave his West Bank headquarters in Ramallah to attend Eastern Orthodox Christmas celebrations in nearby Bethlehem.

Meanwhile, top Palestinian negotiator Mr Nabil Shaath has been admitted to the King Faisal Specialist Hospital in Riyadh for severe back pain, Palestinian diplomats said Sunday.

Doctors are considering whether to operate on Mr Shaath, who is minister of planning and international cooperation in the Palestinian Authority. The diplomats said Shaath is suffering from a slipped disk. Mr Shaath, who arrived in Saudi Arabia on Wednesday, held talks with Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah on Saturday, handing him a letter from Mr Arafat, the official Saudi Press Agency reported.

THE STATESMAN

7 JAN 1999

# U.S. suffers first casualty in combat

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 5. After three months of military operations in Afghanistan, the United States has suffered its first combat fatality. An army special forces officer, said to be a Green Beret, was killed during a small arms fire exchange in eastern Afghanistan. An operative of the Central Intelligence Agency was also believed to be seriously wounded in the incident.

"There was an exchange of small arms fire. This American serviceman was doing his job. He was out for the purpose of working with and co-ordinating with tribal leaders in the area," the commander of the central command, Gen. Tommy Franks said in Florida.

Details of how the soldier died are yet to be given to the media. It is believed the CIA may have been involved in some mission which may not have been all that overt. The Green Berets have been in Afghanistan working and co-ordinating with other agencies of the United States Government, including the CIA, especially in the realm of intelligence gathering with a view to guiding American planes to their targets.

The slain Green Beret is said to have to be part of a team working near Khost, the area of Paktia province where the net has been cast for the leader of the Al-Qaeda, Osama bin Laden. The U.S. military has been combing the area along with other anti-Taliban forces. American warplanes once again bombed a compound believed to be that of the Al-Qaeda. The other area where there is intense American focus is central

Afghanistan, in the vicinity of Bagram, where the deposed leader of the Taliban, Mullah Mohammad Omar is believed to be hiding. At least two attempts in the last few days to have Mullah Omar surrender have failed and one view is that the former leader of the extremist outfit may have escaped the dragnet yet again.

AP reports from Kandahar:

The chief of Osama bin Laden's terrorist training camps in Afghanistan was under U.S. Marine custody on Saturday at Kandahar airport, where he will be questioned about the activities of the al-Qaeda network. U.S. authorities hope that Ibn Al-Shayk al-Libi, one of the highest-ranking members of Osama's organisation to be taken into custody, will provide valuable intelligence.

Marine Lt. James Jarvis said at a daily news briefing that Al-Libi is eventually expected "to be rotated out of here," but did not say when. An eventual destination could be Guantanamo, the U.S. military base in Cuba that is being transformed into a detention center for prisoners from al-Qaeda and its ousted Taliban allies.

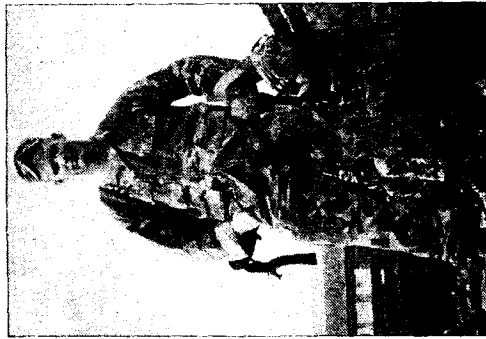
Al-Libi was among a new batch of prisoners who arrived on Saturday at the Kandahar airport, which is under Marine control, from Pakistan, where scores of al-Qaeda and Taliban soldiers are believed to be hiding, or from Shebergan in northern Afghanistan. About 275 prisoners are being held at the airport.

Earlier, a Red Cross official in the Afghan capital, Kabul, told The Associated Press, that about 3,000 prisoners were being held in Shebergan. — AP

THE HINDU

7 6 JAN 2002

# Pak to hand over Zaeef to USA



A file photograph of US Army's Green Beret Sergeant Nathan Ross Chapman who was killed in an ambush on Friday. — AP/PTI

AGENCIES  
 WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. — Pakistan has agreed to turn over to the USA the Taliban's former ambassador to that country, Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef and has given up one of the "top 20" Al-Qaida leaders, US officials said.

The USA has already frozen the assets of the Al-Qaida leader, Ibn Al-Shaykh al-Libi, according to government documents. Al-Libi, the highest ranking Al-Qaida member in US custody, ran Osama bin Laden's Khaldan training camp in Afghanistan where Zacarias Moussaoui and Ahmed Ressaam trained. He has been taken to Kandahar for questioning, a US official said yesterday, adding that he is considered

a potentially rich source of information about the terrorist organisation. Pakistani intelligence officials are questioning Zaeef in Peshawar.

The US official who disclosed the arrangement for turning over the former Taliban ambassador to Pakistan did not say where Zaeef would be taken but 273 Taliban and Al-Qaida prisoners have been held at Kandahar, the southern Afghan city where US Marines have built a detention facility.

**'Omar has escaped'**: Taliban supreme leader Mullah Mohammad Omar has escaped the southern Afghan province of Helmand and disappeared, said a local official in his former powerbase of Kandahar. "We know from our intelligence that Mullah

Omar is not in Baghdad and not in Helmand province," said the official in the office of Kandahar intelligence chief Haji Gullalai, who declined to be identified. Tribal elders and US forces had believed Omar had taken refuge in the mountainous Baghran area, in a northern corner of southern Helmand province, after he surrendered Kandahar on 7 December. Omar escaped from Helmand "on a motorbike", BBC reported.

A US special forces soldier killed on Friday in a firefight in Afghanistan, was part of a team investigating whether US bombs had caused civilian deaths in the area, a report said today.

**Demand for televised trial:** Defence lawyers for Zacarias Moussaoui has expressed

## 'Hijacker, Reid joined terror camp'

LONDON, Jan. 5. — Both Zacarias Moussaoui, the alleged 20th hijacker in the 11 September attacks in the USA, and Richard Reid, the unsuccessful shoe bomber who tried to blow up a flight from Paris to Miami recently, went to train in an Al-Qaida training camp in Pakistan.

The *Guardian* said on Saturday that Moussaoui might have met and influenced Reid. Both went on to train in an Al-Qaida camp in Pakistan, though it remains unclear if they were there at the same time or indeed if the newly raided Afghan camp near Kandahar, was in fact their training base. — PTI

support for a cable television network's motion to have his trial televised.

In a statement responding to the support offered by Middleburg, Virginia-based attorney Mr Edward MacMahon, the US cable channel Court TV, which on 26 December formally sought to televise the trial, said:

"We're always pleased when the parties involved do not object to our presence." The justice department has, meanwhile, opposed a request to air the trial, submitting their written arguments on Friday to US district judge Ms Leonie Brinkema, who has scheduled a hearing on Wednesday.

THE STATESMAN

6 JAN 2002

# Search on for elusive Omar

SAYED SALAHUDDIN  
& TOM DOGGETT

KABUL/WASHINGTON, JANUARY 4

US B-52s dropped satellite-guided bombs on an Al Qaeda guerrilla base in eastern Afghanistan on Friday as Afghan fighters and US troops scoured a village for the elusive Taliban leader, Mullah Mohammad Omar.

US and Afghan officials played down reports that Omar might already have been seized by forces loyal to the new government. "I don't think he's been captured yet. If he had been captured I would know it," Afghanistan's interim leader Hamid Karzai told the US television channel ABC, adding a promise to hand Omar over to Washington if and when he was taken.

With the US making enemy fugitives the focus of the war, Pentagon confirmed a second air strike in as many days on a suspected guer-

rilla base in eastern Afghanistan.

"The Zhawar Kili target in Khost Province was the same one hit on Thursday" by B-1 bombers, AC-130 flying gunships and F/A-18 Navy attack jets, Bryan Whitman, a Defense Department spokesman, said in Washington. US forces are searching homes around the village in the Baghran area, 160 km northwest of Kandahar.

"We would know within half an hour if he is captured," Nasratullah, secretary to Kandahar intelligence Chief Haji Gullalai, said. He, too, had no news of an arrest. Omar, who imposed his strict vision of Islam on the country for five years, sheltered Saudi-born militant Osama bin Laden, earning the wrath of the US when it accused bin Laden of planning the September 11 attacks.

US officials want to try the cleric and have put a bounty on his head. Karzai, though keen to assert his independence of his international backers, promised to hand him

over: "He's a criminal of an international standard and he should be delivered if the US wants him...to the US," he said.

Bin Laden has also disappeared since the collapse of the Taliban regime in the face of weeks of intensive US bombing. Nasratullah said he might still be in contact with Omar. Afghanistan's Minister for Reconstruction told Germany's ARD television on Thursday that he believed Omar had been captured. But US officials denied knowledge of it. "We don't have anything on that," Marines Major Ralph Mills, a spokesman for the US Central Command in Florida, said on Friday.

US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said on Thursday that the focus of the war was now on hunting "terrorists". Afghan intelligence officials say the reclusive Mullah Omar is holed up with 1,000 fighters in the mountains around Baghran. Afghan officials in Kandahar are trying to negotiate his sur-

render. Nasratullah said Afghan fighters had taken up positions on a front line at Baghran, as local leaders considered demands to hand over both Mullah Omar and their own weapons.

After a lull of several days, US air force General Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, announced new air strikes on Thursday, on a compound with training facilities and caves in the Khost region near the Pak frontier.

The same base at Zhawar Kili, suspected of being used by bin Laden's Al Qaeda network, was target for a second day on Friday, Defense Department spokesman Bryan Whitman told Reuters.

B-52 bombers used satellite-guided bombs on the base, which the Pentagon believes could have been used by al Qaeda leaders fleeing to Pakistan. It is South of Tora Bora, where al Qaeda diehards staged a last stand in tunnels and caves last month.

—Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS

- 5 JAN 2002

- 5 JAN 2002

# Moussaoui had visited Pakistan, Afghanistan

HT Correspondent  
Washington, January 4

ZACARIAS MOUSSAOUI, the first person to be charged for the September 11 terrorist attacks, had visited Pakistan and later trained at a terrorist training camp run by the al-Qaida network in Afghanistan.

The US authorities believe that the 33-year-old French citizen of Moroccan descent was intended to be the 20th hijacker for the September 11 operation.

Investigations have revealed that Moussaoui visited Pakistan in December 2000 and later travelled to Afghanistan.

But the US authorities have not yet revealed his precise activities in Pakistan or his contacts there.

The indictment says that Moussaoui had engaged in activities similar to that of the 19 hijackers who carried out the suicide attacks.

Besides receiving al-Qaida training, he had enrolled in the US for flight training, tried to acquire expertise in crop dustings and bought knives.

The defiant Moussaoui refused to enter a plea to a six-count criminal indictment when he was produced in a federal court in Alexandria, Virginia. "In the name of Allah, I do not have anything to plead. I enter no plea. Thank your very much," he said. The judge then entered the "not guilty" after speaking to his lawyer.

In parallel investigations, the US authorities have established a link between Moussaoui and Richard Reid, the British "shoe bomber" who recently tried to blow up an American Airlines plane.

The investigators are trying to determine if Reid had also received training in Afghanistan. During interrogations, some al Qaida prisoners have identified Reid as having trained in explosive with Moussaoui in Afghanistan.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

# Karzai wants US strikes to continue

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Jan. 2. — The Prime Minister of Afghanistan's interim government, Mr Hamid Karzai, said he wanted the US bombing of Afghanistan to continue until all terrorist activity was rooted out, but also expressed concern about the mounting civilian casualties.

"We want to finish terrorists in Afghanistan — we want to finish them completely", Mr Karzai said. "But we must also make sure our civilians do not suffer," he said in an interview to the *New York Times* published today.

Asked when the civilian cost would become too high to justify the continuation of bombing, he said, "we must make sure there is no civilian cost at all".

Mr Karzai's comments came in the light of reports that up to 100 villagers had been killed in overnight strikes on Saturday.

US officials, though have denied the reports. The Afghan Premier said he planned to take up the issue of civilian deaths with the US officials.

Mr Karzai also said many lower-level Taliban — "common people" who had been forcibly recruited, for example — would be released from the country's prisons and allowed to go home.

According to the records of the International Committee of the Red Cross, about 4,300 prisoners of war are being detained in prisons throughout Afghanistan. According to estimates by the US coalition it is around 7,000.

With security remaining paramount on Mr Karzai's agenda, he acknowledged a problem of lawlessness on the country's highways, which has made it difficult to deliver aid and to import goods. He said he was appointing provincial governors who would be responsible for controlling security in their areas.

THE STATESMAN

T 3 JAN 2002

# US assured of Omar handover

## Agencies

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3. — The USA has an assurance from Afghan leaders that if Mullah Omar surrenders, he will be handed over to US custody, Chief Pentagon spokeswoman Ms Victoria Clarke has said.

"We expect to have control of him," Ms Clarke told a press briefing here yesterday.

Meanwhile, Rear Admiral John Stufflebeem, Deputy Director of Operations for the Joint Staff, Intelligence, said negotiations are underway between Afghan and Taliban leaders for the surrender of the Taliban forces who have retreated to mountainous terrains around Baghran, northwest of Kandahar. US officials say Intelligence inputs indicate that Mullah Omar is with those forces.

There are also reports the Osama bin Laden is with him as well, Mr Stufflebeem said, adding US paratroopers and special forces along with anti-Taliban forces are searching for bin Laden and Omar.

Afghanistan's interim leader Mr Hamid Karzai is expected to

## Shoe bomber, hijack accused spoke over phone: report

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3. — Suspected shoe-bomber Richard Reid spoke over phone with Zacarias Moussaoui, the first man charged for the 11 September hijack plot, *The Washington Times* reported today. Citing US law enforcement authorities, the paper said Reid, accused of trying to destroy a trans-Atlantic airliner by detonating explosives in his shoes, had several telephone conversations with Moussaoui toward the end of 2000.

The phone calls are the second link between the two men, who also worshiped at the same London mosque.

British Intelligence agents intercepted the conversations, which ended in December 2000 when Moussaoui left England for Pakistan, *The Washington Times* said.

The FBI were not immediately available for comment.

A US indictment accuses Moussaoui of conspiring with Saudi-born dissident Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network in the 11 September attacks. More than 3,200 people died when three hijacked planes slammed into key US landmarks and a fourth crashed in a field in Pennsylvania. Moussaoui, a French citizen of Moroccan descent, yesterday invoked the name of Allah and refused to plead to six counts of conspiracy, four of which carry the death penalty. His lawyers then entered a plea of not guilty to the court in Alexandria, Virginia. — Reuters

meet with President Mr George W Bush at the White House in February, *The Washington Post* said today quoting a senior US official.

When he was sworn into office on 22 December, Mr Karzai said

he had received an invitation to visit the White House from US special envoy to Afghanistan Mr James Dobbins a day earlier, on 21 December, adding that he accepted it gladly. His meeting with Mr Bush, however, has not

been officially announced nor has a specific date been set.

An Afghan Intelligence official has said that negotiations have reached a "crucial stage" for the surrender of Omar, with a resolution expected within two days. "We have received positive response from those tribal chieftains who are sheltering Omar and his associates in Baghran," Mr Nusratullah, a senior intelligence official in Kandahar said. Omar has been told that if he does not surrender by Saturday, the Baghran area north of Kandahar where he is believed to be hiding may face US-led airstrikes. A team of prominent anti-Taliban leaders, headed by Helmand Governor Mr Sher Mohammed, are negotiating final terms, he said. The talks began on Monday.

In Jalalabad on Thursday, more than 800 fighters belonging to Nangarhar province's ruling council began hunting Al-Qaida members, the Pakistan-based Afghan Islamic Press reported.

US Marines helping search for leaders of Taliban and Al-Qaida found documents, guns and other items that could be useful, defence officials say.

## 300 Taliban prisoners freed

Associated Press

KABUL, Jan. 3. — More than 300 Taliban prisoners were released in Kabul on Thursday by Afghanistan's new government after spending up to five years locked up by the Northern Alliance of opposition groups.

Security ministry officials called it the first of several planned prisoner releases — a gesture of national reconciliation.

"We are very pleased with the government," said Abdul Shukur, one of 320 newly freed prisoners in different parts of the country who were dropped in Kabul, the capital, on Thursday. There, they boarded chartered buses bound for their villages.

"God willing, I'm on my way home to see my family," Shukur said. It was not known if the prisoners included Al-Qaida fighters. Most of the Afghan nationals appeared to be in good health.

THE STATESMAN

7 JAN 2002

## Khalilzad, U.S. special envoy for Afghanistan

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 1. The U.S. President, Mr. George W Bush, has named Mr. Zalmay Khalilzad as special envoy for Afghanistan. Mr. Khalilzad is special assistant to the President for Southwest Asia, the Persian Gulf and other issues in the region, a post he will be retaining.

"The special envoy is a representative to the Afghan people as they seek to consolidate a new order, reconstruct their country and free it from the Al-Qaeda and Taliban control," the White House spokesman, Mr. Scott McClellan, said in a statement. "The position... was established to underscore the President's support for these objectives".

With the appointment of Mr. Khalilzad on Monday, the Bush administration has now three senior officials working on Afghanistan — the other two being Mr. Richard Haass, Special Coordinator for Afghanistan Policy, and Mr. James Dobbins, special representative to the Afghan Opposition, which is now a part of the Interim Government in Kabul.

Born in Mazar-e-Sharif, Mr. Khalilzad has long been considered the administration's most experienced person on Afghanistan. He will be working very closely with the United Nations' Special Representative, Mr. Lakdhar Brahimi, who is presently overseeing Afghanistan's transition process.

Mr. Khalilzad has served U.S. Presidents Mr. Ronald Reagan and Mr. George Bush Sr. He was in the State Department between 1985 and 1989 as an advisor on the Soviet war in Afghanistan as also on the Iran-Iraq war. Between 1991 and 1992, he was a senior civilian official at the Defence Department for Policy Planning working under Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, currently number two at the Pentagon.

THE HINDU

JAN 2002



# US bombs kill 100 civilians

FROM MOHAMMAD BASHIR

**Qalaye Niazi (Afghanistan), Dec. 31 (Reuters):** US warplanes killed over 100 people in a raid on a village in eastern Afghanistan, residents said today, as British troops arrived in the capital to take up peacekeeping duties.

At least one fighter jet, a B-52 bomber and two helicopters yesterday morning swooped on the village of Qalaye Niazi, about four km north of the city of Gardez, capital of eastern Paktia province, villager Janat Gul told Reuters. Paktia province is where US forces have been carrying out operations against remnants of Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network and Taliban fighters still on the run.

"There are no al Qaida or Taliban people here," said Gul, referring to the group blamed for the September 11 attacks in the United States, and the former government which sheltered it.

The raid seemed sure to stir up tensions between factions in Afghanistan's interim administration which want the US bombing campaign, under way since October 7, to halt, and those who believe it should continue.

The defence ministry, headed by Gen. Mohammad Fahim, says the bombing should end as soon



Afghan girls buy posters of Indian actors and actresses at an outdoor Kabul bazaar. (Reuters)

as possible while foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah said yesterday that "the campaign will continue for as long as it takes to finish the terrorists".

There are also tensions within the administration, headed by Hamid Karzai, over the role of foreign forces on Afghan soil.

But an advance column of about 50 British troops drove into Kabul on Monday to take up

peacekeeping duties, the vanguard of an international security force that was agreed with the new government.

The new administration and Britain have initialled an agreement on deployment of the force, authorised by the UN Security Council to fill the security vacuum in Afghanistan after the collapse of the Taliban, a British official said today. The force is

eventually expected to number 3,000.

Janat Gul said 24 members of his family were killed in the pre-dawn US bombing raid on Qalaye Niazi, and described himself as the sole survivor.

"People are very upset about what is going on here," he said.

Paktia province borders Pakistan and is southwest of the jagged canyons of Tora Bora — one of the last stands of al Qaida fighters. At least 12 houses in Qalaye Niazi were razed.

Amid the destruction, a Reuters Television cameraman saw scraps of flesh, pools of blood and clumps of what appeared to be human hair. Huge craters had been blasted out by the strike.

A member of the local tribal shura, or council, said they had invited US forces to the village to see the damage and to find out what had happened.

Major Pete Mitchell — a spokesman for US Central Command — said: "We are aware of the incident and we are currently investigating."

Reuters passed several four-wheel drive vehicles containing US forces, accompanied by soldiers of the Northern Alliance which took Kabul in November, at the Tira Pass, apparently en route to the village.

THE TELEGRAPH

- 1 JAN 2002