

Video shows Al-Qaida training in Myanmar

KATTY KAY
THE TIMES, LONDON

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. — Al-Qaida cells carried out some of their training in Myanmar, according to videos belonging to the terrorist network seen by CNN.

The Myanmar military junta, which is trying to improve its standing with America, responded swiftly to the report with a pledge to "stand with the USA" in the fight against terrorism.

Although Al-Qaida's global reach was already known, this is the first indication that it was operating in the secretive country.

The Myanmar government said that it would investigate the findings. Since September 11 Yangon has tried to link suppression of its own ethnic minority rebels to the war on terrorism and has recently had some success in doing so.

"The Government of Myanmar will investigate this allegation with the utmost urgency and will share this information with the United States," Colonel Hla Min, a government spokesman, said.

"We are already sharing information with the USA on Islamic armed terrorists operating along Myanmar's western border and within the region, with connections to Taliban and Al-Qaida, now being held and questioned in Yangon."

CNN discovered the stash of 64 tapes in Afghanistan earlier this month. The network paid £20,000 for the tapes, which were found in a house where Osama bin Laden

had once stayed.

Cassette number C205 appears to show fighters training in 1990 in Myanmar with an Arabic-speaking instructor who says: "We are fighting this fight because it is an Islamic fight." The cassette gives no indication who the trainer is, or if he is associated with Myanmar rebels.

Myanmar has been criticised for human rights abuses and treated as a pariah state by America, which withdrew its Ambassador to Yangon after the junta seized power in 1988. It also banned most investments by US companies.

But this month there were signs of a possible thaw in relations, attributed to Myanmar's efforts to clamp down on Muslim extremists, when Myanmar signed the USA-Asean Joint Declaration of Cooperation to Combat International Terrorism.

CNN said the cassettes showed Al-Qaida fighters training in Eritrea, Uzbekistan, Algeria and Bosnia, among other countries. One analyst said Al-Qaida had become an "organisation of organisations" working alongside other groups with similar aims.

Mr Rohan Gunaratna, author of Inside Al-Qa'eda, told CNN: that the find gave "a comprehensive picture of Al-Qaida's strategic gift, of Al-Qaida's global reach. It very clearly demonstrates that Al-Qaida is waging a universal jihad campaign." The USA has said before that it believed Al-Qaida had operatives in more than 60 countries.

Bomb-making Lessons on Al-Qaida video

Press Trust of India

NEW YORK, Aug 22. — An Al-Qaida videotape, obtained by CNN, shows a level of sophistication in bomb making that would allow terrorists to arrive in a target city unarmed and put together explosive devices using common household materials.

The tape, parts of which were aired by CNN today, is essentially a training video for Al-Qaida recruits. It shows an instructor giving step-by-step lessons on how to make TNT and build detonators and fuses using easy-to-obtain materials.

"Let me mention that this nitric is locally made," the instructor says as he carefully pours chemicals into a glass bowl to make a compound used in detonators. "Mix the whole thing together until the liquidation process is over." Mr Tony Villa, a consultant for the US government on terror tactics and bomb making, said the video confirms his fear that Al-Qaida's techniques are now so sophisticated that its bomb makers can cheat detection.

"The overarching point here is that they can pick any venue or target city — with nothing on them — arrive in that city and, based on what we are seeing here, (construct a bomb) using common materials," Mr Villa said.

The training video is among 64 Al-Qaida tapes CNN obtained, nearly all of which pre-date the September 11 terror attacks, from a source in Afghanistan who said they were found in a house where Al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had stayed. The network said it had paid \$30,000 for the footage.

Today's broadcast was the fourth installment of a series CNN is airing from Monday. Earlier installments showed Al-Qaida recruits conducting poison gas experiments on dogs, training in terror techniques and Laden warning of a mission against Americans.

In today's tape, the instructor, filmed from an angle that doesn't reveal his face, includes safety tips as he meticulously walks viewers through the process: "Watch out for the smoke that's coming out of the mixture. Avoid it." The detailed videotaped demonstration complements already discovered written manuals on bomb making that Al-Qaida disseminated, but makes the training process much more effective and potentially deadly, experts say.

"The best guide you can ever have is the visual imagery on how you mix these things together," Mr Magnus Ranstorp, deputy director of the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews in Scotland told CNN.

The combination of advanced instruction with the easy availability of bomb-making ingredients amounts to "a great operational advantage," Mr Ranstorp said.

Manuals detailing the manufacture of high explosives, including TNT, were found last November in an abandoned Al-Qaida safe house in Afghanistan. Among them was a list of required ingredients and an explanation of how key chemicals can be easily extracted from household products purchased in pharmacies and hardware stores. But the training video concerns terrorism experts more.

"We may be at the threshold of a whole new wave of terrorism," Mr Villa said. "This information getting in the wrong hands, obviously, would cause quite a lot of havoc to ourselves, and to our country, and to our allies." "Pure TNT is extraordinarily dangerous and may be linked towards trying to circumvent the process of making a nuclear device," Mr Ranstorp said.

23 AUG 2002

Six charged in U.S. for Osama links

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 29. Federal Grand Juries have charged six persons — five by one account — with conspiring to support the network of Osama bin Laden; and more indictments are said to be on the cards as the Bush administration is finding ways to tighten the financial stranglehold of groups associated with Al-Qaeda.

Four men, if not five, have been charged in Detroit; and one has been picked up in Seattle. A sixth person is said to have been named in Detroit but formal charges have not been laid out, one reason being that this person could be cooperating with investigators. In Seattle, the American citizen has been charged on two counts — trying to set up a “jihad” training camp in the West Coast and for providing support and resources to Al-Qaeda.

The four in Detroit have been charged with operating a “covert underground support unit” and a “sleeper operational combat cell” for a radical Islamic movement connected with Al-Qaeda.

The indictment speaks of the men plotting attacks in the United States on such landmarks as Disneyland in California and the MGM Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Other strike targets are said to have been in Turkey and Jordan. The charges include conspiracy to provide material support, conspiracy to engage in fraud and misuse of visas and identification documents.

“Their planning involved specific violent attacks including ones that targeted an American airbase in Incerlik, Turkey and a hospital in Amman, Jordan”, the indictment said. Unnamed U.S. officials have been quoted in media reports as saying that more indictments are to follow as authorities from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Customs and other Federal agencies are tightening the financial noose on groups that are funnelling money to terrorist outfits such as Al-Qaeda.

Al-Qaeda cell operated from Hamburg

KARLSRUHE (GERMANY), AUG. 29. In a major breakthrough, Germany's top federal prosecutor today outlined what he called compelling evidence linking a Hamburg suspect to the September 11 hijackers over a three-year period prior to the attacks.

The German Federal Prosecutor General, Kay Nehm, said the Moroccan citizen, Mounir El Motassadek, has been charged with 1,316 counts of being an accomplice to murder in connection with the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Motassadek (28), was arrested



Motassadek

ed last November on suspicion of having had links to Mohammed Atta, who flew one of the two jetliners into the twin towers of the World Trade Center. Atta lived in Hamburg for a time prior to the attacks and studied at a technical college there along with Motassadek.

Mr. Nehm said Atta, by virtue of his fluency in German and the fact that he was the oldest of

the members, was the acknowledged head of the Hamburg terrorist cell.

Mr. Nehm said Motassadek was so intimately involved with the Hamburg terrorist cell that he put his signature as a witness to Atta's will and had right-of-attorney to a German bank account held by another September 11 skyjacker, Marwan Al-Shehhi.

“From May to November 2000, large amounts of money was paid into this Dresdner Bank account on a periodic basis,” Mr. Nehm said at a news conference today. “We have compelling evidence that this

money was used to finance this terrorist operation.” Mr. Nehm said evidence showed the money helped finance flight training classes at two air schools in Florida.

Bank records also show that Atta received \$1,000 from the account in May 2001.

Motassadek lived for a time at a Hamburg apartment shared by Atta, Al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah, a third September 11 hijacker.

Motassadek was also a close friend of the Hamburg terrorist cell's chief logistician, Said Bahaji, who was last reported to have fled to Pakistan. — DPA

30 AUG 2002

9/11 trial: Court says open doors

CHARLES LANE

WASHINGTON, AUGUST 27

A FEDERAL appeals court ruled Monday that the press and public must be allowed to witness immigration hearings for suspects detained in the September 11 investigation, strongly rebuking the Bush administration for its policy of maximum secrecy in the war on terror.

A three-judge panel of the United States Court of Appeals for the 6th Circuit concluded that the news media and ordinary citizens have a constitutional "right of access" to deportation proceedings which was violated by a September 21, 2001, Justice Department order closing hearings deemed of "special interest" to the terrorism probe.

"The Executive Branch seeks to uproot people's lives, outside the public eye, and behind a closed door," Senior Judge Damon J. Keith wrote in the opinion for the court. "Democracies die behind closed doors. The First Amendment, through a free press, protects the people's right to know the government acts fairly, lawfully, accurately in deportation proceedings."

The ruling in the case of Michigan activist Rabih Haddad marked



the first time since September 11 that a major component of the Bush administration's legal approach to the anti-terror campaign has been declared unconstitutional at the appeals court level, which is a step below the Supreme Court.

This ruling is not the last word on the issue, however. The Justice Department (JD), which had argued there is no right of access to administrative hearings such as those conducted by immigration judges, may appeal the case either to the full membership of the 6th Circuit or to the Supreme Court.

"The JD disagrees with the

Court's conclusion that guidelines for determining which proceedings should be closed are too broad," said Barbara Comstock, a spokeswoman for Attorney General John Ashcroft. "The JD has an obligation to exercise available options to disrupt and prevent terrorism within the bounds of the Constitution."

Under the so-called "Creppy memo", issued by chief immigration judge Michael Creppy on September 21, the JD considers immigration hearings involving terror suspects off-limits to press and public, including the detainee's family.

The most minor disclosure of information could help terrorist groups understand how much intelligence the government does or does not have, JD officials said.

If the 6th Circuit's approach were to prevail, deportation hearings would be presumed open to outside scrutiny, unless the government could persuade a federal court the proceeding had to be completely or partially closed.

More than 750 of the 1,200 people detained after September 11 were held on immigration charges. Most have been deported, released or criminally charged, leaving less than 100 in custody, according to the government's latest figures. —LATWP

'Inaction riskier than war on Iraq'

PAT HARRIS

NASHVILLE, AUGUST 27

VICE-President Dick Cheney on Monday laid out the White House's case for pre-emptive action against Iraq, citing mortal danger to the United States and labeling critics as guilty of "willful blindness".

Cheney used a gathering of the Veterans of Foreign Wars to reject fears, expressed publicly by senior members of his own Republican Party and others, that such action would undermine the global US war on terrorism and mark a radical departure for US foreign policy.

Citing what he said was the danger that Iraqi weapons of mass destruction could fall into the hands of terrorists, Cheney said America could not afford to sit by idly. It would, if necessary, fight a war of liberation, not of conquest. "The risk of inaction is far greater than the risk of action," he said, in remarks clearly designed to win over public opinion at home and address scepticism abroad over military action to oust Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein. "And the entire world must know that we will take whatever action is necessary to defend our freedom and our security."

Cheney, who served as secretary of defense during the 1991 Gulf War, said Iraq's development of advanced weaponry, its refusal to allow United Nations inspectors to monitor its weapons programs and its general hostility had produced "an imperative for pre-emptive action".

—Reuters

Armitage focus on terrorism

By P. S. Suryanarayana

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SINGAPORE, AUG. 26. The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, is understood to have begun sensitive talks with the Chinese authorities in Beijing today.

While a definitive picture of his discussions might emerge only by the time he leaves for Japan tomorrow on the final leg of his tour of Asia, the political atmospherics was determined by China's action of promulgating regulations to intensify controls on the export of ballistic missiles as also missile-related items and technologies that could deliver weapons of mass destruction.

The main thrust of Mr. Armitage's talks is to set the stage for the planned summit between the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, in October this year.

Some of the key issues in focus in this connection relate to the current upsurge of tensions on the China-Taiwan front, the semantics and substance of the ongoing U.S.-led global 'war against terrorism', besides Washington's concerns about the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as also their delivery systems in the context of the suspected hyperactivity of the terrorists to acquire these devices.

China, which often prides itself on its strategic autonomy on the international stage, seemed to underline this by hosting the Iraqi Foreign Minister, Naji Sabri Ahmed, at this very juncture.

This diplomatic coincidence impinges on the current international discourse on America's identification of an "axis of evil" that consists of Iraq and Iran as also North Korea.

27 AUG 2002

10/8
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Jaish part of 'terrorist underworld': Rumsfeld

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, AUG. 17. A "terrorist underworld" that would include groups such as the Pakistan-based outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammad, operates in areas where capable or responsible governments are absent, the U.S. Secretary of Defence, Donald Rumsfeld, has said in his annual report to the President, George Bush, and Congress.

"The absence of capable or responsible governments in many countries in wide areas of Asia, Africa and the Western

Hemisphere creates a fertile ground for non-state actors to engage in terrorism, acquisition of NBC (nuclear, biological, chemical) weapons, illegal drug trafficking and other illicit activities across state borders," Mr. Rumsfeld said.

"A terrorist underworld — including such groups as the Al-Qaeda, the Hamas, the Hezbollah, the Islamic Jihad and the Jaish-e-Mohammad — operates in such areas. In an era of catastrophic terrorism, the United States cannot afford to ignore the anarchy that threatens a

number of regions of the world." Mr. Rumsfeld has not named Pakistan as one of the countries where a "capable or responsible" government is absent — the Bush administration rarely misses a chance to call Pakistan its "staunch ally" in its fight against terrorism.

Mr. Rumsfeld said the inability of some states to govern their societies or prevent their territories from being a sanctuary to terrorists and criminal organisations posed not only a threat to stability but also placed demands on the American forces.

Videos unveil al-Qaida terror training

New York August 19

CNN BEGAN airing excerpts on Sunday from a cache of videotapes acquired in Afghanistan that purport to show al-Qaida terror training, bomb-making and poison gas experiments on dogs.

The tapes also show al-Qaida operatives appear to be practising ambushes and kidnapping. Most of the tapes appear to be made before September 11, although some show recorded television coverage of last fall's attacks in New York and Washington.

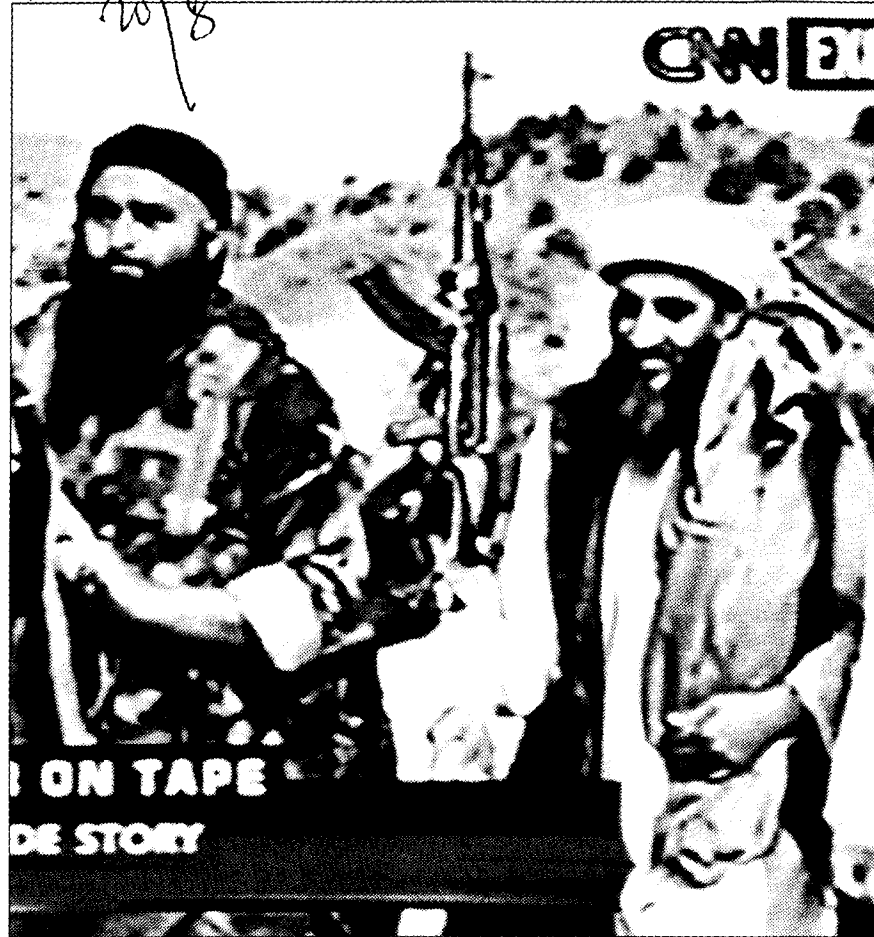
CNN said its correspondent, Nic Robertson, acquired more than 250 tapes through a long-time source, and he drove 17 hours from Kabul to a remote part of Afghanistan to first see them. CNN did not pay for the tapes, Robertson said. The network said it showed the tapes to several experts to verify their authenticity.

The New York Times, which was shown portions of the tapes last week, quoted an expert who viewed the tapes as saying the tapes suggest Western intelligence agencies may be underestimating al-Qaida.

"In conjunction with the Encyclopedia of Jihad and other written manuals, the tapes show meticulous planning, preparation and attention to the tradecraft of terror," said Marcus Ranstorp, director-designate of the Center for the Study of Terrorism and Political Violence at the University of St Andrews in Scotland.

A CNN spokeswoman declined to say more about how the tapes were obtained, and said it did not believe the network was being used in any way by Osama bin Laden's network to get a message across.

"Obviously, we're always mindful of not airing propaganda," Christa Robinson said.



These CNN TV grabs aired on Monday show tapes recovered in Afghanistan of terror-mastermind Osama bin Laden and his aide (left). The tapes, which predate the September 11 attacks in the US, shed new light on the inner workings of the al-Qaida, including chemical gas experiments on dogs (right), terrorist tactics and training of al-Qaida militants.

"Clearly, this is newsworthy." White House spokesman Scott Stanzel declined comment on the tapes on Sunday night.

CNN plans to reveal the tapes' contents through several reports this week, and show the poison gas experiments on Monday. Sunday's report showed repeated images of a white dog locked in a cloudy, glass box.

The Times reported in Monday editions that in the video-

tape, a man drops something on the floor of a room where the dog is and a liquid spills across the floor and a vapour fills the room.

The tapes show several images of the dog vomiting and moaning, *the Times* reported. Ultimately, one of the dog's hind legs shoots up in the air, as its head goes down. The dog is then motionless.

It's not clear how much of

this sequence CNN will air. "None of it, we can tell you, will be easy to watch," CNN anchor Aaron Brown said on Sunday. "Some of it sickened us."

The ability of terrorists to unleash poisons was known even before the September 11 attacks last year, when a convicted terrorist collaborator, Ahmed Ressam, testified about the experiments in the trial of a man accused of conspiring

with him to bomb the Los Angeles airport.

CNN showed images of masked terrorists intercepting a vehicle along a dusty road in apparent training for a kidnapping. They also showed bin Laden, surrounded by tight security.

The tapes also show images of bin Laden being interviewed by journalists, Robertson said, indicating they were from a

private library of al-Qaida material made to document their work.

CNN, on its website, said it had shown the material to terrorism expert Rohan Gunaratna, author of *Inside Al-Qaida*. Gunaratna told the network he had not seen these tapes before and believes they were intended only for the terror group's leaders to see.

USA Today

Top Palestinian guerrilla leader Abu Nidal found dead

Ramallah (West Bank): Abu Nidal, a Palestinian guerrilla leader and long-time foe of Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, was found dead from gunshot wounds in his Baghdad home, senior Palestinian sources said on Monday.

Nidal, 65, had a reputation as one of the most ruthless Palestinian guerrilla commanders. The Palestinian sources confirmed a report in the 'Al-Ayyam' newspaper which said on Monday that Abu Nidal's death was apparently a suicide and occurred three days ago.

Militant leader Sabri al-Bana was widely known by his nom de guerre Abu Nidal as the head of the Fatah—The Revolutionary Coun-



Abu Nidal

cil group—that broke with the Palestine Liberation Organisation in 1974, saying it was too moderate.

His group was considered responsible for dozens of attacks in 20 countries against Middle Eastern, European and US targets which killed hundreds of people, including PLO officials.

He was sentenced to death in absentia by a Fatah military court. In 1982, his group tried to assassinate Israel's ambassador to Britain, setting off Israel's invasion of Lebanon to root out Palestinian guerrilla groups. Reuters

20 AUG 2002

WTC lawsuit an extortion ploy, allege Saudis

Riyadh, August 18

SEVERAL SAUDI banks and Islamic charities named in a lawsuit by families of September 11 victims vehemently denied on Sunday any role in funding terrorism and blasted the case as an attempt to extort Saudi wealth abroad.

The suit has sparked rare calls by commentators and newspapers in the kingdom to review traditionally strong Saudi-US ties. Saudi Arabia has yet to comment officially.

Offended that the lawsuit named members of the royal family, including Defence Minister Prince Sultan — the third highest official in the kingdom — many Saudis accused Washington of putting pressure on the Gulf Arab State to make it conform to US policies on Iraq and the Middle East.

In a civil suit filed in a Washington court on Thursday, relatives of some 900 people killed in the attacks by hijacked jets accused three senior Saudi princes, several Saudi and other foreign banks and Sudan's Government of funding Osama bin Laden, the prime US suspect in the attacks.

The lawsuit seeks damages of over \$100 trillion.

"This is an act to extort Saudi money deposited in the United States and a way of meddling in the region," an official at Al Rajhi Investment and Development Corp, one of several Saudi banks named in the lawsuit, told Reuters by telephone.

Officials at the banks involved said they were mulling a response but would not act or issue statements before consulting with Government authorities in the conservative kingdom.

Some commentators in Saudi newspapers, which reflect Government thinking, blasted the lawsuit as part of a wider campaign against the kingdom and called for a review of ties.

Khaled al-Dakheel, writing in London-based al-Hayat daily, seconded a call by al-Riyadh daily "that Saudi-U.S. strategic relations are at the forefront of ties that need reviewing".

He said a US media campaign launched against the kingdom after the September attacks, in which 15 Saudis were named among the 19 hijackers, was being fed not only by commentators but also by officials and decision makers in the administration.

Saudi and US officials have gone to great lengths to stress that relations between the two countries remain strong.

Some Muslim charities based in the kingdom, birthplace of Islam, dismissed the lawsuit as "political maneuvering".

"We have no links to (terrorism)," said Sheikh Ali al-Juraiss, general manager of the Muslim World League, which was named along with the International Islamic Relief Organization and Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation.

"We do charity work to help the poor and needy without distributing money," he said. "I believe this is an extension of the campaign against Saudi Arabia, which has no logical basis."

Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation General Manager Aqeel al-Aqeel said the campaign was aimed at the Muslim world. "They hope by doing this that they will pressure the Islamic world into accepting an attack on Iraq," he told Reuters.

He said Muslim charities named in the lawsuit planned to hold a meeting soon in Cairo to discuss a plan of action.

The lawsuit alleged that Saudi money has "for years been funnelled to encourage radical anti-Americanism as well as to fund the al-Qaida terrorists." It said Prince Sultan and former intelligence chief Prince Turki al-Faisal were implicated.

Reuters

19 AUG 2002

Abu Nidal committed suicide to avoid arrest: Iraq

Baghdad, August 21

PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA leader Abu Nidal put a pistol into his mouth and pulled the trigger when Iraqi security men went to his Baghdad apartment to arrest him, Iraq's intelligence chief said on Wednesday.

Taher Jaleel al-Haboush, head of the intelligence service, told a news conference in Baghdad that Abu Nidal, one of the world's most wanted men whose death was leaked on Monday, was about to be arrested and put on trial on charges of entering Iraq illegally when he committed suicide.

Haboush produced pictures of the dying guerrilla, forged passports and ID cards and pictures of an arsenal of weapons found at Abu Nidal's apartment that included assault rifles, silenced-equipped pistols and eight body-trapped suitcases.

Abu Nidal (65) was leader of the Fatah-Revolutionary Council. The group was blamed for attacks in 20 countries in which hundreds of people were killed and wounded, mostly during the 1970s and 1980s.

Haboush said coded messages were found at the apartment which showed the guerrilla leader, whom he said had been

"He went to his room, locked the door and a shot was heard. He had fired a shot into his mouth. He was taken to hospital but died after around eight hours."

"He made the decision to take his own life," Haboush said, adding that an autopsy showed he died from a single gunshot wound that entered the mouth and pierced his skull.

Haboush produced three pictures of Abu Nidal, one after he shot himself which showed blood streaming from his head as he lay on what appeared to be a bed. The other two as he lay in a hospital bed with his head bandaged around the left eye.

The pictures, the first new glimpses of the notorious man for many years, showed the 65-year-old Abu Nidal had put on a lot of weight in his later years.

Haboush said Iraq was tipped off in 1999 by an unnamed Arab State that Abu Nidal, whom he said was expelled from Baghdad in 1983, had entered Iraq from Iran on a forged Yemeni passport. He produced the passport at the news conference and showed visa stamps to Iran and an entry stamp at Iraq's Muthaireyah border point with Iran. Yemeni nationals are not required to obtain visas to enter Iraq.

Reuters

He was assassinated, say followers

PALESTINIAN GUERRILLA leader Abu Nidal's group dismissed on Wednesday Iraq's claim that he had killed himself, saying he had been assassinated by the intelligence services of an unnamed country. "Abu Nidal, an unyielding believer who entered battle on several fronts, could not have attempted suicide for the reasons given," the Fatah-Revolutionary Council said in a statement.

Reuters, Damascus

involved in "terrorist acts," was on the payroll of an unnamed country. He did not give the date of Abu Nidal's death. He said Palestinian officials were handling burial arrangements.

"A security unit went to inform him that he had entered Iraq illegally and that he should accompany them for interrogation," Haboush said at a rare media appearance. "At first he welcomed the idea and then asked to be excused," he said.

2 2 AUG 2002

WTC victims' kin sue Saudi royals, banks

S Rajagopalan
Washington, August 16

WOWING TO avenge the murder of their loved ones, relatives of about 900 people killed in the September 11 attacks filed a lawsuit on Thursday against three Saudi princes, several foreign banks and the Sudan Government for allegedly funding Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network.

"The terrorists were wrong, but the people who aided and abetted and allowed them to do this are more wrong," said Matthew Sellitto, a plaintiff in the lawsuit, whose 23-year-old son died on September 11.

"The banks, so-called charities and the individuals named in this action have the blood of my son on their hands," he said,

his voice breaking, during a news conference announcing the lawsuit. "And they have the blood of more than 3,000 other precious, irreplaceable people on their hands. And we will hold them accountable."

In a civil lawsuit filed in US District Court in Washington, relatives of hundreds killed in the attacks and some September 11 survivors accused seven international banks operating mainly in the West Asia, eight Islamic foundations and charities, the Government of Sudan and a number of individuals of helping fund terrorist activities.

The lawsuit, filed by individuals from across the United States and at least six other countries, asked for damages exceeding one hundred trillion dollars. The lawyers said they

were seeking "hundreds of billions" of dollars in damages. Individuals named in the suit included Saudi-born extremist Osama bin Laden and several of his relatives, as well as three members of the Saudi royal family: Turki al Faisal al Saud, Sultan bin Abdul Aziz al Saud and Mohammed al Faisal al Saud.

The United States has blamed bin Laden and al-Qaida for the September 11 attacks that killed more than 3,000 people. Lead attorney Ron Motley, who said intelligence agencies from five countries had helped provide information used in the suit, said the plaintiffs had "no delusions" about the case, recognising that it would be a long struggle to win in court and stop the financing networks.

"This civil action seeks to hold those responsible for a more subtle and insidious form of terrorism, that which attempts to hide behind the face of legitimacy," the lawsuit said. "These entities, cloaked in a thin veil of legitimacy, were and are the true enablers of terrorism."

"The financial resources and support network of these defendants—charities, banks and individual financiers—are what allowed the attacks of September 11, 2001, to occur," it said. "Terrorists like Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network cannot plan, train and act on a massive scale without significant financial power, coordination and backing."

The banks named in the suit were: Al Baraka Investment and Development Corp., National

Commercial Bank, Faisal Islamic Bank, Al Rajhi Banking and Investment, Al Barakaat Exchange LLC, Dar Al Maal Al Islami and Al Shamal Islamic Bank.

Charitable groups named included: the International Islamic Relief Organization, Sanabel Al Kheer Inc., Muslim World League, Saar Foundation, Rabita Trust, Al-Haramain Islamic Foundation, Benevolence International Foundation and the World Assembly of Muslim Youth. "It's up to us to bankrupt the terrorists and those who financed them so they will never again have the resources to commit such atrocities against the American people," said Deena Burnett, whose husband Thomas Burnett died on the hijacked airliner that crashed into

a Pennsylvania field. "By filing this lawsuit, this is our only source of retribution, our only source of action to help stop them." The 259-page lawsuit alleged that members of the Saudi royal family were implicated in the September 11 attacks. Fifteen of the 19 hijackers who commandeered airplanes on September 11 were Saudi nationals. The lawsuit alleged that Saudi money has "for years been funnelled to encourage radical anti-Americanism as well as to fund the al-Qaida terrorists."

Saudi Arabia has denied any involvement and repeatedly said its relations with the US remained strong. Top Bush administration officials have said publicly that ties between the United States and Saudi Arabia were excellent.

THE HILL

17 AUG 2002

Pak releases fresh list of most-wanted terrorists

Islamabad: Pakistan has circulated a fresh list of 150 'religious terrorists' belonging to various Islamic organisations and announced hefty awards for the capture of nearly 24 of them, media reports said on Monday.

"The Pakistan government has handed over a list of 150 alleged 'religious terrorists' to the provincial intelligence and police departments to initiate action to capture them," local daily 'The News' said in a report here.

The list, which included pictures of the wanted extremists, their network, code-operations, nick names and more details, also announced awards ranging from rupees half a million to Rs 1 m for 24 of them, it said.

A majority of militants figuring in the list belonged to the banned sectarian religious outfits like Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, Sipah-e-Mohammad and Tehrik-e-Jafria Pakistan.

Significantly, the newspaper did not mention the names of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, which were named in last week's attacks on a Christian school in Murree and a Christian hospice in Taxila.

Rawalpindi district mayor Tariq Kiani was quoted by the media as saying that the militant killed in Friday's attack in Taxila was either from the Jaish-e-Muhammed or Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, the outfits banned by President Pervez Musharraf under pressure from India and the international community. Also the three militants who blew themselves up

Significantly, the newspaper did not mention the names of Jaish-e-Mohammed and Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, which were named in the attacks on a Christian school in Murree and a hospice in Taxila

early last week in Pakistan occupied Kashmir after attacking the Murree school were identified as members of these two groups.

Both Jaish and Harkat, which belonged to the radical 'deoband' school of Islam, share close ties with the Taliban and Al Qaida, besides carrying out insurgency operations in Kashmir valley.

The list is prepared in Urdu for wider circulation across the country, said the paper. It also carried the names of Riaz Basra, the leader of Lashkar Jhangvi who was killed in an alleged police encounter, besides Akram Lahori of the same outfit who has been arrested by the police.

Meanwhile, the Pakistan police have reportedly nabbed over five persons in connection with the attack on a missionary hospital that killed five, even as outlawed militant network Lashkar-i-Jhangvi was named as the group suspected of launching recent anti-West attacks. "A few people have been arrested," said Tariq Khiani, mayor of Rawalpindi district, adding the number is "more than five". Agencies

13 AUG 2002

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2002

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GRAVE CHALLENGE
Termination ✓

THE HORRIFIC TERRORIST attack on Amarnath pilgrims in a camp at Nunwan (near Pahalgam) in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday that has left nine persons dead and over 30 others injured, condemnable as it is as much for its brutality as for its cowardliness, unmistakably points to some serious security lapses. Given the track-record especially of the notorious jihadi groups such as the outlawed Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad that have a vicious trait of picking on soft targets like the pilgrims trekking annually to the famous cave shrine, it was only expected that the extremist elements, who have become very desperate in the new context of the global anti-terror campaign, would go all out to try and disrupt the Yatra by mounting such heinous attacks this year too. An added 'compulsion' this time around for these subversive forces to pursue their nefarious activities is of course the elections to the State Assembly scheduled to begin in two weeks from now, a democratic event which the world's major powers see as holding the key to a resolution of the Kashmir tangle. And precisely for that reason, the jihadi groups would want to scuttle the process through terror strikes. Therefore, to say that Tuesday's attack is linked to the Assembly poll is to stress the obvious.

The disturbing aspect of the Nunwan episode is not so much the attack itself — because there can be no absolutely fail-proof preventive mechanism against determined suicide assaults — as the fact that one of the three militants reportedly involved in the operation could penetrate the first two tiers of the three-tier security ring. That the terrorist who thus managed to sneak into the camp and inflict the damage was ultimately gunned down by the security guards is of course some consolation. The ease with which the terrorists could carry out the operation has exposed the vulnerability of the

Amarnath Yatra-related security system and, in a way, rebuffed official claims on this score. If, as media reports suggest, it is indeed true that hard intelligence was made available some four days ago to the security personnel about an imminent fidayeen attack by a three-member squad, then there is a clear case of negligence, if not dereliction of duty. The administration in general and those in the higher echelons of the security apparatus in particular would need to do a lot of explaining about what happened on Tuesday at the Nunwan camp. In fact, the first warnings of the militants' intention had come even on July 30 when two pilgrims were killed following a grenade attack on a jeep near Anantnag.

In the immediate context, with the Amarnath pilgrimage season still to run its course, the civil administration and the security establishment have their task cut out; it relates to ensuring better coordination between the intelligence and operational wings — a critical but highly elusive factor — and possibly some fine-tuning of various other sub-systems of the security mechanism. As the election process gets under way, the terrorist elements, whatever be the banner under which they operate, are bound to step up their murderous attacks choosing the targets in a manner calculated to undermine the democratic exercise. Countering such a heightened threat will, in practical terms, require providing adequate security to ensure the personal safety of contestants, poll officials, key political leaders and so on and, more importantly, to create an atmosphere where the voters would feel free to exercise their franchise, without fear of intimidation or coercion. The task, by any reckoning, is formidable. But the Centre and the State Government can ill-afford to fail in meeting the challenge because the stakes for the nation in the elections are too critical to be lost to the diabolical designs of the terrorist groups.

NEW OUTFIT CARRIED OUT KILLINGS: ADVANI

Nine Amarnath pilgrims gunned down

Statesman News Service

JAMMU, Aug. 6. — Nine Amarnath pilgrims were killed and more than 30 injured when militants attacked Nunwan base camp near Pahalgam, about 100 km from Srinagar.

Penetrating the three-tier security, the militants first threw a grenade in the camp around 5.30 a.m., when most of the pilgrims were sleeping in tents. Immediately after the explosion, four militants, dressed like Gujjars, took position near the camp lavatory and fired indiscriminately from AK-47 rifles. Eight of the victims died on the spot and one died on way to hospital.

Security forces chased the militants into the nearby forest and shot one of them, identified as Abu Qasim. An assault rifle found on him had Islamic Centre Lahore inscribed on it.

No militant outfit has claimed responsibility for the attack, the second in a week, on Amarnath pilgrims. But the Deputy Prime Minister said Al Mansuriya, a new outfit floated by the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, may be responsible, says a report from New Delhi. The attack proves cross-border terrorism hasn't stopped. Mr LK Advani, however, said the yatra would continue.

A high-level home ministry team, led by special secretary Mr AK Bhandari, is on the spot. It was scheduled to return later tonight and submit its findings to Mr Advani.

The state Governor, Mr Girish Chander Saxena, blamed the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba for the attack.

Dr Farooq Abdullah, Mr Saxena, police chief Mr AK Suri and other senior officials visited the camp and the hospitals. The chief minister described the attack as barbaric and inhuman. Militants are targeting innocent people out of desperation, Dr Abdullah said. "Militants are hellbent on creating communal frenzy. But their designs won't succeed. We'll deal with them with an iron hand."

The annual pilgrimage is one of the high-security events in Jammu and Kashmir. Amarnath pilgrims taking the Srinagar-Pahalgam-Chandanwadi route have to pass through Anantnag district, the most terror-prone in the state. Prominent among the terrorist outfits active in Anantnag are the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and Hizbul Mujahideen.

Some pilgrims take the Baltal route. Though it takes less time to reach the Amarnath cave via Baltal, the climb is more treacherous, which many old people can't manoeuvre. But to reach Baltal, pilgrims have to travel to Sonmarg from Srinagar, a route where Al-Badr and Laskhar militants are active.

This year, about 84,000 devotees have visited the holy cave, 13,000 feet above the sea level.

A three-tier security ring comprising the Army, police and paramilitary forces has been deployed for the month-long pilgrimage.

The Valley's biggest militant outfit, Hizbul Mujahideen, had said it wouldn't harm Amarnath yatis. But security was beefed up following Intelligence reports that militants had formed 10 suicide squads to attack the pilgrims. All entry and exit points to and from Pahalgam health resort have been sealed. Security forces have formed a barricade at Silgam, four km from Pahalgam.

The Kashmir divisional commissioner, Mr Parvez Dewan, who is also the CEO of Shri Amarnath Shrine Board, said yatis had been attacked six times this year.

Nunwan is the base camp, to reach which a pilgrim has to get himself registered at Jammu (or Srinagar if he flies there).

Eight of the pilgrims killed were identified as Baheram Singh (Rajasthan), Kalisha Singh Darbar (Rampur, Madhya Pradesh), Dimple (Patel Nagar, New Delhi), D Balachandran (Chennai), Dav Swaroop Swami (Boosga Tashwar, Gujarat), Yoga Singh (Punjab), Mohan Lal Sanny (Kota, Rajasthan) and Rujbaj Pahway (Mushori Moholla Kaspur, UP). Fourteen of the injured were in critical condition.

USA, UK condemn: The USA

said the attack on Amarnath pilgrims was aimed at thwarting efforts for a political solution of the Kashmir problem while Britain said it called for sustained action against terrorism, PTI adds from Washington.

Pak shelling: Pakistani soldiers fired artillery shells from across the Line of Control on forward defence positions in Kargil, Drass and Gurez sectors last night, a defence spokesman said today, adds PTI. Indian soldiers returned the fire and the artillery exchange continued till this morning.

More reports on page 6

Editorial: Protecting the poll, page 4



Pilgrims at Nunwan wait for clearance to visit Amarnath after Tuesday's attack. — AFP

Militants block pilgrims' progress, gun down 9

Masood Hussain

PAHALGAM/SRINAGAR 6 AUGUST

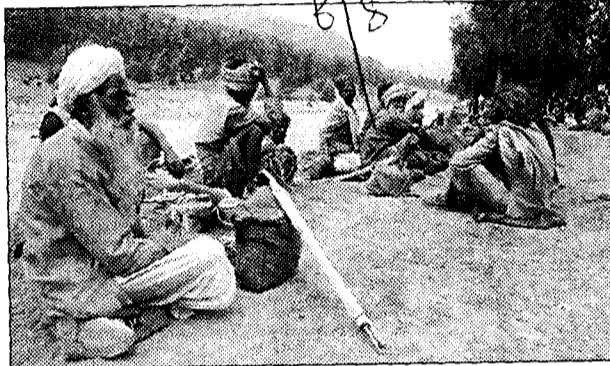
IN yet another assault on the yearly Hindu pilgrimage to Amarnath, militants on Tuesday gunned down nine pilgrims while injuring 29 others, including two locals. A militant, said to be part a two-member gang that attacked the base camp, was shot dead in the neighbouring woods. State governor Girish Chander Saxena held Lashkar-e-Toiba responsible for the attack. He identified the slain militant as Abu Qasim of Pakistan.

Wounded pilgrims, admitted in various Srinagar hospitals, said there was a huge explosion that was followed by firing on the lavatory complex. There were around 3,000 pilgrims who were either getting ready to leave for Chandanwari, the next stop on the way to the holy cave, or were on their way home.

The police cordoned off the area, and the killers, who were dressed as Gujjar tribals, were chased. One of them was killed in a brief encounter. From the spot of the clash, they recovered an assault rifle with an inscription, Islamic Centre Lahore, police said. They also recovered two grenades, four empty and two loaded magazines.

Vinay Kumar, SP (base camp) said the attack was carried out at 5.15 am. He said three pilgrims died on the spot, five in the nearby hospital in Pahalgam and one while being driven to Srinagar. "We have shifted 13 wounded pilgrims to Srinagar, 15 are in the hospital here and eight have been discharged," a doctor who did not want to be named said. All the slain pilgrims were driven to Srinagar and are being airlifted to their respective states, officials said.

Initially, authorities imposed curfew in the area and prevented any kind of movement of the pilgrims. Later the restrictions were lifted and the yatra resumed. The J&K governor and chief minister landed in Pahalgam within hours of the attack and gave Rs 5,000 each to the wounded pilgrims.



THE LONG WAIT: Amarnath pilgrims await completion of a search operation by the police inside the Nunwan base camp after it was attacked by militants on Tuesday. — AFP

LeT arm claims responsibility

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 6 AUGUST

THE needle of suspicion for Tuesday morning's attack on Amarnath pilgrims points towards Al-Mansuriya, a new front floated by the banned Lashkar-e-Toiba, according to deputy prime minister L.K. Advani. "A spokesperson for Al-Mansuriya called the BBC's Srinagar office and claimed responsibility for the attack," Mr Advani told newsmen here on Tuesday.

Mr Advani said the attack showed that the militants, who are very much in business despite Pakistan's claims of infiltration having stopped, have a two-fold objective: Disrupting the yatra and the polls. Even as Mr Advani hinted at additional forces being sent to the state, he made it clear that the attack would in no way hamper the upcoming polls.

"Elections will be held as per schedule," he said, adding that the attack was part of the "continuing confrontation between the enemy and us."

The Economic Times

INDIAN EXPRESS

6 AUG 2002

India, Bhutan hold talks on terrorism

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: India and Bhutan have discussed the issue of the presence of militants operating against India in Bhutan, an issue on which both countries have agreed to remain in close consultation.

The issue was discussed during the ongoing visit of external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha to Bhutan.

Bhutan's national assembly has authorised the use of force against the militants operating against India but the Kingdom is still trying to use persuasion.

The ongoing session of the national assembly has now narrowed down the option by authorising the government to hold one more round of dialogue.

Four camps were reportedly wound up last year after several meetings between the government and the militant leaders.

Discussions were wide-ranging and the two sides discussed issues relating to the international war against terror, issues related to poverty and development and the situation in the region including India's concerns about Pak-sponsored terrorism.

Mr Sinha called on the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singe Wangchuk, on Monday. The king hosted a lunch in his honour. He also called on Prime Minister L.K. Wangchuk and held meetings with foreign minister L.J. Thinley.

India reiterated its commitment to providing assistance to the government and people of Bhutan.

FD-15

Terrorism: China 'differs' with U.S.

378

By P. S. Suryanarayana

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (BRUNEI), AUG. 2. Outlining a "new security concept" at the just-concluded ASEAN Regional Forum here, the Chinese Foreign Minister, Tang Jiaxuan, said history had shown that "the security concept and regime based on the use of force and the threat to use force can hardly bring about lasting peace".

He said that its view was derived from the principle that all "countries are more interdependent on one another for security" than at any time before. The Chinese view is seen in the ARF as a strategic counter-response to the U.S. efforts to fashion a worldwide web of anti-terror alliances. Beijing's belief, however, does not come into conflict with America's declarations of faith in a similar doctrine as the foundation of

new agreements such as the latest U.S.-ASEAN pledge of practical action against global terrorism.

However, China's "position paper" differs from the U.S. approach in many respects. Mr. Tang has left little room for doubt on this score among his ARF colleagues — the U.S., Japan and India, on one side of the Forum, to the South East Asian states, on the other side. China has also held out its own "Shanghai Five initiative" and its lateral evolution into a "regional counter-terrorism agency" as a competitive alternative to the U.S. moves to embrace the ASEAN states within the anti-terror framework.

The Shanghai-5 process had recently culminated in the founding of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation that has created a new strategic fraternity among China and Russia as

also several Central Asian republics. China's efforts to compete with the U.S. for common strategic space of the anti-terror agenda account for a particularly distinctive move at the ARF session.

China is understood to have sought to maintain a subtle distinction between its own security concerns regarding externally-inspired terrorism and those of other countries such as India.

This did not, however, disable China from making a pragmatic assessment of the concerns that India expressed at the ARF session. China's realism of this kind was not seen by the other ARF participants, particularly India, as a diplomatic sop to New Delhi.

China's own sense of strategic autonomy was reflected in the manner in which it formulated the concept. The coordi-

nates of this concept were identified as "mutual trust, mutual benefit, equality and coordination" among the anti-terror advocates.

Mutual trust was defined as follows: "All countries must transcend differences in ideology and social system, discard the mentality of the Cold War and power politics and refrain from mutual suspicion and hostility by maintaining frequent dialogue .. on each other's security and defence policies and major operations.

The "mutual benefit" of all countries would imply that each one among them "creates conditions" for others security while ensuring its own security. China described equality as the defining principle of "democratisation of international relations" and a pledge by each state not to interfere in the affairs of another.

THE HINDU

3 AUG 2002

Terrazine
110-12

Al-Qaeda back in cyber space

398 ✓

By K. Srinivas Reddy

HYDERABAD, AUG. 2. The Al-Qaeda terrorist network is back in cyber space. After being pulled off the servers following September 11, the website sprang up with different site addresses this week, almost coinciding with reports that Osama bin Laden's eldest son, Saad bin Laden, had taken over the Al-Qaeda.

The new sites can be accessed through multiple URLs such as al-neda.org, al-neda.com, anthraxdisease.com, biowarfare.com and nukeafghanistan.com.

The re-emergence of the network on the web is significant since the official website of the Taliban is also back in action albeit with a

different address.

The websites are reportedly being used to pass on messages with the help of sophisticated technology such as steganography through which secret messages can be embedded on photographers (JPEG files) and transmitted without being traced.

The current Alneda website is believed to be hosted this time by Dayton, Ohio, and is used primarily as a message board system where anyone can post a message of his choice.

The webmasters are apparently aware that the messages boards can be used by those inimical to the Al-Qaeda and several warnings have been put up on the site, which now offers images of the September 11 attacks on

the WTC towers in New York.

Another unnamed web operator has grabbed the URL www.taliban.com apparently by paying the required fee for the renewal of the domain name after its registration lapsed. The site has now been transformed into a spoof site where every effort is made to make light of Osama.

Using innovative technology, the operator has put the site in such a way that every time the homepage is refreshed, different morphed images are downloaded.

Earlier, the site used to open with two addresses taliban.com and taleban.com.

Obviously, with the web operator "grabbing" the URL, the taliban had changed its website address to www.alemarch.com, an Arabic site.

ARF asks Pak to stop cross-border terrorism

Press Trust of India

BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN (Brunei), July 31. — In a significant move, a security group of 23 Asian and Western nations today asked Pakistan to take “urgent further steps” to end cross-border terrorism as an “important” step towards de-escalation of the situation and resumption of dialogue with India.

Echoing India’s concerns on cross-border terrorism which has been shared by the USA and the European Union at the day-long deliberations of the Asean Regional Forum (ARF), a declaration issued at the end of the meeting said a speedy implementation of Pakistan’s commitment to end terrorism would help in resolution of Indo-Pak differences.

The Asean Regional Forum ministers “earnestly looked to Pakistan to take urgent further steps to implement its commitment to counter terrorism,” the declaration said, adding this would constitute an “important

step towards resumption of (Indo-Pak) dialogue, strengthening of cooperation and resolution of differences through peaceful means to promote regional and international security and stability.” “An immediate end to all terrorist activities in the region is an essential step to de-escalate the situation,” the declaration said.

Incidentally, all major powers are represented in the ARF, including the USA, Russia, China, Japan and the EU besides the 10 members of the Asean. Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf had said recently that he did not have anything more to do to put a permanent end to cross-border terrorism.

Pakistan suffered another blow when no decision was taken on its application for membership of the Asean Regional Forum with the group’s chairman Prince Mohamed Bolkiah, foreign minister of Brunei, saying there is a moratorium on the group’s expansion and that a decision will be taken by the next chairman.

1 1 2002

THE STATESMAN

Megawati backs US war on terror

The Straits Times / ANN

JAKARTA, Aug 1. - President Megawati Sukarnoputri today pledged her support for the US-led war on terrorism and vowed to crush rebels in restive Aceh province - a stance which may jeopardise US plans to resume military ties with Jakarta.

In a speech to open an annual session of the country's top legislature, she summarised her first year in office, saying she's improved se-

curity in several violence-ridden regions.

On the eve of her meeting with the US Secretary of State, Gen Colin Powell, in Jakarta on how to tackle terrorism, she said Indonesia is committed to fighting that war.

"One of the government's priorities for 2002 is to restore security and public order, including fighting terrorism," she told the 700-member assembly.

The leader of the world's most



Ms Megawati Sukarnoputri

populous Muslim nation, Ms Megawati was the first foreign head of state to visit the USA after the Sept 11 terrorist attacks.

But she has had to walk a fine line between supporting the anti-terror war and not alienating Muslim groups, whose votes are needed in 2004 national elections.

Separatism and communal unrest remain problems in Indonesia - a nation of 13,000 islands and 210 million people.

2 AUG 2002

THE STATESMAN

US, Asean sign pact against terror attacks

Bandar Seri Begawan (Brunei): Upgrading the fight against terrorism in a region that has become a second front in the war against Al Qaida, US secretary of state Colin Powell on Thursday signed a treaty with the Association of South-East Asian Nations (Asean) to make the area more responsive to future threats.

The signing capped a week of diplomacy that overcame fears from Vietnam and Indonesia that the accord could lead to the basing of US troops in South-East Asia, where American forces have already helped the Philippines battle the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas.

Under the agreement, Asean and Washington will share information, boost police co-operation and plug holes that extremists can exploit. AP

2 AUG 2002

THE TIMES OF INDIA

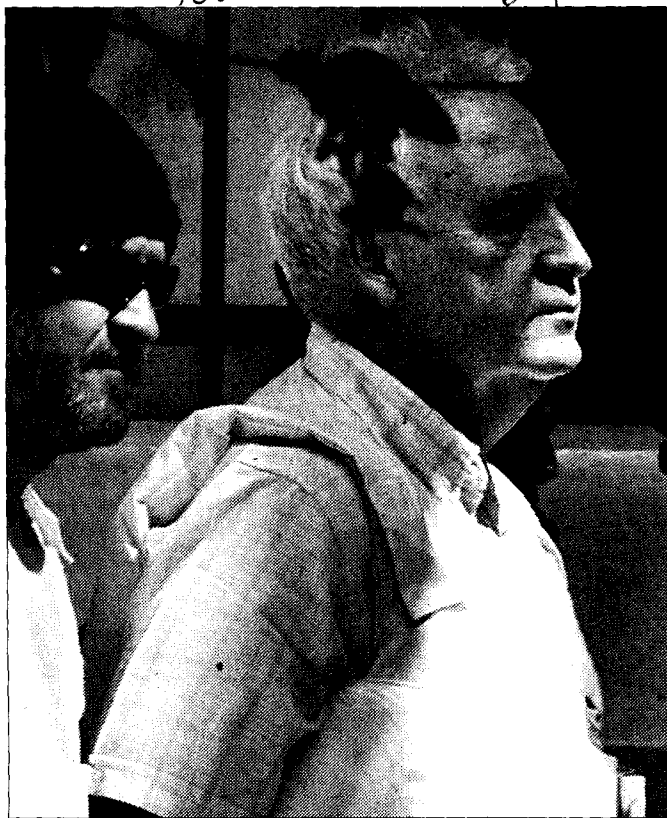
When the residents of the remote Aegean island of Lipsi saw a red fire-fighting helicopter from the Greek mainland approaching low over the waves they were understandably puzzled. There are few emergencies in their corner of the Dodecanese, which is a day's journey from Athens by plane and connecting boat and feels about as far away from the affairs of the rest of Europe as it is possible to be.

There was no sign of anything amiss down in the harbour, where a familiar, grandfatherly figure could be seen pacing gently back and forth as he waited for the hydrofoil to Patmos. But when the vessel docked some men swarmed ashore, handcuffed him and led him away to the police station. Shortly afterwards he was bundled into the chopper and it clattered away towards Athens.

That was how the 600 inhabitants of Lipsi learnt the man they had known for 16 summers as Michalis Economou, an easy-going, white-haired maths professor with a ready smile and a willingness to drop everything for a glass of ouzo and a chat, was in fact Alexandros Giotopoulos — the alleged founder, leader and mastermind of 17 November, a terrorist outfit more deadly than any other in Greek history and one of the most mysterious and elusive urban guerrilla units in the world.

The news was an international sensation, but nowhere was it more shocking than on Lipsi. "When I heard, I fell from the clouds," says George, a 33-year-old goat farmer and labourer. Close to tears, he asks that his second name be withheld out of a hysterical fear that he, too, will be branded a terrorist. He was Giotopoulos's closest friend on the island, helping to build his holiday home and spending many evenings there or in local cafes. When his ageing father needed treatment for skin cancer, "Michalis" found a hospital for him in Athens. "The surgery went on for eight hours and he was standing there all the time as if my father was his father," George says. In March, "Michalis",

The urbane guerrilla



Alexandros Giotopoulos, the suspected mastermind of the November 17 terrorist group, being led by police to the prosecutors' office for a hearing in Athens last week.

the man who last week was charged with a slew of murders, was best man at George's wedding and led the singing and dancing at a local taverna. "We are all upset. But we can't be sure until we hear the whole case," George says.

In the course of a 27-year reign of terror, 17 November has claimed responsibility for 22 murders, including that of British defence attache Brigadier Stephen Saunders, and has been accused of one other killing. It has also perpetrated dozens of other bombings and attacks and many bank robberies. But in all that time not a single member has been arrested, ensuring that the group

has become the stuff of modern-day Greek mythology.

The sudden capture of 12 suspects over the past two weeks has been an astonishing breakthrough. The most intriguing captive of all is Giotopoulos, codenamed "Lambros", the alleged founder and leading ideologue of the group. While his underlings — they include a musical instrument maker, an icon painter and a beekeeper — are desperately singing to the police, he has refused to cooperate. Several of the group's senior members, including a woman who is believed to have been involved in the group's first killing, are still at large. However, last Thursday investigators said they still viewed Giotopoulos as the mastermind.

As he was led into a closed court hearing earlier last week a reporter shouted: "Why so much blood?" Giotopoulos raised his head so the cameras could see his face and smiled faintly. Inside, according to his lawyer, he denied involvement with the group.

Alexandros Giotopoulos was born in Paris in 1944 to Dimitris Giotopoulos, a Greek Trotskyite, and Zoe Metaxa. Little is known about his early years but his family appears to have flitted back and forth between Athens and France. His first known movements were in left-wing Paris, where many Greek intellectuals and students established themselves after the colonels formed a junta in Greece in 1967 and banned political activity.

Giotopoulos was president of the Hellenic Students in Paris, although it is not clear what he was studying or where. There is certainly no record of his obtaining a degree. Often Greek students worked as assistants to professors in exile. A number of his Paris contemporaries declined to be interviewed. Many are respected professionals and were anxious not to be associated with him.

But Andreas Staikos, a well-known writer and translator who

could be fun and entertaining company but who would then suddenly withdraw into himself. "He never let us into his character, for example he never invited us into his home. At times he could be both open and introverted. He was very cultivated and knowledgeable about a great many things and socialised with his friends but we knew there was something secretive about him somewhere."

Already his passion was clear. "He was always talking politics, his basic interest was revolutionary politics. Alex was always a person with leadership qualities. He was also well organised ideologically and politically. A man from whom you could expect anything." Staikos detected the streak of authoritarianism in Giotopoulos that would later manifest itself. In arguments, he remembers, "he had a natural antagonism about him, a tendency to hardness".

Some of his peers recall that he was not the sharpest intellect among the Greek agitators and may have been driven by a desire to prove himself. "He felt a kind of inferiority amongst some of those who spoke out against the Greek dictatorship," says Costas Vergopoulos, who was also a student in Paris.

— *The Times, London.*

The 600 inhabitants of a Greek island learnt that the man they'd known for 16 summers as Michalis Economou, an easy-going maths professor, was in fact Alexandros Giotopoulos — the alleged founder, leader and mastermind of the 17 November terrorist group.
DAMIAN WHITWORTH reports

was a friend of Giotopoulos in Paris, did agree. He remembers him as a complicated, defensive personal-

THE STATES

Terror groups target yatra, I-Day in J&K

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: A day before US secretary of state Colin Powell arrives in the region yet again to press for de-escalation of tension between India and Pakistan, the army on Friday said that latest radio intercepts indicated that Pakistan-based terrorists were preparing for major strikes in Jammu and Kashmir next month.

Army intelligence reports have revealed that around 500 Al Qaida operatives amassed in Pakistan's northern areas like Gultari are in close touch with around 1,500 to 2,000 Lashkar, Jaish and Hizbul militants stationed at various "launch pads" along the Line of Control in Pakistan-occupied

Kashmir (PoK). Radio communication among various terrorist outfits show that orders have been issued to ultras based in Jammu and Kashmir to engage in "toofani action" in August. The aim is to spread terror by targeting the ongoing Amarnath yatra and Independence Day functions on August 15. "The militants also want to disrupt the forthcoming assembly elections in the state. The communication among different outfits has increased in the last two weeks," a senior army officer said.

One intercept, he said, revealed plans to target leaders of the National Conference and other groups keen to participate in the polls. A PoK-based militant radio reportedly broadcast that the Hizbul Mujahideen had proclaimed that anybody

participating in the elections would be killed.

"Contrary to the claims of the US and the UK, infiltration into Jammu and Kashmir has not come down drastically. It has reduced by about 30 to 40 per cent. We also have information that militants have procured around 200 satellite phones of Chinese-origin to augment their communication links," the officer said, adding that in the last 30 days, Indian forces had foiled six major infiltration attempts along the LoC. "But, for every thwarted attempt there are three or four successful ones," he said.

Army officers also rubbished Pakistan's claim that New Delhi had flown some Al Qaida and Taliban prisoners from Northern Afghanistan to India.

'U.S. to aid Pakistan war against terrorism'

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 20. Pakistan has deployed five helicopters recently received from the United States for surveillance on the Afghanistan border to monitor infiltration by Al-Qaeda and Taliban elements.

The Pakistan Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, has said that in addition to the five helicopters provided a few days ago, the U.S. has decided to provide three more surveillance aircraft by October.

The supply of helicopters by the U.S. to Pakistan is meant to beef up the security on the borders and help it in its ongoing war against international terrorism.

The U.S. is committed to providing financial and technical help to Pakistan to step up vigil on the porous Afghan border.

The Minister told presspersons here that 10 Pakistani pilots had received the U.S. for training to operate the American aircraft. Maj. Gen. (Retd) Haider said the helicopters

were not only the combat version of the U.S. choppers but were also equipped with the latest surveillance system.

He said that the U.S. administration, in addition to the latest helicopters and surveillance aircraft, would also provide \$30 millions to beef up security on the Afghan border.

"This amount is in addition to \$73 millions already received for security at the border.

Since Pakistan is a frontline partner of the U.S.-led coalition in the

war against international terrorism, we are in touch with the American authorities at the highest level," he said.

The Minister has said that by October, as part of the strict security check at all the international airports in the country, a computerised immigration control system would be set up.

The system was already in operation in Karachi.

"With the cooperation of the U.S. authorities, the Government has been introducing the latest monitoring and

security system at the immigration counters. The Minister said that an inter-provincial conference has been convened on July 22 in Karachi to discuss the law and order situation.

The conference would discuss measures taken to curb terrorism and extremism and deliberate on the future strategy.

Lt. Gen. (Retd) Haider said that gradually at all the entry points to Pakistan, including land, sea and air, the latest immigration control system would be installed.

21 JUL 2002

THE HINDU

Omar

files appeal

Associated Press

KARACHI, July 19. — The British-born Islamic militant sentenced to death for masterminding the kidnap-slaying of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl filed an appeal of his sentence today, a defence lawyer said.

Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was convicted on Monday and sentenced to die by hanging. His appeal, filed in Karachi court, claims the verdict was based upon "fake, false and provenly planted evidence."

"Two high court judges will hear this appeal, and I am 100 percent confident that justice will be done," said Saeed's lawyer, Mr Abdul Waheed Katpar.

Three other defendants in the case — Salman Saqib, Fahad Naseem and Shaikh Adil — were also convicted on Monday and sentenced to life imprisonment, which in Pakistan normally amounts to 25 years.

They filed appeals on Wednesday. If the appeals are denied at the provincial level, the men can take their case to the Supreme Court. The process could take more than a year, although the courts are expected to handle the case expeditiously.

20 JUL 2002

THE STATESMAN

US says it won't brand Pak a terrorist state

Washington: The United States made it emphatically clear that it will not declare Pakistan a terrorist state as it had been a very "stalwart ally" in America's fight against terrorism.

"As far as putting Pakistan on the terrorism list, just to point out again Pakistan has been a very stalwart ally in the fight against terrorism," state department spokesman Richard Boucher told reporters on Wednesday.

His comment came close on the heels of home minister L.K. Advani's statement in the Lok Sabha on Tuesday saying that if the US had threatened to declare Pakistan a terrorist state, Islamabad would have certainly taken effective steps to dismantle terrorist infrastructure within its territory.

Mr Boucher also said that infiltration across the line of control was down ever since Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf pledged to halt it, adding further steps be taken to stop it permanently.

"President Musharraf has announced some fairly bold measures within his own society to try to move Pakistan on a more moderate course, and our interest is in helping Pakistan move in that direction," he added.

"As we have mentioned before, President Musharraf has assured us that infiltration across the line of control will be ended permanently. We continue to look to him to take the steps to make that effective," Mr Boucher said.

He said "ensuring that infiltration across the line of control has ended per-

manently continues to be the highest priority for Pakistan, and we will continue to follow that issue closely."

Mr Boucher said the issues Washington looked forward to discussing with New Delhi and Islamabad included the relationship that "we have with each of these governments, each of these countries separately; how we work with Pakistan on its role and its position, the reforms that it is undertaking, the support that we can give to that, how we work with India on the developing relationship we have with India." PTI

Pallone hits out at Musharraf

Washington: Top US Congressman Frank Pallone has flayed Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's constitutional amendments as a strategy to protect and extend his dictatorship and introduced a legislation to reintroduce democracy sanctions, lifted earlier this year.

"I am particularly disturbed by Gen Musharraf's actions because I see my concern that Pakistan is being steered away from democracy," Mr Pallone, founder of the India caucus, told the House of Representatives. PTI

THE TIMES OF INDIA

19 JUL 2002

A SALUTARY ANTI-TERROR VERDICT

THE DEATH SENTENCE that a Pakistani judge has imposed on Omar Sheikh in the case relating to the abduction and murder of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, sends out a strong message of positive relevance to the ongoing global campaign against political terrorism. Although the trial of Omar Sheikh and his suspected accomplices has lacked the kind of transparency that would have reinforced the credibility of the legal process, there is no hard evidence at all to suggest that a miscarriage of justice might have occurred. Entirely explicable were the circumstances in which a veil of enormous secrecy was drawn over the hearings inside a prison in the Pakistani city of Hyderabad. Not surprisingly, a defence lawyer is reported to have indicated that Omar Sheikh would challenge the verdict against him in a manner that could shake the foundations of Pakistan's present regime. Now, whatever might be the controversies within Pakistan over the domestic political policies of its President, Pervez Musharraf, his stated commitment to combat terrorism evokes a resonance far beyond the confines of his country. Of abiding interest to the international community is the sustainability of his strategic decision, first announced last year, to wage a war against the terrorist activities of the misguided "Islamic jihadis" within Pakistan and to make common cause with other countries to control this phenomenon across the world. It is in this overall context that the world will watch how Pakistan's President and its judicial system might carry this anti-terror process forward.

It should be underlined that Gen. Musharraf can and must stay the anti-terror course without being deterred by the bluff and bluster of Omar Sheikh and the others of his line of murderous thinking. Nor should the Pakistan President slow down his campaign against religious radicalism at home for the fear of provoking a fierce backlash from Omar Sheikh's ideological fellow travellers whose number is not negligible. From Gen. Musharraf's

standpoint, what is at stake is not only the moral underpinning of his anti-terror strategy but also his own political survival in the face of "internationalised" Islamic radicalism. The trial and punishment of Omar Sheikh and his alleged co-conspirators have already put Gen. Musharraf's own credibility on line. While the Pakistan President seems to have held his ground quite successfully so far, the litmus test of his anti-terror leadership is far from over.

In a critical sense, Gen. Musharraf's challenges are compounded by Omar Sheikh's origin as a British-born activist with a Pakistan-related agenda and by his political moorings as an "internationalist jihadi" with a record of fomenting anti-India terror as a "special" skill. New Delhi's agonised and forced action of releasing Omar Sheikh, among a few others, in exchange for the liberty of the passengers of an Indian Airlines flight in 1999 may have marked a phase in his evolution as a purveyor of terror. If the reported fragments of Omar Sheikh's "autobiographical" confessions are to be taken into account, it appears that he fancied himself to be adept at propagating the notion of designer terrorism in the name and style of "jihad" by the time he masterminded the abduction of Daniel Pearl in Karachi on January 23 this year. The Pearl murder case does, in many ways, symbolise not only the reach of international terror but also the range of inter-state cooperation in anti-terror investigations. Reportedly, America's technical help, especially from the Federal Bureau of Investigation, has enabled the Pakistani authorities to crack the Pearl case through suitable electronic surveillance. It is this aspect that seems to have provoked Omar Sheikh to accuse Gen. Musharraf of having succumbed to American pressure and influenced the Pakistani judiciary at this stage. However, the real merit of the latest judgment against Omar Sheikh is that it has the potential to encourage the entire international community to combat political terrorism by every means without fear.

1 8 JUL 2002

THE HINDU

'WE WILL SEE WHO WILL DIE FIRST'

Death for Omar Sheikh in Pearl murder case

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JULY 15. An anti-terrorism court in Pakistan today sentenced Omar Saeed Sheikh to death by hanging for his involvement in the kidnapping and subsequent murder of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl.

Three other accused in the case — Salman Saqib, Fahad Naseem and Shaikh Adil — were sentenced to life imprisonment. The four were ordered to pay Rs. 25 lakhs to the wife of Pearl. Police have named seven more suspects in the case, but they remain at large.

The case attracted international attention as it brought to the fore the terror network of the Al-Qaeda and its allied organisations in Pakistan after the collapse of the Taliban in Afghanistan in the wake of the U.S.-led coalition's military action in October last year.

Pearl disappeared on January 23 from Karachi while investigating the links of some of the fundamentalist organisations to the Al-Qaeda. A month later, the authorities learnt about Pearl's execution at the hands of his abductors.

The impunity with which the abductors had operated could be gauged from the fact that they kept sending e-mail messages along with demands for the release of some of the Al-Qaeda activists in U.S. captivity. On



Omar Saeed Sheikh
(file photo)

February 23, they sent a gory video cassette containing the last minutes of Pearl, including the details of his execution.

The judgment was pronounced in a heavily guarded jail in Hyderabad in the Sindh province.

The proceedings were held in-camera. The case, originally heard by a Karachi court, was shifted to Hyderabad following threats from unidentified outfits. The proceedings were not open to the press.

The verdict does not mean that it is the end of the case. Counsel for the accused have said they would challenge the judgment. Government counsel said he was waiting for instructions whether or not to appeal to a higher court seeking a greater punishment for those sen-

tenced to life imprisonment.

Omar Sheikh, one of the three militants released by India in December 1999 in exchange for the freedom of the hijacked Indian Airlines passengers, showed defiance throughout the proceedings. He had not only asked to be tried under the Shariat (Islamic) laws but also, at one stage, talked of dire consequences if he was sentenced.

The verdict has made little impact on him was evident from the statement read out by his lawyer on his behalf outside the jail. It said, "we'll see who will die first, me or the authorities who have arranged the death sentence for me. Musharraf should know that Almighty Allah is there and can get his revenge. Now the jihad (holy war) between Islam and non-Muslims is going on and everybody is showing whether he is in favour of Islam or in favour of the non-believers".

Counsel for the accused claimed that the Pakistani Government pressured the judge to "appease" the U.S., which had sought Saeed's extradition to face charges in the Pearl case and another case in India for the abduction of another American in 1994. "There was no evidence to substantiate the charges. The strategy of the Pakistani Government is to please America even if Americans are crushing the Muslims", he told reporters.

THE HINDU

15 JUL 2002

11-14

Terror Trail 16/7

It is futile to speculate on the origins of the latest terrorist outrage in Jammu that killed innocent labourers, including women and children. Indeed, in the absence of firm proof, it might be unwise to see the attack as attesting to the continuing terrorist infiltration into India. The timing suggests that it was meant to coincide with the visits of high-level British and US officials to the region in the run-up to elections in J&K. The swift condemnation from Pakistan is a reassurance only to the extent that it comes minus the usual equivocation about freedom struggle. General Musharraf is obviously aware that international norms no longer allow any equation between terrorism and freedom struggle, especially when the latter involves the killing of innocent women and children. However, he needs to do much more than issue condemnation statements of which we have seen enough. The problem with General Musharraf is that his actions convey signals very different from his speeches. The Jammu attack comes barely months after he promised a permanent end to infiltration and closure of terrorist camps. Yet, there has been no significant progress on this.

Thus, even if the general did not sanction this particular attack, he cannot escape responsibility for facilitating it by his failure to dismantle the terrorist infrastructure. It is quite obvious that General Musharraf is walking the tightrope between keeping the West happy and ensuring the safety of his own position. It is the latter that would seem to dictate his strategy to permit moderate levels of activity by the Al-Qaida, Taliban and the jihadis. At the same time he can use the threat of terrorism to extract from the West as much economic hand-outs as he can. Till now this game appears to have paid Pakistan rich dividends. As for India, its best bet lies in combining maximum restraint with continued military and diplomatic pressure on Pakistan. New Delhi must question the British and US assessment of General Musharraf's alleged promises and insist that they ask Pakistan to accept in public what it is said to have promised in private. Going a step further, India should also call upon the UK and US to promote an immediate Indo-Pak dialogue on the implementation of General Musharraf's promises to the international community. Pakistan's sincerity and bona fides have to be demonstrated through that dialogue at the military level before there can be any political-level discussion.

16 JUL 2004

From model pupil to terrorist kingpin

16/7
Karachi, July 15 (Reuters): British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, sentenced to death for murdering US reporter Daniel Pearl, could have been a poster child for the generation born to thousands of immigrants trying to make a better life in Britain.

The son of a clothes merchant, he has been described as handsome, charming and polite. He was a model pupil at the private school he attended.

With a university place secured at the London School of Economics and a position on Britain's arm-wrestling team at the World Championships in Geneva, he appeared a well-balanced young man.

But then something clicked. ~~30~~ Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, better known as Omar Sheikh, was convicted and sentenced to death for the kidnapping and murder of Pearl, a *Wall Street Journal* reporter.

Only 23, Omar is no stranger to notoriety or sensational kidnap cases. After dropping out of university, he shot to prominence in 1994 when police arrested him and accused him of involvement in the kidnapping of three Britons and an American tourist in India.

He was freed in exchange for passengers of a plane hijacked to the southern Afghan city of Kandahar just two weeks before his case was due to be heard.

The Britons — Paul Rideout, Myles Croston and Rhys Partridge — said they had been befriended and then lured to a remote Indian village by a man they knew as Rohit Sharma, who said he was a student at the LSE. The trap was sprung.

Suddenly, their friend was transformed, tying his victims to a stake and threatening to behead them one by one unless Indian authorities released two Islamic militants fighting for an end to Indian rule in Kash-



Omar Sheikh (left) arm-wrestles in a video which was released by a promoter on March 26, 2002. The British-born Sheikh was a keen arm-wrestler as a teenager and entered several competitions between 1991 and 1994. (Reuters)

mir. The tourists were freed after 10 days in a shootout in which a kidnapper and two policemen were killed.

Indian police, with the help of the British tourists, later identified Rohit Sharma as Omar Sheikh, who by then had been captured after a fight with an Indian policeman on the outskirts of New Delhi.

Pearl's kidnap has some of the same hallmarks. He was lured into a trap, investigators say, as he researched an article on Muslim fundamentalism.

The son of a wholesale clothes merchant from Wanstead in east London, Omar was born in 1974. He attended the prestigious, fee-paying Forest School in north London, where teachers described him as an "all-round and supportive" pupil, who became a house prefect.

"He was in the premier

league of students; there was absolutely nothing there, no sign whatsoever of this (militancy)," said Omar's economics teacher, George Paynter.

But during interrogation following his 1994 capture, Omar told police he had been disturbed by ethnic strife in the Balkans and went to Croatia in 1993.

There he met Islamic activists and soon after went to Pakistan, linking up with a militant group and receiving training at a guerrilla camp in neighbouring Afghanistan, Indian police say.

Indian investigators say Omar left a 35-page handwritten diary in his cell at the high-security Delhi jail where he was held for five years.

The diary, seen, covers the period leading up to the 1994 kidnap, and tells of his excitement during his gradual immersion in the radical Islamic cause.

16 JUL 2002

THE TELEGRAPH

TUESDAY, JULY 16, 2002

COMBATING TERROR

11/10
16/7

THE TERRORIST ATTACK on a colony of slum-dwellers in Jammu last Saturday that has left some 27 innocent persons — nearly half of them women — dead is the most heinous one since the May 14 Kaluchak incident, wherein the target were the families of security personnel. For its sheer brutality, barbarism and cowardliness, the latest episode ranks with Kaluchak and has rightly been condemned in the strongest of terms universally, reflecting the pervasive zero-tolerance attitude worldwide vis-a-vis terrorism of all hues. But it certainly falls into a pattern noticeable in the operational strategy of the foreign-backed insurgent elements especially in the context of the concerted anti-terror global campaign after September 11, 2001, with Pakistan, as a key ally of the U.S.-led coalition, turning the heat on them on its soil. In a sense, therefore, the July 13 Jammu massacre may well be yet another act of desperation on the part of the outlawed outfits such as the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Taiba operating presumably in smaller groups and under new names. Initial reports suggest that the authorities suspect the hand of the LeT, although the final word is yet to be said. But then, in this treacherous game of terror, the label does not really count much particularly after its frequent change became a matter of expediency post-September 11.

In combating the terrorist menace in Jammu and Kashmir, a substantial part of which is attributable to the logistical and other support and encouragement Pakistan has been extending to the various jihadi groups, there is undoubtedly an unassailable case for working on different options to bring pressure on Islamabad to play its part by way of stopping cross-border terrorism. At the same time, the Centre can ill afford to belittle or ignore the equally important 'domestic' components of the counter-insurgency strategic framework. They require, at one level, the

Jammu ✓

positioning of professionally competent, well-equipped and effective anti-terror intelligence and combative mechanisms. The systems as are existing and their performance levels leave much to be desired, despite the official claims of 'revamp' heard after every major terrorist attack. Concerns in this area need to be addressed in all seriousness and urgency in the context of the famed annual Amarnath Yatra and the impending elections to the State Assembly. In fact, the timing of the Jammu massacre itself suggests a 'link' with these two upcoming events. If the Amarnath pilgrims have tended to be a 'soft target' for the terrorist groups in recent years, the proposed democratic exercise is anathema to the jihadis, who would go to any length to sabotage it. This means one should expect many more such dastardly and provocative strikes in an attempt to scuttle the poll process, and it is for the Centre and the State Government to meet the challenge and frustrate such diabolical plans.

At a more fundamental level, the fight against insurgency in Jammu and Kashmir has a lot to do with reaching out to the large sections of the people who stand alienated from the political establishment for a variety of reasons. In recent months, there have been quite a few discernibly positive signs, apart from a palpable yearning for peace across the State, and at least some of them are traceable to the vigorous anti-terror global campaign. Therefore it is that the stakes are very high for the nation in making a success of the coming elections, not just in terms of the smooth conduct of the exercise; it has to be free, fair and one with as wide a participation by different ideological streams of political opinion as possible. For this to happen, the Atal Behari Vajpayee Government has to come up with some imaginative and credible policy initiatives such as to inspire the confidence of the alienated sections and induce them to participate in the democratic process.

Pak court sentences Omar to death

Hyderabad (Pakistan): Two-and-a-half years after his release by New Delhi to end the hijacking of an Indian Airlines' plane, British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was on Monday sentenced to death by a Pakistani court for the kidnapping and killing of American journalist Daniel Pearl. However, Britain said it did not support the sentence.



Omar Sheikh

Twenty-seven-year-old Omar Sheikh, whose three accomplices were awarded life imprisonment by judge Ali Ashraf Shah in the heavily fortified makeshift court in the jail here, reacted defiantly to the verdict, saying he would retaliate against the authorities for "arranging" the sentence.

After a three-month trial, the

anti-terrorism court judge found Omar Sheikh, Salman Saquib, Fahad Nasim and Sheikh Adil guilty of killing Pearl, 38, Mumbai-based South Asia correspondent of the *Wall Street Journal*.

The defence team said it would appeal against the ruling in the Sindh high court and the supreme court if necessary before the sentence was carried out. Execution in Pakistan is usually by hanging. In a message read out by his lawyer, Omar Sheikh said, "We shall see who will die first, either I or the authorities who have arranged the death sentence for me." The British government welcomed the guilty verdict, but reportedly said its opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances was well-known.

Pearl was abducted in Karachi on January 23 while researching the links between Pakistan-based militant outfits and Osama bin

Jihad's poster boy

- Met Muslim fundamentalists while fighting Serbs in Bosnia in 1990s
- Returned to Pakistan in '92-'93 as Harkat-ul Ansar member
- Trained in Afghanistan, infiltrated into Kashmir
- In 1993, he kidnapped four foreigners in India
- Arrested near New Delhi in November '94 and jailed
- In jail, he met Jaish leader Maulana Masood Azhar
- Both Omar and Azhar were released after the hijack of IC-814 in December, 2000

Laden's Al Qaida network.

"The judge has convicted Omar of murder, conspiracy and abduc-

tion charges," chief prosecutor Raja Qureshi said. The judge awarded a 25-year jail term to Omar's three accomplices.

Mr Qureshi said he was satisfied with the conviction given to the prime suspect, but he would appeal for enhancement of the conviction given to other three.

The four defendants were collectively fined two million rupees, which would go to Pearl's widow Mariane and their son, who was born after his father's killing. In case of non-payment, they would undergo five extra years in prison.

In Washington, publisher of the *Wall Street Journal*, Steven Goldstein, in a brief statement said, "We continue to hope that everyone responsible for his (Pearl's) kidnapping and murder will be brought to justice. Today's verdict is one step in the direction." Agencies

• Omar lured victims into trap, Page 11

THE TIMES OF INDIA

16 OCT 2002

UK, France condemn Kashmir killings

New Delhi: Foreign ministers of Britain and France on Sunday spoke to external affairs minister Yashwant Sinha to convey their deep shock and outrage over Saturday night's terrorist attack near Jammu and said this makes the resolve to fight terrorism all the more necessary than before.

British foreign secretary Straw, who is on a visit to China, and French foreign minister Dominique Villepin spoke on telephone to Sinha who conveyed to them that the international community should understand that there was a limit to what Indian public opinion can take.

Villepin, who is expected here in early August, said he would also go to Pakistan to convey a "strong message" that violence could not be allowed to take place. He had also recently discussed the issue of terrorism being faced by India with US secretary of state Colin Powell, external affairs ministry sources said.

- **French foreign minister Villepin said he would go to Pak to make it clear that violence could not be tolerated.**
- **Both Straw and Villepin said nothing can justify the Qasim Nagar massacre.**

Sinha told Villepin that Indian people "are outraged by the continuing acts of terrorism which has been thrust upon them".

Both Straw and Villepin said nothing can justify massacres like the one which took place in Qasim Nagar near Jammu.

When asked about the perpetrators of this dastardly act, the external affairs minister informed Straw that as seen in recent terrorist attacks, in this case also nobody has as yet claimed responsibility for the massacre.

"The terrorists involved in Saturday's attack mowed down innocent civilians and then melted into the darkness. Investigations into the incident were on", Sinha told Straw, according to an external affairs ministry statement. Straw, who is due to arrive in India on July 19 as part of continuing diplomatic efforts to ease Indo-Pak tensions, had earlier on Sunday in a statement issued in London, said he was "horried at this attack on innocent civilians".

"Terrorism be it in Jammu, Kashmir or anywhere else only serves to renew the determination of the free world to fight this evil ... My thoughts are with the families and friends of those who suffered".

A French foreign ministry statement, released by the embassy here, said "it also demands that each one demonstrates his sense of responsibility in order to avoid spiralling of violence". PTI

THE LOSS



THE SHOCK



THE ANGER



THE HUNT



Govt saw it coming: Jammu sounds inconsolable

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
JAMMU, JULY 14

THE militant attack on a cluster of slums on the outskirts of Jammu last evening did not come as a surprise to many. And they feel the state government is partly to blame for the spurt in militant activities in the area. Many in the administration attribute the rise in violence to the illegal settlement of "strangers" in large numbers on the outskirts of Jammu city during the last few years. However, the state government has all along turned a blind eye to unauthorised settlements.

A senior police officer, on the condition of anonymity, said that the land mafia, in connivance with Revenue Department officials, sell off state land for a hefty sum to migrants. The government, instead of

getting the land cleared of these unauthorised settlers, last year introduced the Roshni scheme to regularise all encroachments, the police official added. However, this served no purpose and the illegal settlements only mushroomed.

Sources said that on June 2 last year, the police arrested a Pakistani militant, Mohammad Arshad alias Abu Akassa, from Sunjwan area on the outskirts of Jammu city. The militant, who owed allegiance to the Lashkar-e-Toiba, was staying in a rented accommodation in the house of a retired policeman and had established contacts in the area.

Taking advantage of these contacts, he had not only got a state subject (certificate showing the person as a bona fide resident of the state) from the Revenue Department but had also purchased four marlas of land in Sunjwan and an

Identity Card from the Zonal Relief Officer, the sources added.

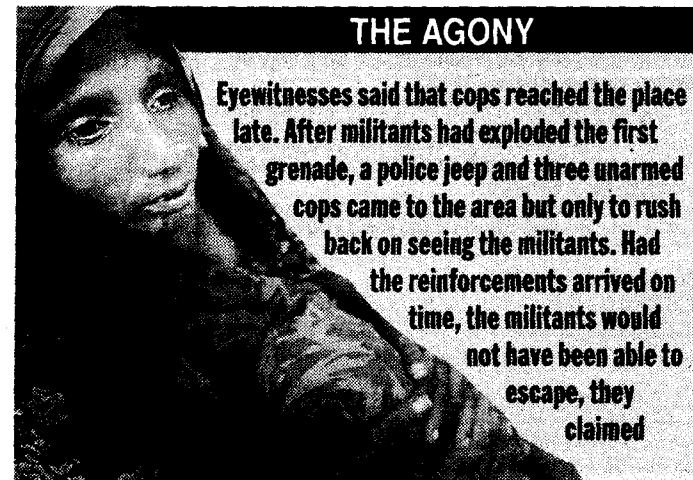
Before the police could conclude their investigations in the case, on June 14, another Pakistani militant, Zulfikar alias Abu Jihad, along with his accomplice Zakir alias Usman of Doda, was arrested from Old Jammu city, the sources added. The militant, who owed allegiance to the LeT, had also procured a house in the city. Zulfikar had to pay Rs 2.5 lakh to the original allottee of the house that belonged to the state government's Evacuee Department, sources said.

Sources added that militants had been waiting for the right opportunity to launch a strike and yesterday's attack, which killed 27 people and injured many, was only expected. Police stations last month were put on high alert following a message from the police control

room that eight fidayeens owing allegiance to the Al Qaeda and Jaish-e-Mohaminad have sneaked into Jammu to do something "big" on or before July 6. But July 6 passed off peacefully. And the police heaved a

sigh of relief thinking alarm bells were sounded for nothing.

A few days later, another alert was sounded in the city asking police to keep a watch on *madaris* (street magicians) after an arrested



THE AGONY

Eyewitnesses said that cops reached the place late. After militants had exploded the first grenade, a police jeep and three unarmed cops came to the area but only to rush back on seeing the militants. Had the reinforcements arrived on time, the militants would not have been able to escape, they claimed

LeT militant disclosed that some militants under the guise of magicians have entered the city from across the border. And since nothing happened, the police became all the more relaxed. The sources added that this gave the militants a good enough opportunity to strike.

An eyewitness to yesterday's attack, Manohar Lal, whose uncle died in the attack, said he was in his *jhuggi* when he heard a deafening sound. As he came out to see what was happening, he saw militants disguised as *sadhus* spraying bullets on civilians. He then quickly hid himself behind a concrete wall.

Other eyewitnesses told the *The Indian Express* that police reached the place late. After militants had exploded the first grenade, a police jeep and three unarmed cops came to the area but only to rush back on seeing the mil-

itants. Had the reinforcements arrived on time, the militants would not have been able to escape, they added. When the police came, militants melted into the Raika forests. The area is being combed by Army and police.

(From top left) Relatives stand guard of the dead; Governor G.C. Saxena along with Union Minister of State for External Affairs Omar Abdullah and Minister of State for Rural Development Ajay Sadhotra visits the site; People protest against government's failure to check militancy; Police and CRPF personnel carry out a joint combing operation in Reka forests adjoining the massacre site on Sunday.

Express photos by Neeraj Upadhyay and Naresh Sharma

Militants mow down 24 watching cricket match

Carnage in Jammu ends calm

FROM MUKHTAR AHMAD

Srinagar, July 13: Militants struck at a Jammu slum this evening when residents were watching the cricket match on television, leaving 24 dead in the biggest massacre since the Kaluchak attack in May that had brought India and Pakistan to the brink of war.

The Centre reserved its comment late tonight but the massacre is expected to top the agenda of the Cabinet Committee on Security, which is scheduled to meet tomorrow.

The carnage came a few hours after new foreign minister Yashwant Sinha said infiltration across the Line of Control had gone up after an initial drop and added that India would not resume talks with Pakistan till the Musharraf regime dismantled the militant camps.

This followed statements by the US state department yesterday that infiltration had come down substantially.

State director-general of police Ashok Suri said a group of two to four militants sneaked into the Qasim Nagar locality and hurled two grenades. "As the people came out, the militants sprayed bullets from their automatic weapons on the slum dwellers," he said. A Reuters report said the militants were disguised as Hindu holy men.

Three persons were killed near the temple in the locality, where the militants fired from their automatic weapons. "Thirteen persons died on the spot while the others succumbed to their injuries in the hospital," Suri added. A child was among the 13 who were brought dead to the hospital.

Thirty people have been wounded in the strike, 15 of them seriously. All the injured are in hospital.

As news of the massacre spread, panic gripped Jammu city. People rushed home and army and police personnel were sent to the spot immediately.

The troops encircled the area and engaged the militants in a heavy gunbattle. "We can still hear the sounds of gunfire," said Ramesh Kumar, a resident, when he was reached on telephone.

"The troops returned the fire and the area has been completely sealed. The Jammu bypass road has also been closed for traffic. No movement is being allowed and heavy firing exchanges are continuing in the locality," said a police official.

But Suri said that after the heavy firing, the militants had escaped towards the adjoining hills. "Army and police are searching the hills. The firing has stopped. But the searches are continuing," he said. No one has yet claimed responsibility.

THE TELEGRAPH

14 JUL 2002

Radicals arrested for US consulate attack

FROM IMRAN MAQBOOL

Karachi, July 8 (Reuters): Two Pakistanis with links to Afghanistan's ousted Taliban admitted today that they were behind last month's deadly car bomb attack on the US consulate in Karachi, as well as a string of other attacks in the country.

The pair, paraded by Pakistan paramilitary rangers before a news conference in Karachi, said they had originally planned to assassinate President Pervez Musharraf in late April, but their car bomb had failed to detonate.

Instead, they detonated the bomb outside the US consulate on June 14, killing 12 people and seriously wounding over 20.

"I, along with my other friends, were involved in the US bombing," Mohammad Hanif told the news conference.

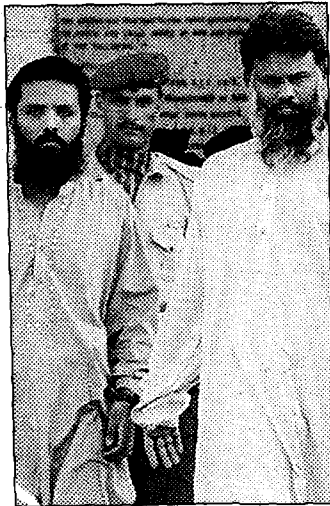
"We acted in consultation. One of our friends, who was willing to be a suicide bomber, carried out the attack."

Maj-Gen. Salahuddin, head of the paramilitary Pakistan Ranger force investigating the blast, said that Hanif and two colleagues had also been responsible for attacks on Western targets such as fast-food chains.

"We were able to nab three main culprits. They were involved in this consulate bombing," he said.

He said those arrested were members of the Harkat-ul-Mujahideen al-Almi organisation, a group with close links to the Taliban, who were ousted by the US-led coalition following the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington.

The group, an offshoot of a myriad of Muslim splinter organisations, also has links to separatists fighting Indian rule in Kashmir. Harkat-ul-Mujahideen



Militants Mohammad Hanif (left) and Mohammad Imran after being presented at a press conference in Karachi. They were involved in a bomb attack on the US consulate. (AFP)

has long been on a blacklist of organisations deemed "terrorist" by the US.

The three arrested in Karachi included the al-Almi offshoot group's head, Mohammad Imran, who was also paraded at the news conference. Mohammad Hanif was the deputy head and chief of the militant wing, while the third man was named as Mohammad Ahmed.

Salahuddin said authorities had recovered a substantial quantity of weapons and ammunition, and that the organisation's network had been seriously disrupted.

The June attack on the US consulate was the fourth on Western targets in Pakistan this year.

In May, a suicide car bomber killed 11 French engineers and two Pakistanis outside a Karachi

hotel, while US reporter Daniel Pearl was kidnapped in the same volatile city in January and later killed.

A grenade attack on a church in Islamabad in March killed five people, including three foreigners.

Pakistan has been helping the United States in its campaign to track down Osama bin Laden and his al Qaida network, blamed for the September 11 attacks, and has been a key player in the US-led international coalition against terror.

Salahuddin said the bombers originally planned to assassinate President Musharraf in an attack on his presidential motorcade on April 26 as he was driving to a rally in Karachi.

THE TELEGRAPH

2 111 2007

LA killer born on 4 July

KATTY KAY AND CHRIS REED
THE TIMES, LONDON

WASHINGTON, July 6. — The man responsible for the Independence Day killings at Los Angeles airport was an Egyptian born on the Fourth of July who left behind a string of tantalising clues about his motive.

Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, 41, an Egyptian, had lived in America for ten years, and prospered there, but became incensed when a neighbour hung a large American flag over his balcony after the September 11 attacks. He opened fire at the check-in counter of El Al, the Israeli airline, but offered a good rate to a Jewish customer who wanted to use the services of his limousine company.

Hadayet had two driving licences with different names. They also had different birth dates — April 7 and July 4, which could be explained by transposing the number of the month and day. However, his relatives said he was born on July 4. The names were also slightly different. One licence gave it as Hesham Mohamed Ali.

On his front door Hadayet had left a sticker that said: "Read the Koran". Some

witnesses said he argued with the clerk at the El Al ticket counter. One said he shouted that someone had "taken my job". The FBI said that Hadayet carried a powerful Glock .45 semi-automatic pistol, a Glock 9 mm pistol and a knife. The Israeli government called the killings an act of terrorism but the White House and FBI said they had found no evidence to support that.

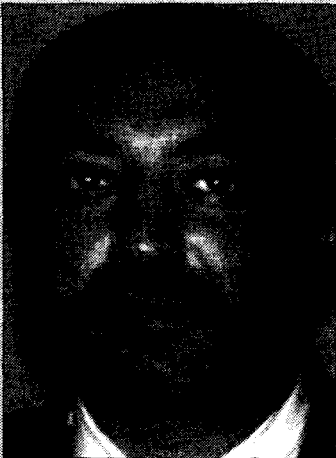
Hadayet trod the well-worn path from new immigrant to small businessman. He became a limousine driver and ran his own company, Five Star Limo, from home. He lived with his wife and

two sons in a small flat in a middle-class Californian neighbourhood 35 miles south of Los Angeles airport. Relatives said he would have qualified for American citizenship next year.

After September 11 an upstairs neighbour hung large American and Marine Corps flags over his balcony. The flags fluttered right above Hadayet's front door and he was furious. Neighbours said Hadayet demanded that the flags be removed and would not let the matter rest. "He complained about it to the apartment manager. He thought it was being thrown in his face," a neighbour said.

Earlier this summer a Jewish neighbour became one of Hadayet's customers. Kobi Metzler's 16-year-old daughter hired Hadayet to drive her to her school prom. "She came home and said 'Dad, this guy is so cool,'" Mr Metzler recalled, adding that Hadayet had offered the teenager "a really low price". Hadayet's wife and children reportedly travelled to Cairo in June.

Before he left for home on Thursday, Hadayet called his family in Cairo as he knew his father would want to wish him Happy Birthday.



Hesham Md Hadayet

7 JUL 2002

THE STATESMAN

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LA shooting a terror attack: Israel

JERUSALEM, July 5. - Israel is assuming that the attack in Los Angeles airport at the El Al Israel Airlines counter yesterday was a terror attack until proven otherwise, an Israeli Cabinet minister said today. An El Al security guard shot dead the Egyptian immigrant gunman after he shot dead two persons and injured six others near the airlines' counter.

After the attacker was identified by the FBI as Egyptian-born Hesham Mohamed Hadayet, 41, from Irvine, California, Israeli transport minister Mr Ephraim Sneh told Israel Radio today: "We are going to assume it's a terror attack until proven otherwise."

(In Cairo, Hadayet's neighbours said the

gunman's father was a general in the Egyptian army, adds a report)

Noting that Israel is embroiled in a conflict with the Palestinians, Mr Sneh added: "As far as we're concerned this is not an isolated incident." Israeli foreign minister praised "the swift reaction and the courage" of El Al agents in Los Angeles.

In another incident, an El Al pilot flying over Ukraine reported seeing a missile fired from the ground, officials said today. They said the missile exploded a few miles away from the plane. But Mr Sneh said he had talked to the pilot and concluded it "wasn't a missile intentionally aimed the plane".

— Agencies

THE STATESMAN

6 JUL 2002

Al Qaeda's twin wars: against US, its cadre

When he wasn't plotting terror attacks against the US, Ayman al-Zawahri was otherwise preoccupied: keeping his increasingly restive flock in check. Red tape and rebellion, then, were Al Qaeda scourges as well. **ANDREW HIGGINS & ALAN CULLISON report**

AFTER his release, Zawahri spent 10 days meeting secretly with Islamists in Dagestan. He also sent Tharwat Salah Shehata — who later became the head of Egyptian Jihad and who met him in the Russian jail. Zawahri faced intense questioning by followers who hadn't been told of his Russia journey. One demanded an explanation for his "mysterious disappearance." But some followers got only a smokescreen, perhaps designed to prevent suspicions of betrayal that might arise from such a quick release from Russian arrest.

Zawahri developed an ulcer in this period, prompting get-well messages from confederates but not defanging their criticism. "We ask God to grant you recovery from your ulcer, but this illness is not too serious to prevent you from working," said a letter sent by mutinous militants in Yemen. Running out

Zawahri's '88 call for a Jihad against 'Jews and Crusaders' overturned his earlier diktat that the struggle for Egypt trumped all other battles. His new approach rattled some members of Egyptian Jihad. And there were complaints that Osama had a 'black history' and couldn't be trusted

of friends and hiding places, Zawahri settled in Afghanistan.

The move signalled a dramatic change not just of scenery but also of strategy. On Feb 23, 1998, *Al-Quds Al-Arabi*, an Arabic-language newspaper, published a statement that set off alarms in Washington. Announcing an alliance between Zawahri and Osama bin Laden, it declared the founding of the International Islamic Front for Jihad on

the Jews and Crusaders. The front said in its founding manifesto: "We—with God's help—call on every Muslim ... to comply with God's order to kill Americans."

The call overturned Zawahri's prior diktat that the struggle for Egypt trumped all other battles. The new approach rattled some members of Egyptian Jihad, who thought it unwise to take on the world's superpower. The head of the group's Islamic-law committee derided it as a "great illusion." Why, he asked, had Zawahri not gone to "Egypt to perform the work there that he says he supports so much?" And he complained that Osama had a "black history".

Some militants demanded an emergency meeting, according to a letter seized in London. "There is a deep abyss in thinking," the March 1998 letter said. The meeting took place the next month in Afghanistan. Its minutes, faxed to

militants abroad and later seized by London police, allude to the discord in flaccid bureaucratic language. More spirited is an account by one militant, Tariq Anwar. Apologising for the dry vagueness of the faxed minutes, he said that a more honest account would have led to "arguments that would take us 10 years to finish ... since we would disagree on every word."

He reported that Zawahri had

threatened to resign; had denounced his own brother, commander Mohammed Zawahri; and had revealed that financial accounts for two years were missing. "Everybody agreed this was a disaster," wrote Anwar. "I always felt this entity may dissolve in seconds."

THESE same issues—Osama, money, inertia in Muslim states and the wisdom of baiting America—would convulse Egyptian Jihad for the next three years. The debate gained new urgency when the Central Intelligence Agency began a campaign to arrest Egyptian Jihad activists hiding in Albania, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan and ship them to Egypt. Among those returned was Mabruk, one of Zawahri's cellmates in Russia.

In July 1998, Zawahri received an SOS from "Akram," an alias of Ahmed Saleh, an Egyptian Jihad member working in Albania. He said two Jihad friends had just been grabbed by US agents. "I want to leave. Please help," he pleaded. Two weeks later, Saleh was arrested, flown on a CIA-chartered plane to Cairo and hanged 18 months later.

Complaints and warnings cascaded into Afghanistan by fax, telephone and courier. An Egyptian Jihad leader in Yemen said the alliance with Osama, known as "the Contractor," had caused "continuous catastrophes." He added, "If you keep receiving messages through the Contractor's system a big and huge disaster will occur."

Zawahri paid little heed. On Aug 4, 1998, Egyptian Jihad denounced the CIA-led arrests in Albania and said America would soon receive a response "in the only language that they understand." Three days later, terrorists blew up US embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, killing over 220 people. The blasts, according to court testimony in New York last year, were planned by a top Egyptian Jihad commander, Mohammed Atef.

The US responded with a cruise-missile strike on an al Qaeda camp in Afghanistan. Shortly afterward, Zawahri used Osama's satellite phone to call a Pakistani journalist, saying he and

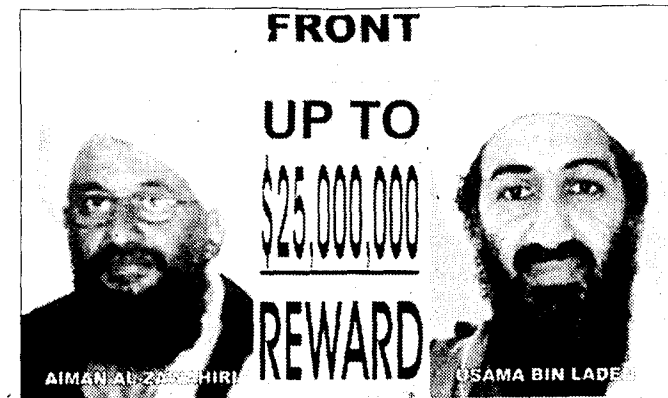
Osama were safe and adding: "The war has only just begun."

THE militants' internal war, meanwhile, was heating up, fuelled by fear of America's fury and by frustration at penny-pinching. The Yemen chapter ran through three leaders in just a few months. In London, Eidarous, one of those who travelled to Russia to seek Zawahri's release, quit.

Several activists the CIA nabbed and sent to Egypt began to talk, revealing code names and hiding places. Money grew tighter. Za-

Muslim countries. Also in 2000, Zawahri began work on a book, *Knights Under the Banner of the Prophet*. He didn't anticipate a best seller: "I expect no publisher to publish it or any distributor to distribute it." The book explains the evolution of his thinking. "The battle today cannot be fought on just a regional level". The "only language understood by the West" is "maximum casualties."

Zawahri's replacement, Shehata, presided over yet more setbacks. In early 2000, Zawahri's brother, Mohammed, vanished.



wahri borrowed from members and scrounged from Osama. He cut members' salaries and quibbled over expense reports. "Why did you buy a new fax machine for \$470? Where are the two old ones?" he chided the Yemen cell. "Please explain the mobile phone invoice... Stop all expenses unless it is an emergency!"

The Yemen cell's chief sent a huffy reply: "The first step to implement this advice is my immediate resignation."

Squeezed by America, by Egypt and by parts of his own group, Zawahri stepped down as leader of Egyptian Jihad in summer 1999. Taking his place was Shehata, who had visited him in Russia. Shehata, according to Sebai, the London-based Islamist, wanted to limit ties with Osama because "it was far more important to fight against the regime in Egypt than America."

IN the summer of 2000, Zawahri wrote a series of letters to clerics in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Britain urging them to decamp to Afghanistan, praising the country as a "den of garrisoned lions" from

As money grew tighter, Zawahri scrounged from Osama, cut salaries and quibbled over account expense reports. 'Why did you buy a new fax machine for \$470?' he chided the Yemen cell. The cell's chief's reply: 'The first step to implement this advice is my immediate resignation'

There have been whispers in Islamic circles that he was detained and possibly murdered by fellow militants for theft or treachery. And four influential veterans quit, voicing disgust at "the thinking and management, whether old or new." Zawahri resumed control of Egyptian Jihad. Back in command, he did what he'd always done in difficult times: upped the ante. Only bold action, he argued, could revive the cause. He warned of increased market share for "international monopolies"—Western security agencies—and urged a full "merger" with the wealthy "Contractor," Osama. Only this, he said, could "increase profits".

In June 2001, Egyptian Jihad

and al Qaeda drafted "Statement No 1" under a new "company" name: Qaeda-al Jihad Group. Islam's enemies, it said, "will soon roast in the same flames that they now play with." A month later, someone sat down at the computer in Kabul and composed a text trumpeting "martyrdom operations" against the West. Its title: "The Solution."

ZAWAHRI was last seen on a videotape made somewhere in Afghanistan broadcast in April. The tape was obtained by the Arabic-language television channel Al Jazeera. But it is unclear when the tape was made, where Zawahri is now and even whether he is alive. The British government has received persistent reports he was killed, but US officials have not confirmed this.

The last person claiming to have talked to Zawahri is Farrag Ismail, a Cairo journalist. After Sept 11, he asked officials close to the Taliban to help arrange an interview. He said his phone finally rang in late November, after US-backed forces had overrun most of Afghanistan. Atef had been killed in a US missile attack, and Zawahri's wife and three children

were rumoured to have been killed near Kandahar.

Ismail said he spoke with Zawahri briefly and then had a written exchange with him through a Taliban intermediary. Ismail offered Zawahri condolences for the loss of his wife and daughters. "They are fine," he says Zawahri replied. "No condolences should be offered for martyrdom if they were granted it."

On the run and surrounded by destruction, Zawahri claimed "remarkable victories during the past days." He repeated what, since his retreat to Afghanistan, had become his mantra: "The real war has started now."

—Concluded
(The Wall Street Journal)

US choppers for Pak watch on al-Qaida

Islamabad, July 4

THE UNITED States has sent five helicopters and modern surveillance equipment to Pakistan to monitor the infiltration of al-Qaida terrorists along the Afghan border.

A US transport plane carrying the surveillance equipment landed at the Islamabad International Airport on Wednesday, a report in the local daily Dawn said.

The consignment is part of \$75 million grant given by the US to step up monitoring facilities at the Afghan border, as well as to modernise the equipment at various Pakistani airports to identify fake travel documents.

The aircraft and the helicopters were scheduled to arrive last month. But their arrival was delayed due to the recent Indo-Pak tensions. Despite the delay in the arrival of the planes, Pakistan has decided to set up an air wing under the Ministry of Interior to step up surveillance.

While the US will supply equipment for the air wing, manpower, including pilots and technicians, will be drawn from the Pakistan Army. They will be trained in Quetta under the supervision of US experts, the report said.

Al-Qaida men held in FBI-Pak raid As many as eight al-Qaida suspects, including six foreigners, have been arrested from a warehouse belonging to the banned Lashkar Jahangvi outfit in Karachi joint raids by Pakistani security forces and FBI.

The raid, at the warehouse of the banned religious group, whose leader Akram Lahori was arrested recently, in Karachi came late yesterday after FBI intercepted a conversation on a mobile phone and tracked down the suspects.

According to FBI the arrested included some top wanted militants but there was no confirmation about the identities of the detained. The officials maintained that the detained included three Arabs, three Afghans and two Pakistanis.

Three rifles, three pistols, three motorcycles, three satellite phone sets, fake passports and visa stamps of different countries, fake stamps of the US consulate, literature about jihad, were also seized from the place, the daily reported.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

140-10 ✓
AN ANTI-TERROR 'PARTNERSHIP' ✓
117

A 'GLOBAL PARTNERSHIP' is being launched by the Group of Eight (G-8) nations to prevent the purveyors of terror from seizing or acquiring weapons of mass destruction. The broad band of such an elitist 'global partnership' defines the prospective fight against almost all conceivable aspects of nuclear blackmail by the operational terrorist groups and also their state-sponsors, if any. The G-8 caucus links an economically troubled Russia with the world's seven rich countries. From the club's standpoint of power politics, it is not enough if the intended anti-terror injunction were to cover just the acquisition of mass-destructive weapons, which themselves may range from nuclear devices and radioactive "dirty bombs" at one level to chemical ingredients or biological agents at another. On a related political plane, the truly ambitious anti-terror campaign will be designed to nullify any attempt by non-state actors and by their alleged state-patrons to acquire missiles that could be used to deliver such warheads. Overall, what is sought to be curbed is the perceived terrorist overdrive in many directions. Significantly, the G-8 leaders have spelt out their determination to deny the networks of terror and their suspected state-promoters any access to the knowhow as also the materials needed to make and use mass-destructive weapons.

An initiative of such intricate proportions was successfully piloted by the United States at the G-8 summit in Canada last week. As the elite club includes all but China among the original and exclusive coterie of five military powers with nuclear arsenals, the G-8's new agenda of 'non-proliferation' marks a forward shift in strategic politics across the world. The U.S.-guided 'partnership' seems to be of 'global' reach on two counts that were outlined at the summit. To begin with, the G-8 countries will coordinate efforts among themselves so as to

address the issue of nuclear non-proliferation anywhere in the world with the specific purpose of countering terrorism. Gradually, however, the eight major powers intend to co-opt other key countries, perhaps China as also India, to give a greater thrust to the movement against nuclear terrorism. Not surprisingly, in this context, the G-8 leaders, inclusive of those from the U.S. and the U.K. as also France and Germany besides Japan, have specifically "agreed that Pakistan must put a permanent stop to terrorist activity originating from (the) territory under its control". Given that the terrorist menace which emanates from Pakistani territory is driven by an anti-India agenda, the G-8 has called upon both Islamabad and New Delhi to "commit (themselves) to a sustained dialogue on the underlying issues that divide them".

With the U.S. according primacy to the anti-terror issue in the face of several other critical concerns, the "global partnership" has emerged against a backdrop of proactive diplomacy by Washington itself. A \$20-billion fund is sought to be raised to help identifiable countries protect their nuclear arsenals or materials and their technical knowhow about various forms of mass-destructive weapons from predatory raids, including any pilferage, by the various terrorist groups or their presumptive state-sponsors. The U.S. itself will contribute \$10 billions over a 10-year period, and Russia will be the first beneficiary of this fund. In the context of G-8 summitry, Washington has sought to cast the anti-terror net wide by adding the Babbar Khalsa and the International Sikh Youth Federation to its list of "specially designated global terrorist entities". While the U.S. has been able to evolve a G-8 consensus on anti-terror issues and economic assistance to an impoverished Africa, Washington's latest bid to dictate a 'peace' agenda with reference to the Palestinians has not had much resonance within the G-8 forum.

378 Al Qaida militants held

Handwritten notes:
F, 20/12/02
28/6

Islamabad: Pakistani authorities have caught 378 Al Qaida militants, most of them from Yemen, in the last eight months and handed more than 327 of them to US authorities for detention and interrogation.

The Al Qaida militants captured included 87 Yemenis and seven French nationals.

The rest were from Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Palestine, Syria, Libya, Morocco and Chechnya, senior defence officials were quoted by the local daily Dawn published on Thursday.

The officials said the arrested Al Qaida militants were taken to unknown destinations by the American authorities.

The highest-ranking Al Qaida associate apprehended

so far by Pakistani authorities was Abu Zubaydah, who was considered to be the right hand man of terrorist mastermind Osama Bin laden.

Mr Zubaydah's capture in Faisalabad on March 28 during a midnight raid was the result of a joint Pakistan-US intelligence operation. He is now in the US custody at an undisclosed place and reportedly under intense interrogation.

The arrests of Al Qaida men were made by local authorities in close co-operation with US security agencies, they said, adding that raids were conducted by special forces in collaboration with the military intelligence in various parts of the country, including the tribal areas. PTI

40-1
28/6

G-8 urges Pakistan to curb terrorism

CALGARY, JUNE 28. The Group of Eight nations have urged Pakistan to prevent terrorists operating from its soil, in brief comments issued at the end of a two-day summit in the Canadian Rockies.

"We agreed that Pakistan must put a permanent stop to terrorist activity originating from territory under its control," said the official text of a statement by the Canadian Prime Minister, Jean Chretien, summing up the summit as its host and chairman.

"Both countries (India and Pakistan) should commit (themselves) to a sustained dialogue on the underlying issues that divide them," Mr. Chretien's statement said on Thursday.

'Musharraf commitment stays'

A report from Washington said that the United States had assured India that the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf's pledge to permanently end

cross-border infiltration remained valid. Quoting the U.S. State Department, it said, "The U.S. Government officials have reiterated to the Indian Government that President Musharraf's commitment to stop infiltration permanently across the Line of Control remains valid."

The assurance apparently came in the wake of Gen. Mush-

arraf's recent statements to the media that he only told the U.S. that "there is no movement" across the LoC, according to American officials.

The U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, had specifically asked Gen. Musharraf whether he would commit himself to ceasing cross-border infiltration permanently and he said: "Yes." — AFP, PTI

Babbar Khalsa on U.S. terrorist list

WASHINGTON, JUNE 28. The United States has added two Sikh separatist groups — Babbar Khalsa and International Sikh Youth Foundation — to its list of "specially designated global terrorist" entities, the Office of Foreign Assets Control in the U.S. Treasury Department said.

They are the first Sikh groups designated by the U.S. in any category of "terrorist" organisation.

The listing means that the financial institutions in the U.S. must freeze the assets of the groups.

It also brings Washington's policy in line with the European Union, which declared the groups terrorist on June 19.

The groups' leaders are on a list of the 20 suspects India wants the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to hand over for trial. — Reuters

THE HINDU

29 JUN 2002

Al Qaida may be present in Kashmir: US

By Rashmee Z. Ahmed
TIMES NEWS NETWORK

London: The Al Qaida network "could be operating in Kashmir" and "would like nothing better than a splendid war between India and Pakistan", US deputy secretary of state Richard Armitage has said in frank comments to the Financial Times, London.

Mr Armitage declared that it was "in everyone's interests to try to keep (the) Al Qaida out of Kashmir (because) it is quite clear that Al Qaida likes to fish in troubled waters such as Kashmir". He said the US had "snippets of information" suggesting that the terrorist network had a presence in Kashmir.

In acidic comments about Indian and Pakistani leaders, described by some commentators as schoolmaster-like, Mr Armitage said he found it "disturbing" and "worrisome" that politicians on both sides talked about the possession of nuclear weapons and their use against the other.

GM 27/6
Mr Armitage told the paper that the US had no plans to become a formal mediator over Kashmir, but would prefer to be a "facilitator" and work behind the scenes to "inspire" a settlement.

"The US is going to stay involved, and I trust our good friends from Britain are as well," he declared.

Mr Armitage said he planned to visit the sub-continent once again in August, a month before the elections in Kashmir and two months before Pakistan's elections. Both sets of polls, he said, could have an impact on bilateral military tensions.

Mr Armitage's last visit is still making headlines with Gen Pervez Musharraf denying that the US deputy secretary of state had extracted a promise from him "permanently" to cease cross-border infiltration.

On a warning note to India, he said, "It's very important to have a free and fair election in Kashmir, that is free of violence and one that is judged to be free and fair by the international community."

THE TIMES OF INDIA

27 JUN 2002

10 Pak. securitymen killed in clash with Al-Qaeda

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, JUNE 26. In a clear sign that the "war against terrorism" launched by the U.S.-led coalition in October last is spreading to Pakistan, at least 10 personnel of the Pakistani security forces were killed today, as they combed the sensitive tribal areas bordering Afghanistan in search of activists of the Al-Qaeda and the displaced Taliban.

The serious nature of the incidents could be gauged from the fact that the Inter-Services Public Services, which coordinates the press and publicity of the Pakistani forces, deemed it necessary to put out a press statement on the casualties suffered by them in the operations.

"The Pakistani security forces carried out a search operation in the tribal area of WANA, where a group of Al-Qaeda operatives were located in some houses.

In an effort to apprehend the Al-Qaeda elements using minimum force, 10 security personnel embraced *shahadat*.

A number of Al-Qaeda foreign terrorists were also killed." Pakistan has apprehended over 200 or so Al-Qaeda and Taliban activists in recent weeks and handed them over to the U.S.

It is for the first time that the Musharraf Government has conceded in so many words the infiltration of the Al-Qaeda activists into Pakistan. "The ongoing efforts to apprehend criminals and terrorists responsible for acts of violence are continuing with increased vigour," the statement said.

The nature of challenge posed by the reported presence of the Al-Qaeda and

Taliban remnants in the tribal areas is evident from the fact that for the first time, the Government has sent military and paramilitary forces to the terrain.

There have been speculative reports in the media that search and seize operations are being jointly undertaken by the Pakistani and the American forces.

However, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has claimed that only about a dozen U.S. communication experts were present in the area to assist the Pakistani security forces.

The local media has also carried reports of demonstrations by tribals in the areas bordering Afghanistan against the presence of men in uniform.

If the reports are to be believed, Islamabad has cautioned the U.S. against any hasty action in these areas.

Reports suggest that while the Bush administration is pressuring Pakistan to step up its offensive to hunt down the Al-Qaeda and the Taliban activists, the Musharraf regime favours a cautious approach.

Before moving the security forces into the tribal belt, the managers of Gen. Musharraf had sought the cooperation of the tribal chiefs.

Lt. Gen. Ali Mohammad Jan Aurakzai, Corp Commander, Pakistan Army, personally went to the Waziristan agency last week and addressed a group of elders.

"Such cooperation from tribal areas marks a historic first for Pakistan. Never before has the Army penetrated these remote stretches ruled by tribal custom," he told the elders.

THE HINDU

27 JUN 2002

Pak. must stop support to terrorism in Kashmir: Blair

By Hasan Suroor

LONDON, JUNE 21. The British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has said that the Kashmir issue can be resolved only if Pakistan stopped supporting terrorism and India agreed to discuss all issues between the two countries. He asked Pakistan to cease "completely and absolutely" its support to terrorism in Kashmir, and said once that happened India must offer a dialogue.

Talking to presspersons here on Thursday, he said: "We have worked extremely hard to bring the two sides together and the only basis we are going to resolve that, I have no doubt at all, is on the basis of Pakistan ceasing completely and absolutely its support for terrorism in Kashmir, or indeed exported from Kashmir. And the Indian Government recognising that if that is the case it is sensible to offer dialogue on all the issues so that we can resolve what are pressing and difficult questions through that bilateral dialogue between the two sides."

Mr. Blair praised the diplomatic efforts of the Foreign Secretary, Jack Straw who, he said, made a "very successful and timely visit to India and Pakistan" to ease the tension between the two countries. He denied that British arms supplies to the region had fuelled tension. "What is stimulating the conflict in Kashmir are the sources of that conflict that we know about. And the idea that the reason why you have got this conflict in Kashmir is that both sides have got British weapons, honestly it is not the case", he said.

22 JUN 2002

THE HINDU.

CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM / U.S. PRAISES INDIA FOR RESTRAINT

Shut down infiltration forever, Pak. told

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, JUNE 19. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, will have not only to put the terrorists out of business but keep them out of business as well for "it's the right thing for India and the right thing for Pakistan," says the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joseph Biden.

Speaking at the Indo-U.S. Parliamentary Forum meeting organised by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), Mr. Biden said that Gen. Musharraf had to keep his promise. "He's got to shut down infiltration, not for a few weeks, not for a few months, but forever," the Democrat from Delaware remarked.

In the long term, Mr. Biden argued, Pakistan had to become "more realistic" about the future of Kashmir. "If India is willing to make substantive changes in its policy towards Kashmir, Pakistan must be willing to accept the Line of Control as a border and end its support for insurgency."

Even while praising India for its restraint across the Line of Control, Mr. Biden was sharply critical of what Gen. Musharraf had done by way of cracking down on terrorists and extremists. "He promised he'd break the back of the violent extremist groups undermining the stability of Pakistan. He immediately arrested 2000 members of the worst groups. But what happened then?... After briefly detaining hundreds of the worst sort of thugs, he let them go," Mr.

Biden said. On a different note but relevant to Indo-U.S. relations, Mr. Biden — seen as one of the Democratic hopefuls for the Presidential Election of 2004 — voiced a strong note of "friendly caution" over the goings-on in Gujarat.

"I cannot look at what has happened in Gujarat over the past few months and remain silent. About two thousand people have been slaughtered in mob violence there often with the collusion of local officials," he said. "No matter what the provocation, nothing justifies the slaughter of innocent women and children."

The luncheon meeting followed by a panel discussion saw the participation of a number of leading personalities from the administration, Congress and Indian business leaders. Apart from Mr. Biden, the participants included the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard Myers, the Republican Senator, Sam Brownback, the Ambassador of India to the United States, Lalit Mansingh, the Director of Policy Planning at the State Department, Richard Haass, the Co-Chair of the Indo-U.S. Parliamentary Forum, Kapil Sibal, Congress MP, and A.C. Muthiah, industrialist.

The U.S., Mr. Haass said, would continue to keep pressure on Pakistan to stop cross-border infiltration and on the imperative to shut down the terrorist camps. However, he said, Gen. Musharraf was indeed moving in the right direction and justified the Bush administration's association with Pakistan in the fight against terrorism.

"I understand there is a difference between words and actions. Many of those have not yet been translated or not been fully translated into action. But it was still a major step in the right direction and we are seeing significant progress," Mr. Haass said of Gen. Musharraf's January 12 speech.

Mr. Haass called on India to develop bilateral relations with Pakistan saying that it was "simply unnatural" for India and Pakistan not to have more of a relationship. It was not only unnatural but unhealthy as well. Apart from calling on India to improve the situation on the ground, especially in Kashmir, Mr. Haass called on both South Asian nations for dialogue to deal with the problem. It was not in the interests of India, Pakistan or the U.S. to allow the problem in Kashmir to fester for another 50 years, Mr. Haass said.

The founder of the Congressional Caucus on India and Indian Americans, Frank Pallone, spoke of at least five areas where there could be further improvement in Indo-U.S. relations — economics, Kashmir, defence, humanitarian assistance and the environment.

In a statement on the floor of the House of Representatives, Mr. Pallone asked the Republican administration to cut off economic assistance to Pakistan if the latter's promise of ending cross-border terrorism is not kept. "I do not think it is appropriate for the U.S. to provide any further aid to Pakistan if this promise (of ending cross-border terrorism) is not kept," Mr. Pallone said.

THE HINDU

20 JUN 2002

Suicide bomber strikes again in Jerusalem

FROM CHRISTINE HAUSER

Jerusalem, June 19 (Reuters):

A Palestinian suicide bomber killed seven people and wounded 35 at a Jerusalem bus stop today, prompting US President George W. Bush to delay a speech laying out the path to a Palestinian state.

The attack in the French Hill area was the second suicide bombing in the city in two days, raising the prospect of the Israeli army responding in line with a new policy of retaking and holding Palestinian land as

long as such attacks continue. The government announced the policy after a member of Hamas blew himself up on a Jerusalem bus yesterday and killed 19 people, the highest death toll in a Palestinian attack in the city in six years.

Israeli forces later rolled into Palestinian-ruled Jenin, Nablus, and Qalqilya in the West Bank, although they left Nablus after a brief raid.

The suicide bomber detonated explosives at a bus stop in the evening rush hour in the French Hill after being chased by police,

police said. The blast scattered pieces of flesh and piles of shredded paper and clothing on the ground. "It was a Palestinian suicide bomber," Israeli police spokesman Gil Kleiman said.

Jerusalem police chief Mickey Levy told army radio: "The bomber ran to the bus stop. Police officers chased him. When he reached the bus stop he detonated a powerful bomb".

Medics and police said seven people died and at least 35 were wounded in the attack in an area that Israel captured in the 1967 West Asia war and annexed in a

move not recognised internationally.

At least 1,403 Palestinians and 530 Israelis have now been killed since a Palestinian revolt began in September 2000 after negotiations for a final peace treaty became deadlocked.

US condemns attack

In Washington, the White House condemned the bombing and said its immediate aftermath was not the right time for Bush to lay out his ideas on West Asia peace. "The president knows what he wants to say. The presi-

dent will share it when ... it can do the most good," spokesman Ari Fleischer told reporters.

"I think the time will be soon ... It's hard to get people to focus on peace today when they're still suffering from the consequences of terrorism as we speak."

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack, just blocks away from Israel's national police headquarters. Police had been on the alert for more suicide attacks after yesterday's suicide bombing.

David Baker, an official in Israel Prime Minister Ariel

Sharon's office, said the attack "shows that Palestinian terror knows no bounds and doesn't skip a beat." Palestinian officials were not immediately available for comment.

Palestinian labour minister Ghassan al-Khatib declined to condemn the suicide bombing attack but added: "The attack is another example that violence begets violence."

The Israeli government did not immediately say how it would respond to the attack but had outlined a new policy in a statement early today after a

late-night meeting. "Against terrorist acts, Israel will respond by capturing territories of the Palestinian Authority. These territories will be held by Israel as long as terror continues," it said.

"Additional terrorist attacks will bring about additional captures of territory. As a result of today's bombing in Jerusalem, Israel will soon capture Palestinian authority territory as described in the policy above."

In recent weeks, Israeli forces have staged almost daily raids into Palestinian-ruled territory to root out militants.

THE TELEGRAPH

20 JUN 2002

40-10

A TERRORIST SIEGE IN PAKISTAN

40-10

THE RISING FREQUENCY of the terrorist attacks in Pakistan in the past few months indicates that the country is coming under a destabilising internal siege. It is becoming increasingly clear that Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, faces an utterly complex challenge in trying to protect his Government and the country itself from the turbulence of cascading political terror. The latest car-bomb explosion outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi may have laid bare the calculus of terror at work in some significant ways. In taking 'credit' for this attack, which claimed the lives of at least 11 Pakistanis and injured over 40 others, 'Al-Qanoon', a previously unidentified group, is reported to have cited both the Musharraf administration and the United States as the enemies. The group, whose name translates as 'the law', is said to have claimed that the latest terrorist strike was only a "preview, with more to follow". More importantly, the stated aim of this self-styled outfit is to wage a holy war against not only the U.S. but also Pakistan's present regime with its alleged reputation as Washington's "puppet-ally". Surely, there is no conclusive evidence at this stage about the existence of 'Al-Qanoon' and about its claims concerning the latest Karachi blast. However, the objective ground realities in Pakistan are of a nature that will not preclude the pursuit of a terror-agenda of the kind that this group is reported to have boasted about. This aspect accentuates the current crisis in Pakistan.

A noticeable political pattern defines the recent episodes of international terrorism inside Pakistan — the abduction of an American journalist in Karachi last January and his subsequent murder in a grisly manner, the attack on foreign worshippers at a church in Islamabad's diplomatic enclave in March, the apparent suicide-bombing that killed several French defence per-

sonnel outside a hotel in Karachi in May, and now the car-bombing raid outside the U.S. mission in Karachi itself. Pakistanis, too, have been killed in these gruesome attacks, most noticeably in the latest case. Yet, the intended political message to Gen. Musharraf's friends in the West cannot also be missed. While it is not clear whether all these acts of international terror can be traced to a solitary source or a coalition of terrorist allies, the game plans behind these attacks reflect an aim of driving a wedge between Gen. Musharraf and the West, most notably the U.S., at this juncture.

Gen. Musharraf has gradually come to acknowledge that Pakistan owes it to the international community to rein in the terrorists of the Taliban-Al-Qaeda 'school of thought' and also the anti-India terrorists with an ostensible stake in the Kashmir 'cause'. In doing so in the context of the changing realities of the ongoing international drive against 'globalised' terrorism, Gen. Musharraf has pragmatically sought to prove that Pakistan, under him, will be an intrinsic part of an overall anti-terror solution in the future and not an element of the problem itself. Now, it is this evolving equation between Islamabad and the larger international community that a network of terrorists, which seems able to strike at will within Pakistan, is clearly seeking to disrupt. Whether or not the anti-West Al-Qaeda has established links with the anti-India radicals in Pakistan, those opposed to Gen. Musharraf may really want to not only avenge his support for the U.S. in its war against Al-Qaeda but also undermine his recent pledge to cease permanently all terrorist incursions into India. Given the magnitude of such an evident agenda, Gen. Musharraf must be urged consistently by the global community to stay the anti-terror course. He must not be allowed to turn back.

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THE HINDU

17 JUN 2002

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"Al-Qaeda behind
Karachi blast" terrorism

WASHINGTON, JUNE 16. Three Al-Qaeda members told Moroccan officials that Osama bin Laden commanded his fighters in December to disperse across the globe to attack "American and Jewish interests," *The Washington Post* reported today. The officials said Osama's instructions were behind a string of recent attacks, including Friday's bombing outside the U.S. Consulate in Karachi, Pakistan, that killed 11 people.

The three men, citizens of Saudi Arabia, told the interrogators they escaped from Afghanistan and came to Morocco on a mission to use bomb-laden speedboats for suicide attacks on U.S. and British warships in the Strait of Gibraltar, the *Post* said. The men, captured in May in a joint Moroccan-CIA operation, appeared briefly in court in Morocco on Friday, but made no public statements. They said information from prisoners and other evidence showed that Al-Qaeda leaders continued to direct missions from afar.

The Moroccans said that, based on their findings and communication with other intelligence agencies, there was every indication Osama was still alive, the *Post* said.

The accounts provided by the three Saudi captives were related during interviews with senior Moroccan officials who have direct

knowledge of the interrogations. The Saudis were among the Al-Qaeda members who assembled in the mountainous Tora Bora region after U.S.-backed forces captured Kabul, the Afghan capital. While sneaking out of Tora Bora, an Osama lieutenant assembled Al-Qaeda members for final instructions.

The lieutenant, who said he was carrying direct instructions from Osama, ordered the members to flee Afghanistan to whatever areas of the world they had previously operated, including Asia, the Persian Gulf, Africa, Turkey and Europe, according to the newspaper.

Osama's directed them to launch terrorist attacks once they had become established in familiar areas. "Members who were very knowledgeable about one region had to go back to that region to prepare and perpetuate terrorist attacks," a senior Moroccan official told the *Post*. The lieutenant noted that operations against European targets could be launched from North Africa, and operations in the Persian Gulf from Yemen. The Saudis were ordered to Morocco to attack the ships.

Moroccan officials said the Saudi prisoners described a final ceremony in which the men pledged allegiance to Osama and swore themselves to martyrdom through suicide operations. — Reuters

SECRET

1 / JUL 2002

Al Qaida behind Karachi bombing: report

Washington: Terrorist mastermind Osama bin Laden's Al Qaida network was behind the car bomb attack on the U.S. consulate in Karachi that left 11 people dead, *The Washington Post* reported on Sunday.

"Bin Laden's instructions were behind a string of recent attacks, including Friday's bombing at the US consulate in Karachi," said *The Post* in a despatch from the Moroccan capital of Rabat, quoting officials of that country who interrogated three Al Qaida operatives captured in May in a joint Moroccan-CIA operation.

Besieged by the US and allied forces in December in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, Bin Laden commanded his fighters to disperse across the globe to attack

"American and Jewish interests", the officials said. They said that information from prisoners and other evidence showed that Al Qaida leaders continue to direct missions from afar. The Moroccans said that there was every indication that Bin Laden was still alive.

The Post said that the interrogation of three citizens of Saudi Arabia had created a fuller understanding of Al Qaida's strategy since its expulsion from Afghanistan, and provided clues about the organisation's persistence, though impaired, vitality.

One of the Saudi captives told interrogators that he knew Bin Laden well and had eaten with him dozens of times over the years. He said that until September 11, Bin Laden increasingly adopted the mantle of a

prophet, preferring to speak through senior aides rather than interact directly with his followers.

In late August, speaking to followers through an aide, Bin Laden "was beginning to talk of a dream he had", a Moroccan official said. "He said he saw America in ashes. It was like announcing a prophecy."

The Saudi told the interrogators that on August 31, Bin Laden, again speaking through a senior aide, had placed Al Qaida on "general alert".

The three Saudis were among the Al Qaida members who assembled in the mountainous Tora Bora region after U.S.-backed forces captured Kabul. They told the interrogators that they came to Morocco for carrying out suicide attacks on U.S. and British warships in the

Strait of Gibraltar.

However, the Moroccans are uncertain how many followers of Bin Laden managed to flee after defeats in Afghanistan.

The Moroccans said the three men captured in Morocco were trained terrorists who had undergone a very advanced curriculum.

Meanwhile, U.S. President George W. Bush has signed an intelligence order directing the CIA to undertake a comprehensive and covert programme to topple Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, authorising it to use lethal force to capture him, a report said on Sunday.

The order signed by Mr Bush early this year, expanded from a previous presidential finding to oust Hussein, directs the CIA to use all available means. ^{PTI}

Close shave for Farooq in jehadi strike

HTC & Agencies
Srinagar, June 15

MILITANTS MADE two major strikes in Kashmir a day after the US Consulate blast in Karachi, almost succeeding in an assassination attempt on Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah in a Srinagar suburb and killing two children in a group of pilgrims in Doda.

A previously unknown militant group, Al-Madina, has claimed responsibility for the attack on Farooq, one of India's most well-guarded politicians. He was inaugurating a new office complex of the State's Board of School Education at Bemina on the outskirts of Srinagar around 12:15 pm when two grenades were hurled at the building. One of them exploded in mid-air, while the other fell in a pond about 100 metres away from where the Chief Minister sat.

A man identifying himself as a spokesman for Al-Madina, which has not been heard of before, called newspaper offices to say that Farooq was the target.

He also said that activists of the group shot dead a BSF jawan at Batamaloo. Official sources confirmed that unknown militants had shot at and critically injured a BSF jawan at Batamaloo. Police sources say that Al-Madina is a front organisation of the Al-Umar terror group.

The Chief Minister and his guards left the Board office immediately after the explosion. That Farooq would inaugurate the new building had been kept a



Farooq Abdullah
Great survivor

secret in view of a possible threat to his life. Officers are trying to figure out how the militants breached the supposedly foolproof security that had been arranged for the chief ministerial visit.

The attack on the pilgrims in Doda was made when the group was making its way back home to Khora village, after worshipping a local deity, Hud Mata, on a hill-top temple.

The strike revives a pattern of terror attacks on the minority community in the communally sensitive district, after a lull of almost a year. No group has claimed responsibility. Police have started combing the forests in the hills, but have found no trace of the assailants who threw grenades at the home-bound pilgrims.

Related reports on Page 12

THE HINDUSTAN

13 JUL 2002

Al Qaeda danger still looms large, admits Washington

JOSH MEYER & BOB DROGIN
WASHINGTON, JUNE 11

US OFFICIALS have received unsettling—and specific—indications that Al Qaeda has once again become a deadly organisation with an intact leadership, a global reach and an interest in killing potentially millions of Americans with weapons of mass destruction.

That troubling assessment is based on far more than the arrest of Jose Padilla, also known as Abdullah al Muhajir, a US citizen who allegedly plotted with senior Al Qaeda leaders to detonate a so-called “dirty bomb” somewhere in the US, authorities said.

It is also based on recently gleaned intelligence information, authorities said, including evidence that Al Qaeda has recon-

stituted a command structure and found a safe haven for it somewhere in northwest Pakistan. Bin Laden, his deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri and several other top commanders are all believed to be hiding somewhere in Pakistan or Afghanistan; other operatives such as Khalid Shaikh Mohammed are suspected of having joined the group’s top echelon, authorities said.

At least parts of that command structure are now slipping in and out of Afghanistan despite the US presence there, meeting with Al Qaeda operatives and planning more attacks, officials said in interviews. The Al Qaeda leadership is also reaching out to potentially thousands of “sleeper” agents all over the world trained in terrorist camps in a variety of urban warfare techniques, officials said.

“You can assume, and you should assume, that any number of plots are still ac-

Pentagon plans to hold ‘dirty bomb’ suspect indefinitely

■ WASHINGTON: The Pentagon plans to hold an alleged Al Qaeda bomb plotter indefinitely without charges despite his US citizenship, citing two World War II court decisions that allowed Americans to be held as prisoners of war or charged in military courts. The Defense Dept is holding Jose Padilla, identified on Monday as the planner of a radioactive “dirty bomb” attack, as an “intelligence source” for questioning about the Al Qaeda terror network, senior Pentagon spokesman Richard McGraw said.



Padilla could eventually be prosecuted in a military court martial or in US criminal courts, McGraw said. “It’s selective as a legal rationale,” Prof Michael F. Noone of Catholic University said. “This means that any US citizen who gets off a plane in Chicago can be apprehended by the Feds and told, ‘You’re an enemy combatant and you’re going to be tried by court martial.’” —LATWP

mer on the intelligence channels was just about 9/11? ... I can guarantee you that there are other plots out there.”

Perhaps most troubling, Al Qaeda now appears to be working with US citizens and other operatives with backgrounds that make it particularly easy for them to compromise US border security, even as the US spends billions to catch suspects in a counter-terrorism safety net.

US officials also confirmed that until shortly before his arrest, they had never even heard of Padilla, even though his mission appeared to be well under way. Padilla took the Muslim name Al Muhajir after a stint in a Florida jail. Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz said Monday that Padilla met with “senior Al Qaeda members” earlier this year to discuss plans to detonate a radioactive dispersal device. FBI Director Robert S. Mueller III described those conversations as “substantial.”

Authorities also confirmed one of the Al Qaeda participants was top bin Laden

lieutenant Abu Zubaydah, who spoke with Padilla in the weeks before his capture last March 28 in Pakistan.

Padilla, according to Wolfowitz, had researched nuclear weapons and received training in wiring explosives while in Pakistan, before being instructed to return to the US to conduct reconnaissance operations for Al Qaeda. Authorities said the plot had not yet advanced past the discussion stages, but that they had substantial intelligence to indicate that it was real and being taken seriously by the Al Qaeda leadership.

The arrest shows the beefed-up US counter-terrorism operation foiling a potential plot before it could go very far—a notable triumph. It also shows how much US counter-terrorism still doesn’t know. “It shows how we weren’t doing the work on Al Qaeda,” said Kenneth Katzman, a terrorism expert. —LATWP

INDIAN EXPRESS

12 JUN 2002

End cross-border terrorism, E.U. tells Pak.

By Batuk Gathani

*P. Mishra
10/6*

BRUSSELS, JUNE 15. The European Parliament has, in a resolution, supported India's stance on cross-border terrorism and called upon the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, to "eradicate terrorist activities carried out from Pakistan, especially infiltration of terrorists".

This resolution, along with another on the European Council in Seville, was passed during its session on Thursday. The plenary debate on the resolution was addressed by De Miguel, Spanish Minister for European Affairs, who stressed that the "commitment of Pakistan against organised terrorism must be total and unconditional and non-selective both in terms of direction and time". Pakistan must also respond to India's legitimate demand on the terrorism issue.

The European Parliament's resolution called upon Gen. Musharraf to implement his commitment — outlined in his January 12 speech — "to eradicate terrorist activities carried out from Pakistan, especially to stop infiltration of terrorists across the Line of Control into Jammu and Kashmir". It also called for "the resumption of bilateral talks on the Kashmir question" and underlined "the need to strengthen moderate forces in Kashmir and to help develop a stronger civil society".

16/6

All anti-India amendments, including those by the pro-Pakistan MEP (Member of European Parliament), Liz Lynn, for mediation, were rejected. Many prominent MEPs were strongly supportive of the Indian position, and there was no statement in Pakistan's support.

Charles Tannock urged Pakistan to arrest and hand over to India the terrorists involved in atrocities against civilians in Jammu and Kashmir and the attack on Parliament. Sakellariou, from Germany, welcomed the measures announced by India, including the withdrawal of the ban on over-flights by Pakistani commercial aircraft, the appointment of a High Commissioner and the withdrawal of naval ships from forward positions. He said that he was in Kashmir a few weeks ago and had visited the Line of Control (LoC).

"The fight against terrorism can actually only be conducted on the Pakistani side. Pakistan not only holds the responsibility to keep terrorists away from the border, it also has to punish and isolate them." Mr. Sakellariou also stressed the importance of democracy. India was a democratic country, he said, expressing the hope that elections in Pakistan would also lead to a democratic government.

The Chairperson of the South Asia delegation, Maria Carrilho, from Portugal, highlighted the need for maintaining a high

level of vigilance. "I had the opportunity to visit India some weeks ago and I can affirm that beyond tension there is also an effective will for peace."

Ms. Carrilho said it was necessary to take effective steps towards a common European diplomacy. "Only by these means will E.U. have real weight in conflict prevention and resolution. And as far as India and Pakistan are concerned, our task will be to help these countries use their capabilities in eradicating poverty and promoting sustainable development; this is their true historic challenge." Neena Gill, a parliamentarian of Indian origin and who hails from Britain, stressed the role of trade and economic development in promoting cooperation and called for bilateral talks between India and Pakistan. "It is crucial that Europe takes responsibility and initiative in solving the crisis in the region and does not just leave the peace efforts to the U.S. and Russia, especially since some European Union member states have strong historical links with the region.

"However, despite the reduced tension at present, skirmishes along the border continue. Casualties continue to rise. So the sooner de-escalation takes place, the better. Although war seems to have been averted for now, tensions could easily rise again, especially around the time of elections in Kashmir in September," she added. //

Pak terrorists kill 8 outside US consulate

Karachi: A car bomb outside the US consulate in the port city of Karachi killed at least eight Pakistanis on Friday, less than a day after US defence secretary Donald Rumsfeld left the country, police said.

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

The blast left a crater several feet deep outside the consulate, blew in the windows of the consulate and surrounding buildings and smashed huge cement blocks that had been placed around the consulate to slow traffic.

Police said the blast looked like a suicide bombing, similar to an attack on May 8 outside a nearby hotel in Karachi that had killed 11 French engineers and two Pakistanis.

Washington immediately shuttered all its diplomatic missions in Pakistan as well as the American Center in Islamabad.

A police official said that Karachi police had received a tip-off a week ago that another suicide blast was imminent, but didn't have details of when or where.

About 20 cars were damaged and body parts scattered 100-200 metres away from the scene of the blast, which was immediately cordoned by the police. "Six bodies are in the hospital while 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."

Provincial police chief Syed Kamal Shah said the dead included a woman and two policemen guarding the consulate.

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 vehicle itself was catapulted six or seven metres away and smashed

● Washington shuts down missions in Pakistan

● Tip-off received by Karachi police a week ago did not spell out details

● India condemns attack, sympathises with victims

into a tree.

Friday's blast is the fourth attack this year apparently aimed at foreigners in Pakistan, after the kidnapping of US reporter Daniel Pearl in January and a grenade attack on a church in Islamabad in March, which killed five people, including three foreigners.

Although no one admitted responsibility for Friday's attack, suspicion immediately fell on Islamic radicals opposed to Pakistan's support for the US war on terror and angered by a crackdown on militants ordered by Gen Pervez Musharraf.

"Of course it's a backlash," Hamid Haroon, publisher of Pakistan's 'Dawn' newspaper, told an Indian television channel.

Several attacks, either in India or Pakistan, have been apparently timed to coincide with high-profile visits to the region by officials from Washington. Mr Rumsfeld was visiting Pakistan on a regional tour aimed at averting war with India, and Pakistan police said they feared an attack was imminent.

"Police were apprehending a week ago that a French-type suicide attack would occur at any time," a police source told Reuters. "They had a tip, but no lead. They informed the central government as well."

Meanwhile, India has condemned the attack and said this was yet another terrorist act by suicide bombers in Karachi. "It is a very sad and regrettable incident and we condemn it fully," external affairs minister Jaswant Singh told reporters after a meeting of the cabinet committee on security here. Agencies

THE TIMES OF INDIA

11 5 JUN 2002

Straw unmask ISI connection

FROM SHRABANI BASU

London, June 11: British foreign secretary Jack Straw has said that militant organisations like the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Harkat-ul Mujahideen were at the "forefront of violent activity" in Kashmir and added that the Pakistani intelligence service was backing them.

In a statement on India and Pakistan to the House of Commons, the foreign secretary said: "A number of terrorist organisations, including Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and Harkat Mujahideen, each of which I proscribed when I was home secretary, have been at the forefront of violent activity within the region."

Explaining the background to the conflict in Kashmir, Straw pointed out that the nature of the conflict in Kashmir had changed with the incursion of armed militants across the Line of Control into India from Pakistan aided by the Pakistani intelligence services.

"India has long charged that such terrorism has had the covert support of successive Pakistani governments, in particular the Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate (ISID), the main intelligence agency in Pakistan,"

said Straw. "Her Majesty's government accepts that there is a clear link between ISID and these groups," he maintained.

It is the strongest statement Britain has made so far directly linking the ISI with militancy in Kashmir and will be viewed as part of the tough stand of Britain and the US against the Pervez Musharraf government in Pakistan and their insistence that he cut infiltration across the border.

He also pointed out that despite Musharraf's speech on January 12 after the attack on the Indian Parliament in which he pledged that no organisation would be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir, the terrorist activity had not ceased. Straw cited both the May 14 attack on the army base at Kaluchak and the assassination of moderate leader Abdul Gani Lone as examples of Pakistan-aided terrorism.

Straw is just back from a visit to both India and Pakistan as part of the West's diplomatic efforts to de-escalate the tension in the area. The foreign secretary said that "tension had eased a little" and that he was optimistic about intense diplomatic efforts and decisions made in recent days by the governments of India and Pakistan.

THE TELEGRAPH

12 JUN 2002

U.S. anti-terror politics

By P. S. Suryanarayana

AMERICA'S AGENDA of taming "globalised" terror at the beginning of the 21st century has already come under a cloud of contradictions. The unfolding saga is indeed reminiscent of the paradoxes of the two colossal strategies the U.S. adopted in the 20th century — Franklin Roosevelt's deal with Stalin during World War II and Ronald Reagan's deployment of Islamic extremists as his own anti-Soviet ideological warriors in the 1980s. Today, the U.S. is caught in a more complex maze of ends and means.

The latest annual report of the U.S. State Department on the "patterns of global terrorism" assumes unprecedented significance. In prime focus are the discernible trend lines that mark Washington's new battles against political terrorism. Besides its ongoing but decelerating military action against the Taliban-Al-Qaeda terror cartel, Washington's latest war extends to the diplomatic and economic fronts, where the existing and potential terrorists are to be squeezed out of existence.

Washington says the present anti-terror war, directed by a U.S.-led "coalition", is qualitatively different from all previous military campaigns in history. The U.S. President, George W. Bush, says a financial squeeze of the terrorists and similar intelligence scoops for anti-terror purposes are just as central to the current war as any American military campaign. This claim about the uniqueness of the present borderless war against terror does not stand much scrutiny, though. In the past, too, the winners of conventional wars had invariably foxed their "enemies" by extra-military means such as a financial squeeze or an intelligence scoop. So, by harping on the supposed novelty of this new war, Washington has merely anticipated and deflected the accusations that the U.S. is not applying the same norms to itself and the other state-victims of international terror.

Washington is accused of not only unleashing its post-modern military might on the Taliban-Al-Qaeda sanc-

tuaries but also advising India and Israel to observe restraint in the face of cross-border terrorist incursions from Pakistan or the Palestinian suicide-bombings as the case might be. A ranking American official does not think there is a one-size-fits-all approach to neutralising terrorism and that one does not have to, sometimes, swat a fly with a howitzer.

The "ideology" behind Mr. Bush's laser-beam focus against terror is traceable to Roosevelt's call for "four freedoms" during World War II.

that religion be the sole factor of political identity in any society. The question of religion-based political affinities across inter-state frontiers poses a challenge to the present Westphalia order of sovereignty and statehood all over the world. In a sense, religious militancy, which was laced with notions of political conquest by the practitioners of such militancy, was known to have flourished even before the advent of the Westphalia order in the 17th century. In contrast, today's terrorist chal-

cast aspersions on Gen. Musharraf's foreign policy and insist that he stop forever Pakistan's strategy of sponsoring or at least allowing terrorist incursions into India. What is Mr. Bush's game plan? He certainly wants to woo Pakistan for its weighted strategic value as an Islamic state. While this factor will be critical to his current war efforts, Mr. Bush cannot also ignore India's sensitivities as a victim of terrorism that emanates from Pakistan. India's current deployment of forces along the border with Pakistan seems to have suited America's anti-terror aims in respect of the Al-Qaeda terrorists who might be "on the run now". Is India then playing a subtle role as America's strategic surrogate? Such suspicions may not be far from Gen. Musharraf's mind. If so, he may be in a position to make or mar not only his political status but also Mr. Bush's anti-terror agenda in South Asia.

The politics of America's anti-terror war will vary from place to place. Complexities will arise if the aims of the U.S. do not coincide, or are not compatible, with those of other state-victims of real or potential terror in any part of the world. The growing threat of nuclear terrorism has brought the U.S.-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and Russia together at this stage. Nuclear terrorism is the scenario of terrorists being able to steal mass-destructive weapons or acquire them from state-sponsors of terror with the sole intention of using them against chosen targets. Nuclear terrorism is different from nuclear blackmail, which India has virtually accused Pakistan of trying to practise in bilateral diplomacy at this moment. Such suspicions have to do with Pakistan's disinclination to echo India's affirmation that it will not be the first to use nuclear weapons against any country. Now, the recent activism of the United Nations in addressing terror issues remains to be carried forward. The U.S. itself is still far from mapping a new post-terror world order as might be visible from its vantage position in the outer space above global politics!

Washington's geostrategic preferences and political objectives define its list of state-sponsors of terrorism.

These "freedoms" included a definitive anti-terror cause. What is different today is that the global community's anti-terror cause is of a mind-boggling scope unlike during the first half of the last century. There is a similarity between the two situations, though. With or without Neville Chamberlain's "appeasement" of Hitler at one stage, the "civilised" sections of the West made it possible for him to threaten the world. Today, too, America has contributed in some culpable measure to the rise of one form of globalised terror. This type of terror is inspired by a political "jihad" as advocated by some misguided sections on the periphery of the Islamic "ummah" or universe. Now, even if America's culpability is entirely inadvertent, it remains relevant to the present global crisis. Washington cynically fostered some sundry Islamic "mujahideen" groups to roll back the Soviet juggernaut from Afghanistan in the 1980s. The Reaganite action of that kind had in fact helped place the religion-politics of some misguided Islamic groups on a boost-phase trajectory towards their elusive goal of an eventual global dominance.

Of more than marginal relevance to the present crisis of terrorism is the question whether some groups or countries can be allowed to demand

challenges have been compounded by the geostrategic and other complex agendas of the big powers, most notably the U.S. itself. It is against this background that Pakistan's traditional view of India and America's revisionist responses to it assume importance at this stage.

Washington's latest list of international terrorist organisations contains names that cut across religious divisions and inter-state frontiers. Religious prejudices or biases have not determined America's concerns about terrorist organisations, but Washington's geostrategic preferences and political objectives define its list of state-sponsors of terrorism. Cuba and North Korea as also Iran and Iraq, the last two being Islamic states too, are among the identified "state-sponsors". Significantly in this context, Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, has skilfully distanced his country from its own dubious status as the creator of the Taliban which even established a symbiotic relationship with Al-Qaeda, America's prime enemy in the present war. Gen. Musharraf's feat of this magnitude is a study in the strategic politics of how to become America's friend when it needs help and not necessarily state-allies on a plane of equality. The incompleteness of this equation explains why Mr. Bush should now

THE HINDU

11 JAN 2002

TERROR WATCH

Guantanamo
HFI2
14/6

Laden man in US held with dirty bomb

Washington, June 10

ATTORNEY-GENERAL John Ashcroft on Monday said US authorities had captured an American al-Qaida operative and prevented an attack on the United States with a radioactive dirty bomb.

"We have captured a known terrorist who was exploring a plan to build and explode a radiological dispersion device, or dirty bomb in the United States," Ashcroft said in a televised announcement from Moscow.

Ashcroft said Abdullah al Mujahir, also known as Jose Padilla, was detained more than a month ago, on May 8, after flying into the Chicago O'Hare International Airport from Pakistan.

"On apprehending al Mujahir as he sought entry into the United States, we have disrupted an unfolding terrorist plot to attack the United States by exploding a radioactive dirty bomb," Ashcroft said.

A so-called dirty bomb involves exploding a conventional device wrapped in radioactive material that can kill victims in the immediate area and spread highly toxic material to humans, causing mass death and injury.

Ashcroft, in Moscow for meetings with Russian officials, said the US Government had "multiple, independent and corroborating sources" that al

Military strategy

THE BUSH administration is drafting a formal military policy that supports pre-emptive attacks against terrorists and hostile states with weapons of mass destruction, *The Washington Post* reported. *Reuters, Washington*

Mujahir was closely associated with al-Qaida and was "involved in planning future terrorist attacks on innocent American civilians in the United States".

After serving a prison term in the early 1990s in the US, Padilla began referring to himself as Abdullah al Mujahir, Ashcroft said. Following his release from prison, al Mujahir travelled to Afghanistan and Pakistan and on several occasions in 2001, he met with senior al-Qaida officials, Ashcroft said.

"While in Afghanistan and Pakistan, al Mujahir trained with the enemy, including studying how to wire explosive devices and researching radiological dispersion devices," he said. CNN quoted a US official as saying al Mujahir's intended target was Washington, DC.

Reuters

Almaty Act envisages joint effort against terror

ALMATY, JUNE 4. The 16-nation summit — Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building measures in Asia — which included India and Pakistan, adopted today in Kazakhstan the Almaty Act, condemning terrorism and committing its signatories to not support separatist movements.

The Act "condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and any support or acceptance of it and the failure to condemn it directly."

It identifies "separatism as one of the main threats and challenges to security and stability" in the region.

"Member states will not support any separatist movement on the territory of another member state," the text says.

The text notes that signatories of the CICA "will unite in their efforts to prevent terrorism either being prepared, launched and financed from the territory of a state, and we refuse to offer protection or a home to terrorists."

The Act recognises the rights of "peoples living under foreign occupation" but bars member countries from backing separatist movements acting on the

territory of other CICA members. It also devotes a considerable portion to the threat posed by terrorism and illicit arms and drug trafficking.

The security conference also adopted a declaration asking the United Nations to play a "central role" in developing a framework for meeting the challenge of terrorism.

"No consideration whatsoever can be invoked to justify terrorism," said the Declaration on Eliminating Terrorism and Promoting Dialogue among Civilisations.

"We are fully committed to fighting terrorism and strengthening bilateral, regional and international cooperation, in accordance with the U.N. Charter, required to meet this challenge. We emphasise the central role of the United Nations, its General Assembly and Security Council, in developing the framework for this," the declaration said.

The 16 signatories are Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Palestine, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. — PTI, AFP

05 JUN 2002

THE HINDU

Al-Qaida warns US of another attack

Cairo, June 2

THE PAN-Arab daily *al-Hayat* on Sunday published what it said was a statement from an al-Qaida spokesman warning the United States to get ready for another attack.

"What is coming to the Americans will not, by the will of God, be less than what has come," the newspaper quoted al-Qaida spokesman Sulaiman Abu Ghaith as saying in a statement.

"So beware, America. Get ready. Get prepared. Put on the safety belt," he said in a statement *al-Hayat* said was published on the www.alneda.com web site.

The web site, which has in the past regularly carried news on Afghanistan and statements it said came from Taliban leaders, could not be accessed immediately by Reuters.

The site published a statement in April, which it said was from Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar.

Abu Ghaith, a Kuwaiti-born cleric who emerged as an al-Qaida spokesman after the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington, said the outfit would continue to hit Americans, Jews and their targets, either "individuals or institutions".

He cited what he described as America's anti-Muslim policies in countries such as Somalia, Sudan, Indonesia and the Philippines as a reason for targeting the United States.

He also complained Israel had acted against the Palestinians for 50 years with "American blessing".

Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network are blamed for masterminding the September 11 attacks that killed 3,000 people.

US-led coalition forces are hunting for the remnants of Taliban and al-Qaida fighters in

'CIA knew about Sept 11 hijackers'

New York, June 2

MONTHS BEFORE the September 11 attacks, the CIA knew two of the hijackers were in the US and that they were connected to the al-Qaida, *Newsweek* reported on Sunday.

The intelligence was never passed along to the FBI, which now asserts that if it had known, agents could have uncovered the terrorist plot.

Newsweek said the CIA became aware of one of the terrorists, Nawaf Alhazmi, a few days after he attended a secret planning meeting of al-Qaida in Malaysia in January 2000.

Agents also discovered that another of the men, Khalid Almihdhar, had already obtained a multiple-entry visa that allowed him to enter and leave the United States at will.

The magazine said the CIA did nothing with the information, neither notifying the FBI, which could have tracked the two men, or the Immigration and Naturalisation Service, which could have turned them away at the border.

Instead, for a year and nine months after the CIA identified them as terrorists, Alhaz-

mi and Almihdhar lived openly in the US, using their real names, obtaining driver's licenses, opening bank accounts and enrolling in flight schools. On the morning of September 11, they boarded one of the four hijacked airliners, American Airlines Flight 77, and crashed it into the Pentagon.

Appearing on the *Fox News Sunday* programme, US Attorney General John Ashcroft said he had been given the *Newsweek* report but had not "had a chance ... to read it thoroughly and get the details."

Nonetheless, Ashcroft added, "We are at war. We need to coordinate the activities between our agencies."

Newsweek said the information was held at the CIA's Counterterrorism Center.

The FBI is now asserting that the two terrorists' frequent meetings with the other September 11 hijackers could have provided federal agents with a road map to the entire cast, the magazine said. But the FBI didn't know it was supposed to be looking for them until three weeks before the strikes.

Reuters

Afghanistan, after launching an offensive in October that ousted the Taliban from power.

Meanwhile, the baby daughter of Abu Ghaith has been granted Kuwaiti citizenship, despite her father having been stripped of his nationality, the Interior Minister told AFP in Kuwait City.

Hajer Abu Ghaith was granted Kuwaiti nationality according to an Emiri decree, Sheikh Mohammad al-Khaled al-Sabah

told reporters late on Saturday.

Under the Emirate's law, a child is not entitled to citizenship unless the father is Kuwaiti.

Abu Ghaith, who taught Islamic studies in Kuwait until June 2001, has frequently appeared on Qatar's al-Jazeera satellite channel since the US launched its war on terror in Afghanistan.

Reuters

03 JUN 2002

THE HINDUSTAN T

FORTHRIGHT REMARKS

Hopefully not a Straw in the wind

JACK Straw's visit suggests a welcome shift in the discourse of Western governments regarding the India-Pakistan standoff. He has been forthright enough to declare in Islamabad that the Kashmiri militants are not freedom fighters but terrorists, and he also said in Delhi, that Pakistan must honour UN Security Council resolution 1373. Both statements have important implications. Pakistan's generals have felt impelled to mastermind the insurgency in Kashmir in the belief that they are "internationalising" the issue, the presumption being that it would automatically lead the world to view the Lashkar-e-Toiba and their ilk as "freedom fighters". Straw has pricked that particular balloon: if Kashmiri militants are terrorists, Islamabad by infiltrating them into India, is in breach of resolution 1373, which could bring down international sanctions against Pakistan. One may hope that Richard Armitage, US deputy secretary of state scheduled to visit the subcontinent soon, gives Musharraf the same message.

Reactions to Musharraf's speech to the effect that he must now deliver on what he has been promising, an end to cross-border infiltration, appear to vindicate New Delhi's stand and suggest that the first round of the diplomatic war has gone in its favour. But Islamabad is trying a diplomatic offensive to break out of its current isolation; New Delhi must keep the pressure. In another significant development Franklin L Hagenbeck, commander of Allied forces in Afghanistan, has acknowledged what was long suspected: al Qaeda and Taliban leadership are sheltering in the tribal areas on Pakistan's western border. US intelligence reports indicate that the current al Qaeda strategy is to stage terrorist attacks in both Afghanistan and Kashmir — thus destabilising the Loya Jirga which is supposed to install a permanent government in Kabul while setting off a wider war between India and Pakistan. It seems Bush's mentor will now have to abolish the invidious distinction usually made between "global" terror which strikes New York and its "local" variant which strikes Srinagar, and force the West to muzzle Musharraf. But it will not be easy, Bush is a stubborn man.

SEP 2002

THE STATESMAN

LOCKERBIE CASE / TERMS SET FOR RELEASE OF MONEY

HO-14
760/5

Libya offers \$2.7 b. for families of victims

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MAY 29. Libya has offered to pay \$2.7 billion to the families of the 270 victims of the Lockerbie bombing. A Libyan intelligence offer has been convicted of planting the bomb that blew up a Pan Am flight over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988.

The Government of Muammar Gadhafi has laid down conditions for the release of the money, including the lifting of U.N. and U.S. sanctions and the removal of Libya from the U.S. list of countries sponsoring terrorism. Each victim's family would receive \$10 million, but the money would only be handed over piecemeal — 40 per cent when the United Nations sanctions are lifted; 40 per cent when U.S. sanctions are lifted; and 20 per cent when Libya is taken off the U.S. list of states sponsoring terrorism.

The law firm representing Libya has apparently sent a letter to the families of the victims saying that the money will be deposited in an escrow account in a non-American bank. The money will be automatically released to a Plaintiffs' Committee Account in New York as Libya's conditions are met.

Libya has denied any role or culpability in the Lockerbie



An engineer from the Air Crash Investigation Unit peers out in this Dec. 8, 1988 file photo, from the reconstructed remains of the PanAm Boeing 747 jumbo jet that crashed into the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

bombing but in January 2001, a three judge Scottish court sitting in the Netherlands ruled a member of Libya's security service guilty of the bombing that killed 259 passengers of the Pan Am flight and 11 residents of Lockerbie. Officially, neither the Bush administration nor the Libyan representative in New York have commented on the reported offer to settle the case. A State Department official said the reported offer would not affect Washington's policy towards Libya "one iota". The Bush administration will most likely turn down the Libyan of-

fer, especially since it comes with conditions.

The United States and Britain have demanded that Libya not only accept full responsibility for the bombing but pay "appropriate" compensation to the victims of the families. They want this done before the United Nations even considers the lifting of sanctions. More than the U.N. sanctions, what hurts Tripoli more is the set of commercial and financial sanctions imposed by the United States. The U.S. has listed Libya as one of the seven States that sponsor terrorism.

THE HINDU

9 8 MAY 2002

7/14 Up to America 7/15

American intelligence agencies are said to have intercepted a series of messages among Al-Qaida operatives that hint at another terrorist attack on the United States. Only last week, leaked reports suggested that president Bush might have overlooked possible intelligence pointers to September 11. Taken together, the two developments lead to one logical conclusion: The American administration has to employ its entire might towards trying to pre-empt the second threatened strike. Just how is the US to achieve this end? Obviously, by training its guns on Pakistan, the newest sanctuary for Al-Qaida elements escaping the American dragnet in Afghanistan. To most Indian observers, it would seem as if General Musharraf is hunting with the US hounds and running with the jihadi hares. Nonetheless, the answer is not that simple, and indeed, as much is clear from the good conduct certificates the general has been collecting from visiting US envoys. The US feels, and perhaps not without reason, that it is more important at this moment to hold the general's hand and see him through his own problems than to forsake him and invite greater trouble in the form of a jihadi takeover of nuclear Pakistan. That General Musharraf has gone along on at least some of the US plans also counts as a factor.

The Al-Qaida, the Taliban and the various jihadi outfits operating in Kashmir and West Asia were all originally trained together under US patronage in Afghanistan. Which must explain the ease with which this terror network shifts base and focus. Indeed, a rise in terrorist attacks on India was written into the script of the American war on Afghanistan. And yet, the US has so far not added its own censure to the strong condemnation from countries like Germany and Russia. Whatever our own interpretations regarding the general's motives, the US prefers to believe that he is fighting a hard domestic battle, the Karachi bomb attack being a case in point. In the end, though, the US must understand that the war against terrorism is one and indivisible. It doesn't help to treat Afghanistan differently from Pakistan for the simple reason that the terrorist base has shifted from the former to the latter. Washington must apply pressure on General Musharraf, if not for India then at least in its own self-interest given the recent warnings about a terrorist attack on the US.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

22 MAY 2002

Terrorists strangle voice of peace in J&K

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 21 MAY

THE moderate voice in the Hurriyat Conference, Abdul Ghani Lone, was silenced on Tuesday as suspected Pakistan agents gunned him down at a congregation in Srinagar to mark the death anniversary of Mirwaiz Umer Farooq's father, Maulvi Farooq. The slain leader's son, Sajjid Lone, has accused the ISI for the killing.

The assassination comes at a time when tension with Pakistan was already spiralling, and can be expected to worsen matters. The killing of the leader, who had lately broken ranks with the hardcore Pakistan-backed elements in the Hurriyat, is seen by India as a brazen attempt to disrupt the approaching elections in J&K. Home minister L.K. Advani said the murder was an attempt to derail the poll process.

That the killing was timed to coincide with the arrival of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has not been lost on the government. To add to the rising anger in New Delhi, Pakistan's spin machine was working overtime passing the dastardly act on Indian agencies. Lone was killed by terrorists dressed in police uniforms when he was leaving the



LONE: A LONELY JOURNEY

Idgah ground in Srinagar after attending a ceremony to mark the death anniversary. That the assassins singled him out among a whole line of senior Hurriyat leaders present on the occasion is seen as an evidence of the determination of Pakistan-backed elements to get rid of Lone.

Lone fell out with the hardcore Hurriyat leaders, particularly those belonging to Jamaat-i-Islami, when he attacked Pakistan for meddling in Kashmir affairs to further its own interests. He repeatedly asked Islamabad to keep off Kashmir since 2000 when he first voiced his opposition to the induction of foreign jihadis in J&K while on a visit to Pakistan.

Lone murder not to hit peace process, says Atal

Jammu
21 MAY

CONDEMNING THE killing of senior Hurriyat leader Abdul Ghani Lone, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said here on Tuesday evening that Lone was assassinated because he was working for peace in Jammu and Kashmir. While talking to reporters, Mr Vajpayee said that he wanted to pay homage to the slain Kashmiri leader.

Asked if Lone's killing would affect the peace process, Mr Vajpayee said: "It should not. We should pursue the peace process with more vigour." He also called the recent Kaluchak massacre as "most inhuman and brutal carnage" and asserted that those responsible for the killing of innocent people will not go scot free. "Militants who have brutally engineered this carnage of innocent women and children will not go scotfree and will be punished," Mr Vajpayee told reporters after meeting those injured in the Kaluchak attack at the military hospital on Tuesday evening.

He, however, parried a question about war with Pakistan but said: "My jawans injured in firing by militants want to go back to the (battle) field in case of need."

Earlier on his arrival, the Prime Minister said he would address the issue of growing tension in the sub-continent. Accompanied by defence minister George Fernandes, Jammu and Kashmir chief minister Farooq Abdullah, Mr Vajpayee spent nearly 40 minutes with the injured persons, mostly women and children, in the military base hospital at Satwari. Earlier, Mr Vajpayee was received at Jammu air force station by Governor G.C. Saxena, chief minister Farooq Abdullah, Union minister Chaman Lal Gupta and senior army, police and civil officials.

—PTI



AT GUN POINT: Indian soldiers train their weapons near the border with Pakistan in RS Pura on Tuesday. — AFP

Pak aims to disrupt J&K poll process

Our Political Bureau
NEW DELHI 21 MAY

THE murder of Hurriyat moderate Abdul Ghani Lone confirms New Delhi's fears that Pakistan will pull out all stops to disrupt the poll process in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K).

Union home minister L.K. Advani said the slaying of Lone, who was emerging as the pivot around which a potential pro-election faction of the Hurriyat could form, was an attempt by the Pakistan-sponsored terrorists to discourage elements wanting to take the electoral route. Condemning the killing, Mr Advani told reporters that the "enemy," an apparent reference to Pakistan, and terrorists did not want the Assembly election to be broad-based, with the participation of more and more groups. "It is common knowledge that Lone was headed in that direction (of participating in the coming polls)," said the minister.

Given the spurt in terrorist attacks, India was under no illusion that Pakistan would change its stripes despite its public stance against terrorism before the international community.

But the brazen manner in which it seems to have managed the killing of Hurriyat moderate Lone has further vindicated New Delhi's cynicism. Pakistan's desperation to derail the poll process in J&K has much to do with the serious split in the Hurriyat Conference over the past six months, with Lone emerging as a leader of the faction wanting to join the mainstream by participating in the Assembly poll.

THE STATESMAN

22 MAY 2002

Another terror attack 'certain': Cheney

Washington: A future attack by Al Qaida terrorists is "almost a certainty", U.S. vice-president Dick Cheney said on Fox News on Sunday.

"I think the prospects of a future attack is almost a certainty. It could happen tomorrow, next week, next year.. they're going to keep trying," Mr Cheney said.

This comes in the wake of intelligence officials intercepting a vague yet troubling series of communication among Al Qaida operatives signalling that the terrorist outfit is trying to carry out an operation as big as the September 11 attack or even bigger against the United States.

"It's again not specific, not specific as to the time, not specific as to the place," intelligence officials were quoted as saying by the *New York Times*. Describing the latest threat as a "second-wave attack", the officials said the attack might be carried out overseas as the interceptions were "general" and had limited the government approach to

"broad defensive measures".

The FBI said it had information that Al Qaida leaders discussed a possible plan to rent apartment units in the U.S. and plant explosives there. FBI spokeswoman Debra Weier, however, referred to the information as unsubstantiated and un-

girl terrorism
"I think the prospects of a future attack is almost a certainty. It could happen tomorrow, next week, next year.. they're going to keep trying" *WJS*

corroborated and said, "We have no indication that this proposed plan went beyond the discussion stage. But in an abundance of caution we notified our field offices and the joint terrorism task force last week."

Officials and experts denied the Bush administration planned to raise the national security alert level, which currently is at "yellow" or elevated. "There are serious threats that remain," White House spokeswoman Anne Womack said. "We are doing our best to collect information."

She said she could not comment on specific intelligence information from the CIA about the Al Qaida's activities. But intelligence specialists, speaking on condition of anonymity, said there had been an increase in message traffic among Al Qaida cells in recent weeks. Officials have compared the intercepts to the pattern of those picked up last spring and early summer when Al Qaida operatives were overheard talking about a big operation.

Those signals, the paper said, were among the evidence that intelligence agencies presented to President George W. Bush in August about the possibility of an imminent attack against the U.S. Agencies

THE TIMES OF INDIA

20 MAY 2002

Terror challenge

Delhi needs to evolve long-term strategy

There is clearly a difference between the ways Washington and New Delhi view Musharraf. From the American point of view Musharraf is not a *jehadi* but an ally in the war against terror, even if a dubious one. He has railed against "half-literate mullahs," spoken of modernising his country, allowed US troops and personnel to operate in Pakistan at some risk to himself, and placed some restrictions on the operations of fundamentalist organisations. From the Indian perspective, his occasional tirades against religious extremism mean little, when he is not averse to pressing fundamentalism into service to pursue the goal that he really wants. Kashmir runs in the blood of Pakistanis, he says, by which he means that the resources of the Pakistani state will be devoted to carrying forward the task of Pakistani tribal raiders sent into Kashmir in 1948. He has been a principal architect of the low intensity proxy war launched against India since the late 1980s. What used to be said about the late General Zia ul Haq also applies to Musharraf - he uses Allah more than Allah uses him.

Given the spate of terrorist attacks in Jammu, New Delhi now needs to come up with a credible counter-strategy to deal with the terrorist threat. Fighting suicidal terrorists can be fiendishly difficult, but Sonia Gandhi had something sensible to say for a change, by suggesting that a long-term strategy needs to be worked out. Striking out in anger may be a strong temptation, but possible consequences and eventualities need to be thought through. Prior to the attack on the Lok Sabha New Delhi's policy was to engage Pakistan constructively, one that must be acknowledged to have been a failure. It should now consider not just military but political and economic options for containing Pakistan, a spectrum of which could include cutting diplomatic ties, labelling Pakistan a terrorist state, walking out on the Indus river waters treaty, leveraging the fact that India is a larger market by embargoing international companies that operate in Pakistan, announcing moral and diplomatic support (and proffering even covert military support, if need be) to dissident movements in Pakistan such as the MQM. A calibrated and sustained campaign of this type would be of more long-term value than limited strikes across the border, the only possible military option in a nuclearised environment, which wouldn't be decisive but would consolidate public opinion behind Musharraf. The man is on a sticky political wicket at present - fundamentalists are angry at him, the bulk of the country's politicians have united against him: he can only expect further trouble after scheduled parliamentary elections in October. New Delhi shouldn't bail him out, unless he plays ball. //

THE STATESMAN

20 MAY 2002

CIA predicted Osama threat in 1999

FROM RANDALL MIKKELSEN

Washington, May 18 (Reuters): Despite White House avowals that it would have been impossible to conceive before September 11 of a hijacked plane being used to attack US targets, a 1999 report for the CIA envisioned a very similar threat.

It predicted Islamic militant Osama bin Laden would retaliate "in a spectacular way" against Washington for US cruise missile strikes in 1998 against training facilities of his al Qaida network in Afghanistan.

"Suicide bombers belonging to al Qaida's martyrdom battalion could crash-land an aircraft packed with high explosives ... into the Pentagon, the headquarters of the CIA, or the White

House," the report said.

The report was commissioned by The National Intelligence Council, which reports to CIA director George Tenet. It was conducted by the research arm of the Library of Congress, well before Bush took office.

One work in a vast output of terrorism studies, the report has long been public and is available on the Internet. (www.loc.gov/rr/frd/SociologicalPsychology%20of%20Terrorism.htm)

But its on-target prediction prompted new questions yesterday over how much the government knew about potential threats, in the wake of disclosures that President George W. Bush was alerted in his daily CIA intelligence briefing last August to the possibility of a hijack-

ing by al Qaida. Four hijacked US airliners slammed into the twin towers of the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field on September 11, killing about 3,000 people. Washington has blamed al Qaida for the attacks.

"I don't think anybody could have predicted that these people would take an airplane and slam it into the World Trade Center, take another one and slam it into the Pentagon," Bush's national security adviser, Condoleezza Rice, said on Thursday.

White House spokesman Ari Fleischer said on Thursday the alert to Bush did not say there was a chance planes would be used by al Qaida as suicide bombs. "Traditional hijackings prior to September 11 — it might as well be a different word in a

different language from what we have all unfortunately come to know about the post-9/11 world," he said.

Yesterday, Fleischer played down the significance of the report, saying it was primarily a study of the thinking of potential terrorists and not based on specific intelligence.

He said he had not learned of the report until yesterday, but noted it had also long been available to Congress, some of whose members have called for an investigation into potential administration intelligence failures.

"I think what it shows is this information that was out there did not raise enough alarms with anybody ... because it was not intelligence information," Fleischer said.

An intelligence official said

there was no indication CIA director Tenet, who briefs Bush, had seen the report. The report was commissioned to be used in a larger study of global trends, he said. It is 125 pages long, plus notes.

The report said retaliation could also come in the form of a "building buster" bomb at a federal building or, more likely, a time bomb on an airliner. "A horrendous scenario consonant with al Qaida's mindset would be its use of a nuclear suitcase bomb against any number of targets in the nation's capital," the report said. It said other groups that could carry out terror attacks on the United States, including Lebanon's Hizbollah, Sri Lanka's Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, and Japan's Aum Shinrikyo.

THE TELEGRAPH

19 MAY 2002

New Delhi sends Pakistan envoy packing

Defence chiefs brief cabinet, military option remains open, says Jaswant

TIMES NEWS NETWORK
New Delhi: As a first step towards further tightening the diplomatic screws on Islamabad in the aftermath of the Kaluchak carnage, India on Saturday asked Pakistan to withdraw its high commissioner, Ashraf Jehangir Qazi, from the country.

After a two-hour meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on Saturday morning, external affairs minister Jaswant Singh said, "The high commissioner of Pakistan will be required to return to Islamabad for the sake of parity of representation."

The concerned joint secretary in the ministry of external affairs, Arun Kumar Singh, later communicated this decision to the Pakistani deputy high commissioner, Jaleel Abbas Jilani. "We have indicated that the recall of the high commissioner should be completed within a week," said an MEA spokesperson.

India had recalled its high commissioner to Pakistan, Vijay K. Nambiar, after the December 13 terrorist attack on parliament. Subsequently, New Delhi had also banned overflight facilities for Pakistani aircraft and cut the strength of the two countries' high commissions in Islamabad and Delhi by half. While Pakistan had refused to recall Mr Qazi, it had announced a "tit-for-tat" policy for the other diplomatic measures.

Mr Qazi, who was due to retire in April, was granted an indefinite extension by Islamabad. According to Pakistani diplomats, he was due to leave for Pakistan on Sunday for a week's vacation but will now remain in New Delhi until his final departure on May 25. The diplomats said that judging from the pattern of punitive measures India had taken after December 13—when the recall of Mr Nambiar was followed a week

later with other sanctions—they expected the next Indian step to be a further reduction in the size of the high commission staff.

Mr Singh said the only change as of now was related to the high commissioner. "As and when the CCS considers it necessary, it will meet to review the situation," he added.

Apart from further diplomatic measures, India is also keeping the military option open. This was reinforced by an extensive briefing of the CCS by the three service chiefs—Gen S. Padmanabhan, Air Chief Marshal S. Krishnaswamy and Admiral Madhavendra Singh.

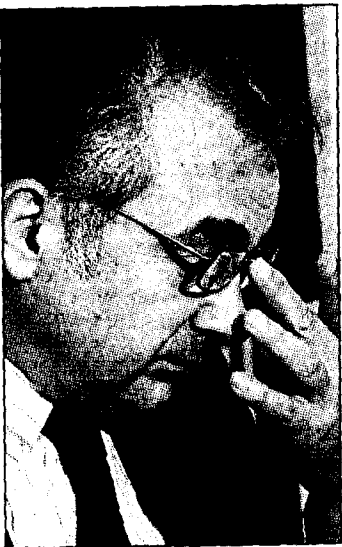
The discussions focused on the situation on the ground, operational preparedness and various military options available in the backdrop of the five-month-old forward mobilisation of more than half-a-million troops and strike formations as part of 'Operation Parakram', along the Indo-Pak border.

The stepped-up heavy exchange of fire along the Line of Control and the international border in the last few days was also reviewed during the meeting.

Mr Singh said that Pakistan had provoked India into launching a "fire assault" in the Rajouri sector. Indian forces had inflicted heavy damages across the border, he added.

Explaining the rationale for Mr Qazi being asked to leave, the MEA spokesperson said that the decision was taken because Pakistan continued to sponsor cross-border terrorism.

Meanwhile, seven persons, including a National Conference activist, a BSF jawan and two militants, were killed and three others injured in the Kashmir Valley while a major tragedy was averted with the timely detection of an improvised explosive device weighing 35 kg.



Ashraf Jehangir Qazi

Camaraderie, callisthenics, and a call to arms



Indian army soldiers cheer their team-mates during the morning physical exercises near the Indo-Pak border in Punjab on Saturday

Gen Musharraf summons forces to army HQ

Islamabad: Gen Pervez Musharraf has directed all military personnel, including top generals working with civilian departments, to report immediately to army headquarters for further orders.

"All the military officials ranking from major general and down, working with the civilian departments since October 1999 and otherwise, should immediately report to the GHQ, Rawalpindi for further orders," the notification issued on Friday said.

Army kills 10 Pak soldiers

TIMES NEWS NETWORK & AGENCIES

Jammu: Ten Pakistani soldiers were killed and 15 enemy bunkers destroyed in retaliatory firing and shelling by Indian troops along the Line of Control in the Poonch and Rajouri areas of Jammu and Kashmir on Saturday, a defence spokesman said here.

Pakistani troops resorted to a combination of small-arms firing and mortar shelling in the Noushera, Rajouri and Poonch sectors on Saturday afternoon, he said. "Indian troops effectively retaliated and heavy firing and shelling continued until evening," the spokesman said, adding that ten Pakistani soldiers were confirmed killed and 15 of their forward bunkers opposite the LoC were destroyed.

According to unofficial estimates, about 2,000 families have migrated from the border villages along the border, especially from the Poonch sector. Near-total migration has been

reported from some villages.

In the Hiranagar and Samba tehsils, several schools are now serving as camps for migrants while classes are being held in the shade of trees.

The migrating villagers have been carrying only minimal belongings, and are wholly dependent on government doles. Villagers have also lost scores of cattle head in the Pakistani firing. The exchange of fire was heavy throughout Friday night, but eased later on Saturday.

The Hiranagar sub-sector saw the maximum volume of exchanges. Field reports said that along this sub-sector, Pakistanis suffered heavy damage to their forward positions. Heavy damage to Pakistani crops was also reported.

Last week, there had been reports that the Pakistanis had deliberately fired at harvested wheat piles in Ranbirsinghpura causing damage to an estimated 1.5 lakh quintals.

Russia backs India on terrorism

By Vladimir Radyuhin

MOSCOW, MAY 18. Russia has backed India's stand on cross-border terrorism and vowed to stand by "our Indian friends". "We regard India's desire to put an end to the brazen activity of terrorists as fair and absolutely legitimate," a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman said commenting on the terrorist attack in Jammu and Kashmir on Tuesday.

"We are willing to render whatever assistance we can to achieve this. We express solidarity with the legitimate demands of our Indian friends."

"We know only too well what terrorism is, and we understand India's concerns about the ongoing terrorist activity," the Russian spokesman, Alexander Yakovenko, said on Friday.

At the same time, he warned that "an open armed conflict (between India and Pakistan) would be highly undesirable and have grave consequences for security and stability."

THE HINDU

19 MAY 2002

Karachi suicide attack kills 12 French nationals

Police suspect Al Qaida hand in bus explosion

KARACHI: At least 15 people, 12 of them French nationals, were killed in a suicide bomb attack which ripped apart a naval bus here on Wednesday morning. Twenty-two others, most of them French citizens, who were injured in the explosion, have been admitted to Jinnah Hospital in a 'serious condition'.

The victims were engineers and technicians working for a French naval construction company which was helping the Pakistan Navy build submarines.

Officials said a navy bus carrying the foreigners to their workplace was blown to bits near Sheraton Hotel here around 8 a.m. when a red-coloured car laden with explosives rammed into the vehicle. While the car and the driver were blown to pieces, the explosion created a large crater on the road. The explosion was so intense that the window panes of the hotels situated nearby, two of them five-star, were shattered.

At the time of going to press, no group had claimed responsibility for the act. Several religious extremist groups have repeatedly expressed their opposition to Karachi airport being used as a transit point by international security forces, including the French, headed for Afghanistan. Opposition has also been mounting against the joint U.S.-Pak raids on Al Qaida hideouts along the Afghan border.

Sindh police chief Kamal Shah claimed that a "foreign hand" appeared to be behind the attack and that they would investigate possible Al Qaida links to the blast. Dismissing allegations of India's hand in the blast, external affairs ministry spokesperson Nirupama Rao said the charge was baseless and a shining example of Pakistani fabrication. (Agencies)

AP

CARNAGE IN KARACHI



THE ANGUISH

THE RETREAT

Kiwis take flight; Pak players have close shave

KARACHI: Members of the Pakistan cricket team had a narrow escape when a blast triggered by a suicide bomber here on Wednesday shattered the windows of their hotel rooms. At the time of the explosion, most of the players were having their breakfast before leaving for the ground for the second Test against New Zealand. Shocked by the act of terror, the Kiwi team management immediately called off the tour.

Among those who had a close shave were Pakistani allrounder Shahid Afridi and bowler Shoaib Akhtar. "I am lucky that I was not in the room. It has been destroyed completely. I was having my breakfast when the blast took place, Afridi said, adding, "I rushed to the site of the blast and saw bodies scattered all over the place."

Akhtar, who had been trapped in his room, managed to escape unhurt despite the room being destroyed. "It took us 10 minutes to open Akhtar's room," said star batsman Inzamam-ul-Haq. "After offering prayers, I was about to leave the room when I heard the blast. It was shocking," he recalled.

Recounting his experience, team skipper Waqar Younis said, "I rushed to the site and it was horrifying to see bodies lying all over."

Although the Kiwi players too escaped unhurt, team physiotherapist Dayle Schakel sustained cuts on his arm. Schakel was waiting for the players in the team's coach when he was hit by pieces of glass from windows shattered by the blast. The New Zealanders have flown home. (Agencies)

Volunteers remove a body from the wreckage of the bus in Karachi on Wednesday. French President Jacques Chirac (left inset) condemns the killings as he speaks at the Elysee Palace in Paris. New Zealand cricket captain Stephen Fleming (right inset) boards a bus to take his team to Karachi airport after New Zealand cancelled its tour of Pakistan.

Daniel Pearl's dismembered body found near Karachi

Mubashir Zaidi
Karachi, May 17

PAKISTAN POLICE on Friday discovered a torso and separated head believed to belong to murdered US reporter Daniel Pearl and said they had found a one-roomed building in which he was apparently held hostage.

According to Sindh police, the body was found in a remote area on the Super Highway a few kilometres from Karachi. Police said they found the body acting on a tip-off by three militants of Lashkar-i-Jhangvi. The three were arrested a few days ago in Karachi. Though only the DNA tests will prove the identity, the police said they were sure it was the reporter's as the body was beheaded and in 10 pieces.

The body was recovered from a room where bloodstains are visible on the wall. The room closely resembles what was shown in the pictures sent by e-mail showing Pearl in captivity, police claimed.

An investigator said the body was lying on its back and the head had been placed in an upright position, balanced on the base of the neck. The body had deteriorated but it appeared the torso had been whole when buried.

Wall Street Journal reporter Pearl disappeared in Karachi on January 23 while working on stories about Islamic militants. Pictures of him holding a newspaper with a gun held to his head were later e-mailed to media organisations.

In February, a gruesome three-minute video was delivered to US officials in the city showing Pearl dead and his body being butchered. The official said they had found the room where Pearl



AP PHOTO

A paramedic inspects the remains of US journalist Daniel Pearl found near Karachi on Friday.

is believed to have been held hostage inside the nursery.

"We will conduct tests on the hair, skull and teeth to cement our belief," the official added.

"We spent some time analysing that information but before a body can be exhumed we have to complete legal formalities and requirements like having six or seven doctors and a judicial magistrate on the site when the digging is done," he said. Two US officials arrived at the nursery on Friday under tight security. Medical teams have been sent to the site to conduct DNA testing of the remains.

GOVT TO CLARIFY STAND IN PARLIAMENT TODAY

Forces mount action pressure

Keith Flory and Srinjoy
Chowdhury in New Delhi

May 16. — The fact that for the first time since the advent of militancy in Jammu and Kashmir children and wives of Army personnel were gunned down at Kaluchak is likely to effect a qualitative change in India's response to cross-border terrorism.

The government is under increased pressure from the Armed Forces to come up with a response that would "hurt" those responsible for the outrage, though that should not automatically be interpreted as initiating military action against Pakistan, officials said today.

It is clear the government does not view Tuesday's attack as a one-off raid. It anticipates a series of such strikes in the run-up to the Assembly elections, and there is also the fear that the Amarnath Yatra could be targeted yet again.

Adding to the concerns are reports that over 1,500 trained Al Qaida and Taliban cadres have re-grouped in those pockets of PoK that have served as staging posts for the induction of militants into the state.

The government is expected to offer an insight into its mind in Parliament tomorrow. The serious dimensions to militancy in the state came under focus at a high-level meeting of security and Intelligence agencies attended by the Union ministers for home and defence and the J&K chief minister today. Earlier, the Prime Minister discussed the issue with some of his Cabinet colleagues. And after the meeting officials said action against "over-ground support bases" of militants was discussed.

Though it would be for the government to decide if it will try and step up its diplomatic assault on Pakistan or consider striking at militant bases across the LoC, the Armed Forces will be looking for steps that have a visible impact on the ground.

Strong sentiments were evident in Kaluchak yes-

terday when the defence minister arrived at the scene of the *fidayeen* attack. He is understood to have received the impression that soldiers on the border were not keen on remaining idle while their families are being targeted in the hinterland.

Some of the troops there expressed the view that routine diplomatic action will not suffice and definitive measures were necessary. Killing of wives and children of personnel was something the government could not allow to pass without retribution.

Security officers have identified 1,500 Al-Qaida and Taliban men in camps in Pakistan, in areas such as Mangla Dam, Kotli, Skardu and Gultari. Kotli is 15 km from the LoC near Rajouri while Mangla Dam is adjacent to the Naushera sector. Militants have also been spotted at Gultari in the Northern Areas, 20km from the LoC. Officers say they have "married" locals and have enough cover.

The Centre has decided to intensify operations in J&K. But with the Army deployed along the border, there is little scope for bringing in additional forces. There is a feeling that the situation is going back to the "old days",

with infiltration showing signs of a rise.

India has information that those arrested during Gen. Musharraf's tightfist on terror earlier in the year are being released now, and ultras who were faced with a funds crunch are now flush with money. Terrorist training camps are operating in full swing and the number of suicide squads infiltrating into India has also gone up. And, the Army has not been able to seal off the LoC completely.

Bush condemns Jammu attack

President Mr George W Bush has condemned the Jammu strike and pledged the USA will not allow terrorists to succeed in South Asia, adds PTI from Washington. "The USA condemns the attack and extends condolences to the bereaved..." Mr Bush said.

More reports on page 6

Time for decision, says Army Chief

KATHMANDU, May 16. — Outraged by the *fidayeen* attack at Kaluchak, Chief of Army Staff Gen. S Padmanabhan today said: "Time for action has come, but the Army is not the body to make a decision.... The decision will be taken by the entire nation." He was speaking to reporters here at the end of his four-day visit to Nepal. "I am aware of the attack on children of Army personnel ... it is very sad."

Asked about the Army's plan of action, Gen. Padmanabhan just said: "I cannot say everything here." He said he would visit the border areas to review the situation. — PTI

BJP hawks fly over PM's head

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

New Delhi: Even as agitated Lok Sabha members on Wednesday sought an explanation from the Centre for Tuesday's terrorist attack near Jammu, Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee joined them in condemning the killings of innocent people, maintaining that such incidents would be countered. Later on Wednesday evening, he reportedly told U.S. President George W. Bush that India would take appropriate action in response.

"This issue cannot be taken up on partisan lines. There are no two views about the fact that what happened was a heinous incident and we have to counter it," Mr Vajpayee told the Lok Sabha. Raising the issue in the house during the morning session, opposition parties and several NDA parties demanded that the government issue a detailed statement. They also suggested that the house adopt an unanimous resolution condemning such terrorist attacks. When angry MPs continued to stall question hour, Mr Vajpayee intervened to point out that home minister L.K. Advani had made a statement on the issue on Tuesday while defence minister George Fernandes, who is in Jammu, would return to the capital on Thursday. Mr Vajpayee also offered to hold an all-party meet to discuss the issue.

In between, Mr Vajpayee's remarks that the "incident would be countered" created considerable confusion in the house as his usage of the Hindi word, pratikar, was translated by some as "retaliation". However, as the word got around, PMO officials rushed to parliament house to explain that the word pratikar was meant to sug-

gest that the incident would be 'countered', a more sober word than either 'revenge' or 'retaliation'.

When the Lok Sabha resumed its normal business after the Prime Minister's brief intervention, parliamentary affairs minister Pramod Majahan subsequently had a meeting with opposition leaders, at which it was felt that an all-party meeting would serve no purpose. Instead, it was decided that a day-long discussion on the Jammu carnage would be taken up in the Lok Sabha on Friday, culminating in the adoption of a resolution condemning terrorism. Although the PMO tried to soften the effect of Mr Vajpayee's language in parliament, the BJP on Wednesday insisted that it would not rule out a war with Pakistan. In a press briefing, party spokesman V.K. Malhotra said the Centre should take firm steps against terrorism. Asked whether the party meant war, Mr Malhotra merely said, "War is not ruled out."

According to him, instead of relying on Washington to restrain Islamabad, New Delhi should take a decision on tackling the situation. The party devoted the press conference to attacking the U.S. for its failure to stop Pakistan from abetting terrorism. In a stinging comment against the Bush administration, the BJP said terrorism should not be interpreted one way in the west of Pakistan and another way in the east of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, PMO officials stated that during his telephonic conversation with Mr Vajpayee, Mr Bush had said he was appalled by the "atrocious terrorist attack" and that he understood India's distress.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

16 MAY 2002

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2002

AN ACT OF TERROR AGAINST INDIA

BY ANY DEFINITION of international terrorism, the savage suicide attack near Jammu on May 14 will rank as an abominable outrage with the dastardly purpose of provoking India. This foul message is unmistakably obvious from the tragic but dramatic fact that the brutal "fidayeen" strike was primarily focussed on a camp of the Indian Army as also the civilians among the families of the military personnel there. It will be idle and certainly insensitive at this moment of national grief to compare and contrast the minute details of the new anti-India terrorist crime with those of the two other high-profile atrocities that occurred in recent months — the venomous attack on the Parliament House complex in New Delhi last December and the earlier suicide bombing at the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly in Srinagar in October. The stark reality at this point is that the masterminds behind the latest terrorist audacity have deliberately sought to undermine the dynamics of the ongoing globalised campaign against the politics of terrorism and to do so with a definitive reference to the Pakistan-India subtext. At one level, Islamabad has condemned the targeted killing of the civilians among those who perished in the new mayhem near Jammu. At another level, Islamabad has significantly tried to downplay the possible involvement of one or more Pakistan-based terrorist outfits that propagate the Kashmir "cause". In fact, if Islamabad's parallel suggestion for an "impartial probe" appears to be out of sync with its own declared commitment to root out international terrorism, the reason has to do with the complexities of the India-Pakistan estrangement.

The timing and circumstances of an altogether new manifestation of political terror near Jammu point to a heinous mindset at work. Discernible indeed is the political signature of "jehadi terrorism" of the anti-India variety. In one sense, the plot seems to be aimed at exposing the relative vulnerability of the Indian security establishment

to extraneous terrorist strikes. Any such game plan may have had something to do with the coincidental visit to New Delhi by the U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia, Christina Rocca, who is engaged in defusing the abnormally acute tensions that have marked the fragile relationship between New Delhi and Islamabad since the recent terrorist attack on India's Parliament. In another sense, the emergence of a qualitatively new threat to India from the terrorist mafia is implicitly indicated by New Delhi's strong suspicions about the complicity of a mutant of either the Lashkar-e-Taiba or the Jaish-e-Mohammad — two sworn anti-India groups that Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, banned last January. Viewed in this perspective, the purveyors of terror might have wanted to tell Gen. Musharraf that they could strike at will on either side of the Line of Control. The recent carnage in Karachi had exposed the other side of the non-legal tender of terrorism.

What should New Delhi's response be to the latest terrorist affront to its authority? India's enlightened self-interest dictates that all options be weighed with the greatest care in a climate of utmost calm and absolute realism. India must reinforce its moral indignation with a prudent policy of spirited discretion. New Delhi will be well advised to resist the political temptation to opt for even a limited military strike against Pakistan. Two conspicuous factors militate against the feasibility of any form of military solution. First, conventional wisdom and creative prognosis indicate that it will be impossible to accomplish any objective of rooting out the suspected anti-India terror bases in Pakistan through a limited but surgically precise military thrust. In a perceptive scenario, the nuclear deterrents as independently possessed by India and Pakistan will themselves deter any such limited strike. Second, India is still far from sensitising world opinion to its trauma of wounds inflicted by externally sponsored political terror.

THE HINDU

■ 30 KILLED IN TERRORIST STRIKE ON BUS & ARMY CAMP ■ MESSAGE TO PAKISTAN INTERCEPTED ■ LeT OUTFIT CLAIMS RESPONSIBILITY

Worst-ever *fidayeen* attack in Jammu

Statesman News Service

JAMMU/NEW DELHI, May 14. — In the worst-ever militant attack in Jammu, a three-member suicide squad gunned down 30 people — including three Army men, 11 children and five women — and injured 48 at Kaluchak on the Jammu-Pathankot National Highway today. All the ultras were killed by the Army.

The attack coincides with the visit of the US assistant secretary of state, Ms Christina Rocca.

Witnesses said the militants in Army fatigues boarded a Jammu-bound bus from Manali at Vijaypur, about 30 km from Jammu, early today. Just as the bus was about to enter Kaluchak cantonment area on the outskirts of Jammu at 5.30 a.m., the militants, two of them were sitting near the driver and the other at the rear, asked the passengers to get down.

The passengers, most of whom had just woken up from sleep, mistook the ultras for Army men intending to frisk them. As they were preparing to get down, the militants fired at them, killing three women, two children, the driver and the conductor. Then they got down and threw a grenade at the bus.

Soon after, the militants ran to-

wards officers' family quarters at an Army camp on the Jammu-Pathankot highway. The sentry at the front gate of the complex engaged the ultras in an encounter and killed one of them. The other two, however, managed to enter the complex, firing indiscriminately. They first knocked the door of a house and killed two children of a family. The killing spree continued till commandos reached the spot. The ultras also damaged two Army vehicles.

No homily on restraint, Rocca told

NEW DELHI, May 14. — India is in no mood to accept US advice on "restraint" against Pakistan, as the US assistant secretary of state's meeting with MEA officials today indicated that Delhi was tired of homilies on good conduct.

Today's Jammu killings reinforced the Centre's "disgust and disillusionment" with Pakistani policy, which was conveyed to Ms Christina Rocca. "The point was clearly conveyed that it is not okay to have one policy for terrorism in Afghanistan, and one for Pakistan's eastern border," an MEA official said. Ms Rocca was also told that Pakistan is "deceiving the USA in their support" in the global anti-terrorism effort. — SNS

Details on page 6

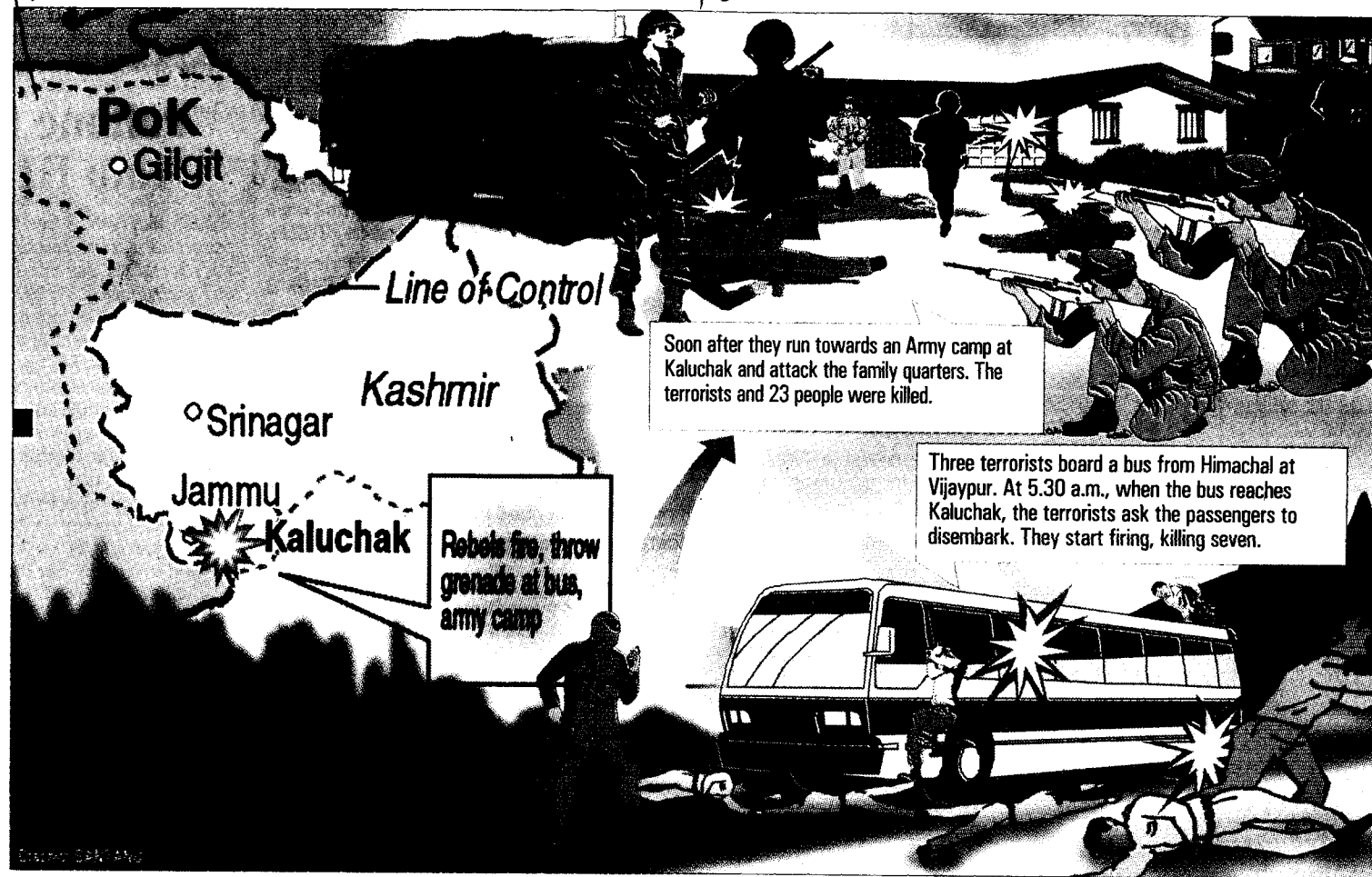
Shail and Abu Mursad. Kashmiri said the outfit had been recently formed to launch *fidayeen* attacks in J&K and warned of more such attacks.

Intelligence agencies on the Indo-Pak border intercepted a message sent by the militants to their superiors across the border saying

"mission has been accomplished".

A home ministry official in Delhi said the three militants were Pakistani nationals. He confirmed that they were Lashkar members and said they've been identified. The militants crossed over to India two-three days ago. Some items seized from their bags had Muzaffarabad (PoK) markings.

Maj-Gen Mohan Pandey, General Officer Commanding of Tiger Division, said the Army operation at the residential complex began within 11



Soon after they run towards an Army camp at Kaluchak and attack the family quarters. The terrorists and 23 people were killed.

Three terrorists board a bus from Himachal at Vijaypur. At 5.30 a.m., when the bus reaches Kaluchak, the terrorists ask the passengers to disembark. They start firing, killing seven.

Rebels fire, throw grenade at bus, army camp

minutes of the militants' attack. Besides the commandos, tanks and fire tenders were brought in. The Army blocked the Jammu-Pathankot highway and suspended traffic for about three hours.

Maj-Gen Pandey said the militants were armed with automatic assault rifles, hand grenades and other explosives. They had wired some quarters of junior commissioned officers with the explosives, but were killed before those could be triggered off.

Among the dead were 19 civilians, three jawans and eight relatives of Army men. The injured included eight Army men, 11 children and five women.

The Union minister of state for home, Mr ID Swami, and special secretary Mr AK Bhandari have been sent to Jammu to make an on-the-spot assessment. They will submit a report to the Prime Minister and Mr LK Advani.

The home minister said in Parliament: "The incident appears

to have been timed to demonstrate to the world that despite the global war against terrorism, the terrorists are not likely to be cowed down. It is not a coincidence that the incident had occurred at a time when a US state department official is visiting the country."

Mr Advani assured the House that the government was determined to curb militancy in J&K and cited how the security forces

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Military option open: George

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, May 14. — Mr George Fernandes, speaking in Goa after the Jammu terrorist attacks, said he didn't rule out a "military option".

The defence minister told a TV channel that all options are open. He is cutting short his visit to Goa for the Indo-French naval exercises and will be in Jammu tomorrow.

The armed forces suggested the possibility of a strike on terrorist camps in PoK as one of the options to the political leadership in the past, senior government officials said. But it hasn't been accepted so far. This would have meant strikes across the Line of Control into PoK, keeping the International Boundary safe.

The Centre will decide on the mobilisation of troops along the border in June. By then, it will be clear what Pakistan wants to do in terms of reducing cross-border terrorism or handing over terrorists, as demanded. Any de-escalation would only occur in a phased manner jointly with Pakistan after bilateral talks.

Other options include "opening up" with artillery all along the border, aiming at terrorist camps. This had happened about five years ago. There is the possibility of an air-strike, but then, counter-strikes by the Pakistan Air Force would have to be considered. Sending in special forces is another option, but it could involve heavy losses.

Even more worrying is the fact that a symbolic strike followed by a counter-strike could lead to a full-blown war. Even in case of a strike, the reactions of the international community, particularly that of the USA, won't be very positive.

Finally, there are questions about what a strike, even if it were successful, would achieve. Would it end terrorism? Would it only improve General Pervez Musharraf's position? These are questions the Indian establishment has to wrestle with.

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12/2/01
9/2/01

FIDAYEEN ATTACK:

(Continued from page 1)

15/5

were conducting "Intelligence based operations" against the terrorists resulting in 601 militants being killed during the first four months of the year.

This is the second major militant attack in Jammu this year and third since August last year. On 8 August 2001, eight civilians, three Army men, a BSF jawan and a militant had been killed when militants attacked a bus. In the 30 March attack on Raghunath Temple, six civilians, some security personnel and two militants had been killed.

While incidents of violence in the Valley had declined in the winter, militants remained active in Rajouri, Poonch, Udhampur, Jammu city and Doda in the Jammu sector. Security forces say Jammu is a soft place for the militants to target.

The Opposition today joined the government in condemning the attack. While the Congress reacted cautiously, the Left slammed the government for its "repeated failures".

Mrs Sonia Gandhi expressed shock over the attack and extended sympathy to the families of the victims. Party spokesman Mr Jaipal Reddy said: "The government has to be more alert..."

Mr Somnath Chatterjee (CPI-M) said the incident was yet another example of the Centre's failure. "The government has failed to protect the people despite the bravado of pushing through Pota... Since 14 October, Pota is in operation and yet the government has been failing to check such incidents."

THE STATESMAN

15 MAY 2002

Message to Rocca 15/5

The horrendous fidayeen attack on an army camp near Jammu on Tuesday in which 34 persons, including 25 army men and their family members, lost their lives comes at a time when US assistant secretary of state Christina Rocca is in Delhi to counsel restraint to India in the face of continuing cross-border terrorism. The latest American argument is that General Musharraf is as helpless in stopping terrorist infiltration into India as he is in stopping the passage of Al-Qaida and Taliban leadership into Pakistan. It's just that while Washington has asserted its right to move into Pakistan to pursue the Al-Qaida and Taliban cadres, it is firmly opposed to New Delhi taking military action within Pakistani territory. This position, apart from its moral untenability, does not adequately address the concern that a democratically accountable Indian regime cannot indefinitely resist the growing domestic pressure to act against Pakistan-based terrorist outfits. The credibility of Washington's role as a peacemaker is compromised further by the fact that it has had nothing concrete to offer in terms of stopping the terrorist infiltration. The early morning attack in Jammu is an unmistakable pointer in that direction. It is therefore up to the Indian government to act in a way that ensures that the cost of such terrorism is made prohibitively high for the jihadi groups.

Many in this country believe that notwithstanding Ms Rocca's visit, diplomacy is no longer the answer to the problem of cross-border terrorism. In their view, New Delhi has little option but to launch what a former chief of army staff described — less than 24 hours before the latest outrage in Jammu — as a "limited war". Such retaliatory strikes, it is believed, will not risk escalation since their aim would be solely to inflict punishment and not gain territory. Discounting Western apprehensions that there is no such thing as a limited war between two nuclear powers with a long history of animosity, they contend that the presence of US troops in Pakistan guarantees that the latter will not make use of its nuclear weapons. After all, the Americans cannot dismiss lightly the threat that some of these weapons might be targeted at their own carriers and forces stationed in Pakistan or Afghanistan. Whatever the truth of such a thesis, there is no denying the support it has acquired among an influential section of Indian opinion increasingly frustrated by the Bush administration's inability to get the general to act on his anti-jihadi promise. Indeed, the view from New Delhi is that Washington has given Islamabad an unacceptably long rope, whether on the issue of condoning the movement of Al-Qaida and Taliban into Pakistan or on the failure to crack down on jihadis despite the recent massacres in the general's own backyard. Finally, it's not just the Indians who are complaining about the lack of serious action on the ground. Americans too have been at the receiving end of the Pakistani army's foot-dragging and lack of cooperation in dealing with Al-Qaida and Taliban elements massed on the country's western border with Afghanistan. Clearly, Washington cannot bank on continued public and media support at home for its molycoddling of the general. Meanwhile, unless the US government proves its bona fides that the war against terrorism does not treat Indian lives as expendable, New Delhi has a pressing obligation to protect its own, with or without American help.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

15 MAY 2002

Ansari reveals links with Omar Sheikh

NEW DELHI, MAY 12. Aftab Ansari, the alleged mastermind of the Kolkata American Center attack, has revealed he was closely associated with Saeed Omar Sheikh, prime accused in the U.S. journalist, Daniel Pearl kidnap-cum-murder case, and that the latter had provided him "all kinds of support" for his activities.

Disclosing the nexus between Pakistan-based terrorists and the Indian underworld, Ansari also told his interrogators that the January 22 attack was undertaken because the Lashker-e-Taiba wanted to take revenge against the U.S. and he wanted to avenge the killing of his associate, Asif Raza Khan, by police.

Ansari, who is in the custody of Delhi police since last Monday, has also said that he met Omar Sheikh, a senior leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorist outfit, first in an Indian jail.

Ansari later went to Pakistan and Omar Sheikh provided all kinds of logistic and other kinds of support to him there.

"Omar Sheikh even got Ansari's Pakistani passport made in the name of Azhar in February 2001," the sources said, adding

he had stayed in Pakistan for over a year.

Omar Sheikh was also instrumental in introducing Ansari to ISI operatives who sought the latter's cooperation in carrying out subversive activities in India, they said.

Ansari, who was deported to India from Dubai in February, has also disclosed his association with the LeT's commander, Azam Cheema, his deputy, Fahadullah Abdul Karim alias Tunda, and three Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami (HUJI) militants — Mufti Kifayatullah alias Zafar, a Pak.-based Indian, Javed Vairaich and Mehboob alias Noor.

"The plan to carry out the attack on the American Center on January 22 this year was conceived by Ansari and the LeT commander, Fahadullah, in Pakistan under ISI's guidance," the sources said citing Ansari's confessions. Ansari has also revealed that he had got several militants of different terrorist outfits settled in India through his aides — Asif Raza Khan, Arshad Khan alias Masab, Anita Das, Tariq Mehboob alias Naeem, Mohd Idrish alias Wazid and Mohd Saleem— PTI

THE HINDU

3 MAY 2002

France to stand by Pak pacts

FROM IDRES BAKHTIAR

Karachi, May 9: French defence minister Michelle Alliot-Marie, reaffirming her country's commitment to fight terrorism, today said France would abide by the agreements it has signed with Pakistan.

The French minister rushed to Karachi after the suicidal car bomb attack yesterday on a Pakistan navy bus carrying French naval experts. Eleven French nationals were killed along with three Pakistanis in the attack that sent shockwaves throughout the country.

Alliot-Marie, who visited a local hospital to see the wounded French experts, told a press conference here that the injured ex-

perts had been sent back to France.

Alliot-Marie said the intention of the bombers was to worsen the relations between France and Pakistan. However, they have not succeeded. "The relations between the two countries would further strengthen and the countries will come even more closer," Alliot-Marie said.

Replying to a question, she said that France would abide by the agreement it has signed with Pakistan in 1994. According to the agreement, France has supplied three Agosta 90B submarines to Pakistan. The last of these submarines is being built in Karachi and the French experts were working on it.

To another question Alliot-

Marie said the Pakistan-based French experts would continue to stay in the country while the temporary visitors would return to France.

However, the French defence minister said the attack would not deter France from taking an active part against international terrorism. "My country will be more determined in its support to the international coalition against terrorism," she said.

Replying to a question about the involvement of al Qaida terrorists in the attack, she said: "It would be too early to say anything about the group or people involved in the attack." However, she added that a team of French forensic specialists had arrived in Karachi to assist their Pak-

istani counterparts in the investigations.

She said her country had full confidence in the Pakistani authorities and the French team is here only as a support team. Alliot-Marie left Pakistan this evening.

In a related development, information minister Nisar Memon said the bomb attack in Karachi is linked to Pakistan's participation in the war against terrorism. Talking to reporters in Islamabad he said: "This could be linked to international terrorist activities and has nothing to do with local issues."

"We arrested the killers of Daniel Pearl and we will act similarly in this case," Memon added.

Christophe Polidor, 36, from Cherbourg, was lying on a bed in the hospital lobby waiting to be put in an ambulance. His right foot was smashed, a bone in his pelvis broken and his body and head covered in dressings and lacerations. Bouquets of flowers from Pakistani colleagues had been placed next to him.

"I was sitting three rows behind the driver, I remember nothing," he said. "I woke up in the ambulance and didn't understand why I was there."

Pakistan's Supreme Court rejected an appeal today by those accused of the kidnap and murder of Daniel Pearl against transferring the trial away from Karachi, a prosecution lawyer said.

Pak al-Qaida stand strains ties with US

HTC & Agencies
Washington, May 12

12815
THE FIRST major rift between Pakistan and the United States in its fight against terror has surfaced with Islamabad showing reluctance to move against al-Qaida forces in the country.

US defence officials, cited by the *Washington Post*, say the Pakistani military has been moving very slowly, despite US offers to provide intelligence, helicopters and special operations troops. Pakistan is citing political and military pressures at home.

US Intelligence analysts have concluded that the heaviest concentrations of remaining al-Qaida fighters are in western Pakistan, but Pakistan has resisted US pressure to launch large-scale attacks against them.

Such an attack would mark a major widening of the eight-month-old US war against terrorism. So far, overt combat has taken place only in Afghanistan.

Pakistani Government reluctance to go after pockets of al-Qaida fighters on its territory would be the first major disagreement in the US-Pakistan alliance against terrorism since the September 11 attacks on the US.

The United States has pressed Islamabad to act against what it believes are groups of al-Qaida fighters concentrated in the Waziristan area of western Pakistan, near the Afghan border, the *Post* reported, based on interviews with unidentified officials in Washington and Pakistan.

"We know where there is a large concentration of al-Qaida," a Pentagon official was quoted as saying by the *Post*, noting that there were several hundred in a border town. "Our guys haven't been getting the cooperation" requested from the Pakistani Government, the official added.

Pakistani officials said it was possible the US could act by itself against the al-Qaida pockets, the *Post* reported. Pakistan

Musharraf cancels trip to fight terror

PAKISTANI PRESIDENT Pervez Musharraf has called off a visit to Algeria, Morocco and Tunisia to personally direct the fight against terrorism, the Government has announced. Musharraf has ordered a crackdown on extremist groups in Pakistan in the wake of a car bomb blast in Karachi on Wednesday, which killed 11 French nationals and three Pakistanis.

AFP, Islamabad

is reluctant to attack, with or without US aid, because of the potential backlash from Islamic extremists and the strain the Pakistani military is already under because of its standoff with India, the *Post* said.

APD-10
1995

GRIM FACETS OF TERROR

THE DASTARDLY MURDER of at least 14 persons, including 11 French nationals, in a car-bombing mission in Pakistan's premier city of Karachi on May 8 and the killings in an obvious suicidal attack near Tel Aviv in Israel a day earlier have brought into a sharp focus some gruesome facets of the borderless politics of terrorism. In fact, the sequel of these two acts of heinous crime does seem to underline the need for a concerted international drive against terror. However, the circumstances of the two separate episodes as also the apparent motives of the untraced masterminds in each of these cases do indeed vary. The terrorist strike near Tel Aviv is only the latest in a recent series of aberrant actions aimed at aggravating the unresolved political crisis of coexistence between the Palestinian people and Israel. At stake is the basic political demand for the creation of a Palestinian state — an old and persistent issue that has come to acquire a new dimension in the present context of the U.S.-led campaign against political terrorism of direct relevance to America's interests across the globe. If the shock waves of the latest carnage in Karachi have also been felt on the wider international stage, the focus of attention has much to do with another aspect of the global struggle against terrorism — the heightened challenges that the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, encounters in sustaining his alliance with the U.S. in its ongoing war against Al-Qaeda inside Afghanistan, which falls within Islamabad's geopolitical range, and also elsewhere.

Not yet investigated is the calculus of terror behind the targeted murder of the French nationals in the new outrage in Karachi. Yet, it seems inevitable that the international community should view the crisis that faces Gen. Musharraf now as another litmus test of his political will and ability to stay the anti-terror course. He had

openly set this course last January in the context of America's strategic moves against Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda and in the aftermath of the terrorist atrocity against India's Parliament. Now, acutely controversial indeed is the manner in which Gen. Musharraf won a domestic referendum hardly two weeks ago to extend his hold on Pakistan's presidency for another five years. However, there has been no withering of the goodwill for him within the political establishments in Washington and several other world capitals. This reality is linked to the string of assurances that he has held out regarding his anti-terror pronouncements. In a critical sense, he has pledged to roll back Islamic radicalism which is rampant in sections of the Pakistani civil society and to prevent its export. Of direct relevance to the international community's desire to combat terrorism is the fact that Gen. Musharraf has reaffirmed these commitments in the wake of the abduction-murder of an American journalist in Pakistan early this year and after the terrorist attack on a church for international worshippers in Islamabad last March.

Gen. Musharraf must now devise ways to reassure the global community of his unflinching commitment to a brave new vision of Pakistan as a terror-free and moderate Islamic republic. He has done well to begin this process by seeking the cooperation of France in unravelling the new terrorist crime. Pakistan's interests will be best served by transparent and credible investigations of the recent attacks against international interests on its soil. Significant progress has surely been made in the case about the American reporter's murder. Now, with India dismissing the ridiculous allegations about its possible complicity in the terrorist killings of the French nationals, who were engaged in improving Pakistan's defence capabilities, the strong suspicions of Al-Qaeda's involvement cannot be pushed to the background.

THE HINDU

10 MAY 2002

9 MAY 2002

Another Hizb commander revolts

By Shujaat Bhukari

SRINAGAR, MAY 8. The Hizb-ul-Mujahideen leadership based in the Pakistan Occupied Kashmir's capital, Muzaffarabad, received yet another jolt today when its North Kashmir divisional commander Abu Ubaid, refused to accept the decision to expel Abdul Majid Dar and two other top commanders.

In a statement issued to the local news agency, CNS, Abu Ubaid said that "to expel three commanders is irrelevant and untimely and I make it clear that this is a decision taken in haste". He claimed that several of the members of the Hizb com-

mand council had walked out in protest against the decision taken at a meeting held in Muzaffarabad. "We have reports from base camp that the decision was not unanimous," he added. Quoting the chief commander, Saiful Islam, he said "I enquired about the decision from him but he also expressed his ignorance and maintained that he was not consulted". He said 80 per cent of the Hizb leadership was in the field and none of them had confirmed that there was consultation before taking the decision.

Abu Ubaid said that in spite of the leading role played by the "expelled" com-

manders in the organisation, there was an attempt to tarnish their image. Refusing to accept the decision, he hoped that the command council would reconsider it.

Meanwhile, Saiful Islam has warned of dire consequences all those participating in the coming Assembly polls.

In a statement to another news agency, KPS, he has taken strong exception to "sister attempts" to divide the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in order to make the elections possible in the State.

He said the Hizb endorsed the decision of boycotting the elections under the Indian dispensation.

KARACHI EXPLOSION:

(Continued from page 1)

he said: "By this act of terrorism against the French citizens who were involved in a defence related project the terrorists have clearly tried to weaken the defence of the country."

He spoke to the French President, Mr Jacques Chirac, and went on state TV to tell the people that the attack was aimed at destabilising the country and vowed to continue his fight against terrorism.

"We feel this act of international terrorism has to be met with full force. My government has the complete resolve of meeting this threat," he said.

He also appealed to the international community to understand Pakistan's domestic environment resulting from its cooperation against international terrorism.

Police believe the bomber had parked his stolen car alongside the bus and activated the bomb

just as the foreigners were boarding. The French casualties included engineers and technicians who were helping the Pakistani Navy to build an Agosta class submarine.

Mr Chirac described the bombing as a "despicable act" and asked Pakistan to take necessary security measures for the French community and "to do everything possible to find and punish those responsible for this terrorist act." He "unreservedly" condemned "this despicable act, which nothing can justify."

The French defence minister, Mr Michele Alliot-Marie, will reach Karachi tomorrow.

French shipbuilders Direction des Constructions Navale, which employed the French victims, said it was recalling expatriate workers from Pakistan.

A total of 40 French nationals was sent to Karachi to work on the submarine project after a contract was signed on 21 September 1994.

Post-referendum Pak poses graver threat

Nilova Roy Chaudhury
in New Delhi

May 6. — Reports say far from being serious about efforts to clamp down on violence across the International Border and the LoC, the Pakistani establishment, emboldened after the "fraud nature of the referendum exercise", is actively aiding regrouping of militant organisations in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The infiltration of militants into Jammu and Kashmir is on the rise too.

Jihadi groups, including the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba, the Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Al Badr, are regrouping in what officials estimate to be 60 training camps that have come up recently in PoK under the ISI's supervision for three specific purposes. They

are formed primarily to disrupt the forthcoming Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir. They have instructions to deepen the communal divide which has come to the fore after the Gujarat violence and to intimidate those in Jammu and Kashmir in favour of participating in the democratic process there.

Arab, Afghan and Pakistani elements of the Al-Qaida and the Taliban, who were allowed safe passage into Pakistan following the global coalition's attack on terrorism, have been allowed to set up bases in PoK. The only difference between now and then is that these militants, estimated to be around 3,000, are not publicly wearing uniforms or carrying arms. The Arabs and other foreigners among the militants

Troops in 'pull-back' mode

NEW DELHI, May 6. — Defence officials today said while some Pakistani troops on the border have moved back, the numbers are too few and the "pull-back", if it may be called so, is reversible.

There are signs that some troops of 11 and perhaps, 12 Division of the Pakistan army have gone back from the Indo-Pak border, but they have left their equipment behind. This means they can return immediately, if necessary. These are being attributed to the recent referendum in Pakistan and leave for troops, held up for a while or for an exercise. Indian officials said there is the possibility of a major Pakistan military exercise in a fortnight.

The reported pull-back is still to be examined as Pakistan lacks breadth and can easily move back the troops to the border within a few hours without a worry. Defence forces believe that no pull-back is likely till India examines the situation in Kashmir in June. Any pull-back has to be on both sides and done bilaterally. — SNS

are being projected as arrested from Faisalabad and businessmen and members of other Pakistani towns, along with religious and other charity groups. About 67 Al-Qaida activists, were released and introduced into these camps.

Even financial stringency, strictly enforced in the immediate aftermath of General Pervez Musharraf's speech on 12 January, has been relaxed with "hawala" channels revived to enable jihadi groups gain access to funds to carry out terrorist attacks within J&K.

This has resulted, according to official figures, in a spurt of infiltration and violence. Infiltration has been increasing since March as compared to figures last year.

In January, the number of infiltrators was 33 compared to 149 in January 2001; in February, 58 militants infiltrated as compared to 104 in February 2001. But in March, the number swelled to 132 as compared to 113 in March 2001.

Officials said the figure for April, not available yet,

maintained the rising trend, belying international claims. With snow in the passes now melting, infiltration is expected to increase further.

There has also been a rise in militancy-related violence in Jammu and Kashmir with 257 incidents recorded in March this year. The number was 242 in March last year.

Attacks on security forces increased from 92 in February this year to 137 in March 2002.

Similarly, 24 attacks occurred between January and March this year on political workers in J&K of which 16 were on National Conference members. Of 15 people killed during this period, 12 were NC workers.

Senior officials said nothing had really changed as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned.

U.S. launches anti-terror training in Georgia

^{HO-19}
TBILISI (GEORGIA), APRIL 30. U.S. special operations forces have landed in the former Soviet republic of Georgia to launch a programme to train Georgian troops in anti-terrorism tactics, U.S. and Georgian officials said on Tuesday.

Eighteen Americans arrived overnight in the Georgian capital Tbilisi, the Georgian Defence Minister, David Tevzadze, told reporters. The \$64 million training programme is part of the worldwide campaign against terrorism, and is similar to U.S. anti-terrorist training for forces in the Philippines. "We are initial representatives for the initial set-up operation," said Doug Baker, who arrived overnight in the capital and spent Tuesday in meetings in the U.S. Embassy.

Mr. Tevzadze said about 150 special operations forces would be arriving in the coming weeks. He said "everything is going

according to plan," but gave no other details. Mr. Tevzadze left later on Tuesday for a previously scheduled visit to the United States.

U.S. officials say Muslim fighters in Georgia's Pankisi Gorge — which borders the breakaway Russian region of Chechnya — could be linked to Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda terrorist network. Russian and Georgian officials say militants from Chechnya have holed up in the remote and rugged region.

The U.S. troops will teach military tactics to Georgian soldiers and officials. The first classes should begin in about a month, a Pentagon spokesman, Tim Blair, said in Washington. The U.S. troops are to be based in the capital Tbilisi and were to hold meetings with Georgian Defence Ministry officials over the next week to set up the training programme, according to the U.S.

Embassy in Tbilisi.

The United States also will give the Georgian military guns, ammunition, communications gear, medical equipment, fuel and construction equipment. The Americans will train two infantry units and a special forces battalion, Georgian Defence Ministry officials said. On Monday, Georgian national television reported that three Arabs were apprehended in a special police operation in the Pankisi Gorge. The report said guards at a nearby hydroelectric station were shot at hours later, and a relative of one of the three seized Arabs was wounded in the return fire.

Georgia had asked the United States for help battling the insurgents in the Pankisi Gorge. Many Russian officials have expressed anger over the plans, saying the Russian military could roust the rebels from the gorge with Georgia's help. — AP

Russia, U.S. to fight terrorism

By Vladimir Radyukin

MOSCOW, APRIL 27. Russia and the United States agreed to continue their cooperation in combating terrorists in Afghanistan and discussed ways of enhancing security in Central Asia and the Caucasus.

A joint statement released here after a one-day meeting of the Russian-American working group on Afghanistan on Friday said the two sides had reaffirmed their commitment to the joint fight against terrorism, including "the complete elimination of the terrorist infrastructure in Afghanistan".

The joint working group on Afghanistan under the co-chairmanship of the U.S. Deputy Secretary of State, Richard Armitage, and the Russian

First Deputy Foreign Minister, Vyacheslav Trubnikov, also reiterated the need to stop drug-trafficking from Afghanistan, described as a destabilising factor in Central Asia.

Moscow used the occasion to seek reiteration by Washington of its commitment to withdraw military forces from Central Asia after the end of the anti-terrorist operation in Afghanistan.

The joint statement said the U.S. side had reassured the Russians that it had "no intention of establishing permanent military bases in Central Asia."

The Russian side also pressed the U. S. to promise that its military instructors in Georgia would not help the Georgian army regain control of the pro-Russian breakaway regions of Abkhazia and South

Ossetia. While confirming the need to help Georgia fight terrorism, the Russian-American statement said the sides had "reaffirmed their conviction that a settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian and Georgian-South Ossetian conflicts can be achieved only by political methods."

The Russian-American group on Afghanistan met on the same day the Foreign Ministers of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation finalised the six-member group's Charter and plans to set up a joint anti-terrorist structure.

Analysts said Russia and China, the two main moving spirits of the Shanghai Group, sought to galvanise its activities in Central Asia to provide an alternative to American presence in the region.

28 APR 2002

THE HINDU

'Omar e-mailed Pearl day before he disappeared'

Agence France-Presse

KARACHI, April 23. — Murdered US journalist Daniel Pearl was in e-mail contact with Islamic extremist Sheikh Omar, on trial for the killing, the day before his disappearance, a witness told a court here today.

Citizen-Police Liaison Committee chief Mr Jamil Yusuf also said the *Wall Street Journal* reporter had received phone calls from another of the accused while he was in Mr Yusuf's office on the day of his abduction in January.

British-born Omar allegedly masterminded

Pearl's kidnapping and murder in a bid to secure the release of Pakistanis captured during the US-led war against the Taliban and Al-Qaida in neighbouring Afghanistan.

He is standing trial for murder, kidnapping and terrorist activities along with three other men who allegedly sent e-mails to the *Journal* showing pictures of Pearl in captivity with a gun to his head.

Seven other men are facing the same charges but haven't been captured by police. Pearl's

body has also not been found.

"On 23 January he came to my office, during which he received a few telephone calls, two of which I presume were from the same person who I found out later

Omar confessed, say police

KARACHI, April 23. — Two Karachi police officers testified today they heard Omar Sheikh admit his role in the kidnap-slaying of Pearl in the second day of proceedings against him and three others.

Defence attorneys said they objected to the admissibility of the testimony from officers Mr Athar Rashid and Mr Faisal Noor, saying the statement was not made under oath.

Chief prosecutor Mr Raja Quereshi said he knew the statement was not made under oath but that the prosecution "just wanted to produce the men to bring to the notice of the judge that he did make such a statement". — AP

"She said this is the number of Imtiaz Siddique as given to him (Pearl) by Mohammad Bashir on Daniel's e-mail on January 22nd."

Mr Yusuf's testimony was interrupted by an outburst from the fourth defendant, Salman Saqib, who called him an "agent of the Jews" a source said.

"Saqib started shouting at Yusuf, accusing him of having tortured him and he also (verbally) abused Yusuf while he was giving his statement, saying that he is not to be trusted," the source said.

er was Imtiaz Siddique," Mr Yusuf said as he left the court.

Siddique is one of the seven men who have been charged with Pearl's murder but who remain at large.

"On January 24, Mariana (Pearl's wife) called me and inquired about Pearl and I informed her to take out Pearl's mobile printed bill and we'll find out who called him twice ...," Mr Yusuf said.

Al Qaida renews threat to U.S., pays homage to Sept 11 hijackers

CAIRO: A videotape from the Al Qaida terror group has warned Americans to dig their graves as there are more than one thousand Osama bin Ladens.

"Support us and don't let us down," a man believed to be Ahmed Ibrahim Alhaznawi, one of the September 11 hijackers, tells viewers in the tape broadcast by Arabic channel Al-Jazeera on Thursday.

While Alhaznawi focused on America as enemy number 1, he also mentioned Jammu and Kashmir and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. "Look at Palestine, which has been bleeding for more than half a century and is still bleeding. Look at Kashmir, which is not far from you," he said, shaking his finger for emphasis and wearing a checkered Palestinian head-dress.

The 23-minute tape was largely a homage to the 19 hijackers involved in the September 11 attacks on New York and Washington. It attempted to portray them as holy warriors fighting in the Arab tradition. Speeches by Bin Laden and Alhaznawi were interspersed with footage of men galloping across the desert waving Kalashnikov assault rifles.

Alhaznawi implies that Al Qaida carried out the 1998 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 231 people, and the 2000 attack on the destroyer USS Cole in Yemen, which killed 17 American sailors.

Osama bin Laden is shown extolling the hijackers. "Men who went out (to wage holy war) truly believe that what God offers is better than what is in this life," he said in a clip, parts of which had been broadcast previously.

It is unclear when the tape was made. Some of the references were old, others recent. The hijacker spoke against a background photograph of the World Trade Center exploding in flames on the day he died—a picture presumably inserted by video engineers.

Al-Jazeera's editor-in-chief Ibrahim Hilal said he did not know when the tape was made. "It seems very recent," he said, adding that in one part of the hour-long tape, not broadcast on Thursday, a narrator referred to the Arab summit of March 27-28 as coming up shortly.

Al-Jazeera had broadcast excerpts from the tape on Monday. Then U.S. Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said the tape seemed to be "a patchwork of clips from previous periods along with some dialogue of more recent periods".

A U.S. government official has said the tape offers no direct evidence of Bin Laden's current location or condition.

Al-Jazeera had said it would broadcast the full tape on Thursday, but it changed its mind. The presenter said they were showing "parts" of the tape. "What (kind of) life would I live when the American soldier defends me... What kind of glory, what kind of dignity, when I live under the American rule in the country of the two holy places?" Alhaznawi said, referring to the Saudi holy cities of Mecca and Medina.

Mr Hilal said the tape was clearly made in a production house. The opening footage said the tape came from the Sahab Institute for media production, which is believed to be a Bin Laden company that produced a film about the training of Al Qaida fighters last year. (AP)

Laden appears in new, undated video

Dubai/Doha, April 15

OSAMA BIN Laden was shown in an undated videotape excerpt aired today, sitting silently alongside a top aide who praised the September 11 attacks as a "great victory."

Qatar-based al-Jazeera broadcast the footage, which also included what it said was the videotaped will of one of the suspected September 11 hijackers. A station official said the tape was "old" but had apparently not been broadcast before.

In the broadcast on Monday, bin Laden is seen sitting silently on a patch of grass next to his aide Ayman al-Zawahri, who said: "Those 19 brothers who went out and sacrificed their lives for God were rewarded with this victory."

"This is a great victory, which was in fact achieved by the will of God Almighty and not because of our skill or superiority," he said.

Zawahri's sermon-like style made it unclear whether he was admitting to al-Qaida's involvement in the September attacks or referring to the attacks as a victory for Muslims in general.

The videotape also included footage of Ahmed al-Ghamdi, a

Saudi believed to be one of the 19 hijackers who piloted airliners in the WTC and the Pentagon.

"It is high time that we killed Americans in their home," said al-Ghamdi, bearded and wearing a checkered Arab head-dress. "Lord I regard myself as a martyr for you, so accept me as such." An official at Jazeera said the full tape would be aired on Thursday.

The station said in a statement that al-Ghamdi's videotaped message was recorded in Kandahar six months before the September 11 attacks, according to information on the film.

Al-Ghamdi was seen reading in a loud voice from a prepared text: "We killed them outside their land and we will kill them on their own turf today." Al-Ghamdi said he had a "message addressed to the whole world" that "the time of humiliation and enslavement is over and the time has come to kill the Americans on their own turf."

"The time has come to prove to the whole world that the United States put on a garb that was not tailored for it when it had the mere thought of resisting the Mujahideen."

Agencies

16 APR 2002

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

UK to buy
£32 m smallpox
vaccine to fight bioterror

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA

LONDON, April 13. — Fearing a biological attack by terrorists, Britain has placed a £32 million order for purchase of 16 million doses of smallpox vaccine to protect its population.

The order was placed yesterday with PowderJet of Oxford, to bolster national stockpile of around three million doses of vaccine manufactured in 1970s, after a review found that supplies were insufficient, official sources said today.

The 16 million doses along with three million doses of existing stock could provide protection for about half of the population of 60 million in the event of bioterror attack. Security experts fear a nightmarish suicide attack by terrorists infected with smallpox spreading the disease throughout a city by travelling on public transport or mingling with crowds.

There is no evidence that terrorists possess small-pox virus and the official line is that there is no immediate or specific threat to Britain. However, intelligence analysts are concerned at the prospect of terrorists using bio-weapons, a report in the Daily Telegraph said.

The virus is highly contagious and is seen as one of the most dangerous weapons potentially at the disposal of Al-Qaida terrorists or "rogue" states such as Iraq, the report said.

The USA have recently discovered a forgotten reserve of 90 million smallpox vaccine doses and have also placed huge orders for replenishments with a Cambridge firm, Acambis.

While Washington has been open about building up its stockpile, officials here had refused to say how many doses were held by health department or how many have been ordered.

Plot blows up on terror-busters

FROM DEBASHIS
BHATTACHARYYA

Mumbai, April 9: Police had egg on their face today when suspected al Qaida operative Mohammad Afroz walked out of Byculla jail a free man.

The court released Afroz as the police failed to charge him a full 90 days after his arrest from a Trombay hotel on December 3.

Soon after his release, the police filed a chargesheet. But the delay ensured that the man who the police have accused of "waging war against nation" will be free till the court decides his fate on April 24.

Sources said the case was "mishandled" from the start. Afroz, a college dropout from the squalid Chitha camp, a sprawling slum on the city's eastern edge, was picked up on charges of robbery.

The police had become suspicious after they received a tip-off that a "suspicious-looking young man" had been "living it up" in the area's hotels. "When we picked him up, he gave the impression that he was blowing ill-gotten money from robbery," an officer said.

Charges of sedition were slapped on him after Afroz "dis-

closed information" on his supposed links with Osama bin Laden's terrorist network. It took the police nearly three months to realise that they had "acted in haste". Sources said they did not find "an iota of" evidence of his alleged terrorist activities.

The CBI, which was asked by the Union home ministry four days ago to take a look at the case, is still undecided whether to take it up. The agency is expected to get back to the home ministry within a week.

"We certainly don't want to get into a messy case unless there are substantial grounds for suspicion," a senior official said, underlining that the CBI would take up the case only if it was sure that Afroz was guilty.

But others believe that the CBI is likely to accept the request to inquire into the case, primarily because home minister L.K. Advani was convinced about Afroz's al Qaida links and had even discussed the issue with his American hosts during his recent US visit.

The police had claimed that Afroz, who had trained to be a commercial pilot in Mumbai and then in the UK and Australia, had planned to hijack a

plane in London and crash it into the House of Commons on September 11 last year as an "extension" of the attacks in the US. He reportedly told the police that he developed cold feet when he heard of the US attacks and took a flight home to India.

Sources said they cross-checked Afroz's "story" with British and Australian intelligence officials, who called it a "load of nonsense". "The only part of the story confirmed was he had trained both in the UK and Australia to be a commercial pilot. But that's not enough to brand him a terrorist," an officer said.

Intelligence officials from the UK and the US questioned him in custody, but were "unconvinced" that he was an al Qaida operative.

In a desperate attempt to keep Afroz behind bars, Mumbai police booked him under the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance on March 1 only to withdraw the charges three weeks later for lack of evidence.

Police commissioner M.N. Singh checked with the FBI about Afroz but the agency said arrested al Qaida members told them they had "never heard of him".

HT EXCLUSIVE: PAK TERROR TRAIL - II

The compelling power of the Masood mantra

Yashwant Raj
Sheberghan, April 2

MASOOD AZHAR is the Big Boy of Pakistan's Terror Inc. He preaches jihad, his offices recruit the converted and camps run by his outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad turn them into deadly terrorists.

Masood Azhar's was the one name that cropped up and most frequently in every interview *Hindustan Times* conducted in the jail here that holds 800 Pakistani who came here to kill Americans and anti-Taliban forces.

He is wanted in India for masterminding terrorist strikes on J&K and Parliament. India has asked Pakistan to hand him over, but has had no luck yet. A Delhi court declared him a proclaimed offender yesterday.

Cassettes of Azhar's speeches, alongside those of Jamiat Ulema-i-Islam chief Maulana Fazlur Rahman, urging Pakistanis to go to Afghanistan, were cited as the major reason by most first-timers for taking the jihad road. Tariq Mehmood, 22, Faisalabad, joined the Jaish-e-Mohammad shortly after September 11, he says, moved by the "taqreer" (speeches) of Masood Azhar and others; he then named a few Pakistani clerics.

"His speech moved me," he said, "josh me aa gaya main (I became excited)." He was so moved that, he went to the local JeM office, enrolled as a member and left the next day for training at the outfit's camp in Balakot, PoK.

It was the same story for Ghulam Mustafa, 22, Muzaffar Garh, Mohammad Yasir, 18, Karachi, Nazir Ahmed Khan, 23, Muzaffarabad, Zulfikar Ali, 37, Rahimyar Khan. The list is long.

Masood's role, however, did not end with firing up youngsters for jihad. His elaborate terror network of offices and camps then ensured that the converts went on to become jihadi fighters ready to kill and die for the cause.

At the Balakot training camp, in PoK, JeM fighters, for instance, were visited frequently by Masood. The camp itself was



Masood Azhar

run by a man called Yusuf Azhar, who the prisoners said, was JeM's chief's younger brother.

While Yusuf was in charge of the training - physical exercises, lessons in handling weapons, Masood was the boss. Nazir Khan, who trained at Balakot, said, "The camp was financed by Masood."

It was also JeM chief's task to keep the recruits fired up. Nazir recalled Masood addressed his batch of trainees towards the end of the course. Another prisoner said Masood used to visit the camp once every month.

During one of these visits, Zulfikar, a cook, was introduced to Masood. "He said I was doing well and approved a stipend of Rs 2,500 a month for me." After six profitable months at the camp, Zulfikar was sent to Afghanistan.

The 37-year-old product of Masood's terror factory has no regrets. He wants to now go to Kashmir. But some of the others such as Wahid Ahmad, 16, would like to see people like Masood put behind jail.

"They are ruining our lives by conning us into jihad while they stay home," Wahid said. The Afghanistan experience has left him terribly bitter. But can he fight Masood, or his backers - the state, the ISI?

Masood is in jail now, charged with threatening public order through his fiery speeches - but not for the killings by his terror exports or for the death of Pakistanis fighting his war in Afghanistan or India.

Angry Sharon declares war against terror

On Day 4, Arafat remains besieged but defiant in his Ramallah headquarters

JERUSALEM: Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has declared an "uncompromising war against terrorism" as Israeli forces moved into West Bank towns on Sunday night. Mr Sharon said he would not deal with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat any more. Mr Arafat remained besieged but defiant in his Ramallah headquarters for the fourth day.

Extending its grip on the West Bank, the Israeli army soon took over Qalqilyah town within hours after Mr Sharon had declared a war on terror following the two bombings that killed 17 people, including two suicide bombers, and injured over 30 on Sunday.

Large forces of infantry, armour and combat engineers poured into and took over the West

Bank town of Qalqilyah overnight and tanks entered Bethlehem early on Monday, an Israeli official said, adding that power and water supplies were cut off.

"Citizens of Israel, the state of Israel is in a war-against terrorism," Mr Sharon said in a television address to the nation following the latest round of Palestinian attacks. Blaming Mr Arafat as the main obstacle to peace in West Asia, Mr Sharon said, "I don't think we will be able to deal with him any more."

"Israel is going to uproot the bases of the terrorist organisations, Hamas and the Islamic Jihad, to reach peace," he said.

Reports said Israeli troops were also operating in the Tulkarem area, Beit Jala and other areas near Bethlehem, tightening the blockade of some cities as the occupation of Ramallah continued and Mr Arafat remained under virtual prison in a small part of his compound. (Agencies)



Israeli soldiers paint their faces as they wait outside the West Bank city of Qalqilya on Sunday night.

ROOTS OF TERRORISM

The Other Side Of Technological Progress

By SIDDHARTHA MITRA

There is sufficient evidence now which indicates that the major cause of terrorism is economic, in particular unemployment. This is brought out by the following illustrations. The Middle East which has been responsible for much of the recent rise in global terrorism has seen an increase in unemployment and stagnation or decline in incomes. An extreme case is Saudi Arabia. In 2001 the Wall Street Journal reported that the unemployment rate in Saudi Arabia was a mind-boggling 14 per cent and per capita income had fallen from \$28,000 (around Rs 12.6 lakhs) in the eighties to \$8,000 (Rs 3.6 lakhs) in 2000.

Intolerance

The *New York Times* quoted the following statement by one Middle East expert after the 11 September tragedy: "Angry young men, many of them unemployed have seized the public arena from Algeria to South Asia and filled it with hate, intolerance and the abuse of women."

Tamil terrorists in Sri Lanka say that discrimination in employment is one of their major grievances. In Mizoram, the only state free of terrorism in North-Eastern India, employment opportunities for Mizos are considerably higher than those for the natives of any other state in that region.

Statistical studies (in particular a recent study by the centre for Economic Policy Research, USA) have shown that an increase in unemployment has a significant and positive effect on different kinds of crime. There is no reason why terrorism should be an exception.

The author is a consultant at the National Council of Applied Economic Research, New Delhi.

That unemployment is a social evil is universally accepted. But by spawning forces such as terrorism it can have a further debilitating effect on the economy and society. The incidence of un-

stimulus is given to unemployment and, therefore, to dissatisfaction, envy and consequently terrorism.

Capital intensive technological progress often implies that more and more



employment is driven by the nature of technological progress.

Efficiency

Technological progress in recent times has often been of the capital enhancing type, i.e., capital has been substituted for labour, the average efficiency of labour has increased and the cost of producing goods has declined.

This seems to be a positive development but it can have certain negative ramifications: A sharp positive

sophisticated methods of destruction are put in the hands of terrorists. In a recent report on global trends the CIA makes the following prediction: "Between now and 2015 terrorist tactics will become increasingly sophisticated and designed to achieve mass casualties."

In a recent path-breaking article in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution* two American professors, Todd Sandler and Walter Enders came out with a startling finding: "In recent years each terrorist incident is almost 17 percentage points more likely to result in death or

injuries".

The basic import of our discussion till now is that capital intensive technological progress can stimulate unemployment which is a major cause of terrorism, as well as increase the destructive impact of terrorist attacks. An increase in the incidence and destructive potential of terrorism can have disastrous economic consequences. There is an intensification of the climate of fear which paralyses entrepreneurial activity, particularly business travel.

There is a negative effect on the demand for certain products, for instance, air travel and hotel services. There is a massive loss from the destruction of valuable capital assets and human resources, such as that effected by the 11 September attacks.

Funds

A lot of government funds have to be diverted from directly productive uses to meet the need for increased security. This diversion is not insignificant. For example, after the 11 September attacks US government expenses on anti-terrorist activity increased by \$ 20 billion, around Rs 90,000 crores.

This article is not meant to be a diatribe against technological progress. However, there is one important policy implication that emerges from this discussion. Countries should think twice before blindly embracing technological progress. The pace and nature of technological progress are critical and not always positive determinants of the level of economic activity.

The celebrated economist, Jack Hirshleifer has said: "Exchange theory and conflict theory constitute two co-equal branches of economic analysis: the former based upon two-sided advantage and contract, the latter upon one-sided advantage and struggle."

OIC meeting fails to define terrorism

Associated Press

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3. — A high-profile meeting of Muslim nations gave a spirited defence of Islam and strong backing to the Palestinians today, but failed to achieve its most ambitious task — define terrorism.

Divisions amongst the countries over what constitutes terrorism — notably in the attacks by Palestinian suicide bombers targeting Israeli civilians — came at a time when the world's 1.2 billion Muslims were looking to their leaders to counter what they see as a defamation campaign against their faith since the 11 September attacks.

The attacks, blamed on Saudi-born Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden and his Al-Qaida network, were carried out by 19 Muslim hijackers, of whom 15 came from Saudi Arabia, home to the religion's holiest shrines and Washington's close Arab ally.

Many Muslims feel the attacks

have brought their faith under unfair scrutiny by a West they see as bent on adopting the notion that Islam and violence are closely linked.

The foreign ministers and senior officials from the 57-member Organisation of Islamic Conference meeting in this southeast Asian country issued a declaration at the end of three days of talks that said no culture or religion could be linked to terrorism.

But while condemning all forms of terrorism, the declaration didn't label Palestinian suicide bombers as terrorists — or leave much room for that interpretation, saying the Palestinian struggle against Israel was a legitimate struggle against foreign occupation.

The conference left the question of defining terrorism to the UN for a theoretical meeting on the issue that many believe will never be held due to US opposition: Not defining terrorism may also shelter some Muslim governments from charges of state

India should 'clean its own house' of religious extremists: Pakistan

KUALA LUMPUR, April 3. — India should "clean up its own house" of religious extremists before accusing Pakistan of being a base for Islamic fanatics, Pakistan's interior minister, Mr Mohtashim Haider, said today. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a conference of Islamic countries to discuss terrorism, Mr Haider blamed Hindu extremists for the latest communal clashes in Gujarat and said India should emulate Pakistan's recent moves to crack down on militant groups. "We hope India will take similar action because there are many fundamentalists and religious extremist parties in India," Mr Haider said. "India should clean up

its own house." — AP

terrorism in repressing critics or whose nation hosts the next meeting of OIC foreign ministers in June.

The Malaysian Prime Minister, Mr Mahathir Mohamad, a key US ally in cracking Al-Qaida, opened the meeting with a proposal that all attacks targeting civilians by the 11 September attackers or Israeli troops or suicide bombers be considered terrorism.

"There's a great deal more to be done to arrive at a definition that's agreed upon and binding to all nations," said Sudanese

Asian delegates said that the bombings were a reaction to state terrorism by Israel in Palestinian areas, where tanks and troops have invaded several towns and besieged Mr Yasser Arafat. Mr Mahathir's proposal reflected the opinion of some Muslim clerics that Islam prohibits the killing of civilians, stating that many delegates stated repeatedly while emphasising the legitimacy of Palestinian suicide bombings to resist harsh foreign rule. "We reject any attempt to link terrorism to the struggle of the Palestinian people in the exercise of their inalienable right to establish their independent state," the declaration said.

Without mentioning the USA by name, the declaration criticised taking unilateral action against nations to combat terrorism, saying global cooperation would be undermined.

The US Vice-President, Mr Dick Cheney, failed in a recent tour of West Asia to win Arab backing for a possible military strike on Iraq, which the US gov-

ernment accuses of developing weapons of mass destruction and fomenting terror.

"Unfortunately, some may want to define terrorism on case-by-case basis, according to their priorities and policies, and that is why they are preventing the international community from adopting a definition of terrorism," said Mohamad Zarif, Iran's deputy foreign minister.

The declaration also pledged commitment to "the principles and true teachings of Islam, which abhor aggression, value peace, tolerance and respect."

Fighting terrorism should "not result in ethnic profiling or the targeting of a particular community," the declaration said.

It also supported an unprecedented West Asia peace plan adopted by Arab leaders in Lebanon last week that offered Israel full relations with all Arab nations if it pulls out from lands seized in the 1967 Mideast war and allows the creation of a Palestinian state with east Jerusalem as its capital.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Seven killed in militant attack in Udhampur

By Our Correspondent

Jammu
HP

JAMMU, APRIL 8. Seven persons belonging to the minority community, including three children, were killed in an attack by terrorists at Dandli village of Udhampur district of Jammu region late on Sunday night. Five civilians were injured. The attack was specifically targeted at the families of Village Defence Committee members. The injured have been airlifted to the Government Medical College here.

One of the injured, Chain Singh, a VDC member, who has been admitted to the GMC told The Hindu that around 9 p.m. terrorists struck in groups of four at four different houses at Dandli. They opened fire indiscriminately and asked the VDC

members to surrender their weapons and come out unarmed with their family members. The VDC members refused to give in and told the terrorists that they would rather fight till the last breath. On this, the militants stepped up firing and threw grenades at the houses. One of the grenades hit the house of Lal Dai (35). The house caught fire burning her to death. Then they went to the house of Sobha Ram and stabbed him to death.

At two other houses, the militants continued to open fire in which five civilians, including three children, Shrishto Devi (4), Shindo Devi (6) and Shomey Lal (10), were killed on the spot. Five were injured in the firing.

Around 21 houses were set on fire and the VDC members con-

tinued to battle the militants for nine hours till the first batch of the Special Operations Group arrived. Thereafter, the terrorists were engaged by the SOG personnel and, after some time, the militants fled. Around 7 a.m., police arrived at the scene and airlifted the injured to the hospital.

The Minister of State for Home, Khalid Suhrawardy and the DGP, A.K. Suri and the IGP, Jammu Zone, P.L. Gupta visited the area. Sources said that a manhunt had been launched.

Meanwhile, in an another incident at 2.10 p.m., a bomb exploded at a shop in the heart of Rajouri. Two persons were killed and ten were injured. Panic gripped the town and shopkeepers downed the shutters.

Bin Laden had a close shave: report

ISLAMABAD: Al Qaida chief Osama bin Laden managed to escape hours before a joint team of the FBI and Pakistani commandos raided a hideout in Faisalabad on March 28, according to a media report on Monday. Bin Laden's lieutenant Abu Zubaydah was captured during the raid.



Osama bin Laden

Bin Laden had stayed in Faisalabad for three days before the raid, *The Nation* newspaper reported. Zubaida was critically injured when he and other Al Qaida militants tried to resist the raiding party.

American media teams that arrived late had been tipped off that Laden was present at the scene, the daily said. But the local police and Pakistani authorities were kept in the dark about the true target of the raid.

Elaborate arrangements had been made to conduct the raid, the daily said, adding that the Al Qaida hideout was tracked by sophisticated technology that traced cellular phone transmissions through satellite.

Once the hideout was traced, the FBI brass in Islamabad, accompanied by crack airborne commandos and marine contingents, secretly landed at the Faisalabad airport from Lahore in the night and proceeded to the hideout, the daily said.

The inmates of rented house came to know of the raid only when the whole area was cordoned off and the commandos jumped over the walls. (PTI)

Militants storm Jammu temple, ten killed

Terrorism
G17

28/3

Times News Network and Agencies

JAMMU: At least ten people, including four policemen, were killed and 21 injured when militants attacked the revered and crowded Raghunath temple here on Saturday morning.

Eye-witnesses said the militants arrived at the temple by a vehicle and opened indiscriminate fire, killing two policemen at the gate. They also lobbed a grenade before storming the shrine.

During their run through the temple, the terrorists wanted to gun down one of the priests but ran out of ammunition. According to a priest, one of the terrorists blew himself up as police reinforcement arrived.

Police and CRPF personnel, along with some commandoes, challenged the militants, triggering a heavy exchange of fire in which two militants and two policemen were killed, official sources said.

Four civilians were also killed and several others injured in the attack. The injured have been admitted to the government medical college hospital here.

The entire area has been cordoned and a hunt is on to track down another militant believed to be hiding in the temple complex. Immediately after the attack, shops and other business establishments in the neighbourhood closed down. Angry protesters burnt down the car in which the militants were believed

to have arrived.

No terrorist group has claimed responsibility for the attack. A high alert has been sounded in the state. Incoming and outgoing vehicles are being thoroughly checked and the police have been asked to keep a close watch on anti-social elements to prevent the incident from taking on a communal colour.

On Friday, five army and BSF personnel were killed in two separate incidents in Jammu. Four terrorists were also gunned down in two separate encounters in the region. A village defence committee member participating in an operation was also killed. Terrorists also blasted four electric poles, cutting off power supply to several villages.

The previous night, terrorists had gunned down a constable and two civilians in their homes in three separate strikes. Terrorists also blew up an army vehicle with a remote-controlled improvised explosive device on the Mahore-Chasana road in Udhampur district on Friday, killing two jawans on the spot and injuring another.

Terrorists attacked a BSF camp in the Kalakote tehsil of Rajouri district, killing three BSF personnel. Later in the day, security forces gunned down two terrorists in an encounter in the same tehsil, but it was not known if they were involved in the strike on the BSF camp.

THE TIMES OF INDIA

31 MAR 2002

Id rather hang Omar myself than extradite him: Musharraf

By Chidanand Rajghatta
Times News Network

WASHINGTON: Pakistan's military ruler, Gen Pervez Musharraf, has reportedly told U.S. ambassador in Islamabad Wendy Chamberlain that he would rather hang Sheikh Omar Saeed himself than extradite the prime accused in the Daniel Pearl case. This is another of the many instances of backsliding that has called into question Pakistan's credibility as a frontline state in the war against terrorism.

Pakistani intelligence has also resumed help to the Al Qaida and the Taliban in the west and Kashmiri insurgents in the east, according to accounts from Afghan and U.S. sources.

It has also begun to release hundreds of militants arrested in the aftermath of 9/11 on the mere promise that they will "behave" in the future.

Although the Bush administration continues to certify that Islamabad is being

cooperative, its actions—or the lack of them—are beginning to raise serious questions in Washington about its intentions.

Behind the refusal to extradite Omar lie fears that he may expose the deep ties between Pakistani intelligence services and terrorist organisations. Despite such brazen statements, the Bush administration continues to coddle Pakistan, a policy that is coming in for blistering attack in the U.S. media.

“Washington now allows Gen Musharraf to make expediency the guiding principle of the relationship. The argument that Gen Musharraf’s survival, and Pakistan’s interests, must take precedence for the time being over hunt-

ing down Al Qaida (activists) and halting cross-border terrorism has strong support within Powell’s State Department,” wrote *Washington Times* columnist Jim

Hoagland on Thursday as he spoke of Gen Musharraf’s remark to Ms Chamberlain.

“But Gen Musharraf is now managing Washington, which has turned its attention

nothing as the backsliding has become more flagrant and more harmful to Bush’s global cause,” he said.

U.S. officials continue to maintain that Pakistan is doing everything it is asked too, while avoiding throwing any light on the tussle between the two sides over Omar’s extradition.

The two sides have also differed sharply on the U.S. decision to recall all American diplomatic personnel, except those dealing with emergency services, following the bomb attack on an Islamabad church that resulted in the death of a U.S. diplomat and her daughter.

More than 200 U.S. nationals have returned to Washington over the last week, leaving behind a skeletal staff to man basic operations. Dozens of diplomatic personnel are now being accommodated



General Musharraf is now managing Washington, which has turned its attention to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict



Sheikh Omar

in newly-created positions in the State Department.

Pakistan itself has now become an avoidable posting for most State Department mandarins. The latest recall is the fourth in the last decade and the second within six months. U.S. personnel were first recalled from Pakistan in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, but were sent back in January when the situation appeared to improve.

The Pearl murder and the church bombing showed otherwise, and they were pulled out again last week. The frequent movement has thrown the lives of diplomats out of gear.

However, the U.S. move has not been well received by Pakistan, which sees the exit as playing into the hands of terrorists. The pull-out is also certain to hurt Pakistan’s economy since U.S. investors and businesses will be reluctant to go where they lack diplomatic support.

FBI joins Pak. raids on Al-Qaeda

Terrorism
HD-1

2. 30/3

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 29. In what is believed to be the first joint operation by Pakistani and American investigative agencies, two suspected members of the Al-Qaeda were killed and six persons, including two policemen, injured during a crack-down on terrorists in the Punjab province.

Two prominent Pakistani dailies, *Dawn* and *The News*, reported that FBI personnel and the local police were engaged in the operation in Faisalabad in the early hours of Thursday. Reports said that raids were also conducted in Lahore and four people arrested.

There was no official reaction to the reports. Pakistan's stated position after the September 11 events on co-operation with the U.S. against terrorism is that it is a partner in three specific areas — intelligence gathering, provision of air space and logistical support.

The joint operation assumes significance in the light of the reported statement by the Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, that if necessary the question of allowing U.S. troops to cross over from Afghanistan in pursuit of Al-Qaeda suspects could be discussed. In his interview to *The Washington Post*, Mr. Sattar was quoted as saying that "there is no problem. U.S. forces can cross the border into Pakistan if necessary; we should discuss it".

The local media reported that acting on a tip-off that some Al-Qaeda members were hiding in Faisalabad, a joint team of the FBI and law enforcement agencies raided six spots in the city and arrested 46 persons, including 19 foreigners.

The reports said that 16 Arab nationals were arrested in a raid on a house. They tried to resist arrest and injured a constable with a knife. The raiding team then opened fire and killed Abdul Hasnat, who reportedly belonged to Syria. Four others were seriously injured and were rushed to hospital, where one died.

The raids were conducted simultaneously by special commando teams, each comprising five FBI men and local police personnel. Two men took photographs and shot on video all the raided places. Quoting police sources, the media reports said that no case had been registered nor the arrests entered into the records of the police stations concerned. However, they pointed out that "police will record the incidents as and when asked by the higher-ups, for which they have made an arrangement in the FIR books".

The Punjab police confirmed the killing of one person and the arrest of alleged terrorists in operations carried out on the outskirts of Lahore and Faisalabad. Quoting the Punjab IGP, Malik Asif Hayat, the Punjab police spokesman said in Lahore that the arrested members were dangerous terrorists belonging to different religious groups. However, he said, "I don't know whether they belong to Al-Qaeda." The police had information that some dangerous militants were hiding in various parts of Punjab. "Intelligence agencies passed on the information," he said.

Omar Sheikh trial from April 5

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, MARCH 29. The trial of the 11 suspects, including Omar Sheikh, charged with the abduction and murder of the U.S. journalist, Daniel Pearl, would begin on April 5. For security reasons the trial would be held inside a Pakistani prison. The main suspect in the case Omar Sheikh, and Sheikh Adil, one of three men accused of sending e-mail containing photos of the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent, were produced in a court in Karachi today as the police filed the final chargesheets against them.

Reports said they were brought from the Karachi central prison in police vehicles to the courthouse, which was surrounded by 200 policemen.

THE HINDU

30 MAR 2002

Pakistan won't hand over 20 terrorists

AGENCIES

ISLAMABAD, March 23. — Pakistan has reiterated that it will not hand over 20 people, whom India wants to stand trial for terrorist acts on its soil, unless concrete evidence is provided against them.

Asked to comment on the US statement asking Pakistan to hand over the criminals and terrorists, the foreign office spokesman, Mr Aziz Ahmad Khan, said his country had informed the USA of its stand.

India had not provided any evidence against them, he said, adding that action would be taken against these people as per Pakistani law if evidence was produced.

Pakistan also denied recent Indian allegations that one of its officials at the Pakistan High Commission in New Delhi collected information about Parliament before it was attacked on 13 December. The Pakistani foreign office spokesman said such allegations were "absurd, malicious and baseless."

As the border stand-off con-

SF 10 24/3

along the borders. Maintaining that Pakistan wanted peace in the region, he said Islamabad was ready to have talks with New Delhi to discuss Kashmir and all other outstanding issues.

"All issues, including the Kashmir dispute, should be settled through negotiations. But if India wants to use force, it should not harbour any doubts... Pakistan is capable of defending itself and can thwart any aggression with a powerful and fitting response," he said.

In a bid to scotch rumours about growing antagonism against the military rule, Gen Musharraf said: "We're all united and our hopes are very high."

Terming the situation along the border as "not that bad", Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee asked Pakistan to stop infiltration of terrorists into India. "In Jammu sector, there is infiltration every day. There are casualties and shooting. Pakistan must stop sending infiltrators. They can keep them on their soil," Mr Vajpayee told reporters



A woman wails over her father's death in a grenade blast. In Srinagar on Saturday. — AP/PTI

tinues, President Pervez Musharraf said his country would "teach a lesson" to India if it tried any "misadventures". He said his armed forces were "fully prepared to meet any eventuality."

"India has massed its troops along the Line of Control and International Bor-

SSG commandos employed

JAMMU, March 23. — Pakistani army commanders have employed the services of Special Services Group commandos instead of regulars in using artillery guns to pound frontier Indian positions along the LoC in Nowshera, Jhangar, Kalal and Laram areas of Rajouri district and Jhalas, Khari Karmara, Kopri and Mendhar areas of Poonch district.

Sources said ever since the troop build-up began on both sides of the borders, senior commanders of the Pakistan Army's 10 Corps swiftly requisitioned 105 MM, 135 MM and 156 MM heavy calibre artillery guns to add to their firepower. Most of these heavy guns have been installed across the LoC from where they unleash fire to pin down Indian troops. — UNI

Pakistan of inciting communal tension in India after being "cornered" internationally on the proxy war issue.

He defended Poto, saying the need for such special laws against terrorism had been stressed even by the UN Security Council.

Without naming Pakistan, Mr Advani told officers and jawans of CRPF here that "the neighbour has seen itself being defeated on all fronts and as regards its proxy-war, it is being gradually cornered in the international community."

after an investiture ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhavan for presentation of Padma Awards.

Asked about the situation along the borders, the Prime Minister said: "The situation is not as bad (as it was earlier). There is tension."

Mr Vajpayee declined to comment on Gen Musharraf's address to the nation today saying he had not seen the transcript of the speech. "It is not fair on my part to comment without going through it," he said.

Mr LK Advani accused

Pak charges Omar, 3 others with Pearl's murder



Police stop the brother and mother of Sheikh Adil, accused in the Daniel Pearl case, from entering the court in Karachi on Friday. Reuters photo

REUTERS
KARACHI, MARCH 22

FOUR suspects, including British-born Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, were charged in a Pakistani court on Friday with the kidnap and murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl, Chief Prosecutor Raja Qureshi said.

"All the four accused have been charged with kidnapping for ransom, murder and terrorism," Qureshi told reporters outside the courtroom in Karachi. "These charges carry a normal sentence of death."

Pearl was abducted in the Port city of Karachi on January 23 while trying to contact radical Islamic groups and investigate possible links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin

Laderi's al Qaeda network. Although his body has never been found, his kidnappers released a graphic video of his murder.

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, Salman 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 on Friday.

The case is seen as a key test of Pakistan's resolve in dealing with suspected Muslim hardliners as part of its role in the United States-led war on terror.

Omar has also been indicted by a US Court on one count of hostage-taking and one of conspir-

ing 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 fixed March 29 for the start of the trial. "The trial has to be completed within seven days," he said. Qureshi said the prosecution had 31 witnesses, including FBI officials.

"Besides circumstantial evidence about Daniel Pearl's kidnapping, the prosecution has produced a copy of the video tape showing the horrifying scenes of Pearl's beheading and e-mails 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.

3 others with Pearl's murder

U.S. asks Pak to hand over 20 wanted terrorists to India

By Vasantha Arora

WASHINGTON: The U.S. has asked Pakistan to hand over to India 20 wanted terrorists, saying the step will lead to reduction in tension between the two countries.



Briefing Indian community leaders here on Thursday, Harry Thomas, director in charge of South Asia at President George Bush's National Security Council, said Washington's highest priority was to stop India and Pakistan from going to war, and handing over or trying the terrorists was important in alleviating the tension between the two.

"We have asked the Pakistanis to hand these terrorists over to India or even try them in their own country and convict them. That is very important. That will lead to a reduction in tensions. We will work hard at it," Thomas said.

He described the terrorist attacks on the Indian Parliament and earlier on the Jammu and Kashmir state legislature as "heinous and barbarous" and said they had changed the whole India-Pakistan situation.

"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."

Thomas said these acts would also undermine Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf who had ordered a crackdown against jihadis.

He also stressed the need for a "political dialogue between India and Pakistan without U.S. mediation to solve the Kashmir problem."

Members drawn from the National Federation of

Indian-American Associations (NFIA), the Association of Indians in America (AIA), the Indian American Forum for Political Education (IAFPE) and the Overseas Friends of the Bharatiya Janata Party (OFOBJP) were present.

Earlier, at a Congressional luncheon hosted by the Indian American community, House Foreign Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman also expressed disappointment at what he called Pakistan's failure to hand over the 20 terrorists and criminals wanted by India.

He said the U.S. has to be more careful in its support for Musharraf because he seized power by overthrowing a democratically elected government. He said, "We also need to keep a close watch on China."

After the attack on the Indian Parliament, Musharraf travelled twice to Beijing and was promised and later received dozens of new jetfighters, he said. "So while we look for friends, let us not forget whom China and Pakistan wish to associate with and whom they continue to terrorise," he added.

Several Congressmen, including Gilman, and the two co-chairmen of the India Caucus, Ed Royce and Jim McDermott, favoured extension of the new relationship, forged between India and the U.S. in the struggle against terrorism.

Denouncing the terrorist attack on India's Parliament, Royce said this unprecedented attack on the seat of democracy has brought into universal focus the battle that India has been waging against terrorism for so long.

In this context he mentioned the work being done by the Indo-U.S. Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism. "I feel that kind of cooperation should be extended into other areas like defence, trade and commerce." (IANS)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

2 MAR 2002

Car bomb blast near Peru US embassy kills 9

Lima, March 21

A CAR bomb exploded outside the US embassy in Lima late last night, killing at least nine people and injuring 30 more, officials have said. The blast comes three days ahead of a visit by the US president, George Bush.

At least four bodies could be seen in the rubble, including a boy wearing roller skates, reports said.

A state department official, speaking on the condition of anonymity, said that no American citizens were hurt in the explosion. The official declined to comment further.

Bush is set to arrive in Lima on Saturday for a meeting with the Peruvian president, Alejandro Toledo, and leaders from Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. It was unclear how the car bombing might affect Bush's travel schedule. White House spokeswoman Anne Womack declined to comment early today. The blast occurred at about 10.45 pm (0345 GMT Thursday), in an upscale area of popular late-night

President Bush to visit Lima

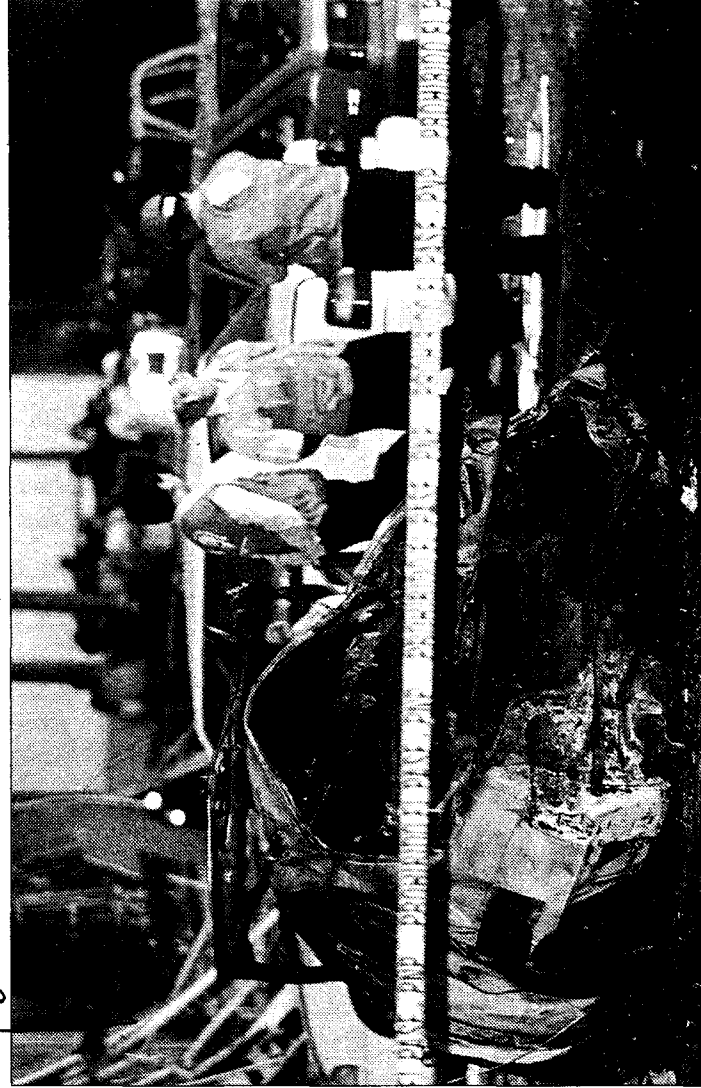
PRESIDENT BUSH says he has "a determined focus to make the border work" with Mexico, envisioning a boundary that allows the free, back-and-forth flow of people and goods but not would-be terrorists or drug smugglers. The President was leaving on Thursday for a four-day swing through Mexico, El Salvador and Peru. The White House said his travel plans would not be altered by a car bomb that exploded outside the U.S. Embassy in Lima, Peru, late Wednesday. At least nine people were killed and dozens injured, officials said. "The president will be traveling to Lima," said White House spokeswoman Claire Buchanan.

AP, Washington

one that apparently contained the bomb. A small police truck near the explosion site was left mangled, its hood peeled back and shredded. "I will not permit democracy to be undermined by terrorist attacks," Toledo said. A statement from the US embassy condemned "the barbaric terrorist bombing this evening in the vicinity of our embassy in Lima. We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims and their families."

Police secured the scene with yellow tape and covered at least two bodies with orange plastic tarps. A seven-floor hotel and bank on the first floor near the embassy were damaged in the blast. The embassy, a fortress-like structure with narrow windows, suffered no apparent damage. Jhon Caro, a former director of Peru's anti-terrorism police, blamed the attack on the Shining Path rebel group. He said it was probably provoked by "Bush's declarations that he is going to fight against terrorism around the world."

The Guardian



Police stand before the charred vehicle believed to have been used to trigger the blast near the United States Embassy in Lima on Wednesday.

GRENADERS KILL 5 ■ TWO AMERICANS AMONG VICTIMS ■ BUSH OUTRAGED

Pak church attacked

Agencies

ISLAMABAD, March 17. — Five persons, including two Americans, were killed and 45 injured in a grenade attack on a church in the high-security diplomatic enclave during Sunday Mass. This is the second major strike on Christians in the country in the past five months.

A member of the Indian high commission escaped unhurt. A Sri Lankan diplomat was injured.

The grenade attack took place at 10.50 a.m. when 60 to 70 people, including a few diplomats, were attending the Sunday church service at the diplomatic enclave. There are conflicting reports about the number of attackers and the number of grenades hurled. A UNI report quoting a district magistrate press release said a person entered the Protestant International Church and hurled six grenades at the congregation.

Briefing newsmen, the director of public relations at the US embassy, Mr John Kenin, said a lady official of the embassy and her daughter were among those killed in the attack.

An earlier report had said that the woman killed was US diplomat Mr Milton Green's wife Barbara.

Official sources said a Pakistani and an Afghan national were also killed in the attack. The identity of the fifth person is yet to be established because the body was badly mutilated.

Police said they were not sure whether the attacker had escaped or was among the dead or injured. Possibilities of a suicide squad attack are not being ruled out. Pakistan interior minister Mr Moinuddin Haider said one of the five persons killed in the attack, who is yet to be identified, could be the attacker and may have ended his own life after carrying out the strike.

Those injured in the attack include nationals from USA, Britain, Sri Lanka, Germany, Iraq, Iran, Ethiopia and



A police officer inside the church after the grenade attack. — AP/PTI

Britain. Sri Lankan ambassador to the attack as an "outrageous act of Pakistan Gen Sirilal Weerasurya and his terrorism" and said it was aimed at wife and child sustained injuries. Mr sabotaging Pakistan's interest at a time Tomy Mathew, an Indian high commission staff, was present at the . Pakistan law minister Mr Khalid Ranjha, who visited the church, did not rule out a foreign hand in the incident.

The church is located inside the heavily-guarded diplomatic enclave housing embassies of countries including India, USA, China and Russia and the area was cordoned off soon after the incident. Security has been beefed up throughout the country.

General Pervez Musharraf described **Bush outraged:** Mr George W Bush today said today he was "outraged" by the attack, adds AFP from Washington. "I am

outraged by the terrorist attack in Islamabad ... innocent civilians have been killed. These are acts of murder and cannot be tolerated." Mr Bush said his government would cooperate with the Pakistani government in the investigations into the incident. He extended his condolences to the families of the victims.

Britain condemns attack: British foreign secretary Mr Jack Straw said he was "deeply shocked" to hear of the attack during a prayer service, adds AFP from London. He expressed his condolences to the families of those killed.

New US targets, old shadows

Six months after September 11, America's enemy is still elusive, its success graph mixed. **Carla Anne Robbins, Jay Solomon & Yaroslav Trofimov** on what lies ahead

JUST weeks ago, it looked as if the US would soon march out of Afghanistan and on to new fronts in President Bush's war against terrorism.

Today US troops are still battling al Qaeda holdouts in Afghanistan and US officials are warning that the war there isn't over. Bush's vow to smoke out terrorists wherever they hide was widely expected to lead to smaller wars from Somalia to Sudan and even Lebanon's Bekaa valley. They have been slow to crystallise.

Vice President Dick Cheney is in the Middle East to persuade Arab allies that Saddam Hussein and his weapons of mass destruction are the real threat to stability in the region. That's a hard argument to make in the face of the spiralling Israeli-Palestinian conflict, while even close European allies are warning that they won't back a much larger war in Iraq without proof of Baghdad's involvement in the terrorist attacks on the US. So six months after the attacks on New York and Washington, the enemy remains elusive and tough to quantify.

Even the question of how many al Qaeda members have been caught in police and intelligence operations is murky. Director of Central Intelligence George Tenet testified on Capitol Hill last month that 1,000 operatives have been arrested in dozens of countries since September 11, although officials say they believe at least half of those have since been released.

Bringing down Afghanistan's Taliban regime was a singular success in the broader war against terrorism and an enormous blow to the al Qaeda network, US officials believe. But that still may not stop widely scattered sleeper cells from launching already planned attacks or al Qaeda's core from regrouping elsewhere, the officials acknowledge. Here's a look at the hurdles and opportunities on five crucial fronts in the next phase of the war on terrorism around the world:

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN

US MILITARY planners have been surprised by the ferocity and number of al Qaeda holdouts they've battled for more than a week now in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan. Pentagon officials who once predicted that American forces could start withdrawing in the spring have stopped talking about even informal deadlines.

The fact that Osama bin Laden still hasn't been found is also a significant part of Afghanistan's unfinished business. While Bush has stopped talking about getting Osama "dead or alive," officials say his capture would be a major psychological blow to al Qaeda. His sudden reappearance could feed the myth of his invincibility and probably energise new defiance of the US.

Pakistan has moved troops and border guards to the

Afghan border in recent months, but it hasn't launched any major operations to find al Qaeda members in remote vil-



IE Map/B.K. Sharma

lages defended by independent Pashtun tribes. US officials suspect that Pakistan's powerful intelligence service ISI, with long ties to Islamic radicals, is refusing to take on the fight — despite the strong antiterrorist commitments made by Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf. Another US official said the Bush administration recently began urging the Pakistanis "to focus again" on the need to round up al Qaeda members near the border and is quietly offering more technical assistance, intelligence and advice. The US is hesitant, however, to push Musharraf too publicly and any suggestions that US troops might be directly involved in the fight could dangerously weaken the Islamabad government.

THE PHILIPPINES

THE most ambitious US military action outside Afghanistan is taking place on the small island of Basilan. The target is the

tiny but vicious Abu Sayyaf gang whose recent links to al Qaeda are thought to amount to a few money transfers and the possible visit of a few foreign operatives.

US officials estimate that at most there are 250 members in the group and no more than 100 on Basilan. There, Abu Sayyaf members have been holding American missionaries Gracia and Martin Burnham and a Filipina nurse named Eldiborah Yap for more than nine months. The US has sent 160 Special Operations forces, backed up by 500 US support troops, to coach about 6,000 Philippine troops as they go after Abu Sayyaf.

On Basilan, which is just 56 kms in circumference, Philippine soldiers say they've been stymied by caves, thick jungle and a lack of sophisticated equipment. "The problem is that we haven't been able to locate the Abu Sayyaf," concedes Lt Col Reynato Paterno Padua, the Philippine commander of Camp Cabunbata on Basilan.

The Americans who patrol with Col Padua's men are supposed to stay 1,000 yards behind the local troops — the Philippine Constitution bars foreigners from fighting on the nation's soil — a rule likely to be overlooked. US officials say they hope that taking on and defeating the Abu Sayyaf will give the Philippine military the strength and confidence to go after any future terrorist groups. The rescue of the hostages would also be a significant public-relations coup.

Some Philippine officials

seem eager to draw the US into Manila's campaign against the much larger Moro Islamic Liberation Front, which has around 15,000 fighters. These officials claim the group has more recent and extensive ties to al Qaeda than Abu Sayyaf, charges the MILF denies. US officials are resisting, arguing that the MILF's demands for better treatment of Muslims are legitimate and that the group's links to al Qaeda are limited to a few operatives and not the MILF leadership. They're also hopeful the MILF and the government will continue peace talks.



INDONESIA

US OFFICIALS are concerned that Indonesia also could become a place for terrorists to regroup. President Megawati Sukarnoputri has shown no stomach for a crackdown against Islamic groups that already challenge her right as a woman to rule. The powerful armed forces aren't certain they want to cooperate with the US, which has shunned their leadership since the Indonesian military's bloody crackdown in East Timor. But US officials also admit that they don't want to press the country's fragile new democracy too hard, or send the Indonesian military any signals that could invite more brutality.

For months, the Bush administration has debated how to proceed, with key players in the Pentagon calling for increased military support, mainly to build

a counterterrorist constituency inside the armed forces. The White House and State Department are resisting. They don't want to weaken Megawati, and they're equally wary of going up against Congressional restrictions on aid to the Indonesian military. US officials say for now most of the counterterrorist efforts in Indonesia will be focused on sharing intelligence and increasing diplomatic pressure.

YEMEN

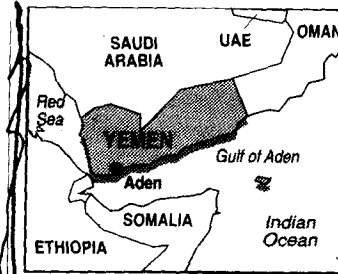
THE Pentagon is expected to send about 100 Special Operations soldiers and a few hundred support and intelligence troops to Yemen. They will train and advise Yemeni forces as they go after small pockets of al Qaeda fighters hiding in a lawless region bordering Saudi Arabia.

The effort is much like that in the Philippines, intended both to capture suspected terrorists while also training the Yemenis to be able to keep them out in the future. As in the Philippines, American forces aren't supposed to do the actual fighting. It is a distinction that could blur quickly on the battlefield.

Unlike the Philippines, the



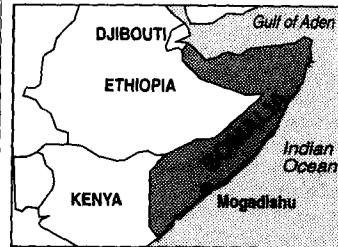
Yemeni government had to be browbeaten into accepting the US troops. Yemen refused to fully cooperate in the US investigation of the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole there, and after September 11 it was believed to be high on the list of possible candidates for direct US attack.



The turnaround, however has been quick. Using the threat of American military action to silence the radical Islamist lobby at home, President Ali Abdullah Saleh quickly embraced military and intelligence cooperation with Washington — an effort that has furthered his campaign to expand his authority in outlying tribal areas.

SOMALIA

LAST fall, US officials predicted that Somalia would be the next battleground. A failed state, with historical links to al Qaeda, it looked like a natural hiding place for fleeing al Qaeda lead-



ers. US military planners expressed enthusiasm about the comparative ease of mounting operations in a country with a long coastline and no recognised government. US surveillance of Somalia has intensified in recent weeks. And so far, US analysts have concluded that very few al Qaeda operatives have ended up there, while any terrorist training camps probably were dismantled by the Ethiopians in the late 1990s. (*The Wall Street Journal*)

US plays down Osama, to take 'battle' to Iraq

AGENCIES

WASHINGTON, MARCH 14

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

US President George W. Bush yesterday said he is consulting with friends and allies about Iraqi ruler Saddam Hussein but reserves the right to take unilateral action against him if necessary.

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

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

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

Bush pointed out that the US helped engineer the Security Council resolution that specifically mentioned a Palestinian state. The President said Israel has a right to protect itself and expressed optimism that US envoy Anthony Zinni would be able to reduce violence during his Middle East trip.

Oh Osama bin Laden, Bush said he did not know whether the Al Qaeda chief was dead or alive but stressed that finding him was not central to the success of US-led war on terror. "He's the ultimate



US troops from 10th Mountain Division prepare to board a Chinook helicopter to be taken to eastern Afghanistan on Wednesday. AP/PTI photo

parasite who found weakness, exploited it, and met his match," he said, adding: "I truly am not that concerned about him."

"Terror is bigger than one person, and he's a person who's now been marginalised. His host government has been destroyed," he said. But "focusing on one person really indicates to me people don't understand the scope of the mission," he said, meaning the "war on terrorism" he declared after the Sept 11.

Referring to the controversy generated by the leaked Pentagon document that revealed Russia, China, Iran, Iraq, North Korea, Syria and Libya are on a possible nuclear hit list, Bush that while his interest is in reducing the number of nuclear warheads in the arsenals — if necessary, unilaterally on the American side, he is also determined to deter a war against the US, its friends and allies by having an arsenal at his disposal with a full range of weapons.

meanwhile...

Bush 'plenty hot' over hijackers' visas

WASHINGTON: A "stunned" Bush ordered an investigation on Wednesday into how notices of approvals for student visas were mailed for two of the WTC hijackers six months after the attacks. The Immigration and Naturalization Service's approvals for Mohamed Atta and Marwan Al-Shehhi to study at a Florida flight school made Bush say: "I was plenty hot."

Mubarak warns both Iraq, US

SHARM EL-SHEIKH, EGYPT: Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said he will join efforts urging Iraq to accept a return of UN weapons inspectors. But he also cautioned the US from acting in a way that would result in Iraq being broken up.

—Agencies

Omar lawyer refuses to examine witness

■ Taxi driver Nasir says he saw Omar shake hands with Pearl, take him to a car

SHAHID IQBAL
KARACHI, MARCH 10

THE lawyer of the confessed mastermind of slain American journalist Daniel Pearl on Saturday refused to cross-examine a witness who says he saw the accused whisking Pearl away in his car. Lawyer Saiful Mulook told a magistrate in Karachi, Pakistan, he would not cross-examine the witness before a detailed meeting with his client. Ahmed Omar Saeed Shaikh, the man who says he kidnapped Pearl to protest Pakistan joining the US-led war on terror, was present in the court.

The witness, a taxi driver who says he drove Pearl to the restaurant where he met the chief suspect, completed his statement. He told magistrate Erum Jahangir he saw Pearl shaking hands with Omar and taking the reporter to his car. "Omar



witness's full identity...as doing so would endanger his life," a police officer Manzoor Mughal said earlier this week. The militants who allegedly kidnapped Pearl from Karachi on January 23 have threatened attacks against police and those helping the investigation. Police moved Omar to an undisclosed location after militants threatened to fire rockets at the prison where he was detained.

Omar, 28, claims to have links with Osama bin Laden and other terrorist leaders. On February 14, he told a court he kidnapped Pearl because he was unhappy with Pakistan's decision to support the US against Afghanistan's former Taliban regime. But later his lawyers said Omar had made no such admission and police faked it. Nasir's testimony, however, strengthens the government's case against Omar. Omar, arrested on February 12, was identified last week by a Pakistani journalist who helped Pearl in his work.

—United Press International

Bush urges letters to Pearl's unborn child

■ WASHINGTON: US President George W. Bush on Saturday night asked members of the prestigious Gridiron Club, a group of Washington's top journalists, to each write a letter to married *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl's unborn child so "someday your letters will help the child understand" what his father's purpose was when he died. Bush ended an address to the journalists at their annual dinner by asking each to write a letter to the child. Bush said if they sent them to him, "I will add my own and see it gets to Mrs Pearl." The Gridiron Club has 60 members along with hundreds of associates. Marianne Means, Gridiron president and a columnist, said the members would gladly do that.

—UPI

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CROSS-BORDER TERRORISM / U.S. WARNS PAKISTAN

'We take Musharraf at his word'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, MARCH 8. Even while publicly lavishing praise on the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, for his stance on Afghanistan, the Bush administration has told him that cross-border terrorism with India will have to stop if anything politically meaningful is going to take place between the two countries, a senior administration official said.

The official, who spoke to a small group of journalists from India and Pakistan said that the U.S. President, George W. Bush, and other senior officials had told Gen. Musharraf that Pakistan would have to make a "strategic change and not a tactical change".

What is being stressed is that even Gen. Musharraf agreed with this characterisation on cross-border terrorism; and that Washington would be watching the situation. "We take him at his (Gen. Musharraf's) word...If he plays games, there will be a problem," the senior official said.

The Bush administration is not claiming

that its advice is being followed by Islamabad on the cross-border terrorism issue, but there is an argument that the activity and infiltration is down. "Every winter, there is a decline in the cross-border infiltration, but now there is a noticeable decline. Is it down to zero? No," the senior official said.

Once again it was made clear that the Bush administration was not interested in playing the role of a "mediator" between India and Pakistan over Kashmir. It is going to be a long process, with Washington sitting on the sidelines and watching.

Economically, there is the dividend from peace and stability in the sub-continent for over the next 20 years trade within the region was going to fuel growth.

On Pakistan's Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), the Bush administration, at least publicly, continues to maintain that Gen. Musharraf is in control of the agency. Also according to the official, "We don't believe there is a renegade element within the ISI".

While stopping cross-border terrorism could have an impact on the resumption of a political dialogue between Indian and Pakistan, the Bush administration is also paying careful attention to India's role as well in this process.

Washington is watching the coming elections in Jammu and Kashmir with the hope that all parties, including the Hurriyat, will participate. The official also made the point that the Indian Government should allow the Hurriyat leaders to travel freely.

On what was agreed upon on the military supplies front during Gen. Musharraf's recent trip here, it was pointed out that Mr. Bush had said 'no' to the sale of F-16 jets; and if there is the complaint in Pakistan that even spare parts are slow in materialising, it was on account of the procurement system and process and with the spares coming out of the foreign military financing, it would have to be accommodated in the 2003 budget.

THE HINDU

MAR 10 2002

Pak not to hand over Omar

FROM DOUGLAS JEHL

Islamabad, March 6: After an internal debate, the government of Pakistan has decided against any immediate handover of the main suspect in the killing of the American journalist Daniel Pearl, government and law enforcement officials said yesterday.

The government's plan is to complete the investigation and trial of the suspect, Omar Sheikh, in a Pakistani court, before following through on an agreement in principle to surrender him to American authorities.

The American request, based on other charges, preceded Pearl's kidnapping in January by two months.

The trial could begin soon, possibly within two weeks, and would be expected to last several weeks.

The officials said the main reason for the decision was to demonstrate that Pakistan's judicial system is capable of handling the case, at a time when Muslim militants including Omar Sheikh have been showing an increased willingness to challenge the Pakistani authorities and their vow to crack down on extremists.

But there is another reason to delay handing over Omar Sheikh, several law enforcement officials said.

There is a concern that Omar, the British-born leader of a group founded with help from Pakistan's main intelligence agency, Inter-Services Intelligence, might use his transfer to American custody to make statements — true or false — that would harm Pakistan's security. "He is a dangerous man," a Pakistani police official said yesterday. "He can spin yarns and cause

confusion and he is clearly out to embarrass the Pakistan government."

Pakistani officials said the internal debate about the timing of Sheikh's surrender had also focused in part on the need to pre-empt domestic criticism that might focus on questions of national sovereignty.

In Washington, a senior Bush administration official said today that "the status of things at this point is that we're still in discussions. They have not formally told us one way or the other what they're going to do. The issue is they've got charges, we've got charges — the question is who should try him first."

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

7 MAR 2002

Intercepted e-mail hints at regrouping in Al-Qaida

By James Risen and
David Johnston

WASHINGTON: Newly detected Internet traffic among Al Qaida followers, including intercepted e-mail messages, indicates that elements of the terror network may be trying to regroup in remote sanctuaries in Pakistan near the Afghan border, government officials say.

United States officials said they had discovered the existence of new Web sites and Internet communications that appeared to be part of a concerted Al Qaida effort to reconstitute the group and reestablish communications after the war in Afghanistan.

Senior counterterrorism officials said that Al Qaida's effort to rebuild itself outside Afghanistan appeared to rely heavily on the Internet for communications among highly mobile operatives, who often check their messages in public Internet cafes around the world, making them difficult to track.

American officials said the new communications traffic was a seri-

ous concern because they feared that the Al Qaida, Osama bin Laden's network, could use its sophisticated Internet ability to launch new terror attacks against the United States.

At least some of the cyberspace activity can be traced back to Pakistan, said a senior law enforcement official.

Some of the activity appeared to come from villages in the Pakistani province of Baluchistan, along the Afghan border, a remote and sometimes lawless region.

American officials now believe that some of these villages in Baluchistan, and perhaps others in the disputed Kashmir region, could be serving as new sanctuaries for Al Qaida members. United States officials described those areas as difficult for Pakistani authorities to control effectively.

The content of the intercepted cyber traffic has not indicated specific threats, but one official said the purpose of the communications was troubling because it appeared to be focused on Al

Qaida's efforts to regroup.

American officials said they believed that several hundred armed Al Qaeda forces had regrouped in the Gardez region over the last several weeks, joined by non-Afghan Taliban fighters, including both Chechens and Uzbeks. The United States military believes that there are other pockets of Al Qaida resistance in Afghanistan as well.

But American officials said today that they did not believe that Bin Laden was in the Gardez pocket, and it is unclear how many other Al Qaida leaders are actually directing the fighting from within the pocket itself, or whether they are doing so remotely by e-mail or other forms of communications from Pakistan. So while the military focuses on routing surviving Al Qaida groups in Afghanistan, American intelligence and law enforcement officials are increasingly concerned about Al Qaida's efforts outside Afghanistan to reform and strike again.

"Al Qaida is searching all around the world for new sanctuaries," John McLaughlin, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said in a brief interview on Monday.

Officials cautioned that the full significance of the Internet activity in and out of Pakistan was still not clear, and that it was uncertain whether any senior Al Qaida leaders were involved.

It is unclear whether the communications represent a central command structure trying to control various elements of the organization or simply Al Qaida members speaking to each other.

American officials added that they were still not certain, for example, where Bin Laden was, or even whether he was still alive.

Other top Al Qaida leaders who survived American bombing raids in Afghanistan have also proved elusive.

While Al Qaida's leaders are seeking a new haven, it is not clear that they have gathered in any one place yet that might serve as a new headquarters. But American counterterrorism analysts said the recently discovered Internet activity did provide strong evidence of efforts by Al Qaida to rebuild after its dispersal in Afghanistan. (NYT News Services)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

Prosecution case fragile in Pearl trial

FROM KAMRAN KHAN

Karachi, March 5: Ten days before four men charged with the kidnapping and murder of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl go to trial, Pakistani prosecutors and police investigating say they are "almost empty-handed," with little concrete evidence linking the defendants to their alleged crimes, according to officials monitoring the case.

"So far there is nothing to connect these four suspects with Danny's murder," said police official in Karachi.

Two of Pakistan's best-known criminal lawyers have been retained to defend the men, who have been charged with kidnapping, murder and terrorist activities. A report on the investigation delivered recently to senior members of President Pervez Musharraf's administration concluded that the evidence in the case is so fragile that the defence team could trounce the prosecution, according to a senior government official familiar with the analysis.

"We have no eyewitness to Danny's kidnapping, torture or

murder," said one official. "It is like going to court almost empty-handed." Pearl, 38, the South Asia bureau chief of the *Journal*, was kidnapped on January 23 while researching a story about Islamic militants in Pakistan. Almost one month later, a video containing grisly footage of Pearl's slaying was delivered to the US consulate here.

Neither Pearl's body nor any of his clothing has been recovered. No murder weapon has been found, and police have not identified who the actual killers were. "At the outset, the court would like to examine the weapons used in the murder or any other related material such as blood-stained clothing of the victim or the search report from the scene of the (crime)," one police official said. "The police have nothing to offer as material evidence in response to those questions."

The primary suspect in custody is Omar Sheikh, a British-born Islamic militant. Omar Sheikh said in a preliminary court appearance last month that he helped plan Pearl's abduction, then claimed in court

last week that police tried to coerce him into making a false confession by forcing him to sign blank papers.

The three other men arrested in the case—Salman Saqib, Sheikh Adil and Fahad Nasim—allegedly were involved in sending e-mails to the news media announcing Pearl's abduction.

Police and prosecution sources said much of the prosecution's case hinges on the four men's statements to police—statements that defence attorneys already have challenged in court as tainted by police strong-arm tactics. Most of the material evidence is tied to the computer allegedly used by the kidnappers to send e-mails to news organisations. But officials involved in the case said police have no independent experts who can establish that the e-mails were sent from the computer.

Police investigators said that FBI agents who initially played a role on the technical aspects of the case are unlikely to testify on behalf of the Pakistani prosecutors in court.

LOS ANGELES TIMES-WASHINGTON
POST NEWS SERVICE

THE TELEGRAPH

6 MAR 2002

Commonwealth adopts terror action plan

AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

Howard's *faux pas*

COOLUM (Australia), March 2. — Commonwealth leaders, meeting here after a delay enforced by the 11 September attacks, today adopted an action plan to stamp out terrorism.

The plan was drafted by a special group set up by Secretary General Mr Don McKinnon to examine ways of helping Commonwealth nations implement UN resolutions on combating terrorism.

Spokesman Mr Joel Kibazo told reporters that the action plan covers legal and financial measures, as well as enhancing law enforcement in member countries.

The meeting opened without Indian Prime Minister Mr Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Britain's Queen Elizabeth II appealed to Commonwealth leaders to strive for racial tolerance and bridge cultural differences to meet new challenges and counter terrorism.

COOLUM, March 2. — Australian Prime Minister, Mr John Howard, an avowed royalist and scourge of the country's republican movement, welcomed Queen Elizabeth to the opening of the Commonwealth summit here by muddling her father with another British monarch. Mr Howard, welcoming the Queen to the formal opening of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting, told a 900-strong audience that the "modern commonwealth was first given form by your late father, King George V". It appears Mr Howard, or his speechwriter, muddled the Queen's grandfather for her father, George VI. However, when a transcript of Mr Howard's speech was released, his reference to the wrong George had been corrected. — AFP

Mr Vajpayee cancelled his plan to attend the summit following the Godhra incident and assigned external affairs minister Mr Jaswant Singh to lead the Indian delegation to the 35th Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting.

The Queen opened the meeting with a strong plea for greater racial and religious toler-

ance saying it was its diversity that made the 54-nation group relevant in the 21st century. But she added: "The Commonwealth must move with the times if it is to remain relevant to all generations." Dressed for a colourful ceremony in flame red with a matching hat, the Queen also used her speech to underline the need for a continuing ef-

fort to reach consensus in a summit which looks set to be overshadowed by differences over Zimbabwe.

The meeting refused to readmit Pakistan, suspended from the 54-nation body after the 1999 military coup, officials said. "They noted the progress that has been made by (President) General (Pervez) Musharraf, but Pakistan is still suspended," said Mr Kibazo. Mr Kibazo also noted that India had not raised the issue of Pakistan in relation to terrorism.

Africa defies call: African Commonwealth leaders today defied Britain's call for the body to deliver Zimbabwe President Mr Robert Mugabe an ultimatum to hold free elections or face punitive action. Mr Tony Blair argued for Zimbabwe's immediate suspension from the Commonwealth, accusing Mr Mugabe of intimidation against political opponents violating basic democratic values.

THE STATESMAN

3 MAR 2002

Pakistan ready to extradite Omar

Islamabad, February 27

PAKISTAN HAS said that it has no objection to Washington's request for sending Sheikh Ahmed Omar Saeed, self-confessed mastermind of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl's abduction and murder, to the US for trial.

Islamabad has informed the Bush administration that it has no objection to comply with the US request to extradite Omar, one of the three terrorists released by India during the IC 814 hijack in 1999, *The News* reported today.

"In principle, Pakistan has no objection to hand over an individual or a group found to be involved in crimes in a country with whom it has an extradition treaty," the daily quoted a Pakistani official as saying.

Omar's extradition, vigorously pursued by the US over the past few days, was reportedly sorted out after yesterday's meeting between President Pervez Musharraf and US Ambassador to Pakistan Wendy Chamberlin

and a subsequent telephone conversation between Musharraf and US Secretary of State Colin Powell.

But the official said the authorities in both countries are keen to ensure that the extradition doesn't hurt the investigation of the Pearl murder case and hence the exact timing to ini-

tiate the legal proceedings for Omar's extradition will be decided later. Officials set in motion steps to counter any court appeals likely to be filed by Omar to scuttle his transfer to the US, the newspaper said. Considering the legal intricacies involved, Musharraf had also consulted his senior legal advisor, Sharifuddin Pirzada, besides discussing the matter with security officials.

'No ISI link'

PAKISTAN ON Wednesday rejected as "malicious and wrong" reports linking its Intelligence agency to the suspected kidnapper of Daniel Pearl. "We reject these reports completely," Pakistan's Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said. Reports in the international and Indian media have speculated that Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh might have had ties to the Inter-Services Intelligence.

AP, Bali

Security beefed up

Pakistani police beefed up security especially at mosques in the garrison city of Rawalpindi on Wednesday after a gun attack on Shi'ite worshippers killed 11 people and wounded 14, police said.

Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf was swift to condemn Tuesday's attack in the mainly Sunni Muslim country and blamed extremist groups for the second killing of Shi'ites in less than a week.

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Dengue in Havana, Castro revives old US bugs bogey

REUTERS
HAVANA, FEBRUARY 26

IMMERSED in a nationwide battle against an outbreak of dengue fever, President Fidel Castro revived on Monday an old accusation against the United States of carrying out biological attacks against Cuba.

"I say to our people, I say it here, we have suffered dozens of biological attacks," Castro said in a television address on Cuba's massive campaign to eradicate a recent outbreak of the potentially fatal dengue fever.

Castro did not blame Washington for the current dengue problem, which has killed two and stricken hundreds but is now receding. He said US authorities were responsible for past attacks against Cuban tobacco, sugar and pigs.

Last year, Havana also blamed the US for a disease that has destroyed 16,000 beehives, causing an estimated \$2 million in lost honey output, since 1996.

In Monday's sometimes-rambling comments on state television, Castro particularly lashed out at the US Government's aid agency USAID, which he said was dedicated to spreading subversion in Cuba and backing corrupt elites elsewhere in Latin America.

"The most they (USAID) know about, really, is how to transport and develop viruses — they did it for years — and how to attack a country with viruses," he added.

USAID sets aside millions of dollars each year for



anti-Castro groups in the US, some of whom support local dissidents. But Washington denies illegal actions against Cuba. For decades, Havana has been alleging chemical attacks by US agents, sometimes speaking of planes spraying chemicals, or of individual travelers carrying germs. American officials generally ridicule those claims as fantasy and paranoia.

"They waste their time completely every time they stupidly talk about waiting for change in Cuba... and the hope, I don't know what, for the post-Castro era," he added.

The Cuban leader clearly was referring to a slew of recent public comments from Washington's Chief envoy to Havana, Vicki Huddleston,

who heads the US Diplomatic mission.

Huddleston has been countering speculation of a possible US-Cuban rapprochement following cooperation over the use of the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, on Cuba's southeastern coast, for Taliban and al Qaeda prisoners from Afghanistan.

She has said the Bush administration plans no changes in US policy toward Cuba, including a four-decade-old economic embargo, unless the Castro government undertakes reforms including releasing political prisoners and allowing free speech.

On Cuba's dengue problem, which has been centred mainly on Havana, Castro said "the battle is being won" after a vast fumigation and clean-up drive since the start of the year, mobilising workers, students and activists.

INDIAN EXPRESS

27 FEB 2002

Pak hints at Sheikh Omar's extradition

The Times, London & Agencies

KARACHI, Feb. 26. — While the USA said it wanted to extradite Omar Sheikh, the suspected mastermind of Daniel Pearl's abduction by using a colonial era treaty, Pakistan today indicated it might help USA in the matter.

Pakistan would like to try those guilty in its own courts but if a situation arises where these criminals have to be handed over to the USA, Islamabad can consider it in the light of evidence, Pakistani foreign minister Mr Abdul Sattar said.

The USA and Pakistan have no extradition treaty but US officials believe a treaty signed in 1931 by the US and local authorities in what was then part of the British empire remains valid.

US Ambassador to Pakistan Ms Wendy Chamberlin today met General Pervez Musharraf and raised the issue of extradition of Sheikh.

In Washington, law enforce-

ment officials said the US Justice Department might bring criminal charges in Pearl's kidnapping and murder.

Hectic negotiations were on

Bridges on sale?

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. — The mayor, Mr Michael Bloomberg, is considering selling off four bridges spanning the East River including the Brooklyn Bridge to raise cash in this city reeling from the economic effects of the WTC attacks coupled with the first US recession in 10 years. The current \$5 billion hole in the \$40 billion spending plan can be compensated through the proposed sale. — Reuters

between Washington and Islamabad for the extradition. Pakistani embassy official in Washington Mr Asad Hayauddin also said the two countries were engaged in discussions on the issue.

But Mr Bush gave Gen. Mush-

arraf a vote of confidence yesterday. He said the Pakistani leader had telephoned him last week, and added: "I could tell from the tone of his voice how distraught he was, how disturbed he was that this barbaric act had taken place in his country. He vowed to me he would do everything in his power to chase down the killers and bring them to justice."

US officials acknowledge Sheikh may have been helped by members of the ISI and particularly a former Intelligence officer, Brigadier Abdullah, who headed the service's Kashmir department. Brigadier Abdullah was believed to have played an important role in fostering Jish-e-Mohammed.

Pakistani police have not lost hope of finding the body of Daniel Pearl, Sindh Province Advocate General Mr Raja Qureshi said today. Mr Qureshi, in charge of the investigation, said police were following up clues on the location of the body and the murder weapon used to slit Pearl's throat on camera.

THE STATESMAN

27 FEB 2002

✓ Osama may have
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been duped: report

NEW YORK, FEB. 26. An analysis of suspected radioactive substances seized in Afghanistan has found nothing to prove that Osama bin Laden reached his decade-long goal of acquiring nuclear materials for a bomb, *New York Times* reported today, citing administration officials.

The U.S. Government's analysis of suspicious canisters, computer discs and documents suggests that Bin Laden and Al-Qaeda may have been duped by black-market weapons swindlers selling crude containers hand-painted with skulls and crossbones and perhaps dipped in medical waste, the *Times* reported. More than 110 sites, including government buildings, military compounds and caves in Afghanistan have

been searched for clues about Al-Qaeda's plans and development of advanced terror weapons, the *Times* said.

U.S. intelligence officers and Special Forces found three containers with contents worrisome enough to be shipped back for detailed analysis, but no significant amount of radioactive material was found in them, the newspaper said. Officials said it was impossible to broadly assert that Al-Qaeda had no nuclear material, the *Times* said.

American officials also disclosed that the United States has yet to find evidence that Al-Qaeda was able to create a chemical or biological weapon at any of its camps, command centres or caves in Afghanistan, the *Times* said. — Reuters

27 FEB 2002

27 FEB 2002

Rumsfeld hints at Omar trial in US 'Don't support terror detainees'

Washington, February 25

THE UNITED States has said extradition of Sheikh Ahmed Omar Saeed, suspected mastermind in the *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl's kidnapping and murder in Pakistan, to stand trial in the US is a possibility.

"The US Government may very well want to try to extradite the people involved if possible for the killing of an American, which would seem to me as a non-lawyer to be a reasonable thing," US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld said.

However, Rumsfeld said extradition is a law enforcement issue and he really wouldn't know whether the department of justice proposes to do that and what the extradition laws or rules are.

"First of all I don't believe they (Pakistan) have captured all of the people involved yet, but in the event they do capture them, my guess is that the Pakistani Government will want to prosecute them for having committed the crime in Pakistan," he told the CBS *Television*.

The Defence Secretary said it would be up to President George W. Bush to decide whether anyone ought here for Pearl's offence could be tried by a military tribunal rather than in

civilian courts.

"Whether or not that person would fit under the military order that the president issued with respect to commissions — the president reserved to himself the decision as to who would fit under that — and thus far he has not designated anybody," he said.

Asked whether some "disgruntled" Intelligence agents, who may have been ousted by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf may be involved in Pearl's abduction and killing, Rumsfeld said: "He (Musharraf) went after the ISID (Inter-Services Intelligence Directorate) leadership, changed it, and there's undoubtedly some disgruntled people there. Does that mean there's a connection between that and Pearl? Who knows? Time will tell."

"There is a lot of speculation as to why (Pearl's captors) did it or who they are and what kind of linkages they may have, and we don't know." Asked how secure Musharraf is at this point, Rumsfeld said: "I think he is a competent, forward-looking individual. He is also courageous. And he is aware of the dangers that any person in his situation faces, and he manages security in an intelligent way."

PTI



AFP PHOTO
US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld on NBC's *Meer the Press* in Washington on Sunday.

'Axis of evil' threat

The so-called "axis of evil" formed by Iran, Iraq and North Korea constitutes a real threat no matter what it is called, US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld has told a British daily,

AFP adds. "Now, if someone can come up with a better adjective than 'evil', fine," Rumsfeld said in an interview published today in Britain's *Daily Telegraph*. "But to turn your head and pretend that's not going on is wrong."

We are being forced to confess: Suspect

A BRITISH-BORN Islamic radical accused of masterminding the kidnapping of murdered US reporter Daniel Pearl and two accomplices complained on Monday that police were pressuring them to make confessions.

A government spokesman said the order was issued during a brief appearance before an anti-terrorism court in Karachi by Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh and two other men linked to the kidnapping.

The two other men, whose identities also were extended, were Sheikh Abil and Salman Saqib, accused of sending emails linked to the kidnapping. The three accused were hustled in and out of the Sindh High Court building in under an hour past crowds of reporters and TV cameras.

Sheikh Omar (28), arrested on February 12, was in custody when authorities received a videotape on Thursday showing Pearl's throat being slit. His detention connected to the February 12 arrest was due to run out on Tuesday.

Reuters, Karachi

Vijay Dutt
London, February 25

THE RELATIVES of the British detainees at Camp X-Ray are unhappy at the conditions put forward by Donald Rumsfeld, the US Secretary of Defence for their trial here. The families have been campaigning for their return to Britain as there is no death penalty in this country.

If they are tried in the US they could be sentenced to death. Rumsfeld said so quite bluntly in his interview with the *Daily Telegraph*. A "pin-up" to the Americans and "strong meat" to most European leaders, Rumsfeld has said that the five British detainees at Camp X-Ray in Cuba could be handed over to the authorities here provided they were not able to get on planes and plunge them into the Pentagon or the likes of the World Trade Center Towers.

The British Government is reportedly not quite keen to try them here. In an opinion poll conducted by the Sky Television network, over 53 per cent however said the prisoners should be tried here.

On behalf of two of the five

British detainees, a hearing is to take place in Washington. British lawyer Clive Stafford Smith has appealed on behalf of Asif Iqbal and Shafiq Rasul, both from Tip-ton in Midlands that they be given same rights as John Walker, the American Taliban prisoner charged with treason.

Rumsfeld has however said in the interview with the *Telegraph* that they could be given capital punishment if they were tried in the US. He has insisted that if the detainees were sent here the US be allowed access to them again in Britain if need be. He also clarified that once all possible information has been "gotten" from the detainees "We'll let as many countries as possible have as any of their nationals they would like an they can handle the law enforcement prosecution".

"We'd prefer to only give them back to countries that have an interest in prosecuting people that ought to be prosecuted, rather than simply turning them loose, putting them back out on the street, and having them go get into more planes and fly into the Pentagon and the World Trade Centre," Rumsfeld said.

Pearl already dead when throat slit on tape, shows probe

Police believe demands to set free Pak prisoners in Cuba weren't serious, the captors always intended to kill him

PETER BAKER & KAMRAN KHAN
ISLAMABAD, FEBRUARY 24

REPORTER Daniel Pearl of *Wall Street Journal* had been cut in the chest and was probably already dead when extremists sliced his throat in front of a camera, according to an analysis of the videotape by US law enforcement officials.

The tape delivered to authorities in Karachi included several different scenes that had been spliced together, making it impossible to determine exactly how or when Pearl was killed. But the tape made clear he was not awake when his throat was slit. The new details emerged as Pakistani authorities warned foreign embassies and businesses that Pearl's abduction and killing may have been part of a wider threat against Westerners living and

working here.

Investigators scrutinising the tape have concluded he was slain soon after he was kidnapped, probably January 31, a day after his abductors sent an e-mail threatening to kill him within 24 hours if their demands were not met. Police now believe the demands, including the release of Pakistani prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, were never serious and that Pearl's captors always intended to kill him.

According to the FBI analysis, the tape begins by showing Pearl reciting parts of his biography, including the fact that he is a Jew. Pearl then speaks about the Pakistani prisoners at Guantanamo Bay. The tape then cuts to other scenes, and it is unclear whether they occurred immediately afterward or hours or days later.

Later, it shows Pearl's body with a four-inch incision on his chest. The wound

is not fresh, and is not bleeding, suggesting Pearl could have been cut even days before. After another editing cut, Pearl appears lying down. "We were told there was no movement whatsoever at the point of Farooqi's contact with the knife," said Steven Goldstein, vice president and spokesman for Dow Jones & Co., the Journal's parent company. Experts believe even a drugged victim would show a physical response to such an act. Several sources said the final scene shows Pearl's decapitated body, the knife sitting by his chest and one of his captors holding his severed head.

Investigators said they learned of a possible Arab accomplice of the captors while interrogating relatives of Pakistani suspect Amjad Farooqi, who is at large. Residents of Farooqi's village said he appeared there in January with the Arab accomplice and Omar Sheikh just days before Pearl's disappearance from Karachi.

Residents said Farooqi, aged between 35 and 40, was well known for his militant links and even tried to recruit locals for je-

had in Afghanistan and Kashmir. "He told me he was giving weapons training to youths in camps in Kashmir," said Qari Ghulam Akbar, who was detained when police combed the village for Farooqi last week. Farooqi is believed to have recruited about 200 people from his village and surrounding areas to fight in Afghanistan following September 11. Villagers said he had also served as bodyguard to Maulana Azhar Masood, chief of the Jaish-e-Muhammad.

Police have leads increasingly pointing to towns in Peshawar and Baluchistan province as possible hideouts of the captors. Three senior Pakistani police officials have received calls around the same time warning them to drop the Pearl case and citing personal details about each of their families in an attempt to scare them. All of those calls were made from the same mobile telephone used to set up a meeting with Pearl at a restaurant, officials said.

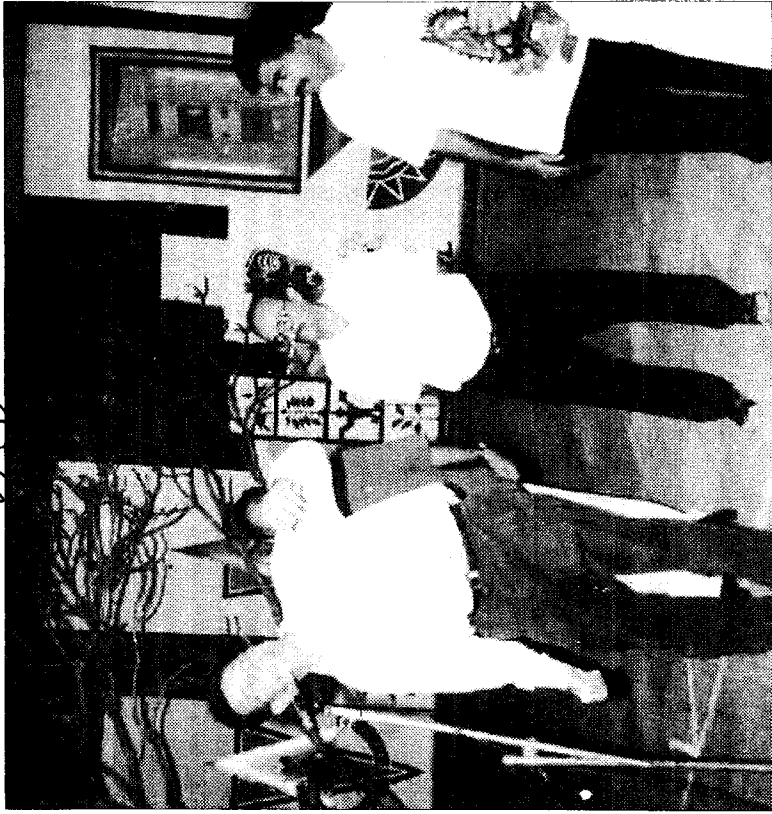
Omar Sheikh has told investigators he learned of Pearl's death in a coded telephone conversation with associates on February 5, adding that he believed Pearl was actually killed on January 31. Investigators said Sheikh's comments in court

may have been a coded message to his accomplices to kill Pearl.

Officials in Washington and Islamabad have begun considering the possibility of extraditing those accused in the Pearl case to the US. However, a US request to turn over Omar Sheikh could produce "a protracted legal battle that may last years", a Pakistani Interior Ministry official said. Serious legal complications could arise because Sheikh is a British citizen and London would have to be consulted. Pakistani officials are worried that sending him to the US could disclose ties between Pakistani secret services and the Jaish-e-Muhammad.

A senior government official said the military administration had discussed releasing the videotape but decided it was too barbaric to air. Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said the authorities are searching for four other suspects and vowed to break the case. "We know their names, we know their identities," he said at a briefing in Islamabad. "We are sure after them and once that is done the whole network will be broken."

—L4 Times-Washington Post
(With inputs from Reuters)



Daniel Pearl at a party thrown by the Trivandrum Press Club in Kerala last year. PTI photo

Osama leads Delta Force to Kashmir?

Vijay Dutt

London, February 23

IS OSAMA bin Laden in J&K? The Americans and the British would like to believe so. The elite US and British troops, the Delta Force and SAS, were trying to track down the fugitive Saudi-born terrorist in the Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir. Intelligence reports published as lead story in the *Daily Telegraph* said.

Possibly, the hunt is through hi-tech devices and not on the ground. The report has come as a surprise because India's policy so far has been against allowing any kind of third-party intervention in Kashmir.

India as to the US. There is also close cooperation between India, the US and the UK to exchange information on terrorism and to unite in fighting terrorists anywhere in the world.

The British SAS soldiers are part of a 40-man operation team with the US Delta Force. A senior defence source, back recently from the region, has clarified to the *Telegraph* that the SAS troops are merely "acting in an advisory" role for Indian Army special forces.

The decision to let the SAS help was taken following Tony Blair's visit last month to India, Pakistan and Afghanistan when a war between India and Pakistan was looking immi-



OSAMA BIN LADEN

But some sources said this was not intervention, but a search for the world's most wanted man. India is part of the alliance forged to root out international terrorism and Osama is as much a danger to

band its section aiding separatist groups like HuM indicates that it was informed of the SAS-Delta Force operation.

The defence source said, "The whole area is ultra-sensitive. But Osama bin Laden has a history here (Kashmir) with some of the terror groups and he may have regarded it as a safe haven."

"He knows we are not going to start bombing this area or sending in the marines, but there are lots of other things we can do and if he is alive he is definitely not safe."

The hunt is being conducted through hi-tech devices.

See also Reflections on Page 8

MoD rubbishes report

THE MINISTRY of Defence has described as "rubbish" a British newspaper report that American and British troops were in J&K hunting for al-Qaida militants, including Osama bin Laden. "There is no question of allowing American or British or any foreign troops into J&K. The report is totally incorrect and baseless," a Defence Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi, saying he could not comment on whether US soldiers are actually in PoK.

PTI

A precious Pearl... 226/2

Agence France-Press

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. — A dedicated journalist who was soon to become a first-time father, Daniel Pearl fell victim to the treacherous cross-currents of Pakistani politics.

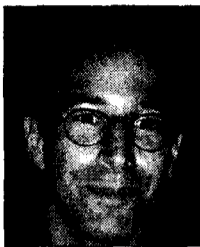
The 38-year-old made his name at the *Wall Street Journal* writing quirky feature stories.

But it was his pursuit of hard news on Pakistan's Islamic militants, notably alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid, that put a premature end to his life.

Hired by the *Journal* in 1990, Pearl began writing the quirky front-page features known as "A-heads" for which the paper is well-known.

He began his tenure at the paper in its Atlanta bureau and was moved to the Washington office in 1993 to cover transportation issues. Pearl was sent

to London in 1996 and in 1999 made a weekend visit to Paris where he met his future wife, Mariane, who is now six months pregnant with their first child.



A file photograph of Daniel Pearl

"He has never harmed anybody. Instead he has been quite sympathetic to the pain caused to others. Danny and I are both gentle, peace-loving people," his wife said prior to the confirmation of his death. Pearl became the *Journal's* South Asia bureau chief about two years ago, based in Bombay, and had recently been reporting out of Pakistan, where he and Mariane were staying with friends.

CPJ demands arrests: In New York The Committee for Protection of Journalists has condemned Pearl's killing and called on Pakistani authorities to devote its full resources to apprehend and prosecute his killers. "The board, staff, and members of the CPJ mourn the loss of Wall Street Journal reporter Daniel Pearl," CPJ said in a statement here.

... And his diary of hard news

KARACHI, Feb. 22. — Following are key events in the disappearance and hunt for the 38-year-old *Wall Street Journal* journalist.

■23 Jan: Pearl disappears as he tries to make contact with Islamic radical groups and investigate links between alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Al Qaida network.

■27 Jan: Pakistani and US media organisations receive e-mail and pictures of Pearl saying he was abducted by a group "The National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty."

■30 Jan: Pakistani police say they have detained Mubarak Ali Gilani, leader of radical Islamic group Jamaat al-Fuqra and prime suspect in the case. Group claiming to have abducted Pearl sends e-mail to news organisations threatening to kill him within 24 hours unless the US frees Pakistani prisoners held in Afghan war.

■31 Jan: Execution deadline extended by a day. *WSJ* offers to publicise kidnappers' grievances if he is released.

■1 Feb: Group claiming to have abducted Pearl sends second e-

mail threatening to kill him unless their demand to release a Taliban leader and better treatment for Al Qaida prisoners in Cuba are met within a day. They also give a three-day deadline for all American journalists to leave Pakistan.

■2 Feb: Karachi police chief says US American embassy receives e-mail demanding the release of Taliban official Mullah (Abdul Salam) Zaef and \$2 million within 36 hours but the e-mail is later thought to be one of a number of hoax messages.

■3 Feb: US networks report Pearl's body found in Karachi but US and Pakistani later confirm it was not him.

■4 Feb: FBI joins Pearl hunt.

■5 Feb: Police claim they have detained a man thought to have arranged contact meetings for Pearl. Police later say they detained the wrong person. Police in Pakistan say they have detained two men in connection with sending e-mails containing pictures of Pearl.

■6 Feb: Police say trail leads to Sheikh Omar, an Islamic militant jailed for five years in India for allegedly kidnapping British and American tourists in 1994.

■8 Feb: Pakistani police say they have held another suspect bringing to 14 the number of people in custody and have identified four more they believe may have masterminded the kidnapping.

■12 Feb: Key suspect Sheikh Omar arrested in Pakistani city Lahore; tells investigators Pearl alive and in Karachi.

■14 Feb: Sheikh Omar tells Karachi anti-terrorism court he thinks Pearl is dead, says he masterminded the abduction. Pakistan and *WSJ* dismiss the claim of Pearl's death. Pearl's wife, Mariane appeals to let him go.

■17 Feb: Search for key Sheikh Omar accomplice moves to eastern province of Punjab. Police say they were hunting a man known to Pearl as Imtiaz Siddiqui, who police believe carried out the kidnapping, but later identified as Amjad Hussain.

■21 Feb: One of three men accused of involvement in kidnapping confesses Pearl was abducted because he was a Jew working against Islam.

■22 Feb: US and Pakistan announce they have received a videotape showing scenes of Pearl's murder by his kidnappers. — Reuters

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2002

A DESPICABLE MURDER *Gen. Musharraf*

THE GRUESOME AND unforgivable execution of an American journalist, Daniel Pearl, by his abductors, who have not yet been identified, underlines the heightened challenges of the international community in its fight against the borderless politics of terrorism. The reporter for *The Wall Street Journal* in Mumbai was kidnapped while on assignment in Karachi on January 23. Accounts vary about how the abduction occurred, but the journalist had reportedly sought interviews with some religious radicals in Pakistan who had suspected links to Richard Reid, the infamous "shoe-bomber" suspect. From the time Pearl was seized in that context and until the U.S. as also the Pakistani authorities declared on February 21/22 that he had in fact been killed by his captors at a time and place not yet evident, the two countries did make remarkably concerted efforts to recover him alive. The arrest of a few suspects, including Omar Sheikh who was among the terrorists that New Delhi was forced to release from prison in December 1999 to free the passengers of an hijacked Indian Airlines plane, has raised the profile of the Pearl case. The timing of the cloak-and-dagger drama that marked his tragedy pushes it way beyond the realm of questions about how far a journalist should go in taking professional risks.

Two aspects of the Pearl case stand out amid the jumble of claims and counter-claims by the alleged authors of the dastardly crime and Pakistan's officials as also leaders. First, the circumstances of the abduction itself, no less than the purported demands of those who claimed to have taken Pearl hostage for political purposes, clearly establish the nature of the momentous crisis that Pakistan is passing through at this stage. Pakistan's President, Pervez Musharraf, has already affirmed his political resolve to stay

the course and purge his country of a motley breed of criminals who pretend that they are self-styled soldiers of God in one appellation or the other. Since the terrorist strike in America on September 11 last year, Gen. Musharraf has figured prominently in a montage of global events with an anti-terror focus. Having courageously admitted that his country is in need of some shock therapy, Gen. Musharraf has initiated a sensitive crackdown on some Pakistan-based terrorist outfits that boast of domestic and extra-territorial political objectives. Credible, therefore, is his argument that the Pearl case is a "fallout" of his campaign against religious extremism with a political veneer in his country.

10-10 23/2
Closely related to Gen. Musharraf's activism is the second but not the least aspect of the Pearl case — official Pakistan's alliance with the U.S. at this juncture. One of the publicised demands of Pearl's presumptive captors was that he might be released only if the U.S. were to set free the Pakistanis whom it captured during its ongoing anti-terror operations in Afghanistan that lies in Islamabad's geostrategic neighbourhood. With neither Gen. Musharraf himself nor the U.S. President, George W. Bush, showing any sign of yielding to such coercive tactics, the unidentified hostage-takers have not had their way except for the brutal murder of Pearl himself. Washington has now categorically spelt out a broad-spectrum policy of rejecting the political and other extortionist demands of any hostage-takers. Articulating the sadness and anger of Americans over Pearl's fate, Mr. Bush has pledged to "deepen" Washington's commitment to eradicate the politics of terror. A policy of yielding no quarter to the terrorists is certainly herculean, but both Mr. Bush and Gen. Musharraf deserve international sympathy and support on this court.

THE HINDU

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'VIDEO CAPTURES HIS LAST MOMENTS'

Daniel Pearl is dead

NEW YORK, FEB. 22. The *Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl, who was kidnapped last month in Pakistan while trying to make contact with Islamic extremists, was slain by his captors, U.S. officials have said.

A statement issued by authorities in Pakistan on Thursday said a videotape received by Pakistani and U.S. officials showed scenes of Pearl's murder. "The videotape contained scenes showing Pearl in captivity and his murder by the kidnapers," it said. One U.S. official in Washington called the tape "very gruesome."

The 38-year-old reporter disappeared in Karachi on January 23 while investigating possible links between the alleged shoe bomber, Richard Reid, and the Saudi-born extremist, Osama bin Laden's Al-Qaeda network. The group claiming to hold Pearl, the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, had accused him of being a spy — first for the CIA and then for Israeli intelligence — and said it was protesting U.S. treatment of Taliban and Al-Qaeda prisoners.

Pak. orders arrests

In Islamabad, the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, ordered an immediate roundup of suspects possibly linked to the case, according to a statement issued by his office. "Gen. Musharraf has directed the Government of Sindh (the province where Pearl was kidnapped) and other national security agencies to apprehend each and every member of the



Daniel Pearl is seen in this photo released by his abductors on January 30. (Inset) His wife, Mariane. — AP

gang of terrorists linked to this gruesome murder," it said.

The videotape was first sent to a Pakistani reporter, who took around 24 hours to convince U.S. authorities that they should view the tape, a senior Pakistan Government official said today. The official, who asked not to be identified, said Pearl's last words were that he was a Jew as also his father.

One of the chief investigators of Pearl's abduction said that the Pakistani journalist was working as an informer for officers of the Federal Bureau of In-

vestigation. The three-minute video shows the hands of the kidnapers, their faces off-screen, beheading the reporter as he talks into the camera, the investigator said. "The camera is focussed on Pearl's face. Suddenly his head is chopped off," he said, adding that a "blunt weapon" was used.

The videotape showed at least two people taking part in the slaying but more could have been involved, he said, adding it was unclear from the tape when the slaying took place.

"We are heartbroken," the

Wall Street Journal Publisher, Peter Kann, and the Managing Editor, Paul Steiger, said in a statement.

"His murder is an act of barbarism that makes a mockery of everything Danny's kidnapers claimed to believe in," they said. "Their actions must surely bring shame to all true Pakistani patriots."

'Gentle soul silenced'

Pearl's family said that it was a "senseless murder" that had silenced "a gentle soul". They called him "a beloved son, a brother, an uncle, a husband and a father to a child who will never know him." Pearl's wife Mariane, who was with him in

India condemns murder

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 22. India today condemned the murder of Daniel Pearl and asserted that his killing illustrated that "forces of terror" continued to operate from Pakistani soil.

Nirupama Rao, spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, said to a question that the terrorists who were operating from Pakistan and indulging in "mindless violence" had "received support and safe havens". Pakistan needed to do much more to root out terrorism from its territory. India's concerns on cross-border terrorism were still unaddressed.

Pearl's death, she said, "is a tragedy" and "a crime and an act of terror that we wholeheartedly condemn." India, was "deeply saddened" on account of the "brutal and senseless murder".

Karachi, is more than six months pregnant with their first child. Pearl, *Wall Street Journal's* south Asia bureau chief based in Mumbai for the past two years, had been working in Karachi for three weeks when he was kidnapped. A Princeton, New Jersey, native, he grew up in the suburbs of Los Angeles and graduated from Stanford University.

He began his career at small newspapers in Massachusetts before becoming a business reporter at the *Berkshire Eagle* in Pittsfield, Massachusetts, in the Eighties. He joined the *Wall Street Journal* in 1990, working in Atlanta, Washington, London and Paris before moving to India. — Reuters, AFP

We will rid the world of agents of terror: U.S.

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 22. There is shock, anger and outrage here at the brutal murder of Daniel Pearl. Officials here are not saying much about the grisly videotape, reviewed by authorities in Pakistan.

"The murder of Pearl is an outrage and we condemn it. Both the U.S. and Pakistan are committed to identifying all the perpetrators of this crime and bringing them to justice," the State Department spokesman, Richard Boucher, said in a statement. The President, George Bush, who is now in China, said that he was deeply saddened by the *Wall Street Journal* reporter's death and stressed that it only strengthened the U.S. resolve to rid the world of terrorists.

"All Americans are sad and angry to learn of the murder. Those who threaten Americans, those who engage in criminal, barbaric acts, need to know that these crimes only hurt their cause and

only deepen the resolve of the United States to rid the world of these agents of terror," he said.

Expressions of outrage at the gruesome killing came from Capitol Hill and also from top lawmakers, who called for the perpetrators to be brought to justice. The Minority Leader in the House of Representatives, Richard Gephardt, called it a true American tragedy.

The Vermont Senator, Patrick Leahy, said, "This is an act of base criminality fuelled by mindless hatred that served no cause and wounds all of humanity. The task of bringing to justice those responsible for this must proceed with all diligence until we succeed."

In New York, the United Nations Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, spoke of the courage of Pearl and other journalists. "The crime highlights the enormous dangers encountered by journalists, particularly in areas of conflict and violence," Mr. Annan said through his spokesman.

THE JOURNAL
25 FEB 2002

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3-nation pact on terrorism

PHUKET (THAILAND), FEB. 21. Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines agreed on Thursday to set up a system of sharing intelligence to fight terrorism, while other southeast Asian countries also pledged to help combat the scourge. The three countries have produced a draft agreement on exchanging information and intelligence and on cooperation, the Philippine Foreign Minister, Teofisto Guingona Jr., said. The agreement was an-

nounced during the annual retreat of the 10 Foreign Ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, at a luxury beachside resort in southern Thailand. The main topic of the one-day discussions is terrorism. "To me this is a new era in ASEAN Foreign Ministers cooperation. It is an (new) era of close cooperation on anti-terrorism," the Thai Foreign Minister, Surakiart Sathirathai, said. The tri-nation draft agree-

ment will provide for extra-territorial legislation, which means one country's police can arrest a wanted terrorist who has fled to the other two countries, Mr. Guingona said. "A terrorist leader fleeing to one of our three countries can be detained in the country where he flees. It prevents him from doing his deeds," he added. Mr. Surakiart said Thailand has agreed in principle to join the pact after resolving a few

minor objections. He did not elaborate. However, Singapore, which last month uncovered a major Islamic terrorist plot in the city-state, is not joining. Singapore police said the plot to attack U.S. and other targets was masterminded by Muslims with links to the Al-Qaeda network. The Singapore experience emphasized that terrorism is knocking on the doors of Southeast Asia, which was long considered a stable and trouble-free region. — AP

THE HINDU

22 FEB 2002

India hopes UAE will deport Iqbal Mirchi

HO 1
22/2
By Atul Aneja

NEW DELHI, FEB. 21. After the deportation of Aftab Ansari, India is hoping that the authorities in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) will take action against Iqbal Mirchi, a key player in the Dawood Ibrahim underworld network who allegedly runs a drug syndicate.

Driven by the U.N. Security Council Resolution 1373, that demands that all countries eliminate terrorism from their territory, major States in the Persian Gulf, besides the UAE, may now be persuaded to improve "real time" security cooperation with India, highly-placed Government sources said. India is keen on establishing the right kind of links among the security establishments in the Gulf countries that can facilitate action, especially against Indian-origin terrorists at short notice who may be residing on their soil.

Based in Dubai, the 51-year-old Iqbal Mirchi whose real name is Mohammed Iqbal Memon reportedly travels on a Somali passport. An Interpol red-corner notice accuses him of manufacturing, storing and transporting narcotics.

Sources said that the war against terrorism had galvanised most of the Arab Gulf States to focus on pockets of extremism that may be present in their territory. The recalibration of official policy, sources said, was starkly visible in Saudi Arabia. The detention of 300 to 400 Saudi extremists who may have spilled into Pakistan as a result of the U.S. campaign in Afghanistan, has made the Sau-

di leadership sit up. Saudi Arabia has demanded the deportation of these individuals, but the Pakistanis have pointed out that they have already been handed over to the U.S. The assessment here is that the Saudis are concerned over the presence in its decision-making fold of some of its citizens, who have associated themselves with overseas "madrasas" (Muslim religious seminaries) and adopted an extremist disposition. The possible link between some Saudi charities with extremists is also under internal scrutiny.

For instance, there have been allegations in the U.S. media of links between the Peshawar-

Genosim
based Rabita Trust with the Muslim World League (MWL) operating from Saudi Arabia. World leaders, including the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, however, have personally visited Saudi Arabia to assure the Government there that the world does not see any official Saudi patronage to these groups. On the contrary, it has been reinforced that Riyadh is seen as a key partner in global coalition against terrorism.

Aware of the post-September 11 ferment in the Arab world, India is now planning a new initiative to collectively reengage the Arab League, prior to the grouping's key two-day meeting in Lebanon on March 26.

Talks difficult: Musharraf

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 21. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, today said that while Pakistan was in favour of resuming a dialogue with India, it was not possible without defusing tensions on the borders.

In an informal talk with journalists at a convocation ceremony here, Gen. Musharraf said initiating a dialogue under the present conditions had become difficult as the situation on the borders was bad. Stating that de-escalation on the borders was the first step towards resuming the dialogue, Gen. Musharraf said he was of the view that any movement towards the dialogue should include talks on Kashmir.

Pakistan's readiness to hold talks should not be mistaken as a sign weakness, he said. "If I talk of dialogue with good intention, it should not be construed that as a weakness."

In response to a question he said, "we should not be always talking of de-escalation as Pakistan does not face any problems on the borders. If Indian forces are there, Pakistan forces are also there. There is no problem at all," he said. He reiterated the Pakistan position that bilateralism had failed and time had come for mediation or facilitation by a third party. He was of the view that the U.S. as the sole superpower could play an important role for beginning the process of dialogue.

THE HINDU

22 FEB 2002

Pak rejects ISI wind-up report

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, February 20

ISLAMABAD TODAY reacted with an angry disclaimer to a *New York Times* report that said the ISI was in the process of winding up its Kashmir and Afghanistan units which had close links with Islamic militants.

The *NYT* report said that the move wasn't publicly announced and quoted unnamed Pakistani military officers to substantiate the story.

It quoted these officers as having said that some men from the ISI's Afghanistan and Kashmir units had been transferred, the rest were being ordered to return to their units. The ISI draws many officers from the Army. The report said that though none of these recalled men had been disciplined, the US had requested permission to interview some of them. The report quoted officers as

PAKISTAN HAS reportedly succeeded in getting some European Parliament members to press for a special hearing on Kashmir in April. Although the outcome of the hearing will have no binding, New Delhi has activated its diplomatic channels to counter the Pakistani move.

HTC, New Delhi

saying that Pakistan was considering the request. "This is totally rubbish," Pak Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Khan said. "This is baseless."

The military spokesman, Major-General Rashid Qureshi wasn't available for comment.

Indian sources in New Delhi were sceptical too. They said that similar

ideas had been floated before Pervez Musharraf's January 12 speech promising to end support for fundamentalist violence. Pakistani officers had then said that officers of the ISI's Kashmir unit had been transferred to their regiments. Indian analysts seemed to believe that fresh stories of the ISI winding up operations were part of the same strategy.

The *NYT* report, however, created a stir in Government circles here. It said that though the ISI's size is an official secret, the cut according to some officers, could amount to at least 4,000 people, from 10,000.

The report recalled how the ISI, working closely with the CIA, established close ties with Islamic militants in Afghanistan during the 1980s, when the US backed efforts to support the Mujahideen forces to oust the Soviet occupation force.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Terror hits Philippines, dares US

RUBEN ALABASTRO
ZAMBOANGA, FEBRUARY 16

SUSPECTED Muslim rebels bombed a market and threw a grenade into a cinema in the southern Philippines killing four civilians on Saturday as the US stepped up its military build-up.

Dozens of people were injured in the blasts. Local officers said the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas, believed to be linked to Osama and the target of the six-month-long US-Philippine manoeuvres, could be responsible. "Most probably...this is a political message," police intelligence officer Major Jose Bayani Gucela told Reuters.

At least four people were killed and about 50 wounded when two bombs, hidden in

garbage cans, exploded in the market on the island of Jolo, about 150 km south of Zamboanga, officials said.

In Zamboanga itself, a grenade hurled from a cinema balcony into the crowd below injured four people. "We heard an explosion inside (the cinema) and people came rushing out yelling. Then a woman coated with blood came to us and said 'I'm wounded, I'm wounded,'" said Juvy Pestano, a security guard.

At an air base six km away, US special forces troops were landing at the start of their deployment, Washington's biggest expansion of the war against terror after the campaign in Afghanistan. The attacks would not alter the US force's schedule, US and Philippine military officials said.

Residents in Jolo said a letter purportedly

written by an Abu Sayyaf leader was distributed there this week warning of bombings and kidnappings if military operations against them continued. The Abu Sayyaf has bases in the interior hills of Muslim-majority Jolo and nearby Basilan. Zamboanga is a Christian-dominated city on the mainland only a short ferry ride away.

"Our intelligence report is that the Abu Sayyaf will conduct bombings and kidnappings in Zamboanga," said police officer Abdul Ghafoor Maani. Asked if that was linked to the deployment of the US troops, Maani said it appeared to be part of a general plan to "destabilise the peace and order situation".

Hundreds of US troops are in Zamboanga and on Basilan for the exercises. They will be spearheaded by 160 special forces men, who began arriving in the area on Friday. —Reuters

INDIAN EXPRESS

17 FEB 2002

Pak. stand on terrorism embarrasses Hizb

By Vinay Kumar

HD-9
17/2

NEW DELHI, FEB. 16. As a spin-off from the international anti-terror campaign spearheaded by the U.S., Pakistan-supported jihadi groups and radical pro-Pakistan militant organisations such as the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen in Jammu and Kashmir, are today finding themselves in a state of confusion.

Security analysts feel that Pakistan Government's stand against all forms of terrorism and crackdown on some of the organisations have only added to the embarrassment of the jihadi groups and the Hizb-ul-Mujahideen, founded in 1989 as the militant wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami, a social-religious organisation. The Hizb was set up to counter the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), a secular terrorist outfit with an indigenous cadre base.

After the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, banned the Lashkar-e-Taiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad on January 12, the jihadi organisations may soon face the paucity of funds and weapons. Though the Government officials who are involved with the hands-on security related jobs in Jammu and Kashmir say any reduction in the level of infiltration from across the border as well in the scale of violence could only be gauged during summer. Till then, terrorist groups could well feel the heat of their financial helpline drying up, sources say.

Analysts said Syed Salahuddin, Hizb chief based in Pakistan, had recently held meetings of the outfit's cadre in Muzaffarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and other places in Pakistan but the cadre appeared confused over what to do next in Jammu and Kashmir where inclination of several outfits seems to be finding a "Kashmiri solution" to usher in peace in the State.

As the Hizb has always stood for the integration of Jammu and Kashmir with Pakistan, it finds the situation peculiar, particularly when Gen. Mush-

arraf has declared that while Pakistan would continue its moral and political support to the Kashmir movement, no individual or organisation would be allowed to indulge in acts of terrorism in the name of Kashmir.

As the Hizb continued its promotion of Pakistani agenda in Jammu and Kashmir, it also killed several moderate Kashmiris in its bid to control and dominate the insurgency in the State. Earlier, the nature of its terror campaign indicated that the group received support, training and arms from Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) but intelligence sources suspect that ISI took a strategic shift in its stand to support and promote the Jaish-e-Mohammad. Sources say it could be because the Hizb has of late shown a tendency to tilt towards political approach.

The outfit's ceasefire move in July-August 2000 had brought a hope of a breakthrough in Kashmir problem when it had expressed its willingness to participate in talks with the Centre but the rejection by other terrorist outfits and the Muttahid Jihad Council (MJC) — an umbrella body of 17 Pakistan-based terrorist outfits — changed all that and over the past two years a new phenomenon of 'fidayeen' (suicide attacks) has marked yet another phase in terrorism.

It was the penetration of the Hizb in Jammu and Kashmir and its cadre base drawn from indigenous and foreign sources that had made it an effective terrorist group in striking all over the State at regular intervals. It remains the only group since 1994 after the JKLF of Yaseen Malik to have declared a ceasefire.

At a time when the Lashkar and the Jaish have declared, for the benefit of the international community, that their operations would be confined to Jammu and Kashmir only and not elsewhere in the country, analysts say that ground signals would need to be watched carefully in Kashmir in the days to come, particularly so when the State is slated to go to the polls later this year.

THE HINDU

17 FEB 2002

I DIDN'T HEAR SHEIKH SAY PEARL WAS DEAD: JUDGE

'Breakthrough' in a day or two, says Pakistan

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 15. Pakistan today expressed the confidence of achieving a "major breakthrough" in the next 24 to 48 hours in the case of kidnapping of *The Wall Street Journal* reporter, Daniel Pearl, from Karachi, 23 days ago.

Addressing a news conference at Lahore, the Pakistan Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, debunked the claim by Omar Sheikh, main suspect in the kidnapping, that Pearl could be dead.

Lt. Gen. (retd.) Haider's assertion came close on the heels of reports in the Pakistani media, which quoted the judge before whom Sheikh was produced on Thursday as saying that he did not hear him talk about Pearl's death.

Accusing Sheikh of changing his statements frequently, Lt. Gen. (retd.) Haider said the Government had no reason to believe him without evidence. "There is no evidence to suggest that Pearl has been killed. We cannot accept Sheikh Omar's claim as long as there is no evidence. We are expecting a major breakthrough within a day or two." The investigators had found some leads and were confident of arresting some more persons connected with the kidnapping, he said.

Significantly, the Minister talked about some "foreign elements" masterminding Pearl's abduction to sabotage the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf's visit to the United States. Earlier, Pakistan had alleged an Indian angle in the case and claimed that one of the suspects had made calls on his cell phone to "influential people" in India.

The Pakistan Foreign Minister, Abdul Sattar, during his visit to Germany, had even men-

tioned that the Pakistan police had evidence suggesting that one of the suspects had called up three important people in New Delhi. However, when India demanded evidence, there was no response from Pakistan.

The so-called "confession" by Sheikh on Thursday about the possibility of Pearl having been killed by his captors appears to have clearly caught the Pakistani authorities napping. They are also embarrassed over Sheikh's statement that he had

turned himself in to police on February 5 and that he was not apprehended on February 12.

With Gen. Musharraf on his first official visit to the U.S., the "confession" could not have come at a more inopportune time. Investigators have been under tremendous pressure to ensure the early release of Pearl as the abduction was casting a shadow on his visit.

There was a flurry of activity in Pakistan within hours of Sheikh's deposition before the judge. The Pakistan Foreign Office spokesman said Sheikh could not be relied upon as he had been making contradictory statements since he was apprehended three days ago.

Later, the Inspector-General of Sindh held a special press conference in Karachi to make the same point and emphasise that the Government did not believe that the kidnapers could have killed Pearl.

It is believed that the authorities have rounded up several other persons in connection with the case since Thursday night. Pearl went missing on January 23 when he was investigating links between the Pakistani militant groups and Richard C. Reid, "shoe bomber" arrested for allegedly trying to detonate explosives during a Paris-Miami flight in December.

Another report on Page 11

'IA plane hijacker is suspect'

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 15. The Pakistan police today said they had identified Mansur Hasnain — main architect of the December 1999 hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane from Kathmandu to Kandahar — as the main suspect who plotted the kidnapping of the U.S. journalist, Daniel Pearl.

Police are now focussing their attention on Hasnain, a senior member of the banned Islamic outfit Jaish-e-Mohammad, who along with the surrendered militant, Sheikh Omar Saeed, reportedly plotted the kidnapping of Mr. Pearl.

The attention has now turned to Hasnain as Sheikh has confessed that his role ended in luring and kidnapping Mr. Pearl. The entire plot was hatched by Hasnain, who currently holds Mr. Pearl with him, *The News* said.

Quoting top investigators, the daily said though Sheikh referred to Hasnain as Hyder or Mansur Siddiqi, police have "discovered" that he is none other than Mansur Hasnain, who was involved in the IA hijacking. "Because of that event Sheikh Omar owes his life to Mansur Hasnain alias Hyder alias Imtiaz Siddiqi," the investigator said. — PTI

THE HINDU

16 FEB 2002

Twists and turns in Pearl episode

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 15. The twists and turns in the case related to the abduction of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, from Karachi, read like a fiction. A section of the Pakistani media has raised doubts on whether, in his confession before the judge on Thursday, the main suspect, Omar Sheikh, talked of Pearl's death.

Another section of the press has reported that Sheikh, in the course of his interrogation, named Mansur Hasnain, main suspect in the December 1999 hijacking of the Indian Airlines plane to Kandahar, as the brain behind the abduction.

The News, quoted the judge, Arshad Noor Khan, as having said that he had not heard Sheikh say anything about Pearl's death. In a detailed account of the drama inside the courtroom, the daily quoted Mr. Khan as telling a group of reporters in his chamber that neither he had heard Sheikh say anything about Pearl's killing nor was there a mention of any such statement by Sheikh in the court order.

"You may, however, write anything you have heard him say," he was quoted as saying. The paper said the Advocate-General, Sindh, Raja Qureshi, who led the prosecution team in the court, also denied that Sheikh had said Pearl was dead.

The confusion over what actually transpired inside the court appears to have been confounded, following the Advocate-General's plea that "all the irrelevant people" be ordered to leave before Sheikh was produced in the court. Barring five journalists, all the others left.

The *Dawn* said Sheikh told the court in fluent English, in a low voice, that, in his view, Pearl was dead and that he did not want to defend himself. "I want to make it clear that I have my own reason," the suspect said.

Sheikh also reportedly told Mr. Khan that police did not arrest him — he surrendered to the authorities on February 5 "to save my family from harassment." Asked by the judge if he was maltreated or tortured in police custody, Sheikh, according to the paper, said: "Karachi police is better than the police of any other province in respect of maltreatment."

Sheikh said he had deposed before the court of his free will. "I understand that the U.S. is asking for my extradition." And the judge told him that "I would not be influenced by anyone."

After hearing Sheikh, Mr. Khan remanded him to police custody till February 25. A short order issued by the judge has not made any mention of Sheikh telling the court about Pearl's death.

The order said "... heard Raja Qureshi, the learned Advocate-General. Accused Ahmed Umer Saeed Sheikh, son of Saeed

Ahmed Sheikh, is present in police custody. He states that Karachi police is better than the police of any other province in the matter of maltreatment.

"He, however, has not specifically stated that he has been maltreated by police. The Advocate-General states that the identification parade of the accused is to be held before the competent magistrate and that the abductee, who is a journalist of the *Wall Street Journal*, is to be recovered on the lead of the accused and also weapons are to be recovered. As such, the remand in police custody is very material for the purpose of the investigation.

"The accused has been produced with muffled face and Raja Qureshi objected that he may not be unmuffled unless all the irrelevant people present in the court are sent outside the court. The suspect also prayed the court to provide him medical treatment."

Police 'discover' 1999 hijacker

In another report, *The News* has said police had identified Hasnain as the main suspect behind the kidnapping. He plotted the abduction with Hasnain, senior member of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad. The suspicion was based on the reported confession by Sheikh.

Quoting top investigators, the daily said though Sheikh referred to Hasnain as Hyder alias Mansur Siddiqi, police had "discovered" that he was none other than Hasnain. In exchange for the freedom of the passengers on board the hijacked flight, India released Omar Sheikh, Masood Azhar and Ibrahim Zargar. "Because of that event, Sheikh owes his life to Mansur Hasnain alias Hyder alias Imtiaz Siddiqi," the investigators reportedly said.

Police had raided Hasnain's residence in Toba Tek Singh district of Pakistan's Punjab province. Some of his relatives had also been detained.

The paper said besides indicating Hasnain's involvement, Sheikh also provided police with a graphic account of his involvement in laying a trap for Pearl, introduced to him by Hashim Qadir alias Arif, a wanted 'jehadi' activist. Hashim, who was initially considered the main suspect in the case, was presumed dead after his family told police two weeks ago that he was killed while fighting the U.S. troops in Afghanistan. But Sheikh "obliged" his interrogators by revealing that Hashim was alive and had spoken to him on his cell phone on January 31.

'Room 114, Akbar Hotel and cold coffee'

Sheikh reportedly told his interrogators that Hashim had arranged for an undercover meeting with Pearl in room number 114, Akbar International Hotel, Rawalpindi. "It was a great meeting, we ordered cold coffee

and club sandwiches and had a great chat.

"We had nothing personal against Pearl, because of his hyperactivity he caught our interest," Sheikh is reported to have told his interrogators. Pearl was abducted after Sheikh was enraged over reports of forced shaving of the beards of Muslim prisoners by American soldiers and the inhuman treatment meted out to them in Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

Sheikh had shaved his beard and changed his look by wearing dark glasses to meet Pearl in January. His personal role was restricted to planning and winning "Daniel's" trust, while the actual kidnapping was carried out by Hasnain.

'Dad is dead'

Sheikh had told police that he had drafted two e-mails and taken Daniel's pictures with a digital camera. He had received a coded message from Hasnain saying *abbaji ka intiqal ho gaya hai* (Dad has expired), meaning Pearl was killed.

Gen. Myers coming tomorrow

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 15. The Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Richard B. Myers, is arriving here on Sunday as part of the move to improve Indo-U.S. security-related ties. Though a firm window of dates is unavailable, the Chief of Army Staff, Gen. S. Padmanabhan, is expected to return the visit in April.

During his two-day visit, Gen. Myers will meet leading members of the security establishment, including the National Security Council Advisor, Brajesh Mishra, the Defence Secretary, Yogendra Narain, Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee, Gen. Padmanabhan, and Vice Chief of Naval Staff, Vice Admiral John C. De Silva.

The recently-constituted Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (CIDS), Gen. Pankaj Joshi, will give an hour-long presentation on India's security concerns.

The formation of the CIDS is a half-way house to completely integrating the three services for greater synergy and efficiency in operations.

Besides blending them at the apex level, the Andaman & Nicobar Command is the first to have been integrated at the theatre level. Since the U.S. achieved this integration sometime ago, India is keen to learn from its "initial painful experience" and Gen. Joshi is scheduled to visit Pentagon soon.

THE HINDU

10 FEB 2002

Pearl is dead, Omar tells Pak court

Karachi, February 14

Simon
THE KEY suspect in the abduction of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl told a court on Thursday that the journalist is dead. Officials said they would reserve judgment until the body was found, and the *Journal* said it remained confident Pearl was alive.

"As far as I understand, he's dead," Omar Sheikh told a court in Karachi, from where Pearl disappeared on January 23 while investigating a story on Islamic militants. He said he carried out the kidnapping under "my own free will. Right or wrong I had my reasons", he told the judge. "I think that our country shouldn't be catering to America's needs."

Omar was formally charged with kidnapping today. He was remanded

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in custody till February 25. A sullen, bespectacled Omar confessed to the crime. "I don't want to defend this case. I did this," he said. He gave no details on where or when the 38-year-old journalist was killed.

The police said Omar was arrested in Lahore on Tuesday, but Omar told the court he surrendered and had been in police custody since February 5. There was no explanation for the discrepancy.

The 27-year-old British-born Omar has a history of kidnapping Westerners, Pakistani Interior Minister Moinuddin Haider said, adding that he did not believe what the accused had said. "Until the body is found we cannot believe what Omar is saying," Haider said. "We need proof or evidence. We will continue to work on him, grind him."

The chief prosecutor in the case

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and Sind advocate-general, Raja Qureshi, also expressed caution. "I cannot trust his statement because he was not under oath."

Investigators and Government officials too warned that Omar had misled them before, saying he had told them shortly after he was arrested that Pearl was still alive. "This gentleman has been making statements and changing them," Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman Aziz Ahmed Khan said. "We cannot give any credence to any of these statements that he gives."

Steven Goldstein, spokesman for Dow Jones & Co., the *Wall Street Journal's* parent organisation, said he had not heard about Omar's statement. "We continue to remain hopeful," he said. "We remain confident that Danny is still alive."

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

15 FEB 2002

PAK. DISMISSES CLAIM

Pearl is dead, Omar Sheikh tells court

KARACHI, FEB. 14. The British-born Muslim militant, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, chief suspect in the kidnapping of the U.S. journalist, Daniel Pearl, confessed to the crime today and said he believed *The Wall Street Journal* correspondent was dead.

The Pakistani officials dismissed the militant's claim, and *The Wall Street Journal* said it remained confident that Pearl was alive.

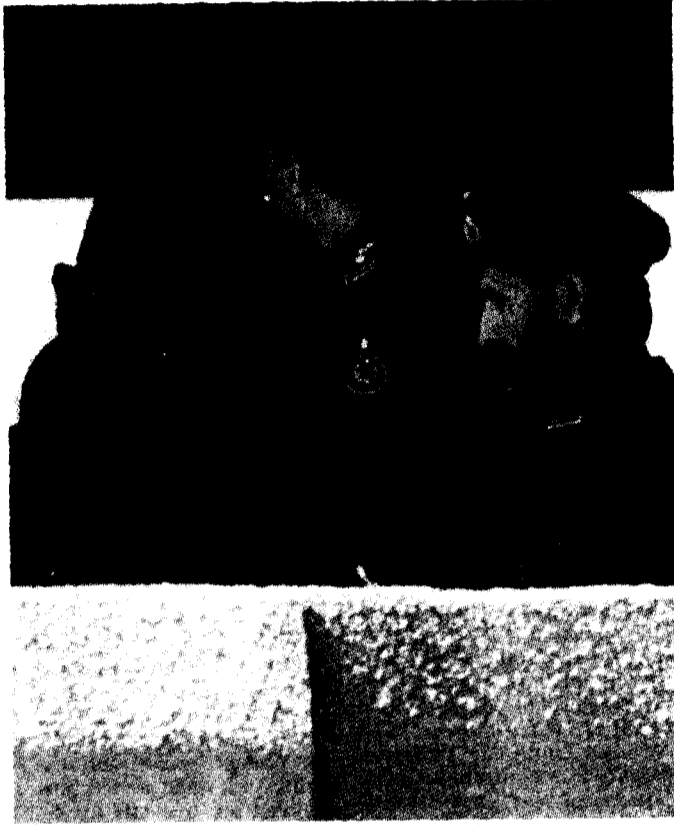
"As far as I understand, he's dead," Sheikh said in a courthouse here. Pearl disappeared from this port city on January 23 while investigating a story on Islamic militants. Sheikh said he had carried out the kidnapping of "my own free will," and "I don't want to defend this case. I did this."

His court appearance came a day after the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, met the U.S. President, George W. Bush, at the White House. Police had said Sheikh surrendered on February 12, but the militant told the court that he had been in police custody since February 5. There was no explanation for the discrepancy.

"I was not arrested. I gave myself in on February 5. I gave myself in after it became known that I was involved... to save my family from harassment," he said in a soft voice, barely audible at times.

Sheikh, brought to the courtroom in an armoured personnel carrier, quickly confessed to the kidnapping and criticised Pakistan's alliance with America. "Right or wrong I had my reasons," he told the judge. "I think that our country shouldn't be catering to America's needs."

The 27-year-old Sheikh, who has a history of



Police escort Omar Sheikh in Karachi on Thursday.
— Reuters

kidnapping Westerners — he was arrested in India in 1994 for kidnapping three Britons and an American in Kashmir — appeared sullen, bespectacled and surrounded by police with machine guns, helmets and bulletproof vests. He was formally charged with kidnapping and ordered jailed for two more weeks.

The Pakistan police quickly cast a doubt on Sheikh's statement. He had given no details on where or when the 38-year-old journalist was "killed," and just a day earlier, he had told them Pearl was alive.

"Until the body is found, we cannot believe what Omar is saying," the Pakistan

Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, said over telephone. "We need proof or evidence. We will continue to work on him, grind him, ask him where was Pearl kept and where is his body. Omar himself admitted he masterminded and planned this crime."

The Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman, Mohammed Aziz Khan, also denied Sheikh's claims.

"This gentleman has been making several statements and changing these statements," he told reporters. "We cannot give any credence to any of the statements that he gives."

Steven Goldstein, spokesman for Dow Jones & Co., *The Wall Street Journal's* parent organisation, said he had not heard about Sheikh's statement.

"We continue to remain hopeful," Mr. Goldstein said. "We remain confident that Danny is still alive." No representative from the paper was present at the court proceedings. Pearl's wife, Mariane, pregnant with the couple's first child, also did not attend. — AP

It was a guess: Musharraf

WASHINGTON, FEB. 14. The Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, has said his belief that the abducted American journalist, Daniel Pearl, was alive was just a "guess."

Asked on what basis he had said he was "reasonably sure" that Pearl was alive at a news conference after his meeting with the U.S. President, George W. Bush, Gen. Musharraf said in an interview to PBS Newshour on Wednesday, "well, it was a guess. Well, I can't be 100 per cent sure of it. But since we have closed on, honed on, on all those people involved in the crime and it's only those who have kidnapped him who are left now, I thought that we are closing in on him." — PTI

Omar confesses to Pearl kidnap

Agencies

KARACHI, Feb. 13. — British-born Islamic militant Sheikh Omar has confessed to kidnaping Daniel Pearl. But the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent's fate remained unknown, sparking off speculation that kingpin of the abduction could be someone else who was a rank higher than Omar.

"The interrogation is continuing. He is talking but he is a hard nut to crack. We hope he will come out with the truth," a senior police interrogator in this southern Pakistani port city said.

Omar (29) was flown to Karachi amid tight security after his arrest in Lahore yesterday, ending a massive manhunt involving the US Federal Bureau of Investigation. He is understood to

Reporter alive, says Musharraf

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. — Pakistani military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf today said he was "reasonably sure" US reporter Daniel Pearl was alive and held out hope he would be quickly released. "I am reasonably sure he is alive," Gen Musharraf said after an Oval Office meeting with President George W Bush. At the joint press conference President Bush praised Islamabad's efforts to find the missing reporter. — Reuters

have been under constant questioning since his arrest, both by police in Lahore and in Karachi, where the reporter disappeared

on 23 January. Police sources said Omar had told interrogators that several people were involved in the kidnapping, but had refused to identify them or give Pearl's whereabouts.

Sheikh Omar has said that he believes Pearl (38) is alive and his last telephonic contact with the "mutual friends" who are holding the reporter in Karachi was made a few days ago.

Pakistani police, maintained that the fate of Pearl remained unclear, despite Omar's arrest. "Unless we discover firm evidence about what has happened to Daniel, I would say it is unclear (if he is still alive)," Mr Syed Kamal Shah, police chief for the southern province of Sindh, said.

Yesterday, police said Omar had told them Pearl was still alive and in Karachi, where he disappeared three weeks ago.

THE STATESMAN

ON THE TRAIL OF A 'WAR CRIMINAL' ✓

THE ONGOING "CAMPAIGN" against international terrorism has already raised several political and moral issues of objective concern to the global community. In the political arena, the U.S. is eager to widen the ambit of the apparent international "war against terror" in a manner suited almost exclusively to Washington's own conventional foreign policy agenda. This explains why the U.S. has begun to see on its radar screen such countries as Iran, Iraq, North Korea and their "terrorist allies" as possible new targets. These possibly potential targets of America's attention, perhaps also its anger, must be seen in the extended context of Washington's other plans at this point. Obviously, these other plans pertain to the Bush Administration's willingness to train its "anti-terror" focus, perhaps also its military prowess, on sundry South East Asian groups with suspected links to the Al-Qaeda terrorist outfit and its architect, Osama bin Laden. With the deposed Taliban "rulers" of Afghanistan having played host to Osama as the archetypal tsar of international terrorism, the strange case of the former "Taliban Foreign Minister" will be of immense interest to the U.S. Abdul Wakil Muttawakil, the "Foreign Minister" of the U.N.-ostracised Taliban regime, is now reported to be in the custody of the U.S. military forces, although there is no authentic word about what kind of custody, if at all, that might actually amount to.

Of relevance to this situation are some morally significant moves by the U.S. on a different even if related plane. In the wake of an international outcry over America's refusal to treat as Prisoners of War (PoWs) all those it holds captive from the ranks of the Taliban and Al-Qaeda, the Bush Administration has now made a complicated legal decision. The U.S. President, George W. Bush,

remains convinced that the PoW-status as a right under international law cannot be extended to either the activists of the Al-Qaeda terrorist mafia or indeed the Taliban camp-followers. Yet, in Mr. Bush's reckoning, some relevant benefits of the Geneva Conventions could accrue to the captives belonging to the Taliban and not the Al-Qaeda as such. It is against this background that the U.S. will now have to decide Mr. Muttawakil's status as a walk-in prisoner, if the reported accounts of his virtual voluntary surrender to the new Afghan authorities (and, therefore, the U.S.) are taken as true.

In a critical sense, Mr. Muttawakil's legal status as a prize catch of the U.S.-led "war on terror" might reflect his political value to Washington. Mr. Muttawakil was a key lieutenant of the cruel Taliban leader, Mullah Omar, and his 'moderate' spokesman. So, the "Taliban Foreign Minister" is not an anti-U.S. military combatant under the various Geneva Conventions that impinge on the rules of war. Yet, the U.S. will be keen to explore the entire trail of the highest-ranking Taliban functionary in its custody with a view to tracing the genesis and expansion of the Taliban-Osama axis of terror. It remains to be seen how far such an arguable American aim of this order will also admit of the desire of the post-Taliban Afghan Government that Mr. Muttawakil be tried as a "war criminal". The Foreign Minister in the present internationally-recognised Government in Kabul, Abdullah Abdullah, wants Mr. Muttawakil to answer for the crimes that the Taliban inflicted on the Afghan people during its nefarious rule. With the U.S. having most recently praised the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, for his "abandonment" of the Taliban, Washington may consult Islamabad about the Muttawakil case. //

THE HINDU

14 FEB 2002

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FBI warns
of attacks
against U.S.

13/2
By Sridhar Krishnaswami

WASHINGTON, FEB. 12. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has warned of a possible terrorist attack against the United States or the Americans in Yemen, and distributed photographs of suspects. It has issued a nationwide alert and asked police to "detain" the suspects. *Terrorism*

One of the suspects has been identified as Yemen's 22-year old Fawaz Yahya al-Rabeei who has "Western features." But officials are not sure if he is alive or in the U.S. The FBI's information is "credible" even if it has not been corroborated by other sources, it said.

The attack could come as early as today, the alert issued on Monday said. "... recent information indicates (that) a planned attack may occur in the United States or against U.S. interests on or around February 12, 2002. One or more operatives may be involved in the attack," the FBI said in a directive to the law-enforcement agencies.

The warning comes after interviews with the Taliban and the Al-Qaeda prisoners in Afghanistan and Guantanamo Bay base in Cuba.

The FBI has listed about a dozen associates of al-Rabeei — most of whom are from Saudi Arabia and Yemen. But at least one of them possibly hails from Tunisia.

THE HINDU

13 FEB 2002

West view of terrorism biased, says Qatar

ISTANBUL, FEB. 12. An Islamic leader defended the Palestinian struggle against Israeli occupation today and accused the West of seeing terrorism as something practised only by Arabs and Muslims.

"The Western concept of terrorism reveals an effort to confine it to the product of the other, and by the other we mean specifically Arabs and Muslims," said Hamad bin Jassim al-Thani, Foreign Minister of Qatar which holds the presidency of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). He was speaking at a forum in Istanbul at which European and Islamic leaders called for joint efforts to promote West Asia peace but showed serious differences in their approach.

Sheikh Thani said there must be an equitable solution for the Palestinians, whose 16-month-old uprising against Israeli occupation has cost more than 1,000 lives, most of them Palestinian. "The desire to rid themselves of foreign domination can in no way be described as terrorism," he told Foreign Ministers and officials from the OIC and the European Union at the opening session of the forum.

The E.U. foreign policy chief, Javier Solana said "We are de-

termined to end the all too long conflict in the Middle East," and called for the OIC and the E.U. to work together on a solution. The forum opened a few days after a meeting of E.U. Foreign Ministers in Spain which highlighted sharp differences between European and U.S. policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and divisions among European countries themselves.

Mr. Solana did not shy away from criticism of some practices in Muslim countries, referring to the importance of women's rights and reiterating the E.U.'s opposition to the death penalty. But he said these were not necessarily issues that divided the Islamic and Christian worlds and noted that E.U. opposition to capital punishment was just as strong with regard to the United States as to Islamic countries.

Turkey organised the forum in Istanbul, a city spanning Europe and Asia, in response to the attacks on the United States on September 11 in which some 3,000 people were killed. "The tragedy of last September, brutal as it was, raised questions which need urgent answers," said Josep Pique, Foreign Minister of Spain which holds the E.U. presidency. — Reuters

THE HINDU

13 FEB 2002

INDIA FOR EXTRADITION OF PEARL KIDNAP SUSPECT

Sheikh Omar in Pak police net

SF-1 1392

Press Trust of India

ISLAMABAD, Feb. 12. — Sheikh Omar Saeed, prime suspect in the kidnapping of the American journalist Daniel Pearl, was arrested in Lahore today.

India tonight asked Pakistan to extradite Omar. "He should be handed over to India in good faith," the minister of state for external affairs, Mr Omar Abdullah, said.

Sheikh Omar was one of the three terrorists released by India to secure the freedom of passengers of the hijacked Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar in 1999. He was also one of the top leaders of Jaish-e-Mohammed. He emerged as the prime suspect in Pearl's kidnapping after three persons arrested in connection with the case named him as the mastermind behind the abduction of the *Wall Street Journal* correspondent.

The British-born 27-year-old Omar was handed over to Sindh police, which is investigating the case, the Punjab police IG, Mr Malik Asif Hayat, said here.

Omar, who was also connected with Al Farhan, blamed for the kidnapping and killing of five foreign tourists in Kashmir in 1995, has a history of involvement in various terrorist acts in India. He played a major role in financing and planning the attack on Parliament on 13 December last year, and on the American Center in Kolkata this year.

Omar, the son of a Pakistani cloth merchant in London, first came to limelight when the Indian police arrested him for the kidnapping and killing of the foreign tourists. Though he was jailed, Omar had to be freed in 1999 in exchange for hostages on the IC 814 flight, hijacked to Kandahar from Kathmandu.

He went out of the radar and remained elusive even though media reports said he was briefly

seen in Islamabad. American investigators suspected his hand in Pearl's abduction, thanks to its similarity with the kidnapping of the foreigners in India.

Omar might be extradited to the USA as he is wanted in connection with the 11 September attacks in Washington and New York.

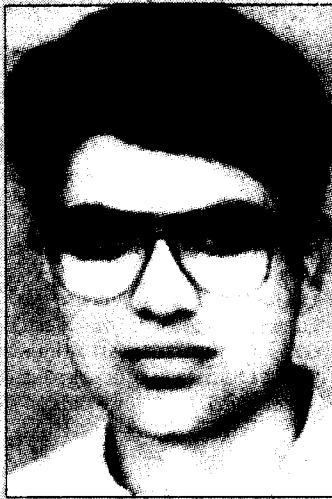
He is wanted by US intelligence agencies as he was reported to be the recipient of \$100,000 sent by Mohammad Atta, the main suspect in the terrorist attacks on the USA. The money was sent to Omar weeks before Atta along with 18 other Al Qaida militants embarked on their suicide mission. The cash was supposed to be the leftover of what has been given to them by Osama bin Laden for the operations.

If established, Omar could turn out to be the only living militant who could have direct links with the 11 September attackers. His capture could as well end up opening the Pandora's box to unravel the mystery behind the attacks in the US cities, officials said.

His extradition to the USA could also pose problems as he's a British-born citizen of Pakistani origin. The 38-year-old *WSJ* correspondent had disappeared in Karachi on 23 January while trying to make contacts with the Al-Qaida network and investigate possible links between the alleged shoe bomber Richard Reid and Osama bin Laden's outfit. 'Pak safe haven for ultras': The arrest has provided India a lever to put further pressure on General Pervez Musharraf, currently on an official visit to Washington, adds SNS from New Delhi. "The latest devel-

opment only confirms what we have been saying all along: that safe haven is being provided in Pakistan to such elements," a foreign ministry spokesperson said, reacting to Omar's arrest.

Acts of terror



■ Arrested for the kidnapping and killing of five foreign tourists in Kashmir in 1995

■ Was freed in December 1999 to secure the release of passengers of the hijacked flight IC-814 in Kandahar

■ Wanted in India for planning and financing the 13 December attack on Parliament and in the USA in connection with the 11 September attack on WTC

■ Masterminded the attack on the American Center in Kolkata on 22 January

Turn to page 6

THE STATES

TWO FORMER ISI OFFICERS DETAINED

Omar Sheikh arrested, says Pearl is alive

H20-1
1392

Gemini

By B. Muralidhar Reddy

ISLAMABAD, FEB. 12. In what appears to be a major breakthrough in the kidnapping of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, the Pakistan police today arrested the prime suspect, Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, and claimed on the basis of preliminary interrogation that Pearl was alive in Karachi.

Police in Lahore picked up the British-born Sheikh, one of the three militants released by India in December 1999 in ex-

change for the passengers of the Indian Airlines flight hijacked to Kandahar. The authorities had launched a massive manhunt for him in the last few days, after his role was established in Pearl's kidnapping.

The Deputy Inspector-General of Karachi Police, Tariq Jamil, said that Sheikh had told police that Pearl was alive. "It is a major breakthrough. He is being interrogated in Lahore and he has told the interrogators that Pearl is alive and in Karachi. It is a big relief for us. But this is just

a preliminary interrogation," he told presspersons.

The Pakistan police had every reason to be pleased with the breakthrough as they were under tremendous pressure to ensure Pearl's safe release. Islamabad was clearly worried over the prospect of the abduction casting a shadow on the three-day official meeting of the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, with the U.S. President, George W. Bush, beginning later tonight.

After arresting Sheikh, the

(Pakistan) Punjab police handed him over to the Sindh police for further investigations.

Sheikh was jailed in India in 1994 on charges of kidnapping four tourists — three Britons and an American. On his release in 1999, Sheikh came to Pakistan and was allegedly associated with the now-banned militant outfit, Jaish-e-Mohammad. Omar, son of a merchant in east London, studied at the London School of Economics.

Earlier in the day, three persons, accused of involvement in Pearl's kidnapping, were remanded to custody for 14 days by an anti-terrorist court in Karachi. They were charged with sending two emails after Pearl disappeared, containing photographs of the *Wall Street Journal* reporter with a gun to his head. The mails threatened to kill him if the United States did not release the Afghan war prisoners. The three have reportedly confessed that Sheikh gave them Pearl's photographs.

In a related development, the *New York Times* reported that Pakistan had detained two former ISI officers, Khalid Khawaja and Aslam Khan Sherani, in the hope that they could provide information on Pearl. One of them was a former pilot of Osama bin Laden. Both had ties with militant groups and trained fighters for anti-Soviet operations in Afghanistan.

Arrest vindicates our stand: India

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, FEB. 12. India today described the arrest of Omar Sheikh, leader of the banned Jaish-e-Mohammad, in Lahore, as a confirmation of the fact that Pakistan was a safe haven for terrorists. Sheikh has also emerged as the prime suspect in the kidnapping of the American journalist, Daniel Pearl, in Pakistan.

"The latest development only confirms what we have been saying all along that safe haven is being provided in Pakistan to such elements," an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson told presspersons. "We hope Pakistan will take simultaneous action in apprehending the

fugitives, criminals and terrorists whose names figure in the list of 20 that India has provided to Islamabad."

The 31-year-old Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh, a British national of Pakistani origin, is one of the three militants swapped for the passengers of the IC-814 airline hijacked to Kandahar in December 1999. He had been sent to India to secure the release of the then Harkat-ul-Ansar militant, Masood Azhar, and other Harkat leaders in Indian jails. He was arrested in 1994.

While in Tihar jail, he came into contact with Aftab Ansari alias Farhan Malik in 1995. He helped Ansari establish his empire of crime which included

kidnapping for ransom, extortion, gun-running and drug-trafficking. With Ansari, extradited from Dubai on Saturday, in CBI custody, sources said Sheikh's arrest would deal a severe blow to the alleged mastermind behind the American Center attack in Kolkata.

Sheikh had wired \$ 100,000 to Mohammad Atta, who rammed the hijacked plane in one of the twin towers of the World Trade Center on September 11, they said. The money, it is suspected, came from the Rs. 3.75-crore ransom paid through a 'hawala' channel to Ansari in Dubai when the Kolkata businessman, Partha Roy Burman, was kidnapped in July last.

THE HINDU
13 FEB 2002

Ansari had 'global' links

Statesman News Service

KOLKATA, Feb. 11. — Aftab Ansari had sent his men to training camps of the world's most dreaded terrorist outfits.

Inputs to the CID from the Central Intelligence Bureau and CBI have revealed that the USIS attack mastermind had links with Abu Nidal's outfit in Lebanon, the Armed Islamic Group of Algeria and Harkat-ul-Ansar of Pakistan. His aim was to help his men acquire skills to perpetrate "jihadi missions," the CID was told by the Central agencies.

Mr VV Thambi, special IG, CID, said: "Ansari's links with Pakistan-based terror groups are well established. The inter-connectivity in the operation pattern of these groups could have made him familiar in other parts of the world as well."

The CID is trying to gather more information about Ansari's "global"

connections developed over the past three years. He tried to spread his base by contacting Masood Azhar and also had links with Omar Sheikh.

Enjoying the ISI's backing, Ansari forged links with Pakistan-based terrorist groups like the Harkat ul-Ansar and the Jamaat ul-Fuqra.

130 ultras in UAE

NEW DELHI, Feb. 11. — Of 471 criminals and terrorists wanted by police and other investigative agencies in India, more than 130 are in Dubai and other parts of UAE, CBI sources said. — SNS

Details on page 6

A CID official said Ansari frequently visited Kolkata prior to Mr Partha Roy Burman's abduction last July. His closeness to the Hizbul Mujahideen provided him a channel to fan out to where the group has a

strong presence.

Among other terror outfits named by the Central agencies are the Abu Sayyaf Group of the Philippines, the Hezbollah (Party of God) of Lebanon and Iran's Mujahideen Khalq Organisation.

A Delhi Police officer said assistance of the Israeli-based International Policy Institute for Counterterrorism is being sought to learn more about terrorist groups operating on a global scale.

While Gujarat Police awaits Ansari's arrival in the state, his associate, Raju Sharma, was brought to Rajkot today, adds SNS from Gandhinagar.

Police would produce him in court tomorrow to seek a week's remand. The police commissioner, Mr Upendra Singh, said during preliminary investigation, Raju had denied links in the cases of kidnapping and circulating fake currency, registered against him. "Evidence against him is sufficient, we are trying to establish concrete links."

THE STATESMAN

12 FEB 2002

2 more held in Pearl case

Islamabad, February 10

PAKISTANI POLICE have made two more arrests in the search for kidnapped US journalist Daniel Pearl but the alleged mastermind, British-born Islamic extremist Sheikh Omar, remained at large today.

Islamabad police senior superintendent Nasir Khan Durrani said the two men were rounded up in the capital, bringing to around 16 the number of people arrested since Pearl went missing on January 23.

"They have been detained for verification of some reports," he said. "The arrests relate to some phone calls they made from a mobile telephone set."

Police laid their first charges in the case on Friday, when they booked three men who have admit-

ted to sending e-mails containing threats to kill Pearl and photos showing him in chains with a gun at his head. But they have failed to locate four chief suspects, including Omar.

Omar is said to be a leader of the Jaish-e-Mohammad militant group, which is banned in Pakistan and listed as a terrorist outfit in the United States. The group has denied any role in the kidnapping.

A US embassy spokesman would not comment on the case yesterday, saying only that the FBI agents were "continuing and we're working closely with Pakistani authorities".

The three men charged included a former Pakistani police intelligence officer and two cousins said to be Jaish members.

They told police after three days of "intense interrogation" that they

were ordered by Omar to send the e-mails.

Meanwhile, police have said the key suspect in the kidnapping of *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl may have fled to Pakistan's most populous province, police said, insisting that they still hope to free Pearl soon.

Kamal Shah, police chief of Sindh province, yesterday said Ahmad Omar Saeed Sheikh may have left Karachi and "was reported to be in the Punjab" — a sprawling province that runs along Pakistan's border with India. He said investigators were trying to track Saeed.

"We feel we are close," he said. "We can't give you a timeframe. But we don't think we are far off."

Police believe Saeed, a British-born Islamic militant, masterminded the kidnapping of Pearl, who has

been missing since January 23.

Most of Saeed Sheikh's family live in the Punjab. In an attempt to flush Saeed out, police have detained several of his family members, including his 90-year-old grandfather, Ismail.

Some, including Ismail, have since been released, although police are still holding two of Saeed's cousins.

In a telephonic interview, Ismail said, "I am an old man. Please don't drag me into this."

"The police freed me perhaps because I am an old man. They wanted to know about Omar."

Pakistan's Interior Minister, Moinuddin Haider, confirmed yesterday that Saeed is a prime suspect, the first time the government has publicly connected him to the case.

Agencies



Released Taliban prisoners enter the International Committee of the Red Cross with their identification cards to receive payments in Kabul on Sunday.

34 more detainees reach Cuba

Guantanamo Bay, Feb 10

ANOTHER 34 al-Qaida and Taliban fighters captured in the US campaign in Afghanistan have landed here, bringing the total number of detainees held in Cuba to 220.

A group of 28 arrived on Thursday, the first transfer of prisoners after a two-week hiatus. Spain, Yemen, Britain and France closely monitored the process. These countries reportedly have nationals among the fighters captured in the US-led campaign to rid Afghanistan of terrorists.

International outcry over the prisoners' treatment in the open-air maximum security prison was thought by some as the reason the US military suspended the transfers, though Pentagon officials insisted the delay was because of the need to build more makeshift cells.

AFP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

HD-12
11/2
WAR ON TERROR / MILITARY CHIEFS DRAW UP STRATEGY

U.S. plans global campaign

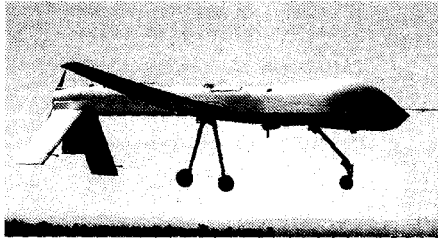
WASHINGTON, FEB. 10. America's top military officials are preparing a global campaign plan for the battle against terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, including an assault on Iraq, to be handed to the U.S. President, George Bush.

The joint chiefs of the defence staff are said to be in the "final stages" of drawing up what one Washington official described as "America's most extensive war plan since the Second World War".

The plan is the culmination of weeks of work by each of America's six unified combat commands, including Central Command, which covers Afghanistan as well as most of West Asia and Southern Asia; and also draws on consultations with the Central Intelligence Agency and the State Department. It provides options, stretching years into the future, for putting into effect Mr. Bush's pledge, in last month's "state of the union" address, to defeat terrorists and terrorist states, and to tackle regimes that threaten America and its allies with chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

Included in the plan, according to officials, will be a suggested order of action, with first priority given to finishing off al-Qaeda inside Afghanistan. Somalia, Sudan and Yemen continue to be candidates for military action, in order to deny al-Qaeda members safe havens.

Military action aimed at ousting Saddam Hussein from control of Iraq, while seen as



A pilotless aircraft of the CIA in operation over the plains of Afghanistan recently. This advanced craft proved very useful in the Afghanistan campaign and is likely to be used extensively in any U.S. war on "rogue nations". —

Reuters

urgent, would not begin until the end of this year at the earliest. "The plan is to run fairly extensive preparations, then give Saddam one last chance," said an official closely allied with the Pentagon. "This is in the 'urgent but not desperate' class."

Next month Dick Cheney, the U.S. Vice-President, is to make his first trip abroad since he took office, with stops in 11 countries in the West Asian region, including four that border on Iraq, to bolster support for an extended war on terrorism and states that threaten their neighbours with weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Cheney will begin with two days in Britain for talks with the Prime Minister,

Tony Blair, *The Sunday Telegraph* has learned. "That's important, to make clear that we see eye to eye," said one administration official. Another said: "We will continue to work very closely with Blair."

There is no doubt in Washington that the administration will tackle Iraq militarily, short of a complete turnabout by Mr. Saddam Hussein on weapons inspections. Last week Colin Powell, the U.S. Secretary of State, told Congress that the President was considering a "regime change" and "the most serious set of options one might imagine" for dealing with Mr. Saddam Hussein. He said Mr. Bush was prepared for America to do it alone if necessary.

Officials say that the purpose of Mr. Cheney's tour, which will include Kuwait, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, is to convey to Arab leaders that Mr. Bush is "deadly serious" in his intention to pursue the war on terrorism. Iraq would be part of Mr. Cheney's talks agenda, officials said, but "not the dominant topic". One said: "He will lay down the law, and speak plainly and bluntly, in a way that will leave nobody in any doubt that we mean business."

Diplomats from the region have been quietly telling Washington that Arab governments are likely to acquiesce in action against Saddam, so long as they are confident that the dictator will be toppled.

— ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

THE HINDU

11 FEB 2002

Aftab Ansari held in UAE, brought home

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Aftab Ansari, the alleged mastermind of the recent attack on the American Center in Kolkata, was arrested in Dubai on Saturday and brought to Delhi by a CBI team.

The announcement of Ansari's arrest was made by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee at an election rally in Meerut. Although Mr Vajpayee acknowledged the role played by the Indian government in effecting the arrest, he refused to disclose any other details.

Later in the day, CBI chief P.C. Sharma stated that Ansari, along with another suspect, had been brought to the capital by a CBI

team. On January 25, Interpol had issued a red corner notice against the Dubai-based criminal who is wanted in India for his involvement in a number of cases, including the kidnap of Kolkata businessman Partha Roy Burman and the January 22 attack on the American Center.

Soon after the attack, Ansari had reportedly called a police official in Kolkata and claimed that

he had engineered the shootout to avenge the killing of his associate, Asif Reza Khan, in Gujarat.

Ansari gained notoriety for his criminal activities in Uttar Pradesh. In 1994, he was arrested under Tada and lodged in Tihar jail. During his five-year stay in jail, he met Jaish-e-Mohammed leader Maulana Masood Azhar. Thus began his ties with terrorist outfits. Soon after his release from jail, he established a strong gang that was

involved in a number of kidnaping and extortion cases.

According to intelligence agencies, the gangster used the Rs 3.75 crore secured as ransom from the Roy Burman kidnaping to support terrorist activities.

He is suspected to have sent \$100,000 to Ahmad Omar Sheikh, a British national who is an associate of Masood Azhar. Omar Sheikh reportedly sent the \$100,000 to Mohammed Atta, the leader of the hijackers who rammed planes into the World Trade Center in New York and the Pentagon in Washington on September 11, 2001.

Although India has an extradition

treaty with the UAE, the quick repatriation of the gangster is being ascribed to mounting pressure from the U.S. The UAE authorities have generally been reluctant to cooperate with the Indian authorities and it is no secret that Mumbai underworld gangster Dawood Ibrahim has moved in and out of Dubai with impunity despite the fact that he heads the most wanted list of the



Ansari at the CBI headquarters in New Delhi on Saturday

Mumbai police.

Addressing the Meerut rally earlier in the day, an obviously delighted Mr Vajpayee said the UAE government had done well to arrest Ansari and extradite him. "The government in the Gulf country has sided with us and he is being brought to Delhi," Mr Vajpayee said, without mentioning Ansari's name. He added that the gangster had fled to Pakistan before relocating to Dubai, where he was held.

HINDUSTAN TIMES

10 FEB 2002

War against terrorism turns into war against nations

IN IDENTIFYING Iran, Iraq and North Korea as an axis of evil, President Bush has reaffirmed his determination to convert the battle against terrorism into a battle against specific nations. Now that the war in Afghanistan has been won, Mr Bush has the option of shifting his attention to terrorist networks all over the world, including the developed countries. A concerted attack on drug trafficking, for instance, would hurt the financial support base of terrorist groups. Instead, Mr Bush has chosen to shift the focus to other nations.

The problems with this axis-of-evil approach are obvious enough. The links between the three countries are rather tenuous. Iran and Iraq, in fact, fought one of the longest wars of the twentieth century. And Mr Bush's advisors must know the risks of attacking Iran. Whatever they think of the political system in that country, the Muslim world considers Iran an Islamic democracy. An attack on Iran will immediately strengthen the argument of terrorist groups that the war on terrorism is actually a war on Islam.

In choosing to ignore these obvious weaknesses, President Bush may have fallen prey to the momentum generated in the United States by the war against terror. With 9/11 bringing the American nation together, the dominant emotion was one of nationalism. And nationalism is best mobilised against another nation. The Taliban helped provide President Bush a target nation. But now that they are no longer there, Mr Bush has to find other nations to target.

The focus on nations, rather than terrorist institutions, also helps ignore the cracks 9/11 created in some of the President's ideological founda-

tions. With civilian aircraft being flown into the World Trade Centre, it was clear that the President's proposed missile defence system could end up being useless against a terrorist attack. But by shifting the focus from terrorist groups to nations, the issue becomes one of whether rogue states will build nuclear missiles. The nuclear missile defence system then becomes relatively easier to defend.

But keeping the focus on nations is not without its costs, particularly for the coalition against terrorism. Mr Bush may be able to convince

the task.

This coalition will not be as easy to build as the one against Afghanistan. The initial horrific global reaction to 9/11 has receded. And other nations are bound to suspect that the choice of targets has more to do with American likes and dislikes than with actual support to terrorist groups. The alliance will then have to be built brick by brick. And Pakistan will be a very important brick. Attacking Iran or Iraq will be much easier with an Islamic ally like Pakistan. If President Bush is to woo Pakistan all over again, it can only mean exerting some pressure on India to offer concessions.

As and when this pressure does mount India is bound to look to its other friends. There is some momentum being gathered towards creating an alliance of India, Russia and China. But even if such an alliance does come through, the prospects of China backing India against Pakistan are not too bright. China supported Pakistan's nuclear programme and it is in Beijing's interests to ensure that global perceptions of India do not go beyond the dispute over Kashmir.

A much more effective strategy to ward off the pressures of American unilateralism would be to ensure the focus of current global concerns remains on terrorism. A sharp focus on terrorist organisations, with clear cut global plans for action, will make it that much more difficult for any nation, including the United States, to convert the war against terrorism into a war against their favourite enemy. But in order to take the lead in creating such a sharp global focus on terrorism alone, India would first have to show the world that its own war against terrorism goes beyond its dispute with Pakistan.

POLITALK NARENDAR PANI

Americans that their pet hates, Iraq, Iran and North Korea, should be attacked. But other countries have other enemies. And even when a country shares its adversary with the United States, it may have a very different opinion about what needs to be done. South Korea is bound to be much more wary of starting a war with its northern neighbour than the US.

President Bush has, somewhat typically, chosen to ignore these less comfortable facts about international coalitions. He has unilaterally chosen the next targets. And to overcome local squeamishness he has given himself the right to act in an ally's territory even if without that government's support.

But such unilateralism goes better in a State of the Union address than in the reality of international relations. The US may be the sole remaining superpower, but it is not the world's only major power. If it is to actually target any of the countries it has named, it will have to build an international coalition for

The Economic Times

8 FEB 2002

N Korea hits back at US with 'empire of devil' tag

Seoul, February 8

NORTH KOREA today labelled the United States the 'empire of devil' as it denounced it for seeking the biggest rise in defence spending since the early 1980s.

"Though it has the largest number of weapons of mass destruction in the world, the US is sharply increasing military expenditure," the Korean central news agency (KCNA) said.

"This clearly proves that the US, 'empire of devil,' is posing a grave threat to the world peace and stability," it said. In his state of the Union speech last week, Bush labelled North Korea, Iran and Iraq an 'axis of evil' and said North Korea was building weapons of mass de-

struction while letting its people starve. Bush later unveiled spending proposals for 2003 that seek a \$ 379 billion dollar defence budget to underwrite the US-led war on terrorism.

Meanwhile, Korean religious groups have accused US President George W Bush of escalating tension on the Korean peninsula through a hard-line policy towards North Korea that culminated with last week's 'axis of evil' remark, Korean news agency, Yonhap reported.

About 20 Buddhist groups, led by the Buddhist solidarity for engagement reform, said on Wednesday they would hold a joint press conference to express opposition to Bush's planned visit to Seoul from February 19-21.

They blamed the Bush administration for throwing the world into a state of war through its military action in Afghanistan and for hanging a shadow of war over the Korean peninsula by designating North Korea part of an 'axis of evil' that includes Iraq and Iran. The Korean national council of churches (KNCC) also said that it denounces Bush for declaring 2002 as a year of war and defining the north as a dangerous enemy.

"Should the Bush administration truly wish for world peace, it should respect spirit of inter-Korean summit declaration and contribute to peace and stability on Korean peninsula through reconciliation and cooperation," it said.

AFP, Seoul

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Indo-Nepal bid to fight rebels

FROM SEEMAGUHA

New Delhi, Feb. 7: Faced with the respective threats of terrorism and insurrection, India and Nepal are finally waking up to each other's concerns.

The two-day home secretary level discussion between the two countries has assumed great significance as both governments are working out a common strategy to fight terrorists and criminals who have long used the porous Indo-Nepal border to their advantage.

The Maoist insurrection in the Himalayan kingdom has helped make the Nepalese establishment realise the gravity of the problem faced by India in combating terrorists who operate from Nepalese soil.

"What would once be dismissed as India's paranoia and eternal carping about ISI using Nepal has a base to launch attacks into India, is now being taken much more seriously,"

said a senior official.

India wants Nepal to closely monitor the large number of unauthorised madarsas and mosques that have mushroomed along the India-Nepal border in recent years. Indian intelligence agencies believe these are the "hotbeds of terrorism".

Officials say many of these madarsas and mosques on the Nepalese side of the border are being used as storehouses for weapons which are sent out to terrorists and criminals hired by Pakistan's ISI to carry out terrorist attacks on targets in India. The West Bengal government is already working towards regulating unauthorised madarsas and mosques on the Indian side of the border.

The common threat has lent a certain urgency to working out a coordinated strategy to combat terrorism. It has also led to a warmth and openness in the fourth round of home secretary level talks, generally marred

by suspicion and mutual recrimination.

Home secretary Kamal Pandey and his Nepalese counterpart, Keshav Rajbhandari, had an exchange of views and hope to put in place a legal framework to ensure that "wanted" terrorists and criminals do not escape to the neighbouring country.

Indian intelligence has long considered Nepal as the getaway point for both criminals and terrorists fleeing from Indian police and security forces. Kathmandu has often decried the fact that the Maoist insurgents threatening the Himalayan regime found a safe haven in North Bengal. There was always suspicion that Indian authorities were encouraging the anti-government forces in Nepal.

Much of the problems in the past were because of a lack of coordination between the agencies. For instance, the border is manned by the BSF on the Indian side, but intelligence is forwarded by the state authorities.

THE TELEGRAPH

8 FEB 2002

France slams US policy on war against terror

Washington, February 7

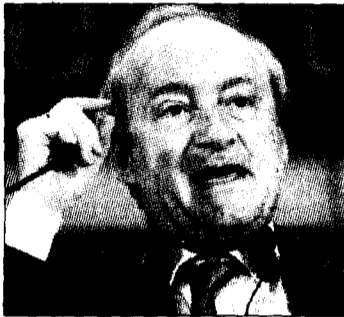
THE GULF between the US and Europe over Washington's foreign policy widened yesterday when France's foreign minister delivered an outspoken attack on America's policy on terror war.

France Foreign Minister Hubert Védrine said that Europeans "are friends of the United States and will remain so". But, "We are threatened today by a new simplism which consists in reducing everything to the war on terrorism. We cannot accept that idea. You have got to tackle the root causes, the situations, poverty, injustice."

He said US rhetoric was a confirmation of the fact that the Bush administration approached foreign policy "unilaterally, without consulting anyone, based on their interpretation and on their interests".

In the hardest-hitting European assault yet on Washington's world view, Védrine said US support for the hardline Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, was "mistaken" and "dangerously simplistic".

Védrine said Europeans were



HUBERT VEDRINE

"unanimous in not supporting the West Asia policy of the White House" and thought it was a "mistake to blindly accept the policy of pure repression" conducted by Sharon. President George Bush, who is to receive Sharon in Washington today, has said it is up to the Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, to do "a better job" to end what he calls the terror being inflicted on Israel.

Védrine said France was instead backing a proposal with its EU allies for a formal Israeli acknowledgement of the need for a Palestinian state and elections in the Palestinian territories that would give the winner a

mandate to negotiate peace.

The minister's attack comes amid a chorus of dismay in Europe at Bush's state of the union speech last week in which he named Iran, Iraq and North Korea as sponsors of terrorism in an "axis of evil".

The EU's foreign policy chief, Javier Solana, has conceded that there was a possible link between Iran and the Palestinian Authority in the form of a shipload of weapons intercepted by Israel last month in the Red Sea.

But EU officials say they will resist any US attempt to make an enemy of Iran in the widening war on terrorism. Europe believes trade, cooperation and support for the reform process and opposition moderates is the best way forward for Iran. Diplomats said that while the EU broadly shared US concerns about Iran acquiring nuclear weapons and about its support for anti-Israel groups including Hizbollah, Hamas and Islamic Jihad, it remains dubious about Washington's charges that Iran exports global terror or has links with al-Qaida.

The Guardian

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U.S. wants Jakarta to crack down on militants

By Amit Baruah

SINGAPORE, FEB. 5. Indonesia's reluctance to act in tandem with Malaysia and Singapore to arrest and crack down on terrorist suspects is coming under increased focus in South-East Asia. As the United States makes a model out of the Philippines in the second front (after Afghanistan) in the battle against terrorism, Washington is clearly dissatisfied with what the Indonesian President, Megawati Sukarnoputri, is doing on the issue.

In a recent speech, the U.S. Ambassador to Singapore, Franklin L. Lavin, said: "Many press reports have stated that several of the terrorists who were planning the attacks here in Singapore have fled to Indonesia. President Megawati has stated that she fully supports the global anti-terrorist coalition so we look forward to Indonesia's follow-up as well."

Mr. Lavin may have spoken gently; but he's made the American position clear. As the U.S. moves to restore ties with the Indonesian military, Washington wants Ms. Megawati's Government to crack down on militant elements within Indonesia. A top cleric, who hails Osama bin Laden and is be-

lieved to be linked to the Jemaah Islamiah group busted in Singapore, was questioned after considerable delay, and then let off for lack of evidence. All this clearly, is going against Indonesia.

But, given the fact that neighbouring Philippines is being totally cooperative in battling terrorism, the Indonesians can come under considerable pressure from the United States. Groups like the Laskar Jihad and several other militant outfits have had no problems in functioning as Ms. Megawati has prevaricated in her domestic battle against Islamist militants. In his speech, Mr. Lavin suggested that the United States might strike terrorist groups before they were able to launch any operation. "We must remain on the offensive - including, sometimes, by using military force," America's envoy to Singapore said. "In this (South-East Asian) region, there are particular challenges and sensitivities. The easy, rapid, and frequent movements of terrorists within the region again tells us that a better job needs to be done with border controls. Some of this is police work and some of this is re-examining visa requirements," Mr. Lavin said.

US, India military teams talk

The US navy delegation is led by the commander of the 7th Fleet Vice Admiral J. Wallace Metzger.

His Indian counterpart will be Vice Admiral S.V. Gopalachari, deputy chief of naval staff.

The two navies had despite US imposed sanctions carried out joint exercises in search and rescue in the Arabian Sea.

The US has also invited the Indian navy to join the coalition navies to jointly patrol Malacca straits and keep it free

of pirates.

The proposal is pending Cabinet clearance.

Chahal described the first day of his meeting with Campbell as 'path-breaking'.

"The coming together of the US army, a technology superpower and the Indian Army with its exceptional experience in combating terrorism would prove to be a winning combination," Chahal said.

The ESG on air force is scheduled to be held on February 18 at the US Pacific Com-

mand headquarters at Hawaii. The IAF team will be led by Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal S.G. Inamdar.

Meanwhile in Thiruvananthapuram, US ambassador to India Robert Blackwill, acknowledged that while Washington was not going to mediate on the Kashmir issue, "what we will do is to tell Pakistan and India to talk about it."

He told journalists it was his impression that both India and Pakistan had decided to give "diplomacy a chance."

INDIAN EXPRESS

5 FEB 2002

~~ANTI-TERROR WAR~~ / ~~TEHERAN AIDING AL-QAEDA: U.S.~~

5/2 10.12 Terrorism

Iran warns against attack

TEHERAN, FEB. 4. Iran today warned the United States that any attack against it would be an "irreparable mistake" and denied U.S. claims it was harbouring Al-Qaeda members.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman, Hamid-Reza Asefi also dismissed the U.S. President, George W. Bush's charge last week that Iran was developing weapons of mass destruction. "I only hope the Americans will not make such a huge, irreparable mistake, Mr. Asefi told reporters after being asked about the possibility of a U.S. attack on the Islamic republic. "It would be better if American leaders expressed themselves on the basis of real facts and not their imagination, and if they furnished some proof," he said. "The recent U.S. accusations against Iran are inspired and dictated by the Zionist regime, which shows yet again that the Americans are not sincere when they say they want rapprochement with Iran." The U.S. Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld said yesterday there "isn't any doubt" that Teheran



Iranian men protesting against the U.S. shout "death to America" at the mausoleum of the founder of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, in Teheran. — AFP

helped Al-Qaeda and Taliban members escape into Iran from neighbouring Afghanistan. "We deny all reports about the presence of Al-Qaeda members in Iran," Mr. Asefi said. "As far as we are concerned, our borders are closed and we are blocking

all illegal entry." Mr. Asefi's remarks come amid a war of words between the two foes, who have not had diplomatic relations since 1980, several months after Islamic radicals seized the U.S. Embassy in Teheran. — AFP, AP

THE HINDU

5 FEB 2002

Jaish calls truce outside Kashmir

FROM MUKHTAR AHMAD
IN SRINAGAR AND
OUR DELHI BUREAU

Feb. 4: Declared a terrorist outfit by the US and on the run in Pakistan, the frontline militant organisation, the Jaish-e-Mohammad, has decided "to immediately suspend all activities in rest of India".

"We will now exclusively confine our activities in Ladakh, Jammu and Kashmir," Mohammad Shams-ud-Din Haider, the military spokesman for Jaish, said. Jaish was earlier led by Masood Azhar, a Pakistani national who stepped aside after General Pervez Musharraf cracked down on militant groups operating from Pakistan.

"An important meeting presided over by the chief commander Abu Hijrat and attended by top commanders was held in which the decision was taken," the spokesman said in a statement in Urdu released to the local press.

Jaish was blamed for the December 13 attack on Parliament that precipitated the current crisis with Pakistan with troops in eyeball-to-eyeball confrontation on the border.

Observers interpret its decision today as resulting from pressure from Pakistan to stay out of militant actions in areas outside Jammu and Kashmir.

Islamabad can justify incidents in Kashmir as emanating from what it calls an "indigenous freedom struggle", but attacks such as the Parliament strike only add to the international pressure on Musharraf to clean up his house. Besides, such actions have the potential to trigger a war when the situation on the border is taut with tension.

"The cadre were directed to suspend all their activities immediately outside Kashmir and henceforth continue their activities only in the state of Jammu and Kashmir for

freedom of the state," the Jaish statement said.

After the suicide attack on the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly on October 1, Jaish had admitted responsibility first — even indicating that Pakistani nationals had carried out the strike — only to later deny any involvement. At least 35 people, including police and paramilitary personnel, and Assembly staff, had died in the attack.

Musharraf banned Jaish and another group operating in Kashmir, the Lashkar-e-Toiba, last month amid widespread raids across Pakistan in which hundreds of activists of the two outfits were rounded up.

Azhar himself is under detention. As Pakistan sought to distance itself from these groups under US pressure, Azhar stepped down from Jaish and a Kashmiri religious leader took over to give the organisation an "indigenous" look.

Jaish's decision now appears to be a continuation of that process. "We have directed all our cadre to return to Jammu and Kashmir in order to continue the struggle," the statement added.

Inherent in that direction is admission of the fact that Jaish activists are operating outside Jammu and Kashmir. "The suicide attacks will continue in Kashmir and Jaish-e-Mohammad has enough ammunition to fight for another five years," the group said.

The statement alluded to another concern voiced frequently by India — and which has received tacit acknowledgement in the West — that foreign mercenaries had been entering Kashmir through Pakistan while claiming "indigenisation".

"Recently, a large number of locals joined the outfit and the ratio now is 75 per cent Kashmiri militants and 25 per cent foreigners."

Delhi could not have wished for a more authentic endorsement of its long-held position that militancy in Kashmir was being fuelled from outside.



A mosque where two militants took shelter seen from a jawan's position at the window of a nearby house at Sopore. (PTI) ■ See P 8

US, Russia in Delhi arms race

FROM SUJAN DUTTA

New Delhi, Feb. 4: Washington and Moscow come to South Block this week, each offering India arms and munitions, training and support as the defence establishment loosens its purse-strings and militarises with gusto.

Army top brass of the US and India met today after five years to hold talks that the director-general of military operations, Lt Gen. J.S. Chahal, described as "path-breaking". Major Gen. James Campbell, the commander of the US army under its Pacific Command, led the American side.

In the morning, Russian foreign minister Igor Ivanov

met defence minister George Fernandes.

Tomorrow, Russia's deputy Prime Minister Ilya Klebanov comes on a visit as the head of a Moscow team for a three-day joint working group meet where India will push hard to acquire the aircraft-carrier *Admiral Gorshkov* on favourable terms and also lease at least one nuclear submarine.

Behind the scenes of bonhomie between the representatives of the militaries and the official statements, a quiet game of diplomacy is being played out. India is largely dependent on Russia for much of its military supplies for historical reasons.

With the US and the West lifting sanctions and increasing

their military sales, New Delhi now finds it has other avenues to explore.

At the same time, it can neither whittle down its dependence on Russia dramatically nor can it take an Open Sesame policy on Russian military imports.

There are voices within the US establishment, it fears, that will argue for increased American defence equipment sales to Pakistan to ensure a regional balance in South Asia.

The meeting of the Indian and American army top brass is the first in a series of (revived) inter-services meetings of the executive steering groups.

The naval meeting begins in Chennai tomorrow and the air

forces' in Hawaii on February 18. The Indian Navy team will be led by deputy chief of naval staff Vice-Admiral S.V. Gopalachari. His counterpart, Vice-Admiral James Wallace Metzger, commander of the US' Seventh Fleet, is already in the country.

In Hawaii, the IAF delegation will be led by the vice-chief, Air Marshal S.G. Inamdar.

On the talks with Russia, defence ministry sources said this is the closest India has come to taking the *Gorshkov* after negotiations for it first began in 1994. The *Gorshkov* was decommissioned by the Russian Navy in 1978. In over half-a-decade, the negotiations have been mired in controversy and bureaucratic wrangling.

Pak haven for Taliban: Report

London, Feb. 3 (PTI): Most of the Taliban and al Qaida members have fled from Afghanistan to Pakistan, thanks to the ISI, a leading British newspaper reported today.

The *Sunday Telegraph* correspondent Christina Lamb, who had been regularly visiting Pakistan for 15 years and lived two years there, wrote: "My own experience shows that the intelligence services, particularly the military intelligence ISI, are completely out of control of the federal government.

"It is not surprising. Equipped, trained and funded by the CIA which used them to funnel arms to the Afghan rebels to fight Soviet forces throughout the 1980s, the ISI has got used to running its own show, supporting militant Islamic groups fighting in Kashmir and Chechnya in addition to Afghanistan.

"It is, therefore, to Pakistan that most of the Taliban and al Qaida have fled from Afghanistan. The whereabouts of many Taliban

ministers seem to be known in Islamabad, yet no one does anything about them.

"This is also the base for numerous Islamic organisations such as Harkat-ul Mujahideen, Lashkar-e-Toiba and many others, identified as terrorist groups by the CIA. This is the world that Pearl (Daniel Pearl of *The Wall Street Journal*) was trying to penetrate," the report said.

Stating that Pakistan is becoming one of the most perilous places in the world to be a reporter, she said over the past decade, partly because of the failure of the state education system, madarsas have opened in most towns. "Like many western journalists," Lamb said, "I have visited these places, listened to turbaned mullahs and young boys almost frothing at the mouths as they described our homelands as great satans — yet never imagining that this naked hatred might be targeted at one of our own."

She said in Pakistan, where much of the media is on the payroll of intelligence serv-

es, there is no concept of independent reporting. "I lost count long ago of the number of times I have been asked here if I am really a spy — even by educated people I know well — and not just for me, but for the Indians and the Russians too."

As regards Pearl, she said he is known as an extremely thorough investigative reporter, often critical of his own government — producing, for example, a series of front-page articles in 1998 saying that the supposed chemical weapons factory bombed by the US in Sudan was, in fact, a pharmaceuticals plant. Yet he has been accused by his captors of being an American spy.

"For all Pakistan's new eagerness to be a friend of the West, it remains a military regime where there are women in jail because they have been raped and cannot produce the necessary four male witnesses, and where I can walk out of my hotel and buy an AK-47 assault rifle for less than 100 pounds in the pharmacy on Jinnah road."

Bush repeats warning to Iran, Iraq, N Korea

REUTERS
WASHINGTON/KABUL, FEBRUARY 2

PRESIDENT George W. Bush, planning the biggest US military build-up since the Cold War, issued his third warning in a week on Friday to "axis of evil" countries he accuses of seeking nuclear, germ or chemical weapons.

He was condemned in Iran as a blood-thirsty maniac and in North Korea as a moral leper, while Russia said Washington should not try to turn its war on terrorism into a campaign against individual nations.

Bush, who first condemned Iran, Iraq and North Korea as the "axis of evil" in his State of the Union address on Tuesday, threatened the countries again on Thursday and returned to the theme on Friday at a meeting of his Republican Party.

"People say, 'What are the consequences?' They will find out in due course if they can't get their house in order. The US will do whatever it takes to defend our security," Bush said. "Make no mistake about it, if you threaten us with weapons of mass destruction, if you threaten our allies and friends with weapons of mass destruction, we will do whatever it takes to protect our people," he said.

North Korea said Bush's comments this

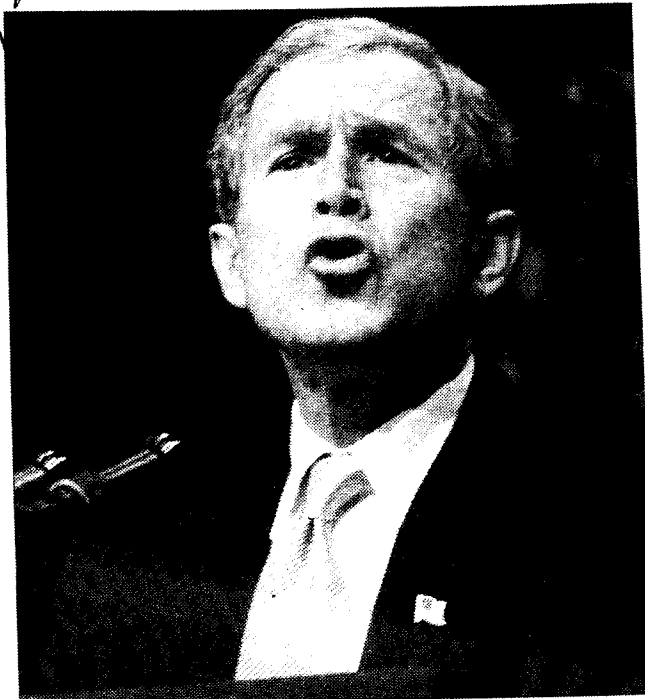
week were little short of declaring war and accused his administration of "political immaturity and moral leprosy".

In Iran, influential cleric Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati called Bush a "bloodthirsty maniac". In a sermon, the hard-line Ayatollah said "America thinks it can threaten and attack other countries by making terrorism charges."

Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov restated Moscow's insistence that the US-led war against terrorism in Afghanistan, launched in response to the September 11 attacks that killed about

3,100 people, must not be extended to other countries. "It is unacceptable in any circumstances for the fight against terror-

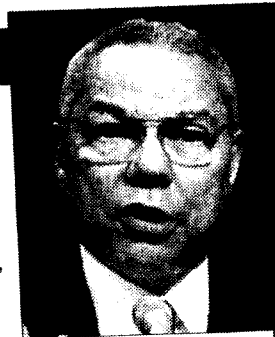
ism to be conducted with the aim of achieving one or another political aim concerning specific states or regimes," Ivanov said.



US President George Bush at the GOP retreat at Greenbrier resort in White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia on Friday. Reuters

Powell offers assurances on Korea

NEW YORK: Three days after President Bush declared North Korea part of an "axis of evil" seeking to acquire weapons of mass destruction, Secretary of State Colin Powell tried to reassure South Korea on Friday that the US remains willing to hold talks with the Stalinist government in Pyongyang. In a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Han Seung-soo, in New York, Powell sought to ease South Korean concerns that the president's remarks could destabilise the Korean peninsula, but he did not back away from Bush's assertion that North Korea poses a threat to international security, according to a State Department spokesman. He said there would be no preconditions for talks and urged North Korea to remove troops and artillery from the fortified border with South Korea as a goodwill gesture, the official said. —LATWP



Secretary of State Colin Powell softened the US line at the annual World Economic Forum, being held in New York this year, urging global leaders to fight terrorism by waging war on poverty.

"We have to go after poverty, we have to go after despair, we have to go after hopelessness," Powell said at the gathering just five km from the ruins of the World Trade Center.

"We have to show people who might move in the direction of terrorism that there is a better way," Powell said. "We have to rededicate ourselves to freedom

and democracy."

The controversy over Bush's blunt rhetoric followed a storm stirred among human rights groups and some US allies over US treatment of al Qaeda and Taliban captives being held in Afghanistan and a Navy base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Canada on Friday urged the US to clarify how it decides whether the captives are "unlawful combatants" or prisoners of war, a status that would accord them greater rights under international law.

—Reuters

Dangerous jingoism!

51-6
Bush's State of the Union *Journal*

The utterly unacceptable rhetoric of the American President, first in his highly visible State of the Union address to Congress, repeated a day later in Atlanta, must have provided Bush some satisfaction, if he goes by the hysterical applause he received. He said that *Iran, Iraq and North Korea formed an axis of evil* in the context of terrorism. The merits of his outburst are easily disposed of. That North Korea once had a programme of developing nuclear weapons is not denied; but that was a long time ago. Colin Powell should have told him that dusting off the files of the Reagan era and mistaking them for red-hot reports of current events brings the office of the President into disrepute as being hopelessly out of date. In fact the South Korean President, Kim dae Jung has established relations with the North following the new leadership in Pyongyang and is making slow but steady progress. He will now feel let down and think that his hand has been weakened by his closest ally, Bush, who has not bothered to update himself. Iraq has been a favourite whipping boy ever since the Gulf war when Saddam Hussein was not gracious enough to allow himself to be toppled to wild applause from Bush senior. Indeed it is questionable whether the effort to get Saddam did not in fact help to place him more firmly in control. This is nothing compared to the damage George Bush has caused by including Iran in his rhetoric. The kindest thing that one can say is that his ignorance of conditions in the world beyond America grows by the hour. He still thinks of Ayatollah Khomeini and his fundamentalist regime. Someone should tell Bush that Khomeini is dead, the firman against Salman Rushdie is non est and there is an awakening in Iran. The elected prime minister, Khatami is making great progress in establishing a more liberal regime. Things are going his way although more slowly than some might wish. Bush's uncalled for comment will have the effect of weakening Khatami's hand and there may well be a flood of sentiment against him for not adopting a harder line against America. Khatami has enemies; Bush has strengthened them. Is Bush seeking more enemies or is he merely a danger to America's interests and seeking to keep up hysteria for domestic purposes. Never before has an American President appeared more cocky and abrasive with so little cause. Or has the failure to nab Osama bin Laden and Mullah Omar so affected him that he must get into his cowboy suit again!

At the painful pace at which Bush is displaying any capacity to learn, it will take time for it to sink in that Osama and Mullah Omar are in hiding in Pakistan with several thousand Al Qaeda fighters, protected by Musharraf and the ISI. No wonder Pakistan is not yet declared a terrorist state; if it is to be a long run the retort must be that in the long run we are all dead. Bush made his feelings clear. He talked of those who inhabit his alliance against terrorism standing together and Pakistan is a member of this alliance — hence does not fit into any definition in Bush's Thesaurus on Terrorism.

Bush's thoughtless comment has surprised his friends; British Foreign Secretary Jack Straw is in Washington post haste to see how the damage can be limited and Europe is shattered. There can be no doubt that Bush means well but the attitude that — My friends can do no wrong and the wretched neutrals are suspect till they come cap in hand to Washington — is a dangerous form of jingoism.

THE STATESMAN

- 2 FEB 2001

Bush warns 'rogue nations'

By Sridhar Krishnaswami

NEW YORK, FEB. 1. Continuing the tough words on terrorism in his State of the Union Address on Tuesday, the U.S. President, George W. Bush, once again threatened countries that if they were deemed as backing terrorism, they would have to face justice. "If you're one of these nations that developed weapons of mass destruction and you're likely to team up with a terrorist group or you're sponsoring terror and you don't hold the values that we hold dear true to your heart then you too are on our watch list", Mr. Bush said, addressing an audience in Atlanta, Georgia.

Although Mr. Bush did not mention names he was alluding to the nations he identified on Tuesday as the "axis of evil" - Iraq, Iran and North Korea. "People say, 'Well, what does that mean'...It means they better not try to terrorise America and our friends and allies or the justice of this nation will be served on them as well", the President remarked.

Mr. Bush's reference to the "axis of evil" brought forth scorn from those capitals and concern in some quarters of an expanding campaign against terrorism. Separately, in making his pitch for the expanded Pentagon Budget, the Defence Secretary, Donald Rumsfeld, has warned Americans that the country must be prepared for more attacks or "vastly more deadly" than the ones witnessed on Sept. 11. "Our job is to close off as many of those avenues of potential attack as possible", Mr. Rumsfeld said at the National Defence Institute. Making a case for the administration's proposed \$ 48-billion increase - including a \$ 10-billion for contingencies - Mr. Rumsfeld argued that America was vulnerable to different types of threats including cyber and missile at-

tacks on American cities. "These attacks could grow vastly more deadly than those we suffered", he said.

In Mr. Rumsfeld's view, if a terrorist group had access to nuclear, biological or chemical weapons it would have the power to put at risk not just thousands of lives "but hundreds of thousands of lives". Mr. Rumsfeld did not spell out where exactly the money would be spent or what additional projects were being considered. But it was clear that the administration was looking at the full range including missile defences.

Meanwhile, both the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Central Intelligence Agency have been warning of a range of possible attacks. The FBI has said that the Al-Qaeda may have been studying dams and water supply systems in preparation for new attacks. And the CIA has told Congress that materials seized from Al-Qaeda safe-houses in Kabul have shown rudimentary diagrams of nuclear weapons and sketches of American nuclear power plants. But the top intelligence agency is not sure if an attack was planned.

PTI reports:

The U.S. is aiding Pakistan and some other countries to help them change their system of education that stands in the way of peace and stability into one for acquiring practical skills for a better standard of living. "Terrorism, the kind of hopelessness that gets foisted on people around the world, cannot stand in a world in which people have hope. And that is why education in practical skills, rather than education in hatred, is so important to peace and stability in the long run," said the National Security Adviser, Condoleezza Rice.

THE HINDU

Come clean on Omar, India tells Pakistan

New Delhi summons envoy *Border troops to stay put*

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The ministry of external affairs on Tuesday summoned the deputy high commissioner of Pakistan, Jalil Abbas Jilani, and told him that Islamabad should share information about Omar Sheikh's involvement in the terrorist attacks on parliament and the Jammu and Kashmir assembly last year.

The step was taken following the publication of a report in the Pakistani newspaper, *The News*, quoting unidentified Pakistani intelligence officials as saying that Sheikh had confessed to his involvement in the attacks.

Mr Jilani was told that Sheikh would have information, besides the two attacks, on the Indian Airlines IC-814 hijacking in 2000. The government of Pakistan was requested to provide the relevant information, external affairs spokesperson Nirupama Rao said.

Ms Rao also referred to current international law, United Nations security council resolution 1373, and the international consensus that mandates states to give one another the greatest measure of assistance in connection with criminal investigations or criminal proceedings relating to terrorist acts, including assistance in obtaining evidence in their possession.

Denying that New Delhi was acting merely on the basis of a media report, the spokesperson claimed that India had independent information to suggest the involvement of Omar Sheikh in the two attacks. The press reports had only given additional saliency in this case, she said. Sheikh, however, has not been named an accused in the two attacks, nor has his extradition been sought in the list of 20 names or thereafter. Ms Rao said the issue of extradition was a legal matter and she would not like to go into it.

The information about the involvement of Jaish-e-Mohammed in the October 1 and December 13 attacks was adequate proof and evidence of the involvement of Sheikh, the spokesperson said.

She emphasised that Sheikh had disappeared from Kandahar to resurface in Pakistan, obviously with the knowledge of the Pakistani authorities. His movements in Pakistan had been facilitated by Pakistani agencies, she alleged.

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Defence minister George Fernandes on Tuesday ruled out any pull-back of troops deployed at the border until Islamabad fulfilled conditions laid down by New Delhi. He rejected the notion that a prolonged deployment of troops on the frontline would cause lowering of morale.

Mr Fernandes, who inaugurated the DefExpo-2002 organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) and the defence ministry on Tuesday, said he had wide interaction with the troops and saw no signs of any fatigue.

He maintained that the forces were moved to the border in a certain situation, which still existed. India had set some conditions, which had not yet been fulfilled. The troops would remain until then.

The defence minister blamed previous governments for starving the armed forces of funds. Replying to a question on why about Rs 13,000 crore of defence capital outlay still remained unspent, Mr Fernandes said he hoped that the major portion would be utilised by the end of the financial year as there were a number of agreements in the pipeline.

He said there had been a sea change in Indo-U.S. defence ties after September 11, and the U.S. was now supplying hitherto banned high-tech weapons systems.

He cited the example of the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project, which had been hamstrung because the U.S. had earlier not allowed the import of the GE-404 engines. Now, although the engines were available, India would go ahead with the development of the indigenous Kaveri engines, for which other countries, including Russia, were conducting the final tests.

With the opening up of the defence sector and foreign direct investment allowed up to 26 per cent, India was now poised to manufacture several world class products, said Mr Fernandes. The national focus had shifted from being recipients of technology to being partners in developing new products. The combined sales of 39 ordnance factories and eight defence PSUs amounted to Rs 12,714 crore last year.

Police reach dead-end in Pearl case

KARACHI: Concern grew on Tuesday that the hunt for missing U.S. journalist Daniel Pearl had reached a dead-end nearly four weeks after his abduction by a murky network of Islamic militants. "There has been no further progress," a Pakistani investigator said in this southern port city, where the Wall Street Journal correspondent vanished on January 23. (AFP)

THE TIMES OF INDIA

20 FEB 2002

India, Iran resolve to fight global terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN. 30. India and Iran have agreed to put in place an institutional mechanism for tackling terrorism by either constituting a new Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism or by expanding the scope of the present JWG on Drug Trafficking.

At the Home Secretary-level talks here today, the two sides decided to hold the Secretary-level talks annually alternately at New Delhi and Teheran. Both sides resolved to enter into close cooperation in eradicating the scourge of global terrorism.

To establish structural instruments of cooperation, it was agreed to consider conclusion of an agreement on mutual legal assistance in criminal matters and an extradition treaty.

For early finalisation of the proposed instruments of cooperation as also to strengthen the process of mutual consultations and periodic review of security matters, it

was also decided to hold Secretary-level talks annually alternately in New Delhi and Teheran.

The two sides recognised the need to firmly deal with drug trafficking and agreed to have close cooperation in combating the menace of drug trafficking and narco-terrorism.

Both sides resolved to take forward the "Teheran Declaration" signed between the Prime Minister, Atal Behari Vajpayee, and President Khatami, when the former visited Iran in April 2001.

The declaration embodies a vision of cooperation based on shared concerns and common aspirations of the people of India and Iran.

While the Indian delegation was led by the Home Secretary, Kamal Pandey, the Iranian side was headed by Gholam Hossein Bolandian, Deputy Minister of Security and Law and Order.

A very Indian homage: Men of arms pay tribute to the unarmed messiah. At Rajghat on Wednesday.

Bush focuses on terrorism

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Jan. 30. — India appeared satisfied with what President George W Bush had to say in his 'State of the Union' address. Although targeted specifically at the domestic audience, rarely has a US President focused so long and hard on activities abroad, and, according to the foreign ministry spokesperson, spoken "of unprecedented dangers the world community faces on account of terrorism".

India, a victim of cross-border terrorism for over two decades, "is an important part of the global alliance against terror," and President Bush's comments on a close alliance with Russia,

China and India is a reflection of "the growing cooperation and engagement with the USA."

"America is working with Russia, China and India in ways we have never before," said President Bush, "to achieve peace and prosperity."

Whatever praise there was for Gen Musharraf was in the context of countries that harbour terrorists, the MEA felt.

"My hope," said Mr Bush, "is that all nations will heed our call

and eliminate the terrorist parasites who threaten their countries and our own. Many nations are acting forcefully. Pakistan is now cracking down on terror, and I admire the strong leadership of President Musharraf."

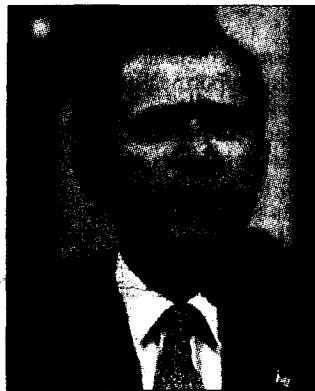
"But some governments will be timid in the face of terror. And make no mistake about it: If they do not act, Ameri-

ca will," clearly stating that the war against terror and states sponsoring terror was far from over.

"It is an acknowledgement that there is a serious problem in Pakistan" regarding the proliferation and spread of terrorist organisations "that needs to be addressed," the MEA spokesperson said. Mr Bush's specific reference to the Jaish-e-Mohammed "further vindicates India's position".

"Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business," Mr Bush said, "yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld — including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad, Jaish-e-Mohammed — operates in remote jungles and deserts, and hides in the centres of large cities."

More reports on page 6



THE STATESMAN

US calls Iran, Iraq & N Korea 'axis of evil'

S Rajagopalan
Washington, January 30

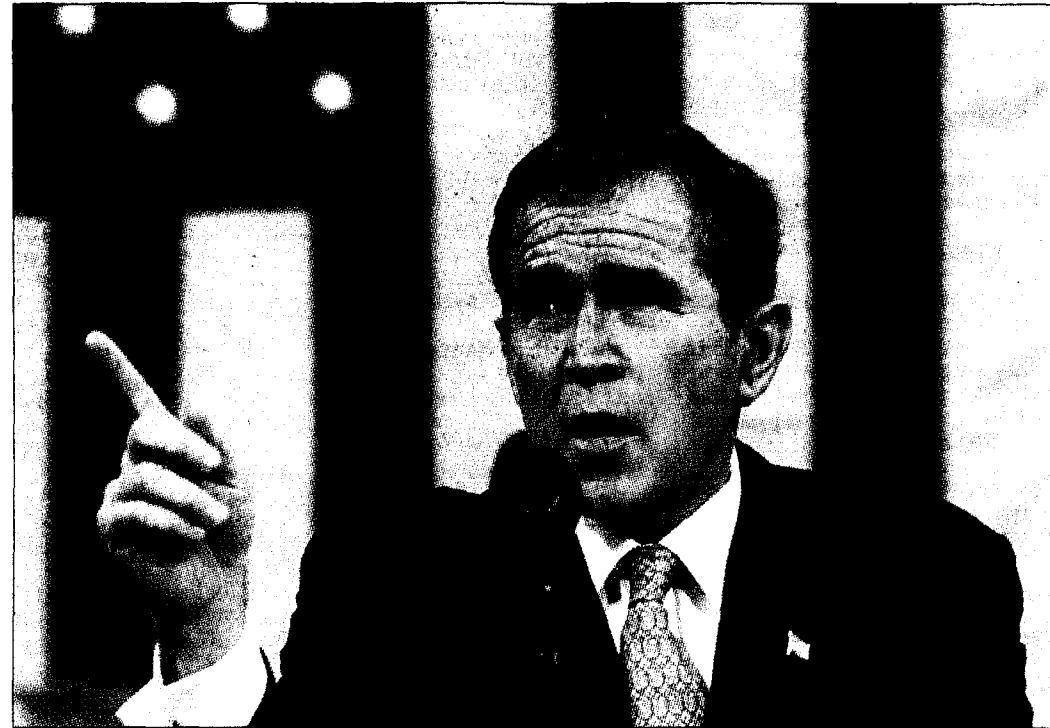
VOWING TO take the US's war on terrorism beyond Afghanistan, President George W. Bush on Tuesday put Iraq, Iran and North Korea on notice and issued veiled threats to a dozen other countries that harbour terrorists.

In his first State of the Union address, Bush did not name the countries harbouring terrorists, but pointedly referred to the Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed as one of the key constituents of the "terrorist underworld".

He lauded Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf for cracking down on terrorism, but at the same time alluded to terrorist camps still existing in at least a dozen countries. "A terrorist underworld, including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Jaish-e-Mohammad, operates in remote jungles and deserts, and hides in the centres of large cities."

Wherever timid Governments fail to act against terrorists, the US will step in and act, he declared amid thunderous applause from members of the Congress. Bush, according to the Washington Times, was cheered 77 times during his 48-minute speech.

"Our war against terror is only beginning," Bush said. As he put it, thousands of dangerous killers, trained in Afghan



US President George W Bush delivers his State of the Union address on Tuesday.

AFP PHOTO

camps and backed by outlaw regimes, are now spread across the world "like ticking time bombs, set to go off without warning".

Characterising Iraq, Iran and North Korea as an "axis of evil", Bush said the US will see to it that regimes sponsoring terror are prevented from

threatening America and its friends and allies with weapons of mass destruction.

"Some of these regimes have been pretty quiet since September 11. But we know their true nature," he said and accused Iraq of pursuing anthrax, nerve gas and nuclear weapons for over a decade. He blamed

North Korea for missile proliferation and Iran for exporting terror.

Bush voiced his suspicion that the regimes in the three countries could supply weapons of mass destruction to terrorists, who in turn could attempt to blackmail the US or attack its allies. The price of

indifference in any of these instances will be catastrophic, he said.

In the course of his speech, Bush pointedly stated that the US was working closely with India, Russia and China in the quest for a just and peaceful world beyond terror. A common danger is erasing old rivalries and America is working with these countries, in ways it has never before, to achieve peace and prosperity.

While the war on terrorism and homeland security formed the centrepiece of the address, Bush also focused on the recession and promised to wage an equally determined battle to revive the economy. "We will prevail in war, and we will defeat this recession."

George Bush made no reference to Enron, which is threatening to cast a shadow over his popularity, marked by unprecedented approval ratings. He, however, obliquely attacked the company for mismanaging its affairs and asked the Congress to enact measures to make corporate America more accountable to employees and shareholders.

Afghan leader Hamid Karzai was a special guest at the Capitol Hill ceremony. Karzai was lustily cheered as he arrived in the chamber. Bush announced that America and Afghanistan were now allies against terror. "We will be partners in rebuilding that country."

Bush paints Lashkar, Jaish with Hamas brush

Udayan Namboodiri
New Delhi, January 30

BY MENTIONING the Jaish-e-Mohammad in the same breath as Hamas and Hezbollah, President George W Bush has indirectly acknowledged India's concerns on terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir.

In his first State of the Union address to the US Congress today, Bush did praise President Pervez Musharraf's "strong leadership", but he also made a loaded observation which Islamabad cannot ignore, what with Musharraf's visit to Washington just a week away.

"Our military has put the terror training camps of Afghanistan out of business, yet camps still exist in at least a dozen countries. A terrorist underworld — including groups like Hamas, Hezbollah, Islamic Jihad and Jaish-e-Mohammed — operates in remote jungles and deserts, and hides in the centres of large cities," Bush said.

The remark is in line with the standard US stand post-January 12. While congratulating Musharraf for his "historic" speech, Washington has been simultaneously supporting India's wait-and-watch approach.

Last week Ambassador Robert Blackwill told the Indian press that "it is going to take some time to see whether infiltration has slowed down".

At the same time, Bush has acknowledged the new depth in Indo-US relations. He has taken the relationship beyond the Pakistan-linkage.

Ministry of External Affairs officials said Bush had glossed over the hype raised in the western world over the Indo-Pak military stand-off.

Meanwhile, India's diplomatic offensive against Pakistan continued in major world capitals. Rajya Sabha Deputy Speaker Najma Heptullah called on Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia who condemned the "resort to violence in pursuit of political ends".

Scribe tortured to free Zaeef

Washington, January 28

A PREVIOUSLY unknown Pakistani terrorist group, the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty, has claimed holding a *Wall Street Journal* reporter it seized in "very inhuman conditions" comparable to those of suspected terrorists in US custody.

The *Journal* reported on its web site that the group has sent this information by e-mail, accusing the reporter, Daniel Pearl, of being a CIA officer posing as a journalist.

The e-mail said that Pakistanis being held at Guantanamo must be given access to lawyers and their families, and they must be returned to Pakistan, where they will be tried by a Pakistani court.

It also called for the release of Afghanistan's former ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, who was the Taliban's most prominent spokesman. He was deported from Pakistan to Afghanistan in early January when President Musharraf, yielding to US pressure and inducements of economic aid to the cash-strapped country, and turned over to the US military. He is one of the highest ranking Taliban officials in custody.

The paper said the e-mail was accompanied by four photographs of Pearl, with one showing him with a gun to his head, and demanded better treatment for fighters of the al-Qaida and Taliban being held by the US at the naval base in Guantanamo bay in Cuba.

In Pakistan, police sources,



This photo sent via e-mail to the *New York Times* shows *Wall Street Journal* reporter Daniel Pearl with a gun held to his head.

speaking on condition anonymity, said they believe Pearl was kidnapped by Harkat-ul-Mujahideen. A number of Harkat fighters are believed to have been killed in the war waged by the US-led coalition against the al-Qaida and Taliban in Afghanistan.

Pearl (38), is a reporter based in Mumbai. He has been missing since Wednesday, when he went to visit a source near Karachi to write a story about terrorism,

the paper said.

Steven Goldstein, vice-president of Dow Jones & Co, which owns the business paper, said the newspaper has not had any direct contact with the group that claims to hold Pearl and does not have any knowledge of the police sources' report on possible kidnappers. He, however, said that the photographs appear to be legitimate. It does not propose to distribute the photographs, he added.

Both the newspaper and the

Central Intelligence Agency denied that Pearl was a CIA spy posing as a reporter. CIA spokeswoman Anya Guilsher said: "Although we don't normally discuss such matters, Daniel Pearl does not now nor has he ever worked with the CIA." Guilsher had no comment on the group named in the e-mail or its demands.

The *Journal* quoted the e-mail as saying that Pearl is being held in "very inhuman conditions quite similar in fact to the way Pakistanis and nationals of other sovereign countries are being kept in Cuba by the US army. If the Americans keep our countrymen in better conditions, then we will better the conditions of pearl and all other Americans that we capture".

Goldstein said that the group has made a mistaken assumption. "As a private citizen employed by an independent newspaper, neither Pearl nor we can change the policies of the US or Pakistan," Goldstein said.

New York Times spokeswoman Catherine Mathis confirmed that the e-mail was addressed to nine of the newspaper's generic e-mail addresses but not to any individuals. "To the best of our knowledge, no one of the times sent it to the *Wall Street Journal*," Mathis said.

The e-mail recipients appeared to be chosen at random from the newspapers' web sites. Andy Mosher, deputy foreign editor of *The Washington Post*, said that six individuals there received copies of the e-mail, including a reporter in Jakarta.

PTI

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

29 JAN 2002

Iran urges UN to oppose US stand on terrorism

57-8
78/1
Agence France-Presse

TEHRAN, Jan. 27. — UN Secretary General Mr Kofi Annan wound up today a two-day visit to Iran, where leaders urged the United Nations to be more active with regard both to the Afghanistan question and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Iran's top officials pledged their backing for the new Afghan interim government, while firing off verbal salvos at the heavy US presence in Afghanistan.

Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei met Mr Annan later yesterday and lambasted the US' "war on terror", which triggered the November collapse of Afghanistan's Taliban regime and has planted a US beachhead in Central Asia.

Ayatollah Khamenei derided US "military scheming" and insisted the war on terror be "the fruit of a collective international



Mr Kofi Annan: On a peace mission

decision under the auspices of the United Nations".

The fiery ideologue also branded the US espionage agency, the CIA, which had agents on the ground this fall in Afghanistan, as "a terrorist organisatio-

n".

He exhorted Mr Annan to rise up against the USA's policies. "The UN must battle all this, and if you, secretary general, take on this struggle ... your name will go down in history," he said.

Earlier in the day, Iranian foreign minister Mr Kamal Kharazi, speaking at a press conference with Mr Annan, denied allegations that Iran was pumping weapons to eastern Afghan warlords and pointed the finger at the USA.

However, Mr Annan, who had issued a stern warning Friday against foreign meddling in Afghanistan, deftly side-stepped the sensitive topic.

"We have no independent information," he said when asked about the reports.

Mr Annan's visit evoked warm response from both Pakistan and war-ravaged Afghanistan.

THE STATESMAN

28 JAN 2002

Terrorism and the law — II

By K. Subramanian

HD-8
25/1

EVEN IF a crime is perpetrated with extreme brutality, it may not constitute "terrorist activity" within the meaning of Section 3(1) of TADA. For this, the activity must be intended to strike terror in people or a section of the people or bring about other consequences referred to in Section 3(1). It is the impact of the crime and its fallout on society and the potentiality of such crime in producing fear in the minds of the people or a section of the people that makes a crime a terrorist activity under Section 3(1) of TADA.

The question that arises is whether the Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance (POTO) is the ultimate weapon against terrorism as well as cross-border terrorism. POTO seeks to arm the agencies with powers to detect and prevent terrorist activities; detain suspects and freeze properties and funds held by terrorists. TADA was allowed to lapse because the conviction rate was less than 2 per cent and also because a National Human Rights Commission survey found that it was being abused for which one has to blame the enforcement agencies. Hence, POTO is imperative for national security. Experience shows that because of the failure of the prosecuting/enforcement agencies to collect material evidence and prove the intention of the conspirators to strike terror in the people of India, courts have refused to convict offenders for the offence under Section 3 of TADA. While the conviction rate under TADA was 2 per cent, under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), the conviction rate is 78 per cent which only shows that the success or failure of any such special enactment ultimately rests with the investigation/enforcement agencies and the failure of the agencies cannot be attributed to the law itself. The success or failure of any stringent law ultimately rests with the enforcement agencies.

The former Prime Minister, Rajiv Gandhi, was assassinated in a gruesome blast at the venue of a public meeting at Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu, on May 21, 1991. Eighteen persons, including 9 police personnel, were killed and 45 injured, including 16 police personnel.

When the matter finally reached the Supreme Court, it acquitted the appellants of the offence under Sections 3 and 4 of TADA and held as hereunder (in the case reported in State vs. Nalini (1999) 5 SCC 253: "The mere fact that their action resulted in the killing of 18 persons which would have struck great terror in the people of India has been projected as evidence that they intended to strike terror in the people. It is true that the aftermath

Jayanthi at Bhiwani, the designated court convicted the accused in the said case under Section 307 of the IPC and Section 6 of TADA. The Supreme Court confirmed the verdict of the designated court convicting the accused under Section 6 of TADA by holding that the action of the accused in shooting a former Chief Minister at a public function was aimed at creating terror among the people and the offence committed by the appellant

However deterrent the law is, it cannot by itself address the problem of cross-border terrorism. The ultimate solution lies in strengthening the intelligence capabilities and security measures along the LoC and other sensitive areas.

of the carnage at Sriperumbudur had bubbled up waves of shock and terror throughout India. But there is absolutely no evidence that anyone of the conspirators ever desired the death of any Indian other than Rajiv Gandhi. Among the series of confessions made by a record number of accused in any single case, as in this case, not even one of them has stated that anybody had the desire or intention to murder one more person along with Rajiv Gandhi except perhaps the murderer herself. Of course they should have anticipated that in such a dastardly action more lives would be vulnerable to peril. But that is a different matter and it is not possible to attribute an intention to the conspirators to kill anyone other than Rajiv Gandhi and the contemporaneous destruction of the killer also."

In view of the paucity of materials to prove that the conspirators intended to overawe the Government of India or to strike terror in the people of India, it is not possible to sustain the conviction of offences under Section 3 of TADA.

However, when Banarsidas Gupta, a former Haryana Chief Minister, was shot at in broad daylight at a public function on September 23, 1990, on the occasion of celebration of Maharaja Aggrasain

would therefore fall within the definition of "terrorist activity" within the definition of Section 2(h) of TADA punishable under Section 3 of the TADA. The said case is reported in (1996) 7 SCC 86 Rajbir vs State of Haryana.

In the case reported in (1990) 4 SCC page 76 Niranjana Singh Karam Singh Punjabi, Advocate (Appl't) vs. Jitendra Bhiwraj Bijaya & ors (Respts), the Supreme Court confirmed the order of acquittal passed by the designated court discharging the persons accused of eliminating the rival group in the underworld. Admittedly, the accused desired to gain supremacy in the underworld by eliminating the other group and committed the offence using lethal weapons such as knives and iron rods. In the said case also, the Supreme Court upheld the view taken by the designated court that there was no material or documents placed before it to come to the conclusion that the accused intended to strike terror in the people or a section of the people and thereby committed an act of terrorism. Such cases show that the investigating agencies have miserably failed to collect material to prove that the intention of the accused was to terrorise the public, one of the essential ingredients of the definition of "terrorist act".

In 1996, the Criminal Law Amendment Bill was brought to replace TADA but since the said Bill did not have sufficient provision to meet the situation, the matter was referred to the Law Commission and the draft of the present Prevention of Terrorism Ordinance, 2001, was sent to the Government by the Law Commission. After its approval by the Consultative Committee of Parliament, POTO was promulgated by the President on October 24, 2001. One of the salient features of the POTO was broadening of the definition of "terrorist act". While TADA was mainly concerned with punitive measures, POTO has been designed primarily as a preventive measure. After the December 13 terrorist strike against Parliament, there is an urgent need for combating cross-border terrorism. We have a 740 km Line of Control dividing Jammu and Kashmir between India and Pakistan. Some of the Indian posts along the LoC are located at heights up to 15,000 to 17,000 feet. It being a Herculean task to maintain constant vigil at all points of the long border, fear of punishment under special laws is an effective deterrent to the commission of a terrorist crime. However, this is not true in the case of organised international terrorists who infiltrate as suicide squads. Hence, however deterrent the law is, it cannot by itself address the complex problem of cross-border terrorism. The ultimate solution lies in strengthening the intelligence capabilities and security measures along the LoC and other sensitive areas. Covert operations against terrorists and their camps appear to be one of the ways to crush them. India has to fight its own war with terrorist groups.

The Israelis have successfully guarded their borders with Lebanon using sophisticated vibration sensors, electronic devices and thermal imaging devices. We may also have to adopt some of these tactics. Apart from legal measures such as promulgating POTO, the Government may have to seriously consider implementing some of the specific recommendations of the Justice J. S. Verma Commission of Inquiry which enquired into the assassination of Rajiv Gandhi.

(Concluded)

THE HINDU

25 JAN 2002

HINDUSTAN TIMES

HT-8 28/11 ✓
Terror moves east g-Terrormin

THE TERRORIST attack on the American Center in Kolkata, probably the first on a US office in India, shows that Islamic fundamentalism still remains as potent a force as before the crack-down in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Initial reports suggest that an organisation which has been more active in the eastern regions of India and in Bangladesh — the Harkat-ul-Jehad-e-Islami (HUJI) — is responsible for the attack. The fact that these *jehadis* chose to attack early in the morning when no one was in the building indicates that their objective was more to make their presence felt than undertake a major operation. In any event, considering the elaborate nature of the security measures which protect all American establishments, they must have known that they could only carry out a hit-and-run attack. As a survivor has said, the firing by the four terrorists, who arrived on two motorcycles, was so sudden that the police guards did not have any chance to react.

Arguably, a greater degree of alertness or positions taken by the policemen behind sandbags might have lessened the damage. No doubt such lessons will now be drawn by the authorities. But it is also undeniable that no precautions can be foolproof when con-

fronting desperadoes driven by fanaticism. However, the approach of Republic Day should have forewarned the authorities, especially when plans to disrupt the official functions had been obtained from a Pakistani national who was arrested earlier this month in Siliguri. That the terrorists might focus on cities other than Delhi was also on the cards. Delhi, of course, provides a higher level of security after September 11 and December 13. Even otherwise, it has always been known for more intensive police patrolling than any other city. In contrast, the conditions in cities in Kolkata are undoubtedly more relaxed.

What the latest outrage shows is that an extermination of the poisonous breed which emerged from their bases in Pakistan and Afghanistan is still a long way off. The Taliban may have been militarily defeated and Pakistan may have decided to turn over a new leaf — at least formally. But the long years of indoctrination have produced — and may still be producing — subversives whose only objective is to kill. After the latest outrage, the security and intelligence agencies will have to ascertain whether an increasing number of terrorists have moved from Kashmir as well as PoK to eastern India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

The Khadim connection

Continued from Page 1

WHILE TODAY'S attack seems to suggest Harakt-ul-Jehadi Islami's involvement, this is not the first time that this outfit has drawn the sleuths' attention. While probing the Khadim case, senior CID officers stumbled on clues, which suggested that a special team from Masood Azhar's outfit had been sent to Khoset in Afghanistan for training in the use of sophisticated arms, including AK-rifles. The clues were obtained after Mohammed Sahid Azmi was interrogated. Azmi is the last catch from Mumbai till date in the abduction case. Azmi confessed that this special group had been sent also to take lessons in strategic planning including techniques to carry out abductions across India.

"The weapons used today appear to be a AK-47 rifles. Such indiscriminate firing couldn't have come from any other weapon. That it took just a minute to fire 64 rounds suggests the assailants were using AKs," Commissioner of Police Sujoy Chakrabarty said.

Interrogation of Azmi also

revealed that the ransom amounts from such "special operations" were used not just to procure arms. They were meant also to be sent to Bangladesh where the 'Islami' is trying to set up base. The CID gathered specific information that almost immediately before the Roy Burman's abduction and in the following days, some 'Islami' members had crossed over to Kolkata en-route to Pakistan.

The 'Islami's efforts in Bangladesh assume significance in light of the fact that the Special Branch of the city police recently stumbled on information that said four Bangladesh-based militants were set to cross the porous North 24-Parganas border and slip into Kolkata before heading for New Delhi. The SB received this information just days before the first ODI between England and India at the Eden Gardens.

Apart from Asif, the second strong link to the Khadim case is Aftab Ansari alias Farhan Mullick. A lawyer's son with Howrah connections (his mother stayed here) the journalist-turned-gangster began dabbling in crime in

1999 when he kidnapped a businessman from Varanasi and pocketed Rs 1.5 crore. His next job was kidnapping a Rajkot-based jeweller. This time he earned Rs 2.6 crore. His last job was coordinating Roy Burman's abduction in Kolkata.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

● Riders of death raid American Center ● Four policemen killed, 23 injured ● Statewide security alert sounded

Terror wheels roll into city

Archis Mohan
Kolkata, January 22

FOUR PERSONS were killed and 23 injured in a swift terrorist attack on the American Center in the heart of the city early this morning.

Two men astride a motorcycle and draped in shawls appeared at the gate of the Center at 6.35 am and fired indiscriminately from an AK-47 on the policemen stationed there. It's not clear if more terrorists tailed them in a car. The Center, housing the USIS and the USEFI, is located on the city's main boulevard at 38A, Jawaharlal Nehru Road.

The assailants fired 54 rounds. The policemen failed to fire even a single one as their obsolete .303 rifles failed them. Three policemen died on the spot and some others, bleeding profusely, scamped to shelter in neighbouring buildings fearing more attacks. The attackers fled in the melee.

The injured were taken to the SSKM Hospital. Of the injured, one was a passer-by, one a security guard from a private security agency and the rest policemen. One policeman succumbed to injuries en route to the hospital. Three are still in a critical condition. The policemen who died were Suresh Hebram (24), Pijush Sarkar (24), Ujjal Barman (22) and Anup Mondal (24), all from the Fifth Battalion of Kolkata Armed Police.

September 11 link

LINKING THE attack on the American Center with the September 11 strikes, the CBI today informed the FBI that the ransom money taken by Dubai underworld don Aftab Ansari to release shoe baron Partha Roy Burman was used to finance Mohammed Atta, one of the hijackers who rammed a plane into the World Trade Center.

PTI, New Delhi

The Chief Minister, who conceded a security failure, held a meeting with top officials soon after. A statewide alert was sounded while the airport and the Bangladesh border were sealed. Security around all important installations in the State was beefed up.

The attack took the constables on duty at the Center off guard as it happened during the change of duty. The constables were busy signing the duty roster, having kept their weapons away. In any case, of the 32 policemen, 6 had arms, 4 had teargas shells while the rest only had lathis. Most of the fresh lot were still inside the police van and were thus saved from the hail of bullets.

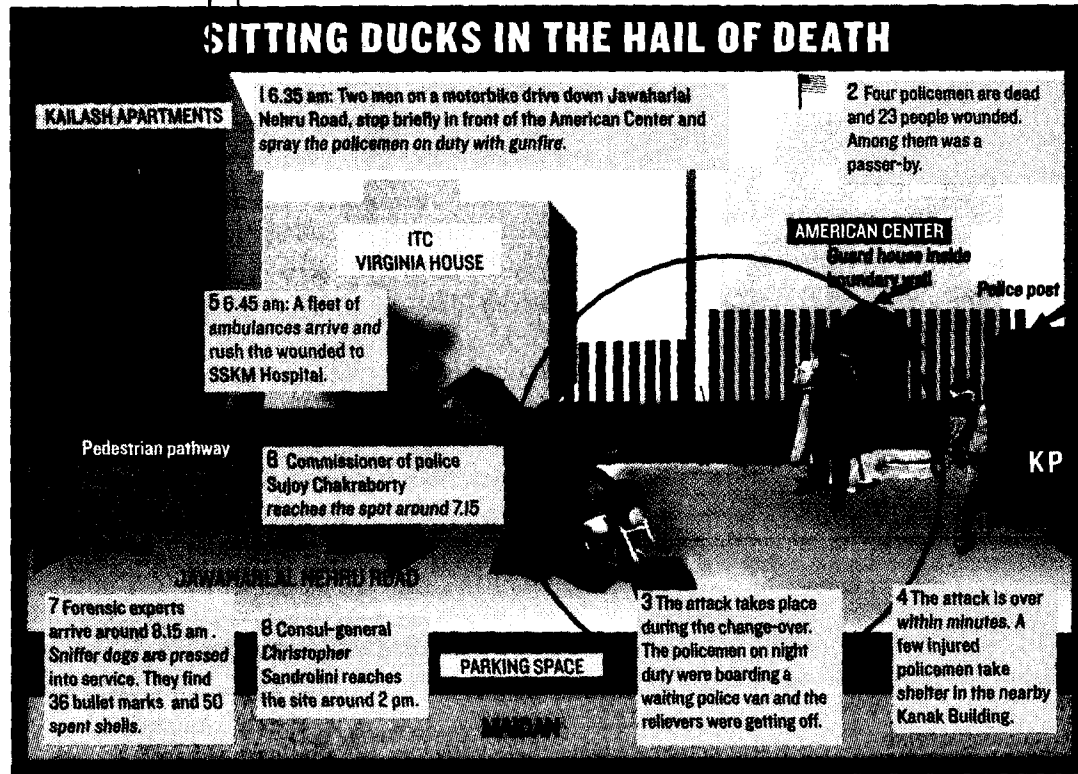
"These people had prior information of the time of duty change," said Police Commis-

A late-night report said three madrasa teachers and two Bangladeshis were detained for interrogation from Swarupnagar and Basirhat.

sioner Sujay Chakraborty. Forensic experts with sniffer dogs inspected the site and found 54 shells. Bullets even shattered the glass panes on an adjacent building housing Citibank. "Much of the evidence at the site has been destroyed by the police, inquisitive public and the media corps," said State Forensic Science Laboratory Director N K Nag.

Fifty people have been interrogated so far. There were reports that the assailants might have entered South 24-Parganas. The police are combing the district. Police said initial investigation points to Harkat-ul-Jihad-e-Islami. "They called up a senior CID officer claiming responsibility," said the Commissioner. The number is identical to one of those received during the Khadim abduction case, the police chief said.

The Chief Minister said there was some confusion over the number of assailants. "We are analysing the pictures captured by the closed circuit camera at the Center. The exact figures and the vehicles used by them will be known tomorrow. Neither the State administration nor myself visualised such an attack."



US Consul-General Christopher J Sandrolini held a 40-minute meeting with the CM and said he was grateful for the State Government's support. The Center will reopen tomorrow, while the visa services will resume from Thursday. The Chief Minister visited the

injured at the hospital and announced Rs 2 lakh for the kin of the deceased. The Trinamool Congress and the Congress lambasted the Government for its security negligence, while the State BJP leadership came out in support of Buddhadeb's Poca plan. The city's Central Business

District experienced huge traffic jams as the news of the incident spread. Curious Kolkatans converged near the site as the entire Chowringhee area was cordoned off, triggering a chain of traffic snarls. Related reports on Pages 3, 4, 5 & 9

The Khadim angle

Kinsuk Basu
Kolkata, January 22

TODAY'S ATTACK on policemen outside American Center in the city could be an act of revenge carried out by Asif Reza Khan's sympathisers. Asif, a key man behind Khadim vice-chairman Partha Roy Burman's abduction, was killed in a police encounter early November after the CID implicated him in the shoe baron's abduction.

Four hours after today's attack, Aftab Ansari, the brain behind the abduction, called up Inspector-General of Police (CID) Partha Bhattacharya from Dubai and said the attack was meant to serve as signals for those who had the cheek to kill one of his key men.

The attack had been carried out by members of the Asif Reza Khan Commando Force, a new outfit raised in memory of the late Khan, Ansari added.

Asif, alias Rajan, was first intercepted by the Delhi Police 1996 in a Tada case. Thrown into Tihar Jail, he came in contact with Masood Azhar, the brain behind Harkat-ul-Jihad-i-Islami. It is this associ-

ation that makes detectives believe that the outfit is the only militant organisation with a possible hand in today's attack in front of the US outpost in Kolkata.

The members decided on Kolkata because of the city's Asif associations, the sleuths believe. A resident of Beniapukur's Mofidul Islam Lane, Asif was the man who coordinated the whole operation, including getting medicines and food for the abducted Roy Burman when the shoe baron was held hostage at a house in Haroah, North 24-Parganas.

Apart from probing the veracity of Ansari's claims, detectives of the city police have also started a parallel investigation to trace probable links between Asif and Jamil Akhtar, another Beniapukur resident arrested in August 2000 in connection with the IC 814 hijack. "It's too preliminary. But we would still like to explore all of Asif's possible links," Damodar Sarangi, Additional Commissioner of Police (III) said. Sarangi heads the anti-terror operations of the city police.

Continued on Page 5

Terrorism and the law — I

By K. Subramanian

108
29/11

WHILE IT is difficult to precisely define what is meant by "terrorism", it is always known as "a covert use of violence directed against a Government and was practised in conjunction with revolutionary war or guerrilla war in support of nationalist and internationalist movements and as a means of agitation by a particular section of the society". However, it appears that terrorism today has become a profession and a way of life for some fanatics whose object is to destroy the political and social system, and get money and publicity.

The Indian National Security Guard Act, 1986, defines a 'Terrorist' as: "Terrorist means any person who with intent to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of the people, does any act or thing by using bomb, dynamite or other explosive substance or inflammable substances or firearms or other lethal weapons or poisons or noxious gases or other substances (whether biological or otherwise) of a hazardous nature, in such a manner as to cause or as is likely to cause, death or injuries to any person or persons or damage to or destruction of property, or disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of community."

When a terrorist from one country goes to the soil of another country and operates in utter disregard of international borders, it is known as "international terrorism" or "cross-border terrorism". For many years, the United States was adopting a soft policy towards terrorism. It was Ronald Reagan as President who issued orders to attack terrorist bases in the Bekka Valley in Lebanese territory controlled by Syria using the planes of the Sixth Fleet. It was only after the recent terrorist attack on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in Washington that the international war against terrorism has picked up.

India has been a victim of terrorism for the past over 50 years. On December 13, 2001, our Parliament building in New Delhi came under direct attack by terrorists. It has been officially announced that the attack was carried out by the

Jaish-e-Mohammed and the Lashkar-e-Taiba at the instigation of Pakistan's ISI. Last year, terrorists raided the Red Fort in Delhi and an Indian Airlines plane, IC 814, was hijacked to Kandahar in Afghanistan. The ISI's active role in these two terrorist attacks was also officially announced. From the targets chosen by the terrorists, the intention appears to be to cause panic and chaos among the people of India. At present, our Govern-

ment is seriously engaged in tackling "cross-border" or "international terrorism". While the special statute is one of the means or weapons of dealing with domestic terrorism, it is a million dollar question how far such laws will be of use in containing the menace of cross-border terrorism. No doubt, through such special statutes all efforts may be made to contain terrorism by taking preventive measures or prosecuting persons who cooperate with such foreign terrorist organisations. However, unless and until the main culprits operating from across the border are apprehended and brought to justice, terrorist attacks will continue. Our past experiences show that the big fish always escape. It is nearly 10 years since Mumbai was rocked by serial blasts organised by a well-known group owing allegiance to Dawood Ibrahim. However, till date, the main culprit behind the operation has successfully managed to evade the law of our land. It will always be difficult to apprehend a terrorist who is operating from the soil of a foreign country which aids and abets such terrorist acts. At the end of 1987, the SAARC countries — India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives — pledged to refrain from organising, in-

stigating or participating in any terrorist acts in member-countries. Even after this, there were reports of Pakistan's ISI operating training camps for terrorist organisations which targeted India. The Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985, was enacted in the background of escalation of terrorist activities in many parts of the country at that time. However, on the basis of experience, it was felt that the provisions

(1994) 4 SCC 60? *Hitendra Vishnu Thakur Vs State of Maharashtra*, the Supreme Court of India observed: "Terrorism has not been defined under TADA nor is it possible to give a precise definition of 'terrorism' or lay down what constitutes 'terrorism'. It may be possible to describe it as use of violence when its most important result is not merely the physical and mental damage of the victim but the prolonged psychological effect it produces or has the potential of producing on the society as a whole. There may be death, injury, or destruction of property or even deprivation of individual liberty in the process but the extent and reach of the intended terrorist activity travels beyond the effect of an ordinary crime capable of being punished under the ordinary penal law of the land and its main objective is to overawe the Government or disturb harmony of the society or 'terrorise' people and the society and not only those directly assaulted, with a view to disturb even tempo, peace and tranquility of the society and create a sense of fear and insecurity. A terrorist activity does not merely arise by causing disturbance of law and order or of public order. The fallout of the intended activity must be such that it travels beyond the capacity of the ordinary law enforcement agencies to tackle it under the ordinary penal law."

"Experience shows that 'terrorism' is generally an attempt to acquire or maintain power or control by intimidation, and causing fear and helplessness in the minds of the people at large or any section thereof and is a totally abnormal phenomenon. What distinguishes 'terrorism' from other forms of violence therefore appears to be the deliberate and systematic use of coercive intimidation."

"It is therefore essential to treat such a criminal and deal with him differently than an ordinary criminal capable of being tried by the ordinary courts under the penal law of the land."

(The writer is a Senior Advocate and former Advocate General of Tamil Nadu.)

It is a million dollar question how far special laws will be of use in containing the menace of cross-border terrorism.

needed further strengthening to cope with the menace of terrorism. TADA (Ordinance 2 of 1987) was promulgated and the same was subsequently replaced by TADA, 1987.

Section 3(1) of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985, (TADA) does not define who a "terrorist" is but defines a "terrorist" act as follows: "Whoever with intent to overawe the Government as by law established or to strike terror in the people or any section of people or alienate any section of the people or to adversely affect the harmony amongst different sections of the people does any act or thing by using bombs, dynamite or other explosive substances or inflammable substances or firearms or other lethal weapons or poisons or noxious gases or other chemicals or any other substances (whether biological or otherwise) of a hazardous nature in such manner as to cause, or as is likely to cause, death of, or injuries to, any person or persons or damage to, or destruction of property or disruption of any supplies or services essential to the life of the community, commits a terrorist act".

Terrorism has to be fought according to rule of law and combating terrorism must be legal. In the case reported in

THE HINDU

24 JAN 2002

Lockerbie appeal

Camp Zeist (Netherlands), Jan. 23 (Reuters): The Lockerbie bomber suffered a miscarriage of justice, his lawyers said today as the Libyan appealed against conviction for the 1988 blast that

was a byword for air attacks before September 11.

Former secret agent Abdel Basset al-Megrahi was jailed for life a year ago for killing 270 people with a suitcase bomb that

blew up Pan Am's London to New York flight 103 over Lockerbie in Scotland.

"If there has been a miscarriage of justice, the proper course is to quash the conviction and for your Lordships to consider whether a retrial is appropriate," lawyer William Taylor told Scottish judges on the first day of the appeal.

The venue for the appeal, as for the trial, was a former US airbase in the Netherlands, selected to quell Libyan objections to a trial in Britain.

Megrahi's lawyers zeroed in on two key areas: trial evidence by a Maltese shopowner who said he sold Megrahi clothes used to swaddle the bomb, and the trial judges' acceptance that the suitcase was loaded in Malta on a flight to Frankfurt, from where it was flown to London Heathrow to join doomed PA 103.

"There exists significant evidence which was not heard at the trial," the lawyers said in written grounds of appeal released during the hearing.

That evidence showed that hours before PA 103 fell out of the sky on December 21, 1988, a padlock had been forced on a secure door near a Heathrow baggage area, the document read.

"Had (this) evidence been available at the trial it would have supported the body of evidence suggestive of the bomb having been infiltrated at Heathrow." One affidavit named was that by Raymond Manly, a former Heathrow security guard whose evidence lawyers learned of only after a nine-month trial that saw Megrahi's co-accused Libyan Al-Amin Khalifa Fahima acquitted.

Lawyers also argued that trial judges had drawn wrong conclusions from evidence by Maltese shopowner Tony Gauci, who identified Megrahi as the purchaser of clothes and an umbrella packed in the bomb bag.

THE TELEGRAPH

24 JAN 2002

Terrorists kill 11

Statesman News Service

JAMMU, Jan. 21. — Eleven people, including eight children, of three families were killed and three injured in a terrorist attack at Salva-Bherah village in the border district of Poonch last night.

(The chief minister, Dr Farooq Abdullah, told PTI in New Delhi that investigations showed that a special police officer of the state police, who had deserted the force a year-and-a-half ago, had conspired with some local terrorists to avenge a family dispute.

Three persons were today arrested in connection with the killings).

Heavily armed terrorists swooped on the village, 20 km north of Mendhar tehsil of the Poonch district, around midnight. Initial reports said the terrorists went to the house of one Zakir Hussain and fired, killing him and his two children, one-and-a-half-year-old Rubiya and two-year-old Abid.

After this, the militants entered the house of one Mohammed Zaman, who is a soldier working in the Jammu and Kashmir Light Infantry (JAK LI) of the Indian Army and posted elsewhere.

The militants shot his wife, Kharima Begum (35), and his four children — Gulnar (4), Mohammed Issac, Mohammed

Mahfooz and Mohammed Yasin (the last three aged between 6 and 12 years).

The militants then attacked another family and killed two children, six-month-old Mohd Istaq and Mohammed Akram (3). Another person, Maqsood Ahmed, was also killed.

The militants also kidnapped one Mohammad Nazar from the village and took him with them.

The injured were admitted to the Mendhar hospital. One of them, who was critically wounded, was shifted to the sub-district hospital, Rajouri.

Meanwhile, the state home minister, Mr Khalid Najeeb Sohrawardy, and senior police officers, including the director general of Jammu and Kashmir police, Mr Ashok Suri, and the IGP (Jammu), Mr PL Gupta, rushed to the spot early this morning in a helicopter.

Though no group has claimed responsibility for the incident, Intelligence agencies believe that the Lashkar-e-Taiyaba and the Jaish-e-Mohammed are behind the massacre.

Dr Abdullah said the perpetrators would not go unpunished and conveyed his condolences to the bereaved.

A couple of days ago, the militants set off an Improvised Explosive Device in the heart of the Jammu city.

THE STATESMAN

22 JAN 2002

Focus on plugging funds to terrorism

By Our Special Correspondent

NEW DELHI, JAN 21. Preparing for the next phase of the war against terrorism, the United States discussed with India, ways to strengthen its intelligence infrastructure, secure its borders and enhance the capability to target the financial roots of extremism.

With the military campaign in Afghanistan over, the U.S. is keen on enhancing the capabilities of its partners to plug loopholes in related areas such as border security, money laundering, immigration and sharing of intelligence. Against this backdrop, the two sides at the fourth meeting on the Indo-U.S. Joint Working group on terrorism exchanged views on developing a "structured framework" for enhancing India's capability in these areas. For the first time on Tuesday, both sides are slated to deal with military-to-military cooperation in countering terrorism.

"We are working towards establishing a concrete base for future cooperation in the war against terrorism," said the U.S. State Department's pointman on

counter-terrorism and leader of the delegation, Francis X. Taylor, at a news conference here today.

"The campaign against terrorism has not ended with the military success in Afghanistan. It is a complicated and long-term effort involving the entire world. The aim is to deny sanctuary to terrorists in any part of the world," he observed. Outlining the American outlook on the talks, he said both sides discussed ways to enhance India's proficiency in handling "use of indiscriminate violence for political purposes."

Part of that is sharing of training and intelligence. A big part of our relations with Indian would be training in anti-terrorism." Other key components where the U.S. is looking forward to assisting India are law enforcement and monitoring immigration and financial flows.

Mr. Taylor made it clear that specifics such as military hardware for border security and Pakistan's response to the list of 20 terrorists handed by India were not aired since the aim behind the interaction was to institutionalise cooper-

ation and chalk out a blueprint for enhancing India's ability in areas necessary to check terrorism. The National Security Councils of both countries, beginning with cyber terrorism, will pick up the threads to charter a more focussed approach in February.

On the stand-off between India and Pakistan, Mr. Taylor said that in the light of steps taken so far by the Pakistan President, Pervez Musharraf, there was no reason to doubt Islamabad's resolve to end terrorist activity.

A more elaborate account of the talks is expected tomorrow by way of a joint statement. This will include specifics on enhancing the military including improved border security, especially the much-talked about American sensors for border security.

During the day both sides made separate presentations on their assessment of the global situation after the September 11 attacks, aviation security covering the fields of hijacking and immigration, shared the intelligence the two sides had gathered on terrorism in the past few months.

THE HINDU

22 JAN 2002

Al-Qaida trail leads to Philippines

Philippine Daily Inquirer/ANN

ZAMBOANGA, Jan. 20. — US military aircrafts today delivered troops, vehicles and other equipment to the southern Philippines, the next frontier in the US-led military campaign against global terrorism.

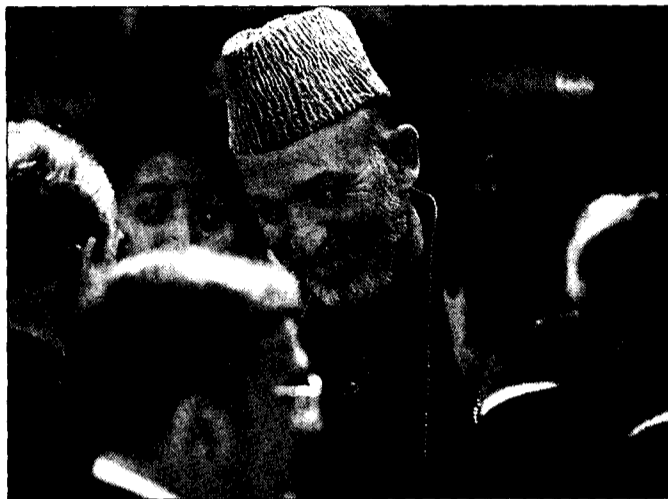
Three C-130 aircraft from a US military base in Okinawa, Japan landed at an air force base here with supplies for at least 650 US soldiers who would be taking part in a six-month joint campaign with Filipino troops, Filipino military spokesmen said.

The cargo included military vehicles, a forklift, an earthmover, and a small number of American soldiers. The two governments say the US troops would advise their Filipino counterparts in a campaign to crush the Abu Sayyaf Muslim guerrilla group. They comprise the largest deployments of US soldiers since the US-led military campaign in Afghanistan.

Manila and Washington say the US help is within the framework of the global campaign against terrorism. The Abu Sayyaf, they said, has links with the Al-Qaida network of Osama bin Laden.

Abu Sayyaf gunmen are currently holding two American hostages in the nearby island of Basilan. President Mrs Gloria Arroyo meanwhile reiterated her government was not at war with the 3.6 million-strong Islamic minority in the country.

"This government trusts our Muslim brothers," she said. Earlier today, communist rebel leaders warned Mr Bush's despatch of military advisers to the Philippines could lead to a "new Vietnam" and hasten Mrs Arroyo's downfall. They charged the US advisers would turn against the New People's Army, a 12,000-member Maoist guerrilla group, included in a "terrorist blacklist".



Afghan interim Prime Minister Mr Hamid Karzai at a reception for dignitaries in Tokyo on Sunday, on the eve of International Donors' Conference. Mr Karzai, whom Gucci had branded as "the most chic man in the world," said wearing the Afghan traditional chapan has become a fashion. — AP/PTI

'Omar will be nabbed'

KANDAHAR, Jan. 20. — Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar is moving from place to place in Afghanistan and is being hunted by tribal forces, Kandahar governor Mr Gul Agha said today.

Mr Agha, who controls Afghanistan's second city and much of southwest Afghanistan, said his security forces were pursuing and hoped to arrest the reclusive former ruler of the austere movement that governed Afghanistan for six years.

"He is still in Afghanistan," Mr Agha told Reuters in an interview. "He is moving from place to place. When we catch up with him, he will be arrested." — Reuters

THE STATESMAN

21 JAN 2002

180-10
20/1

Nine Afghan hijackers jailed

LONDON, JAN. 19. A nine-member gang of Afghan hijackers who seized a passenger jet to escape the Taliban before landing at Stansted airport, about 40 km from here two years ago, were sentenced to imprisonment by a court here.

Two of them, Ali Safi, 38, and his brother Muhammad, 33, seen as the leaders of the armed group, were each sentenced to five years in prison by the Old Bailey yesterday. Six of their followers were jailed for 30 months and a seventh, Reshed Ahmodi, for 27 months because he was aged only 18 at the time.

The two brothers were found guilty of hijacking, two counts of false imprisonment, possession of firearms and possession of explosives. Their co-conspirators, Abdul Shohab, 23, Taimur Shah, 29, Muhammad Kazim, 34, Nazamuddin Mohammidy, 27, Abdul Ghayur, 25, and Mohammad Shaib, 25, were jailed for 30 months on the same charges. The defendants said they would appeal against their convictions.

It was the men's second trial: the first jury could not agree on a

verdict. The cost to the taxpayer of bringing them to justice, including the initial police operation, is estimated to be up to £22 million.

In February 2000, the gang threatened to murder 156 passengers, including 21 children, and blow up the Boeing 727 at Stansted if they were refused entry.

The Judge, Sir Edwin Jowitt, said he accepted that the group, members of the Young Intellectuals of Afghanistan, had been fleeing the Taliban regime, but their escape had turned into a criminal act after the pilot of the Ariana 727 plane was forced to fly to Britain after landing in Moscow. The judge said the brothers had prolonged the 70 hour siege to make a political point. They would have been given sentences "in double figures" had it been a criminal act from the start.

The airport siege, Britain's longest, ended peacefully after the men surrendered. During the siege, the captain and aircrew escaped through a cockpit window but a steward was beaten up and thrown down the aircraft's steps.

— PTI

THE HINDU

US issues alert on five al Qaida terrorists

FROM JOHN FULLERTON AND ANTON FERRERA

Kandahar/Washington, Jan. 18 (Reuters): Afghan police fanned out in southern Kandahar today to confiscate weapons from armed groups as the US issued a global appeal to find five al Qaida men it said could be plotting suicide attacks.

The US assured the new Afghan interim government of its long-term support for desperately needed reconstruction even as its hunt for members of Osama bin Laden's al Qaida network spread deeper into countries beyond Afghanistan.

Police from Britain to the Philippines moved against terror suspects believed linked to bin Laden's radical group attacks on the September 11 attacks on the United States that killed about 3,100 people.

British police said today they had arrested 17 people this week in an anti-terrorist clampdown and had charged two UK-based

Algerians with links to the al Qaida network.

Police in Leicester, central England, said they had arrested four more people, including two women, today, after making 13 arrests yesterday.

In Washington, US attorney general John Ashcroft released videos and photographs of what he called five would-be "suicide terrorists" and appealed to the public around the world to be on the lookout for them.

"Analysis of the audio portions of these tapes conducted thus far suggests... that the men may be trained and prepared to commit future suicide terrorist acts," Ashcroft told a news conference. He said the material was found in the house of Muhammad Atef, al Qaida military strategist, who the United States says was killed in November by the air strikes.

An inspection team from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) arrived in Cuba to visit a US internment



Five men the US government has identified as alleged members of al Qaida network. (AP/PTI)

camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, amid concern among rights groups about the conditions in which captives from the war in Afghanistan are being held.

The operation against illegal guns in Kandahar was launched at 6 am (0130 GMT), shortly after the nightly curfew ended, and within hours bursts of automatic fire could be heard from the northeast sector of the city.

In one incident, a Reuters correspondent saw two police-

men open fire with Kalashnikov rifles on a taxi that refused to stop at their checkpoint. Five rounds were fired, smashing the rear window of the vehicle. The taxi was brought to a halt at the next checkpoint and no one was hurt.

Afghanistan is awash with firearms after 23 years of war and there are fears that lawlessness could derail efforts by the new government to begin reconstruction.

week.

Powell said US security forces were still scouring Afghanistan to purge any Taliban or al Qaida "contamination". US special envoy for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad said al Qaida fighters had crossed from Afghanistan into Iran, but Tehran was not allowing the US access to those it had detained.

Washington also has reason to fear Iran is trying to stir up trouble for the interim Afghan administration with hostile acts such as providing arms and sending Islamic militants into the country, he told journalists in Kabul. US forces flew 30 prisoners out of their Kandahar base to neighbouring Pakistan.

Landmark trip

Karzai embarked on his landmark voyage to Saudi Arabia — one of only three states that recognised the Taliban government — on board the first official Ariana airlines flight in two

years.

The trip is the first for the leader of the month-old interim UN-backed government, the first overseas trip in years by an Afghan leader empowered to represent the whole of the war-shattered land and the debut of the relatively inexperienced Karzai on the international stage.

He was headed first to Mecca to perform umra — a short Muslim pilgrimage outside the annual haj period — and then to Riyadh to meet Saudi King Fahd. He was due to travel to an aid donors' meeting in Japan at the weekend.

A member of the four-person ICRC delegation visiting the US detention camp in Cuba said it will not make public its findings on the way the captives are treated. "We will look at... conditions and we will share... our findings confidentially," said Urs Boegli, a member of the delegation and the senior ICRC representative in Washington.

THE NEW YORK TIMES

19 JAN 2002

Shoe bomber charged with al-Qaida links

Washington, January 17

RICHARD REID, who was overpowered on a Paris-to-Miami flight last month as he tried to light explosives in his shoes, was an al-Qaida-trained terrorist who tried to bring down an airliner carrying nearly 200 people, according to a federal grand jury indictment filed in Boston today.

The nine-count indictment, which includes charges of attempted murder and attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction, said Reid, a 28-year-old British citizen, was trained at "various times" in Afghanistan. The indictment provided no other details about Reid's ties to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network but made it clear that prosecutors regarded him as a terrorist.

Reid is being held without bail in Plymouth, Massachusetts, and he will be tried in federal court in Boston. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison if convicted. None of the offences he is accused of are punishable by the death penalty.

At a news conference today, Attorney General John Ashcroft credited several passengers and crew members aboard Flight 63 with preventing Reid from detonating the explosives hidden in his sneakers.

Ashcroft made it clear that he believed that al-Qaida was fully responsible for the attempted shoe bombing and represented a significant threat in the United States. "Reid's indictment alerts us to a clear threat that al-Qaida could attack the US again," Ashcroft said. "We must be prepared, alert and vigilant. Al-Qaida-trained terrorists may act on their own or as part of the terrorist network."

One of the charges accused Reid of the attempted wrecking of a mass transportation vehicle, a new criminal violation that was one of the measures enacted by Congress after the September 11 attacks. That charge and three others against Reid carry a maximum sentence of life in prison.

Reid was also charged with the attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and attempted murder. In addition, he was accused of placing an explosive device on an aircraft, interfering with a flight crew, attempted

FAILED SUITCASE BOMBER SENTENCED

AN ALGERIAN man was sentenced to the maximum 24 years in prison today for his role in a failed plot to detonate a suitcase bomb at the Los Angeles airport amid the millennium celebrations. Mokhtar Haouari (32), who lives in Canada, was convicted by a Manhattan jury last July of federal charges that he supplied fake IDs and cash to two others in the plot.

"The defendant's conduct posed a great risk to the well-being of the American people," the judge told the crowded courtroom in New York.

At the time, prosecutors said the attack on the crowded airport in the days before January 1, 2000, could have been the bloodiest act of terrorism against the United States since the 1995 Oklahoma City bombing, which killed 168 people.

The plot was foiled when its mastermind, Ahmed Ressam, was arrested at Port Angeles, Washington, while trying to enter from Canada in a car with a trunk full of explosives in December 1999. Ressam had been trained in terrorist camps financed by Osama bin Laden.

AP, New York

destruction of an aircraft and using a destructive device during a crime of violence.

American Airlines Flight 63 was over the Atlantic en route to Miami on December 22 when Reid tried to ignite a fuse hanging from one of his shoes. Several passengers and crew members wrestled with Reid, pinning him down, with one passenger brandishing a fire extinguisher, until a physician on board administered a sedative.

The flight was diverted to Boston where a federal magistrate ordered Reid held without bail. Federal prosecutors initially charged him with the attempted bombing in a criminal complaint that was superseded by today's indictment. Reid's movements closely resembled those of an al-Qaida operative known as "Abdul Ra'uff," whose travels as a terrorist scout were described in an article published today by *The Wall Street Journal*.

The New York Times

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

17 JAN 2002

WAR AGAINST TERROR / OPERATION TO ERADICATE ABU SAYYAF ON

12/1 **U.S. sends troops to Philippines** *Removal APD-12*

WASHINGTON, JAN. 16. America is sending 650 troops to the Philippines to join operations against Muslim guerillas with links to Osama bin Laden. The move is Washington's most significant expansion of its war against terrorism since Afghanistan. Diplomats said it was a "convenient emergency" as America sought new targets.

An advance party of American troops has established offices for the operations in Zamboanga, the headquarters of the Philippines' southern military command. The stated aim of the "exercise" code-named Balikatan ("shoulder-to-shoulder") is to eradicate Abu Sayyaf, a guerilla group linked to the Al-Qaeda network. Some 160 special forces, including Navy Seals, Green Berets and U.S. Marines, will be supported by up to 500 other American service personnel.

Abu Sayyaf was formed as a



Leftwing activists stage a demonstration outside the U.S. embassy in Manila on Wednesday in protest against the deployment of American Special Forces in the southern Philippines — AFP

radical Islamic militia, but is now seen as a group profiting from frequent kidnappings. It has two American missionary hostages on Basilan island, 500 miles south of

Manila. American and Filipino politicians have emphasised the Al-Qaeda connections of Abu Sayyaf. Paul Wolfowitz, the U.S. Deputy Defence Secretary, said

recently: "If they could clear the Abu Sayyaf out of Basilan Island, that would be a small blow against the extended Al-Qaeda network."

The operation fits with the U.S. President, George Bush's promise to fight the war against terrorism wherever necessary.

On Tuesday, Brig. Gen. Emmanuel Teodosio, deputy chief of staff of the Philippines armed forces for training, said he and Brig. Gen. Donald Wurster, head of the U.S. Special Operations Command, would lead the "exercises".

Brig. Gen. Teodosio said the American troops would be divided into teams of 12 and merged with Philippine units. They would be in the frontline area, but would not fight, except in self-defence. "The presence of the Americans here is to train, advise and assist," he said. — ©Telegraph Group Limited, London, 2002

THE HINDU

17 JAN 2002

LeT, Jaish banned in any other name

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, January 15

THE MILITARY regime has warned the five parties banned by President Pervez Musharraf that they would remain banned even if they change their names.

The warning came after the heads of Sunni and Shia militant groups Sipah-i-Sahaba and Tehrij-i-Jafaria yesterday announced they would operate under the names of Millat-i-Islamia and Millat-i-Jaferia. "No banned party can operate under any other name," a spokesman of Interior Ministry said in a statement late last night.

The spokesman referred to Section IIB-1 (b) of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997 which prohibits the activities of a proscribed organisation even if it operates under a different name. "As such, no banned party can operate under any new name. Therefore, any such action would be in violation of Anti-Terrorism Act, 1997."

He warned newspapers not to carry any statements by the leaders of the banned groups, saying it is a punishable offence. "A section of the Press had carried the statement of a leader of a banned sectarian party that his party would operate under a new name. Section IIB-1(d) of the same Act which lays down that publication, printing or dissemination of any Press statement, Press conference or public utterance by, on behalf of or in support of a proscribed organisation shall be prohibited and any violation of this is punishable."

The proscribed organisation should also submit all accounts of its income and expenditure for its political and social welfare activities and disclose all fund-



Members of a banned Islamic militant group in the lock-up of a Karachi police station on Tuesday.

AFP PHOTO

ing sources to the competent authority designated by the Government, the spokesman said.

The Pakistani Government has released some of the detained activists of the banned militant organisations after scrutiny, media reports said today. Reports from Karachi said over 400 members, including those of Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, were arrested till yesterday.

Confusion prevailed over the

number of arrests in the ongoing nationwide crackdown. While some reports put the total between 1,300 and 1,600, others quoted Pakistan's Interior Secretary Tasneem Noorani as saying that over 1,400 members were arrested and 390 offices sealed. However, these figures did not include the militants arrested in PoK.

Media reports here said the crackdown against militant groups was not confined only to

the banned five outfits. Officials also indicated that the wave of arrests as part of the crackdown is winding down as the bulk of the suspects is already in detention.

"The bulk of suspects has already been rounded up, but the process will continue," a senior Interior Ministry official said. "Police in all four provinces have sealed 473 offices of these groups and rounded up around 1,400 suspects."

Pak media still hawks jihad

Karachi, January 15

NEWSPAPERS AND magazines upholding jihad in Kashmir continue to clutter newsstands in Pakistan despite the military Government's sweeping crackdown on extremism.

Nearly 1,400 alleged religious extremists have been arrested since Saturday under a tough drive against Islamic militants and sectarian radicals announced by President Pervez Musharraf at the weekend.

But banned outfits such as the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-e-Mohammad are still spreading their message through a range of publications and magazines easily available here.

Other groups linked to terrorism and included on the US terrorist exclusion list are also publishing regular journals and newspapers full of anti-west rhetoric and calls for jihad.

Qari Mohammad Zafar, an 18-year-old student of a religious seminary, said his elders urged him to read about jihad through the Islam daily published by the al-Rashid trust and Lashkar's *Zarb-e-Tayyeba* weekly.

Both groups are on the US list and their assets frozen in Pakistan, although the al-Rashid trust has not been banned.

"I do not know whether the government will also ban them (the publications), but we have been told by our elders to read pro-jihad newspapers and magazines," Zafar said.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

16 JAN 2002

They may be down, but not yet out

Al-Badr warns of R-Day strike in J&K

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, January 14

AL-BADR MUJAHIDEEN, a pro-Pakistani militant group operating in Jammu and Kashmir, has warned of "stunning" action against the State's security forces on Republic Day.

The al-Badr has not yet been banned by the Pakistani Government, but over 100 of its functionaries and leaders have been arrested. The outfit, however, is undeterred and vows to continue its activities in Jammu and Kashmir.

General Pervez Musharraf banned the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba as a part of a campaign against religious extremism in Pakistan. A nationwide crackdown has been ordered on the militant outfits operating in Kashmir for quite a long time.

Spokesman for al-Badr, Dr Abdullah, described the Pakistani Government's crackdown on his group as "illogical" and "unwanted".

"We have never indulged in terrorist activities. Our activities have always been against security forces," he said.

Dr Abdullah said the group would continue its activities in Kashmir with security forces and pro-Government militants as its targets. He threatened "stunning" attacks on security forces on January 26.

The Lashkar-e-Tayyeba too has rejected the ban and vowed to continue its activities in the State. Jaish-e-Mohammad, which has so far avoided reacting publicly on Musharraf's initiative

against jihadis, is unlikely to shun its activities. Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and al-Badr militants have a formidable presence in Jammu and Kashmir.

While Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and al-Badr militants dominate over Rajwar and Ramhal in Kupwara, Jaish-e-Mohammad dominates over the Beerwah and Tangmarg belts in central Kashmir and Shopian, Tral and Kulgam pockets in south Kashmir. Harkat-ul-Mujahideen, Tehreek-ul-Mujahideen and al-Ummar Mujahideen too have flayed the Pakistani crackdown. Harkat described the ban as a "conspiracy against freedom struggle of Kashmir".

Al-Ummar Mujahideen chief Mustaq Zaragar, who was released along with Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar during the Kandhar hijack, said: "Jihad has not been started at somebody's behest, nor can be it stopped on anyone's directions."

But the militant outfits support Musharraf's Kashmir policy. "We appreciate General Musharraf's Kashmir policy and ask the Government of India to shun its intransigence and respond positively," the al-Badr spokesperson said.

Hizbul Mujahideen, too, has supported Musharraf's Kashmir policy. Saiful Islam the outfit's chief in the Valley, described the Pakistani President's initiatives as bold and claimed that he did not change his policy on Kashmir. He said that armed struggle would continue with renewed "zest and zeal".



A Pakistani policeman sticks a Government order on the gates of the Jaish-e-Mohammad office in Multan, sealing it.

AP PHOTO

Pak terrorists go underground

Washington, January 14

ISLAMIC MILITANTS in Pakistan are not ready to give up. The outfits are changing their identities and reorganising their movements into underground cells to give themselves a fresh lease of life.

While the militants admit that President Pervez Musharraf's promised crackdown has threatened their very existence, they vow to continue their fight in India nevertheless.

"We have learned from the blunders committed by al-Qaeda and the Taliban. We will never repeat the mistakes in Pakistan," Abu Hafasa (22) told *The Washington Post*. "In the future, each one of our registered activists

will use a cover name." Hafasa said he was a member of Jaish and bragged about taking part in five guerrilla raids against the Indian Army in Baramulla and Anantnag.

"I have seen my Pakistani and Kashmiri friends giving their lives in Kashmir," he said. "Who is President Musharraf to stop me from waging holy war against India?"

Jamaat-e-Islami vice-president Khurshid Ahmad said the new Government restrictions against Kashmiri rebel groups would not prevent them from pursuing their cause. "Musharraf can never stop the freedom movement in Kashmir. No one can... The Kashmiri struggle will not cease. It may have ups and downs, but it will

not stop," he said. ^{HT-9} Militant leaders say they plan to continue recruiting members and raising money from their new bases. They have moved some public outreach offices to PoK, where they expect the Government to tolerate them as long as they keep a low profile.

"We will fight... If the Indians have the guts, let them stop us in Kashmir," Lashkar spokesman Abdullah Sayyaf said.

Several militants said their groups were working to build a communication network that would enable them to continue their actions without tipping off authorities.

Abu Nisar, a Lashkar supporter, said members would keep in touch via e-mail, internet bul-

letin boards, electronic paging and SMS. "In Afghanistan, it was not possible to do this, but here we use all means of communication," he said.

Pakistani Intelligence officers said they can tap fixed and cellular phones but lack the equipment and knowledge to seize other forms of communication.

Pakistani officials have had little success tracking the financial assets of the militants. The Government announced last month that it would freeze the assets of Jaish and Lashkar, but the Central Bank has found no money in the group's accounts.

The Pakistani Government is also worried about a backlash from the militants.

PTI

Islamabad swoops down on militants

ISLAMABAD: Hundreds of activists of the Lashkar-e-Toiba and four other militant organisations banned by Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf were arrested and several of their offices sealed during overnight raids across the country.

According to local media reports, the number of arrested persons varied from 350 to 600 but there was no official confirmation. The number is expected to go up as the raids were conducted throughout the night across the country.

During the crackdown, which began well before Gen Musharraf announced the ban on five Islamic militant groups, including the Lashkar-e-Toiba and the Jaish-e-Mohammad, hundreds of religious activists were arrested while seven offices of defunct religious and *jehadi* groups were sealed in Lahore, which is considered to be the heartland of *ihadis*.

Similar reports have come from Peshawar and a number of other cities.

Around 300 activists were arrested from different parts of Punjab, including dozens from Lahore, *The Nation* said on Sunday.

It said soon after the speech of

Gen Musharraf on Saturday night, Lahore SSP Aftab Cheema radioed a message to officials of four divisions of the city to take action in their respective areas. Consequently, the police sealed seven offices of the Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad, Sipah-e-Sahaba and Tehreek-e-Jafria Pakistan. Lashkar offices at Chamberlane Road, Lake Road, Begum Kot, Moon Market, Gulshan-e-Ravi and Rasheed Pura were sealed, it said.

The police also sealed Jaish offices at Jamia Masjid Zainab Band Road, Tehreek Jaferia's Al-Arif House at Muslim Town and Sipah-e-Sahaba office at Jia Musa. More raids are being conducted.

Reports from Karachi said more than 400 religious activists had been rounded-up in southern Sindh province. Banners and flags of all religious groups were removed and their offices sealed. The police have also taken into custody the records of these organisations.

Over 150 persons from Karachi and 300 from interior Sindh were picked up and taken into custody, the reports said. These included students of several Islamic seminaries. (PTI)

THE TIMES OF INDIA
THE TIMES OF INDIA

14 JAN 2002

Attack on terror with reforms

Speech bearing Powell stamp

FROM K.P. NAYAR

Washington, Jan. 12: Three things stand out about General Pervez Musharraf's address to his nation that the world had been waiting for.

By allowing the US state department to openly acknowledge that Musharraf had discussed his speech in advance with secretary of state Colin Powell, the Pakistani leader is pre-empting India's outright rejection or scepticism about tonight's television address.

"The secretary (Powell) has been talking to him (Musharraf) about the kinds of steps that he has been taking against extremism and terrorism, the steps he intends to take... the direction he intends to go," state department spokesman Richard Boucher said at his daily briefing.

"That has been part of our discussions with Pakistan for some time, including the secretary's discussions last time. So, yes, we have some idea about what he intends to do and what he intends to say," Boucher said.

By making such an unusual admission, which virtually impinges on Musharraf's authority to act independently, the Americans are also sending a message to New Delhi that there is a method in Musharraf's actions.

The Americans would now like India to await the arrival of Powell in the subcontinent before it takes any steps which may be interpreted here as contributing to further tension in the region. "Pakistan's pledge to crack down on Islamic extremists suspected in the attack on India's Parliament creates the basis for peaceful resolution of tensions," Powell said today.

Second, Musharraf has equated the attacks on Parliament and the Assembly in Srinagar with the September 11 strikes in the US.

By clubbing these three attacks in one paragraph of his speech, he has made amends for India's criticism that Pakistan sees terrorists as good ones and bad ones and patronises the ones that attack India. Musharraf clearly wants India to note that he is willing to criticise those who launch operations against it.

Third, Musharraf has roundly attacked those who set up Pakistan-Afghan defence councils. This is a message to powerful elements in the Pakistani establishment who were the architects of such councils. These include elements in the ISI who have been patronising the Taliban and terrorists operating in India.



Pervez Musharraf addresses the nation on television. (AFP)

Wary India buys time

FROM PRANAY SHARMA

New Delhi, Jan. 12: A cautious India decided to buy 15 hours more before responding to Pervez Musharraf's offer of peace.

The only response from South Block that came minutes after the military ruler's speech was to say India would give a detailed account tomorrow noon.

Home minister L.K. Advani was the only senior leader to offer a comment. On a trip to the US, he told a TV channel India would judge Musharraf on the basis of what action he takes on the ground against terrorism.

Immediately after Musharraf's address, there were reports of offices of jihadi organisations being sealed in different places.

The Indian leadership has been in touch with the US and other key world players. Indications suggest Delhi is not totally satisfied with what the Pakistani President had to say. The ruling party has already announced its displeasure. "He has not said anything which can satisfy the feelings of Indians after the December 13 attack," BJP spokesman Sunil Shastri said.

Before giving its formal response, the government would like to assess the international mood to ensure a harsh reaction does not isolate it.

Another obvious reason for the delay is Musharraf peppering his peace offer with lots of riders. The obvious ones are calling for a much greater role for the international community to resolve the Kashmir issue and the silence on terrorist outfits operating out of Pakistan-occupied Kashmir (PoK).

Musharraf said he would not allow terrorist activities from Pakistani territory. But he did not clarify whether the rules were also applicable to PoK.

Syed Salahuddin, chief of the United Jihad Council, was quick to latch on to this as a positive signal. Musharraf banned the Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Toiba, as India has demanded, but Salahuddin was quoted by a news agency as saying the edict would make little difference to their activities in Kashmir.

"What the President has uttered regarding Kashmir is en-

couraging for the people and the mujahideen of Kashmir," he said.

Musharraf rejected the possibility of handing over Pakistani nationals figuring on the list of 20 criminals submitted by India. This obviously means that Masood Azhar of Jaish and Hafeez Saeed of Lashkar will not be given to Delhi.

But he did not rule out handing over of Indian nationals taking shelter in Pakistan after committing crimes in India, though he restricted himself to only promising action if evidence was provided.

Another encouraging sign for Delhi is the absence of the term "freedom fighter" while the President referred to Kashmir and his iteration of shunning terrorism in all forms. So far, Musharraf has described as "freedom fighters" what India calls terrorists.

"For the first time after several years, if not many decades, a leader of Pakistan has said he is going to give a new orientation to Pakistan's society and polity... He has totally discarded religious fundamentalism and declared his intention to build a modern, progressive Pakistan." PTI quoted former foreign secretary Muchkund Dubey as saying.

Ban on Lashkar & Jaish, hedging on handover

FROM IDREES BAKHTIAR

Islamabad, Jan. 12: It was touted as the most important speech of his life, and it was. After President Pervez Musharraf's hour-long address today, life in Pakistan may not be the same.

The general went half way to address India's concerns by banning the Lashkar-e-Toiba and Jaish-e-Mohammad, but set out to travel a longer distance than any Pakistani leader in recent times to reform the country from within.

Mosques and madarsas, a few of which, he said, had strayed from the path of Islam to preach terrorism, hatred and intolerance, are coming under strict government regulation as the President vowed to turn Pakistan into an Islamic welfare state.

With a picture of the founder of the nation, Mohammad Ali Jinnah, to his right and the Pakistani flag to his left, Musharraf asked: "What is the final decision? Will Pakistan be a theocratic state?" And proceeded to give the answer himself: "The people have already decided that it will be a dynamic, Islamic welfare state."

He sought to distance Pakistan from military jihad. "Let us declare a jihad against hunger, poverty, illiteracy, intolerance," he said.

There was a reference to the border tension with India only once. The general was concentrating all his firepower on combating what he called the threat within. Citing sectarian violence as a serious internal threat, he banned the Sipah-e-

TEN COMMANDMENTS

- Ban Lashkar-e-Toiba, Jaish-e-Mohammad and other militant groups
- Rule out handover of Pakistanis. Promise action against others on India's most-wanted list
- Any group found involved in attacks on Parliament, Kashmir Assembly to be dealt with severely
- Offers fresh talks on Kashmir
- Pledges to continue support to the Kashmir cause
- Not to allow use of Pakistani territory for terrorist activities
- No organisation to be allowed to indulge in terrorism in the name of religion
- All madarsas and mosques to be registered
- No new mosques and madarsas to come up without government permission
- Foreign students seeking admission to a madarsa to require government clearance

nal issue. "There is no need for becoming 'khudai fujdaar' (interfering in others' affairs)."

In the midst of his speech, Musharraf digressed: "I want to give a message to Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee, as President of Pakistan." Addressing Vajpayee directly, he said: "If you want to bring in harmony and peace, then you will have to find through dialogues the solution of the Kashmir problem in the light of the wishes of the people of Kashmir."

He quoted a Vajpayee statement: "The mindset has to change. The historical baggage has to be jettisoned" and offered to take the Indian Prime Minister up on it.

Along with that came the customary warning - that India should not dare cross the border.

He made it clear that no organisation will be allowed to indulge in terrorism inside or outside the country, and not under the pretext of the "Kashmir cause". Musharraf did not make the usual distinction between "freedom fighter" and terrorist that has so riled India.

Referring to the list of 20 offenders given by India, Musharraf said: "There is no question of handing over any Pakistani to any other country.... We will try them in Pakistan according to our law" if evidence is provided.

"So far as non-Pakistanis are concerned," he said, without naming names, "we have not provided them asylum. If they are found guilty, we would think of taking proper action."

■ Speech excerpts on Page 4, More reports on Page 6

Midnight gift of STD rate cut

FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT

New Delhi, Jan. 12: STD rates are dropping by over 60 per cent from midnight, but off-peak-hour rates will remain unchanged.

An STD call from Calcutta to Delhi will now cost Rs 9 per minute as against the earlier Rs 24. Off-peak call rates will continue to be Rs 450 a minute. The new rates will be applicable to both cellular phones as well as calls made from fixed-line phones.

The time slabs for STD calls have been reduced from four to two - off-peak hours from 8 pm to 9 am, and peak hours from 9 am to 8 pm.

But Bharat Sanchar Nigam Ltd officials now fear the long-distance lines will get jammed with calls. "It is a challenge and we will try to face it," they said. "Congestion will certainly be a factor initially. But we hope that once the traffic is balanced, network congestion will be down to normal levels."

The lower rates will pose a threat to Bharti which had announced a 50 per cent cut in mobile-to-mobile STD calls, triggering a rate war.

Sahaba Pakistan (a Sunni organisation) and the Shi'ite Tehreek-e-Jaffaria.

Musharraf stuck to Pakistan's position of offering moral, diplomatic and political support to the "Kashmir cause". He said: "Kashmir runs in our blood." He did not comment on the alleged involvement of Pakistani outfits in Kashmir, but did stress that Pakistan came above everything else, any other exter-

Where life is a celebration...

Shree Krishna Garden

1/1, Raja Rajendra Lal Mitra Road, Kolkata 70

US flies out PoWs to Cuba

Kandahar, January 11

US MARINES began an extraordinary security mission on Thursday night — flying the first 20 of hundreds of al-Qaida prisoners to a US base in Cuba, where they are to be held for questioning and possible trial.

Gunfire broke out near the heavily guarded Marine base at Kandahar airport as the US Air Force C-17 took off — a sign of how the area around the city that was once a stronghold of the Taliban remains insecure.

Shortly after the aircraft left the runway, the base received small arms fire, and Marines responded with heavy outgoing fire, Marine Lt James Jarvis said. He said he knew of no US casualties in the firefight, which witnesses said lasted for about half an hour.

The prisoners are being taken to the US base at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba — and the US military is taking no chances with them, since other al-Qaida and Taliban fighters captured in the Afghan conflict have staged bloody uprisings against their captors.

"These are dangerous individuals," Defence Secretary Donald H Rumsfeld said in Washington on Thursday. "There are among these prisoners people who are



An armed Northern Alliance soldier on the outskirts of Kabul on Friday. Northern Alliance troops are withdrawing from the Afghan capital on the orders of the interim Government, a British military spokesman said.

perfectly willing to kill themselves and kill other people." He said those overseeing the transfer have been told to use "appropriate restraint."

During the flights to Cuba, prisoners were to be chained to their seats — and possibly be sedated, forced to use portable

urinals and be fed by their guards — according to reports.

The Pentagon subsequently barred news organisations from transmitting pictures taken as the prisoners board the plane, citing Red Cross objections. The Red Cross denied it had raised the issue with the US military.

The exchange of fire at the base brought US warplanes out hours later patrolling around Kandahar, a rare event since US bombing ended in the area.

In Kabul, British peacekeeping forces and newly deputised Afghan police on Thursday launched joint patrols of the city in an effort to restore security and civilians' trust. The new Afghan Government has ordered men with guns off the city streets.

Meanwhile, Pakistani and US recovery teams converged on the crash site of a Marine KC-130 refuelling tanker that struck a mountain near a remote base in Pakistan near the Afghan border and exploded in flames on Wednesday. Seven Marines were killed, the worst American casualty toll of the Afghan war.

At Guantanamo Bay, a temporary detention area called Camp X-Ray has room for 100 prisoners and soon could house 220. A more permanent site under construction is expected to house up to 2,000. There, prisoners will be isolated in individual, open-air fenced cells with metal roofs. They will sleep on mats under halogen floodlights. They could get wet from rain. The Red Cross and other organisations will monitor conditions.

AP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

12 JAN 2002

Fighting terrorism: not this way

By Vinay Kumar

NEW DELHI, JAN. 10. Over the past fortnight, three incidents have taken place on the law and order front in three States. All the three incidents have largely gone unnoticed but a scrutiny points to a rather disturbing trend which could well mar the nation's renewed pledge and vigour to fight terrorism in all its dimensions.

On December 27, the Gujarat police swung into action and arrested 127 delegates of an educational convention in Surat, describing them as activists of the banned outfit, SIML. Those arrested included a 65-year-old Maulana Aatur Rahman Wajdi from Saharanpur, Uttar Pradesh, and a youth of 19 years, Shaikh Hussain Mansuri, a resident of Ahmedabad.

The organisers of the educational convention, Tahreek-e-Ehyaa-e-Ummah (Movement for the Revival of the Community), claimed that their outfit is eight years old and working for the promotion of social and educational awareness. All the conventions in the past eight years have been well-publicised and held in various cities. This time round too, the Surat convention had nothing secret about it.

Vouching for the genuineness of the organisation, Syed Ameenul Hasan Rizvi, member of the All-India Muslim Personal Law Board, Maulana Abdul Aleem Islahi, an Islamic scholar from Hyderabad, and Mr. P.M.A. Salam, member of the Movement for Protection of Islamic Symbols, denied allegations that the SIML had clandestinely organised the Surat convention. They claimed it was part of a

larger design to suppress legitimate Muslim activists and a gross violation of fundamental human rights. On December 22, members of the campaign team, including three students who were National Council members of the All-India Students Association (AISA), were detained by the U.P. police in Pannuganj police station limits of Sonbhadra district. Police, the AISA claimed here, insisted on branding them as being affiliated to the CPI(M-L), which

NEWS ANALYSIS

was nothing but a front for the banned MCC and PWG outfits. Only a few weeks ago, CPI(M-L) activists and leaders in Mirzapur were arrested and reportedly tortured by police and released after a protest by the people.

The incident certainly does not appear to be an isolated incidence of police high-handedness but smacks of a narrow bent of mind which is intolerant of a voice of dissent being expressed in a democratic manner. In fact, the AISA went on to claim openly that it organises "go to villages" campaigns all over the country to enable students forge links with the rural poor and understand society's conflicts and contradictions. Can and should this be linked to a terrorist activity?

The third incident shows how the battle against terrorism has become a matter of political convenience as the critics of the Government have alleged. Barely five days ago, the Home Department of the Punjab Government

ordered the reinstatement of a head constable removed from service a decade ago for alleged link with militants. The policeman was allegedly in league with the militants involved in the killing of a Superintendent of Police and three of the SP's gunmen. Ironically, it was the Home Department that had directly appointed the son of the slain SP (Operations) on compassionate grounds. It is learnt that the objections of the police department to the reinstatement of the head constable were turned down by the Home Department.

The head constable will be the second dismissed policeman to be reinstated after a sub-inspector who was removed for alleged involvement in a terrorist attack on the then DGP, Punjab, Julio Ribeiro at Jalandhar about 15 years ago. Senior police officers of Punjab have termed the reinstatement of the policeman as a blatant act that would only lower the morale of the force which had fought militancy in Punjab. It has been alleged by informed sources that the order for the reinstatement of the dismissed head constable came directly from the political household of the Chief Minister.

On the one hand, there are instances of suppression of democratic voices and linking them to terrorist outfits and, on the other, those dismissed from the police for terrorist links and attacking senior police officers are being reinstated in service.

These incidents strike a disturbing note: Is it how the Government proposes to tackle and put down terrorism? The issue at stake cannot be brushed aside.

THE HINDU

11 JAN 2007

Fresh probe into Lashkar, other terror groups' assets

Muhammad Najeeb

ISLAMABAD 9 JANUARY

PAKISTAN HAS reportedly launched a fresh probe to determine the actual volume of assets and deposits of organisations like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Ummah Tameer-e-Nau and their associates. Frustrated by the less than \$1 million tapped from bank accounts of listed terrorist organisations in Pakistan, the authorities are reportedly launching the probe into their deposits and assets.

A report in the Jung daily said officials feel groups like Lashkar, one of two Pakistan-based organisations that India blames for the attack on its Parliament, cannot be run on such meagre sums. Jung quoting unnamed official sources said the fresh probe is not limited to tapping their assets and accounts but has been extended to the alleged financial links and investments made through front men and organisations.

Having acquired details of bank accounts probed under the instructions of the State Bank of Pakistan last month, authorities are said to be launching the investigations afresh for determining the actual volume of assets and deposits of the organisations linked to the groups like Lashkar-e-Toiba and Ummah Tameer-e-Nau.

Hundi, or money laundering, experts and property dealers doing business in transactions of large sums of money from abroad and inland, plus the sale of houses and ranches, inland and abroad, are suspect recipients of these amounts. In this connection, sources said, investigators have received details of the money transacted through the hundi agents in a number of countries and in Pakistan.

Financial intelligence experts in the US and a number of European and West Asian countries have compiled these details, they added. The Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and bank officials are reportedly being deputed to carry out these probes while the property and hundi agents will be approached in cities like Karachi, Lahore, Peshawar, Islamabad and a number of other cities, the paper said.

— IANS

The Economic Times

9 JAN 2002

9 JAN 2002

Pak ban on Jaish, Lashkar by weekend

But Islamabad's much-awaited new Kashmir policy is likely to fall short of Delhi's expectations

Mubashir Zaidi & Agencies
Islamabad/Washington, Jan 9

GENERAL PERVEZ Musharraf will announce a ban on Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayebba on Saturday, official sources in Islamabad said on Wednesday. The Pakistani President's long-awaited speech on a new terrorism policy will also include bans on two domestic sectarian terrorist groups, the Tehrik-i-Fiqah Jafaria and Sipahi Sahaba.

However, Musharraf is expected to rule out handing over any of the 20 people on India's terrorist list. He will say nothing about India's principal demand: that Pakistan ensures that no terrorist group operates from its territory. "Don't expect too many surprises in his speech," said a Pakistani official.

US Secretary of State Colin Powell was on the line with Musharraf from Washington earlier in the day, apparently urging him to speed up the date for his speech. The statement will fall well short of Indian and Western expectations.

Sources in Islamabad say the speech is not yet finalised but its basic tenor was probably set at the corps commander meeting on Tuesday. New Delhi sources say the general seems to be taking the path with the least domestic repercussions.

Pakistani officials also dampened expectations raised by a bevy of visiting US Senators. The officials said the Senators had misunderstood Musharraf. They indicated that much of what the Senators asked for in terms of anti-extremist policies were already in place. "He will tell the people...that we need to

IMAGE MAKEOVER FOR KASHMIR 'STRUGGLE'

AS COLIN POWELL put the onus of easing the border tension on Pakistan by ending support for terrorism in Kashmir, the Musharraf Government on Wednesday tried to alter the extremist image of Kashmiri militancy by constituting a National Kashmir Committee to be headed by former PoK President Muhammad Abdul Qayyum Khan, a moderate.

Qayyum was opposed to the involvement of extremist groups in Kashmir and thus sidelined for several years. Though his Muslim Conference Party secured a majority in the PoK parliamentary polls last year, he could not take over as Prime Minister. With the Pakistani Army's nudge, his party elected his junior Sikander Hayat to the post and later nominated retired General Mohammad Anwar Khan as President though he was not even a member of the party.

PTI, Islamabad

look at what is good for the future of Pakistan," said an official, not only in renouncing extremism but in actively combating it within the country. "No one in the Government has come out and said such things previously."

Senator Joseph Lieberman had said on Tuesday that Musharraf would be announcing a "bold and principled" initiative in the next two or three



DO YOU MEASURE UP? An Army officer checks the height of an aspirant during a recruitment drive in Jalandhar on Wednesday.

AFP PHOTO

days that could lead "to a new chapter in the relationship between Pakistan and India."

Publicity blitz

Islamabad is planning to send a team of politicians to world capitals to get across its position on the standoff with India and seek support for a peaceful settlement of contentious issues.

Foreign Office spokesman Aziz Ahmad Khan said yesterday

that the Government was close to finalising the delegation's composition and its destinations.

The plan, fashioned after similar moves by India to send its top ruling and Opposition leaders abroad, was aimed at blunting any media mileage India might steal.

The Indian initiative would involve sending out 40 MPs representing the Opposition and the ruling NDA coalition, who

would visit about a dozen countries to clarify India's stand on cross-border terrorism and Jammu and Kashmir.

The move to depute the MPs, including leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Manmohan Singh, CPI(M) leader Somnath Chatterjee and BJP spokesman VK Malhotra, is aimed at influencing international opinion on the growing menace of terrorism.

The MPs would visit the US, the UK, Germany, Malaysia, Indonesia and several West Asian countries. The move would show the international community that irrespective of ideology, "All parties are one as far as the fight against terrorism is concerned," he said. The MPs would also highlight the December 13 strike on Parliament and popular sentiment, he added.

Advani opens case against Pak terror

Washington, January 9

HOME MINISTER L K Advani today handed over a list of 42 terrorists operating from Pakistan to US Attorney-General John Ashcroft during their meeting, a TV network said. Advani began his engagement with top US officials, spelling out India's stand on terrorism and the stand-off with Pakistan since the attack on India's Parliament by Pakistan-based terror outfits.

Advani had wide-ranging talks with Attorney General John Ashcroft, launching India's diplomatic offensive to put more pressure on Pakistan and force an effective crackdown on terrorist outfits operating from its soil.

Later, Ashcroft hosted a lunch for Advani, who is scheduled to meet Secretary of State Colin Powell later in the day. Shortly before meeting Ashcroft, Advani said terrorism posed the biggest challenge to democracies in the US and India and the menace had to be stamped out from the face of the earth. Advani will meet National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice at the White House when President George may drop in.

Advani arrived here yesterday for six hectic days of heavy engagements in Washington and New York. His stature in India is being recognised by US policymakers.

Agencies

Peres backs India in war against terrorism

MPs panel defers stand on FDI in print media

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: Israeli deputy prime minister and foreign minister Shimon Peres, currently on a visit to India, ended the Delhi leg of his trip by solidly supporting this country in its war against terror. Drawing constant parallels between the concerns of India and Israel, Mr Peres said Israel would continue to support India.

Mr Peres met defence minister George Fernandes, external affairs minister Jaswant Singh and called on Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee on Tuesday. He also met former PMs I.K. Gujral and P.V. Narasimha Rao and Rajya Sabha deputy chairman Najma Heptullah.

At a press conference shortly before his departure for Bangalore, Mr Peres indicated that Israel did not expect any opposition to the



Shimon Peres

acquisition of Falcon air-borne early warning radars, adding that he did not want to say anything more because of the sensitivity of the issue. He signalled an early agreement in view of the excellent relations between the U.S. and India.

India wants to acquire the Israeli Falcon early warning radars as part of its project to deploy Airborne Warning and Control Systems (AWACs) in the near future. New Delhi also wants to acquire several other items of military hardware and software, like surveillance and electronic systems, from Israel.

On the issue of terrorism, Mr Peres said India and Israel faced the "same danger and the same target". Israel had not asked India to alter its friendship with Arab countries. Israel was not against Arabs or Islam, but the existence of the fanatic section of Islam had to be taken cognizance of.

Mr Peres virtually discounted the possibility of India going to war against Pakistan, saying "I don't see Indians as trigger-happy."

Times News Network

NEW DELHI: The Parliamentary Committee on IT on Tuesday deferred until its next sitting in February any decision on the sensitive issue of foreign direct investment in print media in the country.

According to the members present—barely a third of the committee turned up at the meeting—the committee was divided on the question of the desirability of opening up the print media to foreign participants. Significantly, even those who favoured the entry of foreign players into the segment, felt that there was a need for caution and for ensuring that complete editorial control remained in the hands of Indians.

The committee expects that by the time of its next sitting, the new members will be able to familiarise themselves with the different aspects and dimensions of the issue.

At Tuesday's meeting, members unanimously stood by committee chairman Somnath Chatterjee, deploring the attempt by certain quarters to malign him.

CITY'S SANDWICH SELLERS ARE BUTTERED UP IN BREAD BATTLE

THE TIMES OF INDIA

9 JAN 2002

Cornered Pervez swallows the bitter pill

Mubashir Zaidi
Islamabad, January 7

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf said tonight that he had a wholesome plan to check militancy and extremism in Pakistan to bring a degree of normalcy in society.

"You will know of the course we are trying to adopt in future. What we are trying to do is follow a wholesome plan to check militancy and extremism and bring more balance and tolerance to our society," he said addressing a joint press conference with British Prime Minister Tony Blair.

Government sources said the

President was expected to ban Lashkar-e-Tayyeba and Jaish-i-Mohammad. The President conveyed his decision to Prime Minister Blair during their talks this evening.

Musharraf said his Government was "in the process" of analysing the cases of the 20 "individuals" wanted by India. "We talked about the list of names. We have not fully analysed the details of individuals (named in the list)."

The development comes close on the heels of reports that Musharraf might buckle under international pressure and make a major policy statement on terrorism on Wednesday,

thereby meeting Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh's demand that Islamabad make a "forthright" condemnation of terrorism.

The apparent climb-down follows reports today in Pakistan's English language daily, *The Nation* that National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra had handed Pakistan Foreign Minister Abdul Sattar a paper listing its "concerns" and suggesting steps Islamabad must take to de-escalate tension. The two were meeting yesterday on the sidelines of the Saarc Summit in Kathmandu. The daily attributed the report to unnamed Pakistani officials.

Mishra was seen yesterday discussing a paper with Sattar, triggering speculation in the media. The daily said that Pakistan was seriously considering proposals to hand over some Indians who figured in the list of 20 terrorists and criminals wanted by India. But Pakistan had informed India that it would not hand over any of its citizens figuring in Delhi's 'wanted' list, the daily added.

The President has also called a meeting of his corps commanders tomorrow to discuss the fate of Jaish-e-Mohammad and Lashkar-e-Tayyeba as well as the future of hundreds of madrassas in the country.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

8 JAN 2002

Pak raids mosques, Jaish cries suit



Kashmiri women wait for their rations at a refugee camp in Samba, about 40 km southeast of Jammu. (Reuters)

Islamabad, Jan. 6 (Agencies): Pakistan detained more members of Kashmiri militant groups during a raft of raids today.

Representatives of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Toiba said police raided mosques, homes and offices in several southern districts of the Punjab province searching for activists and arms.

"Police entered our homes, insulting our elders and women. They searched our homes for weapons and messed everything up," said Hassan Burki, a Jaish spokesman.

A provincial official confirmed the latest round of around 60 detentions saying the activists were being picked up on instructions from the central government.

The government said more than 100 militants have been detained for questioning.

Officials from the militant groups said 57 of their members

were picked up late yesterday and today. At least 32 Jaish members were among them, Burki said.

Pakistan is bowing to pressure from India and the international community, the Jaish spokesman said. "All this is being done to please India and (Tony) Blair."

Jaish, blamed by Delhi along with Lashkar for the December 13 strike on the Indian Parliament, today threatened to move court against the detentions.

"These unlawful detentions will not make any difference to our group," Burki said. Jaish leader Masood Azhar, who was released from an Indian prison in return for the Indian Airlines passengers hijacked to Kandahar, has also been detained.

"People affiliated with us are committed as usual and will continue to play their role in the jihad in Kashmir," Burki said.

Pakistan has insisted that the arrests were made for internal

security reasons and not at the behest of India or foreign governments keen to defuse the crisis sparked by the Parliament assault.

Burki dismissed the claims saying Pakistan was buckling to calls for action to be taken against the activists. "It (action against the militants) is obviously (taken) under foreign pressure. If there is no pressure, why didn't they do it in the past?" he asked.

"The law provides protection even to criminals. We will challenge the arrests of our cadre and the government will have to tell what was their offence.

"If we did not get justice through the legal course, it would mean that state terrorism is being meted out to us," he said.

A Lashkar spokesman echoed Burki. The crackdown is "certainly and obviously being launched under international pressure", he said. Some two dozen Lashkar supporters have

been detained so far, the spokesman, who declined to be identified, said.

"India has put pressure on Islamabad by massing its troops along the borders and enjoys backing of the United States," he said. "New Delhi has achieved its goal by getting the ban imposed on the mujahideen groups in Pakistan," he added.

"But these restrictions do not make any difference to us as jihad is continuing and will continue." Lashkar would still target "the Indian army and its installations in occupied Kashmir", he said.

Lashkar on Pak stand

The Pakistan "government's commitment" with the militant action in Kashmir has not weakened, a Lashkar leader was quoted as saying by the *Sunday Telegraph*.

"The recent arrests and related police actions do not show that the government's commit-

ment to the jihadis in Kashmir has weakened," Lashkar leader Hafiz Ilyas said.

By the time the Lashkar's headquarters in Karachi was raided, activists had removed all documents in large briefcases and replaced a big hoarding carrying Lashkar's name and calls for jihad with the "Allah" sign, the report said.

The organisation apparently had prior warning of the raid fuelling speculation that they had been tipped off by sympathisers in the security services.

Police also raided a religious seminary in Karachi that was suspected of being a Lashkar guest house and army storage depot. Though the raids have hampered Lashkar's activities, they failed to yield illegal weapons or money, the report said. Simultaneously, Pakistani officials removed thousands of pro-jihad hoardings and washed away graffiti, the report added.

Saarc answers with terror war cry

Kathmandu, Jan. 6 (PTI): Endorsing India's position on cross-border terrorism, the Saarc summit today vowed to fight terrorism and pledged to prevent support and financing of organised terrorist activities.

The commitment of the seven-member group, including Pakistan, came unanimously in the 11-page declaration at the concluding ceremony of the much-delayed summit that was overshadowed by Indo-Pak tension.

"The heads of state and government reiterated their support to the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 (adopted in the wake of the September 11 terror strikes in the US) and affirmed their determination to redouble efforts, collectively as well as individually, to prevent and suppress terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including by increased cooperation and full implementation of the relevant international conventions relating to terrorism to which they are party.

"In this context, they called on all states to prevent and suppress the financing of terrorist acts by collection of funds for such acts and refraining from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts in states or acquiescing in organised activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts."

The leaders have reaffirmed that the fight against terrorism "has to be comprehensive and sustained", the declaration said.

"We are certainly moving towards unanimity on the issue," officials said.

The Kathmandu declaration is aimed at aligning South Asian anti-terrorist laws with a recent UN Security Council resolution requiring all nations to prevent any active or passive support to terrorist groups.

Jaish to challenge Pak crackdown in court

Muzaffarabad, January 6

THE JAISH-E-MOHAMMAD on Sunday said it would challenge Pakistan's arrest of its members in court.

Pakistan has claimed it has arrested about 160 members of the Jaish-e-Mohammad and the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba — 60 of them today — after India said they were responsible for the December 13 attack on Parliament.

"These unlawful detentions will not make any difference to our group. People who support us are committed and will continue to play their role in the Kashmir jihad," Jaish spokesman Hassan Burki said.

Burki said in the past two days, 20 more members and supporters of the group had been detained in the Pakistani provinces of Punjab and Sindh, raising the total number of detainees to more than 90.

Pakistan said that the arrests were made for internal security reasons and not at the behest of India or foreign governments keen to defuse a brewing crisis sparked by the attack on Parliament.

Burki dismissed Pakistan's claims, saying it was buckling under foreign pressure. "If there is no pressure, why didn't they

10 MILITANTS KILLED IN J&K

IN STEPPED-UP offensive against ultras, security forces killed 10 militants, including a Hizbul commander and three Lashkar-e-Tayyeba activists, in gunbattles across Jammu and Kashmir since Saturday evening.

Mohammad Amin, alias Zubair Abdullah, a self-styled company commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, and two other militants were killed in a gunfight with the BSF at Nigu in Badgam district. The shootout lasted nearly two hours in which Abdullah and his close associates Nazir Lalli and Samad Sheikh were killed.

The killings sparked tension as villagers alleged that three unarmed residents had been killed. Three LeT ultras were killed in an encounter with security forces in Kalaban forest belt in Poonch, official sources said. The militants were identified as Nassir Mujahid code name Ibrar Bhai, Afrid Bhai and Abu Mujahid. Two AK rifles, seven magazines, 10 AK rounds and four hand grenades were recovered. In another gunfight in Chingus belt of Rajouri, two unidentified militants were killed.

A militant was killed during search operations by security forces in village Sogam in the frontier district of Kupwara. A rocket projectile gun, ten RPG boosters, three rockets and two hand grenades were recovered from the slain militant. A foreign mercenary, Abdullah Mansoor, was killed in an encounter with security forces at Sherbagh in Anantnag district.

PTI, Srinagar

arrest them earlier? The law provides protection even to criminals. We will challenge the arrests of our cadres and the Government will have to prove their offence. If we do not get justice, it would mean that we are being made victims of State terrorism," he said.

A Lashkar spokesman said some 24 of its supporters had been detained so far in the roundup, which was "certainly and obviously being launched

under international pressure".

"India has put pressure on Islamabad and enjoys the backing of the United States. New Delhi has achieved its goal by getting the ban imposed on the *mujahideen* groups in Pakistan. But these restrictions do not make any difference to us as jihad is continuing and will continue. The Indian Army will always be our prime target," he said on condition of anonymity.

AFP

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

7 JAN 2002

Saarc united in war on ¹¹⁻¹ terrorism ^{7/1}

Kathmandu, January 6

THE SAARC Summit today vowed to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and pledged to prevent support and financing of organised terrorist activities in their countries. The commitment of the seven-member group, including Pakistan, came unanimously in the 11-page Saarc Declaration at the concluding ceremony of the summit that was overshadowed by the Indo-Pak chill.

The Heads of State and Government reiterated their support to the Security Council resolution 1373 (adopted in the wake of September 11) and affirmed their determination to redouble efforts, collectively and individually, to suppress terrorism in all forms, including by increased cooperation and full implementation of the relevant international conventions.

"They called on all States to prevent the financing of terrorist acts by criminalising the collection of funds for such acts and refraining from organising, instigating, assisting or participating in terrorist acts or acquiescing in organised activities within its territory directed towards the commission of such acts," the declaration said.

The leaders rejected any justification of terrorism on "ideological, political, religious or on any other ground". The declaration read: "The leaders agreed that terrorism violates the fundamental values of the UN and the Saarc Charter and constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security in the 21st century."

Emphasising the need for the urgent conclusion of a comprehensive convention on combating international terrorism, the leaders stressed that international cooperation to combat terrorism should be conducted in conformity with the UN Charter, international law and relevant international conventions.

They were unanimous in recognising the ominous link between terrorism, drug-trafficking, money laundering and other transnational crimes and emphasised the need to coordinate efforts at the national and regional levels to strengthen the global response to this serious challenge and threat to international security.

PTI

Indo-British declaration decries terrorism

Statesman News Service

NEW DELHI, Jan. 6. — Even as Britain condemned terrorism for all purposes including that for a 'freedom struggle' and asked New Delhi and Islamabad to start a meaningful dialogue to resolve all outstanding bilateral issues including Kashmir, Mr Atal Behari Vajpayee asserted at a banquet he hosted in Mr Blair's honour tonight that India had to crush terrorism from its source "even if we have to do it without outside help".

Emerging from a meeting which exceeded the scheduled 45 minutes, earlier in the evening, the British Prime Minister ruled out third party mediation on Kashmir, saying it was for India and Pakistan to resolve the problem "among themselves" but added that it was important to avoid conflicts. "The international community wants that in the given circumstances, political process should take the place of violence, terrorism and extremism", Mr Tony Blair said.

The two leaders today signed the New Delhi Declaration, which said: "However strong the cause the people have, however strong their feelings, any cause must be pursued by means other than terrorism and there can be no compromise on that".

The Declaration laid down the road-map for long-term cooperation between the two

Turn to page 3

THE STATESMAN

- 7 JAN 2002

Pervez gives jehadis free run in PoK

Washington, January 4

PRESIDENT PERVEZ Musharraf has given the terrorists a free run in PoK and confined his mild crackdown to Pakistan proper, *Washington Post* said today.

The Americans, analysts say, know this but do not want to pressure Musharraf because they need to use Pakistani territory and air space against the al Qaida and Taliban leader Mullah Muhammad Omar.

The paper said, "Complicating matters for India are thousands of guerrillas like Hassan who belong to resistance groups based in PoK.

"The Pakistani Government said it does not plan to go after them because it views their efforts as a freedom fight." According to the *Post*, though some Kashmiri separatist leaders believe Pakistan's crackdown could deprive them of the resources needed for the operation, Hizbul's supreme commander Syed Salahuddin said his fighters could get what they need in India.

Siddiq Farooq, a Pakistan Muslim League official, asked if the country's military ruler was sincere in the effort. He believed the groups would resurface in one form or another as long as there is no settlement of the dispute involving Kashmir.

Fzarhatullah Babar, a spokesman for the Pakistan People's Party, expressed doubt that the terrorists based in Pakistan and operating in Kashmir are out for good. "There is certainly the potential for these organisations to re-establish themselves, depending on how the stand-off with India resolves itself," he said.

India's demands, said the paper, have placed Musharraf in

a delicate position. "Although there is heavy international pressure on Pakistan to take a harder line against groups suspected of sponsoring terrorism," it said, "Many Pakistanis see the militants in Kashmir as freedom fighters." Indeed, Pakistan's national identity is shaped in large part by the conflict over Kashmir, the paper said.

While saying that if any group was found indulging in activities against local laws or disturbing the peace or committing wrongful acts, the Pakistani Government will take action against them, foreign ministry spokesman Aziz Khan added: "The Government of Pakistan's policy is support for the genuine, legitimate struggle of Kashmiri people for their self-determination."

This raises the question, analysts point out, whether friendly relations between any two states is possible if one of them supports terrorists who want to break up the other state.

Steps to push Kashmir cause: The Pakistani regime, to give "thrust to the Kashmir cause," has planned programmes across the world and set up "Kashmir committees."

Officials said Pakistan had already formed the seven-member Kashmir Council with Sardar Qayyum, former president of PoK, as its chairman. The council has three nominees of the Pakistani Government.

Qayyum and some Pakistani politicians have been directed to fan out to various countries to "propagate the Kashmir cause and press for implementation of UN resolution and level allegations of violations."

Agencies

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

Jaish to shift base to Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, JAN. 2. The Jaish-e-Mohammad today said that it was moving its offices into Kashmir to escape a crackdown by Pakistani authorities. Jaish officials said about 100 activists across Pakistan have been detained. Pakistan is stressing that its moves against the militants are for domestic security reasons and not related to Indian demands for action against them.

A Jaish official said its members will infiltrate Kashmir, despite heavy Indian security. "We have decided to shift offices to Kashmir," Mohammad Abdullah told Reuters. "We will open offices on the mountains of Kashmir and no one can stop us from doing so".

The Lashkar-e-Taiba announced last month that it was shifting its militant wing into Kashmir. — Reuters

SECRET

3 JAN 2002

Pak is ready to curb terrorism, signals Sattar

By Dileep Padgaonkar
Times News Network

KATHMANDU: Pakistan's foreign minister Abdus Sattar has sent the strongest signals to date that Islamabad is willing and able to address India's concerns and demands following the terrorist attack on parliament on December 13 to ensure that the two countries resume their dialogue at the earliest.

In an extended conversation with *The Times of India* on Wednesday, Mr Sattar, who is here to attend the Saarc summit, said that the present state of Indo-Pak relations was a cause of "great anxiety" and that given the military build-up on both sides of the border, the danger of an escalation of hostilities due to a "miscalculation" could not be ruled out.

But his emphasis throughout was on the efforts that Pakistan has undertaken, and is prepared to undertake, to curb religious extremism in his country and to bring to book individuals and organisations involved in terrorist activities on its soil.

The foreign minister reiterated unequivocally that the terrorist attack on the Indian parliament was "reprehensible, unacceptable and condemnable" and that Pakistan awaited details of a deeper probe into the incident to determine what action needed to be taken, if any, at its end. At any rate, he pointed out, that attack had served to strengthen the

Musharraf government's resolve to fight terrorism "even if hard evidence is not forthcoming". The anti-terrorist resolutions adopted by the UN Security Council "made it obligatory on states to take action".

Mr Sattar said Gen Pervez Musharraf had begun discussing religious extremism early in 2001 but the terrorist strikes in America on September 11 and the one on the Indian parliament on December 13 had accelerated the process of "channelising our

resolve to fight terrorism with specific action". He said that India's strong reactions and the demands it had begun to make had "complicated the process to some extent". However, at the same time, "we realised that things have to be done".

Jaswant, Sattar break the ice

KATHMANDU: Ending weeks of tension, foreign ministers of India and Pakistan Jaswant Singh and Abdus Sattar shook hands warmly and chatted with each other during a gathering of foreign ministers of the Saarc countries on Wednesday. It was the first meeting between the two after the attack on the Indian parliament on December 13. (AP)

Mr Sattar pointed out that the authorities in Pakistan had to bear legalities in mind in order to detain alleged terrorists but hastened to add that "in a time of stress, legal hassles have to be given a go-by". In this regard, he made another significant statement. Asked how Islamabad proposed to react to the demand made by India to hand it 20 persons wanted in this country in connection with various terrorist attacks, Mr Sattar argued that India and Pakistan did not have an extradition treaty, but added that a 1987 Saarc document on extradition "provides a framework for action".

THE TIMES OF INDIA

- 3 JAN 2002

Terror region between states

T-11
2/27/2002

Mutual legal assistance may be refused: if the request is not made in conformity with provisions of this annex; if the requested state considers that execution of the request is likely to prejudice its sovereignty, security, public order or other essential interest; if the authorities of the requested state would be prohibited by its domestic laws from carrying out the action requested with regard to any similar offence, had it been subject to investigation, prosecution, or proceedings under their own jurisdiction.

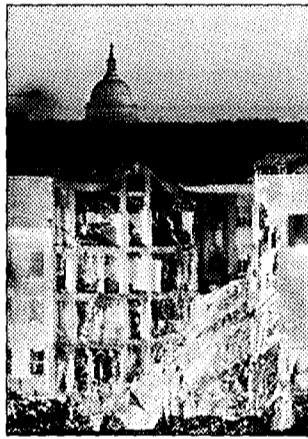
If it would be contrary to the legal systems of the requested state relating to mutual legal assistance for the request to be granted. Any assistance under this annex may not be refused on the sole ground that it concerns political offence or an offence connected with a political offence or an offence inspired by political motives. Reasons shall be given for any refusal of mutual legal assistance.

The requested state may postpone mutual legal assistance on the ground that it interferes with an ongoing investigation, prosecution or proceeding...the requested state shall consult with the requesting state to determine if the assistance can still be given subject to such terms and conditions as the requested deems necessary.

A witness, expert or other person who consents to give evidence in a proceeding or to assist in an investigation, prosecution or judicial proceeding in the territory of the requesting state shall not be prosecuted, detained, punished or subjected to any other restriction of his or her personal liberty in that territory in respect of acts, omissions or convictions prior to his departure from the territory of the requested state. Such safe conduct shall cease when the witness, expert or other person having had, for a period of fifteen consecutive days, or for any period agreed upon by the states parties from the date on which he or she has been officially informed that his or her presence is no longer required by the judicial authorities...has nevertheless remain voluntarily in the territory or, having left it, has returned of his...own free will.

Extracts from the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism, 2001, submitted by India to the US

The ordinary costs of executing a request shall be borne by the requested state, unless otherwise agreed by the states concerned. If expenses of a substantial or extraordinary nature are or will be required to fulfil the request, the state parties shall consult to determine the terms and conditions under which the requests



What they can do

will be executed as well as the manner in which the costs shall be borne.

The state parties shall consider...the possibility of concluding bilateral or multilateral agreements or arrangements that would serve the purpose of giving practical effect to or enhance the provisions of this annex.

The offences referred to [earlier] shall be deemed to be included as extraditable offences in any extradition treaty existing between state parties. The state parties undertake to include such offences as extraditable offences in every extradition to be concluded between them.

The state parties that do not make extradition conditional on the existence of a treaty shall recognize the offences referred to [earlier] as extraditable offences between themselves subject to the conditions provided by the law of the requested state.

The offences referred to... shall be treated...as if they had been committed not only in the place in which they occurred but also in the territories of the requested state parties.

The state parties may... apply paragraphs 5 to 18 of this annex to requests for extradition in respect of offences referred to...if they are not bound by a treaty of extradition. If these states are bound by such a treaty, the corresponding provisions of that treaty shall apply unless the states agree to apply paragraphs 5 to 18 of this annex in lieu thereof.

State parties shall designate an authority, or...authorities, which shall have the responsibility and power to execute requests for extradition or to transmit them to the competent authorities for execution. The authority or the authorities designated...shall be notified to the secretary-general of the United Nations. Transmission of requests for extradition and any communication related thereto shall be effected between the authorities designated by the state parties; this requirement shall be without prejudice to the right of a state to require that such requests and communications be addressed to it through diplomatic channels and, in urgent circumstances, where the state parties agree, through channels of the International Criminal Police Organization — Interpol, if possible.

Requests shall be made in writing in a language acceptable to the requested state. In urgent circumstances and where agreed by the state parties, requests may be made orally, but shall be confirmed in writing forthwith.

A request for extradition shall contain: The identity of the authority making the request; As accurate a description as possible of the person sought, together with any other information which would help to establish the identity, location and nationality of the person concerned. A summary of the facts of the offence for which extradition is requested; and The text, if any, of the law defining that offence and prescribing the maximum punishment for that offence.

TO BE CONCLUDED

THE TELEGRAPH

1 3 JAN 2002

Grenade blast outside J&K Assembly

HT Correspondent
Srinagar, January 2

WHILE SECURITY forces gunned down two high-profile Hizbul commanders in south Kashmir today, militants struck near the J&K Assembly again and wounded 28 people, including nine policemen, six of them officers, and a BSF man by targeting them with hand grenades. At least 18 civilians were injured.

Militants lobbed a hand grenade at a CRPF vehicle here at Jahangir Chowk outside the State Assembly complex around 4.10 pm. The grenade missed the target and failed to explode. When the Bomb Disposal Squad was at work on the unexploded grenade, the militants tossed another grenade.

This was the first militant strike outside the Assembly complex after the October 1 suicide attack in which at least 38 people, including four Jaish-e-Mohammad attackers, were killed. No militant group has claimed responsibility for today's attack.

But security forces today struck a major blow to Jamiatul Mujahideen, a pan-Islamic pro Pakistan militant group, eliminating five of its commanders, including the divisional commanders and district commanders for north Kashmir.

The security forces also shot dead a top militant of Harkat-e-Jihad-e-Islami (HUJI) in the same area.

Militants hiding inside a house opened fire on the search party and tried to escape, starting a three-hour encounter. Five militants belonging to Jamiatul Mujahideen were killed. All five militants, including Master Ghulam Hassan alias Haji Junaid, were local cadres.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

- 3 JAN 2002

Militants kill 6 of a family in Poonch sector

Arun Joshi/Pawan Sharma
Jammu/Kangra, January 1

MILITANTS STRUCK again in Jammu and Kashmir, killing six members of a Hindu family, including two children, in the remote village of Magnar in Poonch. Nineteen others, including eight militants, were killed in separate incidents since Monday night. The police suspect the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba to be behind the Poonch murders.

Two armymen were killed and five injured when militants ambushed their vehicle in Kupwara district. Three militants were killed in Kerni and two Lashker men were shot dead in Sunderbani.

In Himachal Pradesh terrorists targeted an army firing range, killing two soldiers and injuring four at the Dhangu firing range.

The J&K massacre was the second in the State since Saturday when four members of a Hindu family were gunned down by terrorists in Rajouri district. The attacks suggest that despite President Pervez Musharraf's supposed crackdown on terror outfits operating from Pakistan, and a US ban, there has been little effect on the ability of terrorists to hit targets in India.

The attack on the Himachal Pradesh firing range occurred at about 8.15 on Tuesday, when an army truck carrying 40 JCOs and NCOs of 5 Mechanised Infantry arrived from the Mamoon Cantonment for firing practice at a range near Badroha forest.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

— 2 JAN 2001

Yunus H0-11

LeT man held with explosives

1111 2

By Our Staff Reporter

NEW DELHI, DEC. 31. The special cell of the Delhi police arrested a Lashkar-e-Taiba militant at the Inter-State Bus Terminus in North Delhi on Sunday night and seized from him an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and other explosive material. The man was allegedly planning to trigger blasts in the Capital.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (special cell), Mr. Ashok Chand, said the Cell was tipped off that Mohammad Yunus, a resident of Baghpat in Uttar Pradesh, was coming to Delhi with an intention to cause explosions. The sleuths kept a vigil and at 7- 20

p.m., the militant was spotted while he was alighting from a U.P. Roadways bus. Police claimed the



IED comprised RDX splinters, one ABCD timer and a detonator.

Police said Yunus got initiated into terrorism after he came into contact with Bilal, Lashkar-e-Taiba area commander in Uttar Pradesh. Bilal, who used to come to his brother's telephone booth to make calls to Kashmir, motivated him to join his outfit.

On his acquiescence, Bilal took him to Srinagar and then to a terrorist training camp in Pak-Occupied Kashmir in August 2001. There Yunus underwent training in handling of AK-47 assault rifles, pistols, revolver, explosives and chemical bombs.

After training, Yunus was asked

to go back to his native place and wait for further orders. He was told that he would be contacted whenever the outfit needed him for an "operation".

In the second week of December, Yunus received a call from Bilal who asked him to come to Srinagar.

Upon reaching Srinagar, Bilal again motivated Yunus to actively participate for "jihad" against India, as declared by the high command of the Lashkar-e-Taiba.

Bilal asked Yunus to go to Muzaffarnagar and meet another Lashkar-e-Taiba militant Shahzad, who would provide explosives to him.

THE HINDU

1 JAN 2002

Pak slapped with terror list

HT Correspondent
New Delhi, December 31

INDIA TODAY handed Pakistan a list of 20 terrorists and criminals involved in the December 13 attack on Parliament, the 1999 hijacking of the Indian Airlines flight to Kandahar and the 1993 Mumbai blasts and sought their extradition.

Pakistan promptly responded, asking all Kashmiri militant leaders to confine their activities to Muszafarabad in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Islamabad also told them to desist from issuing statements and holding press conferences on Pakistani soil.

Earlier, Pakistan's Deputy High Commissioner Jalil Abbas

PAKISTAN ON Monday confirmed the arrest of former Lashkar-e-Tayyeba chief Hafiz Mohammed Saeed. The Punjab police arrested Saeed on Sunday from Islamabad. Insisting that the arrest was made in

Jilani was summoned to the Foreign Office by joint secretary in charge of Pakistan Arun Kumar Singh and handed the list, an External Affairs Ministry spokesperson said.

The list included the names of Jaish chief Maulana Masood

keeping with the country's commitment to the Security Council resolutions, a Pakistan foreign office spokesman said. "The Lashkar leader has been detained under Maintenance of Public Order. *HTC, Islamabad*

Azhar, and leaders of the Lashkar-e-Tayyeba, all believed responsible for December 13 strike on India's Parliament. The list also named Dawood Ibrahim and Tiger Memon, who masterminded the Mumbai serial blasts. Saying the ball was now in

Pakistan's court, the spokesperson said. "They know well what we mean. The time has now come for Pakistan to act in a concrete and substantive manner." These terrorists were either directly involved or had masterminded terrorist acts against India. "We are awaiting a response from Pakistan," she added.

Asked how India meant to get the terrorists deported, as there is no extradition treaty between India and Pakistan, the spokesperson said it would be done according to international law. "There are ways to deal with such matters, and it is not unprecedented. It could be done through international channels even if there is no treaty," she

said. Earlier, India described the reported arrest of Jaish and Lashkar leaders as a "step forward in the correct direction".

"If this information is confirmed, then it is a step forward in correct direction," External Affairs Minister Jaswant Singh said after a meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Security.

PTI adds: Pakistan today confirmed that President Pervez Musharraf would not travel through Indian airspace to Kathmandu for this week's Saarc Summit. Maj-Gen Rashid Qureshi, press secretary to Musharraf, said the President does not want to make use of facilities denied to the Pakistani people.

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1 JAN 2002

Saarc boost to India's anti-terror drive

Keshav Pradhan
Kathmandu, December 31

INDIA'S campaign against Pakistan-sponsored terrorism is likely to receive a boost as the Saarc standing committee has agreed to make the 1987 Saarc convention on suppression of terrorism more effective through stringent national legislations.

Of the seven Saarc nations, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka are worst hit by terrorism. Explaining why the convention signed in Kathmandu failed to take off, a senior Nepalese official said: "The Saarc's campaign against

terrorism could not produce desired results because countries like Pakistan and Bangladesh did not enact laws necessary for it." He described as "positive" the steps taken by India, Nepal and Sri Lanka to fight terrorism.

After lengthy deliberations, the standing committee, comprising all Saarc foreign secretaries, focused on the need for strict national laws to contain terrorism and the use of narcotics. It also discussed a series of socio-economic subjects, including the Saarc's relationship with other international agencies. The standing committee, which

began its three-day meeting on Sunday, will send its recommendations to the council of Saarc foreign ministers that will meet on January 2 and 3.

Saarc spokesman Pushkar Rajbhandari said, "India and Pakistan unanimously supported the standing committee's stand on terrorism. They both took part in the discussions."

Considering the views of India, Sri Lanka and Nepal and Bhutan's close relationship with Delhi, there is a strong possibility of Pakistan getting isolated if its perception on terrorism differs from these countries.

FOR WOMEN'S SAKE

HUMAN RIGHTS and women's organisations have asked the Saarc countries to be careful in their drive to prevent trafficking of women and children saying that this might restrict their right to migrate in search for better options. The organisations have welcomed the convention on the prevention of trafficking of women and children to be signed at the 11th Saarc Summit in Kathmandu next week. But they have sought a clear distinction between migration and trafficking.

HTC, New Delhi

THE HINDUSTAN TIMES

1 JAN 2002