

Russia to retain 'Satan' missiles

By Vladimir Radyuhin

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MOSCOW, DEC. 20. Russia has reversed plans to scrap its fearsome 'Satan' missiles in response to the U.S. President, George W. Bush's decision to speed up the deployment of a missile shield, but kept the door open to joint development of missile-defence technologies with the United States. Russia's commander of strategic missile forces said that the nuclear-tipped SS-18 'Satan' missiles would remain on duty till 2016-2020.

Earlier Russia had planned to destroy all its multiple-warhead missiles in the next few years. He revealed that Russia would also retain mobile rail-based heavy missiles armed with several warheads. "No missile will be taken off duty until its extended service period has run out," Colonel-General Nikolai Solovtsov, said in an interview this week. Russia has 154 'Satan' missiles and dozens of rail-based SS-24 'Scalpel' missiles, each carrying 10 independently targeted nuclear warheads. Col.-Gen. Solovtsov also said Russia was mulling the option of installing multiple warheads on its newest Topol-M long-range missile. This arsenal will enable Russia to overcome any missile defence the U.S. may build in the foreseeable future, experts said. "Russia and the U.S. have launched a new spiral of the arms race," a Russian daily said in a comment.

Russia made it clear it regards the planned deployment of the U.S. missile defence by 2004 as

directed against its security interests. The Russian Foreign Ministry said the U.S. plans for a global missile shield has "entered a new destabilising phase," while the Russian President, Vladimir Putin's strategic-affairs adviser said the U.S. had not offered any credible arguments to support its claim that its missile defence would not erode Russia's nuclear potential.

Marshal Sergei Shaposhnikov also expressed concern over the proposed deployment of U.S. missile defence elements in the North, rather than in the South, closer to the "rogue states" which Washington sees as a potential missile threat. At the same time Russia is exploring the option of joining forces with the U.S. for the development and construction of integrated missile defence systems. The U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Richard Myers, is reported to have discussed the issue during his visit to Russia earlier this month.

A senior Russian parliamentarian said Washington had given Moscow a list of advanced technologies related to missile defences for possible cooperation. "It is important now to see whether those are not some fringe technologies that will not ~~seriously~~ advance our interaction on key aspects of national security," said Mr. Dmitry Rogozin, head of the foreign affairs committee of the State Duma lower house of the Russian Parliament.

THE HINDU

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IRAQ / NO MATERIAL CHANGE IN DOCUMENT, SAYS MOSCOW

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Russia rejects revised U.S. draft

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, OCT. 22. Russia has rejected the revised draft of the United Nations Security Council resolution on Iraq brought by the United States, as disappointing and unacceptable, informed sources said here.

"The document in its principal aspects, differs little from previous U.S.-British proposals which were unacceptable to Russia and other Permanent Members of the U.N. Security Council," the sources told Russian news agencies on Tuesday. They voiced "disappointment" with Washington's failure to live up to its promise "to take the positions of other countries into account and to reach a mutually-acceptable compromise."

Russia's rejection of the new American draft coincided with a visit to Moscow of the U.S. Undersecretary of State, John Bolton. On Tuesday, Mr. Bolton met the Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, to discuss Iraq and North Korea and to prepare a meeting between the Russian and U. S. Presidents, Vladimir Putin and George W. Bush, on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Council summit in Mexico later this week.

Russia has consistently opposed any unilateral U.S. military action against Iraq and turned down the earlier U. S.-British draft because it allowed automatic use of force against Iraq if it obstructed the work of U. N. weapons inspectors.

According to the RIA Novosti news agency, the new U. S. draft, while omitting direct reference to the use of force, warns Baghdad of "serious consequences" if it fails to comply

with the proposed resolution. "Such wording can be used as justification for beginning military action," the news agency said.

Bush softens stand

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, OCT. 22. The United States has formally circulated a revised draft at the United Nations on the new Iraq resolution. The Bush administration, in an effort to come to terms with serious objections in the Security Council, has left out an explicit authorisation on the use of force. But concerns do remain.

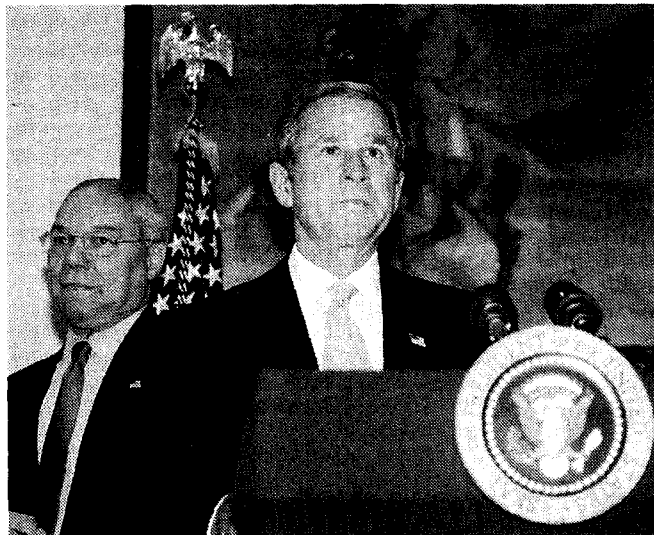
The new draft resolution was circulated at a meeting of the five Permanent Council members; and the ambassadors are due to meet again on Tuesday

in New York to proceed with whatever instructions they had received from their capitals. Washington is confident that its new resolution will find acceptance. The key attention is on France, which has taken a tough stance on any use force against Iraq. Paris has been maintaining for the last five weeks that it is for two resolutions, one on the use of force coming only after weapons inspectors reported to the Council that the mission had failed on account of Iraq going back on the terms. Washington's decision to step back on the explicit authorisation over the use of force does not mean that the Republican administration is subscribing to the French idea. Rather, the U.S. is now agreeable to a two-phase process but within a single resolution. And

this is where some of the persisting concerns are. Under the new scheme of things, the draft apparently continues to say that Iraq is in "material breach" of U.N. resolutions, a term that the United States could use later for a military response. Further, key diplomats at the world body are worried about persistent U.S. language saying that Iraq had been warned of "serious consequences". But there are things that the Bush administration has done over and beyond the dropping of explicit language on the use of force. And these have been taken note of in a positive manner.

It includes dropping of a demand for military units to accompany weapons inspectors. The U.S. also dropped an earlier insistence that the Permanent Five could send their own weapons inspections personnel. Meanwhile, the President, George W. Bush, has said that he will try diplomacy "one more time" and seemed to back away from an impression that he and his administration are bent upon driving the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein, out of power. "We don't believe he's going to change. However, if he were to meet all conditions of the United Nations... that in itself would signal that the regime has changed", the President said. "We've tried diplomacy. We're trying it one more time", he said.

Mr. Bush also drew a distinction between Iraq and North Korea, both of whom he had referred early this year as being members of the so-called axis of evil. "What makes him (Saddam Hussein) even more unique is the fact that he's actually gassed his own people."



CHANGING STAND: The U.S. President, George Bush, with the Secretary of State, Colin Powell, in the White House on Monday. — AP

ETB 10/22/02

23 OCT 2002

U.S. backs Georgia in row with Russia

49-14
267

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, AUG. 25. Washington's sharp rebuke of Moscow over a new flare up of tension in the Caucasus has added a new dimension to the geopolitical game unfolding in the region.

The United States strongly backed Georgia on its claim that Russian warplanes bombed its territory near the Chechen border on Saturday. Georgia said at least two residents had been killed in the raid. The Russian Defence Ministry strongly denied the charge, calling it a "baseless fantasy." However, the White House on Sunday brushed aside Moscow's denials of involvement and said such bombings "escalate existing tension between Russia and Georgia." Analysts said the White House statement provided fresh evidence of the U. S. goal of establishing its influence in the Caucasus. The U. S. first set its foot in Georgia in May, when it sent military instructors to train Georgian troops in anti-terrorist warfare. The statement made no reference to Moscow's concerns that Georgia had al-

lowed Chechen rebels to turn its Pankisi Gorge near the Chechen border into an "enclave of international terrorism," from where they infiltrated Russian territory.

On Sunday, the Russian military found the bodies of eight border guards killed in a clash with Chechen rebels who had apparently crossed from Georgia into Ingushetia, a Russian region bordering Chechnya.

Georgia on Sunday launched a police operation to oust Chechen rebels from the Pankisi Gorge, but the Russian military dismissed the operation as a sham, saying that the rebels, led by the warlord, Ruslan Gelayev, had left the region a week earlier.

America's support for Georgia in its standoff with Russia is likely to put to a test a new anti-

terrorist partnership between Moscow and Washington. A respected military strategist said the Chechen rebels entrenched in Georgia were a card in the U. S.-Georgian game to oust Russia from the Caucasus.

"Washington's bigger strategy is to cut off Russia from the Caucasus with its rich Caspian oil fields," said General (retd.) Leonid Ivashov of the Geopolitical Problems Academy.

He cited the U. S. State Secretary advisor, Mr. Clifford Bond, as saying that Russia was the biggest obstacle for American policy in the Caspian.

"If there is an obstacle, it must be removed, and that is what we are seeing in the Caucasus now," said Gen. Ivashov, who until last year headed the Russian Defence Ministry's international department.

26 AUG 2002

Russia's move to expand ties with Iran may anger U.S. #10-14

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, JULY 27. Ignoring American protests Russia has unveiled plans to expand trade and economic ties with Iran. The Russian Government has approved a 10-year programme of wide-ranging economic cooperation with Iran, which covers nuclear power, aviation and hydrocarbons, the AK&M news agency reported.

The plan cannot but be seen as a challenge to the U. S., with the Russian Prime Minister, Mikhail Kasyanov, signing it on the same day the U. S. Congress called for replacing the political regime in Iran. Under the plan Russia will build 10 nuclear reactors in Iran, a sour issue with Washington, and several thermal power stations. Russia will also help Iran manufacture Russian airliners and aircraft engines, build two steel plants and sever-

al petrochemical projects, as well as develop oil, gas and coal fields.

The plan also calls for Russian participation in "the financing and exploitation of a gas pipeline between Iran and India," and cooperation with Iran in developing the North-South transport corridor, including the construction of a railway line linking two Iranian ports — Bandar Abbas in the Persian Gulf and Anzali in the Caspian sea.

Simultaneously a senior Russian military official reaffirmed Moscow's intention to sell Iran conventional weapons, which is fiercely opposed by Washington.

The Deputy Defence Minister in charge of arms exports, Mikhail Dmitriyev, said Russia could sell some defensive weapons to Iran and help it modernise its Soviet-built military hardware.

THE HINDU

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Russian 'terms' for arms pact

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By Wladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, JUNE 15. Russia has launched a new diplomatic offensive to commit the United States to further arms control agreements improving upon a nuclear weapons pact the two countries sealed last month.

Three weeks after Moscow and Washington concluded a treaty to slash their nuclear arsenals by two-thirds, the Russian Parliament warned that it may only ratify the accord if it is augmented with more detailed procedures for the proposed reductions. In a non-binding resolution unanimously approved on Friday, the Lower House of the Russian Parliament, the State Duma, said it "reserves the right to add provisions to the federal ratification bill to ensure

the predictability of credible reductions of the U. S. strategic nuclear forces."

Under the treaty the Presidents of Russia and the U. S. signed on May 24 in Moscow, the two countries are to reduce their nuclear armoury from about 6,000 warheads to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads over the next 10 years. The treaty has been widely criticised in Russia for leaving numerous loopholes that will allow the U. S. to juggle with numbers of warheads subject for decommissioning, to store, rather than destroy them and avoid on-the-ground verification.

Russian diplomats said the treaty was a "reasonable compromise" and promised to push for further arms control measures. Friday's parliamentary resolution gives the start to a Russian campaign to rectify the deficiencies of the Moscow treaty. The State Duma called on Russia and the U. S. to work out "a realistic time-table" for the agreed arms reductions and "additional agreements" to ensure their "transparency and predictability."

The new accords will be "instrumental" for facilitating ratification by Parliament of the Russia-American nuclear arms treaty, the State Duma warned.

THE HINDU

15 JUN 2002

Russia to 'minimise' USA's withdrawal from ABM: Ivanov

by Putin *5/3* *14/6*

Agence France Presse

MOSCOW, June 13. — Russia hopes to "minimise" the effects of the USA's withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty, the Russian foreign minister Mr Igor Ivanov was quoted as saying today.

Russia regretted the US move, which formally takes effect this week, to abrogate the treaty seen by Moscow as a cornerstone of arms limitation agreements for 30 years," Mr Ivanov told Interfax in the Canadian city of Whistler.

"The primary aim is to minimise the negative consequences of the US withdrawal from the ABM treaty," the Russian foreign minister added.

"Thanks to Russia's efforts, the negotiating process of strategic offensive weapons and missile defence has not been terminated," Mr Ivanov said.

The Russian President Mr Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart Mr George W Bush signed a historic deal at a summit in Moscow last month, slashing each side's nuclear arsenals by two thirds to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads over the next decade.

However, the US President gave notice in December, despite Russian objections, that USA would unilaterally withdraw from the 1972 treaty signed with the now-defunct Soviet Union in order to develop an anti-missile defence system.

The first step towards the Bush administration's new missile doctrine is set for Saturday, when the US air force general Ronald Kadish, head of the Missile Defence Agency, attends a ceremony to break ground on silos for six interceptor missiles at Fort Greely, Alaska. It is due to be completed by September 2004, according to official estimates.

THE STATESMAN

14 JUN 2002

US reward for Russia reforms

Washington, June 6 (Reuters): The US commerce department said today it has raised Russia to "market economy" status, potentially allowing Russian exporters to receive more favourable treatment under US anti-dumping laws.

The decision puts a US seal of approval on reforms that Russia has made since the collapse of the former Soviet Union and comes as Moscow has shown strong support for the United States in its war on terrorism.

However, commerce department officials said the decision was based on technical factors under US anti-dumping laws, such as whether Russia has a convertible currency and the amount of government control over the economy.

The decision to grant market economy status follows a similar announcement by the European Union on May 29.

In a statement, the commerce department said it would backdate the new status for Russia to April 1 of this year.

Russia was previously categorised as a "non-market economy," which meant the commerce department could not use Russian domestic prices when calculating anti-dumping duties on imports from the former Soviet republic.

Instead, it had to use prices from a third country to calculate dumping margins.

Steel tariffs

A US trade official said today the Bush administration would soon announce new exemptions to US steel tariffs for specific products that are not made in the United States, but ruled out paying the kind of compensation for the duties requested by the European Union.

Commerce undersecretary Grant Aldonas told reporters that he expected his department would announce long-awaited steel exemptions "any day" now. The commerce department has received between 500 and 600 requests for steel product exemption from the hefty new steel tariffs imposed in March by President George W. Bush.

07 JUN 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

No suspension of arms sales talks with India: Straw

US-Russian talks on peace

AGENCIES

MOSCOW, June 1. — Russia and the United States of America have expressed their readiness to act together for defusing the Indo-Pak standoff, the Russian foreign ministry said here today.

In a telephonic conversation last night, Russian foreign minister Mr Igor Ivanov and US secretary of state Gen Colin Powell discussed a number of global issues and expressed their readiness to work closely to ease tension in the sub-continent, the ministry said in a release. "Ivanov and Powell discussed a number of international issues, giving special attention to the relations between India and Pakistan. Both officials stressed their countries' readiness to act together to contain the crisis in South Asia, to ease the tension and to work on solving the current problems using political means", said the ministry.

Earlier, both countries had joined their colleagues from

G-8 countries in urging Islamabad to put an immediate end to infiltration across the Line of Control and terrorist activities against India.

In London, British foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said today that negotiations on British arms sales to India have not been suspended despite the current crisis between India and Pakistan.

Following press reports last weekend of a possible British government embargo on sales to India, in particular 66 British BAE Hawk training aircraft, Mr Straw, who had just returned from a three-day peace mission to the sub-continent, told BBC Radio: "Are BAE and their partners fully entitled to continue the negotiations about these sales? Yes... I certainly approve of a continuation of commercial relations with countries — India and Pakistan — with which we have good diplomatic relations." He added: "If we get to a position where contracts are signed, then these companies will make applica-

tions for licences and they will be considered against the criteria, but we're not there." The possibility of military conflict involving a country buying British arms would be taken into account as one of the criteria in granting export licences, Mr Straw said.

Dwelling on the possibilities of an Indo-Pak war, Mr Straw said his decision to warn British people yesterday about the situation in India did not indicate that Britain had intelligence of imminent war. "The situation is dangerous but war is not inevitable," he said.

He added: "That remains the position, but plainly and palpably when you have one million men under arms on either side of the line of control, all in a high state of alert and readiness, both countries have nuclear weapons and one of them — Pakistan — has said they reserve the right to use them first, then we have a dangerous situation."

Mr Straw said he was par-

ticularly concerned because the two countries did not have the same controls developed by the Soviet Union and NATO during the Cold War to prevent tension spiraling into nuclear war.

Ministers and officials were quoted last Monday as saying Britain was clamping down on arms sales to India and Pakistan in an effort to slow the nuclear rivals' slide into conflict over Kashmir. In 2000, British arms exports to India were worth around £ 64 million (\$ 93 million), easily dwarfing sales to Pakistan of just £ 6 million.

An arms sales ban could threaten the future of a £ one billion order for 66 Hawk training aircraft which Britain's BAE Systems has been negotiating with India.

"I talked to Jaswant Singh yesterday to explain what we were about to announce, and I didn't ask him to agree," Mr Straw said, adding: "Neither did he seek to give his endorsement."

02 JUN 2002

THE STATESMAN

MONDAY, MAY 27, 2002

NEW FOCUS IN U.S.-RUSSIA TIES

THE JOINT DECLARATION on New U.S.-Russia Relationship, signed by the leaders of the two nuclear superpowers in Moscow on May 24, has been drafted in the style of an accord between two equals of a 'duopoly'. However, the fine print does not conceal the new strategic reality that the U.S. has, for the most part, co-opted post-Soviet Russia as a cooperative partner if not exactly as a new and junior ally. Overall, a new spirit of shared values permeates the entire document which covers the emerging strategic equation between the U.S. and Russia in almost all aspects inclusive of the economic dimension and the importance of people-to-people contacts. With Russia acknowledging the fundamentals of democracy and the market economy as the motive forces of the international system at work at this time, there is no scope for misty-eyed tears by the Russian nationalists themselves over the current regression of the socialist ideas and ideals in the global discourse on inter-state relations. In fact, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, was not seen until recently as a West-leaning leader in the post-Soviet Kremlin hierarchy. In this sense, Mr. Putin was perceived to be very different from Boris Yeltsin, a West-oriented Russian leader who really ushered in the present era of post-Soviet politics and diplomacy in Moscow. Of some evocative resonance, especially against this background, is a significant assertion by Mr. Putin and the U.S. President, George W. Bush, in their latest Joint Declaration. They "reject the failed model of 'Great Power' rivalry" that had characterised the Cold War which ended over a decade ago. While the rejection has been spelt out with reference to Central Asia and the South Caucasus, the new move by Mr. Bush and his Russian partner to set up a high-power "Consultative Group for Strategic Security" covers the entire spectrum of international issues with a global focus.

The new U.S.-Russian Treaty on Strategic Of-

fensive Reductions, also signed in Moscow during Mr. Bush's visit there on May 24, commits the two sides to lower their deployed nuclear weapons by a factor of about two-thirds of their existing configurations by the year 2012. As a companion to this Treaty, the Joint Declaration acquires importance as a broad definition of the U.S.-Russia relationship for the present. While the Treaty itself is reflective of no more than a cosmetic gesture of de-escalation towards the global community, given the fact that the de-deployed nukes could yet be stored, the Joint Declaration is noteworthy for a commitment by the U.S. and Russia to a strategy of "proactive non-proliferation" across the world. In essence, though, the Joint Declaration introduces Moscow to the strategic concerns that it might have to address in its new status as a partner of the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation. The NATO-Russia Council will formally be launched in Rome on May 28.

Four key facets of the new U.S.-Russia partnership have been identified as follows: counter-terrorism in all aspects, non-proliferation especially in the context of preventing terrorists from acquiring nuclear weapons as also their delivery systems, stabilisation of the global political system and an active agenda of resolving regional conflicts as the means to enhance international stability. Now, while such a sweeping glasshouse-view of the world scene may raise visions of a congruence between the strategic agendas of the U.S. and Russia, the two have not really tried to hide some existing differences on how to deal with Iraq or Iran, for example. As for some specifics of inter-state tensions, the U.S. and Russia evince a great deal of concern over the current India-Pakistan standoff, but it seems politically correct that this issue is not covered under the rubric of regional conflicts in the Bush-Putin Joint Declaration.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

27 MAY 2002

U.S.-Russia summit, a triumph for Putin

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, MAY 26. The Russian-American summit in Moscow from May 23 to 26 has proved a personal triumph for the President, Vladimir Putin. He has got nearly everything he wanted from his U.S. counterpart, George W. Bush, and gave away precious little.

Despite Washington's strong unilateralist urge to discard Moscow, Mr. Putin succeeded in keeping America engaged, and moreover, broadened substantially the bilateral agenda, to cover not only arms control and anti-terrorist action, but also Washington's commitment to expand economic and technological cooperation with Moscow and to support Russia's stepped-up integration into Europe's economic and political structures.

A qualified judo fighter, Mr. Putin had applied to Mr. Bush his favourite wrestling technique — pretend to be yielding to pressure and then use the opponent's own attack power to knock him off his feet. Moscow appeared to be giving in to Washington on all major issues: it eagerly supported Mr. Bush's war on terrorism, blinked at the deployment of U. S. troops in former Soviet republics, hardly protested against America's withdrawal from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty, and toned down its opposition to the NATO enlargement into Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.

Mr. Putin also agreed to sign the new arms cuts pact on Mr. Bush's terms, allowing the U.S. to store, rather than destroy about 4,000 nuclear warheads slated for reduction, and to count the remaining warheads as it pleases. The bottomline

40-14 27/5
about all these Russian concessions is that the U.S. would have had its way with or without Russian approval.

By taking a cooperative or conciliatory stand on issues over which Russia had little control, Mr. Putin has secured important gains for the country in other vital areas.

Despite Washington's express reluctance to enter into any binding arms accords with Russia, Mr. Putin not only persuaded Mr. Bush to sign the nuclear cuts treaty, but won his commitment to carry on the reductions to the lowest possible levels and institutionalise the dialogue on strategic stability through the establishment of a Consultative Group for Strategic Security at the level of Foreign Ministers and Defence.

Mr. Bush also gave a firm pledge to grant Russia the status of a market-economy nation by mid-June and to facilitate its early accession to the World Trade Organisation.

The two sides launched what Mr. Bush described as a major new energy partnership against instability in global oil markets.

In practical terms, this means American investment into Russia's energy sector to make it an alternative and more predictable source of oil supplies to the West as compared to West Asia.

Lastly, and most importantly, the Moscow summit has given the green light to Russia's integration with Europe, which tops the list of Mr. Putin's priorities in rebuilding the economic and political might of his country. The key to Europe was in Mr. Bush's pocket and his declaration of a new era of partnership in Russian-American relations has unlocked Europe's door for Russia.

THE HINDU

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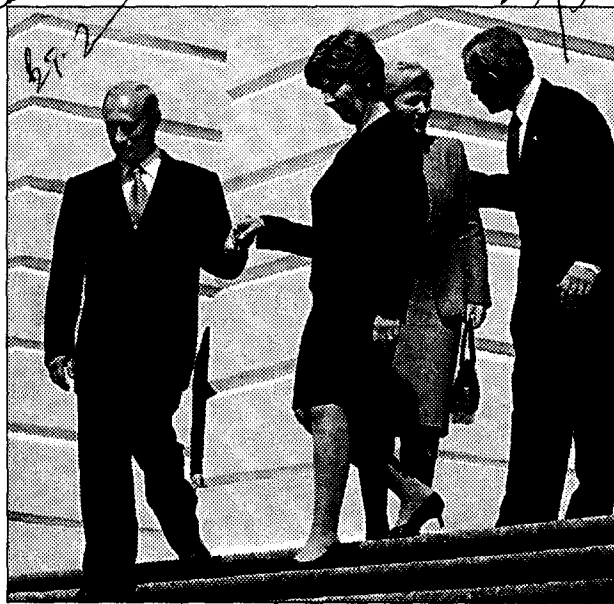
Bush, Putin regret Ghauri testfire

St Petersburg
26 MAY

US President George W. Bush on Sunday joined his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in expressing his "strong reservations" over the missile tests conducted by Pakistan, even as the current Indo-Pak standoff figured prominently during the talks.

Mr Bush urged India not to see the recent missile tests as a "provocation." "Obviously we hope that there is restraint in the area, that the tests will not be seen as a provocation. Everyone can understand danger in the region. We are hopeful that slowly but surely we can erode that distrust," Mr Bush told reporters here. "We just have got to continue to work the problem," he added. Mr Putin also expressed regrets over the tests. The leaders continued to pressurise President Musharraf to stop cross border terrorism in Kashmir.

"We are deeply concerned about the rhetoric. It is very important for President Musharraf to...do what he said he's going to do...on terror, and that is stop the incursions across the line," Mr Bush said while urging President Musharraf to put a curb on Islamic militancy. Echoing strong anti-war sentiments, Mr Bush on Sat-



PICTURE PERFECT

urday said: "There's no benefit of war...There's no benefit of a clash that could eventually lead to a border war." White House officials here said, US Secretary of State Colin Powell was working "very hard" with his Russian counterpart, Igor Ivanov, to help diffuse the crisis, though they refused to divulge details.

Briefing reporters in St Petersburg on Saturday, Russian for-

eign minister Igor Ivanov said the US and Russia have agreed to work very closely to pacify south Asian nuclear rivals. Commenting on President Putin's readiness to broker a peace deal at his proposed bilateral meetings in Almaty (Kazakhstan) with the Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee and Pakistan's President Musharraf in the first week of June, Russian foreign ministry

sources underlined that "stated Russian stand" should be the foundation of such a deal.

"Islamabad should put an end to cross-border attacks against India, dismantle terrorist network on its soil and the territories it controls in order to create a conducive atmosphere for holding direct political dialogue with India on all contentious issues, including Kashmir," Russian foreign office sources said. Meanwhile, Russian deputy foreign minister Anatoly Safonov, who holds the charge for international anti-terror co-operation in the ministry, is scheduled to reach Islamabad for talks with the Pakistani leadership. Sources here said Mr Safonov's visit was planned well in advance, but in view of the current crisis and international diplomatic efforts to defuse the Indo-Pak standoff, it has acquired special significance.

Meanwhile, Mr Bush on Sunday urged Mr Musharraf to work harder to block cross-border incursions by terrorists. "He must perform," Mr Bush said of Mr Musharraf during a joint press conference with French President Jacques Chirac. The US President said he was "more concerned that Musharraf show results" in the global fight on terrorism than with two weekend missile tests conducted by Pakistan. — Agencies

Summit a total success: Putin

AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE

SAINT PETERSBURG, May 25. — President George W Bush focused on tourism instead of terrorism today as his Russian counterpart Mr Vladimir Putin declared their landmark summit in Russia a total success.

President Bush and his wife Mrs Laura Bush kicked off the second leg of their Russia trip by flying to the former Tsarist capital of Saint Petersburg, where they visited the world-famous Hermitage arts museum with President Putin and his wife Mrs Lyudmila Putin.

“All the goals of the US President’s visit to Russia have been achieved,” Mr Putin said as the presidential party toured the Hermitage, built by Catherine the Great.

Speaking a day after the two leaders inked a landmark disarmament treaty in Moscow ushering in a “new era” of US-Russian relations, Mr Putin said he “and all our experts are satisfied with the results of the summit on all the issues of Russian-US relations.”

Mr Bush and Mr Putin then held a question and answer session with students at Saint Petersburg’s university before seeing a performance of Tchaikovsky’s *Nutcracker* ballet at the city’s Marinsky (formerly Kirov) theatre.

However, the two leaders still found time in the packed sight-seeing programme to discuss the escalating conflict between India and Pakistan over Kashmir.

The informal meeting with the university students in Mr Putin’s native city mirrored a similar session the two Presidents held at a high school near Mr Bush’s ranch in Crawford, Texas, last November.

Since then, the two men can boast not only of a budding friendship but also the signing of the first major nuclear disarmament deal between the two former Cold War enemies in a decade. Shrinking nuclear arsenals to sizes not seen in over three decades, yesterday’s treaty will see both countries slash their stockpiles of warheads by two thirds to a range of 1,700-2,200 each by the end of 2012.

President Bush, meanwhile, pledged to persuade the US Congress to scrap the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment limiting US trade relations with Russia.

THE STATESMAN

26 MAY 2002

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Summit a success, says Putin

26/5

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We'll make them step back: Powell

MOSCOW, MAY 24. Stating that the tension between India and Pakistan has reached a "very critical point", the United States today said it would get the two countries to "step back" and decided to work closely with Russia to defuse the stand-off.

Speaking on the sidelines of U.S.-Russia Summit here, the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, said the situation was "very dangerous and I hope both sides realise they are at a very critical point".

Gen. Powell, who spoke to the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and also the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, on phone, said "we will get them to step back".

At their summit meeting, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, agreed to work closely to defuse the Indo-Pak. stand off and Moscow is sending an envoy to Islamabad ahead of U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage's South Asia mission, of-

icial sources said. The sources also did not rule out roping in China for convincing its close ally, Islamabad, for a crackdown on terrorist network operating in Jammu and Kashmir from Pakistani soil.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin also signed a joint statement on combating terrorism, in which they have mentioned their desire to closely interact with Shanghai Six, of which China is a key member along with Russia. — PTI



The Russian President, Vladimir Putin, (right), with the U.S. President, George W. Bush, after the two leaders signed an arms treaty at the Kremlin in Moscow on Friday. — AP (Report on Page 14)

End infiltration: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 24. In calling upon both India and Pakistan to exercise restraint and in encouraging the two countries to resume a "productive dialogue," the United States has told Pakistan that an important component to this process is to end infiltration into Kashmir.

"We understand India's frustrations and anger over continued terrorist actions, but would reiterate that rather than being the solution, military action in this crisis would create even greater problems," the State Department's deputy spokesman, Philip Reeker, said.

"It is important for India and Pakistan to resume a productive dialogue over the issues that divide them and that includes Kashmir. An important component to this process is an end to infiltration into Kashmir, and as we have done before, we call upon Pakistan to do all it can to achieve this objective," Mr. Reeker said at a regular briefing on Thursday.

He said Washington's diplomacy to find a peaceful solution was being orchestrated very closely with other members of the international community. "...We are orchestrating very

closely with others in the international community to work with India and Pakistan to see that they can reduce the tensions and encourage them to resume a dialogue", he said. The Bush administration, according to Mr. Reeker, is pursuing all avenues to encourage India and Pakistan "to reduce the tensions, to foster the atmosphere for a dialogue, a dialogue that would help in resolving these issues through peaceful means, because that is obviously the over-riding goal here".

The State Department also formally announced that the Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, would be leaving Washington for South Asia on June 4. Meanwhile, at a press briefing at the Embassy of India, the Defence Secretary, Yogendra Narain, said the issue of monitors which Pakistan had been pushing for did not figure in his discussions with administration officials. But the State Department has taken the position that the U.S. remained "engaged" on the subject.

"It is up to the parties to the dispute to agree on any use of international monitors to reduce tensions and avoid conflict... we remain engaged on the subject," Mr. Reeker said.

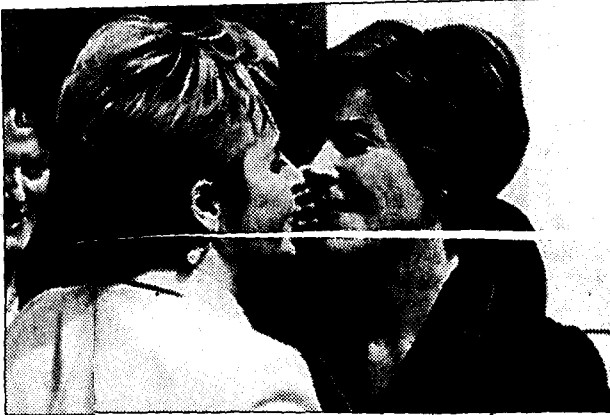
Putin, Bush sign historic nuclear weapons treaty

Moscow: Russian leader Vladimir Putin and U.S. President George W. Bush signed a landmark treaty on Friday to slash their long-range nuclear warheads by two-thirds with both leaders hailing the event as historic.

"We are going to cast aside all doubts and suspicions and welcome a new era of relations", Mr Bush said in a televised face-to-face meeting with Mr Putin shortly before the signing ceremony in the elegant Kremlin fortress. "Today we may say we are creating qualitatively new relations", Mr Putin told Mr Bush across a long conference table in St Catherine's Hall.

The Treaty of Moscow, the centrepiece of the four-day summit which began on Thursday evening, will commit the former cold war adversaries to cutting their arsenals to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads by the year 2012. The two nuclear giants currently hold about 6,000 warheads each.

The pact, the first nuclear disarmament agreement between the former superpower rivals since January 1993, is expected to set the seal on Russia's shift to a more pro-Western foreign policy. The two leaders also signed a declaration which set the seal on a new strategic relationship. However, analysts say the pact smacks of outdated superpower rivalry and is barely relevant to the fight against terrorism which



Russian and American First Ladies, Lyudmila Putin (left) and Laura Bush, greet each other before their tour of the Tretyakov Picture Gallery in Moscow on Friday.

both Mr Bush and Mr Putin see as the new global threat after the September 11 airliner attacks in New York and Washington. And even before the curtain rose on the carefully scripted event, Mr Bush's first summit on Russian soil was overshadowed by U.S. accusations that Russia was supplying sensitive technology to Iran—denounced by Washington as a sponsor of terrorism.

Mr Putin, who will show Mr Bush around his hometown of St Petersburg on Saturday after a day of summitry in Moscow, is seeking vital Western support for Russia's stumbling economy. But officials in Washington said it was unlikely that Mr Putin would secure any of the economic concessions he was seeking, including the desig-

nation of Russia as a "market economy" and the abandonment of 1970s restrictions on trade.

Mr Putin also needs to show his pro-Western policies, which he has pursued at risk from military and conservative hawks at home, are not a case of one-way concessions. Security was tight in the Russian capital ahead of the Kremlin meeting. Traffic police were out in greater force than usual and news reports said snipers were posted on rooftops. Before entering the Kremlin in a motorcade, Mr Bush placed a wreath of white carnations and irises at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier by the towering Kremlin wall, honouring Russian and Soviet war dead, including over 20 million in World War II. Reuters

Bush, Putin to sign arms pact

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, MAY 13. The agreement that the United States and Russia have agreed to, will dramatically cut nuclear arsenals. The landmark deal will be signed by the President, George W. Bush, when he travels to Moscow between May 23 and 26 and has his summit meeting with the Russian President, Vladimir Putin.

Last year, Mr. Bush and Mr. Putin agreed in principle to limit arsenals to between 1,700 and 2,200 warheads from the 6,000 allowed by the START 1 treaty. Currently, it is estimated that the United States has some 7,000 strategic nuclear weapons and the Russians about 6,000. Under the terms of the START 2 accord, the number of nuclear weapons would have to be between 3,000 and 3,500; and in 1997, the then President, Bill Clinton, and his Russian counterpart, Boris Yeltsin, agreed in principle that a START 3 treaty should limit the arsenals to between 2,000 and

2,500 warheads.

One of the main objections of the Russians was the U.S.s' plan of storing as opposed to destroying the nuclear weapons. A senior administration official has been quoted as saying that under the landmark deal which will be initialled later this month, some of the weapons will be stored and others destroyed. Also, the Russians were insisting on a full fledged treaty as opposed to an "Informal Agreement" that the White House wanted. Mr. Putin now seems to have had his way and this Treaty, when formalised, will have to be submitted to the U.S. Senate for ratification.

The hesitancy in going in for a full-fledged formal treaty stems from an apprehension of the Democratic-controlled Senate. An informal arrangement would have bypassed this ratification procedure. "We will begin the new era of U.S.-Russian relations and that's important", Mr. Bush remarked. "This is good

news for the American people today. It will make the world more peaceful and put behind us the Cold War once and for all", he said.

Vladimir Radyuhin reports from Moscow:

The statement issued by the Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday on the breakthrough in talks with the U.S. gave no details of agreements reached and was in stark contrast with a down-beat view conveyed by Russia's chief arms negotiator just hours earlier.

As he was going into talks with the U.S. Undersecretary of State, John Bolton, on Monday the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister, Georgy Mamedov, described the negotiations as "difficult."

At the same time, he suggested that the sides would put aside all issues on which they disagreed and try to resolve them later through "corresponding mechanism" to be set up for the purpose.

FOR INFO

14 MAY 2002

Russia criticises U.S. stance

By Vladimir Radyuhin

first permanent war crimes tribunal.

MOSCOW, MAY 8. Russia has criticised the U.S. refusal to join an international war crimes tribunal and reiterated Moscow's support for the body.

"It is widely believed that the United States is committing a mistake by openly opposing the International Criminal Court (ICC)," said a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman, commenting on Washington's decision to withdraw from the Rome Statute on the establishment of the

The former U.S. President, Bill Clinton, signed the treaty, but never submitted it to the Senate for ratification. The administration of the current U.S. President, George W. Bush, has made its opposition clear. American officials said on Monday that the ICC could threaten U.S. sovereignty, and that Washington would regard as "illegitimate" any moves by the court to assert jurisdiction over U.S. citizens.

Russia signed the Rome Statute in September 2000, but has yet to ratify it. The spokesman said that the question of the document's ratification was "under examination". He also noted that almost 70 nations had already ratified the treaty, and by the end of the year that number was likely to grow to between 80 and 90.

The RIA Novosti news agency quoted diplomatic sources as saying that the U.S. was also going to withdraw from a number of other international treaties.

THE HINDU

MAY 2002

Domestic Violence Bill

Adding Insult to Injury

women 11-8

16/3

By BRINDA KARAT

NOBODY can accuse the BJP of being inconsistent, not at least on women's rights. It has a worldview determined by the scriptures of the sangh parivar, which sees women primarily in their roles as mothers and wives with the responsibility of maintaining domestic harmony. Nothing which disrupts this harmony can be tolerated. The virtual burial of the Women's Reservation Bill by the present regime is one such example.

Although the reluctance to relinquish one-third seats to women may be shared by many male parliamentarians across parties, the opposition of the sangh parivar is more ideological. It was the then pramukh of the RSS, Rajju Bhaiya, who denounced the Reservation Bill as it would disturb harmonious family life. Similarly, women who work outside the home merit no sympathy or help. Thus successive budgets and fund allocations ignore the needs of working women. For example, "economic services" for women get the lowest allocations under the BJP, a mere Rs 153.7 crore last year. The NCERT syllabus is equally explicit about the "socially appropriate" role for women for which education must be tailored. It specifically endorses separate educational priorities for male and female students based on the best features of each gender in the Indian tradition. No prizes for guessing that in this perception of Indian tradition, girls have to be trained and educated to play their primary roles as home builders while boys can get a professional education. In Uttar Pradesh textbooks, students of social sciences learn that domestic discord has increased ever since women have got legal rights.

It, therefore, may have come as a surprise to some that it is the same party which, ostensibly in response to the longstanding demand and struggle of women's organisations, has not only drafted a Bill against domestic violence but has actually listed it for discussion and adoption in the current session of Parliament. Could this signal a welcome change in the sangh parivar's outlook towards women? A close reading of the Bill and a comparison even with the earlier inadequate Bill of 1994 moved by the Narasimha Rao government puts paid to any such hope.

In the very definition of the Bill, domestic violence is considered so only if it is habitual. So a woman would have to subject herself to repeated assaults and torture to

prove that her husband habitually beats her. Even worse, in Clause 2 of the Bill, if the perpetrator of violence can prove that the act was committed in his own protection or for the protection of his or another's property then it does not constitute domestic violence. This legal alibi is to give virtual licence to domestic violence apart from denying women their legitimate share in property. This recalls the Hindu Code Bill debates in the fifties and the angry opposition of the Hindu Mahasabha to granting women equal rights in ancestral property. This Bill now legitimises violence against any female member in the shared household, sister, mother, wife, daughter demanding a share in the property.

Any law against domestic violence must take into account the reality that the moment a woman complains of domestic violence she, often along with the children, more so if they are girls, is thrown out of the house or she is forced to leave because of the danger to her life.

IN BRIEF

- The Domestic Violence Bill contains a number of loopholes
- It alienates women from their right to marital property
- It reinforces the notion that a woman is primarily a home-maker

There is no provision in law to restrain the husband from such action. This is a major deterrent to her resistance. In principle, a woman should have equal right to the matrimonial home, regardless of whether she is a victim of domestic violence or not. But in the case of a complainant this is all the more necessary. Even the 1994 Bill included this right.

The present Bill omits it altogether. Why should the victim have to leave the shared household? It may appear impractical that she could continue to live a separate existence within that household particularly since the large majority of our people do not have houses large enough to accommodate the implementation of such a law. However, it is necessary to establish the right itself as well as the jurisdiction of the court to restrain the husband from throwing her out. The alternative in the earlier Bill to continued occupation of a part of the residence by the complainant was for the perpetrator to make alternative arrangements. There is no such provision in the Bill

which renders it meaningless for complainants of domestic violence.

The present Bill legalises the ideas expressed by leading BJP women leaders that in the ideal Hindu parivar the woman must adjust. This concept of female adjustment to inequality and violence within the family is included through a clause which makes counselling mandatory for the accused and the complainant either singly or jointly according to the magistrate's decision. It is true that there are numerous cases of domestic discord where counselling has helped reconcile differences, modified behaviour and upheld the dignity of the complainant. However, such counselling has to be voluntary and it differs from case to case. The perpetrator and the complainant cannot be equated as they are in this Bill. Nor can the woman be forced to accept counselling jointly with her tormentor. Such a course of action would be inhuman, unjust and only add to her trauma.

In the experience of organisations like the All India Democratic Women's Association, which through its justice centres in different states on average intervenes in 50,000 cases of women in distress every year, apart from implementation of the law, three important aspects of resisting domestic violence would be, the woman's own courage, natal family support and community intervention against violence. Instead of building on these strengths, the Bill discourages positive community intervention by introducing the concept of "service providers" which means that only registered organisations could legally offer support to a woman in distress. Thus a neighbour or a friend would not, in this Bill, be legally recognised as a service provider and given past experience could face harassment from law enforcement agencies for trying to help the victim.

The Bill bureaucratizes the process of justice by introducing another tier between the complainant and the court, that is the "protection officer". There is enough experience with other legislation like the Dowry Prohibition Act or the Prevention of Sex-Determination Act to show that introducing another structure only adds to corruption and makes access to justice all the more difficult.

The Bill in its present form must be opposed. It will do nothing to reduce the increasing levels of domestic violence against women.

Cessation Leads to

By KANTA RAJ

THE sense of "I" pertains to the person. When a man knows his true self for the first time, something else arises from the depths of his being and takes possession of him. That something is beyond mind and body; it is infinite, divine, eternal. Some people call it the kingdom of heaven, others call it the soul and still others nirvana. Hindus call it moksha or liberation. You may give it what name you like but when it happens, a man has truly found himself.

The recognition of pure being — the absolute — is the supreme and ultimate truth; it is the realisation that a man is identical with the self which is pure being, pure consciousness, pure bliss, but the mind creates the illusion of a separate individuality. Just as the spider draws out the thread of the cobweb from within itself and withdraws again into itself, the mind projects the world out of itself and absorbs it back into itself.

Thoughts are our main enemy.

When we are free of thoughts we are naturally blissful. Get rid of thoughts, be empty of them, be in a state of perpetual thoughtlessness. Then you are consciously self-existent. Thoughts, desires and other mental attributes are alien to our true nature. True greatness is to be free of thoughts. Self-realisation is the cessation of thoughts and all mental activity, for thoughts are only like bubbles upon the surface of the sea of self.

The first and foremost of all the thoughts that arise in the mind is the primal "I" thought. It is only after the rise of the "I" thought that the innumerable other thoughts arise. In other words, only after the first personal pronoun "I" has arisen, do the second and third person pronouns (you, he, etc) occur to the mind, and they cannot subsist without it. For all thoughts, the root-source is the "I" thought.

Since every other thought can occur only after the rise of the "I" thought and since the mind is nothing but a bundle of thoughts, it is only through the enquiry "Who am I?" that the mind



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16 MAR 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

N-report casts pall on US-Russia ties

RICK JERVIS
MOSCOW, MARCH 12

96-5 133

POST-Sept 11, Russia and the US resembled a pair of dreamy-eyed lovers. These days, they look like they're about to file for divorce.

A series of squabbles have cast a pall over the entente cordiale that blossomed after Russian President Vladimir Putin backed the US war in Afghanistan. Having once united against international terrorism, the countries have turned on each other.

The latest irritant is a secret US Defense Department policy review, which US media reports say outlines a contingency plan to use nuclear weapons against at least seven countries — including Russia — that could threaten the US. Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said if the reports were true, they “can cause only regret and concern, not only from Russia but from the entire world community.”

Russian conservatives say the reports proved talk of a new era in relations between Moscow and Washington is wishful thinking. “Russia faces friendly nuclear strike” was the headline in the daily *Kommersant*. Among liberals, there is disappointment that parts of the Washington establishment still see Russia as an enemy.

The nuclear posture review showed the US was still far from its declared aim

Russian had dual role in nuke deal

■ **WASHINGTON:** Questions are being raised about the US gov't's decision to hand a national security function to the private industry. Two years ago, a Pennsylvania consulting firm was hired by a company responsible for carrying out sensitive nuclear security agreement between the US and Russia. One of the firm's owners was Yevgeny O. Adamov, who headed the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy. The ministry was overseeing multimillion-dollar negotiations between Russia and USEC Inc., the same company that hired his consulting firm. USEC buys bomb-grade uranium stripped from Russian warheads as exclusive agent for the US government. Its executives say they didn't know who owned the consulting firm and didn't learn of Adamov's involvement until he resigned his gov't post amid allegations of corruption. —LATWP

of “moving away from mutually assured destruction to a fundamentally new, non-adversarial relationship” with Russia, says Sergei Rogov, director of the prestigious USA-Canada Institute.

The nuclear row will do nothing to assuage nerves already frayed by a burgeoning trade war between the two countries. In an apparent riposte to the Bush administration's imposition of tariffs of up to 30 per cent on imported steel, Moscow imposed a ban on US poultry imports on Sunday, saying they didn't meet Russian food safety standards.

But other grievances already had been building up. Russia was annoyed by the US decision to send military advisers to Georgia to help train a counter-terrorism unit.

It also was irritated that NATO has just held some of its biggest military exercises in years in Poland and Norway,

close to Russia's western borders. Russia's chief of general staff Gen. Anatoly Kvashnin said NATO still viewed Russia as a potential adversary, showing how little had changed since the Cold War.

When Putin backed the anti-terror coalition last year, there were hopes of a new, grand bargain that would break the Cold War mold.

Putin would share intelligence on terrorism and acquiesce to the US military deployment in Central Asia. He tacitly would accept NATO expansion. In exchange, he would get a new nuclear-arms reduction treaty, US support for Russia's efforts to join the WTO, and a bigger Russian voice in NATO.

But so far, Putin has little to show for his wooing of Washington. Progress on the nuclear treaty has been painfully slow: Russia says the fault lies with the Americans, who it claims are insisting on stockpiling decom-

missioned nuclear weapons rather than destroying them. Ivanov has hinted it's now unlikely that the agreement would be read for signing by the time Bush comes to Moscow in May.

As far as NATO goes, Russia is now being offered a new relationship, with the creation of a NATO-Russia Council that would discuss issues such as peacekeeping operations, arms proliferation and sea and air rescue missions. But a British initiative that would have given Russia wide decision-making powers in the alliance was vetoed by the US.

Last week, US trade representative Robert Zoellick said the Russian poultry ban made it unlikely Congress would repeal the Jackson-Vanik amendment, a 1974 sanction which made the granting of most-favored-nation tariff levels contingent on the lifting of Soviet curbs on emigration. Removal of Jackson-Vanik has been seen in Russia as a small but crucial step toward WTO membership.

So far, Putin has kept his counsel. On steel, chicken, and the nuclear issue, he's been silent. He's declined to answer critics who say his foreign policy is too pro-American.

But some fear that unless Putin can point to some tangible benefits from his pro-western policy, bureaucratic resistance will grow. There are plenty of people who would be happy to see the US-Russian love affair degenerate into just another fling.

— Special to *The Wall Street Journal*.

INDIAN EXPRESS

Russia demands clarification

MOSCOW, MARCH 11 The Russian Foreign Minister, Igor Ivanov, today demanded clarification of U.S. media reports of contingency plans to use nuclear weapons against seven countries, including Russia, in case of threat.

"We hope ... there will be a statement at a higher level offering clarification and reassuring the international community," Mr. Ivanov was quoted as saying by Interfax.

"If it turns out to be true, this can only provoke regret and concern. And this concern will be not only in Russia but among the entire international community." The Russian Foreign Ministry's spokesman, Alexander Yakovenko, for his part warned that reports of nuclear targetting "cannot leave Moscow indifferent". —AFP

RECEIVED

12 MAR 2002

Russia accuses US of trying to steal military secrets

Moscow, April 10 (Reuters) — Russia today accused the US of trying to steal military secrets, just weeks before President Vladimir Putin and his US counterpart George W. Bush are due to meet in Moscow.

The Interfax news agency quoted an official of the FSB domestic security service as saying it had uncovered a US spy ring.

CIA officials posing as US diplomats had tried to recruit an expert in a secret defence ministry plant before the FSB, the main successor to the Soviet KGB, intervened, it said.

"The FSB has irrefutable evidence of the CIA's spying activities in Russia," an FSB official

was quoted as saying. "The timely intervention of the Russian security service stopped the US plans at an early stage, taking control of their action and preventing a serious threat to the security of the Russian Federation."

Officials at the US embassy in Moscow and the CIA in Washington declined to comment. The FSB was unavailable for comment. Russia and the US have improved ties since the September 11 attacks against US cities, when Putin was among the first to offer his support. The Kremlin has since backed the US-led war on terrorism.

The FSB charges add to a

growing list of wbes likely to crop up at the May 23-25 summit in Moscow and St Petersburg, already set to include bickering over US poultry imports, a US-funded radio broadcast to Russia's separatist Chechnya region and nuclear disarmament.

The unnamed FSB official, speaking to Interfax, named a junior diplomat in the US embassy in Moscow as leading the operation, adding the diplomat had already left Russia.

"The work was carried out by CIA officers, working under the cover of American diplomats in Moscow and in one of the CIS states," the official said.

In March last year, 50 Rus-

ian diplomats were expelled from the US, prompting a tit-for-tat response from the Kremlin in the worst spy scandal to shake Moscow and Washington since the Cold War.

Russia agreed today to pay Germany 500 million euros to settle ex-Soviet trade debts to the former East Germany, resolving a dispute that had lasted years and marking the high point of a two-day summit.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder and Russian President Vladimir Putin announced the accord, and a deal to end an export credit insurance wrangle, after talks, strolls in the picturesque town of Weimar.

USA-Russia trade clash intensifies

REUTERS

WASHINGTON, March 9. — The USA fired a new salvo in its chickens-and-steel clash with Russia on Friday, saying Moscow had no grounds for banning US poultry and declaring its own steel tariffs virtually harmless to Russia.

The secretary of state, Mr Colin Powell, discussed the issue with Russian foreign minister, Mr Igor Ivanov, yesterday "because we've been very disappointed by Russia's precipitous ban on US poultry exports," the state department spokesman, Mr Richard Boucher, said.

"We're very concerned that the ban is not based on legitimate safety considerations," he added, referring to a block announced last Friday on US chicken and turkey meat for import violations

and the use of drugs banned by Moscow.

Russia's move came amid expectations of big steel import tariffs that President George W Bush announced on Tuesday, provoking protests around the world.

The Russian agriculture ministry accused US importers of repeatedly bringing in poultry meat without a license from the Russian veterinary department, with incorrect package markings or without certificates proving their safety.

It said it had stopped issuing US import licences immediately and that products unloaded before Sunday, when a full ban is due to take effect, would only be allowed if "the necessary veterinary requirements are observed".

The US trade representative, Mr Rob-

ert Zoellick subsequently slammed the move, saying, "There's a lot of Americans eating chicken and they don't seem to be too sick." He said he told Russia's ambassador that failure to scrap the threat to half of US poultry exports would hurt Russia's chances of getting smoother access to radically reduced import tariff levels enjoyed by most US trade partners.

Moscow has pushed hard for the removal of the so-called Jackson-Vanik amendment that was imposed in 1974 because of Soviet restrictions on emigration.

The dispute comes at a time of improving relations between the former Cold War foes due to a joint focus on terrorism, although the US plans to send army instructors to the former Soviet republic of Georgia have ruffled Moscow's feathers.

THE STATESMAN

10/3

Steel tariffs harmless to Russia, says U.S.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 9. The United States fired a new salvo in its chickens-and-steel clash with Russia on Friday, saying Moscow had no grounds for banning U.S. poultry and declaring its own steel tariffs virtually harmless to Russia.

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— Reuters

THE HINDU

10 MAR 2002

HD-15
2/3

Russia resigned to U.S. presence in Caucasus

W. Ferguson

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, MARCH 3. Russia appears to have finally resigned itself to the growing U. S. military presence in the former Soviet states, while seeing its own influence in the region decline rapidly. A day after the Russian Foreign Minister angrily warned Washington that its planned deployment of commandos in Georgia could destabilise the situation in the region, the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, suddenly declared that he saw "no tragedy" in the plan and was all in favour of the U. S. helping Georgia smoke out Chechen and suspected Al-Qaeda militants from the Pankisi Gorge on the border with Russia's rebel Chechnya. "If we are talking about a fight against terrorism in the Pankisi Gorge, then we support this fight no matter who is participating in it," Mr. Putin told journalists after his meeting with Georgia's

President, Eduard Shevardnadze, on the sidelines of an informal summit of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in Kazakhstan on Saturday. The awkward climb-down from threats to endorsement of American involvement in Georgia underscores Russia's dwindling ability to influence developments in its own backyard. The former Soviet republics of Central Asia have ignored Moscow's objections when they went beyond the Moscow-approved "humanitarian" assistance to the U. S.-led military operation in Afghanistan and agreed to the establishment of U. S. military bases on their territories. Now the turn of the Caucasus has come. "If Central Asian states can do it (play host to U. S. troops), why Georgia can't" Mr. Putin remarked philosophically as he tried to put a brave face on Georgia's rejection of Russian help

in fighting terrorists and invitation of Americans. The Russian leader said he had been assured by Mr. Shevardnadze that American presence in Georgia would be limited to "15 to 20 servicemen." Even as Mr. Putin was speaking to journalists in Kazakhstan, an official at the Georgian Defence Ministry in Tbilisi disclosed that a "large group" of U.S. military specialists were to arrive in Georgia later this month in the "first phase" of the planned U. S. troop deployment in the republic, while American media spoke of hundreds of U. S. troops heading for the Caucasus. The U. S. military also plan to set foot in Armenia, one of Russia's closest allies in the former Soviet Union. Last week a delegation of American military experts discussed in Yerevan plans to upgrade the Armenian armed forces' communications system, to set up a military training complex, and to train and equip an Armenian peace-keeping force. Once the U. S. has established itself in the Caucasus, other NATO countries are likely to pour in, as it is now happening in Central Asia. Turkey is reported to have begun reconstruction of an airfield in Marneuli, Georgia, and has reached agreement with Azerbaijan to set up two air bases on its territory. Even though Washington has listed Georgia along with the Philippines as part of its global anti-terrorist operation, there is little doubt in Moscow that the U. S. is out to turn the Caucasus into a bridgehead against Russia.

The respected Izvestia daily quoted Russian intelligence sources on Saturday as saying that President Shevardnadze had agreed to the construction of an American electronic spy station in Georgia.



Georgia's Chief of General Staff, Dzhoni Pirtkhalalshvili (left), meets Elmer Guy White (right) Eurasia branch chief of the U.S. Unified Command and other senior U.S. army officers in Tbilisi, in this Feb. 27, 2002, Office photo. — Reuters

4 MAR 2002

Angry Russia tells US Govt to stay away from Georgia

GUY CHAZAN
MOSCOW, MARCH 1

RUSSIA has responded angrily to reports that the US is considering opening a new front in its war against terrorism in Georgia, a country Moscow still views as part of its traditional sphere of influence.

US officials said on Tuesday that the Pentagon was drawing up plans to send Special Operations forces to Georgia to help it fight Islamic militants thought to be hiding in the Pankisi Gorge, a notoriously lawless region near Georgia's mountainous northern border with Russia.

The Pentagon says any aid to Georgia would be restricted to training and military equipment and that there had so far been no decision to deploy US combat troops. A Georgian spokesman in Tbilisi stressed on Wednesday

that no joint anti-terror operations with US forces were being planned.

But even limited help could raise hackles in Russia, which is highly sensitive to perceived Western encroachments on what it still perceives as its strategic backyard. Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said any deployment of US troops to Georgia could "further exacerbate what is already a complex situation in the region".

A senior US diplomat played down the Russian reaction. "This is something that's been in the works for months" and the Russians had been aware of this "going back to last fall". The subject had been discussed at a joint US-Russian working group on terrorism. "My impression is this isn't something the Russians are bothered by," he added.

Some Russians said the US plan vindicated claims by Moscow

that terrorists linked to Osama bin Laden's al Qaeda network were holed up in the Pankisi Gorge. Russia has long viewed the gorge as a crucial conduit for money and supplies to militants fighting Russian forces across the border in Chechnya, and has sought to pressure Tbilisi into destroying suspected Chechen rebel bases there.

The US now appears to have endorsed the Russian view. The US charge d'affaires in Tbilisi, Philip Remler, told a Georgian weekly recently that dozens of mujahideen had fled from Afghanistan and were now hiding in the Caucasus, some of them in the Pankisi Gorge.

He said some were in contact with Al-Khatab, an Arab who is a prominent rebel commander in Chechnya and is a close associate of Osama bin Laden.

The Pankisi Gorge has long been a hotbed of kidnapping, drugs

Yemen to get terror aid

■ WASHINGTON: Bush is also considering providing military aid and other counter-terrorism assistance to the government of Yemen, Army General Tommy R. Franks, the chief of the US Central Command, told a congressional committee. He said that the US is looking at providing assistance to several countries where it believes international terrorist groups are active. The mission to Yemen is similar in scope to the US effort in the Philippines, where about 160 Special Forces soldiers and about 500 support personnel are training Philippine soldiers in counter-terrorism tactics, a senior military official said.

Besides training Yemeni forces, the US soldiers will be directly advising the country's Republican Guard units as they pursue al Qaeda elements in the remote northern tribal areas of the country, where the central government exerts little control and the population is heavily armed. Approval of the US mission follows a month-long debate within the Bush administration about the size of the al Qaeda presence in Yemen and how the US should respond, officials said. —WSJ

and arms smuggling, and is virtually a no-go area for Georgian army and police. And for years, Georgia has denied Russian claims that Chechen rebels are based there, but now appears to be conceding a

problem exists.

Last week, President Eduard Shevardnadze said Georgia was prepared to consider launching a joint security operation with the US to clear the gorge of terrorists, though he said there had been no "systematic discussions" with American officials on the issue.

At the same time he dismissed Russian offers to help flush out the rebels as "inadmissible".

That has offended Russia, which says the security situation in northern Georgia is a matter for Moscow and Tbilisi to resolve on their own, without outside interference.

There was no word from the Russian President Vladimir Putin, who has been criticised by Russian conservatives for pursuing an excessively pro-American foreign policy since the September 11 attacks on the US.

—The Wall Street Journal

Rape as a tool of war

IN all forms of war-related suffering, men are involved as well as women. They are still more likely than women to be killed in armed conflict even though, as war has brought death to civilians in increased numbers, it has also come closer to women. Although there appear to be more female than male refugees, there is no reason to forget or downplay the suffering of men as refugees. It may be that women grieve and suffer emotionally more than men — or at least more openly — and may carry a heavier burden of some kinds of community responsibility.

If it is true that women as a group suffer more than men in these ways, the differences are relative and in some cases marginal. There is, however, one form of violence that targets women alone.

Rape is a largely gender-specific assault whose use as a weapon in war is solely directed against women. Rape of women has long been part of war and is often regarded as, if not acceptable, then so inevitable that there is no need to make a fuss about it. In her classic study and polemic, Susan Brownmiller quotes a conversation in General Patton's memoirs in which he tells his interlocutor that "(I)n spite of my diligent efforts, there would undoubtedly be some raping".

Brownmiller adds: "It's funny about man's attitude toward rape in war. Unquestionably there shall be some raping. Unconscionable, but nevertheless inevitable. When men are slugging it out among themselves, conquering new land, subjugating new people, driving on toward victory, unquestionably there shall be some raping." In fairness, she might have placed more emphasis on the last part of General Patton's sentence (which she quotes in full), in which he continues by recording that he said, "I should like to have the details as early as possible so that the offenders could be properly hanged." It might even be that proper hanging could merit as much irony as an unquestionable prospect of being raped.

But there can be no doubt that Brownmiller correctly pinpoints an oddly inconsistent attitude to wartime rape, as to many other kinds of rape and abuse of women. Though illegal under every military code and often punishable by death, acceptance of the inevitability of rape by soldiers is often so fatalistic as to amount to complaisance.

Rape piles vulnerability on vulnerability, most clearly dramatised in the case of refugee women who are attacked and raped. It is reported that hundreds of Somali women and girls in UNHCR camps in north-eastern Kenya have been raped by armed bandits, including groups from the former Somali army. A different version of this all too common crime was reported from Croatia, where there were several instances of Croatian

(HVO) soldiers on leave approaching the daughters of Muslim men held in HVO detention centres in Bosnia: "The HVO troops brought photographs of the imprisoned men and told the girls that if they did not accede to the soldiers' demand for sex, they would never see their fathers alive again."

Now there is a new dimension to rape in war. Perhaps the fact that it has been criminalised and punished but never effectively prevented has contributed to the emergence of this new aspect. In some wars, rape has been practised on such a scale that observers have concluded that it is systematic, planned and a deliberate weapon of war.

The best-known case is Bosnia and Herzegovina. The UN High Commissioner for Refugees states that

in Bosnia "all the warring parties have been implicated, though to varying degrees" in "rape being used as a weapon to further war aims". Amnesty International confirms this and likewise confirms the evidence of numerous press reports and personal accounts that the worst offender is the Bosnian Serb side; it appears that Muslim women in particular have been subjected to these attacks.

Amnesty and UNHCR both say the data on how many rapes have occurred are very incomplete. One source which claims to have some reliable data is the Zenica Documentation on War Crimes, which in mid-1993 reported that it had data on 40,000 raped women. If this figure is accurate, it presumably does not cover all cases of women who have been raped and it certainly does not indicate the number of rapes, since all reports concur on the prevalence of multiple rape.

In the 1994 massacres in Rwanda, there is evidence that the incidence of rape of Tutsi women and girls by Hutu militiamen was even higher than the figures in Bosnia. A French researcher has assessed the situation as follows: "It seems that nearly every Tutsi woman who survived a massacre was raped." A high level of sexually transmitted diseases

has also been reported and there was a sharp increase in the already high numbers of women infected by HIV. According to the Rwandan ministry of population,

moreover, by the end of February 1995, between 2,000 and 5,000 women had given birth; in Bosnia the estimated number of "rape pregnancies" was between 100 and 200. And the figures do not include what may be a large number of clandestine abortions induced by taking dangerous herbal concoctions. In addition, there have been many infanticides, though the exact number is not shown.

Other war-torn countries and areas in which widespread and apparently systematic rape has occurred in the recent period include:

- Peru, where Amnesty has reported that women in the emergency zones have been widely subjected to rape by government troops;
- Myanmar, where the army's 1992 campaign to force 250,000 rohingya Muslims into Bangladesh in 1992 plumbed the depths of brutality and inhumanity, including the systematic use of rape. In one refugee camp of 20,000 people, "almost every woman interviewed said she was gang-raped before being allowed to cross the border"; and
- Uganda and the Philippines.

This deliberate and systematic use of rape is, in part, simply an extension of the use of rape as a means of torture. There are numerous accounts of this barbarity over the years in many different states. The first extension is to use rape not simply to attack women but, through them, another target — the guerillas with whom the women are accused of sympathising, for example, or the other militant sympathisers in that village. This tactic appears to play not only on the women's physical vulnerability but also on their sense of shame and "contamination", and also, in far too many cultures, on the sense of shame of the close male relatives. Thus rape is not just a physical aggression; there is the fear and the possibility of pregnancy and the stigma that wrongly attaches to the woman.

Moreover, mass rape is a way both to terrorise communities — there are reports that UNHCR regards as reliable of rapes being carried out in front of the rest of a village's population — and, if done on a large scale, to punish a whole ethnic group.

gender
ATTREYEE ROY CHOWDHURY

Russia protests against US presence in Georgia

Moscow, February 27

RUSSIA, OPENING up a major split in its anti-terrorism partnership with the United States, told Washington on Wednesday that deploying US forces in the former Soviet republic of Georgia would only worsen the security situation in the region.

Reacting sharply to reports that Washington was poised to send elite forces to Georgia to train troops, Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov said: "We think it could further aggravate the situation in the region which is difficult as it is."

"That is our position and Washington is well aware of it," Ivanov said in televised remarks, suggesting Moscow had tried, but failed, to talk Washington out of its planned move.

US officials said in Washington on Tuesday they were dispatching crack military forces to Georgia, which shares a long land border with Russia, to help train troops there as part of its anti-terrorism campaign.

US officials said the American forces would not be involved in fighting Muslim guerrillas. But

there was immediate speculation they would help Georgian troops root out Islamic guerrillas, said to be entrenched with Chechen separatist rebels in the lawless Pankisi Gorge.

There was no immediate comment from President Vladimir Putin who, until now, has given President Bush full support in the anti-terror drive following the September 11 hijacked airliner attacks. But the quick reaction from his Foreign Minister indicated that Kremlin was not prepared to accord its former Cold War foe the same laissez-passer in Georgia as it did in former Soviet Central Asia. Ivanov, for whom the US plan represents a personal policy defeat, did not spell out why Russia felt US presence would make the security situation in Georgia worse.

He balanced his comments by saying that the US decision vindicated Russia's charges that Georgia had become a hotbed of terrorism — a reference to the Chechen separatist rebels.

Putin, risking unpopularity among his military hawks, stepped aside to allow US troops to use air bases and facilities in

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan — also regarded as strategically important for Moscow — for their operations in Afghanistan late last year.

But analysts said the historical and emotional bonds Russia has for the Transcaucasus, which for more than 200 years has been a stamping ground for Russian troops, played a big part.

Coming after more than eight years of conflict in Chechnya, next door to Georgia, the prospect of US forces moving into Georgia represents a crushing diplomatic failure for Russia.

The sudden fall-out with Washington comes at an awkward time for Putin who is to host Bush at a summit in Moscow and St Petersburg in late May. Since the September 11 attacks, when he was the first foreign leader to send his condolences to Bush and allied Russia with the anti-terror coalition, Putin has fought hard to smooth out problems with the US. If the US operation takes place, it will be the first time US forces have been stationed in an ex-Soviet country bordering Russia.

Reuters

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Don't attack Iraq, Putin warns US

US, Russia
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Moscow, February 11

RUSSIAN PRESIDENT Vladimir Putin warned against US military action against Iraq, saying that the situation in the Persian Gulf nation was different from Afghanistan and that only the UN Security Council could sanction any attack.

In an interview published on Monday in *The Wall Street Journal*, Putin called his nation's partnership with the United States the key to stability in the world. The two powers have reached a "new level of trust," he was quoted as saying.

"This trust allows us, despite any differences or arguments on specific issues, to avoid confrontation," Putin said. Putin was the first world leader to extend condolences to President Bush after the September 11 terror attacks, and he has been an enthusiastic supporter of the US-led anti-terrorism campaign in Afghanistan. However, Russia is Iraq's closest ally in the United Nations Security Council, and Moscow has frequently tried to end the UN sanctions that were imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990 and protested US and British airstrikes.

In the interview, Putin objected to Bush's inclusion of Iraq, Iran and North Korea in what the US President called an "axis of evil" in his January 29 State of the Union speech. Numerous



VLADIMIR PUTIN

US officials have suggested that Iraq could be next on the list of countries to be attacked in the anti-terrorism campaign.

"We oppose the drawing up of black lists," Putin told *The Wall Street Journal*. He admitted that Iraq presented a "problem," but said, "Such problems cannot be solved by one country alone."

In the interview, Putin also said that Russia, one of the world's largest oil producers, favoured a per-barrel price of \$ 20-25. He also defended the criminal cases opened recently against prominent Russian business executives — which some in the business community have called politically motivated — though he allowed that prosecutors and police sometimes make mistakes.

AP

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