

Dangerous Politician!

George Bush earns the epithet

As the year draws to a close, the world's attention is focused, uneasily indeed, on what the Nobel Prize winning writer, Gunter Grass calls a *truly dangerous politician*, George W Bush. As far as President Bush is concerned, Iraq can do nothing right. He wanted arms inspectors to return to Iraq; they did. He wanted them armed with the mandate to visit any site, any time, often and without notice; Saddam Hussein complied. He demanded a full dossier of Iraq's weapons stockpile and capacity by a deadline; Iraq produced it with a day to spare. The 1,200 page document was to be presented to the head of the inspection team, Hans Blix who was to deliver a considered evaluation to members of the Council. Bush's storm troopers ambush the document on its way to Blix, without please or by your leave, saying they would examine it first. The same day and it can be no one's case that there was time for even a cursory reading, Bush's Defence Secretary brands the document a rehash of old material and declares it incomplete. He also forecasts that Blix's report to the Security Council days later would support the American position. Is Donald Rumsfeld a clairvoyant or merely delivering a predetermined verdict?

They next want a list of Iraqi scientists who may have worked on nuclear and allied research; 500 names are provided without delay. What is Bush's response? His New Year resolution has an attack on Iraq on top of his agenda, exposing his motives, his disregard for evidence — even Blix asks that his inspectors be given more time to do their work — and confirming that he suffers from that most distressing of human afflictions — a closed mind. The Secretary-General of the UN, Kofi Annan makes the same plea for time but Bush is both blind and deaf. The Inspectors are working hard. They are into the second month of their work; they have not been obstructed and they have found nothing. Bush goes on to claim a broad coalition against Iraq; it is so broad that it falls flat. Apart from Tony Blair whose motives are thoroughly questionable, the only other country, Qatar is cajoled, bribed, threatened and taken for granted by an aggressive America to provide bases for the attack on Iraq.

With an exquisite sense of timing Kim Jong-Il of North Korea cocks a snook at America, breaking locks to resume building nuclear facilities and sending inspectors from the IAEA in Vienna packing, knowing that Bush cannot fight on two fronts, despite Rumsfeld's threat to do just that. North Korea sees no sense in a nuclear war, it has no targets, its relations with the South are excellent — the country is starving and its economy is in a shambles. Its hope is to frighten America and Bush into loosening their purse strings; it wants to replicate what Musharraf has accomplished — \$4 billion in two lots already under the belt and immunity from scrutiny of its terrorist activities. Kim knows that American concern for terrorism is selective and to that extent hypocritical. He wants to take similar advantage. LK Advani is therefore right to send a strong and clear warning to the international community (read Bush) to take note that the epicentre of terrorist activity has shifted from Afghanistan to Pakistan.

Bush must know or must be told that he may have succeeded in whipping America into a dangerous hysteria but his antics have ensured that Osama bin Laden has yielded place to — guess who — at the top of the World's table of the most dangerous man on earth — George W Bush, by unfortunate intervention of a Supreme Court justice, President of the United States of America.

Have a Happy New year!

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THE STATESMAN

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U.S. orders major military force to Gulf

H.D. 29/12

WASHINGTON, DEC. 28. The Pentagon has ordered a major military force to the Persian Gulf in preparation for a possible war with Iraq. Thousands of troops, two aircraft carrier battle groups and scores of combat aircraft have received orders since Christmas to ready themselves to head to the region in January and February, defence officials said on Friday. Military personnel will go to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Oman and Bahrain, among other locations.

The Bush administration waited until after the holiday to issue the orders, which alert units across the United States and possibly overseas to prepare for deployment to the Persian Gulf, officials said. Officials said tens of thousands of military personnel will receive orders to go to the region, but a precise figure was unavailable.

Some units being sent to the region are combat-ready, including infantry units, warships and strike aircraft, officials said. Many more are logistics, engineering and support teams, which will prepare for the arrival of even larger units in the months ahead. They will add to the 50,000 U.S. military personnel already in the region.

"We don't comment on specific unit deployments. However, forces will be moving

to the region to be in place should the President decide to use them," said Jim Wilkinson, a spokesman at the U.S. Central Command.

The Pentagon ordered the Navy to prepare two aircraft-carrier battle groups and two amphibious assault groups to go to the region. The orders require the Navy to have the vessels ready to sail to the seas around Iraq within 96 hours after a certain date in January, they said on the condition of anonymity. They did not specify that date.

One of those carriers, the USS George Washington, has already been selected to head to the region.

Iraq gives scientists' list

A report from Baghdad said Iraq delivered a list to the U.N. officials today naming over 500 scientists who have worked on nuclear, chemical, biological and missile programmes, "Today we have received from the Iraqi National Monitoring Directorate a list of names of personnel associated with Iraq's chemical, biological, nuclear and ballistic missile programmes," Hiro Ueki, spokesman for the U.N. programme in Baghdad said.— AP

Iraq defiant: Page 14

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WAR PLAN / U.S. READYING TROOPS

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Iraq sounds a defiant note

BAGHDAD, DEC. 28. A day after Washington ordered two aircraft carriers and thousands of Marines to prepare for action in Iraq, the Baghdad Government shrugged off the threat with one newspaper saying Iraqis cannot be intimidated by the beating of drums of war.

Separately, an Iraqi scientist interviewed by the United Nations accused the world body of lying about the significance of the meeting, and U.N. arms inspectors visited five sites around Baghdad on Saturday, including a complex that formerly made parts for a nuclear bomb.

The U.S. Defence Department sent orders on Friday for two aircraft carrier battle groups and two assault ships — carrying roughly 4,400 Marines — to be ready to sail to the sea off Iraq within 96 hours after a certain date, U.S. officials said, speaking on the condition of anonymity. They declined to specify that date.

"Whoever dares to strike Iraq and its people will pay a high price," the official Iraqi army newspaper, *Al-Qadisiya*, said on Saturday in an editorial.

"Iraq is fenced by real men, experienced in battle. The beat-



A member of Turkey's Communist Party raises anti-war and anti-U.S. slogans during a rally in Istanbul on Saturday. — AP

ing of war drums, the noise of weapons, the sending of warships, the mobilizing of armies will neither frighten nor terrorize the Iraqis. On the contrary, it will increase their determination and strengthen their unity," said the paper, which is named after a historic battle be-

tween the Arabs and the Persians.

In similar vein, Iraqi Trade Minister, Mohammed Mahdi Saleh, opened a seminar in Baghdad Saturday saying that Iraq would defeat any invader.

"Iraqis will fight under the leadership of holy leading war-

rior (President) Saddam Hussein," Saleh said, speaking in military uniform. "We will fight from village to village, from city to city, from street to street in every city."

The scientist whom International Atomic Energy Agency officials interviewed, Kazem Mojbai, rejected the United Nations' account of the meeting in a press conference on Saturday.

A U.N. spokesman, Hiro Ueki, said that on Friday Mr. Mojbai, a metallurgist at the state-run Al-Raya company, had given officials of the U.N. nuclear agency details about an unidentified Iraqi military programme that "has attracted considerable attention as a possible prelude to a clandestine nuclear program."

"The answers will be of great use in completing the IAEA assessment," Mr. Ueki said in a statement late on Friday. "I strongly deny this," Mr. Mojbai told reporters on Saturday. "In fact, I'm very annoyed about these statements and such fabrications. I explained to them that I have nothing to do with the previous nuclear programme or any other prohibited projects," Mr. Mojbai said.

— AP

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SEE HINDU

IRAQ FIRES AT US, UK AIRCRAFT AS BUSH INCHES CLOSER TO WAR

'No unilateral US war on Iraq'

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Agence France Presse

LONDON, Dec. 26. — The USA will not launch a war on Iraq without UN backing, Mr George Robertson, Nato secretary-general, said today.

He said the 19-member alliance could support military action against Iraq, and has been asked to consider such an option, but no decisions have yet been taken. "Up till now, the USA has kept very rigidly to the UN route. They still do, the inspectors are still there," he told the BBC.

He said: "There is a certain amount of rhetoric, but in reality President George Bush has strongly placed his country in Nato's fold and also within international, multilateral institutions."

Washington asked Nato earlier this month for help in any possible military action. "What the Americans have done in NATO is to suggest a number of options where NATO could help in a military action and countries have been invited to consider that," he said. "But no decisions have yet been taken on it." The US request came after Nato leaders agreed at a November summit to take "effective action" to secure Iraq's "full and immediate compliance" with UN disarmament demands.

Saddam refuses to lift ban: Saddam Hussein has turned down a suggestion to lift a ban on foreign satellite television, saying it was illogical to relay enemy or immoral material, state television said today, adds a report from Baghdad. The Iraqi President told a Cabinet meeting that only an elite in Baghdad was interested in receiving



A USAF F-14 Tomcat is ready for launch on board the USS Constellation in the Gulf on Thursday. — AFP

such broadcasts while the man in the street was busy with more mundane pursuits. "Airing the views of others who are in enemy ranks would be tantamount to sabotage," he said.

"Banning immoral behaviour while simultaneously helping spread it (by airing footage that would encourage such behaviour) would bring God's wrath down upon us," he said Saddam, whose speeches increasingly have religious overtones.

Only foreign media, embassies and senior state offi-

cial are allowed access to foreign satellite television in Iraq. There are four television channels in the country: state television, which is run by the information ministry; a state satellite channel; Youth Television, which is run by Saddam's elder son Uday, and a sports channel. Iraqi missile batteries and ground defences opened up on US and British warplanes overflying the south of the country, driving them back to Kuwait, a military spokesman has said, adds another report from Baghdad.

USA bent on battle: Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Dec. 26. — The USA is "bent" on going to war in Iraq and will find an excuse to do so, Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr Mahathir Mohammed, said. "I think they will go to war in Iraq," Mr Mahathir was quoted as having said in an interview published today in two local newspapers, including the *New Straits Times*. "If they can find an excuse, they will."

Mr Mohammed said a war in Iraq would be the most important challenge to Malaysia's economy, which like many in Southeast Asia relies heavily on the USA as an export market. — AP



Mr Mahathir Mohammed

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Am(bush)ed

57-6 2/6/12 A tale of two countries us (W)

With Pyongyang proving as good as its word by moving to dismantle or break open seals and surveillance cameras at its frozen Yongbyon nuclear reactor, which it has said it will reactivate, the Bush doctrine has been ambushed from an unexpected quarter, and even Donald Rumsfeld, the normally belligerent US defence secretary, seems to be groping for a response. Rumsfeld struck his characteristic pose when he announced that the US was capable of fighting and winning two regional conflicts at the same time, meaning North Korea and Iraq, but he also stated that *contra* Iraq, diplomacy has not been given a chance to work in North Korea. That is palpably untrue, as almost a similar crisis over Pyongyang's nuclear reactors and diversion of material for a bomb programme has exploded in 1994, defused diplomatically through the intervention of Jimmy Carter — a solution that hasn't worked very well and finally came apart this year. Pyongyang never really allowed weapons inspections required by the 1994 agreement to proceed; the two promised light-water reactor never got built; Pyongyang obtained gas centrifuges and other machinery needed to enrich uranium from America's stalwart ally in the war against terror, Pakistan; and disclosed recently that it was pursuing a nuclear weapons programme. Moreover, Pyongyang also has missiles with far greater reach than Saddam Hussein's archaic Scuds — it delivered some of them to Islamabad recently for striking distant Indian targets.

Senator Joe Biden, who used to chair the Senate's foreign relations committee, has warned that if the Yongbyon plan comes back into operation Pyongyang could have four to five nuclear bombs within months — it is suspected of having assembled a couple already — and underscores that message by asserting unambiguously that Pyongyang represents a clear and present danger to US interests, more so than Saddam Hussein. But Rumsfeld's remarks suggest that the diplomatic route will be taken vis-a-vis Pyongyang, which would mean isolating it further and asking the Chinese to intercede. The Chinese will likely throw up their hands after some time, saying we tried but Pyongyang's not in a mood to listen, while Pyongyang's dictatorial regime wouldn't mind very much if greater isolation meant even harsher food and energy shortages for already suffering North Koreans. There is another roadblock ahead in the form of newly elected President Roh Moo-Hyun of South Korea, who says he will not kowtow to US initiatives, and will launch his own programme of accommodation with Pyongyang. Given the unremitting focus on Iraq, Pyongyang may be able to exploit the opportunity to assemble a sizable nuclear arsenal. Its people may starve, but that's not material.

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Pyongyang alert

THE AMERICANS waged a strange war with Korea in 1871 when the latter refused to do business with the US. The month-long conflict ended in a 'draw', with the American ships sailing away claiming victory and the Koreans declaring they had driven the Americans away. Now, a similar conflict seems to be brewing in the Korean Peninsula where the reclusive Kim Jong-il regime of North Korea has taken on Washington in a political game of brinkmanship. Pyongyang probably believes that the US preoccupation with Iraq will inhibit it from dealing harshly with another member of the 'axis of evil'. At the heart of the controversy is the Agreed Framework of 1994, under which an international consortium has been building a couple of proliferation-proof nuclear reactors and providing fuel oil for the North Koreans till the power plants become operational.

The US was also supposed to release almost a billion dollars to Pyongyang as part of the agreement to replace the country's nuclear programme. In return, Pyongyang was to allow inspectors from the International Atomic Energy

Agency to monitor its original reactors. But when Pyongyang began to drag its feet over the inspections, Washington suspended its heavy fuel oil shipments. American jitters over the security threat in the region are understandable. North Korea has consistently denied any possession of nuclear weapons, but has been equally consistent in refusing to forego its 'right' to have them.

It's time Washington rethought its Korean policy and took a closer look at the increasing anti-American sentiment in the peninsula. (The new South Korean President, Roh Moo-hyun, apparently won on an anti-US plank in much the same way Gerhard Schroeder did in Germany.) Forcing the issue, as threatened by US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, may not be the best option. A better bet would be for the US to try and help turn round the collapsed North Korean economy and nudge it towards a free market. This could be the best way to deal with a seemingly schizophrenic Pyongyang regime. The other option would be for the US to act just as schizophrenically and set off a war which will devastate the region.

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Rumsfeld warns N. Korea on n-plan

WASHINGTON, DEC. 24. The U.S. could make war against North Korea even during a conflict with Iraq, said the Defence Secretary, Donald H. Rumsfeld. But he said diplomacy, not the threat of military action, guides the Bush administration's efforts to contain Pyongyang's resurgent nuclear ambitions.

The Bush administration demanded on Monday that North Korea halt plans to restart a dormant nuclear reactor that was critical to that country's nuclear weapons programme. It pressed the Communist Government in Pyongyang to restore the U.N. surveillance gear that it dismantled at a nuclear reactor at Yongbyon and not to restart the facility.

North Korea said the reactor would be used to generate elec-

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tricity.
Mr. Rumsfeld said at a Pentagon news conference that North Korea should not take the current focus on Iraq as tacit approval to go forward with its weapons programmes.

"We are capable of fighting two major regional conflicts," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"We're capable of winning decisively in one and swiftly defeating in the case of the other, and let there be no doubt about it."

Mr. Rumsfeld said no military action was imminent to halt Pyongyang's nuclear efforts, and the White House officials said the U. S. intended to pursue a diplomatic course to persuade North Korea to abandon efforts to expand its nuclear arsenal. —AP

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THE HINDU

US can tackle N. Korea also, says Rumsfeld

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Mr Rumsfeld said no military action was imminent to halt Pyongyang's nuclear efforts, and White House officials said the United States intends to pursue a diplomatic course to persuade North Korea to abandon efforts to expand its nuclear arsenal.

Meanwhile, reports in Seoul said, undaunted by strong US warnings, North Korea is taking concrete steps to produce weapons-grade plutonium and has begun repairing mothballed nuclear facilities.

Meanwhile, North Korea's military upped its rhetoric against the US on Tuesday, urging all soldiers and civilians to become 'human bombs' in the event of war amid an escalating nuclear crisis on the peninsula.

The sabre-rattling statement from defence minister Kim Il-Chol came as the North was removing the last UN monitoring equipment from its frozen nuclear facilities in defiance of strong US warnings. Agencies

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US condemns North Korea on nuclear reactor move

Seoul: The United States said it would neither bargain nor negotiate under duress with North Korea as a leading US lawmaker described the reclusive communist state's nuclear programme as a greater threat than Iraq.



Colin Powell

not enter into dialogue in response to threats or broken commitments," he said. "We will not bargain or offer inducements for North Korea to live up to the treaties and agreements it has signed."

A UN watchdog said North Korea had broken seals safeguarding about 8,000 spent fuel rods at the Yongbyon reactor, north of Pyongyang, which could be reprocessed to recover plutonium for nuclear weapons.

"As the spent fuel contains a significant amount of plutonium, North Korea's action is of great non-proliferation concern and represents a further disruption of the IAEA's ability to apply safeguards in (North Korea)," said Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Australia, the only Western nation to have diplomatic ties with North Korea, weighed in with strong words of its own.

"I strongly urge (North Korea) to step back

from the path it is taking, and to restore full cooperation with the IAEA in applying the containment and surveillance measures," foreign minister Alexander Downer said in a statement on Monday.

North Korea's announcement that it would restart the five-megawatt reactor at Yongbyon, a plant at the centre of an earlier crisis that was defused with a 1994 oil-for-nuclear compliance agreement, has complicated the task.

In Washington, the outgoing chairman of the US Senate foreign relations committee, Democrat Joseph Biden of Delaware, described the North Korean threat as greater than that from Iraq.

"This is a greater danger immediately to US interests at this very moment, in my view, than Saddam Hussein is," he told the 'Fox News Sunday' programme.

The North's official Korean Central News Agency said it began removing the surveil-

lance devices after the IAEA did not act on Pyongyang's demand early this month to take the equipment away to allow the reactor to restart.

"This situation compelled the DPRK (North Korea) to immediately start the work of removing the seals and monitoring cameras from the frozen nuclear facilities for their normal operation to produce electricity," it said.

The Yongbyon plant had been closed under the 1994 agreement with the United States in which North Korea froze its reactors in exchange for shipments of oil and the construction of proliferation-proof reactors.

But the United States, South Korea, Japan and the European Union halted oil supplies to the North after it acknowledged a programme to develop highly enriched uranium in defiance of the 1994 agreement and other international commitments.

IRAQ / AMERICA TO 'DOUBLE TROOP SIZE'

U.S. launches biggest manoeuvre

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SOUTH OF KUWAIT-IRAQ BORDER, DEC. 21. The U.S. Army launched its biggest manoeuvre in the Kuwaiti desert since the Gulf War on Saturday, throwing thousands of soldiers and hundreds of armoured vehicles into live-fire exercises to sharpen their skills ahead of a possible new war with Iraq.

The operations got under way as the threat of war increased with declarations by U.N. arms inspectors that Iraq failed to fully account for its banned weapons, and the U.S. struggled for diplomatic support to declare the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein in "material breach" of U.N. resolutions.

News of the latest diplomatic confrontations sharpened the expectations among soldiers of the 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, as they rumbled forward in tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles on Saturday for two days of live-fire manoeuvres in the windblown sands a few km from the Iraqi border.

"This is the biggest manoeuvre exercise since the Gulf War," Maj. Gen. Buford Blount, commander of the 3rd Division, told The Associated Press. "It really adds focus to our soldiers. They're already one of the best trained divisions in the army, probably in the world." He didn't answer directly when asked whether the likelihood had increased that his men would put into practice the le-

thal skills they are refining in the Kuwaiti desert.

"We have to wait for the President to make that decision," he said. "We'd be out here training

Bush puts off Africa visit

WASHINGTON, DEC. 21. The White House has called off the U.S. President, George W. Bush's planned trip to Africa next month, citing the standoff with Iraq and a desire to start work on domestic priorities.

The trip will be rescheduled for later in the year, said the White House press secretary, Ari Fleischer.

But law enforcement sources said the secret service had serious concerns for the President's safety in Africa after last month's terrorist attacks in Kenya, for which Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda network claimed responsibility. — AP

anyway." The two-day war games under day and night conditions are one of a series of exercises carried out in the Kuwaiti desert in recent weeks, but these are by far the most intricate.

While American officials have said the U.S. President, George W. Bush, has not yet decided to launch a war, it appears ever

more likely he'll do so soon. On Friday, an administration official said on condition of anonymity that Mr. Bush had authorised a doubling of the 50,000 U.S. troops now in the Gulf.

Strategic information

In Washington, officials said the U.S. would provide the U.N. with strategic and specific information which, Washington says, could help the inspectors detect Iraqi chemical and biological stockpiles.

The latest intelligence could be given to the U.N. Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC) soon, they said. The U.S. had argued till now that it cannot share the data fearing that its "sources and methods" could be leaked to Iraqis.

Monarchies hold summit

Meanwhile in Doha, the annual summit of the six Gulf Arab monarchies opened today to the sound of war drums over neighbour Iraq and the emir of host country Qatar calling for a rapid completion of U.N. arms inspections.

Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa al-Thani urged inspectors to "carry out their mission with complete objectivity and neutrality" and the "international community to do everything so that this mission is completed as quickly as possible." — AP, PTI, AFP

Bush, Roh pledge to strengthen ties

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, DEC. 21. The U.S. has moved swiftly to woo the South Korean President-elect, Roh Moo-hyun, in the sensitive context of tensions triggered by the raging anti-America feelings in Seoul and elsewhere in the backyard of Washington's strategic ally.

It was the U.S. President, George W. Bush, who telephoned Mr. Roh to congratulate him on his victory and pledge to strengthen the American alliance with South Korea. Mr. Roh himself had, in the first place, raised the scope for America's comfort level in dealing with him, at least at this juncture.

Mr. Roh, who yesterday spoke of his desire to "maintain friendly relations with the United States", will be inaugurated as South Korea's 16th President next February. Mr. Bush and Mr. Roh have, according to the White House, "agreed to work closely together to promote peace on the Korean peninsula and to further strengthen the U.S.-South Korea alliance". The two leaders also "discussed the possibility of sending senior representatives to each other's capitals to address issues of mutual concern". Mr. Roh accepted Mr. Bush's invitation to

visit Washington at the earliest opportunity.

Mr. Roh, who will meet the incumbent South Korean President, Kim Dae-jung on Monday to begin the process of transition, has received congratulatory messages from the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and the Japanese Prime Minister, Junichiro Koizumi, among others. However, the timing of Mr. Bush's telephonic call could not have been more important in the calendar of a 'President-in-Waiting', given the unabated anti-America outrage in South Korea over Washington's perceived arrogance and insensitivity towards a long-time 'ally'. Not lost on the Asia-Pacific diplomatic circles is Mr. Bush's sense of urgency to build a working relationship with South Korea's President-elect.

The three inter-related aspects of the Bush-Roh understanding will require a cooperative approach in an atmosphere of sensitivity to each other's concerns. First, the general refrain by Mr. Bush as also Mr. Roh about working "closely together" to foster peace on the Korean peninsula is in sync with the South Korean leader's own priority of seeking a 'peaceful' resolution of the crisis over North Korea's nuclear weap-

onisation overdrive. Mr. Roh has indicated that he would not only like South Korea to play a "leading role" to achieve this objective but also do so in conjunction with the U.S. and Japan.

Relevant to this context is North Korea's own attitude towards Mr. Roh. While Pyongyang has not yet revealed its mind in a credible or authoritative fashion, the U.S. is also assessing whether or not North Korea will actually reactivate its plutonium-yielding nuclear power plants and risk a major confrontation with the international community. Second, the general commitment by Mr. Bush as well as Mr. Roh to "further strengthen" the bilateral alliance will remain a wish, rather than a matter of serious political will, unless steps are really taken at the ground level, even during the South Korean leader's preparations for his inauguration as President.

Closely linked to this reality is the third aspect of the Bush-Roh telephonic conversation. The possibility of sending senior officials to each other's capitals is a matter of urgency if the troubled bilateral equation is not to degenerate into an estranged alliance with attendant risks for peace and stability in the region.

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U.S. warns Iraq of stern measures

WASHINGTON, DEC. 20. In a move which could trigger a U.S. strike against Iraq, the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has declared that Iraq had flagrantly violated the United Nations disarmament resolution.

"Iraq's declaration totally fails to meet the Security Council resolution for an accurate and complete accounting of weapons," Mr. Powell told news persons on Thursday.

Mr. Powell's declaration came on the heels of two top U.N. weapons inspectors' statement that there was little new in the Iraqi declaration.

Mr. Powell said the declaration, is a "catalogue of recycled information and flagrant omissions."

"The world must view this with great scepticism," he added.

Warning Iraq of strict measures, Mr. Powell said, there was a "practical limit to how much longer you can go down the road of non-cooperation."

"Iraq was well on its way to losing this last chance," he added.

Baghdad's declaration did not even cover information that U.N. inspectors had unearthed before they left in late 1998, Mr. Powell said.

Citing an example, the Secretary of State said that the in-



The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, speaking at the State Department in Washington on Thursday. — AP

spectors had reached the conclusion then that Iraq could have produced 26,000 litres of anthrax, three times what Iraq had declared.

However, the Iraqi documents is silent on these supplies, he added.

"We have seen this game again and again of attempting to sow confusion to buy time," Mr. Powell said.

The U.S., he said, would push for interviews with Iraqi scientists and other associated with Iraq's weapons programme at

sites outside that country so that they could be unconstrained.

Administration officials have been quoted in the media here as saying that the U.S. President, George W Bush, was likely to make a decision on war with Iraq only in late January or early February. Asked whether there is a deadline for Iraq to comply with the U.N. resolution, Mr. Powell said there is no calendar deadline "but, obviously, there is a practical limit to how much longer you can just go down the

road of non-cooperation and how much time the inspectors can be given to do their work."

He also insisted that if U.N. presents a list of names of scientists and technicians involved in weapons of mass destruction to Iraqi government, "they are required to provide these individuals for interview, and for interview in a safe place, and for their families to be in a safe place where they will not be in danger of losing their lives for telling the truth. And so we are hard at work on all of these modalities."

On the "material breach" of the Security Council, Mr. Powell said: "I think perhaps too much has been made of the term." "Material breach" is a term that comes from the law that says a party to a commitment has failed in meeting the terms of that commitment.

"I don't think we are devaluing the term. I think we are using the term to make it clear to the world that, once again, we have a breach on the part of Iraq with respect to its obligations and, therefore, the spots have not changed.

"Now, I will let the other members of the (U.N. Security) Council make their own judgement as to whether they wish to characterise it as such right now," Mr. Powell said.

Show us the arms, Blix to Bush

ALISTAIR LYON

Baghdad, Dec. 20 (Reuters): Arms inspectors today criticised the US, alone in saying Baghdad is in "material breach" of a UN disarmament resolution, and its ally Britain for not sharing vital information on Iraq.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair told his troops to prepare for possible war with Iraq but said it was still unclear whether weapons inspectors would find Iraq in breach of the resolution.

US secretary of state Colin Powell yesterday made it clear that time was running out for a peaceful solution and President George W. Bush was due to offer his first substantive comment on Iraq's weapons declaration later today.

Iraq said Washington had over-reacted by saying Baghdad's weapons declaration was a "material breach".

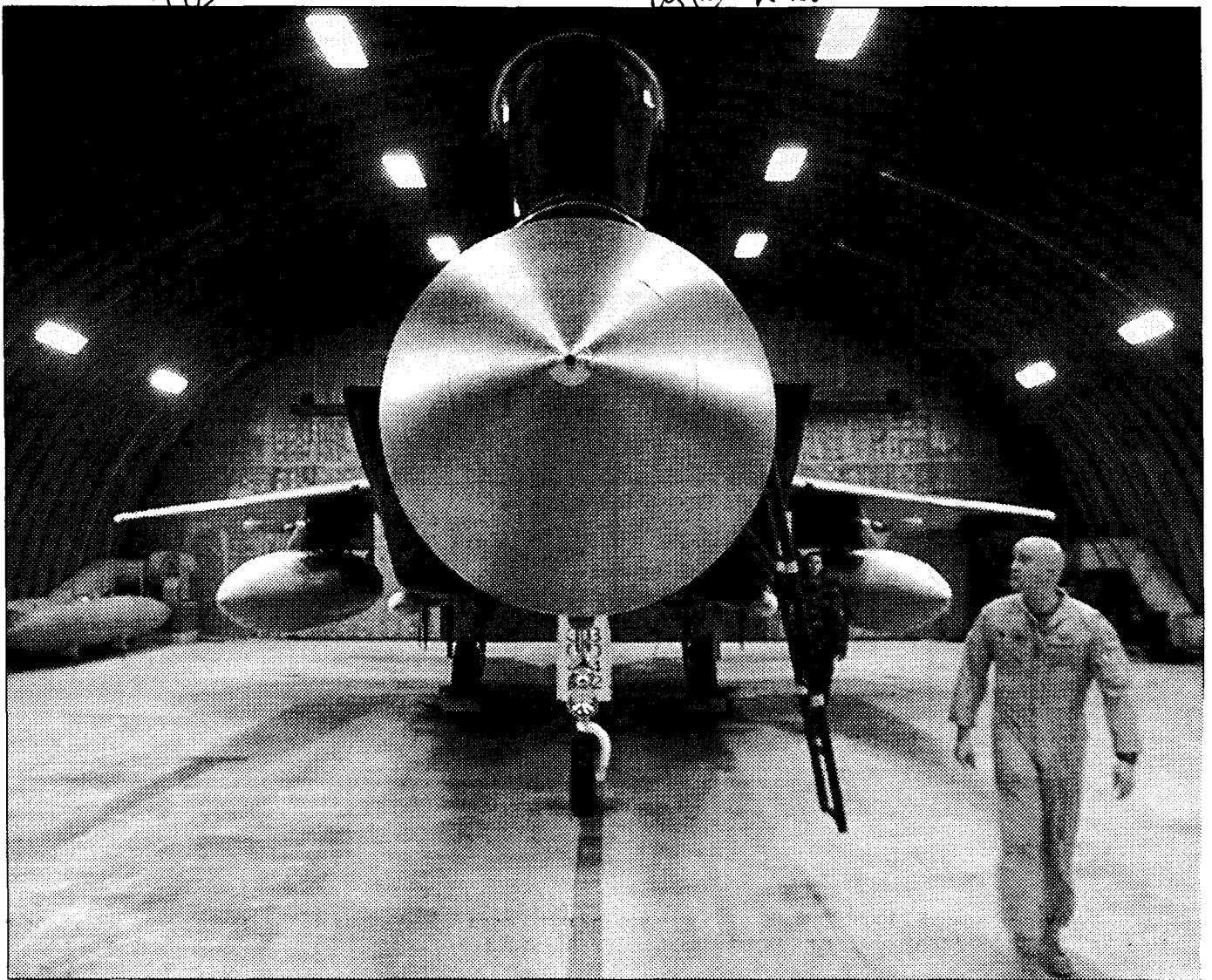
A day after Hans Blix told the UN that the 12,000-page Iraqi arms declaration mainly repeated old reports and revealed little new data, the chief weapons inspector turned on two of Iraq's fiercest critics for not sharing intelligence. "If the UK and the US are convinced and they say they have evidence, well then one would expect that they would be able to tell us where is this stuff," said Blix, in charge of chemical, biological and ballistic weapons inspection teams in Iraq.

Asked if he was getting all the cooperation he wanted from Western intelligence, he told BBC radio: "Not yet. We get some but we don't get all we need.

"The most important thing that governments like the UK or the US could give us would be to tell us of sites where they are convinced that they keep some weapons of mass destruction."

A spokesman for the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Mark Gwozdecky, said the UN nuclear watchdog had also received little help despite being "led to believe that we will be getting some of this information".

Blix told the Security Council in his initial report on the Iraqi dossier that it had failed to include data on some chemical and



A US F-15C pilot checks his aircraft inside a hangar at Incirlik airbase, near the southern Turkish city of Adana. US and Allied warplanes continue to fly out from Incirlik airbase to patrol a no-fly zone over northern Iraq. (Reuters)

biological agents, such as anthrax, in what he called a "missed opportunity".

Washington stood alone today in saying Iraq had committed a "material breach" by lying about its weapons programmes.

Even its closest ally, Britain, stopped short of using the term that could trigger war. "At the moment, we don't know whether Iraq will be found in breach of the United Nations resolution," Blair said. "The key thing at the moment is to make all the preparations necessary, and to make

sure that we are building up the capacity in the region — both the Americans and ourselves — and that we are able to undertake this mission if it falls to us to do so," he said on British Forces Broadcasting Service.

The three other permanent members of the Security Council — China, France and Russia — have also refrained from saying Iraq was in "material breach" of the UN resolution.

Bush administration officials have indicated the next milestone date would be January 27

when the UN weapons inspectors are scheduled to make their first substantial assessment to the Security Council. They said Bush could make a decision around that time to attack Iraq.

Fuelling speculation of a US-led attack early next year, a German government source said Washington had asked Berlin to provide 2,000 troops to guard US bases in the country at the end of January.

The pronouncements of a "material breach" by the US marked a turning point in tough

warnings from Washington to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. "If that is going to be the way they continue through the weeks ahead, then we're not going to find a peaceful solution to the problem," Powell said.

Responding to Washington's accusations, the chief Iraqi official liaising with UN inspectors, General Hussam Mohammed Amin, said: "This is an exaggerated response. It was political. Even before they were able to read and analyse the declaration they said it had many gaps."

US sets January deadline for regime change in Iraq

Washington: The Bush administration has set the last week of January as the 'make-or-break' point in the standoff with Iraq, to disarm and bring about a regime change in that country, media reported on Thursday.

The US "is increasingly confident that by then it will have marshalled the evidence to convince the UN security council that Iraq is in violation of a UN resolution passed last month and to call for the use of force," the *Washington Post* said.

The report to the security council expected on Thursday from Hans Blix, the UN chief weapons inspector, will boost the US position that Iraq's 12,000-page report does not fully account for the chemical and biological weapons and warheads it had assembled as well as materials it bought.

This is for the first time the US administration is saying that Mr Blix's position will strengthen that of the US, which will regard non-compliance with the UNSC resolution as ground for going to war with or without council approval.

Senior administration officials involved in the internal talks told media that Mr Bush is striking a delicate balance to have "zero tolerance" for Saddam Hussein's "defiance" and "lies" and allies' demands for patience from the US.

The officials said that Mr Bush has decided not to declare Iraq in "material breach" of the security council, which the US can consider as justification for war even if the majority of those who passed the resolution, namely the 15-member security council, do not think so.

Mr Bush's strategy now is to demand that the security council issue a summons to Saddam Hussein to produce the scientists who were involved in Iraq's weapons effort, and their families, for being spirited out of Iraq for interviews to expose Mr Saddam's declaration.

Meanwhile, US Intelligence officials, at a background briefing at the Pentagon, said that Mr Hussein plans to pursue a "scorched earth" strategy in the event of war with the US and its allies.

They said he would destroy the country's oil fields, electrical power plants, food shortage sites and other facilities while blaming US military forces for the damage. The officials also told reporters that they have evidence that Mr Hussein, if he believes his government is about to fall, will try to create a humanitarian crisis that could slow any US invasion and foster international opposition to the war.

They also warned that Mr Hussein likely will attempt to release biological or chemical weapons as a last desperate act.

US electronic media said that several



Hans Blix

Arab government leaders are quietly approaching Iraqi generals to dump Mr Hussein and make peace with the US.

The White House had on Wednesday said that there were "serious omissions" and "problems" with Iraq's declaration.

"The President is concerned about omissions in the declaration and about the problems in the declaration," White House press secretary Ari Fleischer said. Mr Fleischer also pointed out that Mr Bush had said before the UN general assembly that he would wait for weeks, not months, for Mr Hussein to disarm or be disarmed.

Mr Bush decided at a meeting with his foreign policy team to chart a deliberative course that would push the prospects for military action into the new year, officials said on condition of anonymity. Mr Bush, officials said, intends to use the Iraqi declaration to build a strong public case against Iraq—polls show that a majority of the Americans are already prepared for war—starting with a speech in Washington condemning Mr Hussein.

Meanwhile, a second known snag for UN weapons inspectors occurred on Thursday, when they were delayed getting into a military guest house north of Baghdad.

Al-Jazeera, the Pan-Arab satellite television channel, said the inspectors were kept out for 30 minutes because they had not given notice they would visit. Another witness, however, said the inspection team was only delayed getting into the complex for about five minutes while Iraqi officials looked for the keys.

The standoff took place at a military industrial facility at Al Fao, one of four locations the Iraqi information ministry reported the inspectors visited on Thursday.

China, meanwhile, said the accuracy and authenticity of the Iraqi report on its weapons of mass destruction should be determined by the UN's inspection team and finally decided by the UN security council.

Commenting on the ongoing arms inspections in Iraq, Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Liu Jianchao noted that the UN inspectors are now carrying out their duties in Iraq, and Baghdad has handed over to the UN a relevant report which is being examined by the countries concerned. PT

Bush go-ahead to missile shield

HC-15
19/12

Washington, December 18

PRESIDENT BUSH on Tuesday ordered the military to begin deploying a national missile defence system with land- and sea-based interceptor rockets, to be operational from 2004.

The controversial decision to take what the President called a "modest" first step toward a more sophisticated defence in future years came despite last week's failure of a anti-missile test over the Pacific Ocean.

Defence officials said they planned to deploy 10 ground-based interceptors — at least six at Fort Greely, Alaska, and perhaps four at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California — in 2004 and an additional 10 ground interceptors in 2005.

The ground interceptors would protect US targets against long-range attack. Other interceptors for use against shorter-range missiles would be deployed aboard US Aegis warships beginning in 2004 and those could help defend allies in other regions of the world, officials said.

"I wouldn't want to overplay it. I wouldn't want to oversell it. I wouldn't want to suggest that it has a depth or breadth or capability that will take some time to evolve," Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld told reporters, countering charges from critics that the system was not mature enough for deployment.

Erecting such a defence shield is the Pentagon's single most expensive development programme and critics say it could

cost hundreds of billions of dollars over coming decades.

Spending increase planned

Air Force Lt Gen Ronald Kadish, head of the Pentagon's missile defence effort, said the Defence Department intended to spend more than \$ 17.5 billion, over the next two years, to field the system. The department spent \$ 8 billion a year in the previous two years. The deployment decision follows by only six months Bush's decision to withdraw from the 1972 anti-ballistic missile treaty with Moscow. The pact barred deployment or testing of the kind of national missile defence system Bush wants to develop.

Sharp criticism

John Isaacs, president of Council for a Livable World, accused the Bush administration of deploying a "deaf, dumb and blind" system. "A missile defence system that protects Americans consistently and reliably is years, if not decades, away," said Isaacs. "The planned deployment lacks a radar system to make it see, operational tests to determine if it works and satellite systems to provide adequate sensors."

Russia fears arms race

AFP adds that Russia expressed "regret" on Tuesday at Bush's decision to deploy a limited missile shield by 2004, expressing fears that the move could lead to a new arms race.

Reuters

US missile defence system won't work, say critics

Washington: The missile defence system U.S. President George W. Bush ordered to be deployed will not work and is a waste of money, critics said on Tuesday while the Pentagon acknowledged the system initially would provide only modest protection.

"I have no great confidence that it's going to work under real-world conditions," said Lawrence Korb, a member of the Council on Foreign Relations think-tank who served as assistant secretary of defence under President Ronald Reagan.

Mr Bush directed the defence department to begin deploying a national missile defence system with land-and sea-based interceptor rockets to be up and working in 2004.

The system is intended to protect the US against long-range enemy missiles. But there have been three failures in the eight major tests involving attempts to shoot down a long-range dummy warhead in space over the Pacific Ocean, including the most recent test on December 11.

Critics said the programme was too costly—tens of billions of dollars already and po-

tentially hundreds of billions of dollars in the long run—and has not proven that it can work as advertised.

They also expressed worry that the deployment might prompt nations such as North Korea and China to step up missile-building efforts.

John Isaacs, president of Council for a Livable World, an organisation opposed to the deployment, said Mr Bush was rushing ahead with a system that is "deaf, dumb and blind".

"A missile defence system that protects Americans consistently and reliably is years, if not decades, away," he said in a statement.

Defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the administration was not rushing into anything.

Meanwhile, Russia expressed regret at Mr Bush's decision to deploy a limited missile shield, expressing fears that the move could lead to a new arms race. "Moscow views with regret the renewal of US efforts to create a so-called global missile defense system," the Russian foreign ministry said in a statement. Reuters

Baghdad won't get second chance on arms dossier: US

Washington/Baghdad: The



Colin Powell

United States will deliver its final verdict later this week on Iraq's weapons declaration after warning there were problems with the dossier and that Baghdad would not get a second chance.

The US and its ally Britain have signalled they are ready for war if Iraq breaches a tough security council resolution aimed at ensuring it has no weapons of mass destruction.

Iraq handed documents to the United Nations on December 7 and US experts have been trawling through them to find possible discrepancies between the Iraqi version and information Washington has collated from its own intelligence sources.

"We said at the very beginning that we approached it with skepticism and the information I have received so far is that that skepticism is well founded," US secretary of state Colin Powell told a news conference on Monday. "There are problems with the declaration."

Mr Powell did not elaborate on Washington's problems with Iraq's declaration on its alleged chemical, biological and nuclear weapons programme. It was not clear what steps Washington

would take after delivering its verdict.

British officials were quoted as saying they were "very disappointed" by Baghdad's 12,000-page dossier.

UN officials have also said Iraq's declaration fails to account for all of its chemical and biological agents. A UN resolution in November warned Iraq of "serious consequences" if it failed to comply with UN disarmament demands.

"We'll withhold making a final judgment or final statement until we have completed our analysis, completed our discussions with the UN arms inspectorate and the International Atomic Energy Agency and our colleagues on the permanent membership of the security council," Mr Powell said.

UN arms inspectors searched 12 sites in Iraq on Monday. The inspectors have so far reported nothing untoward since they returned to Iraq last month after a four-year absence.

Britain said on Tuesday diplomacy was still being pursued and denied reports it was asking defence firms to speed up production of military equipment in readiness for war.

The Sun newspaper reported on Tuesday the ministry had begun the build-up for war by issuing Urgent Operational Requirement notices to defence equipment manufacturers and hiring cargo ships to transport equipment to the Gulf. Reuters

18 DEC 2002

Bush gives go ahead to missile defence system

CHARLES ALDINGER

Washington, Dec. 17 (Reuters): US President George W. Bush has ordered the US military to begin deploying a national missile defence system with 10 interceptor rockets at a base in Alaska by 2004, administration officials said today.

The decision, which comes despite last week's failure of an anti-missile test over the Pacific Ocean, will be announced by the White House and defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, the officials told Reuters.

Defence officials, who asked not to be identified, confirmed a report in *The Washington Times* that Bush was going ahead with an ambitious schedule to field 10 ground-based interceptors at Fort Greeley, Alaska, by 2004 and an additional 10 interceptors by 2005 or 2006.

Another Bush administration official said the interceptors could also possibly be deployed at Vandenberg Air Force base in California. "It's the first deployment of the missile defence system," said the administration official, who asked not to be named. "We're talking about deployment in 2004."

Erecting such a shield is the Pentagon's single most expensive development programme, likely to cost hundreds of billions of dollars over com-

ing decades.

Last Wednesday, the US suffered its third failure in eight test attempts to shoot down a long-range dummy warhead in space over the Pacific Ocean, and scientific critics of the multibillion-dollar programme have charged it is not yet mature enough to begin deployment.

But Bush and Rumsfeld have stressed the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and missile technology have sharply increased the need for such a defence against attack from "rogue states" such as Iran, Iraq and North Korea, especially in the wake of devastating attacks on America using hijacked airliners on September 11, 2001.

In a first step toward setting up a missile defence umbrella, the US in June withdrew from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty that banned such systems.

The decision to begin deploying a national missile defence, which has been criticised by Russia and China, follows North Korea's announcement this month that it will proceed with a controversial programme to develop nuclear weapons.

The Fort Greeley site would allow the US military to try and intercept any attack by long-range missiles being developed by the North.

The initial deployment would provide the US — which

has been examining several ways to shoot down medium- and long-range missiles in flight — with a limited defence against such attack.

In London, British officials said they had received a written request from the US concerning its planned missile defence shield but had not yet responded.

Washington wants Britain to upgrade an early warning radar system at Fylingdales in northern England to enhance the programme to protect both the US and allies from attack.

Bush had wanted to put an Alaska-based "test bed" initially with five missile silos — and rudimentary operational capabilities against real attack — in place by October 2004.

The test bed was the first leg of a planned layered shield against missile attack. Other Pentagon projects involve overlapping systems that could be based at sea, in space and aboard laser-firing Boeing 747s.

THE TELEGRAPH

18 DEC 2002

US Senator stumped by questions on Pakistan

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

11-9
New Delhi: US Senator Sam Brownback came to India on Friday to deliver a message but found himself at the receiving end of India's current obsession—Pakistan. Though the Senator held up the spectre of a militarily strong China as a threat to India if it did not carry out economic reforms quickly enough, his audience at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) was more interested in quizzing him about what the US was doing about Indian concerns on Pakistan.

Mr Brownback, who was a moving force behind the Brownback Amendment which led to the removal of sanctions imposed on India and Pakistan, called on the Prime Minister, the Deputy Prime Minister and the finance minister.

In a speech at the CII, the Senator called for quick reforms in India's economic policy, warning that any further delay would cause American capital to flow to China. "China will use some of it to build up its military. Therefore, it is in the interests of Indian, Asian and American national security to in-

16/12
W.D. Smith India
crease trade between India and the US. India needs to make the necessary reforms, market itself and work towards a free trade agreement with the US," he said. The audience, however, showed greater interest in Pakistan with almost every question on the US inability to ensure Pakistan deliver on its commitment. Mr Brownback insisted that the US had done a lot and would be happy to know what more could be done and the audience proceeded to tell him precisely that.

Despite being an expert on sanctions and a ranking member of the Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Near eastern and South Asian Affairs, Mr Brownback was, however, unable to educate his audience about why the US administration was fighting shy of imposing sanctions under the Glenn-Symington Amendment on the basis of the information about North Korea's nuclear programme and Pakistan's assistance to it.

Asked why the Bush administration was choosing to target Iraq and ignore North Korea, the Senator said the US was proceeding on a sequential basis, looking at one country at a time.

'Brahmos' will go for final trials in two months

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Bangalore: The world's first supersonic cruise missile, 'Brahmos', a joint venture between India and Russia, will go in for final trials in the next two months, said scientific adviser to the defence minister V.K. Aatre.

Speaking to the media in Bangalore on Thursday, he said that India and Russia had formed a joint venture company based in Delhi. "We have identified two major private industries in the country and a host of several small industries to manufacture components," said Dr Aatre. India will develop part of the avionics and delivery mechanisms for the missile with immense potential in the global market. India has a 61 per cent stake in 'Brahmos', with the remaining 39 per cent with Russia.

Kissinger resigns from Sept 11 panel

Washington, December 14

UNDER FIRE for potential conflicts of interest, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger abruptly resigned on Friday as chairman of an independent commission investigating the Government's failure to prevent the September 11 attacks.

"This is a moment of disappointment for me, of course. My hope is that, by the decision to step aside now, the joint commission can proceed without further controversy," Kissinger said in a letter to President Bush, who tapped him for the high-profile job.

The announcement, which followed the resignation of former Democratic Senator George Mitchell as vice-chairman of the commission, threw the 9/11 investigation into disarray.

Bush to get smallpox jabs with military

PRESIDENT BUSH on Friday ordered members of the military serving in high-risk areas to take the smallpox vaccine and said he will be inoculated as well. But he said for most people, the risk of bioterrorism doesn't warrant vaccinations.

"Smallpox is a serious disease and we know that our enemies are trying to inflict serious harm," the President said. "Yet there is no evidence that smallpox imminently threatens this country."

Still, he announced the first smallpox vaccine programme in a generation.

AP, Washington

Kissinger's selection had sparked considerable controversy, both because of his policy-making role during the Vietnam War and the bombing of Cambodia, and because he is now a high-priced private international consultant.

A new documentary called *The Trials of Henry Kissinger* alleged Kissinger was an international war criminal.

The 10-member commission was charged with investigating possible intelligence, aviation security, immigration or other pol-

icy lapses related to the September 11 attacks.

The Bush administration initially opposed the commission, arguing a congressional investigation was better equipped to preserve national secrets. Victims' families led a public campaign and pressured Bush to back down. He appointed Kissinger to serve as chairman on November 27. In his letter of resignation, Kissinger, 79, said he was confident he could have resolved potential conflicts of interest with his consulting firm, Kissinger Associates, but was concerned that "the controversy would quickly move to the consulting firm I have built and own".

"I have, therefore, concluded that I cannot accept the responsibility you proposed," said Kissinger.

Reuters

Rocca urges Maoists to start peace talks

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Gopal Sharma
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GOPALSHARMA

Kathmandu, Dec. 14 (Reuters): A senior US official today urged Maoist rebels, attempting to overthrow Nepal's constitutional monarchy, to stop fighting and start peace talks to end the conflict that has killed more than 7,200 people.

"It is imperative that the Maoists enter into peaceful dialogue with the government so that Nepal's democracy and economy flourish," US assistant secretary of state for South Asian affairs, Christina Rocca, told Nepali media.

The Maoist revolt has threatened the multi-party democracy established 12 years ago and crippled one of the world's poorest economies.

"We are issuing a strong call for the end of this violence, which we condemn," said Rocca, on a visit to the troubled Himalayan kingdom.

"The best way to show com-

mitment to dialogue is for the Maoists to lay down their arms and end the senseless violence."

Both interim Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand and the rebels have pledged to resume talks that collapsed last year, but set to date.

Rocca urged Nepali political parties to take a "united stand" against the revolt, saying it posed a serious threat for the democratic and economic stability of Nepal. Nepali political groups are now divided on how to tackle the insurgency.

Rocco assured government officials yesterday of sustained US support to help end the revolt which is aimed at replacing the constitutional monarchy with a one-party Communist republic.

"We are committed to help Nepal combat the insurgency by providing security assistance to the Nepalese government. Nepal is a multi-party democracy and it is the duty of democratic gov-

ernment to protect its citizens," Rocca said.

Washington has pledged about \$20 million in aid to Kathmandu in the form of equipment, supplies and training for the Nepali security forces.

The rebels claimed responsibility for killing two Nepali guards at the US embassy in Kathmandu, prompting Washington to warn its citizens to consider putting off travel to the kingdom.

THE TELEGRAPH

1 5 DEC 2002

Kim, Bush for peaceful solution

AP (W) AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

SEOUL, Dec. 14. — South Korean President Kim Dae-Jung and Mr George W Bush have agreed that the North Korean nuclear crisis must be resolved peacefully, Mr Kim's spokeswoman said today.

But the spokeswoman confirmed the two leaders, speaking by telephone yesterday, were determined that North Korea must reverse its decision to revive its nuclear programme.

"The two leaders agreed that the North Korea's decision to reactivate its frozen nuclear facilities is unacceptable, urging Pyongyang to retract the announcement," she said.

"They also agreed to continue efforts to seek a peaceful solution to North Korea's nuclear issue." The comments confirm a version of the

UN CONCERN

UNHQ, Dec. 14. — UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan has voiced concern over North Korea's decision to lift a freeze on its nuclear facilities and asked it to avoid any "unilateral action" on the safeguards agreement with USA. In a statement issued yesterday, he called on North Korea to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and eschew "any unilateral act" that might complicate the agency's ability to carry out responsibilities under the safeguards pact. — PTI

telephone conversation given by White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer in Washington yesterday. "The two leaders agreed to contin-

ue seeking a peaceful resolution while not allowing business as usual to continue with North Korea," Mr Fleischer said.

The South Korean spokesperson today said Mr Bush and Mr Kim had stressed the need for South Korea and the USA to work together if they were to get North Korea to retract its nuclear ambitions.

"(Kim said) the crisis should be handled with caution through policy coordination among South Korea, the USA and Japan and with cooperation from the international community," she said.

The spokesperson highlighted Mr Bush's emphasis that the USA did not intend to take military action against North Korea, as it is threatening to do with fellow "axis of evil" Iraq.

Now, Iran nuke plants under US scanner

Tehran, December 13

THE US has accused Iran of building two nuclear plants to make secret nuclear weapons. But, Iran on Friday dismissed the accusations and said UN inspectors will visit the sites in February.

"We don't have any hidden atomic activities. All our nuclear activities are for non-military fields," Iranian Government spokesman Abdollah Ramazanzadeh told reporters on the sidelines of a political conference.

He was responding to remarks by US officials claiming that two nuclear sites near the central Iranian towns of Natanz and

Arak, seen in commercial satellite photographs, were of a type which suggested Iran could use them to build a nuclear weapon.

Iranian officials said the comments by the unnamed US officials amounted to "US propaganda" and insisted international bodies were well briefed on its nuclear program.

The Vienna-based UN nuclear watchdog, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), said it was aware of the facilities being built in Iran and planned to inspect them in February.

Iran invited IAEA inspectors after informing the agency in September of plans to build nuclear power plants and related

fuel facilities over the next 20 years, IAEA spokesman Mark Gwozdecky said.

"The director general, with a team of technical experts, plans to make such a visit in February 2003," Gwozdecky said. "We don't jump to conclusions. We will visit shortly and determine for ourselves what the facilities are."

Ramazanzadeh said in Tehran there was no obstacle for an IAEA inspection team to visit the sites. "I cannot discuss the date because some expert work should be done regarding the state," he said. "We have always said that our activities for peaceful usage of nuclear energy could be inspected."

US officials, who declined to be named, on Thursday revealed their concerns about the sites in Iran.

"It is true that there are two suspicious facilities in those locations in Iran. They were first publicly identified by an Iranian Opposition group this past summer. They certainly are worth looking into," they said.

But Ramazanzadeh said the plants were not sinister, noting the one near Natanz was to conduct research into radioactivity.

But the disclosure raised a new challenge for President Bush as he tries to head off North Korea's nuclear weapons program as well as what Wash-

ington believes is an effort to develop nuclear weapons capability. UN experts are also currently carrying out inspections in Iraq which the United States accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction.

Bush earlier this year labelled Iran, Iraq and North Korea an "axis of evil". The US and Iran have been foes since student militants seized the US embassy in Tehran during the 1979 Islamic revolution and held 52 Americans hostage for 444 days.

Tehran has been developing a medium-range ballistic missile experts say would be able to hit Israel.

The United States has also

been at odds with Russia over its help in building a nuclear power plant at the southwestern port of Bushehr which Tehran expects to come on line next year.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, a senior Iranian government official said Iran was negotiating with Russia to build several other nuclear power plants as well as Bushehr.

David Albright, president of the Washington-based Institute for Science and International Security (ISIS), told Reuters his organisation was publishing its findings on the Iranian sites because it wanted the IAEA to inspect them.

Reuters

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

14 DEC 2002

N Korea accuses USA of piracy

Associated Press

SEOUL, Dec. 13. — Amid fears of a nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea today accused the USA of piracy in the seizure of a ship carrying missile shipments to Yemen.

This week, the US military, assisted by Spanish warships, seized a North Korean ship carrying at least 15 short- and medium-range Scud missiles in the Arabian Sea. The ship was released a day later and allowed to sail on after high-level diplomacy between the USA and Yemen. "This is an unpardonable piracy that wantonly encroached upon the sovereignty of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea," said North's Korean Central News Agency. The brief report said the USA was forced to release the ship after it realised that it had no legal grounds to seize it "in broad daylight" and "in open seas". The report said the USA "wantonly" violated routine trade between countries.

The statement came a day after North Korea said it would immediately revive a Soviet-designed nuclear power plant the USA suspects was being used to develop nuclear weapons before it was frozen in 1994. A dismayed South Korea urged its neighbour to reverse the

decision. In Washington, President George W Bush's spokesman termed the situation "regrettable" but said the USA had no plans for military action in response to the North Korean decision.

China calls for revival of 1994 pact: China today reacted to North Korea's decision to relaunch its nuclear programme by calling for the implementation of the 1994 pact which secured its suspension, adds AFP from Beijing. "We hope all sides will take as their point of departure the preservation of peace and stability on the peninsula, the foreign ministry said.

14 APR 2002

15/12/12

Iraqi declaration full of holes: U.S.

19-14
14/12

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 13. The Bush administration is taking the position that the Iraqi Declaration of its programmes in the realm of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons is full of 'holes' and does not address the crux of the issue at all. In particular, Washington has taken the view that the list fails to explain what the intelligence community here believes to be purchases related to the nuclear programme.

The U.S. is of the view that the Iraqi list presented to the United Nations on December 7 merely reinforced the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein's assertion all along that the country had no weapons or programmes of mass destruction. Washington's conclusions, according to

administration officials, is still only tentative but appear to be clearly leaning in a negative direction.

Disputing the Iraqi declaration means the U. S. could challenge Baghdad by providing American intelligence data to weapons inspectors so that they could aggressively go about the process in Iraq.

The other option for the Bush administration would be to formally declare that Iraq is in "material breach" and that only war can disarm Mr. Hussein.

With the exception of the U. S. — and perhaps Britain — no one in the Security Council is keen on rushing to this stage. And senior officials of the Bush administration have also indicated that they would be spending the next "several weeks" in scrutinising the Iraqi declaration suggesting that no

one is eager to rush to war.

In the last several weeks leading up to the passing of the Security Council resolution 1441, the U.S. President, George W Bush, has been warning the Iraqi leader that he should come away clean this time around and that the U. S. has little to no patience for "cat and mouse" games — a message that has been continually repeated by senior Cabinet officials like the Secretaries of State and Defence and the National Security Adviser to the President.

According to one version here, the Iraqi Declaration which is being examined very closely by CIA analysts does not apparently address what happened to those quantities of chemical and biological agents that were missing when the United Nations inspectors were thrown out in 1998 — apparently hundreds of mustard gas

shells remain unaccounted.

The U.S. officials have also taken the position that Iraq has not explained its purchases related to the nuclear programme such as transaction on uranium in Africa and purchase of high technology equipment needed for uranium enrichment from Western countries.

There has been no formal response to Iraq's December 7 Declaration from either the White House or the CIA but repeatedly the point is being made that the words of the Iraqi leader cannot be trusted. By today all members of the U.N. Security Council will have provided their initial assessments of the Declaration; and next week the Chief Weapons Inspector, Hans Blix, will be providing a report to the Security Council.

Abuse row: Cardinal Law resigns

VATICAN CITY, DEC. 13. Cardinal Bernard Law, under intense fire in the sex abuse scandal, resigned on Friday as Boston Archbishop, the Vatican announced.

The Vatican said Pope John Paul II had accepted the resignation, after the two men held talks on Friday morning. The Pope named Bishop Richard Lennon, an auxiliary bishop in Boston, to run the diocese temporarily.

"I am profoundly grateful to the Holy Father for having accepted my resignation as Archbishop of Boston," Cardinal Law said in a written statement released by the Vatican.

"It is my fervent prayer that this action may help the archdiocese of Boston to experience the healing, reconciliation and unity which are so desperately needed."

"To all those who have suffered from my shortcomings and mistakes, I both apologise and from them beg forgive-



Pope John Paul II (left) meets Cardinal Bernard Law of Boston, U.S., at the Vatican on Friday. — AP

ness."

Abuse victims, lay members and even some priests had intensified calls for Cardinal Law to resign after 18 years at the helm of the Boston archdiocese, as more cases of sordid conduct by priests unfolded from the release of Church files.

Cardinal Law had been at the Vatican all week, but largely kept out of the public eye.

He slipped quietly away from Boston to begin a round of meetings with the Vatican over his and his archdiocese's fate.

Cardinal Law has been accused of having shuffled from

parish to parish priests who were accused, often repeatedly, of sexually abusing minors.

Recent days have been marked by some of the most shocking revelations in the year-old scandal in Boston, with the release of thousands of pages of the archdiocese's personnel files.

On Thursday, it appeared that Cardinal Law could also be facing questions from a grand jury about his supervision of priests accused of sexually abusing minors.

Victims have accused the Cardinal of being more mindful of his personal reputation than honestly dealing with the scandal, and now dozens of priests under his command are demanding he step down.

The Vatican may also decide whether the archdiocese, facing enormous payments in settlements with sex abuse victims, should declare bankruptcy to protect itself from creditors. — AP

14 DEC 2002

THE HINDU

Smallpox vaccination made mandatory for US troops

New York: The US administration will make smallpox vaccination mandatory for military personnel and call on the general population to get vaccinated voluntarily, giving them a chance to get immunised against any possible biological attack.



G.W. Bush

The smallpox vaccination programme, to be unveiled by President George W. Bush on Friday, will not endorse compulsory vaccination for all Americans, Mr Bush told ABC Television in an exclusive interview, a part of which was released on Wednesday.

The announcement comes in the wake of reports of Iraq and some other countries having virulent strains of smallpox.

"There is need for this government to provide the opportunity for people to pro-

tect themselves should there be a smallpox attack," Mr Bush said in the interview to be telecast on Friday.

"I will have a detailed plan that the American people will digest. I think it ought to be a voluntary plan," Mr Bush said.

Military personnel and first respondents like emergency and hospital workers would be the first to be inoculated beginning 2003 when limited doses of newly-manufactured vaccine would be made available.

Mr Bush is expected to order all military personnel to get inoculated, officials said. By 2004, there would be enough newly-manufactured "licensed" smallpox vaccine available to cover the entire population, they said.

First Lady Laura Bush said that as far as her family was concerned, she didn't believe the risk (in getting inoculated) would be high for her daughters, who grew up after smallpox vaccinations stopped being routinely ad-

ministered to children in the US.

"I know there's a slight risk. You know, that's what people will weigh when they make the decision whether or not to have their children vaccinated."

The Bush administration also plans to launch a major education campaign to enable people to take an informed decision on whether to get vaccinated.

The administration believes the programme is more effectively structured in terms of educating the public, maximising medical effectiveness, and limiting liability by using the "licensed" vaccine with the "unlicensed" as backup.

The US has enough vaccine to cover the entire population even now if need arises. But officials said new vaccine is preferable to older stocks. Besides, liability issues are involved in the older stocks, they said. PTI

THE TIMES OF INDIA

13 DEC 2002

WS (W)
B. A. S. in

U.S. releases seized vessel

#D-14

12/12

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC.12. After some intense and high level diplomacy involving the State Department, the White House and President Ali Abdallah Salih of Yemen, the United States has agreed the shipment of North Korean missiles to proceed to the Persian Gulf Country. Yemen in turn has promised that that the Scud missiles will not be transferred to anywhere else in the region.

The high drama of Wednesday was not just in the Arabian Seas where Spanish authorities intercepted and boarded a North Korean vessel with the suspect cargo. Some of it was also at the Foggy Bottom and at the White House involving the Secretary of State, Colin Powell and the U.S. Vice- President, Dick Cheney. According to one report, the United States intelligence agencies have been tracking this particular ship; and had asked Yemen if it was expecting any kind of missile shipment from North Korea.

According to this version when Yemen replied in the negative the decision was taken to intercept the tanker and board it resulting in the discovery of the "clandestine" cargo. According to Gen. Powell the cargo was allowed to proceed only after a "flurry of phone calls" and an assurance from Mr. Salih of Yemen to Mr. Cheney that

this "would be the end of it". Mr. Salih had also apparently assured the Mr. Cheney that the missiles were for the self defence of his country and would not be turned over. Administration officials have not been convincing enough about the legality of the operation in the high seas.

But an argument is being made that even if the act of stopping the ship and taking hold of its cargo were violative of international law, the larger context of this action should not be missed.

The Bush administration was specifically concerned that a shipment of weapons was heading to the Persian Gulf when the United States was trying to "disarm" Iraq, on whether or not Yemen was "entitled" to the seized Scud missiles in the Arabian Sea.

The State Department took the position that since Yemen purchased these weapons prior to its pledge in 2001 not to obtain any more weapons from North Korea, the shipment had to proceed.

The Pentagon apparently disagreed saying that the 2001 pledge applied to previous commitments as well.

The drama off the high seas off the Horn of Africa involved the Spanish Military, forces from the amphibious assault ship the USS Nassau and Cambodia.

LEE HINDL

13 DEC 2002

US agrees to free North

MOHAMMED SUDAM
AND STEVE HOLLAND

Sanaa (Yemen)/Washington, Dec. 11 (Reuters): The United States found itself embroiled in an international tussle over its seizure of a North Korean ship carrying hidden Scud missiles and chemicals which Yemen said today were bound for its army.

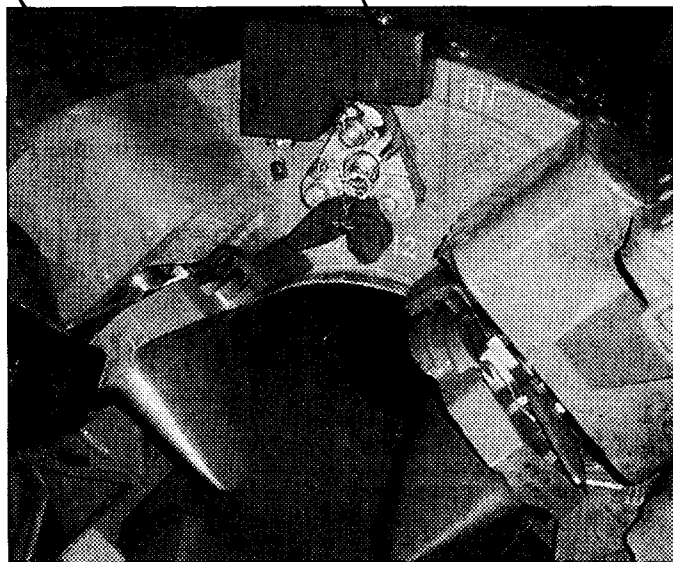
The *So San*, seized by Spain and the US in the Arabian Sea, will be allowed to sail for Yemen, the official Yemeni news agency Saba reported late tonight.

It said US secretary of state Colin Powell told Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh by telephone that the crew had returned to the ship and that the weapons cargo was headed for Yemen. Earlier, Vice-President Dick Cheney told Saleh the US had agreed to release the vessel because its cargo was legal, the agency said.

After the ship was seized, Yemen, which has tried to shed its image as a haven for militants, protested to the US and Spain, saying the missiles had been bought for its army from North Korea.

US concerns appear to centre on fears that the Scuds could be mounted with warheads filled with chemical, biological or nuclear materials by Iraq or another rogue state.

Independent defence experts said North Korea was probably



Scud missile components found hidden underneath a cargo of cement on the North Korean ship *So San*. (Reuters)

not violating any law by transporting the cargo, although Spanish defence minister Federico Trillo said Spain had had the right to board the vessel because it was not flagged.

North Korea is not a member of the Missile Control Technology Regime that controls exports and Yemen said the shipment was part of an agreement with North Korea reached some time ago. A US defence official, who asked not to be identified, had earlier suggested to Reuters that the Scuds would be released to Yemen if it had bought them

from North Korea, despite Washington's belief that Pyongyang is a proliferator of dangerous military technology.

"Right now, the ship is carrying 'undeclared cargo'," the official said. "But if they (the missiles) become legal cargo, there is not much we can do. Weapons sales between two countries are not against the law. Only Iraq is forbidden (under UN sanctions) to buy weapons."

Sharp words

North Korea, declared part of Washington's "axis of evil"

along with Iraq and Iraq, drew sharp words from US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, visiting Djibouti, across the Gulf of Aden from Yemen.

"They continue to be the single largest proliferator of ballistic missile technology on the face of the earth, and they are putting into the hands of many countries the technologies and capabilities which have the potential for killing hundreds of thousands of people," Rumsfeld told reporters.

The seizure, in which Spanish Marine special forces dropped onto the deck from helicopters, took place in international waters near Yemen, site of the October 2000 attack on the US warship *Cole* which Washington blamed on the al Qaida.

"The shipment is part of contracts signed some time ago. It belongs to the Yemeni government and its army and meant for defensive purposes," Yemen's official news agency Saba quoted foreign minister Abubakr al-Qirbi as saying.

"The foreign minister stressed the importance of the return of the shipment to the Yemeni government," it said.

Trillo told a news conference in Madrid that 15 Scud missiles, 15 conventional warheads, 23 tanks of nitric acid rocket propellant and 85 drums of unidentified chemicals had been found hidden under cement bags.

Four countries on USA's pre-emptive strike list

WS (W)
S/R 2
12/12
Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11. — The USA has named Iran, Syria, North Korea and Libya among countries it will strike pre-emptively, if necessary, in order to bar them from acquiring transferred components of weapons of mass destruction, media reports said.

According to a secret annex of the Bush administration made public by the White House, the USA threatens pre-emptive use of military or covert force, including the use of nuclear weapons, before an enemy unleashes weapons of mass destruction.

"The reference to the directive naming Iran, Syria, North Korea and Libya among countries which the USA will deter from acquiring transferred weapons components or destroy the components before they can be assembled is contained in a top secret appendix to the revised preventive or pre-emptive war doctrine," *The Washington Post* said in a report.

These countries are "the central focus of the new US approach," the paper said.

"Officials said the new policy does not imply that President George W Bush

intends to use military force, covert or overt, in any of the countries named in the secret annex. He is, however, determined to stop transfers of weapons components in or out of their borders," the paper said.

The policy sets out the practical ramifications of Mr Bush's doctrine of pre-emption, outlined in a National Security Strategy document released in September, which turns away from the Cold War doctrine based on mere deterrence and containment, the *Post* said.

The pre-emption doctrine envisages taking on hostile states before they can strike.

Under Mr Bush, the Pentagon appears to have taken a step closer to the possible limited use of nuclear weapons by pursuing new and more usable nuclear weapons, the paper said.

A review of nuclear policy completed by defence officials a year ago put added emphasis on developing low yield nuclear weapons that could be used to burrow deep into the earth and destroy underground complexes, including stores of chemical and biological weapons, it said.

THE STATESMAN

1 2 DEC 2002

US verdict on Iraq dossier awaited

The Times, London & AFP

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10. — The USA will deliver its verdict on the Iraqi weapons declaration today after getting the 11,807-page document 24 hours before other major powers by promising to do their photocopying for them.

The USA told the other permanent members of the Security Council — Britain, China, France and Russia — it would copy the document and the accompanying CD-Roms for them. US diplomats informed the other permanent members on Monday that it would not be ready until today. A junior British diplomat will carry Britain's copy to London on an Atlantic flight. Washington obtained its copy despite a Security Council deal that UN inspectors would vet the declaration and remove sensitive portions before forwarding it to the 15 council members.

Diplomats were afraid that the declaration would contain a "recipe book" for making weapons of mass destruction, and wanted technical details censored before it was given to some council members — notably Syria. But the Bush administration was angered that it might only receive a sanitised version and US diplomats won council members' agreement at the weekend to distribute it to the five permanent members, which are all declared nuclear powers. Mr Hans Blix, the chief UN inspector, is due to discuss the report in private with council members today. But the first formal reaction is expected from Washington.

The handing over of copies of Iraq's dossier to the other four permanent members of the council has upset the 10 non-permanent members. Syria, which is not a permanent member of the council, has protested against the decision to limit early access to the declaration to the permanent members.



ESCAPE FROM SADDAM'S PARLOUR: UN nuclear experts arrive at the "Phosphate General Company", an installation once used to extract uranium in Al-Qaim, near the border with Syria, on Tuesday. — AFP

Long-range inspection: UN weapons experts carried out their first long-range mission today, travelling 400 km to check installations once used to extract uranium, sources said, adds AFP. A team of nuclear experts went to Al Qaim on the border with Syria where uranium was worked before the 1991 Gulf War. Experts from the UNMOVIC inspected a laboratory near Baghdad which US and British intelligence agencies suspect has resumed production of prohibited substances. The Amariya lab in the Abu Ghraib suburb carried out research associated with Iraq's germ warfare programme before 1991.

Chinese support: On Iraq, China will go with any decision emerging from the United Nations, even if it means approving the bombing of Baghdad, analysts said today, adds AFP from Beijing. China is expected to repeat its stance when

US deputy secretary of state Mr Richard Armitage arrives in Beijing tomorrow for talks aimed at laying out USA's plans on Iraq.

But if down the road the UN Security Council is asked to pass a much tougher resolution, China may feel obliged to side with the hawks, observers said. This is especially the case if China were to find itself alone in opposition of a belligerent resolution on the Security Council.

'US action amounts to extortion'

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Dec. 10. — Iraq said the USA had engaged in "unprecedented extortion" by taking the only copy of Baghdad's arms declaration to the United Nations Security Council, claiming Washington might alter the report as a cover for launching a military attack.

"This is unprecedented extortion in the history of the United Nations, when the USA forced the president of the Security Council to give it the original copy of Iraq's declaration ... in contradiction with the agreement by all member of Security Council on 6 December," the Iraqi foreign ministry said in a statement.

The ministry statement said "this American behaviour aims to play with the UN documents with the aim of finding a cover for aggression against Iraq..."

Also today, President Saddam Hussein headed a meeting that was attended by several officials including, his two sons Oday and Qusai as well as the Iraqi defence minister.

International Brigand!

5-8 An anachronism in the 21st century 10/12

George W Bush, Jr. by fortunate circumstance, President of the United States, is breaking new ground. Forced by international opinion to wait for the weapons inspectors to complete their work in Iraq — Saddam Hussein's response to the latest Security Council Resolution is the first step — he persists in threats of military action because he is convinced that Saddam will not comply, continues to build an assault force in preparation for war, signs appropriations of \$200 billion for the war nobody wants and harangues the world to choose between him and Saddam. *That man tried to kill my Dad in 1993*, is the basic premise and justification for hostilities. Bush would be shocked to be compared to Narendra Modi in Gujarat — he too relies on something that is supposed to have happened in the distant past to justify unspeakable horrors unleashed upon a whole community in Gujarat — what some nawab is supposed to have done to 200 cows in 1713 AD!

A look at the relevant timetable is instructive. Saddam was supposed to deliver a detailed list of weapons manufacture and storage facilities in Iraq, by a deadline. Even as the deadline approached, Bush was airing his conviction that Saddam would not comply. He did comply and within the deadline; On 8th December he produced a dossier of some 12,000 pages. It stands to reason that it would take days for effective and credible verification of the mass of information supplied. But it would take no time at all, if there were a prearranged decision to reject whatever was offered, out of hand. The rejection by the Bush administration of the Iraqi documents as not a full declaration, on the very same date proves, if proof were necessary, that a prearranged decision existed in Washington and London.

There is another aspect to this spectacular and despicable resolve to come to predetermined conclusions, regardless of the evidence. Saddam has been insisting that he holds no prohibited weapons of mass destruction. It is not necessary to take him at his word; his past conduct precludes such trust and confidence. But hence the elaborate inspections procedure adopted by the Security Council. Surely this procedure must first be followed meticulously and fairly. Saddam is being asked to prove a negative. If Bush were to consult lawyers of his choice, and that is taking a risk, he would be told that it is a failure of logic to ask for proof of a negative. The only possibility that can help Bush is that he is in possession of evidence to prove that Saddam has filed an incomplete or incorrect return of the weapons and their capability to the inspectors and the Security Council. If that is so, it is surely for him to prove that Iraq is lying. He is not doing so. Threats and assertions that he is right are utterly inadequate and are no substitute for evidence. Also, it is morally indefensible.

Bush must be told plainly what he is about. He is guilty as charged of bias and prejudice against Iraq and its head of government, Saddam Hussein. In deciding to go to war as he has planned to do all along, brushing side evidence, ignoring the latest Security Council Resolution even as he asks Saddam to submit to it is to sink to a new low in international relations and exhibit vulgarity of a nauseating kind. America right or wrong is suitable for the Klu Klux Klan, it is not an appropriate position to take for the most powerful democracy on earth with a reputation to lose. An international brigand in the twenty first century is an anachronism that must not be allowed to stand.

Defiant Iraq on collision course

WS
AGS 15 10/17
Baghdad / New York, December 9

IRAQ PLACED itself on a collision course with the US by flatly denying it has possessed any biological, chemical or nuclear-related weapons for at least 10 years.

General Amir al-Sadi, an adviser to President Saddam Hussein, admitted at a press conference in Baghdad that Iraq had come "close" to developing a nuclear bomb but that programme had long been abandoned. He insisted there had been no production of chemical or biological weapons since the Gulf war.

The US, which claims to have intelligence that Iraq retains banned weapons, will hotly dispute Iraq's declaration. Baghdad's stance came as UN weapons inspectors began sifting through 12,000 pages of documents it handed over on Saturday, as required by a United Nations resolution. Failure to provide a full declaration of its alleged weapons of mass destruction could provide the catalyst for a war.

The United States took possession on Monday of the Security Council's copy of Saddam Hussein's arms declaration.

President George Bush appeared willing to be patient rather than to rush headlong to war. "We will judge the declaration's honesty and completeness only after we have thoroughly examined it, and that will take some time," he said.

But, US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage said on Monday that Baghdad would be



REUTERS

US troops during a trench-clearing exercise in the northern Kuwaiti desert on Monday. There are some 12,000 US soldiers in Kuwait for training, many within just 5 km of the Iraqi border.

disarmed eventually if it did not disarm itself.

"As the President said, 'If Iraq won't disarm, then eventually, Iraq will be disarmed.'" Armitage told reporters in Tokyo. At the press conference, Sadi, 64, an urbane scientist who studied chemistry in Britain and is the regime's most senior official

charged with negotiating over the inspections, said he hoped the documentation would satisfy the inspectors and the US "because it is currently accurate, comprehensive and truthful". He said new elements centred on the period from 1998, when the inspectors pulled out, to the present.

Court challenge

An anti-nuclear group went to court on Monday in a bid to outlaw any decision by Britain to join a US-led war against Iraq without specific UN authorisation. The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) is seeking High Court permission to

launch a full legal challenge against the Government.

"If there is a war against Iraq without a fresh resolution and it subsequently turns out that in law there should have been one, it will literally be too late," CND lawyer Rabinder Singh QC told the court.

Agencies

Snow appointed US Treasury Secy

Washington, December 9

RAILWAY EXECUTIVE John Snow has been appointed as US Treasury Secretary in place of Paul O'Neill who was recently sacked by President George W. Bush as part of a shake-up designed to control political damage from ailing economy, according to a media report.

The 63-year-old Snow, who is the chief of the freight transportation company CSX, has accepted the appointment, the web edition of *The Washington Post* reported on Monday.

However, Snow's appointment would need to be approved by a legal and financial review to be carried out by the White House, it said citing the Bush Administration sources.

Snow, a former law and economics professor, had recently been serving as the co-chairman of Conference Board Commission on corporate governance.

The Washington Post also reported that Steven Friedman is to replace former White House economic adviser Lawrence Lindsey.

Condoleezza honour

US National Security Advisor Condoleezza Rice is the "most powerful woman in Washington — black, brainy and (President George W.) Bush's secret weapon" and it was she, who along with Secretary of State Colin Powell, helped produce a UN resolution on weapons inspections in Iraq acceptable to members of the world body.

PTI

U.S. begins 'preparatory exercises'

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), DEC. 9. The United States on Monday began a major military exercise to test its capacity to launch a high-speed military campaign in the Arabian desert.

The military manoeuvres, involving the testing of a portable military headquarters close to the battlefield, were launched by the U.S. Central Command head, General Tommy Franks, aided by 50 senior officers who make up the command's intelligence and operations staff.

According to Jim Wilkinson, director of strategic communications for Central Command, Gen. Franks urged his staff to use the exercise to make smarter decisions, more quickly and more efficiently. Gen. Franks in his forward headquarters at As Saytiyah in Qatar, will be digitally linked to his air force commander in Saudi Arabia, naval commander in Bahrain, his army commander in Kuwait as well as the Central Command's permanent headquarters in Florida.

A mobile headquarters close to the frontlines allows quicker and better decisions by allowing frequent face-to-face meetings among the military top brass. The net result is that a technologically intensive battle can be fought at an accelerated pace that can catch the enemy off-guard. Observers see the cutting edge exercise in Qatar as a dress rehearsal for a U.S. showdown with Iraq.

The timing of the manoeuvre, which is essentially meant to test a new high technology command post, is significant as

it follows the growing accumulation of war material in the region.

Acknowledging the significance of the exercise, Iraq, on its part, has carefully calibrated its response aimed at restraining Washington. A top Iraqi General on Sunday, on the eve of the exercise, went to great lengths to suggest that Iraq had the talent to make advanced weapons. Referring to the Iraqi advances in building an atomic bomb prior to 1991, Gen. Amir al-Saadi said, "We have the complete documentation from design to all the other things. We haven't reached the final assemble of a bomb nor tested it." The General pointed out that it was for the International Atomic Energy Agency "to judge how close we were." Besides, in move that would encourage key U.N. Security Council members, Russia and China, to discourage the U.S. from launching an attack, Iraqi officials backing their lengthy declaration on weapons on Saturday, went into overdrive to deny possession of mass destruction weapons or a programme to build them.

Meanwhile U.N. arms inspectors, who are under considerable pressure to search for weapons more aggressively, went into the Al-Tuweitha Nuclear Research Centre near Baghdad, for the third time since their arrival. The centre is the site of the Osirak reactor that the Israelis bombed in 1981. In Baghdad, Iraq's Parliament urged Arabs to seek martyrdom by attacking U.S. forces in Kuwait, saying the Americans were preparing to occupy Iraq.

Iraq declaration fails to move Bush

Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8. — The USA has vowed to pursue its campaign to end Mr Saddam Hussein's "accumulation of weapons of mass destruction" despite Iraq's denial that it has banned weaponry.

President George W Bush warned that the 12,000-page statement handed over to the UN yesterday in Baghdad must hold up to US scrutiny if Iraq is to avoid military attack.

A White House statement yesterday emphasised that Iraq had only handed over "what it claims" is a statement of its biological, chemical, nuclear and other weapons programmes. It highlighted that a "full and accurate" declaration had been promised to the UN.

According to a top Iraqi official, the document contains no admissions of banned weapons development as the USA and Britain have insisted there are.

The White House statement went on: "The US government will analyse this declaration with respect to its credibility and compliance with UN Security Council resolution 1441. "We will continue to work with other countries to achieve the ultimate goal of protecting the peace by ending the Iraqi President's pursuit and accumulation of weapons of mass destruction."

Moscow backs Baghdad: Russia, which has been an Iraqi ally on the Security Council, said Iraq has



HANDLE WITH CARE: Iraqi officials seal a suitcase containing documents detailing Baghdad's weapons of mass destruction. In Baghdad on Sunday. — AFP

shown it wants to cooperate with the UN, adds AP from Moscow. "Iraq's timely submission of its declaration, parallel to its continued cooperation with the international weapons inspectors, confirms its commitment to act in compliance with" the latest Security Council resolution on Iraqi arms, the Russian foreign ministry said today.

In Iran today, the leader of the biggest Iraqi Opposition group said he has documents proving that Mr Saddam Hussein was hiding weapons of mass destruction and that he was prepared to hand over the documents to the UN if the safety of his

informers inside Iraq was guaranteed. Md Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the exiled Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, offered no details.

Armitage on Asia tour: US deputy secretary of state Mr Richard Armitage arrived in Japan today on a four-nation tour of Asia in a bid to drum up support for a possible American-led attack on Iraq, adds AFP from Tokyo. The US envoy is expected to present a possible war scenario to Washington's three key regional allies Japan, South Korea and Australia as well as China.

Pak leader backs Iraq

PESHAWAR, Dec. 8. — A top Pakistani Islamist leader vowed today that his alliance, which is in power in two provinces, would disrupt President Pervez Musharraf's government and assist Baghdad if Iraq is attacked by the USA.

Qazi Hussain Ahmad told some 4,000 supporters that the MMA, of which he is vice president, "will support Iraq against America" and in case of attack "would help Iraq in financial and physical support". — AFP

Iraqi papers en route to UNHQ

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Dec. 8. — A UN plane took off from Saddam International Airport this morning carrying three sets of voluminous documents in which the Baghdad government details its chemical, biological and nuclear programmes, as required by a UN Security Council resolution.

The plane later landed on the Mediterranean island of Cyprus. From there, according to airport officials, the huge declaration was transferred in couriers' luggage to two commercial flights, one that left Cyprus at midmorning taking two sets of the Iraqi documents to UN headquarters in New York via Germany and on leaving direct to Vienna, headquarters of the UN nuclear agency, later today.

In New York, the Security Council gets one set, and UNMOVIC, the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission, the other.

Today Kuwait's information minister, Sheik Ahmed Fahd Al Ahmed Al Sabah, rejected Mr Saddam Hussein's apology. Yesterday, Mr Hussein had apologised to Kuwait for his 1990 invasion.

9 DEC 2002

THE STATESMAN

U.S. wary of Iraq's 'Declaration'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 8. The United States is watching warily as the United Nations tries to unfold what it is that the Saddam Hussein regime has done by meeting the deadline for the 'List' of weapons and programmes of mass destruction.

For the record, Washington has maintained that Iraq has retained many of its programmes of weapons of mass destruction, perhaps even going on to accelerate some of them in the last four years after weapons inspectors left that country in 1998. Baghdad, even while turning over the latest list, is adamant that it has no weapons of mass destruction.

For his part, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, has once again reminded the nation, Iraq and the international community that the regime of Saddam Hussein must come out clean and complete this time around. "We will judge the declaration's honesty and completeness only after we have thoroughly examined it, and that will take some time," he said in his weekly radio address.

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"The declaration must be credible and accurate and complete or the Iraqi dictator will have demonstrated to the world once again he has chosen not to change his behaviour."

Unnamed officials in the administration have been quoted in various agency reports as saying that the U.S. will continue to be sceptical, for over the years "substantial evidence" has been gathered from a number of sources that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction programmes have continued, if not accelerated.

Some sceptics are also pointing out the fact that between 1991 and 1998, Iraq had, on eight different occasions, given the United Nations "full, final and complete" accounting of its weapons and programmes of mass destruction, but none of which turned out to be full, final or complete.

Last month's United Nations Security Council resolution 1441 demands that Baghdad come out with a full and complete listing of its weapons and programmes. Even as Iraq was in the final stages of handing over the 12,000-odd page 'Declaration'

of all its weapons programmes involving chemical, biological and nuclear, the Bush administration was getting ready to declare Baghdad to be in "material breach" of the resolution 1441, but not quite ready yet to cite this as an immediate cause of war.

The administration, one view goes, may allow weapons inspections to go on using the time in the process to build up the so-called coalition to strike Iraq. But Mr. Bush and members of his Cabinet have all along maintained that while the United States would prefer working with the United Nations vis-a-vis Iraq, it was prepared to go alone to achieve the objectives. In fact, various media reports have suggested over the last several days that the United States has in fact a full complement of personnel and hardware in and around the Persian Gulf to start a military strike at a very short notice if Mr. Bush did indeed give the go-ahead. At least four aircraft carriers are positioned in and around the Persian Gulf and a fifth is in South-East Asian waters and could be turned around to the Gulf if the need arose, it is being pointed out.

THE HINDU

9 DEC 2002

Iraq hands over arms declaration

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD, Dec. 7. — The Iraqi government, denying it has weapons of mass destruction, delivered to the UN today its long-awaited declaration detailing its nuclear, chemical and biological programmes.

A vehicle with the Iraqi documents arrived at the UN office at the edge of the capital shortly after 8 p.m.

The filing of the more than 12,000 pages of technical details, meeting a UN deadline, now shifts the crisis into a new stage, as Washington and Baghdad move step by step toward a crossroads between war and peace.

The declaration "will answer all the questions which have been addressed during the last months and years," Lieutenant-General Hossam Mohammed Amin, the official who oversaw the declaration's preparation, said earlier in the day.

Lt-Gen. Amin also said it would name companies and countries that helped Iraq develop weapons of mass destruction in the past, information that could help in prosecutions under other nations' export-control laws.

"I reiterate here Iraq has no weapons of mass destruction," he told reporters. "I think if the USA has the minimum level of fairness and braveness, it should accept the report and say this is the truth." The huge declaration was to be flown out tomorrow on a UN plane, to reach UN headquarters in New York and the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna late in the day.

Iraqi officials had displayed the documents this afternoon to the international media, including bound copies of volumes devoted separately to

SADDAM'S APOLOGY FOR KUWAIT



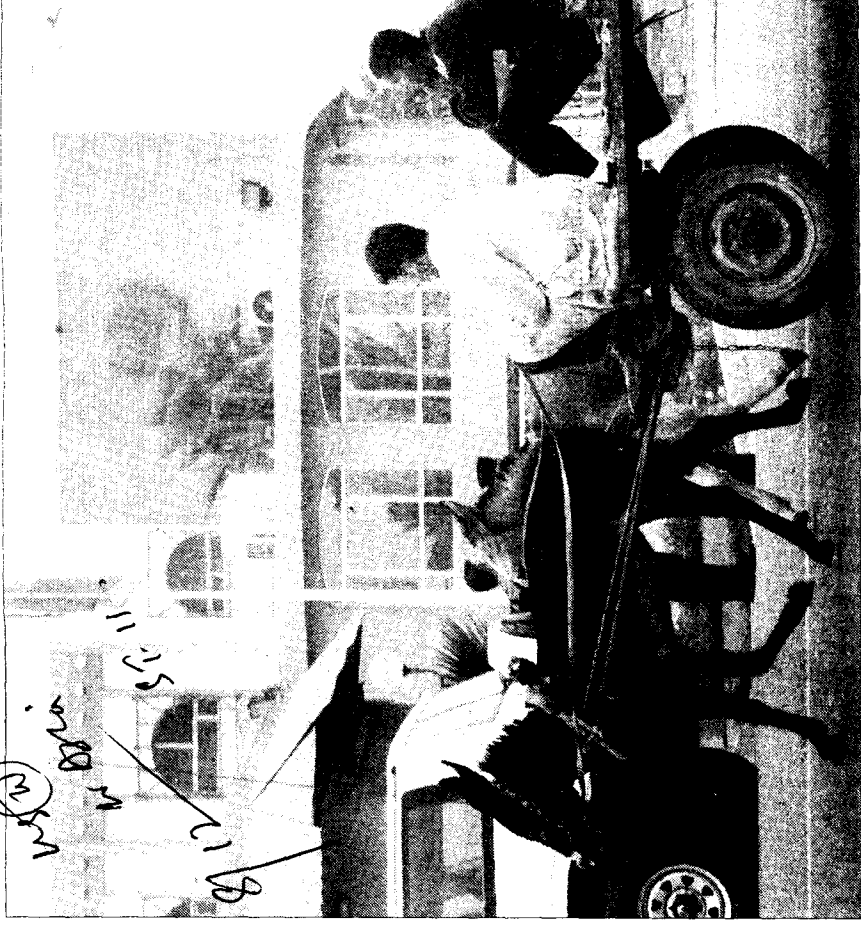
BAGHDAD, Dec. 7. — President Saddam Hussein today apologised to his Kuwaiti people for his country's invasion of that country in 1990, saying he was not apologising out of weakness but a desire to set the record straight.

In a speech read on national television by the Iraqi information minister, Mr Hussein outlined the events that led to the invasion and said: "We apologise to God about any act that has angered Him in the past and that was held against us, and we apologise to you (the Kuwaitis) on the same basis."

He said that in 1989, he had tried to reach a peaceful settlement of Iraq's dispute with Kuwait, but that the neighboring Gulf country's officials were not interested in negotiating. At the time, he said, US troops were carrying out manoeuvres with Kuwaiti forces, which was a threat to Iraq. He maintained Iraq was the victim of a conspiracy by Kuwaiti officials who were syphoning off oil along the two countries' borders that actually belonged to Iraq.

He also repeated charges that Kuwait was producing oil beyond its assigned Opec quota, bringing down oil prices to the detriment of the Iraqi economy. In the speech read by information minister Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, the Iraqi leader was careful to distinguish between the Kuwaitis and the country's leaders. Mr Hussein added that Iraqi officials later found documents showing the USA and Kuwaiti officials had colluded in military plans against Iraq and his country had to defend itself, leading to the invasion 1990. — AP

Saddam Hussein



WHO'S MAKING AN ASS OF WHOM? Two youths ride a donkey-drawn cart past the UN headquarters in Baghdad on Saturday, hours before Iraq handed over its weapons declaration to the UN. — AFP

UN FIND: MUSTARD GAS IN SHELLS

BAGHDAD, Dec. 7. — UN inspectors have reported finding a batch of banned weapons in this week's search in Iraq — a dozen artillery shells filled, as they have been for years, with one of man's most dreaded substances: mustard gas.

The shells were discovered in a hangar-like shed in the Iraqi desert, a big, bleak place carpeted with clumps of bird droppings and feathers, detritus of years of abandonment.

For the UN arms monitors, locating them was a first the first batch of weapons of mass destruction brought under their control in the ew round of inspections in Iraq.

The inspectors have said little about the results of their work, but finding the mustard gas was no surprise — the shells were located by other inspectors and tagged for destruction years ago.

Mr Hans Blix, the chief UN weapons inspector, concurred. Asked in New York yesterday if the mustard gas was a violation by the Iraqis, he said: "They had been declared before, and that was not news."

The UN inspectors' time at Al-Muthanna, deep in the desolate flats 70 km northwest of Baghdad, was a workaday five hours in what is fast becoming a professional routine of daily treks to Iraqi military industrial sites, landmarks to man's inhumanity to man.

As the team of inspectors went about their business on Wednesday, hundreds of camels trotted through a gaping hole in the barbed-wire fence ringing the vast, largely deserted installation, their Bedouin herders wrapping their headscarves against the flying grit. — AP

nuclear, chemical, biological and missile activities, body," chief UN weapons inspector Mr Hans Blix said.

Full and accurate, the mass of paper, in red and blue covers, was accompanied by computer disks, presumably with added information.

The thick reports on past weapons programmes and industrial activity will take UN experts weeks to analyse and UN inspectors months to verify inside Iraq. And UN officials said weeding out data that might help others produce chemical, biological or nuclear weapons will delay handover of material to the Security Council's 15-member nations.

"We would advise the council that these should be its own. Currently, the mass of paper, in red and blue covers, was accompanied by computer disks, presumably with added information. The thick reports on past weapons programmes and industrial activity will take UN experts weeks to analyse and UN inspectors months to verify inside Iraq. And UN officials said weeding out data that might help others produce chemical, biological or nuclear weapons will delay handover of material to the Security Council's 15-member nations. "We would advise the council that these should be its own."

Iraq flouting U.N. resolution: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, DEC. 6. With only two days to go for a critical deadline, the Bush administration is piling pressure on the regime in Iraq, flatly rejecting its contention that there are no weapons of mass destruction in that West Asian nation. At the same time, the United States is not willing, at this time, to expose the kind of evidence it has; rather it would wait for what Baghdad will present at the United Nations this weekend.

"There are inspectors inside the country now and the inspectors are there not to play a game of hide and seek", the President, George W. Bush, remarked on Thursday. "They're there to verify whether or not Mr. Saddam Hussein is going to disarm", he said. What is being said here is that the Bush administration will not be rushing to present evidence of Iraqi weapons and programmes of mass destruction. Rather, a quiet effort is under way to declare Iraq to be in "material breach" of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1441 passed last month, if Baghdad comes up with an explanation this Sunday — or earli-

er — that it has no weapons of mass destruction.

The declaration by the Bush administration that the Saddam Hussein regime is in "material breach" of resolution 1441 does not mean that Washington is ready to militarily strike Iraq. Instead, this will be used to pressure the United Nations weapons inspectors for a tougher inspections process. Separately, there are media reports that the Bush administration is pressuring the inspectors to lure Iraqi scientists out of the country so that they could be given a choice of coming to the United States in exchange for information on Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The United States has apparently asked the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, to identify top Iraqi scientists who could be spirited away from the country and given the asylum offer under the witness protection programme.

The President's National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, is said to have pursued this issue on Monday at New York with Mr. Blix.

Washington has all along favoured "in-

terviewing" Iraqi scientists outside the country, a process not looked upon favourably by Mr. Blix for a number of reasons, chiefly on account of logistics.

Under the latest scheme of things, if Mr. Blix did not agree to "more muscular" inspections, the Bush administration is getting ready to share with the Security Council what it knows of Iraqi weapons and programmes of mass destruction.

The Bush administration has had to contend with what is coming out of Iraq in recent days that includes high flying rhetoric on the one hand and on the other, a measured tone from Mr. Hussein who is saying that the inspectors are welcome to go about their business and that this was important to save Iraqis from "harm's way".

The sceptics in the administration and those who have been beating the war drums in the last several months aside, there are others here and at the United Nations who are making the point that it is critical that Baghdad be given every opportunity to come away clean this time around.

US prods inspectors to aid defections

5/10
 11-15
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Washington, December 6

THE BUSH administration has stepped up pressure on Hans Blix and the UN weapons inspection team to identify key Iraqi weapons scientists and spirit them out of Iraq so they can be offered asylum in exchange for disclosing where Saddam Hussein is hiding weapons of mass destruction, according to administration and UN officials.

High-level negotiations on the issue became visible when Condoleezza Rice, Bush's National Security Adviser, met with Blix in New York on Monday and pressed the issue of interviewing Iraqi scientists. The administration is offering to set up a witness protection program for defecting Iraqi scientists, thus



AFP
 US President George Bush hugs country singer Lee Ann Womack on Thursday during a Christmas Pageant for Peace in Washington DC.

enabling a more aggressive approach.

A US official at the United Nations said that the talks on how to

him to "make it a priority" to use the full powers conveyed by the Security Council resolution passed on November 8.

The push by Washington for defectors has further pressured the atmosphere surrounding the first week of inspections as Iraq prepares to make what the Security Council has said must be a full disclosure of its secret arms programs.

A senior official said that: "The US is concerned with the safety, welfare and non-intimidation of people who may wish to cooperate" with inspectors. "We take this issue seriously," the official continued, "and we hope the international community would also attach the same importance to the issue".

The New York Times

After Bush warns, Powell lauds Iraq

AGENCIES

BOGOTA/UNITED NATIONS,
DECEMBER 4

US SECRETARY of State Colin Powell said on Tuesday that UN weapons inspections in Iraq had made "a pretty good start" and that a final judgment on their effectiveness could take weeks.

In comments that appeared to contrast with those of President George W. Bush on Monday, Powell gave a relatively optimistic assessment of the inspections.

"So far I think they are off to a pretty good start. I'm not prepared to say that the inspections are working as intended because they are not up to strength and they are not up to speed yet. We will have to be cautious and see what happens in the days and weeks ahead but I think they're off to

US press denies campaign against arms inspectors

UNITED NATIONS: Media watchdogs have accused US newspapers of a campaign to discredit the Chief UN Arms Inspector, Hans Blix, and recycling falsehoods about earlier inspections: a charge the papers deny.

Solomon, one of four analysts, said a November 22 editorial in the *Wall Street Journal* and an article on November 26 — showed that "they clearly have the knives out" for Blix. "There's no campaign," the journal's editorial page editor, Paul Gigot, said. "There's no-one calling us up and saying write this or write that. We make up our own minds based on a look at the evidence." —AFP

a good start," he said.

On Monday, Bush, referring to Iraqi cooperation with the inspectors, said: "So far the signs are not encouraging." Asked to explain, Powell said that the President was referring to earlier Iraqi statements and letters written in response to requests from the UN. "But it's the beginning and we really haven't seen the whole inspection regime play out yet," he added.

UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan was also of the same view. He said on Tuesday that Iraqi cooperation with weapons inspectors had been good so far and praised the arms experts for using their authority to visit one of Saddam Hussein's presidential compounds.

"The cooperation seems to be good but this is not a one-week wonder," he said.

Turkey says it may not allow ground attack from its soil

GREG JAFFE

ANKARA, DECEMBER 4

TURKEY'S Minister of Foreign Affairs said his country would allow the US to use Turkish bases for air strikes against Iraq, but may not permit them to launch a large-scale ground attack from their soil.

"It may be difficult to see tens of thousands of American forces being transported through Turkish territory into Iraq or being stationed somewhere in Turkey to carry out strikes inside Iraq," Foreign Minister Yasar Yakis said. He also said that Turkey believes a second UN Security Council resolution would be necessary before Turkey could support military action in Iraq.

Turkish air bases will be critical if the US decides to attack Iraq. Although several Persian Gulf states have said they are likely to open their air bases to US, Turkish bases are particularly well-positioned for strikes in central and northern Iraq. The Pentagon had hoped to mount attacks on Baghdad and Hussein's stronghold of Tikrit from both the north and the south. —WSJ

5 DEC 2002

INDIAN EXPRESS

America builds Iraq war HQ in Qatar

Doha/Baghdad, December 1

THE US military is installing a new command centre at a heavily-guarded base in this small Persian Gulf state that would be ready to serve as the main headquarters for a war on Iraq.

The official purpose of the work at the base, As Sayliyah, is to prepare for a major US military exercise in December called Internal Look. But it will be no ordinary exercise. US officials say that it will be the first time that a war game of its type has been conducted outside the US and that the command and control procedures practiced would be the same used for a war with Iraq.

General Tommy R Franks, the head of the Central Command, is expected to arrive in about a week to take part in the exercise. About 750 staff members from the headquarters of the US Central Command are also being sent. General Franks will participate along with top Army, Marine, Air Force, Navy and Special Operations commanders in the region.

Western officials say the US

UN arms inspectors tip off Iraqis

SERIOUS DOUBTS crept up over the surprise nature of the arms inspections in Iraq when a UN spokesman admitted the head of a suspected weapons site had been given an advance warning of the visit by UN experts to his facility.

"He was informed the day on Friday that the team was coming to remove an air sampler and instal a new one," Hiro Ueki said shortly after denying at a press briefing that the UN had tipped off the Iraqis.

"That is all (there is) to it," the spokesman added in an apparent bid to quash a possible controversy about whether UN inspections of suspected weapons sites which resumed on November 27 were really on no-notice basis.

AFP, Baghdad

information on the report. "We have nothing on it," Lieutenant Colonel Martin Compton said. US and British warplanes police two no-fly zones in southern and northern Iraq.

"US and British warplanes raided the Southern Oil Company in Basra. Four people were martyred and several others wounded during the raid," one resident said over the telephone from the port city. The residents said company offices were hit.

The Iraqi Southern Oil Company supervises Iraq's oil exports under an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations via Mina-al-Bakr terminal in southern Iraq. A second outlet is through the Turkish port of Ceyhan in the Mediterranean.

The zones were set up after the 1991 Gulf War to protect a Kurdish enclave in the north and Shia Muslims in the south from attack by Saddam's military. Iraq does not recognise the zones and views them as "State terrorism and wanton aggression," Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabiri said.

tack on Iraq and hopes that a conflict can be avoided.

Allied planes kill 4

Western warplanes attacked an oil installation in Basra in southern Iraq on Sunday, killing four people and wounding several others, residents said.

US Central Command in Tampa, Florida, said it had no infor-

'USA will manipulate inspectors'



An UN vehicle carrying a team of inspectors drives past a wall painting of Mr Saddam Hussein holding up a rifle. — AFP

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

AGHDAD, Nov. 30. — On day three of UN weapons inspections, tension built as Baghdad warned that Washington was certain to try to manipulate the UN arms experts to its own ends, even as the inspectors paid a surprise visit today to a small, sleepy military post north of Baghdad where they searched for signs of weapons of mass destruction.

"The USA will not suffice with monitoring the work of inspection teams, but will continue its illegitimate interference (in their work) and go on issuing threats to Iraq," wrote *Ath-Thawra*, mouthpiece of the ruling Baath Party yesterday.

Washington "will poke its nose into the inspectors' mission and will contrive (crises) to derail their work, especially after they, and the whole world, start finding out that Iraq is free of mass destruction weapons" and that the USA has been "lying", the paper charged.

Meanwhile, Washington, looking ahead to possible military action against Iraq, said it was sending senior envoys to several European nations and Turkey next week to follow up on requests for help.

US deputy defense secretary Mr Paul Wolfowitz and under-secretary of state for political affairs Mr Marc Grossman will visit Turkey, Britain and NATO headquarters in Brussels, Belgium beginning on Sunday, the department said. And, as the weapons inspections proceeded without apparent encumbrance, the Iraqi military said its ground defence opened fire on US and British warplanes as they flew over the south of the country.

The "enemy planes" flew 62 "armed sorties" over 17 areas in southern Iraq yesterday morning before Iraqi fire forced them to return to their bases in Kuwait, the spokesman said.

■ **Pentagon's preparedness questioned:**

US lawmakers have raised questions over the readiness of the Pentagon for a likely war against Iraq, saying the defence department has not been able to manage state-of-the-art protective gear for American troops to fight chemical and biological attacks, adds PTI from Washington. "I visited the troops in Europe, who I believe will be first responders in Iraq, and they did not have the best equipment we have, and that is a concern to me," Congressman Mr Christopher Shays, chairman of the House of Representatives sub-committee on national security subcommittee, said. "We don't know where some of our best suits are — they are God knows where. And in some cases, we've mixed bad inventory with good," he was quoted as saying by the *Washington Post*.

Pentagon's problems include gas masks that have wrong gaskets and will require extensive inspections to ensure their proper functioning, the Connecticut Republican said. Citing "extremely troubling" testimony on chemical and biological preparedness, Republican Mr Janice D Schakowsky, in a letter to defence secretary Mr Donald Rumsfeld, asked him to certify that all troops deployed to the Gulf for a possible action against Iraq "have been provided with equipment to protect against chemical and biological attacks."

■ **'Inspections going on smoothly':** Russia today hailed Baghdad's cooperation with UN weapons inspectors, saying that the first days of the inspections had gone smoothly and expressing hope that the mission to verify whether Iraq had weapons of mass destruction would go off without a hitch, adds AFP from Moscow.

■ **'Iraqis hiding weapons':** A British media report claiming Iraqis are hiding illicit weapons parts in their homes may be valid, the spokeswoman for the International Atomic Energy Agency said today.

US wary of Iraq's response

DOYLE MCMANUS

WASHINGTON, NOVEMBER 28

IRAQ'S response to UN inspections of chemical, biological and nuclear sites is just what the Bush administration feared, officials said on Wednesday: initial compliance but little evidence that Saddam Hussein is genuinely ready to disarm.

They point out that Iraq, even as it agreed to allow inspectors back, insisted that it has nothing to hide. But the US, Britain, France and other governments say their intelligence agencies have amassed that Iraq is pursuing nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs.

"What they've been doing is complying, but grudgingly ... in a way that portends bad things to come," a senior Bush administration official said in an interview on condition he not be identified.

"The Iraqis are very confi-

MEANWHILE...

UN arms inspectors visited an animal vaccine production lab and a munitions factory near Baghdad on Thursday, the second day of their hunt for suspected weapons of mass destruction following a four-year break.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder responded coolly on Wednesday to a US request for help in the event of an Iraq war, agreeing to grant flyover rights for US Forces but declining other demands from Washington.

Britain has set aside \$1.55 billion for a possible war against Iraq, Finance Minister Gordon Brown announced on Wednesday. — Agencies

dent in their ability to continue to hide this stuff from the inspectors," said Kenneth Pollack, a former CIA expert on Iraq. "(Saddam) will do everything possible to delay the

process out in hope that something will happen to derail us," said David L. Mack, a former State Department official. "His history is based on believing that something will happen that allows him to escape."

The next test will come on December 8, when Iraq is scheduled to submit an "accurate, full and complete declaration" of its nuclear, chemical and biological programs.

Saddam might say that he has nothing to declare — that Iraq has no weapons programs beyond the ones already acknowledged. Or he may try to guess what the CIA and other Western intelligence agencies know about his weapons programs, and declare a little more. Or he may declare everything — and drown the UN in paper by including every chemical and biological laboratory in the country, from weapons programs to veterinary stations and high schools. —LATWP

U.S. plays down Pak.-N. Korea links

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 26. The Bush administration is keen on downplaying the dubious Pakistan-North Korea axis by continuing to harp on a theme that nations have "changed" since September 11, 2001; and the State Department is giving the impression that the question of sanctions may not even be in play in the face of the latest revelations.

The defence of the regime of Pakistan's Pervez Musharraf first came from the White House on Monday when the spokesman, Ari Fleischer, repeated a finely-crafted formulation, that while Islamabad may have aided Pyongyang in the past, this has not happened since the time Gen. Musharraf signed on to the U.S. President's war on terrorism.

"I think that September 11 changed many things. And a new Government, if you will, and Pakistan is not always doing things that they used to do", Mr. Fleischer said in remarks. He has been essentially repeating this theme since the time of the North Korea-Pakistan nexus surfaced recently.

"Times have indeed changed. Not everything that took place years ago gets repeated today... September 11 changed many things, certain things happened under different governments in Pakistan in a time

period not represented by Pakistan today. Events change and so do nations", the spokesman maintained.

It is obvious to many here and elsewhere that the Bush administration is not inclined to publicly rebuke its "stalwart ally" in the fight against terror. This has to do with not only the kind of assistance and dubious deals Islamabad has been engaged in with North Korea, but also on the issue of cross-border terrorism with India and the goings-on in Jammu and Kashmir. What the administration has been saying in private to Islamabad will remain that way, but whether this is having any impact at all is a subject for debate and contention.

The Government of India continues to maintain that there has hardly been any let-up on the issue of terrorism in spite of all those "commitments" that are said to have been given to the Bush administration by Islamabad.

What many here find quite appalling is that the Bush administration — at least openly — refuses to see that its present formulation for Pakistan and North Korea may not hold in the face of evidence that Islamabad may have engaged in questionable transactions as late as this July. Worse, that a U.S.-supplied C-130 Cargo plane may have been used for the barter transaction. While trying to underplay the

seriousness of Pakistan's association with a nation dubbed by Mr. Bush as a state in an "axis of evil", the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has argued that he has told Gen. Musharraf that there would be "consequences" of continued contacts with North Korea.

At the same time, Gen. Powell has taken the position that he is aware of "nothing now" that would trigger sanctions against Pakistan.

"In my conversations with President Musharraf in recent months, I have made it clear to him that any, any sort of contact between Pakistan and North Korea we believe would be improper, inappropriate and would have consequences", Gen. Powell has been quoted as saying in Mexico City.

There is a view here that Pakistan's transactions with North Korea are liable for sanctions under domestic laws. But there is hardly anything to indicate that the Republican administration is moving in that direction.

In fact, it is not expected to do so. And if a sentiment to this effect builds up in Congress when it convenes in January, the President will have to push for a waiver.

On the subject of sanctions, Gen. Powell merely said, "Right now, I have nothing presently that has been reported to me that I need to be looking at".

The United States is dressing its militarism up in multilateral clothes

Manufacturing consent

BY A.G. NOORANI

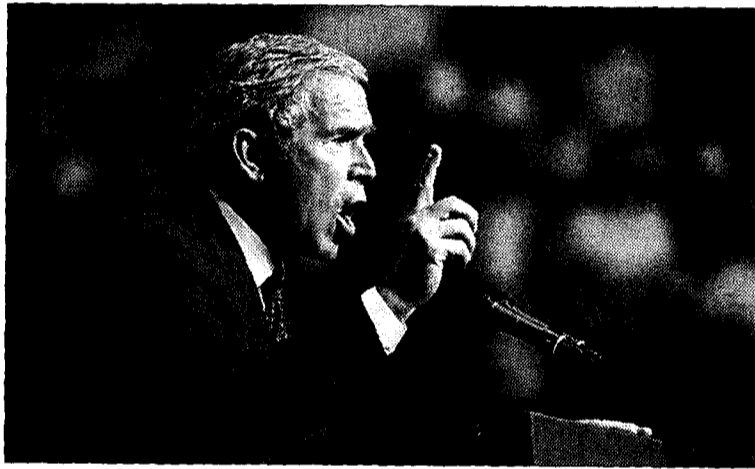
THE UNITED States' determination to act independently and its ability to do so will increase the chances of creating the consensus it desires,' wrote US Assistant Secretary of Defence Paul Wolfowitz nine years ago. It is an apt comment on Resolution 1441 on Iraq which the UN Security Council adopted on November 8. The concessions made by the US to France, Russia and China are significant, but not decisive.

Terence Neilan of *The New York Times* described it accurately. "[It] still leaves the US free to attack Iraq without a formal second UN resolution authorising the use of force. But it requires the Security Council to assess any serious violation that could lead to war." However, "in return for these concessions, Washington got what an official called 'a lot of triggers' for possible future action by the Security Council and future military action by the US."

In Para 4, the council "decides" that a false declaration by Iraq or failure to "cooperate fully in the implementation of this resolution shall constitute a material breach of Iraq's obligations and will be reported to the council for assessment in accordance with paragraphs 11 and 12..." Replacement of "or" by "and" secured France's consent. Para 11 directs the inspectors "to report immediately" any breach by Iraq. Para 12 requires the council "to convene immediately upon receipt of a report in accordance with paragraphs 4 or 11... in order to consider the situation and the need for full compliance with all the relevant council resolutions".

Use of the word "and" in Para 4 mandates a council meeting after a report. But use of the word "or" in Para 12 enables any member of the UN to activate the council even if the observers report no breach. The US holds that it is open to any member to determine a breach.

In three separate press interviews on October 28, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin insisted on acceptance of President Jacques Chirac's two-stage approach. Resolution 1441 adopts it. A joint statement by China, France and Russia stated: "Failure by Iraq to comply with its obligations... will be reported to the Security Council... It will be then for the council to take a position on the



ONE LITTLE PIGGY WENT TO WAR: George W. Bush

basis of that report."

However, Washington has made it plain that while the council will meet, the US will be free to act as it pleases. President George W. Bush said that "the US has agreed to discuss any material breach with the Security Council, but without jeopardising our freedom of action". The US told the council immediately after the vote: "If the Security Council fails to act decisively in the event of a further Iraqi violation, this resolution does not constrain any member State from acting." Thus, for the US, a council decision will not be a prerequisite to action; only an essential formality.

The resolution is studded with "little triggers". US National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice has said that a delay of only two hours in a requested entry should constitute a violation. The council must "not get into a prolonged discussion" on the breach. "It would be time at that moment for the Security Council to act." The Wolfowitz doctrine will then come into play. Very many will go along with the US.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell is not candid on the issue of change of regime. After demilitarisation, Iraq's government becomes "a changed regime" — and survives — he told Al-Jazeera on November 8. The BBC was told five days later: "The only way you could get disarmament was through regime change. And that remains our policy." It is not the resolution but the politics

inside the US — that alone can deter the US. The UN has served it as a mechanism for drumming up support for military action.

Charles Krauthammer described it with stark realism: "What we have today is pseudo-multilateralism: a dominant great power acts essentially alone, but, embarrassed at the idea and still worshipping at the shrine of collective security, recruits a ship here, a brigade there, and blessings all around to give its unilateral actions a multilateral sheen... It is largely for domestic reasons... that American political leaders make sure to dress unilateral action in multilateral clothing." Surely to impress the world also.

He has no illusions. "America's involvement abroad is in many ways an essential pillar of the American economy. The United States is, like Britain before it, a commercial, maritime, trading nation that needs an open, stable world environment in which to thrive. In a world of Saddams, if the United States were to shed its unique superpower role, its economy would be gravely wounded. Insecure sea lanes, impoverished trading partners, exorbitant oil prices, explosive regional instability are only the more obvious risks of an American abdication. Foreign entanglements are indeed a burden. But they are also a necessity."

The UN Charter has been perverted to the ends of American militarism. Neither Security Council Resolution 678 of 1990 nor 687 of

was not a UN war," said UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar on April 16, 1991. A jurist has noticed how the council debates in private and meets to approve "pre-arranged deals". An ambiguous resolution becomes a power of attorney for the US in a "privatisation" of the council responsibility.

In 1991, the real aim was establishment of US power in the Gulf. Now, it is, as Anatol Lieven puts it, "unilateral world domination through absolute military superiority". He adds: "Whatever the increasingly open imperialism of the nationalist think-tank class, neither the military nor the mass of the population wishes to see itself as imperialist."

Popular consent can be manufactured, especially if the objectives is to make a 'friendly' Iraq into a 'private American oil pumping station'. The entire region will be affected. The ground will be prepared for a new accord, dividing it, not between Britain and France, as the Sykes-Picot deal did, but between the US and its junior partner, Britain.

That Jaswant Singh should have jumped, in a display of Pavlovian reflex, to endorse the US doctrine of pre-emptive action is natural. Under the BJP, militarism is becoming fashionable in India. Its impact on American society, no less than the lessons of history, should serve as a warning. "Patriotism is being prostituted into a nervous intoxication... It is militarism which is eating up all the products of science and art, defeating the energy of the population and wasting its savings. It is militarism which forbids the people to give their attention to the problems of their own welfare and to give their strength to the education and comfort of their children."

That was written not recently, but in 1898 by Yale's Professor William Graham Sumner. Will Durant's description of the fate of a great country which had embraced militarism should serve as a warning to all who find its attractions irresistible: "In the end, Sparta's narrowness of spirit betrayed even her strength of soul. She descended to the sanctioning of any means to gain a Spartan aim... Militarism absorbed her, and made her, once so honoured, the hated terror of her neighbours. When she fell, all the nations marvelled, but none mourned."

US ally Pervez in nuclear backstab

► FROM PAGE 1

Pakistan was desperate to counter India's superior military force, but encountered years of American-imposed sanctions, so it turned to North Korea. For its part, North Korea, increasingly cut off from Russia and China, tried to replicate Pakistan's success in developing a nuclear arsenal based on enriched uranium, which is one of the few commodities that North Korea has in plentiful supply.

Yet, while the US has put tremendous diplomatic pressure on North Korea in the past two months to abandon the project, and has cut off oil supplies to the country, it has never publicly discussed the role of Pakistan or other nations in supplying that effort. American and South Korean officials say the reason is obvious: The Bush administration has determined that Pakistan's cooperation in the search for al Qaida is critical.

White House officials noted that Musharraf, after first denying Pakistani involvement in North Korea's nuclear effort, has assured secretary of state Colin Powell that no such trade will occur in the future. "He said 'four hundred per cent assurance that there is no such interchange taking place now'," Powell said in a briefing last month.

Pressed about Pakistan's contributions to the nuclear programme that North Korea admitted to last month, Powell smiled tightly and said: "We didn't talk about the past."

Intelligence officials say they have seen no evidence of exchanges since the US protested the July missile shipment. And in that case, they cannot determine if the C-130 that picked up missile parts in North Korea brought nuclear-related goods to the country. But American and Asian officials are far from certain that Pakistan has cut off the relationship, or even whether Musharraf is in control of the matter.

In the words of one American official who has reviewed the intelligence, North Korea's drive in the past year to begin full-scale enrichment of uranium uses technology that "has

'Made in Pakistan' stamped all over it."

Pakistan's military ties to North Korea go back to the 1970s. But they took a decisive turn in 1993 during a visit to Pyongyang by then Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. Her delegation left with plans for North Korea's *Nodong* missile, according to former and current Pakistani officials.

By April 1998, Pakistan successfully tested a version of *Nodong*, renamed *Ghauri*. Its flight range of about 1,000 miles put much of India within reach of Pakistan's nuclear warheads.

One Western diplomat who visited North Korea in May 1998, just as world attention focused on Pakistan which had responded to India's underground nuclear tests by setting off six of its own, recalled witnessing an odd celebration. "I was in the foreign ministry," the official recalled. "About 10 minutes into our meeting, the North Korean diplomat we were seeing broke into a big smile and pointed with pride to these tests. They were all elated."

"Here was a model of a poor state getting away with developing a nuclear weapon," he said.

When the Clinton administration raised rumours of a Pakistan-North Korea link with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who had succeeded Bhutto, he denied them. It was only after Musharraf overthrew Sharif's government and after Bush took office, that South Korean intelligence agencies picked up strong evidence that North Korea was buying components for a small enriched-uranium programme.

The agencies passed the evidence along to Washington, according to South Korean and American officials. It looked suspiciously similar to the gas centrifuge technology used in Pakistan.

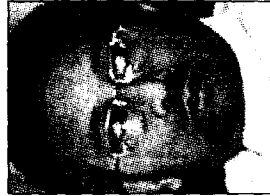
By this summer, Washington concluded that North Korea had moved from research to production and had to be stopped. "Here's the strategy," one American official said. "Tell the North Koreans, quite publicly, that they can't get away with it. And say the same thing to Pakistan, but privately, quietly."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

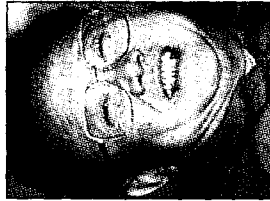
Pakistan uses American plane to trade with North Korea

US ally Pervez in nuclear backstab

DAVID E. SANGER



Musharraf and North Korean leader Kim Jong Il



Seoul, Nov. 24: Last July, American intelligence agencies tracked a Pakistani cargo aircraft as it landed at a North Korean airfield and took on a secret payload: ballistic missile parts made by North Korea.

The shipment was brazen enough, in full view of American spy satellites. But intelligence officials who described the incident say the transport was also a slap at Washington: the Pakistani plane was a Lockheed-built C-130 made in America.

It was part of the military force that General Pervez Musharraf had told President George W. Bush last year would be devoted to hunting down the terrorists of al Qaeda, one reason the administration was hailing its new cooperation with a country that only a year before it had labelled a rogue state.

But several times since that new alliance was cemented, US intelligence agencies watched silently as Pakistan's air fleet conducted a deadly barter with North Korea. In transactions intelligence agencies are still unravelling, the North provided Musharraf with missile parts he needs to build a nuclear arsenal capable of reaching every strategic site in India.

In a perfect marriage of interests, Pakistan provided the North with many of the designs for gas centrifuges and much of the machinery it needs to make highly

enriched uranium for the country's latest nuclear weapons project.

The CIA told members of Congress that North Korea's uranium enrichment programme, which it discovered only this summer, will produce enough material to make weapons in two to three years.

Yet the CIA report — at least the unclassified version — made no mention of how one of the world's poorest and most isolated nations put together its new, complex uranium project.

In interviews over the past three weeks, officials and experts in Washington, Pakistan and here in the capital of South Korea described a relationship between North Korea and Pakistan that now appears much deeper and more dangerous than the US and its Asian allies first suspected.

The accounts raise disturbing questions about the nature of the uneasy American alliance with Musharraf's government. The officials and experts described how, even after Musharraf sided with the US in ousting the Taliban and hunting down al Qaeda leaders, Pakistan's secretive A.Q. Khan Nuclear Research Laboratories continued its murky relationship with the North Korean military.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Bush lauds entry of Lithuania into Nato

51-12 ASSOCIATED PRESS W3 (W) . NFI 29/11

VILNIUS (Lithuania), Nov. 23. — US President Mr George W Bush today embraced Lithuania and other Baltic nations newly invited to join NATO and said the alliance must defeat the new “evil” of terrorism just as the West faced down the Nazis and communists who oppressed this region for decades.

“This is a great day in the history of Lithuania, in the history of the Baltics, in the history of NATO and in the history of freedom,” Mr Bush told thousands gathered in a town square in Vilnius, Lithuania’s capital. “In the face of aggression, the brave people of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia will never again stand alone.” Mr Bush, who declared a war against terrorism after the 11 September attacks on America, warned that our alliance of freedom is being tested

again by new and terrible dangers.”

Mr Bush suggested this week at a NATO summit, where seven ex-communist nations were formally invited to join the alliance, that some old-line NATO allies have a stale view of the world. New NATO countries like Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, eager to protect liberty, will refresh the alliance, he said.

Putin on terrorism: Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin told US President Mr George W Bush that the United States should not wage war alone against Iraq and he put Mr Bush on the spot by questioning whether White House allies like Pakistan and Saudi Arabia are doing enough to fight terrorism.

“Where has Osama bin Laden taken refuge?” the Russian said yesterday in a joint news conference with Mr Bush at Catherine Palace, an 18th century Czarist castle.

24 NOV 2002

THE STATESMAN

Colin Powell managed to convince Bush that without an international coalition, the war against Iraq may look improper but the "hawks" are still awaiting their turn

AMERICAN WAR PLAN

By VLADIMIR SIMONOV

WHO'S standing beside whom does mean a lot not only in relation to people on the rostrum of the Mausoleum. American analysts noticed that President George W Bush, while announcing on the White House lawn the adoption of a new UN Security Council resolution on Iraq, put Colin Powell at his side. At the same time, he generously praised the Secretary of State for "his leadership, good work and persistence". This way, the President somewhat "reinstated" Powell as the leader of his foreign relations team.

Lately, this role had been slipping away from Powell. He was losing battle after battle against the hard-liners in the Administration, whether it was the US policy in the Middle East, the Iraqi issue, or even the US participation in international humanitarian programmes. Vice-President Richard Cheney and Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who lead the flock of Washington "hawks", could barely hide their triumph. It was, probably, their team that spread the rumours that Powell "had run out of steam", that he had been losing the President's favour, and that he was about to resign.

The rumours never materialised. On the contrary, the new UN Security Council resolution which doesn't contain the clause allowing for the forceful solution of the Iraqi issue, was justly regarded by the Washington elite as a personal achievement of the Secretary of State, who had changed from a General's uniform to a civil suit not so long ago. Maybe that's why he skillfully managed to stave off the onslaught of Rumsfeld's generals and Cheney's entourage, who were suggesting to the President not to bother with the new resolution, but to simply inform the Security Council about the "legality of the US strike against Iraq from the standpoint of international law", instead. The "hawks" insisted that Iraq had been violating the UN Security Council resolutions for ten years, anyway.

Powell managed to convince the President otherwise. Bush

The author is a political analyst associated with Ria Novosti

strongly believes that the UN is a 20th century organisation not capable of facing the threats and demands of the 21st century. Nevertheless, the President acquiesced in the Secretary of State's arguments that without an international coalition possible only under the UN aegis, the war against Iraq would have an improper look. In essence, this war would be considered by the world community as a unilateral act of vengeance on the part of a

about its findings in Iraq.

The President has already approved the war plan. The information on the plan has been leaked to the mass media not solely for the purpose of blackmailing Saddam Hussein and his generals who, presumably, still have time to denounce their leader. The plan is also intended to assure the world community that the USA would conduct an accurate, well-planned campaign against the Hussein regime and not against

The period of preliminary air strikes will be much shorter than during the "Desert Storm" operation



superpower intoxicated by its might and breaking all the norms of human coexistence.

The details revealed in the recent past indicate how close resolution 1441 was to failure. It happens that the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, had been trying almost every day over the phone to convince Bush that the adoption of a coordinated resolution was more important than bickering over every word in it. It also happens that the Russian Foreign Minister informed Powell about Russia's consent at 9 am on the day of voting. The cellphone call about Syria's consent reached the US Ambassador to the UN John Negroponte when he was approaching the doors of the Security Council Hall. Three months of stress endured by Powell ended on a bright New York morning.

But not for long. The Secretary of State himself considers his triumph over the proponents of military strike against Baghdad as an interim victory. Washington "hawks" are just waiting for their turn. It could come even before 21 February when the UN inspection team headed by Hans Blix must report to the UN Security Council

Iraqi people. Besides, it takes into account the comprehensive experience of the Persian Gulf War in 1991 and the recent campaign in Afghanistan. As a Russian satire writer stated ironically, "the bomb is being stuffed with humanitarian aid".

So, how does the war against Iraq look like, at least on paper approved by the US President?

The period of preliminary air strikes will be much shorter than during the "Desert Storm" operation when they lasted for 43 days. This time, a month should be sufficient. More than 60 per cent of airborne ammunition that will rain on Iraq will be laser-guided, precision bombs and missiles. In 1991, only nine per cent of weaponry used in the campaign was of the same "miracle nature". Among targets of priority are presidential palaces and command centres, whose destruction, according to the Pentagon planners, should bring the collapse of the Iraqi regime closer.

The air strikes will be followed by the transfer of 250,000 troops with the use of all possible means — a helicopter group based in Kuwait, by land and sea. In addition, a token force of

29/11 ✓
a thousand British troops, supplied by the closest US ally Tony Blair, will take part in the operation.

The actual attack will be launched according to a "rolling wave" principle. First, the allied troops will quickly establish several bridgeheads inside Iraqi territory in order to use them later as strongholds for the invasion of larger forces deep into Iraqi territory. This way, the Pentagon plans to avoid some awkward diplomatic situations related to large-scale concentrations of military forces on the territory of "third-party" countries, for instance, Saudi Arabia. It goes without saying that by that time the US Special Forces units will infiltrate Iraqi territory. Apart from routine activities — targeting air strikes, destroying weapon depots, including possible WMD bases — they will be assigned some rather unusual tasks. For example, preventing Baghdad from flooding the swamps in the south of Iraq in order to hinder the fast advance of the allied forces, or hampering the Iraqi attempts to set the oil wells on fire. The American concern about oil wells runs like a common thread through the whole military plan. The real interests of "the US noble battle against the Iraqi terrorist nest" clearly stand out in this case.

The later stages of the campaign would involve, according to a high-ranking Pentagon official, a "seamless transition" from invasion to military occupation of a significant part of Iraqi territory. It follows the model of the US occupation of Japan after the Second World War. Initially, a US military governor would rule over Iraq. It would probably be Thomas Franks, the Commander of US Forces in the Persian Gulf.

It's about time he puts a portrait of Douglas MacArthur, who served as a Commander-in-Chief of the US occupational forces in Japan after its capitulation in 1945, on the wall of his Iraqi office. Judging by the plan of the military campaign that has been approved by George Bush, American history must spin around like a dog chasing its own tail. But history has a capricious nature and might act in an unpredictable way.

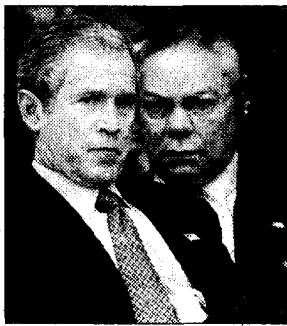
With NATO behind, US to fight Iraq in 'cool of night'

STEVE HOLLAND & HAITHAM HADDADIN
PRAGUE/BAGHDAD, NOV 22

THE United States could fight Iraq in the summer, especially in the cool of the night, if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein waits until the winter passes and then obstructs UN weapons inspections, US Secretary of State Colin Powell said on Thursday.

Powell told CBS television in an interview that the winter is the ideal time for a military operation but the US should not be bound by any calendar.

"So if Saddam Hussein or anyone else thinks that once this ideal window passes they are safe for another year I sug-



Bush and Powell at the NATO summit. Reuters

gest that may be false hope," he said. He said: "I don't think that any of us have any illusions about what he will put in his declaration on the 8th of December or whether he'll try to deceive the inspectors."

Meanwhile, NATO mem-

bers have declared themselves united in backing UN efforts to rid Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, but the 19-nation alliance stopped short of promising to go to war over it.

NATO allies issued a communique saying they "were united in their commitment to take effective action to assist and support the efforts of the UN to ensure full and immediate compliance by Iraq."

US President George W. Bush, fresh off the NATO summit in Prague, was due to meet Russian President Vladimir Putin in St Petersburg on Friday to discuss Iraq and other matters including NATO expansion and the war on terrorism. —Reuters

NDIAN EXPRESS

23 NOV 2002

Bush urges Nato allies to join 'coalition of the willing'

US call-up for UK troops

DOMINIC EVANS

London, Nov. 20 (Reuters): The British government said today it had received a request from Washington for troops to take part in a possible Iraqi military campaign.

Speaking as US President George W. Bush urged Nato allies in Europe to join a "coalition of the willing" to attack Iraq if it defied UN weapons inspectors, defence secretary Geoff Hoon said Britain was prepared to offer a "credible threat".

But he stressed that did not mean war against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was inevitable. Asked if the United States had asked for a contribution of forces to a potential invasion, Hoon told a news conference: "We have had a request for forces from the US, but can I emphasise no decision has been taken on that."

Hoon said more details would be given to parliament next Monday, when it will hold a debate on Iraq.

In Baghdad, Iraq vowed to meet its first big test under a UN resolution by providing a complete account of its arms programme, and chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix said today that Baghdad had pledged full cooperation.

Britain, Washington's



US President George W. Bush (top) with his Czech counterpart Vaclav Havel in Prague. (AFP)

staunch ally, is widely expected to contribute around 15,000 troops to back any US military action against Saddam. But Hoon's comments were the first confirmation of a formal request for support.

He said despite the diversion of 19,000 staff to cover for a fire-fighters' strike, Britain could still pose a serious military threat to Iraq.

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"We have always made clear that in order to underpin the effectiveness of the Security Council process there needs to be a credible threat. We are going to provide that," he said.

But Hoon's comments were undermined by his own armed forces chief, standing beside him at the news conference, who said he was "extremely concerned" at the impact of the fire strikes.

"Clearly we cannot perform to the full extent of our operating facility while 19,000 people are tied up standing by to do fire-fighting duties," chief of staff Admiral Sir Michael Boyce said.

Even before the start of weapons inspections called for in a tough UN resolution passed two weeks ago, Washington has said Baghdad is in "material breach" of the resolution by firing on US and British fighter jets overflying Iraq.

That interpretation has raised fears among other Security Council members that the United States could use it as an automatic trigger for war.

British diplomats have said firing against their planes did not constitute a material breach. But Hoon said it would impact on the Security Council's assessment of Iraqi compliance.

"It is important that we recognise that this is an aggressive, belligerent state as far as

our aircraft are concerned," he said. "That would go to part of the picture that the Security Council would discuss."

Asked about doubts within British Prime Minister Tony Blair's Labour Party at the prospect of war with Iraq, Hoon said politicians could make their views clear at Monday's debate — where he could spell out plans to call up reserve troops.

"All members of parliament, including those who are members of government, will be thinking through their positions," Hoon said.

Uday paper banned

The newspaper of President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday was banned from appearing for a month, an Iraqi information ministry source said today.

The official said *Babel*, Iraq's most influential newspaper, was banned because it "violated the instructions of the information ministry." He gave no further details. The paper did not appear today and the source said the ban would continue for a month.

Babel sniped occasionally at government inefficiency and corruption. It was also the only local newspaper that published Western media reports daily about Iraq and its conflict with the United States.

THE TELEGRAPH

2 1 NOV 2002

Bush puts Iraq on Nato agenda

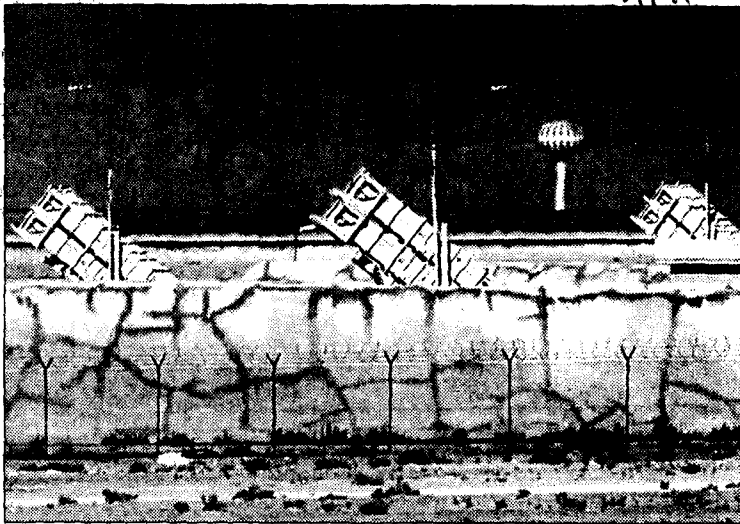
Associated Press

PRAGUE, Nov. 20. — Nato's enlargement to take in seven former Communist countries will invigorate the alliance and strengthen its hand against "global terrorists who hate freedom", the US President said today.

Iraq loomed ever-larger over the summit as Mr George W Bush rallied European support for military action if it comes to that and pushed the debate on Iraq in bilateral meetings ahead of the summit. "If the collective will of the world is strong, we can achieve disarmament peacefully," Mr Bush said.

Speaking to reporters after meeting with the Czech President Mr Vaclav Havel, Mr George W Bush urged the Nato allies to join a US-led "coalition of the willing" to ensure the disarmament of Iraq.

An enlarged Nato, he claimed, will offer greater security to a world in turmoil. "The enemy is not Russia. The enemy is global terrorists who hate freedom, and together we can work to defeat that enemy in the name of freedom," Mr Bush



BATTLE READY: Patriot anti-missile batteries deployed in the Kuwaiti desert on Wednesday as part of Kuwait's defence against Saddam Hussein in case of a US attack on Iraq. — AFP

said at a joint press conference with Mr Havel. "I strongly support a Europe which is whole, free and at peace," he said. "I welcome the idea of countries joining Nato whose history has taught them the need to protect freedom at any cost..."

Mr Havel said he prefers that Mr Saddam Hussein peacefully surrender his weapons of mass destruction. "If, however, the need to use force were to arise, I believe Nato should give honest and speedy consideration to its engagement as an alliance."

THE STATESMAN

2 1 NOV 2002

Talks positive so far, say UN Iraq monitors

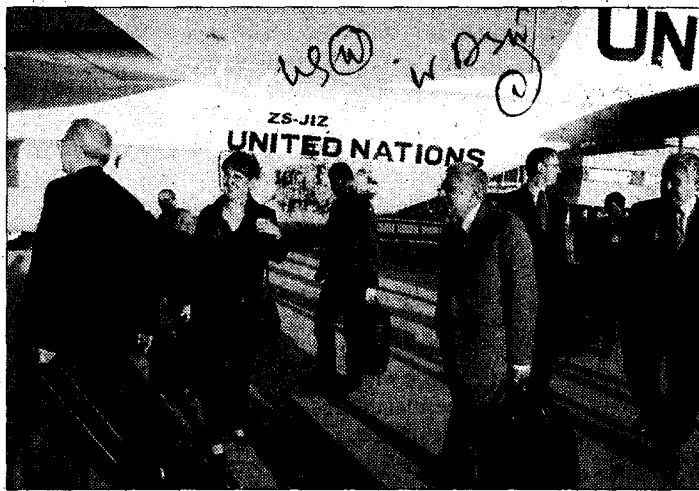
AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE
LARNACA, NOVEMBER 20

CHIEF UN Weapons Inspector Hans Blix and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director Mohamed Elbaradei arrived in Cyprus today, saying their talks with Iraqi officials had been constructive.

Blix, head of the UN Monitoring, Verification and Inspection Commission (UNMOVIC), said he and Elbaradei had "good discussions with representatives of the Iraqi government, and we were assured they will fully implement" the recently adopted UN Security Council resolution on disarmament. He described the conversations as "business like and professional."

In response to a question, he said did not want to "prejudge what Iraq will say," when it submits a report on December 8 in which it is required to give a full report on its alleged programmes for weapons of mass destruction. But he said he is confident that "war can be averted."

Asked if he were more hopeful than when he arrived in Iraq on Monday, Blix said: "We've come some part of the way; we look forward to continuing." The UN Security Council "wants assurances" that Iraq is free of weapons of mass destruction, "and we have to get those assurances."



UN Inspectors leaving Baghdad on Wednesday. Reuters

Elbaradei said he and Blix had impressed on the Iraqis that inspectors want "an accurate and complete report" on December 8, and "they made it clear they will do everything possible to cooperate with us."

While describing their trip as a "constructive visit," he added that Baghdad's verbal commitment "has to be translated on the ground."

Blix said the Iraqis "were somewhat concerned about the short time for presenting such a big report, and they had particular concern on reporting on the peaceful industries, like the chemical industry, which are devoted to peaceful purposes. They have quite a lot of that, and they were quite concerned about it. They assured us they will do everything possible to make sure

the declaration would cover all activities," he added.

He also said that both he and Blix would be returning to Iraq periodically "if things go normally, but obviously we would have to if there is a crisis."

Blix is scheduled to pay a courtesy call to Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides today and will leave Cyprus later in the day. Elbaradei said he will remain in Cyprus until tomorrow but did not say what his plans were. Larnaca is the logistics and support base for the inspectors entering and leaving Iraq.

The inspectors have a mandate from the Security Council to find the biological, chemical and nuclear weapons that Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's regime is suspected of developing.

Iraq flouting U.N. resolution: U.S. 40-15

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By Sridhar Krishnaswami *W.S.*

WASHINGTON, NOV. 19. Even as all eyes are on the first team of United Nations weapons inspectors in Baghdad, the United States continues to maintain that Iraqi firing at planes over the "no-fly" zone is a violation of resolution 1441 and, therefore, could be seen as a "material breach". But the position of the United States is not shared by any other member of the Security Council — Britain included — which have basically taken the position that there is nothing in resolution 1441 that links firing over the "no-fly" zones to "material breach". What is being stressed at the United Nations is that the focus of the last two months was on Iraqi disarmament, not on what was taking place over the "no-fly" zones; and that it would be prudent to keep up the "zero tolerance"

pressure on the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, only on the disarmament front. "The United States believes that firing upon our aircraft in the no-fly zone or British aircraft is a violation. It is a material breach", the White House spokesman, Scott McClellan, argued going on to say that incidents over the no-fly zones are assessed and reviewed and Washington reserved the right to bring this aspect before the Security Council.

For the last several days, Iraq has been firing at British and American planes flying over the exclusion zones; and the aircraft have been responding by attacking sites on the ground. Iraq does not recognise the no-fly zones, which were set up unilaterally by the United States and others during the Gulf War to prevent the Iraqi leader from attacking the Kurds in the north. Later, the zone was expanded to include the south to pro-

tect Shiites Muslims. The United States is starting to ratchet up the rhetoric over the no-fly zones, based on its interpretation of paragraph 8 of resolution 1441 which says that Iraq cannot "take or threaten hostile acts" against a United Nations member "seeking to uphold any Council resolution". But every other Permanent Member of the Council has taken the position that paragraph 8 referred to any personnel that weapons inspectors might ask to help and not the no-fly zones.

Further, diplomats assumed that the U.S. and Britain — the two co-sponsors — had the same interpretation prior to the passage of the resolution.

The Iraqi violations on the no-fly zones and the response of the Bush administration is not expected to be the trigger for a full-fledged war.

Disarming Iraq

A crucial phase in Iraq history has begun with the team led by chief UN weapons inspector Hans Blix and director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency Mohammed Elbaradei commencing inspection of weapons. For now, all seems well: Iraq has promised full cooperation with the inspectors and Mr Blix has stressed the importance of credible inspections. The next step is for Saddam Hussein to make a disclosure of all his stockpiles of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in the next three weeks. So far Iraq has maintained that it has no stockpiles of WMD while the US and UK governments are of the view that such stockpiles have been built in the last four years, and even at the time of last inspection in 1998 they were not fully accounted for. Should Mr Saddam Hussein now declare that he has some, he will be thoroughly exposed. On the other hand, his continuing denial is unlikely to prevent the inspection teams from intensifying verification of about 1,000 sites currently designated for inspection and interviewing all people connected with the concerned programmes. In this they will take into account the intelligence information supplied by various governments, particularly the US and UK. Verification of nuclear weapon capability is more easily done than those of chemical and biological weapons which can be made even in laboratories. Yet, the US is hardly likely to take no for an answer.

Indeed, the core issue is whether the US will treat the inspection team's inability to find any stockpile of WMD as conclusive proof of Mr Hussein's ultimate disarmament or it will still argue that such stockpiles had been successfully concealed from the inspectors. There is now international agreement expressed through Security Council resolution 1441 that Saddam Hussein should be disarmed of his capabilities to use WMD. In the event WMD stockpiles are not found, the most obvious fallout would seem to be war. However, Iraq could yet be disarmed without this unseemly mess. This can be achieved if Iraq is deprived of its long range delivery systems — namely the scud missiles. The scud missiles are more easily verifiable. While the WMD can be delivered by aircraft and artillery, the Iraqi army is not in a position to take offensive military action against any of its neighbours. The present exercise of inspection to prove that something does not exist should not be allowed to become an excuse to launch a war on the ground that non-existence had not been conclusively established.

Murdering Saddam would cost the US less than a war against Iraq

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18/11

The cheaper option

CUTTING CORNERS

ASHOK MITRA

The name is Arie Fleischer. This most candid of gentlemen is no ordinary person: he is White House press secretary, the official spokesman of President George W. Bush. Nothing can be more authoritative than his pronouncements.

In one of his latest confabulations with press people accredited to the White House, Arie Fleischer has offered a discourse on the economics of cost-effectiveness. It is simply not true that President Bush has already made up his mind to inflict a war on Iraq; he was still exploring a cheaper means of getting rid of the pest, Saddam Hussein. Fleischer explained the president's point of view thus: "I can only say that the cost of a one-way ticket is substantially less than that. The cost of one bullet, if the Iraqi people take on themselves, is substantially less than that. The cost of war is more than that." "That" is a synoptic way of referring to the contemplated all-out aggression against the Iraqi people. According to preliminary assessments made by the White House experts, the war could cost the United States of America, whoa, as much as 200 billion dollars; a single bullet would cost considerably less.

No other nation could be as cost-conscious as the Americans. Therefore, please do not believe all the canards that are being spread. President Bush would rather have Saddam Hussein assassinated than thrust a war on Iraq; that would be cheaper. There is however a technical difficulty. The US happens to be a member of the United Nations. It would be odd if the most important member-country of the international body were to order the killing of the head of state of another member-country. It would certainly not look aesthetically good. A further encumbrance too would have to be negotiated: US law specifically prohibits the assassination of a head of state or a head of government by American operatives.

When there is a will, there is a way though. The American law-makers very wisely have provided an escape clause. If a murder of a foreign head of state takes place in the course of an internal coup, backed by the US government, such a killing is to be condoned. Taking the opportunity provided by this legal loophole, Salvador Allende was eliminated in Chile in 1973. In contrast to that very successful murder, there has, however, been a series of disappointments. For instance, ever since the Bay of Pigs, the Central Intelligence Agency has been in search of trustworthy Cuban collaborators who could be given the contract to kill Fidel Castro in cold blood.

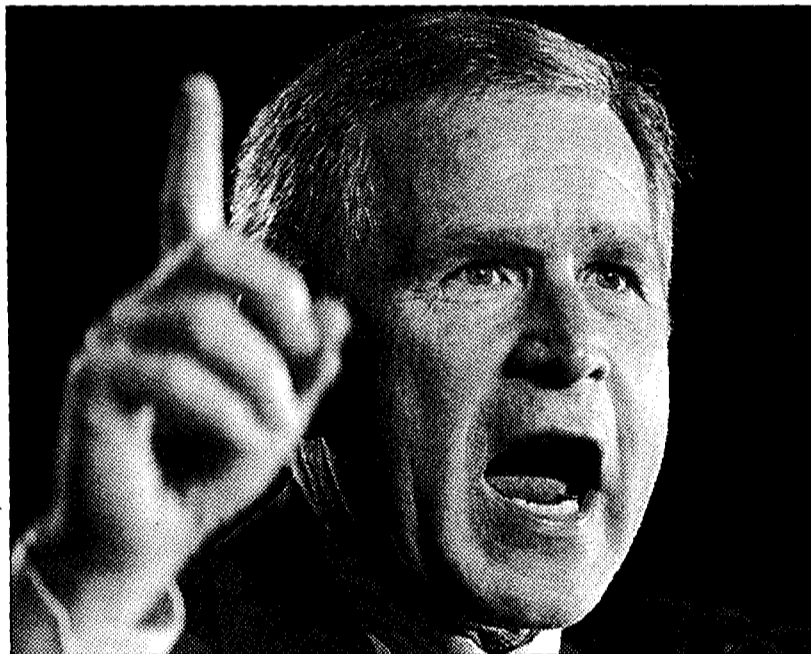
The CIA must have tried at least on fifty different occasions to accomplish

the job: they have failed each time. Again, take the recent case of Hugo Chavez, the wildly nationalistic president of Venezuela, whom the US administration tried to get rid of some six months ago. That attempt also got aborted because of the vigilance exercised by the people of Venezuela. Even a second feeble attempt by the CIA to organize a coup against Chavez has failed. The oil-rich south American country is, as a result, in danger of slipping away from American grip.

Threatening clouds are gathering in hitherto-safe west Asia as well. The

kill the head of a foreign power which is also a member of the UN, is not terrorism; it is actually a significant blow for world peace.

Evidently, it is a sellers' market for successful assassins. The US state department and the CIA have been persevering for 43 long years. They have failed to locate a reliable assassin to finish off Fidel. All the agents picked have made a hash of it. The Iraqi experience has been no better till now. The endeavour commenced during the tenure of Bush père. It is now the tenure of the son. What has the world



It would be odd if the most important member-country of the UN were to order the killing of the head of state of another member

come to? Over this entire period, not one Iraqi military officer could be picked who could guarantee the successful elimination of Saddam Hussein. Frustration is understandably spreading its tentacles. Without question, this is crisis time for the US administration.

It never rains but pours. Worse prospects await President Bush. The first round of presidential elections is now over in Brazil and it is now almost

certain that come October 27, the date of the final round of polling, Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva, the leader of the Workers Party, who has secured as much as 47 per cent of the vote in the first round, would be elected the new president of the republic of Brazil by an overwhelming majority.

The Workers Party is a cover name for wretched subversives; it is to all intents and purposes, the Communist Party of Brazil. This development is a major calamity for the US. Brazil is the richest hinterland in Latin America, and the Brazilian market a most coveted one for American investors and businessmen. Consider the overall situation in Latin America: Cuba remains unconquered, Venezuela has been grabbed by rabid nationalists, the Argentine republic is seething with anti-American sentiments in the wake of the International Monetary Fund loan fiasco. If, on top of all this, Brazil too is captured by crypto-communists, doomsday would no longer be a prospective happening, it would happen to be the immediate present.

It will perhaps be safe enough to make the following predictions. On the morning of October 28, that gentlest of gentlemen, Arie Fleischer, is bound to do a press briefing at the White House. The victory of the Workers Party in the Brazil presidential elections, he will state, is another manifestation of the mischief set afoot by international terrorism. The US will not take this verdict lying down. Either the election commission in Brazil should countermand Lula's election, or a group of compliant Brazilian generals must organize a coup even before Lula takes his oath of office. The US, the steadfast standard-bearer of infinite global justice, will be otherwise compelled to launch another anti-terrorist war, this time against the usurpers in Brazil.

Führers nonetheless are great ones for self-destruction. Maybe this cliché reflects more a wish than anything else. Meanwhile, nearer home, there is an aching in the heart, but for an altogether different reason. If it were three, four or five decades ago, the government of India spokesmen would have been in the forefront of the conscientious many who would condemn, in most unambiguous terms, the hysterical outburst of the US administration.

But it is a different era and India is now a different country. Indian spokesmen, beginning with the prime minister and down to the most nondescript section officer in the ministry of external affairs, would break out into that other cliché: There Is No Alternative.

It is a cliché for all seasons.

US yet to act tough over Pak nuke aid to N Korea

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 14 NOVEMBER

EVEN though the Bush Administration reportedly has evidence of Pakistan's nuclear proliferation to North Korea as recently as three months ago, it is unlikely to take any action like imposing sanctions, as long as Pakistan continues to support the US on the war against terrorism, say Indian government analysts.

Following Wednesday's report in the Washington Post, which stated that Pakistan's "co-operation" in the North Korean programme was happening well into this summer, the US state department spokesman on Thursday evaded the question of sanctions, while reiterating Pakistan's role as a "strong" ally against terrorism.

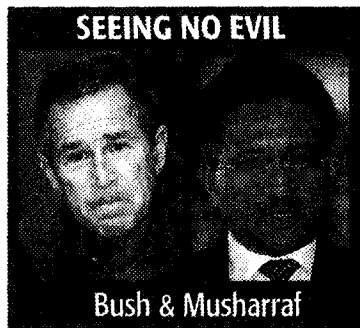
Publicly at least, the US government is not about to let the "dubious ally" argument work against General Pervez Musharraf as the administration throws its full weight behind the military dictator. The spokesman echoed US secretary of state, Colin Powell's exonerating statements of a few weeks ago. "If you go back to the secretary's comments, he talked about how we are focused on now and the future," he said.

Powell had said he purposely did not dwell on past behaviour because "the past is the past and there isn't a whole lot I can do about it. I'm more

concerned about what is going on now. We have a new relationship with Pakistan."

The news from Pakistan in the past few weeks could not have been music to the Bush administration's ears. Apart from the nuclear proliferation disclosures that has prompted Pakistan to be described as the "nuclear enabler" by US columnists, the government formation exercise in Pakistan is certainly not in tango with the best laid plans of the US.

A deal is close to being inked between the pro-



Musharraf PML (Q) and the religious parties, MMA, to form the government in Islamabad in the teeth of public American opposition. Richard Haass, the US envoy recently in Islamabad was categorical that the Bush administration would not be "comfortable" with the religious parties in power.

But the Army and Allah (two of the governing troika in Pakistan, the third being

America, according to conventional wisdom) are natural allies and Musharraf is ready to embrace them into power. This was pointed out by Benazir Bhutto in a letter to the president of the European parliament. "The Musharraf regime calibrated the results carefully. It hopes to use the domination of the religious parties to frighten the world community into supporting the dictatorship." To keep him in power, the Bush administration too will have no option but to keep quiet on the deal that will give key ministries to the religious parties.

British mistakes led to J&K problem: Straw

Press Trust of India

LONDON, Nov. 15. — Britain has said that the Kashmir problem between India and Pakistan has stemmed out of “some quite serious mistakes” committed by it by not demarcating the boundaries even two days after their independence from British rule.

“India, Pakistan — we made some quite serious mistakes. We were complacent with what happened in Kashmir, the boundaries weren't published until two days after independence. Bad story for us, the consequences are still there,” Britain's foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said in an interview to the *New Statesman* magazine.

In controversial remarks, Mr Straw said that Britain was to blame for many of the world's current crises, ranging from the Indian sub-continent to the Middle East and Africa.

“There's a lot wrong with imperialism,” he told the magazine. “A lot of the problems I have to deal with

now are a consequence of our colonial past.” Mr Straw, who described himself as a “democratic socialist”, contradicted the views of Mr Robert Cooper, one of his own senior diplomats, who coined the phrase “liberal imperialism” to describe recent military interventions by the government in Kosovo, Sierra Leone and Afghanistan.

He also singled out Afghanistan, “where we played less than a glorious role over a century and a half”.

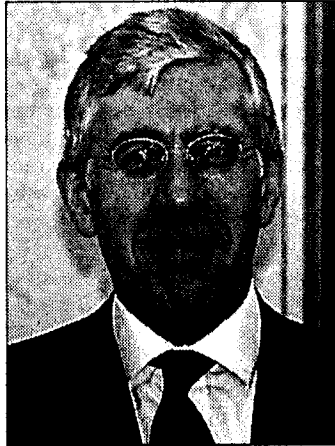
Opposition Conservative Party accused him of undermining British foreign policy, particularly in Zimbabwe which has justified its land grab as a way of righting the wrongs of colonialism.

But Downing Street, the Prime Minister's Office,

stood by the foreign secretary, saying his remarks were “a sensible statement of history.”

On West Asia, Mr Straw

said: “The odd lines for Iraq's borders were drawn by Brits.” “The Balfour declaration and the contradictory assurances which were being given to Palestinians in private at the same time as



Mr Jack Straw

they were being given to the Israelis — again an interesting story for us but not an entirely honourable one.”

Supporting Mr Straw, Mr William Dalrymple, a writer on both India and West Asia, said that Britain must shoulder much of the responsibility for today's conflicts in Kashmir and Palestine. “I think Mr Straw has a point,” the author of *White Mughals* and *From the Holy*

Mountain, said.

“There is no doubt that the speed, clumsiness and chaotic withdrawal from India and Palestine left the seeds for the modern conflict,” he said.

Mr Michael Ancram, the shadow foreign secretary, said Mr Straw was missing the point and should save his criticism for Mr Robert Mugabe, Zimbabwe President rather than the people suffering in his country.

Mr Straw said he had had “huge arguments” with Mugabe, but added that early colonisers were all about taking land.

The Daily Telegraph, in an editorial today, lashed out at Mr Straw. “What are the consequences of his expressions of shame and loathing about the British Empire?” it asked. “Mr Straw is no longer a student activist. He is the British foreign secretary.”

Lord Wallace of Saltaire, the Liberal Democrats' foreign affairs spokesman said that he agreed with Mr Straw's views on the British Empire, but also strongly supported the concept of liberal imperialism.

THE STATESMAN

16 NOV 2002

We made 'serious mistakes' over Kashmir: Jack Straw

HP-167" By Hasan Suroor WJW Am

LONDON, NOV. 15. The British Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, has said that Britain made "serious mistakes" over Kashmir and called the festering dispute between India and Pakistan a consequence of his country's colonial past.

In an unprecedented acknowledgement of the damaging effects of Britain's colonial legacy on the Indian subcontinent, Mr. Straw described Kashmir as a "bad story for us." His remarks in an interview to *New Statesman* came in the course of his savage indictment of what the pro-Labour journal termed as "British historical errors."

The situation in India and Pakistan topped his list of the problems around the world, which, he said, were a hangover of Britain's imperial foreign policy. "India, Pakistan — we made some quite serious mistakes. We were complacent with what happened in Kashmir, the boundaries were not published until two days after independence. Bad story for us, the consequences are still there," he said.

At the height of India-Pakistan tensions earlier this year, Mr. Straw described

Kashmir as "unfinished business" which was seen in Indian circles as a rather unhelpful comment and at odds with New Delhi's categorical position that Kashmir is an integral part of India.

Although his latest remarks were made in an altogether different context, observers said they were likely to revive the controversy over Britain's stand on Kashmir. Mr. Straw's predecessor, Robin Cook, provoked an angry row in New Delhi when on a visit to India he made certain comments which were regarded as amounting to outside interference.

Mr. Straw also cited Afghanistan as an embarrassing example of British policies saying his country "played less than a glorious role over a century-and-a-half." And ditto West Asia where the "odd lines for Iraq's borders were drawn by Brits." On the Palestinian issue too, he said, early British involvement was "not an entirely honourable one."

While the Opposition accused Mr. Straw of "undermining" the British foreign policy, Downing Street was quoted as saying that his remarks were a "sensible statement of history."

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THE HINDU

Bush plans to halt oil supply to N. Korea

WASHINGTON, NOV. 14. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, wants to halt U.S. oil shipments to North Korea in response to that country's secret nuclear weapons program, administration officials said on Wednesday night.

The policy, which U.S. diplomats hope to press on its Asian allies later in the week, would allow delivery of a shipment currently on its way to North Korea. That would be the last shipment unless the Communist regime does an about-face on its nuclear weapons program, the officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Mr. Bush forged the policy in a Wednesday meeting with his national security team, the officials said.

The United States and key allies have been discussing whether to halt U.S. oil shipments to North Korea in re-

sponse to its plans to develop a uranium bomb.

The shipments are part of a broader energy assistance package approved for North Korea in 1994 as part of a deal to wean the country away from nuclear weapons and make the Korean Peninsula nuclear-free.

The fate of the shipments is in the hands of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation, comprising the United States, Japan, South Korea and the European Union.

KEDO's executive board was meeting in New York on Thursday. U.S. diplomats hope to persuade its fellow KEDO members to back Mr. Bush's policy. Some allies have expressed reservations about cutting off North Korea's oil, thus Mr. Bush sought a compromise plan that would punish North Korea without creating divisions within KEDO. — AP

THE HINDU

15 NOV 2002

'China, a factor in resolving Indo-Pak. dispute'

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, NOV. 14. China must be included in some discussions to resolve the dispute between India and Pakistan, Charles Doran, Director of International Relations at the Johns Hopkins University in Washington, said in a conversation.

Talking to this correspondent, Prof. Doran said that in his view Pakistan was, to some degree, China's "stalking horse". China, he said, "feels the rivalry with India and recognises that the problems of Pakistan keep India preoccupied in terms of international political matters".

Asked whether India and China were competitors, he said both nations had been highly successful on the economic fronts, but faced problems.

"...Of course, they are competitors in terms of influence within the Asian sphere...and every smaller country in the area senses this at least as much

as the two Governments do," he said. "...There is a sense that this (Indo-Pakistan) dispute can only be resolved in a larger international context. It should not be looked at simply as a conflict between Pakistan and India. Unfortunately, it's much more than that.

"At a minimum, it's going to involve China. Russia, although much weakened relative to the Soviet Union, nonetheless continues to have deep interest in all these matters..." he said, adding that the United States and the European Union, too, could be helpful. Prof. Doran hinted at the political and technological support that China had extended to Pakistan from time to time.

To a question on the view from Washington about India and Pakistan, he said the U.S. policy community was "very perturbed" by the recent border mobilisation.

Prof. Doran said it was the "rationality" of New Delhi and

the willingness of Islamabad and other Governments "to go along with steps that would cool off tensions a bit which led to a reduction in tensions".

Expressing concerns over the vulnerabilities of the "small" Indian and Pakistani nuclear capability, he said the dynamics of the technology itself made it "very, very prone" to a surprise attack.

"...The feeling in Washington, I think, is that we got through this (Indo-Pak. crisis), God willing, this is not the kind of thing to re-enact and next time we may not be so lucky," he said.

On the visible improvement in Indo-U.S. relations, he said: "Globalisation has had a huge effect. If the private sector in India and the private sector in the U.S. were not benefiting so much from this relationship, and providing so many jobs and so much income for these countries, the Governments would have had a lot harder job in coordinating policies."

THE HINDU

15 NOV 2002

Saddam accepts new UN resolution

United Nations, November 13

IRAQ SAID on Wednesday it accepted a new UN Security Council resolution, which orders Baghdad to disarm, cooperate with UN weapons inspectors or face "serious consequences".

"I delivered a letter to the Secretary-General's office," Iraq's UN ambassador Mohammed Aldouri told reporters. "It was a positive reply."

Aldouri described the six-page letter as setting out Baghdad's entire position on the resolution, adopted by a 15-0 vote last Friday. But he said the response was "unconditional, no questions asked".

"We are waiting for the inspectors to go as scheduled," Aldouri said. "We are eager to see the inspectors perform their duties in accordance with interna-

tional law." Aldouri said Baghdad has accepted the resolution in an effort to avoid war.

"This is a part of our policy that is to protect our country, to protect the nation, to protect our region also from the threat of war which is real," he said.

The letter was signed by Foreign Minister Najib Sabri.

The Security Council had given Iraq a one-week deadline to accept the resolution and promise to abide by its terms. Aldouri said his country agreed to the measure in order to avoid a US-led attack.

Iraq's acceptance came as a surprise as most council members expected Baghdad to wait until Friday. The letter arrived a day after the Iraqi Parliament voted unanimously to reject the resolution and its terms.

Aldouri said again his coun-

try had no weapons of mass destruction and would make that clear. Iraq next month has to give a declaration of any weapons programs or components of dangerous weapons it still may have under terms of the resolution.

An advance party of UN technicians is expected to go to Baghdad on Monday to prepare for inspections, not expected for another week or two.

China's deputy UN ambassador, Yishan Zhang, who holds this month's Security Council presidency, said the 15-member body welcomed "the correct decision of the Iraqi government".

"We want to see the resolution implemented fully and very effectively," he said.

A US official, however, said, "We shouldn't make more of this than there is. This is their

responsibility under the council mandate."

Iraq's clears the way for the arrival of an advance team of UN inspectors on Monday.

The team will be led by UN chief inspector Hans Blix, who is in charge of biological and chemical inspections, and Mohamed ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which is in charge of nuclear inspections.

Blix's office said it has trained inspectors from 49 countries, including six Jordanians, one Moroccan and five Turks. "We don't get too many applications from Arabic countries and we would welcome more applications from people who have the right expertise," one official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Agencies



AFP

US President George Bush laughs with US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld during a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

13711
W. Bush
IRAQ / SADDAM HIDING WEAPONS UNDERGROUND: RUMSFELD

Bush approves Pentagon plan

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 12. With three days to go for the expiry of the deadline set by the United Nations, Iraq has been reminded that time is not only running out but that the United States is determined to get rid of all weapons of mass destruction.

Using the occasion of Veterans Day, the President, George W. Bush, said the U.S. was prepared to go to war if that was the only way to get rid of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein's "tools of mass murder".

"We will not permit a dictator who has used weapons of mass destruction to threaten America with chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. This great nation will not live at the mercy of any foreign plot or power", Mr. Bush said. The Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, a key hawk in the administration, doubted that Iraq will give up its weapons of mass destruction and that Mr. Hussein has already started hiding banned weapons deep underground. "They have gone so far underground that the only way they can be found is through defectors", Mr. Rumsfeld remarked, going on to say that finding the weapons could take months. "The time to confront this threat is before it arrives, not the day after", Mr.

Bush told a group of veterans at the White House.

The President also visited the Vietnam War Memorial and the Arlington Cemetery.

With the clock ticking towards the deadline for the United Nations Resolution, senior members of the Bush administration are keeping up the pressure on Iraq and openly talking about going to war.

Iraq has until Friday to accept Security Council Resolution 1441. "We have to keep, in a sense, a gun pointed to the head of the Iraqi regime because that's the only way they cooperate", the President's National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, said.

The tough talk of administration officials is also matched by developments on the ground pertaining to the war front with the U.S. making it clear that it means business as far as Resolution 1441 is concerned.

The President tentatively approved plans of the Defence Department that calls for a land, sea and air force of up to 250,000 troops ready to invade Iraq. Military analysts are saying that prior to the entry of forces, the U.S. will unleash devastating air strikes on a magnitude never seen before.

Meanwhile, the Bush administration is watching the go-



THE SHOW GOES ON: Iraqis pass by a theatre in Baghdad showing the U.S. movie 'Never Say Die' on Tuesday. Despite continuous U.S.-Iraq tensions, Iraqis are fond of Hollywood films. — AP

ings-on in Baghdad carefully, especially as they pertain to Resolution 1441. There has been no official response to the "rejection" of the Resolution by Iraq's Parliament. But top Cabi-

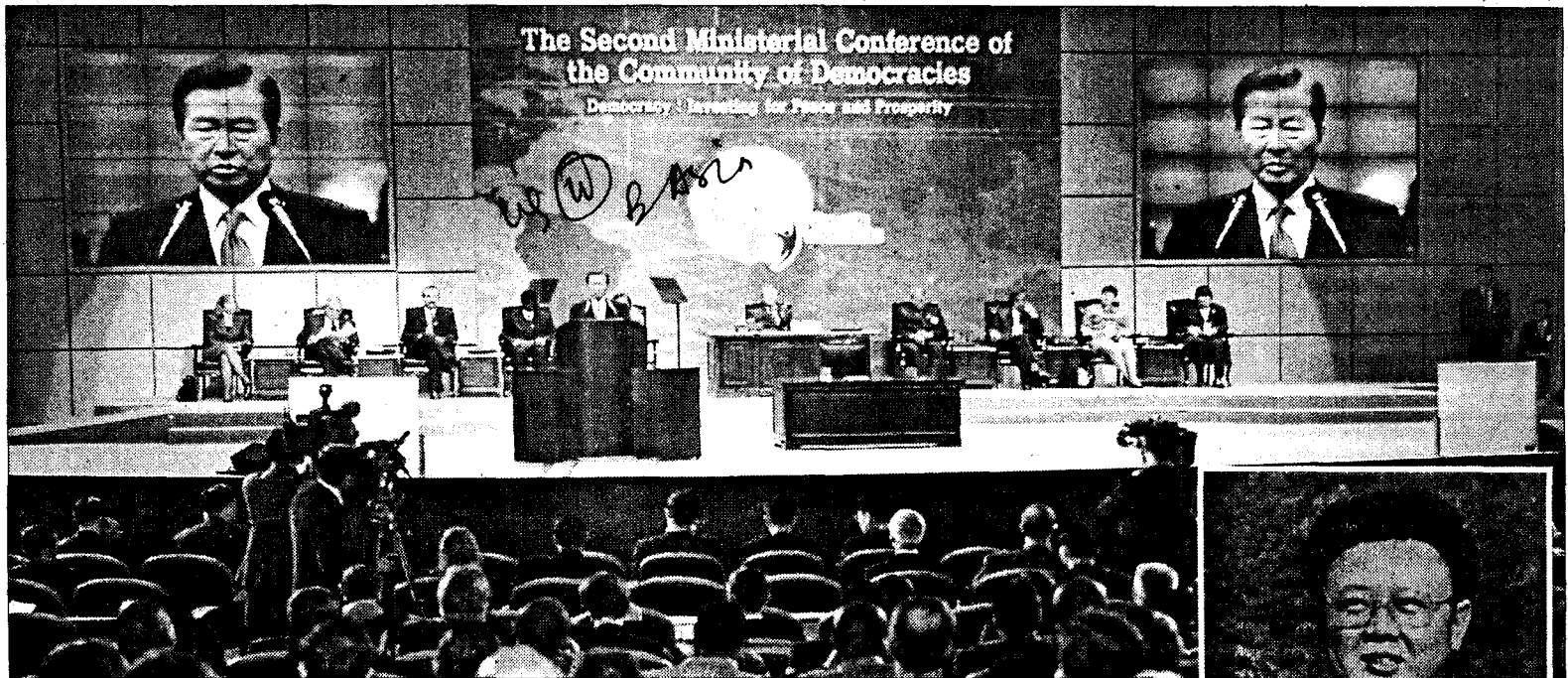
net officials had already dismissed the role of the Iraqi Parliament, saying the regime being a dictatorship, the only person that mattered was Mr. Hussein.

13 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

The 'axis of evil' spinoff

With Beijing playing the honest broker, a settlement between Pyongyang and Washington could be expected, but India's legitimate security concerns will not be addressed due to our feckless diplomacy, explains BIBHUTI BHUSAN NANDY



A TALE OF TWO KIMS: (top) South Korean President Kim Dae-jung speaks at the Second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracy in Seoul, on 11 November. Representatives from over 100 countries will attend the meeting aimed at promoting democracy.; (inset) North Korean Premier Kim Jong Il — desperate for attention.

The Bush Administration's low-key response to Pyongyang's admission of a secret nuclear weapons programme shows a clear divergence in Washington's approach to Iraq and North Korea. The USA intends to use diplomacy towards North Korea, which peddles long-range missiles and is said to already possess a nuclear weapons besides assorted chemical and biological weapons; but it wants to invade Iraq, which has no advanced nuclear weapon programme, though it possesses chemical and biological weapons.

The policy dichotomy is marked by attempts to play down the significance of the North Korean revelation. For President George W Bush, the nuclear disclosure "is a bit of troubling news" which he views "as an opportunity to work out with our friends in the region to convince Kim Jong Il that he must disarm". Mr Bush has used every opportunity to emphasise the importance of regime change in Iraq, but he has no harsh words for a North Korean regime that starves its people to feed its massive military machine.

The fact that North Korea is way ahead of Iraq in amassing weapons of mass destruction has triggered the question: why war on Iraq and not on North Korea and, conversely, if not on North Korea, why on Iraq? As Pyongyang and Islamabad have mutually supported their nuclear weapons and missiles development programmes, the question could be

enlarged to ask why, if Iraq is to be attacked, should North Korea and Pakistan be spared?

In answering the uncomfortable question, Bush administration officials use a mix of the usual (and, by now, tiresome) Saddam bashing and extol the new-found merits of North Korea. Namely, that:

□ Saddam "is a sworn enemy of America who has not abandoned his weapons programme despite years of sanctions". In the words of deputy defence secretary Paul Wolfowitz, Saddam is the "only world leader who openly glorified the attacks of 9/11", but "such clearly expressed animosity (towards the US) is not visible in North Korea";

□ Even a nuclear-armed North Korea poses a smaller threat to US interests because, on account of its pressing humanitarian needs, Pyongyang is likely to be more amenable to international pressure. According to Mr Wolfowitz, "We have leverage in North Korea that we do not have in Iraq"; and

□ The fact that North Korea has deliverable nuclear weapons strengthens the case for pre-emption against Iraq.

If the USA does not act against Iraq before Saddam gets the bomb, America may forfeit its ability to act against Iraq ever again.

□ Administration hardliners now talk in terms of "a sequential approach" — dealing with one problem at a time. They fear a showdown with North Korea at the present juncture could thwart the goal of overthrowing Sad-

dam Hussein.

□ Unlike in Iraq, the USA has no unilateral option in North Korea. Two critical allies, Japan and South Korea, have much at stake in what happens in North Korea and how the USA deals with it. Under the 1994 agreement that shut down North Korea's plutonium weapons programme, the USA consults closely with Japan and South Korea on North Korea.

□ There are 34,000 US troops in South Korea where long-range North Korean missiles could easily devastate Seoul, barely 35 miles away from the demilitarised zone.

□ China needs to be taken on board for the success of any significant action on North Korea. For all earlier Bush rhetoric to treat China as a strategic competitor, since 9/11 Beijing's leverage has increased. Washington has declared the Xinjiang Muslim rebels a terrorist group and Mr Bush now depends on China to pressure Kim Jong Il to fall in line and abandon his nuclear weapons programme.

For its part, North Korea has made it known that "everything will be negotiable including the dismantling of the uranium enrichment and international inspection of the uranium facilities". Alleging that the USA has put the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on the list of pre-emptive strikes, Pyongyang assures that it will resolve all US security concerns "after Washington reopens talks".



The Bush administration seems to have belatedly realised that it made an enormous mistake by not engaging with North Korea. The failure to build two alternative power reactors to compensate the closure of the Pyongyang plutonium-processing factory could expose the USA to the charge of "material breach" of the 1994 agreement.

Impoverished North Korea desperately hopes to follow the path of China and South Korea to an export-driven market economy. A diplomatically inept regime, hungering for aid and recognition, blurted out in desperation its nuclear programme. It now wants to retrace its steps in exchange for assured aid and security.

Negotiations with the USA, sidetracked under the Bush regime, could now resume in right earnest. With Beijing playing the honest broker, an amicable settlement between Pyongyang and Washington could be expected, but India's legitimate security concerns triggered by Pakistan-North Korea collusion will not be addressed, thanks to our feckless diplomacy.

(The author is a former Additional Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat, Research and Analysis Wing, Director-General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police and former National Security Adviser to the government of Mauritius.)

US may find it difficult to forge links with Iraqi opposition

By Jal Taraporevala
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The Bush administration has stepped up its efforts to forge closer links between the various Iraqi opposition groups as part of its campaign to increase the pressure on the Saddam Hussein regime in Baghdad. Achieving this task will, however, continue to prove fairly difficult.

For instance, despite the recent show of unity, deep ideological and personal differences persist between

NEWS ANALYSIS

the two main Kurdish groups, the Kurdish Democratic Party of Masood Barzani and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan of Jalal Talabani. Besides, the Kurdish parties will want assurances from the US of constitutionally guaranteed autonomy in any post-Hussein period, not least because they have enjoyed quasi-statehood in northern Iraq for the last decade. Moreover, these groups have not been enthusiastic in their support of current American policy since they have benefited from the illegal trade between Iraq and Turkey through the Kurdish areas in violation of UN sanctions.

As far as the other sections of the Iraqi opposition are concerned, it is not in the politico-strategic interests of Washington that the

main Shiite party, the Supreme Council for Islamic Revolution in Iraq (Sciri), has long had close links with Iran, a nation branded by Mr Bush as part of the "axis of evil". The Shiites constitute about 50 per cent of the population of Iraq as compared to the Sunnis (the dominant players in the country's politics) who account for about 25 per cent of the total population.

Many in Sciri remain suspicious of the US for ideological reasons and because of what they perceive as American betrayal in withdrawing support in 1991 just when it seemed that the Shiite uprising was on the verge of establishing an autonomous region in southern Iraq.

The other two main parties in the opposition, the Iraqi National Congress, which brings together both Shiite and Kurdish elements, and the Iraqi National Accord, which is essentially composed of former security officials now living in exile, lack a clear ideological focus and are believed to enjoy only limited support in the country.

The American task of establishing closer relations among the various opposition factions has been further complicated by the military ineffectiveness of most of the groups and the wide differences among them on the broad lineaments of the political dispensation in any post-Hussein period in the country.

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10-14

Resolution final test for Iraq: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

10/11

CHICAGO, NOV. 9. There is a lot of posturing in the aftermath of the new United Nations Security Council Resolution on Iraq, and along expected lines. While officials of the Bush administration continue to make the point that the United States came away not caving into, others in the Security Council see it differently — that the Council still being the final arbiter on any developing situation. "... in the event of any kind of dispute or disagreement on disarmament matters, the (inspectors) will report this to the Security Council and it is the Security Council that will consider the situation that has developed", Russia's top envoy to the United Nations, Sergei Lavrov, has said.

To Moscow, the issue of "material breach" is for the Security Council to decide. But the American Ambassador to the world body sees it differently. "... if the Council fails to act decisively in the event of a further Iraq violation, this Resolution does not constrain any member state from acting to defend itself", John Negroponte remarked in New York in the aftermath of the 15-0 Council vote on Friday.

The new Resolution on Iraq is quite stringent on the conditions and stipulations as it gives the United Nations weapons inspectors "immediate, unimpeded and unconditional rights" to search anywhere in Iraq for concealed weapons and programmes, including Presidential Palaces that Iraq had kept off limits earlier. The U.S. President, George W Bush, in his remarks at the White House after the U.N. vote did not mince words when he said that this was indeed the final test for Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein.

"If we are to avert war, all nations must continue to pressure Mr. Hussein to accept this Resolution to comply with his obligations", Mr. Bush said while welcoming the passage of Resolution 1441.

Mr. Bush, whose tough stand on Iraq helped him make headway in the Congressional elections of November 5, also got words of support from Capitol Hill over the broad interpretation of Resolution 1441 and if the United States had the right to go alone after Iraq. The United States is not "handcuffed in any way" by Resolution 1441 argued the Chairman of the House International Relations Committee, Henry

Hyde. "The President's constitutional authority coupled with the strong support of Congress allows him to take actions necessary to defend our nation", Mr. Hyde said in a Statement.

The senior Republican went on to make the point that the Resolution on Iraq helps the United States in two ways. The unmistakable signal to Iraq apart, the Resolution provides a "legal and political justification for other nations to support us in disarming Mr. Hussein — by force if necessary", Mr. Hyde commented. The response of the top Iraq envoy at the United Nations was along expected lines as well. It was not a particularly good day for Iraq at the Security Council for even Syria — at the supposed nudging of Russia and France — voted in favour of the Resolution.

Syria, a strong holdout over the Resolution on Iraq was expected to be the lone dissenting voice in New York. "This is the will of the United States on the rest of the world", Iraq's top envoy Mohammad Al Douri said. "I am very pessimistic. The Resolution is crafted in such a way to prevent inspectors to return to Iraq", he maintained.

THE HINDU

10 NOV 2002

US in final push to secure consensus on Iraq draft

United Nations, November 7

THE UNITED States, in what it calls Iraq's last chance to disarm or face war, is pushing the UN Security Council to adopt a tough resolution by Friday, and veto-holders France and Russia are edging closer to agreeing.

The six-page draft gives UN arms inspectors far-reaching powers, including unrestricted rights to enter Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's palace compounds. The resolution, the result of eight weeks of negotiations on scrapping any chemical, biological or nuclear weapons of mass destruction Iraq may have, was formally presented to council members on Wednesday and will be reviewed again on Thursday.

"The resolution makes very clear that this is a final opportunity for Iraq to disarm," State Department spokesman Richard Boucher said. "Either they disarm in cooperation with the requirements of the Security Council or they are made to disarm," he added.

The US wants a vote on Friday but Secretary of State Colin Powell, the key negotiator, has

cancelled travel plans next week so he can deal with any last-minute hitches. France and Russia held back endorsement, despite concessions in a revised U.S.-British text that would give the Security Council a limited role in determining whether war can be waged against Iraq.

But Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin said on Thursday that France was almost satisfied with the U.S.-British text and hoped remaining reservations could be addressed this week.

Speaking a day after President Jacques Chirac expressed reservations about ambiguities on the issue of military action, Villepin said France was working to clarify these clauses.

"We think we are very close to an agreement," Villepin said on Europe 1 radio. "We think a vote could take place by the end of this week or at the beginning of next week."

In Moscow, Deputy Foreign Minister Yuri Fedotov said today that Russia was studying the draft and would focus on ensuring the resolution does not "include any measure allowing the automatic use of force."

The draft took into account Russia's position with respect to Iraqi sovereignty and territorial integrity, and a solution to the Iraqi problem which could include lifting UN sanctions, he was quoted as saying by the Itar-Tass news agency.

China said today the revised US draft resolution had eased some concerns of member states, but declined to say if it would support the measure.

"On the whole, we believe the new US proposals have taken into account and considered the worries and concerns of some of us countries," Foreign Ministry spokesman Kong Quan said in Beijing on Thursday.

In Baghdad, Saddam said: "If these two American and British administrations are able to achieve their wishes, the world will revert to a new law, which is the law of evil based on power and opportunity rather than the law of love and justice."

Saddam was today quoted as telling visiting Malaysian Information Minister Khalil Yaacob that opposing US and British intentions toward Iraq also served the interests of all countries.

Reuters

Substantial changes in U.S. draft on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, NOV. 6. The U.S. is presenting its revised draft resolution on Iraq to the Permanent Members of the United Nations Security Council later in the day; and the Bush administration is making the point that though there are substantial alterations since it was presented four weeks ago, it did not 'handcuff' the U.S.

The expectation now is that the U.S. will share and consult Britain, France, Russia and China on the resolution in New York; tomorrow the draft will be circulated to the non-permanent members; and a final vote is expected by the end of the week.

The seriousness with which the administration is going about this resolution can be seen in the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, involving himself in its revision and said to be going over the language with his counterparts of France and Russia. But neither Moscow nor Paris has firmly said that it has signed on to this version.

According to a report, Washington has changed the tone and tenor of its earlier version taking into account specific references to Iraq being in "material breach" and warning the Iraqi regime of "serious consequences" should it continue to flout U.N. Resolutions. France and Russia were apprehensive that if the U.S. insisted on using these phrases, it would amount to a back door route for launching a military strike against Baghdad without formal authorisation of the world body. But the Bush administration has all along maintained that it does not need a second resolution to go after Iraq militarily. The existing Resolutions aside, the Republican administration is making the point that the President has the authorisation from the U.S. Congress.

The revised draft apparently states that Iraq "has been and remains in material breach" of its obligations; but that the Security Council now gives Baghdad a "final opportunity" to comply with its disarmament obligations.

Not enough, says Russia

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, NOV. 6. The new U.S. draft of a U.N. Security Council resolution on Iraq goes some way to meet Russia's concerns, but not far enough, a senior Russian diplomat said.

The U.S. "has taken some ad-

ditional steps to take Russia's position into account," the Itar-Tass news agency quoted the Deputy Foreign Minister, Yury Fedotov, as saying on Wednesday, hours before the revamped draft was to be formally submitted to the U.N. Security Council.

7 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

US is confident of getting resolution on Iraq passed at the UN

United Nations: American, British, French and Russian negotiators have sorted out most of the differences on the tough United States resolution on Iraqi disarmament but they still need to close a small crucial gap on the timing of the use of force and the issue of whether a second resolution was necessary to authorise that.

Diplomats say Americans are feeling confident that they could count on the support of seven non-

permanent members who have reacted favourably to the resolution and are preparing for vote late next week after the US mid-term polls on Tuesday. The three veto-wielding permanent members—Russia, France and China—have not threatened to kill the resolution co-sponsored by Britain, though they have strong reservations on some aspects.

If the US is able to get the support of seven non-permanent members, it would have enough votes to

get together with itself and Britain to get the resolution through, provided it does not attract a veto. To be adopted, a resolution needs nine votes and no veto.

Council diplomats said the gap is small but deep. Still they hope that it would be resolved over the next few days. The United States has bowed to the wishes of the other members to wait for military action until chief weapons inspector Hans Blix reports to the council

any violation or non-cooperation. But differences still exist on whether a second resolution would be specifically needed to trigger a military action.

Washington has agreed to participate in any debate following any adverse report by Mr Blix but does not want to be "handcuffed" by any specific provision that the second resolution is necessary.

The discussions are mainly centered on the sentences which note

that Iraq has been in "material breach" of earlier resolutions. France would like the council to find Iraq in "material breach" once again before authorising any military action.

The phrases "material breach" and threat of "consequences" are considered by France as "hidden trigger" which would allow Americans to claim that they have the authorisation to use force.

In an apparent effort to put pres-

sure on the council members, US President George W Bush once again warned that the United States would lead a coalition to disarm Iraq outside the United Nations if it failed to hand down a tough mandate. He also warned the world body against becoming an "empty debating society." But Iraq strongly attacked the American resolution as "imposition of imperialistic" war on it and said it imposed conditions which cannot be fulfilled. PTI

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 NOV 2002

India, Pak. should begin dialogue: Rocca

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 30. The Bush administration, while expressing happiness over India's announcement on demobilisation, has said India and Pakistan will have to start talking.

"Ultimately, there cannot be resolution of the problem without a dialogue," says the Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca. "If you look through the annals of history, the way you reach an agreement is by talking to one another, not by not talking to each other," Ms. Rocca told a group of South Asian journalists at the State Department on Tuesday.

Answering questions, she made it known that Washington would like to see the creation of an atmosphere in which a dialogue would be possible. "I am sure we will see India and Pakistan move toward that goal," she said.

The President of Pakistan, Pervez Musharraf, has addressed the issue of infiltration across the border; cross-border infiltration is down significantly; but that there is still some infiltration which is an issue of con-

cern to the U.S., Ms. Rocca said. "...It is one we will continue to talk to Pakistan about."

She spoke about the tensions that the sub-continent had been witness to in the recent months, stressing that the amassing of troops on either side of the border was not only a threat to the security but also the stability of the region.

"We welcomed the announcement that troops would be demobilised as this was something that we viewed as a real threat to regional security and stability, stability specifically, and something we thought was a danger to both sides" as this was putting both countries' fate in the hands of terrorists, she said.

"Any spark...a serious terrorist act by any independent group trying to undermine regional stability, this sort of fed into that and created and improved the chances of a war which is one thing that neither country would have benefited from," Ms. Rocca said.

The Bush administration was making "tremendous strides" in the relationship with India and on "all fronts" except in the economic/commercial front where "there

is still a lot of work" to be done.

"There are a lot of businesses that are interested. However, the situation in India is such that they are hesitant about going in. This is one of the reasons you find us encouraging the so-called second generation reforms," she said.

"There is a lot to talk about; there are a lot of things both sides could do and that is what we are moving forward on," she said even while insisting that the business/economic aspect of the bilateral relationship had not dropped off the screen.

"It is very important to us and part of having the whole, complete bilateral relations moving forward," she said.

Brushing aside the contention that the Bush administration was hesitant to get tough with Gen. Musharraf on the democracy front because he was a key ally of the U.S in the battle against terrorism, Ms. Rocca said: "You can have democracy in Pakistan and conduct a war against terrorism. They are not mutually incompatible."

The recent elections in Pakistan were not an end in itself, but rather a beginning of the transition to full democracy.

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US envoy asks India to hold talks with Pak

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: The US would like to see dialogue between India and Pakistan take place "parallel" to steps to end infiltration across the LoC, senior policy maker in the Bush Administration, Richard Haass, said here on Tuesday. Haass, who is Director, Policy Planning Staff in the US State Department met a number of senior ministers in India before moving on to Islamabad.

Though non-committal about the outcome of the Pakistani elections, Haass said continuing infiltration across the LoC remained a cause of concern and would be taken up with Pakistan.

Saying that demobilisation of troops by India and Pakistan had provided some opportunities, Haass said this, along with elections in Kashmir and Pakistan, could provide breathing space to both parties.

Differences on issues need not prevent a dialogue he said, pointing to the fact that the US and the USSR had full diplomatic representation and other ties during the Cold War.

The bilateral relationship between India and Pakistan was less than optimal and it was diplomatically undesirable for the relationship to remain as thin as it was, Haass said, adding that the US wanted thickening of the relationship. Saying that the relationship may not be necessarily "ripe" for a "top down solution," Haass said what could be looked for were "bottom up approaches."

This could be in the form of economic links, transport links, diplomatic links and cultural, sports and parliamentary exchanges.

The US did not have a gameplan and it would be "unrealistic" to look for final solutions. The modest aims were limited, at the

moment to curbing infiltration and seeking a dialogue.

Haass mentioned US concerns on North Korea but also spoke of the concerns the US had in the sub-continent saying that in view of the nuclear dimension of the Indo-Pak competition the US would welcome steps that would stabilise that competition.

Haass also met with the Kashmir committee and Muslim leaders. He said his discussions with Muslim leaders was very encouraging as he found that the opportunities available to Muslims here in a democratic polity ensured that they were not tempted to look for other opportunities or take recourse to terrorism.

On Pakistan Haass said that the elections were a step in the right direction and the US respected the verdict. Asked whether the outcome would make the war against terrorism more difficult he said that he did not want to prejudge the parties and what mattered were the policies they would follow.

He however said the relations with Pakistan had improved compared to a year and a half ago.

Haass said there was quite a lot of consensus on Iraq between India and the US. There was an understanding here about the need for Iraq to meet its international obligations. India would like to see this happen within the UNSC and this was very much the aim of the US. The US wanted to resolve the issue peacefully and diplomatically he said adding that the purpose of US foreign policy was not to bring about conflict but to ensure compliance.

A truly demanding UNSC resolution was necessary not just access to sites and matters would come to a head within this week or the next he said.

Infiltration must stop completely: Haass

By Amit Baruah

NEW DELHI, OCT. 29. The United States believes that it is "undesirable" for the India-Pakistan relationship to be as "thin" as it is and favoured a bottom-up approach to "strengthen" the ties.

Speaking to a group of presspersons this morning, Richard Haass, director (Policy Planning Staff) in the U.S. State Department, said that even at the height of the Cold War, American and Soviet diplomats had extensive exchanges on a daily basis.

Calling for practical ways to increase the relations between Indian and Pakistani societies, economies and the Governments, Mr. Haass wanted the official dialogue between the two countries to include infiltration across the Line of Control (LoC), but not limit the talks to the issue.

"Clearly, infiltration across the Line of Control is continuing," he said, maintaining that it was a cause of "considerable concern" to the U.S. and would figure in his talks with the Pakistani leadership tomorrow. Infiltration, he stressed, must stop completely.

Mr. Haass made it clear that the U.S., gently, but consistently, would seek the resumption of talks between India and Pakistan and differed with the Indian view that dialogue should resume only after cross-LoC infiltration ended completely. This was not a time for "ambitious diplomacy," he said.

In the American view, it would be best if the dialogue took place parallel to the steps to end the cross-LoC infiltration and this was something that India had to "mull over".

"We are going to have the formation of a new Pakistani Government. Let's see what it looks like..." he said, calling for a "bit of space and time." Asked whether the Prime Minister, A.B. Vajpayee, should travel to Islamabad for the SAARC summit, Mr. Haass said it was not appropriate for him to comment on the issue.

That's a decision for the Prime Minister and his Government to make. Obviously, they have got to determine whether it will be a constructive use of his time," he said. We clearly support efforts to bring about greater discussions between the two Governments, greater interaction..."

Mr. Haass was of the view that de-mobilisation of some troops along the border provided some "breathing space" and hoped that elections in Jammu & Kashmir would lead to better governance. The elections in Pakistan, he said were a step in the right direction.

Differing diametrically with the stand taken by New Delhi on the Pakistani polls, Mr. Haass said the U.S. looked forward to working with a Government in Pakistan whatever be its complexion or composition.

Asked whether the U.S. was concerned by the rise of Islamist elements in Pakistan, he said America as a democracy had to respect the preferences of the people. So long as the people who did well by the ballot box respected the standards of democracy and pluralism afterwards, the U.S. would not have any problems.

"What matters to us are the policies they (a reference to the Islamists in Pakistan) advocate, whether they are members of a Government or not," he said, choosing not to go into specifics when asked about the fact that groups like the Jamaat-I-Islami and the JUI (F) were the principal sources of "jehadi cadres" operating in Jammu & Kashmir.

Stating that he was not going to "pre-judge" the Pakistani Government, he said, "we look forward to working with them. We'll make clear what our priorities are... we'll make clear what we feel strongly about... the question of support for terrorism in any form will be one of the issues that will arise."

On why the Bush administration, unlike the Clinton one, had stopped stressing the sanctity of the LoC and an end to "map-making", Mr. Haass said it was not the time

for "final status issues."

Choosing not to answer the question directly, he said the time was not ripe for a final settlement between India and Pakistan and called for more "modest thinking" to end infiltration, promote dialogue, establish economic and transport lines and go for cultural, sporting and parliamentary exchanges.

Mr. Haass, who referred to a meeting with Indian Muslim leaders yesterday, said his feedback was that matters were going on smoothly for the Muslim minority in India, even though there had been some unfortunate incidents. Muslims here, he said, were not tempted to think of alternative routes, including terrorism, adding that India was a society, where everyone, regardless of religion, had opportunities.

On his discussions with the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, on Iraq, he said there was understanding that Iraq should abide by obligations to the U.N. on weapons of mass destruction and that any action against Iraq should take place on the basis of the U.N. resolutions. The U.S. he said, had no desire to go to war in Iraq, and if it had to, the force of the U.N. resolutions would be behind America.

The U.S. had the tools to deal with multiple challenges like Iraq and the Al-Qaeda and there had been no "cooling off" in the hunt for Osama bin Laden.

On Afghanistan, he said the country had travelled quite far and quite fast, but it would be years before it achieved any kind of self-sufficiency. The U.S. was in Afghanistan for a long haul, adding that when States fell into disrepair they posed not just a humanitarian problem, but a strategic one too.

Describing terrorism as the "dark side of globalisation," he said the international community's response had to be global. There was no "exit strategy" in the war against terrorism, only an endurance strategy.

30 OCT 2002

OF INDC

As US urges UN to disarm Iraq, France backs compromise

Phoenix (Arizona): US President George W. Bush ratcheted up pressure on the United Nations to disarm Iraq but France urged the United States to compromise to win the world body's support.

Increasingly impatient to win Security Council passage of a tough resolution designed to make Iraq give up what Washington says are its weapons of massive destruction programmes, the White House warned US allies to wake up or allow the UN to "slumber."

Ahead of a possible vote this week, Mr Bush was making his case against Iraq on the campaign trail on Monday where he has drawn standing ovations for lambasting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

But France continued to resist the pressure, saying Washington's latest proposed resolution needed changes to win wide international backing.

In weeks of debate, the United States has watered down an original version that explicitly threatened Iraq with war but foreign minister Dominique de Villepin said the US draft still fell short.

France and Russia, which along with the United States, Britain and China hold vetoes as permanent Se-

curity Council members, object to the language they believe Washington could still use to justify an attack on Iraq.

"It is in the interests of all, including the US, to reach a resolution which shows the support of the international community," Mr Villepin said in an advance copy of an interview to be run in Monday's edition of *Le Figaro* newspaper. "All ambiguity must be dispelled."

With congressional and gubernatorial elections coming up next week, Mr Bush's campaign drive has been complicated by the possibility his push for UN action on Iraq will fail.

As as he did on Sunday in Phoenix, Mr Bush will devote some of his stump speech in New Mexico and Colorado to explaining why he believes the UN must move on Iraq.

"There's a true threat that we face in the form of Saddam Hussein," Mr Bush said. "He said he doesn't have any weapons of mass destruction and he does. If the United Nations won't act, if Mr Hussein will not act, if he continues to defy the world, the United States in the



George Bush



S. Hussein

name of peace will lead a coalition to disarm Mr Hussein," Mr Bush said, bringing Republican faithful to their feet at a political rally in Phoenix's Dodge Theater.

Baghdad kept up its war of rhetoric with Washington, accusing it of trying to intimidate the UN Security Council into passing a resolution that could pave the way for war.

"The evil American administration is practising clear terrorism inside and outside the Security Council in order to pass a new draft resolution," said *Al-Thawra* newspaper, the mouthpiece of Mr Hussein's ruling Baath Party.

Iraq agreed to give up chemical, biological and nuclear weapons after the 1991 Gulf War and says it has done so.

The New York Times reported on Monday the Pentagon has plans to call up roughly as many reservists as it did during the Gulf War, when about 265,000 members of the National Guard and reserves were mobilised in the fight to drive invading Iraqi forces from Kuwait. Reuters

29 OCT 2002

US envoy shot in Amman

Associated Press

AMMAN, Oct. 28. — Gunmen killed a US diplomat outside his home today in the Jordanian capital, Jordan's information minister said.

The diplomat, identified by Jordanian security officials as Lawrence Foley from the US Agency for International Development, was killed at 7:30 a.m. (1100 IST) outside his house on Abdullah Ghosheh street, in a middle-class district of Amman. The Arab satellite channel Al-Jazeera said he dealt with US foreign aid.

Gunmen sprayed the diplomat with bullets, killing him instantly, information minister Mohammed Affash Adwan said. The gunman, possibly aided by others, escaped

and there was no immediate claim of responsibility. It was the first fatal shooting of a Western diplomat in Jordan in memory.

Mr Adwan declined to comment on whether the attack was a terrorist incident. But, he said, "this attack, regardless of its motives and reasons, is an aggression on Jordan and its national security". "We will not tolerate that at all," he added.

The US embassy in Jordan urged its citizens to be vigilant following the "horrible" murder of the diplomat, a statement said.

"The US embassy in Jordan has informed all US citizens in Jordan of the incident and reiterated our recommendation that all US citizens remain vigilant in view of threats to American interests," the

statement said.

It described the early morning shooting of Foley in western Amman as a "horrible crime" and said that the embassy was "outraged by this incomprehensible act".

"At approximately 7:20 am local time Larry (Lawrence) Foley, an employee of the US Agency for International Development mission in Jordan was shot and killed outside his home in Amman," the statement said. The US embassy is "working closely with Jordanian officials to investigate this horrible crime," it added. Security officials said Foley's wife called police after the attack.

Jordan is known for its tight security, but several attacks have

been directed against Israelis in Amman and along the Jordanian-Israel border. Jordan and Egypt are the two Arab states to have peace treaties with Israel.

While Jordan is officially allied with the United States, anti-American sentiment has been rising with public opposition to a threatened U.S. attack on Iraq, Jordan's eastern neighbour. The kingdom's 1994 peace treaty with Israel has also made it a target for Muslim militants and terrorist groups. The slaying comes at a time in West Asia, when many in the Arab world are angry with the USA for its push for a war to topple Iraqi President Mr Saddam Hussein and for what Arabs regard as biased US support for Israel at the expense of the Palestinians.

THE ST. JOURNAL

29 OCT 2002

US
27-10
WILL DUNHAM

Bush deaf to anti-war cry

Washington, Oct. 27 (Reuters): Thousands of Americans took to the streets at the weekend to oppose a war on Iraq, but the Bush administration stood firm and said it was time for the United Nations to act not debate.

Baghdad kept up its war of rhetoric with Washington, accusing it today of trying to intimidate the UN Security Council into adopting a new draft resolution that could pave the way for military action.

"The evil American administration is practising clear terrorism inside and outside the Security Council in order to pass a new draft resolution," said *al-Thawra* newspaper, the mouthpiece of President Saddam Hussein's ruling Baath Party.

"Each paragraph of the new

draft represents a core of tension and an excuse for launching aggression."

US President George W. Bush, well used to invective from Iraq, also faced vocal opposition at home yesterday when thousands of Americans marched to oppose any war.

"This is going to be an ugly, unnecessary fight. Most of the world is saying 'no' to it," civil rights leader Jesse Jackson told a crowd at Washington's Vietnam Veterans Memorial. "Pre-emptive, one-bullet diplomacy, we cannot resort to that."

Organisers said 150,000 people took part in the anti-war protest in the US capital, but witnesses put the number at fewer than 50,000. A river of marchers flowed to the White House to press the case that a war on Iraq would be a tragic mistake.

"George Bush, you can't hide. We charge you with genocide!" chanted the protesters. "Let us resist this war," liberal activist actress Susan Sarandon told the crowd. "Let us hate war in all its forms, whether the weapon used is a missile or an airplane."

The protesters brandished signs reading: "No Proof, No War," "Bush Sucks" and "Pre-emptive Impeachment". Some protesters carried Iraqi flags. "No war, no way," shouted a protester wearing a mask of Bush with horns and a pitchfork.

Another 40,000 marched in San Francisco, with thousands more demonstrating in Amsterdam, Berlin and other European cities. Nearly 3,000 people marched in a anti-war demonstration in Madrid.

Bush was not around to see the White House protest because

he was taking part in a summit of Pacific Rim leaders in Mexico.

With a sceptical Mexican President Vicente Fox by his side, Bush repeated that the US would lead a coalition against Iraq if the UN failed to act to ensure Saddam did not possess chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. "If the UN won't act, if Saddam Hussein won't disarm, we will lead a coalition to disarm him," Bush said.

Secretary of State Colin Powell, also in the Mexican beach resort Los Cabos for the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit, said key decisions had to be made in the next few days. "We have reached the point where we have to make a few fundamental decisions in the early part of next week and go forward," he said. "We can't continue to have a debate that never ends."

THE TELEGRAPH

28 OCT 2002

U.S. claims progress on draft

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

DES MOINES (IOWA), OCT. 27. Whether economic issues have come to the fore or not in the last 10 days of the Congressional elections campaign, the Democrats must heave a small sigh of relief that Iraq is not a dominant theme. But that does not mean that Iraq and Saddam Hussein are off political attention and television screens.

Attending the meeting of 21 leaders of the Asia-Pacific in Cabo San Lucas, the President, George W. Bush, once again stressed that the United States "will" lead a coalition to disarm Iraq if the United Nations does not pass a strong resolution. And the White House has made it known that it would be "not very hard at all" to assemble an alliance without the help of the U.N.

For a summit of the Asia-Pacific leaders that traditionally discussed issues of economic interests and concerns, this time around, subjects such as terrorism, North Korea and Iraq

is said to have dominated both the official proceedings and the meetings on the sidelines. The consensus that North Korea should dismantle its nuclear weapons programme aside, Mr. Bush sought to use his time in Mexico to lobby for the U.S. resolution that has wandered into heady waters in the United Nations Security Council.

Russia and France have introduced competing resolutions even if Paris has also made it known that it will not officially stand in the way of a resolution on Iraq. For all practical purposes, it is down to Russia, a key ally of Iraq at the world body, to firmly oppose the U.S. resolution. The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, was not able to make it to the summit on account of the terrorist-related incident back home; and Mr. Bush is said to have worked on smaller but important countries such as Mexico to back the American resolution on Iraq.

Mexico, which is one of the 10 non-permanent members at the Council for a rotating two-

year period, is more in tune with the French thinking. But the impression is that when push comes to shove, Mexico will back the United States. A consolation to Washington must be that China has said that it will back the resolution even as it is not terribly happy with the wording of the text. Officially, the United States is making the point that it has not come to the conclusion that an agreement on the Iraq resolution has been reached as a result of all the meetings held in the last few days including at the very top levels in Mexico.

At the same time, the impression is being conveyed that progress is being achieved. "We have successfully narrowed down the differences to a few key issues", remarked the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, in Mexico while attending the meeting of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum meetings. The Bush administration sees the coming week as being critical at the United Nations.

40-14 2810

28 OCT 2002

N. Korea sets terms for talks with US on N-programme

Seoul: North Korea, under pressure to end a suspected nuclear weapons programme, set its terms on Friday for addressing US concerns: a non-aggression pact and a guarantee of the impoverished communist state's sovereignty.

The North Korean foreign ministry said that, "with greatest magnanimity," it had set three conditions for talks to address concerns raised by its admission that it had revived a banned nuclear arms programme by preparing to enrich uranium.

"Firstly, if the US recognises the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK's) sovereignty, secondly, if it assures the DPRK of non-aggression and thirdly, if the US does not hinder the economic development of the DPRK," a foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement.

The lengthy statement, carried by the state-run Korean Central News Agency, used the acronym of the com-

munist state's official title, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The US has ruled out negotiations with the North Koreans until they dismantle the Uranium enrichment programme. But Washington said it sought a peaceful solution and was maintaining contacts with the North through its UN mission.

"We have seen that report and we are studying it. We will not have a response this evening," a senior state department official told reporters on Thursday in the Mexican resort of Los Cabos, where President George W. Bush is to attend a weekend summit of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) grouping.

South Korea, whose President and foreign minister are attending the Apec meeting, issued a statement calling on North Korea to "clarify the substance of its nuclear weapons programme" and pay heed to international concerns about the issue." Reuters

26 OCT 2002

U.S. steps up lobbying on draft

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 25. Even as the United States and Britain have stepped up lobbying for the new tough resolution against Iraq at the United Nations Security Council, Russia is warning that a quick or hasty vote on the subject could be risky. And France is making the point that it was "very important" to hear what the U.N. weapons inspectors have to say on the matter — that is if they could operate under the provisions provided for under the new draft resolution.

The lobbying is taking place in different places and at different levels, the corridors of the Security Council in New York being one of them. The negotiations among the five Permanent Members at the world body aside, senior diplomats of the United States are intensely talking with non-permanent members whose votes are also critical.

A total of nine votes in the 15 member Council is required for passing any resolution; and without a veto. Only Syria is considered as a definite 'No' to the resolution. The U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, now in Mexico for the Meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum is making his own pitch for the Iraq resolution with his colleague from Russia. Senior officials of Moscow have been quoted as saying that they are worried about language in the draft resolution that have been so camouflaged as to trigger a military strike in the event of Iraq going back or general non-compliance.

It is not clear at this time if

the Bush administration is willing to make further changes to the version already formally presented to the Security Council. In Mexico, Gen. Powell has said that the United States will stand by "basic principles"; and officials have sought to play down Russian concerns of a "hidden trigger" in the resolution. The real hidden trigger is the absence of a resolution", a Spokesman for the American Ambassador to the U.N. has remarked.

The U.S. President, George W

Bush, will be lobbying on his own starting this morning with the Chinese President, Jiang Zemin, at the Crawford, Texas ranch. Beijing has not been vociferous in its criticism of the Iraq Resolution but is not exactly thrilled at the substantive parts either.

But the major diplomatic offensive from Mr. Bush will come at the Pacific Rim Conference in Mexico this Saturday when he meets leaders of the Asia Pacific, notably from Mexico, Singapore and Russia.

INDL

25 OCT 2002

U.S. 'losing patience' with U.N.

WSW By Sridhar Krishnaswami

110-14

24/10

WASHINGTON, OCT. 23. The United States' draft Resolution on Iraq is running into trouble at the United Nations; and the Bush administration is hinting that it is losing patience with the world body. "The United Nations does not have forever," said the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer. And at an election event in Bangor, Maine, the U.S. President, George W Bush, again made the point that if the United Nations did not act and disarm Iraq, the U.S. — along with a coalition — would act.

"..if they (United Nations) won't act, and if Saddam Hussein won't act, for the sake of peace, for the sake of our security, we will lead a coalition to disarm that man", Mr. Bush said while stumping for Republican candidates for the November 5 elections.

But for the most part the action was in New York and the capitals of the Permanent Members of the Security Council. And the key focus was on Russia and France, and on China, to an extent. The Chinese have not come out swinging against the new American draft but have expressed deep disappointment that this draft is not substantively any different from the earlier one.

Russia is said to have come out even more stronger than France in its opposition to the new proposals that have been formally presented by the U.S. to the other four Permanent Members of the Security Council. The 10 other elected members of the Council are expected to formally re-

ceive their copies by the end of the week. The Ambassadors of the Permanent Five have already two formal negotiation sessions going through the seven-page draft very carefully.

Russia, France and China favour two resolutions on Iraq, the second pertaining to the use of force coming only after Mr. Hussein and Iraq have obstructed the mission of the weapons inspectors.

Under the provisions of the new draft resolution, Iraq will have upto seven days to accept the U.N. resolution; a 30-day time-frame to declare its programmes of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons; and inspectors having another 45 days to resume inspections.

For a resolution to be adopted, nine out of the 15 members of the Security Council must vote in favour and there can be no veto. There are two major objections to the U.S. draft plan — references to Iraq being in "material breach" of existing U.N. resolutions; and warning Baghdad of "serious consequences" for continued violations of obligations.

Quite apart from the apprehensions of the world body, senior officials of the Bush administration have consistently been making the point that no fresh authorisation is required from the United Nations for any action against Iraq, and for two reasons. First there are existing authorisations on the use of force through U.N. resolutions after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; secondly, and more importantly, the President has the authorisation of the United States Congress.

20 OCT 2002

THE HINDU

Bush may seek Beijing help to check N Korea

Roland Watson & Oliver August
The Times, London

WASHINGTON/BEIJING, Oct. 23. — The US President will test China's desire for warmer relations with the USA this week by pressing the Chinese President for help in facing down North Korea's nuclear threat.

Mr Jiang Zemin, who retires as China's leader next month, arrived in the USA yesterday for a three-day farewell tour, peaking with a barbecue at Mr George W Bush's Texas ranch on Friday.

But North Korea's disclosure that it is pursuing a covert nuclear weapons programme, and the Bush Administration's desire to use diplomatic and economic pressure to force Pyongyang to abandon it, has added political urgency to the occasion.

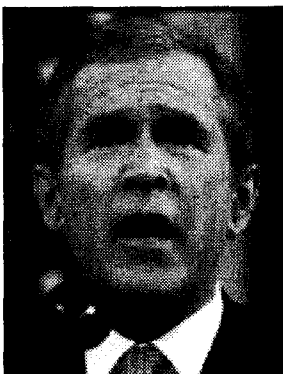
The USA is expected to announce that full military ties with China, which were suspended in April last year, will be resumed. For its part, Beijing is expected to free several dissidents in a goodwill gesture. But Mr Xu Wenli, founder of the China Democracy Party, is unlikely to be among them, but Mrs Rebiya Kadeer, 53, a

prominent businesswoman imprisoned on charges of revealing state secrets, is said to be a likely candidate. She was arrested four years ago after posting newspaper cuttings to her husband who works for Radio Free Asia in Washington.

Mrs Kadeer's case has been the subject of several resolutions in the US Congress as well as countless State Department inquiries. Amnesty International and the UN have also campaigned for her release.

Mrs Kadeer, a Muslim Uighur from Xinjiang province in the oil-rich northwest of the country, was secretly sentenced to eight years in prison. She had previously been touted by Beijing as a rags-to-riches product of its ethnic minority policies, was appointed to the Chinese People's Political Consultative Congress, and represented China at the Beijing 1995 UN Conference on Women.

Her star began to wane in 1996, when her husband, Mr Sidik Rouzi, moved to Washington and gave radio interviews which were critical of China's repression of the Uighurs in Xinjiang province.



Mr George W Bush



Mr Jiang Zemin

USA circulates revised resolution on Iraq

WS (W)
5-3
23/10
Press Trust of India

UNHQ, Oct. 22. — The USA has circulated a “revised text” of a proposed resolution on Baghdad to Security Council members as the US President vowed to give one more chance to diplomacy to disarm Mr Saddam Hussein peacefully. This is seen as an attempt by the USA to ease French and Russian objections to an automatic authorisation of use of force should Iraq not disarm.

“The revisions take into account the ideas that were raised by our partners during our consultations,” State Department spokesman Mr Richard Boucher said in Washington. “We made some changes in order to achieve our goals and garner support within the council.”

Though Washington has given up the demand for explicit authorisation of military action if Iraq obstructs weapons inspectors, diplomats said France is closely examining the language in the face of reports that the

USA could interpret it to mean that it has the authority to do so.

Diplomats explain Washington’s watering down of the resolution as its eagerness to get a resolution through the Council at the earliest because it has a small window for taking military action.

The action must begin between December and February as it would be

The watered down draft is an attempt to ease French and Russian objections to an automatic authorisation of use of force against Iraq

difficult to fight a war in summer and stand storms.

President George W Bush’s remarks yesterday indicated that Mr Hussein may not disarm. “We don’t believe he’s going to change... however, if he were to meet all the conditions of the UN that in itself would signal a regime change,” Mr Bush said after meeting with Nato secretary-general Mr Geor-

ge Robertson in Washington.

The five permanent members met at the US mission just across the UN headquarters yesterday where American UN ambassador Mr John Negroponte distributed the draft.

But the remaining 10 non-permanent members, who have no veto power, were not taken into confidence. They might be shown the draft only tomorrow, diplomats said.

The new draft would ask the inspectors to report any obstruction to the Security Council which would meet immediately to consider the situation.

But the draft resolution finds Iraq in “material breach” of the Security Council’s earlier resolutions, mentions that it had earlier been warned of serious consequences and threatens it with “serious consequences” if continues to defy the UN.

That, diplomats said, could give a peg to the USA that it has the authority for military action even if the Security Council is unable to adopt the second resolution.

USA sticks to its Iraq blueprint

UNHQ, Oct. 24 — Even as Russia, China and France opposed the new US draft resolution on disarming Iraq, Washington has made it clear that there is no use in having a "pointless resolution" which could make Baghdad "sit back and smile", fearing no "consequences."

The three permanent members of the Security Council were opposed to the draft as they thought it contained language which Washington could use to attack Iraq without seeking explicit authorisation from the Council.

The US secretary of state, Mr. Colin Powell, said Washington was ready to listen to the reservations of other members of the Council which meets tomorrow, but Iraq cannot be allowed to "sit back and smile" if it fails to dismantle weapons of mass destruction.

"When they get back together on Friday, members ... will come forward with ideas and we will listen to those ideas," Mr. Powell told reporters yesterday in Cabo San Lucas (Mexico) on the sidelines of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum meeting. "But we cannot walk away from basic principles. It cannot just be another pointless resolution that Iraq can sit back and smile at in the knowledge that there will be no consequences... the USA will not accept that," he said.

"We want to give (weapons) inspectors what they need to do the job, and that job has to be the disarmament of Iraq," Mr. Powell said.

Russia's ambassador to the UN, Mr. Sergei Lavrov, told reporters: "We cannot agree to any automaticity in the use of force, and we cannot agree to unimplementable, unrealistic demands" imposed against the wishes of the arms inspectors.

In Washington earlier, Mr. Ari Fleischer, chief spokesman for Mr. George Bush, said council diplomats "have some amount of time left, but not a lot," to complete discussions.

Triangular diplomacy: phase two

By C. Raja Mohan

NEW DELHI, OCT. 20. The unprecedented American engagement with India and Pakistan over the last year is about to enter a new phase. It is moving from crisis management to conflict resolution. The next stage of American diplomacy in the subcontinent will certainly be as exciting as the first one. But fingers must remain crossed on the prospects for its success. Since the attack on the Indian Parliament on December 13, Washington worked hard to pull New Delhi and Islamabad from the brink of a war it feared could turn nuclear.

With India now initiating military de-escalation the American focus is expected to be on facilitating a peace process aimed at removing the sources of Indo-Pak tension. Why would the United States want to inject itself in a messy dialogue between India and Pakistan? For three reasons. One, Washington does not want to get embroiled every other year in defusing a nuclear crisis between the subcontinent's nuclear rivals. It would rather make a sustained effort now to see if India and Pakistan can find ways to resolve the Kashmir dispute and normalise bilateral relations.

Two, for the first time in decades, the U.S. has good relations with both New Delhi and Islamabad. Having developed political equities in both countries since September 11, Washington is uniquely poised to promote a peace process between the two.

Three, in an important political leap, India has recognised it needs the cooperation of the international community in pressing the Pakistani Army to discard the instruments of extremism and terrorism.

Equally important for India is the involvement of the U.S. in containing the negative forces in Pakistan and nudging it towards a reasonable settlement of the Kashmir question.

For India, the diplomatic option of refusing to talk until there is complete cessation of

cross-border terrorism, might have run its course. Instead of a sequential approach — talks follow an end to cross-border terrorism — India might want to consider a simultaneous one where there will be talks on all issues amid continuing international pressure on Pakistan to live up to its word on abjuring terrorism on a permanent basis.

New Delhi's readiness to adopt such a line will depend on the kind of signals that Islamabad puts out in the next few weeks. If the U.S. can persuade Pakistan to demonstrate a measure of good faith by keeping the levels of infiltration low, a decision in New Delhi on resuming the dialogue might not be far away.

Meanwhile, India must ponder if the po-

DIPLOMATIC NOTEBOOK

litical steps it had taken after December 13 make sense any more. Having unilaterally decided on military mobilisation, India must now consider the restoration of transport links and diplomatic relations at the level of ambassadors.

When it begins, this bout of Indo-Pakistan dialogue is likely to be very different from the pattern seen in recent years. In the past India insisted on "strict bilateralism" and rejected intervention by outsiders in Indo-Pakistan talks. Now India's proposals to Pakistan must also be aimed at the international community, which will stay engaged with the incipient peace process.

India might find that the world is in greater empathy with its demands for unconditional restoration of normal trade relations, people-to-people contact, and implementation of nuclear and military confidence-building measures with Pakistan.

Islamabad's determination to hold progress on these issues hostage to a final resolution of the Kashmir question will be less tenable in the new circumstances.

If India is prepared to engage in a serious dialogue on Kashmir, there will be strong

international support to its demands for immediate progress on other issues.

India this week will host one of its good friends from Japan, the former Prime Minister, Yoshiro Mori. Japan was the last of the major powers to come to terms with India's nuclear tests. Despite stiff bureaucratic opposition at home to reviving ties with a nuclear India, Mr. Mori came to India in August 2000.

Besides the U.S., New Delhi needs cooperation from other powers like Japan to encourage Pakistan's movement towards political moderation, economic modernisation and a historic reconciliation with India.

As the largest aid giver to the subcontinent, Tokyo might have a crucial role in shaping Pakistan's responses to Indian initiatives in the coming months. One wonders, if Mr. Mori brings with him any new ideas from Japan about peace in the subcontinent.

In diplomacy, venues are often as important as the high-level political encounters themselves. All the major world leaders are lobbying the U.S. to meet the President, George W. Bush, in an informal setting at his expansive ranch in Crawford, Texas.

After the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, and the Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia it is the turn of China's leader, Jiang Zemin, to travel to Crawford this week. Rumours from Beijing are that Mr. Jiang, who will be giving up at least some of his powers at the party conclave next month, wanted the meeting in Crawford badly when he is the top gun of China.

During his visit to the U.S. this time Mr. Jiang is likely to face fewer Tibetan demonstrators. Thanks to Beijing's recent charm offensive towards Tibet and the new expectations on a dialogue between Beijing and the Dalai Lama, the exiled Tibetan leadership in Dharamshala has called for a suspension of protest demonstrations against travelling Chinese leaders.

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2 1 OCT 2002

N-PROGRAMME / WASHINGTON FOR PEACEFUL SOLUTION

U.S. may scrap accord with N. Korea

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, OCT. 20. Even as the Bush administration goes about giving the impression that it is not in a crisis mode over the revelations of the North Korean nuclear programme, the United States has decided to pull out of the 1994 anti-nuclear accord with that East Asian country, *The New York Times* has reported.

The paper, quoting unnamed senior administration officials, is saying that the President, George W. Bush, has decided to scrap the pact that required North Korea to freeze its nuclear weapons programme in return for two light water reactors and provision for fuel oil and electricity production. But daily says that the administration has no plans to publicly announce its decision to get out of the 1994 accord.

The U.S. led an international consortium — the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation — and is expected to pressure South Korea and Japan to suspend construction of the nuclear reactors. Washington is quite aware of the implications of a tough North Korea policy on Seoul and Tokyo, as both those Governments are in the process of opening up to Pyongyang.

The developments in North Korea have indeed brought about urgency to the Bush administration's East Asian policy; and the President will have an additional issue to talk about with leaders of Japan and South Korea when he meets them at a conference of the leaders of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum in Mexico next week.

Prior to travelling to Mexico, Mr. Bush will be hosting the President of China, Jiang Zemin, next Friday at his ranch in Crawford, Texas. It is expected that North Korea will be a major topic of discussion. Any concerted economic pressure on Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear weapons programme will require the full support and cooperation of



HARD EVIDENCE?: The North Korean Yongbyon-1 nuclear power plant is seen in this International Atomic Energy Agency file photo.

countries such as Russia, China, Japan and South Korea. The White House is also said to be discussing the various implications of dealing with Pyongyang with some officials reportedly of the view that pressing North Korea hard might force it on an accelerated approach to producing nuclear weapons. The administration is in a spot over the recent revelations of North Korea, especially as the President had placed that country along with Iraq and Iran in the so-called an "axis of evil". But unlike the hardline and tight-fisted approach towards Iraq, the White House is confident that the issue with North Korea could be settled "peacefully" and diplomatically. Meanwhile, security

analysts are cautioning the Republican administration that a war with North Korea will be far more dangerous than with Iraq, involving not only the loss of thousands of American lives but also risking relations with Russia and China and crucial allies in East Asia such as Japan and South Korea.

But the White House is feeling the pressure from Capitol Hill. "I think it's critical that, over the next several days, the administration comes down very hard on North Korea and not draw distinctions between this regime and regimes like that of Saddam Hussein and others with which we have equal concerns", the influential Republican Senator, Jon Kyl of Arizona remarked.

2 OCT 2002

END

Bush may soften stand on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

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UNited Nations, Oct. 19. With objections from the key permanent members having been overcome, the United Nations Security Council is expected to pass a new resolution on Iraq sometime next week. The new draft proposal of the United States is being received positively by France, which has been a tough hold-out over the last four weeks.

The Bush administration will formally circulate the draft by the beginning of next week — one that only warns Iraq of “serious consequences” as opposed to a language which talks of an immediate right to use “all necessary means” in the event of non-compliance.

Apparently, there are also other “concessions” that the Bush administration has offered. Washington is no longer insisting that the five permanent members be allowed to travel with the weapons inspectors; and is also said to be dropping the earlier stipulation that troops must accompany the inspectors. The Security Council members did not meet formally on Friday and it is said that they are unlikely to get together over the

weekend. But hectic behind-the-scenes efforts are under way, especially between Washington and Paris, to remove some of the last-minute and smaller objections.

France is said to be still objecting to a reference in the new draft that refers to Baghdad being in “material breach” of the U.N. resolutions. It is still not clear if the decks have been cleared for two resolutions on Iraq, something France has been wanting all along. The first resolution will set the parameters for tough weapons inspections. The Council will then wait to hear from the inspectors to get into the consequences phase. The Bush administration, in presenting its new draft, has not committed itself to this process. Senior officials of the Republican administration are hanging tough in the view that the U.S. does not need any authority “even now” to take action against Iraq, its Secretary of State, Colin Powell, making the position clear on this.

“The United States does not need any additional authority even now, if we thought it was necessary to take action to defend ourselves,” remarked Gen. Powell. “We believe one resolution is appropriate.”

2 0 OCT 2002

Investigate Pak role in N. Korean N-plan: Pallone

Washington: Attacking the US administration for ignoring Pakistan's involvement in providing nuclear assistance to North Korea, Democrat Congressman Frank Pallone has called for a full probe into the matter and a ban on all military sales to Pakistan.



F. Pallone

"What I find appalling is that this nuclear programme that the US worked tirelessly to halt, was in fact sustained through the assistance of Pakistan," Mr Pallone, a founder of the India Caucus, wrote in a letter sent on Friday to President George W. Bush.

"Not only did the transfer of critical equipment from Pakistan to North Korea take place around 1997, but in addition, this relationship has continued even after President Pervez Musharraf seized power in 1999," Mr Pallone said. He said, "It is clear that Pakistan, most likely, exchanged equipment with North Korea for missiles for challenging India." Demanding "immediate steps" to ban all military sales to Pakistan and reimposition of Symington sanctions on the country for as-

Musharraf terms report as 'baseless'

Islamabad: Terming as 'baseless' reports that Pakistan supplied nuclear weapons technology and equipment to North Korea, President Pervez Musharraf has said Islamabad firmly stood by its commitment to non-proliferation.

"We firmly stand by this commitment. We are not cooperating with any country, leave aside N. Korea," he said during a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Friday. PTI

sisting a foreign N-weapons programme, he said that Pakistan was thought to have provided technology even after September 11, 2001." He said the administration should conduct a "full investigation" of Pakistan's role in providing N. Korea with nuclear assistance.

Meanwhile, both White House and the US state department stonewalled all inquiries on Pak's reported supply of nuclear equipment. PTI

20 OCT 2002

US decides to formulate new resolution on Iraq

USA 01-19 19/10

United Nations: After stiff resistance from within the UN security council, the US has decided to bring out a modified draft resolution on Iraq to meet the objections from four permanent members, including Russia and France.

In the revised version, US plans to drop the clauses that would have allowed any permanent member to send observers with the inspectors or station military force in Iraq to protect inspectors, diplomatic sources say.

The US would also delete the provision authorising inspectors to take Iraqi officials and the families out of the country to interview them so that they can reply without fear of reprisals by President Saddam Hussein's regime. Russia has indicated that it might support the new draft but negotiations are still on with France which has extensive interest in the region, the diplomats say.

The draft would threaten "consequences" if Iraq is found in "material violation" of the council decision but would not exactly say what those consequences would be.

Agreeing to demands by Russia and France that inspectors should be given a



Colin Powell

chance to verify Iraq's arms possession, the resolution requires chief weapons inspector Hans Blix to report immediately if Baghdad is found in violation of the new resolution and the council to consider the further action necessary to bring Iraq in compliance.

However, it does not say that a second resolution would be necessary to authorise the use of force.

Diplomats say once the principles are settled, the US would present the draft to the remaining veto-wielding permanent members and, if they approve, show it to the ten non-permanent members.

US secretary of state Colin Powell, however, made it clear that any resolution would not compromise the authority of the US President to act in "self-defence of the American people." It was unclear when the resolution would be introduced in the council, but the negotiations could drag into next week. PTI

'If India, Pak don't talk seriously, how will this crisis ever go away?'

Once a professor at Harvard, then a member of the core group advising President George Bush, called the 'Vulcans,' Robert Blackwill has been a frontline witness to the steamy India-Pakistan saga in his current incarnation as US ambassador to India. With the all-powerful Americans practically brokering both the tension and the stalemate in the region, Blackwill spoke to JYOTI MALHOTRA.

■ What is your reaction to the military de-escalation by India and Pakistan over the last few days?

VERY positive. We have been worried since the mobilisation began since December-January, that with these two forces mobilised forward, at hammers cock, one incident could produce a confrontation. This has been the preoccupation of the administration throughout, including

TALKING WITH

Robert Blackwill

Secretary Powell. We believed that one of the most important de-escalatory steps would be getting those forces back away from one another.

This redeployment lowers tensions and reduces the likelihood of a spark setting off a major conventional conflict. With tensions down, some more space has been created for the resumption of serious discussions between India and Pakistan. We very much think it is a step in the right direction.

■ How do you see this unfolding now?

FIRST of all, it is up to the governments of India and Pakistan. But we believe that in the context of which the deescalation has occurred, now is the time to begin planning for a serious resumption of discussion on the differences you have. Including on Kashmir, but not just Kashmir. Our strong view is that the process of discussion can further reduce the temperature between the two sides and start a process in which differences are addressed. So we hope that will happen.

■ What if the government started with offering discussions short of Kashmir?

MY impression is that the Indian 8-point agenda from the past still has logic to it. But my guess is that if India were to say that we'd like to talk about seven of those but not eight, it would

probably be not a very acceptable approach in Islamabad. We think the comprehensive approach is the best approach. But in addition to diplomatic steps, such as returning the High Commissioner to Islamabad, one could imagine people-to-people steps. For example, resuming air and rail traffic and sporting contacts. These are essentially people-to-people steps, not high diplomacy. Anything that strengthens the interaction between the people of India and Pakistan is good.

But that's not all. Terrorism against India has to end, that is an absolutely crucial part of this. We continue to work on it ceaselessly, to end any terrorism against India emanating from Pakistan, India or Pakistan-occupied territory. So while the effort to reduce tension between the two countries goes on, we continue to work with others extremely hard to end terrorism against India.

■ With Pakistan?

PAKISTAN, of course, but also other international actors. As you know, it's not only the US that has been urging Pakistan to end terrorism, the British, French have talked. This is a very important part of our approach. So we're not telling India to resume the dialogue in isolation. The broad strategy should be to ... work towards the goal where there is no terrorism.

■ India's view is that terrorism should end before dialogue can begin. Are you saying this should happen simultaneously?

YES, our view is that these things should go in parallel. We and others will continue to work very hard in Islamabad to try to promote the objective of no more terrorism emanating from Pakistan and Pakistan-occupied territory. But at the same time, India and Pakistan should resume a serious discussion about their differences.

■ How can something like this happen?

I WON'T be drawn into details. We don't have blueprints, we think this has to be generated by the two

governments together. But I will say that in a context in which we have had a successful, credible, positive election in J&K, about which my government has spoken about already, as well as an election in Pakistan where there will be a new prime minister in a couple of weeks, we think there is space for discussion between the two countries.

I think it would also help if the level of rhetoric was diminished by the two sides. I don't think exchanging brickbats in this situation is particularly helpful. So if you put all this to

■ When you say 'this problem won't go away,' are you referring to Kashmir?

IT'S broader than Kashmir. It's not accidental that it's an eight-part composite dialogue that India has in mind. Its most acute set of differences of course reside in Kashmir, but there are others too, and both sides should discuss all their differences. I import myself into this set of questions via my long experience in dealing with US-Soviet affairs. The record of that decade-long confrontation is that one side or the other would refuse to talk

'Good offices have to do with process, mediation has to do with outcomes. We offer our good offices on process, we say, couldn't you start speaking to one another? Notice what we don't do: not only do we want you to talk, but here is where we think you should end up. That's mediation'



'Anything that strengthens the interaction between the people of India and Pakistan is good. But terrorism against India also has to end. We continue to work on it ceaselessly to end any terrorism against India emanating from Pakistan, India or Pakistan-occupied territory'

gether, you're approaching a strategy of getting at this problem in a sustained way.

Also, if India and Pakistan do not discuss their differences seriously and in a prolonged way, why is this crisis ever going to go away? So, parallel efforts, less rhetoric, more discussion, progress on cross-border terrorism, demobilisation of forces, all this offers some promise of moving ahead.

without precondition. I think history shows that it's almost always a mistake. Sometimes Moscow would put up that precondition, sometimes Washington would, but it was almost always a mistake.

It's much better to discuss, take apart, analyse, illuminate differences. Nothing prevents governments from saying what they don't like about the other one's policy. I'm not saying, go in with a smiley face and say that every-

thing's fine, not at all. Seems to me, in such circumstances, India should begin discussions with Pakistan on cross-border terrorism.

■ Where and how would the US come in to tell Pakistan that it must live up to its own promises to end terrorism?

YOU can be sure that we continue to say several times every week. We're working on this problem. We have stamina on this. Because we think its important in principle that terrorism against India ends.

■ There's a view here that America is so consumed with Iraq that it doesn't have time for the India-Pakistan story.

IF there is such a view, it is quite mistaken. Secretary Powell spoke to Musharraf in the last 36 hours. The Secretary also talked to Minister Sinha in the last 24 hours. So this is not a record of disengagement. We have major equities in the transformation of the India-US relationship, with Pakistan, with Pakistan's assistance in the war against terrorism, al Qaeda, etc.

■ What would be your route to dialogue? You have the example of the Agra summit before you.

LET me give you my professorial prejudice. Our successful US-Soviet summits were all carefully prepared. The ones which depended on spontaneity didn't work out very well.

■ What is your sense of the Indian Government?

I AM not a spokesman of the Indian government, but let me make a conceptual distinction between good offices and mediation. Good offices have to do with process, mediation has to do with outcomes. We offer our good offices on process, we say, couldn't you start speaking to one another? Notice what we do not do—as we began doing in the Middle East after the 1973 war—that not only do we want you to talk, but here is where we think you should end up. That's called mediation.

We're not doing that here, will not do that here, we think outcomes are matter for India and Pakistan to decide for themselves. So we'll do process, but not outcomes.

■ Your assessment of the Pakistani elections?

A POSITIVE step towards democracy, which is positive. We have a sustained message to the Government of Pakistan and we'll keep saying it, (not only) that Pakistan will be served by democratic governance but also that this region would be safer, stable and more secure.

North Korea admits to N-arsenal

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. — North Korea has told the USA that it has a secret nuclear weapons programme, a senior US official has revealed. The disclosure has reportedly "stunned" senior US administration officials.

The secret nuclear weapons programme would be a violation of a 1994 agreement between North Korea and the USA, negotiated by the Bill Clinton administration.

Under that agreement, North Korea was not to develop nuclear weapons and, in return, the USA was to give that reclusive country fuel oil and nuclear power reactors.

North Korea has reportedly been supplying missiles and missile parts to whoever wants it, its leading customer being Pakistan.

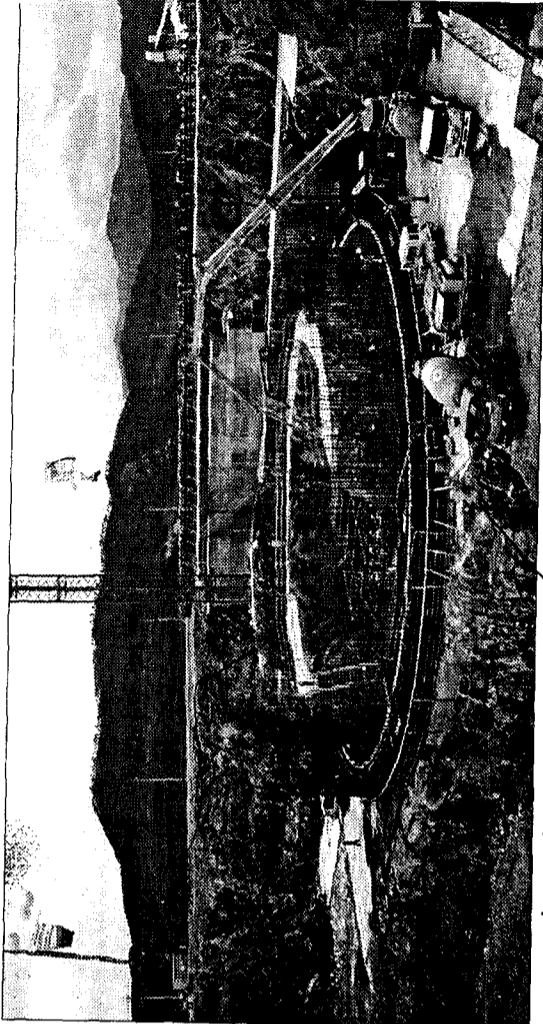
US officials were taken aback when,

instead of denying that it is developing nuclear weapons, a North Korean official admitted: "Yes, we are developing nuclear weapons." US officials said Washington has not decided how to respond. "We are going to keep talking," the senior official said.

Relations between the present US administration and North Korea deteriorated sharply when President George W Bush described North Korea as part of an "axis of evil."

Early this month, however, North Korea received a US assistant Secretary of State Mr James Kelly for talks in Pyongyang, which apparently went very badly.

Mr Kelly reportedly presented "evidence" of North Korean violations and demanded it address global concerns about its nuclear weapons programmes. North Korea publicly accused Mr Kelly of making "insulting remarks."



A recent file photograph of a reactor under construction at Kumho in North Korea. — AFP

US readies new UN resolution on Iraq

UN/Baghdad, October 17

FACED WITH almost unanimous opposition to a tough UN resolution authorising military action against Iraq, the United States prepared on Thursday to circulate a new plan to win support of key Security Council members.

The new US draft adds language that gives more credence to reports from UN weapons inspectors in Iraq and shows a willingness to drop provisions that would have troops open any routes that may be barred to arms experts.

Diplomats said the new proposal still authorises use of force — which could prove to be a stumbling block in the Security Council.

France and Russia, veto-holding members of the council, said on Thursday they wanted to resolve the issue and get weapons inspectors back into Iraq after a four-year absence.

But neither said they were willing to approve a US proposal that gives Washington the authority to attack Iraq for the slightest failure to meet UN requirements.

Speaking to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov emphasised that Moscow had not changed its view.

"Ivanov stressed that such a resolution should aim to secure the quickest possible resumption of work by the international inspectors in Iraq and not authorise automatic use of force against Baghdad," the Foreign Ministry said.

French President Jacques Chirac told the Parliament in Lebanon: "Military action, the last option, is not a foregone conclusion. Let us first bet on responsibility and security in the framework of peace."

Second day of debate

THE UNITED States and Britain are trying to persuade the Security Council to pass a new resolution to support a return of UN weapons inspectors to Iraq and also threaten Saddam with military strikes if he hinders the inspections.

Inspectors were authorised by the United Nations after the 1991 Gulf War to investigate whether Iraq had chemical, biological or nuclear weapons — and destroy them if they were discovered. They left the country in 1998 ahead of a United States and British bombing campaign.

The United Nations on Thursday opened a second day of debate on the United States-backed resolution, which has met strong opposition.

On Wednesday, nation after nation warned against military action before inspectors had a chance to determine if Iraq indeed possessed weapons of mass destruction.

In Baghdad however, President Saddam Hussein said the issue that has so divided diplomats had united his country.

In his first comments since a referendum on Tuesday produced a 100 per cent vote in favour of extending his rule, Saddam was quoted on Thursday as telling senior aides that US threats had bolstered his support and showed the world Iraq's leadership and its people were at one. "It was natural that Iraqis were mobilised by the challenge... It was their chance to seize a historic opportunity to take a sincere stand," State-controlled newspapers quoted Saddam telling the ruling Revolutionary Command Council.

Saddam was to take a new oath of office and deliver a speech to the Iraqi people on Thursday, the official Iraqi News Agency reported.

President George Bush, also claiming a domestic victory for his stand on Iraq, warned Baghdad on Wednesday the only way to avoid war was to completely surrender its suspected weapons of mass destruction.

Reuters

18 OCT 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

U.S. woos Security Council members

10-14 1810 By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 17. The Bush administration is said to be thinking of circulating a new draft resolution on Iraq to the four other Permanent Members of the Security Council later this week, in the hope of bringing about a consensus leading to a vote. But first indications are that this might not be as easy as it sounds, for the U.S. is still insisting on the automatic trigger clause with respect to the use of military force in the event of Iraq placing fresh hurdles before weapons inspectors or going back on anything it had agreed to prior to the resumption of the new weapons inspections regime.

The U.S. has made no bones of the fact that it is deeply disappointed with some of its key allies in the Security Council, but at the same time, has continued to voice its serious opposition to other proposals, especially from Russia and France.

While Moscow is not keen on any new proposal per se, Paris would like to see two, with the Security Council voting on the use of force only after weapons inspectors report back. According to one view, the Bush administration is toying with the idea of circulating a new draft resolution, which will give a lot of latitude to what the inspections team has to say, along with a language, which will be vague enough for countries to back Washington.

For any resolution to pass the Security Council a total of nine votes out of 15 is required; and there can be no veto. On Wednesday, most of the nations participating in the open debate in the Security Council criticised the U.S. for its approach, with the Arab nations especially warning of the regional consequences of attacking Iraq.

Allies of the U.S. in the Asia-Pacific such as Japan and Australia and the European Union failed to come forward and fully endorse the U.S. stance. Even Kuwait opposed a military strike against Iraq and called for diplomacy to be supported by force. According to the scheme of things, the open debate in the Security Council will continue today; and sometime tomorrow, the U.S. will share its new draft resolution with Russia, China, Britain and France. And a vote is expected next week. With France now singled out as the main "obstacle" to the U.S. at the United Nations, unnamed officials of the State Department have been quoted as saying that the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, intended to "get tough" with Paris. The bottom line is that there is going to be one resolution or no resolution.

THE HINDU

18 OCT 2002

US hails J&K polls, accepts Pakistan's fractured verdict

By Chidanand Rajghatta
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Washington: The Bush administration on Friday said it had accepted the results of the Pakistan elections, including the gains made by anti-American fundamentalist parties.

"If our initial reports of the elections being relatively free and orderly is correct, then we see the result as a credible representation of the full range of opinions in Pakistan," a senior administration official said. Remark- ing that the US could not dic- tate how the votes fell in a democratic exercise, he said Washington would wait and see how President Pervez Musharraf fulfilled his promise to fully restore democracy.

"While the polls are the first step in the process, the (military) government has the responsibility to transi- tion towards a full democra- cy. The next step is the trans- fer of power to the national assembly," the official said.

The fractured verdict in both Jammu and Kashmir and Pakistan has left Ameri- can officials and policy mak-

ers struggling to read the tea leaves. The overarching feel- ing here is the electoral brew has simplified the situation in India while complications are afoot in Pakistan.

In India, the exercise has taken the ball away from ter- rorists and hardliners and passed it on to more moder- ate elected representatives. The situation in Pakistan is troubling because the splin- tered verdict puts fundamen- talists in a pivotal position. The initial sense here is that the Indian government has strengthened its credibility vis-a-vis the Kashmir issue with a momentous display of democracy in the state.

The political principals— the National Conference and the BJP—have lost, but the relatively high voter turnout in the face of terrorism, the sheer transparency of the ex- ercise and the sporting man- ner in which the losers have made way for the winners have invited praise from Washington. "We applaud the efforts of the Indian Elec- tion Commission and com- mend the courage of the can- didates and voters who chose to participate despite vio- lence and intimidation. The

Kashmiri people have shown they want to pursue the path of peace," the state depart- ment said in an effusive statement.

While the administration called on both India and Pak- istan to make strenuous ef- forts towards an early re- sumption of diplomatic dia- logue, there were indications that following the develop- ments in Pakistan, Washing- ton would accept the Indian position that it has to first talk to the new dispensation in Jammu and Kashmir.

"We welcome the Indian government's commitment to begin a dialogue with the people of Jammu and Kash- mir; and we hope this dia- logue will address improve- ments in governance and hu- man rights," the US state- ment said.

In contrast, the situation in Pakistan looks complicat- ed. Although some officials are publicly sanguine about the gains made by fundamen- talists, there is foreboding in other quarters that religious elements who are opposed to US presence in the region are emerging as a powerful and, possibly, pivotal force at the national level.

US view of Iraq after Saddam

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12. — The USA is mulling the possibility of installing a military occupation government in Iraq if it becomes necessary to oust Saddam Hussein by force, secretary of state Mr Colin Powell has said.

The proposal, which would install a occupation government in Baghdad along the lines of those imposed in post-World War II Germany and Japan, is one of several contingency plans being worked on as US officials prepare for possible military action in Iraq, Mr Powell said on Thursday.

"Should it come to that, and the president hopes that it does not, but should it come that we would have an obligation to put in place a better regime," he said in an interview with National Public Radio.

"We are obviously doing contingency planning and there are lots of different models from history that one could look at: Japan, Germany," Mr Powell said, confirming the main elements of a report in Thursday's New York Times.

However, he stressed that the idea was only one of many and that no decision had been made either on an invasion of Iraq or what Washington would do in the aftermath.

"I wouldn't say that anything has been settled on, even though the New York Times story reflected one particular model," Mr Powell said.

Should such a military occupation become necessary, Mr Powell and White House spokesman Mr Ari Fleischer both said that US troops would not remain in Iraq any longer than necessary.

Mr Fleischer, speaking earlier, said the USA would not abandon Iraq or leave it without a viable government should a military invasion be necessary, but neither would it stay forever.

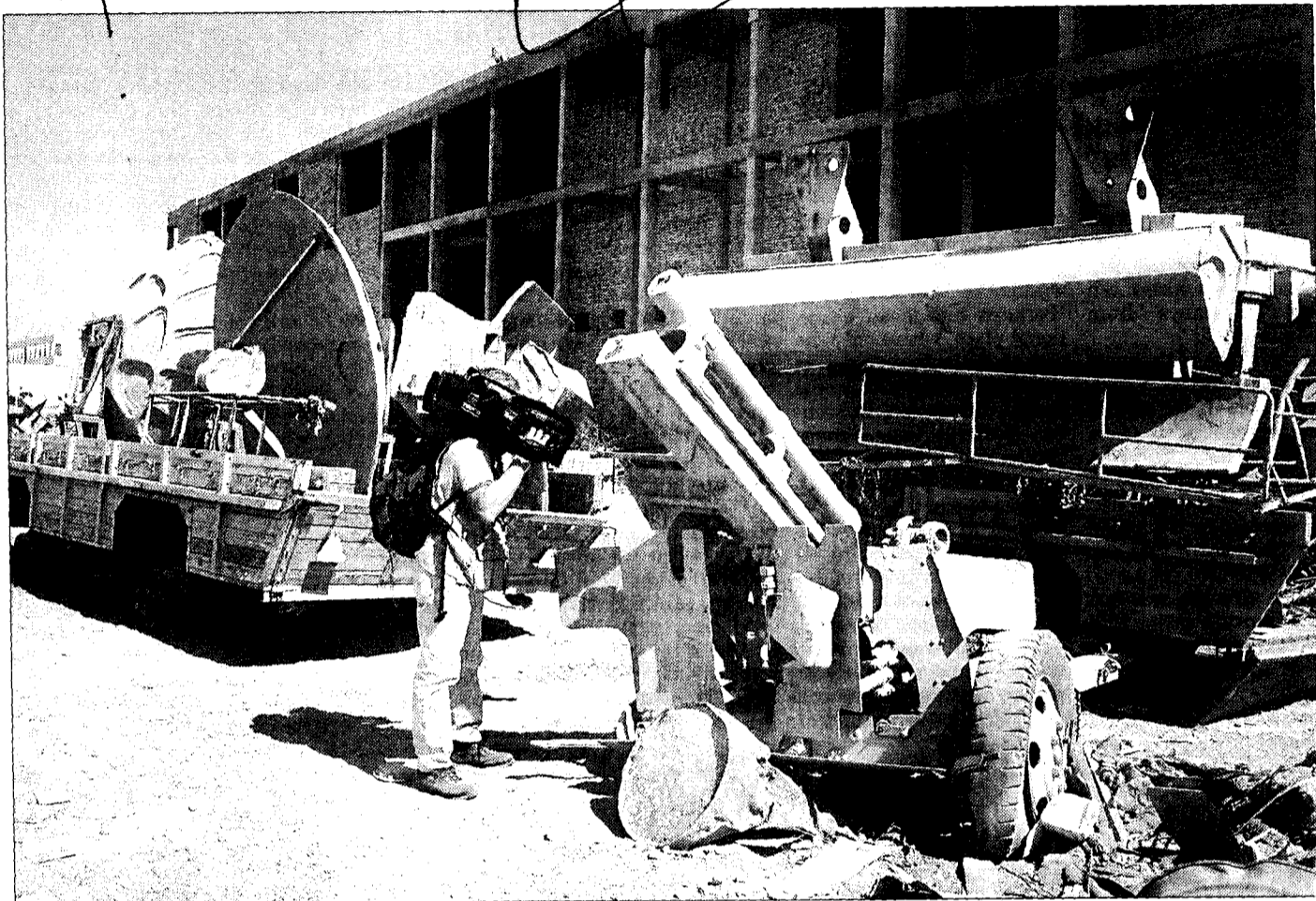
Iraqi dissidents and the Arab League have expressed dismay at US plans for postwar Iraq involving foreign military control of the country, an AP report adds from Cairo. "This is not what we were told", a leading Shiite-led Opposition group said. The group met US officials in August under the umbrella of the Iraqi National Congress, a coalition opposed to Saddam's regime.

A member of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan said from London that the idea of foreign military presence was one of the scenarios discussed with US officials. but his group, he said, rejects the idea of American invasion.

A spokesman for the 22-member Arab League said some of the latest plans and ideas coming out of Washington regarding Iraq were deplorable.

UN Security Council debate on Wednesday: The UN Security Council will hold an open debate on Wednesday on the USA seeking a new tough mandate for weapons inspectors and authorisation to use military force if Iraq obstructs their work, PTI adds from UNHQ.

Council president for the current month Ambassador Mr Martin Beling-Eboutou told newsmen after a closed



ON RECORD: A Spanish TV cameraman films destroyed military equipment during a tour organised for foreign reporters by the Iraqi press to the al-Furat site, 25 km south of Baghdad, on Saturday. Iraq says the site is used as a radar and jamming communications laboratory. The site was last visited by UN officials in July 2001. — AFP

Annan remark sparks controversy

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

UNHQ, Oct. 12. — A comment by Mr Kofi Annan to some students that UN member states favour the French position of two-resolution approach on Iraq has sparked off a controversy.

Mr Annan has tried to keep himself out of the debate on Iraq, contending that it is for the Security Council members to decide. But explaining the developments on the issue, he said: "I think the member states want a two-stage approach: Send in the inspectors (and) if they get into trouble, if it fails, come back and we will pass the second resolution." chief UN spokesperson Mr Fred Eckhard denied that Mr Annan's re-

marks signalled support of the French position. He was merely explaining to students what he saw as the current state of play in the UNSC. "I don't think he was endorsing one position or another," Mr Eckhard told newsmen.

Asked whether his remarks at least hint at his position, he said: "Not at all. I mean, it's his call on where the positions of member states now stand. I would take that as merely a factual statement as he sees it." He is rather scrupulously trying to stay out of that debate, which he sees as among governments at the highest levels, and he stays in touch with members merely to stay informed on the progress of the debate that's taking place, Mr Eckhard added.

Strawspeak

The threat of military action against Iraq is having the desired effect on Saddam, British foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said today, said an AP report from London. Mr Straw, who returned from a trip to West Asia to garner support for potential military strikes against Iraq, said Saddam's latest letter to the UN inviting weapons inspectors to return showed he was backing down and that the threat of war was receding to a degree.

"The firmer we are up front, about the fact that we will use force in Iraq if weapons inspectors are not allowed back to their job ... the more likely there is to be a peaceful resolution," he said.

door meeting last night that the decision to hold the debate, demanded by the 130-member Non-Aligned Movement, was taken unanimously. Diplomats do not expect the new resolution on Iraq, which is being negotiated in the capitals of five permanent members—US, Britain, France, Russia and China—to be introduced by then.

Dozens of ambassadors and representatives of the member states are expected to take part in the debate and voice their opinion about the US proposal which is still being discussed among the permanent members.

But diplomats think the debate will make no difference in the negotiations

in the capitals where the political decisions would be taken. France is expected to get support for its two-resolution approach— one to give new tough mandate to inspectors and another to authorise force if Iraq obstructs their work.

The inspectors are expected to ensure that Iraq does not possess any weapon mass destruction — nuclear, biological and chemical — and long-range missiles. But media reports say that the language in the compromise resolution now being negotiated would be ambiguous which would open to interpretation by the USA that it has authorisation to use force.

War crimes tribunal mooted for Saddam

Washington: The US would like to see Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein tried before a special war crimes tribunal similar to the one created following the Bosnian war, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said on Wednesday.

Asked what the US would do with Mr Hussein if they got their hands on him, Mr Fleischer said, "Like what is going on with Serbia, the international community will set up a special tribunal."

The accused of the worst human rights violations in former Yugoslavia since 1991 have been indicted by a special international war crimes tribunal in The Hague.

The international community has ratified the charter for new, permanent international criminal court, despite opposition from the US which has embarked on a mission to sign bilateral treaties with every other country in the world in order to exempt its soldiers from prosecution in the new court.

Mr Fleischer also said President George Bush would not be deterred by the CIA warning that attacking Iraq would increase the chances of Baghdad responding with chemi-

cal or biological arms. "The US cannot and will not be blackmailed by Iraq," he said, even as Mr Bush urged the the US Congress to give him far-reaching authority to wage war Mr Hussein's regime.

Meanwhile, Mr Bush and his French counterpart Jacques Chirac have agreed to try to narrow their differences on how best to disarm Mr Hussein.

"There's a mutual desire to find an agreement, find common ground on this issue and to ultimately reach an agreement," National Security spokesman Sean McCormack said on Wednesday as he detailed the 25-minute exchange over telephone.

France has been pushing for a two-stage process—the first resolution setting out tough conditions for the return of inspectors, and if necessary, a second that could threaten the use of force in the event of non-compliance. The spokesman stated that Mr Bush told Mr Chirac, "The stronger the resolution, the more likely the matter can be resolved peacefully."

Meanwhile, reports from Baghdad said a US-British air raid on Mosul province on Wednesday killed four civilians and wounded ten others.

In Germany, the US-European command said in a statement that US warplanes had bombed an air defence site in northern Iraq after being threatened by Iraqi missiles.

Agencies

Bush seeks Congress authority to disarm Iraq

Washington: US President George W. Bush has called Iraqi President Saddam Hussein "a murderous tyrant" and sought congressional authority to order unilateral US military action against Baghdad.



G.W. Bush

The main focus of Mr Bush's prime time address to the nation on Monday was that Saddam Hussein posed an immediate threat to the US as well as American lives.

Mr Bush spoke of clear evidence of Iraq maintaining weapons of mass destruction and developing nuclear weapons. "The US cannot wait for the final proof before acting to protect itself. We have every reason to assume the worst and we have an urgent duty to prevent the worst from occurring."

Speaking as the US Congress undertakes a debate on a resolution authorising military action to enforce UN Security Council demands on Iraq, Mr Bush said approval of the draft Congressional resolution backed by the White House "does not mean that military action is imminent or unavoidable".

He, however, said it would show "the UN and all nations that America speaks with one voice". Indications are that both the houses of Congress will pass the resolution by the

end of the week.

Mr Bush delivered his speech before a group of civic leaders in Cincinnati, Ohio. The address coincided with the anniversary of the first US air strikes against the Taliban and Al Qaida network in Afghanistan.

On Monday night, Mr Bush's Democratic critics in Congress said they remained unconvinced of the need to strike immediately.

As Mr Bush made his case, said *The Washington Post*, he offered little new information, borrowing phrases from his UN address last month.

Mr Bush said: "Some have argued we should wait— and that is an option. In my view it is the riskiest of all options— because the longer we wait, the stronger and bolder Saddam Hussein will become."

"We could wait and hope that Saddam does not give weapons to terrorists, or develop a nuclear weapon to blackmail the world. But I am convinced that is a hope against all evidence. Saddam Hussein must disarm himself or, for the sake of peace, we will lead a coalition to disarm him."

Mr Bush said the lives of Iraqi citizens would "improve dramatically" if Saddam Hussein were removed from power, "just as the lives of Afghanistan's citizens improved after the Taliban. America is a friend to the people of Iraq." IANS

9 OCT 2002

Disarm Iraq or face horror: Bush

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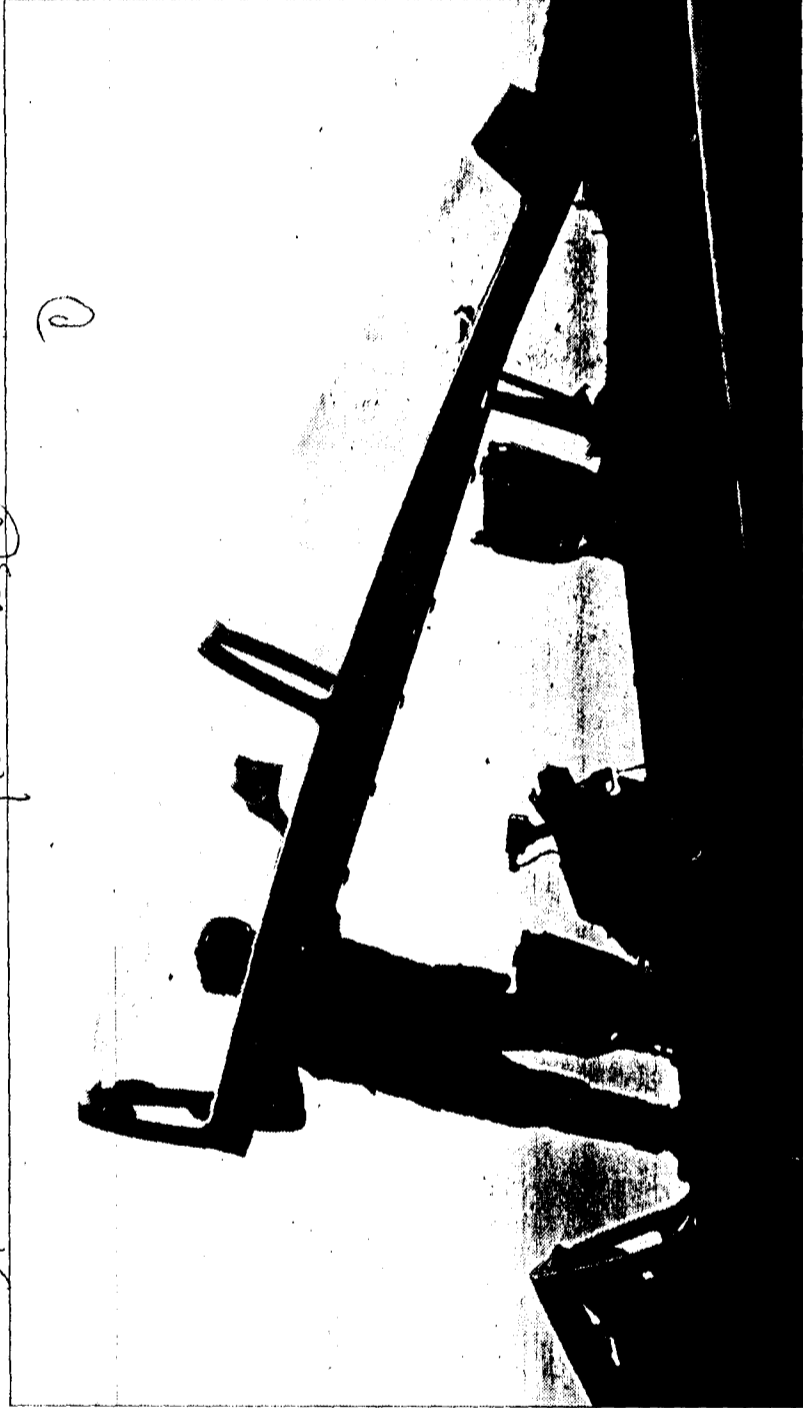
ENNEBUNKPORT (Maine), Oct. 5. - President George W. Bush today earned in his weekly radio address of Iraq "massive and sudden horror" that he could inflict if not disarmed, Bush sharpening his case against Saddam Hussein before a major speech on Monday.

In Washington, a Central Intelligence Agency report, expected to provide Mr. Bush with a justification to invade Iraq, has revealed that Baghdad has weapons of mass destruction in its arsenal and can make a nuclear bomb within a span of one year, adds PTI.

Mr. Bush put the final touches this weekend on a fifth draft of the address to be delivered in Cincinnati. The address is likely to be a national television event. The President and his aides were working on the speech from Mr. Bush's family home here.

The US President is trying to build public support for a Congressional resolution, demanding Mr. Hussein disarm Iraq or face US-led military action. He devoted a second consecutive radio address to the subject today. "The danger to America from the Iraqi regime is grave and growing... We hope Iraq complies with the world's demands. If Iraq persists in its defiance, the use of force may become unavoidable. Delay, indecision and inaction are not options for America, because they could lead to massive and sudden horror."

Mr. Bush was careful to balance his aggressive language with a passage calling for a last resort. "The USA doesn't want military conflict, because we know the awful nature of



TOP GUN: A US Marine cleans the cockpit of a F-14 'Tomcat' fighter on the deck of the nuclear-powered aircraft-carrier USS Abraham Lincoln in the Arabian Sea on Saturday. - AFP

war... we will never seek war unless it's essential to security and justice," he said. In a statement that seemed designed to rally the American people to support war, Mr. Bush said "for the sake of our freedom, for the sake of peace, if the UN doesn't take a decision, if Saddam Hussein continues to lie and deceive, the USA will lead a coalition to disarm this man before

he harms America". Since the UN's inspections ended in 1998, Iraq has maintained its chemical weapons effort, energised its missile programme and invested in biological weapons, the 23-page CIA report illustrated with maps, photographs and charts, said Iraq has continued with its weapons of mass destruction programmes in defiance of UN resolutions and restric-

tions, it said. Baghdad has chemical and biological weapons as well as missiles with ranges in excess of the 150 km UN restrictions, the report said. "If Baghdad acquires sufficient sea- and air-launched cruise missiles, it could make a nuclear weapon within a year. Without such materials from abroad, Iraq probably would not be

able to produce nuclear weapons. The report said Baghdad has renewed production of chemical warfare agents. This includes mustard gas, sarin, cyclosarin and VX, and Hussein probably has stocked a hundred metric tons of chemical warfare agents.

All key aspects - research, development and production - of Iraq's offensive biological warfare program are active and most elements are advanced than they were before Gulf War. Baghdad diverts some \$10 billion worth of aid to support military and WMD programmes, report said. Iraq's growing ability to sell oil illicitly increases its capability to finance the WMD program. Over the last four years, Baghdad's earnings from illicit oil sales are more than quadrupled to about \$1 billion this year, the report said.

Russian condemns air raids: Russia has condemned the latest US British air raids in Iraq, and Washington and London to use energies in the cause of peace, AFP from Moscow.

"Any actions that violate Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity which must be respected according to UN resolutions, are not to be allowed," the foreign ministry said statement issued yesterday. US British forces have recently stepped up their air attacks in the zones that cover large parts of northern and southern Iraq, Iraq said today that its ground defence on the US and the British warplanes which were raiding the south of the country, forcing them to "leave their bases in Kuwait."

Missile tests may fuel arms race: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 5. The Bush administration has said that it is disappointed with the missile tests taking place in South Asia and fears that a missile race would further threaten regional and international security. "I would repeat what we have said in the past, that we're disappointed that ballistic missile tests are occurring in the region. There is a charged atmosphere in the region and these tests can contribute to that atmosphere, make it harder to prevent a costly and destabilising nuclear and missile arms race. A race like that would be a further threat to regional and international security", the State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher said.

"We've continued to urge both Pakistan and India to take steps to restrain their nuclear weapon and missile programmes, including no operational deployment of nuclear armed ballistic missiles and to begin a dialogue on confidence-building measures that could reduce the likelihood that

such weapons would ever be used. This could be a part of a broader dialogue to reduce tensions in the region", Mr. Boucher added.

In Ottawa, the Canadian Foreign Minister, Bill Graham, expressed regret at Pakistan's testing of the Shaheen-1 short range ballistic missile and urged Islamabad to abide by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1172.

"Canada deeply regrets that Pakistan has once again chosen to test a ballistic missile, particularly at a time when tensions with India remain high...this exercise only serves to aggravate regional tensions and to complicate serious efforts being undertaken by the international community to find a peaceful solution to this very worrisome situation", Mr. Graham said in a statement.

Meanwhile on the ongoing violence in Kashmir, the administration has said that the attempt of the extremists to disrupt the polls in Kashmir is "absolutely unacceptable" and reiterated support for free and fair elections without outside interference

and violence. "We've always noted that elections in Kashmir alone cannot solve the problems between India and Pakistan, but they are an important step towards a broader political process. And successful elections could pave the way for early resumption of diplomatic dialogue between India and Pakistan, and we will continue to encourage that", the State Department's deputy spokesman, Philip Reeker said at the Washington Foreign Press Centre.

On the infiltration, Mr. Reeker took the position that he did not have "any particular new information to share", in the process making the point that infiltrations were continuing at lower levels than earlier this year. "...following President Musharraf's assurances in May that support for infiltration across the Line of Control would be ended permanently, infiltration did decrease and there have been indications that it is continuing. It is, we believe, at lower levels than earlier this year. We obviously continue to monitor that very closely", the senior State Department official said.

INDO

6 OCT 2002

A 31-page document, "The National Security Strategy for the United States", recently submitted by President George W Bush to the Congress, has received much attention. In that document, the Bush administration asserts that "to counter a sufficient threat to our national security...to forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act pre-emptively".

America's assertion that it can and will use military action pre-emptively has been discussed - though not as widely as it should have been - in the USA; it has been criticised in nations all over the globe. The central concern of discussion and criticism has been on the unvarnished declaration that the USA is willing and ready to use its position as the lone superpower in the world to intervene - or invade - militarily whenever it believes its national security is threatened.

The Bush doctrine not only accepts pre-emptive military action, it raises it to the level of national policy. Multilateral support is no longer necessary: America will act whenever it decides it is in its interest to do so. The precedent this sets is, of course, a deeply unnerving prospect for future world affairs. If the USA can send its military into any nation which it perceives as a threat, then Russian use similar justification to send troops into Georgia in pursuit of Chechen rebels. China can invade Taiwan to assert its sovereignty over "Chinese" territory. Pakistan or India can cross the Line of Control and annex all of Kashmir in the name of "national security".

The reasoning behind pre-emption, which ignores national sovereignty, international law, and multinational negotiation, is at its base an assertion of American imperialism. The Bush doctrine envisions a world in which an American President can send troops where he wishes, when he wishes, for whatever purpose he wishes, as long as he maintains that American security would be imperilled by inaction.

None of this is news to most people concerned with international affairs. But what has remained unexplored are the economic reverberations of the Bush doctrine. A careful reading of the National Security Strategy document reveals an economic dimension that is deeply unsettling. But so shocking was the general purport of the document - unilateral, pre-emptive military action - that remarkably few people have read the remainder of the document with care.

The first sentence of the document insists, with certainty, that there is "a single sustainable model for national success: freedom, democracy, and free enterprise".

Freedom and democracy are widely embraced as essential constituents of a fully mature state. But free enterprise? Much of the world's population would not calmly accept that free enterprise is the only route by which one can build and sustain a nation. Socialism, Communism, managed economies; collectives, cooperatives, social investment, socially determined and imposed limitations on "free" enterprise: all of these have credence as sensible alternatives to the unfettered free market and unregulated free trade.

One should not quickly pass over this remarkable opening sentence. In it, the American President's assertion that a country cannot succeed without free enterprise stands revealed as a cornerstone of his thinking.

Noisome angle to Bush doctrine

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Free enterprise is so deeply entrenched in his thinking that he insists that the future foreign and military strategy of the USA will be based on the need to coerce - or if necessary bludgeon - nations into compliance with America's positions on free enterprise and free trade.

The new policy is not, if one looks at it closely, merely intended to make America safe from terrorists; it is a policy which seeks to make capitalism safe from citizen opposition or government intervention. A century ago an American President, Woodrow Wilson, declared he wanted to "make the world safe for democracy". Mr Bush wants to make the world safe for multinational corporations - and wealthy individuals.

In the aftermath of 11 September, Mr Bush proclaims in the security strategy document, that "the United States will work to bring the hope of democracy, development, free markets, and free trade to every corner of the world". This, he declares, will be a "distinctly American internationalism that reflects the union of our values and our national interests". He conveniently ignores the fact that, in the economic realm, even within America there is vigorous discussion and dissension about just what "our" values, and "our" national interests, are.

Al Gore, one recalls, received more votes in the last presidential election than Mr Bush. Or, to take another example, poll after poll reveals that few in the USA share Mr Bush's conviction that lowering taxes on the wealthy is a national interest. (Indeed, lowering taxes on the wealthy all over the world is a cornerstone of the new American security policy - but more on that, later.) In his new model for American international relations, Mr Bush states that one of the "non-negotiable demands of human dignity" is a "respect for private property". So much for socialism, or even the concept of government taxation of individual wealth.

Buried deep in the document, in a section given a title better suited to a religious tract or trade magazine for CEOs, "Ignite a New Era of Global Economic

Growth through Free Markets and Free Trade", are seven aims which America will use its might to enforce. Several of these goals are so reasonable they would elicit worldwide assent, goals such as ensuring the rule of law, investing in health and education, and ending corruption.

Others are not so benign, nor the subject of any sort of international consensus. These goals seem to aim at making the world safe for multinational corporations. The document speaks of assuring that legal and

The new US foreign policy goes far beyond tackling terrorism. It proposes that compliance with conservative, market-oriented economic values and programmes is necessary for national security, writes HUCK GUTMAN

regulatory policies encourage "business investment and entrepreneurial activity" and requiring that national fiscal policies "support business activity".

More ominous among the goals is the insistence on free trade, an insistence that, in the context of the document, suggests that any nation that wishes to set rules or boundaries on its penetration by international trade and international capital is a threat to American national security.

Every nation must remain open to the needs of international capital - and specifically, American investment. The complex matrix of the Bush policy depends in the final - or even the not-so-final - instance on American pre-emptive military action. Should a nation oppose free trade, either by protection of its own industries

and markets, or by placing limits on investment from abroad, American might may be brought to bear against that nation. Not just financial muscle, but military muscle as well.

But most egregious of the economic conditions that Mr Bush propounds as the basis of American security is his insistence on "tax policies - particularly lower marginal tax rates - that improve incentives for work and investment". The language he uses resounds powerfully to the wealthy of the world, while sounding like economic jargon to the majority of humankind. Mr Bush's policy is clear to those in the know, and hidden from most others.

What does an American foreign policy that insists on "lower marginal tax rates" mean? The answer is breathtaking. Mr Bush is announcing, to the US Congress and to governments around the world that it is henceforward necessary to the national security of the USA for every nation to reduce taxes on wealthy citizens, domestic corporations, and multinational corporations and banks.

"Lower marginal tax rates" is the code by which people of influence tell each other that they are opposed to progressive taxation. It signals an implacable opposition to any policy which would ask that wealthy individuals pay a greater percentage of their income in taxes than low-earning workers' pay. The code also asserts that corporations should pay taxes at a rate no higher than the most indigent worker in society. "Lower marginal tax rates" means that progressive taxation should be diminished or abolished.

Thus, the "respect for private property" which Mr Bush presents as a keystone of America's international agenda does not mean, as might at first appear, a respect for families of modern means who own their own flat, or a commitment to small-scale farmers to continue to own their own land. What Mr Bush is propounding is that those who amass a great deal of property - the wealthy and the powerful - should be able to keep their property.

It appears that when a government

decides to redistribute even a modest portion of its society's wealth from the rich to the poor, by means of tax policy, its actions are inimical to US security.

One of the fundamental purposes of government is to help distribute the resources of a society so that all citizens can have food, housing, health care, access to education. Taxation is a government's primary means for distributing - and redistributing - these resources. In fact, taxation is the only way, short of property seizure, to redistribute wealth and income. Such taxation and the social redistribution it enables or precludes is the concern of each autonomous government and its citizens - not of the USA.

The Bush administration's representation that American security requires the use of military force and economic coercion to assure that countries do not tax corporations and their wealthy citizens more than minimal amounts, that nations do not redistribute wealth or income through the tax system, is outrageous.

"This administration's goal is to help unleash the productive potential of individuals in all nations. Sustained growth and poverty reduction is impossible without the right national policies," states the document, with no reluctance to spell out what those right national policies are. "Governments must...follow responsible economic policies and enable entrepreneurship. Free markets and free trade are key priorities of our national security strategy."

While addressing the very real problem of terrorism, the new American foreign policy goes far beyond that issue. It proposes nothing less than that compliance with conservative, market-oriented economic values and programmes is necessary for national security.

It implies that American troops and military material will enforce each nation's compliance with the agenda of the multinational corporations: free trade, free movement of capital, defence of private property and its inalienable rights, and ever lower taxes on the wealthy and powerful.

(Huck Gutman, who teaches at the University of Vermont, was a Fulbright Visiting Professor at Calcutta University.)

U.S. official in N. Korea for talks

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 3. Even as Japan today indicated its intention to stay the course and resume normalisation talks with North Korea before the end of this month, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, James Kelly, arrived in Pyongyang for highly sensitive talks.

While the mood in the American camp is indicative of the seriousness of the in-camera discussions that Mr. Kelly is likely to hold with his North Korean hosts, the authorities in Pyongyang are reported to have confirmed his arrival by underlining his perceived status as a special envoy from the U.S. President, George W. Bush.

These talks, which might last until Saturday, are in stark contrast to Mr. Bush's manner of dealing with Iraq which figures alongside North Korea and Iran in his map of an "axis of evil". Mr. Kelly's mandate is not only to pry open a critical compo-

ment of the alleged "axis of evil" but also to do so in a manner that would not deflect Washington from its present priorities on the international stage. The check list for Mr. Kelly's diplomatic mission ranges from North Korea's presumptive nuclear weaponisation programme to its suspected missile-proliferation activities and the prospects of a renewed diplomatic engagement between the U.S. and the Stalinist state. Of relevance to such a sweeping agenda is the new beginning that North Korea has made in recent weeks in its interactions with Japan and South Korea.

Mr. Kelly is the highest ranking American diplomat to engage North Korea since the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, entered into a brief conversation with the North Korean Foreign Minister, Paek Nam-sun, in what was described as "coffee diplomacy" on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum meeting in Brunei last July. A

previous Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, had travelled to Pyongyang in the first high-profile encounter of the diplomatic kind between the two sides since the end of the Korean War about half a century ago. Mrs. Albright had held talks with the North Korean leader, Kim Jong-il.

While Mr. Kelly's mission is considered significant as Mr. Bush's alternative strategy in dealing with a power in the "axis of evil", the regional mood has favoured his tour in a manner that would have been unthinkable just a few months ago. This was underscored by Tokyo's decision to resume normalisation talks with Pyongyang despite the continuing sense of dismay in Japan over the treatment of its nationals who were kidnapped by North Korea at the height of the Cold War. The new mood of positivism in the inter-Korean exchanges in recent weeks has also served to define the Kelly mission.

4 OCT 2002

THE HINDU

Treat pre-emption with great caution: Rice

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 3. At a time when there has been a lot of talk and debate in the United States and elsewhere on the so-called "new" doctrine of pre-emption, the President's National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice, has warned that the approach to pre-emption has to be dealt with a great deal of caution.

"... This approach must be treated with great caution. The number of cases in which it might be justified will always be small," Dr. Rice remarked. "It does not give a green light — to the United States or any other nation — to act first without exhausting other means, including diplomacy," she argued. Dr. Rice made her comments while delivering the 2002 Wriston Lecture at The Manhattan Institute for Policy Research on Tuesday. Among other things, she talked of the challenges and opportunities of not only the post-Cold War era but more immediately of the post-September 11, 2001 tragedy that hit America by way of terrorist attacks.

"Pre-emptive action does not come at the beginning of a long chain of effort. The threat must be very grave. And the risks of waiting must far outweigh the risks of action," Dr. Rice argued stressing that there was nothing new in this doctrine of pre-emption.

"Pre-emption is not a new concept. There has never been a moral or legal requirement that a country wait to be attacked before it can address existential

threats ... The United States has long affirmed the right to anticipatory self-defence — from the Cuban missile crisis in 1962 to the Korean Peninsula in 1994," she said.

"The national security strategy does not overturn five decades of doctrine and jettison either containment or deterrence," Dr. Rice argued.

She also mentioned about India and Pakistan and Kashmir, although these were not the central themes of her address in New York. Rather, it was in the context of the evolving international situation in the post-9/11 phase and in the positive falouts of great power cooperation to regional conflicts. "...

since September 11, all the world's great powers see themselves as falling on the same side of a profound divide between the forces of chaos and order and they are acting accordingly," Dr. Rice remarked, going on to say, "The U.S. is also cooperating with India across a range of issues — even as we work closely with Pakistan."

After discussing the kind of cooperation the U.S. has had with Russia and China, Dr. Rice commented on the meaning of this to the different problematic regions of the world.

"The confluence of common interests and increasingly common values creates a moment of enormous opportunities. In-

stead of repeating the historic pattern where great power rivalry exacerbates local conflicts, we can use great power cooperation to solve conflicts, from the Middle East to Kashmir, Congo and beyond," Dr. Rice observed.

At the White House, the spokesman, Ari Fleischer, denied that the Bush administration was opening the doors of arms sale to Pakistan including the F16s; and argued that the President would remain focussed on the "existing problems" between India and Pakistan "which is a focus that this administration has repeatedly made and will continue to make, because it's a priority".

4 OCT 2002

THE HINDU

Bush wins Iraq fight at home

IRWIN ARIEFF
UNITED NATIONS, OCTOBER 3

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush won domestic endorsement of his anti-Iraq campaign on Wednesday but faced stiff Opposition at the UN to a draft resolution paving the way for possible war.

Diplomats at the UN said France, one of five permanent Security Council members with veto power, had threatened to push its own resolution on Iraq if Washington introduced its current tough proposals without any compromise.

In Paris, President Jacques Chirac and visiting German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder said there was common ground between their positions on Iraq, which contrast starkly with the intervention advocated by Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Canada hardened its line against a unilateral US strike on Iraq, saying Washington had no right to take action that could destabilise large parts of the world. But Moscow signalled a slight shift toward Washington when Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said he would consider backing new UN resolutions if UN weapons inspectors needed them.

Iraqi Deputy PM Tareq Aziz repeated Baghdad's rejection of the US draft resolution, which demands Iraq open every inch of its territory to inspectors or face swift attack. "This proposal of the US is unacceptable, it's unacceptable by the Security Council because there is no need for a new resolution," Aziz told a news conference in Turkey.

Bush and leaders of the US House of Representatives closed ranks on



Congressional leaders surround President George W. Bush as he speaks from the Rose Garden of the White House on Wednesday. Negotiators in the US House of Representatives reached agreement on a resolution authorising use of military force against Iraq. Reuters

Wednesday behind the possible use of military force. Leaders of both parties in the House agreed on a draft resolution that would allow Bush to use force "as he determines to be necessary and appropriate" to defend US National security and enforce all relevant UN Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq.

"In Baghdad, the regime will know that full compliance with all UN Security (Council) demands is the only choice, and the time remaining for that choice is limited," Bush said.

But a key Security Council diplomat said France wanted some of the "wilder" provisions taken out of the new US text before it is introduced. The Bush administration has hesitated in introducing to

the council its draft resolution, which allows a UN member to determine if Iraq has violated UN demands and follow up with military action.

Chirac reaffirmed that France would reject any resolution seen paving the way for a possible military action but kept its options open if Baghdad blocked arms inspections. He added: "France ... reaffirms that, like Germany, it thinks only the Security Council has the capacity to determine military action."

Schroeder quashed speculation he would set about softening the German position once back in power. "We defined our position before the election. After the election in Germany, nothing has changed," Schroeder said after his

Clinton cautions against pre-emptive strike

■ BLACKPOOL: Former US president Bill Clinton on Wednesday warned his successor of "unwelcome consequences" if President Bush launched a pre-emptive military strike against Iraq. Speaking to a British Labour Party conference here, Clinton criticised the administration's foreign policy while endorsing the goal of compelling Iraq to disarm. "A pre-emptive action today, however justified, may come back with unwelcome consequences in the future," Clinton said. "I have done this — I've ordered this kind of action," said Clinton of a military attack. "I don't care how precise your bombs and weapons are, when you set them off innocent people will die." The former president also criticised the administration for rejecting the 1997 Kyoto agreement and the new International Criminal Court to try alleged war criminals. — Reuters

talks with Chirac. Of the five permanent Security Council members, only Britain has so far signed up to the US Draft.

Russia's Ivanov, indicating a possible shift towards accepting a new resolution, said: "If any extra resolutions are required for the effective work of the inspectors we, of course, are ready to consider them."

But he said the Security Council could pass additional resolutions only after it had heard a report from Chief UN Weapons Inspector Hans Blix, set for Thursday. In Ottawa, Foreign Minister Bill Graham said while the UN charter allowed one nation to launch a pre-emptive strike against another, such an attack on Iraq could not be justified. — Reuters

4 OCT 2002

U.S. move upsets Malaysia ^{WSN} ^{S. S. Anni}

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, OCT. 2. The simmering anger in some critical parts of South-East Asia over the current trends in the U.S.-led campaign against international terrorism has been given a new sense of direction in Malaysia as also Indonesia.

However, the U.S.' response has given rise to much speculation within the Asia Pacific diplomatic circles that America is eager to initiate damage-control measures.

The U.S. Ambassador to Indonesia, Ralph L. Boyce, today called on the Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, in Jakarta. Indonesia's version was that the President received the American envoy for talks under the auspices of an organising committee that was mandated to improve Jakarta's relationship with Washington. However, the meeting took place amid a rising tide of dismay within Indonesia over certain aspects of the U.S. campaign.

Almost coincidentally, Ms. Megawati

held talks with a special envoy from Iraq's leader, Saddam Hussein.

The more immediate cause for concern in both Indonesia and Malaysia, prominent members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, flows from the latest announcement of a new U.S. National Security Entry-Exit Registration System for anti-terror purposes.

The system, as seen in the two Muslim-majority states, might be used discriminately against their nationals as regards such aspects as the finger-printing of visitors to the U.S. The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, told reporters in Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday that he was 'upset' over the new U.S. rules as also the Canadian move to bring Malaysians under a visa regime. However, Mr. Mahathir indicated that he would refrain from complaining to the countries concerned.

Hinting that his stand was oriented towards seeking solutions rather than raising confrontational stakes, the Malaysian lead-

er quipped that he was not a terrorist to have been treated in the manner that he was during his recent stop-over in the U.S.

The Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister, Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, said that Kuala Lumpur was quite helpless in trying to change the new immigration regulations of the U.S. or Canada. However, he noted, "We have already said from the start that we do not like to be discriminated (against)."

He said the Mahathir administration had told the West not to count Malaysia among those considered to be terrorist nations.

It is in this context that the authorities in Kuala Lumpur today took note of Washington's apparent move to mollify the ruffled feelings of the two Malaysian leaders, both of whom felt insulted over the way they were subjected to American security checks that transgressed the courtesies due to them.

In Indonesia, the Megawati Sukarnoputri administration announced its intention to enact a new anti-terror legislation.

US IMPERIALISM

In The Name Of Peace US Wants Global Dominance

By HARSH V PANT

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International Politics is passing through a period of momentous transformation and it will be sometime before the final outcome becomes comprehensible. However, one thing is clear, the world will never be the same again.

And the country that is responsible for this all pervasive transformation is, of course, the ubiquitous United States of America. Who else, one should ask, has the kind of capabilities to make a fundamental restructuring in global politics possible? But the issue is no longer about capabilities. It is now about the intention of the US, which, as it has declared in its recently released National Security Strategy, is to create a balance of power that favours human freedom by defending, preserving, and extending peace. The US is trying to achieve in the name of peace what the world wars and international conflicts achieved in the last two centuries, namely a radical transformation in global politics in favour of the dominant power.

Harsh reality

It was very clear after the end of the Cold War that the US was not only the only remaining superpower but also the only "comprehensive global superpower." However, it was increasingly reluctant to intervene in world affairs and isolationist forces were gaining an upper hand in domestic politics. In fact, as a presidential candidate, Bush called for becoming more isolationist. What was conveniently forgotten in this debate was that not only was it extremely difficult for the US to completely disengage itself from global affairs given the range and breadth of its interests but also even if the US would like to, the world would not let it go so quietly.

The attacks on the US on 11 September, 2001 came as a grim reminder of this harsh reality and the US woke up to a rather disconcerting fact that it would be foolhardy to even think of a "splendid isolation". After fifty years of rummaging through the nook and corner of this world in pursuit of global superiority vis-à-vis the Soviet Union, the US had made enough enemies that would make sure that the US remains engaged in tackling them in the foreseeable future.

And so started a process of redefining the interests and priorities of the US foreign policy that culminated in laying out what may be the boldest restatement of US

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national security strategy in half a century. The previous foundations of US strategy, deterrence and containment, have been given a rather undignified burial in favour of a more muscular strategy of attacking potential enemies before they strike. And for this it has been argued that the US must maintain unchallenged military superiority so as to be able to win the fight against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, that are seen as the greatest threat to the US national security. It has also been made clear that the US has an unparalleled responsibility to extend the benefits of liberty

threat of the US.

France and Russia were also served an indirect ultimatum about their dealings with Iraq. They have been using the UN to pursue their naked self-interests and had been covertly supporting Saddam's regime. However, the US pressure has worked. After some cribbing they have fallen in line and would be behind US should the need for military action arise. France is using this opportunity to come close to the US, alarmed at the level of anti-French bashing in America. And Russia is looking for some gains nearer home. Putin has made it clear that



and prosperity through the spread of American values and tangible rewards for good governance.

What the US has done now, however, is merely to make explicit a tactic that every administration has contemplated in contingency planning but few have applied. The right to strike first has long been an essential part of the US foreign policy. The difference was that when the US launched pre-emptive wars in the past, it did so covertly, as in Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, and Chile in 1973. But now as the US plans its next war against Iraq, it is explicitly making its case on its right to strike first.

Mending fences

The first casualty of this new phase in international politics has been the United Nations (UN). The US made it clear to this much-maligned organisation that either it will have to act fast on Iraq and get its resolutions enforced or else the UN would be bypassed and the US would act alone if need be. The UN is trying hard to resurrect its credibility but it is anybody's guess at the moment as to what has brought Saddam Hussein to the negotiating table, at least for the moment: the multilateral framework of the UN or the unilateral

Russia would also be justified in launching attacks on Chechen rebels who seek refuge in neighbouring Georgia. But ultimately it knows that it all depends on how far the US would be willing to go with such demands.

Germany, on the other hand, has emerged as the only prominent European country to make it absolutely clear that it will not favour any military action against Iraq, even if authorised by the UN. But it has more to do with domestic politics where Schroeder was able to get some more votes by taking a strong anti-US posture. Once the dust of election settles down, he will have to get back to the real world and start mending fences with the US. In the meantime, it can conveniently forget its permanent seat at the UN Security Council.

Interesting case is China that has maintained a studied silence. It is still quietly reaping the benefits of supporting the US war on terrorism by coming down heavily on the Islamic extremist groups operating within its territory without any international hue and cry. And it also seems clear that it will have little objection to the US parading its military might in the Gulf. But it will not do so without extracting a suitable price from the US.

The greatest impact of the new US thinking, without any doubt, is going to be in the Arab world. And this is probably what the US administration intends after all. The regime change in Iraq will be the beginning of a long and arduous process whereby the US would like to create the conditions for the long-delayed political and social reform in the region. Of course, the US would also like to acquire dominance over the energy markets so as to be able to reduce its energy and security dependence on Saudi Arabia that is increasingly seen as rather volatile by the US.

Predominant position

Today, the US is extending its military presence across the world, from South Asia to the Gulf and further in Africa in the name of its war on terrorism. But it is not merely a short-term tactic to destroy terrorist networks. It is part of a well-planned long term strategy whereby the US wants to maintain and expand its predominant position of unparalleled military strength and great economic and political influence. And it will do its best not to allow any rival power to challenge its might. That's how great powers throughout history have behaved and the US is no exception. It is in this respect the strategy of the US to reshape the contours of the global politics deserves a much closer scrutiny than India seems ready to do at the moment.

While the world is changing rapidly around India, the Indian Prime Minister is busy making his rather irrelevant trip to Maldives and making inconsequential statements on Pakistan. When the world was trying to respond to the US challenge to the international community on Iraq, India was busy trying to score debating points over Pakistan's nonsensical diatribe at the UN. While it is clear that there is little India can do to influence global events, it still needs to adjust itself to changing global realities, making sure that its strategic interests are being well-served. The last time changes of such enormity shook global politics was after the end of the Cold War. However, then we had Narasimha Rao who so deftly aligned Indian interests with the changed international realities. But now we have a Prime Minister who has all but abdicated control over important issues to a Deputy who is busy giving certificates of good conduct to those who are a shame of India.

What we need today is a leadership that is able to identify India's strategic interests clearly and tries to achieve them by navigating skillfully through these turbulent times.

USA wins little UN support

Associated Press

LONDON, Oct. 2. — The USA and Britain appeared to win little support from other countries today for their demand that the UN back up its new agreement with Iraq on weapons inspections with a threat of force if Mr Saddam Hussein doesn't comply.

Yesterday, Baghdad agreed to allow UN weapons inspectors to return to Iraq for the first time in nearly four years, but the deal ignored US demands for access to Mr Hussein's palaces and other contested sites.

The chief UN inspector, Mr Hans Blix, said an advance team of inspectors could be in Iraq in two weeks if it gets the go-ahead from the Security Council. But the USA and Britain said the inspections first need new ground rules and a UN Security Council resolution spelling out the consequences if Iraq does not abide by them.

The British foreign secretary, Mr Jack Straw, today said the inspectors must be allowed into presidential

Allied planes strike radar in south Iraq

WASHINGTON, Oct. 2. — Warplanes from the US-British coalition have struck an Iraqi mobile radar in southern Iraq as they patrolled a no-fly zone, the US Central Command announced today. The planes, taking part in Operation Southern Watch, used precision-guided munitions to strike the radar spotted near the town of Al Kut, about 160 km southeast of Baghdad, late yesterday. — AFP

palaces, which he called vast sites where Iraq has manufactured weapons of mass destruction.

Alleging that the Iraqi President was untrustworthy, Mr Straw said the Security Council must spell out "what the consequences will be ... if he continues to play games, as he has done so over the past four years."

In Washington, the US secretary of

state, Mr Colin Powell said: "Everybody understands that the old inspection regime did not work since Mr Hussein and his government tied it up in knots."

But France, Russia and China have resisted US-British demands that a new resolution include provisions for a military response. Today there was little sign of change in that divide.

In Moscow, the Russian foreign ministry said it greeted the new UN weapons inspections agreement "with satisfaction".

At the UN, France is pushing a draft proposal of a Security Council resolution that leaves out any threat of consequences. "Any serious failure by Iraq to comply with its obligations" would lead to an immediate Security Council meeting to consider measures "to ensure full compliance", the proposal says.

There was no immediate reaction from China. Beijing has said the problem must be resolved through "political channels".

Washington incurs world hatred: Saddam

Agence France Presse

BAGHDAD, Oct. 2. — Mr Saddam Hussein has warned Washington that its defiance of world opinion will only make the USA more hated and ultimately bring disaster, whatever its military strength.

"The USA faces a choice, either continue down the same road or face up to the question posed by several

American politicians — why are we so hated," the Iraqi President told his Cabinet. "USA will not succeed so long as it defies the entire world, whatever its power."

"What they are doing now will not succeed. Any country, however strong, will inevitably weaken if they take on the whole international community.

"The interests of the American people lie in

peaceful relations with other countries," he said, urging Washington to "behave with respect for others".

"What is the meaning of this new policy of launching preemptive strikes on the basis of presumptions?" He accused Washington of trying to make itself the world's "policeman, prosecutor, judge and executioner".

"Iraq has accepted the return of inspectors, but they

continue to beat the drums of war, to spread lies and press the Security Council to adopt new resolutions in violation of international law." The Iraqi president said the only interests served by current US policy were those of archfoe Israel.

"Right now the world is being distracted by their warlike statements about Iraq and is paying little attention to Israel's crimes."

✓ 1191 ✓ 'Designate India, Pak. as countries of particular concern'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 1. The United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) has recommended that the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, designate India, along with others, as "Countries of Particular Concern" under the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998.

This is the first time that the Commission has asked the Secretary of State to designate India, along with Pakistan and Vietnam, as Countries of Particular Concern. A total of 12 countries, including Iran, Iraq, China, North Korea and Sudan, are in this list.

In a damning indictment, the Commission argued that despite India's democratic traditions, religious minorities had periodically been subjected to severe violence, including mass killings. "Those responsible for the violence were rarely ever held to account".

The Commission, in its section on India, was specific in saying that it was becoming increasingly clear that "an in-

crease in such violence has coincided with the rise in political influence of groups associated with the Sangh Parivar, a collection of Hindu extremist nationalist organisations that views non-Hindus as foreign to India and hence deserving of attack". The USCIRF made the point that with the rise in power of the Sangh Parivar's political wing — BJP — "the climate of immunity for the perpetrators of attacks on minorities appears to have strengthened". The Commission broadly described the attacks on minorities in India since 1998 and spoke of mob violence targeted against Christians and Muslims.

"Although the BJP-led Central Government may not be directly responsible for instigating the violence against religious minorities, it is clear that the Government is not doing all that it could do to pursue the perpetrators of the attacks and to counteract the prevailing climate of hostility against these minority groups," it said.

"Though the severe violence in Gujarat provided the national government with adequate

grounds — under the Constitution and existing laws to counteract communal violence — to invoke Central rule in the State, the BJP Government did not do so, despite many requests and the fact that the killing of Muslims continued (on a lesser scale) for many weeks."

In acknowledging "some positive steps" taken by the Central Government, the Commission took note of the developments in the State since July, including the dissolution of the Assembly in Gujarat, the call for elections and the Election Commission's recommendation for Central rule in the State.

Under the law, the President must take specific actions, ranging from diplomatic demarche to economic sanctions, against countries designated as such.

The International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 "requires the U.S. to oppose these egregious and systematic violations, whether the government itself commits them or tolerates them. We hope to see actions commensurate with the severity of these abuses," said the Commission Chair, Felice Gaer.

Iraq part of U.S. grand strategy in West Asia

By Atul Aneja

MANAMA (BAHRAIN), SEPT. 30. In its on-going effort to justify a war with Iraq, the Bush administration is trying to set the stage for promoting two of its core strategic objectives in the region, analysts in the region say.

Security analysts in Iraq's neighbourhood are increasingly veering round to the view that the U.S. exertions in Iraq are the centrepiece of changing the geopolitical map in the region in its favour. Washington's first core objective, by unleashing and winning a war, they say, is to make Iraqi territory the springboard for acquiring complete political dominance of the resource rich region.

One view that is gaining salience here is that the U.S. may have already decided on the broad contours of a Washington-

ton-friendly regime in Baghdad after the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, is unseated. While the details of this plan may not have yet been fully defined, the effort is likely to revolve around the resurrection of the remnants of the Iraqi royalty that was violently ousted in 1958. Iraq at one time was ruled by one branch of the Hashemite dynasty that is currently positioned in neighbouring Jordan.

The London-based Al-Sharif Ali bin Hussein, who has a Hashemite lineage and who is the maternal cousin of Iraq's former monarch, King Faisal, is currently the focus of attention in Britain and the United States. In London, Mr. Hussein leads the Constitutional Monarchy Movement (CMM) for Iraq since 1990. The Hashemite angle to the post-Saddam disposition in Iraq was also evident

when Prince Hussein, the uncle of Jordan's King Abdullah, attended a conference of Iraq's military opposition groups in London this summer.

Strategic forecasters in the region anticipate that the resurrection of a Hashemite rule in Baghdad is likely to be part of a larger political change in the region. Jordan's merger with Iraq in the future is not ruled out, though the possibility of the formation of a Jordan-Iraq confederation under the two branches of the Hashemite dynasty is more likely. The status of Southern Iraq that is dominated by Iraqi Shias who comprise nearly half of the country's population is also under serious debate.

Basra in Southern Iraq, that is increasingly the focus of U.S. and British air raids, is at the head of the Persian Gulf and is at the heart of Iraq's oil indus-

try. There is considerable speculation among the Arab intelligentsia that a new political arrangement between Kuwait and parts of Southern Iraq after Mr. Hussein is out of the picture may be on the cards. Analysts point out that U.S. consolidation in Iraq is likely to be the first step that would put countries such as Iran on notice. The new U.S. doctrine of pre-emptive intervention that allows the use of force against emerging threats can be invoked for this purpose.

According to diplomatic sources, Iran's association with the militant group Hezbollah that is widely accused of launching terror attacks can, in the future, be cited to justify a more assertive U.S. approach towards Teheran.

Control over oil prices appears to be the second core ob-

jective of Washington's grand strategy in the region. That means breaking the backbone of the Saudi Arabia-dominated oil cartel OPEC that has favoured keeping oil prices at a high between \$22 and \$28 dollars a barrel. But by finding access to Iraqi oil, and with Russia already emerging as a major oil supplier, the U.S. would be much better positioned to combat the OPEC by controlling oil supplies and prices.

Iraqi oil, however, is unlikely to flood the international market immediately. It is likely to take at least four to five years before Iraqi oil infrastructure is brought into shape, allowing Baghdad to push in supplies to around five million barrels per day, that along with Russia's around eight million barrels per day, could bring down energy prices significantly.

US aircraft strike Basra again

57-3
SPP

Associated Press

BAGHDAD, Sept. 29. — Iraq said a US airstrike hit a radar system at its airport in the southern city of Basra early today, the second attack there in three days.

A spokesman for the ministry of transport and communications said the attack took place at 00:45 a.m. (local time). The announcement over Radio Baghdad did not mention casualties.

It said the strike caused further damage to buildings at the airport, some 550 km south of Baghdad.

The past week has been a heavy one for US strikes on Iraq as part of routine patrols of the so-called no-fly zones, with the bombing punctuated by increasingly warlike rhetoric from Washington which has accused Mr Saddam Hussain of stockpiling weapons of mass destruction and harbouring terrorists.

The Iraqi government termed the strike a "terrorist act" that "proves once again the determination of the evil US administration to continue its aggressive trend against our people".

Yesterday, Iraq rejected a US-British plan for a new UN resolution that appeared designed to force the Iraqi President into a corner.

The USA and Britain lobbied for Russian and French support for a resolution calling on Iraq to reveal all materials relating to weapons of mass destruction and to give UN weapons inspectors unfettered access to presidential sites.

If Mr Hussain fails to comply, the resolution would threaten the use of "all necessary means" against

him, US officials said.

Baghdad announced on 16 September that inspectors could return unconditionally under previous UN resolutions. Iraqi officials have said they would reject any new Security Council demands. "Our position on the inspection has been decided and any additional procedure is meant to hurt Iraq and is unacceptable," the Iraqi Vice-President, Mr Taha Yassin Ramadan said yesterday when asked about the new resolution the USA and Britain are drafting.

'The raid proves Washington's determination to continue its aggressive trend'

Paris and Moscow, who can veto any resolution as fellow permanent members of the Security Council, showed no signs of agreeing to the US-British proposal. They along with China, the fifth permanent

member, oppose a resolution that would threaten force before inspectors returned to Baghdad.

The Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Tariq Aziz yesterday said his country would fight fiercely if attacked and warned that the USA would suffer losses "that have not been sustained for decades".

Yesterday the White House accused the Iraqi President of stalling "so he can build up his arms".

The standoff has focused new attention on patrols by US and British warplanes over swaths of southern and northern Iraq declared off-limits to the Iraqi military since shortly after the Gulf War to protect restive Shiite and Kurdish Iraqis.

On Friday, allied aircraft enforcing the "no-fly" zone hit a surface-to-air missile control radar and a surface-to-air missile launcher near Jalil, southeast of Baghdad, and an air defense operations center near Amara.

Israel begins withdrawal

RAMALLAH (WEST BANK), SEPT. 29. Responding to U.S. pressure, Israel withdrew forces from Yasser Arafat's headquarters compound on Sunday, but said it would continue to hunt for men inside whom they accuse of terrorism.

Mr. Arafat himself accused Israel of continuing to violate a U.N. Security Council resolution which had demanded an end to the siege that started on September 19. "They are trying to deceive the Security Council," Mr. Arafat told reporters in his office minutes after Israeli troops rolled out of the compound, leaving behind shattered buildings around Arafat's office. — AP

THE HINDU

30 SEP 2002

US steps up campaign for tough UN resolution

Paris, September 27

WASHINGTON SENT a senior diplomat to Paris on Friday to coax a reluctant French government into supporting a UN resolution threatening Iraq with military action.

Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman was due to meet officials in Paris before flying on Saturday to Russia, like France a veto-holding permanent member of the UN Security Council and wary of giving a green light for war.

In the latest of 32 strikes in Iraq's southern no-fly zone this year, US and British jets bombed two Iraqi surface-to-air missile sites south of the capital Baghdad after Iraqi forces fired on Western aircraft, a Pentagon spokesman said on Friday.

As Grossman began his mission, the European Union's external relations Commissioner Chris Patten warned the US that military force alone would not make it safe.

In Iraq, three US Congressmen arrived in Baghdad to plead for unfettered access to UN arms inspectors and President Saddam Hussein's eldest son Uday

accused Washington of behaving like an "arrogant cowboy" eyeing Iraqi oil reserves.

The French, who demand the UN mandate on any military action that Washington seems ready to undertake, were tight-lipped about Grossman's visit.

"This is a meeting in the framework of our consultations about Iraq," said Catherine Colonna, spokesman for French President Jacques Chirac, confirming Grossman would meet Chirac's diplomatic advisor Jean-Marc de la Sabliere.

Grossman declined comment to waiting reporters as he arrived at the French Foreign Ministry for talks with officials there. The ministry's deputy spokesman, Bernard Valero, said: "We are receiving him as part of our conversations with all members of the Security Council."

Washington is expected to unveil soon the text of its draft resolution to fellow Security Council members.

Britain, also on the Security Council, announced it was sending envoys to lobby reluctant members.

Foreign Office political director Peter Ricketts was also in

Paris on Friday and would go on to Moscow on Saturday, a Foreign Office source said.

William Ehrman, Deputy Undersecretary of State for Defence and International Security, was due to fly to Beijing over the weekend, the source said.

The US has British support for a draft resolution warning Iraq of serious consequences if it did not comply with disarmament demands but faces an uphill struggle with other permanent Security Council members Russia, France and China.

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said on Friday there was no proof in Britain's dossier that Baghdad had chemical, biological or nuclear weapons. French officials announced on Thursday that Paris had won the backing of China, the other permanent Security Council member, for its two-step approach based on a first resolution on the return of arms inspectors followed only later by a second one laying out consequences if Baghdad blocks the inspectors' work.

"We have to try everything before war," said Prime Minister Jean-Pierre Raffarin.

Reuters

28 SEP 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Bush is confident of getting Congress backing on Iraq plan

Washington: US President George W Bush on Thursday met Democratic and Republican leaders and said he was confident of getting a "strong resolution" against Iraq from Congress.



G.W Bush

"All of us, and many others in Congress, are united in our determination to confront an urgent threat to America," he told reporters after his meeting with lawmakers of both parties.

"And by passing this resolution we'll send a clear message to the world and to the Iraqi regime: the demands of the UN Security Council must be followed. The Iraqi dictator must be disarmed. These requirements will be met, or they will be enforced."

Mr Bush said, "The danger to our country is grave.

The danger to our country is growing. The Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons. The Iraqi regime is building the facilities necessary to make more biological and chemical weapons.

And according to the British government, the Iraqi regime could launch a biological or chemical attack in as little as 45 minutes after the orders were given.

"The regime has longstanding and continuing ties to terrorist organisations. And there are Al Qaida terrorists inside Iraq. The regime is seeking a nuclear bomb, and with fissile material, could build one within a year.

Iraq has already used weapons of mass death—against other countries and against her own citizens. The Iraqi regime practises the rape of women as a method of intimidation; and the torture of dissenters and their children." PTI

28 SEP 2003

US shrugs off Pak protest, says infiltration must end

KHALID HASAN

THE Bush administration has sent a strong message to President Pervez Musharraf through his visiting Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Inam-ul-Haq that the US expects "full restoration of democracy" in Pakistan.

It was also made clear to Haq during his meetings with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice that infiltration across LoC into Indian-held Kashmir must stop, as there were continuing reports that after a hiatus, it had been resumed.

This correspondent understands that the recent critical remarks on

cross-border infiltration from Pakistan made in New Delhi by US ambassador to India were duly cleared with Washington. The State Department has taken a "dim view" of Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Khan's expression of "displeasure" with the US for the ambassador's remarks. The American ambassador said Islamabad had increased infiltration of militants across the LoC in last months. The spokesman's assertion that the ambassador was "obviously influenced by Indian propaganda" as he was "surrounded by it and seemed to lose wider perspective" were described by an American official as "astonishing".

According to a State Department source, what the ambassador said in



New Delhi was based on persistent reports and there was evidence that most of those reports were correct. The American ambassador to India was a seasoned diplomat and was "too long in tooth and claw" to be making uncalled for remarks or be influenced by Indian propaganda.

Meanwhile, according to a press release issued by the Embassy of Pakistan in Washington, the Minister of

State, who was unwilling to meet the Pakistani correspondents based here, held "wide-ranging discussions with senior officials of the Bush Administration. He met separately with Secretary of State Colin Powell, Deputy Secretary Richard Armitage, and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice."

The visit was "part of high-level consultations that take place between Pakistan and US on a regular basis. The visit followed a very positive meeting between Musharraf and Bush in New York on September 12. In between, the Minister of State had also met with Undersecretary of State for Political Affairs Marc Grossman in New York," added the press release.

According to this version of the

Inam-ul-Haq visit, "the discussions today (Monday) covered a broad spectrum of bilateral matters and regional and international issues of common interest. The two sides reaffirmed their commitment to a comprehensive, broad-based and long-term relationship as envisioned by the two Presidents. They agreed on the further intensification of high-level contacts. The Minister reiterated President Musharraf's commitment to full return of democracy and the resolve to hold free, fair and transparent elections. He noted that independent observers were allowed unhindered access to observe the elections and that they were gathering in Pakistan in large numbers."

—Courtesy Daily Times

2 SEP 2002

UN scowls at Israeli siege; US no vote

EVELYN LEOPOLD
UNITED NATIONS, SEPTEMBER 24

THE UN Security Council demanded on Tuesday that Israel stop its siege of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's compound, with the United States abstaining rather than using its veto power to kill the resolution.

The measure, approved by the other 14 council members, also called on the Palestinian Authority to ensure those responsible for terrorist acts were brought to justice.

The United States has vetoed similar resolutions in the past, but diplomats said Washington decided against doing so in order not to alienate Arab opinion during its campaign for UN support against Iraq.

They condemn the terrorist groups and those who provide them with political cover, support and safe haven in perpetuating conflict in the West Asia".

The text was a compromise negotiated by Britain and France, which sponsored it along with Bulgaria, Ireland and Norway.

It demands that Israel immediately cease measures in and around Ramallah, including the destruction of Palestinian civil-

ian and security infrastructure. It also demands the expeditious withdrawal of Israeli occupying forces from Palestinian cities toward positions held prior to September 2000.

On Monday, US Ambassador, John Negroponte introduced his own resolution to counter one proposed by the Palestinians. The American proposal also harshly criticised Israel's actions in Ramallah and would have asked for an end to Israel's destruction of Arafat's compound.

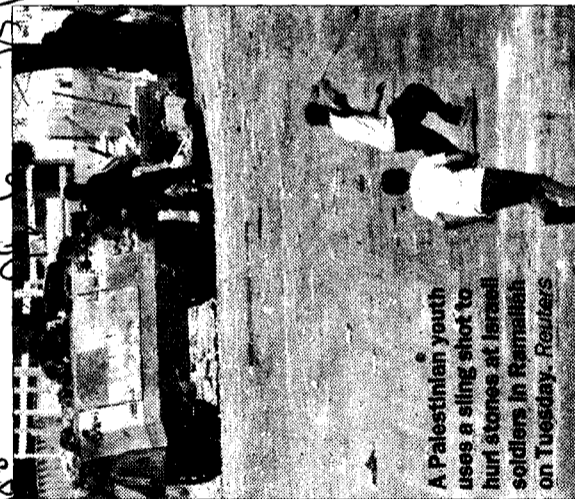
But Washington, in its draft, insisted that Israel withdraw from Palestinian cities consistent with its security demands and that the Syrian-based Islamic Jihad and Hamas groups be named as responsible for terrorist bombings. Syria, among others,

refused both provisions. "Why these double standards?" representative of the Arab League, Yanya Mahmasani asked. "Why doesn't the UN Security Council resolutions on Israel enforced the way they are on other countries?"

Baghdad's UN Ambassador, Mohammed Aldouri, did not mention US threats against his country in his address to the council but criticised the "Zionist war machine" and said objections to the Palestinian draft represented the policy of might and could lead to an explosion.

Palestinian UN observer, Al-Kidwa accused Israel of defying three decades of Security Council resolutions and asked the 15-nation body to shoulder its responsibilities and ensure those were enforced.

— Reuters



A Palestinian youth uses a sling shot to hurl stones at Israeli soldiers in Ramallah on Tuesday. Reuters

Calling the resolution flawed, US representative, James Cunningham said: "It failed to explic-

Pentagon plans pinpoint attack to oust Saddam

24/9
Tim Reid The Times London WSD W. Hussein

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23. — The Pentagon has presented US President Mr George W Bush with detailed plans for a war to oust Iraqi President Mr Saddam Hussein that is designed to destroy his power base but spare the country's rank-and-file troops.

Under the plan, which departs radically from the military strategy used in the 1991 Gulf War, a narrowly focused but "extremely intense" air bombardment will target Saddam's "regime structure". It will be backed by an almost simultaneous ground attack by a small, fast-moving force heavily reliant on Special Operations troops.

The war would be an "attack on a government, not a country", according to a comprehensive investigation by The Washington Post, which included two dozen interviews with Pentagon officials, including advisers to Mr Donald Rumsfeld, the defence secretary.

It is aimed at toppling Mr Hussein as quickly as possible while minimising civilian casualties and damage to the country's infrastructure. "Our interest is to get there very quickly, decapitate the regime and open the place up, demonstrating that we're there to liberate, not to occupy," one military source said.

The military strategy, the most detailed and contemporary yet to have emerged from the US Administration, came as Iraq said that it would reject any new United Nations resolution on weapons inspectors. Mr Rumsfeld dismissed the declaration as another attempt to "jerk" the UN around.

Unlike the 1991 Gulf War, when a five-week air campaign was followed by an invasion of 500,000 troops, a huge bombardment of key installations would be backed up by a ground invasion within two to ten days, according to military planners who spoke to the Post.

One element of the airstrike being considered is the use of 16 US B-2 "Stealth" bombers on the first night of the campaign, almost the entire fleet. They would conduct precision strikes against deep bunkers housing the Iraqi command structure and air defences. Each B2 can deliver 16 2,000lb earth-burrowing bombs.

Some of the bat-winged aircraft would fly round-trips from their base in Missouri, while others would be deployed from the British airbase on Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. At the same time, hundreds of bombers, cruise missiles and fighter jets would target anti-aircraft systems, missile sites and aircraft capable of delivering chemical and biological weapons.

The campaign would then concentrate on "regime targets": presidential palaces, Mr Hussein's bodyguards, military communication systems, secret police facilities and bases of the Republican Guard, the best trained and most loyal of Iraqi troops.

Senior air force generals are also discussing the first use of newly developed "directed energy" weapons to wreck Iraqi military computers and communications systems.

General Tommy Franks, Chief of the US Central Command, presented detailed options to the President days before his speech to the UN General Assembly on September 12. General Franks is believed to want a ground force that combines heavy armour, speed and Special Operations forces.

24 SEP 2002

THE STATESMAN

U.S. aims to reorder West Asia

By C. Raja Mohan

In responding to the debate in the United Nations Security Council on the next steps in the current crisis on Iraq, it will be easy for India to miss the wood for the trees. The real issue is not the terms of coercive inspection of Baghdad's strategic programmes. Nor is it only about "regime-change" in Iraq.

For the Bush administration, the ouster of Saddam Hussein is only the first step toward a reordering in West Asia.

A historic decision, in favour of fundamental geopolitical change in West Asia with all the attendant risks, appears to have already been made in Washington.

Referring to the arguments of the sceptics, who abound in the U.S. and elsewhere, the point man for American strategy in the Gulf, the Vice-President, Dick Cheney, dismissed the fears of an exploding rage among Arabs and Muslims and a steep rise in oil prices in the wake of a war against Iraq.

Pointing to the benefits of regime change in Iraq, Mr. Cheney declared: "Extremists in the region would have to rethink their strategy of 'jihad'.

Moderates throughout the region would take heart. And our ability to advance the Israeli-Palestinian peace process would be enhanced."

Within Iraq itself, Mr. Cheney said, "our goal would be an Iraq that has territorial integrity, a government that is democratic and pluralistic, a nation where the human rights of every ethnic and religious group are recognised and protected.

In that troubled land all who seek justice, and dignity, and the chance to live their

own lives, can know they have a friend and ally in the United States of America".

To put it simply, the Bush administration appears to have come to the conclusion that further political tinkering to maintain status quo in the region will no longer serve its interests. And that a drastic surgery of the region should begin in Iraq. The installation of a secular, modernising and pro-Western regime in Baghdad, the U.S. argues, would create the conditions for the long-delayed political reform in the region which has become the source of much of the extremism in the world.

In the short-term, Washington hopes

NEWS ANALYSIS

that a pro-U.S. Iraq could become the mainstay of American military presence in the region, reduce American energy and security dependence on Saudi Arabia, which is looking increasingly vulnerable. It will step up the pressure for internal change in the Arab

world, encourage the reformers in Iran and persuade the Palestinians to fall in line.

The U.S. has already decided to wage a war on Iraq. The United Nations is a mere political convenience if it can be persuaded to go along. For Washington, a new Security Council resolution on disarming Iraq is about tightening the international legal noose around the regime of Saddam Hussein.

This precisely is why Baghdad has made a U-turn and agreed to let in the international inspectors under the present resolutions to buy time and sharpen the divisions within the Security Council. While Saddam

Hussein has succeeded in delaying the U.N. actions, he might not have averted it. For it should be borne in mind that the arguments between the U.S. on the one hand and France and Russia on the other in the Security Council is not about principles of multilateralism. It is about the political price the U.S. is willing to pay for support from Paris and Moscow and about the terms of

post-Saddam arrangements in Iraq.

With an eye on oil and other business in Iraq, France and Russia have over the decades made strong investments in the political future of Saddam Hussein. Washington is now threatening regime change. Paris and Moscow will naturally bargain hard for protecting their interests in Iraq.

But France and Russia are also aware of the inevitability of regime-change in Iraq and their own limits in restraining the U.S. When it comes to the crunch, they would rather be on the inside shaping the post-Saddam arrangements in Iraq than just protesting from the outside.

Over the next few days, the international focus will be on the United Nations Security Council debate on Iraq. But the real action will be in the separate diplomatic parleys between Washington, Moscow and Paris to find an agreed formula on arranging post-Saddam Iraq.

If India does not see the radical geopolitical consequences of the American intervention in Iraq, it will remain a bystander complaining about rising oil prices and worrying about the safety of its own citizens in the Gulf.

While these are important concerns, the stakes of the American war in the Gulf are far higher.

23 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

Bush outlines pre-emptive military policy

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA, SEPT. 21. The United States President, George W. Bush, has outlined an aggressive new military strategy that formally discards the strategy of deterrence as being out of date in the post- Cold War era.

In a report to Congress, Mr. Bush has outlined a blueprint for global supremacy, the bottomline being that the U.S. will not hesitate to initiate a pre-emptive strike even when the security threats are not imminent and will not allow its supremacy to be challenged. "Given the goals of rogue states and terrorists, the United States can no longer rely solely on a reactive posture as we have in the past... We cannot let our enemies strike first", Mr. Bush has said in his 35-page Annual Report to Congress which is required to be submitted.

"As a matter of common-sense and self defence, America will act against such emerging threats before they're fully formed", the President has said.

One of the central elements of the new strategic formulation has been that the U.S. will not allow adversaries from pursuing a military strength that equals or surpasses that of the U.S.

"Our forces will be strong enough to dissuade potential adversaries from pursuing a

military build-up in hopes of surpassing or equalling the power of the United States", the report says.

are underway at the United Nations and world capitals to find a way out of the Iraq mess, Mr. Bush had a clear and blunt

Iraq not to accept new move

BAGHDAD, SEPT 21. Iraq said today it would not accept any new U.N. Security Council resolution that runs contrary to an agreement reached with the U.N. Secretary-General, Kofi Annan.

"Iraq announces that it will not cooperate with a new resolution which is different from what has been agreed upon with the (U.N.) Secretary-General," said a statement issued following a meeting of top Iraqi leaders chaired by the President, Saddam Hussein.

The statement carried by state-run Baghdad radio gave no details of the agreement Iraq had reached with Mr. Annan.

The United States and Britain have stepped up pressure on the Security Council to adopt a tough new Iraq resolution before any resumption of U.N. arms inspections to search for weapons of mass destruction.

Russia and France, both permanent members of the U.N. Security Council with veto powers, have expressed doubt about the need for a new resolution, complicating the U.S. President, George W. Bush's desire for quick action against Baghdad.

U.N. weapons inspectors and Iraq's top arms experts met briefly this week in New York to discuss logistics on offices, flights, escorts and other planning. — Reuters

The report formally puts aside deterrence as an inadequate concept in the aftermath of what took place on September 11, 2001, and in the face of the dangers from weapons of mass destruction.

"To forestall or prevent such hostile acts by our adversaries, the United States will, if necessary, act pre-emptively" it says.

At a time when hectic efforts

message to the world body one more time — that the United States will not hesitate to act alone.

"While the United States will constantly strive to enlist the support of the international community, we will not hesitate to act alone, if necessary, to exercise our right of self-defence by acting pre-emptively against such terrorists to prevent them

from doing harm against our people and our country", the report maintained. The new and aggressive national security strategy is bound to raise a lot of eye brows in the international community, at a time when there are enough apprehension on the directions of American foreign policy, the unilateralism in particular having become a disturbing phenomenon.

The document will be seen in some quarters as further proof of the U.S. desire to remain the only top power in the world.

Further, the doctrine of pre-emptive military strike, which has been bandied about in the last several weeks in the U.S., has its fair of sceptics.

World leaders and opinion in the international media has been that other nations could use pre-emptive strikes to go about their own ways in meeting with problems.

The examples that have been held out are Russia going after Chechen rebel camps in neighbouring Georgia, the India-Pakistan scenario and China citing the example of the U.S. and striking Taiwan.

"The United States will not use force in all cases to pre-empt emerging threats, nor should nations use pre-emption as a pretext for aggression", the new document has said.

Bush will ask Congress to back action on Iraq

Washington: Stepping up his campaign against Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, US President George W. Bush has planned to seek Congress approval for a resolution authorising him to take action against Iraq, if necessary.

Administration officials declined to provide details on Wednesday but pointed out that the White House has said previously Mr Bush specifically wanted language that would allow for the use of force if he deems it necessary.

When Mr Bush met members of Congress two weeks ago to open his campaign seeking public support against Iraq, he sent a letter to congressional leaders asking for their backing for whatever means were necessary in dealing with Iraq.

The Washington Post reported in its Thursday edition that Mr Bush planned to request broad, open-ended authority from Congress.

Mr Bush's proposed congressional resolution would give him maximum flexibility to carry out any war plans, regardless of UN actions, a senior White House official told the newspaper.

Mr Bush was also scheduled to meet secretary of state Colin Powell to review Mr Powell's efforts to persuade the UN Security Council to support a new resolution demanding that Iraq disarm.

A US official said Mr Powell would keep lobbying Security Council members for a resolution that would demand compliance with earlier UN resolutions and outline potential consequences of Iraq's failing to act.

The Post reported the administration



George Bush

planned to introduce on Friday a new UN resolution declaring that Iraq was in "material breach" of international law for its failure to comply with a series of UN mandates. The phrase has been used in the past as international authorisation for military action, the newspaper said.

Russia and France have expressed doubt about the need for a new resolution, complicating Bush's desire for quick action.

But the White House is publicly expressing confidence that a way will be found to obtain a new resolution.

Mr Bush met top congressional leaders on Wednesday to discuss the contents of a congressional resolution on Iraq. Senate Republican leader Trent Lott of Mississippi emerged from the meeting with a prediction that the resolution would focus on what he said was the threat posed by weapons of mass destruction, rather than on ousting Saddam.

Mr Lott told reporters he was hoping for agreement among congressional leaders early next week on the final wording of the resolution. Speaking to reporters, Mr Bush said congressional leaders had committed to passing a resolution before the November 5 midterm elections.

"It's an important signal for the world to see that this country is united in our resolve to deal with threats that we face," Mr Bush said. US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld on Wednesday pressed Congress to quickly vote to give the Bush administration backing for a possible military strike against Iraq. Reuters

Force: Bush seeks Congress support

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 19. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, preparing to send Congress a proposed resolution on Iraq, said on Thursday that lawmakers must give him authority to use military force against the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein.

"That will be part of the resolution — authorisation to use force. If you want to keep the peace, you've got to have the authorisation to use force," Mr. Bush told reporters in the Oval Office.

"This is a chance for Congress to indicate support, a chance for Congress to say we support the administration's ability to keep the peace, that's what this is all about."

Mr. Bush spoke to journalists after meeting the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, for an update on his uphill diplomatic work to draft a United Nations Security Council resolution against Iraq that could over-

come strong reservations by Russia and France, who have veto power in the Security Council.

"The United Nations Security Council must work with the United States and other concerned parties to send a clear message that we expect Saddam to disarm," said Mr. Bush.

"And if the United Nations Security Council won't deal with the problem, the United States and some of our friends will."

Mr. Bush declined to name any of the allies he's counting on for support, saying only that "time will tell".

"I think you're going to see that a lot of nations love freedom. ... We're confident that people will follow our lead," Mr. Bush added.

As he spoke, White House advisers were behind the scenes telephoning congressional leaders with notice that Mr. Bush's

proposed resolution was on its way to Congress.

Mr. Bush said he wanted Congress to give him not only the power to make war with Mr. Hussein, but also an explicit re-statement of U.S. policy that he must be overthrown.

"That's the policy of the Government," said Mr. Bush, adding that he wanted Congress' approval before lawmakers adjourn to campaign for the Nov. 5 elections.

Three senior White House aides familiar with the resolution's draft said it would give Mr. Bush maximum flexibility to confront the threat posed by Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, including an explicit OK to use military force. — AP

Iraq denies report

AFP reports from Moscow: Iraq's ambassador to Moscow today denied a German press report that Baghdad had

developed an unmanned aircraft capable of carrying out toxic gas strikes over a range of 1,000 km. "If this were true, wouldn't we have already carried out a strike, for instance, against Israel, which is threatening us with nuclear weapons," Abbas Khalaf was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency. "There are no Russian military experts in Iraq, as sanctions ban work in the defence industry sphere," he added.

Quoting a classified conversation between a German intelligence chief and MPs, the *Bild* weekly claimed that engineers working for the Iraqi regime changed old Russian-made MiG-23 fighters into drones that can release deadly biological and chemical substances.

But a spokesman for the German intelligence agency BND later said the report "was not reported by the BND."

20 SEP 2001

THE HINDU

Bush for legislation to deal with Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 18. The Bush administration is insisting that the United Nations Security Council must come up with a new and tough resolution on Iraq, but other Permanent Members like Russia believe that this is not necessary now that Baghdad has agreed for the "unconditional" return of weapons inspectors.

The differences in New York apart, the President, George W. Bush, is seriously working on Congressional leaders for a legisla-

tion that would allow him to use "all appropriate means" to force Iraq to do away with its weapons of mass destruction. "For the sake of liberty and justice for all, the United Nations Security Council must act, must act in a way to hold this regime to account. It must not be fooled", the President said in Nashville, Tennessee. The Pentagon has said that it is seeking to move a few B-2



A man kisses a huge portrait of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, in Baghdad on Wednesday. — AFP

Stealth Bombers closer to Iraq from their current base in Missouri. Washington is talking to London to see if a small contingent of these B-2s could be moved to the Island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean. This would cut in half the flight time of the B-2s to reach their targets inside Iraq. Also, the U.S. Navy is said to be in the process of contracting a commercial vessel to take military equipment to the Persian Gulf.

On Capitol Hill, the Democrats are increasingly wary that Iraq is taking over from other mainstream domestic issues prior to the Congressional elections. And many lawmakers are now veering round to the position that some sort of Congressional resolution was inevitable before lawmakers leave town next month to campaign for the elections of November 5.

"We have to assume the White House strategy is to push a resolution before Congress before the election. This is electoral politics", remarked the Democratic Senator from Illinois, Richard Durbin. The Democrats, by and large, see where the White House is heading on the Congressional resolution; are frustrated and angry about it; but are unwilling to take on the Republican administration in full force.

The about turn by Iraq on the issue of the return of weapons inspectors has changed the nature of the game in New York with Russia and several Arab nations now arguing that the focus should be on the weapons inspectors returning to Iraq and doing their assessment as opposed to spending time drawing up a new resolution at the Security Council. "We cannot take a one and a quarter page letter as the end of the matter. We have seen this game before" remarked the Secretary of State, Colin Powell.

Iraq opens door to arms inspectors

US@K... 13 18/9

United Nations, September 17

A FLURRY of back-channel negotiations involving Iraqi officials, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the Arab League brought a stunning shift for Baghdad with its acceptance — under threat of US action — of the unconditional return of weapons inspectors after nearly four years.

But the US quickly dismissed the offer as a tactic meant to split the Security Council, where the Bush administration has been lobbying hard for a resolution that would authorise force against Iraq if it failed to let the inspectors return.

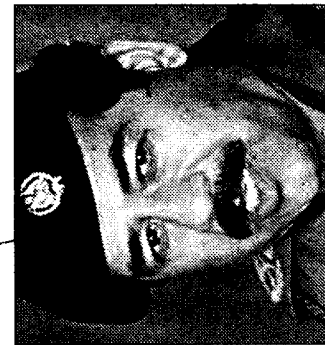
In Baghdad on Tuesday, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz questioned whether allowing the inspectors to return would end the crisis. "The issue does not end with Iraq's acceptance of the return of the inspectors," Aziz said at the opening of

a "solidarity conference" attended by lawmakers and other delegates from around the world. "The aim of the American policies is the oil in the Gulf," Aziz added.

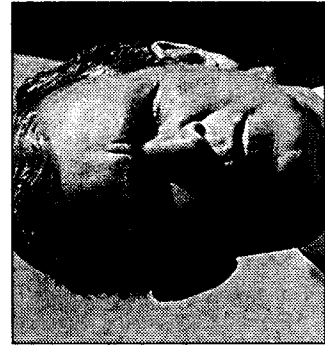
Iraqi officials have speculated in the past that the United States would attack even if UN inspectors resumed their work.

For the UN Security Council, the main goal over the past four years has been getting inspectors back inside Iraq in order to curb Saddam Hussein's chances of procuring weapons.

Even before Annan announced the deal with Iraq on Monday, French Foreign Minister Dominique de Villepin told reporters: "We have one goal, which is the fight against proliferation" of weapons of mass destruction. But for the US, disarmament in Iraq is contingent on removing Saddam, who invaded Kuwait in 1990 and lobbed scud missiles at Saudi Arabia and Is-



Saddam Hussein



George W. Bush

Arab league chief Amr Mousa turned out to be pivotal in the negotiations with Iraq, using the backing of Arab states to push through a deal meant to avert US military action in Iraq.

While the United States and its allies have long agreed that something needed to be done about Iraq, they were bitterly divided over what to do. Now the contrasting goals and approaches will likely make it much harder for the United States to get the resolution it wants.

UN weapons inspectors were put in place after the Gulf War under resolutions, which tied Iraq's disarmament to the lifting of punishing UN sanctions.

But the inspectors left Baghdad in December 1998, amid Iraqi allegations that some inspectors were spying for the United States and counter-charges that Iraq wasn't cooperating with the teams. Since then, Baghdad had said it would

let inspectors back in only for a limited time and if the Security Council lifted the sanctions. It also tried at various times to control the make-up of the inspection teams. But with pressure mounting four days after President Bush told the UN General Assembly that the United States was no longer willing to tolerate Iraqi violations, the oil-rich nation changed direction.

"I am pleased to inform you of the decision of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to allow the return of the United Nations weapons inspectors to Iraq without conditions," said a letter signed by Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri and delivered to Annan late Monday.

Annan forwarded the letter to the Security Council, and to the chief weapons inspector, Hans Blix, who welcomed the Iraqi offer and said he was ready for immediate talks with the Iraqis. AP

other Security Council resolutions," White House spokesman Scott McClellan said in a statement in Washington.

It's hard to tell whether Annan could have anticipated President Bush for helping to bring about Iraq's decision. "I believe the President's speech galvanised the international community," Annan said.

rael months later during the Persian Gulf War. The Bush administration said last week that Iraq has stepped up its quest for nuclear weapons and has embarked on a worldwide hunt for materials used to make atomic bombs. "This is not a matter of inspections. It is about disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and the Iraqi regime's compliance with all

A diversionary tactic: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 17. The Bush administration has reacted very sceptically to Iraq's "unconditional" offer to let United Nations weapons inspectors back into the country.

The White House is making the point that Baghdad moved in this direction to forestall a tough Security Council Resolution and that the bottomline is not inspections but disarmament. "This is a tactical step by Iraq in hopes of avoiding strong U.N. Security Council action... it's a tactic that will fail", the deputy spokesman of the White House, Scott McClellan, said. "It's time for the Security Council to act", he added.

Unnamed senior administration officials have been quoted in the media as saying that Iraq's letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, does not talk about unfettered inspections, no promise of disarming or disclosing the status of the regime's weapons building and acquisitions. "This is not a matter of inspections. It's about disarmament of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction and Iraqi regime's compliance with all other Security Council Resolutions", Mr. McClellan said in a statement.

In New York, the U.N. Secretary-General credited the President, George W. Bush, for the

turnabout in Iraq's position. "I believe the President's speech galvanised the international community", Mr. Annan said. Mr. Bush last Thursday lashed out at Iraq's refusal to abide by several Council Resolutions and placed the onus on the world body to act quickly, failing which the U.S. was willing to do so on its own.

That the Bush administration was serious about its stance on Iraq was evident from the manner the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was going about business in New York last week; and beginning a series of sessions this week. Gen. Powell and the administration were working at a feverish pace with the other Permanent Five members, especially France, Russia and China.

The French position was that the Council will have to work on two resolutions, first focussing on the conditions of the return of weapons inspectors. The part on the use of force was to come later. This two-phase strategy is not acceptable to the U.S.

Meanwhile, what has been heartening to the U.S. was the attitude of Russia, a traditional ally of Iraq in the Security Council. Its Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, lashed out at Baghdad, saying that it would have to face the consequences of deliberately ignoring Security Council resolutions. Russia has been miffed at Baghdad's non-compliance as

billions of dollars of oil contracts in the post-sanctions stage are being held up.

U.K. sceptical

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, SEPT. 17. Britain today reacted with deep scepticism to the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein's offer on U.N. weapons' inspectors with the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw, saying that Mr. Hussein had a "history of playing games" and the international community must remain "steadfast" to keep up the pressure on Baghdad.

"This apparent offer to allow weapons' inspectors to return 'without conditions' comes only four days after Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister said precisely the opposite. Whatever it means this offer has only come through the determination of the international community to stand firm against Saddam Hussein's threat," Mr Straw said in a statement on Tuesday. The bottomline, he maintained, was for Iraq to get rid of its weapons of mass destruction.

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair's office insisted that nothing short of unfettered access to the weapons' inspectors would be acceptable. "What we want is for weapons' inspectors to be allowed in and to be given access to all areas, any time, any place, anywhere".

18 SEP 2002

US ignores Indo-Pak tension

By Manoj Joshi
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Tension between India and Pakistan appears to have been ratcheted up another notch and for once the US does not appear too concerned.

Gen Pervez Musharraf's statement that his anti-Indian tirade in New York was born out of "desperation" and national security adviser Brajesh Mishra's declaration that India does not need a US nod to act against cross-border terrorism is as good a sign of this as any.

It was left to Mr Mishra to tell the media that US President George W. Bush had "in very strong terms" told Gen Musharraf to act against cross-border terrorism. Predictably, the General denied that there was any discus-

sion on the subject. The public record of the meeting supplied by the US authorities seems to be deliberately circumspect.

The US is not about to rock the Pakistani boat right now, especially since the war against its terrorists is going on well. That was the message from the capture of Ramzi bin al Shibh in Karachi, and the announcement of \$300 million US aid for Pakistan.

The cold fact is that the US is not about to encourage any precipitate action on India's part. It does not really have to worry. With the elections in J&K the Indian Army is stretched as it has never been before. In any case, there are visible signs that it is suffering from a degree of fatigue, which was compounded by the ill-advised mobilisation

of the armed forces since last December.

Despite 11 years of insurgency, India's handling of Kashmir and Pakistan continues to be ad hoc—a situation similar to the shoddy manner in which the country has been handling its train accidents. The government's only answer to dealing with the militancy in J&K is to create more Rashtriya Rifles units and increasing the number of BSF and CRPF personnel.

While the terrorists have a way of coming up with innovative strategy and tactics, the security forces have changed neither their structure nor their tactics in the last 10 years. As for the larger strategy, having put its eggs in the US basket, the government is reduced to making brave statements of intent.

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GUEST COLUMN | *Madeleine K. Albright*

Don't go after Saddam now

✓
HF 11 1579

Keep the rope ready for the Iraqi dictator, but first finish al-Qaida

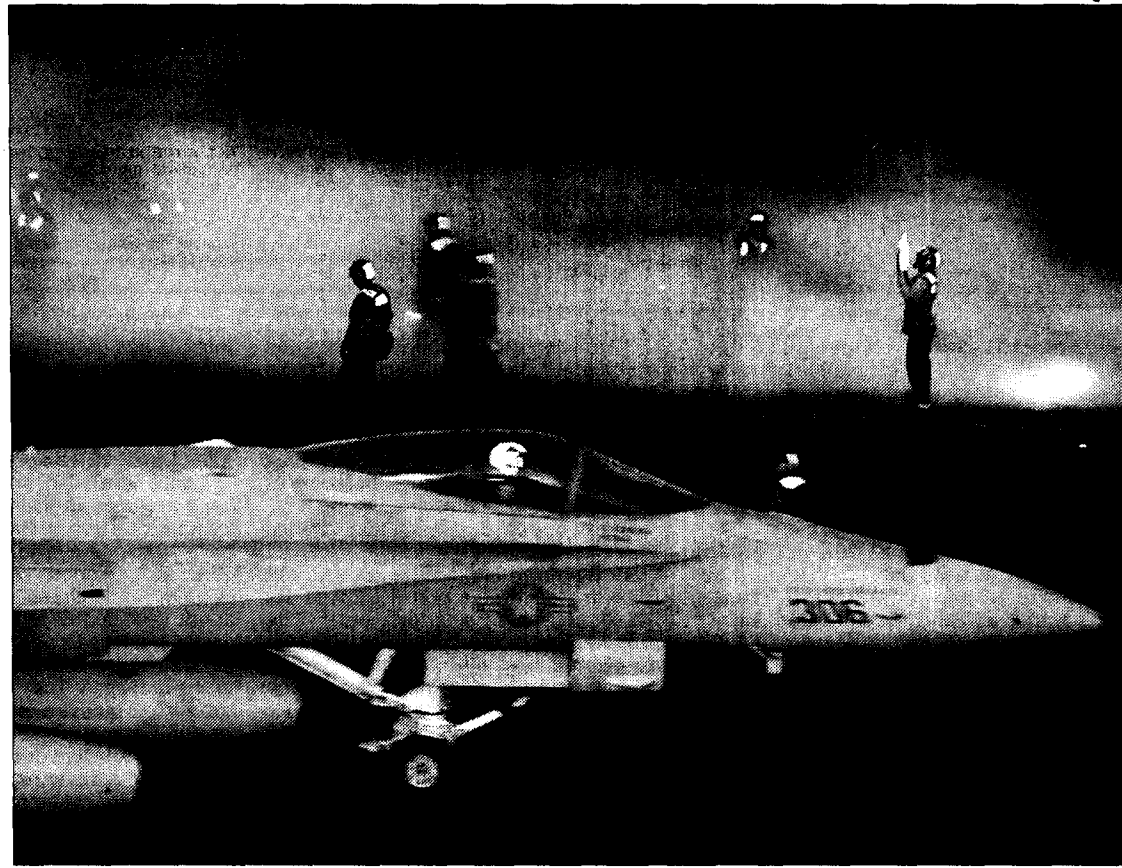
THE CORE of President Bush's forcefully delivered message on Iraq at the United Nations on Thursday was irrefutable. Saddam Hussein is a serial liar, a bully and a threat to peace. He has used chemical weapons, and he yearns to impress an Arab world that despises him by building a deliverable nuclear bomb.

The president made a strong case for international action that results either in Iraqi compliance with its obligations or the establishment of a new and, ultimately, democratic government in Baghdad. There should be bipartisan backing for such a policy here at home, and the president wisely has chosen to solicit global support instead of attempting to go it alone.

I hope, however, that the president will not be pushed by his hard-line advisers into an unwise timetable for military action. We should pick this fight at a moment that best suits our interests. And right now, our primary interest remains the thorough destruction and disruption of al-Qaida and related terrorist networks.

Earlier this week, the International Institute of Strategic Studies released a summary of Iraq's military capabilities that foreshadowed the president's words yesterday. Iraq likely has significant quantities of biological warfare agents and some chemical munitions. It is striving to acquire or develop nuclear weapons, but there is no evidence it has succeeded. It may have a dozen missiles that could be used to threaten nearby states.

Saddam Hussein is the enemy we know. Since the administration of former President George H.W. Bush, each time Mr. Hussein has pushed, we have pushed back.



WINGS CLIPPED: Saddam is tied down. American and British planes enforce no-flight zones over 40 per cent of Iraq.

Today, American and British planes enforce no-flight zones over 40 per cent of his country and a maritime force prevents weapons from reaching Iraq by sea. Saddam Hussein's military is far weaker than it was a decade ago. And he must surely be aware that if he ever again tries to attack another country he will be obliterated. All that is grounds for calm, but not complacency.

The president said he is willing to work with the Security Council. I hope that will include an explicit call for United Nations weapons inspectors to return to Iraq, although I doubt Iraq will accept them. By promoting that option first, the administration would strengthen the diplomatic case for subsequent action. As the president pointed out, during the past decade Iraq has failed to

comply with a host of Security Council directives. If Baghdad persists in its defiance, the president has rightly placed the burden on those who oppose the use of force to explain how else compliance may be assured. One cannot insist on the council's central role in promoting international security and law, then look the other way when the will of the council is repeatedly defied.

Although the president's speech yesterday was persuasive in many respects, he was neither specific nor compelling in his effort to link Saddam Hussein to other, more urgent threats. As evil as Mr. Hussein is, he is not the reason anti-aircraft guns ring the capital, civil liberties are being compromised, a Department of Homeland Defense is being created and the Gettysburg

Address (delivered by US president Abraham Lincoln in 1863) again seems directly relevant to our lives.

In the aftermath of tragedy a year ago, the chief executive told our nation that fighting terrorism would be "the focus of my presidency". That — not Iraq — remains the right focus.

During the past four years, al-Qaida has attacked Americans here at home, in Africa and in the Middle East. We still do not know where its top operatives are or what they might be planning. There is evidence that Qaida members are returning to Afghanistan, where thousands of Taliban supporters still live and lawlessness prevails. We have not given the government of Hamid Karzai even a fraction of the help it needs to make Afghanistan a

permanent terrorist-free zone. Creation of an effective worldwide anti-terror coalition remains a work in progress. Restructuring our intelligence services, law enforcement agencies and military to defeat the terrorist threat continues to be in the design stage.

Obviously, we cannot wait until terrorism is entirely eradicated to deal with Saddam Hussein. But it makes little sense now to focus the world's attention and our own military, intelligence, diplomatic and financial resources on a plan to invade Iraq instead of on al-Qaida's ongoing plans to murder innocent people. We cannot fight a second monumental struggle without detracting from the first one.

The administration should take the time necessary to broaden support for its Iraq policy, respond to Congressional inquiries, strengthen Iraqi opposition groups, fine-tune military planning, develop a coherent blueprint for the post-Hussein era, identify the massive resources that will be required to fund the war and its aftermath, and conduct diplomacy aimed at cooling tensions in the Middle East. If United Nations inspectors are again rebuffed by Iraq, we should also give notice that we will destroy without warning any facilities in that country that we suspect are being used to develop prohibited arms. Even if those suspicions are later proved wrong, the blame should fall on Iraq for denying access, not on the United States for trying to enforce the Security Council's will. In the same vein, we should make it clear that anyone who assists Iraq's nuclear program will be considered an enemy of the United States.

At the United Nations on Thursday, the president began the job of spelling out the what and why of our policy toward Baghdad. The wisdom of that policy, however, will ultimately hinge on when he chooses to act.

(The author was US Secretary of State from 1997 to 2001 and United States ambassador to the United Nations from 1993 to 1997.)

—The New York Times

Bush in fresh ultimatum to UN

Show some backbone: US

PATRICIA WILSON

Camp David (Maryland), Sept. 14 (Reuters): President George W. Bush today urged the United Nations "to show some backbone" on Iraq and made clear he was prepared to confront President Saddam Hussein with or without world support.

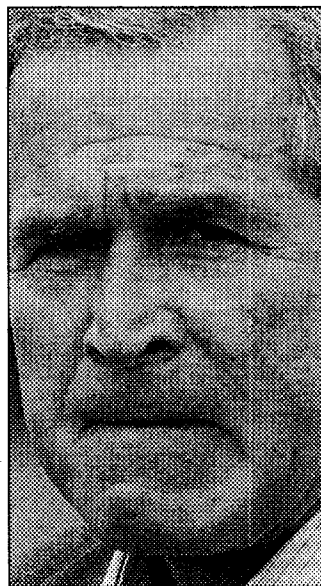
"Saddam Hussein has defied the United Nations 16 times. Not once, not twice, 16 times, he has defied the United Nations," said Bush, who this week challenged the world body in a keynote speech to enforce its resolutions on Iraqi disarmament.

"Enough is enough," he said.

With Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi, one of America's most loyal allies in continental Europe, standing beside him at the Camp David presidential retreat, Bush said the United Nations deserved "another chance to prove its relevance."

"This is a chance for the United Nations to show some backbone, some resolve," Bush said, but he added: "Make no mistake about it, if we (the United States) have to deal with the problem, we'll deal with it."

Despite US threats of an attack, Iraq's foreign minister made clear earlier today his Gulf nation would not allow UN weapons inspectors to return



George W. Bush at Camp David, Maryland. (Reuters)

without other issues, such as sanctions, being resolved at the same time.

The US administration is pressing Security Council members to agree quickly on a new resolution demanding that Iraq comply with UN disarmament demands, although Bush said yesterday he was "highly doubtful" Saddam would comply.

UK war exercises

London, Sept. 14 (Reuters): Britain launched today its biggest army exercise on home ground since 1998 — but defence officials insisted it was not a sabre-rattling trial run for war against Iraq.

In a test of their logistical skills, up to 6,000 troops are using 1,000 vehicles to transport thousands of tonnes of material and equipment across the country. "Exercise Log Viper has started. It is now under way," a defence ministry spokesman said. But he was quick to insist: "It has nothing to do with Iraq, I can assure you of that." He said that the four-week exercise "has been planned for over a year".

"When the army carries out an exercise, you can rest assured it is not planned overnight. This is the largest UK-based army exercise since 1998," the spokesman said. Army chiefs said the main aim of the logistical test was "to provide the opportunity to ensure we can feed, clothe and maintain supplies, vehicles and weaponry when required". Despite assurances the long-planned exercise had nothing to do with Iraq, military experts said the warning to Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would be clear.

PAK DENIES US PRESSURE, BRAJESH CONFIRMS BUSH WARNING

Pervez in line of Bush fire

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15/9

US (W) South Asia

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK, Sept. 14. — Mr George W Bush has "pushed" Gen. Pervez Musharraf hard on the question of cross-border infiltration and warned of trouble if Islamabad did not return to the path of democracy.

Mr Bush told Gen. Musharraf that US interests would be hurt greatly by a war in South Asia. The text of the briefing on talks between the two leaders was made available today.

"We have a big stake in South Asia. We hope that an end to infiltration will create the atmosphere that would lead to a resumption of dialogue between the two countries," it said.

Did Mr Bush feel that progress had been made on reducing tension between India and Pakistan? An US official said: "I'm not going to characterise the President's feelings. I'd say that every time we bring out the importance of an issue, it lets the two sides remember that we do think it's important that progress is achieved... The President pushed the Pakistanis hard on the question of infiltration ... This is basically the precursor... of setting the environment where you can progress."

The President had, "right at the top of the meeting, stressed how

important it is that Pakistan follows through on its commitments to return to full democracy".

But in Islamabad, Pakistan's official news agency APP said the

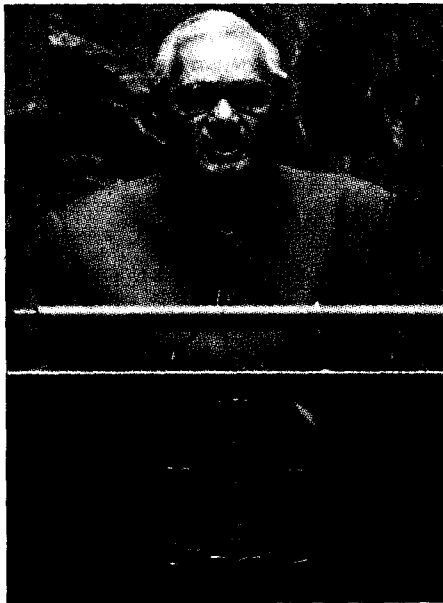
the issue of infiltration during this visit as claimed by the Indian national security adviser Mr Brajesh Mishra," Gen. Musharraf said.

Mr Mishra told Indian journalists yesterday that the USA had sent a very "hard message" to Gen. Musharraf to stop infiltration and end violence in J&K. But Gen. Musharraf said the US leadership understands Pakistan's position on infiltration and that there was no area of disagreement between the two countries: "There was full unanimity of views," he said.

Mr Mishra said: "I can convey to you that he (Mr Bush) did speak in very strong terms to the General yesterday (late on Thursday)". Mr Bush had assured Mr Vajpayee that his country was "totally committed" to fighting terrorism.

Reacting to Mr Vajpayee's speech in the UN yesterday in which he accused Pakistan of nuclear blackmail, Gen. Musharraf said the argument was "illogical... It was India that brought forces on the borders and not Pakistan. (When we talk of withdrawing forces) Are we blackmailing, or India?"

**Kashmiris want to vote: page 10
Bush wants action on Iraq
within days, page 12**



LEND ME YOUR EARS: Mr AB Vajpayee addresses the UN General Assembly in Hindi on Friday. — AFP

general had told reporters in New York today that the issue had not figured during his talks with Mr Bush: "They believe our words... and the USA has not talked about

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THE STATESMAN

Address the root of Kashmir dispute: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, SEPT. 13. The United States President, George W. Bush, has told both the Prime Minister of India, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, that he looks forward to some resolution of the "underlying problems" in Kashmir.

He (meaning Mr. Bush) does look forward to some resolution of the underlying problems in Kashmir. He was telling both sides", according to a senior administration official.

Mr. Bush is also said to have told the two leaders in separate meetings that both would have to address the root of the dispute in order to prevent frequent tensions and flare-ups.

The U.S. President also told Gen. Musharraf to keep a check on militants infiltrating from Pakistan across the Line of Control as an essential step for the resumption of talks. Prior to his meeting with Mr. Bush, Gen. Musharraf at a press conference at the United Nations had repeated his theme of "nothing happening" across the LoC. Another important message has been conveyed to Gen. Musharraf - that the U.S. considered democracy as the "key" to the future of Pakistan. But, Mr. Bush did not discuss the specifics of the coming elections in Pakistan or engage in a conversation with Gen. Musharraf on the subject of rewards or punishments for democratic reform and progress.

In a 30-minute meeting with Gen. Musharraf, Mr. Bush made the point that if Pakistan were going to be a successful State, "adherence to democracy is key." He is said to have been pretty direct on this and point saying that a democratic and moderate Islamic Pakistan could serve as a model for other Islamic States. Briefing reporters on the meetings that Mr. Bush had on Thursday morning, a senior U.S. administration official said that Mr. Bush and Mr. Vajpayee met for about 30 minutes "building on the meeting they had last November."

The two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming the U.S.-India relationship, the official remarked on background.

They noted, in particular, the positive developments in the area of counter-terrorism and defence cooperation and emphasised the deepening of the high-level economic dialogue and the strengthening of the new strategic framework of relations and agreed to explore the possibility of expanding cooperation in space, in diverse form of energy, high technology, commerce and in science."

Chink of light

Overall Iraq situation looks grim

Baghdad's decision to readmit UN inspectors may delay but not ultimately prevent the war in Iraq that Bush wants to unleash. The Bush administration, where the aggressive Cheney-Rumsfeld-Condoleezza Rice triumvirate outnumber the moderate Colin Powell, is spoiling for a fight. Its hands have recently been strengthened by the US Congress, whose leaders have promised a bipartisan resolution supporting strong action against Iraq. For another, Saddam Hussein will be uncomfortable with full and unfettered inspections and look for an excuse to hinder and ultimately expel UN officials, as he has done before. That in turn will be the excuse for Washington, whom Tony Blair has been backing with missionary zeal, to blow its top and intervene. Such a pessimistic prognosis notwithstanding, it is now incumbent on Kofi Annan and his men to do their best to head off a disastrous conflict. This can be done by drafting a UN resolution which provides a mandate for arms inspectors to get into Iraq quickly and remain for a specified period of time, with the ability to enter at short notice any suspected biological, chemical or nuclear weapons facility.

At the same time Europeans, Arabs and Russians and possibly the French must intercede with Washington to see reason, to ask whether its own objectives in the campaign against terror can be met through a war to topple Saddam Hussein. Going by US military tactics since the 1990s a prolonged bombing campaign will precede the insertion of ground troops. This will excite greater worldwide opposition than bombing Afghan targets for two reasons. The Iraqi armed forces are more sophisticated than the Taliban and offers more targets, with greater "collateral damage". Secondly, no plausible links between Baghdad and Al Qaeda have been established, which will make escalating civilian tolls look meaningless and arbitrary. The anti-terrorist effort requires collaboration from police agencies all over the world, particularly the Muslim world, which will be hurt if outrage over Washington's actions mounts. Let us even grant that the Vietnam-Iraq analogy does not hold — US military technology is now more advanced, nobody is helping the Iraqis as the Russians and Chinese helped the Vietnamese, and Saddam Hussein does not have the kind of internal support that Ho Chi Minh did in Vietnam. The point remains, though, what happens after the US succeeds in overwhelming Hussein's troops.

This is pertinent because Hamid Karzai's government is not being given the kind of help it needs to rebuild and stabilise Afghanistan — Karzai himself may not have been alive if an assassin's bullet hadn't gone astray from close quarters — because of the Bush administration's known aversion to "nation building". Iraq will require vastly greater resources than Afghanistan to rebuild and institute democratic institutions — what will happen when that is not forthcoming? A US administration representative stated on television recently that it does not believe in "statist" approaches to such problems, forgetting that to most Afghans, Somalis and perhaps even those subjected to Laloo Yadav's administration in Bihar, statism is better than no state at all. An Iraq turned into an Afghanistan by US action will bode ill for any future war against terror.

21 SEP 2002

THE STATESMAN

US is following aggressive policy

By Jal Taraporevala
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: A year after the events of September 11, American foreign policy is giving the impression of becoming increasingly aggressive and unilateralist. Among other things, the manner in which the US

NEWS ANALYSIS

conducted its military campaign in Afghanistan, its continuing threats against Iraq and its refusal to place any real pressure on the Ariel Sharon government in Israel to begin meaningful negotiations with the Palestinians underscore the assertive manner in which Washington has pursued its perceived interests across the globe.

During this period, the Bush administration has also pressed ahead with the development of its National Missile Defence system, withdrawn from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile treaty with Moscow, and pulled out of the international forum to better verify the 1972 Biological Weapons Convention. Besides, the US has refused to sign the agreement to implement the Kyoto Protocol on climate change, and exerted pressure on a number of nations to enter into bilateral arrangements to exempt American nationals from being prosecuted in the recently established International Criminal Court. In the economic domain, Washington has annoyed several European Union countries and Japan by arbitrarily increasing tariffs on imported steel.

Bush at the UN

An attempt to bully the world

President Bush scored many firsts in his extraordinary address to the delegates assembled in a General Assembly in New York on 12 September. He was blunt, not for him the niceties of diplomacy. He spoke of Saddam Hussein with the same hatred that he deplored in the Iraqi dictator. In calling upon Iraq to implement Security Council resolutions of 1991, he harked back to the Gulf war and asked the Assembly to accept that if his father had not fought that war, Saddam would have had a nuclear weapon by 1993. He forgot that argument by suppositions that cannot be proven violates the first principles of logic and the art of argument. He went further. In an extraordinary show of contempt for the international community he brazenly proceeded to assume responsibility to go it alone if the Security Council did not wake up to the dangers he was outlining for their benefit. He accused Saddam of financing and encouraging terrorism and held him guilty of sheltering al Qaeda terrorists without a scrap of evidence but is willing to ignore hard evidence that Musharraf is practising the very same deceit. He spoke of the need for democracy in Iraq and expressed concern for the Iraqi people suffering under a cruel dictator but sees nothing wrong in Musharraf hijacking democracy in Pakistan and practising the same methods of oppressing his people who live without the same democracy he insists on providing to the Iraqi people without being asked. The message to the assembled delegates was simple, brutal, opinionated and wrong. Listen to me and accept what I say and join me or else I am determined to go it alone and you can either follow or watch from the sidelines while I make the world safe for American interests. This is the most dangerous dogmatism the world has ever seen. While he articulated what the world had not heard before; that al Qaeda terrorists are sheltering in Iraq, he defends friend Musharraf doing just that. He speaks of human dignity and insists on the legitimacy of the government in power, yet he condones the coup in Islamabad and even decrees that a bout of military rule every short while is good for Pakistan. He decides that Saddam has lost his legitimacy; does he consider that Musharraf's coup, his dismissal of Parliament, his sending into exile the elected Prime Minister and bending the Supreme Court to his will, his bogus election, reserving to himself powers to dismiss elected leaders if they do not obey him is the epitome of respect for the rule of law that the Supreme Court of the United States would endorse! And what about dictators in the Arab peninsula and in Egypt and elsewhere whom he keeps at his side by doling out billions of dollars to buy their support and the silence and suppression of democratic forces in those same countries?

All that can be said about his performance that can be thought favourable to Bush is the rhetoric, the shallow eloquence and the mastery of the tele-type technique, which was impressive. This would get him a prize in a school elocution competition, where form is all and substance counts for nothing. Unfortunately this is the President of the United States of America. In the event he convinced no one, he should not have expected otherwise. The world is in mortal danger, not from Saddam Hussein but from someone who claims the leadership of the democratic world. If the system of checks and balances in the governance of the United States does not assert itself and soon, we are in for a lot of trouble — all entirely avoidable.

14 SEP 2002

THE STATESMAN

Bush buys Vajpayee line, slams Pak

S Rajagopalan

New York, September 12

PRESIDENT GEORGE W Bush on Thursday condemned the continuing killings in Jammu and Kashmir and rejected Pakistan's bid to cloak incidents of terrorism in the garb of "freedom struggle".

During a 35-minute meeting with Atal Bihari Vajpayee, which was characterised by "exceptional warmth", Bush also voiced his personal commitment to qualitatively transform Indo-US relations.

Bush's sharp comments on Pakistan came on a day when

President Pervez Musharraf sought to spew venom on India at the UN General Assembly, particularly its determination to hold free and fair elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Foreign Secretary Kanwal Sibal, briefing reporters, said that President Bush dismissed the excuse of "freedom struggle" to justify terrorism. "If people are fighting for freedom, they should observe the tenets of freedom," Sibal quoted Bush as saying.

Following the Bush-Vajpayee meeting, National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra had a 90-minute session with his

American counterpart Condoleezza Rice. The meeting explored ways to deepen Indo-US economic, defence and technological relations. Space, energy and trade are among the areas identified for cooperation.

Musharraf himself used the UN forum to launch a tirade against India on several fronts: its plans to hold a "rigged poll" in Jammu and Kashmir, crushing the "freedom struggle" in the State, and precipitating the border situation. He also fired salvos on the "rising Hindu fanaticism", resulting in the "massacre of 2,000 innocent Muslims in Gujarat".

Adding to the confusion on Kashmir, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan listed South Asia as one of the four current threats to world peace and went on to say: "The situation may have calmed a little. If a fresh crisis erupts, the international community might have a role to play."

India dismissed Musharraf's charges, saying a leader who has abandoned democracy had the temerity to talk of freedom. "Pakistani rulers always shout to conjure up an image of an external threat to wish away the rot that engulfs Pakistan," a spokesperson said.

Bushing the world

The question remains: why an US attack on Iraq now?

9/11-5
13/9

EVEN before George W. Bush has spoken at the UN, word is out that he intends to lean heavily on the organisation to get Iraq to disarm or seem forever redundant. But the US president cannot be unconscious of the irony inherent in the fact that while all the leaders of the world who had assembled for the UN General Assembly session in New York had in one voice condemned the terrorist attacks that felled New York's Twin Towers - and that at the very site of the outrage on its first anniversary - almost every nation in the world, with a few exceptions, has expressed grave reservations about any unilateral US attack on Iraq.

The gains of the international consensus achieved over 9/11 is thus quickly undermined by the stated intention of the world's only super power to act in a manner that is not just violative of international law but of the even more universal humanitarian law. It has caused many who have supported Bush unconditionally through the last year to draw a line against it and provoked reputed US columnists like James Carroll to ask, 'Do we rightly memorialise those who died so violently by making them patrons of more violence?' Remarking on the 'cavalier belligerence' of the US president and his advisors, Carroll asks again: 'Do they know that death is about to become our nation's purpose?' The proposed Iraq action - by despatching 600 military personnel to its Middle East airbase, the US

government has just signalled how deadly serious it is about it - lacks the moral justification of last year's war in Afghanistan. In that case, there was evidence of a link between the 9/11 attacks and the Al Qaeda presence in a country presided over by the Taliban. In the Iraq case, no evidence of links between the perpetrators of 9/11 and the Iraqi political establishment has surfaced. It is this that invests USA's proposed action with the patina of bad faith.

US W. Bush

Saddam Hussein may be everything that Bush says he is, but that still does not answer the question that may yet come to haunt the US president: Why now? Why a decade after Operation Desert Storm? So far his administration has failed to come up with a convincing answer to this question and the world would want him to hold his fire until he can convincingly explain to them why he must attack Iraq at this particular moment of world history. If it is the threat of nuclear and biological warfare emanating from this region, then send in the UN weapons inspectors by all means. In his address to the nation delivered on September 11 against the lighted silhouette of the Statue of Liberty, Bush stated that "our generation has now heard history's call, and we will answer it". It is to be hoped that the US president will allow himself a moment of pause and listen to that call again. Maybe, just maybe, it is a call against rushing blindly into war.

Bush wants U.N. to confront Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT. 12. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, today challenged the United Nations to confront the threat from Iraq "deliberately and decisively" and at the same time left no doubt that the United States was willing to go it alone. "The just demands of peace and security will be met...a regime that has lost its legitimacy will also lose its power", Mr. Bush, told the U.N. General Assembly.

In a speech which was being paid close attention to, here and overseas, the President called on the world body to live up to its responsibility and offered to work on a resolution to meet the "common challenge". If Iraq once again defied a new U.N. resolution on the return of inspectors, "the world must move deliberately and decisively", Mr. Bush said.

"Iraq had answered a decade of U.N. demands with a decade of defiance", he said. "All the world now faces a test, and the United Nations, a difficult and defining moment. Are Security Council resolutions to be honoured and enforced, or cast aside without consequence? Will the United Nations serve the purpose of its founding, or will it be irrelevant?", he asked.

Mr. Bush dwelt at length on Baghdad's alleged efforts to acquire weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons and its refusal to account for as many as 600 missing nationals, including Indians, in Kuwait from 1991.

"The conduct of the Iraqi regime is a threat to the authority of the United Nations and a threat to peace", Mr. Bush said. "By breaking every pledge, by his deceptions and by his cruelties, Saddam Hussein, has made the case against himself", he said. The President's reaching out to the United Nations to put its foot down firmly against Iraq has to be seen in the backdrop of increasing criticism and concern over Washington going it alone by way of a pre-emptive military strike against Iraq.

The U.N. Secretary General, Kofi Annan, today reminded the world of the consequences of ignoring multilateralism in international politics. Mr. Bush, in willing to give the United Na-

tions a chance, also pointed out to the consequence of the failure to act, as this entailed betting on the lives of millions. "And this is a risk we must not take", the President declared. "By heritage and by choice, the United States will make that stand. Delegates to the United Nations, you have the power to make that stand as well", he said. Administration officials are not willing to specify what the U.S. will demand in the new Security Council resolution. But the impression is that Washington will demand the immediate return of inspectors and unfettered inspections with a time-frame of weeks and not months. Mr. Bush's hard-hitting speech with an almost exclusive focus on Iraq and its leader, Saddam Hussein was welcomed on Capitol Hill by Democrats and Republicans. Law-makers who had been quite wary of what the President had in mind said the administration was now willing to work with the international community.

Iraq criticises speech

UNITED NATIONS, SEPT. 12. The Iraq's U.N. Ambassador, Al-Douri, blasted the U.S. President, George W. Bush's speech to the General Assembly today, saying it lacked credibility and was motivated by revenge and political ambition.

"He chooses to deceive the world and his people by the longest series of fabrications that have ever been told by a leader of a nation," Mr. Al-Douri said.

It was the first Iraqi reaction to Mr. Bush's speech, in which the U.S. President warned Baghdad to comply with U.N. resolutions or face the consequences. "We cannot stand by and do nothing while dangers gather," Mr. Bush told the U.N. General Assembly. "We must stand up for our security and for the permanent rights and hopes of mankind."

The Ambassador responded by saying: "We don't care about the position of the U.S. If they are threatening, if they would attack, certainly we will be there for defending ourselves." — AP

Address the root of Kashmir dispute: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

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"...the two leaders reviewed the progress in bilateral relations and reaffirmed their commitment to continue the process of qualitatively transforming the U.S.-India relationship", the official remarked on background.

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14 SEP 2002

THE HINDU

U.S. closes embassy in Jakarta

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, SEPT. 11. The first anniversary of the "9/11" terrorist attacks was observed across East Asia today with due solemnity and delicate political messages.

The overall sombre mood was broken by Indonesia's open expression of dismay over America's unilateral move to close its embassy in Jakarta at this time for the fear of a possible terrorist strike. At an altogether political level, China made common cause with the U.S. but suggested a corrective anti-terror approach under the collective auspices of the select members of the U.N. Security Council.

The commemorative events in the region were marked by a thoughtful touch of inter-religious harmony and political correctness during a ceremony at the U.S. embassy premises in Singapore. Elsewhere, the Malaysian authorities not only maintained a heightened security vigil at the American embassy in Kuala Lumpur but also pulled no punches in advocating that the latest Iraq issue must be settled through the United Nations. While the scale and substance of the commemorative events varied from country to country in the Asia-Pacific region, no major disruptions occurred until nightfall.

Minor protests against the alleged high-handed approach of the U.S. in its ongoing anti-terror campaign were reported from Manila and elsewhere. Commenting on the U.S. decision to close

its diplomatic mission in Jakarta for an indefinite period, the Indonesian Vice-President, Hamzah Haz, said he had asked the American ambassador, Ralph Boyce, to clarify the decision.

The Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, is currently on a foreign tour. The Vice-President's intervention was, even if coincidentally, magnified by a statement from the Indonesian police chief, Da'i Bachtiar, who said that Abu Bakar Bassyir, the alleged mastermind behind a recent plot to blow up American embassies in South East Asia, was "not involved in any terrorist act".

While this did not exactly place Indonesia on a course of collision with the U.S., this was unlikely to go unheard in Washington.

China's Foreign Ministry said, "positive results" had flowed from the multilateral cooperation that marked the anti-terror campaign during the past year. However, a "comprehensive strategy based on the Charter of the United Nations" was called for to pursue the inevitably "long-term campaign" against terrorism which should not also be linked to a specific country, nationality or religion, Beijing said.

The Malaysian Deputy Foreign Minister, Leo Michael Toyad, said in Kuala Lumpur today that "the (current) Iraq issue should be resolved in line with international laws" without any resort to a military action. Iraq, too, should abide by all the relevant U.N. resolutions, he said in Parliament.

Bush's final versus Saddam

Agencies

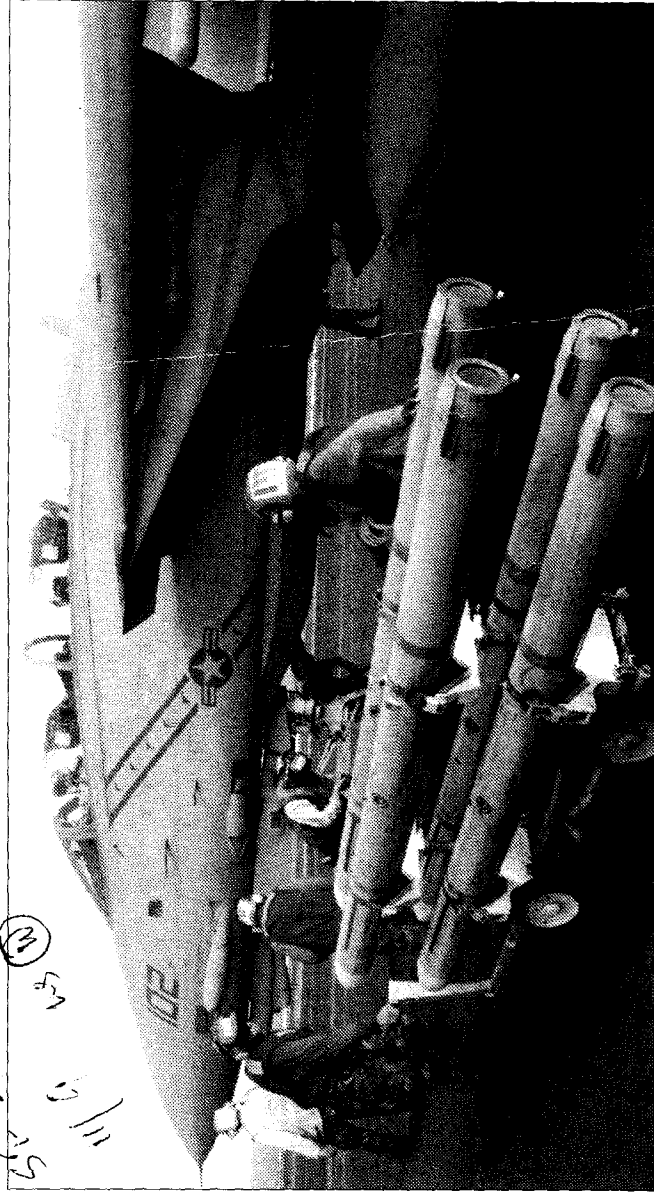
WASHINGTON, Sept. 10. — Mr George W Bush will present "extensive" new evidence of Iraqi President Mr Saddam Hussein preparing to deploy weapons of mass destruction, The New York Daily News reported today. The US President is likely to present the evidence during his address to the UN General Assembly on Thursday.

"There's a vast volume of evidence on a multitude of fronts," an US official told the newspaper. "Iraq is doing 'a whole lot more' than just seeking aluminium rods to enhance the weapons-grade uranium needed to build nuclear weapons."

US deputy secretary of state Gen. Colin Powell today said the toppling of Mr Hussein would be a victory for the people of the region in general and the Iraqi people in particular.

Meanwhile, senior US officials have dropped efforts to link Mr Hussein to the Al-Qaida network or other extremist organisations, the Washington Post reported today.

In Moscow, Russia's deputy foreign minister Mr Vyacheslav Trubnikov said Russia was making "colossal efforts" to avert a US attack on Iraq. "We will stand together with the Americans in the fight against terrorism ... But being a



DESERT STORM II? Crew members pull bombs past an F18 fighter on aircraft carrier USS George Washington in the Arabian Sea on Tuesday. US forces, participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, will be on the frontline of any military strike on Iraq. — AFP

part of anti-terror coalition doesn't mean every nation must snap to attention on every international issue."

In Blackpool, England, Mr Tony Blair today warned that "action would follow" if Mr Hussein refuses to bow to the UN's will. "I believe it is right to deal with Saddam through

the United Nations," Mr Blair said at a trade convention.

In Jerusalem, Israeli president Mr Moshe Katsav said Mr Hussein would probably attack Israel in response to a US strike on Iraq.

Iraqi vice-president calls on Arabs: Iraqi vice-president Mr Taha Yassin Ramadan today called on Arab

countries to confront the USA, its people and its property by any means. His comments, made to reporters in Jordan, fell short of explicitly calling on the Arabs to attack Americans but underlined

Iraq's drive to sway world opinion behind it in its tussle with the the USA.

Bush, Blair discuss plan to oust Saddam

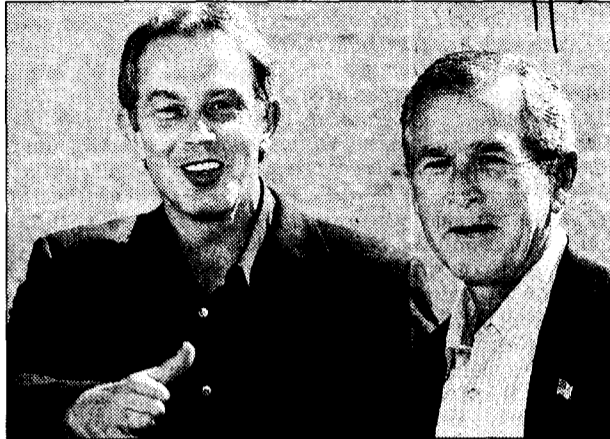
Washington: President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair stressed the need to confront Saddam Hussein, as the Iraqi leader defies the United Nations and reportedly develops weapons of mass destruction.

"A lot of people understand that this man (Saddam) has defied every United Nations resolution. Sixteen UN resolutions he has ignored," Mr Bush on Saturday said at the Presidential retreat at Camp David soon after the arrival of Mr Blair.

Mr Bush said Saddam "is a man who said he was going to get rid of weapons of mass destruction. And for 11 long years he has not fulfilled his promise. And we are going to talk about what to do about it. We owe it to the future generations to deal with the problem."

Mr Blair is currently the only European leader to rally behind Mr Bush for war against Iraq. Mr Bush especially stressed the report put out by an International Atomic Agency team that Mr Saddam Hussein may be developing nuclear weapons in addition to other weapons of mass destruction.

"I don't know what more evidence we need," Mr Bush said. Echoing Bush, Mr Blair said that the threat from Hussein and weapons of mass destruction—chemical, biological and potentially nuclear weapons capability—was real. "And the policy of inaction is not a policy we can responsibly subscribe to. So the purpose of our discussion today is to work out the right strategy for dealing with



US President George W. Bush and British Prime Minister Tony Blair answer questions from the media at the Camp David presidential retreat in Maryland on Saturday shortly after Mr Blair's arrival.

this, because deal with it we must," Mr Blair said.

"It is not Britain or America that is in breach of UN resolutions. It is Saddam Hussein and Iraq. And therefore, this issue for the international community to deal with. And we have got to make sure that it is a way of dealing with it," Mr Bush said.

Mr Bush noted that former president Clinton's administration as well as many members of the Senate had supported an Iraqi regime change. However, "there are all kinds of ways to change regimes," he added.

Asked whether there is any conclusive evidence about Saddam's nuclear capability, Mr Bush said, "I would remind that when the inspectors first went into Iraq and were finally denied access, a report came out of the IAEA that they were six

months away from developing a weapon. What more evidence we need."

Meanwhile, Scott Ritter, a former UN arms inspector who rejects US charges that Iraq is developing weapons of mass destruction, has arrived in Baghdad declaring that his mission is to try to stop any US-led war on Iraq.

Mr Ritter, who arrived in Baghdad late on Saturday, was expected to address the Iraqi parliament on Sunday. He was also due to meet senior Iraqi government officials. Mr Ritter said the trip was at his own initiative "...as an American citizen concerned about the direction that my country is taking, I think that's the reason why I'm here."

"I'm here to help set in motion a sequence of events that hopefully could prevent a war that doesn't need to be fought," he told CNN. Agencies

Clerics to 'celebrate' 9/11 attacks

London: On September 11 when people around the world gather at events to pay homage to victims of the terror attack on the United States, a group of Muslim clerics will meet here to "celebrate the anniversary of Al Qaida's attacks" and to launch an organisation for Islamic militants.

The conference, likely to be attended by the most radical mullahs seeking to make Britain an Islamic state, would justify the September 11 terror strikes last year as the right of Muslims to defend themselves against armed aggression, a media report said.

The conference being held at the Finsbury

Park mosque in north London will also launch the Islamic Council of Britain (ICB) to implement the Sharia law in the country, "The Sunday Telegraph" reported. The meeting will be chaired by Muslim leaders, including Omar Bakri Mohammed, whose Al-Muhajiroun group wants to establish a worldwide Islamic state, the report said.

"I never praised Sept 11 after it happened but now I can see why they did it," Mr Mohammed was quoted in the newspaper.

Mr Mohammed, who is entitled to stay in Britain, said he would not stop Al Qaida members from joining the ICB. PTI

Blair vows to win over opponents of Iraq action

Associated Press

LONDON, Sept. 8. — Prime Minister Tony Blair returned today after holding talks with President George W. Bush. Mr Blair said some of the anti-war voices were asking “sensible questions” and could be convinced of the need to take action — possibly military — against Saddam Hussein.

After meeting President Bush at the Camp David retreat in Maryland yesterday, Mr Blair said the USA and Britain would rally “the broadest possible international support” for action to stop Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein maintaining biological and chemical weapons or acquiring nuclear arms.

“This is a challenge not simply for America or for Britain but for the whole of the international community,” Mr Blair told reporters.

Mr Blair has been a staunch and vocal supporter of the US war on terrorism, but many in Britain — especially within Mr Blair’s own Labour Party — oppose military action against Iraq. Union and business leaders are among the latest to express qualms about a war.

Britain’s main union federation, the Trades Union Congress, is expected to debate Iraq at its annual conference, which begins tomorrow. The train drivers’ union Aslef has tabled a motion expressing “unequivocal opposition” to military action.

Mr John Edmonds, leader of

the GMB general workers’ union, said many union members were growing increasingly worried about the threat of war. “There is an unmistakable feel that the USA and UK governments are moving towards war,” he told Sky News television.

“And the overwhelming feeling of the delegates here is that this is not something we should contemplate without total UN support. “The idea that any country, including a country as powerful as the USA, should take action unilaterally is something we find totally unacceptable,” he added. “This is not a time for cowboy tactics. It is a time for reflection.”

Mr Rod Eddington, chief executive of British Airways, said today that a war in Iraq could hurt airlines already struggling in the wake of the 11 September terrorist attacks. Mr Blair said he felt most people could be persuaded of the need to act against Saddam. He said some of his critics “would be opposed to any military action.” Others “are asking what I call sensible questions” about the international impact of such action, Mr Blair told Skynews television.

“I think people in that second camp can be convinced if they see the evidence, hear the arguments and realise that we’re not simply striding out on our own, not bothering about other people, but realise that we’re going out and trying to win as much support internationally as possible,” Mr Blair said.

WAR PLAN / FRANCE, CHINA, RUSSIA COOL TO U.S. MOVE

Bush, Blair set to discuss Iraq 899

ws (w) HD-19
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 7. Even as the U.S. President, George W Bush, prepares to give a forceful speech on Iraq at the United Nations next Thursday, his call for military action against that West Asian country has been rejected by leaders of France, China and Russia.

So far, only Britain has backed this Republican administration's plan to oust Saddam Hussein and its Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is shortly meeting Mr. Bush at Camp David. The President will meet the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, in Detroit, Michigan, on Monday. Canada has also opposed unilateral military action against Iraq, stressing that a

consensus in the Security Council is the best way forward.

Unnamed administration officials have been quoted in media reports as saying that the President will indeed make a forceful presentation in his United Nations address on September 12, partly shifting responsibility to the world body. Mr. Bush is expected to say in rather blunt terms that if the U.N. does not act soon on Iraq, the United States will. The idea of the Security Council being in the forefront of any moves against Iraq is said to have been shared by the leaders of Russia, France and China.

The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, in his telephone conversation with Mr. Bush, is believed to have raised the le-

gality of a military strike against Iraq. France and China have apparently taken the position that the Security Council should decide the matter. The White House has said that the telephone calls to the leaders of Russia, France and China are just the beginning of a dialogue to persuade other nations to join in any effort against Iraq. Efforts are also on to downplay the dissenting views of the world leaders. "I think the fair way to summarise what the foreign leaders said to the President is that they welcomed the President's call, they welcomed the President's consultation and that they were open to the President's ideas and they want to listen," the White House spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said.

U.S. talking to Pak. on J&K polls: Armitage

USO.S. Armitage

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 7. The United States is trying to work on both India and Pakistan through the elections in Kashmir, to get them through as violence-free as possible; and the Bush administration is talking with its "Pakistani friends" for making sure this happens. "I can't see the future. I have a murky, muddy crystal ball. We are just trying to work on both sides through these elections right now; to get through them as violence-free as possible. We'll see where we are and we'll continue our discussions," said the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage.

In an exclusive conversation with *The Hindu*, Mr. Armitage, who has been in the region twice in the last three months or so, said there had indeed been some forward movement in the problems of the region. "I notice that in terms of a move towards elections in Kashmir and also elections in Pakistan. Tensions are somewhat higher than they were, say about a month and a half ago, but to some extent the violence is not as great as some had feared."

"And we are talking with our Pakistani friends making sure that these elections (in Kashmir) are held free of violence. We are pleased that President Musharraf assured me... that

he and his administration condemn violence at every election, including the election in Kashmir, although their views of this election are very well known. They're not supportive of it at all. That's a different situation."

He did not share the view that there was an impasse because of New Delhi's insistence that a dialogue with Pakistan could not be started unless cross-border terrorism came to an end and the infrastructure of terrorism was torn down. "The Government of India said many things... They have also said at another time that relatively violence-free elections in Kashmir could possibly lead to some sort of dialogue at some level."

Another positive aspect was that "both Indian and Pakistani interlocutors said they appreciated the good offices of the United States and they want them to continue". Mr. Armitage said that he "understood" the perception that the U.S. failed to fully appreciate where India was coming from on the issue of terrorism, especially as it related to the sub-continent. "I understand...But I think our Indian friends are sensitive and sensible enough to know that we have got to fight these issues one at a time. And your terrorism, particularly coming from Kashmir, is horrible. We condemn it."

"We have to make sure that

how we approached the solution to the problem is not something which ultimately may lead to a failed state next door... Our success in Afghanistan... created conditions in which we may eventually have a better Pakistan. A more stable Pakistan which will then create the conditions that will further alleviate the ability of terrorists to attack your citizens."

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Mr. Armitage was asked about the conflicting statements of Gen. Musharraf on the kind of commitments he had made on the various aspects related to cross-border terrorism. "I think President Musharraf sometimes gets frustrated, I guess, generally with continued questions from journalists," was the response.

He scoffed at the criticism that Washington was somehow telling India how to conduct elections in Kashmir and at the same time was being less tough on what was happening in Pakistan by way of elections there.

"That is absurd. I am shocked. I am surprised you would ask a question like that. It is exactly the opposite. It was the Indian Government that announced they were going to have elections. We supported the idea and merely voiced the fact that we expect it to be free, fair and open," he said.

Details on Page 11

'We deplore the terrible violence across the LoC'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 7. The context for the meeting was the first anniversary observance of the horrific terror attacks of September 11. But from his seventh floor office at the State Department and in the midst of a hectic schedule on a Friday afternoon, the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, went beyond the meaning and relevance of September 11 to South Asia to talk about the elections in Kashmir, U.S.-India relations, the coming meeting in New York between the President, George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, the differences over terrorism and Iraq and in general as to where the sub-continent is heading. Excerpts from the interview to *The Hindu*.

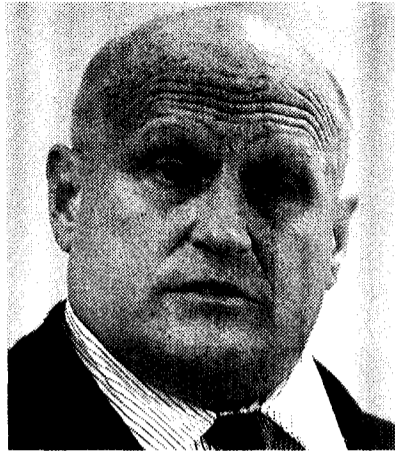
Sridhar Krishnaswami: Would you elaborate on the impact and relevance of September 11 to South Asia?

Richard Armitage: It has shown yet again to the United States that an issue

demn it. We have to make sure that how we approached the solution to the problem is not something which ultimately may lead to a failed state next door. I think our success in Afghanistan, with assistance from, among others, India, created conditions in which we may eventually have a better Pakistan. A more stable Pakistan which will then create the conditions that will further alleviate the ability of terrorists to attack your citizens.

Any forward movement on the problems/troubles of the sub-continent?

I notice that in terms of a move towards elections in Kashmir and also elections in Pakistan; tensions are somewhat higher than they were, say about a month and a half ago, but to some extent the violence is not as great as some had feared. We are supporting full, free and fair and open elections, we hope, that will be held in Kashmir. And we are talking with our Pakistani



Richard Armitage

in summer, in June, threw a temporary roadblock into that. But I think that we are past that now and moving forward again. And I think President Bush would want to talk to Prime Minister Vajpayee about that. However Mr. Vajpayee is the guest here; and I'm sure President Bush would welcome his views and welcome him to start the conversation in any way he thinks fit.

Is there any common message to the leaders of India and Pakistan from President Bush/and the Secretary of State?

To the extent there is a common message it is how intent we are to further develop the full aspects of the full range of our relationships. That's the underlying message to both. But beyond that, partly the events of the day

INTERVIEW

will intrude. They always do. Clearly the situation in Iraq would be of high interest to our Indian friends because you have so many workers throughout the Gulf and you are so dependant on the energy from the Gulf, although I know your views very well...

Do differences on terrorism and Iraq mean that Indo-U.S. relations may be heading for a difficult patch?

No. First of all the Government of India is welcome to any view. We respect the Government of India's views. I would note that the U.S. has not yet laid out our case on the question of Iraq and on the weapons of mass destruction. And I trust that once the President makes a decision to lay out this case, that the Government of India

would accept visitors such as myself or others who may go to India to make the case and would engage us in a diplomatic conversation on these matters...

On the view that for all the involvement of the U.S. in the sub-continent in the recent past, there has been not been much to show for?

I think I would take the point of view if I were a mother or father of an Indian soldier — it is a very good thing that none of my sons and daughters died in a conflict. So I think the fact that sensible policies of both Governments led

where it was heading without any change in Afghanistan. Clearly, had the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban continued to hold sway in Afghanistan, this would have put Pakistan in an even more precarious position, I think, over time. Jihadists would have become majority instead of minority right now. And what effect would that have on India? So that would have been the worst possible situation.

Right now, we have an Afghanistan which is in a flux; we have a Pakistan that has made some rather bold moves — some — against Jihadists. And, I

"We want India particularly to be that beacon of open, democratic, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society..."

"... A more stable Pakistan will then create the conditions that will further alleviate the ability of terrorists to attack your citizens."

as far away as a 'madrassa' in Pakistan or a failed state in Central Asia or conflict in South Asia of any sort is something that can, if left unattended, reach out and touch us and our friends.

Regarding South Asia, it has really made us to focus to pay attention to the root causes of problems such as terrorism and the conditions that allow terrorists to flourish. So you see a lot of attention of this Bush administration to try to get at the underlying issues of poverty, human rights abuses and things of that nature which create the conditions which bring about a failed state.

What about a perception that the U.S. fails to fully understand or appreciate where India is coming from on the issue of terrorism, especially as it relates to the sub-continent?

I understand. I have had discussions with India. I have been honoured to be there twice this summer and three times since the beginning of this administration. I understand. But I think our Indian friends are sensitive and sensible enough to know that we have got to fight these issues one at a time. And your terrorism, particularly coming from Kashmir, is horrible. We con-

friends making sure that these elections are held free of violence. We are pleased that President Musharraf assured me that I could make known in press conferences the fact that he and his administration condemn violence at every election, including the election in Kashmir, although their views of this election are very well known. They are not supportive of it at all. That is a different situation.

Are you convinced that elections in Kashmir are going to be violence-free?

I never said violence-free ... I said we wanted as free of violence as possible. I am not sure of anything until it happens.

What are the priority items on the discussion agenda in New York between the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee?

President Bush is quite proud that in his campaign he made it a hallmark that one of the things he was going to do was to reconstitute, re-invigorate, in effect re-develop, a very robust relationship with India. From his point of view he is well on his way to doing that. We are pretty proud of it. The activities

to no beginning of hostilities is something positive — very much positive. I think the alternative, the way things were heading in June, we heard the leadership of both sides say they were heading to a war. In the last three months at least there has been no war. And we deplore the terrible violence that continues across the LoC.

The Government of India says that there can be no dialogue unless cross-border terrorism ends and the infrastructure of terrorism is torn down. Is there an impasse now?

The Government of India said many things — that was only one of the things. They have also said at another time that relatively violence-free elections in Kashmir could possibly lead to some sort of dialogue at some level. So the Government of India said several things. They are not contradictory. You laid out one set of criteria; there has been another set having to do with the upcoming Kashmir elections. I can't see the future — I have a murky, muddy crystal ball.

We are just trying to work on both sides through this elections right now; to get through them as violence-free as possible. We'll see where we are and we'll continue our discussions. One other positive thing that I might say... is that both Indian and Pakistani interlocutors said they appreciated the good offices of the U.S. and they want them to continue, which I think is another positive step.

Where is the sub-continent heading?

To see where the sub-continent is heading, you would also have to look at

think if you take the long view this is in India's interests. Our view is focussing on where we would want the sub-continent to be. We would want it to be in an area of peace and prosperity and stability, free of violence. We want India particularly to be that beacon of open, democratic, multi-ethnic, multi-religious society that people of all race and creed and religious beliefs can live together.

On the criticism of the Bush administration that it calls on India to conduct free and fair polls in Kashmir and at the same time being less tough on Pakistan given what is taking place, looking at what is taking place there as a 'process' instead of where the directions are heading to.

That is absurd. I am shocked. I am surprised you would ask a question like that. It is exactly the opposite. It was the Indian Government that announced they were going to have elections. We supported that idea and merely voiced the fact that we expect it to be free, fair and open. For a democratic society it seems to me this is the least one democratic society can expect from the other.

On the other side of the question, Pakistanis were furious that we were promoting open, free and fair elections — that is some in Pakistan. We talk with President Musharraf quite often... We exchange views. We have no illusions about what is going on in South Asia. We also have no illusions about the difficulty of the task of the governance of India; no illusions about the difficulty of the task of the governance of Pakistan at all.

We will win war on terror: Bush

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7. — Vowing to win the war against terror and leave the world a better place, the USA has said it has undermined the ability of terrorists to strike again.

"We will win the war on terrorism and leave the world better than we found it," President George W Bush said in a message to the nation to mark the anniversary of Sept 11 terror attacks last year.

The US military and its allies around the world have disrupted the terrorist networks, destroyed their training camps and undermined their ability to strike again, he said, in the message conveyed through a supplement of The Washington Times today.

American troops have removed the Taliban regime from power, liberating Afghan women and children from lives of fear and oppression. "This will be a long war, and unprecedented challenges await us. But we have made tremendous progress," the American President said.

"We all remember where we were and how we felt when we learned of the terrorist attacks last September 11. We remember the blue sky of that Tuesday morning and, moments later, the black smoke that

streaked against it.

"We remember the terrible scenes of planes crashing into buildings and the dread we felt as we learned the names of mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters, children and their teachers — innocent victims from more than 80 countries," he said.

'This will be a long war, and unprecedented challenges await us. But we have made tremendous progress'

"In an instant, America was transformed from a nation of peace to a country at war. We were called to defend liberty against tyranny and terror. And we have answered that call with the might of our military and the spirit of a nation inspired by acts of heroism," Mr Bush said.

In the past 12 months, "we have seen the true character of our country. We learned of firefighters who wrote their Social Security numbers on their arms with felt-tip pens to mark their bodies before rushing into burning build-

ings. We learned of the courage of the passengers aboard Flight 93 — American civilians who led the first counter-attack in the war on terror." He said: "We watched recovery workers fulfil their grim duty while New Yorkers lined the streets to show their support and gratitude. Today, the grief of families continues. Yet we have rebuilt much of what the terrorists set out to destroy.

The Pentagon stands strong and whole. We are rebuilding New York City." "Our government bears essential responsibilities in the struggle to wage an effective and relentless war against terrorists, protect the homeland and strengthen America's economy. "We have acted on those fronts, and we will continue to do more," he said.

Stressing that the American people have responsibilities as well in the war on terror, President Bush said: Overcome evil with acts of goodness. Love a neighbour. Reach out to somebody in need. Feed someone who is hungry, teach a child to read, or join in community efforts to prepare for emergencies by helping local firefighters and police. He said he has asked all Americans to commit at least two years over a lifetime "to the service of our neighbours and our nation."

US, UK warplanes pound Iraqi defence site

TIMES NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

London \ Washington: In one of the biggest allied operations over Iraq in four years, about 100 British and American warplanes attacked a major air defence installation west of Baghdad on Thursday night.

The London-based *Daily Telegraph* said a dozen US and British warplanes dropped precision bombs and that about 100 aircraft took part in the mission, which it said was the biggest single operation in Iraq in over four years.

Although hours after the attack, British Prime Minister Tony Blair pledged in a BBC interview that the UK would pay the "blood price" of its special relationship with the US by lining up alongside "when the shooting starts", British defence ministry officials cautioned that it was "not the beginning of a war" and the Pentagon claimed on Friday that the attack was of "normal proportions".

A Pentagon spokesman said in Washington, "The number (of aircraft) is wrong. This idea that it's the largest strike in four years is wrong." He was unable to say how many aircraft had participated in the strike but said it was "of normal proportions directed at a site that fired at US aircraft".

However, defence analysts said the raid

War fever hits markets

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: Financial and commodity markets were in turmoil on Friday following the US-led attacks on Iraqi military installations. In the Indian bullion market, too, the price of a 10-tola gold bar shot up by Rs 1,000 to Rs 61,400.

Although crude oil prices hit a yearly high in the international markets at \$29 a barrel, the US-led attacks are likely to have little impact on Indian prices of petrol and diesel. Indian shares lost sold ground as investors were concerned that the government's latest divestment plan could face stiff challenges at a crucial meeting at the weekend, brokers said. Frontline tech stocks also contributed to the slide, tracking the Nasdaq index's overnight loss. The 30-issue benchmark Sensex closed 1.27 per cent lower at 3,141.11 points, falling 1.26 per cent on the week.

In the forex market, the rupee slumped against the US dollar on a fresh wave of heavy all-round dollar short-covering by banks following concerns over a surge in global oil prices. In volatile trade, the rupee closed at Rs 48.95 per dollar, a whopping 10-paise plus decline from previous closing levels of Rs 48.4800/4850.

● Detailed reports on Page 13

appeared larger than usual and could herald the countdown to war. They said the raids seemed designed to destroy Iraq's vital air defences and allow easy access to special forces helicopters. It said the raid appeared to be a prelude to possible special forces operations before any US-led war on Iraq, which is reputed to be developing weapons of mass destruction.

Iraqi state media confirmed reports of the airstrike, but said the target was a civilian facility. Iraqi state newspapers on Friday quoted an unidentified Iraqi military spokesman as saying enemy warplanes had attacked "civil and service installations" in the Al-Rutbah area but "our courageous anti-aircraft units confronted the jets and forced them to leave Iraqi skies".

Meanwhile, US President George W. Bush held talks on the Iraq crisis with the leaders of Russia, China and France, a White House official said. Mr Bush telephoned Vladimir Putin of Russia, Jiang Zemin of China and Jacques Chirac of France whose countries have all opposed US moves toward a military strike on Iraq and its leader Saddam Hussein.

Mr Bush is to meet Mr Blair at his Camp David retreat on Saturday and will hold a meeting with Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien on Monday.

Powell seeks return of weapons inspectors

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 2. In remarks that appear to contradict the views of other senior Cabinet advisors of the U.S. President, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has called for the return of weapons inspectors to Iraq and also suggested a debate in the international community about the issue.

"The President has been clear that he believes weapons inspectors should return," Gen. Powell told the BBC in an interview to be aired this Sunday. "Iraq has been in violation of many U.N. resolutions for most of the last 11 or so years. And so, as a first step, let's see what the inspectors find. Send them back in. Why are they being kept out," the Secretary of State asked. Although the full text of Gen. Powell's remarks has not been made available, the comments on Iraq suggest that there is a division within the Bush administration on how to deal with Saddam Hussein, President of Iraq.

The other top advisors of the President, including the Vice-President, the Defence

Secretary and the National Security Adviser, have been hawkish in their stance towards Baghdad. In fact, the Vice-President, Dick Cheney, even questioned the point of sending weapons inspectors back into Iraq, saying Baghdad had mastered the "science" of deception. "The return of inspectors would provide no assurance whatsoever of his compliance. On the contrary, there's a great danger that it would provide false comfort," Mr. Cheney said. Making a case for a pre-emptive military strike against Iraq, the Vice-President stressed that the "risks of inaction are far greater than the risk of action".

White House responded to Gen. Powell's remarks, saying there were no differences among the President's advisers. In particular, the White House stressed there was no difference of opinion between the Vice-President and the Secretary of State. Gen. Powell's remarks are "the same as what we have been saying all along" was the response of the Deputy White House Press Secretary, Scott McClellan.

Gen. Powell's latest remarks are consistent with earlier statements and Congressional testimonies. While he has not been soft on Iraq and its leader, Gen. Powell has also not subscribed to the plan for a military strike. He has all along been in favour of exploring other options, including sending United Nations weapons inspectors. Gen. Powell has been reticent on the subject this summer fuelling rumours that there is indeed a split in the ranks of the Presidential advisers over Iraq. His remarks on BBC are bound to set off further debate.

Gen. Powell's views on the return of weapons inspectors are shared by prominent Republicans, including former Cabinet officials of previous administrations. A big worry on Capitol Hill is not just the U.S. plan to go after Mr. Hussein, unilaterally, if need be; there is also the question of Iraq's future after the overthrow of the Iraqi leader.

"Have we calibrated the consequences — unintended consequences," asked the Republican Senator, Chuck Hagel.

Support waning for Bush move on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, SEPT. 1. With the U.S. President, George W Bush, set to return to Washington after a month long "working vacation" in Crawford, Texas, the White House is being reminded that support for sending American troops to oust Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq has fallen rapidly and with an overwhelming number of people of the view that this Republican administration must get Congressional authorisation before starting military action.

A latest CNN/Time poll shows that support for a military strike against Iraq is now only 51 per cent, down from 70 per cent last December; and opposition for the idea is up to 40 per cent from 22 per cent.

About 65 per cent of the Americans agree with the Bush administration that the United States would be morally justified in invading Iraq to remove Mr. Hussein from power; at the same time nearly 50 per cent believe that this military action would be long and costly before the United States could claim victory; and some 15 per cent taking the view that the United States would have to eventually get out of Iraq without a victory.

But what will be of interest to

both the White House and sceptics of any military strike against Iraq is that close to 70 per cent of those polled said that the President needs to get authorisation from Congress, with only 28 per cent of the view that Mr. Bush can authorise the use of force without Congressional mandate.

The poll, conducted on August 28 and 29, finds support for the war only among the Conservatives with Liberals, senior citizens, college graduates and low income groups opposed to military action against Iraq. Interestingly, the Vice-President, Dick Cheney, and the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, the leading hawks in the Bush administration have an approval rating of 51 per cent and 49 per cent respectively. By contrast, the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, seen as one of those urging caution comes away with a highest popularity rating in the administration with 78 per cent, or higher than even the President who has a 69 per cent "favourable" rating.

Mr. Bush is not the only one who will be back in town by the beginning of next week. The Senate is back from its Labour Day Recess on September 3 and the House of Representatives will return the next day.

THE HINDU

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PLANNING FOR A PRE-EMPTIVE STRIKE

U.S. PLANS FOR a pre-emptive strike against Iraq with the aim of bringing about a change of regime would entail a violation of established international principles and cannot be condoned especially if it were to be carried out in a unilateral mode and were meant to serve a narrow, partisan interest. Even countries that have been closely allied with the U.S., and which agree with the perception that Iraq and its President, Saddam Hussein, represent a grave threat to world peace, are not prepared to endorse the plan at the moment. Close friends of the U.S. are currently engaged in efforts to persuade Washington to present its case before the U.N. as a prelude to the collective drawing up of an ultimatum and to act solely with the world body's consent if Iraq does not comply. It does not appear likely that an administration which has but reluctantly drawn in the legislative wing into the process of chiselling its Iraq policy will countenance the idea that the wider world should be drawn into the debate.

In laying out what has so far been the most forceful presentation of the administration's justification for a pre-emptive strike, the U.S. Vice-President, Dick Cheney, has referred to what are essentially two different sets of factors. One of these sets can be broadly categorised as consisting of factors that the rest of the world is genuinely concerned about. Included in this set are the facts that Iraq did have a chemical and biological weapons capability, that Mr. Hussein did not hesitate to order the use of this capability against Iranian soldiers and dissident Kurds and that Baghdad might be trying to re-build this capability after much of it was destroyed in the 1991 Gulf War or via the programme of intrusive inspections that followed from it. Under the terms of the agreement that ended that war, Baghdad did commit itself to comply with a regimen where-

in international weapons inspectors could probe all facilities for the production and storage of weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and the missiles to deliver them, destroy and dismantle this capability and ultimately be able to truthfully certify that Iraq was free of these weapons. It is not solely Iraq's fault that the weapons inspection programme did not unfold as envisaged, but its need to comply has not been erased and the rest of the world is justified in demanding that Iraq submit itself once again to the programme for intrusive inspections.

For the U.S. administration, however, Iraq's non-compliance on the weapons inspection front is relevant merely as a supplement to the main thrust of its case for a pre-emptive strike. The main thrust of Washington's argument is that Iraq under Mr. Hussein, possessing a WMD capability as it does, poses a grave danger to world peace since it might use that capability once it has been sufficiently developed or that it might pass on the capability to state-less terrorist groups. For this reason, Washington argues, there can never been a stable and peaceful world order till Mr. Hussein is toppled from office and the regime in Baghdad re-cast. To most of the rest of the world, this case appears over-drawn. In this context, the other set of factors referred to in Mr. Cheney's presentation take on added salience. The U.S. Vice-President has spoken of how Iraq's possession of a tenth of the world's oil reserves in combination with the WMD capability it is developing would enable it to dominate West Asia and defy Washington's promotion of its own special interests in the region. Few people elsewhere in the world would be prepared to concede that this is sufficient justification for an action that would further destabilise a region rocked by conflict between Israel and the Arabs and would exacerbate rage and frustration in the Muslim world.

Ban in retaliation for illegal tax breaks to American firms

US faces \$4-bn EU sanctions

RICHARD WADDINGTON
AND PATRICK LANNIN

Geneva/Brussels, Aug. 30 (Reuters): The World Trade Organisation (WTO) ruled today the European Union could slam sanctions worth a record \$4 billion on US exports in retaliation for illegal tax breaks to US companies.

The figure was set by a special panel of trade arbitrators who had been debating since January how much the European Union was being hurt by a tax system that the WTO has repeatedly ruled to be in breach of international trade rules.

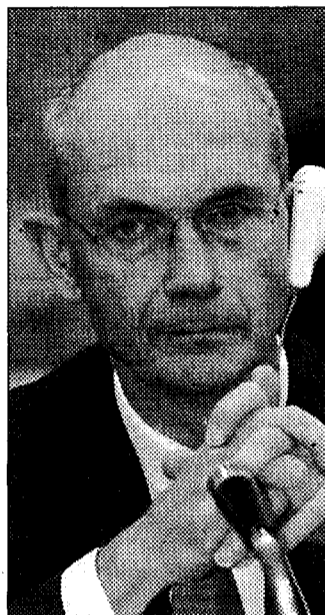
"We find that the amount of \$4.043 billion ... can be considered to be a reasonable approximation of the actual value of the subsidy," the panel said.

The finding, which could stoke simmering trans-Atlantic trade tensions, is by far the highest level of retaliation authorised since the Geneva-based international trade body was established in January 1995.

The \$4.043 billion figure met exactly the EU calculations for trade losses it said companies in the 15-state bloc were suffering as a result of the disputed tax concessions, granted to US giants like Microsoft and Boeing.

US officials had argued that just under \$1.1 billion would be a fairer estimate.

But the panel said that on the basis of figures provided by the United States, it calculated the annual damage to the EU at \$3.74 billion, while the EU's numbers



EU trade commissioner
Pascal Lamy

pointed to \$5.33 billion — suggesting it could have awarded Brussels even more.

"We are satisfied by today's decision that makes the cost of non-compliance with WTO crystal clear," said EU Trade Commissioner Pascal Lamy in a statement. "The arbitrators have endorsed the EU's request, that is they have given us an amount of potential countermeasures which will create a major incentive for the US to eliminate this huge illegal export subsidy," he said.

Commission trade official Nikos Zaimis said the European

Union sought fast implementation of the WTO ruling.

"We know that they (US) have (Congressional) elections in November. This is an important date for the future. Of course, we would like to see the US comply before that date," he told a news conference. The ruling, however, is unlikely to lead to immediate sanctions because the EU has given abundant hints that it is prepared to stay its hand as long as Washington is making serious efforts to revise the offending legislation.

"But obviously it is our concern to have everybody playing by the rules, it is our concern to minimise the fallout from problems with our biggest trade partner," said European external affairs Commissioner Chris Patten. There was no immediate reaction from Washington to the decision. But a senior US business official lashed out at the ruling as "just not appropriate".

Kimberly Pinter, director of international tax policy at the National Association of Manufacturers, said in Washington,

1-3
23/18
"There's no reason they should be entitled to the full amount" of the annual subsidy.

There have been calls by some US Congressmen for the administration to hit back over losing the FSC case by challenging parts of the complicated EU tax laws which they say help European exporters.

In a bid to hold off EU retaliation, President George W. Bush pledged in May that the US would comply with the WTO rulings and there have been moves in the US Congress on an alternative bill to aid US exporters.

But the proposals are opposed by Boeing and other beneficiaries of the tax breaks, which say that they do not go far enough. The aeronautics company has warned that nearly 10,000 jobs could be lost unless a comparable system is devised, a powerful argument with congressional elections looming.

The US administration has made various attempts in the past to reform the Foreign Sales Corporation (FSC), as the tax system is known.

W.S. South Asia

U.S. team to assess Sri Lanka's defence needs

25/8

By V.S. Sambandan 11/10-12

COLOMBO, AUG. 29. A defence assessment team, headed by the former United States Secretary of State for South Asia, Robin Raphel, will arrive here next week to "assess the Sri Lankan military's educational and training needs and identify potential areas for future U.S. assistance".

The team, from the National Defense University, where Ms. Raphel is senior vice-president, will visit the island between September 1-4, the U.S. embassy said in a statement here today.

The U.S. Ambassador, Ashley Wills, said the visit was "yet another demonstration of the U.S. support for the Government and the people of Sri Lanka as they seek to end the conflict and reform their institutions to address the needs of the country in the years to come."

The announcement comes a week after the visit of the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, on August 22. Mr. Armitage had said that the "hands-off" policy adopted by the U.S.

for the past two decades would change in the years ahead.

The Sri Lankan Prime Minister, Ranil Wickremesinghe, who met the U.S. President, George W. Bush, in Washington last month, said the peace process he had commenced had gained the backing of an "international security net" after his U.S. visit. The assessment team's visit is timed just ahead of the scheduled direct talks between the LTTE and Colombo next month in Thailand.

The revived U.S. interest is seen by political observers here as sending a message to both the LTTE as well as hardliners of the southern Sinhalese community that the peace efforts of the Sri Lankan Government had the backing of Washington.

On October 8, 1997, the U.S. named the LTTE, along with 30 groups, as "foreign terrorist organisations", which had drastic consequences on the funding capabilities of the rebels, who have a wide international network.

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China after September 11

By C. Raja Mohan

HD-10
29/8

The biggest political challenge for China since September 11 has been the fundamental shift in the balance of power all along its periphery.

NEARLY A year after the spectacular terrorist attacks on New York and Washington, China continues to debate their meaning and consequences for its security environment. Few major powers have been as directly affected by the changes in international relations since September 11 as China. The new flux in China's security environment has also come at a time of increasing uncertainty in Sino-U.S. relations and has constrained its foreign policy options in unexpected ways. An assessment of the Chinese calculus after September 11 is of considerable interest to New Delhi as it prepares for the visit of the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, to Beijing later this year.

Two broad schools of thought have emerged in the Chinese debate after September 11. Like elsewhere in the world, one view affirms that the expansive American war on terrorism marks a watershed in international politics. It insists that a unipolar world dominated by the United States is here to stay — for the foreseeable future. The proponents of this view suggest that the unprecedented phase of "pure hegemony", or of unabashed American assertion of power on the world stage, is a reality China must reckon with.

The second school argues that the American dominance of world affairs is a passing phase. The U.S. will inevitably get into problems if it persists with its current unilateralism. Negative external reaction as well as eventual internal opposition to American policies would lead to a tempering of the current aggressive attitudes of the Bush administration. Nor is it clear, it is argued, if the current policies will last beyond the tenure of the President, George W. Bush, whose re-election is by no means certain at this stage.

Those who argue that a dramatic change is at hand in world politics would naturally extend the logic to suggest that the American unilateralism is fundamentally inimical to China's interests and will have to be dealt with at some time in the near future. For those who posit that there is no real structural change in international relations, China could continue

with its policy of peace and development that concentrates on its internal economic development and expanded engagement of the world.

Whether September 11 is a moment of international transformation or just another event that does not alter the basic characteristics of the international system is an issue that will be debated for long in China as it will be in the rest of the world.

But both the schools of thought in Beijing agree on one immediate implication for Chinese foreign policy: avoid at all costs a political confrontation with the U.S. at this stage. The historically unprecedented imbalance in the distribution of power in the international system in favour of one power makes it prudent for Chinese foreign policy makers not to get entangled in a fight with the U.S.

China will indeed continue to mobilise international opinion against the U.S. policies in areas of prime concern to it such as the development of missile defences. It will also lend its voice to others such as the Europeans and the Russians when they question American unilateralism in world fora. It will stress the importance of creating a multipolar world. Beijing, however, has no desire to convert this campaign into a direct confrontation with Washington. China is fully aware of the limitations of the European resistance to American policies and the significance of the emerging partnership between Washington and Moscow on global issues.

Beijing appears determined to tightly calibrate its anti-American rhetoric and sustain an engagement with the U.S. It understands the value of maintaining a positive relationship with the U.S., the importance of narrowing political differences with it and preventing them from exploding into irreconcilable contradictions. Economic and commercial imperatives, too, demand that China does not allow a destabilisation of its relations with the U.S. in the near term.

The caution with which it approached the recent provocative statements from the Taiwanese leadership is a testimony to the new political prudence in Beijing.

Engagement of the U.S. is also an important tool for China to prevent the interference of the hegemonic power in its internal affairs. China is acutely aware of the importance of

WORLD VIEW

keeping its own house in order to obviate such interference. At the same time China has also grabbed the opportunities offered by September 11. The American war on terror has given Beijing some room to crush its own separatist organisations and gain more effective control over Xinjiang and Tibet. Beijing is also conscious of the fact that September 11 and its consequences have taken the immediate American focus away from the idea of a "China threat". Until the attacks on New York and Washington, it appeared that the Bush administration was about to settle down on China as its next enemy. But with the American attention now riveted on terrorism, Afghanistan and the Middle East, Beijing has considerable breathing room.

The biggest political challenge for China since September 11 has been the fundamental shift in the balance of power all along its periphery. In the East, the U.S. is egging Japan to take on a larger security role in world affairs and the nuclear talk in Tokyo has not gone unnoticed in Beijing. The early unification with Taiwan, one of Beijing's most important national objectives, has been further complicated by the rise of pro-independence sentiments in Taiwan and the enhanced American support to Taipei. In South East Asia the U.S. has returned to an activist role that has not been seen for decades.

Towards its West and South, the deterioration of China's security environment is equally disturbing. The Russian willingness to let the U.S. gain a new say in inner Asia after September 11 is clearly a setback for Chi-

na. Beijing's efforts to steadily expand its influence in the Central Asian vacuum have been neutralised by the current American military presence in Central Asia, the Caucasus, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Beijing hopes that American bases in its western neighbourhood are a temporary feature but will have to prepare for an extended American presence in the region.

Adding to the new situation is the prospect of a new security relationship between India and the U.S. The prospect of a military alliance between New Delhi and Washington might have been delayed by the exigencies of the renewed relationship between Washington and Islamabad. But that has brought its own headaches for Beijing in terms of a significantly enhanced American role in the Subcontinent since September 11 and the India-Pakistan military confrontation of the last few months. The new American activism in the region is not limited to the Kashmir dispute, but also other conflicts in the Subcontinent, including in Sri Lanka and Nepal, which borders China.

This changed security conditions on its bordering regions is another reason for Beijing not to get involved in an open fight with the U.S. That also might provide new political incentives for Beijing to sort out the problems along its periphery and to keep them relatively peaceful. In this changing environment, India should explore the prospects for transforming its own frontier with China into a zone of cooperation. The traditional rivalry and suspicion between the two Asian giants have severely constrained the opportunities for bilateral cooperation on the borders.

While stepping up the effort to delineate the Line of Actual Control on their disputed border, India and China should also facilitate more intensive border trade, freer movement of people and jointly develop infrastructure on their frontiers. Drawing the Chinese leadership out on this new enterprise should be at the top of Mr. Vajpayee's agenda in Beijing. Solving bilateral problems with China and expanding cooperation should be a higher priority for Mr. Vajpayee than empty posturing with Beijing on global issues.

29 AUG 2002

Bush serenades the Saudis

Tim Reid
The Times, London

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28. — President George W Bush yesterday telephoned Crown Prince Abdullah, the Saudi Arabian ruler, to reassure him of their countries' "eternal friendship" in the latest attempt to shore up relations between Washington and Riyadh as the Arab world deserts USA over plans to invade Iraq.

During a day of shifting allegiances, in which Egypt and Qatar joined Bahrain and Saudi Arabia in vehemently opposing war with Iraq, Mr Bush told the Crown Prince that recent anti-Saudi sentiment in USA couldn't harm their "strong and historical relations".

Mr Bush also met Riyadh's ambassador to the USA, Prince Bandar bin Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al Saud, at the President's ranch in Crawford, Texas, underscoring the importance with which Washington views its relationship with Saudi Arabia, amid rising oil prices and mounting Arab opposition to an attack on President Saddam Hussein.

USA yet to take decision on Iraq



WASHINGTON, Aug. 28. — President Bush has conveyed to Saudi ambassador Prince Bandar bin Sultan that "the world will be safer and better off without Mr Saddam Hussein", though he has not yet taken any decision on Iraq, a PTI report adds.

Asked if the Saudis share the same views about Mr Saddam Hussein, as President Bush, the presidential press secretary, Mr Ari Fleischer, claimed: "Saudi Arabia's position has been, if you have listened to Mr Adel Al Jubir, the Crown Prince's foreign policy adviser, for example, that Mr Saddam Hussein is a threat." "Mr Bush stressed that he has made no decision, that he will continue to engage in consultations with Saudi Arabia and other nations about steps in the Middle East, steps in Iraq," Mr Fleischer added. — PTI

A White House aide described the meeting as a "clear-the-air meeting". US-Saudi relations have become increasingly strained since the 11 September 11 attacks, but the stakes are particularly high for Mr Bush at present and he cannot afford to further alienate America's most influential and wealthy ally in the region.

One of the most pressing issues for White House is the desire to ensure reasonably priced oil continues to flow from Iraq,

as talk of war — including a bellicose speech by vice-President Mr Dick Cheney on Monday — has sent world prices soaring. On Tuesday, they reached nearly \$28 a barrel. US economists have long given a warning that oil prices of about \$30 a barrel will significantly threaten US growth.

In his call to the Crown Prince, Mr Bush played down a rash of recent anti-Saudi comments in USA. They include a briefing paper to a Pentagon policy board in

which Riyadh was described as a "kernel of evil", and a \$300 billion (£200 billion) lawsuit filed by families of 11 September victims, claiming that at least two Saudi princes funded Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network.

Relations have also been strained because 15 of the 11 September hijackers were Saudis, and by a House of Saud refusal to allow its military bases to be used for any Iraqi strike. The royal family has been criticised, too, for failing to clamp down on Islamic extremism.

"The President affirmed that latest reports about the strained relations between the two friendly countries is irresponsible talk, doesn't reflect the reality of these relations and their strength," the state-owned *Saudi Press Agency* reported. "The reports reflect only the personal opinions of their authors and can never adversely impact the eternal friendship between the two countries, the level of their co-operation over several decades and particularly existing co-operation and co-ordination in the face of the current situation," it quoted Mr Bush.

29 AUG 2002

Iraq: Baker not for unilateral approach

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 26. The former U.S. Secretary of State, James Baker, is the latest in a series of influential Republicans to argue that the U.S. President, George W. Bush, must first seek to build a wide international coalition if a regime change is to be effected in Iraq.

Mr. Baker served as Secretary of State in the Elder Bush administration and was instrumental in building a coalition of more than 40 countries in the Persian Gulf War that eventually drove the Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.

"If we are to change the regime in Iraq, we will have to occupy the country militarily. The costs of doing so politically, economically and in terms of ca-

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sualties could be great. They will be lessened if the President brings together an international coalition behind the effort", Mr. Baker wrote in *The New York Times*.

Mr. Baker joins a growing list of former senior officials and public officials who are urging this Republican administration that it should stay away from any unilateral approach towards regime change in Baghdad.

The former Secretary of State even while stressing that the U.S. "certainly succeed" in getting rid of the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, argued that the 1991 Gulf War involved nearly a half million troops, mostly from America but also from allies, and that the tab for the entire effort was about U.S. \$ 60 bil-

ions.

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"...we should try our best not to go it alone and the President should reject the advice of those who counsel doing so", Mr. Baker said. "The costs in all areas will be much greater, as will the political risks, both domestic and international, if we end up going it alone or with only one or two other countries", he argued.

Mr. Baker is an influential member within the Republican party having played a critical role in the Bush campaign during the election controversy of November 2000. He made the point that the United States should have the U.N. Security Council make a simple and straightforward resolution requiring Iraq to submit to intrusive inspections.

And at the first instance Iraqi leader resorts to delay tactics, the United States should be prepared to apply "whatever means are necessary" to change the regime. "And the international community must keep during the Security Council debate that this will be policy."

The Bush administration in spite of what is being disseminated for public consumption is acutely aware of the fact that it has literally no allies on its side for any military invasion of Iraq. Even Britain has said that its principal aim is to get the Weapons Inspectors back into Iraq. Mr. Bush has said for the time being that the United States is not in a hurry for any military action against Iraq. "I'm a patient man", he said this week

U.S. peace plans for West Asia

By Qamar Agha

10-10 27/8

THE U.S. President, George W. Bush's recent peace plan has not generated much enthusiasm among the Palestinians, nor has it brought an end to the cycle of violence in the region. Palestinians generally believe that the U.S. initiatives are tilted in favour of Israel's Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon's hardline policies, that they are further complicating the situation because there are too many conditions no Palestinian leader can fulfil. The plan to establish a Palestinian state alongside Israel was reportedly aimed at garnering Arab support for the U.S. strategy to oust Saddam Hussein. However, it has not achieved much on either count.

The American plan calls for the removal of the Palestinian Authority President, Yasser Arafat, as part of a peace accord. Mr. Bush has also demanded reforms in the economic, financial and security structure of the Palestinian Authority, which is necessary to give the Palestinians hope and the Israelis confidence that the emerging Government will be headed by someone they can deal with. To sound balanced, Mr. Bush also calls on Israel to halt its Jewish settlement programme and pull back its troops from Palestinian towns. But, he believes it can happen only "as we make progress towards security" and makes no immediate demands on Israel. However, the U.S., in principle, maintains that Israel needs to withdraw from much of the West Bank and Gaza Strip which it occupied in the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

In fact, his new peace plan is no different from that of his predecessor, Bill Clinton. Mr. Bush is basically attempting to push the same old proposals offered by Israel at Camp David in 2000 that Mr. Arafat had rejected. So, Mr. Bush is now telling the Palestinians to throw out Mr. Arafat and clear the Palestinian Authority of all those nationalist leaders opposed to Israeli proposals, even before the start of any political negotiations. Those who do not disagree with Tel Aviv should replace Mr. Arafat and his colleagues so that the new Palestinian Authority evolves its policies in harmony with Israeli wishes.

Mr. Bush, in fact, has his own motives in pushing the new peace proposal. His top priority is not to establish a Palestinian state in the near future but to contain Islamic militancy and not to allow the conflict to spread to neighbouring states, and to provide security to Israel and normalise Arab-Israeli relations.

To achieve these goals, he is going ahead with his plan without bothering to see if the Palestinians are willing to buy it. The U.S. is, in fact, preparing a Palestinian Charter to

no longer relevant. Clearly, the offer is for the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip where Israel is not even prepared to dismantle Jewish settlements or compromise on Jerusalem. It is also not willing to allow the return of Palestinian refugees and Washington is not likely to back Palestinian demands.

The American proposal basically comes because of the growing realisation that Israel is unable to contain terrorism despite the frequent

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Saudi funding for re-structuring the Palestinian Authority, which was earlier provided by the European Union. Washington's European allies have already distanced themselves from Mr. Bush's insistence that Mr. Arafat be replaced before serious peace negotiations with Israel begin. The E.U. has been demanding the establishment of a Palestinian state for a very long time and is far more critical of Israeli policies in Palestinian territories.

A more or less similar position has been adopted by most of America's Arab allies towards the Bush plan. But the problem is they are totally dependent on Washington either in terms of security, as in the case of Saudi Arabia, or financial assistance in the case of countries such as Egypt. As a result, they have lost significantly their bargaining capacity vis-a-vis the U.S. So, Saudi Arabia, Egypt and Jordan have expressed their willingness to help the U.S. The Saudi Foreign Minister has said there are a "number of positive elements" in the U.S. proposals, particularly its commitment to form a Palestinian state. He also said, "we wish that Palestinians had held elections much earlier". The track record of democracy in Egypt and Jordan — the other two countries selected by the U.S. to help restructure the PA — is no good either. Egypt has jailed pro-democracy activists and Jordan has postponed its parliamentary elections. As a matter of fact, the Palestinians don't need any outside support to build democratic institutions. Their society is built on foundations that are far more conducive to democracy than in other part of the Arab world.

But Mr. Bush seems determined to push his plan. So he is likely to complicate the situation in the region rather than resolve the Israel-Palestine problem. His moves are not likely to help solve much of the Palestinians' problems either. But, for sure, it will help stabilise Arab-Israeli relations even before the establishment of a Palestinian state. It would be a personal and political triumph for Mr. Sharon, who is steadfast in his agenda of establishing a Greater Israel.

George W. Bush is likely to complicate the situation in the region rather than resolve the Israel-Palestine problem.

restructure the PA. The new institutional framework will have the offices of President, Prime Minister, Council of Ministers and Parliament and these leaders will be instructed to build new political, economic and security institutions. The U.S. has promised its sustained involvement in the building of a "democratic state" and has promised to help write the Palestinian Constitution, build legal institutions, monitor elections, fund economic development, create a banking system and build a security force to root out terrorists. The CIA Director, George Tenet, has already begun working closely with Egyptian and Jordanian intelligence agencies to plan an overhaul of the security forces. Only when Washington is satisfied that the Palestinians have met the conditions will it allow them to create a provisional state that could negotiate final status issues with Israel. The Bush plan mainly tries to improve security for Israel in the guise of building peace and creating Palestinian institutions. Interestingly, Mr. Bush does not even offer to resolve core issues defining Israel's borders with the proposed Palestinian state or the status of Jerusalem, the return of refugees, the issue of Jewish settlements, water-sharing and other disputes. The U.S. has publicly abandoned its neutrality in the Arab-Israeli conflict and adopted Mr. Sharon's stance that Mr. Arafat is

arms seizures, incursions and re-occupation of Palestinian towns. There is also a fear that it may give Mr. Sharon an excuse to resort to more extremist measures which include the transfer of the Palestinian population to Jordan that may seriously jeopardise the stability of the pro-U.S. Jordan's monarchy and may help Islamic militancy grow further in the region. American strategists feel the U.S. can ensure peace by deploying its troops in Palestinian territories to ensure Israel's security and stop further escalation of conflict.

Mr. Bush is serious in pushing his plan and is seeking the support of his allies in the Arab world. He is emphasising on confidence-building measures, which include a commitment to peace from Arab states. The Arab League has already adopted the Saudi peace proposal calling for recognition of Israel if it withdraws from all occupied Arab territories. Besides Egypt and Jordan, the Bush administration is engaging Saudi Arabia in resolving the Arab-Israeli conflict. In the new peace plan, the Saudi rulers are expected to play the role earlier assigned to Egypt by the Clinton administration. The Saudis have been chosen because of their importance in the Arab-Islamic world as the guardians of Islam's most holy shrines and their financial clout. The Kingdom maintains close ties with Washington. The U.S. would like

Armitage in Pak

REUTERS

ISLAMABAD | AUGUST 24

US DEPUTY Secretary of State Richard Armitage said here on Saturday obvious infiltration by guerrillas was continuing across the Line of Control into Kashmir, but Pakistan has assured him it was not responsible.

Speaking after talks in Islamabad with Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf and Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Inam-ul-Haq, Armitage told reporters: "I can say nothing has changed from the assurances I was given last June when I was here. And there are some obvious infiltrations across the LoC, but our friends in Pakistan assured me it is not something sponsored by Pakistan."

Armitage, who is on his

Consulate bombing trial starts in Karachi

KARACHI: The trial of three Islamic militants — Mohamad Imran, Mohammad Hanif and Mohammad Ashraf — charged with murdering 12 people in a car bomb attack outside the US Consulate in Karachi, started on Saturday and the prosecution said it might call FBI officials as witnesses. — Reuters

second South Asia peace mission this year and here after a one-day visit to India, said the US was working to encourage talks to end the stand-off between the two countries.

"We are trying to bring about a situation where there can be a dialogue and two parties can sit down face to face to speak about these matters," he said.

Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmad Khan said they hoped Armitage's mission would help push an "intransigent" India towards talks on the Kashmir issue.

Earlier in New Delhi, Armitage said: "There has been too much violence as a general matter and we'll do whatever we can to reduce the violence." He also said the US wanted to see a free and fair election in J-K, but was concerned about the possibility of violence.

US President George W. Bush praised Musharraf on Thursday as a stalwart ally and made it clear Washington would stand by him. Just hours earlier, the General had announced constitutional changes critics say will entrench the role of the military in government after Pakistan's own elections on October 10. — Reuters

5 AUG 2002

USA imposes missile sanctions on N Korea

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PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Aug 24. — The US State department has announced sanctions on North Korea for missile sales accusing it of "unauthorised proliferation activities".

The sanctions cover "all activities of North Korean government relating to the development or production of missile equipment or technology or the development or production of electronics, space systems or equipment, and military aircraft." According to media reports here, N Korea's recent sale of Ghauri missiles and technology to Pakistan and scud missiles to Yemen was the immediate provocation for sanctions.

The entry by the Bureau of non-proliferation in the state department in the Federal Register said the USA is determined that the following foreign person has engaged in missile technology proliferation activities that require the imposition of sanctions on the Changwang Sinyong Corporation and its sub-units and successors.

Accordingly, the following sanctions are being imposed on this person:

■ New individual licences for exports to the person described above of MTCR Annex-controlled equipment or technology controlled pur-

suant to the Export Administration Act of 1979 will be denied for two years.

■ New licences for export to the person described above of MTCR Annex-controlled equipment or technology controlled pursuant to the Arms Export Control Act will be denied for two years; and

■ No new US contracts relating to MTCR Annex-controlled equipment or technology involving the person described above will be entered into for two years.

With respect to items controlled pursuant to the Export Administration Act of 1979, the export sanctions only apply to exports made pursuant to individual export licences, it said.

Additionally, because North Korea is a country with a non-market economy that is not a former member of the Warsaw pact (as referenced in the definition of "person" in section 74(8)(B) of the Arms Export Control Act), the following sanctions shall be applied to all activities of the North Korean government relating to the development or production of missile equipment or technology.

These measures shall be implemented by the responsible departments and agencies of the United States Government as provided in Executive Order 12851 of 11 June, 1993, it directed.

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Bush defends Iraq policy

Amid dissent at home, US President says decision will be based on 'latest intelligence'

MARK EGAN
CRAWFORD 1 AUGUST 17

US PRESIDENT George W. Bush on Friday defended his Iraq policy from criticism within his own Republican Party, saying he would consult with others but make decisions based on the "latest intelligence."

Bush has made ousting Iraqi President Saddam Hussein one of his top priorities, but dissent from within his political ranks has persisted. The national security adviser during Bush's father's presidency

said on Thursday an attack on the Iraq could alienate US allies.

Bush characterised that dissent as a healthy debate, but left no doubt about his opinion: "I listened to what they had to say. There should be no doubt in anybody's mind that Saddam is thumbing his nose at the world... that he is trouble in his neighbourhood, that he desires weapons of mass destruction."

"I will use the latest intelligence to make informed decisions about how best to keep the world at peace," said Bush, who planned to meet at his

Iraq to talk more before allowing inspectors

UNITED NATIONS: Iraq called on Friday for a series of technical discussions with a UN team before Baghdad could consider allowing the return of weapons inspectors locked out of the country for the past four years.

But the offer, set out in 10-page letter from Iraqi Foreign Minister Naji Sabri to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, appeared doomed as it failed to satisfy UN demands that Baghdad send a "formal invitation" for arms inspectors to return to Iraq before new, substantive talks could be held. — Reuters



Crawford, Texas ranch over the weekend with his National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice. Next Wednesday, he will meet with Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Key Republicans have

tives Majority Leader Dick Arney, a Texas Republican, has said the US has no business attacking the oil exporter without enough provocation.

Supporters of Bush's approach to Iraq say the US war on terrorism, launched in retaliation for the attacks in New York and Washington, included preventing such attacks before they occur.

The public debate on a possible US attack on Iraq has intensified with hearings on Capitol Hill about whether US should move militarily against Saddam.

— Reuters

MOVE AGAINST IRAQ / DISCUSSIONS OVER THE WEEKEND

Bush to take decision soon

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 17. The President, George W Bush, has left no doubt that while he is for consultation and debate on Iraq, he will be the one who will be making the final call on whether the U.S. goes to war to topple Saddam Hussein.

"We'll continue to consult. Listen, it's a healthy debate for people to express their opinion. People should be allowed to express their opinion", Mr. Bush told reporters in Crawford, Texas.

"But America needs to know, I'll be making up my mind based upon the latest intelligence and how best to protect our country plus our friends and allies", the President remarked.

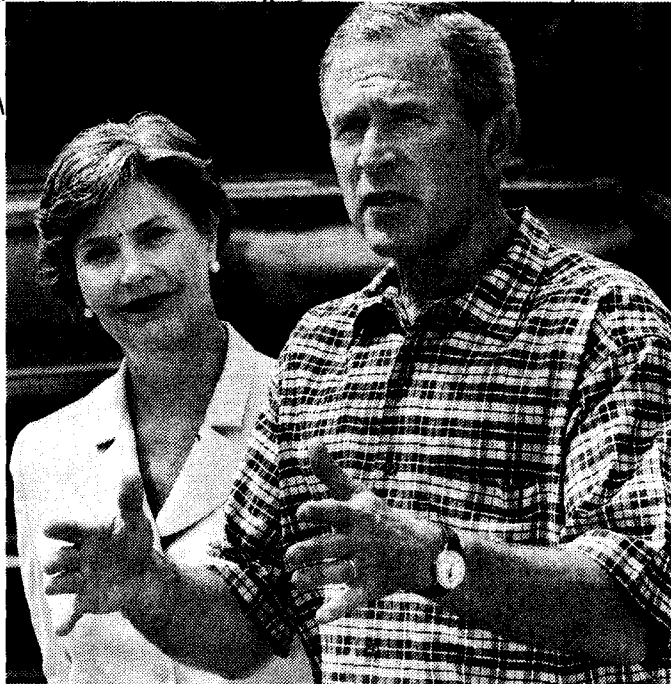
The President wasted no time in putting down the Iraqi leader one more time calling him a dictator and a threat to world peace.

"There should be no doubt in anybody's mind this man (Saddam Hussein) is thumbing his nose at the world, that he has gassed his own people, that he is trouble in the neighbourhood, that he desires weapons of mass destruction", Mr. Bush said.

The President, who is on a "working vacation" in his ranch in Crawford, was asked if he was consulting Congress on the Iraqi plans, for many senior Republicans there are not comfortable with any military plan on regime change in Baghdad at this time.

"I will use all the latest intelligence to make informed decisions about how best to keep the world at peace, how best to defend freedom for the long run", he said.

Mr. Bush will be meeting his National Security Advisor, Condoleezza Rice, over the weekend and is scheduled to meet his



The U.S. President, George W. Bush, with Laura Bush at his side, speaks to mediapersons in Crawford, Texas, on Saturday. — AFP

Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, in the middle of next week. Iraq will be high in the discussion agenda.

The political problem for the Bush administration on any military operation against Iraq comes from different sources.

The hawks in the administration itching for a military showdown apart, there are supposed to be saner voices like the Secretary of State and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency who are insistent on looking at the larger ramifications.

From Congress, opposition to a military strike against Iraq are coming from key Republicans such as Dick Armey, the Majority Leader in the House of Representatives and Senator Chuck Hagel of Nebraska.

And some Democrats are maintaining that a full-fledged

war involving the use of ground troops must be authorised by Congress by a War Declaration.

Leading intellectuals and new time former key foreign policy players of Republican administrations like Henry Kissinger and Brent Scowcroft are also urging caution.

"An attack on Iraq at this time would seriously jeopardise, if not destroy, the global counterterrorist campaign we have undertaken", Mr. Scowcroft wrote.

"There is a virtual consensus in the world against an attack on Iraq at this time.

So long as that sentiment persists, it would require the U.S. to pursue a virtual go-it-alone strategy against Iraq making any military operations correspondingly more difficult and expensive", Mr. Scowcroft maintained.

Bush admn divided over Iraq attack

Press Trust of India

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WASHINGTON, Aug 1. - America's top leadership is divided sharply over a proposed attack on Iraq to topple Saddam Hussein, a media report said today.

While the Vice-President, Mr Richard Cheney, and the Defence secretary, Mr Donald Rumsfeld, are "pushing most forcefully for aggressively confronting Saddam Hussein," or an early war against Iraq, the Secretary of State, Gen Colin Powell, the CIA chief, Mr George Tenet, and most of the service chiefs opposed their timing and proposed tactics, *The Washington Post* reported, quoting several inside sources who wished to remain anonymous. Mr Cheney and Mr Rumsfeld, says the *Post*, are arguing that Saddam Hussein presents a serious threat and

that time is not on the side of the USA.

"Gen Powell and Mr Tenet", says the *Post*, "are asking sceptical questions about a military campaign, especially about the aftermath of what most in the administration assume would be a fairly swift victory, according to those taking part in the deliberations."

Most of the senior uniformed military, with the exception of some top Air Force and Marine generals, oppose going to war anytime soon, a stance that is provoking frustration among civilian officials and the White House, the paper says.

Some top military officials argue that the policy of aggressive containment through no-fly zones, a naval enforcement of sanctions and the nearby presence of 20,000 US military personnel has kept Hussein from

becoming an immediate threat. President Bush has also approved a covert operation to try to dislodge Hussein from power, working in part with Iraqi opposition groups.

Gen Powell's stance has produced an unusual alliance between the State Department and the uniformed side of the Pentagon, elements of the government that more often seem to oppose each other in foreign policy debates. The questions being debated now are whether to move against Hussein with overt military action and, if so, when and how, the paper says.

Making his case for an early invasion, Mr Rumsfeld told the Senate Armed Services Committee here yesterday that the situation with Hussein will not improve and that "over time, the economic sanctions weaken, the diplomatic effort seems to get a little tired."

7 AUG 2002

Fox cancels U.S. in protest

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 15. The President of Mexico, Vincente Fox, has cancelled a visit to Texas and a meeting with the President, George W. Bush, at his ranch to protest the State's execution of a Mexican national who had been convicted of killing a law enforcement officer.

Javier Suarez Medina, a Mexican national, was put to death by lethal injection on Wednesday night after clemency petitions were rejected. The Government of Mexico, aside from protesting capital punishment, had been trying to make the point that Suarez was not given consular access at the time of arrest as required by the Vienna Convention. Under the Vienna Convention of Consular Relations, foreign nationals detained must be informed of their right to contact their consulates and missions.

The State Department, which was peppered with questions on the kind of role it was playing, argued that it did not have a legal determination on whether or not Suarez was given consular access. Foggy Bottom maintained that its role was on passing along letters and documents from the Government of Mexico relating to consular access to authorities in Texas.

"This decision is an unequivocal rejection of the execution. It would be inappropriate, in these lamentable circumstanc-

es, to go ahead with the visit to Texas", a spokesman for the Mexican leader remarked.

The White House has tried to downplay the cancellation of Mr. Fox's trip to Texas. "President Bush respects President Fox and the two have an excellent professional relationship... President Bush looks forward to his next meeting with President Fox", a White House spokesman said. No dates have been set for the next meeting and administration officials are saying that Mr. Fox's decision will not "dent" the bilateral relationship.

Suarez admitted he shot and killed an anti-drug enforcement officer during a raid in Dallas in 1988, but said that he did not know the victim was a police officer. Mexico has been maintaining that Suarez is a national of its country; but officials in Texas have been saying that it was not clear on which side of the border Suarez was born.

Mr. Fox has been in a difficult political position for the impression has been that the Mexican leader has not had any impact or influence on its northern neighbour. Also, the Mexican leader had been told by his party to stay with the travel plans and deliver a strong but respectful message to the Governor of Texas. According to the Government of Mexico, 54 Mexicans are facing the death penalty in the United States, 17 of them in Texas.

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Americans back Iraq attack

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Roland Watson, *The Times*, London

WASHINGTON, Aug. 14. — Most Americans would support military conflict with Iraq even if it was opposed by US allies, according to a poll.

Seven out of ten Americans support taking some form of military action against President Saddam Hussein. If the operation had no support among America's European and Arab allies, that figure would fall to 54 per cent, according to a Washington Post/ABC poll.

Donald Rumsfeld, the defence secretary,

has cast further doubt on the value of diplomacy intended to reopen Iraq to UN weapons inspectors. Last week Mr Bush pledged to use all the tools he had to resolve the danger posed by Saddam, including diplomacy. Yesterday Mr Rumsfeld repeated his doubts that an inspection regime agreed by Saddam would meet US requirements.

Iraq's attitude to inspectors was "like a broken record", Mr Rumsfeld said. "They agreed to have inspectors, they threw the inspectors out, they are still not allowed in. They are in violation of UN resolutions." Any inspection regime would have to be given access to dissi-

dents inside and outside Iraq, with assurances that there would be no reprisals against their families, he said. Mr Rumsfeld, addressing a Pentagon news conference, displayed frustration that the 16 Al-Qaida suspects deported from Iran to Saudi Arabia in recent days would not be passed on to the USA. "They haven't turned over any to us," he said.

Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Saudi foreign minister, confirmed yesterday that the 16, all Saudi nationals, would not be transferred for questioning by US intelligence officials, despite US assertions that they may have clues about Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaida network.

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THE STATESMAN

Powell's visit

By Achin Vanaik

HP-10
17/8

COLIN POWELL has come and gone. Those with higher expectations will feel disappointed that he chose to give gratuitous advice on Kashmir and interfered in internal matters: witness his comments about releasing "political prisoners". But they will console themselves at India's defiant insistence against internationalising the Kashmir issue. And wasn't Mr. Powell told in no uncertain terms that Pakistan's support for terrorism was the key problem? In the larger scheme of things, however, these minor political frescoes are of little consequence. The basic contours of the India-Pakistan-United States triangle have already been set.

Pokhran-II permanently internationalised the Kashmir issue, eliminating the diplomatic advantage India had secured after 1964 (reinforced by the 1971 Shimla Accord) when for the next 34 years, the world was quite happy to let Kashmir fester as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan. After Pokhran-II, the Kashmir imbroglio had to be internationalised because the prospect of a war over Kashmir leading to a possible nuclear exchange could never be considered a purely bilateral matter. The advocates of Pokhran-II did not at the time even realise that this was bound to happen, just as they proclaimed that the nuclearisation of South Asia was actually a good thing which would lead to much greater regional stability and peace. A more inept judgement or prediction it would be difficult to find! Between May 11, 1998, and September 11, 2001, views had begun to change. For an ever-widening circle of "strategic thinkers", it became increasingly obvious that nuclearisation meant some degree of unavoidable internationalisation since Kashmir was the key point of friction between India and Pakistan. Rather than pursue the old line of insisting on pure bilateralism, it would be wiser to recognise the inevitable and begin operating to turn this 'internationalisation' in one's favour. This would now be possible because of the wonderful new turn

in Indo-U.S. relations towards a new strategic partnership. Such was the growing weight and importance of India in regional and world affairs that Pakistan had to pale into insignificance besides it.

Such was the 'new thinking' mirrored in many an editorial and article. The aftermath of September 11 brought good and bad news. The good news was that it afforded a new opportunity for India to rope in the U.S. to put more pressure on Pakistan in the name of its "global war on terrorism". The bad news was that,

in some ways, Pakistan's importance would be reinforced. However, the dominant view within India's "strategic community" was that the good news would ultimately outweigh the bad. Even today, this judgment is not being seriously questioned, for that would amount to having grave doubts about the whole thrust of India's foreign policy behaviour vis-a-vis the U.S., namely the search for a new 'partnership' based on the assumption of a 'basic convergence of interests' between the two states. Explanations about the limited outcome of Mr. Powell's visit have been of two types. One is to claim that the basic foreign policy orientation of India is fine, only New Delhi may have been somewhat too obsequious or reliant on Washington and therefore had expectations it should not have had. So, learn the lessons from this and don't depend too much on the U.S. to pull our chestnuts out of the fire. The U.S. will not be a problem for us unless we make it one. All we need is firmness in our foreign policy and more realistic and lower expectations from Washington. The other assessment is more generous to the U.S. There was nothing really out-of-the-ordinary in what Mr. Powell said. Everybody wants proper and fair elections to be successfully held in Kashmir, and this would in fact strengthen the In-

dian position. We do need to involve the U.S. in Kashmir but as "facilitator" not "mediator" and, contrary to the cynics, this is a subtle but important distinction that the Government fully understood when it officially stated it. At most, Mr. Powell's visit was a slight hiccup in the otherwise smooth and deepening process of strategic collaboration between the U.S. and India which Pakistan has every reason to be worried about in the longer run.

Perhaps, it is a matter of ingrained

For all the posturing by India and Pakistan, it is the U.S. that will most successfully manipulate the other two in the triangle that joins all of them.

habit. But Indian strategists in the name of realism are always concerned about how India should fit the U.S. into its foreign policy perspectives, therefore the need to shed older reflexes of 'anti-Americanism'. But such is the enormous extent of asymmetry of power between the U.S. and India that despite all the rhetoric about 'partnership' and 'convergence of national interests', the proper prism for trying to assess the future geo-politics of this region must start from the opposite premise. We have to look, above all, at how India and Pakistan fit into U.S. foreign policy perspectives! To assess this properly we must shed completely the assumption that US intervention in this part of the world is primarily motivated by the need to fight against terrorism in general, or Al-Qaeda, in particular.

This is only a minor though necessary part of the whole story. First, September 11 gave the U.S. the opportunity it had long been looking for — to establish a new kind of international legitimacy for a new kind of specifically military flexibility. In the name of fighting global terrorism it is now much freer than ever before to carry out, and get away with carrying out, military attacks on whomsoever it decides, whenever and wherever it decides, in whatever way it wants, and for as long as it deems

necessary. Second, it has politically-militarily implanted itself as never before in its history into the Central Asian and the Caspian Sea region, which is not only important from the perspective of oil and gas but abuts the territories of three of its most important potential rivals over the next decade or two — Iran, Russia and China.

Geo-politically, both India and Pakistan have an added relevance. For India, U.S. ambitions are southwards and eastwards. India is to be incorporated as a junior and obedient ally for domination of the Indian Ocean region. India is also one of the 'ten big emerging markets' that American capital (in alliance with European capital) has its eyes on for 'takeover' with the help of junior, more rentier-oriented allies amongst Indian capital.

But Pakistan remains important northwards and westwards. Its connection with Saudi Arabia (one leg of the tripod — Egypt and Israel are the others — on which U.S. dominance of West Asia is based) remains useful to the U.S. Moreover, Pakistan's importance as a crucial staging-post for U.S. actions in Central Asia has only been enhanced after September 11.

Both countries should know their place and follow the script. Washington needs stable client regimes in India and Pakistan (India wants to call it 'partnership', so be it) and therefore cannot afford to destroy the domestic credibility of either 'ally' by taking sides over Kashmir. Besides, it must now get down to the hard task of working out its own range of preferred policy perspectives, options and outcomes in Kashmir that would best suit its own wider regional and geo-political perspectives.

We are going to see more 'interference' by the U.S. We are going to hear more reassurances from both Islamabad and New Delhi about things being under control. Sometimes, the signs of growing uneasiness might even surface. For all the posturing by India and Pakistan, it is the U.S. that will most successfully manipulate the other two in the triangle that joins all of them.

No imminent plans to attack Iraq: Bush

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 11. The U.S. President, George W Bush, has said that the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, is "an enemy until proven otherwise", but has said that the U.S. has no "imminent" plans for the invasion of that West Asian country. Speaking to reporters before a round of golf in Waco, Texas, the President was asked if the American people are prepared to accept casualties.

"I think that presumes there's some kind of imminent war plan", the President responded. "What I do believe the American people understand is that the weapons of mass destruction in the hands of leaders such as Saddam Hussein are very dangerous for ourselves, our allies", Mr. Bush remarked.

The President was pressed on whether a determination to invade Iraq militarily would be made this year. "Not necessarily", Mr. Bush responded going on to make the point that "...we owe it to our children's children to free the world of weapons of mass destruction in the hands of those who hate freedom". The President's latest remarks are very much in line with his administration's stated policy on regime change in Iraq.

At the same time the White House has been looking for ways to downplay media reports — now on almost a daily basis — of an imminent military invasion of Iraq. That "imminent" military invasion of Iraq has unsettled many law makers on Capitol Hill, leading Republicans included. Members of the Congress not only want to be fully involved in the process leading to a military strike, but are also pressing the administration to make the "case" before embarking on any military action. What has come to bother many in the political establishment is the aftermath of any regime change in Baghdad and

if this Republican administration understood the consequences in the post-Saddam era.

Specifically the question is if this Bush administration will insist on a "democratic" system after the overthrow of Mr. Hussein. Iraqi Opposition leaders visiting the U.S. for talks with senior Cabinet and official functionaries over the last two days here say that Washington will only back democratic change in Iraq.

"They (meaning the administration) would not support replacing one dictator with another and in the eventuality of military action that the U.S. will not carry out military action to replace one dictator with another", remarked Sharif Ali of the Iraqi National Congress.

Mr. Ali and a dozen other leading Iraqi opposition figures were at the White House on Saturday to meet with the Vice-President, Dick Cheney and the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld.

The Iraqi Opposition leaders also had a session with the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen Richard Myers. Although neither the Vice-President's office nor the Defence Department had anything substantive to say about the White House meeting, the impression from the Iraqi opposition figures was that the Vice-President and the Defence Secretary were clear that the U.S. wants democracy in the post Saddam Hussein phase in Iraq.

It is somewhat significant that the visiting Iraqi Opposition figures had a meeting with the Defence Secretary and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Mr. Rumsfeld is regarded as one of those hawkish members of the Cabinet pushing for a military strike; and last week it was reported that all members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff support military action to get rid of Mr. Hussein from power.

17 AUG 2001

USA to halt arms aid to ICC members

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. — The Bush administration has warned foreign diplomats this week that their nations could lose the US military assistance if they became members of the International Criminal Court without pledging to protect Americans serving in their countries from its reach, a media report said today.

The threat to withdraw military aid — including education, training and help financing the purchase of equipment and weaponry — could be felt by almost every nation that has relations with the US, though the law exempts many of its closest allies, the New York Times reported.

The law gives the president authority to waive the provision and decide to continue military aid if he determines it is in the national interest.

This part of the new law, which passed Congress with broad bipartisan support and was signed last week by President George W Bush, provides the administration with its broadest and most coercive tool to keep American peacekeepers out of the hands of the new court.

Written by Representative Tom DeLay, the majority whip, the measure is intended to force as many countries as possible to sign bilateral agreements not to extradite Americans to the new court for trial, a Republican Congressional aide who worked on the measure was quoted

as saying.

Romania and Israel have signed such agreements. The Bush administration opposes the court, the world's first permanent forum for trying individuals charged with genocide and other crimes against humanity, on the ground that it could subject Americans to politically motivated prosecutions abroad.

The State Department invited foreign ambassadors this week, for briefings to lay out American opposition to the court and to warn them of the prohibition against military aid to countries that are a party to the treaties establishing the court, the Times said.

"That is a fact under the law, it's right there in the law," Philip Reeker, a State Department spokesman told the paper adding "the president welcomes the law - I can't underscore how important this is to us to protect American service members." Another provision in the law gives the president authority to free members of the armed services or other Americans who are in the court's custody by any "necessary and appropriate means," including use of the military.

Nations that are members of NATO and others major allies — including Israel, Egypt, Australia, Japan and South Korea — are exempted from the military assistance prohibition. The Pentagon said the measure could touch just about every other country on the globe.

US recognition for Iraqi Opp

RICHARD BEESTON
THE TIMES, LONDON

LONDON, Aug 10. — The Bush Administration offered the highest level recognition yet for the Iraqi opposition yesterday, meeting six of its leaders to plot the overthrow of President Saddam Hussein and explore what regime should replace him.

For the first time since Washington began speaking openly of "regime change" in Baghdad, senior officials from the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon met ethnic and nationalist leaders opposed to Baathist rule. The very fact that the notoriously divided opposition and the increasingly split Administration were able to sit down together was regarded as a diplomatic achievement.

For months the State Department has been locked in a dispute over funding for the Iraqi National Congress, the umbrella organisation whose representatives were invited for talks yesterday. The group has

enjoyed far more open support from the Pentagon, which regards it as a possible alternative government.

"We are hoping that one consequence of the meeting in Washington will be an end to our differences," a spokesman for the Iraqi National Congress said.

Yesterday's talks were hosted by Mr Marc Grossman, the Under-Secretary of State, and Mr Douglas Feith, his counterpart at the Pentagon.

The talks will extend to the weekend when the six leaders will have a video conference meeting with Mr Dick Cheney, the Vice-

President, who is on holiday in Wyoming. The Iraqi National Congress was pushing for follow-up talks in Washington next week.

Despite the hopes for a new spirit of co-operation, the Iraqi National Congress still has serious differences to resolve within its own ranks before it can credibly present itself as an alternative government.

The two powerful Kurdish groups, which together can muster 40,000 troops, already enjoy autonomy in northern Iraq and fear they could lose their freedoms if a new regime is installed in Baghdad. The powerful Shia Muslim movement, which has widespread support among the country's dominant population and some 3,000 troops, is treated with suspicion by the Americans and other Iraqi opposition partners because of its close ties with Iran and Islamic ideology.

The three Iraqi nationalist leaders at the talks claim to represent interests of the whole country, but are regarded as too weak to have any real influence.



VOICE OF REASON? *Hamid Al-Bayati of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq addresses the press after a meeting with State Department officials. — AFP*

Bush softens Iraq rhetoric

Roland Watson
The Times, London

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8. — President George W. Bush backed off his hardline rhetoric against Iraq yesterday, promising to consult allies and explore options for removing President Saddam Hussein without war.

Stung by the opposition gathering pace in Europe and among West Asian allies, the Bush administration softened its threat of unilateral military conflict, appearing to concede that America could not go it alone.

Mr Bush said that Saddam posed "real threats, and we owe it to our children to deal with these threats". But he continued: "I promise you that I will be patient, and deliberate, that we will continue to consult with Congress, and of course we'll consult with our friends

and allies. We'll discuss these threats in real terms.

"I will explore all options and all tools at my disposal — diplomacy, international pressure, perhaps the military. But it's important for my fellow citizens to know that as we see threats evolving we will deal with them. We must deal with them."

Mr Dick Cheney, the Vice-President, also signalled a change of gear after a week in which America appeared isolated in its determination to press ahead with military action. Hinting that the USA would not strike on its

own, he said: "The international community will have to come together in some fashion and figure out how we're going to have to deal with this growing threat."

The change of tone comes after doubts among Republicans and opposition from US allies have been raised over war strategy.

Democrats mum on Iraq attack

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8. — Senior Democrats are giving President Bush a free hand to attack Iraq because many of them are fearful of being on the wrong side of public opinion.

Democrat senators, among them presidential hopefuls, have either remained silent or expressed support for ousting Saddam Hussein. Among them were Mr Tom Daschle, Senate majority leader, Mr John Kerry, the Massachusetts Senator, and Mr Dick Gephardt, the House minority leader. Mr Joe Biden, a pivotal figure for Democrat opinion on foreign affairs, is ready to back military action.

— The Times, London.

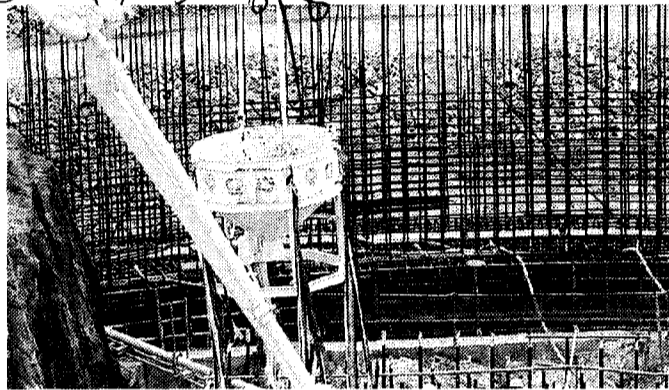
U.S. makes a small overture to N. Korea

By P. S. Suryanarayana

SINGAPORE, AUG. 7. The United States today made a significant diplomatic overture towards North Korea in a transparent bid to crack open a key component of the "axis of evil".

The occasion was provided by North Korea itself as it played host to a U.S. official in an act of political symbolism that was in tune with the spirit of coffee diplomacy, the term informally used to denote last week's meeting between the American Secretary of State, Colin Powell, and the North Korean Foreign Minister, Paek Nam-Sun, on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Brunei. A U.S. official, Jack Pritchard, was present at today's ceremonial function that signalled the commencement of work on the planned construction of two nuclear energy reactors at Kumho on the eastern coast of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

The light water power reactors are designed to be a trade off for North Korea's pledge to give up a suspected programme to arm itself with nuclear weapons. The trade off was the centrepiece of the Agreed



First concrete being poured for the foundation of a nuclear power plant in North Korea's northeastern coast on Wednesday. — AFP

Framework that the U.S. and North Korea worked out in 1994 in a bid to prevent a major showdown between themselves over the American intelligence assessment that the DPRK had begun a vigorous programme of developing weapons of mass destruction, particularly a nuclear arsenal.

Under that deal, North Korea is to allow the International Atomic Energy Agency to inspect and certify that the country had frozen its suspected nuclear weapons programme and that there were no viola-

tions of the Agreed Framework. It was in reference to this aspect of the 1994 deal that Mr. Pritchard indicated today that the ball was now entirely in North Korea's court.

"Pyongyang must now start meaningful co-operation and it was now time for the international community to see tangible progress regarding IAEA inspections," Mr. Pritchard was quoted as saying at the remote project site in DPRK.

Pyongyang is yet to throw its doors open to the IAEA inspectors while the \$4.6-billion pro-

ject is predicated on the assumption of co-operation from North Korea in this regard. The IAEA has time between now and the middle of 2005 when the project authority will, under the present timetable, begin the actual reactor installation work.

The time horizon has been kept in focus by the multinational project authority, the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation, as it began its work today despite the extraordinary sensitivities of Washington at this juncture.

While the U.S. nod for today's ceremonial function was a direct sequel to the recent Powell-Paek encounter of the diplomatic kind in Brunei, it is widely believed in this region that Washington has weighed the options before putting the onus on North Korea to prove its assertions of good faith and agree to IAEA inspections.

In this perspective, the U.S. is at present engaged in a minor charm offensive to deal with North Korea diplomatically, given that Washington is raising the military stakes in its confrontation with Iraq, another country in the axis of evil.

Iraq policy

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Crawford (Texas), Aug. 16 (Reuters): US President George W. Bush responded to criticism of his Iraq policy from within his own Republican Party by saying today he would consult with others but make decisions based on the "latest intelligence".

"We'll continue to consult. It's a healthy debate for people to express their opinions. ...But Americans need to know I'll be making up my mind based upon the latest intelligence and how best to protect our own country, plus our friends and allies," Bush said.

Influential Republicans, including former US National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft, have gone public in recent days with warnings that Bush has failed to make a strong case for a

potential attack on Iraq and that a military strike could undermine the US fight against global terrorism as well as destabilise West Asia even further.

"I am aware that some very intelligent people are expressing their opinion about Saddam Hussein and Iraq. I'll listen carefully to what they have to say," Bush said.

Bush said Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, whom the US is seeking to oust, represents "trouble in his neighbourhood," with an aim to acquire and use weapons of mass destruction and a history of using chemical weapons.

"There should be no doubt in anybody's mind this man is thumbing his nose at the world," Bush said.

Iraq offer a joke, says Rumsfeld

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

OTTAWA, AUG. 6. The United States has rejected an offer by Iraq to let Congressmen search the country for weapons of mass destruction. "Our position on inspections and disarmament is well known," said a National Security Council spokesman, Sean McCormack.

The Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, was scathing in his comments. "I can't think of anything funnier than a handful of Congressmen walking around. They'd have to be there for the next 50 years trying to find something. It's a joke," he told a group of journalists. Iraq invited members of Congress to visit the country for three weeks and said arms experts of their choice could accompany them.

But the response from Capitol Hill has been less than enthusiastic. The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden, called on Baghdad to "end its stalling tactics" and allow immediate and unfettered access to United Nations weapons inspectors. On Sunday, Mr. Biden said, "I believe there probably could be a war with Iraq. The only question is, is it alone, is it with others and how long and how costly will it be," the Democrat Senator and Presidential hopeful for 2004, said.

The Senate Majority Leader,

Tom Daschle, supported the administration's insistence on a change of regime in Baghdad but advised caution. "We all

have an appropriate plan," Mr. Daschle asked. Analysts believe that Iraq will be high on the President, George W Bush's

weeks. He will discuss with experts and lawmakers who are convinced that the administration has to weigh the pros and cons before it comes up with a war plan to oust Saddam Hussein from power.

Lawmakers and those outside of the administration are worried on several counts. Heading the list is the fact that virtually no one among its allies have enthusiastically supported the plan. Only Britain and Canada can be expected to support any American action but they may have to be roped in "kicking and screaming".

Besides the political fall out of the plan on American allies such as Saudi Arabia, lawmakers are worried about the costs of a regime change in Iraq. In the absence of any support from allies, the United States may have to bear the entire costs.

The 1991 Gulf War cost \$60 billion but the expenses were shared by allies in West Asia, Europe and the Asia-Pacific. Lawmakers are also worried about the political fallout after Mr. Hussein has been ousted from power. One estimate has been that 75,000 troops will be required inside Iraq for about five years to maintain stability and it will cost tax payers \$16 billion annually to secure major cities, guard vital installations and patrol the border with Iran.

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US (W) W. R. R. U.S. calls for stockpiling of fuel

WASHINGTON, AUG. 6. The United States has urged countries around the world on Monday to protect themselves against a sudden rise in petrol prices by stockpiling fuel, amid growing signs that an invasion of Iraq is moving closer.

Washington has begun to fill the underground caverns that hold its strategic petroleum reserves, in the interests of "overall energy security".

Though the American Energy Secretary, Spencer Abraham, refused to link the move to possible action against the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, it was one of the clearest hints yet that the Bush administration has stepped up military preparations.

A move against Iraq is likely to send the cost of oil soaring, with an immediate impact on prices at the pump. Building up reserves is considered a way of easing the impact.

Evidence of a military build-up came as Kofi Annan, Secretary-General of the United Nations, warned the Americans that it would be 'unwise' to attack Iraq when the crisis between Israel and the Palestinians remained unresolved.

Mr. Abraham, visiting the International Petroleum Exchange, said stockpiling was a 'prudent' step "not related to any specific kind of matter".

He said: "We have suggested that as we are moving to fill our reserves, others should consider making sure that their reserves are adequate. I think everybody recognises that that type of action is prudent." — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

support strongly a regime mind as he settles down for a change... but do we have the vacation at his ranch in Crawford, Texas, for about four support of our allies? Do we

7 AUG 2002

THE FINLUD

Iraq standoff: The rumble turns into a mighty roar

ROBIN WRIGHT &
JOHANNA NEUMAN

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 5

THE rumble of war drums for Gulf War II began in early spring. That's when Ken Pollack got the call from Random House asking if he could speed-write a book on Iraq. The publisher wanted it out by fall — pegged to what then looked like the launch of a United States offensive against Saddam Hussein.

With the first Senate hearings on Iraq last week, the rumble is now a roar. News networks have lined up talking heads to dissect what happens. And Pollack's manuscript for *The Threatening Storm: The Case for Invading Iraq* went to Random House two weeks ago. Is war that close? Or will the sequel to Operation Desert Storm wait till next year?

George W. Bush faces daunting obstacles to pull off an operation as smooth as the



lightning campaign run by his father to liberate tiny, oil-rich Kuwait from Iraq in 1991. To begin with, the mission differs. In 1991, Bush's father had a military goal — to force Iraq out of Kuwait. Now, the US is facing

analysts say. Finally, there's what policy-makers call the 'X' factor — a new crisis that diverts decision-makers. One such possibility is an incident that reignites tensions between India and Pakistan. —I. ATWP

the mission of eliminating Hussein's government.

Besides, Iraq's neighbours still have to be convinced.

Jordan's King Abdullah last week blasted the idea of war as "ludicrous".

Also US intelligence has limited "human assets" in Iraq to carry out vital pre-military operations, an-

US strategy to hold talks with Iraqi oppn may not succeed

By Jal Taraporevala
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Mumbai: The invitation issued by the Bush administration to the six main Iraqi opposition groups for talks in Washington is only the latest step in a multi-pronged US effort to increase pressure on the Saddam Hussein regime in Baghdad. This comes close on the heels of American threats of launching air

NEWS ANALYSIS

strikes and covert operations against Iraq. Washington's invitation is an attempt to coordinate action between the Iraqi opposition groups and fit their programmes into the American gameplan.

Achieving this goal will not be easy, however, given the ideological and personality-based divisions between the various opposition parties and the differences among some of the groups

and the US on the course of action to be pursued. Besides, the Shiite and Kurdish groups in the Iraqi opposition (Shiites and Kurds together constitute about 70 per cent of the country's population) realise the possibility that the US is unlikely to support the idea of far-reaching regional autonomy in the post-Hussein period.

After all, the US has long been apprehensive that a substantive devolution of power to the Shiite-dominated areas could work to the advantage of neighbouring Iran, and that institutionalisation of wide-ranging autonomy for the Iraqi Kurds might have a destabilising effect in the region, not least in the Kurdish parts of Turkey.

The threat of fresh air strikes against Iraq (which is the other part of Washington's anti-Hussein campaign)

has so far had little impact. This is partly on account of the continuing opposition of almost all members of the Security Council and partly because of the anti-American sentiment fuelled at the grass-roots level in much of the Arab world by the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian crisis.

In this context, the latest Iraqi request for talks with the UN's chief weapons inspector on the possible return of international monitors to the country could place the US strategy under further strain.

It is a move on the part of the Hussein regime to shift the main focus of attention away from the American bid to concentrate on military options and to try and establish an informal link between the return of inspectors and the eventual lifting of sanctions against Iraq.

5 AUG 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

US given 15 days to release detainees' list

JAMES VICINI

Washington, Aug. 3 (Reuters): The US justice department must release in 15 days all the names of those it has arrested and detained in its investigation of the September 11 hijacked plane attacks, a federal judge ruled yesterday.

The ruling was a victory for more than 20 civil rights, human rights and civil liberties groups that challenged the government's policy of secret arrests under the Freedom of Information Act, a law that allows for the disclosure of certain government records.

"Unquestionably, the public's interest in learning the identities of those arrested and detained is essential to verifying whether the government is operating within the bounds of the law," US district judge Gladys Kessler wrote in the 45-page ruling. Kate Martin, lead attorney in bringing the lawsuit, said the ruling vindicates basic liberties.

"The government may not arrest people in secret; the courts will stop government abuses; and the tragic events of September 11 may not be used as an ex-



A detainee flanked by US army guards at Camp X-Ray in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. (AFP)

cuse to suspend basic rights and round up the most vulnerable members of our society," she said.

Assistant attorney general Robert McCallum said the ruling "impedes one of the most important federal law enforcement in-

vestigations in history, harms our efforts to bring to justice those responsible for the heinous attacks of September 11 and increases the risk of future terrorist threats to our nation."

McCallum said the justice department in reviewing the ruling "will be evaluating all options to protect the American public from future terrorist threats while preserving our constitutional liberties."

Sen. Patrick Leahy, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee and a Vermont Democrat, said: "This decision puts the rule of law over the justice department's unilateralism. The judge properly observes that secret arrests are a concept odious to a democratic society."

On October 25, attorney general John Ashcroft announced that the "anti-terrorism offensive has arrested or detained nearly 1,000 individuals" in the investigation into the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Since November, the Justice Department has withheld the total number of those arrested and detained, the judge said.

Drums of war

Moves against Iraq need a legal basis

The trouble with US plans to attack Iraq and depose Saddam Hussein is that there isn't any obvious cause, which makes sense to the rest of the world. In the case of Desert Storm the trigger was the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, due to which most neighbouring Arab states lined up with the US-led coalition. In Bosnia and Kosovo, there were the horrendous ethnically motivated mass murders prompting the US to join forces with NATO to halt the slaughter. In Afghanistan, there was the imperative of striking at the base camps of those responsible for 9/11. In Iraq, there is the suspicion that Saddam Hussein's regime is storing up weapons of mass destruction, and that he may be willing to pass them on to the Al Qaida for use against the US, but no concrete evidence of either is forthcoming. Which is why there is very little support among the Europeans, the Arabs, and almost every other country in the world with the exception of Tony Blair's government, for the calls of regime change emanating from Washington.

The Americans, however, haven't cared much for legal sanction before, for example during the invasion of Grenada in 1983 or that of Panama in 1989. Now that they are scared that shadowy networks of global terrorists have rendered traditional theories of deterrence obsolete, they may dispense with legal scruples and go into Iraq, with the idea of making an example of any anti-American country or leader which tries to acquire WMDs. However, this new kind of deterrence is fraught with risks. What if the Iraqis make a determined stand, and fight back? As the Afghan campaign shows, the Pentagon prefers to fight its campaigns from the air rather than put its troops at risk on the ground. What if the Iraqis fight better than Taliban, which will subject them to relentless pounding from the air and high civilian casualties? That would trigger outrage on Arab streets, particularly as Ariel Sharon is likely to continue with his incursions into the West Bank and Gaza. US interests in the region will be in danger. A predictable outcome will be that oil prices will go through the roof. As war clouds thicken over Baghdad, New Delhi had better start bracing itself.

3 AUG 2002

USA agrees to send envoy to North Korea

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The Korea Herald / Asia News Network

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN, Aug 1. – The USA has agreed to send a high-level envoy to North Korea to discuss improving bilateral relations, North Korean foreign minister, Mr Paek Nam-sun, said here today.

Mr Paek said he and the US Secretary of State, Gen Colin Powell, agreed yesterday on a trip to Pyongyang by Mr James Kelly, assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs. “Mr Kelly will visit Pyongyang as a special envoy,” Mr Paek told reporters without elaborating.

“But it’s up to the USA to fix the schedule. It promised to inform us of a date for the visit,” he added. Mr Kelly had been originally slated for a visit to the North early last month for security talks with the communist state, but Washington scrapped the plan in the wake of the 29 June inter-Korean naval clash.

Mr Paek’s statement came a day after he met Gen Powell on the sidelines of the Asean Regional Forum, in the highest-level contact between the two sides under the Bush administration.

In their brief conversation, Mr Paek said they reached an accord on the resumption of stalled dialogue between their countries.

Later in the day, however, Mr Kelly said the North Korean minister’s remarks “went a little bit

far,” according to a South Korean diplomat.

Mr Kelly met deputy foreign minister Mr Lee Tae-sik and director general Mr Hitoshi Tanaka, his counterparts from Seoul and Tokyo, respectively.

Another senior State Department official was also quoted as saying that Mr Paek’s assessment was “premature.”

Seoul officials said Washington would make a final decision on reviving dialogue with Pyongyang after further consulting with its allies and watching developments in inter-Korean relations.

The two Koreas’ preparatory meeting for high-level talks, which begin at the North’s Mt. Geumgang resort on Friday, will affect the US decision on whether to resume dialogue with the North, according to a US official.

Despite the North’s high-profile diplomatic campaign here, it still remains to be seen whether South and North Korea will hold foreign ministers’ talks.

Diplomatic observers said Mr Paek and South Korean foreign minister Mr Choi Sung-hong were still in a tug-of-war on who should propose a bilateral meeting first.

“There is no reason why we cannot meet. If Mr Choi offers, I would meet him delightfully,” Mr Paek told reporters, emerging from a meeting with EU foreign policy chief, Mr Javier Solana.

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Congress wants Bush to consult it on Iraq

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, AUG. 1. Lawmakers of both parties have made it clear to the White House that they should be consulted in any decision on a military attack against Iraq. In fact, Democrats have introduced legislation in the Senate opposing an attack on Iraq without Congressional authorisation or a formal declaration of war.

The warning from Capitol Hill came as the Senate began its two-day hearings on Iraq at the Foreign Relations Committee with the Democratic Senator, Paul Wellstone of Minnesota, saying that the "administration has not yet made the case". While there is support in Congress for getting rid of the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein, lawmakers feel the administration should make a case for the use of hundreds of thousands of troops in a war against Iraq. Some lawmakers also feel that the administration has to make an airtight case of Iraq's direct threat to the United States. The President, George W Bush, has said that Iraq was developing weapons of mass destruction that could threaten neighbouring countries or



Iraqi boys receiving military training near Baghdad on Thursday. Thousands of volunteers are attending a three-week military training camp all over Iraq. — AP

might make them available to terrorists who could use the same to strike at the United States. Perhaps a telling comment on the administration's stand on Iraq came from the senior Republican on the Senate Committee, Richard Lugar of Indiana. "If President Bush determines that large-scale military action is necessary against Iraq, I hope he will follow the

lead established by the previous Bush administration and seek Congressional authorisation. This is not an action that can be sprung on the American people," he said.

In 1991 prior to the Gulf War, the senior Bush administration went before Congress to seek its authorisation for the use of force. The present Bush administration has maintained that it

will consult Congress but has not committed itself to seeking an approval. Lawmakers feel an attack on Iraq involving at least 250,000 American troops is not going to be without high social, political and human costs. The United States is already being criticised by its allies on its war plan. Criticism has particularly been strident from West Asia where not a single ally of the United States has signed on to the plan.

Also, the entire cost of the Iraq invasion will have to be borne by the United States, unlike in 1991, when allies and the U.S. shared the costs. The consensus among experts is that Saddam Hussein has an extensive array of chemical and biological weapons and may even develop a nuclear device by 2005. The former chief U.N. weapons inspector, Richard Butler, told the Senate committee on Wednesday that Iraq had stepped up the production of chemical and biological weapons since U.N. inspections ended four years ago. He said Baghdad may even be close to developing a nuclear bomb, but called for the country to be given another chance before military action is taken.

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