

10-12 Pak. miffed at U.S. move on illegal migration 30/12

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 29. Pakistan is clearly embarrassed over the decision of the Bush administration to include its nationals in the National Security Entry-Exit Registration System (NSEERS) as part of its drive to counter illegal migration.

The Pakistan Ambassador to the United States, Nancy Powell, was called to the Foreign Office on Saturday and the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mehmood Kasuri, conveyed his 'disappointment' over the inclusion of Pakistanis in the NSEERS.

The move by the U.S. has triggered critical comments in the Pakistani civil society and the press. There have been a number of commentaries in the media mocking at the claims of the Government that Pakistan is a 'frontline' state of the U.S.-led coalition in the 'war against terrorism'.

There is a growing view within the country that the day is not far off when Pakistan itself would become target of the U.S. once its objectives in Afghanistan are achieved. The latest decision by the Bush administration has come in handy to all who had questioned the wisdom of backing the U.S. when it declared war against Afghanistan in October last year.

What has added to woes of the Jamali Government are the tales of harassment and humiliation faced by Pakistanis visiting the U.S. in the hands of immigration authorities.

"I want to express my deep sense of disappointment and concern over the inclusion of

Pakistanis in the NSEERS. This is a matter of immediate concern to the Government of Pakistan," Mr. Kasuri told the American Envoy.

It was conveyed to the U.S. Ambassador that while the Government of Pakistan was aware of the U.S. concerns for its safety and security in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, the new measures were excessive and unnecessary as far as Pakistani nationals were concerned.

The Minister told Ms. Powell that inclusion of Pakistani nationals in the NSEERS list has created unprecedented difficulties for those living in and visiting the U.S. It is emphasised that the U.S. should accordingly review its decision and take Pakistan off the list.

According to estimates, up to one lakh Pakistanis are likely to be affected by the new U.S. drive. About 70 to 80 percent of the Pakistanis whose future here is now in jeopardy are those who are either over-staying or illegal entrants and who had failed to take advantage of, or were too late for the amnesty offered by the Clinton administration.

Most of these people live in New Jersey, New York and Chicago. Those who have work are employed in low-paying jobs at fillings stations, hotels or small convenience stores.

Most of them have their cases for extension of stay etc. pending with the U.S. immigration authorities. Those who have not made an application are now required to do so without any delay.

There are thousands of illegal Pakistanis in the U.S. who never cared to apply for any kind of regularisation even when such opportunities arose.

30 DEC 2002

Pak summons US envoy over watchlist

Islamabad, Dec. 28 (AP) — Pakistan's foreign minister summoned US ambassador Nancy Powell today to complain about a new US regulation requiring immigrants from Pakistan and about 49 other mainly Muslim countries to register with the government.

Foreign minister Khursheed Kasuri told Powell that his country felt a "deep sense of disappointment and concern over the inclusion of Pakistani nationals" in the US National Security Entry-Exit Registration System.

"It was conveyed to the US ambassador that while the government of Pakistan was awa-

re of US concerns for its safety and security in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy, the new measures were excessive and unnecessary," the foreign ministry said in a press statement issued in Islamabad.

Kasuri said the US should "review its decision and take Pakistan off the list", according to the statement. The inclusion of Pakistan on the registry list has created "unprecedented difficulties" for Pakistanis living in the US or travelling there, it said.

Pakistan once supported the Taliban regime in Afghanistan but allied itself with the US in the war on terror following the

September 11 terrorist attacks.

Sources at the US embassy in Islamabad said Powell was called in for the meeting with Kasuri. Normally in such situations, US diplomats listen to a host country's complaints and promise to pass them on to the state department, though they may also offer some explanation of controversial US policies.

The new regulation drew protests today from a group of Pakistani-Americans in New Jersey and other areas.

By the end of February, young men who recently arrived in the US from at least 20 nations will be required to submit fingerprints, photographs and

interviews as part of the US government's efforts to keep track of who is in the country.

The nations that come under the new system include Iran, Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Afghanistan, Algeria, Bahrain, Eritrea, Lebanon, Morocco, North Korea, Oman, Qatar, Somalia, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia. The registration, ordered by the US justice department, covers males 16 and older from those countries who arrived in the US before October 1. Failure to comply will result in immediate deportation.

US authorities this month detained several Pakistanis for

visa violations, and the regulations have drawn harsh criticism in editorials in Pakistani newspapers.

Training foreign pupils
Colorado State University plans a workshop for international students after immigration officers arrested six West Asia men in Colorado for not taking enough college courses to satisfy their visa requirements. A student of the university was among the six arrested by the Immigration and Naturalization Service over the past two weeks for enrolling in fewer than 12 hours of college credit.

Rocca holds talks, militants in custody

17/12
US PAR 7-3

Islamabad, Dec. 16 (Reuters): US assistant secretary of state Christina Rocca met members of Pakistan's new government today as three Islamic guerrillas appeared in court accused of planning a suicide attack on US diplomats in Karachi.

Rocca's talks in Islamabad, including with foreign minister Mian Kursheed Mehmood Kasuri, covered Pakistan's support for the US-led war on terror, tensions with India and boosting economic cooperation.

The envoy, who has responsibility for South Asian affairs, is due to meet President Pervez Musharraf and the new civilian Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali tomorrow. Musharraf handed executive powers to Jamali last month after an October election.

Pakistan police arrested three men in the southern port city of Karachi on Saturday and seized a Volkswagen Beetle car packed with explosives. Police also seized a 10-tonne stash of explosive ammonium nitrate powder at a warehouse in the city.

Today a local court allowed police to keep the suspects in custody for investigation until December 28.

Police said the trio planned to ram the Volkswagen into a car driven by US diplomats in

4 held for attack on woman

Lahore, Dec. 16 (Reuters): Pakistani police arrested a powerful landlord and three other men for beating a woman councillor and parading her naked through the streets of a border village in Punjab province, officials said today.

On December 7 at least 10 men stopped local councillor Naseem Akhtar Butt as she came out of her house in a small village near the border city of Sialkot, north of Lahore, and started beating her. They tore off her clothes and paraded her naked through the village streets as hundreds of people looked on.

Karachi, a city where foreigners and the US consulate have come under deadly attacks this year.

Interior minister Faisal Saleh Hayat said he did not think the plot was related to Rocca, a frequent visitor to Pakistan.

The alleged plot underlined the threat still posed by Islamic militants more than a year after a US-led coalition ousted the Taliban in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's support for Washington in the campaign incensed Islamic militants, blamed for a spate of bloody bombings in the country targeting Christians and foreigners.

Rocca's visit also comes as tensions between India and Pakistan have eased. The nuclear rivals scaled down a massive border troop deployment following an attack on the Indian parliament by suspected Islamic militants a year ago.

A Pakistan foreign ministry statement said Rocca and Pakistani officials agreed Pakistan and India should resume a dialogue to settle outstanding issues.

Rocca begins Pak. visit today

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

WJ PAK
HD-9 15/12

ISLAMABAD, DEC. 14. The United States Assistant Secretary of State in-charge of South Asia, Christina Rocca, is arriving here on Sunday on a two-day visit for discussions with the Pakistan Government on a whole range of issues.

Ms. Rocca's visit, first since the so-called transfer of power from a military to a civilian set-up, is part of the Bush administration's endeavour to foster relations with Pakistan on a long-term basis.

After September 11 and emergence of Pakistan once again as a frontline state (earlier it happened after the invasion of Afghanistan by the erstwhile Soviet Union), Washington acknowledged that it had dumped Pakistan after the Russians left Afghanistan and said it would not repeat the mistake.

The Pakistan-U.S. partnership as members of the international coalition, trade, economic, defence and political relations as well as Pakistan-India relations in the context of postponement of SAARC summit, originally proposed here in the second week of January, are expected to figure in the dialogue between Ms. Rocca and the Pakistani side.

Ms. Rocca has reportedly no plans to visit New Delhi and her visit is confined to Islamabad and Kathmandu. She is expected to leave for Nepal on Wednesday morning from where she would be returning to Washington.

Among others, Ms. Rocca is also scheduled to call on the President, Pervez Musharraf, the Prime Minister, Mir Zafar Ullah Khan Jamali, the Interior Minister, Faisal Saleh Hayyat, and the Defence Minister, Rao Sikandar Iqbal.

The Bush administration has already established formal contacts with the civilian government headed by Mr. Jamali. On Friday, the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, had a 30-minute telephonic conversation with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Khurshid Mahmood Kasuri.

Reiterating the support of the Jamali regime to the U.S.-led coalition's war against terrorism, Mr. Kasuri said: "The Pakistan Muslim League Government, headed by (Prime Minister) Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali, would fulfil all its commitments to the international community in the fight against terrorism".

"In this respect, the policies initiated by President Pervez Musharraf would be continued," a Foreign Office statement said adding that Gen. Powell appreciated the vital contribution of Pakistan in the international fight on terrorism. Gen. Powell also invited the Minister to visit Washington for a detailed interaction.

Within days after assuming office, Mr. Jamali, seen as pro-military, sought to allay U.S. apprehensions about its ongoing hunt for the remnants of the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban in some areas bordering Afghanistan. The Bush administration was concerned about the anti-America rhetoric from the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, alliance of six religious parties, which emerged victorious in the North-West Frontier Province and Baluchistan in the October elections.

It is certainly not a coincidence that on Friday the U.S. Ambassador in Pakistan, Nancy Powell, also called on Mr. Hayat and discussed matters of interest between the two countries.

**USA, Pak
discuss
Kashmir
impasse**

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Dec. 4. —
A top US official today
discussed steps to break
impasse over Indo-Pak
dialogue as well as bilateral
issues with Pakistan
President Pervez Musharraf
and Prime Minister Mir
Zafarullah Khan Jamali.

Visiting US Deputy
National Security Advisor
Mr Stephen Hadley called
on Gen. Musharraf and Mr
Jamali separately after his
arrival here today.

Mr Hadley discussed with
Pakistani leaders the
situation in South Asia,
including Kashmir, with an
emphasis on the importance
of normalisation of Indo-
Pak relations and the early
resumption of the bilateral
dialogue to address all
outstanding issues, Pakistan
foreign office said in a
statement. The two sides
focussed on bilateral issues
as well as the regional
situation, particularly Pakis-
tan-India relations and
Afghanistan, it said.

"The two sides also
reviewed the situation in
West Asia in the backdrop
of the return of the UN
monitoring team to Iraq."

Mr Hadley underlined
the importance the US
government attached to
strengthening bilateral
relations with Pakistan.

US warning to Pak on nuke deals

Press Trust of India

WASHINGTON, Nov. 26. — The USA has warned Pakistan President General Pervez Musharraf that any cooperation with North Korea in the nuclear field would be “inappropriate and have consequences,” including sanctions.

“I have made it clear to him (Musharraf) that any sort of contact between Pakistan and North Korea we believe would be improper, inappropriate and would have consequences,” secretary of state Mr Collin Powell told reporters yesterday while on route to Washington from Mexico, adding that laws require US sanctions against countries that engage in weapons proliferation. Mr Powell said Gen. Musharraf has assured him that “there are no further contacts” between Pakistan and North Korea concerning transfers of nuclear weapons technology to Pyongyang. Mr Powell’s comments came in response to reports of secret Pakistani cooperation with North Korea.

IAEA plea to N Korea: The International Atomic Energy Agency will urge North Korea this week to scrap its nuclear weapons program and allow inspections by the UN body, a Japanese newspaper *Mainichi Shimbun* reported today, adds AFP from Tokyo.

Ambassador to Pakistan: Mr Kim Won Gyu, a career diplomat, has been appointed as North Korea’s new ambassador to Pakistan, the North Korean media reported today, adds AP from Seoul.

Pak Islamists reject US help in terror hunt

Islamabad, November 25

THE HARDLINE Islamic bloc set to govern the strategic Pakistani province bordering Afghanistan said on Monday that local authorities did not need US support to hunt down al-Qaida and Taliban operatives. The comments, by a senior leader of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA) coalition, came as the provincial assembly of the North West Frontier Province (NWFP), where the religious Right has an outright majority, was sworn in.

The MMA posted huge gains in an October election by tapping anti-US sentiment, especially in areas near the Afghan border. That is where United States troops are hunting for

members of Afghanistan's former Taliban regime and the al-Qaida network.

The MMA, likely to formally take power in the NWFP next week, has also vowed to push through a strict Islamic social agenda which could affect education, particularly of girls, the dress code and media access.

"There is no need for help from US forces or FBI agents or other US agencies," said Liaquat Baluch, deputy head of the Jamaat-e-Islami party which is in the MMA. "If there is a need to control terrorism, then Pakistani forces are in a position to control these people, and there is no need for support from outside," he added.

But an analyst said there was little the MMA could do to ham-

per the US pursuit of targets along the Afghan-Pakistan border. The NWFP Government has little say in Federally Administered Tribal Areas, where many Taliban and al-Qaida fighters are likely to have fled from Afghanistan and where Pakistani paramilitary forces are cooperating with United States personnel. Even within the NWFP, local government's powers are limited.

"The scope of the MMA's authority in NWFP is limited, and excludes the use of the armed forces," said the analyst, who asked not to be named.

"Except for controlling the police, all they can do is bring social changes like forcing bureaucrats to attend prayers."

On a national level, the new

pro-military Pakistan Government led by Prime Minister Mir Zafarullah Khan Jamali has stressed it wants to continue President Pervez Musharraf's key foreign and economic policies now that civilian rule has been restored three years after a military coup.

"I would like to draw your attention to the observation made by the Prime Minister that there would be continuity in Pakistan's foreign policy," Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan told a news briefing.

At the opening of the NWFP assembly in Peshawar, members held prayers for Mir Aimal Kansi, who was executed for killing two CIA employees.

Reuters

Pervez deal to keep hardliners out

PAKISTAN PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf's "political fixers" offered Benazir Bhutto a deal to ensure that her party does not support the candidates of the Islamic religious alliance for the office of Prime Minister, media reports said today.

Bhutto was prepared to cast aside her pro-Western views and instruct her Pakistani People's Party Parliamentarians (PPP) to back Maulana Fazlur Rehman, the Prime Ministerial candidate

of Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal (MMA), *Time* said in a report.

Musharraf moved fast. First, his aides released Bhutto's husband from his jail hospital and allowed him to visit his mother. At one stage, Musharraf tried to win her over by an offer to drop charges against her and her husband. Under the deal, Zardari would be freed and sent into exile while Bhutto would be allowed back in Pakistan after two years.

PTI, New York

Pakistan nuke drive under US nose

AF-11 25/11

S Rajagopalan & Agencies
Washington, November 24

IN FULL view of US spy satellites, Pakistan flew an American-built C-130 cargo aircraft to North Korea last July and loaded it with ballistic missile parts for its anti-India campaign.

Islamabad's brazenness in using an US plane to transport the secret payload has not gone unnoticed here. The C-130 aircraft was part of a fleet which Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf had told President George W. Bush was being used to hunt down al-Qaida terrorists.

The episode is being viewed here as the latest evidence of

Pakistan persisting with its covert nukes-for-missiles barter deal with "rogue state" North Korea, despite claims to the contrary. "In transactions Intelligence agencies are still unravelling, the North (Koreans) provided Musharraf with missile parts he needs to build a nuclear arsenal capable of reaching every strategic site in India," the *New York Times* reported on Sunday.

Several times since Washington cemented its new alliance with Islamabad, US Intelligence agencies "have watched silently as Pakistan's air fleet conducted a deadly barter with North Korea", the paper said.

Pakistan for its part is said to have provided North Korea with many of the designs for gas centrifuges and much of the machinery it needs to make highly enriched uranium for its nuclear weapons programme.

The first revelations on the continuing Pakistani-North Korean nexus, though shorn of details, came in the *Washington Post* 10 days ago. The paper had quoted an unnamed Bush administration official as saying: "Let's put it this way: There were still shenanigans going on three months ago."

Indian sources here have been piqued over the US handling Pakistan with kid gloves

on a matter of utmost concern to Washington.

It is, however, unclear if the New Delhi has formally raised the issue in the light of the revelations in recent days.

The tell-tale evidence notwithstanding, the Bush administration has refrained from going public on the Pakistani involvement. It, however, took up the issue privately with Islamabad last month.

Secretary of State Colin Powell went on record at the time that Musharraf had, after initial denials, assured him that no trade of the kind was now taking place with North Korea. Nor would it in future. Powell de-

clined to go into the past.

A State Department spokesman, Philip Reeker, said, "We are aware of the allegations" about Pakistan, though he would not comment on the substance. "This administration will abide by the law," he said.

Intelligence officials say they have seen no evidence of exchanges since Washington protested the July missile shipment. Even in that incident, they cannot determine if the C-130 that picked up missile parts in North Korea brought nuclear-related goods to North Korea.

But United States and Asian officials are far from certain that Pakistan has cut off the re-

lationship, or even whether Musharraf is in control of the transactions.

Yet in the words of one United States 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." They doubt that North Korea will end its effort even if Pakistan cuts off its supplies.

"What's the difference between North Korea and Iraq?" asked one senior American official with long experience dealing with North Korea. "Saddam doesn't have one, and look what's happening to him."

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

25 NOV 2002

India supports UN inspection of weapons in Iraq

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 22 NOVEMBER

IRAQ on Friday assured India it would cooperate fully with the weapons inspectors, but if Baghdad hoped for a more sympathetic Indian reaction, it was destined to remain unsatisfied. India categorically told Iraq that it expected full compliance with UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1441. Iraqi non-cooperation, India said, would leave the UN free to react as it saw fit. Therefore, while expressing the hope that the Iraq affair would be resolved "peacefully," India's blanket approval for UN action did not rule out aggressive action.

Saddam Hussein's special envoy Mohammed Saeed al-Sahaf, on an exclusive visit to India, stressed that Iraq did not possess any weapons of mass destruction and met the Prime Minister and foreign minister on Friday. Iraq's desire for India to play a more ac-

tive role in the weapons inspections was cloaked in their "hope" that the inspections would be carried out in a "professional and objective" manner. India will have nothing to do with the weapons inspections and has apparently told the Iraqis so.

India's Iraq policy has come in for some question recently, especially as it seemed that Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee had opposed the US' policy of "regime change." This had raised eyebrows about whether India was distancing itself from the American position. However, the different aspects of the Indian policy on Iraq go as follows: The UNSC resolution 1441 is "valid and unanimous" and has to be followed "faithfully" by Iraq. If Iraq complies fully, sanctions should be lifted. If they don't, the UN is free to take any action it wants. India hopes for a peaceful resolution, but unwritten is the line that it will not oppose war.

23 NOV 2002

The Economic Times

MMA wants U.S. to stop hunt for Taliban suspects

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, NOV. 3. The MMA's chief ministerial nominee for Frontier province, Muhammad Akram Durrani, has urged the United States 'to respect people's opinion in the province and stop operations' against Al-Qaeda and Taliban suspects.

Mr. Durrani, a confidant of the Jamaat Ulema Islami (JUI) chief, Fazlur Rehman, is all set to take over as the Chief Minister of the province as the MMA has swept the October 10 election and has nearly two-thirds majority in the Provincial Assembly.

This is the first direct call by a senior leader of MMA to the U.S. to take cognisance of the changed ground realities and stop operations in search of the remnants of Al-Qaeda and Taliban operatives fleeing Afghanistan.

Since the elections, senior leaders of the MMA have been circumspect about the demand for vacation of U.S. military bases in Pakistan they had voiced during the campaign in the run-up to the general election.

"The voting pattern in the NWFP shows that the people here do not like some of the policies of the U.S. Being a democratic country, I hope the U.S. will respect the people's verdict and stop operations against the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban," Mr. Durrani told a Peshawar-based English daily.

"We hope the U.S. will adopt

a policy of understanding", he told the paper in an interview. In a recent interactive session with foreign journalists the prime ministerial nominee of MMA and JUI (F) chief, Fazlur Rehman, chose to be diplomatic when a journalist wanted to know the position of the MMA on American troops.

To repeated questions on whether the MMA would 'expel' the American troops, Maulana Rehman said that "our position is clearly spelt out in the election manifesto. Now you should put this question to the Americans."

There is little doubt that American bases in Pakistan could be a bone of contention between the provincial governments in Frontier and Baluchistan, where the MMA is likely to form a government, and the Musharraf regime.

Pakistan emerged as one of the key allies of the U.S. after the nine-eleven terror attacks on American cities and the decision of America to wage a war against the Taliban regime.

The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, joined the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against 'international terrorism' and extended logistic support to the coalition in the war on Afghanistan for sheltering the terrorist mastermind, Osama bin Laden and his supporters, who were suspected to be behind the September 11 attacks.

Gen. Musharraf and his senior functionaries have avoided any comment on the demand of

the MMA for vacation of American bases.

The Pakistan Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, said a week ago that there were no American forces in Pakistan and Islamabad had only given logistic support to the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against terrorism.

The issue is likely to dominate relations between the military and the MMA in the coming weeks unless either the U.S. decides to end whatever cooperation it was getting from Pakistan or succeeds in convincing the leaders of the religious parties on the need for continuation of such assistance.

Mr. Durrani has vowed to implement the recommendations of the Islamic Ideology Council after the consensus of all members. "We would present the recommendations in the Assembly for open discussion," he told the paper.

At the same time he said that since his would be a strong government it would be in a position to bring in certain changes it wishes.

The Islamic Ideology Council is a body established under the Constitution of Pakistan and its basic job is to make recommendations for ensuring the Islamic way of life in all spheres of life. The council has made several recommendations, which the government has not been able to implement for practical reasons. Declaration of Friday as a weekly holiday instead of Sunday best illustrates this.

4 NOV 2002

THE HINDU

US role in Pak power play

K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Oct. 27: Two Pakistanis are being released from the dreaded American high-security prison camp in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in a move widely interpreted here as a gesture by the Bush administration to buy

peace with the Islamic parties which fared well in this month's Pakistan elections.

General Pervez Musharraf's regime, according to Pakistani sources here, has asked the US to release all 58 Pakistanis among the 598 prisoners in Guantanamo after the Americans allowed

28/10
US
a Pakistani team to meet the prisoners. "We vetted them and gave our assessment... that some of the detainees did not pose a threat," Asad Hayatuddin, spokesman for the Pakistan embassy here, told local media.

The intense activity around the prisoners is only a small part of a gameplan in which the US and Saudi Arabia are playing a direct role in the formation of the new government in Pakistan.

Last weekend, Saudi Arabia's ambassador in Islamabad Ali Awadh Asseri called leaders of the "king's party", or the Muslim League (Quaide-Azam), Benazir Bhutto's People's Party, the Islamic Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal, Nawaz Sharif's Muslim League (Nawaz) and former President Farooq Leghari's National Alliance, to dinner and gave them a pep talk on government formation.

Asseri subsequently called all the top leaders of the fundamentalist Majlis-e-Amal for an extended conclave.

Significantly, Musharraf is going to Riyadh tomorrow and speculation is that Crown Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz will sit with the general and fill several blanks in Pakistan's confused political landscape during that trip. Musharraf will perform *umra*, the off-season Haj after his talks with Abdullah.

Around the same time that Asseri was bringing together Pakistan's leading politicians, US ambassador in Islamabad Nancy Powell was vigorously lobbying for the candidature of Mir Zafarullah Jamali as the new prime minister, according to information filtering in here. Jamali belongs to the "king's party".

Powell has known Jamali for nearly two decades — since the time he was chief minister of Baluchistan and she was on her first posting in Islamabad as a junior foreign service officer.

Simultaneously, efforts are underway in Washington, London and in the Gulf to coopt

Benazir into the post-election establishment.

Benazir is being brought to Washington with the promise of meetings with national security adviser Condoleezza Rice and secretary of state Colin Powell.

During two of her previous visits to the US, Benazir was unable to meet top Bush administration officials who were concerned about the fallout of such meetings on Musharraf.

According to sources here, leading Western powers have conveyed to Benazir an urgent need for her to cooperate with the "establishment" and moderate the influence of religious parties in the post-poll set-up in Pakistan.

Reports from Islamabad during the weekend said Benazir had dropped her insistence that her party's nominee, Makhdoom Amin Fahim, should be the new prime minister. (PTI reported tonight that Musharraf spoke to Amin at a meeting arranged in haste in a restaurant in Islamabad.)

Benazir's preference, the reports said, was for Maulana Fazlur Rehman heading a government of Islamic parties with her MPs supporting it from outside.

Rehman and his colleague, Qazi Hussain Ahmed, last week met ambassadors in Islamabad and assured them that if the religious parties came to power, they would honour all treaties signed by Pakistan and play by the rules of international law. (One among the eight Ordinances promulgated by Musharraf last night helps politicians close to him become prime minister, adds PTI.)

The decision to release prisoners selectively from Guantanamo has raised more questions than answers. "Why the Pakistanis? Were they prioritised? Are these people being released because some kind of judicial process happened or are they just political bargaining chips?" Amnesty International USA spokesman Alistair Hodggett asked while speaking to AP.

THE TELEGRAPH

28 OCT 2002

us
pak

USA confirms Pak finger in N Korea's nuke pie

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19. — Despite Islamabad's assertion that it has no role in North Korea's clandestine nuclear programme, a senior US official said Pakistan, along with some other countries, indeed supplied nuclear-weapon related equipment and technology to Pyongyang.

The senior official re-confirmed Pakistan's involvement after President Pervez Musharraf, in a joint press conference with Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Muhammad in Islamabad last night, rejected as "baseless" reports that Pakistan supported North Korea's nuclear programme, *The Washington Post* said today.

The paper quoted the official as saying that Pakistan did so "in return" for North Korea's missile technology. US officials said that other countries, including Russia, were also involved though they did not say what they could get in return from

51-12 29/10
North Korea. The *Post* said the USA received evidence of uranium enrichment efforts as early as two years ago but only recently decided to confront the North Korean government about it, according to "sources in the USA and Asia". The *Post* said the evidence at first was "faint and circumstantial". Only in August this year did the Administration feel that the case was compelling.

However, the paper said, the USA told South Korea and Japan about the nuclear programmes much earlier than previously disclosed. When Japanese Prime Minister Mr Junichiro Koizumi went to Pyongyang on 17 September, he knew of the uranium enrichment detail but failed to press the issue firmly, it said.

President Bush swiftly separated the dangers posed by North Korea and Iraq on Thursday as the sudden nuclear revelation threatened to complicate his targeting of President Saddam Hussein.

U.S., Pak. form working groups on defence

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, SEPT. 25. Senior Pakistani and U.S. defence officials, who commenced formal dialogue on defence co-operation on Tuesday, have split into three working groups on "military cooperation, security assistance, and anti-terrorism" for an in-depth discussion and drawing a road map for strengthening defence ties.

Islamabad has high expectations from the four-day meeting that marks the revival of what is known as Pak.-U.S. Defence Consultation Group, suspended since Pakistan conducted its nuclear explosions in May 1998 in response to Indian tests.

The talks are being held in Rawalpindi, the town where Pakistan's military headquarters is located.

An official statement said here that the "military cooperation" group discussed issues related to joint military exercises, seminars, conferences and other exchange programmes proposed to be held between

the two countries. The "security assistance" group discussed matters pertaining to cooperation in defence equipment, exports licences, cooperation under Foreign Military Sales programme, and other related issues. The discussions would conclude on Friday. Tom H. Walters Jr., Director Defence Security Cooperation Agency, U.S., who is heading one of working groups, today called on the Pakistan Secretary, Defence Production, Zahid Anis, along with other members of his delegation, in Rawalpindi. They discussed matters related to enhancement of defence cooperation between the two countries.

The Secretary briefed him on Pakistan's "defence potential as well as defence requirement under the prevailing conditions". However, the official statement did not elaborate on the "defence requirement" of Pakistan. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, during his visit to New York, had expressed concern over what he had termed as "stockpiling" of defence equip-

ment by India and argued on the need for Pakistan to maintain balance in conventional weapons.

The consultative group meeting is expected to discuss some concrete proposals when Douglas J. Feith, U.S. Under Secretary of Defence (Policy) joins it tomorrow.

He is scheduled to co-chair the opening session of the meeting tomorrow.

Since Pakistan joined the U.S.-led coalition against the war on "international terrorism" the Musharraf Government has been pressing Washington to release sophisticated defence equipment and spare parts. This was one of the subjects at the summit meeting between Gen. Musharraf and the U.S. President, George W. Bush, in New York in the second week of September.

In recognition of the "valuable" contribution made by Pakistan to the war on terrorism, the U.S. had lifted the sanctions imposed on Islamabad in the wake of the nuclear explosions and announced revival of the Defence Consultation Group.

THE HINDU

26 SEP 2002

Iraq can strike at 45 min's notice: Blair

London, September 24

BRITAIN ISSUED a long-awaited dossier on Tuesday saying Iraq had the military planning to launch a weapon of mass destruction at 45 minutes' notice — a charge immediately dismissed as baseless in Baghdad.

The dossier, intended to show why Prime Minister Tony Blair backs the US case for possible military action against Iraq, said President Saddam Hussein was building up stocks of chemical and biological weapons and was "ready to use them."

"Saddam Hussein is continuing to develop WMD (weapons of mass destruction), and with them the ability to inflict real damage upon the region, and the stability of the world," Blair said in an introduction to the dossier. "His military planning allows for some of the WMD to be ready within 45 minutes of an order to use them."

An Iraqi government minister rejected the allegation. "Blair is acting as part of the Zionist (Israeli) campaign against Iraq and all his claims are baseless," Culture Minister Hamed Yousif Hummadi told reporters.

Iraq says it has no weapons of mass destruction. After Baghdad's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War, UN inspectors spent seven years in Iraq seeking out and destroying weapons stocks, but Washing-

KT 17 MSJ

DAMNING DETAILS

- Iraq producing biological and chemical agents of mass destruction and is capable of using them on its own population or other countries within 45 minutes of an order to use them
- Iraq has built a new engine test stand for developing missiles capable of reaching UK Sovereign Base Areas in Cyprus and Nato members
- Iraq trying to acquire uranium from Africa and seeking the ability to enrich it to weapons grade. With essential components from abroad, it could produce them in between one and two years.
- Iraq illegally retaining and upgrading missiles

bomb could be developed."

If existing UN sanctions remained effective, Iraq would be unable to produce nuclear weapons, it said. But if it obtained fissile material and other essential components from abroad, it could produce them in between one and two years.

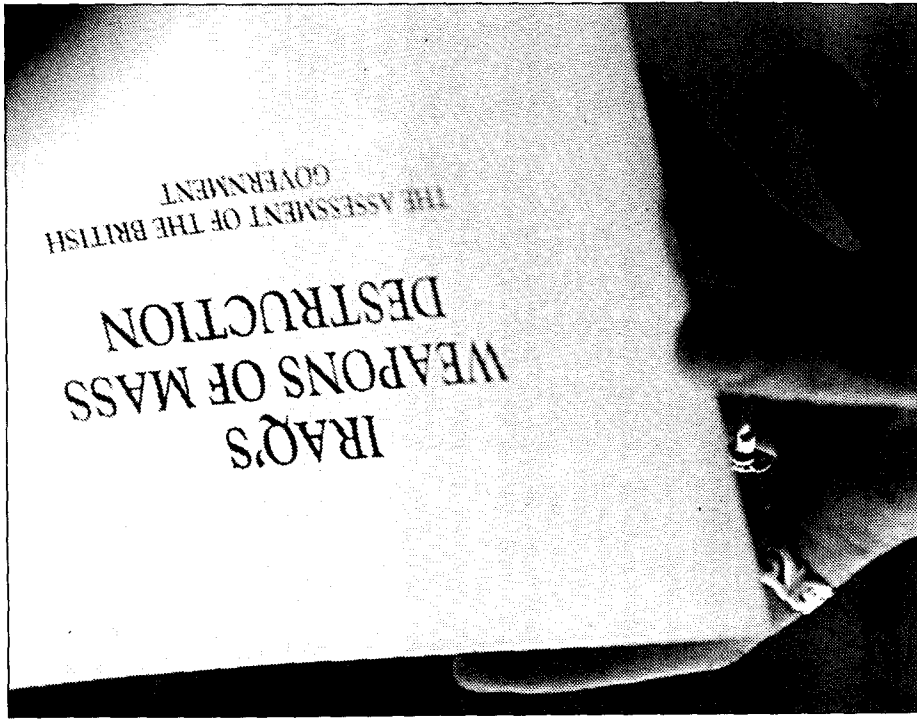
The dossier also said Iraq had illegally retained up to 20 al-Hussein missiles with a range of 650 km, capable of carrying chemical or biological warheads, and tried to extend the range of other, smaller missiles.

British anti-war Labour parliamentarian George Galloway, who has travelled several times to Baghdad in recent weeks in a bid to stave off war, dismissed Blair's dossier as "pulp fiction".

As protesters circled the Houses of Parliament in an open-topped campaign bus and singing 'Give Peace a Chance', Galloway slammed the document as "out of date".

In a bid to mollify critics around the world, the US and Britain are preparing a new UN resolution that would oblige Saddam to disarm and threaten military action if he did not. This month, Iraq said it would permit the unconditional return of the arms inspectors, who left the country in 1998 and have not been allowed back in. The US has expressed scepticism of the promise.

Reuters



A journalist holds a copy of the dossier outside 10 Downing Street in London on Tuesday.

ton and London say they did not find them all and that Iraq has acquired new ones since.

Blair's 50-page document, which contained little in the way of new evidence, stopped short of saying Iraq had nuclear weapons but said it had tried to acquire uranium from Africa and was seeking the ability to enrich it to weapons grade.

Blair, whose vigorous support over Iraq for President Bush has put him out on a limb in Europe, hopes to use the dossier to win over sceptics within his own Labour Party who are reluctant to back military action against Baghdad. The British parliament was to hold a full debate on Iraq later on Tuesday.

The dossier outlined Saddam's efforts to rebuild chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and develop medium-range ballistic missiles, which have been banned since the Gulf War. On the key nuclear issue, it said Saddam's Government had sought "significant quantities of uranium" from Africa, despite having no nuclear power program that would justify it.

Intelligence shows that the present Iraqi programme is almost certainly seeking an indigenous ability to enrich uranium to the level needed for a nuclear weapons," the dossier said. "But Iraq needs certain key equipment, including gas centrifuge components and components for the production of fissile material before a nuclear

Iraq rift in Blair Cabinet

KATE KELLAND WK (2) Gr 4 2399

London, Sept. 22 (Reuters): British Prime Minister Tony Blair faced direct defiance from a key member of his Cabinet today who said another war with Iraq would inflict too much suffering on the Iraqi people.

"We cannot have another Gulf war. We cannot have the people of Iraq suffering again. They have suffered too much. That would be wrong," Clare Short, Blair's international development secretary, told the British television network GMTV. "We've got to have remedies that will hit (Iraqi President Saddam Hussein) and the elite, and not the people," she said. "I think we need more thinking about that."

Short's comments came on the eve of a special Cabinet meeting to be conducted by Blair tomorrow. A so-called "dossier" on Iraq, in which Blair will set out what he sees as the case for action against Saddam, will be released on Tuesday.

Blair hopes he can use the document, first promised six months ago, to win over those within his Labour party who oppose military action against Iraq.

A special session of Parliament will be devoted to debating

the Iraq issue on Tuesday, but there will be no direct vote on an Iraq policy.

More than 160 members of the 659-strong lower parliamentary chamber, most of them from Blair's ruling Labour Party, have over the past few months signed a motion expressing "deep unease" about Britain backing military strikes on Iraq — particularly if there is no explicit UN resolution calling for an attack.

Short urged Blair and US President George W. Bush to use the UN to pressure Saddam, rather than pushing ahead with action not sanctioned by the international body.

She compared innocent citizens of Iraq to those who were killed in the September 11 terror attacks on New York and Washington and urged Blair and Bush not to allow them to be "sacrificed" to the cause of tackling Saddam. "We should be ready to impose the will of the United Nations on them (the Iraqi leadership) if they don't cooperate, but not by hurting the people of Iraq," she said.

"Each one of them is as precious as the 3,000 people in the twin towers (of the destroyed World Trade Center in New York). We can't sacrifice them to putting it right."

23 SEP 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

US, Pak in war of words

End infiltration: Blackwill; Pervez lashes back

HT Correspondent & PTI
New Delhi, September 19

CLOSE ON the heels of the US endorsing the recently concluded first-phase polling in the Valley with a 'clean' chit, amounting to a virtual rejection of Pak President Pervez Musharraf's claim that the polls were 'forced' upon the people of Kashmir, the two countries came as near to a war of words as never in the past.

The US today said cross-border infiltration into J&K has increased since July. "Infiltration across the LoC was down in June and July. But, since end-July, it has gone up and, in our judgment, it increased in August-September," US Ambassador to India Robert Blackwill told a group of journalists here.

Hours after Blackwill's statement, Musharraf termed as "false" claims by US that infiltration from Pakistan into J&K had risen in the two months since Delhi announced elections in Kashmir. "I categorically state the Pakistan Government is nei-



Robert Blackwill
Harsh statement

ther allowing, nor sponsoring ... any kind of movement across the LoC. Any claims to the contrary are motivated and false," he said, addressing a two-day international conference on peace and security in South-Asia.

In Islamabad, too, a Foreign Office spokesman rejected Blackwill's comment, maintaining that no infiltration into J&K was taking place. Blackwill said President Bush, in his talks with Musharraf, in New York last week, emphasised that he must keep his commitment



Pervez Musharraf
Harsher reaction

and stop permanently cross-border infiltration across the LoC. "We expect infiltration from across the LoC to end," the US Envoy said.

In a parallel development, the US lauded the courage of the people for voting in strength during the first phase of polling on September 16, despite threats and fears of sporadic violence.

The State Department welcomed India's commitment to hold free and fair polls and the "positive start" to the process. As spokesman Richard Boucher put it yes-

terday: "We do have reporting from our US Embassy in New Delhi that indicates a positive start to the process."

The Indian circles here view both the US comments as a "slap in the face" for Musharraf, who has repeatedly questioned the credibility of the poll process.

The US administration, which had put subtle pressures on India to co-opt the Hurriyat into the poll process, has taken note of the healthy 47 per cent turnout, despite calls for boycott from separatist parties.

Pakistan today rushed to question the US perception in describing the polls as positive. "I don't know what their (US) perception is, but the fact is that Kashmiris, themselves, boycotted the polls and the Hurriyat decision not to contest polls reflects the will of the Kashmiris," spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan told *Hindustan Times*, adding the international media clearly reported that violence marred the Kashmir polls. He added that Kashmiris were being forced to participate.

Stop J&K terror, US tells Pak

Islamabad, September 14

THE US has, in no uncertain terms, said it "pushed" President Pervez Musharraf "hard" to stop cross-border infiltration and terror in Jammu and Kashmir on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meet in New York this week.

Senior US officials said the US President pushed the Pakistanis hard on the question of infiltration across the Line-of-Control.

"We hope an end to infiltration will create the atmosphere that would lead to resumption of talks between the two countries", they added.

India's National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra said yesterday the US had

given a very "hard message" to Musharraf to stop infiltration and sponsoring violence in Jammu and Kashmir in the run-up to the Assembly polls.

Revealing this, Mishra said he was sure the message was conveyed in very 'strong terms', but it was difficult to say whether Pakistan would pay heed to it or not.

President Musharraf, however, claimed the US leadership understands the Pakistan position on the issue of infiltration across the LoC and there was no area of disagreement between the two countries. "There was no area of disagreement and there was full unanimity of views," he said. Reacting to the speech of Prime Minister AB Vajpayee in the UN ac-

TOTAL US COMMITMENT



- US conveys message to Pakistan in strong terms
- Bush reiterates his country's commitment to fight terrorism
- US, India decided exchanges in nuclear fields

cusing Pakistan of nuclear blackmail, he said the Indian argument was "illogical".

Musharraf also tried hard to dispel the impression that the developments relating to the US-Iraq confrontation had overshadowed the Indo-Pak tensions. "We've been interacting at all international levels

and the focus on our region could not be diverted by any event," he said. Musharraf said an attack on Iran, however, could produce "ripples" in the South-Asian region. "It will have political and economic repercussions on the region and in the Muslim countries. But, if the UN Security Council

decides something about Iraq, it would become incumbent upon all countries," he said.

On Bush's meeting with Prime Minister Vajpayee, Mishra said the US President had reiterated to the Indian Prime Minister the "total commitment" of his country against terrorism.

The two leaders had also agreed to intensify contacts and exchanges in high-technology subjects and nuclear fields. Mishra said that, at the Bush-Vajpayee parleys and his meetings with Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, the major emphasis was on Indo-US relations and how to move them forward.

1 5 SEP 2002

World may have a role to play in resolving Kashmir issue: Annan

14/9
By Chidanand Rajghatta
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New York: UN secretary general Kofi Annan on Thursday said the international community might have a role to play in resolving the Kashmir issue if tension between India and Pakistan flares up again.

In his address before the General Assembly, Mr Annan also suggested that the underlying causes of the dispute needed to be addressed. Both formulations will have left India unhappy.

New Delhi has firmly maintained that the matter is in the bilateral ambit under the Simla and Lahore pacts. India has also questioned "addressing underlying causes" theory, saying terrorism should not be used to bring issues to the fore or settle disagreements.

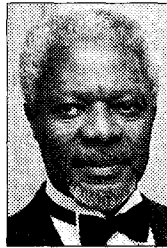
Mr Annan identified the Kashmir issue as one of the four global problems after the Israel-Palestinian dispute, the Iraq problem, and the Afghanistan situation.

Indian officials were not immediately available for comments, but in recent days they have said Pakistan is stoking violence in Kashmir to attract international attention and intervention.

The two crucial paragraphs on South Asia came towards the end of Mr Annan's address. They read:

Fourth, and finally, in South Asia the world has recently come closer than for many years past to a direct conflict between two nuclear weapon-capable countries. The situation may now have calmed a little, but it remains perilous. The underlying causes must be addressed. If a fresh crisis erupts, the international community might have a role to play; though I gladly acknowledge indeed, strongly welcome the efforts made by well-placed member-states to help the two leaders find a solution.

Meanwhile, both India and Pakistan have adopted hardball tactics to push their respective agendas at the UN and its sidelines in New York, making it almost certain that their already testy bi-



Kofi Annan

lateral relations will not be soothed any time soon.

In public appearances in Boston, Chicago and New York, Pakistan's military ruler General Pervez Musharraf has been irascible, dumping on India for everything from creating

warlike conditions to domestic violence in Pakistan. India's Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has remained aloof but Indian officials accompanying him have returned verbal fire, directly accusing Pakistan of international terrorism.

Gen Musharraf is apparently irked by stories in the Pakistani media that he was going to agree on making the Line of Control (LoC) in Kashmir the international border and pull the plug on terrorists and separatists in Jammu and Kashmir to allow the state assembly elections to go ahead smoothly.

The story, which first surfaced in Pakistan's 'The News' daily, is now credited to a leak by right-wing elements in a bid to embarrass Gen Musharraf ahead of his US visit. Subsequent to the story, Gen Musharraf has hardened his position ahead of his UN speech and meeting with President George Bush by reiterating the familiar theme that the LoC is the problem and it could not be the solution.

If Mr Vajpayee has forcefully and convincingly raised Islamabad's role in disrupting the state elections in J&K in his meeting with Mr Bush, Gen Musharraf will have tough time defending Pakistan, already under pressure from the US and the international community to lay-off and sue for peace.

Gen Musharraf is not helped by the sharp contrast that has emerged between India's keenness to hold elections in J&K under any circumstances and military-run Pakistan's reluctance to allow a democratic process in its own upcoming elections.

14 SEP 2002

14/9
US peace
sermon
for Putin

Agence France-Press

WASHINGTON, Sept. 13. -
The USA has berated Russian President Vladimir Putin for threatening to launch military strikes on Chechen guerrillas hiding in Georgia.

"We take strong exception to statements by President Putin threatening action against the Chechen rebels in Georgia," deputy state department spokesman Mr Philip Reeker said yesterday.

"We strongly support Georgia's territorial integrity and oppose any unilateral military action there," he said.

Mr Reeker said US diplomats had raised objections to Mr Putin's remarks but could not say at what level the issue had come up.

Mr Putin used the backdrop of US threats to Iraq to warn the UN Security Council yesterday that Russia may soon launch its own "anti-terror" war in Georgia to hunt down Chechen guerrillas.

The Russian President sent a message to the council's four other permanent members that Russia would take "adequate measures" if Georgia failed to win back control of its lawless Pankisi gorge region, which is near the border with Chechnya.

Musharraf takes war of words to US

Press Trust of India

5/1 13/9

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. — Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf ruled out conversion of the LoC into an international border, saying he wasn't a fool to pursue that and declared he would raise the Kashmir issue here "all the way". "*Main bewakoof nahin hoon*," Gen. Musharraf said when talking to newsmen last night.

Earlier in Chicago, Gen. Musharraf accused India of increasing its stockpile of conventional weapons in a move that could jeopardise the regional power balance.

"The visible tilt in conventional arms balance between India and Pakistan has dangerous portents and must be checked," he said

adding that 95 per cent of Indian forces were deployed against his country.

In an apparent reference to India, Gen. Musharraf said the terrorist attacks on Western targets inside Pakistan had been "abetted" by an "Intelligence organisation in a neighbouring country".

About the J&K polls, he said: "Such elections, under Indian occupation, will not help peace...The people of J&K must be allowed to exercise their right to determine their own future in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the UN Security Council."

Referring to the "massacre" of Muslims in Gujarat "with complicity of state BJP leaders", Gen. Musharraf said: "The international community must act to oppose Hindu extremism with the same determination it dis-

played in combating terrorism, religious bigotry and fascist tendencies elsewhere." He said: "As Hindu fundamentalism is rising in India, Pakistan is waging a successful struggle to restore its traditions of a tolerant Islam."

Claiming that Pakistan was in the forefront of the war against terror, he said "some quarters" were utilising the war as a "vehicle to spread hatred against Islam and Muslims." "India," he alleged, "had misused the rationale of war against terrorism and "sought to de-legitimise the Kashmiri freedom struggle, tarnish Pakistan's image and drive a wedge between it and its coalition partners." He said: "We must address the root causes of terrorism. It is not religion which impels a terrorist act; it is often a sense of frustration and powerlessness to redress persistent injustice."

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'U.S. must not supply arms to Pakistan'

By Our Diplomatic Correspondent

NEW YORK, SEPT. 12. The Foreign Secretary, Kanwal Sibal, said here today he did not think that any "responsible country" would give new weaponry to an "irresponsible country" like Pakistan. He was responding to questions about the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, seeking F-16s from the United States while "pro-actively" seeking to deny India advanced technology from the U.S.

Briefing presspersons on Wednesday night, Mr. Sibal said Gen. Musharraf could not exercise "any kind of veto" on American policy towards India. Instead, he said the U.S. and India had made a lot of progress on the defence front. Gen. Musharraf could say what he wanted, but the question was whether the U.S. was listening to him.

New Delhi was happy with the comments made by the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, backing the position that Pakistan should not interfere in the electoral process in Jammu and Kashmir.

On Pakistan's pledges to end cross-border terrorism, Mr. Sib-

al said that India was not satisfied with them. India was persistently making this point with the international community that Pakistan had not delivered on its promises and it believed that such persistence was yielding results.

New Delhi, Mr. Sibal said, would continue to raise this issue with its international interlocutors. The point of difference, he said, was that "not enough" was being done by the international community and not that "nothing was being done".

Asked about the first-ever trilateral lunch meeting between the Indian, Chinese and Russian Foreign Ministers on Saturday, Mr. Sibal said it was an informal meeting and did not have any agenda. "There's really no agenda for the meeting," Mr. Sibal maintained.

Asked about his recent consultations in Moscow, Mr. Sibal said that it was essentially to prepare for the December visit of the Russian President, Vladimir Putin, to India. A number of issues that figure on the U.N. General Assembly's agenda also came up for talks.

There was "complete understanding" and support for In-

dia's position when it came to the relationship with Pakistan. India and Russia had decided to set up a Joint Working Group to combat terrorism. The two countries had also agreed to form an "energy forum" which was important from the viewpoint of India's energy security.

Mr. Sibal said that India had invested \$1.7 billion in the Sakhalin oil field and wanted to engage Russia on the issue of energy security.

On Iraq, he said India had the impression that the U.S. intended to act through the U.N. Military action, he said was a separate issue.

In his meetings in Washington, the External Affairs Minister, Yashwant Sinha, had conveyed India's views on Iraq, which the U.S. seemed to take on board. India, he said, had conveyed to the U.S. its concerns on Iraq — the fact that energy supplies were sourced from the Persian Gulf and a number of Indians were resident in the region. New Delhi had also conveyed that general principles of international law applied to the Iraq situation. Political and military actions, he maintained, had to be approved by the U.N. system.

US goes soft on Musharraf autocracy

K.P. NAVAR

Washington, Aug. 25. The tail wagged the dog. General Pervez Musharraf assumed sweeping powers last week and extended his term in office after cleverly calculating that the Americans would do nothing to undermine him on the eve of a crucial diplomatic mission by deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage to India and Pakistan.

And he was proved right. In less than 12 hours after the General drove the proverbial last nail into the coffin of Pakistani democracy, President George W. Bush praised Musharraf.

"He is still tight with us in the war against terror, and that is what I appreciate. He understands that we have got to keep al Qaeda on the run.... And I appreciate his strong support." Bush, who is continuing his working holiday said in Oregon.

It is reliably learnt that the US state department was told to dilute its criticism of Musharraf on the day he arbitrarily acquired the constitutional right to dissolve an elected parliament and appoint judges.

The department's deputy spokesman, Philip Reeker, lamely said Musharraf's action "could make it more difficult to build strong democratic institutions" in Pakistan.

He also said: "We have made quite clear that part of the war on terrorism includes looking for democracy because where there's democracy, there's less opportunity for extremist and terrorist enterprises to thrive."

An earlier draft, prepared for Reeker in response to possible questions on Pakistan during his briefing, is said to have been much stronger in its criticism of Musharraf.

But it was watered down because Washington wanted to avoid any controversy in Islamabad similar to the furor in India after secretary of state Colin Powell's statement on Kashmir in New Delhi last month.

Even so, Pakistan assailed Reeker's comments, virtually calling them ill-informed. The spokesman of the foreign ministry in Islamabad, Aziz Ahmed Khan, said critics of Pakistan were "not fully aware of the facts".

Khan described the 29 major constitutional amendments rammed through by Musharraf as "necessary to strengthen democratic institutions" before the October elections.

Realising that his gamble of pulling off his regime's consolidation of power had succeeded in Washington, Pakistan's state television repeatedly aired the US President's praise for Musharraf for 24 hours after Bush made his statement.

The Pakistan President's foreign office singled out the state department for attack and made it clear that such criticism would not restrain the military junta's efforts to manage democracy in Pakistan.

If anyone in Pakistan was in doubt that Musharraf's policy of taking Washington for a ride was unworkable, there was further proof the next day that the General's aim was unerring.

On Friday, the US signed an agreement with Pakistan to reschedule \$3 billion of the latter's debt. The Congress is expected to approve the debt relief in the next financial year starting on October 1.

In the most neatly-mouthed comment heard from any US administration on the suppression of democracy since the collapse of Communism, Bush, however, said American officials will make sure that Musharraf is aware of the importance of restoring civilian rule.

"Obviously, to the extent that you know, our friends promote democracy, that's important," he said.

After the terrorist attacks on the US on September 11, Musharraf has mastered the tactic of timing his domestic moves in conjunction with bilateral devel-

opments involving Washington. He promoted himself from Chief Executive to President when his then foreign minister Abdul Sattar was in Washington. Sattar was personally able to smooth the rough edges of that decision here.

Again, Musharraf prepared the ground for acknowledging the death of American journalist Daniel Pearl by conflicting remarks on the issue when he was in the US only a few days before Pearl's death, which reflected poorly on Pakistan, was acknowledged.

But by last week's antics, Musharraf may have crossed the biggest hurdle in consolidating his power, knowing that the absence of harsh American criticism would have a similar ripple effect elsewhere in the world.

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Pak sings old tune on Kashmir

NS PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Aug. 24. — Calling for resumption of talks between India and Pakistan, the USA today said the Pakistani leadership had assured that it was not sponsoring infiltration across the LoC.

"There is some obvious infiltration across the LoC, but our friends here assure me that this is not being sponsored by Islamabad," US deputy secretary of state Mr Richard Armitage said after his hour-long meeting with President Pervez Musharraf. Mr Armitage also met Pakistani minister of state for foreign affairs Mr Inamul Haq and the interior minister Mr Moinuddin Haider.

Mr Armitage later told reporters that it was "desirable" for Pakistan and India to engage in talks and "we can offer assis-

ADVANI TALKS TOUGH

NEW DELHI, Aug. 24. — Mr LK Advani has asked Pakistan to "keep off" the J&K polls, asserting that Delhi will not resume dialogue with Islamabad till terrorism is stopped.

The Deputy Prime Minister returned to Delhi last night after a four-day visit to UK where he had extensive talks with his British counterpart Mr John Prescott and other senior officials. — SNS

tance, but cannot impose a solution to the Kashmir problem". He said tension between Pakistan and India "has somewhat gone down" when compared to his visit two months ago.

Mr Armitage denied that India was showing "a lack of interest" in US efforts to deescalate the situation. Though he could not



US deputy Secretary of State Mr Richard Armitage with Gen. Pervez Musharraf in Islamabad on Saturday. — AFP

meet Mr Vajpayee and foreign minister Mr Yashwant Sinha during his stay in Delhi, he said he had met national security advisor Mr Brajesh Mishra and "was treated well".

ENVOY SUMMONED

NEW DELHI, Aug. 24. — Pakistan today summoned India's acting high commissioner in Islamabad and delivered a *note verbale* to protest alleged attacks by India on Pakistani Army posts at Gultari. India again rejected the charge, calling it "false and unfounded". The Pakistani high commission here too protested against the alleged attack. — SNS

On Islamabad's allegations of Indian firing in Gultari sector yesterday, the US official said the issue was briefly discussed in his talks in Delhi. Expressing appreciation for Pakistan's role in fighting terror, Mr Armitage said Mr Bush will continue talks on this with Gen. Musharraf when he visits New York.

Pak. unhappy over U.S. action

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

19/8 110-12
ISLAMABAD, AUG. 13. Close on the heels of the U.S. decision to reaffirm its warning to its citizens to defer travel plans to Pakistan, the American authorities have decided to shut down the American Center in Islamabad on account of security concerns.

The closure comes exactly a week after the U.S. Consulate-General in Karachi was closed for similar reasons. There were indications from the State Department on Monday that a decision about re-opening the Consulate office in the port city would be taken soon.

The military government did not appreciate the abrupt manner in which the U.S. authorities shut down the Karachi Consulate. It appears that the U.S. decided to close the Consulate

after the authorities in Karachi re-opened the road in front of the Consulate office for the general public.

It appears that the U.S. authorities have not given any prior intimation to the Pakistan Foreign Office about the closure of the American Center too.

Of course there is a sense of insecurity in the air and the authorities in Pakistan are not taking any chances in view of the recent terrorist attacks against Christian/Western targets. For instance, in Rawalpindi, where the military headquarters of the Pakistan Army is situated, authorities have banned all Independence Day rallies by political parties for security reasons.

Senior functionaries in the government are unhappy over some of the decisions of the U.S.

Government in recent weeks and believe that they are not in conformity with the public posturing on the 'bold and courageous' steps by the Musharraf Government in fighting international terrorism.

A senior official in the Pakistan Foreign Office said that a series of decisions by the United States in the last few months has portrayed an alarming picture of the security environment in Pakistan to the rest of the world and harmed its economic and political interests.

"The American Center in Islamabad has been closed for security reasons until further notice," Linda Cheatham, Acting Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, has been quoted as saying. "The staff will however keep working," she has said without specifying from where.

14 AUG 2002

THE HINDU

10-15
X

Pak. takes up detentions with U.S.

1978

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, AUG. 9 Pakistan today urged the United States for early deportation of Pakistanis, who are under detention in different parts of the country on charges of violation of immigration laws, in a dignified and respectable manner.

The Pakistan Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, made the plea when the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Population, Refugees and

Migration, Gene Dewey, at the head of three-member delegation, called on the Minister and exchanged views on various matters.

Most of the detentions took place after the September 11 terror attacks on America. The issue is a sore point in the ties between the U.S. and Pakistan.

At the meeting today, the two sides discussed at length the Afghan refugees' stay in Pakistan and their return. An estimated 2.5 million refugees

were in Pakistan before the collapse of the Taliban regime in December last year. Reports by the U.N. agencies suggest that at least a million of the refugees have since returned.

The Interior Minister told Mr. Dewey that if economic development activities in Afghanistan were geared up, it would create a conducive atmosphere for the speedy return of the migrants to their homeland. However, he made it clear that Pakistan has not pushed

back any refugee and it was providing them with basic amenities.

He also apprised Mr. Dewey of the steps taken by the government for maintenance of the sanctity of the western border.

These included stepped up vigilance with the help of the U.S. Helicopters, maintenance of database of aliens in National Alien Registration Authority, installation of Passport Readable Machine in Karachi and

expansion plan of the project to establish reliable security environment. Mr. Dewey appreciated the patience and goodwill gestures of Pakistanis towards their Afghan brethren during the last 23 years and said that the U.S. and Pakistan would work together for resolution of this problem, as they are partners in the coalition against terrorism.

He assured the Minister that overstaying Pakistanis would return home with honour.

US-Pak

Rocca hears views on Pak. polls

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 29. Even as the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, was speaking his mind on the do's and don'ts for India and Pakistan in the specific context of the coming elections in Kashmir, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Christina Rocca, was on a quiet mission the same day assessing the divide between the Musharraf regime and political parties in Pakistan on the October general elections.

Ms. Rocca on Sunday met the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, for a first hand account of the plans of his regime to not only to stick to the schedule of the October general election but also ensure that they are "free, fair and transparent".

Later in the evening, she heard the views of representa-

tives of all the major parties at a dinner hosted by the U.S. Charge d' Affairs in Pakistan.

She apprised them of her interaction with Gen. Musharraf and told them that he had assured her that the elections would be free and fair.

"In our meetings with the President today, we discussed the coming elections. The President assured us that the elections would be held, and that they will be free and fair," she told them.

Most of the political parties in Pakistan have a grouse against Washington.

They believe that the U.S. has put all its eggs in the basket of Gen. Musharraf and is prepared to turn a blind eye to the tactics being adopted by the regime to keep out the mainstream parties and leaders from the election.

Political parties are of the

view that if the U.S. is genuinely interested in seeing the end of military rule, it must reign in Gen. Musharraf.

They are particularly worked up over the silence of the Bush administration on a number of laws enacted by his regime in recent days that were seen as blatant attempts to block potential rivals.

There is a growing feeling in the Pakistan civil society that Washington would not do anything that could undermine the position of Gen. Musharraf because of his 'unstinted' support to the U.S. in its war against international terrorism.

This was evident when the State Department declined to entertain petitions from the former Prime Minister, Benazir Bhutto, against some of the controversial laws enacted by the military Government.

This was also reflected when Gen. Powell declined to answer a specific question at his news conference with the Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Inam ul Haq, on the curbs imposed by the Musharraf regime against Ms. Bhutto.

The U.S. Secretary of State said he had broached the subject of general elections and the controversial statute changes proposed by Gen. Musharraf and the Pakistan President told him that no final view on them has been taken.

"The United States looks forward to free and fair elections that will return the country to democratic rule," Ms. Rocca told party leaders.

She said the U.S. hoped to contribute to the election process by training poll watchers and providing election observers, among other projects.

Infiltration has gone down, Powell says in Pak.

WS PAK
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By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 28. The United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, ended his two-day whirlwind tour of South Asia on an ambiguous note with a call to both India and Pakistan to progress towards "a productive and sustainable bilateral dialogue" on all issues, including Kashmir, for lasting peace in the region.

Flanked by the Pakistan Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Inam ul Haq, Gen. Powell addressed a news conference where he more or less repeated what he said earlier in the day in New Delhi.

However, in the question-and-answer session, he remained neutral on the contentious issue of infiltration.

Gen. Powell, who arrived from New Delhi after being informed of continuing infiltration across the Line of Control by the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and the Deputy Prime Minister, L. K. Advani, maintained that the U.S. was in no position to make a judgment on the charge.

"Everyone agrees that infiltration has gone down (but) the United States is still not able to say it has been stopped but they have gone down."

This was in contrast to what he had said in Delhi: "I think there has been a reduction in



The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, shakes hands with the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, at the President House in Islamabad on Sunday. — AFP

infiltration levels (but) infiltration is continuing."

Gen. Powell said that he did raise the issue with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, who had reiterated the assurance he had given to the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, in June.

Modifying his earlier statement in Delhi about the release of "political prisoners" in Kashmir, Gen. Powell said that all those willing to participate in the electoral process should be set free. Asked what the U.S. position on the United Nations resolutions on Kashmir was,

Gen. Powell said that "there is a long history covering 55 years.

"There are different points of view on them. We are in July 2002 now. What is required is good faith on both sides."

Islamabad was happy to note Gen. Powell's prescriptions to New Delhi, especially in the context of the coming elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

Though, diplomatically, he did convey to Pakistan that it should not create any hurdles to the elections, his statement in India that "Kashmir is on the international agenda" and that international observers should be allowed to monitor the election process, must have been music to Gen. Musharraf's ears.

Under attack from religious parties and groups for "selling the cause of Kashmir under U.S. pressure," this is precisely the line he has been trying to sell, particularly since September 11.

Gen. Powell expressed the hope that the recent reduction in tensions and "preliminary de-escalatory steps" would lead to resumption of dialogue between the two South Asian neighbours at some stage.

"I think the possibility of dialogue in the near future is something that can be achieved."

Powell declines comment on Benazir

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 28. The visiting United States Secretary of State, Colin Powell, today declined to comment on the constitutional amendments proposed by the Musharraf regime, which seek to bar the former Prime Minister and chairperson of the opposition Pakistan People's Party, Benazir Bhutto, from contesting the October general elections and holding a party post.

Appearing perplexed when a foreign correspondent raised the question on the proposed amendment, Gen. Powell replied curtly, "I have no point of view on the Benazir question." On the package of statute changes proposed by the military regime, he said that he had had a lengthy discussion with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, on the subject when he met him over lunch. Gen. Musharraf had given him an in-depth briefing on the "rationale" behind the proposals.

Gen. Powell said Gen. Musharraf had conceded that some of the proposals were "controversial" and that his Government had initiated a debate on them before taking a final decision. "I think they are yet to make a judgment on the package of amendments."

The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Inam ul Haq, who was present on the occasion, clarified that the Government would take a decision on the specific proposals only at the end of the debate.

Gen. Powell's refusal to be drawn into a discussion on the new rules, which seek to debar persons such as Ms. Bhutto and another former Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, would undoubt-

edly come as a major disappointment to the PPP.

Only last week, Ms. Bhutto was in Washington lobbying with the Bush administration to restrain Gen. Musharraf from enacting laws that jeopardise the prospects of mainstream political parties in Pakistan.

Gen. Powell's reaction would only strengthen the impression in a section of the civil society that the U.S. does not want to do anything that could undermine Gen. Musharraf's position. Some prominent intellectuals here are of the view that the U.S. has always preferred to deal with military rather than civilian rulers, particularly when its stakes in the region are high.

Ironically, Gen. Powell's statement of Washington's disinclination to get involved in the internal politics of Pakistan has coincided with Ms. Bhutto's re-election as the PPP chairperson.

While communicating the new rules of the Musharraf regime to all the parties last week, that require them to complete their internal elections by August 5, the Pakistan Election Commission had warned that the parties which did not fall in line would not be allotted a symbol to contest the general elections.

According to some functionaries of the military Government, Ms. Bhutto stands disqualified not only to contest elections but also to continue as the chairperson of PPP on more than one count.

The former Prime Minister, who lives in Dubai on a self-imposed exile, was convicted in absentia by an accountability court in Rawalpindi a few days ago.

She was earlier declared a proclaimed offender for not responding to court summons.

Thackeray criticises Mamata

MUMBAI, JULY 28. The Shiv Sena supremo, Bal Thackeray, today criticised the Trinamool Congress leader, Mamata Banerjee, for her stance on bifurcation of railway zones. "It is improper that politics was getting priority over national interests," the Sena chief said while replying to queries on a television channel.

On the issue of his successor, Mr. Thackeray said he did not believe in family rule. "If Uddhav is capable, he will come ahead but I will not ask anyone..." he said talking about his son.

Referring to his much-talked about 'remote control', he said: "It is my style of functioning. I like to keep control of things." His comment that he was a 'sanyasi' provoked the question: "Why does a 'sanyasi' need a remote control?" To this, he said: "I do not desire anything. Desire is bad."

He said that he had nothing against Muslims in general but was only against those whose loyalties were with Pakistan. To a question about Kashmir, he said: "What ever it may cost, we will not let go of Kashmir."

— PTI, UNI

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GET NOTICED

Four years ago, Brazil's Ronaldo suffered a convulsion before the World Cup final against France and played dreadfully in their 3-0 defeat. Today, he walked around the field draped in his country's flag after scoring the two goals that got Brazil its fifth win. Reuters

Musharraf still to turn tap off, listen to these jihadis

■ **INFILTRATION** | Intercepts reveal they're still coming

RITU SARIN
NEW DELHI, JUNE 30

DOES General Pervez Musharraf intend to honour his promise to the Americans of a "permanent" end to cross-border infiltration? Inputs by Indian intelligence agencies to the political establishment indicate that groups of infiltrators are still sneaking into India though militant leaders have asked their cadre to lie low, only for two to three months.

Now it's almost one month after US Deputy Secretary of State Richard Ar-



mitage got the assurance from the General. After Armitage left, Indian agencies began their efforts to ascertain if Musharraf's oft-repeated assertion that there was "no movement across the Line of Control" was true or not.

The picture that has emerged is one of tactical retreat till the heat was on.

In fact, from May 28 to June-end, the BSF got source information on 11 groups of infiltrators crossing over to J&K, some as big as 20 men.

On the other hand, while firing along the LoC has come down dramatically, along the International Border (IB), it's down to half — about 2,500 rounds from small weapons are being fired daily. That's considered far less than "routine".

It's the Government's listening posts, which tune into wireless transmissions made

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

INDIAN EXPRESS

JUL 2002

Musharraf still to turn tap off

by Pakistan's militant and military cadres, that have given the most important leads. Intercepts in the month of June show that while some militants were facing paucity of ammunition and rations, there was also renewed activity and regrouping.

The Lashkar-e-Toiba (LeT), for instance, has formed several splinter groups, and a recent clash in Doda between the LeT and Hizbul Mujahideen had had a serious fallout.

Then, there was a June 17 intercept about a group of 150 Al Qaida militants who had entered Pakistan on May 2 from the Chaman border. The group had reached the Domel training camp and was to cross over through the Kahuta area. "These militants are being trained in speaking Urdu and Kashmiri and were now learning Kashmiri customs and may cross into India in the last week of June," the decoded message revealed.

This is what some latest intercepts, accessed by <PI>The Indian Express, reveal about the changes along the LoC:

* On June 25, the LeT commander in Zaffarwal, Nayeem-ul-Rehman, and the LeT commander in Udhampur, Abu Dhara, spoke about militants being asked to restrict their movements and slow

down infiltration/exfiltration as the Pakistan government was under "tremendous pressure". The messages, intercepted at Jammu, asked the commanders to inform their cadre that the Pakistan government had promised to lift the "ban" within two or three months and these decisions had been taken jointly by the Jihad Council and the Pakistan government, sensing the "coming situation".

*Intercepts of June 24, from the Jammu and Rajouri sectors, indicate drying up of supplies. One group (Code 17) was facing an "acute" shortage of ammunition and manpower and was annoyed with their commanders over the scarcity. A message decoded at Rajouri on the same day was a distress call from a HM station (Code 93) due to shortage of ration for two months. A third set of conversations decoded on June 21 indicated how the "militants attached with the Pak Army are facing problems of water, light and other essential facilities."

* On June 20, a message intercepted at Kupwara showed how the Pakistan government had asked for details of illegal activities at madarsas in every district and foreign aid to prisoners in jails. On June 19, a police message being relayed from Peshawar revealed how the superinten-

117 95-2
dents had been asked to take action against foreign students in the madarsas and push them back to their respective countries through their embassies.

* On June 17, a message intercepted at Srinagar gave leads about the LeT forming three splinter groups. While the Al Madina group will operate in Srinagar city, Azam Jihad will operate along the highways and Banihal and Al Mansurian make Jammuits base. Another message of June 14 warned militants that Code 77 (HM Commander Syed Salahuddin) was "worried" about the clash between the HM and LeT and warned that further clashes may "harm the on-going freedom movement".

Top Government officials say that taken cumulatively, the intelligence gathered during the past few weeks showed only a lull in infiltration and militant action and not cessation of activities. This has been reflected in the recent statements made by the Prime Minister and Home Minister. As one official put it, "it is now clear that the confusion that prevailed among the militants after the 9/11 attack in New York has cleared. There is a clear direction now from the Pakistan government for the militants to lie low, but only for a while."

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third highest scorer in
Cup history with 12.

It was a remarkable
change of fortune
Ronaldo who had
shortly before the 199

INDIA

U.S. General meets Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 24. Amidst reports that Osama bin Laden could be hiding in the tribal areas of Pakistan, the Commander-in-Chief of the United States Central Command (Centcom), Tommy R. Franks, today called on the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and exchanged views on the "geo-strategic environment" in the region and the U.S.-led coalition campaign in Afghanistan.

Pakistan was at pains to emphasise that visit of Gen. Franks had nothing to do with reports of Osama lurking in its territory and insisted that it was one of those routine visits by him to the region to take stock of the situation.

The statement attributed to the head of the U.S. Senate Intelligence Committee, Bob Graham, on Sunday that Washington believed Osama is hiding in Pakistan had strengthened the impression that Gen. Frank's mission could be related to the Osama hunt.

"Our best intelligence estimate continues to be that he is alive and probably some place in those tribal areas on the western side of Pakistan," Senator Bob Graham had told Fox television.

Gen. Franks, who is to visit Afghanistan after a two-day stay here, had a detailed discussion with Gen. Musharraf on the current situation.

It is presumed that the ongoing joint operations by the Pakistan and U.S. authorities in the tribal areas in search of the Al-Qaeda and Taliban activists was on the top of the agenda.

There have been reports in a section of the Pakistani press suggesting that the U.S. was pressuring the Musharraf Government to allow its

forces to conduct search and seize operations in any part of the country. However, the military government is believed to be cautioning Americans against any hasty actions.

The Government has admitted that for the first time in the history of the country, military and para-military forces have pressed into service in the sensitive border areas bordering Afghanistan in search of Al-Qaeda and Taliban cadres and activists on the run.

Over 300 activists of Al-Qaeda and Taliban are reported to have been apprehended by the Pakistani forces and handed over to the U.S.

An official statement on the meeting between Gen. Musharraf and Gen. Franks said that during the course of the call, discussion focused on the 'prevailing geo-strategic environment' in the region.

Pressure on Pakistan to step up the vigil on its eastern borders could increase after a spokesman of the Al-Qaeda, Suleiman Abu Ghaith, claimed on the Qatar-based *Al-Jazeera* television that Osama and his network were alive and well and that "America must prepare itself and fasten its seat belt."

To a question on the statement by Mr. Graham, the Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman, Aziz Ahmed Khan, maintained that the report on the possible presence of Osama in Pakistan could at best be termed as "guess work".

In a related development, the official U.S. development agency, USAID, is all set to reopen its offices in Pakistan. The agency had shut down its operations after Pakistan undertook nuclear tests in May 1998.

25 JUN 02

THE HINDU

Musharraf's claim is not true, says US

TIMES NEWS NETWORK AND AGENCIES

New Delhi\Islamabad: The United States on Monday rejected Gen Pervez Musharraf's claim that he had not promised to end cross-border terrorism permanently, asserting that the military ruler had given the assurance to deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage during his visit to Islamabad recently.

Reacting to Gen Musharraf's comments in 'Newsweek', a US embassy spokesman in New Delhi said, "Deputy secretary Armitage was given assurances by Gen Musharraf on June 6 that ending of infiltration across the Line of Control would be permanent."

The US embassy spokesman, however, did not comment on whether Gen Musharraf's comments constituted a retraction of his earlier stand or a denial of his commitments made to the US.

Even as the US reacted to the military ruler's claim, Gen Musharraf asserted in another interview to *The Independent* that Kashmir was "another Palestine in the making" and that the world should "understand the dangers of this region".

Gen Musharraf denied that he had been induced to smother the Kashmiri 'jihad' at Mr Armitage's insistence and "threats". "We had a congenial and good interaction where he understood exactly our point of view. No, there has been no threat whatsoever. There was no question of a threat." The paper noted that a bitter mockery entered his voice when he spoke of the conciliatory steps taken by India. "Cosmetic," he snorted. "They are easing their own problems."

New Delhi termed the general's claims "verbal calisthenics" and warned that if

he reneged on his pledge to end cross-border terrorism permanently, India would have to take a "closer look" at what needed to be done.

An external affairs ministry spokesperson reiterated that Pakistan had committed itself to fighting terrorism. "This is an unambiguous and clear commitment lending itself to no other interpretation," she said.

"It has been conveyed to us (by Washington) in categorical terms that a commitment about permanently ending the infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control had repeatedly been given by Gen Musharraf. Despite some occasional verbal calisthenics by Pakistan, this is the commitment that remains undiluted," she said.

● See Edit: General Attack, Page 14

Pak may open its skies to India

Islamabad: Pakistan on Monday said it was considering a proper response to India's opening up of its airspace for Pakistani aircraft.

When asked whether Pakistan would respond to India's gesture, foreign ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said, "A proper response to this is being considered." But he gave no indication as to when the ban would be lifted.

Following a visit by US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage, India had announced on June 10 that Pakistani aircraft could resume flights over Indian airspace, lifting a ban imposed in January after the terror strike on parliament. Agencies

25 JUN 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Pak should accept LoC as border, says US senator

By Vasantha Arora

Washington: A leading US Senator has said if New Delhi is disposed to making substantive changes in its Kashmir policy, Islamabad should be willing to accept the Line of Control (LoC) as the India-Pakistan border.

Senator Joseph Biden (Democrat), chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, said: "If India is willing to make substantive changes in its policy towards Kashmir, Pakistan must be willing to accept the LoC as a border and end its support for insurgency."

He said Islamabad should be more realistic about Jammu and Kashmir, whose ownership it disputes, as "in any conventional war, the Indian Army could rout the Pakistanis."

Addressing a conference titled "US-India Synergy: Future of our Economic and Political Partnership" and hosted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) here on Tuesday, Mr Biden said: "And what should India do?"

"India, as the aggrieved party, has responded appropriately during the current crisis. It was wise to show restraint... In the medium and the long-term, India will have to find a way to regain the true allegiance of the people of Kashmir. "Eventually, India must seek a creative approach — perhaps a return to some form of autonomy of the 1950s. Perhaps it will be something wholly new.

"I'm not here to offer any solution. If I had an answer, I'd have won the Nobel Prize by now. "One thing I can tell you — the US won't try to impose a solution... We'll facilitate discussions, if we're asked by both sides. But any solution will have to be hammered out by the parties themselves."

About the easing of the India-Pakistan military standoff, Mr Biden, who had just returned from his trip to Afghanistan, said: "It looks like we've dodged a bullet for now. But unless we use this time of crisis to address some of the root causes of the conflict between

India and Pakistan, we'll have to confront the very same dangers over and over again." Mr Biden said Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf can greatly decrease tensions if he'd merely fulfils the promises he made in January and "puts the terrorists out of business and keep them out of business".

Gen Musharraf is "a military man, so he knows that in any conventional war, the Indian Army could rout the Pakistanis. Let's face it — Pakistan's record against India over the past five decades has not been one of military success. In the long term, Pakistan has got to become more realistic about the future of Kashmir." He said, "The sectarian violence in Gujarat is an absolutely unacceptable blight on India's good character," adding "as a friend of India, I cannot look at what has happened in Gujarat over the past few months and remain silent."

Sen Biden said: "About 2,000 people have been slaughtered in mob violence there, often — whether you like to hear it or not — with the collusion of local officials. Well over 100,000 victims have been driven from their homes, seen their businesses destroyed. Whole communities have been decimated, the bonds between the Hindu and Muslim torn apart." According to official figures, however, around 950 people have been killed in violence in the western state since February-end. Mr Biden said the horrific killing of dozens of Hindus by Muslims at Godhra being used as an excuse for the subsequent killing of many hundreds of Muslims by Hindus is "just plain wrong."

"No matter what the provocation, nothing justifies the slaughter of innocent women and children. That's certainly not the legacy of that most famous son of Gujarat, Mahatma Gandhi. If he were alive today, he'd find a way to rouse his countrymen. He'd urge them to refrain from vengeance, just as he did during the fight against the brutal oppression of imperialism more than half a century ago." IANS

20 JUN 2002

Powell cites blast to push pre-emptive action plan

16/6 Karachi case for US strikes

June 15: As the FBI joined Pakistani police to hunt for possible al Qaida links to yesterday's car bomb blast outside the US consulate, America cited the Karachi attack to build its case for pre-emptive strikes against hostile states and terrorists.

Secretary of state Colin Powell said if he had any inkling of the car bombing outside the consulate in Karachi, which killed 11 people, "should I have acted pre-emptively? You bet".

"To the extent that you can prevent those actions, it is a sensible thing to do. Recognising that there is a burden on those who take pre-emptive action to be able to show the world that there was basis for the action, that it made sense, that it protected innocent people and the response was consistent with the kind of threat that was being presented," he added.

Powell, who has been favouring pressure short of military action, added that the strikes, once ordered, must not be half-hearted. "If you have a pre-emption option, a target, you should do it in a way that removes the threat, that is decisive," Powell said.

The renewed articulation of what is known as the "Powell Doctrine" — use force with caution but overwhelm opponents if action is taken — comes in the middle of menacing signals to Iraq and frantic American efforts to ensure that India does

not launch strikes on territory held by Pakistan. But Powell warned of the perils of pre-emptive strikes, saying intelligence was not always reliable.

President George W. Bush was less restrained than Powell. In an address at West Point, Bush argued that "if we wait for threats to fully materialise, we will have waited too long". Bush said he would take action against "mad terrorists and tyrants".

In Karachi, witnesses said FBI officials visited the bombing site today. "They also took photographs and made a video of surrounding areas and the spot of the bomb attack," a witness said.

The police had not ruled out a possible link to al Qaida, though an obscure group, Al-Qanoon, has claimed responsibility.

Pak defence outlay up

Pakistan has gone against the wishes of its aid donors and raised defence spending by Rs 15 billion, saying the bill could not be curtailed in the face of tension with India.

Finance minister Shaukat Aziz said defence spending would be 3.6 per cent of the gross domestic product in the new budget and warned that it could go up more if the border standoff dragged on. The aid donors have recommended defence spending be cut to 3.3 per cent of GDP.

WITH LAT-WP AND AGENCY REPORTS

THE TELEGRAPH

16 JUN 2002

America under attack in Pak

US from
5-15-76
IDREES BAKHTIAR
AND AGENCIES

Karachi, June 14: Nine months after September 11, America again came under attack — at the home of its most prized ally in the war against terror, Pervez Musharraf.

Delivering their most audacious strike yet on the Musharraf-George W. Bush alliance, extremists today ignited a car bomb on the doorstep of the US consulate in Karachi and killed at least 11 Pakistanis.

The attack, less than a day after US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld left the country, sent shock waves through US diplomatic circles as it breached one of the most fortified buildings in the city.

A spokesman for the American embassy in Islamabad said no foreigners or staff at the consulate were killed, though a US marine and five Pakistani employees sustained minor injuries when struck by flying debris.

Immediately after the attack, which occurred around 11.15 am local time, the US embassy and the American Center in Islamabad were closed to the public. The embassy and all US consulates in Pakistan will remain shut through the weekend, a state department spokeswoman told Reuters.

Twenty people outside the consulate were wounded by the blast, which left a crater several

feet deep, destroyed a guard post and part of a concrete wall surrounding the building. It also blew in the windows of the consulate and surrounding buildings, including the upmarket Marriott Hotel next door, destroyed around 20 cars and scattered body parts 100-200 metres down the road.

A previously unknown group calling itself "Al-Qanoon" claimed responsibility for the explosion. In a message to media offices in Pakistan, it said the bomb was the start of a "jihad" against America and Pakistan's rulers. "America, its allies and its slave Pakistani rulers should be prepared for more attacks," the message said.

In Houston, Bush reacted with outrage. "These people, if they think they are going to intimidate the United States, they don't understand the United States of America," he said. "They claim they're religious people and they blow up Muslims. They have no regard for individual life."

The target may have been America, but the immediate fallout could be on Musharraf. The blast will strengthen the hands of the President's critics who have been claiming that he is losing control.

The *Wall Street Journal* referred to possible threats to Musharraf from within the army ranks and militant groups that view the military regime's "narrow" on insurgency in Kas-

hmir as "abject betrayal". "Of course it's a backlash," Hamid Haroon, publisher of *Dawn* newspaper, told a TV channel.

India joined the rest of the world in condemning the bombing. "It is a very sad and a very regrettable incident that we condemn fully," foreign minister Jaswant Singh said.

Police said the blast looked similar to the May 8 attack outside another nearby hotel in Karachi that killed 11 French engineers and two Pakistanis. A police official said Karachi police had received a tip-off a week ago that another suicide blast was imminent. Today's blast is the fourth attack this year apparently aimed at foreigners.

Police cordoned off the area and later closed all roads leading to the consulate and the Marriott Hotel.

"Parts of two bodies are still at the place of the incident," a police official said. "We believe one of the two, whose parts are still there, is a suicide bomber."

Police said they believed the bomb was in a white high-roofed Suzuki van, which was being driven past the consulate at the time of the attack. The van was blown to pieces and the bonnet and engine catapulted six or seven metres away into a tree.

Kario, a cyclist who suffered injuries, remembered smelling smoke all around him before falling unconscious. "I felt like a mountain had fallen on me," he said.

THE TELEGRAPH

15 JUN 2002

'Musharraf has promised to dismantle terrorist camps'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 11. The United States has received assurances from the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, that he would not only cease infiltration across the Line of Control but also dismantle terrorist camps. "Two weeks ago we got assurances from President Musharraf that he would cease infiltration activity across the Line of Control...And then the Deputy Secretary, Armitage, over this past weekend got further assurances that the cessation activity would be visible and would be permanent and would be followed by other activities that had to do with the dismantling of the camps that led to the capacity to conduct these kinds of operations", the Secretary of State, Colin Powell said.

In remarks at the Asia Society Annual Dinner, Gen. Powell said that he was "very pleased" that India received this assurance from Gen. Musharraf and used this to start taking additional moves that relieved tension.

Gen. Powell listed the steps taken by India, including the naming of the new High Commissioner to Pakistan and expressed the hope that Gen. Musharraf would give further indication of how welcome these moves from India had been.

"This is a step down the ladder. There is more to do. We are still in a period of crisis. The situation is still very tense. We will remain engaged", Gen. Powell said.

"And as we have said to both Indian and Pakistani leaders, the United States will remain engaged working with the international coalition to find a way forward, to find a way to begin discussions between the two

sides, to begin dialogue," Gen. Powell said.

"All sides" now saw that infiltration and attacks across the Line of Control had changed in terms of intensity; and the rate of shelling had also abated. "And so we're pleased at this progress, but there is still a long way to go and I can assure you tonight that the United States will remain engaged. President Bush has given us a top priority and instructed us to do everything we can to find a way forward that will lead to stability and peace, and not to war", Gen. Powell said.

The Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, back from a trip to the subcontinent, has said that India now agreed with the West that infiltrations were down and hoped that the credit would be given to Gen. Musharraf.

"I was able to talk, I think convincingly, with our Indian colleagues about the fact that both the U.S. and Great Britain find that the infiltrations are down and it seems now that Indian intelligence agrees with

us," Mr. Armitage said in an interview on PBS Newshour.

"We value the assurances that President Musharraf gave to the U.S. Government, in effect to the President of the United States. We think he will exert every effort to stop the infiltration. I think even the most ardent nationalists on the Indian side would say that President Musharraf cannot stop everything, but that he needs to be seen as exerting every effort in his capacity. And I think we'll see that," Mr. Armitage remarked.

He said that while American mediation was not on the cards right now, the crisis in Kashmir had placed it on the international agenda as never before. "And there will be a lot of international attention to attempting to find a resolution to the question."

On the issue of monitors on the Line of Control, Mr. Armitage said that a number of proposals were being discussed, including the ones put forth by India and Pakistan. "I don't see a need for U.S. monitors."

Musharraf asks for more

ABU DHABI, JUNE 11. Asserting that Pakistan had done "far more of its share" to reduce the Indo-Pak. tension, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today said it was for India to take "substantive actions" by resuming dialogue on Kashmir and other bilateral issues.

"Pakistan has done far more of its share of easing tension," Gen. Musharraf told a press conference here while terming as "a very small beginning" the Indian move to lift the overflight ban on Pakistani aircraft and withdrawal of its warships from the Arabian Sea.

"We expect substantive actions from the Indian side now" to initiate dialogue on Kashmir and other issues, he said before flying to Saudi Arabia on the second leg of his two-nation tour. Gen. Musharraf said the steps taken by India seemed to be reasonably good but contended that it took those steps in its own interest. "Keeping the Navy on high seas is very costly even for India and anyway that was not bothering Pakistan." — PTI

✓ 'NO VERIFIABLE EVIDENCE ON AL-QAEDA PRESENCE'

India, Pak. need to talk: Rumsfeld

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 13. Ignoring Pakistani protests, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, today said that America had a "good deal of scraps" of intelligence about the presence of Al-Qaeda terrorists in Kashmir, emphasising that he expected Islamabad to crack down on their network if there was any "actionable intelligence".

Winding up his visit to India and Pakistan with talks with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, here, Mr. Rumsfeld brushed aside Islamabad's suggestion that Washington should do more to help lower the Indo-Pakistan tension and emphasised that the two countries need to resume their dialogue.

Addressing a joint press conference with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, the Defence Secretary said that the current military standoff was "very stressful for forces to be maintained for long periods on high alert".

Mr. Rumsfeld's remarks on Wednesday in New Delhi that there were indications of the Al-Qaeda operating in areas near the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir dominated the



The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar (left), with the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, at a joint press conference in Islamabad on Thursday. — AFP

press conference as Pakistan denied his claim, terming it as "absolutely incorrect" with no substance.

Asked about the basis of his statement in New Delhi, Mr. Rumsfeld said "I think what I said in U.S. and on this trip in earlier stops is what I know of the facts. The facts are that I do not have the evidence and the U.S. does not have evidence of Al-Qaeda in Kashmir. We do have a good deal of scraps of intelligence that come in. Peo-

ple saying that they believe Al-Qaeda are in Kashmir or in various locations. It tends to be speculative, it is not actionable, it is not verifiable... So far as I know that is the situation."

Commending Pakistan's cooperation in the fight against the Al-Qaeda in Afghanistan, Mr. Rumsfeld said he had no doubt in his mind that Pakistan would act if there was any actionable evidence against Al-Qaeda activities in Kashmir.

Dismissing as "absolutely in-

correct" Mr. Rumsfeld's remarks on Al-Qaeda, Pakistan's Defence spokesman, Maj. Gen. Rashid Qureshi, earlier said it appeared that the U.S. official had been carried away by Indian propaganda.

Mr. Rumsfeld appeared blunt in refusing to draw any distinction between terrorists and freedom fighters as Pakistan would term the militants in Kashmir. "Anyone targeting innocent civilians are terrorists, regardless of what they and their backers describe them," he said without mincing words, when asked whether he could make a distinction between a freedom fighter and terrorist.

Brushing aside Mr. Sattar's request for more U.S. help in removing the threat of war, Mr. Rumsfeld said "there is no magic wand in this world... In the last analysis people and countries sort out their own problems. They can do it with some help... but problems get sorted out on the ground".

On military de-escalation, Mr. Rumsfeld said "we expect force reduction" but let India and Pakistan take a decision in this regard as they were "sovereign" countries. — PTI

THE HINDU

4 JUN 2002

Pervez keen to end intrusions says Armitage

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, June 7. — The most significant and categorical "assurance" to date that General Pervez Musharraf intends to "permanently" stop infiltration of terrorists into India came today from the US Deputy Secretary of State, Mr Richard Armitage. According to senior officials, he told the top leadership of the Indian government that the results would be visible on the ground "in a matter of days."

At the end of his day-long meetings with Indian leaders, Mr Armitage said he was convinced that India wanted to avert a war but was determined to put an end to cross-border terrorism.

"They (India) do not want a war and we share that view," Mr Armitage said, after a 35-minute meeting with Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee. The National Security Adviser, Mr Brajesh Mishra, was present at the talks in which, according to officials, the State Department official assured that General Musharraf intended to end cross-border infiltration.

Though "significant" in itself,

the Indian government will, however, not be content with mere assurances and will verify these claims on the ground before re-

Sattar quits on 'health' ground

NEW DELHI, June 7 — The Pakistani foreign minister, Mr Abdul Sattar, today resigned from the Musharraf government citing "unstable health", according to reports from Islamabad.

The Pakistani foreign office confirmed that Mr Sattar had put in his papers. Although Mr Sattar quitting the government was being talked about for some months now, the timing is significant, coming amidst the current Indo-Pak standoff. — SNS

Details on page 6

sponding, officials said. Initial responses could be in the nature of reopening air, rail and bus links or other diplomatic measures.

Troops deployed along the border would not be scaled down before India sees a more compre-

hensive action on the terrorist network (not just infiltration), including closure of terrorist training camps, ending their financial support systems and the state patronage. Pakistan would have to stop promoting terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Once there was a verifiable end to this terror network, India would not be found wanting in reciprocity.

The proposal for Indian and Pakistani troops to jointly monitor the LoC to verify the authenticity of any end to infiltration came up in Mr Armitage's talks with Mr Mishra and with Mr LK Advani and Mr Jaswant Singh.

After his meeting with Mr Armitage, Mr Singh said: "The Prime Minister has suggested joint patrolling as an answer to cross-border infiltration." And "it is not as if joint patrolling is going to be established tomorrow, it is evolutionary, it is an answer to a problem and that is what one should work towards."

The proposal, according to the MEA spokesperson, "is predicated to a lessening of infiltration," and is "practical, doable and workable."

Turn to page 6

Searching for peace, Musharraf tells Armitage

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 6. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today assured the United States Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, that he would not initiate a war with India and was "searching for peace".

"President Musharraf has made it very clear that he is searching for peace and he won't be the one to initiate a war," Mr. Armitage told newsmen here after meeting the Pakistani President.

Terming Gen. Musharraf's statement "a very good basis to proceed with", Mr. Armitage said, "I will be hopefully getting the same type of assurances tomorrow in Delhi."

The two discussed the current situation on the border in the light of the telephonic conversation between the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and Gen. Musharraf yesterday and the latter's statements on cross-border infiltration in India. The U.S. envoy said Gen. Musharraf made it clear to him that nothing was happening across the Line of Control (LoC) from the Pakistani side.

Mr. Armitage said the United States would continue discussions to search for peace and lower the Indo-Pak tension. He also held separate talks with the Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, and the Foreign Secretary, Inam-ul Haq.



The U. S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, with the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, in Islamabad on Thursday. — AP

To a question on the deployment of United Nations monitors on the LoC, he said, "the Indians have dismissed it. The United States is discussing all sorts of monitoring without any prejudice."

A report in *The Independent* today said the United States would propose a joint U.S.-British military monitoring force on the Indo-Pakistan border in an attempt to defuse the threat of war between the neighbours. The U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, would put forward the proposal for a

"verification force" when he visits the sub-continent next week, the paper reported.

Mr. Armitage said he was looking forward to his New Delhi visit to continue discussions with the Indian leadership. He will arrive in New Delhi tomorrow and is expected to hold talks with the Home Minister, L.K. Advani, the External Affairs Minister, Jaswant Singh, the Defence Minister, George Fernandes, and the National Security Adviser, Brajesh Mishra. He is also expected to call on the Leader of the Opposition, Sonia Gandhi.

His two-nation visit comes at a time when the international community is making all out efforts to convince India and Pakistan to avoid a war and resolve their differences by peaceful means.

The U.S. President yesterday urged Mr. Vajpayee and Gen. Musharraf to "choose the path of diplomacy and take steps that will ease tensions in the region and reduce the risk of war".

Mr. Bush reiterated to Gen. Musharraf that the U.S. expected Pakistan to live up to the commitment made to end all support for terrorism.

Sattar wants to quit

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, has requested the President, Pervez Musharraf, to relieve him of his duty citing health problems, media reports here today said.

Mr. Sattar underwent a surgery last month for chronic nasal complications.

The surgery is said to have left him weak due to the three-hour long anaesthesia and the strong medication he is being administered for recovery, the English daily *Dawn* reported.

—UNI, PTI

THE HINDI

07 JUN 2002

US double blow to Musharraf

US-Pak
HT-1 1/6

HT Correspondents

*Washington/Islamabad/
New Delhi, May 31*

PERVEZ MUSHARRAF might have tried his best to get across the message that he has put a stop to infiltration, but the US establishment isn't impressed. "We are deeply concerned. The situation hasn't improved," Secretary of State Colin Powell told a TV interview yesterday.

Speaking much on the same lines, a Bush Administration spokesman was quoted in a US daily as saying: "President Bush puts the onus of easing the tension along the border on Musharraf. The US has evidence that the General hasn't followed through in recent days on commitments made to US and British officials to end the movement of militants into Kashmir."

Powell's rap was just as strong. There's clear evidence that the leaky border hasn't been plugged despite Musharraf's assurances, he said. "I hope the General will live up to his latest pledge. He has given an undertaking again, and this one sounds more positive. We hope he's taking necessary steps and giving the orders to put an end to the problem."

The US has been taking a serious view of the way the nuclear twins have slid towards a conflict situation and has urged Americans in India to leave. It has authorised the departure of "non-emergency embassy staff".

"Tensions have risen to serious levels and the risk of intensified military hostilities between India and Pakistan cannot be ruled out," a State Department release said today. There are 60,000 Americans in India and a few thousand in Pakistan.

Soon after, UK and New Zealand followed suit.

At home, the Pakistan People's Party took potshots at the General, when its leader Benazir Bhutto accused him of allowing militants to regroup on Pakistani soil. Before September 11, the Musharraf regime nursed and groomed armies of the zealots. Consequence: They've spun out of control. They murdered Daniel Pearl when the General was visiting the US. They struck at the Indian Parliament. They attacked a church in Pakistan.

The General's decision to pull out troops from the Afghan frontier and divert them to the border with India too has raised deep concerns in the US. "More than 30,000 soldiers have been diverted from the Afghan front to the Indian border over the past two weeks and this is disturbing enough," a US Administration official said. The Pakistani decision could force major changes in American military strategy in Afghanistan.

The buildup on the border was reflected in further escalation of shelling. Since last night, the Pakistani artillery has been pounding Indian positions along the Line of Control and the international border.

Gun battles were reported from Kargil and Dras, Kalsian, Bhawani and Jahangir. Two jawans were killed in the shelling.

Home Minister L K Advani, who was close by at Leh, breathed fire at Islamabad. "This is undeclared war and we'll exercise all options to come out on top," he told a gathering. "We don't want war, but definitely want to emerge victorious in this undeclared war."

AVOID 'DANGEROUS CONFRONTATION'

Return to the table, 1975 Rocca tells India, Pak.

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MAY 15. At the end of her two-day trip to the subcontinent to find ways of weaning India and Pakistan away from a "dangerous confrontation," the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Christina B. Rocca, made a forceful appeal to New Delhi and Islamabad to return to the negotiating table to settle their differences.

In contrast to the outright condemnation of Tuesday's terrorist attack on the Army camp near Jammu and outrage at incidents of violence targeting India in New Delhi earlier in the day, Ms. Rocca made no reference to the attack at her press conference after a meeting with the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf.

It was a tightrope walk for Ms. Rocca at the 30-minute press meet. She characterised India and Pakistan as "friends" of the U.S. and said her country respected their "concerns." All she said was that the U.S. was in a position to "assist and find ways to end the dangerous conflict."

In response to a specific question on whether she raised the issue of "cross-border terrorism," in her discussions with Gen. Musharraf, Ms. Rocca said she would not like to go into the details of her talks with the Pa-



The Pakistani President, Pervez Musharraf, with the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Christina Rocca, in Islamabad on Wednesday. — AFP

kistan Government. "I would say all issues of confrontation on both sides of the border were discussed."

Refusing to characterise her visit as a success or failure, she merely said one trip was not enough to realise the objective and Washington would continue to encourage both the sides to sit down and talk. Without dialogue there could be no progress on any front.

Ms. Rocca read out a carefully-worded statement before answering questions. It said "the purpose of my visit to the region is to explore ways in which India and Pakistan can move away from the dangerous confrontation that has characterised (the region) for the last

several months.

The U.S. enjoys friendly and cooperative relationship with both the countries. We respect their concerns.

"We are in a position to assist and find ways to end the dangerous confrontation. We have great respect for Gen. Musharraf for his commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom and the international fight against terrorism... incidents like the Karachi suicide bombing, attack on World Trade Center and Parliament attack in New Delhi. We have to demonstrate that we are all together in this fight. Together we will triumph."

Earlier she called on the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar.

THE HINDU

15 MAY 2002

Stop cross-border terrorism, U.S. tells Musharraf

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: President George W. Bush and key U.S. officials have asked Pakistan's military ruler Pervez Musharraf to lay off cross-border terrorism against India to create conditions for a meaningful dialogue between the two countries, a senior administration official disclosed on Thursday.

"President Bush has personally told Gen Musharraf and the U.S. ambassador in Pakistan also keeps telling him to stop cross-border terrorism before there can be any meaningful dialogue," the official told a group of Indian and Pakistani correspondents in a background exchange remarkable for its candour.

The official freely used the expression "cross-border terrorism," and implicit in his comments was an endorsement of New Delhi's long-standing charge that Pakistan was waging a proxy war against India, a position not often acknowledged in public by U.S. mandarins.

However, the official also indicated that the

American advice was having a salutary effect and Pakistan was changing its policy. Typically, cross-border infiltration decreases every winter but this year it is "noticeably down," he said.

The official also suggested the administration had reason to believe Musharraf had rolled up the ISI cells responsible for activities in Afghanistan and Kashmir, an event widely reported in the media but officially denied by Pakistan.

"We are in a new day. Pakistan has to make strategic changes, not tactical one. There is no place for cross-border terrorism and even Gen Musharraf has agreed to that," the official said.

He said, "Is it (cross-border terrorism) down to zero? No. But it needs to get there. That is what the president (Bush) is saying." Asked what would happen if Gen Musharraf rejected U.S. advice and continued with Pakistan's aggravating policies, the official candidly remarked, "We take him at his word. We will be with him if he acts. If he plays games, then there will be a problem."

Seemingly agreeing with the proposition that

a downturn in terrorism could lead to resumption of the political process and normalisation in the state, the official, who cannot be named under rules previously agreed upon, expressed the administration's keen anticipation of the forthcoming elections in Jammu and Kashmir. He hoped all parties, including the Hurriyat, would contest the polls.

"But the elections needed to be free and fair and the government of India should also permit the Hurriyat leaders to travel freely since they are Indian citizens," he said.

There was less clarity on the administration's position on the prospective election in Pakistan with the official not committing to any specific views on Gen Musharraf's continuation in office and the eligibility of former prime ministers Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif to contest the polls.

Other remarks by the official suggested that the Bush administration would continue to lavish both attention and aid in an effort to wean Pakistan away from what is widely seen here as a disastrous decade of faulty policies.

MAR 2002

U.S. envoy to Pakistan asked to return home

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: The American ambassador to Pakistan, Wendy Chamberlain, has been asked to return home after less than a year in Islamabad because of the disruption to her family life caused by the security situation there.

Ms Chamberlain, who is a single mother, has been frequently separated from her school-going daughters China (14) and Jade (12), from the time she moved to Pakistan last summer.

The girls went to Islamabad last August to be with their mother and study there but were evacuated in September following the 9/11 catastrophe. They returned to Islamabad in January but were evacuated again after the March 17 church bombing that killed a female U.S. diplomat and her daughter.

Administration sources confirmed that Ms Chamberlain, who is a career foreign service officer, had asked to be recalled and she was looking for other positions in the state department. She has been in Washington for the past fortnight but is returning to Islamabad on Tuesday to be there for the referendum, and possibly, wind down.

Ms Chamberlain's recall will seriously undermine U.S. diplomatic activity in a country where the American ambassador enjoys enormous clout, unparalleled access, and is often referred to as the viceroy of the country.

Compounding her exit will be the departure also of Michelle Sison, the deputy chief of mission in Islamabad, who is completing her tour of duty and returning to Washington.

In fact, the U.S. embassy in Islamabad and the consulates in Karachi, Lahore, and Peshawar have been gradually depopulated with dozens of U.S. personnel being recalled due to the deteriorating security situation in the

country. The missions are now running on emergency skeletal staff, not counting the spooks and spies operating in the war on terrorism.

The situation is considered so serious and detrimental to U.S. diplomatic interests that the evacuation and its fallout was on top of the agenda during assistant secretary of state Christina Rocca's second visit to Islamabad in a fortnight, only a week after she rushed there in the wake of the church bombing.

Pakistan has criticised the pull-out, saying it is sending out the wrong message to the world and driving away whatever little foreign aid and investment it was anticipating as an ally in the war against terrorism.

But state department sources say it is becoming increasingly difficult to serve in Pakistan, not so much because of the security situation as the frequent displacement due to the evacuations and redeployments. "Clearly, it has caused a great deal of disruption and does not lead to a happy family situation for U.S. diplomats there," one official said.

The state department's South Asia bureau, which has for long been an orphan and the smallest of the regional bureaus, is suddenly having to accommodate many of the returning diplomats. The bureau, which has a strength of around 30, recently added a six-member public affairs office comprising mostly of those returning from Pakistan.

Unrelated to the evacuation, the department is also getting a second deputy assistant secretary in the form of Don Camp, a former national security council official who has moved over to the state department is currently officiating in that position. It is also getting a second senior advisor in the form of Lisa Curtis, a political appointee, to counsel the bureau on economic issues.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 MAY 2002

U.S. virtually challenges Pakistan referendum

By VASANTHA ARORA

WASHINGTON: The U.S. appears to be casting a shadow of doubt on the validity of a law promulgated by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf to hold a referendum for extending his rule for another five years.

The law that lays the basis for holding the referendum bars courts from looking into its validity.

Responding to a question whether President George Bush has endorsed Musharraf's move to hold the referendum, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said, "It is our understanding that Pakistan's Constitution allows for referenda."

But, in the same breath, Mr Fleischer said, "We believe the constitutionality of this particular referendum should be open to review by the country's courts."

The Bush administration had hitherto adopted an ambivalent position on the referendum, refusing to publicly state whether it is in conformity with democratic norms. State Department officials said it was up to the Pakistani judiciary to determine its constitutionality.

Apparently, the latest stance by the White House is in conflict with that of Musharraf.

The ordinance that the military ruler had promulgated to hold a referendum on his presidency specifically lays down that the provision cannot be challenged in any of the country's courts.

According to observers, the U.S. stand is bound to help Musharraf's political detractors who had already given a call for boycott of the referendum.

Pakistan's two major political parties, Pakistan People's Party (PPP) and the Pakistan Muslim League (PML), are actively campaigning against the move, though their leaders Benazir Bhutto and Nawaz Sharif (both former prime ministers) are still in exile.

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Qazi Hussain Ahmed has moved the supreme court in Pakistan, urging declaration of the referendum for election of the president uncon-

stitutional.

Pakistan's Constitution does provide that the President, in his discretion, can refer any issue of national importance to referendum. The implication, however, is that any issue that has been left out of the Constitution, could be resolved through a direct mandate from the people.

But Musharraf, South Asia experts point out, has twisted its interpretation to seek his election through a referendum, ignoring the specific provision in the Constitution that lays down a well-defined procedure for the election of the President for which there is an electoral college comprising the national assembly, the Senate, and all the four provincial assemblies.

Thus, there is no provision in the Constitution for the election of a head of state and Musharraf's move is extra-constitutional, they maintain.

While explaining the U.S. stand, White House spokesman Ari Fleischer also said restoration of democratic civilian rule is a central goal of the U.S. and is critical to Pakistan's political and economic development.

It is important that Pakistan follow constitutional procedures as it pursues this

process, with the legality of particular actions such as a referendum on the continuation of President Musharraf's term in office to be decided by the courts, as required.

The White House reaction came a day after an editorial in *The Washington Post* criticised the U.S. ambivalent stand on the issue, arguing that it has emboldened Musharraf to pursue an undemocratic course.

"It's unlikely the general would be attempting it unless he believed he had earned the indulgence of a grateful Washington," the newspaper said.

Highlighting the opposition of the referendum by Pakistan's educated elite — political parties, media and other civil institutions, the daily said "the Bush administration should tell Musharraf he is wrong." (IANS)



The Bush administration had hitherto adopted an ambivalent position on the referendum, refusing to publicly state whether it is in conformity with democratic norms

U.S. asks Pak to curb infiltration in Kashmir

By Vasantha Arora (11.17)

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has asked Pakistan to curb militant infiltration and urged restraint in India's Jammu and Kashmir, apparently to facilitate resumption of New Delhi-Islamabad talks.

"We hope India and Pakistan will agree to resume dialogue on all issues, including Kashmir, and we are urging Pakistan to curb militant infiltration and urge restraint in Kashmir," U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state for South Asian Affairs Donald Camp said Wednesday. Addressing a gathering at the Johns Hopkins University, Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies Foreign Policy Institute, he said: "We are encouraging India to address Kashmiri grievances and ensure the widest possible participation in upcoming state elections." Mr Camp said India and Pakistan could only resolve their differences through direct dialogue. "We can encourage, but they must act."

He said the U.S. was urging both sides to lessen the danger of war by toning down rhetoric, restoring full diplomatic relations and reducing military postures. American ambassadors in the region had been active on these issues and "you will have noted the active involvement as well of Secretary (of State Colin) Powell and the President (George W. Bush)," he added.

Nearly a million Indian and Pakistani troops have been deployed along the long, winding borders of the two countries following the December 13 attack on India's Parliament, creating tensions that experts fear could trigger war. Amid all the change in the region since September 11, he said one thing had remained a constant. "This is the ever-broadening and strategically important U.S. relationship with India." He recalled Bush had made it clear when he first came to office that improving ties with India was a top priority, and that had not changed. "We continue to promote intense cooperation with India on a broad array of issues. They range from economic dialogues and business ventures to collaboration on new international strategic and security frameworks to countering terrorism."

Camp said: "A series of meetings between our defence officials is setting the stage for a more robust military partnership. U.S. priorities for the joint Defence Planning Group (DPG) — which met last December — include renewing military-to-military ties; resuming a defence supply relationship; and working together to promote strategic stability in the Asia-Pacific region over the long-term.

"We already are working toward many of the aims outlined during the DPG meeting." (IANS)

U.S. favours general elections over referendum in Pakistan

By ELA DUTT Washington saw potential new partners in South Asia. "Since the beginning of the war on terrorism, we have cooperated closely with Pakistan and renewed the bonds between our two countries."

Apart from Afghanistan, he noted, "India is another country in which we are engaged in a dynamic new relationship. The Bush administration came in saying we need to do more with India and we do."

The administration also sees the recent efforts for a rapprochement between Pakistan and Afghanistan as a positive development. "It is clear that the Pakistanis are obviously concerned that a government that is its neighbour has sign- mucking around," he claimed.

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The administration also sees the recent efforts for a rapprochement between Pakistan and Afghanistan as a positive development. "It is clear that the Pakistanis are obviously concerned that a government that is its neighbour has sign- mucking around," he claimed.

"There has been great mending of fences between Pakistan and (Hamid) Karzai, if only because Karzai is almost the last Pashtun leader left standing in Kabul," said Anatol Lieven, senior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"But the mutual distrust and loathing between Pakistan and the Panjshiris is such that any reconciliation between them will be almost impossible for the foreseeable future," he contended.

Mr Lieven also described as disastrous recent statements by U.S. army commanders that they might have to chase some Al Qaida or Taliban soldiers across the border into Pakistan. Mr Lieven recently returned from a visit to the region.

"It would be seen as a dire humiliation both to Gen Musharraf and to Pakistan. It would gravely endanger the lives of Westerners in Pakistan and make cooperation against terrorism much more difficult. The U.S. must push and help Pakistan to do this for itself," he said.

By December last year, after the unexpectedly rapid collapse of the Taliban in the main cities, the war in Afghanistan looked as good as over, Mr Lieven said. "Today, things appear very different. The main leaders of Al Qaida and the Taliban remain at large, as do many of their followers."

He voiced dangers of a return to civil war and the possibility of the Al Qaida and the Taliban going back to the Pashtun provinces. (The Asian News Service)

Bush must force Musharraf to hold polls: NYT

BY VASANTHA ARORA

WASHINGTON: The U.S. must pressure Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to eliminate the Inter Services Intelligence's (ISI) links with terrorists in Kashmir and hold elections in Pakistan, *The New York Times* says. President Musharraf seems to be slipping in the crackdown on terrorists and the U.S., which continues to support the military leader, should be alert to a possible backsliding, the paper said in an editorial.

The *Times* said President Musharraf should not seek to legitimise his military rule with a referendum. "President Musharraf's plan to try to legitimise his military rule with a referendum this year is unacceptable and should be discouraged by Washington. He needs to hold free and fair elections."

President Musharraf has promised to hold democratic elections in October. Although the Pakistani leader arrested 2,000 terrorists, and cooperated with the U.S. in finding the culprits involved in the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, he "must accelerate his efforts to purge the ISI of links with terrorist



George W. Bush and Pervez Musharraf

groups operating in Afghanistan, Kashmir and within Pakistan."

Pearl was kidnapped in Karachi in January while on the trail of sectarian groups in Pakistan. His abductors later sent the authorities a videotape that showed him being brutally murdered.

Acting against these groups, the paper said, "is likely to generate opposition to President Musharraf within the army and, some say, could endanger his life. He has no choice but to change the direction of his troubled nation and its military establishment."

"Dissident elements of the ISI have to be rooted out, and the agency has to end its support of Islamic insurgents in Kashmir and cease intimidating Pakistani civilian politicians."

The daily complimented President Musharraf on his 'impressive record' of going after groups linked to terrorism. But because of the continuing ability of terrorists to strike back with such actions as the attack last Sunday on a Protestant church in Islamabad and Pearl's murder, President Musharraf at times appears not to be doing enough. (ANS)

Omar Sheikh trial on April 5 in Karachi jail

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR

Karachi, March 29: Omar Sheikh, the accused in the kidnapping and murder case of *Wall Street Journal* correspondent Daniel Pearl, will be tried in Karachi jail on April 5, and the chances of an in-camera trial cannot be ruled out.

Omar Sheikh, released from an Indian jail in December 1999, was brought to the Sindh High Court, along with three others, amid very tight security.

The prosecution today submitted the final chargesheet against him, special prosecutor Raja Qureshi said, after a brief hearing by the judge in his chamber.

While the judge was waiting to assign the case to a special anti-terrorism court, the home department of Sindh province issued instructions for holding the trial in Karachi jail. Qureshi said it has been done in view of the sensitivity of the case and security of the accused.

When asked whether it would be an open trial and journalists would be allowed to witness and report the proceedings, Qureshi said that the law provides for an in-camera trial. But the decision has to be taken by the government and the court would be informed accordingly. Observers believe that the trial might be held in-camera and a notification is likely to be issued soon.

Daniel Pearl was kidnapped on January 23 from Karachi, and an e-mail sent to various newspapers a couple of days later showed him in captivity, with a man holding a pistol to his head. The police arrested four persons on February 5 for sending the e-mail.

The arrested persons, according to the police, said they had sent the mail on the instructions of Omar Sheikh.

Omar was arrested from Lahore, Punjab, on February 12. However, while appearing in court, he said he had turned himself in on February 6. Pearl was later murdered. A video released later showed a man killing Pearl.

In the final chargesheet, names of 15 more prosecution witnesses were added, including officials of the FBI and the regional security officer of the American consulate at Karachi.



Omar Sheikh smiles while talking to policemen in Karachi on Friday. (AFP)

and experts from Pakistan Television, Karachi centre.

Omar's father, a resident of London, was also present in court. Talking briefly to this correspondent, he said his son is innocent.

"He is a caring person and in a famous reported case he had risked his own life to save the life of a woman who had fallen on the railway track in central London," he said, and asked how such a person could take anyone's life.

THE TELEGRAPH

30 MAR 2002

Suspect faces death sentence, trial to begin on March 29

Omar charged in Pearl case

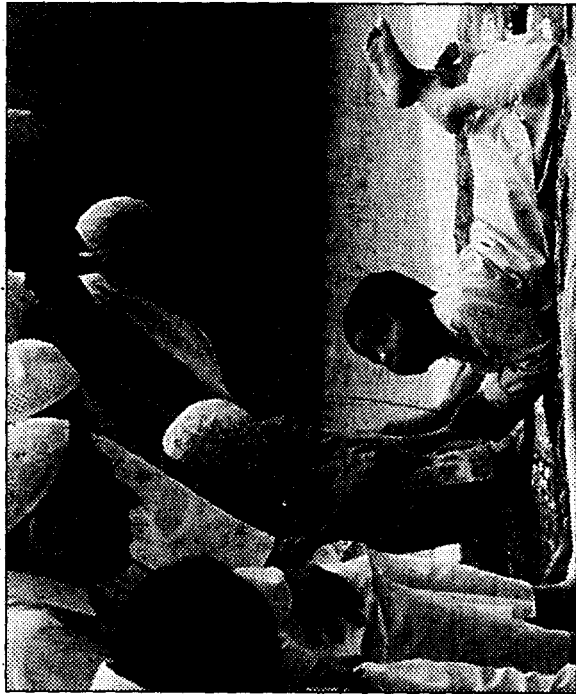
WS *QSA*
Karachi, March 22 (Reuters): Four suspects, including British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, were charged in a Pakistani court today with the kidnap and murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl, the chief prosecutor said.

"All the four accused have been charged with kidnapping for ransom, murder and terrorism," Raja Qureshi, chief prosecutor for the province of Sindh, said outside the courtroom in Karachi. "These charges carry a normal sentence of death."

Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl was abducted in Karachi on January 23 while trying to contact radical Islamic groups and investigate possible links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network. Although his body has never been found, his kidnappers released a graphic video showing Pearl being murdered.

Earlier Omar and fellow suspect Sheikh Adil were whisked into an Anti-Terrorist Court in Karachi, capital of Sindh, in an armoured police truck amid tight security. Police said the two other suspects, Salmaan Saquib and Fahad Naseem, had confessed to their role in the kidnap before a lower court earlier this month and had not been required in court today.

The case is seen a key test of



A boy looks up at devotees praying at a Sunni mosque in Islamabad on Friday. (Reuters)

Pakistan's resolve in dealing with suspected Muslim hardliners as part of its role in the US-led war on terror. Omar has also been indicted by a US court on one count of hostage-taking and one of conspiring to take hostages resulting in the death of Pearl.

But Pakistan's government has said it would only consider extraditing him once its own trial is complete.

Qureshi said the judge had

emails demanding ransom," Qureshi said.

During the hearing, at least 500 police officers surrounded the court building as others with high-powered weapons surveyed the scene from rooftops. Paramilitary rangers were also out in force.

Police blocked off the usually busy roads around the court and the gate to the building with some two dozen vans.

"It's a high-profile case and we have stepped up security because of the incidents of terrorism in Karachi, Lahore and Islamabad over the past two weeks," a senior police officer said.

Born in 1974, Omar is the son of a wholesale clothes merchant from Wanstead in northeast London who went to an expensive school but dropped out of one of Britain's top universities, the London School of Economics.

In 1994, Indian police arrested Omar and accused him of involvement in the kidnapping of three Britons and an American tourist.

Omar and two other alleged militants were freed from an Indian jail in 1999 in exchange for 155 hostages held on an Indian airliner hijacked to the southern Afghan city of Kandahar.

India has also accused him of involvement in the September 11 attacks on the United States.

Hand over 20 terrorists to India: U.S.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 22. The United States has asked Pakistan to hand over to India the 20 terrorists sought by New Delhi or try and convict them in Pakistan.

"We have asked the Pakistanis to hand these terrorists over to India or try them in their own country and convict them. That is very important. That will lead to a reduction in tensions," the Director (in-charge) of South

Asia at President Bush's National Security Council, Harry Thomas, told the Indian community leaders here.

"We will work hard at it," Mr. Thomas told members of the National Federation of Indian-American Associations, the Association of Indians in America, the Indian American Forum for Political Education and the Overseas Friends of Bharatiya Janata Party, during a special

briefing at the Executive Office Building of the White House here. Pointing out how the terrorist attacks on the State Legislature in Jammu and Kashmir and the Parliament changed the whole Indo-Pakistan situation, Mr. Thomas said, "Our highest priority right now is to keep India and Pakistan from going to war. A war is unthinkable. It will be devastating for the global campaign against terrorism."

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23 MAR 2002

U.S. worried about Musharraf's ability to control terrorism

By Ela Dutt

WASHINGTON: The U.S. remains concerned about Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's ability to bring terrorism under control.

Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) director George Tenet said this while addressing the Senate Armed Services Committee on Tuesday, where he also expressed concern over threat of a nuclear confrontation on the India-Pakistan border.

President Musharraf, he noted, had established a clear and forceful distinction between a narrow, intolerant, and conflict-ridden vision of the past and an inclusive, tolerant and peace-oriented vision of the future in his January 12 speech to the nation.

"Incidents like the murder of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl, however, highlight the challenges that Mr Musharraf faces in his efforts to crack down on Islamic extremists," Mr Tenet noted.

Although September 11 highlighted the challenges that India-Pakistan relations pose for U.S. policy, the attack on the Indian Parliament in December was even more destabilising — resulting as it did in new calls for military action against Pakistan, and subsequent mobilisation on both sides, Mr Tenet said. He also expressed concern about the U.S. losing its strategic advantage as satellite technologies proliferate, including in the

hands of countries like India and China.

In a global analysis that spanned all areas of national security concern, Mr Tenet said Chinese firms remain key suppliers of missile-related technologies to Pakistan, Iran, and several other countries.

"This is in spite of Beijing's November 2000 missile pledge not to assist in any way countries seeking to develop nuclear-capable ballistic missiles", he said.

"We are closely watching Beijing's compliance with its bilateral commitment in 1996 not to assist unsafeguarded nuclear facilities, and its pledge in 1997 not to provide any new nuclear cooperation to Iran", Mr Tenet warned.

Chinese firms have in the past supplied dual-use chemical weapons-related production equipment and technology to Iran. "We remain concerned that they may try to circumvent the chemical weapons-related export controls that Beijing has promulgated since acceding to the CWC and the nuclear non-proliferation treaty."

"Although Beijing joined the coalition against terrorism, it remains deeply sceptical of U.S. intentions in Central and South Asia", and fears the U.S. is gaining regional influence at China's expense.

Mr Tenet also warned that weapons of mass destruction (WMD) programmes are becoming more advanced and effective as they mature. (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

21 MAR 2002

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Pak. determined to eliminate terrorism, Franks told

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 19. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today told the visiting Commander of Central Command, Tommy Franks, that his Government was determined to eliminate the menace of extremism within Pakistan and was firmly committed in the fight against international terrorism.

Gen. Franks, the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Christina Rocca, and the American Ambassador to Pakistan, Wendy Chamberlain, called on Gen. Musharraf and exchanged views on a wide range of issues, including the situation in Afghanistan.

Though the visit of Gen. Franks, who was touring the region, was scheduled before the church carnage in Islamabad on Sunday, his discussions assume special significance in the wake of terror attacks and sectarian violence, presumably by activists of banned outfits.

Reports from the U.S. said the President, George W. Bush, and Gen. Musharraf spoke briefly over telephone and vowed to work together to hunt down the culprits behind the attack.

An official statement said Gen. Franks thanked Gen. Musharraf for his support in the fight against terrorism and said both countries required continued commitment and resolve to fight terrorism and crimes.

The regional situation with particular reference to military, political and reconstruction issues in Afghanistan came up for discussion and it was agreed



The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, with the Commander of the U.S. Military's Central Command, Tommy Franks (second from right), and the U.S. Ambassador, Wendy Chamberlain, in Islamabad on Tuesday. — AFP

that all were inter-linked and reinforced each other.

The Chairman, Joint Chief of Staff Committee, Muhammad Aziz Khan, the Vice-Chief of Army Staff, Mohammad Yousaf Khan, and other senior Government officials were also present.

Earlier, Gen. Musharraf presided over a top-level meeting of provincial Governors and police chiefs to take stock of the law and order situation in the country in the wake of the recent

attacks.

IG removed

In a bid to send out a message to the officialdom that the Government would not tolerate the kind of incidents witnessed in Islamabad on Sunday, the Government removed all the top police officials in the capital city, including the Inspector-General of Police.

On Monday, the Government announced two high-level committees to probe into the inci-

dent and determine the security lapses that led to the carnage. They have been told to submit their report within the next three weeks.

In a related development, unidentified gunmen riding a motorcycle shot dead three persons in Lahore. According to reports, the assailants gunned down a scholar, Attaur Rahman, and his driver as they arrived at an institute in the central district of Jain Mandar at around 8:15 a.m.

Bush blames terrorists for attack on church

WASHINGTON: An outraged U.S. President George W. Bush has condemned the grenade attack on a church in Islamabad as an act of murder that cannot be tolerated or justified.



George W. Bush

Mr Bush blamed terrorists for the attack and vowed to bring to justice all those responsible for the dastardly act, which killed two Americans and three others and wounded 45.

"I am outraged by the terrorist attack that took place Sunday in Islamabad, Pakistan, against innocent civilians. I strongly condemn it as an act of murder that cannot be tolerated by any person of conscience nor justified by any cause," he said. "On behalf of the American people, I extend my deepest sympathy and condolences to the families of the victims of this terrible tragedy, and I wish a fast recovery to those injured. We will work closely with the Pakistani government to ensure those responsible for this terrorist attack face justice," Mr Bush added. (ANS)

Church attack targeted at Americans: Pak media

Monday has ordered a committee to probe the attack while summoning a high-level meeting on Tuesday to review the internal security situation.

Provincial governors, police chiefs, heads of all intelligence agencies and other law enforcement agencies will attend the meeting. It will take place a day after the president discusses the internal security situation with senior military commanders.

The Islamabad incident

which had been stepped up after the September 11 terror attack and the January kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl. An added factor was that with the 10-day mourning period of Muharram having begun, Islamabad, like all other major urban areas, was under high security, supported by the military.



Pervez Musharraf

But in spite of all this, "two persons were able to penetrate the security screen and hurl grenades on worshippers," said an

While criticising the intelligence for security lapse in Islamabad, the daily Jamaat-e-Islami chief Qazi Hussain Ahmad while condemning the incident said the involvement of a foreign hand could not be ruled out. "But the ultimate responsibility was of our security agencies," he said.

Chief of Pakistan Muslim League's breakaway faction Mian Azhar said the act was aimed at sabotaging the interests of Pakistan.

U.S. ambassador Wendy Chamberlin has reiterated Washington's determination to continue the war against terrorism, saying the campaign could not be threatened by such terrorist attacks. (ANS)

U.S. cautions Americans

WASHINGTON: The U.S. on Monday issued a worldwide caution to its citizens, warning of an increased risk of terrorist attack against U.S. interests and advising Americans to "remain vigilant".

"The U.S. government continues to receive credible reports that extremist individuals are planning additional terrorist actions against U.S. interests. Such actions may be imminent and include suicide operations," the state department said.

"We have no further information on specific targets, timing or method of attack," the statement continued. "We remind American citizens to remain vigilant with regard to their personal security and to exercise caution." (AP)

was high on the agenda of the editorial comment in *The News*. It said the attack comes as a warning that "there can be no real security in Pakistan."

The paper said the ease with which the attack took place is sur-

Experts have expressed their concern at security arrangements, which the attack took place is sur-

Pak media

prising and needs to be explained by the law and order authorities.

The *Nawz-e-Waqt* daily said that the attack was aimed at Americans and not Christians. It said security personnel responsible for guarding the area should be taken to task. The Urdu-language paper in an editorial said these acts are an indication of a renewed wave of "foreign-sponsored subversion and terrorism in Pakistan." They should wake up the country's agencies to their duty to protect life, honour and property of the citizens, it said.

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U.S. ambassador Wendy Chamberlin has reiterated Washington's determination to continue the war against terrorism, saying the campaign could not be threatened by such terrorist attacks. (ANS)

Pakistan consults Britain on U.S. demand for Omar Sheikh

—By Muhammad Najeeb

ISLAMABAD: Pakistan is consulting Britain on the extradition to the U.S. of Omar Saeed Sheikh, arrested in connection with the kidnapping of American journalist Daniel Pearl, a senior government official said. "Since he is a British national, we are in the process of consulting with them (British authorities) on the possible extradition of Sheikh," the official said.

He confirmed that the U.S. had asked Pakistan to extradite Sheikh as he had confessed to a crime involving a U.S. citizen.

The official, however, said the extradition would take place only after the recovery of Pearl's body. "His (Sheikh's) presence here is imperative to trace his accomplices and the body."

Reports said U.S. Ambassador Wendy Chamberlin had sought Sheikh's extradition in a meeting with President Pervez Musharraf on Tuesday. A government spokesman said the ambassador "thanked the president and the Pakistani government for their excellent cooperation on law enforcement, including regarding the Pearl case."

Mark Wentworth, spokesman for the American embassy, said:

"Chamberlin raised the subject (extradition of suspects) with Musharraf but I don't have anything further." He added that the ambassador had "encouraged further progress in the case."

A government official said all aspects of the murder, including the hunt for suspects and court proceedings were reviewed at the meeting. Security agencies have convinced Musharraf that Sheikh must stay in custody for some more time to help investigations.

Sheikh said Pearl had been murdered before his death was confirmed last week. *The Wall Street Journal* reporter was abducted from Karachi in January. His abductors last week sent authorities a videotape that showed him being brutally murdered.

This is reportedly the second time America is asking for the extradition of Sheikh. The U.S. secretly indicted Sheikh last year for his role in the 1994 kidnapping of a U.S. citizen in India. The issue came up on several occasions at foreign office briefings in the past weeks, but officials here said Sheikh should go through the legal process in Pakistan before being extradited. (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

THE TIMES OF INDIA

28 FEB 2002

US may get tough with Pak after Pearl's death

S Rajagopalan
Washington, February 22

THE ABDUCTION and execution of Daniel Pearl has turned the spotlight on Pakistan's loud claims about its crackdown on terrorism.

The grisly episode is bound to accentuate American pressure on Islamabad to go the whole hog against terrorists of all persuasions.

News of the macabre killing of the young and well-liked journalist has filled Americans with revulsion. Reflecting the national mood of shock and anger, President George W Bush vowed to "rid the world of these agents of terror".

"Those who would threaten Americans, those who would engage in criminal, barbaric acts need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and only deepen the resolve of the US to rid the world of these agents of terror," Bush said in Beijing before heading home at the end of his six-day Asian tour.

The Pearl execution is being seen as a major embarrassment for President Pervez Musharraf,

who had indicated to the US that his sleuths were close to cracking the case. The US had earlier been lulled into complacency with Islamabad reporting the arrest of over 1,000 terrorists.

Musharraf, during his recent US visit, was in a bit of a spot because of a swirl of conflicting reports on Pearl's fate.

A day after his meeting with Bush, he had to contend with disconcerting reports from home as kidnapper Omar Sheikh said that as far as he knew, Pearl was dead.

Further embarrassment was in store for Musharraf when Sheikh revealed that he had surrendered a week before his supposed arrest on the eve of the Pakistani leader's US visit.

Musharraf, however, scotched these reports at a National Press Club interaction, insisting that Sheikh was in the habit of going back on his statements.

In its first reaction to Pearl's execution, the State Department has not found fault with Islamabad.

It has admitted that the Pakistani authorities have made "every effort to locate and free

Mr Pearl". But political observers believe the Musharraf regime will come under sustained pressure from Washington.

A question being asked is how Sheikh, a leading light of the Jaish-e-Mohammed, managed to remain at large when the Pakistani authorities had claimed to have gone the whole hog against all terrorists.

A *Wall Street Journal* reporter said the murder was "an act of barbarism that makes a mockery of everything that Danny's kidnappers claimed to believe in...They claimed to be Pakistani nationalists, but their actions must surely bring shame to all true Pakistani patriots".

Pearl's family, who had been hoping he would return safely, said in a statement: "Danny's senseless murder lies beyond our comprehension."

"Danny was a beloved son, a brother, an uncle, a husband and a father to a child who he will never know. A musician, a writer, a storyteller and a bridge-builder, Danny was a walking sunshine of truth, humour, friendship and compassion."

23 FEB 2002

Pearl murder likely to loosen US-Pakistan ties

New Delhi
22 FEBRUARY

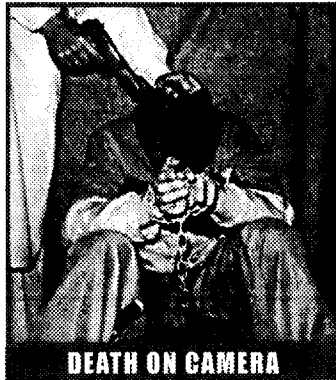
THE GRISLY on-camera execution of US journalist Daniel Pearl has turned the focus once again on Pakistan's jihadi establishment and the control or connivance by the military government in their activities.

The murder throws up a number of questions but the answers could prove acutely uncomfortable for Pervez Musharraf and his establishment. Among other things, it may have a significant fallout on US policy on Pakistan — was Musharraf misleading the US when he claimed that Pearl was still alive, or was he being misled by sections in his own government? Also, is the Pearl murder an isolated incident or is there a bigger design aimed at destabilising Musharraf and against US interests? For India, the events in Pakistan are a macabre vindication of its belief in the pervasiveness of the jihadis within the Pakistani system and that Musharraf's lack of action against terrorists signals his unwillingness to abandon the Kashmir "cause".

For starters, Omar Sheikh's "arrest" itself reveals the schisms within Pakistan's top brass, and raises questions about how much the Pakistani establishment was in the know. While the Pakistani establishment tomtommed his apprehension on February 12, on the eve of Musharraf's visit to Washington, it now appears that Omar had turned himself into the custody of Ejaz Shah, home secretary of Punjab and remained in the "care" of "non-police officials" for a whole week before the military establishment announced his

arrest. Indian intelligence sources believe there is credible evidence that this was none other than Pakistan's chairman, joint chiefs of staff, Gen Aziz Mohammed Khan. Musharraf's embarrassment in Washington was complete, for even as he was telling the press that he was "reasonably sure" Pearl was alive, Omar Sheikh was baring all to a Karachi court.

General Aziz Khan, one of Musharraf's closest colleagues over the years had been shunted out under US pressure in the first



weeks of the Afghanistan campaign. Given his known links and sympathies with jihadi groups throughout Pakistan, his apparent fore-knowledge of Omar's whereabouts and Pearl's fate as well puts a big question on whether he and Musharraf are battling on the same side.

This leads to a bigger question on whether Musharraf is really the man in control in Pakistan? It is a question US policymakers will be asking now, and is likely to have a serious impact on US policy on Pakistan in the near future. The US has taken a conspicuous "save-Musharraf" stance since he has consistently delivered to US

demands ever since Colin Powell's now-famous phone-call in mid-September and leading up to the famous January 12 speech.

But Washington sources have been increasingly perplexed at the lack of action by Musharraf against terrorists after the speech. According to Indian government sources, Musharraf's initial flurry of activity against jihadis came to a dead stop after January 16. India has also never really believed the US contention that Musharraf was the last hope against the jihadis. The glaring contradictions in the Pearl case may not be cause yet for Washington to dump Musharraf, but Musharraf has cause to be apprehensive about the findings of the FBI investigation into the Pearl murder (mandatory under US law) and what it will throw up in terms of the establishment's complicity in the jihad enterprise in Pakistan.

For India, the implications of the events in Pakistan are a little more tangential but important nevertheless. With the Jaish-e-Mohammed and Lashkar-e-Toiba now banned in the US and in Pakistan, according to indications available with Indian government, Pakistan was planning to use another Harkat-ul-Ansar (HUA) breakaway group Harkat-ul-Jehadi Islami (Huji) to operate against India in Kashmir.

This has been delivered a body blow, because, despite all attempts of Pakistan to pin responsibility for the kidnapping on JeM, it is becoming clearer that it may well have been a Huji enterprise. The death of an American will automatically put this group in the line of fire by Washington, perhaps even in its proscription. — Reuters

U.S. restores training programme to Pakistan military

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 17. The United States Vice-President, Dick Cheney, has said that programmes such as the International Military Education and Training, IMET, were useful and if they were cut off as a result of sanctions "we damage ourselves."

Citing Pakistan, the IMET programme of which was cut off in the aftermath of its nuclear tests in 1998, Mr. Cheney said it prevented a whole generation of middle-level Pakistani military officers from getting an exposure to the American ideas, values and training.

"...when we cut those programmes off, we damage ourselves... We used to have a great relationship with Pakistan in years past and then we went through a period where it was strained. And part of that, of course, was a disagreement between the United States and the Government of Pakistan in terms of their own developments — military developments in particular," Mr. Cheney said, addressing the Council on Foreign Relations on Thursday.

"And that was a classic case where we moved to impose a sanction — in this case shutting off that programme (IMET). And

the only losers from that is the United States. So we need to look at all of those kinds of propositions and make sure we're enhancing those relationships, not tearing them down," he said.

Mr. Cheney joined the others in the Bush administration to shower praise on the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, who concluded a three-day working visit to the U.S. "We had President Musharraf in town this week, a man who, obviously, has stepped up and made some very important and very courageous decisions which we're grateful for."

The reinstatement of the IMET programme was one of the things the U.S. and Pakistan agreed to, as part of enhancing their defence cooperation. Gen. Musharraf was apparently assured that all spares and equipment which were paid for but held back, under the sanctions regime, would find their way to Islamabad. Some of the equipment will be used to monitor the borders between Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Gen. Musharraf could not have been under the illusion that he could fly back with a squadron or two of F-16s on his return journey. The Bush administration has taken note of the Pakistani interest in the fighter

planes but is in no mood to act soon — particularly in an area which Gen. Musharraf himself sees as a "contentious one."

Gen. Musharraf's visit is being perceived here as having been "extremely good on atmospheric." But, it fell far short on the substantive front with respect to any military or economic package or the much-flaunted "mediation" between India and Pakistan on Kashmir. The Republican administration, has, on more than one occasion in the past week, brushed aside Gen. Musharraf's notions of "mediation" and "facilitation."

And the biggest achievement of his visit has been in the restoration of Pakistan's stature, which had taken a beating under the Clinton administration.

That Islamabad had regained its stature was evident when the U.S. President, George W. Bush, said at the White House with Gen. Musharraf beside him, "I am proud to call him a friend. I want to remind people from Pakistan that I didn't mention many world leaders in my State of the Union. But I mentioned President Musharraf for a reason. And hopefully that's an indication of my sincerity of developing a strong and meaningful relationship."

White House steps away from Pak claim

US mediation snub to Pervez

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Feb. 15: In a clear indication that the US would play hard-ball with Pakistan, the White House yesterday distanced itself from General Pervez Musharraf's claim of American support in Islamabad's current standoff with New Delhi.

Musharraf had not even said his farewells in Washington when national security adviser Condoleezza Rice stepped up to the White House daily briefing podium and spoke about the military situation between India and Pakistan. "The US is always prepared to help in any way but we don't believe this is something that mediation or facilitation is going to help."

In an endorsement of New Delhi's stand on the current state of India-Pakistan relations, Rice said "what will help is to have the two parties (India and Pakistan) decide it is time for dialogue, and we are encouraging that".

Only an hour earlier, Musharraf had told reporters at the National Press Club that the Bush administration had been responsive to his request to the US to facilitate a dialogue between New Delhi and Islamabad.

Throughout Musharraf's three-day stay here, the Pakistani official spin has also been that the US would do much more than in recent weeks to ensure that India and Pakistan started talking to each other.

This had prompted a sharp reaction from South Block's spokesperson yesterday: "As far as the questions that were raised in terms of the US being involved in mediation or in faci-

tation... are concerned, our views are very clear that this is a matter to be addressed directly between India and Pakistan. There is really no room for any other country to be involved."

Before leaving for Islamabad, however, Musharraf sought to paint a picture of US intervention by saying that secretary of state Colin Powell was "very much involved" behind the scenes in trying to defuse tensions with troops massed on the border.

Mediation or facilitation was not far from his mind either. "I am reasonably sure that when their (India's) election gets done and facilitation continues, they (troops) ought to be going back."

Rice said Bush administration officials who met Musharraf had given him credit for steps which had reduced tension between South Asia's belligerent neighbours. But Musharraf needed to travel further down the same road.

"We do believe some progress has been made, largely as a factor of what President Musharraf has been doing since his speech about a month ago, and we have encouraged him to continue to make progress," Rice said.

President Bush, she said, would discuss the South Asian standoff with President Jiang Zemin during his visit to Beijing next week.

"We do see a number of coun-

tries that are concerned about stability in South Asia that want to try to help to encourage dialogue, that want to avoid the kinds of tensions we had in South Asia in recent months, and we believe that is an interest that the Chinese share."

Musharraf told Pakistani reporters at the end of his visit that he was not going to hand over the 20 offenders sought by India. "I am not going to do their bidding," he was quoted as saying by the official APP agency.

"As for the withdrawal of troops from the borders... They have to go back. They will have to create their own face-saving."

There was no joint statement at the end of the General's visit which would have required Bush and Musharraf to explicitly spell out their respective positions on all issues, including those which Pakistan's President called "contentious".

The White House, however, issued a "fact sheet" which set out in detail the administration's decisions reached during Musharraf's stay here.

The highlight of these was a promise by Bush to work with the US Congress to provide Pakistan with about \$1 billion in debt relief in the next financial year.

Bush promised support for legislative elections which Musharraf plans to hold in October with an aid package of \$2 million in technical support, including the training of election commissioners, domestic observers and political party monitors as well as the provision of election commodities.

A \$100-million programme was announced for madarsa reform.

QUOTE

Terrorism was also a threat to a stable and secular Pakistan

CONDOLEEZZA RICE

THE TELEGRAPH

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'Mediation is the only choice'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 15. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has wrapped up his three-day official working visit to the United States by flaying India again for its "insincerity" in coming to terms with the Kashmir issue and arguing that the U. S. is the only country that can be in the business of mediation and facilitation.

"You ought to sit down sensibly and talk and resolve disputes. But if bilateralism does not work, if there is insincerity, then may I suggest that mediation and facilitation is the only choice and I believe in the Kashmir dispute that is the case. And the only country that can go for mediation and facilitation is the United States of America," Gen. Musharraf said at his luncheon remarks at the National Press Club here.

Gen. Musharraf was asked if Washington has been "responsive" to the request of mediation and if any progress was made during his talks here. "Yes, it has responded. And I know that President Bush and Secretary Colin Powell have been playing a role behind the scene to defuse the situation. And they are extremely keen that we move forward on a process of dialogue on all issues including Kashmir," Gen. Musharraf said.

He once again called for a four-part process for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute without rightaway getting down to the "ultimate solution": starting a dialogue, accepting the centrality of Kashmir as the dispute between the two countries, eliminating what is unacceptable to both sides and, finally, seeking a solution. "Let us not talk of a solution now", Gen. Musharraf said.



The tone and tenor of Gen. Musharraf's address to the press club was very much on the lines of his Tuesday's speech at the Woodrow Wilson Center, especially as it pertained to Kashmir, the U.S. role and tensions between India and Pakistan. And he created quite a stir that day by talking about information of nuclear testing by India.

He clarified that New Delhi had not carried out new nuclear tests. "...I said we got reports-they fired off a missile...And we got reports that they may be testing-going in for a nuclear test also. One didn't understand why they had to test their missiles at this moment. I mean, it's not totally not understandable. Is it to coerce us or is it to tell the world that here is a big power which does not care about world concerns", Gen. Musharraf asked.

Turning to the tensions along the India-Pakistan border, he argued that India's ex-

cuse was of the terrorist attack on the Parliament. "The excuse that there was an attack, terrorist attack on Parliament, of which we haven't got any evidence, should not have been taken (as) an excuse for this brinkmanship, for this knee-jerk response of moving forces on the borders and creating a climate of possible war between two countries holding nuclear potential. This is brinkmanship at its worst," he said.

Gen. Musharraf said that Pakistan did not have the 20 terrorists that India was insistent on being handed over. "...this is a very complicated issue. There are a lot of terrorists. This game has been going on between India and Pakistan for all these (years) in the past...they(India) restricted the history of this to a few years, five or six years. But we would like to then go back into history. So this issue of terrorists being handed over by Pakistan or by them needs to be addressed when we start negotiating on all disputes, including Kashmir," he said.

The Pakistani President acknowledged that he had not received any assurance from the Bush administration on the F-16 fighter jets that Islamabad would very much like to have. "...This is a contentious issue which we need to address. We would like to address it, but we haven't got any assurances yet", he remarked.

This apart, Gen. Musharraf said the two countries had reached an agreement on defence cooperation that includes reimbursement to the tune of \$ 300 million for Afghan operations, release of equipment and spare parts now that sanctions have been lifted and on International Military Education and Training. But on a broader scale, he was looking for assistance in the areas of debt relief, fiscal support and market access.

Pak., U.S. to firm up defence ties

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 14. The United States and Pakistan have agreed to re-establish the Defence Consultation Group for reviving their close military relationship, the U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, announced at the Pentagon after a meeting with the visiting Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, on Wednesday.

"We have talked of a number of ways of strengthening the military-to-military relationship between our two countries. The Defence Consultation Group is being re-established... and we look forward to strengthening the military-to-military ties," Mr. Rumsfeld remarked.

While the Bush administration has not spelt out the exact dimensions of the future military relations with Pakistan, Gen. Musharraf said he was looking forward to improved relations in all spheres. "... the relationship does not end today or it does not end with my visit... We look forward to addressing all our requirements as time passes... But there is a list of our requirements which we have discussed."

Asked about the "deal" that had been offered to Pakistan which had gone "out on a limb" to help the U.S., Mr. Rumsfeld was not specific. "As the President indicated, the

110-11 United States and Pakistan have what we consider to be a long-lasting relationship that is a strategic relationship. It is mutually beneficial. And we look forward to strengthening it in a variety of ways," he said.

There have been media reports of Gen. Musharraf being keen on getting the top of the line weaponry from the U.S. such as the F-16 fighter planes. Pakistan, the argument goes, wishes to get back to the F-16 package of the earlier era when money was paid but the planes were not delivered on account of Islamabad's nuclear programme. The Clinton administration, towards the end of its tenure, made sure that Pakistan was reimbursed.

On whether Washington would be redressing the "unbalance" in South Asia by way of military sales to Pakistan in the context of Russia agreeing to supply "more arms" to India, Mr. Rumsfeld would go no more than saying that both India and Pakistan were sovereign nations which had relationships with a number of countries and purchased weapons from them.

"And needless to say, the principal interest of the United States is seeing that those two countries are able to talk and manage their affairs in a peaceful way."

The high point of Gen. Musharraf's trip to

Washington was his White House meeting and lunch with the President, George W. Bush. The two leaders are said to have discussed a range of issues, including the current tensions between India and Pakistan. Gen. Musharraf has used every opportunity to highlight his known Pakistani stand on Kashmir, besides calling for third-party mediation.

Mr. Bush merely reiterated the long-standing U.S. position on the issue — India and Pakistan would have to sit down and hammer things out between themselves. "The only way this issue is going to be solved is if the Pakistani Government and the Indian Government sit down and have a serious, meaningful dialogue."

In what must have been reassuring to Gen. Musharraf, Mr. Bush said the U.S. was not looking for a "short-term dance" with Pakistan; it was rather hoping for a long-term relationship. "When we say we're committed, we're committed."

The American Senate, meanwhile, passed by unanimous consent a resolution welcoming Gen. Musharraf to the U.S. and commending his efforts in the war against terrorism. A similar resolution was passed by the House of Representatives by a voice vote on Tuesday.

SECRET

15 FEB 2002

Bush offers Pakistan \$250 m, but refuses to budge on F-16 deal

Times News Network & Agencies

WASHINGTON: Pakistan is set to receive more than \$250 million as a financial reward from the United States for its support to Washington's war on terrorism.

President George W. Bush on Wednesday wrote to Congress directing it to divert to Pakistan within 15 days \$220 million in emergency funds allocated to the departments of Defence and State for the war on terrorism. Mr Bush said Islamabad required the funds "for costs incurred in aiding U.S. military forces in 'Operation Enduring Freedom'".

A large portion of the money, upward of \$200 million, will be used to retire \$1 billion of the \$3 billion debt Pakistan owes the U.S.

An additional \$34 million has been earmarked for education reform in Pakistan, with at least \$100 million more to follow in the next four years.

The \$254 million aid is in addition to the \$250 million Washington has already committed for fiscal 2003 and brings U.S. direct aid to Pakistan to more than \$1 billion since September 11, including about \$600 million in fiscal 2002.

The aid is far less than what Pakistan had sought—retirement of the full \$3 billion debt plus additional grants—but U.S. officials held out hope that there would be more in the pipeline if Islamabad met further U.S. benchmarks.

The Bush administration also indicated that it was willing to resume a limited military-to-military relationship with Pakistan. Gen Musharraf visited the Pentagon on Wednesday evening for talks with U.S. defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld, who indicated that the U.S. was ready to return to the "pre-sanction cooperative arrangement" with the resumption of the defence consultative group between the two coun-

tries.

This assurance from the Bush administration is important for Gen Musharraf, who has to placate disgruntled Islamic elements back home by projecting that his backing of the U.S.-led war would help boost Pakistan's economic development and the U.S. would not abandon Islamabad. But, besides this assurance and the \$1 billion debt relief, Gen Musharraf failed to extract any promise from the Bush administration—neither on trade or on F-16 fighter jets sale.

Pakistan wanted the administration to release 28 American F-16 fighters sold to it in the 1980s when it was an ally against the Soviet Union. The U.S. Congress had withheld the planes after Pakistan developed nuclear weapons.

The U.S. administration made it clear on Wednesday that there was no going back on that decision. On trade, Mr Bush said he would allow an increased market access of \$142 million for Pakistani apparel imports—a lot less than the \$1 billion in trade concessions Gen Musharraf had sought to aid his country's ailing textile industry.

With regard to Kashmir, Mr Bush ruled out mediation if India did not want it. "Our hope is that we can facilitate meaningful dialogue between India and Pakistan. The only way this issue is going to be solved is if the Pakistani government and the Indian government sit down and have a serious, meaningful dialogue," the U.S. leader said.

Meanwhile, India on Thursday rejected the U.S. offer to "facilitate" resumption of talks between India and Pakistan and asserted that there was no room for third party intervention. It also said all outstanding issues between the two countries had to be addressed "directly" through bilateral dialogue.

CHEQUES AND BALANCES

- ▶ U.S. to resume pre-sanction military ties with Pakistan
- ▶ Offers to act as facilitator in Indo-Pak talks
- ▶ U.S. direct aid to Islamabad stands at more than \$1 bn after 9/11

ESM: Special Check-up, Page 8

THE TIMES OF INDIA

15 FEB 2002

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2002

A SUMMIT OF DEFINING SENTIMENTS

THE U.S. PRESIDENT, George W. Bush, seems to have reached out to the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, with much candour and some definitive sentiments about friendship and partnership. Inevitably, the Bush-Musharraf summit in Washington on Wednesday was an occasion for more than their evocative interpersonal diplomacy. Surely, the U.S. President lavishly praised his Pakistani interlocutor for exuding courage and vision as a leader of his country. Yet, the overall message was not in the mood alone. The ongoing U.S.-led international "campaign" against terror and Gen. Musharraf's supportive role in Afghanistan had set the stage for the meeting itself. It is in this context that Mr. Bush has outlined new parameters for a sustainable U.S.-Pakistan relationship in the future. With the intention of building afresh on the debris of some past U.S.-Pakistan alliances, Mr. Bush now wants to bring some strategic clarity to their ties. A lasting U.S.-Pakistan commitment to fight terror and ensure peace in the South Asian region can, in his view, help foster the new friendship between Washington and Islamabad from the present moment. It is against this diplomatic framework that the praise that Mr. Bush has showered on Gen. Musharraf should be seen as a factor in the newly evolving U.S.-Pakistan ties.

Gen. Musharraf appears eager to quell criticism that he might be transforming Pakistan, unwittingly or otherwise, into a satellite-state of the U.S. Not surprisingly, therefore, he has specifically asked Washington to "facilitate" a "peaceful solution" of the "Kashmir dispute" and "other differences" between India and his country. Significantly, Mr. Bush's response falls well short of this plea for a problem-solving mediation by the U.S. The American position, as spelt out during a post-summit cameo of public diplomacy, is that Washington can only "hope" to "facilitate" a "meaningful dialogue" between

India and Pakistan and that the U.S. will "encourage" such bilateralism and "press" for "real" parleys. America's reticence is understandable in the light of its broader foreign policy objectives as a global power and its transparent desire to try and strike a friendly equation with democratic and secular India too. Yet, if the U.S. is beginning to show a new sense of urgency in regard to Kashmir, the reason flows from the present crisis on the India-Pakistan border. Capitalising on the American thinking, Gen. Musharraf has called for India's military pullback to "peacetime locations" and an "early resumption" of India-Pakistan talks. The U.S., on its part, remains less insistent that New Delhi make such a first move. America's own reasoning seems to have something to do with a perception that Islamabad could also act in a manner that might inspire India to trust Pakistan. However, New Delhi can certainly help by considering de-escalation and a troop pullback with utmost urgency. It is not a good idea to keep India's troops in a prolonged state of alert and forward deployment as if on a chessboard. The possible psychological impact on the military's morale should not be lost sight of.

Unrelated to the present military standoff between India and Pakistan, whose troops are also massed on the border, is the possible rejuvenation of Washington's military cooperation with Islamabad. Although a new jump-start at this stage seems unlikely, India may need to look more at the relative medium-term indicators about the U.S.-Pakistan security relationship. With an international discourse on weapons of mass destruction boosting the aerodynamics of America's current strategic diplomacy, Gen. Musharraf has spoken of some fresh nuclear testing by India. However, with the U.S. indicating that it might view this as a political bogey, he could have done better than to put his credibility on the line over such verifiable issues.

THE HINDU

Wanted by US, left out of India's 20

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR IN
KARACHI AND PRANAY
SHARMA AND SEEMA GUHA
IN NEW DELHI

Feb. 12: As General Pervez Musharraf headed for Washington for talks with the US President, the man responsible for casting a shadow on his trip was arrested by Pakistani police.

British-born militant Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, chief suspect in the kidnapping of Daniel Pearl, a reporter for *The Wall Street Journal*, was held in Lahore today. He told the police Pearl was alive.

Omar, who was released from Tihar jail in 1999 along with Jaish-e-Mohammad leader Masood Azhar in exchange for the freedom of passengers of an Indian Airlines plane hijacked to Kandahar, is being brought to Karachi.

"During the initial investigation, he said Pearl is alive and he is in Karachi," the police said.

Pearl disappeared from Karachi on January 23 as he tried to make contact with Islamic radical groups and probe possible links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network.

The police did not reveal the circumstances of Omar's arrest, but said they had been rounding up his associates and raiding their houses in recent days.

"The police were putting pressure on his contacts," Tasneem Noorani, Pakistan's interior secretary, told Reuters. "He was picked up at 3 pm, he's being interrogated and he is in the pro-

cess of being taken to Karachi where he will be further interrogated."

"The chief suspect is with us and we're hopeful that will lead to the solution of the case," Noorani added.

The arrest comes as a boost for Musharraf as he arrived today in Washington on a three-day official visit. "We are pleased to hear about Omar Sheikh's arrest," a senior Bush administration official said, refusing to comment further for fear of jeopardising Pearl's release.

India, which has stepped up pressure on Pakistan for acting on its list of 20, sees Omar's arrest on the eve of the Musharraf-Bush meeting as a "diversionary" tactic. It feels the Pakistani leadership has got Omar arrested to ward off the pressure.

Contrary to belief, Omar does not figure on the list of India's 20 "most-wanted terrorists" Delhi had submitted to Islamabad late last year. Neither does the Indian government have any pending cases against Omar.

That did not stop Omar Abdullah, minister of state for external affairs, to say: "We would like him to be handed over to India in good faith."

Indian authorities are now trying to establish a link between Omar Sheikh and Aftab Ansari, the mastermind of the

attack outside the American Center in Calcutta who was deported from Dubai on Saturday.

Indications suggest Omar vanished from the Indian radar screen for a while — at least at the time it was submitting the list to Pakistan — and has staged a comeback to project Ansari as a big catch.

All charges against Omar were dropped when he was freed in 1999, and red-corner notices with the Interpol withdrawn.

Subsequently, Masood Azhar was charged with masterminding the October 1 attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly and later the Parliament strike on December 13.

He is one of the 20 terrorists whose extradition is being sought by India. But Omar, though a key member of Jaish, has escaped Delhi's attention.

"Omar Sheikh's arrest may be a good thing for the US, but we still want Musharraf to act on our list of 20," a senior South Block official said.

Today's development in Pakistan has provided India another opportunity to argue that if Islamabad wants, it can take terrorists in its custody.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said: "The latest development only confirms what we have been saying all along — that safe haven is being provided in Pakistan to such elements."

"We hope that Pakistan will take simultaneous action in apprehending the fugitives, criminals and terrorists whose names figure on the list of 20."

■ See Page 8

QUOTE

**He was a violent person,
into boxing**

OMAR'S FRIEND IN COLLEGE

THE TELEGRAPH

Musharraf's talks to focus on defence, trade ties

US. Pak
x10.9

18/2

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 12. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, who arrives here today from Boston on a three-day visit is expected to discuss a wide range of issues, including defence ties, economic assistance and future cooperation on the war against terrorism. The tension in the subcontinent will also merit a great deal of attention.

One expectation is that Gen. Musharraf will not keep Kashmir high on the agenda, but will try to impress on the Bush administration the need for Washington to get more involved. But the Republican administration, which generally frowns on getting involved in disputes, is aware of the sensitivities of third-party involvement, especially New Delhi's objections. For Gen. Musharraf, the environment in Washington is completely different from what he would have witnessed if he had come five months ago. Pakistan and its military ruler were berated at every available opportunity then. But after the September 11 attacks, the "most sanctioned ally" is now free of all punitive measures and he is undoubtedly looking for "more".

Even in terms of personal equation with the U.S. President, George Bush, there has been a sea change. At the time of the Presidential campaigning in 2000, Mr. Bush could not pass a foreign policy "quiz" which asked him to name the leader of Pakistan. "The new Pakistani General, he's just

been elected-not elected, this guy took over the office," Mr. Bush remarked. But now at every available opportunity Mr. Bush does not fail to shower praise on Gen. Musharraf.

The Musharraf visit is not going to be confined to just the atmospherics. The two countries are expected to take a number of steps on the road to putting a long-term and substantive perspective to the newly evolved bilateral relations. And, in his meetings at the White House, Gen. Musharraf is expected to emphasise issues pertaining to economics, trade and defence.

Pakistan's expectation, among other things, is for the administration to lighten up tariffs and quotas on textiles — something that is not sitting well in the domestic political arena. The thinking now is that Mr. Bush will use his authority to increase the quota, but leave the tariff structure intact. The trade package to Pakistan is being worked out, but the end product will have to address domestic concerns over and beyond "rewarding" an "ally" in the war against terrorism.

But it is the package on defence that will merit a great deal of attention. Resumption of military training for Pakistani troops and some military exercises that could be announced aside, the real focus is on what Gen. Musharraf wants — modern weapons and fighter aircraft — and Mr. Bush's response.

THE HINDU

13 FEB 2002

U.S. to pay Pak \$350m for backing anti-terror drive

ISLAMABAD: The U.S. will pay \$350 million in the first phase to Pakistan for the logistic support and services it provided to American forces in its war against terrorism.

An agreement to this effect, called "Pak-U.S. Acquisition and Cross Servicing Agreement (ACSA)" was signed here on Saturday between senior military officials of both sides.

"The agreement is



George W. Bush

designed to facilitate reciprocal provision of logistics support and services between the two armed forces, to be used primarily during combined exercising, training, deployments, operations or other cooperative efforts," an official announcement said. "Items permitted under ACSA include food, water, transportation, communications and medical services and also covers use of facilities, training services, repairs and maintenance."

Experts here see the ACSA as a sign of growing cooperation between Pakistan and the U.S. military. "One cannot make a correct assessment of the money which the U.S. has to pay to Pakistan since its forces started the operation in Afghanistan. But Pakistan will in all probability get \$350 million plus the cost of future logistics and services support," a report in *The News* daily quoted an official as saying.

The U.S. administration will not seek Congressional approval for making these payments to Pakistan.

Reports here say U.S. President George W. Bush is expected to offer a scaled-back package of trade benefits to Pakistan after lawmakers objected to Islamabad's more sweeping request.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf is scheduled to meet Mr Bush on Wednesday at the White House. "Mr Bush is eager to reward Gen Musharraf, who has provided critical support to the U.S.-led war against terrorism," said an Islamabad-based western diplomat.

Pakistan had asked Washington to suspend tariffs and quotas on textile and apparel products through the end of 2004. These products account for nearly 86 percent of total exports to the U.S., and industry has warned that without tariff relief, nearly half of the 3.5 to 5 million jobs in Pakistan that are dependent on textile and apparels could be lost. (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

1 1 FEB 2002.

Pakistan, USA sign defence deal

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 9. — Ahead of Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf's state visit to Washington, Pakistan and the USA today signed an agreement to enhance defence cooperation.

Under the agreement

called "Acquisition and Cross Servicing" the two countries will cooperate during combined military exercises, training, deployment, operations or other joint efforts.

The USA, under the pact, will be able to receive support such as food, water, transportation, communications

and medical services in support of American military operations in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

It also covers use of facilities like training services, repair and maintenance, an official statement here said.

The agreement was signed by Director of Logistics US army, Maj Gen Dennis

Jackson, and additional secretary of Pakistan's ministry of defence, Rear Admiral Irfan Ahmed on behalf of their respective governments in Rawalpindi.

The agreement comes just days before Gen Musharraf begins his US visit on 12 February. He has already left for Boston.

APPOII

THE STATESMAN

18 FEB 07

Delhi dumps Bush de-escalation deal

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Feb. 6: With one week to go before President George W. Bush receives General Pervez Musharraf in the White House, secretary of state Colin Powell has asked Pakistan's President to "round up terrorist organisations and do it in a way that will give India confidence".

Departing from his text prepared for delivery before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee yesterday, Powell demanded of Musharraf: "I hope he will

continue to take action to reduce incidents over the Line of Control."

Powell's clear-cut demands to Pakistan, diplomatic sources here said, follow India's rejection of a compromise package from the Bush administration which urged New Delhi to reduce the presence of combat air force planes close to the border with Pakistan.

The package was part of an effort by the Bush administration to ensure a tangible de-escalation on the military front so

that Bush could seek something in return from Musharraf on relations with India next week.

The package required India to end the "high alert" of forces in close proximity to Pakistan and denude air force bombers in the area of their weapons.

Sources here said Washington's expectation was that New Delhi would respond favourably to the proposal since Powell had not asked India to pull back its forces from the border either during his recent visit to South Asia or at any time thereafter.

But India told the US that there would be no change in its military preparedness until proof of Musharraf's sincerity in changing the course of events in the subcontinent was translated on the ground.

Producing results on the India-Pakistan front during Musharraf's visit here was not the only aim behind Powell's demands made at the Senate committee hearing. America wants to see that its interests in the terror war are not jeopardised by any fighting between the sub-

continent's irate neighbours. He said complying with these demands would ensure "that they (India and Pakistan) are both united in a campaign against terrorism, and not let it degenerate into a campaign against each other".

Praising Musharraf's "great courage and foresight" in conveying a decisive message to his country and to the Islamic world on January 12, Powell said: "Now he must show equal courage in implementing his concepts in Pakistan."

Surprisingly, the top foreign policy aide to Bush was generous in his praise of China's role in defusing India-Pakistan tensions, even hinting that Chinese Prime Minister Zhu Rongji contributed to this effort during his visit to New Delhi last month.

"China has played a constructive role in helping us manage over these past few weeks the very dangerous situation in South Asia between India and Pakistan," he said.

Powell said: "When I could call China's foreign minister Ta-

ng and have a good discussion, making sure our policies were known and understood, it made for a more reasoned approach to what was a volatile situation."

He surprised many China-baiter Senators by saying: "Beijing was not trying to be a spoiler but instead was trying to help us alleviate tensions and convince the two parties to scale down their dangerous confrontation — which now it appears they are beginning to do."

■ Hijack link in reporter kidnap, Page 4

THE TELEGRAPH

7 FEB 2002

Pakistan to extradite kidnaper suspect to US

Islamabad, February 4

PAKISTAN SAYS it's willing to extradite Muhrarak Ali Shah Gilani, alleged suspect in the kidnapping of US journalist Daniel Pearl, to America, a media report said today.

The decision is significant, for Gilani — despite his strong denials and inability to provide any tangible leads to locate the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent — has officially been charged with calling up top Indian officials before the kidnapping.

He would be extradited, for American authorities have given proof of his receiving \$4 lakh from some organisations in US, The Nation newspaper said.

There was no official reaction to the report here. Gilani's name shot into prominence after Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar alleged three days ago that Gilani called three important Indian officials before the scribe's abduction.

The accused has repeatedly pleaded not-guilty and hasn't been able to provide any specific leads to investigators on Pearl's whereabouts. He surrendered four days ago in Rawalpindi.

Yesterday, Pakistan's Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said that there was no conclusive proof yet of Indian involvement in the case, but his Government had some indications. Haider said he was not sure who Haider

had called in India.

The Pakistan police, meanwhile, stepped up its search for Pearl after a false alarm that his body had been found dumped on the outskirts of Karachi.

The Edhi Ambulance Service said it received a call shortly before midnight that a body had been dumped at Shorab Goth, 20 km outside Karachi. The dead man had been shot in the face.

"We rushed to the hospital and informed US consulate officials and the *Wall Street Journal*... They confirmed that the dead person was not Pearl," a Karachi Police officer said.

Investigators say their search had been expanded to all four provinces and they were examining possible links between the kidnappers and criminal gangs. "We are moving forward," the officer said. Pearl, 38, disappeared in Karachi on January 23 while trying to contact militant followers of Osama bin Laden. The abductors want to trade the Afghans held at the X-Ray prison in Cuba with the scribe.

Key suspect

Pakistan police believe a missing Muslim militant, Mohamad Hashim Gadeer, is a crucial link in the abduction of Pearl.

The *Wall Street Journal* reporter was using Gadeer alias Arif as a contact point to meet other Islamic militants in Pak-

istan, a senior officer involved in the investigation said. Police have dismissed claims by Arif's family that he died recently in Afghanistan.

When Pearl was last seen in Karachi 12 days ago he was going to meet Arif who was to take him to Mubarak Ali Shah Gilani, leader of the little known militant Muslim group Tanzeem-ul-Fugra, the officer said. "Investigations have shown Arif was acting as a go-between for Pearl and Gilani," he said.

Gilani was detained at Rawalpindi, near Islamabad, last Wednesday, and remains in custody although he denies any connection with the kidnapping.

The officer said it appeared Gilani was "used as a bait to trap the American journalist. Unwittingly he (Pearl) played into the hands of the kidnappers."

He said police continued to believe Pearl was still alive as the kidnappers' demands had not been met, and nothing has been heard from them since they extended the death-threat deadline last Thursday. "It seems that he is being held somewhere in Karachi," the officer said.

Arif is known to have had a long association with Harkat-ul-Mujahedin, whose accounts have been frozen and offices sealed in Pakistan after it was branded a terrorist organisation by the US last October.

Agencies



Yemeni soldiers train next to a Russian-made rocket launcher at the Marib military base 160 km east of Sana. Yemeni authorities said that they would cooperate with the US to crack down on al-Qaida and bin Laden supporters.

AP PHOTO

USA okayed Pak airlift

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. — Pakistani fighters helping Taliban and Al-Qaida, who were trapped in Kunduz in Afghanistan during the US action, were flown to safety despite denials by Washington, officials said.

The Pakistanis were flown in a series of night-time airlifts approved by the Bush Administration, unidentified US intelligence and military officials were quoted as saying.

But the supposedly limited evacuation apparently slipped out of control and, in an unintended consequence, an unknown number of Taliban and Al Qaida fighters managed to join the exodus, investigative journalist Seymour M Hersh quoting the officials said in *New Yorker* magazine last week.

Defence secretary Gen Donald Rumsfeld did not respond to a request for comment.

Pakistani President Gen Pervez Musharraf won US support for the airlift by saying the humiliation of losing a large number of Pakistani soldiers and intelligence operatives would jeopardise his political survival, the article said quoting an intelligence source.

"Clearly, there is a great willingness to help Musharraf," an official said.

A CIA analyst said it was his understanding that the decision to permit the airlift was made by the White House and was indeed driven by a desire to protect the Pakistani leader.

India knew of rescue

NEW YORK, Jan. 24. — India had prior information about Pakistan's airlifting of its nationals and Taliban fighters after they were cornered in Kunduz during American action in Afghanistan.

India, "wary of antagonising the Bush Administration", chose not to denounce the airlift at the time. "We had all the information, but we did not go public," an Indian military advisor was quoted as saying.

Diplomatic notes protesting the airlift were sent to the UK and the USA. Neither responded, investigative journalist, Mr Seymour Hersh quoted national security advisor Mr Brajesh Mishra as saying in an article in *New Yorker* magazine.

Mr Mishra reportedly said the Indian intelligence was convinced that many of the airlifted fighters would soon infiltrate into Kashmir. — PTI

The airlift "made sense at the time," he said. "Many of the people they spirited away were the Taliban leadership who Pakistan hoped could play a role in a post-war Afghan government."

"Musharraf wanted to have these people to put another card on the table" in future political negotiations, the analyst said adding American intelligence "were supposed to

25/1
have access to them, but it didn't happen" and the rescued Taliban remained unavailable to them.

The article quotes RAW's senior analyst for Pakistani and Afghan issues as saying the most extensive rescue efforts took place on three nights at the time of the fall of Kunduz. Once under way, the airlift became chaotic as "everyone brought their friends with them," a senior US defence advisor said, referring to Afghans with whom the Pakistanis had worked and whom they had trained.

The Bush Administration may have done more than simply acquiesce in the rescue effort. At the height of the standoff, it ordered US Central Command to set up a special air corridor to ensure safety of rescue flights from Kunduz to northwest Pakistan, about 200 miles away, the article said quoting a CIA officer and a military analyst who worked in US commando unit Delta Force, destroying Taliban units on the ground.

The order, it adds, left some members of the Delta Force unhappy and angered Northern Alliance leadership. The initial US aim in Afghanistan, the magazine said, had been not to eliminate the Taliban entirely but to undermine the regime and Al-Qaida while leaving intact the so-called moderate Taliban elements that would play a role in a new post-war government. This would have ensured that Pakistan would not end up with a regime on its border dominated by the Northern Alliance.

THE STATESMAN

Pak allows USA to use airport

Agencies

ISLAMABAD Jan. 23. — Amidst reports that the USA was pushing Pakistan to permit long term presence of American forces on its soil, Islamabad has agreed to provide Washington and its allies full operational facilities at the Karachi International Airport to make it the hub of the US-led peacekeeping operations in Afghanistan.

"An agreement in this regard is expected within a week while the operation will begin by the middle of February," Air Marshal (retired) Aliuddin, director general of Pakistan's Civil Aviation Authority told reporters at Islamabad.

"It is expected that 400 to 600 troops of 11 nations, that are part of the peace keeping forces in Afghanistan, will be using Karachi airport. These troops will not be stationed on a permanent basis but will be in the transit phase," Mr Aliuddin has been quoted as saying by Pakistan daily *The News*.

He said he was not certain how long these forces would use the facilities provided at Karachi Airport.

"However, the shortest estimated period is six months," Mr Aliuddin said.

News about the USA using Karachi airport followed reports yesterday that the USA had asked Pakistan to spare enough

land and grant necessary permission for it to build a permanent airbase in Pakistan's north-west Baluchistan closer to Afghan borders.

The report has been denied by Pakistan defence spokesman Maj Gen Rashid Qureshi yesterday as

Annan in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Jan. 23. — UN Secretary-General Mr Kofi Annan arrived in Islamabad today hoping to encourage dialogue between nuclear neighbours India and Pakistan as a fresh row again raised the spectre of conflict. He welcomed moves by Gen Musharraf to crack down on Islamic militants. — Reuters

baseless.

The reasons for Pakistan to permit the use of Karachi international airport, perhaps the biggest airport in the country was attributed to the partial take over of Jacobabad and Pasni airbases given to the USA by Pakistan Air Force, in the course of the current military standoff between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan has given four airbases to USA for use in Afghanistan.

Earlier reports said both PAF and US forces were co-sharing the facilities as PAF had moved

bulk of its fighter planes to two airports.

Also the decision to lend facilities at Karachi airport was defended on the ground that it would bring in a substantial amount of commercial and monetary benefits.

Deputy director general, Civil Aviation Authority, Mr Arshad Rashid Sethi told the newspaper that the use of Karachi Airport by peacekeeping forces would help in bailing out the CAA from a financial crunch.

"The Civil Aviation Authority has acted on purely commercial basis. We have nothing to do with the military aims of the peacekeeping forces," Mr Sethi reiterated.

To make necessary arrangements for US and Coalition forces to begin using the airport, a 25-member team of US and allies experts visited the Quaid-i-Azam International Airport, Karachi Port Trust and Port Qasim last week and reviewed other facilities of communications and lodging.

According to Mr Aliuddin, the peacekeeping forces earlier wanted to operate from Islamabad or Peshawar but the Civil Aviation Authority rejected the proposal as both airports are used jointly by Pakistan Air Force and civilian aviation and there is not enough space available on the civilian side for any largescale operation.

Iran asked to pay hijack victim

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. — Seventeen years after a US official was executed by the Hezbollah during a plane hijacking, a federal judge ordered Iran to pay \$42 million to the victim's family, *The Washington Post* said today.

The family of Charles Hegna, an auditor for the US Agency for International Development was awarded damages yesterday by US district judge Mr Henry Kennedy for his death in the 4 December, 1984 hijacking of a Kuwait Airliner en route to Karachi. — AFP

Afghan panel to monitor aid

Reuters

BEIJING, Jan. 23. — The Afghan interim government will set up an independent body to ensure transparency in doling out \$4.5 billion in international aid pledges to the war torn country, foreign minister Mr Abdullah Abdullah said today.

The body, comprised Afghans under the supervision of the interim government, would deal with authorities in the government and the international community, he said here.

"An independent body will be created to deal with the issue of accountability of the assistance," he said. "We think we should do everything to make things as clear, as transparent, as accountable as possible."

In Afghanistan, officials pledged to battle corruption amid concerns over how efficiently the billions promised by the world would be distributed.

THE STATESMAN

JAN 23 1985

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2071

Russia hopeful of new arms pact with U.S.

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, JAN. 19. Russia hopes to sign a new arms reduction pact with the United States this year despite serious differences that have emerged on the issue.

"I personally think the new accord to cut strategic nuclear weapons will be ready by summer because by that time the U.S. will have practically withdrawn from the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty," Anatoly Kvashnin, Chief of the General staff of the Russian armed forces, told reporters on Saturday.

Both Moscow and Washington have announced plans to cut their nuclear arsenals to 1,500-2,200 warheads each from the current levels of about 6,000 warheads, but Russian-American consultations on the proposed drastic cuts held earlier this week in Washington revealed wide-ranging differences on what should be done with the warheads slated for reduction.

The Russian delegation took strong objection to American plans to store, rather than destroy the dismantled nukes. "We cannot agree with this approach," said Yuri Baluyevsky, First Deputy Chief of the General Staff, who led the Russian delegation to the consultations.

"What Americans call reductions basically amounts to scaling down combat readiness of nuclear weapons by storing them - it will take just hours to put the warheads back on missiles," Gen. Baluyevsky told reporters after his return from Washington. "We understand reductions as dismantling and destruction of nuclear warheads and putting their carriers out of use."

The optimism voiced today by the General Staff Chief regarding the new arms pact may indicate Moscow's willingness to accept the American modalities for the reductions.

The overriding priority for Moscow is to overcome Washington's reluctance to sign any arms control agreements at all and to fix on paper new weapon levels and verification procedures.

"It is necessary to lay new foundations of strategic stability in general, bearing in mind the U.S. decision to unilaterally withdraw from the ABM Treaty," Gen. Kvashnin said, adding that the new arms accord would be discussed in three working groups to be set up shortly.

The next round of bilateral consultations on strategic stability will be held on January 28-29 in Washington.

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Powell seeks Pak action, Jaswant renews demand for wanted 20

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 18 JANUARY

"THERE ARE no caves in Karachi for them to hide," remarked Jaswant Singh caustically, as India virtually compelled the visiting US secretary of state Colin Powell to accede to India's stand that Pakistan had to deliver on infiltration and the list of terrorists before expecting any positive action from India.

Wrapping up several hours of discussions here on Friday, the US secretary of state found himself repeating that General Musharraf will have to take further action. "We will know," he said, "when things stop happening over the Line of Control (LoC)."

In fact, if Mr Powell expected to take back some "deliverables" from his visit, he had to content himself with a fresh batch of "information" by India against the terrorists living in Pakistan. This "information," basically, interrogation reports and intercepts was given to Pakistan and the US simultaneously. The Pakistan Deputy High Commissioner was called in to the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) on Friday to be given the new evidence.

Regarding the "fresh ideas" that he had come with, Mr Powell articulated them to the Indian government, clearly without much hope of them being accepted. Broadly, he described them as a reduction in rhetoric, reversal of the diplomatic sanctions on Pakistan and military de-escalation. Predictably, India rejected them out of hand until Pakistan makes the right moves to stop terrorism in Kashmir.

Mr Powell accepted that India could not possibly de-escalate on



ON THE LIGHTER SIDE: US Secretary of State Colin Powell (right) shares a joke with Sonia Gandhi and Natwar Singh in New Delhi on Friday. — Reuters

the strength of a single speech by General Musharraf, not when there was a history of mistrust between the two nations.

During his discussions, Mr Vajpayee stressed that Musharraf's speech, while crucial for internal reforms within Pakistan, did not constitute the basis for de-escalation, for which India needed evidence on the ground. Promising that India will respond fully, when such actions are taken, Mr Vajpayee further cautioned that such dialogue, when it happened, should not be held hostage to the Kashmir issue, as has been the case thus far. This prompted Mr Powell to declare

in a subsequent interview to a news channel that subsequent Indo-Pak dialogue could not be "Kashmir-centric."

The Prime Minister, focusing on the restoration of confidence, stressed that Pakistan's action regarding the list of 20 "wanted terrorists and criminals" was a condition to positive action by India. Although Jaswant Singh categorised it as "expectations" rather than conditions, his definition of the "expectations" left no one in any doubt that India's moves would depend on Pakistan's action.

Agreeing with Mr Singh, the US secretary of state said, while

Musharraf's speech was important, "both here in India and throughout the world, we also said we have to see action." "We will know," he added "when things stop happening over the line of control." But the judgement on that, he hastened to clarify will have to be taken by India alone.

Regarding the list of 20, Mr Powell quoted Musharraf as saying that "he doesn't rule out appropriate action against those non-Pakistani citizens who are on that list... Additional information has been provided to the Pakistani government and a copy was given to us."

The Economic Times

19 JAN 2002

Powell push for dialogue

ng-pwk H-1 12/1

HT Correspondents

Islamabad/Washington/
New Delhi, January 16

MUCH TO the chagrin of Islamabad, US Secretary of State Colin Powell has stated categorically that the Kashmir issue can be resolved only by "direct dialogue" between India and Pakistan.

Powell ruled out any US mediation, but said Washington would be only too willing to extend any help to get the dialogue going. On the face of it, Powell would appear to have merely restated the American position. But then, no top US functionary has been so candid as to tell Pakistan that a "direct dialogue" with India is the only way out on Kashmir.

Seen in this light, the Powell remarks represent a clear rebuff to President Pervez Musharraf who, in his speech last Saturday, made a renewed plea for the US's active role on Kashmir.

Opposition to any mediating role of the US also seemed to be emerging within Pakistan as member of the newly-constituted National Kashmir Committee, Mushahid Hussain Sayed, said Pakistan should not opt for any third-party role. "If we accept third-party mediation on the issue, we will have to accept the solution worked out by that party even if it is against our interests," Sayed said in an interview to PTV last night.

Powell appeared to be making a course correction by laying greater emphasis on stabilising the political and diplomatic situation rather than on withdrawal of forces. The change follows India's rejection of any pullback until Musharraf acts on his promises.

The de-escalation should see a reversal of the "diplomatic and political obstacles that were set up with respect to movement of people back and forth, overflights, things of that nature".

PATH-BREAKING: ADVANI

L K ADVANI has termed President Pervez Musharraf's speech last week as "path-breaking". Addressing reporters in New Delhi today, the Home Minister said: "In a way Musharraf's speech was path-breaking. I have not heard any earlier Pakistani leader denounce theocracy in the manner the General did." He, however, hastened to add: "But what India wants Pakistan to stop being an exporter of terror."

PTI, New Delhi

The Secretary said: "It's more important to make sure that the political and diplomatic situation is stabilised. If that is stabilised, the armies can move back in due course. If we can continue to see progress politically and diplomatically, the actual movement of the forces back will follow in due course."

"The most difficult of issues can be resolved through dialogue," Powell said after talks with President Musharraf and Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar in Islamabad. He also said he hoped the General's promised action would help lower tension in the region.

"The challenge for India and Pakistan is to demonstrate that regional issues can be best resolved through peace and dialogue, not through conflict and terror. And I appreciate that Pakistan is ready for such a dialogue to begin," he said.

He held that Islamabad has already detained 1,900 extremists, banned terrorist outfits, frozen their funds and cracked down on madrasas preaching extremism. Lauding the General for the tough measures, Powell said Musharraf did not decide to



REUTERS PHOTO

Colin Powell and Pervez Musharraf soon after the US Secretary of State's arrival in Islamabad on Wednesday.

confront terrorism to please other countries.

The Secretary said he extended to Musharraf an invitation from President Bush to visit the US in "a very near future".

He also said he was carrying "some ideas" to India to help de-escalate tensions and made it clear that he had not suggested a plebiscite in the Valley. He will leave Islamabad for India on

Thursday. Powell said the US looks for "appropriate action" by Musharraf on the Indian demand to turn over the 20 most wanted terrorists.

Across the border, India made it clear that it expected Pakistan to hand over the 20 "fugitives from law" it has demanded. "We will put across our views which are well known to the US," spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

Records burnt: The fire that broke out in a 16-storey, state-owned building in Islamabad last night reportedly destroyed valuable records containing sensitive information on Islamist militant outfits. The building housed the offices of 21 ministries and Government Departments, including the record-keeping offices of the Interior Ministry.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 JAN 2002

Musharraf on a dangerous mission: US media

12/11
Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. — The Pakistani President General Pervez Musharraf had stepped into a "dangerous crossroad" by announcing strict measures to curb terrorist elements that are "heavily armed and sworn to kill" anybody in the way of their holy war, with no assurance of army's continued backing, the US media reported today.

It also felt that the ban on Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and Jaish-e-Mohammad will have "little

practical effect" as Pakistan had already detained the leaders of these terrorist outfits, raided their offices and frozen their bank accounts.

In the past half century since Pakistan was born, no Pakistani leader has faced a more menacing set of challenges than Gen Musharraf confronted in his address to the nation, said the *New York Times* in an article.

"He announced new measures to crack down on Islamic militants who have fomented terrorism in Pakistan and abroad, knowing that the groups

he was taking aim against are entrenched, heavily armed and sworn to kill...anybody obstructing their Islamic jihad," the daily said.

Gen Musharraf essentially gave himself the task of redefining Pakistan's sense of itself after two decades of drift into lawlessness and violence, the *Times* said.

He has no political establishment to share his decisions with, and no assurance of the army's continued backing if the road ahead gets rough," the paper said.

THE STATESMAN

14 JAN 2002

Let us wait for Musharraf's action: Powell

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By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 12. The Bush administration is telling India not to pin all hopes on the Saturday speech of the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, and that it must give him time to crack down on Kashmiri militants.

"The Indians are looking for action and substance as well as the right policy statements and so tomorrow is an important day," the U.S. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, told agency reporters on Friday.

"I think it's also important to note that you can't expect every action to be taken at the same time you're giving a speech which is a policy statement and so I've been saying to the Indians, let's see what President Musharraf says and let's see what actions are taken at the time of the speech and also after the speech," he said. "And so don't judge the speech in and of itself as a total response on the part of President Musharraf."

Gen. Powell is travelling to Asia next Tuesday and will make stops in Afghanistan, India and Pakistan. The crux of the message to both Islamabad and New Delhi will be that war over Kashmir is "unthinkable" and a "disaster."

The U.S. has made it known that it is not going to rush into a full response to Gen. Musharraf's speech. People would have to wait and see if the speech offered a basis for the two sides to "move down the escalatory ladder," according to Gen. Powell.

After both sides got through the immediate crisis, Washington would encourage India and Pakistan to start the dialogue "which ultimately must include Kashmir."

Staying in line with the administration stand that Gen. Musharraf

us-Pak
raf has started moving in the direction of cracking down on terrorism after September 11, Gen. Powell once again urged India to give him more time.

"President Musharraf started moving in this direction ... and I think he will continue to move in that direction..."

The best solution right now is to pursue this in political and diplomatic channels because it is unthinkable that we should abandon the political and diplomatic track in order to see a conflict break out in the region.

"With all the success we have seen in the last four months with respect to the campaign against terrorism in that part of the world, it would be a disaster if this now were fought out on the field of battle," he said, adding that though New Delhi and Islamabad were saying they wanted a diplomatic solution, "we have forces that are in proximity with one another and it is a very tense and dangerous situation."

However, India had been patient in spite of having every right to be "outraged" at the attack on Parliament on December 13. "So far they have responded with patience even while they're mobilising and I hope they will continue to use every political and diplomatic avenue that is open to us," Gen. Powell said.

The White House has reiterated that the U.S. President, George W. Bush, believes that Gen. Musharraf has taken action against terrorists. "The President believes that President Musharraf has made important progress in cracking down. It's important for more activity to be undertaken and the President is looking forward to listening to the speech," the spokesman, Ari Fleischer, said.

THE HINDU

13 JAN 2002

'SITUATION IN SOUTH ASIA STILL SERIOUS'

Act tough on terrorism, Bush tells Musharraf

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 8. The United States President, George W. Bush, has characterised the situation in South Asia as "still serious" and called on the Pakistan leader, Pervez Musharraf, to take a tougher stand against terrorism.

"I think it is very important for President Musharraf to make a clear statement to the world that he intends to crack down on terror. And I believe that if he does

that and continues to do what he's doing, it'll provide relief, pressure relief, on a situation that's still serious," Mr. Bush said at the White House on Monday following a meeting of his economic team.

"I don't believe the situation is defused yet but I do believe there is a way to do so and we are working hard to convince both the Indians and the Pakis there's a way to deal with their problems without going to war," he said.

The Bush administration, while following the situation in South Asia intensely, has been leaning on Islamabad and its leadership to do more on the issue of terrorism even while appreciating what Gen. Musharraf has done thus far and in asking New Delhi to take note of the steps put in place by the Pakistan President.

The State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said the U.S. believed that Gen. Musharraf was committed to dismantling

militant groups which were a threat to Pakistan and its neighbours.

"We note that there have been more arrests over the weekend... and that we understand that President Musharraf intends to continue to speak out against extremism and terrorism and to try to set Pakistan on a course of moderation," he added.

The State Department expressed concern that the Indian and Pakistani armies were exchanging fire in Kashmir as also over reports that an unmanned aircraft might have been shot down. "We are concerned about firing along the Line of Control in Kashmir. We have seen conflicting claims about this drone aircraft being shot down, but I don't have anything to offer on that matter", Mr. Boucher said.

On the recently-concluded SAARC summit in Kathmandu, he said it had provided an opportunity for the Foreign Ministers of India and Pakistan to have some discussions. "And that, coupled with greetings from the Presidents and whatever brief words that they exchanged, we felt was useful. We're pleased that the representatives of the two sides can meet and talk. We recognise that no breakthroughs were achieved there," he added.

The State Department had on Monday played down the notion that Washington was sending a "special envoy" or "emissary" to the region. Saying that a final decision on the matter had not been made, Mr. Boucher said, "Let's just call it a visit to the region by a senior U.S. official, is still a matter under consideration. It remains a possibility."

'Musharraf address will clear the cloud'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 8. The senior U.S. Senator, Joseph Lieberman, said here tonight that the new policy by the Pakistan President, Gen. Pervez Musharraf, on tackling militancy would transform Indo-Pak relations.

Mr. Lieberman, who is part of the nine-member U.S. Senate delegation touring the region, told presspersons that a policy address by Gen. Musharraf later this week "will transform the relationship with India and will defuse the current crisis. He is reaching for a speech to the Pakistani people that will change the history of this country."

After an interaction with Gen. Musharraf, the U.S. Senator said, "He is searching for a fresh initiative that will begin a whole new chapter in the Kashmir dispute." At a news conference on Monday with the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, the Pakistan President had said that he intended to address the people in the next few days to unveil a "complete plan" for tackling the menace of religious extremism and sectarianism.

The U.S. team, led by the Republican Senator, John McCain, held talks with Gen. Musharraf over the simmering Indo-Pak. tensions and the situation on the Pakistan borders facing Afghanistan. Mr. McCain said, "Both India and Pakistan are our friends and we are particularly hopeful that troops would move away from both sides of the borders."

Mr. Lieberman said Gen. Musharraf had taken steps to combat terrorism and he was hopeful that further measures to be announced by him would

help in the long term. "The steps will help in defusing the situation prevailing in the region besides eliminating terrorism." Asked about India's decision not to hold talks with Pakistan in the immediate future, Mr. McCain said, "I hope the Indian leadership will listen carefully to the words of President Musharraf and find something, sit down and start negotiations with Pakistan."

Gen. Musharraf told the U.S. delegation that neither Osama bin Laden nor Mullah Mohammad Omar had sneaked into Pakistan and that the Government was guarding the borders facing Afghanistan with all resources at its command.

U.S. support to India

In a related development, senior Government functionaries have confirmed that Gen. Musharraf had asked Washington as to where it intended to draw the line in its support to India. Commenting on a report in the *New York Times*, they said Gen. Musharraf had called up the U.S. Ambassador, Wendy J. Chamberlain, a few days ago to know as to how Washington could guarantee that "India wouldn't wait for some new incident to occur, then claim that it was backed by Pakistan and use it as a pretext to go to war". The paper said, "The General's reasoning was that what if some outraged Kashmiri picks up a Kalashnikov and shoots an Indian politician or puts a bomb in a parking lot? Is Pakistan going to be held accountable every time anybody picks up a weapon? Is Washington saying that all freedom struggles, everywhere, can be suppressed under the guise of the war on terrorism?"

'No insult meant to Pakistanis': Page 12

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'U.S. wants Pak. to take more action'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JAN. 5. The Secretary of State, Colin Powell, has said that while the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has done "quite a bit", the United States expects him to take more action vis-a-vis terrorist outfits.

Gen. Powell said a decision on sending a special envoy to the sub-continent would be made early next week or after the SAARC summit in Kathmandu, Nepal.

During the course of an interview with the British Broadcasting Corporation, Gen. Powell was asked if Islamabad had done enough to rein in the militants. Listing what Gen. Musharraf had done, the Secretary of State said, "So he has done quite a bit and I expect him to do more. I expect him to make other statements when he gets back from the SAARC meeting in Kathmandu and in due course, we will see whether or not we have found a political and diplomatic solution to the crisis".

On the subject of a special envoy, Gen. Powell argued that the Bush administration had two excellent envoys in New Delhi and Islamabad.

"As far as somebody actually going there to add to our efforts, this is under consideration and we will take a hard look at this at the beginning of next week, after the leaders have returned from Kathmandu.

They are all in Kathmandu right now, so there wouldn't be much point in sending an envoy right now, for additional presence".

The State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, clarified that the envoy could be one of the officials presently dealing with the crisis. "I wouldn't couch this in terms of an 'envoy' towards the region...We may, indeed, send someone from Washington to continue our activity, to continue working on the situation. I am not sure I would describe that as a special envoy. It may be one of the officials in Washington who is responsible for the crisis", he said.

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America chases Pervez in China

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Jan. 3: For President Pervez Musharraf, the detour via Beijing and Chengdu en route to the Saarc summit in Kathmandu may now be something he wished he had not undertaken.

Once Musharraf decided out of pique not to overfly India and leased a Chinese aircraft to fly from Chengdu, to Kathmandu, US secretary of state Colin Powell hastily phoned Tang Jiaxuan, his counterpart in Beijing.

Powell is understood to have suggested that Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji should use the opportunity of a meeting with Musharraf to urge him to crack down decisively on terrorists within Pakistan.

China's Xinhua news agency quoted Tang as telling Powell about the India-Pakistan standoff: "If the situation goes out of control and leads to a large-scale armed conflict, not only both India and Pakistan will suffer, but also the peace process in Afghanistan will be adversely affected and the stability and development of South Asia and even the whole of Asia will be endangered."

In Washington, state department spokesman Richard Boucher said: "We have been in touch with the Chinese. We continue to be in touch with the Chinese through our embassy in Beijing to talk about the situation in India and Pakistan."

Stressing the intense US diplomatic activity, Boucher added: "In fact, we have been keeping in touch with the neighbourhood, people in the re-

gion, and we will continue to have contacts with the Chinese, both on the specifics of the visits there, but also on the more general situation, which is of concern to neighbours as well as to us."

Zhu is due in India in another 10 days when the Chinese would be able to apprise Indian leaders of any headway they may have made with Musharraf.

Indicating that Musharraf's presence in Beijing was more than a stopover was his decision to hastily pull Pakistan's foreign secretary Inam-ul-Haque out of Kathmandu so that the diplomat could join the President in China.

Diplomatic sources here said they were expecting Musharraf to announce a well-packaged strategy of curbing terrorism soon after his return from Kathmandu. Musharraf expects that this will considerably ease the pressure now being piled on him even by friends in Beijing and Washington.

Sources said that just before his departure for Beijing, Musharraf chaired a high-level meeting in Islamabad to discuss the outlines of such a strategy.

The meeting was attended by all of Pakistan's provincial governors, the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff committee, the vice-chief of the army staff, all provincial chief secretaries and inspectors-general of police.

President George W. Bush on Wednesday spoke for 10 minutes on telephone to British Prime Minister Tony Blair on India and Pakistan for the second time in five days.

THE TELEGRAPH

4 JAN 2002